

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
 Executive Office of Health and Human Services
 Department of Children and Families
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CHARLES D. BAKER
 Governor

MARYLOU SUDDERS
 Secretary

KARYN E. POLITO
 Lieutenant Governor

LINDA S. SPEARS
 Commissioner

July 1, 2022

Dear Foster Parents:

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) is pleased to inform you that we are increasing our reimbursement rates for foster care effective July 1, 2022 by 10%. The Department is also raising the quarterly clothing rates for children in care. The new quarterly clothing rate will come into effect in the August 2022 clothing grant. These increases are consistent with the language in the *Act to Protect Children in the Care of the Commonwealth*, passed by the Legislature in July 2008.

The new daily rates effective July 1, 2022, and the new quarterly clothing amounts effective with the August 2022 clothing grant are as follows:

Age Range	Daily Rate	Quarterly Clothing Rates
Ages 0-5:	\$27.79	\$275.97
Ages 6-12:	\$31.49	\$284.64
Ages 13+:	\$32.90	\$342.43

These rates are effective for all children in departmental foster care on July 1, 2022. The rates are not retroactive to a child's date of placement.

In addition, effective July 1, 2022, the Department is increasing the rate for children eligible for the Parents and Children Together (PACT) program from \$7.50 per hour to \$10.00 per hour. This new PACT rate will also be used to determine any higher level of care (supplemental subsidy) payments for children whose adoptions are legalized on or after July 1, 2022.

The Department is also pleased to inform you that we are continuing the monthly emergency relief payments of \$100 per child per month through June 30, 2023. The pandemic has stretched much longer than we could have imagined. We know the costs of caring for children persist, driven by inflation and global supply chain issues. DCF remains committed to supporting foster parents in every way possible.

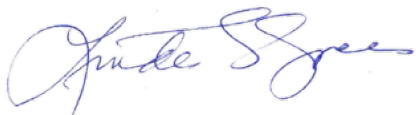
The Department encourages all foster parents to elect to receive payments electronically through **electronic funds transfer (EFT)**. To sign up for EFT, please contact your family resource worker in your area office and request a blank EFT form. You may also contact the DCF Payment Assistance Line (PAL) at 1-800-632-8218 or by email at dcf.paymentassistanceline@mass.gov.

Likewise, we encourage all foster parents to sign up for the **foster parent e-mail distribution list**. This list allows us to communicate important information about matters that impact you and the children in your care in a timely manner. To be included, please contact your family resource worker in your area office and ask them to add your e-mail address to the list.

Lastly, we encourage all foster parents to sign up for the **DCF Foster Parents Intranet Portal, FosterMA Connect**. This resource allows foster parents to view information from the case records of the children in your care, current policies, reimbursement forms, links to resources, and information about upcoming events. In the upcoming year, we plan to add the ability to look up your payment history. We also hope you will use it to ask questions directly to our staff and build a community of support with other foster parents. To sign-up, contact your family resource worker in your area office. You can also contact dcffostercare@mass.gov with questions.

DCF and the Commonwealth greatly appreciate the love, hope, and security you bring to foster children each and every day.

Sincerely,



Linda S. Spears
Commissioner