

## **Department of Human Service Policies**

### **CHAPTER 2 - CHILD WELFARE**

#### **ARTICLE III – Foster/Kinship**

##### **Sec. 2.3.330. - Out-Of-Home Placement In County Certified Foster and Kinship Care Homes.**

###### **A. Introduction**

The Weld County Department of Human Services (WCDHS) shall reimburse a County certified foster care or kinship foster care provider if such provider meets the State requirements for County Certified Providers as established in Colorado State Rule, Section 7.417.1, Volume VII, Human Services Programs.

1. As required by C.R.S. 26-5-104, WCDHS will negotiate rates, services and outcomes with providers as outlined in the submitted Rate Setting Methodology that is approved by the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) and the State.
2. WCDHS will enter into yearly contracts with each County Certified Provider that the WCDHS utilizes. The Contract dates will match the providers certification dates in Trails.
3. The Contract Management Team will initiate and send to providers, the State prescribed CWS-7A, Individual Provider Contract for Purchase of Foster Care Services in a Foster Care Home, as outlined in Colorado State Rules, Section 7.304.661 of Volume VII.
  - a) The exhibit within the CWS-7A shall reflect the daily rate to be paid for each child placed with the contracted provider for the contract year.
  - b) Provider rates reflected within the exhibit of the CWS-7A may consist of State set rates or County specific negotiated rates approved by the BOCC.
4. Once the signed contracts have been received from providers, the State prescribed CWS-7A, Individual Provider Contract for Purchase of Foster Care Services in a Foster Care Home, with the exhibit, will be signed by the Director and submitted to the BOCC for approval pursuant to the required County process.
  - a) Upon approval of the BOCC, the Board Chair, or designee, will sign the contract. Payment cannot be authorized to the provider until the contract is signed by all parties.
5. Providers will be sent a fully executed electronic copy of the CWS-7A, Individual Provider Contract for the Purchase of Foster Care Services in a Foster Care Home.
6. All original contracts will be scanned and stored in the official County records system maintained by the Clerk to the Board of the BOCC.

## **Department of Human Service Policies**

### **B. County Certified Foster and Kinship Care Reimbursement.**

1. Weld County certified foster and kinship care homes will be reimbursed utilizing the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment tool for children age 13 (thirteen) and older or the state rate for children age birth to 12 (twelve).
  - a) For children under the age of 13 (thirteen) who have severe behavioral challenges and who are receiving intensive services such as, but not limited to, foster parent consultation, behavioral coaching, sex abuse intervention or intensive in-home services, the foster care or kinship coordinator or caseworker may request a staffing with the Child Welfare Director, the Child Welfare Deputy Director or the Resource Manager to request a CANS assessment be completed.
  - b) For children who have Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities or intensive medical/physical needs or limitations that interfere with daily life functioning, regardless of age, the Inventory for Client and Agency Planning (ICAP) assessment will be completed to determine the reimbursement rate for certified foster and/or kinship homes.
2. The CANS shall be completed by the Child Welfare Mental Health Professionals within 60 (sixty) days of placement and the CANS Addendum completed and signed by all parties.
3. The CANS rate table, as outlined in Exhibit A or the ICAP rate table as outlined in Exhibit B, shall be used to reimburse providers within the available appropriation and may be made up of the following components:
  - a) Child Maintenance - is a reimbursement for the basic needs of a child placed in any foster care facility. Basic child maintenance needs include but are not limited to food, clothing, shelter, education, personal supplies and allowance. An additional difficulty of care and/or medical needs component, as determined by the assessment, may be added within the child maintenance rate.
  - b) Respite Care - is a reimbursement for costs associated with the temporary supervision of foster care children in the foster care home. Respite care is reimbursed at \$.66/day, unless otherwise negotiated.
4. An initial clothing allowance may be reimbursed to County Foster Care/Kinship Care providers of up to \$200.00 per year (August 1<sup>st</sup> to July 31<sup>st</sup>) to ensure that the child has an adequate wardrobe. Clothing reimbursement shall be submitted on the WCDHS approved clothing allowance form available on the Foster Parents Internet Database and On-line System (FIDOS).
  - a) Original receipts must accompany the clothing allowance form for reimbursement.

## **Department of Human Service Policies**

- b) The clothing reimbursed under the clothing allowance shall become the property of that specific child and must follow the child upon discharge from the foster care/kinship foster care home.
  - c) If a child's wardrobe is lost, stolen, or destroyed, the WCDHS may approve an additional clothing allowance, the reason for which shall be thoroughly documented in the child's record.
5. Transportation reimbursement is available to County Foster Care/Kinship Care providers. Mileage reimbursement must be:
- a) Mileage to transport the child(ren) to and from visits
  - b) Mileage to transport to school or medical appointments, out of county, and as approved for special circumstances, with prior approval of the Foster Care Supervisor.
  - c) Reimbursed at \$.02 (two) cents per mile below the standard mileage rate allowed, pursuant to 26, U.S.C. 162 of the IRS regulations as amended.
  - d) All requests for mileage reimbursements must be received by the WCDHS within 60 (sixty) days of the expenditure occurring. If the request is made over 60 (sixty) days, the expense will become non-reimbursable.
  - e) Mileage reimbursement requests must be completed using the approved County Foster Parent Mileage Expense Account Sheet.
6. Medicaid co-pays may be reimbursed to County Foster and Kinship Care providers for youth in placement, from the age of 19 (nineteen) to 21 (twenty-one), if:
- a) An original receipt is submitted to the WCDHS listing the co-pay amount(s) and child's name; and
  - b) The receipt is turned in within 60 (sixty) days after the co-pay was made.

### **C. Rate Re-Evaluation and Adjustment**

- 1. Placement rates may be re-negotiated based upon the changing needs of the child and a request from the foster care coordinator or caseworker.
- 2. If a child moves from one foster or kinship home to another, the placement rate will remain the same unless the foster care coordinator or caseworker requests a CANS assessment be completed, for children 13 (thirteen) years or older or for younger children as described in section.

### **D. Temporary Absence**

- 1. Bed hold payments for a child's temporary absence from a provider are limited to a maximum of 7 (seven) days unless the child is hospitalized at which time the bed hold can be extended to a maximum of 14 (fourteen) days.
- 2. The caseworker must request a bed hold from the Resource Manager, or designee, within 24 (twenty-four) hours of notification from the provider of the need for a bed hold.

**Department of Human Service Policies**

**Exhibit A. – CANS Rate Table (Effective 7/01/2020)**

<b>Level of Service</b>	<b>Child Maintenance</b>	<b>Respite</b>
CANS Score	Daily Rate	Daily Rate
0 and 1	\$35.70	\$.66
2	\$42.28	\$.66
3	\$48.86	\$.66

**Exhibit B. – ICAP Rate Table (Effective 7/1/2020)**

ICAP IDD Level	Child Maintenance Daily Rate
Level 1	\$97.11
Level 2	\$112.64
Level 3	\$123.75
Level 4	\$134.86
Level 5	\$154.94
Level 6	\$194.75
Medically Fragile	
Level 1	\$54.73
Level 2	\$110.30
Level 3	\$165.88
Level 4	Negotiate up to \$200