

FAQ Frequently Asked Questions about Foster Home Levels and Payments

Note: All rates in this document are for March 2010 to present



What are the 5 levels of foster homes and their payment rates?

| Level of Home | Payment Rate |
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| <p>Restricted - Home care for known or related child/ren, restricted to a specific child and ends when the child leaves the home</p> <p>Regular - Homes care for children usually unknown to the foster parents</p> | <p>Regular/Restricted Care Payment-also known as maintenance (per child):</p> <p>Age 11 & under - 803.82/month Age 12 - 19 - \$909.95/month</p> |
| <p>Specialized Homes</p> | <p>Rates include the maintenance portion</p> |
| <p>Level 1- Home care for 1-6 children, having average to moderately challenging behavior. Foster Parents may work outside the home with an emergency plan in place should a child return to the caregiver's home unexpectedly.</p> | <p>Age 11 & under - \$1,251.84/month per child Age 12 - 19 - \$1,367.97/month per child</p> <p>The payment rates include maintenance and a fee for service for the bed (only when it is occupied).</p> |
| <p>Level 2 - Homes care for 1-3 children who have moderate to severely challenging behavior, developmental delays and/or difficulty accepting care.</p> <p>The primary Foster Parent may work outside the home, but have an emergency plan in place should a child return to the caregiver's home unexpectedly.</p> | <p>One Child -</p> <p>Age 11 & under - \$1,944.22/month Age 12 - 19 - \$2050.35/month</p> <p>Two Children</p> <p>Age 11 & under - \$3576.32/month Age 12 - 19 - \$3788.58/month</p> <p>Three Children</p> <p>Age 11 & under - \$5104.38/month Age 12 - 19 - \$5422.77/month</p> |
| <p>Level 3- Home care for 1-2 children requiring very specialized child-care skills, additional support and supervision. The child/ren may present with extremely challenging behaviors that are an extreme degree of risk to self, others and/ or property (Schedule A-Level 3 contract)</p> <p>The primary Foster Parent can work outside the home if available on a full-time basis.</p> | <p>One Child</p> <p>Age 11 & under - \$2620.48/month Age 12 - 19 - \$2726.61/month</p> <p>Two Children</p> <p>Age 11 & under - \$4720.76/month Age 12 - 19 - \$4933.02/month</p> |
| <p>Level 2 and 3</p> | <p>The payment rates include maintenance, monthly relief and fee for service (even if the bed is temporarily empty).</p> |

What am I expected to pay for from my Fee for Service?

All foster homes need to take occasional relief (time away from fostering).

- Regular or level 1 homes, talk to your Resource worker about plans for relief. Your worker will need to know who will be providing the relief care and what the costs will be. You will need pre-approval if the cost is higher than the per diem rate.
- Level 2 and 3 homes have 3 days/mo. included in the fee for service (to be used each month or saved up for a longer period).

How are levels assessed?

The Specialized Family Care Home Levels Assessment is based on a regular family care home parent's actual abilities. Your Resource Worker (MCFD) or (CYSN) will complete the assessment tool (document CF2442) with you. Your score will then be totaled and you will be assessed a level.

The assessment is made up of four categories:

- Education and training including the 53 hour Foster Care Education program
- Child-related Experience
- Knowledge
- Demonstrated abilities-number of children you have fostered or amount of time you have been working in the system

Several additional matters need to be considered: willingness of Foster Parents providing the services (some homes choose to provide service at a lower level), a need in the foster care network, funding available.

Team Consultation for assessment leads to more consistency.

Social Workers for the children placed in your home are usually contacted to provide feedback on your skills and abilities. Other workers on the Resources team will be consulted. *Each office has a slightly different procedure. Talk to your Resources social worker (MCFD) or (CYSN) about level changes.

What other expectations are there for me as a Foster Parent?

- provide a physically and emotionally safe, nurturing, family environment for the child
- work with the child's plan of care team, following the plan of care regarding the relationship to the natural family, awareness and maintaining cultural and ethnic heritage
- provided clear, reasonable and safe behavioral expectations for the child, based on their unique needs
- attend workshops to maintain, update or expand knowledge in order to meet the needs of the child, Leveled homes are expected to pay for training out of the fee for service
- meet or exceed the Standards of Foster Homes document

Remember that homes are leveled, not children.