

441—156.6 (234) Rate of maintenance payment for foster family care.

156.6(1) *Basic rate.* A monthly payment for care in a foster family home licensed in Iowa shall be made to the foster family based on the following schedule:

<u>Age of child</u>	<u>Daily rate</u>
0 through 5	\$15.74
6 through 11	\$16.37
12 through 15	\$17.92
16 or over	\$18.16

156.6(2) *Out-of-state rate.* A monthly payment for care in a foster family home licensed or approved in another state shall be made to the foster family based on the rate schedule in effect in Iowa, except that the service area manager or designee may authorize a payment to the foster family at the rate in effect in the other state if the child's family lives in that state and the goal is to reunite the child with the family.

156.6(3) *Mother and child in foster care.* When the child in foster care is a mother whose young child is in placement with her, the rate paid to the foster family shall be based on the daily rate for the mother according to the rate schedule in subrules 156.6(1) and 156.6(4) and for the child according to the rate schedule in subrule 156.6(1). The foster parents shall provide a portion of the young child's rate to the mother to meet the partial maintenance needs of the young child as defined in the case permanency plan.

156.6(4) *Difficulty of care payment.*

a. For placements made before January 1, 2007, when foster parents provide care to a special needs child, the foster family shall be paid the basic maintenance rate plus \$5 per day for extra expenses associated with the child's special needs. This rate shall continue for the duration of the placement.

b. When a foster family provides care to a sibling group of three or more children, an additional payment of \$1 per day per child may be authorized for each nonspecial needs child in the sibling group.

c. When the foster family's responsibilities in the case permanency plan include providing transportation related to family or preplacement visits outside the community in which the foster family lives, the department worker may authorize an additional maintenance payment of \$1 per day. Expenses over the monthly amount may be reimbursed with prior approval by the worker. Eligible expenses shall include the actual cost of the most reasonable passenger fare or gas.

d. Effective January 1, 2007, when a foster family provides care to a child who was receiving behavioral management services for children in therapeutic foster care in that placement as of October 31, 2006, the foster family shall be paid the basic maintenance rate plus \$15 per day for that child. This rate shall continue for the duration of the placement.

e. Effective January 1, 2007, when a service area manager determines that as of October 31, 2006, a foster family was providing care for a child comparable to behavioral management services for children in therapeutic foster care, except that the placement is supervised by the department and the child's treatment plan is supervised by a physician, mental health professional, or mental retardation professional, the foster family shall be paid the basic maintenance rate plus \$15 per day for that child. This rate shall continue for the duration of the placement.

f. For placements made on or after January 1, 2007, the supervisor may approve an additional maintenance payment above the basic rate in subrule 156.6(1) to meet the child's special needs as identified by the child's score on Form 470-4401, Foster Child Behavioral Assessment. The placement worker shall complete Form 470-4401 within 30 days of the child's initial entry into foster care.

(1) Additional maintenance payments made under this paragraph shall begin no earlier than the first day of the month following the month in which Form 470-4401 is completed and shall be awarded as follows:

1. Behavioral needs rated at level 1 qualify for a payment of \$4.81 per day.
2. Behavioral needs rated at level 2 qualify for a payment of \$9.62 per day.
3. Behavioral needs rated at level 3 qualify for a payment of \$14.44 per day.

(2) The department shall review the child's need for this difficulty of care maintenance payment using Form 470-4401:

1. Whenever the child's behavior changes significantly;
2. When the child's placement changes;
3. After termination of parental rights, in preparation for negotiating an adoption subsidy or pre-subsidy payment; and
4. Before a court hearing on guardianship subsidy.

g. All maintenance payments, including difficulty of care payments, shall be documented on Form 470-0716, Foster Family Placement Contract.

h. Rescinded IAB 1/3/07, effective 1/1/07.

156.6(5) *Payment method.* All foster family maintenance payments shall be made directly to the foster family.

156.6(6) *Return of overpayments.* When a foster family has received payments in excess of those allowed under this chapter, the department caseworker shall ask the foster family to return the overpayment. If the foster family is returning the overpayment to the department, the caseworker will note the monthly amount the foster family agrees to pay in the family's case file. The amount returned shall not be less than \$50 per month.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 234.38 and 2010 Iowa Acts, House File 2526, section 33(4), and House File 2531, section 83(5).

[**ARC 8010B**, IAB 7/29/09, effective 10/1/09; **ARC 8451B**, IAB 1/13/10, effective 1/1/10; **ARC 8653B**, IAB 4/7/10, effective 5/12/10; **ARC 8904B**, IAB 6/30/10, effective 7/1/10]