

**MAINTENANCE EXPENDITURES
FOR CHILDREN IN CARE**

Babysitting	Prior Approval** Up to a Max. \$4.00 per hour*** Approvals are on a case-by-case basis and must be associated with the child's Plan of Care.
Board	Dept. Rate* (Appendix A) Covers food, lodging and personal care items. Personal care items includes items such as toothpaste, soap, shampoos, deodorant, shaving supplies, etc.
Camps, Club Memberships	Prior Approval** Up to a Max \$500 per year.*** Includes fees for registration and membership, associated costs i.e., brownie uniform, camping gear along with travel expenses, i.e., hockey practices outside local community. Recreation and items such as skates, bicycles.
Child Care	<u>Children in Permanent Care and Custody:</u> agency pays full costs. <u>Children Taken into Care who are with their parents under supervision of the agency:</u> subsidized child care costs are paid by the parents. <u>Children Taken into Care and placed in foster care:</u> Agency pays full costs. The agency has the discretion to cover the costs of the child care space for a period up to two weeks after the child is removed to hold the space for the child.
Clothing	Dept. Rate* (Appendix A) Guideline: Careful consideration of the parents views regarding clothing should fully be discussed at the time of placement. Evaluate with the family that there may be a possibility that their child(ren) will return home with a higher level expectation of dress than the parents can afford. If the initial contract is for less than (4) four months, the clothing subsidy shall be omitted. The only exception to this policy is in special circumstances where there is a demonstrated seasonal/or obvious need. In this case, workers have discretion up to \$200 for the purchase of immediate clothing needs when a child first enters care.

* Department rates are enclosed and must be adhered to.

** Prior Approval - bases on decision of worker and/or supervisor and/or Executive Director or District Manager upon review of the agencies maintenance budget.

*** Where maximum are indicated, consideration to exceed these limits must be reviewed at a case planning meeting.

Damages	<p>When a child in care damages property in a licensed child caring facility outstanding costs not covered by the insurance shall be paid from the facility's maintenance and repair budget. In the case of damage to a staff person's personal property, outstanding costs not covered by a staff person's personal insurance, may be submitted to the agency and any payments, with prior agency approval, shall be issued from the appropriate agency budget depending on the child's care status.</p> <p>When a child in care damages property in a foster home, costs under \$250. are to be submitted to the agency and may be reimbursed from the appropriate agency budget. Foster parents will first discuss property damages with agency staff and request approval for reimbursement. All damages over \$250. and up to \$25,000. are to be managed under the Foster Care Self-Funded Program.</p> <p>When appropriate, the child should make restitution for the damage, ie. from their spending money or doing chores.</p>
Dental	Costs paid to a dentist for routine examinations, cleaning and preventative care including fillings not covered by provincial health care.
Diapers/Infant formula	Up to a Max. \$200 per month per child*** To be paid by agency. There will be a straight reimbursable for items purchased upon receipt verification.
Driver's Education	Requests to be reviewed at a case planning meeting.
Driver's License/Insurance	Driver's Ed. may be cost shared with child and agency. Any license or insurance costs are responsibility of the youth.
Equipment, Furniture & Replacement of Bedding	Crib, highchair, playpen, beds, dressers, etc. These items are expected to be provided by the foster parent and <u>will only be covered in extraordinary circumstances</u> with prior approval. If foster parents(s) do not have access to a safety approved car seat, the agency will provide one. If any items in this category are purchased, then they are considered to be the property of the agency. Foster parents will be required to complete an equipment and furniture request form (Appendix B). Agencies will be required to use the inventory system to track purchases and subsequent retrievals of these items (Appendix C). Replacement of bedding may be provided based on the special needs of the child. The cost of furniture to establish a child in an independent living situation requires prior approval. Consideration must be given to obtaining these furnishing in a cost effective manner.

