



**National Resource Center for
Family-Centered Practice and Permanency Planning**
at the Hunter College School of Social Work

Foster Care Maintenance Payments

Individuals often attempt to compare the reimbursement payments made to foster parents in various states. Our experience has shown that, while comparison tables have some use, they may be misleading in some instances. Factors affecting the usefulness of strict dollar comparisons include:

- variation in cost of living in different areas;
- variation in payments between regions or counties within a state;
- supplemental payments that may be provided for a variety of expenditures; and
- variation in criteria used to determine different levels of care that receive higher reimbursements.

To provide a fuller picture of the rates being provided, we have prepared a table listing basic maintenance payments at various age levels. Amounts of additional payments are footnoted, when available; the absence of such payments does not mean they are not made.

Since many states use a daily rate, we have computed a monthly rate using the formula (daily rate) x 365 divided by 12. All rates have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

The "effective date" shown for many states is the date those rates were initiated, if known. The "as of date" shown is the date the rates were verified as current. Sources of information are shown on page 5. Whenever possible, we verified rates directly with states or through available current Internet-based information. When those sources were not available, we used the most current of the following:

- The Child Welfare League of America's (CWLA) National Data Analysis System (NDAS): most recent data available is for 2004, based on a survey conducted by the CWLA in 2005. <http://ndas.cwla.org/>
- A survey conducted by the National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators (NAPCWA) in November 2006. Listed as "NAPCWA" in the source list.

For information on the cost of raising a child in different regions of the country, see the annual U.S. Department of Agriculture reports, *Expenditures on Children by Families*, available at <http://www.cnpp.usda.gov/ExpendituresonChildrenbyFamilies.htm>

Basic Foster Care Maintenance Payment

	Under age 1	Age 1	Age 2	Age 3	Age 4	Age 5	Ages 6-8	Age 9	Age 10	Age 11	Age 12	Age 13	Age 14	Age 15	Ages 16+	Eff date	Ver. date
Alabama	\$410	\$410	\$410	\$423	\$423	\$423	\$434	\$434	\$434	\$434	\$434	\$446	\$446	\$446	\$446	4/02	10/04
Alaska ¹	\$653	\$653	\$653	\$580 ²	\$580	\$580	\$580	\$580	\$580	\$580	\$689	\$689	\$689	\$689	\$689		10/04
Arizona ³	\$828	\$793	\$793	\$767	\$767	\$767	\$782	\$782	\$782	\$782	\$879	\$879	\$879	\$879	\$879	7/06	04/07
Arkansas	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$425	\$425	\$425	\$425	\$450	\$450	\$450	\$475	\$475		04/07
California ⁴	\$425	\$425	\$425	\$425	\$425	\$462	\$462	\$494	\$494	\$494	\$546	\$546	\$546	\$597	\$597	7/01	11/06
Colorado ⁵	\$349	\$349	\$349	\$349	\$349	\$349	\$349	\$349	\$349	\$392	\$392	\$392	\$392	\$423	\$423		11/05
Connecticut ⁶	\$783	\$783	\$783	\$783	\$783	\$783	\$792	\$792	\$792	\$792	\$859	\$859	\$859	\$859	\$859	7/07	01/08
Delaware	\$517	\$517	\$517	\$517	\$517	\$517	\$517	\$517	\$517	\$517	\$517	\$517	\$517	\$517	\$517		04/07
D.C.	\$827	\$827	\$827	\$827	\$827	\$827	\$827	\$827	\$827	\$827	\$899	\$899	\$899	\$899	\$899		2005
Florida	\$429	\$429	\$429	\$429	\$429	\$429	\$440	\$440	\$440	\$440	\$440	\$515	\$515	\$515	\$515	7/06	01/07
Georgia	\$416	\$416	\$416	\$416	\$416	\$416	\$471	\$471	\$471	\$471	\$471	\$540	\$540	\$540	\$540	7/05	04/07
Hawaii	\$529	\$529	\$529	\$529	\$529	\$529	\$529	\$529	\$529	\$529	\$529	\$529	\$529	\$529	\$529	7/90	04/07
Idaho ⁷	\$274	\$274	\$274	\$274	\$274	\$274	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$431	\$431	\$431	\$431	7/04	04/07
Illinois ⁸	\$361	\$369	\$369	\$369	\$369	\$384	\$384	\$410	\$410	\$410	\$445	\$445	\$445	\$445	\$445	1/02	

¹ Alaska's rate varies by geographic location; the state applies a multiplier of up to 1.42 times the listed rate. Each village is assigned a multiplier
Additional payment: Maximum \$300 initial clothing, based on documented need.

