

Treatment Foster Care Workgroup

**Continuum of Care for
Nebraska Home-like Placement Service Types and Levels**

Placement Service Type Blue – DHHS Only Purple - DHHS/NFC placements served by Child Placing Agency Yellow – Probation Pink – NFC Only	Placement Services Level Green – currently available Gray - draft	Description of Service	Rate to Caregiver			Notes
			Age 0-5	Age 6-11	Age 12-18	
State Sponsored	Essential (includes kinship/relative)	Essential is the basic level of parenting for a child in a Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) out-of-home placement. This includes duties listed as Level of Responsibility 1 on the Nebraska Caregiver Responsibility Tool (NCR).	Age 0-5 \$20.00/day	Age 6-11 \$23.00/day	Age 12-18 \$25.00/day	
State Sponsored	Enhanced (includes kinship/relative)	Enhanced is a higher level of parenting for a child than Essential, but less than Intensive. This includes duties listed as Level of Responsibility 2 on the NCR.	Age 0-5 \$27.50/day	Age 6-11 \$30.50/day	Age 12-18 \$32.50/day	
State Sponsored	Intensive (includes kinship/relative)	Intensive is the highest level of parenting for a child on the NCR. It includes duties listed as Level of Responsibility 3 on the NCR.	Age 0-5 \$35.00/day	Age 6-11 \$38.00/day	Age 12-18 \$40.00/day	
Child Placing Agency Supported	Pre-Assessment	This level of care is provided for youth who are new to the child welfare system and have not been in an out of home placement. This level of care is provided until the youth is able to be assessed.	Age 0-5 \$25.00/day	Age 6-11 \$28.00/day	Age 12-18 \$30.00/day	
Child Placing Agency Supported	Essential	Essential is the basic level of parenting for a child. This includes duties listed as Level of Responsibility 1 on the NCR.	Age 0-5 \$20.00/day	Age 6-11 \$23.00/day	Age 12-18 \$25.00/day	

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Child Placing Agency Supported	Enhanced	Enhanced is a higher level of parenting for a child than Essential, but less than Intensive. This includes duties listed as Level of Responsibility 2 on the NCR.	Age 0-5 \$27.50/day	Age 6-11 \$30.50/day	Age 12-18 \$32.50/day	
Child Placing Agency Supported	Intensive	Intensive is the highest level of parenting for a child on the NCR. It includes duties listed as Level of Responsibility 3 on the NCR.	Age 0-5 \$35.00/day	Age 6-11 \$38.00/day	Age 12-18 \$40.00/day	
Child Placing Agency Supported	Kinship/Relative	This encompasses the support provided for kin who are providing care for foster youth. These families may have different levels of responsibility	Reimbursed as either pre-assessment, essential, enhanced, or intensive, depending on level of responsibility.			
Child Placing Agency Supported	Kinship/Relative Support (each additional child)	This encompasses the support provided by the agencies for each additional child in a kinship home.	Reimbursed as either pre-assessment, essential, enhanced, or intensive, depending on level of responsibility.			
Child Placing Agency Supported	Five Day Beds	Five-day beds with no reject/no eject policy.	Average \$120.00 per day			
Child Placing Agency Supported	Professional Foster Care (NFC)	<p>Professional Foster Care is intended to provide enhanced supervision and supports to ensure safety and well-being, and achieve permanency in a timely and effective manner.</p> <p>This level of care is for children with 3 or more of the following characteristics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Significant history of psychiatric problems 2. Aggressive and non-compliant behaviors 3. Pervasive pattern of placement disruptions due to child's behaviors/needs 4. Intensive medical needs requiring extreme care. 	\$115.00/day			

Placement Service Type Blue – DHHS Only Purple - DHHS/NFC placements served by Child Placing Agency Yellow – Probation Pink – NFC Only	Placement Services Level Green – currently available Gray - draft	Description of Service	Rate to Caregiver	Notes
Child Placing Agency Supported Foster Care	Foster Care (Flat Rate)	This placement is for each child placed out of home who is under the supervision of probation and not a current ward of the state.	\$40.00/day [Probation utilizes the Intensive level for the highest age range for their foster care payment]	
Child Placing Agency Supported Foster Care	Professional Foster Care [DRAFT ONLY]	Would provide an additional level of service for youth involved in the juvenile justice system that provides individualized care in the community and close to the family. Would provide a high level of supervision, crisis stabilization, and daily structure in the home, and clear expectation and specific outcomes for the youth.	Payment rate not yet determined.	Probation’s expectation is that Professional Foster Care (when fully developed and implemented) is not different from treatment foster care.
Child Placing Agency Supported	Treatment Foster Care	This level of care is as yet to be developed. It would be supported by child placing agencies or the Department of Health and Human Services and encompass the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A functional assessment that would allow DHHS to access Title IV-E funding 2. More intensive services based on youth needs, for youth who have needs beyond those captured in the NCR. 3. Maximization of Title IV-E funding penetration 4. Potential access to Medicaid funds 5. Treatment components 6. Kinship caregivers could receive necessary training to serve as professional or treatment foster homes. 	Payment rate not yet determined. Payment rate should be considered as it relates to group home payment, as this level of care would focus on preventing high needs youth from entering congregate care.	

