

2025-2026 Foster care rates/Northstar

Northstar sets the rates for foster care, adoption assistance and kinship assistance for children being placed in the foster care system after January 1, 2015. If you have questions, contact your licenser.

Basic maintenance rates

The basic maintenance payment rates to be paid to child foster care parents, adoptive parents, relative custodians or to youth 18 years old or older and under age 21 in extended foster care who are eligible for NorthStar Care for Children benefits, including those placed in unlicensed supervised independent living settings, **effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026** are as follows:

Child's Age	Monthly Basic Rate	Daily Basic Rate
0 - 5	\$827	\$27.19
6 - 12	\$979	\$32.19
13 - 20	\$1,157	\$38.04

The basic maintenance rate is intended to reimburse foster parents for the costs of meeting the needs of foster children. These needs include:

- A bed, a clean mattress that is in good condition, a pillow, sheets, and blankets for each foster child.
- A dresser or some place for the child to put belongings.
- Age-appropriate toys and play equipment for physical, mental, and social development.
- Car seats and booster seats that meet current federal safety regulations and are appropriate for the child's age and weight.
- Snacks and three nutritionally balanced meals per day.
- A complete wardrobe of clothing that is maintained as the child grows and the seasons change.
- Incidentals, such as grooming supplies, school supplies, routine transportation costs, non-prescription medical supplies, and fees for leisure time activities.
- Allowance, if age appropriate.
- Gifts for holidays and birthdays.

A portion of the basic rate is intended to reimburse foster parents for the increased household costs such as electricity, heat, and water.



Items such as furniture, car seats, over-the-counter drugs, toys and games, wear and tear or damage to your property are considered to be reimbursed with the basic foster care rate.

Supplemental level rates

The supplemental level payment rates determined by the MAPCY assessment for children who are eligible for NorthStar Care for Children benefits, including those placed in unlicensed supervised independent living settings, **effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026** are as follows:

MAPCY Level	Monthly Supplemental Rate	Daily Supplemental Rate
Level B	\$ 0	\$ 0.00
Level C	\$ 121	\$ 3.98
Level D	\$ 242	\$ 7.96
Level E	\$ 363	\$ 11.93
Level F	\$ 484	\$ 15.91
Level G	\$ 605	\$ 19.89
Level H	\$ 726	\$ 23.87
Level I	\$ 847	\$ 27.85
Level J	\$ 968	\$ 31.82
Level K	\$1,089	\$ 35.80
Level L	\$1,210	\$ 39.78
Level M	\$1,331	\$ 43.76
Level N	\$1,452	\$ 47.74
Level O	\$1,573	\$ 51.72
Level P	\$1,694	\$ 55.69
Level Q	\$1,815	\$ 59.67

Foster care initial clothing allowance rates

An initial clothing allowance is available based on the child's individual needs during the first 60 days of the child's initial placement into foster care. If an initial clothing allowance is needed, the county or tribal social service agency will approve the amount consistent with the child's needs. The initial clothing allowance must not exceed the monthly basic payment rate for the child's age group. The initial clothing allowance rates **effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026** are as follows:

Ages 0 through 5	\$827
Ages 6 through 12	\$979
Ages 13 through 20	\$1,157