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Glasses/Contacts	Prior Approval** Up to a Max. \$300 every other year*** Eye examinations (10 yrs. - 21 yrs.)
Hair Care	Prior Approval** Up to a Max. \$150 per year*** Cuts, perms, straighteners, extensions, colouring and associated items.
Independent Living	Under Review.
Medical Equipment	Prior Approval** The cost of equipment not covered by MSI as recommended in writing by the appropriate specialist i.e., wheelchair, prosthesis, etc.
Non-Prescription Items	Prior Approval** The cost of non-prescription remedies associated with <u>ongoing treatments as recommended by a doctor or required to treat common ailments</u> , (cold, flu, e.g., common cold remedies, acne remedies, allergy medication or items such as menstrual discomfort remedies and sanitary supplies).
Orthodontics	Prior Approval** Only applies to long-term placements, children in permanent care and custody or Section 18.
Post Secondary Education	See Section 6 - Children In Care and Custody Manual for Department of Community Services Educational Bursary Policy and Extension to the Educational Bursary Policy.
Prescriptions	Prescriptions for children in care who are placed outside of their parents' home will be covered by Pharmacare. Pharmacare provides prescription drug coverage for those drugs listed in the Nova Scotia Formulary. Pharmacare generally covers generic drugs. If there is a need for a drug that is not listed, the physician may be able to obtain approval by contacting Pharmacare. In extraordinary circumstances, and with supervisory approval, Pharmacare benefits may be extended to children in care whose placement is with a parent.

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School Activities & Items	Prior Approval** Up to a Max \$200 per year*** The cost of approved school related items such as class and school trips, school pictures, additional supplies, etc.
School Supplies	Prior Approval** Up to a Max \$200 per year** The cost of approved school related items such as class and school trips, school pictures, additional supplies, etc.
Special Occasion Costs	Includes: Birthday, Christmas, Grading gifts, Graduation costs and other ethnic/religious events. Birthday: Up to a Max. \$125*** Worker and caregiver discretion. Christmas: Dept. Rate* (Appendix A) Grading Gifts: Up to a Max. \$50*** Worker and caregiver discretion. Should not be awarded to set up expectations of success or failure, however, should be provided if birth child(ren) in the home receive gifts. The child's age and appropriateness of the gift must be considered. Graduation Costs: Prior Approval** Up to max. (Senior - \$400, Junior - \$200)*** Graduation photos, school ring, Prom outfit, etc. Clothing is cost shared from clothing allowance with certainty of a successful school completion. Other (Ethnic/Religious Events): Up to a Max. \$20*** Worker and caregiver discretion.
Spending Allowance for Children	Dept. Rate* (Appendix A)
Telephone Calls	Prior Approval** Up to a Max. \$30 per month*** May be used to maintain contact with birth family and significant others determined by child's worker and caregiver. Whenever possible, use discount times.

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Transportation

Transportation shall be reimbursed for the following only:

- child's medical appointments
- child's mental health appointments
- child's other counselling
- legal
- access visits
- case conferences
- recreational activities

at the current provincial government rate

Vacation

Prior Approval**

Up to a Max. \$300 per year.***

Approvals are on a case-by-case basis and must be associated with the child's Plan of Care.

Procedure for Reimbursement

Foster parent must use the claim form for reimbursement of expenses incurred on behalf of a child in their care (Appendix D). Receipts must be provided for purchased items. The form is forwarded to the child's worker for approval who then forwards the cheque requisition and receipts to Financial Services/Agency Accounting Department for payment.

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Appendix A**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES****Foster Care Maintenance Rates for Children in Care
Revised July 1, 2011**

AGE	RATE PER DIEM
0 - 9	\$17.50
10+	\$25.43

CLOTHING ALLOWANCE

AGE	MONTHLY	QUARTERLY	3 TIMES/YEAR	YEARLY
0 - 4	\$39.20	\$118.00	\$157.00	\$471.00
5 - 9	\$64.75	\$194.00	\$259.00	\$777.00
10+	\$90.60	\$272.00	\$362.00	\$1,088.00

Note: Slight variance in clothing allowance may occur depending on frequency of payment.

SPENDING ALLOWANCE

Effective March 1, 1999

AGE	MONTHLY
0 - 5	\$10.00
6 - 11	\$15.00
12 - 15	\$25.00 paid to child
16+	\$40.00 paid to child

SCHOOL SUPPLIES RATES**Effective March 1, 1999**

AGE	ANNUALLY
Grades Primary to Six	\$120.00
Grades 7+	\$150.00

CHRISTMAS ALLOWANCE**Effective March 1, 1999**

AGE	ANNUALLY
0 - 5	\$100.00
6 - 10	\$145.00 \$125 to caregiver to purchase child's gift and \$20 for child to buy gifts)
11 - 20	\$190.00 \$150 to caregiver to purchase child's gift and \$40 for child to buy gifts)

Revised July 1, 2011