Nebraska Group Home Placement Service Types and Levels

Placement Service Type	Placement Service Level	Description	Payment Rate to Group Home		Notes
Group Home	Group Home B	Services are provided by trained staff that provide supervision during awake hours.	89.50/day (DHHS)	100.00/day (probation)	
Group Home	Group Home A	Services are provided by trained staff that are awake and providing supervision to youth 24 hours a day.	116.00/day (DHHS)	135.00/day (probation)	
Shelter Care	Emergency Shelter	Services are provided by trained staff that are awaked and providing supervision to youth 24 hours a day 7 days a week.	146.00/day (DHHS)	150.00/day (Probation)	
Shelter Care	Enhanced Shelter Care	Utilized by Probation only, this is a residential service that provides 24 hour awake staff and increased structure, supervision and security.	\$180.00/day (Probation)		

Initiatives that may Affect Provision of Home-like Placement Service Types and Levels

1. **Family finding pilot project LB243 (2015)** – Legislative Bill passed in 2015 required the Department of Health and Human Services to refer a portion of all cases involving children who are wards of the state in foster care or participating in the Bridge to Independence Program to providers of family finding services to locate family member of the children, engage and empower family members and create an individualized plan to achieved a safe permanent legal home. Evaluation of the project will begin at the completion of the project’s second year and will be completed in the third year of the pilot project.
2. **JDAI/Douglas County Pilot Contracts.** Douglas County Juvenile Detention Alternatives contract with Douglas County area child placing agencies as a pilot project to decrease the number of youth detained at the Douglas County Youth Center and decrease the number of Juvenile Court Filings. This initiative has shown initial positive results.
3. **Difference between child welfare and juvenile justice that affect placement.** It is important to remember that the two systems have different approaches. Child welfare is focused on safety, permanency, and well-being, and juvenile justice focuses on prevention and recidivism. Youth who are involved in the probation system have legal parents, so there is less need to focus on permanency with this population.
4. **Developmental Disabilities (DD)/Extended Family Homes (EFH)** – These homes provide community and home like environments for youth and adults who have developmental disability service needs. The Department of Health and Human Services provides payment for residential services in a residential living arrangement. The “family” may be a surrogate family who is an employee of the Developmental Disabilities Provider or who subcontracts with the Developmental Disabilities Provider. The goal of the DD program is to provide safe, supportive home-like settings in which individuals can be supervised and cared for as their habilitative goals are addressed utilizing a person centered practice approach. Many youth who are state wards and have treatment/professional foster care needs are also DD eligible, so there may be a possibility that treatment foster homes could be paid the EFH rate.

Intended Outcomes for the Proposed Continuum of Care

1. Outcomes for Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice

- a. **Reduced out of state placements.** The Foster Care Review Office performed an analysis of data about children placed out of state in its [June 1, 2016 Quarterly Report](#) and found that of child welfare children placed in congregate out-of-state placements, 70% were in treatment facilities. For Probation youth placed in congregate out-of-state placements, 51% were placed in treatment facilities. Increased availability of home-like placements that provide treatment components could reduce the number of children and youth placed out-of-state.
- b. **Reduced youth placed in congregate or group home care.** Home-like placement settings that include a treatment component would divert youth from entering congregate or group home care, reducing the numbers of youth placed in these settings.
- c. **Increased family engagement.** The treatment component would include services for families and increased family involvement in the child's treatment, allowing increased family engagement.
- d. **Increased youth placed with relatives.** Kinship will remain the priority placement, even for youth with treatment needs. Kinship relatives can be trained to handle the specific treatment needs of youth placed in their care. The primary goal should remain family preservation, but in the circumstances in which a child must be removed from the parental home, kinship care should be the first priority.

