



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families

DCYF Emergency Response Foster Care

Thank you for your interest in participating in our Emergency Response Foster Care Program. DCYF remains committed to ensuring that children and youth who are not able to safely remain at home can be placed in a family setting. This includes times when DCYF must place children in foster care during non-business hours or in an emergency.

Our Emergency Response Program (ERP) is used when the Department has explored kinship and all other foster home placement options and were unable to find an appropriate placement for a child or youth. The only option left in these cases may be an institutional congregate care setting. The ERP ensures that children and youth can be placed in a family setting. Children and youth belong with families. Children and youth placed in the homes of our participant families have likely been removed for the first time or are experiencing a disruption in their current placement.

Participation in this program is different than traditional foster care. Participating families commit to a “no reject, no eject” policy. This means that families must accept any referral if they are being compensated for being “on call”. Participating families will have the option to participate in one or both of our two age specific programs: #1) newborn through age 12 and #2) youth age 12 and older.

Families rotate through a cycle of being “on call”, “in-service”, and “off duty” to recognize the need for families to take a break and balance their participation with other life events.

- “On call” indicates that you do not presently have a foster child placed with you through the ERP but that you are available and at the ready to take a child when the need arises.
- “In-service” indicates that a child has been placed with you on a short-term basis through the ERP.
- “Off duty” families will not be considered available to take a placement nor will you have a placement during that period of time.

Placement is limited to 14-21 days while a non-emergency foster family is identified. Exceptions will be considered if the home is a rare match for the child. If the placement needs to remain past 21 days, it must be approved by the Director’s designee.

The Department compensates families who are “on call” and provides an increased foster board rate for families who are “in-service”. If the placement needs to remain past 21 days, it must be approved by the Director’s designee.

- Families who are “on call” are compensated at a rate of \$15/day. *Please note, this is considered taxable income.*

- Families who are “in-service”, meaning that the family has a foster placement through the ERP, are given a daily foster board rate of \$40/day for children ages 0-12, and \$50/day for youth age 13+. These funds are used to support the needs of the child in placement.
 - In the case that family takes a sibling set of two or more children, at a time, through the ERP, an additional \$5 per day will be added to the foster board rate for each additional child.
- No payment will be made to the family while they are “off duty”.
- The emergency rate will last for the first 14-21 days of the placement.
 - If a rare longer-term placement with the ERP family is approved or if the child remains in the home until permanency is achieved, the rate will be redetermined based on the child’s age and level of need.

During the placement, the ERP family has some additional responsibilities. Families are expected to:

- inventory the child/youth’s belongings upon both intake and discharge;
- document critical assessment information including behaviors, transition and placement considerations; and
- provide transportation to the child’s school of origin, if it is determined by DCYF that is in the best interest of the child, until transportation can otherwise be arranged.
 - DCYF will provide transportation reimbursement based upon actual mileage at the state mileage rate utilizing the department’s monthly interjurisdictional school transportation process and form.

ERP families receive specialized support.

- Families will receive specific trauma training delivered by a combination of staff, certified trauma trainers and foster parent peers.
- Opportunities for Child-specific training will be shared with the group to meet the medical and behavioral needs of children.
- DCYF will follow up with a referral to the Service Response team (SRT). SRT is aimed to ensure a comprehensive identification of needs and matching to services, as needed.
- A pack’n play, diapers and formula will be made available to families participating in the program upon placement.
- In necessary situations, at the time of placement, materials, vouchers, or other resources will be made available to support children’s needs.
- Families are expected to participate in the monthly ERP meeting to review program specific details, review successes, needs and placements from the current month. The group meets approximately the 3rd Tuesday of every month from 6:00-7:30, locations vary. A flat rate is available for babysitting for any participating family who is currently caring for a foster child.

Please note: The Department reserves the right to temporarily or permanently place an ERP on the “off-duty” list for any reason.