



State of Florida
Department of Children and Families

Rick Scott
Governor

Mike Carroll
Secretary

DATE: December 31, 2014
TO: Community-based Care CEOs
Regional Managing Directors
FROM: Pete Digre, Deputy Secretary
Janice Thomas, Assistant Secretary for Child Welfare
SUBJECT: 2015 Foster Parent Cost of Living Allowance Increase

PURPOSE: This memo is to provide guidance to regions and Community-Based Care lead agencies to implement the foster parent Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) increase scheduled to go into effect January 1, 2015.

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 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, 2015, the base room and board rates to foster parents will change as follows:

Table with 3 columns: Age Range, Room and Board Rate Effective January 1, 2015, and 2014 Room and Board Rate. Rows include Zero to Five (0-5), Six to Twelve (6-12), and Thirteen to Twenty-one (13-21).

While the Department and Community-Based Care lead agencies received no additional appropriation for fiscal year 2014-2015, the Department has submitted a legislative budget request for fiscal year 2015-2016 to support cost of living increases to be paid to foster parents through next fiscal year.

ACTION NEEDED: As of January 1, 2015, all foster parents previously receiving the 2014 statutory base rate of pay for room and board in the amounts of \$429, \$440, or \$515 for child in their care must be paid the increase specified in s. 409.145(4), F.S.

CONTACT INFORMATION: For additional information, please contact Kristi Putnam, Child Permanency & Well-being Manager, at Kristi.Putnam@myflfamilies.com or (850) 717-4659.

cc: Regional Family and Community Services Directors
CBC Contract Managers
Rebecca Kapusta, General Counsel
Traci Leavine, Director of Child Welfare Practice
Kellie Sweat Darnell, Director of Child Welfare Operations
JoShonda Guerrier, Director of Child Welfare Strategic Projects