

## BASIC FOSTER CARE RATE

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**Policy no.: 3.25**

**Effective Date:** April 2010

**Date Revised:** October 1, 2013; March 28, 2018

**Policy Cross References:** Financial Services for the Child or Youth; Children's Special Allowance; Block Funding; Level Fee

**Legislative References:**

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**PURPOSE:** To outline the basic foster care rate that is provided to foster parents on behalf of each child or youth placed in the foster home.

**POLICY:**

1. Foster parents shall be provided with the basic foster care rate for each child or youth placed in their home.
2. Foster parents shall be provided with the infant allowance for each child or youth under age 2 years who is placed in their home, which is included in the basic foster care rate.

**PROCEDURES:**

**Basic Rate**

1. The basic foster care rate is provided to cover the daily costs of caring for a child or youth including:
  - a) food;
  - b) shelter;
  - c) clothing;
  - d) routine household wear and tear;
  - e) personal hygiene items;
  - f) routine community travel (e.g. friend's house, community centre, etc.);
  - g) fees for lessons and programming (e.g. swimming, art, music, etc.);
  - h) regular family activities (e.g. movie night, etc.);
  - i) routine babysitting (e.g. foster parents going to a movie or their own medical appointment, etc.);
  - j) non-prescription medications;
  - k) school supplies;
  - l) regular field trips;
  - m) haircuts;
  - n) birthday parties; and
  - o) gifts.

2. The foster parent(s) is responsible for the management of monies issued on the child or youth's behalf and for ensuring the day to day needs of the child or youth are being met. The social worker is responsible for working with the foster parent(s) to ensure the rate provided is sufficient to meet the child or youth's needs by assisting the foster parent(s) as required to plan how best to utilize the funding provided.
3. The table below outlines the basic foster care rates which came into effect on April 1, 2010. A social worker shall approve the applicable basic foster care rate for a foster parent(s) for each child or youth placed in the foster home. When a rate is adjusted based on a change in the child's age category (e.g. the child turns 2, 5, or 12 years of age and enters the next age category) the new rate will be effective starting the pay period following the child's birthday.

Age	Basic Foster Care Rates Effective April 1, 2010		
	Island	Labrador	Remote
<b>Birth up to age 2*</b>	<b>\$915.00</b>	<b>\$1052.00</b>	<b>\$1190.00</b>
<b>2-4</b>	<b>\$715.00</b>	<b>\$822.00</b>	<b>\$930.00</b>
<b>5-11</b>	<b>\$815.00</b>	<b>\$937.00</b>	<b>\$1060.00</b>
<b>12 &amp; older</b>	<b>\$915.00</b>	<b>\$1052.00</b>	<b>\$1190.00</b>

\* The *Birth up to age 2* rates include the infant allowance

### Basic Rate for Labrador

4. Distinct rates have been established for Labrador in recognition of the higher cost of living in this region. The **Labrador Rate** will apply to all areas of Labrador with the exception of the communities that have been designated to receive the **Remote Rate**. The communities designated to receive the Remote Rate include Nain, Natuashish, Hopedale, Makkovik, Postville, Rigolet, Norman Bay, Williams Harbour and Black Tickle.

### Infant Allowance

5. An infant allowance is automatically included in the basic foster care rate for children up to their second birthday. Foster parents will receive the **Birth up to age 2 Rate** until the end of the pay period following the child's second birthday. The infant allowance will assist with the additional costs of caring for an infant (e.g. formula, diapers, etc.). The table below provides a breakdown of the infant allowance amounts that are included in the basic foster care rate structure for the **Birth up to age 2** category.

Age	Infant Allowance Amounts Included in the Basic Rate		
	Island	Labrador	Remote
Birth up to age 2	\$200	\$230	\$260

**EXCEPTIONS:** None

**RELEVANT DOCUMENTS:**