



Employment and Community First CHOICES Family Caregiver Stipend

The Family Caregiver Stipend (FCS) is only available for members enrolled in Employment and Community First (ECF) CHOICES Group 4. The member's employment and community integration goals must be met and addressed through appropriate ECF services **before** the stipend can be considered. If a member qualifies, the FCS can provide a monthly payment to the primary family caregiver of a Group 4 member when the member lives with the family in the family home.

Family Caregiver Stipend Objective:

To compensate lost wage-earning opportunities that are entailed in providing support to a Group 4 member and to help offset the cost of other services and supports the person needs that are not covered under the program.

Family Caregiver Stipend Considerations:

- An individual cannot enroll in Group 4 for the stipend alone. Other ECF CHOICES supports must be received and accounted for first. If there are additional needs and funds are still available after the appropriate supports are in place, the FCS can be requested.
- A member can only be enrolled in ECF CHOICES Group 4 if it can be confirmed that there is a spot for them, and the member's needs can be both safely **and** appropriately met in that group.
- Based on level of care needs and the increased funding for services available to members receiving care in Groups 5 or 6, transitioning to a lower level of care (Group 4) would not be appropriate.
- ECF CHOICES benefits are intended to sustain and enhance natural supports, rather than replacing them with paid supports. Therefore, the Family Caregiver Stipend is not intended to pay for family caregiver supports that were already being provided prior to program enrollment.
- The care provided must meet the definition of Supportive Home Care services. However, a member receiving Supportive Home Care cannot be authorized to receive the FCS because the FCS is available instead of Supportive Home Care services.
- For those that qualify and are authorized for the stipend, the specific amount will be determined based on multiple variables but will be **no more than** \$500 per month for children under age 18 and **no more than** \$1,000 per month for adults ages 18 and older.

The Family Caregiver Stipend is appropriate only when it supports and sustains the family to guide their family member with a disability toward being self-determined individuals and achieving the goals of equal opportunity, economic productivity, independent living, and full participation.

Where to learn more:

Talk to your health plan by calling the number on the back of your card to learn more.