² The rate changes at age 31 months.

³ Additional payments may include maximum yearly amounts as follows: \$300 emergency clothing; \$165 books and school supplies; \$165 supplemental school fees in year-round schools; \$220 graduation expenses; \$45 holidays, birthdays; \$350 day camp or combined \$550 overnight camp and day camp, or family vacation

⁴ Rates at some age levels are slightly higher in the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Santa Clara, and Marin.

⁵ Additional: \$20 respite allowance; the 64 counties have the authority to negotiate rates above the anchor rates and most do.

⁶ Additional: initial clothing allowance \$300

⁷ Additional payments: Christmas gifts \$30; birthday gifts \$20; clothing and school fees "based upon the Department's determination of each child needs."

⁸ Additional payments: initial clothing voucher if the child's clothing is inadequate; transportation/mileage up to \$50 per month to support sibling visits; \$25 per hour, up to \$100, to supervise sibling visits

	Under age 1	Age 1	Age 2	Age 3	Age 4	Age 5	Ages 6-8	Age 9	Age 10	Age 11	Age 12	Age 13	Age 14	Age 15	Ages 16+	Eff date	Ver. date
Indiana	Each county sets an individual scale; there is no State rate. Foster parents can negotiate with their county director																
Iowa ⁹	\$454	\$454	\$454	\$454	\$454	\$454	\$474	\$474	\$474	\$474	\$523	\$523	\$523	\$523	\$525	7/05	04/07
Kansas	\$568	\$568	\$568	\$568	\$568	\$568	\$568	\$568	\$568	\$568	\$568	\$568	\$568	\$568	\$568		2005
Kentucky ¹⁰	\$599	\$599	\$599	\$599	\$599	\$599	\$599	\$599	\$599	\$599	\$660	\$660	\$660	\$660	\$660		04/07
Louisiana			\$380					\$365							\$399		2005
Maine ¹¹	\$502	\$502	\$502	\$502	\$502	\$502	\$502	\$502	\$502	\$502	\$502	\$502	\$502	\$502	\$502		11/06
	\$913	\$913	\$913	\$913	\$913	\$913	\$913	\$913	\$913	\$913	\$913	\$913	\$913	\$913	\$913		
Maryland	\$735	\$735	\$735	\$735	\$735	\$735	\$735	\$735	\$735	\$735	\$750	\$750	\$750	\$750	\$750	07/07	08/07
Massachusetts	\$520	\$520	\$520	\$520	\$520	\$520	\$546	\$546	\$546	\$546	\$546	\$565	\$565	\$565	\$565	7/04	10/04
Michigan	\$433	\$433	\$433	\$433	\$433	\$433	\$433	\$433	\$433	\$433	\$433	\$535	\$535	\$535	\$535		10/04
Minnesota ¹²	\$585	\$585	\$585	\$585	\$585	\$585	\$585	\$585	\$585	\$585	\$681	\$681	\$681	\$699	\$699	1/07	04/07
Mississippi			\$325					\$355							\$400		2005
Missouri ¹³	\$271	\$271	\$271	\$271	\$271	\$271	\$322	\$322	\$322	\$322	\$322	\$358	\$358	\$358	\$358	07/07	05/08
Montana			\$450					\$450							\$542		11/06
Nebraska			\$222					\$292							\$352		2005
Nevada			\$592					\$592							\$682		2003
New Hampshire ¹⁴	\$403	\$403	\$403	\$403	\$403	\$403	\$439	\$439	\$439	\$439	\$518	\$518	\$518	\$518	\$518	7/06	05/07

⁹ Additional payments: \$1 per day per child when a sibling group of 3 or more is placed in the same home; \$250 initial clothing allowance; \$200 replacement clothing per year; \$50 per year school fees; \$1 per day transportation for pre-placement or family visits outside the community in which the foster family resides.

¹⁰ Additional payments: initial clothing allowance may be authorized up to \$100 ages 0-1; \$120 ages 1-2; \$130 ages 3-4; \$180 ages 5-11; \$290 ages 12+; annual school clothing allowance \$50 ages 3-10; \$100 ages 11+; graduation expenses up to \$500; Christmas gifts \$60; \$25 birthday gifts;

¹¹ Maine has two regular foster care maintenance rates, for children with "minimal" needs (\$16.50/day) and children with "mild" needs (\$30/day). Additional: initial clothing allowance: \$365 ages 0-11; \$618 ages 12-14; \$698 ages 15-18.

