



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

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Shevaun L. Harris
Secretary

DATE: July 1, 2022

TO: Family Well-Being Directors
Regional Licensing Managers
Child Protection Directors
Community-Based Care (CBC) Lead Agency CEOs
Sherriff Offices Conducting Child Protective Investigations

THROUGH: Molly McKinstry, Chief of Staff

FROM: Jess Tharpe, Assistant Secretary for Child and Family Well Being
Sharron Washington, Assistant Secretary for Quality and Innovation

SUBJECT: Implementation of Chapter 2022-68, Laws of Florida (Senate Bill 7034)
Effective July 1, 2022

PURPOSE: The purpose of this memorandum is to provide statewide implementation guidance for Community-Based Care lead agencies (CBCs) regarding new Florida law effective July 1, 2022.

BACKGROUND: Chapter 2022-68, Laws of Florida (Senate Bill 7034) amended sections 39.5085 and 409.145, Florida Statutes (F.S.). and this memorandum provides information regarding the below changes:

- Revised room and board rates for Level I licensed foster home caregivers.
- Revised out-of-home of caregiver population eligible for the annual cost of living increase each January and the 10 percent life skills supplemental payment.
- Revised relative and non-relative caregiver rates for families in an open dependency case.
- Established a \$200 child care subsidy payment to non-licensed and licensed foster home caregivers who have a child placed in out-of-home care between the age of birth through 5 years old.

NEW INFORMATION: Starting July 1, 2022, the following changes take effect:

- The monthly room and board rate of a Level I Child-Specific licensed foster home has been increased to the following: \$517.94 (for ages 0-5), \$531.21 (for ages 6-12), and \$621.77 (for ages 13 to 17).
- All relative, non-relative, and licensed Level I foster parents are now eligible to receive a 10 percent life skills supplemental payment to the monthly board rate for children ages 13-17 years old, in the amount of \$62.18. This payment will be included in the relative/non-relative or licensed foster care board payment based on program participation.

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

- Families participating in the Relative/Non-Relative Caregiver Program (RCG/NRCG), in an open dependency case, will receive up to six months of a higher monthly payment rate beginning July 1, 2022: \$518 (for ages 0 to 5), \$532 (for ages 6 to 12), and \$622 (for ages 13 to 18). For implementation, the higher rate is effective for participants in the RCG/NRCG for six months from July 1, 2022, even if the child was placed prior to July 1, 2022. Relatives/non-relatives who do not achieve Level I licensure within six months of the initial payment date, the payment will be reduced to \$242 (for ages 0-5), \$249 (for ages 6-12), and \$298 (for ages 13 to 17).
- Licensed foster parents and relative/non-relative caregivers who have a child age 0-5 in out-of-home care, will receive a monthly \$200 subsidy to pay toward the cost of an early learning or child care program.
- In 2023, all relative/non-relative caregivers (receiving the higher RCG/NRCG payment rate) and licensed Level I foster parents will receive an annual cost of living increase (COLA) per 409.145(3)(d), F.S. Notice will be provided when the COLA take effect.

ACTION REQUIRED:

Each CBC shall complete the following activities by the period indicated:

1. Prior to Releasing a Payment:

- 1) Create new Service Types for foster care maintenance payments (FCMP) to Level I child-specific foster home providers to align with the amounts, based on age, as outlined in s. 409.145(3), F.S. This amount must also include the 10 percent supplemental for children age 13-17. The new Service Types must include reference to the Level of licensure at the beginning of each description and utilize the 'Level I Licensed Foster Home' Reporting Category.
- 2) Update FSFN out-of-home placements for all Level I placements from the current standard Service Type to the new Service Types.
- 3) Inactivate all old Level I Service Types previously used to issue the \$333 FCMP.

2. Ongoing: Continue to submit the Child Welfare Communication, form CS-FSP-5233, available in DCF Forms, to the region email address to notify the Department within two business days when a relative or nonrelative caregiver becomes licensed and begins receiving a FCMP.

NCFA Program - Statewide	hqw.nonrelative.caregiver@myflfamilies.com
RCP - Central	CNR.D13ESS.CIC@myflfamilies.com
RCP - Northeast	NER.RELATIVE.CAREGIVER@myflfamilies.com
RCP - Northwest	NWR.CIC@myflfamilies.com
RCP - Southeast	SER.CIC.Inbox@myflfamilies.com
RCP - Southern	fcs@citrusfcn.com
RCP - Suncoast	SCR.ACCESS.CIC@myflfamilies.com

3. Annually in January: Adjust all FSFN Service Types used to issue FCMP to licensed foster parents, which now includes Level I, to reflect the new amounts as established by COLA.

4. Beginning with July Payments: Create the below standardized Service Types to issue the \$200 child care subsidy. This payment shall be prorated based on the number of days a child is placed with an eligible non-licensed or licensed foster home provider.

