

January 13, 2023

Dear Kinship, Foster or other Family-Based Caregiver:

Subject: Caregiver Affordability Payments

The Government of Alberta (GoA) is providing affordability payments to offset the effects of inflation on Alberta families. Children's Services is pleased to advise you that you will receive affordability payments for the children placed in your care by the GoA.

From January 2023 until June 2023, you will automatically receive a monthly affordability payment for each child or youth placed in your care by the GoA. There is no need to apply for this payment for these children or youth.

Similar to basic maintenance, the affordability payment will be calculated daily for each child or youth. The amount you will receive is pro-rated for each of the days during that month the child or youth is in your care, to a maximum of \$100/child or youth/month. This is the same process used to calculate your basic maintenance for each child or youth.

Your monthly statement will include this new amount and be labelled "affordability payment". Although it will be listed under the Respite section of the statement, the payment is not part of Respite and Respite rates have not changed. The extra amount included on the statement each month is the temporary affordability payment as labelled on the statement of child maintenance.

If a child moves from one eligible caregiver to another during the reporting period, the daily rates apply and the benefit is split between caregivers. For children that remain in care and move from an eligible caregiver to an ineligible placement, you should only receive the benefit for the days you provided care. If a child returns home during a month and the child is no longer in care, you should only receive the benefit for the days you provided care.

If you also have children of your own under the age of 18, and your adjusted household income is under \$180,000 per year as per your 2021 taxes, you will need to apply for payments for those children through the government portal starting on January 18, 2023. The application deadline for Affordability Payments for your children is June 30, 2023. More information, including eligibility criteria can be found at: [Affordability payments | Alberta.ca](https://www.alberta.ca/affordability-payments).

The affordability payments for children and youth in care will end in June 2023. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your caseworker/support worker.

Thank you,

Original Signed
Jessica Winship, Executive Director
Policy, Practice and Program Development Branch
Child Intervention, Alberta Children's Services