¹² Additional payment: initial clothing allowance \$389 ages 0-11; \$658 ages 12-14; \$744 ages 15-18

¹³ Additional payments: infant allowance, \$50 ages 0-2; annual clothing allowance: \$150 ages 0-5; \$200 ages 6-12; \$250 ages 13+

¹⁴ Additional payments: Clothing at \$0.88 a day and special occasion allowances for Holiday, Back to School and Birthday paid 3 times a year - \$50 ages 0-5; \$58 ages 6-10; \$67 ages 11-13; \$100 ages 14-18.

	Under age 1	Age 1	Age 2	Age 3	Age 4	Age 5	Ages 6-8	Age 9	Age 10	Age 11	Age 12	Age 13	Age 14	Age 15	Ages 16+	Eff date	Ver. date
New Jersey	\$454	\$454	\$454	\$454	\$454	\$454	\$489	\$489	\$510	\$510	\$510	\$564	\$564	\$564	\$564	1/05	04/05
New Mexico ¹⁵	\$483	\$483	\$483	\$483	\$483	\$483	\$516	\$516	\$516	\$516	\$516	\$542	\$542	\$542	\$542	07/07	03/08
New York ¹⁶	Each of 58 local districts is allowed to set its own rates. The state only determines the maximum amounts it will reimburse to the local districts; there is no minimum. Maximum state aid rates for Metro/Upstate are:																
	\$504/ \$459	\$504/ \$459	\$504/ \$459	\$504/ \$459	\$504/ \$459	\$504/ \$459	\$594/ \$553	\$594/ \$553	\$594/ \$553	\$594/ \$553	\$687/ \$640	\$687/ \$640	\$687/ \$640	\$687/ \$640	\$687/ \$640	04/07	04/07
North Carolina	\$390	\$390	\$390	\$390	\$390	\$390	\$440	\$440	\$440	\$440	\$440	\$490	\$490	\$490	\$490		04/07
North Dakota			\$360					\$408							\$531		11/06
Ohio ¹⁷	Each county sets its own minimum and maximum per diem rates, which range from \$9.00 to \$118.00.																
Oklahoma ¹⁸	\$365	\$365	\$365	\$365	\$365	\$365	\$430	\$430	\$430	\$430	\$430	\$498	\$498	\$498	\$498		11/06
Oregon	\$387	\$387	\$387	\$387	\$387	\$387	\$402	\$402	\$402	\$402	\$402	\$497	\$497	\$497	\$497	04/06	04/07
Pennsylvania	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
Rhode Island	\$438	\$438	\$438	\$438	\$416	\$416	\$416	\$416	\$416	\$416	\$416	\$480	\$480	\$480	\$480		04/07
South Carolina			\$332					\$359							\$425		11/06
South Dakota	\$451	\$451	\$451	\$451	\$451	\$451	\$451	\$451	\$451	\$451	\$451	\$542	\$542	\$542	\$542		11/06
Tennessee ¹⁹	\$627	\$627	\$627	\$627	\$627	\$627	\$627	\$627	\$627	\$627	\$627	\$737	\$737	\$737	\$737	11/06	04/07
Texas	\$652	\$652	\$652	\$652	\$652	\$652	\$652	\$652	\$652	\$652	\$652	\$652	\$652	\$652	\$652	9/07	08/07
Utah	\$456	\$456	\$456	\$456	\$456	\$456	\$456	\$456	\$456	\$456	\$487	\$487	\$487	\$487	\$517	7/07	05/08
Vermont	\$517	\$517	\$517	\$517	\$517	\$517	\$571	\$571	\$571	\$571	\$571	\$630	\$630	\$630	\$630		2005
Virginia ²⁰	\$368	\$368	\$368	\$368	\$368	\$431	\$431	\$431	\$431	\$431	\$431	\$546	\$546	\$546	\$546	07/07	08/07
Washington	\$374	\$374	\$374	\$374	\$374	\$374	\$451	\$451	\$451	\$451	\$525	\$525	\$525	\$525	\$525	7/06	07/07

¹⁵ Additional payments: annual clothing allowance \$600; \$50 birthday; \$50 December holiday; \$50-\$100 back to school, depending on funding. Also available reimbursements, with prior approval: maximum \$500 annual for extracurriculars; maximum \$500 educational expenses; \$500 vacation

¹⁶ Additional payment: maximum state aid rates for clothing allowance \$28.98 ages 0-5; \$40.52 ages 6-11; \$62.83 ages 12-15; \$76.86 ages 16+; maximum state aid rate for diaper allowance \$53 per month, ages 0-3.

¹⁷ See Source list for individual county rates.

