



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. The Child Welfare League of America's (CWLA) National Data Analysis System (NDAS) is generally considered to be the best source of comprehensive data on state foster care reimbursement. Their most recent data available is for 2004, based on a survey conducted by the CWLA in 2005. Access it at <http://ndas.cwla.org/>. Select "Access the Data" under "Data & Statistics." Then select "Out of Home Care," "Out of Home Care Homes and Facilities," and select either "Foster Care Basic Monthly Maintenance Rates for Children Ages 2, 9 and 16" or "Specialized Foster Care Basic Monthly Maintenance Rates for Children Ages 2, 9 and 16." The NDAS site provides a table that allows the user to compare basic monthly rates, with notes concerning items that may be covered by supplemental payments.

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. Rates for emergency shelter and specialized or treatment levels of care will be provided in a separate document.

Since many states use a daily rate, we have computed a monthly rate using the same formula as the NDAS data, (daily rate) x 365 divided by 12. All rates have been rounded to the nearest dollar. NDAS provides payments for children ages 2, 9, and 16. We have gathered information that is more current in some states, and show a variety of age ranges, as states use a different cut-off ages. Month and year in which rates became effective have been listed, where known.

Sources of information are shown on page 5.

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.usda.gov/cnpp/using2.html>

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
Alabama	\$410	\$410	\$410	\$423	\$423	\$423	\$434	\$434	\$434	\$434	\$434	\$446	\$446	\$446	\$446	4/02
Alaska ¹	\$653	\$653	\$653	\$580 ²	\$580	\$580	\$580	\$580	\$580	\$580	\$689	\$689	\$689	\$689	\$689	
Arizona ³	\$745	\$710	\$710	\$684	\$684	\$684	\$699	\$699	\$699	\$699	\$787	\$787	\$787	\$787	\$787	7/05
Arkansas	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$425	\$425	\$425	\$425	\$450	\$450	\$450	\$475	\$475	
California ⁴	\$425	\$425	\$425	\$425	\$425	\$462	\$462	\$494	\$494	\$494	\$546	\$546	\$546	\$597	\$597	7/01
Colorado ⁵	\$349	\$349	\$349	\$349	\$349	\$349	\$349	\$349	\$349	\$392	\$392	\$392	\$392	\$423	\$423	
Connecticut ⁶	\$726	\$726	\$726	\$726	\$726	\$726	\$739	\$739	\$739	\$739	\$807	\$807	\$807	\$807	\$807	7/05
Delaware	\$517	\$517	\$517	\$517	\$517	\$517	\$517	\$517	\$517	\$517	\$517	\$517	\$517	\$517	\$517	
D.C.	\$827	\$827	\$827	\$827	\$827	\$827	\$827	\$827	\$827	\$827	\$899	\$899	\$899	\$899	\$899	
Florida	\$429	\$429	\$429	\$429	\$429	\$429	\$440	\$440	\$440	\$440	\$440	\$515	\$515	\$515	\$515	7/06
Georgia	\$416	\$416	\$416	\$416	\$416	\$416	\$471	\$471	\$471	\$471	\$471	\$540	\$540	\$540	\$540	7/05
Hawaii	\$529	\$529	\$529	\$529	\$529	\$529	\$529	\$529	\$529	\$529	\$529	\$529	\$529	\$529	\$529	7/90
Idaho ⁷	\$274	\$274	\$274	\$274	\$274	\$274	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$431	\$431	\$431	\$431	7/04
Illinois ⁸	\$361	\$369	\$369	\$369	\$369	\$384	\$384	\$410	\$410	\$410	\$445	\$445	\$445	\$445	\$445	7/00

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
Indiana	Each county sets an individual scale; there is no State rate. Foster parents can negotiate with their county director															
Iowa ⁹	\$434	\$434	\$434	\$434	\$434	\$434	\$458	\$458	\$458	\$458	\$512	\$512	\$512	\$512	\$512	7/01
Kansas	\$568	\$568	\$568	\$568	\$568	\$568	\$568	\$568	\$568	\$568	\$568	\$568	\$568	\$568	\$568	
Kentucky ¹⁰	\$599	\$599	\$599	\$599	\$599	\$599	\$599	\$599	\$599	\$599	\$660	\$660	\$660	\$660	\$660	
Louisiana			\$380					\$365							\$399	
Maine ¹¹	\$502	\$502	\$502	\$502	\$502	\$502	\$502	\$502	\$502	\$502	\$502	\$502	\$502	\$502	\$502	
	\$913	\$913	\$913	\$913	\$913	\$913	\$913	\$913	\$913	\$913	\$913	\$913	\$913	\$913	\$913	
Maryland	\$635	\$635	\$635	\$635	\$635	\$635	\$635	\$635	\$635	\$635	\$650	\$650	\$650	\$650	\$650	07/06
Massachusetts	\$520	\$520	\$520	\$520	\$520	\$520	\$546	\$546	\$546	\$546	\$546	\$565	\$565	\$565	\$565	7/04
Michigan	\$433	\$433	\$433	\$433	\$433	\$433	\$433	\$433	\$433	\$433	\$433	\$535	\$535	\$535	\$535	
Minnesota ¹²	\$547	\$547	\$547	\$547	\$547	\$547	\$547	\$547	\$547	\$547	\$642	\$642	\$642	\$656	\$656	1/05
Mississippi			\$325					\$355							\$400	
Missouri ¹³	\$227	\$227	\$227	\$227	\$227	\$227	\$277	\$277	\$277	\$277	\$277	\$307	\$307	\$307	\$307	
Montana			\$450					\$450							\$542	
Nebraska			\$222					\$292							\$352	
Nevada			\$592					\$592							\$682	
New Hampshire ¹⁴			\$373					\$406							\$479	
New Jersey	\$454	\$454	\$454	\$454	\$454	\$454	\$489	\$489	\$510	\$510	\$510	\$564	\$564	\$564	\$564	1/05

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.

