

2020-2024

# FOSTER CARE REIMBURSEMENT RATE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

Recommendations to the Health and Human Services Committee of the  
Legislature

Submitted Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. 43-4207



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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee (FCRRC) of the Nebraska Children’s Commission was created pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §43-4216 for the purpose of making recommendations in the following areas: foster care reimbursement rates, the standardized level of care assessment, and adoption assistance payments. The FCRRC must review and make recommendations to the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature every four years.

The FCRRC monitors and makes recommendations regarding the service array for foster care across both child welfare and juvenile justice, including the appropriate reimbursement rates for agencies supporting foster homes (licensed child placing agencies) and foster parent caregivers. At the beginning of 2024, approximately 4,100 children were in out-of-home care or a trial home visit statewide.

Since 2019, DHHS has increased their rates each year, and the FCRRC appreciates and commends the agency for this action. Due to the rate of inflation in recent years, the 2% increase previously recommended has not kept up with the costs of providing minimal needs to youth in care. Nationally, the Bureau of Labor identified in 2022, the inflation rate was 8.4% and estimates the inflation will be at least 4% or higher in the coming years. During testimony from DHHS in 2023, they identified that the inflation rate would be 5% to increase provider rates, and the FCRRC has used this rate in the recommendations to align with DHHS as Nebraska works to adequately reimburse foster parents and agencies for caring for youth.

Previous recommendations included a fourth tier of reimbursement for specialized caregiving and adoption of the Nebraska Caregiver Responsibility Tool have been implemented by DHHS, and they have gone on to implement a fifth tier of reimbursement as well. The FCRRC believes these implementations have made foster care services more equitable throughout the state and provided a baseline for standardized reimbursement for higher needs youth. Medicaid continues to work through implementation of Therapeutic Family Care, and the FCRRC and DHHS continue to partner is finding ways to make Therapeutic Family Care more accessible to youth in Nebraska to prevent placement disruptions or higher levels of care needed.

The FCRRC also recognizes efforts done through the work of LB1173 through The Stephen Group in collaboration agencies and stakeholders in Nebraska to establish a child welfare practice model as well as a finance model to support Nebraskan families. The Stephen Group recommends creating a provider rate setting process and frequency, developing, and executing a standard process at regular intervals to rebase payments to providers. The Foster Care Rate Reimbursement Committee provides an engaged pool of stakeholders to participate in this analysis, as most providers have contracts for several child welfare services as well as continued evaluations to ensure ongoing reimbursement review.

[1] US Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2023, December, 5) Consumer Price Index, Calendar Year Historical, 2018-2022. [https://www.bls.gov/regions/southwest/data/consumerpriceindexcyhistorical\\_southwest\\_table.htm](https://www.bls.gov/regions/southwest/data/consumerpriceindexcyhistorical_southwest_table.htm).

# 108TH LEGISLATURE PRIORITIES



The FCRRRC follows introduced legislation each year and serves as a pool of experts to the legislature as needed. During the 108th Legislature, there have been three bills introduced impacting foster care reimbursement rates. The FCRRRC supports the following bills and any efforts made to increase rates related to foster care, as the review has shown Nebraska is not currently reimbursing foster care at the cost to provide it.

## 2023

LB509, Introduced by Sen. Conrad

*Provide for an increase for reimbursement rates for child welfare services*

LB470, Introduced by Sen. McDonnell

*State intent regarding an increase in reimbursement rates for child welfare service providers*

## 2024

LB1078, Introduced by Sen. McDonnell

*State intent to appropriate funds for increase in rates for child welfare service providers*

LB1392 was introduced by Sen. Ballard to increase the responsibilities of the FCRRRC by including 16 additional Child Welfare service rate reviews, and with stakeholders across Nebraska with expertise in these services, the FCRRRC would be an appropriate place for this responsibility. The Commission would need additional staff and appropriations to do this work and was outlined in a fiscal note for this bill.

LB1417 was introduced by Sen. Brewer at the request of the Governor and sunsets the FCRRRC in July 2025, while maintaining the tasks of the FCRRRC within the Commission. Although the tasks are not being eliminated, adding language stating the Commission shall take over the duties as enumerated in section 43-4216 would ensure the duties of the FCRRRC would remain in statute.

## **Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee History and Background**

The FCRRC first began working on foster care reimbursement rates following its creation in 2012. The FCRRC and the work charged to it are products of LR37 (2011), a legislative study created to review, investigate, and assess the effects of child welfare reform. LR37 found that foster parent compensation in Nebraska was inconsistent and lacking in a statewide standard. These findings indicated a need to create a basic statewide rate for compensation.

As a result of the LR37 study, the FCRRC was established by LB820 in 2012. At the time, Nebraska foster care rates were among the lowest in the nation. LB820 required the creation of base rates for foster parents and for the parents to be paid directly, instead of through child placing service agencies. The FCRRC did significant work to ensure that the new base rates and direct payment to foster parents were adequate to recruit and retain quality foster homes and would not have an adverse impact on the agencies that provide foster parent support. The FCRRC has continued to monitor implementation of rates and the Nebraska Caregiver Responsibility tool, accept additional assignments from the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature and the Commission, while completing the legislatively required report.

### **Rate Change Timeline**

*2012:* FCRRC submitted their first legislative report. FCRRC recommended the rate structure and methodology in use today. 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 in state custody.

*2019:* DHHS implemented an ‘across the board’ 2% rate increase for all services including the essential, enhanced and intensive rates for foster care.

*2021:* Senator Walz introduced LB100 legislating DHHS implement a two-percent increase to foster care reimbursement rates for fiscal years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023.

*2023:* DHHS implemented a two-percent increase for foster care reimbursement rates for fiscal year 2023-2024.

*2024:* FCRRC’s fourth legislative report is due July 1, 2024.

*2025:* In order for changed rates to be implemented, legislation must be introduced in the 109th Legislature, 1st session.

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

# RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. The FCRRRC recommends the Foster Care reimbursement rates be adjusted for a 5% inflation over the next six years.** An inflation increase to the foster parent reimbursement rates and the agency supported foster care rates to span until the 2029 legislative session immediately following the report due in 2024.
- 2. The FCRRRC recommends DHHS Divisions of Medicaid and Long Term Care and Children and Family Services adopt the recommendations surrounding the Therapeutic Family Care service definition and rate structure created in 2019.** In 2019, the FCRRRC created a service definition and rate structure for Therapeutic Family Care and recommended DHHS adopt this definition. In 2023, the Division of Medicaid and Long Term Care created the service and rate structure that adopted some of the 2019 report. For all youth in care to benefit from this service, the recommendation remains that DHHS adopt the original definition provided by this committee. The FCRRRC recognizes that the current Therapeutic Family Care implementation plan does not have a structure surrounding foster care rates, but would encourage DHHS to review this as youth qualifying for the service require skilled caregivers and should be reimbursed for their efforts to stabilize them.
- 3. The FCRRRC recommends a review and adoption of changes surrounding the Nebraska Caregiver Responsibility (NCR) tool.** Since 2012, Nebraska has been utilizing the NCR to determine the rate a foster parent and agency will be reimbursed. The tool evaluates the efforts the caregiver makes to maintain and care for the child in their care but does not account for the behaviors or abilities of the child. The FCRRRC has begun reviewing the NCR with the intent to make recommendations in future reports on how to best capture the impact caregivers have in ensuring safety and wellbeing of youth in their care. DHHS administration are involved in these discussion to stay within regulations and federal requirements surrounding reimbursement.
- 4. The FCRRRC recommends an annual report be submitted with recommendations surrounding reimbursement rates for foster parents and placing agencies.** By statute, this report is required to be submitted to the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature every four years. As recent years have shown, the cost of caring for a child and other economic impacts can drastically change within four years. By reviewing reimbursement rates yearly, the Legislature will have a more accurate view of what the rates should be. There are typically provider reimbursement rate bills introduced annually, and with information from the FCRRRC, the HHS Committee can make informed decisions on these bills.

# Nebraska Reimbursement Rate Recommendation Fact Sheet

Nebraska Foster Parent Proposed Essential Rates compared with current daily and annual rates effective July 1, 2023. The increases are proposed to span 2025 until 2030.

AGE	DAILY	PROPOSED DAILY	ANNUAL	PROPOSED ANNUAL
0-5	\$25.59	\$27.44	\$ 9,340.35	\$10,015.60
6-11	\$29.42	\$31.56	\$ 10,738.30	\$11,519.40
12-18	\$31.97	\$33.61	\$ 11,669.05	\$12,267.65

Nebraska Foster Parent reimbursement rates for tiered caregiving responsibilities according to age and need of children. The table below compares the current daily rates (effective July 1, 2023) with the proposed daily rates. Each column increases by \$10.07/day consistent with current tiered rate distribution.

