

**NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA  
December 23, 2021**

**PI 21-25**

**TO:** Field Service Specialists  
Human Service Zones  
Division of Juvenile Services  
Tribal Social Services  
Nexus PATH

**FROM:** Kelsey Bless, Permanency Administrator

**SUBJECT:** Nexus-PATH Foster Care Rates 623-05-20-35  
Irregular Payment Specific to Placement Setting  
623-05-25-05

**PROGRAMS:** Foster Care Program

**EFFECTIVE:** **January 1, 2022**

**RETENTION:** Until Manualized

Children and Family Services has continued collaboration with Nexus PATH Family Healing to offer treatment foster care services to children in need of placement. Throughout early 2022, we will continue to partner to develop a formal agreement regarding service delivery parameters and expectations for children referred to treatment foster care.

Effective, January 1, 2022, the new enhanced fee for service rate will be reimbursable to Nexus PATH. In addition, the step down and county flow rates will discontinue as reimbursable levels of care offered by Nexus PATH.

If you have questions, please contact Kelsey Bless at [kmbless@nd.gov](mailto:kmbless@nd.gov).

### **Nexus-PATH Foster Care Rates 623-05-20-35**

Nexus-PATH provides services and supports to children and families as a licensed child placing agency. Nexus-PATH is accredited by the Council on Accreditation for Services to Children and Families (COA).

Billing Address:

Nexus-PATH, Inc. ND  
1202 Westrac Dr S, Suite 400  
Fargo, ND 58103

Maintenance rates effective ~~July 1, 2021~~ January 1, 2022:

NEXUS-PATH RATES BY PROVIDER TYPE & LEVEL	Avg. Monthly Rate (30 day)	<del>Daily Rate</del> <u>Fee for Service (daily)</u>
<b><u>Nexus-PATH</u> <del>TREATMENT</del> FOSTER CARE PROVIDERS</b>		
<b>Intensive Treatment Foster Care (ITFC)</b>	<del>\$6,388.11</del> <u>\$6,450</u>	<del>\$212.94</del> <u>\$215 / day</u>
<b>Treatment Foster Care (TFC)</b>	<del>\$3,460.81</del> <u>\$4,140</u>	<del>\$115.36</del> <u>\$138 / day</u>
<b><del>Step-Down from TFC</del></b>	<del>\$2,118.71</del>	<del>\$70.62</del>
<b>Regular Foster Care</b>	<del>\$2,118.71</del> <u>\$2,160</u>	<del>\$70.62</del> <u>\$72 / day</u>
<b><del>Flow-Through</del></b>	<del>\$ VARIED</del>	<del>\$ State Rate</del>

Resources:

[PATH Program Components](#)

[PATH Payment Chart](#)

NOTE: The "monthly" rate is provided for reference. The child's foster care reimbursement is paid as a daily fee for service ~~at a daily rate~~, specific to the actual number of days the child is in the Nexus PATH provider placement during the service month. Foster care reimbursement is made to a licensed child placing agency (LCPA), the ~~rate~~ fee for service is inclusive of the administrative, training, case management and costs of care for the foster child ~~costs~~. Foster parents are reimbursed an established daily rate directly from the agency, which is embedded within the agency ~~daily~~ rate fee for service.

The custodian, Nexus-PATH and child and family team participants will evaluate the child's level of care quarterly. If a child begins as a treatment foster care (TFC) placement, it may be determined that a lower level of care is necessary and appropriate. When the level of care changes, the custodial case manager is responsible to notify the CFS FCSA Eligibility Unit by completing a new SFN 45 immediately.

### **Nexus-PATH MONTHLY BILLING**

Payments to Nexus-PATH will not be authorized until a billing statement has been received for the appropriate service month. The amount billed is based on the level of care (~~ITFC-rate~~, ~~TFC Rate~~, ~~Step-Down-rate~~, ~~Regular rate~~, ~~Flow-Through-rate~~) and number of days in placement, not to exceed

the number of days in the month. Reimbursement of overlapping days of placement from one Nexus-PATH provider to another is not allowed, with the exception of secondary placements identified as a "pre-placement visit".

- Example: A child changes placement from one Nexus-PATH TFC home to another on the 3rd of the month, only one Nexus-PATH provider can be reimbursed for the 3rd. The placements must be updated in the case management system with the first placement ending on the 2nd of the month, and the new TFC provider placement beginning on the 3rd.

The Nexus-PATH billing office will send a child specific separate bill to CFS [FCSA](#) Eligibility Unit monthly. Nexus-PATH payments are not automatically calculated by the payment system and require manual data entry by the assigned eligibility worker. The bill must be kept in the foster care eligibility file for auditing purposes.

