

# **Respite Funds for DHS Foster Parents**

Are you experiencing a crisis, taking a planned vacation or just need a break? DHS has respite care funds available for DHS foster parents who need to leave their foster child/children with someone else while they take respite.

## **How do I access respite care funds?**

- Call your caseworker and inquire if respite funds are available for use for the times you need.
- Find a provider whom you believe can provide a safe, nurturing environment for the child. Please note that you do **not** need to use a licensed home.
- Call your caseworker with the name and phone number of your respite provider and the dates you need respite. You do not need to request respite funds for all the days you are gone. Just request for the days you will be paying at the respite rate of \$25/day.

## **Who pays the respite care provider?**

- The foster parents are responsible for paying the respite care provider after respite care has been provided.
- For reimbursement, send a note or a letter to the child's worker with the following:
  - ✓ Child's name
  - ✓ Your name
  - ✓ Name, address, phone and social security number of the respite care provider
  - ✓ Actual dates: initiation date and termination date. This should not be more than what you and the worker agreed on because there are maximum limits.



## **How much do the respite care providers receive?**

- Payment will be made at a rate of \$25 a day for a 24-hour period. If you are gone part of one day, you might decide not to request respite funds for that partial day in order to preserve that respite day for future access. You can then work out your own financial arrangement with the provider for those days.

## **How long can the child or children stay in respite care?**

- The maximum allowable time for respite services is **10** days per foster child per fiscal year (July 1 - June 30).

***If you encounter difficulties accessing these funds, please call HFPA at 263-0920 for assistance. Neighbor Island foster parents can call us toll free at 1-877-775-4400.***



## **The criteria for accessing respite funds remains the same:**

1. The rate is \$25 per day per child.
2. Each foster home can receive 10 days per child in one fiscal year (July 1-June 30). If the child moves to another foster home, then the new foster home can receive 10 days for that child.
3. Once all allocated funds for the quarter are used, no funds will be disbursed until the next quarter.