



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

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Kathryn Williams
Deputy Secretary

DATE: July 23, 2026

TO: Regional Licensing Chiefs
Community Directors
Community-Based Care Lead Agency CEOs

FROM: Angela Shave, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Quality and Innovation *AS*
Brooke Bass, Assistant Secretary, Office of Child and Family Well-Being *BB*

SUBJECT: House Bill 5301E (HB5301E) Room and Board Rate Increase, Effective July 1, 2026

This memo is to provide guidance to regions and Community-Based Care Lead Agencies (Lead Agency) regarding the statutorily required foster parent base room and board rate payment increase, effective July 1, 2026, for Level I-V licensed foster parents pursuant to section 409.145(3), Florida Statutes (F.S.).

During the 2026 legislative session, the Florida Legislature passed HB5301E, which updated the base room and board rate for foster parents.

Effective July 1, 2026, the room and board rates to foster parents were adjusted as follows:

Age Range	2026 Room and Board Rate	Room and Board Rate Effective July 1, 2026
Zero to Five (0 – 5)	\$602.75	\$663.03
Six to Twelve (6 – 12)	\$618.19	\$680.01
Thirteen to Twenty-one (13 – 21)	\$723.58	\$795.94

Effective July 1, 2022, Lead Agencies shall pay a supplemental room and board payment to foster parents, and relative and non-relative caregivers who are participating in the Relative Caregiver Program (which includes Non-relative Caregiver Financial Assistance). Pursuant to s.409.145(3)(d), the supplemental payments are for the purpose of providing independent life skills and normalcy supports to children who are 13 through 17 years. As of July 1, 2026, the supplemental monthly payment is \$79.60, which is based on 10 percent of the monthly room and board rate for children 13 through 21 years of age.

Section 65C-16.013(8), Florida Administrative Code, outlines that a Lead Agency can negotiate a Maintenance Adoption Subsidy (MAS) up to 100% of the statewide foster care board rate. Based on the 2026 room and board increase under HB5301E, a Lead Agency will now be able to approve MAS amounts up to the above mentioned updated statewide foster care board rates. Any rate over

MEMO: House Bill 5301 Room and Board Rate Increase

July 23, 2026

Page 2

the 2026 statewide foster care board rates must be approved by the Department's Statewide Manager for Adoption and Post-Permanency Well-Being.

Section 65C-44.003(9), Florida Administrative Code, outlines that a Lead Agency can negotiate a Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP) payment up to 100% of the statewide foster care board rate. Based on the 2026 room and board increase under HB5301E, a Lead Agency will now be able to approve GAP amounts up to the above mentioned updated statewide foster care board rates. Any rate over the 2026 statewide foster care board rates must be approved by the Department's Regional Licensing Chief.

As of July 1, 2026, all Level I-V licensed foster parents previously receiving a 2026 room and board rate in the amount of \$602.75, \$618.19, or \$723.58 for the child(ren) in their care must be paid the increase as specified in section 409.145(3), F.S.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Lead Agencies inquiring about additional information related to foster care room and board rates and GAP may contact Vanessa Snoddy at Vanessa.Snoddy@myflfamilies.com.

Lead Agencies inquiring about additional information related to Maintenance Adoption Subsidy may contact Sonya Graham at Sonya.Graham@myflfamilies.com.

Foster and adoptive parents seeking additional information on enhanced payments for foster care room and board payments, or maintenance adoption subsidy may contact their local Lead Agency.

cc:

Bryan McDuffie, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Operations, Office of Child and Family Well-Being
Tami Gonyea, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Administration, Office of Child and Family Well-Being
Chad Barrett, Assistant Secretary for Administrative Services
Grainne O'Sullivan, Children Legal Services Statewide Director
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