

## REMINDER:

### FOSTER CARE STIPEND

The foster care stipend are financial payments to offset the costs associated with caring for a child in the resource family's home.

The reimbursements are not intended to be a wage or salary to the resource family. Families should have a stable income other than the reimbursement and not depend on reimbursements to pay rent or time-sensitive necessities.

35%	Food
14%	Shelter
12%	Recreational Activities
10%	Clothing Replacements
6%	Usual Transportation
5%	School supplies and Activities
5%	Games, Toys, Books
5%	Misc. Items considered usual in child's care (Ex: First Aid Items)
4%	Babysitting, Childcare
2%	Personal Items
2%	Child's Allowance

## OFFICE OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

### Special Needs Hotline

**1-855-60-FUNDS**

(1-855-603-8637)

FCS.OCS.SpecialNeeds.Hotline  
@alaska.gov



**AK | DFCS**  
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF  
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY  
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## WHAT ARE SPECIAL NEEDS FUNDS?

Special Needs Funds include goods and commodities that are not included in the foster care reimbursement.

You may request one-time funds for a foster child when there are no other resources for payment.

## HOW DO I REQUEST SPECIAL NEEDS FUNDS?

- Make a request via phone call or email. Email is preferred.
- Staff will collect information about what is needed, and the store of your choice.
- Staff will determine if the request is allowable within the OCS Special Needs Matrix.
- Staff will send you written approval **prior** to purchasing the goods or service.
  - Staff will send you a purchase authorization to take to the store of your choice to purchase the item(s)
  - OR you will receive an email approval to make the purchase and submit the receipt for reimbursement

## WHAT ARE SOME SPECIFIC EXAMPLES?

Initial and emergency clothing, infant/toddler safety items, prescribed special food, emergency beds, summer camps, extracurricular activities, etc.

## I'M NOT SURE IF THE ITEM I NEED IS AN ALLOWABLE ITEM?

Funds are not unlimited and we encourage resource families to contact the hotline with any questions!

## HOW LONG WILL THIS PROCESS TAKE?

OCS is committed to being responsive to resource family's requests.

Due to a high volume of requests, please allow up to 72 work hours for an initial response to your inquiry.

Once a request is received, staff will work with you to resolve your child's needs as soon as possible.

## IF I CHOOSE TO BE REIMBURSED, HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO RECEIVE MY PAYMENT?

A completed [W9](#) will be needed to process your reimbursement.

After you purchase the item, please submit your receipt and W9 to the centralized email address: [FCS.OCS.Special.Needs.Hotline@alaska.gov](mailto:FCS.OCS.Special.Needs.Hotline@alaska.gov) as soon as possible. OCS will process payment within 30 days of receiving a valid receipt. Please ensure the receipt is legible.

## CAN I PURCHASE ITEMS ONLINE?

OCS realizes that some communities have limited retail options. Online purchases are possible, on a case-by-case basis. Please call or email the special needs hotline to discuss this option.



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