

**Child and Family Services Policy Manual: Substitute Care for Children
Foster Care Support Services: General Provisions**

Definitions

Foster care support services means a clothing allowance, diaper allowance, respite care allowance, or other special needs allowance (including transportation) paid on behalf of a foster child who has a documented need for such services.

NOTE: If the foster child is receiving the SSI rate (PFSSI) for foster care payment, the support services will need to be approved by the Regional Administrator. The Child Protection Specialist is required to send a request to the Regional Administrator in writing with justification.

Clothing allowance means payments made on behalf of a foster child for clothing subject to the conditions and limitations set forth in Mont. Code Ann. § 52-2-603 and Mont. Admin. R. 37.50.506. Use CAPS service code SCALL.

Diaper allowance means payments made on behalf of a foster child for diapers subject to the conditions and limitations set forth in Mont. Admin. R. 37.50.505. Use CAPS service code SDALL.

Respite care allowance means payments made on behalf of a foster child for assistance necessary to provide foster parents with relief from the daily care requirements of foster children whose mental or physical condition requires special or more intense care. Respite care allowances are subject to the conditions and limitations set forth in Mont. Code Ann. § 52-2-627 and Mont. Admin. R. 37.50.511. Use CAPS service code SRESP.

Special needs allowance means payments made on behalf of a foster child who requires services or equipment which is not available through the EPSDT Program or from any other source. Special needs allowances are subject to the conditions and limitations set forth in Mont. Admin. R. 37.50.510. Use the appropriate CAPS service code.

Transportation allowance means payments made on behalf of a foster child who requires special educational or training services. It is a service provided under the category of supplemental services and subject to the conditions and limitations set forth in Mont. Admin. R. 37.50.510. Use CAPS service code STRNS.

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Note: Child care is another foster care support service that may be available for a child placed in a foster home. Unlike other foster care support services, child care is paid through CCUBS not CAPS. Refer to section 109-1, Child Care.

CAPS	Foster care support services are entered by going to SERL and then SERP. Service codes are listed above. If the provider is ineligible for the service that is being requested, the worker should contact the FRS serving the family.
Date of Eligibility	The first day of the month in which all requirements for foster care support services have been met is the date of eligibility.
Approval/denial	<p>The approval of the Regional Administrator is required for any orthopedic and orthodontic services which are not covered by the Medicaid EPSDT program. In-home respite care must also be approved by the regional administrator. Any support services for children who are receiving the SSI rate (PFSSI) for foster care payment must also be approved by the Regional Administrator. All other support services are approved by the supervisor.</p> <p>The approval/denial procedure for foster care support services is found in the <u>Section 405-11, Foster Care Support Services: Approval/Denial/ Appeal/Fair Hearing</u>.</p>
Availability of Funds	All foster care support services may be reduced, denied or discontinued regardless of eligibility if there are insufficient funds to pay for the requested services.
References	<p>Mont. Code Ann. § 52-2-601 to 603 Mont. Code Ann. § 52-2-627 Mont. Admin. R. 37.50.501, et.seq.</p>