AGE	ESSENTIAL	PROPOSED ESSENTIAL	ENHANCED	PROPOSED ENHANCED	INTENSIVE	PROPOSED INTENSIVE
0-5	\$25.59	\$27.44	\$35.16	\$37.51	\$44.75	\$47.58
6-11	\$29.42	\$31.56	\$39.00	\$41.63	\$48.61	\$51.70
12-18	\$31.97	\$33.61	\$41.56	\$43.68	\$51.16	\$53.75

AGE	INTENSIVE PLUS	PROPOSED INTENSIVE PLUS	SPECIALIZED	PROPOSED SPECIALIZED
0-5	\$60.30	\$64.19	\$83.43	\$88.92
6-11	\$64.67	\$68.31	\$88.58	\$93.04
12-18	\$67.02	\$70.36	\$90.64	\$93.91

### Agency Support Proposed Rate

LEVEL OF RESPONSIBILITY	AGENCY SUPPORT RATES EFF. 7/1/23	JUVENILE PROBATION	PROPOSED AGENCY SUPPORT RATE
ESSENTIAL	\$27.83		\$40.91
ENHANCED	\$36.02		\$50.53
INTENSIVE	\$49.57	\$48.00	\$61.03
INTENSIVE PLUS	\$64.02	\$83.00	\$77.97
SPECIALIZED	\$85.49		\$89.76

# FOSTER CARE PARENT REIMBURSEMENT RATES

## Intended Scope of Reimbursement

The reimbursement rates described in this section include the reimbursement rates to foster parents for the care of children and youth in foster care ages 0-18. This would include expenses such as housing, food, transportation, clothing, educational and extracurricular expenses. The majority of children in foster care are eligible for Medicaid and/or the Child Care Subsidy Program, therefore health care and child care costs are not typically provided by foster parents.

The rates are recommended for all children and youth in foster care in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

## Methods and Research

The FCRRC divided the work into three workgroups comprised of state and child placing agency representatives, foster care and foster parent advocates and stakeholders. The recommendations contained herein are based on federal reports, Nebraska foster care data, use of past formulas and historical information, national and border state research, surveys with foster parents and foster care agencies and Juvenile Probation.





# REIMBURSEMENT RATE CHANGES

## Essential Rate

The essential rate is the minimum rate of reimbursement for which all tiered levels of caregiving responsibility are based. The Base Rate Workgroup developed the rate recommendations using census data found within the most recent USDA Expenditures on Children by Families (2017), as well as the Bureau of Labor Statistics inflation calculator to update reimbursement rates for 2023. The calculations took into consideration variables unique to the Midwest, low-moderate income levels, weighting based upon Nebraska’s urban/rural geographic composition and divided into three age groups (0-5 years, 6-11 years, and 12-17 years old). For more details on the rate methodology please see Appendix\_\_\_\_.

The inflation adjustment was applied to adjust the rates for the duration of the legislative reporting schedule. An increase of 5% each year is recommended to be applied based on the Department of Health and Human Services predictions in their 2023 legislative testimony regarding inflation rates and the Bureau of Labor’s predicted inflation rate. This 6-year time period estimates the time between the Rate Committee’s legislative report, introduced legislation, and when it is anticipated to go into effect if passed. The rates below indicate the annual and daily rate which are reimbursed directly to the foster parent.

### Proposed Essential Foster Care Reimbursement Rate

<i>Age of Child</i>	<i>Essential Annual Rate (effective July 1, 2023)</i>	<i>Proposed Annual Reimbursement Rate</i>
0 - 5	\$ 9,340.35	\$ 10,015.60
6 - 11	\$ 10,738.30	\$ 11,519.40
12 - 18	\$ 11,669.05	\$ 12,267.65
<i>Age of Child</i>	<i>Essential Daily Rate (effective July 1, 2023)</i>	<i>Proposed Daily Reimbursement Rate</i>
0 - 5	\$ 25.59	\$ 27.44
6 - 11	\$ 29.42	\$ 31.56
12 - 18	\$ 31.97	\$ 33.61

# REIMBURSEMENT RATE CHANGES

## Tiered Rate Structure

The NCR rates were developed for three age groups (0-5, 6-11, and 12-18 years old) and five tiered levels of responsibility (Essential, Enhanced, Intensive, Intensive Plus, and Specialized). For the first three tiers, the rates increase by an average of \$9.59 each advanced level of caregiving responsibility based on the current DHHS CFS Service Rates chart. With the 5% increase recommended by the Committee, it would be \$10.07. The rates below indicate current and proposed rates for 2024, with a 5% increase each year thereafter.

AGE	ESSENTIAL	PROPOSED ESSENTIAL	ENHANCED	PROPOSED ENHANCED	INTENSIVE	PROPOSED INTENSIVE
<b>0-5</b>	\$25.59	\$27.44	\$35.16	\$37.51	\$44.75	\$47.58
<b>6-11</b>	\$29.42	\$31.56	\$39.00	\$41.63	\$48.61	\$51.70
<b>12-18</b>	\$31.97	\$33.61	\$41.56	\$43.68	\$51.16	\$53.75

## Specialized Rate Structure

The fourth and fifth tier of caregiving and reimbursement exists within the continuum of foster care services available in Nebraska already through Tiered Foster Care Contracts. DHHS has some reimbursement agreements, called “Letters of Agreement” to reimburse caregivers and agencies to support the exceptional, or specialized, caregiving needs of children outside of the NCR with a limited number of providers and foster caregivers. Some are accessing a caregiver and network through the Enhanced Family Home model used by the DHHS Division of Developmental Disabilities. The reimbursement range varies extensively and is due to sunset in 2024 for all providers paid through these agreements. The FCRRC appreciates the attempt to standardize rates for all foster parents but has concerns that some youth in care has extensive needs that require reimbursement outside of the highest tier. Therapeutic Family Care should expand services that better address these needs to maintain placement of these youth.

Proposed Intensive Plus and Specialized rates were determined by finding the difference between the previous rates, averaging them, and adding the 5% increase due to inflation. The average increase from Intensive to Intensive Plus was \$15.82, with the added 5% inflation rate the total added to the proposed Intensive Plus rate is \$16.61. The average increase from Intensive Plus to Specialized was \$23.55, with the added 5% inflation rate the total added to the proposed Specialized rate is \$24.73. Below are the recommended amounts for 2024, with a recommended 4% increase each year following.

AGE	INTENSIVE PLUS	PROPOSED INTENSIVE PLUS	SPECIALIZED	PROPOSED SPECIALIZED
<b>0-5</b>	\$60.30	\$64.19	\$83.43	\$88.92
<b>6-11</b>	\$64.67	\$68.31	\$88.58	\$93.04
<b>12-18</b>	\$67.02	\$70.36	\$90.64	\$93.91

# AGENCY SUPPORT RATE CHANGES

When the FCRRRC was initially charged with the rate study, the foster care reimbursements were sent through agencies to be paid to foster parents. The original work of the FCRRRC included separating out the agency rate and the foster parent rates. Through the historical research and methods used, the FCRRRC continues to monitor and make recommendations for both the appropriate agency supported foster care rate and the foster parent reimbursement rates.

The agency support rates reimburse direct and indirect costs to Child Placing Agencies contracted by DHHS to recruit, train, provide support to, and retain foster parent caregivers for children in need of agency supported foster care. These costs include on-call availability to the foster caregivers, visits to the foster home, caseload size, staffing ratios, licensing, training, and recruitment costs.

## Agency Rate Research and Methods

The Agency Support Rate Workgroup conducted surveys of nine participating child placing agencies across Nebraska. The results of the survey to providers indicated continued increase in staffing costs and indirect costs for providing foster care. Using the methodology used in 2019, the survey results and research for updated calculations, the inflation adjustment was made at 5% for 6 years. Many child placing agencies have reported much higher costs than what is being reimbursed, supplementing the difference could result in limited providers and capacity throughout Nebraska. Agencies are required to do fundraising, campaigning, and other activities to find additional dollars to operate, rather than spend their energy and time on supporting foster families to maintain youth at the appropriate level of care.

As Nebraska moves towards keeping youth in their communities and homes, consideration should be made for increasing capacity for higher behaviors when determining rate structures. Youth that are placed out of home are likely to have higher behaviors and needs than previous reporting periods resulting in increased costs, additional skills set, and training for foster parents and the support staff to maintain placements.

