

2020 Foster Care Redesign Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs): Payroll



Overview:

Since 2016, The Department of Children, Youth & Families (DCYF) has been working to improve its foster care system. The Department's vision for Rhode Island's family-based foster care system includes a robust, diverse, and culturally appropriate array of services and foster families who can care for children and youth when they are not safe at home.

The DCYF has successfully renegotiated contracts with all its private foster care agencies. The core of renegotiation ensures all foster families will have access to the same level of services and supports, based on the needs of the child(ren) or youth in their care, so *all* foster families can be successful.

New private agency contracts began August 1, 2020.

Payroll:

To streamline all foster board maintenance payments, The Department of Children, Youth & Families will now be the issuing agency. Both direct deposit and paper checks mailed home are options to receive payment.

Questions in this FAQ are related to how new foster board maintenance rates are paid to foster families, direct deposit, mileage reimbursement.

The Department will be issuing foster board maintenance payments on a monthly basis. This is very hard for some families. Can the Department pay families more frequently?

Previously, each Private Foster Care Agency (PFCA) and DCYF issued foster board maintenance payments on their own timelines – weekly, biweekly, and monthly. In the new rate system, DCYF will be issuing foster board maintenance payments to all foster families in the state of Rhode Island. Right now, the schedule is monthly. DCYF recognizes this is a change for some and appreciates the partnership of our foster families as we move into this new system.

I am a PFCA foster family who currently receives direct deposit. Do I need to do anything to continue receiving automatic payments?

Because DCYF is now issuing foster board maintenance payments, foster families do need to fill out new direct deposit paperwork. PFCA foster families can obtain this paperwork from their agency. DCYF traditional and kinship foster homes do not need to complete any new paperwork.

Who should foster families contact with questions about direct deposit or payments?

If your questions are not addressed in this FAQ, or you have a question about your specific case, you may contact the DCYF Management and Budget Office:

- Lisa Casalino • Lisa.Casalino@dcyf.ri.gov • (401) 528 – 3632
- Keyshia Rohena* • Keyisha.Rohena@dcyf.ri.gov • (401) 528-3649
- Claribel Lohr* • Claribel.Lohr@dcyf.ri.gov • (401) 528-3628 (* *Habla Española*)

When will foster families receive their first payment from DCYF?

Foster board maintenance payments are issued on the 15th of each month for all days a child was in care the previous month. For example, a September 15th payment would be inclusive of all days a child was in care the month of August. Families enrolled in direct deposit may see the payment in their bank account 1-2 business days earlier than the 15th.

How much are birthday stipends and when are they issued?

Annual Birthday Stipends are automatically included in the monthly payment of the child or youth's birthday month. Each child or youth receives a \$25 birthday stipend.

How much are holiday stipends and when are they issued?

Annual Holiday Stipends are automatically included in the December payment. Each child or youth receives a \$40 holiday stipend.

Will foster families be reimbursed for visits they facilitate with biological families?

Foster families who assist with transportation to/from visits with children and youth's biological families are eligible for reimbursement of \$20.00/per round trip. To apply for reimbursement, foster families can submit the *"Foster Parent Travel Reimbursement Form."*

Travel Reimbursement:

The Department of Children, Youth and Families' (DCYF) *Travel Reimbursement Program* was implemented as an incentive to foster parents to assist social caseworkers with transporting children to and from appointments and approved visits with their parents. To be reimbursed for allowable appointments and authorized visitation, please fill out the *"Foster Parent Travel Reimbursement Form."*

The following are reimbursable:

- Medical appointments
- Dental appointments
- Vision appointments
- Counseling and mental health appointments
- *Authorized* visitation

Where do foster families get their mileage forms?

Initially, forms will be distributed through PFCA's and DCYF primary caseworkers. The forms will also be available on the DCYF Web site for foster families to download.

Who do foster families give their mileage forms to? When are mileage forms due?

Forms are due on the 20th of each month for the previous reporting period. The reporting period is defined as the 16th through 15th of the next month. All submissions must be submitted within three months.

Forms should be submitted to:

The Department of Children, Youth & Families
 Attn: Business Office
 101 Friendship Street, 4th Floor
 Providence, RI 02903

What happens if a family member transports a child? Who gets reimbursed?

To be eligible for reimbursement, a foster parent provide transportation.

Is transportation to/from childcare reimbursable like school transportation?

No, childcare transportation is not reimbursable.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.dcyf.ri.gov/be-an-anchor/>



Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth & Families

101 Friendship Street
Providence, RI 02903
(401) 528-3500