

## FOSTER PARENT APPRECIATION EVENTS

It was amazing to see and meet so many dedicated foster families at the foster parent appreciation events hosted by SCDSS and the SC Foster Parent Association across the state! It was a great time for us to connect, and we hope those of you who were able to come out had an amazing time and built connections and resources.

Statewide, more than 600 attendees participated in the events representing 200 foster families. In addition to the raffles, food, and fellowship, attendees heard from DSS county, regional, and state leadership who shared notes of appreciation for foster parents who continue to answer the call to care for children, youth and families across the state. We are so thankful for the regional and county staff who assisted in making these events possible.

Check out a few pictures from the events!



## FOSTER CARE BY THE NUMBERS

Children in Foster Care		
3897		
0 - 6	7 - 12	13 - 17
1541	1028	1328
(39.54 %)	(26.38 %)	(34.08 %)

Average Number of Children per Foster Home  
1.56

Children in Foster Homes  
2495

Licensed Foster Homes  
2595

Children in Kinship Homes  
866

Licensed Kinship Homes  
257

Average Number of Children per Kinship Home  
3.37

Siblings Groups with 2+ Children  
1125

Needed Foster Homes for Sibling Groups  
425

### What if my payment isn't correct?

**If funds received directly from DSS:** Contact your licensing worker or FP Helpline.

**If funds received from agency:** contact licensing worker with agency.

### What is a Board Payment?

Foster care maintenance payments cover the cost of (and the cost of providing) care for a child/ren in a foster care placement. This includes (but is not limited to) food, clothing, shelter, daily supervision (childcare), school supplies, a child's personal incidentals, liability insurance with respect to a child, reasonable travel for visitation, and reasonable travel for the child to remain in the school in which the child is enrolled at the time of placement.

### Do I need to include the board payment on my taxes?

**No.** Since the board payment is not income for the foster caregivers, it is not included on income disclosures.

### How do board payments arrive?

Funds received directly from DSS are generated either through Direct Deposit into your bank account (preferred) or an ePay Debit Card mailed to your home address when you receive your first placement. Some foster parents are receiving paper checks, but that is not an ongoing option.

[Sign up for Direct Deposit here or see page 4 for more details!](#)

### When do the board payments come each month?

Funds arrive the following month and are prorated for the days a child was in your home. Funds are not considered late until after the 16th.

### Is this a wage or reimbursement?

As a foster parent you are not paid to provide care. Board Payments are considered an expense reimbursement for the child's expenses incurred from the previous month.

# Updates

### REGULAR FOSTER CARE BOARD RATE

*Effective July 1, 2022*

#### Age 0-5

- Monthly Rate - \$619.00
- Daily Rate - \$20.64

#### Age 6-12

- Monthly Rate - \$723.00
- Daily Rate - \$24.10

#### Age 13-20

- Monthly Rate - \$764.00
- Daily Rate - \$25.47

### CHAFEE 2022 GUIDEBOOK

*Effective October 2022*

The Chafee program has released its October 2022 guide booklet. There is an also a youth friendly version as a mini booklet. [The extended version of the guide is available here.](#) Please discuss needed services with your case manager during monthly visits. DSS case managers will submit requests on behalf of the youth.

### THE NATIONAL YOUTH IN TRANSITION DATABASE (NYTD) SURVEY

*It is time for SCNYTD to kick off Cohort 17!!*

The NYTD survey is designed to track how states serve older youth and measure the impact of services provided to prepare youth transitioning into adulthood. All youth who are currently in foster care on their 17th birthday should take the NYTD survey.

It's an opportunity to share their experiences and create real change!

[Survey is found here.](#)

### *A Letter from the SC DSS Director*

You know, being the kind of person who treats others the way you would want to be treated seems relatively easy when you think of it in small everyday activities, like letting someone with fewer items ahead of you in the grocery check-out line or letting a driver merge or go ahead of you. Some people call it the Golden Rule... Jesus called it the second greatest commandment—to love your neighbor as yourself. But it's not always as easy as grocery lines.

Sometimes it requires *real* effort to put yourself in the shoes of another person or family and empathize with their struggles—the parts of their life that might make them seem unlovable to many people, and maybe even make them seem like someone who doesn't *deserve* to be helped. Sometimes it requires a sacrificial mindset and a real devotion to the task of loving people who may not know how to love, or how to love you back, or even how to be grateful and say thank you for helping them.

But so many of us have been given the grace of being helped even when we didn't deserve it—and I don't know about you, but I am *so* thankful for that.

DSS has a current need for foster parents who are willing to minister to teenage children in foster care. I know teens can have difficulties and there will likely be only a small subset of people who are up to the task and feel the call to help. These teens sometimes are well-behaved and just need somewhere stable where they can feel safe until their family receives treatment. Some have not had great behavioral examples in their lives and maybe haven't been taught good relationship skills, and they need someone who can be gracious with their mistakes and mentor them through the challenges they face.