For the Specialized rate, additional weighting and consideration was given for a lower staffing ratio, higher standards of recruitment, support, and retention for caregivers of children with extensive medical, developmental, and/or behavioral health needs. In addition to the additional staffing considerations, certification, and clinical components. Respite will be necessary for youth with this level of need, which must be provided by the supporting agency to the caregivers at 4 days (or 8 half days) per month. Respite costs should be included in the Administrative and Support Rate to ensure respite caregivers are trained and supported according to child specific needs.

LEVEL OF RESPONSIBILITY	AGENCY SUPPORT RATES EFF. 7/1/23	PROPOSED AGENCY SUPPORT RATE
ESSENTIAL	\$27.83	\$40.91
ENHANCED	\$36.02	\$50.53
INTENSIVE	\$49.57	\$61.03
INTENSIVE PLUS	\$64.02	\$77.97
SPECIALIZED	\$85.49	\$89.76

## THERAPEUTIC FAMILY CARE

Children and youth in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems with complex needs are often served in congregate settings which are costly and delay permanency and community reintegration. Treatment foster care programs serve children in family homes at a lower cost to taxpayers and typically with better outcomes. The Nebraska Children’s Commission has strongly supported Treatment Foster Care, now Therapeutic Family Care (TFC), for child welfare and juvenile justice systems. In 2019, the TFC Workgroup created a service definition for Treatment Family Care and provided this to DHHS. The Stephen Group conducted an analysis in June 2021 identifying that the definition provided by the FCRRC was sound, with additional recommendations for implementation. The 2020 recommendations provided a rate structure for DHHS to utilize during implementation. In 2024, TFC was implemented through Medicaid to include crisis stabilization and mobile crisis response. Although these services will help with crisis management, it does not fully realize the original vision of TFC and the FCRRC is hopeful DHHS will build on these services to do so including specialized foster parent reimbursements outside of the tiered levels.

The 2019 recommendations stated that youth should be eligible up to age 20 and younger who have a history of trauma in addition to complex mental health or substance use disorders that are causing functional impairment, available to youth in various family settings (biological, adoptive, and kinship), and should include probation youth. Current implementation eliminates probation youth unless they are dually adjudicated, tribal youth, and youth living with their legal guardian who are eligible for Medicaid are unable to gain access to TFC.

The current implementation plan is to use the Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale (CAFAS) tool to determine eligibility, however, this tool will only be utilized for DHHS state wards placed in foster care. DHHS will implement a clinical care coordination team to support the program and establish eligibility by administering the CAFAS to youth. Initial recommendations noted that an Initial Diagnostic Interview (IDI) be completed prior to the beginning of treatment and will identify the level of care needed. The current implementation plan identifies that a child must have an active diagnosis which requires a previous assessment be complete. If an IDI is already completed, the workgroup recommends that it be used to determine eligibility for this service and follow current Medicaid requirements for ongoing assessment. By doing so, resources could be reserved for youth without current assessments and the time until a youth is determined eligible could be reduced.

The TFC workgroup intends to monitor implementation as well as serve as a resource to DHHS while the TFC service continues to be refined to meet CMS approval and the needs of Nebraskan families. Future work includes defining what success is for this new service and creating solutions to best meet this success. The most impactful finding of this workgroup is that there are youth that will not qualify for this service and will continue to struggle to get their needs met and find permanency or will be unnecessarily placed in a higher level of care not within their community.



Foster Care Reimbursement																																
No Education Expenses												With Older Child Education Expenses Included																				
2023 Estimated Annual Expenditures on a child by married-couple families												2023 Estimated Annual Expenditures on a child by married-couple families																				
Age of Chi Urban and Rural Weighted												Age of Chil Urban and Rural Weighted																				
0 - 5	\$	9,387.82											0 - 5	\$	9,822.71																	
6 - 11	\$	10,794.51											6 - 11	\$	11,308.53																	
12 - 17	\$	11,498.76											12 - 17	\$	13,322.15																	
2024 Estimated Annual Expenditures on a child by married-couple families (Daily)												2024 Estimated Annual Expenditures on a child by married-couple families (Daily)																				
Age of Chi Urban and Ru Just Urban												Age of Chil Urban and Rural Weighted																				
0 - 5	\$	25.72	\$	-									0 - 5	\$	26.91																	
6 - 11	\$	29.57	\$	-									6 - 11	\$	30.98																	
12 - 17	\$	31.50	\$	-									12 - 17	\$	36.50																	
2023 Estimated Annual Expenditures on a child by married-couple families Urban and Rural Weighted (Monthly)												2023 Estimated Annual Expenditures on a child by married-couple families (Monthly)																				
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December								
0 - 5	\$	797.32	\$	720.16	\$	797.32	\$	771.60	\$	797.32	\$	771.60	\$	797.32	\$	834.26	\$	753.52	\$	834.26	\$	807.35	\$	834.26	\$	807.35	\$	834.26	\$	807.35	\$	834.26
6 - 11	\$	916.79	\$	828.07	\$	916.79	\$	887.22	\$	916.79	\$	887.22	\$	916.79	\$	960.45	\$	867.50	\$	960.45	\$	929.47	\$	960.45	\$	929.47	\$	960.45	\$	929.47	\$	960.45
12 - 17	\$	976.61	\$	882.10	\$	976.61	\$	945.10	\$	976.61	\$	945.10	\$	976.61	\$	1,131.47	\$	1,021.97	#####	#####	#####	#####	#####	#####	#####	#####	#####	\$	1,094.97	#####	\$	1,131.47
Adoption Subsidy (65% of Foster Care Reimbursement Rate)																																
No Education Expenses												With Older Child Education Expenses Included																				
2023 Estimated Annual Expenditures on a child by married-couple families												2023 Estimated Annual Expenditures on a child by married-couple families																				
Age of Chi Urban and Rural Weighted												Age of Chil Urban and Rural Weighted																				
0 - 5	\$	6,102.08											0 - 5	\$	6,384.76																	
6 - 11	\$	7,016.43											6 - 11	\$	7,350.55																	
12 - 17	\$	7,474.19											12 - 17	\$	8,659.39																	
2023 Estimated Annual Expenditures on a child by married-couple families (Daily)												2023 Estimated Annual Expenditures on a child by married-couple families (Daily)																				
Age of Chi Urban and Rural Weighted												Age of Chil Urban and Rural Weighted																				
0 - 5	\$	16.72											0 - 5	\$	17.49																	
6 - 11	\$	19.22											6 - 11	\$	20.14																	
12 - 17	\$	20.48											12 - 17	\$	23.72																	
2023 Estimated Annual Expenditures on a child by married-couple families (Monthly)												2023 Estimated Annual Expenditures on a child by married-couple families (Monthly)																				
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December								
0 - 5	\$	518.26	\$	468.10	\$	518.26	\$	501.54	\$	518.26	\$	501.54	\$	518.26	\$	542.27	\$	489.79	\$	542.27	\$	524.77	\$	542.27	\$	524.77	\$	542.27	\$	524.77	\$	542.27
6 - 11	\$	595.92	\$	538.25	\$	595.92	\$	576.69	\$	595.92	\$	576.69	\$	595.92	\$	624.29	\$	563.88	\$	624.29	\$	604.15	\$	624.29	\$	604.15	\$	624.29	\$	604.15	\$	624.29
12 - 17	\$	634.79	\$	573.36	\$	634.79	\$	614.32	\$	634.79	\$	614.32	\$	634.79	\$	735.46	\$	664.28	\$	735.46	\$	711.73	\$	735.46	\$	711.73	\$	735.46	\$	711.73	\$	735.46

[Estimated Annual Expenditures on Children by Families, USDA](#)

Estimated Annual Expenditures on a child by married-couple families, urban Midwest  
Estimated Annual Expenditures on a child by married-couple families, Rural areas

Inflation Rate from data year to current year, Bureau of Labor Statistics

[CPI Inflation Calculator](#)

Urban and Rural Counties, DHHS

[Nebraska Child Care Market Rate Survey](#)

