DATE: January 17, 2020

TO: Regional Managing Directors
    Community-Based Care Lead Agency CEOs
THROUGH: Patricia Babcock, Deputy Secretary

FROM: Patricia Medlock, Assistant Secretary for Child Welfare

SUBJECT: 2020 Foster Parent Cost of Living Allowance Increase

PURPOSE: This memo is to provide guidance to regions and Community-Based Care Lead Agencies (CBCs) regarding the statutorily required foster parent Cost of Living Allowance (COLA), effective January 1, 2020, for Level II-V foster parents. Level I foster parents, pursuant to s. 409.145 (4)(e) F.S., are not eligible for the COLA increase outlined below.

BACKGROUND: During the 2013 legislative session, the Florida Legislature passed s. 409.145(4), F.S., which establishes base room and board rate payments to foster parents and requires foster parents to receive an annual cost of living increase equal to the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for All Urban Consumers, U.S. City Average, All Items, not seasonally adjusted, or successor reports, for the preceding December compared to the prior December as initially reported by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Effective January 1, 2020, the room and board rates to foster parents will be adjusted as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Range</th>
<th>2019 Room and Board Rate</th>
<th>Room and Board Rate Effective January 1, 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zero to Five (0 – 5)</td>
<td>$466.65</td>
<td>$477.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six to Twelve (6 – 12)</td>
<td>$478.60</td>
<td>$489.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thirteen to Twenty-one (13 – 21)</td>
<td>$560.19</td>
<td>$573.07</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rule 65C-16.013(8), Florida Administrative Code, outlines that a CBC can negotiate a Maintenance Adoption Subsidy (MAS) up to 100% of the statewide foster care board rate. Based on the 2020 foster parent cost of living allowance increase, a CBC will now be able to approve MAS amounts up to the above mentioned updated statewide foster
care board rates. Any rate over the 2020 statewide foster care board rates must be approved by the Department Regional Family Safety Program Office.

**ACTION NEEDED:** As of January 1, 2020, all Level II-V foster parents previously receiving the 2019 room and board in the amounts of $466.65, $478.60, or $560.19, for the child(ren) in their care must be paid the increase as specified in s. 409.145(4), F.S.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** For additional information, please contact Courtney Smith, Child Permanency & Well-being Manager, at [Courtney.Smith@myffamilies.com](mailto:Courtney.Smith@myffamilies.com) or (850) 717-4660.

**cc:** Tony Lloyd, Chief Financial Officer  
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Sheriff Offices Conducting Child Protective Investigations  
CBC Lead Agency Chief Financial Officers  
CBC Contract Managers  
Center for Child Welfare