

Child Care Stipend for Foster Parents & Relative Caregivers

The Child Care Stipend for Foster Parents is a new service, beginning May 1st, 2018, intended to help pay the costs of child care for working foster parents and relative caregivers. Here are the highlights:

- ◆ Foster parents and relative caregivers who are parenting children in DHS custody under the age of 6 can use the stipend to cover child care costs incurred due to employment
- ◆ Foster parents and relative caregivers can access up to \$375 a month per child under 6 years old
- ◆ Stipends can only be used when the children are being served by licensed, approved or listed child care providers
- ◆ Stipend payments are issued in the form of a reimbursement to the foster parent or relative caregiver

Who is responsible for what?

Foster Parents & Relative Caregivers

- ◆ Have a discussion with the child's caseworker about your family's child care needs.
- ◆ Identify and select an appropriate, approved child care provider.
 - ◆ Stipends are only available when the child care provider is licensed or approved through Office of Child Care, listed through DHS Self Sufficiency, or approved through DHS Child Welfare.
- ◆ Work with the child's caseworker to complete the Child Welfare Foster Parent or Relative Caregiver Child Care Authorization form, [CF 0162](#).
- ◆ Complete, sign and submit a monthly Child Welfare Child Care Invoice form, CF 0501F, to the child's caseworker.

DHS Child Welfare Branch

- ◆ The caseworker will discuss the family's child care needs and the child's supervision needs with the foster parent or relative caregiver.
 - ◆ The caseworker works with the foster parent or relative caregiver to complete the Child Welfare Foster Parent or Relative Caregiver Child Care Authorization form, [CF 0162](#).
- ◆ The caseworker will submit the completed Child Welfare Child Care Invoice form, [CF 0501F](#) to the designated branch staff for payment.
- ◆ The designated branch staff person will verify the status of the child care provider as licensed and approved through Office of Child Care or listed with DHS Self-Sufficiency.
- ◆ The designated branch staff person will verify and re-authorize the child care service, every 6 months.

What tools and resources do I need to know about?

- ◆ The foster parent 211 line can help you find child care providers: dial 2-1-1
- ◆ Information and resources on becoming a DHS Self-Sufficiency listed child care provider: [click here](#)
- ◆ DHS policy on the Child Care Stipend for Foster Parents or Relative Caregivers are found in: [click here](#)