Children in Out-of-home care (PIT), DHHS

Nebraska Total

Number in DHHS defined urban counties

Number of Years Reimbursement rate will be used

Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee

**Step 1:**

Estimated Annual Expenditures on Children by Families, USDA

2023 Estimated Annual Expenditures on a child by married-couple families, urban Midwest

Age of Child	Total Expense	Housing	Food	Transportation	Clothing	Health Care	Child Care and Education	Miscellaneous
Low-Income: Before-tax income less than \$59,200								
0 - 2	\$ 11,032	\$ 3,510	\$ 1,423	\$ 1,306	\$ 956	\$ 933	\$ 2,297	\$ 606
3 - 5	\$ 11,032	\$ 3,510	\$ 1,469	\$ 1,364	\$ 793	\$ 863	\$ 2,297	\$ 735
6 - 8	\$ 10,566	\$ 3,510	\$ 2,122	\$ 1,434	\$ 793	\$ 898	\$ 933	\$ 875
9 - 11	\$ 11,300	\$ 3,510	\$ 2,426	\$ 1,481	\$ 980	\$ 1,038	\$ 933	\$ 933
12 - 14	\$ 10,857	\$ 3,510	\$ 2,519	\$ 1,659	\$ 1,061	\$ 991	\$ 362	\$ 758
15 - 17	\$ 11,266	\$ 3,510	\$ 2,542	\$ 1,878	\$ 1,026	\$ 1,050	\$ 525	\$ 734
Middle-Income: Before-tax income \$59,200 to \$107,400								
0 - 2	\$ 14,426	\$ 4,081	\$ 1,738	\$ 1,994	\$ 1,038	\$ 1,353	\$ 3,184	\$ 1,038
3 - 5	\$ 14,484	\$ 4,081	\$ 1,866	\$ 2,052	\$ 863	\$ 1,271	\$ 3,184	\$ 1,166
6 - 8	\$ 14,029	\$ 4,081	\$ 2,531	\$ 2,122	\$ 863	\$ 1,306	\$ 1,819	\$ 1,306
9 - 11	\$ 14,962	\$ 4,081	\$ 2,974	\$ 2,169	\$ 1,085	\$ 1,469	\$ 1,819	\$ 1,364
12 - 14	\$ 14,787	\$ 4,081	\$ 3,090	\$ 2,344	\$ 1,190	\$ 1,423	\$ 1,469	\$ 1,190
15 - 17	\$ 15,708	\$ 4,081	\$ 3,114	\$ 2,566	\$ 1,166	\$ 1,493	\$ 2,134	\$ 1,155

**Step 2:**

Update Annual Expenditures on Children from Data year to 1st year of reimbursement calculation

Jan-23	Jan-24	Inflation Multiplier
\$ 1.00	\$ 1.05	1.05

2024 Estimated Annual Expenditures on a child by married-couple families, urban Midwest

Age of Child	Total Expense	Housing	Food	Transportation	Clothing	Health Care	Child Care and Education	Miscellaneous
Low-Income								
0 - 2	\$ 11,583.60	\$ 3,685.50	\$ 1,494.15	\$ 1,371.30	\$ 1,003.80	\$ 979.65	\$ 2,411.85	\$ 636.30
3 - 5	\$ 11,583.60	\$ 3,685.50	\$ 1,542.45	\$ 1,432.20	\$ 832.65	\$ 906.15	\$ 2,411.85	\$ 771.75
6 - 8	\$ 11,094.30	\$ 3,685.50	\$ 2,228.10	\$ 1,505.70	\$ 832.65	\$ 942.90	\$ 979.65	\$ 918.75
9 - 11	\$ 11,865.00	\$ 3,685.50	\$ 2,547.30	\$ 1,555.05	\$ 1,029.00	\$ 1,089.90	\$ 979.65	\$ 979.65
12 - 14	\$ 11,399.97	\$ 3,685.50	\$ 2,644.95	\$ 1,741.95	\$ 1,114.05	\$ 1,040.55	\$ 380.10	\$ 795.90
15 - 17	\$ 11,829.30	\$ 3,685.50	\$ 2,669.10	\$ 1,971.90	\$ 1,077.30	\$ 1,102.50	\$ 551.25	\$ 770.70
Middle-Income								
0 - 2	\$ 15,147.30	\$ 4,285.05	\$ 1,824.90	\$ 2,093.70	\$ 1,089.90	\$ 1,420.65	\$ 3,343.20	\$ 1,089.90
3 - 5	\$ 15,208.20	\$ 4,285.05	\$ 1,959.30	\$ 2,154.60	\$ 906.15	\$ 1,334.55	\$ 3,343.20	\$ 1,224.30
6 - 8	\$ 14,730.45	\$ 4,285.05	\$ 2,657.55	\$ 2,228.10	\$ 906.15	\$ 1,371.30	\$ 1,909.95	\$ 1,371.30
9 - 11	\$ 15,710.10	\$ 4,285.05	\$ 3,122.70	\$ 2,277.45	\$ 1,139.25	\$ 1,542.45	\$ 1,909.95	\$ 1,432.20
12 - 14	\$ 15,526.35	\$ 4,285.05	\$ 3,244.50	\$ 2,461.20	\$ 1,249.50	\$ 1,494.15	\$ 1,542.45	\$ 1,249.50
15 - 17	\$ 16,493.40	\$ 4,285.05	\$ 3,269.70	\$ 2,694.30	\$ 1,224.30	\$ 1,567.65	\$ 2,240.70	\$ 1,212.75

**Step 3:**

Recalculate Total Annual Expenses removing Health Care, and Child Care and Education Costs

2023 Estimated Annual Expenditures on a child by married-couple families, Rural areas



Age of Child	Total Expense	Age of Child	
Low-Income		Low-Income	
0 - 2	FALSE	0 - 2	\$ 6,684.30
3 - 5	\$ 8,264.55	3 - 5	\$ 6,783.00
6 - 8	\$ 9,170.70	6 - 8	\$ 7,653.45
9 - 11	\$ 9,796.50	9 - 11	\$ 8,264.55
12 - 14	\$ 9,982.35	12 - 14	\$ 8,424.15
15 - 17	\$ 10,174.50	15 - 17	\$ 8,620.50
Middle-Income		Middle-Income	
0 - 2	\$ 10,383.45	0 - 2	\$ 8,694.00
3 - 5	\$ 10,529.40	3 - 5	\$ 8,852.55
6 - 8	\$ 11,448.15	6 - 8	\$ 9,747.15
9 - 11	\$ 12,256.65	9 - 11	\$ 10,530.45
12 - 14	\$ 12,489.75	12 - 14	\$ 10,750.95
15 - 17	\$ 12,686.10	15 - 17	\$ 10,934.70

**Step 4:**

Average Age Group Expenses to 3 detemined age groups

2023 Estimated Annual Expenditures on a child by marrie; 2023 Estimated Annual Expenditures on a child by married-couple families, Rural areas

Age of Child	Total Expense	Age of Child	
Low-Income		Low-Income	
0 - 5	\$ 8,264.55	0 - 5	\$ 6,733.65
6 - 11	\$ 9,483.60	6 - 11	\$ 7,959.00
12 - 17	\$ 10,078.43	12 - 17	\$ 8,522.33
Middle-Income		Middle-Income	
0 - 5	\$ 10,456.43	0 - 5	\$ 8,773.28
6 - 11	\$ 11,852.40	6 - 11	\$ 10,138.80
12 - 17	\$ 12,587.93	12 - 17	\$ 10,842.83

**Step 5:**

Average Low- and Middle-Income Expenditures

2023 Estimated Annual Expenditures on a child by marrie; 2023 Estimated Annual Expenditures on a child by married-couple families, Rural areas

Age of Child	Total Expense	Age of Child	
0 - 5	\$ 9,360.49	0 - 5	\$ 7,753.46
6 - 11	\$ 10,668.00	6 - 11	\$ 9,048.90
12 - 17	\$ 11,333.18	12 - 17	\$ 9,682.58

**Step 6:**

Determine Weights of Urban v. Rural Children in Foster Care

Use DHHS Child Care Market Rate Survey definition of urban and rural counties

Children in OOH C: Total		4200
Urban Counties	Dakota	25
	Douglas	1670

	Lancaster	554	
	Sarpy	205	
Total Urban	Sum	2454	58.4%
Rural	Remaining-urban	1746	41.6%

**Step 7:**

Apply urban and rural children in OOH weights to child care expenditures to combine to 1 rate for all Nebraska

2023 Estimated Annual Expenditures on a child by married-couple families

Age of Child

0 - 5	\$	8,692.42
6 - 11	\$	9,994.92
12 - 17	\$	10,647.00

**Step 8:**

Determine estimated inflation adjustment for the future years current rate will used

