

Care fees and reimbursement of expenses for family care from 1 January 2026 (Family care in child welfare services)

Long-term family care

Fees/month/child:

Full-time family carer's fee

A full-time family carer takes care of a placed child at home, in addition to which they may work for a maximum of 40 hours / month.

The placed child is 0–11 years old, fee EUR 1,737.86/ month

The placed young person is 12–17 years old, fee EUR 2,016.33 / month

Part-time family carer's fee

A part-time family carer is a person who is in gainful employment, an entrepreneur, an unemployed job seeker, studies full-time, or on parental leave because of their own child.

Base fee EUR 986.75/ month

Compensation for loss of earnings

EUR 1,045.81/ month for a maximum of 1 year for a maximum of one child for a family carer in gainful employment who is staying at home because of the child.

Care fee for after-care

The young person is placed in a foster family: EUR 986.75/ month

Care fee for after-care support

The young person is not placed but receives support from the family by decision on after-care support: EUR 409.88/ month ->

Special care fees in long-term family care

Increased fee for special care of the child/young person in after-care:

30% (296.02) /50% (493.37) /100% of the base fee, which is EUR 986.75/month

The social worker responsible for the child's matters makes the decision on special care fees. This decision is also an appendix to the commission agreement.

The amount of special care fees is agreed with the social worker responsible for the child's matters and the senior social worker in family care. If necessary, expert opinions are requested for support in making the decision.

Starting compensation

A starting compensation of EUR 1,532.06/ child is paid at the start of family care, more based on consideration, a maximum of EUR 3,558.60/ child

Reimbursements of expenses/ month/ child:

0–6 yrs.	7–11 yrs.	12–15 yrs.	16 yrs.	17 yrs.
EUR 705.66/ month	EUR 784.66/ month	EUR 880.93/ month	EUR 936.64/ month	EUR 1,055.78/ month

The reimbursements of expenses are higher than the statutory minimum reimbursement of expenses, and the aim has been to ensure that the reimbursement of expenses will cover all the child's expenses. Personal belongings purchased to the child using the reimbursement of expenses are owned by the child.

The reimbursement includes the following costs:

- normal housing and heating
- nutrition
- normal clothing
- normal personal hygiene
- conventional healthcare
- basic hobbies and equipment (e.g., equipment for physical education at school)
- equipment related to free-time activities (e.g., bicycle, plastic sledge)
- computer, phone
- kilometre allowances, e.g., for travel costs due to hobbies.
- study-related costs
- over-the-counter medicines sold without a prescription and prescription costs related to temporary illness
- health centre fees and doctor's fees
- the child's disposable funds

The child's disposable funds

Child aged 7–9 yrs	Child aged 10–14 yrs	Child aged 15 yrs–
EUR 20/ month	EUR 40/ month	EUR 65.77/ month *)

*) one third of the amount laid down in section 9 of the Act on Child Maintenance Allowance (580/2008)

In short-term family care, the child's disposable funds must be paid to the child on a weekly basis.

In addition to the reimbursement of expenses, the following will be reimbursed separately:

- costs related to the child's long-term illness, i.e. prescription medicines and outpatient clinic fees
- reasonable costs of glasses or contact lenses. Prescription-based lenses prescribed by a doctor in their entirety and frames up to EUR 200.
- afternoon club fee if the family carer is a part-time family carer
- familiarisation of the child with the future foster family: food allowance and kilometre allowances are paid

The following are not reimbursed separately

- moped licence and driving licence
- moped
- family holiday trips
- voluntary vaccines
- voluntary insurances for the child
- the child's camps (reimbursable separately only in cases where the family carer takes statutory time off during the child's holiday)

Reimbursement of expenses in after-care

The young person's own income affects the reimbursement of expenses in after-care. If the placed young person receives student financial aid or works part-time, the foster family will be paid reimbursement of expenses to the amount of EUR 908.21/month. In this case, the placed young person must be paid disposable funds to the amount of at least EUR 65.77/month from the reimbursement of expenses. If the young person placed in care receives unemployment allowance / social assistance, the foster family will be paid a reimbursement of expenses to the amount of EUR 684.24/month.

The unemployment allowance/social assistance is intended for the young person's everyday expenses, in which case the young person pays part of their expenses with their own income.

Reimbursements of travel costs in family care

- Reimbursements of travel costs resulting from therapy reimbursable by Kela or from regular hospital/outpatient clinic visits are applied for from Kela. The share of the copayment is paid by the Western Uusimaa Wellbeing Services County against Kela's decision. The family carer delivers Kela's decision to the employee responsible for family care. If Kela's annual out-of-pocket maximum is not reached during the calendar year, the costs will be reimbursed against receipts.
- Travel costs outside the municipality of residence resulting from the child's keeping in contact with family members and from meetings related to the child are reimbursed as agreed in advance in accordance with Kela's reimbursement of travel costs.
- The child's familiarisation with the future foster family: (the future foster family will be paid the kilometre allowances and food allowance)

Substitute care during the family carer's time off

If the foster family has been able to organise substitute care for the child during the foster family's time off, substitute care will be compensated for as follows. If substitute care cannot be organised for the child, the foster family's time off will be compensated to the foster family in the form of money once a year. The right to time off is 2 days/ month for each month in which the family carer has served as a family carer for at least 14 days. Compensation for time off EUR 30/ day/ child. The time period determining the time off is 1 January–31 December and the compensation will be paid in connection with the care fees for December of the current year, i.e. on the payment day in January the following year.

Base fee EUR 52.60/day

Increased fee in a special care situation EUR 76/day

The substitute carer is paid an increased fee for the period during which the long-term family carer has been granted a special care fee of 50 or 100%.

Reimbursement of expenses in substitute care: EUR 29.24/day/child

Note! Fri-Sun = 3 days. The reimbursement of expenses covers all expenses resulting from the child.

The reimbursement of expenses is not paid to substitute carers if they care for the child in the foster family's home. Substitute carers are paid for the costs resulting from fetching and taking back the child or for their own travel to the foster family in accordance with the Tax Administration's kilometre allowance (EUR 0.55/km in 2026).