

**DIVISION OF FAMILY SERVICES**  
**FOSTER CARE MODEL – LEVELS OF CARE**

**BASIC LEVEL 1**

<b>CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILDREN</b>	<b>ASSESSMENT</b>	<b>CHILD'S NEEDS</b>	<b>SERVICES REQUIRED of the FOSTER FAMILY</b>	<b>TRAINING</b>	<b>SUPPORTS</b>	<b>SYSTEMS NEEDS</b>
Children age 0-17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Show minor or transient episodes of emotional, behavioral or physical problems</li> <li>• Fall within normal developmental levels</li> </ul>	Initial Assessment to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical exam</li> <li>• Developmental screening</li> <li>• Educational screening</li> <li>• Emotional health screening</li> <li>• Foster parent observation and assessment tools administered by foster parents</li> <li>• Team meeting to provide assessment information to foster care staff responsible for matching</li> </ul>	Basic needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food</li> <li>• Clothing</li> <li>• Shelter</li> <li>• Supervision</li> <li>• Protection (safety)</li> <li>• Nurturing</li> <li>• Stability</li> <li>• Self esteem</li> <li>• Sense of hope</li> <li>• Connection to birth family and significant others</li> <li>• Permanency</li> <li>• Independent living skills</li> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Each child's plan to meet needs will be individualized &amp; determined by the assessment</li> </ul>	Meet the child's basic needs (day to day) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food, clothing, shelter</li> <li>• Supervision</li> <li>• Protection</li> <li>• Nurturing</li> <li>• Stability</li> </ul> Meet developmental needs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical</li> <li>• Emotional</li> <li>• Educational</li> <li>• Cultural</li> <li>• Social</li> <li>• Spiritual developmental</li> <li>• Address delays</li> <li>• Support connections with birth family &amp; significant others</li> <li>• Facilitate visits</li> <li>• Support permanency plan</li> <li>• Participate in team-planning meetings</li> <li>• Attend school meetings</li> <li>• Arrange medical &amp; dental appointments</li> <li>• Maintain life book</li> <li>• Provide recreational activities</li> <li>• Participate with child in mental health counseling as appropriate</li> <li>• Transportation</li> <li>• Teach independent living skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foster PRIDE</li> <li>• First Aid &amp; CPR</li> <li>• Module I - meeting the developmental needs of children at risk (12 hours)</li> </ul>	\$17/day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medicaid (medical &amp; dental coverage)</li> <li>• Foster Home Coordinator support</li> <li>• Mentors</li> <li>• Mental health counseling</li> <li>• Day care (employment related)</li> <li>• Respite care (10 days)</li> <li>• Funding for child's recreational, developmental activities</li> <li>• Crisis support after hours</li> <li>• Support group for children</li> <li>• Support group for foster families</li> <li>• In-home behavioral consultation as needed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ↑ Availability of mental health</li> <li>• Counseling therapists trained in foster care and abuse/ neglect issues</li> <li>• ↑ Capacity for in-home consultations</li> <li>• ↑ Respite homes</li> <li>• ↑ Respite funds</li> <li>• ↑ Foster home coordinators for 1:24</li> <li>• ↑ Crisis support after hours</li> </ul>

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**MODERATE LEVEL 2**

<b>CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILDREN</b>	<b>ASSESSMENT</b>	<b>CHILD'S NEEDS</b>	<b>SERVICES REQUIRED of the FOSTER FAMILY</b>	<b>TRAINING</b>	<b>SUPPORTS</b>	<b>SYSTEMS NEEDS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children age 0-12</li> <li>• Special education</li> <li>• Demands excessive attention</li> <li>• Mild to moderate developmental disabilities</li> <li>• Mild to moderate impulsive behavior and/or hyperactivity</li> <li>• Drug exposed babies</li> <li>• Emotionally disturbed, depressed, withdrawn</li> <li>• HIV (Symptomatic)</li> </ul>	Same as for Level I <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing assessment of child used in planning 2x year in team meeting</li> <li>• Physical exam (annual)</li> <li>• Dental exam (annual)</li> </ul>	All of Level 1 plus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional supervision to keep child safe</li> <li>• Additional supports for education</li> </ul>	All of Level I plus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accompanies child to appointments</li> <li>• Increased school involvement</li> <li>• Assists in implementing treatment plan</li> <li>• Provides role model for child's family</li> </ul>	All of Level 1 plus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IEP Process and how to access services needed</li> <li>• Surrogate parent training as needed</li> <li>• Medications</li> <li>• Special training as needed</li> <li>• 12 hours training per year</li> </ul>	\$25 day All of Level 1 supports plus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educational supports as needed</li> <li>• 15 days respite care</li> <li>• Access to doctors for medical review as needed</li> <li>• Training for staff re: IEP process and how to access treatment services</li> <li>• Additional caseworker support</li> </ul>	Same as Level 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ↑ Educational supports (tutoring)</li> </ul>

Supports include those on previous page plus additional supports in the column.

