



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Darcie M. Miller, LCSW-R
Commissioner

Irene E. Kurlander
Deputy Commissioner

Steven M. Neuhaus
County Executive

Box Z, 11 Quarry Road
Goshen, NY 10924
Tel: (845) 291-4000 • Fax: (845) 291-4338
www.orangecountygov.com

Dear Foster Parents:

We are writing to inform you of some important changes that New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) is making to foster care board payments. Ultimately, you will receive an all-inclusive rate for board, clothing, and diapers (if applicable). This means that these items will no longer be broken out as separate amounts in the monthly board check. We anticipate that this all-inclusive rate will be reflected in the September board check (for the month of August).

Additionally, in July, OCFS also announced a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA). The COLA, and the discontinuation of the clothing and diaper allowances, are both retroactive to 4/1/22.

As a result of these changes, you can expect the following:

- Clothing and diaper allowances are not included in the July board, which was paid in August.
- At a future date, you will receive a retroactive check for the COLA for the month of July.
- At a future date, you will receive another retroactive check for the COLA for the months of April - June (minus the clothing and diaper allowances for those months).
- We anticipate that the all-inclusive board checks (which will include the COLA going forward) will be issued beginning in September.

We understand that this is confusing, particularly since we must make retroactive changes, which include both the discontinuation of the clothing and diaper allowances, *and* the implementation of the COLA retroactive to 4/1/22, while at the same time transitioning to all-inclusive board rate going forward. Please understand that we are doing our best to apply all of these changes as soon as possible within the confines of the payment system. We will notify you of any changes to the anticipated payment schedule.

Sincerely,

Maureen T. Sailer

*Director of Services
Orange County Dept of Social Services
Box Z, 11 Quarry Road
Goshen, NY 10924
(845) 291-2889*