

WHAT IS THE VIRGINIA MAINTENANCE PAYMENT

Maintenance payments are provided to assist in meeting the basic needs of a child. Maintenance means payments made on behalf of a child in foster care to cover the cost of (and the cost of providing) food, clothing, shelter, daily supervision, school supplies, a child's personal incidentals, liability insurance with respect to a child, and reasonable travel for the child to visit with family or other caretakers and to remain in his or her previous school placement.

WHO, WHEN, WHY

01

Maintenance payments are designed to assist the caregiver in providing for the child's basic needs. It is not expected that the maintenance rates will cover all the needs of the child. Service needs of children and their families are not included in the definition of maintenance. Therefore, services shall not be paid for with maintenance funds.

02

Maintenance is paid directly to the foster parent by the child-placing agency on a monthly basis. The costs of day care and transportation of the child for visitation or to school may be reimbursed to the foster parent if they are paying the cost "up front" or may be paid directly to the individual or organization providing the service directly. Receipts for such costs are required for reimbursement.

03

Personal incidentals, which are included in the basic maintenance payment, are those costs associated with the personal care of a child such as (but not limited to) items related to personal hygiene, cosmetics, over the counter medications and special dietary foods; infant and toddler supplies, baby food, formula, including highchairs and diapers; and occasional fees related to recreational activities. If WIC services cannot help with formula or necessities, that the VEMAT is the way to go.



Contact Information



Location

1835 Industry Dr., Culpeper, VA 22701



Phone

1-(540)727-0372



Email

Your Case Worker



Website

www.culpeperhumanservices.org

IMPORTANT!

NOTE: Any issues or conditions you list in this document should be made known to the child's worker on a routine basis. Keeping the workers informed about your situation and the amount of supervision the child requires will be helpful during the VEMAT meeting.



VIRGINIA ENHANCED MAINTENANCE PAYMENT (VEMAT)

The What, Who, When, and Why of a Maintenance and Enhanced Maintenance Payment.

1835 Industry Drive
Culpeper, Virginia 22701

www.culpeperhumanservices.org



WAYS THE VEMAT MONEY CAN BE USED

- Additional groceries for special diet
 - Medical services when no Medicaid provider was available
 - Medical services not covered by Medicaid
 - Therapeutic services when no Medicaid provider was available
 - Therapeutic services not covered by Medicaid
 - Respite services, because agency did not have any appropriate respite providers available
 - Respite services, because agency required VEMAT to be used for payment
 - Respite services
 - Co-payments for medical, therapeutic, or medications
 - Community activities to help youth engage in community
 - Community activities to help youth learn skills
 - Community activities
 - School activity costs
 - Tutoring, because agency required VEMAT to be used for payment
 - Tutoring, because school would not pay cost
 - Tutoring
 - Childcare, because adoption assistance agreement did not cover costs because of child's age
 - Childcare, because adoption assistance agreement did not include childcare
 - Childcare, because foster care agency required VEMAT to be used for payment
 - Childcare, because child needed a specific person and no other payment source was available
- *Childcare is paid for when both parents work outside of the home*

REMEMBER!

Children that are placed on a trial home visit are **NOT** eligible for maintenance payments but continue to be eligible for service payments with FAPT approval.

Childcare may be paid as a service if deemed appropriate and approved by FAPT.



WHAT IS THE VEMAT



For children in foster care, the purpose of the Virginia Enhanced Maintenance Assessment Tool (VEMAT) is to assess the child's behavioral, emotional, and physical/personal care needs to determine if an enhanced maintenance payment is necessary to ensure the safety and well-being of the child. A VEMAT must be completed at least once annually.



WHEN



- Enhanced maintenance payments are available when a child has a clearly defined need that requires the parent to provide increased support and supervision due to the child's behavioral, emotional, or physical/personal care requirements.
- When children first enter foster care, it is expected that their needs may be higher due to the circumstances that led to the child's removal and the impact of the removal itself.
- However, as the child stabilizes in the foster home and the child's needs are met consistently over time, it is expected that the child's on-going need for support and supervision would decrease, and therefore the VEMAT score would decrease with subsequent reassessments.

PREPARING

~Virginia Department of Social Services has implemented a process for determining the reimbursement rate for the additional supervision and support provided by and needed from foster/adoptive parents to address the behavioral, emotional, and medical needs of children in foster care (not all local agencies use the VEMAT for foster care) or being adopted from foster care.

~We encourage families to become familiar with the requirements of the VEMAT process and the tool. A completed VEMAT tool is not allowed to be brought to a VEMAT meeting by any member of the VEMAT team, including parents. FACES encourages you to review this Guide and use it to prompt you to bring the required and useful documentation, assessments, and evaluations to demonstrate any behavioral, emotional, or medical issues which are requiring additional parental supervision and intervention.

FACES has coined its own acronym for families who will participate in the VEMAT meeting....

VEMAT DANCE

D

Documentation is imperative

A

Assessment's of the child's condition and behaviors are vital.

N

Notifying your worker of all additional needs of the child is essential.

C

Clinical reports and requirements are crucial.

E

Educational reports and assessments are an informative key.

DON'T FORGET

You are a member of the VEMAT team. You have a responsibility to participate and provide all information which aids in the decision-making process for the child in your care. Be calm, respectful, and thorough. It is in your best interest and the child's best interest to not exaggerate or be demanding.

