

**441—156.5(234) Additional payments.****156.5(1) Clothing allowance.**

*a.* When, in the judgment of the department caseworker, clothing is needed at the time the child is removed from the child's home and placed in foster care and annually thereafter as needed based on the date the child entered foster care, an allowance may be authorized, not to exceed \$500 for the child through the age of 12 and \$750 for the child aged 13 and older, to purchase clothing.

*b.* When clothing is purchased by the foster family, the foster family shall submit receipts to the department caseworker within 30 days of purchase for auditing purposes, using Form 470-1952, Foster Care Clothing Allowance.

**156.5(2) Supervised apartment living.** When a child is initially placed in supervised apartment living, the service area manager or designee may authorize an allowance not to exceed \$630 if the child does not have sufficient resources to cover initial costs.

**156.5(3) Medical care.** When a child in foster care needs medical care or examinations that are not covered by the Medicaid program and no other source of payment is available, the cost may be paid from foster care funds with the approval of the service area manager or designee. Eligible costs include emergency room care, medical treatment by out-of-state providers who refuse to participate in the Iowa Medicaid program, and excessive expenses for nonprescription drugs or supplies. Requests for payment for out-of-state medical treatment and for nonprescription drugs or supplies shall be approved prior to the care being provided or the drugs or supplies purchased. Claims shall be submitted to the department on Form GAX, General Accounting Expenditure, within 90 days after the service is provided. The rate of payment will be the same as allowed under the Iowa Medicaid program.

**156.5(4) Transportation for medical care.** When a child in foster family care has expenses for transportation to receive medical care that cannot be covered by the Medicaid program, the expenses may be paid from foster care funds, with the approval of the service area manager. The claim for all the expenses shall be submitted to the department on Form GAX, General Accounting Expenditure, within 90 days after the trip. This payment cannot duplicate or supplement payment through the Medicaid program. The expenses may include the actual cost of meals, parking, child care, lodging, passenger fare, or mileage at the rate granted state employees.

**156.5(5) Funeral expense.** When a child under the guardianship of the department dies, the department will pay funeral expenses not covered by the child's resources, insurance or other death benefits, the child's legal parents, or the child's county of legal settlement, not to exceed \$650. The claim shall be submitted by the funeral director to the department on Form GAX, General Accounting Expenditure, and approved by the service area manager. Claims shall be submitted within 90 days after the child's death.

**156.5(6) School fees.** Payment for required school fees of a child in foster family care or supervised apartment living that exceeds \$5 may be authorized by the department caseworker in an amount not to exceed \$50 per calendar year if the child does not have sufficient escrow funds to cover the cost. Required school fees include:

*a.* Fees required for participation in school or extracurricular activities; and

*b.* Fees related to enrolling a child in preschool when a mental health professional or an intellectual disabilities professional has recommended school attendance.

**156.5(7) Respite care.** Respite care for a child in family foster care shall be for up to 24 days per calendar year per placement. Except for a certified respite provider, respite shall be provided by a licensed foster family. The payment rate to the respite foster family is the rate authorized under rule 441—156.6(234) to meet the needs of the child. Certified respite providers deliver foster child respite services in the foster family home for at least five hours a day at \$20 per day.

**156.5(8) Tangible goods, child care, and ancillary services.** To the extent that a foster child's escrow funds are not available, the service area manager or designee may authorize reimbursement to foster parents for the following:

*a.* Tangible goods for a special needs child, including but not limited to building modifications, medical equipment not covered by Medicaid, specialized educational materials not covered by educational funds, and communication devices not covered by Medicaid.

*b.* Child care services when the foster parents are working, the child is not in school, and the provision of child care is identified in the child's case permanency plan.

(1) Child care services shall be provided by a licensed foster parent or a licensed or registered child care provider when available.

(2) When foster parents elect to become child care providers, they shall be registered pursuant to 441—Chapter 110.

*c.* Ancillary services needed by the foster parent to meet the needs of a special needs child, including but not limited to specialized classes when directed by the case permanency plan.

*d.* Ancillary services needed by the special needs child, including but not limited to recreation fees, in-home tutoring and specialized classes not covered by education funds.

*e.* Requests for tangible goods, child care, and ancillary services shall be submitted to the service area manager for approval on Form 470-3056, Request for Tangible Goods, Child Care, and Ancillary Services. Payment rates for tangible goods and ancillary services will be comparable to prevailing community standards. Payment rates for child care are established pursuant to 441—subrule 170.4(7).

*f.* Prior payment authorization will be issued by the service area manager before tangible goods, child care, and ancillary services are purchased by or for foster parents.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 234.38.

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