

MERCER COUNTY FOSTER CARE REIMBURSEMENT (updated 11/1/22)

PER DIEM RATES:

AGES	RATE
0-10	\$31.50 – \$41.50
11-18	\$43.50 - \$59.50

The per-diem will be set on a case-by-case situation taking into account the circumstances of the individual child. Individual Circumstances are situations that do not require a more restrictive setting other than Family Foster Care. This per diem rate will be agreed upon and documented on the Individual Child Care Agreement. The per diem rates above are general guidelines but may be altered due to a child's needs that do not require a more restrictive placement.

The per-diem reimbursement will include the first day of placement but not the last day of placement.

BASIC RATES

The basic per diem rates include the following:

School supplies	Food
Diaper/Personal hygiene items	Shelter
Clothing	Non-prescription medication
Hair cuts	Outings/activities
Personal allowance weekly for ages 11-18	Routine school functions
Entertainment	Toys and play items
Other routine expenses associated with the care of a child	

BABY EXPENSES

All infants should receive formula through the local W.I.C. program. Any special formulas not provided through W.I.C. will be reimbursed by the agency. Other baby expenses such as ointments, creams, powder, lotions, oil, swabs, and baby wipes are computed in the basic per diem rates. During initial placement, the agency will consider purchasing these items on a case-by-case basis.

TRAVEL EXPENSES

The agency will reimburse for mileage at the rate set by the Mercer County Commissioners for The Employees of Mercer County. Mileage will be reimbursed for medical, dental, and mental health appointments, parental visitations, attending SAR or other agency meetings for the foster child and other necessary travel which has been prior approved by the agency. All mileage must be documented on agency mileage forms for reimbursement. If there is a sibling or another foster child transported at the same time, mileage can only be billed for one child.

CLOTHING

Initial clothing will be \$350.00 per child. As required by the state, the initial clothing allowance needs to be within the first 60 days of placement. Foster parents must submit the original receipt with itemized clothing expenses to the agency within 90 days of placement in order to be reimbursed by the agency. Sales tax is reimbursable but will be included in with the \$350.00.

Clothing for school aged children will be two times per school year. Once in April up to \$350.00 per child and once in October up to \$350.00 per child. Caseworkers can be contacted to make arrangements to charge clothing expenses at the local Wal-Mart with prior notice. Foster parents may also buy and charge clothing from Hidden Treasures Consignment Shop in Coldwater, OH for a foster child's clothing. Foster parents need to keep all clothing receipts for auditing purposes.

MEDICAL

The agency will reimburse the cost of all medical, dental, and optical expenses that are not covered by the Ohio Medicaid card or the parent's private health insurance. Foster parents must use providers that accept the Ohio Medicaid card unless prior arrangements have been made with the agency. Foster parents are required to consult with their caseworker prior to scheduling any medical, dental, or optical appointments with non-Medicaid providers.

ALLOWANCES

Allowances have been computed into the basic per diem rates. All foster parents are required to pay foster children ages 11-13 a weekly allowance of \$10.00, 14-16 a weekly allowance of \$15.00, 16-18, a weekly allowance of \$20.00.

CHILDCARE

If both foster parents are employed MCJFS will pay for childcare fees. Childcare fees will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis. Foster parents will have to use a childcare provider licensed, certified, or approved by MCJFS or ODJFS. Foster parents will need to fill out a childcare usage form showing the dates and reasons for childcare. Childcare can be used for the following reasons: work, medical appointments and approved meetings. Childcare providers will have a form that needs signed showing the times the child is dropped off and picked up. MCJFS will reimburse foster parents for payment of childcare expenses. Any unapproved childcare used must be paid by the foster parent.

SCHOOL

Basic school supplies are computed in the per diem fees. School fees and/or workbook fees should be billed directly to this agency. Special material or equipment can be reimbursed on a case-by-case basis, please consult with the child's case worker before purchasing. School lunches are provided at no cost through the school free lunch program. The agency will reimburse foster parents for up to \$50 per year for school pictures. Foster parents must submit detailed and original receipts for reimbursement of any school expenses. Extra-curricular activities expense for school shall be reimbursed with receipt, including sport event passes, required sporting equipment, event costumes, band instruments not supplied by the school. In addition, JFS will reimburse for school fees assessed for student trips.

GRADUATION/PROM EXPENSES

Foster parents can be reimbursed or direct bill the agency for graduation expenses for foster children during their junior and/or senior year of high school. Foster parents must submit all original receipts in order for reimbursement. The agency will not reimburse for more than \$1,000.00 total. Foster Parents need to consult with the child's caseworker before purchasing items. Examples of items that can be reimbursed are: Senior pictures, invitations, Cap/gown rental, Prom gown purchase, Tuxedo rental or other items approved by the agency director or his designee.

The agency will consider reimbursing a child's class ring up to \$150.00 on case-by-case basis during the child's freshman year of high school. Some factors to be considered will be anticipated length of time child will be in the agency's custody and the agency's funding situation.

ACTIVITIES

All foster parents need to have prior approval from the child's caseworker to receive reimbursement for special activities, sports, school activities, camps, or Boy and Girl Scouts. The activities will be approved on a case-by-case basis as funding permits.

