

## Governor's Executive Order for State Budget Cuts

From the Iowa Department of Human Services: November 6, 2009

The Department of Human Services is aware that many foster and adoptive parents have heard of the across the board 10% budget cuts directed by the Governor's Executive order. In order to implement the Department's required reduction, all budget items were reviewed and careful thought was put into making decisions that would be the least disruptive to children and families. To meet the required reduction, a 5% across the board rate reduction of foster care, adoption subsidy and subsidized guardianship payments has been approved by the Governor. Also, reductions to the clothing allowance for foster children, suspending new requests for special services subsidies, and nonrecurring expenses for adoptive families received the Governor's approval. These reductions will be effective January 1, 2010 once final administrative rules are approved on December 9, 2009 through the rule making process.

If the reductions are approved through the rule making process, foster and adoptive parents and subsidized guardians should expect to receive a Notice of Decision after December 15 concerning the child who is receiving a foster care maintenance, adoption subsidy, or subsidized guardianship payment. The reduction applies to maintenance and any difficulty of care payments the child receives.

Payments for nonrecurring expenses related to finalizing adoptions for adoptive families will be capped at a total of \$500 per child for attorney fees and other related legal expenses. Payment for new special services subsidy will be suspended until 6/30/10.

Clothing allowance will be reduced from \$250 to \$237.50 for the initial clothing allowance and for the additional clothing allowance during a calendar year reduced from \$200 to \$190 for family foster care when the child needs clothing to replace lost clothing or because of growth or weight change and the child does not have escrow funds to cover the cost.