

Foster Care Board Rates

Frequently Asked Questions

When do the new board rates begin?

The new rates take effect on August 1, 2026.

What is a board rate?

The established daily rate made on behalf of a child placed in a certified foster home to cover the cost of providing food, clothing, shelter, daily supervision, school supplies, a child's personal incidentals, reasonable travel to the child's home for visitation, and reasonable travel for the child to remain in the school in which the child is enrolled at the time of placement. Board rates are paid monthly following the placement (e.g, August board rates will be paid in September).

What is included in the Louisiana Board Rate for certified caregivers?

Housing and utilities, household supplies, food, and furnishings, clothing, personal care and diapers when applicable based on age, normalcy to include games, outings, activities, gifts, allowance for the child, socialization activities, etc., and school supplies and items.

When will foster parents see these new payments?

The adjusted rate will appear in the September 2026 payment cycle, which covers care provided during the month of August.

Why is the board rate being increased?

The increase is designed to better meet the daily, holistic needs of children in foster care while completely eliminating delayed, paper-based reimbursement processes.

How were the rates determined?

Surveys were conducted with foster parents to understand the cost of care for children and board rates were based on those responses. 42% of foster parents participated. Rate setting will be done on a regular basis. During rate setting, all foster parents are invited to participate. Having all foster parents participate increases the accuracy of rates. We encourage all foster parents to participate in all rate settings.

Where can I find the official rules?

Official agency policy is currently being finalized and will be distributed to staff and caregivers as soon as it is published.

Will I need to submit new forms or will this increase be automatic?

This rate increase will be automatic; you will not need to complete or update any forms.

Will my adoption or guardianship subsidy increase?

No. The new rates will not impact your current adoption and guardianship rates. Currently adoption and guardianship rates are set at 80% of the board payment at the time of adoption.

Will the amount allowed to pay attorneys while adopting increase?

Not at this time. DCFS is currently assessing the costs associated with adoptions and resources available to assist.

Will families currently receiving a Special Board payment continue to receive the additional support they need?

Special Board is a temporary approval of additional funding provided to a caregiver. Prior to this board increase, all Special Board had expiration dates. Special Board processes required foster families to prove the care they provided, wait for approvals through cumbersome paper processes, and experience continuous expiration dates. With the new board rates, the money most families were receiving with Special Board is included in the new rate and will not have expirations or approval processes. Families receiving Special Board payments that exceed the rate increase are being assessed to ensure the needs of children with exceptional medical, mental health, and behavioral needs are being addressed.

Will foster caregivers still be able to submit mileage reimbursement requests?

No. Families will receive a standard board rate that includes this service. We also encourage families to utilize other resources, such as Medical Transportation when needed.

Will the respite reimbursement rate increase as well?

Not at this time.

What other reimbursements are being removed from the current policy?

The following separate reimbursable services, that were not previously included in the board rate, are now covered in the monthly board rate or through available services: initial or replacement clothing/apparel, transportation, babysitting, school supplies, and personal care items. This eliminates cumbersome and delayed reimbursement processes.

When will separate reimbursables end?

- Some less commonly needed separate reimbursable expenses will continue if they are not included in the new board rates. Caregivers must continue to check with their child's worker. Policy is being updated to give specific details.
- Separate reimbursable requests for school supplies, school uniforms, and backpacks will be allowed until August 31, 2026. Following that date, those expenses will be provided for in the increased board rate.
- Separate reimbursable requests for expenses occurring after July 31, 2026 that are now calculated into the new board rate will not be accepted. Those expenses will be accounted for in the regular September payment that covers August care.
- Initial clothing and initial incidental expenses will be provided for by Community Pathway Network providers in the future. These two reimbursements will continue to be allowed until the Community Pathways Network has begun.

How will high-needs or specialized care needs be determined in the future?

The care needs of children will be assessed using a Level of Care (LOC) determination tool that assists the agency in understanding the level of care needed for each child and plan for services accordingly. Level of Care determinations are based on the CANS assessment. DCFS will continue to work with caregivers to identify resources needed to provide care for children.

Feedback form:

dcfs.la/bq

