



State of Florida
Department of Children and Families

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Shevaun L. Harris
Secretary

DATE: February 6, 2023

TO: Regional Licensing Managers
Child and Family Well-Being Directors
Community-Based Care Lead Agency CEOs

FROM: Sharron Washington, Assistant Secretary, Office of Quality & Innovation
Jess Tharpe, Assistant Secretary, Office of Child and Family Well-Being

SUBJECT: 2023 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, 2023, for Level I-V foster parent pursuant to section 409.145 (3)(b), Florida Statutes (F.S.).

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, 2023, the room and board rates to foster parents will be adjusted as follows:

Age Range	2022 Room and Board Rate	Room and Board Rate Effective January 1, 2023
Zero to Five (0 – 5)	\$517.94	\$551.61
Six to Twelve (6 – 12)	\$531.21	\$565.74
Thirteen to Twenty-one (13 – 21)	\$621.77	\$662.19

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 2023 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 2023 statewide foster care board rates must be approved by the Department's Child and Family Well-Being Directors.

ACTION NEEDED: As of January 1, 2023, all Level I-V foster parents previously receiving a 2022 room and board rate in the amount of \$517.94, \$531.21, or \$621.77, for the child(ren) in their care must be paid the increase as specified in section 409.145(3), F.S.

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CONTACT INFORMATION: For additional information, please contact, Deputy Chief of Licensing, Courtney Smith at Courtney.Smith@myflfamilies.com or (850) 717-4660.

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