



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
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LINDA S. SPEARS
COMMISSIONER

July 14, 2023

Dear Foster Parents:

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) is pleased to inform you that we have increased our reimbursement rates for foster care effective July 1, 2023, by 15.5%. This increase is inclusive of two things: a significant increase (7%) over last year's daily rate, and an 8.5% increase in lieu of the \$100 per month per child "Emergency Fiscal Relief" payments that DCF has issued since April 2020 which ended on June 30, 2023. This 15.5% rate increase over FY23 foster care rates is intended to enhance support for our foster parents and to account for the cost of living in Massachusetts.

The Department is also increasing the quarterly clothing allowance rates for children in care. The new quarterly clothing allowance rates, also effective July 1, 2023, will be first issued with the August 2023 quarterly clothing allowance. 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 and quarterly clothing allowance rates, effective July 1, 2023, are as follows:

Age Range	Daily Rate	Quarterly Clothing Rate
Ages 0-5	\$32.10	\$318.74
Ages 6-12	\$36.38	\$328.76
Ages 13+	\$38.00	\$395.51

The daily rates are effective for all children in departmental foster care on July 1, 2023. Quarterly clothing allowances will be issued for all children in departmental foster care on August 15, 2023. The rates are not retroactive to a child's date of placement.

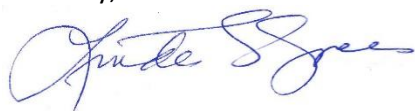
The Department encourages all foster parents to elect to receive payments via direct deposit/**electronic funds transfer (EFT)**. To sign up for EFT, please contact your foster family social worker and request a blank EFT Authorization form. You may also contact the DCF Payment Assistance Line (PAL) at 1-800-632-8218 or by email at DCF.PaymentAssistanceLine@MassMail.State.MA.US.

Likewise, we encourage all foster parents to register their e-mail account for the **foster parent e-mail distribution list**. This distribution list allows us to better communicate directly with foster parents on matters that impact you and the children in your care. To register for the distribution list, please contact your foster family social worker.

Lastly, we continue to encourage all foster parents to sign up for the **DCF Foster Parent Intranet Portal, FosterMA Connect**, at <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/fosterma-connect>. Please email dcffostercare@mass.gov for help logging in. FosterMA Connect allows foster parents to view information about children in your care – including medical and payment information – as well as access to current policies, reimbursement forms, and information about upcoming events. Through FosterMA Connect, foster parents can ask questions directly to DCF staff and build a community of support with other foster parents.

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

This letter is important. To obtain a version of this letter in your native language, please reach out to your foster family social worker or visit the FosterMA Connect portal at <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/fosterma-connect>.

Esta carta es importante. Para obtener una versión de esta carta en su idioma nativo, comuníquese con el trabajador social de su familia de crianza o visite el portal FosterMA Connect en <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/fosterma-connect>.

Esta carta é importante. Para obter uma versão desta carta em sua língua materna, entre em contato com o assistente social da sua família adotiva ou acesse o portal do FosterMA Connect em <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/fosterma-connect>.

Lá thư này rất quan trọng. Để nhận được phiên bản của thư này bằng ngôn ngữ mẹ đẻ của quý vị, vui lòng liên hệ với nhân viên xã hội gia đình chăm sóc nuôi dưỡng hoặc truy cập cổng thông tin Kết Nối FosterMA tại <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/fosterma-connect>.

Kel karta li é importanti. Pa ten un version di és karta na bu lingua materna, kontata assistenti susial di bu familia di akolhimentu ou vizita portal FosterMA Connec na <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/fosterma-connect>.

Lèt sa a enpòtan. Pou jwenn yon vèsyon lèt sa a nan lang natif natal ou, tanpri kontakte travayè sosyal fanmi adoptif ou oswa vizite pòtal FosterMA Connect nan <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/fosterma-connect>.

លិខិតនេះសំខាន់។ ដើម្បីទទួលបានកំណែច្នៃនៃលិខិតនេះជាភាសាកំណើតរបស់អ្នក សូមទាក់ទងទៅបុគ្គលិកសង្គមកិច្ចនៃគ្រួសារកូនចិញ្ចឹមរបស់អ្នក ឬចូលទៅគេហទំព័រទំនាក់ទំនង FosterMA តាម <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/fosterma-connect>.

本信函很重要。如您想收到关于此信函的您所讲母语的版本，请联系您的寄养家庭社会工作者或登录 FosterMA Connect 门户网站，其网址为：<https://www.mass.gov/how-to/fosterma-connect>