¹⁸ Additional payment: initial clothing allowance \$100 ages 0-5; \$150 ages 6-12; \$200 ages 13+

¹⁹ If the child's clothing is not adequate, additional amounts: \$125 ages 0-2; \$175 ages 3-4; \$200 ages 5-12; \$250 ages 13+

²⁰ Additional payment: annual clothing allowance ages 0-4: \$300; ages 5-12: \$375; ages 13+: \$450

	Under age 1	Age 1	Age 2	Age 3	Age 4	Age 5	Ages 6-8	Age 9	Age 10	Age 11	Age 12	Age 13	Age 14	Age 15	Ages 16+	Eff date	Ver. date
West Virginia	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	7/03	04/07
Wisconsin	\$333	\$333	\$333	\$333	\$333	\$363	\$363	\$363	\$363	\$363	\$414	\$414	\$414	\$432	\$432	1/08	06/08
Wyoming	\$645	\$645	\$645	\$645	\$645	\$645	\$664	\$664	\$664	\$664	\$664	\$732	\$732	\$732	\$732	7/06	05/07

Sources

Alabama	personal communication, Andy Jackson
Alaska	personal communication, Izabel Bowers
Arizona	www.de.state.az.us/dcyf/adoption/pdf/rates.pdf
Arkansas	http://www.state.ar.us/dhs/chilnfam/Master%20Policy%20-%20Mar%201,%202002.PDF
California	http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/getinfo/acl01/pdf/01-55.pdf
Colorado	personal communication, Mary Griffin
Connecticut	http://www.ct.gov/dcf/lib/dcf/foster_care/pdf/foster_care_rates.pdf
Delaware	http://www.state.de.us/kids/pdfs/fs_fostercare_model_2001.pdf
D.C.	NDAS
Florida	personal communication, Linda Johns, NAPCWA
Georgia	http://dfcs.dhr.georgia.gov/DHR-DFCS/DHR-DFCS_CCFA/FCCRates0605.pdf
Hawaii	http://www.hawaii.gov/dhs/main/har/har_current/17-0828.pdf
Idaho	http://adm.idaho.gov/adminrules/rules/idapa16/0601.pdf
Illinois	http://www.state.il.us/dcf/docs/fpChapter9.pdf
Indiana	NDAS
Iowa	http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/policyanalysis/PolicyManualPages/Manual_Documents/Forms/comm33.pdf
Kansas	NDAS
Kentucky	https://apps.chfs.ky.gov/pandp_process/foster_care_per_diem.htm
Louisiana	NDAS
Maine	personal communication, Martha A. Proulx, NAPCWA
Maryland	http://www.dhr.state.md.us/ssa/foster/cost.htm

Massachusetts	personal communication, Shirley Brathwaite
Michigan	personal communication, Mary Chaliman
Minnesota	http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/dhs_id_059849.pdf
Mississippi	NDAS
Missouri	http://www.dss.mo.gov/cd/info/cwmanual/section4/ch11/sec4ch11attach.htm
Montana	NDAS, NAPCWA
Nebraska	NDAS
Nevada	NDAS (2002)
New Hampshire	Personal communication, Gail DeGoosh
New Jersey	personal communication, Linda Holland
New Mexico	Personal communication, Mark Ruttkay
New York	http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/rates/FosterCare/Rates/
North Carolina	http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/dss/fostercare/index.htm , personal communication, Esther High
North Dakota	NAPCWA
Ohio	http://www.odjfs.state.oh.us/lpc/calendar/fileLINKNAME.asp?ID=FCASPL100
Oklahoma	http://www.okdhs.org/NR/rdonlyres/89C5E099-4FF9-4F73-B2E4-7D4FBEB0F804/0/04AX003E.pdf
Oregon	http://www.dhs.state.or.us/policy/childwelfare/manual_1/i-e51.pdf
Pennsylvania	N/A
Rhode Island	http://www.dcyf.state.ri.us/questions/foster_care_questions.php#financial
South Carolina	NAPCWA
South Dakota	NAPCWA
Tennessee	http://state.tn.us/youth/dcsguide/policies/chap16/16.29%20Resource%20Home%20Board%20Rates.pdf
Texas	http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/PCS/proposed_childcare_reimbursement.asp
Utah	http://www.hspolicy.utah.gov/dcf/ DCFS Practice Guidelines, 300: Service Code List
Vermont	NDAS
Virginia	personal communication, Tamara Temoney
Washington	Personal communication, Michael Luque
West Virginia	http://www.wvdhhr.org/bcf/children_adult/foster/policy/FC%20Policy%20Foster%20Adoptive%20Family%20Care%204%20updated%207-06.doc

Wisconsin	http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/children/foster/progserv/Undrufcr.htm
Wyoming	Personal communication, D.Ward