


To: DCF/DMCPS Administrator  
DCF Area Administrators  
Child Placing Agency Directors  
Child Welfare Agency Directors  
County Departments of Community Programs Directors  
County Departments of Human Services Directors  
County Departments of Social Services Directors  
Group Home Providers  
Tribal Social Service/Indian Child Welfare Directors  
Private Child Placing Agencies  
Residential Care Center Providers  
Shelter Care Providers  
Tribal Chairpersons

From: Wendy Henderson   
Administrator

Re: Basic Maintenance Foster Care Rates and Kinship Care Rates for CY 2020 and 2021

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this memo is to inform counties of the Basic Maintenance rates for foster care and the payment for Kinship Care as provided in the 2019-21 biennial state budget (2019 WI Act 9), impacting fiscal years 2020 and 2021.

**BACKGROUND**

The Basic Maintenance rate for foster care and the payment for Kinship Care are the required amounts to be paid per state statute.

**INFORMATION SUMMARY**

As provided in the biennial budget (2019 WI Act 9), the Basic Maintenance rate for Foster Care and Kinship Care for CY 2020 will increase by 4 percent. There is no increase to the rate for CY 2021. The rates effective January 1, 2020 and January 1, 2021 are as follows:

	Rate Effective January 1, 2020	Rate Effective January 1, 2021
<b>Kinship Care (child of any age)</b>	\$254	\$254
<b>Foster Parent Certified at Level 1 (child of any age)</b>	\$254	\$254
<b>Foster Parent Certified Above Level 1 (based on age of child)</b>	See Below	See Below
<b>Child Age 0-4</b>	\$420	\$420
<b>Child Age 5-11</b>	\$460	\$460
<b>Child Age 12-14</b>	\$522	\$522
<b>Child Age 15-18</b>	\$545	\$545

These are also the Basic Maintenance rates to be reimbursed in Adoption Assistance and Subsidized Guardianship payments in CY 2020 and 2021.

Funds

Counties can use funding provided in the annual Children and Family Allocations to fund foster care rate payments. Counties should use funding in the annual Kinship Care Allocation of the DCF/County contract to fund Kinship Care payments.

The revised brochure entitled "Understanding the Uniform Foster Care Rate" is attached below and includes information on the rates and initial clothing allowance.

Additionally, the Department recommends that county agencies provide electronic funds transfer (EFT) to licensed foster parents, including those licensed by private Child Placing Agencies, and Kinship Care providers as a method for receipt of payment of the Uniform Foster Care Rate.

**ACTION SUMMARY**

Agency staff should be made aware of the updated publication to share with foster parents and Kinship Care providers for placements remaining or occurring after January 1, 2020.

CENTRAL OFFICE CONTACT:           Out-of-Home Care Specialist  
  Bureau of Permanency and Out-of-Home care  
  (608) 422-6937

  Kinship Care Coordinator  
  Bureau of Permanency and Out-of-Home care  
  (608) 422-6921

MEMO WEB SITE:           <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwportal/policy>

Attachments                DCF-P-PFS0142, Understanding the Uniform Foster Care Rate  
  Effective for 2020-2021  
  <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/publications>