



**State of Florida
Department of Children and Families**

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Shevaun L. Harris
Secretary

DATE: January 12, 2022

TO: Regional Managing Directors
Community-Based Care Lead Agency CEOs

THROUGH: Taylor Hatch, Deputy Secretary

FROM: Jess Tharpe, Interim Assistant Secretary for Child Welfare

SUBJECT: 2022 Foster Parent Cost of Living Allowance Increase

PURPOSE: This memo is to provide guidance to regions and Community-Based Care (CBC) Lead Agencies regarding the statutorily required foster parent Cost of Living Allowance (COLA), effective January 1, 2022, for Level II-V foster parents. Level I foster parents pursuant to section 409.145 (3)(e), Florida Statutes (F.S.), are not eligible for the COLA increase outlined below.

BACKGROUND: During the 2013 legislative session, the Florida Legislature passed section 409.145(3), F.S., which establishes base room and board rate payments to foster parents and requires foster parents to receive an annual cost of living increase equal to the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for All Urban Consumers, U.S. City Average, All Items, not seasonally adjusted, or successor reports, for the preceding December compared to the prior December as initially reported by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Effective January 1, 2022, the room and board rates to foster parents will be adjusted as follows:

Age Range	2021 Room and Board Rate	Room and Board Rate Effective January 1, 2022
Zero to Five (0 – 5)	\$484.06	\$517.94
Six to Twelve (6 – 12)	\$496.46	\$531.21
Thirteen to Twenty-one (13 – 21)	\$581.09	\$621.77

Section 65C-16.013(8), Florida Administrative Code, outlines that a CBC can negotiate a Maintenance Adoption Subsidy (MAS) up to 100% of the statewide foster care board rate. Based on the 2021 foster parent cost of living allowance increase, a CBC will now be able to approve MAS amounts up to the above mentioned updated statewide foster care board rates. Any rate over the 2022 statewide foster care board rates must be approved by the Department Regional Family Safety Program Office.

2415 North Monroe Street, Suite 400, Tallahassee, Florida 32303-4190

Mission: Work in Partnership with Local Communities to Protect the Vulnerable, Promote Strong and Economically Self-Sufficient Families, and Advance Personal and Family Recovery and Resiliency

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ACTION NEEDED: As of January 1, 2022, all Level II-V foster parents previously receiving a 2020 room and board rate in the amount of \$484.06, \$496.46, or \$581.09, for the child(ren) in their care must be paid the increase as specified in section 409.145(3), F.S.

CONTACT INFORMATION: For additional information, please contact Courtney Smith, Adoption and Permanency Manager, at Courtney.Smith@myflfamilies.com or (850) 717-4660.

cc: Tony Lloyd, Chief Financial Officer
Grainne O'Sullivan, Children Legal Services Statewide Director
Regional Family and Community Services Directors
CBC Contract Managers
Center for Child Welfare
Barney Ray, CBC/ME Financial Accountability Director
CBC Lead Agency Chief Financial Officers