

Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee

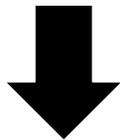
WORKGROUP FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO NCC
FEBRUARY 18, 2020





Foster Care & Adoption Payments

Foster Care

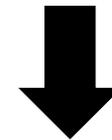


Foster Parent



Foster Care Agency

Adoption Subsidy



Adoptive Parent



History of FRRC

2012

FCRRC submitted their first legislative report. Until 2012, no formal foster care rate study had been completed and the rates, then frozen since the 1990s, were amongst the lowest in the nation.

2013

Legislation was passed and signed into law enforcing the use of the recommended rates proposed by the FCRRC in 2012.

2014

Tiered caregiving responsibility levels “Essential, Enhanced and Intensive” rates were implemented statewide for all foster parents caregiving for children.

2016

FCRRC submitted their second legislative report indicating **no recommended rate changes.**

2019

DHHS implemented an ‘across the board’ 2% rate increase for all services including the essential, enhanced and intensive rates for foster care.



Current Status of FCRRRC

2020

FCRRRC will make recommendations for rates in their third legislative report since 2012. The recommendations are to cover the period of time until the legislative session following the next legislative report is due (2020-2025).

Ready for Vote	To be Voted on May 2020
➤ Essential-Intensive Rates (Foster Parent and Agency)	➤ Specialized Rates (Foster Parent and Agency)
➤ Adoption Subsidy Pilot Recommendations	➤ Treatment Foster Care Rates
➤ LOR Agency Expectations	
➤ Revised NCR	



Essential Rate Workgroup

Recommended Essential Rate

Nebraska Foster Parent **Proposed** Essential Rates compared with current daily and annual rates effective July 1, 2019. The increases are proposed to span 2020 until 2025.

AGE	DAILY	PROPOSED DAILY	ANNUAL	PROPOSED ANNUAL
0-5	\$20.40	\$22.26	\$ 7,446.00	\$8,124.72
6-11	\$23.46	\$27.06	\$ 8,562.90	\$9,876.57
12-18	\$25.50	\$28.73	\$ 9,307.50	\$10,485.87

Essential Rate Methodology (Handout 4.1)



Tiered Rate Recommendations

AGE	ESSENTIAL	PROPOSED ESSENTIAL	ENHANCED	PROPOSED ENHANCED	INTENSIVE	PROPOSED INTENSIVE
0-5	\$20.40	\$22.26	\$28.05	\$29.76	\$35.70	\$37.26
6-11	\$23.46	\$27.06	\$31.11	\$34.56	\$38.76	\$42.06
12-18	\$25.50	\$28.73	\$33.15	\$36.23	\$40.80	\$43.73



Nebraska Caregiver Responsibility (NCR)

NCR Process:

1. Completed by CFSS upon placement and every 6 months after
2. Input from foster parent and foster care agency
3. Focus is on the responsibilities of the caregiver
4. Can be updated earlier than 6 months if needs of the child change

Revised Nebraska Caregiver Responsibility Tool, including the *NEW* Specialized level of responsibility. (Handout 4.2)



Agency Administration & Support Rate Workgroup

Recommended Daily Rates (Handout 4.3)

LEVEL OF RESPONSIBILITY	AGENCY SUPPORT RATES EFF. 7/1/19	JUVENILE PROBATION	PROPOSED AGENCY SUPPORT RATE
ESSENTIAL	\$22.20		\$26.92
ENHANCED	\$28.73		\$32.16
INTENSIVE	\$39.54	\$38.76	\$41.73





Level of Responsibility Workgroup

Agency Expectations for Tiered Levels of Responsibility (Handout 4.4)

The workgroup recommends DHHS and Administrative Office of Probation and the Courts adopt and implement the use of the revised Nebraska Caregiver Responsibility Tool.

- Replace professional foster care service contracts, letters of agreement, and vouchers with the use of the NCR.
- Implement the use of the NCR at DHHS, Saint Francis and Juvenile Probation.
- Develop revised training curriculum for the most recent version of the NCR for case managers, supervisors and field officers.





Adoption Subsidy Process

1. CFSS completes updated NPRRT prior to adoption
2. CFSS completes adoption subsidy form to determine eligibility
3. Certain criteria determines state or federal (IV-E) funding
4. Subsidy may include: Maintenance Payments, Medicaid/Health Insurance Stipend, Childcare
5. Adoption subsidies are not allowed to be equal to or greater than the current NCR rate.





FCRRC charge with Adoption Assistance Pilot

- DHHS implemented pilot program in 2018 in Southeastern Service Area
- No current timeline for statewide implementation
- Essential Rate Workgroup tasked with conducting research to make recommendations for the adoption and guardianship pilot



Adoption Assistance Pilot Recommendations

(Handout 4.5)

1. The workgroup agrees with the Department's initiative to implement a standardized process which is equitable and fair across jurisdictions as this did not exist before the pilot.
2. 65% of the maximum foster care reimbursement rate for those children whose responsibility level is essential is an acceptable minimum offer for children who present with a guarded prognosis and whose caregiving responsibility level is "essential."
3. **The workgroup recommends updates to the Nebraska Administrative Code 479, Chapters 7 & 8 specific to the Guardianship and Adoption Assistance programs increase request and appeal process. The Administrative Code should be updated to clarify that all assistance agreements (adoption and guardianship), regardless of funding source (federal or state), must have a means to provide each caregiver the ability to request a maintenance rate increase and the ability to appeal the determination by DHHS, in accordance with the Administrative Appeals Act.**



Next Steps



In order for changed rates to be implemented, legislation must be introduced in the 107th Legislature, 1st session.

If passed, rates would go into effect, likely at the beginning of 2022.

FCRRC will submit their fourth legislative report.

In order for changed rates to be implemented, legislation must be introduced in the 109th Legislature, 1st session.

If passed, rates would likely go into effect at the beginning of fiscal year 2026.



Next Steps for FRRC in 2020

1. Vote on FCRRRC recommendations at February 18th meeting (finalized items)
2. Next FCRRRC meeting on March 2nd: finalize recommendations for NCC
3. Vote on remaining FCRRRC recommendations at May 19th NCC meeting