

## Child and Family Services Policy Manual: Substitute Care for Children Supplemental Services Allowance

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### Purpose

Special Needs

The daily foster care maintenance payment is calculated to include routine transportation, replace worn and out grown clothing, food and other routine expenses related to the cost of raising a child. Supplemental Services Allowance provides payment of a special needs allowance to assist with **unusual** foster care expenses as defined in Policy Section 405-5 and Administrative Rule 37.50.510. The Supplemental Services allowance is for the purpose of covering those expenses that would not be covered by the regular foster care payment, Medicaid, school district or other funding sources. Foster parents who are required to provide **extraordinary care** to a child may be compensated for some cost associated with this care.

### Eligibility

A child may be eligible for this special needs allowance if placed in a licensed youth foster home and:

- placement is expected to be for more than 30 days;
- care is paid by the Division; and
- there is a need for the Supplemental Services allowances as determined by the Child Protection Specialist and the foster parent.

The request for allowance will not be approved unless there is justification that the other possible resources have been exhausted (such as the Medicaid EPSDT Program, Crippled Children's Services, Lion's or Easter Seals, etc.).

**NOTE:** Supplemental Services Allowances including transportation may not exceed \$87.50 per month.

### Limitations

Transportation

The Supplemental Services Allowance can also be used for non routine transportation costs associated with transporting a foster child that would not be covered by the regular foster care payment. There needs to be a documented need for the non-routine travel.

A Supplemental Services Allowance for transportation costs will be authorized only for foster children who must travel to secure necessary special educational or training services. To be eligible for reimbursement for transportation costs the following

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requirements must be met:

- travel one-way is 10 or more miles;
- transportation is provided or paid by the foster parent;  
and
- transportation is necessary to obtain services not reasonably in closer proximity to the foster parents' residence;
- the child is being transported for other than medical reasons approved by the supervisor; and
- transportation is approved in advance by the Division?

### School

Approval for school-related expenses will be granted only for those months that the child is in school.

### Orthodontia and Orthopedic Services

Orthodontia and orthopedic services which are not covered by the Medicaid EPSDT Program may be approved **only** for children or youth whose daily functioning is limited because of severe psychological effects to the child by not having these services. Approved payments for these services are not to exceed the Medicaid rates.

These special needs services must be accompanied by a statement from the appropriate professional. The statement or other supporting documentation must contain the expected date of the service and the total projected cost.

### Other Medical Needs

For those children who are not covered by the Medicaid EPSDT Program, items such as eyeglasses, orthopedic shoes, etc., may be approved after other resources have been exhausted.

All other special needs allowances shall be limited to not more than the actual cost of the service, not to exceed the approved Medicaid rate for the same or similar services.

**NOTE:** Supplemental services allowances *including* transportation must be limited to the lesser of actual costs or \$87.50 per month.

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**NOTE:** If the foster child is receiving the SSI rate (PFSSI) for foster care payment, these supplemental services will need to be approved by the Regional Administrator. CPS is required to send the request to the Regional Administrator in writing with justification.

### **CAPS**

The Supplemental Service Allowance is requested by checking FSPL to ensure that the appropriate service code for the service to be provided has been entered, then going to SERL, then SERP and entering the appropriate service code for the service to be provided. CAPS will default to SSJD, which must be completed.

### **References**

Mont. Code Ann. § 52-2-603  
Mont. Code Ann. § 52-2-627  
Mont. Admin. R. 37.50.510  
Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoption Act of 2008 PL110-351