- a) Level I Title IV-E: Utilized to issue the \$200 child care subsidy pursuant to s. 409.145(4), F.S., claimable as a foster care maintenance payment to a provider licensed as a Level I

– child-specific foster home for a child in an out-of-home placement, age 0-5 or until school entry, whichever occurs first. Documentation must support that child care is necessary due to the licensed foster parent’s employment and the child is enrolled in a registered, exempt, or licensed child care facility or home. The amount under this Service Type must not exceed the actual cost paid by the foster home provider for child care (refer to the FSFN Payment Reference Guide for further guidance). If the actual amount is less than the \$200 subsidy requirement, then the ‘Licensed State Funded Child Care Subsidy’ Service Type, 4. c), referenced in this memo, must be used to pay the difference.

- Reporting Category = Level I Licensed Foster Home
- Service Category = Child Care
- Short Description = LVL I CC SUBS
- Medium Description = LVL I Child Care Subsidy
- Long Description = Level I Child Care Subsidy
- Effective Date = 07/2022
- Service Type = Service
- Eligibility = Applicable
- License Type Required = Level I – Child Specific
- NCANDS Reporting = Daycare Services-Child
- NYTD = Not Applicable
- Rate by Service selected
- Service Rate = \$200/month

b) Level II-V Title IV-E: Utilized to issue the \$200 child care subsidy pursuant to s. 409.145(4), F.S., claimable as a foster care maintenance payment to a provider licensed as a Level II-V foster home for a child in an out-of-home placement, age 0-5 or until school entry, whichever occurs first. Documentation must support that child care is necessary due to the licensed foster parent’s employment and the child is enrolled in a registered, exempt, or licensed child care facility or home. The amount under this Service Type must not exceed the actual cost paid by the foster home provider for child care (refer to the FSFN Payment Reference Guide for further guidance). If the actual amount is less than \$200 subsidy requirement, then the ‘Licensed State Funded Child Care Subsidy’ Service Type, 4. c), referenced in this memo, must be used to pay the difference.

- Reporting Category = Foster Home
- Service Category = Child Care
- Short Description = LVL II-V CC SU
- Medium Description = LVL II-V Child Care SUBS
- Long Description = Level II-V Child Care Subsidy
- Effective Date = 07/2022
- Service Type = Service
- Eligibility = Applicable
- License Type Required = Level II – Non-Child Specific
- NCANDS Reporting = Daycare Services-Child
- NYTD = Not Applicable
- Rate by Service selected
- Service Rate = \$200/month

c) Level I-V Non IV-E: Utilized to issue the \$200 child care subsidy pursuant to s. 409.145(4), F.S., as a state-funded subsidy to a provider licensed as a Level I – Level V

foster home for a child in an out-of-home placement, age 0-5 or until school entry, whichever occurs first. This is used when the foster parent is not employed, the child is not attending a registered, exempt, or licensed child care facility or home when the foster parent is employed, or the amount the foster parent pays for child care is less than \$200.

- Reporting Category = Child Care Subsidy (State)
- Service Category = Child Care
- Short Description = LIC SF CC SUB
- Medium Description = LIC SF Child Care Subsidy
- Long Description = Licensed State Funded Child Care Subsidy
- Effective Date = 07/2022
- Service Type = Service
- Eligibility = Not Applicable
- License Type Required = No Existing License Type
- NCANDS Reporting = Daycare Services-Child
- NYTD = Not Applicable
- Rate by Service selected
- Service Rate = \$200/month

d) Relative/Non-Relative Caregivers: Utilized to issue the \$200 child care subsidy pursuant to s. 409.145(4), F.S., as a state-funded subsidy to a relative or nonrelative non-licensed provider for a child, age 0-5 or until school entry, whichever occurs first, in an out-of-home placement.

- Reporting Category = Child Care Subsidy (State)
- Service Category = Child Care
- Short Description = N-LIC SF CC SUB
- Medium Description = NON-LIC SF Child Care Sub
- Long Description = Non-Licensed State Funded Child Care Sub
- Effective Date = 07/2022
- Service Type = Service
- Eligibility = Not Applicable
- License Type Required = No Existing License Type
- NCANDS Reporting = Daycare Services-Child
- NYTD = Not Applicable
- Rate by Service selected
- Service Rate = \$200/month

Please share this memorandum with child protective investigators, sheriff offices conducting child protection investigations, CBCs, subcontracted providers, community stakeholders, and any other appropriate staff.

CONTACT INFORMATION: If you have any questions, please reach out to the following contacts:

Service Type Setup and Payments- Jennifer Macdonald at 850-717-4537 or Jennifer.Macdonald@myflfamilies.com and Marci Kirkland at 850-354-4026 or Marci.Kirkland@myflfamilies.com

Foster Home Licensure – Teanna Houston at 850-717-4203 or Teanna.Houston@myflfamilies.com

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Relative and Non-Relative Caregiver Program – Jeanette Betancourt at 850-717-4631 or
Jeanette.Betancourt@myffamilies.com

cc: Barney Ray, Revenue Management and Partner Compliance Director
Community-Based Care (CBC) Lead Agency CFOs
Casey Penn, Assistant Secretary for Economic Self-Sufficiency