



STATE OF FLORIDA  
**GUARDIAN AD LITEM PROGRAM**  
**FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**

220 EAST BAY STREET • JACKSONVILLE • FLORIDA 32202  
 6TH FLOOR  
 TEL: (904) 630-1200 • FAX: (904) 630-0757



**DATE:** 11/29/2005  
**FROM:** Helen Spohrer  
**SUBJECT:** Available funds for dependent Children

Each foster parent/group home should be allotting the monthly board foster payment check as follows:

|               | 0-5yrs | 6-12yrs | 13yrs and older |
|---------------|--------|---------|-----------------|
| Current rate: | \$369  | \$380   | \$455           |
| Allowance     | \$10   | \$10    | \$12            |
| Incidentals:  | \$8    | \$9     | \$11            |
| Clothing:     | \$35   | \$36    | \$43            |
| Rate only:    | \$316  | \$325   | \$389           |

In addition to the clothing included in the board payment, an initial clothing allowance is provided to caretakers for shelter and foster children and an annual school clothing allowance.

The rates are as follows:

|                                |                                    |                        |                                   |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>INITIAL CLOTHING:</b>       | <b>0-5 yrs</b><br>\$50             | <b>6-12yrs</b><br>\$50 | <b>13yrs and older</b><br>\$70    |
| <b>ANNUAL SCHOOL CLOTHING:</b> | <b>Ages 0-4</b><br>\$200 per child |                        | <b>Ages 5+</b><br>\$300 per child |

When a family is adopting they receive 80% of the foster care board rate.

The following will describe how much a relative caregiver gets per child.

|      |       |          |                      |
|------|-------|----------|----------------------|
| Ages | 0-5   | \$242.00 | per child per month. |
| Ages | 6-12  | \$249.00 | per child per month. |
| Ages | 13-18 | \$298.00 | per child per month. |

Florida does not pay relative caregiver funds to families outside of Florida **but** does pay Adoptive subsidies.

5-2. Universal Title IV-E Eligibility Requirements. [42 U.S.C. 673, 409.166, F.S., 65C-16, F.A.C.] The Title IV-E adoption subsidy program has specific eligibility requirements that must be met prior to claiming federal reimbursement. The requirements include the following:

a. It must be determined that the child meets (or met) the "special needs" criterion prior to the time the adoption petition is (was) filed. The three factors listed below must exist and be documented in the child's file in order to meet the definition of a child with special needs:

(1) The department has made a determination that the child must not be returned to the home of the parents. This is primarily accomplished through a Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) order.

(2) There exists a specific factor or condition that makes it reasonable to conclude that the child cannot be placed for adoption without providing adoption assistance. The specific factors or conditions include a child who is:

- (a) Eight years of age or older; or,
- (b) Mentally retarded; or,
- (c) Physically or emotionally handicapped; or,
- (d) Of black or racially mixed parentage; or,

(e) A member of a sibling group of any age, provided two or more members of the group remain together for purposes of adoption.

(3) A reasonable, but unsuccessful, effort has been made to place the child with appropriate adoptive parents without providing adoption assistance. Such an effort may include the use of adoption exchanges and referrals to specialized adoption agencies. Exceptions to this requirement include: adoption by the child's foster parent or relative caretaker due to the establishment of significant emotional ties to that foster parent/caretaker and other circumstances that are not in the child's best interests. The specific factor(s) that make the child difficult to place and a description of the efforts to place a child without subsidy (or the exception) must be documented in the child's case file.

b. Financial need of the child must be established. The child cannot have more than \$10,000 in total, countable assets.

c. The child must be under the age of 18 years and never emancipated.

d. A current adoption assistance agreement must be signed by all parties and be present in the child's file. The initial adoption assistance agreement must be signed prior to the adoption finalization.

NOTE: Requests for adoption assistance after finalization of the adoption must be denied. See paragraph 5-8 of this operating procedure.

5-3. Categorical Eligibility Requirements for Title IV-E Adoption Assistance. [ACYF-CB-PA-01-01] In addition to the eligibility factors listed in paragraph 5-2 of this operating procedure, a child must be eligible in one of the categories listed below.

a. Child Meets Criteria For AFDC Eligibility (based on eligibility criteria in place on July 16, 1996). When the child's eligibility for adoption assistance is based on meeting the eligibility criteria for AFDC,