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## Base Foster Care Reimbursement Rates Increased!

An All County Letter was recently issued by the State of California to provide counties with information and instructions on the increase in foster family home rates as the result of the court order issued on May 27, 2011, in the case of the California State Foster Parent Association v. William Lightbourne, et al. The United States District Court ordered the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to “immediately” increase foster family home rates to reflect the methodology chosen by CDSS and filed with the Court April 8, 2011. The Court ordered that the new rates be paid with the “next round of checks.” The State of California is seeking clarification from the Court, but under CDSS’s interpretation of the Order, the increased rates will be effective from May 31, 2011. Therefore, the checks issued by counties to foster family home providers for services provided after May 31, 2011; that is, for services provided in June 2011, the checks for which will issue in July 2011 shall be as follows:

**Age Range – 0 to 4**

Current Rate: \$446  
 New Rate: \$609

**Age Range – 5 to 8**

Current Rate: \$485  
 New Rate: \$660

**Age Range – 9 to 11**

Current Rate: \$519  
 New Rate: \$695

**Age Range – 12 to 14**

**Current Rate: \$573**  
 New Rate: \$727

**Age Range – 15 to 19**

Current Rate: \$627  
 New Rate: \$761

The Court further ordered that cost of living adjustments to these rates be made “annually or no later than the first day of the State’s fiscal year, to reflect the change in the California Necessities Index (CNI) for the current fiscal year.” Therefore the rate above shall be increased on July 1, 2011 by 1.92 percent to reflect the change in fiscal year 2011-12 CNI.

This lawsuit involves only the rates paid to foster family homes and does not order an increase to any other programs or benefits.

### OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We are dedicated to bringing together and providing support for foster, resource, adoptive, and relative care providers. We strive to develop a better understanding of the issues and challenges of foster care by working together, recruiting, promoting, special projects, advocacy, mentoring, educating, training, developing and strengthening the bonds between the children, the members, the community and organizations in the Coachella Valley.

## It's a Birthday Party and You're Invited !

For The Children Annual Birthday Party  
Saturday August 13th 11:00a.m.

Kid's Party Central (formerly Pump it Up!) Indio

*The newly remodeled venue promises to deliver more fun than ever!  
Pizza and birthday cake will be served and all children will receive a birthday gift.*

You MUST RSVP to Martha Medina at 760-578-9681 by July 31st.  
All new placements after 7/31 should call Silvia Signoret at 760-567-7954

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Summer is here and its time once again to take advantage of the \$100 Summer Scholarships sponsored by For The Children. Any member in good standing is eligible to be reimbursed up to **\$100 per child** for a summer camp or experience. You must present the receipt to Dayna Lorentz OR send her an invoice and she will pay the organization directly for you. Time is running out so HURRY and take advantage of this program!

### **How many fun things can your kids do this summer? How about:**

- A Palm Springs power Baseball game
  - Cooking Classes at Cooking with Class in LaQuinta \**
  - Summer art camp at The Palm Springs Art Museum \**
  - Summer reading programs at a local Library
  - Free movies at the Desert Imax Theater
  - Free movies, concerts and events at Westfield Town Center
  - Crafting Camps at JoAnn Fabrics \**
  - Toddler programs and youth camps at The Children's Museum \**
  - Swimming lessons \**
  - Gymnastics class \**
  - Karate or other Martial Arts \**
  - The Living Desert Summer programs \**
  - Take a break from the heat and visit Big Bear, Julian, Lake Arrowhead or Idyllwild
  - \* qualify for FTC Summer program reimbursement*
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Once again, The Girl Scouts hosted another great camping trip for our families! This years trip was held at The Whitewater Preserve, just north of Palm Springs on June 4/5.

The weather was unusually cool and the kids enjoyed fishing, hiking and playing games with their friends. The Scouts did a fantastic job of organizing the events as well as feeding a lot of hungry mouths! The Park Ranger's led everyone on a nature hike and explained the history of the area, along with short lesson in Desert geography.