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**INTENSIVE LEVEL 3**

<b>CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILDREN</b>	<b>ASSESSMENT</b>	<b>CHILD'S NEEDS</b>	<b>SERVICES REQUIRED of the FOSTER FAMILY</b>	<b>TRAINING</b>	<b>SUPPORTS</b>	<b>SYSTEMS NEEDS</b>
<p>Children age 0-17 Must exhibit at least 2 of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moderate to severe developmental delays</li> <li>• Medical conditions needing constant caretaker attention and multiple doctor's visits (i.e., cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, etc.)</li> <li>• Severe impulsive and/or hyperactive behavior</li> <li>• Sexually abused</li> <li>• Encopretic</li> <li>• Eneuretic</li> <li>• Emotionally disturbed</li> <li>• May have had previous psychiatric hospitalizations</li> <li>• HIV (Symptomatic)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing assessment used in quarterly team meetings</li> <li>• Physical exam (annual)</li> <li>• Dental exam (annual)</li> </ul>	<p>All of Level 1&amp;2 plus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foster parents with skills to meet child's special needs</li> <li>• Additional supervision to keep child safe</li> </ul>	<p>All of Level 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frequent and close communication with caseworker and coordinator</li> <li>• Observes and documents behavioral/ emotional functioning of child</li> <li>• Observes and documents patterns of behavior</li> <li>• Facilitates educational program</li> <li>• Facilitates behavioral change</li> <li>• Quarterly team reviews</li> <li>• Foster parent part of treatment team</li> </ul>	<p>All of Level 1&amp;2 plus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15 hours training per year</li> <li>• Other specialized training as needed</li> <li>• Sexual abuse</li> <li>• Universal precautions</li> </ul>	<p>\$35 a day All of Level 1&amp;2 supports plus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Case worker/ coordinator support to child and foster family 2x month</li> <li>• Mental health services as needed; may include day hospital</li> <li>• Structured after school program/ activities</li> <li>• 21 day respite</li> <li>• Crisis respite beds</li> <li>• Aides for one-on-one</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training for caseworker and coordinators to meet special needs of Level 3 children</li> <li>• Structured after school programs for difficult children</li> <li>• Case aides</li> <li>• ↑ Caseworkers coordinator support</li> <li>• Crisis respite beds</li> <li>• Reduced caseload for caseworkers</li> </ul>

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**INTENSIVE LEVEL 4**

<b>CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILDREN</b>	<b>ASSESSMENT</b>	<b>CHILD'S NEEDS</b>	<b>SERVICES REQUIRED of the FOSTER FAMILY</b>	<b>TRAINING</b>	<b>SUPPORTS</b>	<b>SYSTEMS NEEDS</b>
<p>Children aged 6 - 17 must exhibit at least 3 of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moderate to severe developmental delays</li> <li>• Moderate to severe impulsive and/or hyperactive behavior</li> <li>• Sexually abused</li> <li>• Encopretic</li> <li>• Enueretic</li> <li>• May have had previous psychiatric hospitalizations or residential treatment</li> <li>• Episodes of delinquent behavior</li> <li>• Run away behaviors</li> <li>• Special ed. and/or other school problems</li> <li>• Episodes of depression and suicidal ideation</li> <li>• Pregnant teen or teen with baby</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing assessment of child used in quarterly team meetings</li> </ul>	<p>All of Level 1,2,3 plus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional supervision to keep child and others safe</li> <li>• More frequent more intensive therapy</li> </ul>	<p>All of Level 1,2,3 plus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participates in multidisciplinary meetings</li> <li>• Emphasis is on helping child to function in a less intensive/ restrictive environment</li> <li>• Adapts home environment to meet child's needs</li> </ul>	<p>FOSTER PRIDE</p> <p>All of Level 1,2,3 plus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Depression/suicide</li> <li>• Specialized training as needed</li> <li>• 20 hours per year</li> </ul>	<p>\$45 per day</p> <p>All of Level 1, 2, 3 supports plus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No more than 2 foster children at this level</li> <li>• No more than 4 children total</li> <li>• 21 day respite</li> <li>• Day program for suspended youth needing supervision</li> <li>• Behavioral consultation</li> <li>• Increased caseworker and coordinator contacts (3x month)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Structured after school program/ activities</li> <li>• Day Program for youth when suspended</li> <li>• Behavioral consultants</li> <li>• Lower case loads for caseworkers and coordinators</li> </ul>

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**INTENSIVE LEVEL 5 (STEP DOWN FROM RTC OR PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL)**

