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**Issue 23-09 (REV)**

**Date: 8/06/2025**

## **RESPIRE CARE SERVICES**

As a result of Flexible Family Supports and Home-Based Foster Care funding, effective May 30, 2023 through May 30, 2026, (invoice must be submitted no later than May 31, 2026) respite care providers may receive reimbursement from DCFS at a flat rate of \$16.90 per child, per hour, for a limit of 72 hours per fiscal year (July 1-June 30), with a maximum amount of \$1,216.80. This is an increase from the current hourly rate of \$3.00.

The respite care program provides for occasional alternative care and allows an alternative caregiver to provide care and supervision to the foster child. Respite care provides caregivers with substitute care and temporary relief from the responsibilities of foster parenting.

Respite care providers must be licensed/RFA approved foster parents who are willing and able to provide quality care and supervision, regardless of a child's history and current emotional and behavioral status.

Respite care providers must meet the following guidelines:

- Provider must be in good standing with DCFS and the Community Care Licensing (CCL) Division.
- Provider must not have an administrative or investigative hold or be on "Do not use" or "Do not refer" status.
- Population of the provider's home, including the number of children receiving respite care, must not exceed CCL licensed capacity for the home.
- All children living in the provider's home, ages eighteen (18) or younger, regardless of relationship to provider, are counted towards the licensed capacity total.
- If planning to provide care for special needs children, provider must have taken the appropriate specialized training as applicable.

For further information regarding respite care eligibility and respite care requests, refer to [Procedural Guide 1200-500.40, Respite Care Services](#).

If you have any questions regarding this release, please e-mail your question to:

[Policy@dcfs.lacounty.gov](mailto:Policy@dcfs.lacounty.gov)

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