

Care fees and reimbursement of expenses for short-term foster families from 1 January 2026 (Family care in child welfare services)

The Family Care Act (263/2015, sections 16 and 17) determines the minimum amounts of the fee and reimbursement of expenses as well as the maximum amount of the starting compensation. Index increases referred to in the Family Care Act (263/2015) are made annually to the fees, reimbursements and compensations without a separate decision. The reimbursement of travel costs is tied to the same level as the tax-free kilometre allowance paid by employers for commuting, and it is reviewed annually without a separate decision.

Short-term foster family activities and short-term family care (without stand-by allowance)

Care fee EUR 69.66 / day / child Special care fee	Care fee EUR 69.66 / day / child EUR 245.59/month for the care of a child with a pre-existing medical condition requiring 24-hour healthcare, granted by a supervisor/family care coordinator.
Reimbursement of expenses (in addition, costs of travel exceeding 500 km/month are paid separately)	EUR 28.98/ day/ child The reimbursement of expenses includes compensation for the child's nutrition, housing, hobbies, personal needs, travel costs, health care expenses and other normal costs arising from maintenance. Separate kilometre allowance for travel exceeding 500 km per month EUR 0.33/ km EUR 39.55/ day/ child

Reimbursement of expenses (travel costs are included in this reimbursement of expenses and are not subject to separate reimbursement)	EUR 104.58/day
On-call fee	
Stand-by allowance	<p>EUR 1,359.56/month/family</p> <p>The stand-by allowance is always paid to the short-term foster family regardless of whether any children have been placed in the family or not. The children may come from two different families.</p>
Starting compensation	<p>EUR 1,532.06/ with consideration up to EUR 3,558.60</p> <p>Mainly for the initial purchases for the first place when the family starts short-term foster activities.</p>
Disposable funds	<p>7–8-year-olds: EUR 4/ week</p> <p>9–10-year-olds: EUR 6/ week</p> <p>11–13-year-olds: EUR 11/ week</p> <p>14-year-olds: EUR 13/ week</p> <p>15 years or over: EUR 65.77 (from legislation, 1/3 of child maintenance allowance)</p> <p>A child aged 7 years or over must be paid a weekly allowance. This is included in the reimbursement of expenses.</p>
Day care costs, afternoon club fees	Child welfare services in the area primarily applies for exemption from the payment. Otherwise, compensation will be paid by child welfare services in the area.

Clothing	<p>Included in the reimbursement of expenses, except for the necessary more expensive purchases that must be agreed with the social worker for the area.</p> <p>Children: thermal overalls max. EUR 80, footwear max. EUR 60, thermal coat + trousers max. EUR 120, spring/autumn overalls max. EUR 80</p> <p>Young people (lower secondary school age and older):</p> <p>coat + trousers max. EUR 120, footwear max. EUR 80</p>
Medical expenses	<p>Medical expenses are included in the reimbursement of expenses. The initial deductible for chronic diseases or exceptionally high one-off costs will be reimbursed, taking into account the possible share of other compensation.</p> <p>Glasses: lenses as required, frames up to EUR 150</p>
Hobby-related costs	<p>Included in the reimbursement of expenses.</p> <p>A long-term rehabilitative hobby can be reimbursed to a school-age child to the amount of EUR 41.67/month. If an invoice for a longer period is received during the placement in short-term foster care, it can be paid at the social worker's discretion.</p>
Food allowance	<p>Not paid to children in open care and children subject to an emergency placement.</p>

	For home leaves of children who have been taken into care, the fee paid is EUR 12/ day (home leave Fri-Sat = EUR 24/ child)
Family carer's right to time off	The right to time off is 2 days/month for each month during which the family carer has served as a family carer for at least 14 days. As compensation for the time off, the family carer is paid the average care fee for one month annually. This annual fee is determined by the care fees accrued during the preceding year between 1 January and 31 December.

When the child is on home leave as agreed or visiting a new foster family, short-term foster families receive the reimbursements for expenses and care fees without interruption.