<b>CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILDREN</b>	<b>ASSESSMENT</b>	<b>CHILD'S NEEDS</b>	<b>SERVICES REQUIRED of the FOSTER FAMILY</b>	<b>TRAINING</b>	<b>SUPPORTS</b>	<b>SYSTEMS NEEDS</b>
<p>Children aged 8-17 Must exhibit at least 4 of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Runs away frequently</li> <li>• History of firesetting</li> <li>• History of suicide attempts</li> <li>• Delinquent behavior</li> <li>• Diagnosed as conduct disorder</li> <li>• School problems and/or truancy</li> <li>• Assaultive behavior</li> <li>• Drug/alcohol use interfering with daily activities</li> <li>• Inappropriate sexual behavior, promiscuity, prostitution</li> <li>• History of failed placements</li> <li>• History of inpatient or residential treatment</li> <li>• Pregnant or teen parents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing assessment of child used in monthly team meeting</li> </ul>	<p>All of Level 1- 4 plus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional supervision to keep child and others safe</li> <li>• More frequent more intensive therapy as needed</li> <li>• Behavioral consultation</li> <li>• Gradual step down from RTC or psych-hospital</li> <li>• Aides</li> <li>• Wraparound services at time of placement</li> <li>• Crisis respite beds</li> </ul>	<p>All of Level 1- 4 plus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 foster parent or other approved adult with the child at all times</li> <li>• Have authority to call staffing on child</li> <li>• Participates in monthly team reviews and treatment planning</li> </ul>	<p>All of Level 1- 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restraint training/Crisis intervention training</li> <li>• Additional training related to needs of child</li> <li>• 20 hours training per year</li> </ul>	<p>\$55/day All of Level 1,2,3,4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individualized solutions for those youth whose needs are complex and cannot be served within the other resource categories</li> <li>• One child per home</li> <li>• 4x month caseworker contact</li> <li>• Planned respite 30 days/yr.</li> <li>• Wraparound services in place at time of placement</li> </ul>	<p>All of Level 1 - 4 plus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lower caseloads for caseworker &amp; coordinator (to offer additional support)</li> </ul>

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**EMERGENCY HOMES**

<b>CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILDREN</b>	<b>ASSESSMENT</b>	<b>CHILD'S NEEDS</b>	<b>SERVICES REQUIRED of the FOSTER FAMILY</b>	<b>TRAINING</b>	<b>SUPPORTS</b>	<b>SYSTEMS NEEDS</b>
Children ages 0-17 who are entering family foster care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical and medical treatment as necessary</li> <li>• Developmental screening</li> <li>• Educational screening</li> <li>• Emotional health screening</li> <li>• Foster parent observation and assessment instruments administered by foster parents</li> <li>• Additional testing as indicated</li> <li>• Team meeting to provide assessment information to foster care staff matching needs of child to foster family skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assurance of physical safety</li> <li>• Emotional support to child in trauma of separation from family</li> <li>• Information about foster care and what will happen next</li> <li>• Immediate medical needs met</li> <li>• Visits with birth family</li> <li>• Continuity for child as much as possible... same school community</li> <li>• Complete assessment to determine needs and best placement</li> <li>• At the same time foster family and professional staff are assessing needs of child, staff will assess family:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengths</li> <li>• Needs</li> <li>• Risks</li> <li>• Some prediction of length of placement</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical safety of child</li> <li>• Provide strong emotional support of child in trauma of separation from family</li> <li>• Explain foster care to child in age-appropriate manner</li> <li>• Transportation to/ support through emergency medical treatment</li> <li>• Support connection with birth family by facilitating visits</li> <li>• Maintain continuity for child as much as possible... school, friendships, etc.</li> <li>• Assess child's needs through observation</li> <li>• Administer assessment instruments</li> <li>• Participate in meetings to assess and make recommendations for best placement</li> <li>• Available by phone/pager at all times</li> <li>• Accept youth of all ages/sex/ race for up to 14 days unless family safety is at risk</li> <li>• Provides enriched environment and recreational opportunities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three years experience as foster parent or comparable experience</li> <li>• Foster PRIDE</li> <li>• First Aid and CPR</li> <li>• 45 hours of in-service training including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PRIDE - Module I</li> <li>• Sexual Abuse</li> <li>• Teens</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Identifying developmental needs and delays</li> <li>• Medications</li> <li>• Depression/suicide</li> <li>• Specialized training in assessment</li> <li>• 12 hours of in-service training per year required</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In-home consultation with behavioral specialist</li> <li>• 24 hour crisis access</li> <li>• Transportation (as back up)</li> <li>• Foster Care team</li> <li>• Caseworker contact - 1x/week</li> <li>• Foster Home Coordinator contact 2x/month</li> <li>• 5 days per month off</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Behavioral consultants</li> <li>• Financial support to recruit and train</li> <li>• Foster parents for assessment homes</li> <li>• Respite providers for this special population of children</li> <li>• Assessment tools</li> <li>• Access to evaluations as needed</li> </ul>