



WASHOE COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

350 S. CENTER STREET
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Dear Foster Parent:

We are excited to announce that WCHSA has received respite funding through June 30, 2020! Each family* is eligible for **7 days of paid respite** per fiscal year. The ongoing availability of this reimbursement program will be dependent on funds being available each year. Please note that with the addition of this funding, KK respite will be for emergencies only based on availability, agency discretion, and approval.

Respite care gives parents and children the chance to have short periods of time apart in which they can reset and recharge. It enhances the quality of care for the child, gives parents a deserved and necessary break, and ensures healthy and stable placements for all children by preventing parental exhaustion and burnout. Some parents also find that taking family vacations together is a means to recharge as a family. Therefore, respite funds may also be utilized to provide funding to include the foster children on a family vacation. WCHSA strongly discourages the use of respite for foster children so that families can take vacation without the foster children.

Requirements:

- **Prior approval** – The *WCHSA Respite Request Form* must be submitted no later than one week in advance of when respite will be used. This allows WCHSA to ensure that the selected respite provider is in good standing and can accommodate the respite children.
- Use of an approved licensed foster parent or cleared direct care staff to provide the respite. Enhanced/SFC+ are required to use the same level provider (ex. SFC+ to use SFC+ provider). Please review the attached Respite and Babysitting Policy.
- Respite days can be taken in increments from one day to seven days. WCHSA will track number of days used, so contact Victoria Bowers to check your remaining balance.
- Respite days not taken by June 30, 2020 are not carried over and will be forfeited.

Payment:

- Reimbursement will be \$30/day, per child for all providers accessing paid respite (regardless of “normal daily rate”):
 1. **Will be paid to the licensed foster parent performing the respite** upon confirmation that the respite was provided.
 2. Paid directly to the family if utilizing funds for a family vacation.
- The attached WCHSA Respite Request form must be submitted to take advantage of the respite reimbursement.

Use of respite beyond the seven days is allowed; however, it is the responsibility of the foster parent requesting respite to pay the respite provider directly. WCHSA does not currently oversee routine respite use outside of this funding. If you need assistance locating a respite provider, please contact Victoria Bowers.

*Homes licensed for adoption only are, unfortunately, not eligible for this program.

The attached *WCHSA Respite Request Form* must be completed and emailed to HSA-RespiteRequests@washoecounty.us or a hard copy hand delivered to the 1st floor front desk at 350 S. Center Street.

For questions about the respite program, contact Victoria Bowers, Foster Care Liaison, at (775) 337-4484.



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