



Sacramento County Respite Support Program

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. Is there a limit to how many times an Approved RFA Family can request respite care hours within the 50-hour cap?
 - No, eligible Sacramento County resource families may access the program as often as needed until they have reached the 50-hour maximum and;
 - FosterHope Sacramento will notify both the resource family and the County once a family has reached 80% utilization – equivalent to 40 hours.
2. Is there a limit to the number of hours a Sacramento Approval RFA Family can request?
 - Yes. Each RFA Family is eligible for up to 50 hours of respite care under this program.
3. Can a Sacramento RFA Family use 50 hours at once, or must they spread out the hours?
 - Hours can be used flexibly as needed but each respite episode must be less than 24 hours. Sacramento RFA Families are encouraged to plan, when possible, to ensure availability and completion of documentation.
4. Do unused hours roll over to the next fiscal year?
 - No. This program is time-limited and respite hours must be used by June 30, 2026.
5. What happens if a Sacramento County RFA Family has no current placements, do they lose access to the Respite program until a new placement occurs?
 - Respite care is only reimbursed when there is an active placement in the home at the time of the respite episode occurs. If there is no placement, the RFA family does not meet the eligibility requirement to utilize the program. The family will become eligible again once another youth is placed in the home.



6. Can a Sacramento County RFA Family use the Sacramento County Respite Program for a youth placed by another county?
 - Yes. Eligibility is based on the resource family being an approved Sacramento County RFA home, not the county of jurisdiction for the youth. This program is exclusively for Sacramento County RFA Families.
7. Can other youth in my home be paid through the respite support program for babysitting if determined to be appropriate?
 - No, respite providers must be at least 18-years-old.
8. How is the \$25 hour rate determined, and is there any flexibility based on the Respite Providers qualifications and/or special needs of the youth?
 - \$25 per hour is a set rate and is meant to be supplemental, should a Respite Provider charge a higher amount.
9. Is there a cap on how much a Respite Provider can earn through this Respite Program?
 - Maybe. A Respite Provider is limited to 23 hours max (\$575) if the respite provider does not complete a W-9 form. If the Respite Provider submits a W-9 then there is no cap.
10. Why is a W-9 being requested?
 - Per Internal Revenue Service rules, a 1099 must be issued to any person who is paid \$600 or greater for services. In order to issue the 1099 tax form, a W-9 is required and
 - Only the Respite Provider is requested to submit a W-9 as they are the payment recipient.
If the Respite Provider prefers not to submit a W-9, then they cannot receive payment greater than \$600. This caps their payments at 23 hours or \$575.
11. Can a Respite Provider receive payment for each youth when providing care for a Sacramento County Approved RFA Family?
 - No. Payment is issued at a rate of \$25 per hour, regardless of the number of children being cared for. Compensation is not calculated on a per-youth basis.
 - Example: An approved Sacramento County RFA Family who meets qualifications for this program has three youth placed in their care. The



RFA Family arranges for all three youth to receive respite care for a duration of four hours. In this scenario, the Respite Provider will be compensated \$25 per hour total, resulting in a payment of \$100. Payment is not based on the number of youth.

12. Can an Sacramento County Approved RFA Family be reimbursed if they pay the Respite Provider out of pocket?

- No. This program does not offer reimbursement. FosterHope Sacramento is authorized to issue payment directly to the Respite Provider only.

13. Are background checks required for Respite Providers, if they are not already an Approved RFA Family?

- Background checks are not required for informal Respite Providers. However, Sacramento County RFA Family are expected to apply Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standards to ensure the safety and suitability of any care arranged for the youth.

14. Can a Respite Provider care for multiple youth placed in different Approved Sacramento County RFA homes at the same time?

- Yes. A Respite Provider may care for multiple youth from different Sacramento County RFA homes simultaneously, as long as they can provide safe, age appropriate, and nurturing care for each youth. Each RFA Family must submit separate documentation for their respite request.

15. What happens if a Sacramento County RFA Family needs emergency respite and does not have time to submit completed documentation prior to the deadline?

- In emergency situations, it is still the responsibility of both the RFA Caregiver and the Respite Provider to complete all required documentation as soon as possible.
- If documentation is not submitted in a timely manner, the Respite Provider may not receive payment. In such cases, Sacramento County and FosterHope Sacramento will not be held responsible for unpaid respite services—the RFA Caregiver will be responsible for payment.



- Under no circumstances will payment be issued for requests received after July 5, 2026.
16. What if a family has a placed in their home on an emergency basis while they go through the Resource Family Approval process in Sacramento County – are they eligible for the respite program?
- No. Only homes that have completed the approval process and are officially recognized as Sacramento County Approved RFA Families are eligible for the respite support program.
17. What if respite care was provided but the family did not meet the program’s eligibility requirements?
- In such cases, the Respite Provider will not be compensated through this program. It is the responsibility of the Sacramento County Approved RFA Family to ensure they meet all program eligibility requirements in advance, so that payment to the Respite Provider can be issued properly.
 - Eligibility is verified prior to any payments being issued to Respite Providers. If the Resource Family is not eligible, the Resource Family will be notified.
18. Is there a digital portal or system for submitting request(s) or is it just an email option only?
- Currently, all documentation must be submitted via email to respite@fosterhopesac.org. A digital portal is not available at this time.
 - If you are unable to email the document to call – Vivian Fullbright at 916.620.2918.
19. Is there a feedback mechanism for Sacramento County RFA Families and Respite Providers to share their experience about this Respite Program?
- Yes, please email respite@fosterhopesac.org or call Vivian Fullbright at 916.620.2918.
20. What is FosterHope Sacramento’s role in this Respite Care Program?
- FosterHope Sacramento is contracted with the County to be the administrator of this program, including payment processing.



- FosterHope Sacramento will communicate with the Approved RFA Family and/or Respite Provider as needed.