



State of South Carolina

Department of Social Services

Policies and Procedures: Child Welfare Services

Subject:	1.6 Review of Foster Care Board Payments, Adoption Subsidy Payments, and Licensing Standards for Family Foster Homes and Residential Group Care Facilities for Children
Authority:	Social Security Act Sections 471(a)(11), 45 CFR Sections 1356.21(m)(1)&(2)
Standards:	Guiding Principles and Standards (GPS) Practice Model
Application:	All DSS Staff
Purpose:	
To outline the policies and procedures for governing the review of payments and licensing standards at South Carolina Department of Social Services.	
Policy Statement:	
DSS reviews the standards for licensure of Family Foster Homes and Residential Group Care Facilities for Children no less frequently than once per year. The annual review of licensure standards is coordinated with a review of payments, during which time DSS reviews the amounts paid for foster care board and adoption subsidy to assure continued appropriateness and the amount paid for foster care board payments to assure the amount paid to licensed kin or fictive kin foster family home is the same as the amount that would have been made if a child is placed a licensed non-relative foster family home.	
Procedures:	
A. Review of Payment and Licensing Standards	1. The Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of DSS, or designee is responsible for conducting an annual review internally to ensure the appropriateness of foster care board and adoption subsidy amounts. a. The review is completed during the annual statewide budget preparation process and involves the consideration of a variety of relevant factors. b. The annual review will include participation by other executive management and assistance from other staff as the CFO deems necessary. 2. The Director of Permanency Management is responsible for ensuring that annually, a review is conducted of licensing standards for Family Foster Homes and Residential Group Care Organizations for Children. a. In addition to being coordinated with the annual review of payment amounts specified above, the review is always completed with senior child welfare leadership and with consultation from the Office of General Counsel.

	b. The review considers a variety of different factors, including external agencies, stakeholders, and the public interests. c. As necessary, DSS promulgates amendments to regulations governing licensure Foster Family Homes and Residential Group Care Organizations for Children in accordance with the South Carolina Administrative Procedures Act.
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Glossary:

Family Foster Care Payment: Monthly payment issued to a foster family home provider, including kinship foster family home providers, to support the placement of a foster child. The foster care payment amount is established in the South Carolina Appropriations Act and is for the basic needs of the foster child, includes food (at home and away), clothing, housing, transportation, education and other costs, as defined in the U.S. Department of Agriculture study of “Annual Cost of Raising a Child to Age Eighteen.”

Foster Family Home Provider: means the home of an individual or family licensed by DSS, in which at least one foster child has been placed in the care of an individual who resides with the child and who provides 24-hour substitute care for the child: that DSS deems the individual capable of adhering to the reasonable and prudent parent standards and, that provides foster care for no more than 5 children, subject to the following exceptions:

- a. to keep a sibling group together
- b. to keep a child in the child’s home community
- c. to return a child to a home in which the child was previously placed
- d. to comply with a court order
- e. if it is in the best interests of the child as determined by the court

Residential Group Care Organizations for Children: means child care institutions, residential institutions, residential facilities, and group care facilities licensed by the South Carolina Department of Social Services to provide placement for children, youth, and young adults under the age of 21.