CHRISTMAS/BIRTHDAY REIMBURSEMENT

The agency will reimburse foster parents for Christmas and birthday presents for foster children. These amounts are to include any sales tax. Foster parents will be required to submit detailed and original receipts in order to be reimbursed. Foster parents can also contact caseworker to charge these items at the local Wal-Mart store. The following are the allowed cost for reimbursement of gifts.

Birthdays: \$75.00

Christmas: Ages 0-10: \$300.00

Ages 11-18: \$400.00

SHARED AID AGREEMENT/RESPITE

Foster parents that use the shared aid agreement/respice with other local foster parents will need to pay the foster parent at the child's prevailing per diem rate. All payments must be made at the time the child is picked up. All shared aid/respice agreements for foster care must be approved by the agency. Foster parents are required to find shared aid/respice with Mercer County Job and Family Services licensed foster home. If a MCJFS foster home can not be located and the child is placed for respice services through another agency or institution, the foster parents will not be paid for the days the child is placed since the agency must pay the other agency for this period of time. All shared aid/respice agreements must be made at least 7 days in advance, unless it is an emergency situation.

ABSENCES FROM THE FOSTER HOME

Occasionally a foster child will go on extended home visits with parents or other relatives, become hospitalized, detained in detention, runaway or otherwise be absent from the foster home. MCJFS, at its discretion, may pay up to 5 days for a "hold bed". If a child is hospitalized and the foster parent is an integral part of the child's treatment, the foster parents can request an extension beyond the 5 days.

MISCELLANEOUS

The agency will reimburse foster parents for all well inspections, BCII/FBI fingerprint checks and fire inspection. Foster parents need to submit an original bill for this reimbursement after initial certification or recertification.

Other expenses not specifically referred to will be considered on a case-by-case basis and approved by the agency director or his designee.

FOSTER PARENT TRAINING

Preservice Training: A maximum of \$15 per hour for every training session will be paid to each foster parent for successful completion of the preservice training. Payments for preservice training will be deferred until after the foster parent becomes licensed. Prospective foster parents who complete some or all of the preservice training but do not become a licensed foster parent are not eligible for payment.

Continuing Training: The agency will pay each foster parent \$30.00 per hour for every training session (over one hour in length), up to 40 hours in every recertification period. No payments will be made for any self-directed type of foster training. (Note: payment year is based on foster parent license dates.) Foster parents will be responsible to find and pay for their own babysitters from this training fee. If the training is not held at the agency, foster parents are responsible to bill the agency on the monthly foster care billing forms.

LIFE BOOK

Foster Parents are encouraged to complete a life book for each child in placement. Reimbursement will be up to \$50.00 per placement. A copy of the book must be provided to MCJFS as well as to the foster child.

YOUTH COACHING/PARENT EDUCATION/MENTORING

Foster Parents licensed through Ohio Department of Job and Family Services may, on occasion, have an opportunity to provide Youth Coaching Services, Parent Education Services or Foster Parent Mentoring Services.

Youth Coaching Services consists of spending time with a child that is at risk of removal. The goal of the service is to provide a child an opportunity to develop healthy and appropriate relationships with adults, development of social skills, and to learn to interact appropriately in the community.

The Parent Education Services is designed to provide supervised visitation, parent education, role modeling and support to parents who have lost custody of their child(ren) or are at risk of losing custody of their child(ren). Generally, this service is provided in the parent’s home or elsewhere in the community.

The Foster Parent Mentoring Services is designed to provide assistance to local certified foster parents. This may include role modeling and support to other foster parents that are having a hard time with children in their home or to new foster parents.

The agency will reimburse the foster parent \$15 per hour for these services. Prior to the beginning of any service, the foster parent and agency will sign a Memorandum of Understanding outlining number of hours and specific services to be provided. If there is a special outing or project the foster parent would like to do with the child or parents, they will need to request funding prior to the outing or activity.

BILLING:

All foster care bills are to be submitted to the *attention of Fiscal Department* by the 20th day of the month following services. Normally foster parents will be reimbursed between the 20-25th of the month. Receipts must be attached for all reimbursements.

The Provider agrees to pay the agency the full amount of payment received for duplicate billing, erroneous billings, deceptive claims or falsification. “Deceptive” means knowingly deceiving another, or causing another to be deceived, by a false or misleading representation, by withholding information, by preventing another from acquiring information or by any other act, conduct or omission which creates, confirms or perpetuates a false impression in another, including a false impression as to the law, value, state of mind or other objective


SAFEGUARDING OF CLIENT INFORMATION: The Foster Parent agrees that use or disclosure by any party of any information concerning children placed in the foster parent’s home for any purpose not directly related to the delivery of foster care services is prohibited and could be in violation of Ohio Revised Code 2151.421

I acknowledge I have read this document and have had a chance to ask any questions concerning it. I further agree to abide by the terms set forth in this document.



Social Service Administrator

10/7/2022
Date



Director

10/07/2022
Date



County Commissioner

10/11/22
Date