



New Mexico Children,
Youth & Families Department

Foster Care Maintenance Rates & Payments

What is a foster care maintenance payment?

Foster care maintenance is a non-taxable rate established by CYFD to provide reimbursement to licensed foster care placements for the cost of caring for children and youth in the custody of CYFD. There are six types of foster care maintenance rates:

- Level 1: Basic Rate
- Level 2: Enhanced Rate
- Level 3: Special Arranged Rate
- Pregnant and Parenting Youth Rate
- Extended Foster Care Rate
- Occasional Personal Incidentals



What types of expenses should this maintenance payment be used for?

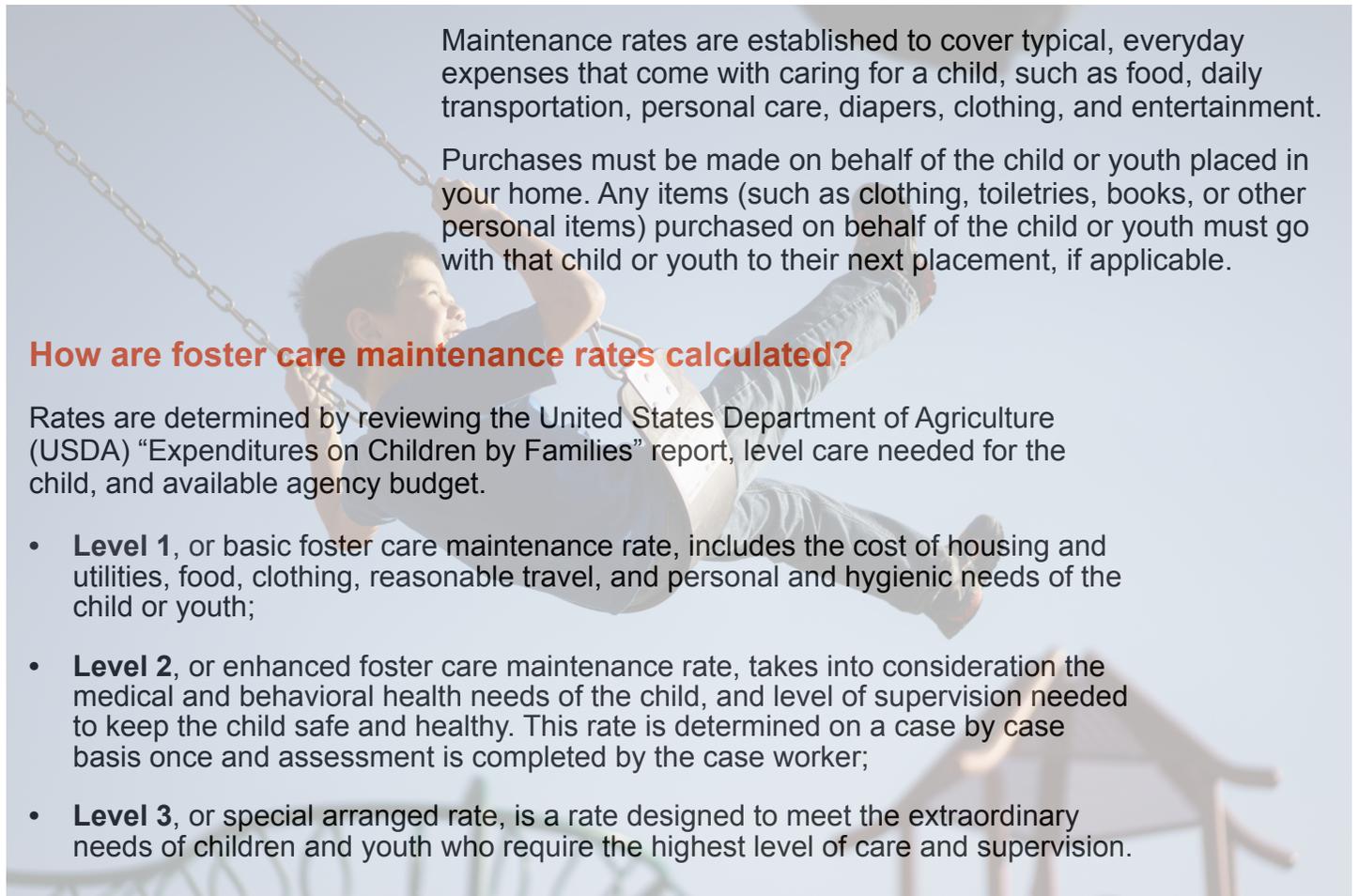
Maintenance rates are established to cover typical, everyday expenses that come with caring for a child, such as food, daily transportation, personal care, diapers, clothing, and entertainment.

Purchases must be made on behalf of the child or youth placed in your home. Any items (such as clothing, toiletries, books, or other personal items) purchased on behalf of the child or youth must go with that child or youth to their next placement, if applicable.

