




**State of Florida  
Department of Children and Families**



**Rick Scott**  
Governor

**Mike Carroll**  
Secretary

**DATE:** January 19, 2018

**TO:** Regional Managing Directors  
Community-Based Care Lead Agency CEOs

**THROUGH:** David L. Fairbanks, Deputy Secretary 

**FROM:** JoShonda Guerrier, Assistant Secretary for Child Welfare   
Rebecca Kapusta, Assistant Secretary for Operations 

**SUBJECT:** 2018 Foster Parent Cost of Living Allowance Increase

**PURPOSE:** This memo is to provide guidance to regions and Community-Based Care (CBC) Lead Agencies regarding the statutorily required foster parent Cost of Living Allowance (COLA), effective January 1, 2018.

**BACKGROUND:** During the 2013 legislative session, the Florida Legislature passed s. 409.145(4), F.S., which establishes base room and board rate payments to foster parents and requires foster parents to receive an annual cost of living increase equal to the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for All Urban Consumers, U.S. City Average, All Items, not seasonally adjusted, or successor reports, for the preceding December compared to the prior December as initially reported by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Effective January 1, 2018, the room and board rates to foster parents will be adjusted as follows:

Age Range	2017 Room and Board Rate	Room and Board Rate Effective January 1, 2018
Zero to Five (0 – 5)	\$448.53	\$457.95
Six to Twelve (6 – 12)	\$460.02	\$469.68
Thirteen to Twenty-one (13 – 21)	\$538.43	\$549.74

Section 65C-16.013(8), F.A.C., outlines that a CBC can negotiate a Maintenance Adoption Subsidy (MAS) up to 100% of the statewide foster care board rate. Based on the 2018 foster parent cost of living allowance increase, a CBC will now be able to approve MAS amounts up to the above mentioned updated statewide foster care board rates. Any rate over the 2018 statewide foster care board rates must be approved by the Department Regional Family Safety Program Office.

1317 Winewood Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0700

Mission: Protect the Vulnerable, Promote Strong and Economically Self-Sufficient Families, and Advance Personal and Family Recovery and Resiliency

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**ACTION NEEDED:** As of January 1, 2018, all foster parents previously receiving the 2017 rate of pay for room and board in the amounts of \$448.53, \$460.02, or \$538.43, for child(ren) in their care must be paid the increase as specified in s. 409.145(4), F.S.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** For additional information, please contact Courtney Smith, Child Permanency & Well-being Manager [Courtney.Smith@myflfamilies.com](mailto:Courtney.Smith@myflfamilies.com) or (850) 717-4660.

cc: Kimberly McMurray, Chief Financial Officer  
Grainne O'Sullivan, Children Legal Services Statewide Director  
Regional Family and Community Services Directors  
CBC Contract Managers  
Center for Child Welfare