#### Itemized Bill:

1. Child specific - one bill per child
2. Provider specific - for bills containing multiple providers, each provider must have an approved placement in FRAME and payment authorization must be made to each provider based on the billed dates and amount specific to that provider. The CFS Eligibility Unit will not authorize a lump sum payment to only one provider if multiple placements exist during the billing cycle, each provider will be reimbursed based on placement dates.
3. Secondary placements in a therapeutic home when a child is in a primary treatment placement are not reimbursable (TFC to TFC). However, if the child is transitioning to a Nexus-PATH home from a non-PATH provider (Zone home, residential, etc.) the "pre-placement" can be reimbursed as a secondary placement. If a Nexus-PATH pre-placement visit is occurring from a TFC provider to a Nexus-PATH Regular provider, a secondary placement is allowed for reimbursement.
4. Irregular payments must be approved by the custodial case manager.
5. The CFS Eligibility Unit will authorize reimbursement to Nexus-PATH as the designated payee on behalf of the licensed provider.
6. Nexus-PATH will directly reimburse the foster parents.

## **Nexus-PATH Overpayments**

If there is an overpayment made to a Nexus-PATH provider, the CFS [FCSA](#) Eligibility Unit can auto-recoup the overpayment during either the supplemental or standard check write so long as the provider has a foster care placement. An SFN 839 Foster Care Overpayment Notification will be sent to the Nexus-PATH billing office to notify them of the overpayment and provide instructions for repayment.

## **Nexus-PATH Irregular Payments**

Allowable irregular payment reimbursements per policy 623-05-25-05 are approved through the custodial case manager as follows:

1. All irregular payments must be eligible and approved as set forth in policy. The custodial case manager is responsible to monitor the child's irregular payment annual maximums allowed per category to ensure adequate funds are available prior to approval.
2. Receipts must be sent to the Nexus-PATH case worker for submission to the Nexus-PATH billing office. All irregular payments require a receipt for reimbursement. Nexus-PATH will attach the receipts to the monthly invoice. Receipts received directly from a foster parent or custodial case manager at the CFS [FCSA](#) Eligibility Unit for a Nexus-PATH provider will be returned to the custodial case manager for proper routing to the Nexus-PATH case worker.
3. Nexus-PATH will create an itemized bill with the standard maintenance rate for the specific level of care placement dates and any approved irregular expenses.
4. If Nexus-PATH's billing office has questions regarding the amount received over and above the standard foster care rate, the custodial case manager will be contacted for placement date clarification.

## **How to Authorize the Irregular Payments in the payment system:**

The ND payment system allows only two irregular payment codes to be authorized to Nexus-PATH ITFC or TFC providers:

1. Code 53 - transportation to school
2. Code 71 - parent/infant care

If a TFC provider is caring for a child ~~in step-down, in the~~ regular level of care ~~or a flow-through placement~~, the CFS [FCSA](#) Eligibility Unit will manually

combine all allowable irregular payments to the maintenance payment for the billable month.

Nexus-PATH Regular Foster Care: CFS FCSA Eligibility unit eligibility workers must authorize irregular payments separately when a child is placed in a Nexus-PATH Regular foster home.

## **Irregular Payment Specific to Placement Setting 623-05-25-05**

### Irregular Payments Family Foster Care:

Foster children placed in a licensed or approved (Tribal Affidavit) family foster home are eligible for irregular maintenance payments.

### Irregular Payments for a Non-Foster Care Placement:

Foster children placed in a non-foster care setting with an unlicensed provider, at the hospital, or in relative/kinship care do not qualify for irregular maintenance payments.

### Irregular Payments in Other Approved Foster Care Settings:

#### 1. Intensive ~~Therapeutic~~/Treatment Foster Care

- a. Code 53: Travel for foster parents to transport to school, and
- b. Code 71: If the foster child has their own child

#### 2. ~~Therapeutic~~/Treatment Foster Care (TFC): Only 2 codes allowed.

- a. Code 53: Travel for foster parents to transport to school, and
- b. Code 71: If the foster child has their own child

#### ~~3. Step Down from TFC~~

- ~~a. All irregular payments for family foster care placements, with the exception of Category 20 and Category 60. Initial clothing will not be required as a "step down" level of care will not occur during the child's first five months of placement. Annual clothing allowance is offered by PATH to the foster child.~~

#### ~~4. County Flow Through~~

- ~~a. All irregular payments for family foster care placements apply.~~

### 3. Nexus-PATH Regular Foster Care

- a. All irregular payments for family foster care placements apply, with the exception of Categories 30 and 60.

#### Irregular Payments in ~~Group & Residential Care~~ Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP):

The irregular payment policy has very limited application to children in ~~group and~~ residential care. ~~An RCCF ND QRTP's have~~ has an established ~~daily rate fee for service defined in; rate setting in those instances is dictated by~~ N.D.A.C. 75-03-15 "Rate Setting". Children placed in an ~~RCCF QRTP~~ are only eligible for:

- Category 10
- Category 20
- Category 50
- Category 80

#### Irregular Payments in ~~Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF's):~~

Foster care funds cannot pay for any portion of a child's cost of care in a PRTF, including irregular payments. Irregular payments may be included in the PRTF's direct rate based on historical costs as outlined in N.D.A.C 75-02-09-06 reimbursed by ND Medical Services.