How are foster care maintenance rates calculated?

Rates are determined by reviewing the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) "Expenditures on Children by Families" report, level care needed for the child, and available agency budget.

- **Level 1**, or basic foster care maintenance rate, includes the cost of housing and utilities, food, clothing, reasonable travel, and personal and hygienic needs of the child or youth;
- **Level 2**, or enhanced foster care maintenance rate, takes into consideration the medical and behavioral health needs of the child, and level of supervision needed to keep the child safe and healthy. This rate is determined on a case by case basis once an assessment is completed by the case worker;
- **Level 3**, or special arranged rate, is a rate designed to meet the extraordinary needs of children and youth who require the highest level of care and supervision.



Foster Care Maintenance Rates

Level 1: Basic Rate

	Age	Daily Rate	28-Day Monthly Rate	30-Day Monthly Rate	31-Day Monthly Rate
Family Foster Home (Relative, Non-Relative, Fictive Kin)	0-5	\$20.91	\$585.48	\$627.30	\$648.21
	6-12	\$22.06	\$617.68	\$661.80	\$683.86
	13-17	\$22.95	\$642.60	\$688.50	\$711.45

Level 2: Enhanced Rate

	Age	Daily Rate	28-Day Monthly Rate	30-Day Monthly Rate	31-Day Monthly Rate
Specialized Family Foster Home (Relative, Non-Relative, Fictive Kin)	0-5	\$27.09	\$758.52	\$812.70	\$839.70
	6-12	\$28.21	\$789.88	\$846.30	\$874.51
	13-17	\$29.08	\$814.24	\$872.40	\$901.48
Treatment Foster Care (TFC)	0-5	\$21.86	\$612.08	\$655.80	\$677.66
	6-12	\$22.55	\$631.40	\$676.50	\$699.05
	13-17	\$23.08	\$646.24	\$692.40	\$715.48

Level 3: Special Arranged/Exceptional Rate

Specially Arranged

A variable rate is calculated on an individual basis according to the needs of the child. A Level III assessment, review, and approval is needed prior to this rate going into effect.

\$1,800 maximum depending on the score/needs on Level III Assessment. ARCA approved placements have their own rate of \$3,981.85.

Other Rates

Pregnant/Parenting Youth	Fostering Connections
Add in Foster Care Maintenance Rate for 0-5 age based on parent's placement (for example, Basic Rate, Specialized Family Foster Home, etc). Variable rate based on needs of youth and children available.	Youth aged 18-21 years old, participating in the Fostering Connections program (Extended Foster Care): \$750 monthly.



Occasional & Reasonable Personal Incidentals

Occasional and reasonable personal incidentals are those items that may need to be purchased occasionally for the child to support normalizing activities and participation in school activities, extracurricular activities, and events. It also includes additional funds to support education and graduation expenses, as well as specific mileage expenses related to court hearings, visitation with family, extraordinary medical needs, and maintaining children in their school of origin.

Any items purchased for the child must go with the child if the child leaves the resource family's home.

	Description	Rate/Limit
Activities	Activities may include, but are not limited to hobbies, art supplies, books, extracurricular clubs or sports (<i>i.e.</i> , scouts, music lessons, gymnastics, etc.) and equipment/uniforms related to those activities.	CYFD may reimburse for activities approved by the child's caseworker up to \$500 per year/per child.
Educational Expenses	Education expenses may include, but are not limited to, tutoring, computers/tablets, on-line classes, school pictures (\$50 limit), musical instruments for band or orchestra, school activities (such as special events, field trips, or driver's education). Tuition costs for private school are not reimbursed as an education expense.	CYFD may reimburse for activities approved by the child's caseworker up to \$500 per year/per child.
Graduation Expenses	Graduation expenses may include, but are not limited to, fees, announcements, class rings, yearbooks, class pictures, and cap and gown.	CYFD may reimburse for graduation expenses approved by the child's caseworker up to \$750 per youth.
Transportation related to and from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Court hearings • Visitation • Medical and behavioral health appointments • Maintaining the child in school of origin 	Mileage and transportation for the care of a foster child is included in the basic Foster Care Maintenance Payment. However, Foster care providers may be reimbursed for additional mileage for specific transportation costs related to court hearings and meetings, child visitation with family, extraordinary medical needs and appointments, and maintain a child in his or her school of origin.-5	CYFD may reimburse for specific mileage needs, pre-approved by the child's caseworker. Mileage must be tracked—consult your caseworker. Rates will mirror current state employee reimbursement rates.
Vacation	Vacation-related activities may include, but are not limited to day-trips, camping, or tickets to special events.	CYFD may reimburse for vacation activities, pre-approved by the child's caseworker up to \$250 per year/per child.
Birthday	Money provided for the child in the month of the child's birthday.	CYFD provides \$50 per year/per child.

Questions? Please contact your CYFD caseworker.



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