I also want to ask and encourage you to continue your work with families who are making efforts to reunify with their children. Redemption and rehabilitation of the family is our first goal because we want those children and their parents to know the love and care that can come from their own family being restored in a spirit of community. Never are we more in service to goodness and love of others than when we are committed to giving families who have experienced brokenness new life. Adoption will always be the world's best second choice. But Redemption will always be goal number one.

Sincerely,



Michael Leach

Director, South Carolina Department of Social Services



# Reminders

## VACCINATION POLICY FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

Agency policy labels immunizations as “routine (ordinary) medical care”.

### Annual Flu Vaccine

- The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends annual influenza vaccination of all children without medical contraindications starting at 6 months of age.

### COVID-19 Vaccination and Boosters

- [Click here for the updated COVID-19 Vaccination information.](#)

## TRANSITION PLANNING FOR YOUTH IN CARE

If you have a teen approaching their 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, please ensure a Transition Plan has been scheduled with their case manager and Regional Transition Specialist. Transition planning is youth led, youth driven, and strength based to support an older teens journey into adulthood.

[Click here to look over the template for Transition Plan Meetings with youth in your home!](#)

## CARING FOR OUR OWN TRAINING

The Caring for Our Own curriculum's goals are:

- Children living with kinship caregivers will have their immediate and ongoing needs safety, permanency and well-being met.
- Kinship caregivers will help children achieve legal permanency in the shortest time frame possible.
- Kinship caregivers will build and maintain collaborative relationships that support meeting the child's emotional, educational and physical development.
- Older adolescents will receive the educational and vocational services they need to achieve self-sufficiency.
- Kinship caregivers will have an ongoing, informal social support network made up of other kinship caregivers

For more information on these trainings please contact your licensing worker or find your [Regional Kinship Care Coordinator's contact information here.](#)

# Kinship

## REGIONAL SUPPORT GROUPS

Midlands: [Kindred Hearts](#) 803-553-7277

- Last Tuesday of the month

PeeDee: [Federation of Families](#) 803-553-1099

- Every Tuesday (virtual) – two options of times

Lowcountry: [Halos](#) (854) 444-3716

- Bi-Weekly Tuesday and Thursday

Upstate: [Pendleton Place](#) kinship@PendletonPlace.org

- Bi-weekly (virtual)

## RESOURCES

### Direct Deposit

- Complete the [form for direct deposit to receive your monthly Board Payment](#).
- Email the form and a voided check to [DSS-EPAY@dss.sc.gov](mailto:DSS-EPAY@dss.sc.gov). Be sure to include the word ENCRYPT in the subject line of the email to protect your information.



### Child and Adult Information Portal (CAIP)

What is CAIP? It is a secure, virtual platform to view and share health, education, and well-being information about children in foster care.

To Gain Access:

1. Complete Training on the [SCFPA Training Platform](#).
2. After successfully completing training, receive a username and password from SCDSS to access CAIP.  
*This can take up to a week from training completion. If you do not receive login information after a week, please reach out to [FPHelp@dss.sc.gov](mailto:FPHelp@dss.sc.gov)*
3. Log into CAIP within 24 hours of receiving email.
4. Access CAIP using a smartphone, tablet, desktop or laptop computer.
5. View and update important information about the children and youth in your care.



### SC Voucher Program

- Parents choose an approved provider who will care for their child and DSS pays the provider directly.
- At time of placement, Foster Families need to let Licensing and Placement staff know if child care is needed.
- Licensing and Placement staff forward Foster Parent contact information and name of child care provider.
- SC Voucher Program staff contact Foster Parent to request any additional information to process request.
- Visit the official [SC Child Care](#) website for more information.
- Email questions to: [fosterchildcare@dss.sc.gov](mailto:fosterchildcare@dss.sc.gov)

## CONTINUED TRAINING

SCFPA offers courses and trainings in two convenient formats:

### Live Webinars \* You will need to download Zoom to your device

1. Go to [SC Foster Parents Training & Resources \(scfpa.com\)](#)
2. Click on "Open Training Calendar."
3. Search by event type or just scroll down to the bottom and select the blue link that says, "Click for more details."
4. Register directly with the trainer.
5. Receive an invite via email from **Let's Talk Video** [notifications@letstalk.video](mailto:notifications@letstalk.video).
6. RSVP to confirm (if you do not receive an email invitation be sure to **check your junk mail.**)

### Recorded Trainings

SCFPALMS has many recorded trainings that you can access anytime, day or night! Just go to [www.scfpalms.com](http://www.scfpalms.com) and create a FREE account.

**Subscribe to the SCFPA Email List** for a weekly email with training opportunities.

Visit [www.scfpalms.com](http://www.scfpalms.com) and select "Click Here to Join the SCFPA Email List" and add your e-mail address.