2. Child Welfare Specific Outcomes

- a. **Increased permanency.** Group homes and congregate care cannot serve as a permanent placement for youth. Allowing youth to be treated in a home like environment reduces the number of placement changes and can result in quicker permanency.
- b. **Increased reunification.** Family engagement and treatment components have the potential to reunite families sooner than non-treatment foster care or group home care.

3. Juvenile Justice Specific Outcomes

- a. **Decreased recidivism.** Adequate treatment in a homelike, community-based placement supports reduced recidivism.
- b. **Increased public safety.** A homelike setting that reduces recidivism and meets the needs of youth increases the safety of the public.

Glossary

Administration Payments – Payment to a child placing agency for the agency’s administrative expenses.

Child Placing Agency – Agency authorized by articles of incorporation to place children in foster family or adoptive homes [\[474 NAC 6-005.02\]](#)

Caregiver Maintenance Payment – Daily payment made to the foster parent based on the age of the child and the level of parenting the foster parent agrees in order to meet the unique needs of each child in their care. [DHHS CFS Protection and Safety Procedure [#2-2016](#)]

Extended Family Home – Residential living arrangement where an individual pays room/board and the Department pays for residential services. Family may be an individual surrogate family who is an employee of the DD Provider or who subcontracts with the DD provider to deliver residential services. [\[404 NAC 2\]](#)

Family Like Placement – The least restrictive placement for a child other than the child’s own home, including relative, kinship, foster or adoptive family placements.

Functional Assessment – Includes data, observation, and analysis to determine a youth’s individual levels of functioning and

Group Home – Home operated by an organization with is responsible for providing social services, administration, direction, and control for the home and which is designed to provide 24 hour care for 12 or fewer foster children in a residential setting. [\[474 NAC 6-005.02\]](#)

Kinship Home - Home where a child or children receive foster care and at least one of the primary caretakers has previously lived with or is a trusted adult that has a pre-existing, significant relationship with the child or children or is a sibling of such child or children. [DHHS CFS Protection and Safety Procedure Update [#18-2013](#)]

Nebraska Caregiver Responsibility (NCR) Tool – Department of Health and Human Services, Nebraska Families Collaborative, and child placing agencies use this tool to determine the level of parenting functions that the caregiver will perform for a child in an out-of-home placement. Note that this tool does not necessarily reflect the needs of the child, but rather the services the caregiver will provide.

Nebraska Families Collaborative – Private, non-profit agency serving as the lead agency providing case management and supervision in the Eastern Service Area (Douglas and Sarpy Counties).

Permanency – Means children leave foster care to live in the rehabilitated home of origin, or, if a return to the parent is not possible, children leave foster care through adoption, guardianship or other means. [Foster Care Review Office, Annual Report Issued [December 2015](#)]

Recidivism - For juveniles, means that within 1 year of being successfully released from a probation or problem-solving court program the juvenile has: an adjudication pursuant to [Neb. Rev. Stat. § 43-247\(1\) or \(2\)](#), for a juvenile 14 years or older, a final conviction for a Class W misdemeanor based on a violation of state traffic laws or ordinances of any city or village enacted in conformance with state law; or a prosecution and final conviction as an adult for any crimes set forth in subsection [\(A\)](#) above. For juveniles that age out of the juvenile system within 1 year of program exit and who did not recidivate post-program as juveniles, the adult definition of post-program recidivism, including any drug-related or alcohol-related conviction, shall apply.

Relative Home – Home where a child or children receive foster care and at least one of the primary caretakers is related to the child or children, or to a sibling of the child or children, by blood, marriage, adoption, or in the case of an Indian child, at least one of the primary caretakers is an extended family members as per [Neb. Rev. Stat. §43-1503](#). [DHHS CFS Protection and Safety Procedure Update [#18-2013](#)]

Support Payments – Support payments are an amount paid to the child placing agency. This amount is used by the agency to support the foster parents. Like foster care payments, it is based on the NCR tool, with the agency paid either Essential, Enhanced, or Intensive Rates, based on the level of parenting functions that the foster parent will perform.

Title IV-E Foster Care Funding – The largest source of federal funding for child welfare, and provides funding for programs, expenses, and administration related to foster care and adoption. It refers to the [Social Security Act](#). Foster care is one of four components, and provides federal reimbursement for a portion of states' costs related to children in foster care. The federal reimbursement rate in Nebraska for foster care maintenance payments is 56%. For more information on the Title IV-E funding and other sources of child welfare funding, please access the [Nebraska Child Welfare Financing Primer](#).

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