Number of Years	4
Inflation Rate/Year	4%
Inflation Multiplier	1.08

**Step 9:**

Apply future year's inflation average to reimbursement rate

2023 Estimated Annual Expenditures on a child by married-couple families

Age of Child

0 - 5	\$	9,387.82
6 - 11	\$	10,794.51
12 - 17	\$	11,498.76

2023 Estimated Annual Expenditures on a child by married-couple families, Rural areas

Age of Child	Total Expense	Housing	Food	Transportation	Clothing	Health Care	Child Care and Edu	Miscellaneous
Low-Income: Before-tax income less than \$59,200								
0 - 2	\$ 9,329	\$ 2,402	\$ 1,376	\$ 1,376	\$ 781	\$ 956	\$ 2,006	\$ 431
3 - 5	\$ 9,353	\$ 2,402	\$ 1,434	\$ 1,434	\$ 630	\$ 886	\$ 2,006	\$ 560
6 - 8	\$ 8,921	\$ 2,402	\$ 2,064	\$ 1,493	\$ 630	\$ 910	\$ 723	\$ 700
9 - 11	\$ 9,644	\$ 2,402	\$ 2,367	\$ 1,551	\$ 793	\$ 1,050	\$ 723	\$ 758
12 - 14	\$ 9,563	\$ 2,402	\$ 2,461	\$ 1,714	\$ 863	\$ 1,002	\$ 536	\$ 583
15 - 17	\$ 10,064	\$ 2,402	\$ 2,484	\$ 1,936	\$ 840	\$ 1,061	\$ 793	\$ 548
Middle-Income: Before-tax income \$59,200 to \$107,400								
0 - 2	\$ 12,105	\$ 2,799	\$ 1,691	\$ 2,064	\$ 863	\$ 1,376	\$ 2,449	\$ 863
3 - 5	\$ 12,175	\$ 2,799	\$ 1,819	\$ 2,122	\$ 700	\$ 1,294	\$ 2,449	\$ 991
6 - 8	\$ 11,767	\$ 2,799	\$ 2,472	\$ 2,181	\$ 700	\$ 1,318	\$ 1,166	\$ 1,131
9 - 11	\$ 12,688	\$ 2,799	\$ 2,915	\$ 2,227	\$ 898	\$ 1,493	\$ 1,166	\$ 1,190
12 - 14	\$ 12,781	\$ 2,799	\$ 3,032	\$ 2,402	\$ 991	\$ 1,446	\$ 1,096	\$ 1,015
15 - 17	\$ 13,516	\$ 2,799	\$ 3,055	\$ 2,624	\$ 956	\$ 1,504	\$ 1,598	\$ 980

2024 Estimated Annual Expenditures on a child by married-couple families, Rural areas

Age of Child	Total Expense	Housing	Food	Transportation	Clothing	Health Care	Child Care and Edu	Miscellaneous
Low-Income								
0 - 2	\$ 9,795.45	\$ 2,522.10	\$ 1,444.80	\$ 1,444.80	\$ 820.05	\$ 1,003.80	\$ 2,106.30	\$ 452.55
3 - 5	\$ 9,820.65	\$ 2,522.10	\$ 1,505.70	\$ 1,505.70	\$ 661.50	\$ 930.30	\$ 2,106.30	\$ 588.00
6 - 8	\$ 9,367.05	\$ 2,522.10	\$ 2,167.20	\$ 1,567.65	\$ 661.50	\$ 955.50	\$ 759.15	\$ 735.00
9 - 11	\$ 10,126.20	\$ 2,522.10	\$ 2,485.35	\$ 1,628.55	\$ 832.65	\$ 1,102.50	\$ 759.15	\$ 795.90
12 - 14	\$ 10,041.15	\$ 2,522.10	\$ 2,584.05	\$ 1,799.70	\$ 906.15	\$ 1,052.10	\$ 562.80	\$ 612.15
15 - 17	\$ 10,567.20	\$ 2,522.10	\$ 2,608.20	\$ 2,032.80	\$ 882.00	\$ 1,114.05	\$ 832.65	\$ 575.40
Middle-Income								
0 - 2	\$ 12,710.25	\$ 2,938.95	\$ 1,775.55	\$ 2,167.20	\$ 906.15	\$ 1,444.80	\$ 2,571.45	\$ 906.15
3 - 5	\$ 12,783.75	\$ 2,938.95	\$ 1,909.95	\$ 2,228.10	\$ 735.00	\$ 1,358.70	\$ 2,571.45	\$ 1,040.55
6 - 8	\$ 12,355.35	\$ 2,938.95	\$ 2,595.60	\$ 2,290.05	\$ 735.00	\$ 1,383.90	\$ 1,224.30	\$ 1,187.55
9 - 11	\$ 13,322.40	\$ 2,938.95	\$ 3,060.75	\$ 2,338.35	\$ 942.90	\$ 1,567.65	\$ 1,224.30	\$ 1,249.50
12 - 14	\$ 13,420.05	\$ 2,938.95	\$ 3,183.60	\$ 2,522.10	\$ 1,040.55	\$ 1,518.30	\$ 1,150.80	\$ 1,065.75
15 - 17	\$ 14,191.80	\$ 2,938.95	\$ 3,207.75	\$ 2,755.20	\$ 1,003.80	\$ 1,579.20	\$ 1,677.54	\$ 1,029.00

**Step 1:****Estimated Annual Expenditures on Children by Families, USDA****2023 Estimated Annual Expenditures on a child by married-couple families, urban Midwest**

Age of Child	Total Expense	Housing	Food	Transportation	Clothing	Health Care	Child Care and Education	Miscellaneous
Low-Income: Before-tax income less than \$59,200								
0-2	\$ 11,032	\$ 3,510	\$ 1,423	\$ 1,306	\$ 956	\$ 933	\$ 2,297	\$ 606
3-5	\$ 11,032	\$ 3,510	\$ 1,469	\$ 1,364	\$ 793	\$ 863	\$ 2,297	\$ 735
6-8	\$ 10,566	\$ 3,510	\$ 2,122	\$ 1,434	\$ 793	\$ 898	\$ 933	\$ 875
9-11	\$ 11,300	\$ 3,510	\$ 2,426	\$ 1,481	\$ 980	\$ 1,038	\$ 933	\$ 933
12-14	\$ 10,857	\$ 3,510	\$ 2,519	\$ 1,659	\$ 1,061	\$ 991	\$ 362	\$ 758
15-17	\$ 11,366	\$ 3,510	\$ 2,542	\$ 1,878	\$ 1,026	\$ 1,050	\$ 525	\$ 734
Middle-Income: Before-tax income \$59,200 to \$107,400								
0-2	\$ 14,426	\$ 4,081	\$ 1,738	\$ 1,994	\$ 1,618	\$ 1,353	\$ 3,184	\$ 1,038
3-5	\$ 14,484	\$ 4,081	\$ 1,866	\$ 2,052	\$ 863	\$ 1,271	\$ 3,184	\$ 1,166
6-8	\$ 14,029	\$ 4,081	\$ 2,531	\$ 2,122	\$ 863	\$ 1,306	\$ 1,819	\$ 1,306
9-11	\$ 14,962	\$ 4,081	\$ 2,974	\$ 2,169	\$ 1,085	\$ 1,469	\$ 1,819	\$ 1,364
12-14	\$ 14,787	\$ 4,081	\$ 3,050	\$ 2,344	\$ 1,190	\$ 1,423	\$ 1,469	\$ 1,190
15-17	\$ 15,708	\$ 4,081	\$ 3,114	\$ 2,566	\$ 1,166	\$ 1,493	\$ 2,134	\$ 1,155

**2023 Estimated Annual Expenditures on a child by married-couple families, Rural areas**

Age of Child	Total Expense	Housing	Food	Transportation	Clothing	Health Care	Child Care and Edu	Miscellaneous
Low-Income: Before-tax income less than \$59,200								
0-2	\$ 9,329	\$ 2,402	\$ 1,376	\$ 1,376	\$ 781	\$ 956	\$ 2,006	\$ 431
3-5	\$ 9,353	\$ 2,402	\$ 1,434	\$ 1,434	\$ 630	\$ 886	\$ 2,006	\$ 560
6-8	\$ 8,921	\$ 2,402	\$ 2,064	\$ 1,493	\$ 630	\$ 910	\$ 723	\$ 700
9-11	\$ 9,644	\$ 2,402	\$ 2,367	\$ 1,551	\$ 793	\$ 1,050	\$ 723	\$ 758
12-14	\$ 9,563	\$ 2,402	\$ 2,461	\$ 1,714	\$ 863	\$ 1,002	\$ 536	\$ 583
15-17	\$ 10,064	\$ 2,402	\$ 2,484	\$ 1,936	\$ 840	\$ 1,061	\$ 793	\$ 548
Middle-Income: Before-tax income \$59,200 to \$107,400								
0-2	\$ 12,105	\$ 2,799	\$ 1,691	\$ 2,064	\$ 863	\$ 1,376	\$ 2,449	\$ 863
3-5	\$ 12,175	\$ 2,799	\$ 1,819	\$ 2,122	\$ 700	\$ 1,294	\$ 2,449	\$ 991
6-8	\$ 11,767	\$ 2,799	\$ 2,472	\$ 2,181	\$ 700	\$ 1,318	\$ 1,166	\$ 1,131
9-11	\$ 12,688	\$ 2,799	\$ 2,915	\$ 2,227	\$ 898	\$ 1,493	\$ 1,166	\$ 1,190
12-14	\$ 12,781	\$ 2,799	\$ 3,032	\$ 2,402	\$ 991	\$ 1,446	\$ 1,096	\$ 1,015
15-17	\$ 13,516	\$ 2,799	\$ 3,055	\$ 2,624	\$ 956	\$ 1,504	\$ 1,598	\$ 980

