

FY2020 Budget Overview

The Daily Rate of Support (DCF Line Item: 4800-0038)

Foster parents are unpaid volunteers. The basic expenses of caring for foster children are reimbursed through a daily rate of support. But foster parents routinely cover expenses out-of-pocket including: transportation, extracurricular activities, school supplies, sports fees, and sometimes child care.

\$6.4M will increase the daily rate by \$2.50 - \$3 per day to meet the rising cost of caring for a child in foster care.

Behavioral Health Services & Supports (DCF Line Item #4800-0038)

An increasing number of foster children coming into care have complex behavioral health needs. Providing real time access to consultation and coaching to address ongoing or emergent problems helps foster parents to respond to the presenting issue and builds the foster parents skills to handle the next situation.

\$1.6 M for behavioral health services and supports will help foster parents to better support the child, decrease placement disruptions, and improve foster parent retention.

	FY19 Funding	MAFF FY2020 Request	Gov. Budget	FY20 House	FY20 Senate
Line Item 4800-0038	\$298.82M	+ \$8M	\$307.74M	\$308.49M	\$308.48M
<i>Proposed Daily Rate Increase</i>	No language; funded DCF rate	\$6.4M	No language; funded DCF rate (USDA Rate+ 2%)	No language; funded DCF rate (USDA Rate+ 2%)	No language; funded DCF rate (USDA Rate+ 2%)
<i>Increased Access to BH Services</i>	No language	\$1.6M	\$0	\$0	\$0

Increase Child Care Availability for Children Placed with Foster Parents who Work

(DEEC Line Item 3000-3060)

Accessible child care for working foster parents, including kin, is critical to the recruitment and retention of foster parents. Currently, child care assistance programs for children in DCF care have long waitlists and some foster parents are being asked to pay out-of-pocket for child care for children placed with them. This has made foster parenting financially impossible for many qualified families. The expansion of access to childcare including after-school, summer programs, and respite care is vital to rebuilding and maintaining a robust pool of foster families statewide.

FY19 Funding	MAFF Request	Gov. Budget	FY20 House	FY20 Senate
\$235.8M	\$275.99M	\$275.99M	\$275.99M	\$275.99M

Ensuring DCF Youth’s Access to Higher Education (*DOE Line Item 7066-0021*)

The foster and adopted child fee waiver makes college possible for DCF involved students who would otherwise have faced tremendous barriers to attending college. Without this support for many it would simply have been impossible. Our request supports the full year waiver for all eligible students that DCF anticipates will seek the waiver in FY 2020.

FY19 Funding	MAFF Request	Gov. Budget	FY20 House	FY20 Senate
\$6.18M	\$6.5M	\$6.5M	\$6.5M	\$6.5M
