

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Child and Family Services Agency**



Administrative Issuance: CFSA-26-01

TO: All CFSA Staff

FROM: Ann Reilly, Deputy Director, Office of In-Home and Out-of-Home Care

DATE: January 27, 2026

RE: Camp Subsidy Program

The Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) recognizes that children in foster care need to experience the same extracurricular activities as any other child in their peer group. This is especially important during school breaks and the summer months when structured school activities may not be available. Toward that end, the Camp Subsidy Program was developed to provide safe, healthy, and fun alternatives to children during the summer and school breaks. The enrollment process is particularly easy and successful when social workers plan ahead, explore scholarship opportunities, and partner directly with resource parents and the camp-age child to determine the most appropriate choice of camp for the child's individual needs.

This administrative issuance provides guidance to social workers seeking to register a child for camp. If you have any questions regarding this issuance, please contact your immediate supervisor or program monitor.

A. Eligibility and Subsidies for the Camp Subsidy Program

1. Eligibility

- a. Except as provided in paragraph (A)(1)(b) below, an eligible child is between the ages of 3 and 14 years and is in an out-of-home placement.
- b. Under certain special circumstances, camp may be appropriate for a youth between the ages of 15 and 21 years.
 - Special circumstances may include but are not limited to the youth's special needs or enrollment in a 12-month school.

Under those special circumstances, an eligible child is between the ages of 3 and 21 years of age.

Note: If there are no special circumstances, youth between the ages of 15 and 20 years old should be enrolled in the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). For more information about SYEP, please contact the Office of Youth Empowerment.

2. Subsidies

- a. Except as provided in paragraph (A)(2)(b) below, CFSA will provide a subsidy of up to \$1000 to pay for a child to attend the summer camp of their choosing.
- b. **CFSA will provide a subsidy of up to \$50 a day for a child to attend day camp when school is out during the school year (i.e., professional development days, spring break, and winter break)**

Note: the \$1000 summer camp subsidy may be applied to one or multiple camps over the course of the summer.

- c. If a social worker has determined in consultation with his or her supervisor that a therapeutic camp is in the best interest of a child based on the child's special needs, CFSA will pay the full or partial cost of the camp.

Note: CFSA defines "children with special needs" as "any child or youth that has a chronic physical, developmental, behavioral, or emotional condition that requires health and related services of a type or amount beyond that required by children generally".

- d. Subsidies may be applied to any camp in the United States, including but not limited to camps sponsored by the District's Department of Parks and Recreation or a public agency outside the District, as well as private camps (including private camps run by religious organizations).
- e. The camp subsidy cannot be used to pay for daycare services (see [Administrative Issuance: CFSA-14-4 Early Education and Child Care](#)).

B. Enrollment Process

1. It is most helpful and important that the CFSA or private agency social worker first engage the resource parents and age-appropriate child in a discussion on camp options so they can all determine together which camp is the most suitable for the child, based on the child's interests and needs.

Note: the social worker should initiate discussions on summer camp options with the resource parents and age-appropriate child as early as possible, but no later than the January prior to the registration period.

2. Once a specific camp has been decided upon, the social worker or resource parent shall register the child for the camp.
3. The social worker shall enter an ad-hoc payment request into STAAND for the camp.
 - In order for the processing of the ad hoc payment to go into effect, the social worker's supervisor must also approve the request in STAAND.
4. The CFSA social worker shall scan and submit the confirmation of registration to Accounts Payable at cfsa.accountspayable@dc.gov for disbursement of payments to the camp provider or reimbursement to the resource parent; the private agency social worker shall submit the confirmation of registration to the private agency's assigned CFSA program monitor for approval.
5. Proof of payment if this is a reimbursement to the resource parent
6. CFSA supervisors (or in the case of a private agency social worker, the CFSA program monitor) shall review the STAAND ad hoc payment request.
7. For children with special needs who require a therapeutic camp that costs more than \$1000, the CFSA social worker shall submit through the chain-of-command a memorandum that justifies the need for a therapeutic camp and outlines any relevant clinical diagnoses.
8. The program administrator shall approve or deny all therapeutic camp requests by signing the request memorandum.
 - a. For private agency social workers, the memorandum shall be approved by the program administrator for the Foster Care Resources administration.
 - b. For approved requests, paragraphs (B)(3)-(5) shall be followed.