**Step 2:****Update Annual Expenditures on Children from Data year to 1st year of reimbursement calculation****2024 Estimated Annual Expenditures on a child by married-couple families, urban Midwest**

Age of Child	Total Expense	Housing	Food	Transportation	Clothing	Health Care	Child Care and Education	Miscellaneous
Low-Income								
0-2	\$ 11,914.56	\$ 3,790.80	\$ 1,536.84	\$ 1,410.48	\$ 1,032.48	\$ 1,007.64	\$ 2,480.76	\$ 654.48
3-5	\$ 11,914.56	\$ 3,790.80	\$ 1,586.52	\$ 1,473.12	\$ 856.44	\$ 932.04	\$ 2,480.76	\$ 793.80
6-8	\$ 11,411.28	\$ 3,790.80	\$ 2,291.76	\$ 1,548.72	\$ 856.44	\$ 969.84	\$ 1,007.64	\$ 945.00
9-11	\$ 12,204.00	\$ 3,790.80	\$ 2,620.08	\$ 1,599.48	\$ 1,058.40	\$ 1,121.04	\$ 1,007.64	\$ 1,007.64
12-14	\$ 11,725.08	\$ 3,790.80	\$ 2,720.52	\$ 1,791.72	\$ 1,145.88	\$ 1,070.28	\$ 390.96	\$ 818.64
15-17	\$ 12,167.28	\$ 3,790.80	\$ 2,745.36	\$ 2,028.24	\$ 1,108.08	\$ 1,134.00	\$ 567.00	\$ 792.72
Middle-Income								
0-2	\$ 15,580.08	\$ 4,407.48	\$ 1,877.04	\$ 2,153.52	\$ 1,121.04	\$ 1,461.24	\$ 3,438.72	\$ 1,121.04
3-5	\$ 15,641.72	\$ 4,407.48	\$ 2,015.28	\$ 2,216.16	\$ 932.04	\$ 1,372.68	\$ 3,438.72	\$ 1,259.28
6-8	\$ 15,151.32	\$ 4,407.48	\$ 2,733.48	\$ 2,291.76	\$ 932.04	\$ 1,410.48	\$ 1,964.52	\$ 1,410.48
9-11	\$ 16,158.96	\$ 4,407.48	\$ 3,211.92	\$ 2,342.52	\$ 1,171.80	\$ 1,586.52	\$ 1,964.52	\$ 1,473.12
12-14	\$ 15,969.96	\$ 4,407.48	\$ 3,337.20	\$ 2,531.52	\$ 1,285.20	\$ 1,536.84	\$ 1,586.52	\$ 1,285.20
15-17	\$ 16,964.64	\$ 4,407.48	\$ 3,363.12	\$ 2,773.28	\$ 1,259.28	\$ 1,612.44	\$ 2,304.72	\$ 1,247.40

**2024 Estimated Annual Expenditures on a child by married-couple families, Rural areas**

Age of Child	Total Expense	Housing	Food	Transportation	Clothing	Health Care	Child Care and Edu	Miscellaneous
Low-Income								
0-2	\$ 10,075.32	\$ 2,594.16	\$ 1,486.08	\$ 1,486.08	\$ 843.48	\$ 1,032.48	\$ 2,166.48	\$ 465.48
3-5	\$ 10,101.24	\$ 2,594.16	\$ 1,548.72	\$ 1,548.72	\$ 680.40	\$ 956.88	\$ 2,166.48	\$ 604.80
6-8	\$ 9,634.68	\$ 2,594.16	\$ 2,229.12	\$ 1,612.44	\$ 680.40	\$ 982.80	\$ 780.84	\$ 756.00
9-11	\$ 10,415.52	\$ 2,594.16	\$ 2,556.36	\$ 1,675.08	\$ 856.44	\$ 1,134.00	\$ 780.84	\$ 818.64
12-14	\$ 10,328.04	\$ 2,594.16	\$ 2,657.88	\$ 1,851.12	\$ 932.04	\$ 1,082.16	\$ 578.88	\$ 629.64
15-17	\$ 10,869.12	\$ 2,594.16	\$ 2,682.72	\$ 2,090.88	\$ 907.20	\$ 1,145.88	\$ 856.44	\$ 591.84
Middle-Income								
0-2	\$ 13,079.40	\$ 3,022.92	\$ 1,826.28	\$ 2,229.12	\$ 932.04	\$ 1,486.08	\$ 2,644.92	\$ 932.04
3-5	\$ 13,149.00	\$ 3,022.92	\$ 1,964.52	\$ 2,291.76	\$ 756.00	\$ 1,397.52	\$ 2,644.92	\$ 1,070.28
6-8	\$ 12,708.36	\$ 3,022.92	\$ 2,669.76	\$ 2,355.48	\$ 756.00	\$ 1,423.44	\$ 1,259.28	\$ 1,221.48
9-11	\$ 13,703.04	\$ 3,022.92	\$ 3,148.20	\$ 2,405.16	\$ 969.84	\$ 1,612.44	\$ 1,259.28	\$ 1,285.20
12-14	\$ 13,801.48	\$ 3,022.92	\$ 3,274.56	\$ 2,594.16	\$ 1,070.28	\$ 1,561.68	\$ 1,181.88	\$ 1,086.20
15-17	\$ 14,597.28	\$ 3,022.92	\$ 3,299.40	\$ 2,833.92	\$ 1,032.48	\$ 1,624.32	\$ 1,725.47	\$ 1,058.40

**Step 3:****Reallocate Total Annual Expenses removing Health Care, and Child Care and Education Costs****2023 Estimated Annual Expenditures on a child by married-couple families, Rural areas**

Age of Child	Total Expense	Age of Child	
Low-Income		Low-Income	
0-2	\$ 8,425.08	0-2	\$ 6,875.28
3-5	\$ 8,500.68	3-5	\$ 6,976.80
6-8	\$ 9,432.72	6-8	\$ 7,872.12
9-11	\$ 10,076.40	9-11	\$ 8,500.68
12-14	\$ 10,658.52	12-14	\$ 9,243.72
15-17	\$ 11,032.20	15-17	\$ 9,723.24
Middle-Income		Middle-Income	
0-2	\$ 10,680.12	0-2	\$ 8,942.40
3-5	\$ 10,830.24	3-5	\$ 9,105.48
6-8	\$ 11,775.24	6-8	\$ 10,025.64
9-11	\$ 12,606.84	9-11	\$ 10,831.32
12-14	\$ 14,433.12	12-14	\$ 12,241.80
15-17	\$ 15,353.28	15-17	\$ 12,972.59

**Step 4:****Average Age Group Expenses to 3 determined age groups****2023 Estimated Annual Expenditures on a child by married-couple families, Rural areas**

Age of Child	Total Expense	Age of Child	
Low-Income		Low-Income	
0-5	\$ 8,462.88	0-5	\$ 6,926.04
6-11	\$ 9,754.56	6-11	\$ 8,186.40
12-17	\$ 10,845.36	12-17	\$ 9,483.48
Middle-Income		Middle-Income	
0-5	\$ 10,755.18	0-5	\$ 9,023.94
6-11	\$ 12,191.04	6-11	\$ 10,428.48
12-17	\$ 14,893.20	12-17	\$ 12,607.20

**Step 5:****Average Low- and Middle-Income Expenditures****2023 Estimated Annual Expenditures on a child by married-couple families, Rural areas**

Age of Child	Total Expense	Age of Child	
Low-Income		Low-Income	
0-5	\$ 9,609.03	0-5	\$ 7,974.99
6-11	\$ 10,972.80	6-11	\$ 9,207.44
12-17	\$ 12,869.28	12-17	\$ 11,045.34

**Step 6:****Determine Weights of Urban vs. Rural Children in Foster Care****Use DHS Child Care Market Rate Survey definition of urban and rural counties**

