

Foster Care Maintenance Payments



What are Monthly Foster Care Maintenance Payments?

Monthly foster care maintenance payments assist licensed caregivers (foster parents and licensed kinship caregivers) in meeting the needs of children and youth experiencing foster care.

How much should I expect to receive?

A basic rate payment (Level 1) is paid to all licensed caregivers for costs related to food, clothing, shelter, and personal incidentals. There are three additional levels of supplemental payments (Levels 2, 3, and 4) which are paid to licensed caregivers who are parenting children with varying degrees of physical, developmental, behavioral, or mental health conditions that require increased effort, care, or supervision that are above the needs of a typically developing child.

The chart below outlines the monthly rates based on the child's age and their level.

Child's Age	Level I or Basic Rate	Level II (Includes Basic)	Level III (Includes Basic)	Level IV (Includes Basic)
0-5 Years	\$672.00	\$849.92	\$1195.51	\$1474.30
6-11 Years	\$796.00	\$973.92	\$1319.51	\$1598.30
12+ Years	\$810.00	\$987.92	\$1333.51	\$1612.30

The chart below breaks down the monthly basic rate by the child's age and basic needs.

Child's Age	Shelter ¹	Food ²	Clothing ³	Personal Incidentals	Total Level I or Basic Rate
0-5 Years	\$385.00	\$183.00	\$52.00	\$52.00	\$672.00
6-11 Years	\$385.00	\$291.00	\$44.00	\$76.00	\$796.00
12+ Years	\$385.00	\$318.00	\$43.00	\$64.00	\$810.00

¹ Shelter costs are based on 2019 Washington foster care non-relative placements, by county; and The FY 2019 Washington FMR Summary, average cost of adding a bedroom (from one to 4 bedrooms). (https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/fmr/fmrs/FY2019_code/2019state_summary.odn).

² USDA Moderate-Cost Food Plans July 2019, adjusted to Washington State Cost of Living (source: <https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/media/file/CostofFoodJul2019.pdf>; 2010 Census Bureau Cost of Living for Urban Areas).

³ Clothing and a marginal portion of shelter costs are based on 2015-2017 Consumer Expenditure Survey (CES) updated to July 2019 dollars by using the Consumer Price Index, using the respective CES Expenditure Codes outlined in Tables 2-4.

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