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 \$365 ages 0-11; \$618 ages 12-14; \$698 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 \$25 a month (paid at .75 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
New Mexico			\$408					\$441							\$467	
New York ¹⁵	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															
North Carolina	\$390	\$390	\$390	\$390	\$390	\$390	\$440	\$440	\$440	\$440	\$440	\$490	\$490	\$490	\$490	
North Dakota			\$351					\$397							\$517	
Ohio ¹⁶	Each county sets its own minimum and maximum per diem rates, which range from \$9.00 to \$118.00.															
Oklahoma ¹⁷	\$335	\$335	\$335	\$335	\$335	\$335	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$468	\$468	\$468	\$468	8/04
Oregon	\$387	\$387	\$387	\$387	\$387	\$387	\$402	\$402	\$402	\$402	\$402	\$497	\$497	\$497	\$497	04/06
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	\$415	\$415	\$415	\$415	\$415	\$415	\$480	\$480	\$480	\$480	\$480	
South Carolina			\$312					\$339							\$415	
South Dakota	\$415	\$415	\$415	\$415	\$415	\$415	\$415	\$415	\$415	\$415	\$415	\$498	\$498	\$498	\$498	7/03
Tennessee ¹⁸	\$575	\$575	\$575	\$575	\$575	\$575	\$575	\$575	\$575	\$575	\$663	\$663	\$663	\$663	\$663	8/06
Texas	\$625	\$625	\$625	\$625	\$625	\$625	\$625	\$625	\$625	\$625	\$625	\$625	\$625	\$625	\$625	9/05
Utah	\$418	\$418	\$418	\$418	\$418	\$418	\$418	\$418	\$418	\$418	\$449	\$449	\$449	\$449	\$479	7/03
Vermont	\$517	\$517	\$517	\$517	\$517	\$517	\$571	\$571	\$571	\$571	\$571	\$630	\$630	\$630	\$630	
Virginia ¹⁹	\$326	\$326	\$326	\$326	\$326	\$381	\$381	\$381	\$381	\$381	\$381	\$483	\$483	\$483	\$483	
Washington			\$370					\$446							\$520	
West Virginia	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	7/03
Wisconsin	\$302	\$302	\$302	\$302	\$302	\$329	\$329	\$329	\$329	\$329	\$375	\$375	\$375	\$391	\$391	1/01
Wyoming			\$400					\$400							\$400	

¹⁵ Additional payment: annual clothing replacement allowance \$304 ages 0-5; \$425 ages 6-11; \$659 ages 12-15; \$806 ages 16+; diaper allowance \$47 per month, ages 0-3. In addition, at first placement, the adequacy of the child's clothing is reviewed, and a clothing allowance may be issued.

¹⁶ See Source list for individual county rates.

¹⁷ Additional payment: initial clothing allowance \$100 ages 0-5; \$150 ages 6-12; \$200 ages 13+

¹⁸ If the child's clothing is not adequate, additional amounts: \$125 ages 0-2; \$175 ages 3-4; \$155 ages 5-12; \$200 ages 13+

¹⁹ Additional payment: clothing allowance \$300 per year

Sources

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Alaska	personal communication, Izabel Bowers; http://health.hss.state.ak.us/ocs/Publications/
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.state.ct.us/dcf/Policy/Trmt36/36-55-25-2.htm http://www.state.ct.us/dcf/Policy/Trmt36/36-55-25-5.htm
Delaware	http://www.state.de.us/kids/pdfs/fs_fostercare_model_2001.pdf
D.C.	NDAS
Florida	personal communication, Linda Johns
Georgia	http://dfcs.dhr.georgia.gov/DHR-DFCS/DHR-DFCS_CCFA/FCCRates0605.pdf
Hawaii	http://www.state.hi.us/dhs/17-828.pdf
Idaho	http://www2.state.id.us/adm/adminrules/rules/idapa16/0601.pdf
Illinois	http://www.state.il.us/dcf/docs/fpChapter9.pdf
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Kansas	NDAS
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Louisiana	NDAS
Maine	personal communication, Martha A. Proulx
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Montana	NDAS
Nebraska	NDAS
Nevada	NDAS (2002)
New Hampshire	NDAS, and personal communication, Gail DeGoosh
New Jersey	personal communication, Linda Holland
New Mexico	NDAS
New York	http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/rates/
North Carolina	personal communication, Esther High
North Dakota	NDAS
Ohio	http://www.odjfs.state.oh.us/lpc/MTL/FCASPL58I.pdf
Oklahoma	http://www.okdhs.org/forms/forms2/OKDHS_Ap-C-20.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	State agency to cut monthly foster care stipend. (2002, June 25). <i>The State</i> .
South Dakota	personal communication, Duane Jenner
Tennessee	http://www.state.tn.us/youth/policies/Chapter%2016%20Foster%20Care/16-29%20Resource%20Home%20Board%20Rates.pdf
Texas	http://www.tdprs.state.tx.us/Adoption_and_Foster_Care/About_Foster_Care/foster_care_reimbursements.asp
Utah	personal communication, Angela Khairallah
Vermont	NDAS
Virginia	personal communication, Tamara Temoney
Washington	NDAS
West Virginia	http://www.wvdhhr.org/bcf/children_adult/foster/policy/FC%20Policy%20Foster%20Adoptive%20Family%20Care%204%20updated%207-06.doc
Wisconsin	Wisconsin Administrative Code s. 48.62 (4), Stats.
Wyoming	NDAS