

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P. O. BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

January 3, 2011

What's Inside:

Availability
Payments for
Level B foster
care providers.

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: REGIONAL EXECUTIVE STAFF, CIRCUIT MANAGERS, AND
CHILDREN'S DIVISION STAFF

FROM: CANDACE A. SHIVELY

SUBJECT: AVAILABILITY PAYMENTS FOR LEVEL B FOSTER CARE
PROVIDERS

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this memorandum is to introduce clarifications for Availability payments, AVAL, to qualified Youth with Elevated Needs Level B resource providers.

A resource provider for Youth with Elevated Needs Level B may receive availability payments of \$21.00 per day when:

- They are not at licensed capacity for level B placements, which is two Level B youth;
- They are continuing to accept level B placements; and
- They provide transitional services for a potential level B placement into their home, or transitional services for a current level B placement out of their home.

Transitional services include, but are not limited to:

- Participate in regular staffing with the FST or Selection/Screening Team to assess progress of the transitional plan and to determine if the proposed placement remains a good plan;
- Provide pre-placement visits;
- File reports;
- Actively work with the Selection/Screening Team to identify potential children who would be good matches for their home.
- Accept children the team agrees are appropriate matches and who fit general profile for the family;
- Utilize the FST or Selection/Screening Team to create the specific transitional plan for the child.

Clarifications that have been added to policy are:

- Availability payment will only be paid for one child at a time at any given time;
- If the provider refuses to accept three (3) consecutive Elevated Needs Level B placements, then the availability payments will stop;
- Availability payments are child specific. Therefore, the DCN of Elevated Needs Level B foster youth to whom the transitional services are being provided must be used to generate the payment.

NECESSARY ACTION	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review this memorandum with all Children’s Division staff. 2. Review revised Child Welfare Manual chapters as indicated below. 3. All questions should be cleared through normal supervisory channels and directed to: 	
PDS CONTACT Elizabeth Tattershall 573-522-1191 Elizabeth.Tattershall@dss.mo.gov	PROGRAM MANAGER Dena Driver 573-751-3171 Dena.D.Driver@dss.mo.gov
CHILD WELFARE MANUAL REVISIONS Availability Payments for Youth with Elevated Needs Level B Resource Providers, Section 4 Chapter 11 Attachment I	
FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS N/A	
REFERENCE DOCUMENTS AND RESOURCES N/A	
RELATED STATUTE N/A	
ADMINISTRATIVE RULE N/A	
COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION (COA) STANDARDS N/A	
CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEW (CFSR) N/A	
PROTECTIVE FACTORS Parental Resilience N/A Social Connections N/A Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development N/A Concrete Support in Times of Need N/A Social and Emotional Competence of Children N/A	
FACES REQUIREMENTS N/A	