

Northstar Care for Children: Encouraging safe, permanent homes for children

Northstar Care for Children helps children in foster care grow up in safe and permanent homes. It provides medical and financial benefits for children in foster care and for eligible children finding permanency through an adoption or transfer of permanent legal and physical custody to a relative.

Continuity of benefits from foster care to permanency

This comprehensive program provides additional state and federal funds, and realigns state, county and tribal expenditures. It includes:

- Northstar Foster Care for children in family foster care seeking permanent families (not for children in group housing or residential treatment)
- Northstar Kinship Assistance for eligible children finding permanency through a transfer of permanent legal and physical custody to their relative
- Northstar Adoption Assistance for eligible children finding permanency through adoption or customary adoption.

The program supports foster care, kinship and adoptive families by:

- Using standard processes and benefit structures
- Providing monthly basic benefits to eligible children, based on children's ages
- Standardizing assessments for all children to determine the additional costs for any needs beyond the basic support payment
- Enabling children to remain in pre-Northstar Care for Children adoption and foster care programs unless specifically transitioned into Northstar Care for Children
- Reducing barriers to permanency by eliminating disparities in benefits that existed in pre-Northstar Care for Children programs for children ages 6 and older
- Granting federal foster care protections to all children in foster care, and those finding permanency through adoption or transfer of permanent legal and physical custody to a relative.

Northstar benefits

Effective July 1, 2020, the Northstar Care for Children basic payments for all three programs are as follows:

Child's Age	Monthly Basic Rate	Alternate Monthly Basic Rate	Daily Basic Rate	Alternate Daily Basic Rate
Birth - 5	\$ 689	\$ 345	\$ 22.65	\$ 11.34
6 - 12	\$ 816	\$ 408	\$ 26.83	\$ 13.41
13 - 20	\$ 964	\$ 482	\$ 31.69	\$ 15.85

Children eligible for At-Risk Northstar Adoption Assistance do not receive monthly payments until a disability manifests. Some children qualify for additional payments based on the level of parenting required to meet their needs. Children receive alternate rates when they establish eligibility for Northstar Adoption Assistance or Northstar Kinship Assistance prior to age 6. Based on the U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates of the costs of raising a child, the department revised supplemental rates, including alternate rates, effective July 1, 2020, as follows:

Supplemental Level	Monthly Supplemental Rate	Alternate Monthly Supplemental Rate	Daily Supplemental Rate	Alternate Daily Supplemental Rate
Level B	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Level C	\$ 109	\$ 55	\$ 3.58	\$ 1.81
Level D	\$ 218	\$ 109	\$ 7.17	\$ 3.58
Level E	\$ 327	\$ 164	\$ 10.75	\$ 5.39
Level F	\$ 436	\$ 218	\$ 14.33	\$ 7.17
Level G	\$ 545	\$ 273	\$ 17.92	\$ 8.98
Level H	\$ 654	\$ 327	\$ 21.50	\$ 10.75
Level I	\$ 763	\$ 382	\$ 25.08	\$ 12.56
Level J	\$ 872	\$ 436	\$ 28.67	\$ 14.33
Level K	\$ 981	\$ 491	\$ 32.25	\$ 16.14
Level L	\$1,090	\$ 545	\$ 35.84	\$ 17.92
Level M	\$1,199	\$ 600	\$ 39.42	\$ 19.73
Level N	\$1,308	\$ 654	\$ 43.00	\$ 21.50
Level O	\$1,417	\$ 709	\$ 46.59	\$ 23.31
Level P	\$1,526	\$ 763	\$ 50.17	\$ 25.08
Level Q	\$1,635	\$ 818	\$ 53.75	\$ 26.89

[Paths to Permanency: Adoption of Children in Foster Care \(DHS-7024A\) \(PDF\)](#) and [Paths to Permanency: Transfer of Permanent Legal and Physical Custody \(DHS-7024B\) \(PDF\)](#) provide more information for caregivers of children in foster care who are seeking permanency.



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