Children in OOH C Total	4200
Urban Counties	Dakota 25
	Douglas 1670
	Lancaster 554
	Sarpy 205
Total Urban	Sum 2454 58.4%
Rural	Remaining-urban 1746 41.6%

**Step 7:****Apply urban and rural children in OOH weights to child care expenditures to combine to 1 rate for all Nebraska****2023 Estimated Annual Expenditures on a child by married-couple families**

Age of Child	Total Expense
0-5	\$ 8,929.74
6-11	\$ 10,280.49
12-17	\$ 12,111.04

**Step 8:****Determine estimated inflation adjustment for the future years current rate will used**

Number of Years	4
Inflation Rate/Year	5%
Inflation Multiplier	1.1

**Step 9:****Apply future year's inflation average to reimbursement rate****2023 Estimated Annual Expenditures on a child by married-couple families**

Age of Child	Total Expense
0-5	\$ 9,822.71
6-11	\$ 11,308.53
12-17	\$ 13,322.15

**FOSTER CARE REIMBURSEMENT RATE COMMITTEE (FCRRC) MEETING**

**Cost of Care Survey**

**Compiled Foster Care Rate Survey Results**

18-May-23

**convert to hhs methodology by excl hhs \$ to foster families**

**AGENCY 1      AGENCY 2      AGENCY 3      AGENCY 4      AGENCY 5      AGENCY 6      AGENCY 7      AGENCY 8      AGENCY 9      AGENCY 10      AGENCY 11**

**\$      %      \$      \$      \$      \$      \$      \$      \$      \$      \$      \$**

For the 12 month period ended :

**COMPILED**

**\$      %**

**6/30/2022      12/31/2022      12/31/2022      1/31/2023      12/31/2022      12/31/2022      12/31/2022      12/31/2022      6/30/2022      9/30/2022      3/31/2023      12/31/2022**

Total Number of Care Days/Nights :

**371,179**

**21,808      14,003      260      88,257      35,405      66,116      32,921      1,503      16,294      39,948      54,664**

ADC

**1,017**

**59.75      38.36      0.71      241.80      97.00      181.14      90.19      4.12      44.64      109.45      149.76**

calc ave cost to f family per day

**\$ 31.77**

**\$ 21.20      \$ 47.62      \$ 1,073.57      \$ 30.55      \$ 43.51      \$ 27.04      \$ 29.58      \$ 28.47      \$ 28.60      \$ 29.91      \$ 30.75**

**Contract Foster Parent Payments** 56%

**11,791,138**

na

**462,249 41%      666,859 66%      279,128 51%      2,695,839 58%      1,540,590 64%      1,787,718 58%      973,925 66%      42,787 39%      465,946 46%      1,194,999 47%      1,681,098 54%**

**All other Foster Parent Payments and Support** 1%

**196,481**

196,481 2%

**7,762 1%      - 0%      - 0%      130,109 3%      38,260 2%      2,346 0%      4,246 0%      700 1%      1,493 0%      4,513 0%      7,052 0%**

Respite, travel assistance, other -

**Foster Care Wages, Taxes Benefits**

Grouping 1: Includes Foster Care specialists, consultants, Licensing Training, Recruitment, Placement & Supervisors.

**6,147,271**

29%

6,147,271 66%

**464,416 41%      188,625 19%      167,412 31%      1,420,120 30%      627,520 26%      670,893 22%      314,174 21%      28,843 27%      279,413 28%      757,746 30%      1,228,109 39%**

Grouping 2: Directors, Clinical, Support, Other

**958,140**

5%

958,140 10%

**134,121 12%      75,979 8%      29,775 5%      69,748 1%      4,500 0%      263,927 9%      72,000 5%      3,543 3%      113,818 11%      83,937 3%      106,792 3%**

**Staff Development & Training**

**92,826**

0%

92,826 1%

**9,379 1%      2,233 0%      - 0%      13,363 0%      3,020 0%      - 0%      10,790 1%      2,350 2%      2,300 0%      41,110 2%      8,281 0%**

**Transportation**

mileage and auto related expenses for staff (if agency owns - do not include capital expenditures but do include depreciation)

**384,651**

2%

384,651 4%

**15,300 1%      15,176 2%      12,084 2%      48,789 1%      62,120 3%      117,774 4%      22,954 2%      7,168 7%      7,914 1%      39,161 2%      36,211 1%**

**Communication needs for Foster Care Staff**

includes cell phone service or cell phone stipend

**107,806**

1%

107,806 1%

**4,083 0%      12,066 1%      1,336 0%      21,284 0%      3,360 0%      19,517 1%      1,800 0%      1,546 1%      2,738 0%      25,676 1%      14,400 0%**

**Info Systems/Software Subscriptions**

**126,493**

1%

126,493 1%

**10,468 1%      3,877 0%      1,130 0%      20,432 0%      - 0%      26,497 1%      10,000 1%      1,575 1%      7,378 1%      34,811 1%      10,325 0%**

**Occupancy Expenses**

Includes phone, rent, CAM, building repairs and maintenance, building depreciation, prop insur, taxes, fire, safety, pest & trash, housekeeping supplies, contract housekeeping/laundry, and utilities

**770,354**

4%

770,354 8%

**35 0%      25,871 3%      36,168 7%      119,412 3%      95,850 4%      119,414 4%      42,000 3%      4,316 4%      124,521 12%      182,958 7%      19,809 1%**

**General Supplies**

includes office supplies, postage, mnt agree copier, ect.

**127,166**

1%

127,166 1%

**893 0%      8,614 1%      8,577 2%      41,518 1%      - 0%      25,174 1%      11,000 1%      1,362 1%      3,600 0%      16,908 1%      9,520 0%**

**Recruitment/Retention of Foster Parents**

advertising, printing, retention

**376,095**

2%

376,095 4%

**19,500 2%      1,774 0%      55 0%      67,018 1%      16,550 1%      59,923 2%      13,000 1%      11,806 11%      4,000 0%      167,375 7%      15,094 0%**

**Other (if more than 5% please identify)**

**37,387**

0%

37,387 0%

**- 0%      2,850 0%      12,691 2%      9,961 0%      - 0%      - 0%      - 0%      2,755 3%      - 0%      6,556 0%      2,574 0%**

**Costs Before Indirect Rate**

**21,115,808**

100%

9,324,670 100%

**1,128,206 100%      1,003,924 100%      548,356 100%      4,657,593 100%      2,391,770 100%      3,093,183 100%      1,475,889 100%      108,751 100%      1,013,121 100%      2,555,750 100%      3,139,265 100%**

**Indirect Rate/Administrative Allocation**

For organizations that have multiple programs and keep separate

Administrative cost center for HR, Accounting, Technology e

**0.16**

(enter your agency's indirect rate in cell F50)

**3,465,716**

**35%      16%      0%      15%      24%      11%      21%      10%      12%      9%      20%**

**389,625      164,236      -      698,639      574,025      # 340,250      308,621      10,875      121,575      230,018      627,853**

**Total Costs**

**24,581,524**

**1,517,831      1,168,160      548,356      5,356,232      2,965,795      3,433,433      1,784,510      119,626      1,134,696      2,785,768      3,767,118**

pg 2 Review of Key Assumptions

**weighted average**

Ave caseload for Direct Care Spec/Consultant (by level)

