



Additional Information

POLICY AND RESOURCE NEWS FOR FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE FAMILIES

VEMAT – Virginia Enhanced Maintenance Assessment Tool

As of October 1, 2009, Virginia has adopted a new rate structure system for reimbursement to foster and adoptive families in public and private agencies. This is referred to as Additional Daily Supervision or **ADS**. The **ADS** is determined using a tool called a **VEMAT** or Virginia Enhanced Maintenance Assessment Tool. This tool is used to determine the need and amount of reimbursement of children who enter foster care initially or when children change placements or if there is a significant change in a child's behavior. As foster and adoptive parents, you will be participating in meetings along with the child's social worker, the **VEMAT** rater and perhaps other professionals to discuss the child's needs and for the **VEMAT** rater to determine the **ADS**. Children who are IV-E eligible will be rated based upon their needs within two weeks of coming into foster care. Until they are rated, families will receive \$1600.00 for that child in their home. **VEMAT** raters are trained impartial people who are not familiar with the case prior to conducting the rating. The state will be offering training in 2010 to familiarize families with the process so please stay tuned for more details. In the meantime, please refer to: <http://www.dss.virginia.gov/family/fc/rate.cgi> for more information.

FACES

Did you know that you can sign up for **FACES** of Virginia and receive information about countless resources and trainings available to foster families, adoptive and kinship families? **FACES** of Virginia is a non-profit membership organization for foster and adoptive families as well as kinship families that provides resources and advocacy. You received information about this in the previous newsletter. Right now, **FACES** is offering families the opportunity to sign up through their local agency for merely \$1.00 and **we will cover the cost**. For more information about **FACES** of Virginia, please look at their website: www.facesofvirginia.org. For information about becoming a member through Fairfax DFS, please contact Terri Williams-Henderson at (703) 324-7481.

NEW STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

Effective September 3, 2009, Virginia has new standards for Agency Approved Provider which means foster and adoptive families approved through an agency. You can access these standards at the Virginia Department of Social Services website. There are a number of standards that have changed since many of you may have been approved.

- **All families will be approved for 36 months as opposed to 24 months**
- Foster, Adoptive, and kin caregiver families are now dually approved as foster and adoptive parents
- Pre and In-service training is required for all dually approved families

For more information, please call The Resource Unit on 703 324-7639.