DATE: December 31, 2014

TO: Community-based Care CEOs
Regional Managing Directors

FROM: Pete Digre, Deputy Secretary
Janice Thomas, Assistant Secretary for Child Welfare

SUBJECT: 2015 Foster Parent Cost of Living Allowance Increase

PURPOSE: This memo is to provide guidance to regions and Community-Based Care lead agencies to implement the foster parent Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) increase scheduled to go into effect January 1, 2015.

BACKGROUND: During the 2013 legislative session, the Florida Legislature passed s. 409.145(4), F.S., which establishes base room and board rate payments to foster parents and requires foster parents to receive an annual cost of living increase equal to the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, U.S. City Average, All Items, not seasonally adjusted, or successor reports, for the preceding December compared to the prior December as initially reported by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Effective January 1, 2015, the base room and board rates to foster parents will change as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Range</th>
<th>Room and Board Rate Effective January 1, 2015</th>
<th>2014 Room and Board Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zero to Five (0 – 5)</td>
<td>$439.30</td>
<td>$429.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six to Twelve (6 – 12)</td>
<td>$450.56</td>
<td>$440.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thirteen to Twenty-one (13 – 21)</td>
<td>$527.36</td>
<td>$515.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

While the Department and Community-Based Care lead agencies received no additional appropriation for fiscal year 2014-2015, the Department has submitted a legislative budget request for fiscal year 2015-2016 to support cost of living increases to be paid to foster parents through next fiscal year. All allocations to support the increases to be paid, will be paid by the Department to Community-Based Care lead agencies based on the rates codified in statute irrespective to the actual room and board rates paid to foster parents by the Community-Based Care lead agency.
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**ACTION NEEDED:** As of January 1, 2015, all foster parents previously receiving the 2014 statutory base rate of pay for room and board in the amounts of $429, $440, or $515 for child in their care must be paid the increase specified in s. 409.145(4), F.S.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** For additional information, please contact Kristi Putnam, Child Permanency & Well-being Manager, at Kristi.Putnam@myffamilies.com or (850) 717-4659.

cc: Regional Family and Community Services Directors
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