Level 1 : Essential

**13.72**

**14      6      -      18      9      20      13      18      11      10      8**

Level 2: Enhanced

**10.50**

**14      4      -      14      3      20      13      18      3      5      3**

Level 3: Intensive

**8.53**

**14      1      -      10      1      20      13      18      1      2      1**

Level 4: Intensive Plus

**7.07**

**-      -      -      8      -      -      -      18      1      -      -**

Level 5: Specialized

**18.00**

**-      -      -      -      -      -      -      18      -      -      -**

**FOSTER CARE REIMBURSEMENT RATE COMMITTEE (FCRRC) MEETING**

**Cost of Care Survey**

**Compiled Foster Care Rate Survey Results**

18-May-23

	<b>COMPILED</b>
For the 12 month period ended :	
Ave Supervisor Ratio to Direct Care Spec/Consultant (by level)	
Level 1 : Essential	<b>7.86</b>
Level 2: Enhanced	<b>6.45</b>
Level 3: Intensive	<b>5.28</b>
Level 4: Intensive Plus	<b>5.01</b>
Level 5: Specialized	<b>1.39</b>
Ave hrly rate of pay for Direct Care Spec/Consultant (by level)	
Level 1 : Essential	<b>20.47</b>
Level 2: Enhanced	<b>20.83</b>
Level 3: Intensive	<b>21.18</b>
Level 4: Intensive Plus	<b>24.02</b>
Level 5: Specialized	<b>21.24</b>
Ave Taxes and Bens % for Specialist/Consultant	<b>23.3%</b>
Ave hrly rate of pay for Supervisor (by level) -	
Level 1 : Essential	<b>\$ 27.02</b>
Level 2: Enhanced	<b>\$ 27.02</b>
Level 3: Intensive	<b>\$ 27.02</b>
Level 4: Intensive Plus	<b>\$ 25.94</b>
Level 5: Specialized	<b>\$ 32.57</b>
Ave Taxes and Bens % for Supervisor Level	<b>21.9%</b>
Average hrly rate of pay for Recruiter	<b>\$ 22.95</b>
Average hrly rate of pay for Trainer	<b>\$ 23.06</b>
Ave hrly rate of pay for Licensing/Admissions staff	<b>\$ 21.79</b>
# of ftes (Full Time Equivalencies = total number of hours per week/40) devoted to recruiting/training/licensing functions	<b>5.63</b>

convert to hhs methodology by excl hhs \$ to foster families

	AGENCY 1	AGENCY 2	AGENCY 3	AGENCY 4	AGENCY 5	AGENCY 6	AGENCY 7	AGENCY 8	AGENCY 9	AGENCY 10	AGENCY 11
	\$ %	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	6/30/2022	12/31/2022	12/31/2022	1/31/2023	12/31/2022	12/31/2022	12/31/2022	6/30/2022	9/30/2022	3/31/2023	12/31/2022
Level 1 : Essential	6	1	-	8	13	8	4	5	40	3	3
Level 2: Enhanced	6	1	-	8	12	8	4	5	10	3	3
Level 3: Intensive	6	1	-	8	3	8	4	5	3	3	3
Level 4: Intensive Plus	-	1	-	8	1	-	-	5	1	-	-
Level 5: Specialized	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-
Level 1 : Essential	\$ 22.60	\$ 21.38	\$ -	\$ 20.00	\$ 21.32	\$ 20.14	\$ 18.00	\$ 20.30	\$ 22.06	\$ 20.00	\$ 21.35
Level 2: Enhanced	\$ 22.60	\$ 21.38	\$ -	\$ 21.50	\$ 21.32	\$ 20.14	\$ 18.00	\$ 20.30	\$ 22.06	\$ 20.00	\$ 21.35
Level 3: Intensive	\$ 22.60	\$ 21.38	\$ -	\$ 23.00	\$ 21.32	\$ 20.14	\$ 18.00	\$ 20.30	\$ 22.06	\$ 20.00	\$ 21.35
Level 4: Intensive Plus	-	\$ 21.38	\$ -	\$ 24.50	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20.30	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Level 5: Specialized	-	\$ 21.38	\$ 19.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20.30	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Ave Taxes and Bens % for Specialist/Consultant	23.4%	17.0%	15.0%	20.2%	34.0%	9.6%	20.0%	23.7%	10.0%	25.0%	44.5%
Level 1 : Essential	\$ 26.44	\$ 33.65	\$ -	\$ 24.75	\$ 36.47	\$ 28.84	\$ 21.50	\$ 23.77	\$ 25.51	\$ 23.36	\$ 27.44
Level 2: Enhanced	\$ 26.44	\$ 33.65	\$ -	\$ 24.75	\$ 36.47	\$ 28.84	\$ 21.50	\$ 23.77	\$ 25.51	\$ 23.36	\$ 27.44
Level 3: Intensive	\$ 26.44	\$ 33.65	\$ -	\$ 24.75	\$ 36.47	\$ 28.84	\$ 21.50	\$ 23.77	\$ 25.51	\$ 23.36	\$ 27.44
Level 4: Intensive Plus	-	\$ 33.65	\$ -	\$ 24.75	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 23.77	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Level 5: Specialized	-	\$ 33.65	\$ 25.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 23.77	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Ave Taxes and Bens % for Supervisor Level	22.2%	17.0%	15.0%	20.2%	31.0%	10.7%	20.0%	23.7%	10.0%	27.0%	34.6%
Average hrly rate of pay for Recruiter	\$ 22.60	\$ 23.58	\$ 25.00	\$ 21.75	\$ 21.64	\$ 27.25	\$ 19.00	\$ 15.88	\$ 25.51	\$ 25.00	\$ 20.84
Average hrly rate of pay for Trainer	\$ 22.60	\$ 23.58	\$ 25.00	\$ 24.75	\$ 22.00	\$ 27.25	\$ 19.25	\$ 19.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 21.00	\$ 20.84
Ave hrly rate of pay for Licensing/Admissions staff	\$ 22.60	\$ 23.58	\$ 25.00	\$ 23.00	\$ 21.32	\$ 23.46	\$ 19.00	\$ 20.30	\$ 18.62	\$ 21.00	\$ 20.59
# of ftes (Full Time Equivalencies = total number of hours per week/40) devoted to recruiting/training/licensing functions	4.00	7.00	2.00	8.00	14.00	6.50	2.50	0.04	2.50	6.00	2.76

**FOSTER CARE CALCULATIONS TO DETERMINE  
ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT RATE  
5/18/2023**

a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	
<b>Foster Care Specialist</b>							Total	(g / b / 365)
Ratio	% Full Case Load				23.3%	Wages	Per Placement	
	<u>0.85</u>		<u>Hourly</u>	<u>Annual</u>	<u>Benefits</u>	<u>Taxes Bens</u>	<u>Per Day Calc</u>	
13.72	11.66	Essential	20.47	42,576	9,935	52,511	12.33	
10.50	8.92	Enhanced	20.83	43,318	10,109	53,427	16.41	
8.53	7.25	Intensive	21.18	44,060	10,282	54,342	20.52	
7.07	6.01	Intensive Plus	24.02	49,958	11,658	61,616	28.11	
18.00	15.30	Specialized	21.24	44,175	10,309	54,483	9.76	

<b>Foster Care Specialist Supervisor</b>							Total	(g / a / 365)
Ratio	Ratio				21.9%	Wages	Per Placement	
<u>1 to x children</u>	<u>1 to X Specialists</u>		<u>Hourly</u>	<u>Annual</u>	<u>Benefits</u>	<u>Taxes Bens</u>	<u>Per Day Calc</u>	
91.7	7.86	Essential	27.02	56,203	12,327	68,530	2.05	
57.5	6.45	Enhanced	27.02	56,203	12,327	68,530	3.27	
38.3	5.28	Intensive	27.02	56,203	12,327	68,530	4.90	
30.1	5.01	Intensive Plus	25.94	53,949	11,832	65,781	5.99	
21.2	1.39	Specialized	32.57	67,736	14,856	82,592	10.66	

<b>Licensing/Training/Recruitment Specialist</b>							Total	(g / b / 365)
# of clients supported by 1 avg FTE					21.9%	Wages	Per Placement	
			<u>Hourly</u>	<u>Annual</u>	<u>Benefits</u>	<u>Taxes Bens</u>	<u>Per Day Calc</u>	
18.39	Essential	22.60	47,015	10,312	57,327	8.54		
18.39	Enhanced	22.60	47,015	10,312	57,327	8.54		
18.39	Intensive	22.60	47,015	10,312	57,327	8.54		
18.39	Intensive Plus	22.60	47,015	10,312	57,327	8.54		
18.39	Specialized	22.60	47,015	10,312	57,327	8.54		

Summary Staffing	licensing			Total FC Staffing
	<u>specialist</u>	<u>supervisor</u>	<u>recruitment</u>	
Essential	12.33	2.05	8.54	22.92
Enhanced	16.41	3.27	8.54	28.21
Intensive	20.52	4.90	8.54	33.97
Intensive Plus	28.11	5.99	8.54	42.63
Specialized	9.76	10.66	8.54	28.95

	34% of FC Staffing			Total	0.16 Indirect	Cost of Living Increase (Midpoint of 5% for 6 yrs)	FINAL RATE	Current Rate	Difference
	Total FC Staffing	All Other FC Costs	4 days Respite						
Essential	22.92	7.79		30.72	5.04	6.08	41.84	27.02	14.82
Enhanced	28.21	9.59		37.81	6.20	7.48	51.49	34.97	16.52
Intensive	33.97	11.55		45.52	7.47	9.01	62.00	48.13	13.87
Intensive Plus	42.63	14.49		57.13	9.38	11.31	77.81	62.16	15.65
Specialized	28.95	9.84	-	38.80	6.37	7.68	52.85	83.00	(30.15)