

*Insert date*

Dear *insert name*:

Because a larger number of children are using out of home placements (group homes, therapeutic foster care), less state money is now available to pay for the room and board rate for those placements. To try to avoid the problem of children not getting the needed placement due to lack of state funds, Western Highlands Network has developed additional ways to pay for room and board.

As you may already know, if a child gets SSI, that money is supposed to follow the child to help pay for expenses having to do with his or her needs. When children are placed in out of home placements, that payment must be used to help pay for room and board. So, starting February 1, 2006, any SSI payment for a child in placement must be sent to the group home or therapeutic foster care agency. Western Highlands Network will pay for the rest of the room and board costs for the month. If your child does not have SSI and has never applied, you must apply for SSI for him or her to see if the child might qualify for this money.

If you have any questions or need help with this process, please let me know as soon as possible and I will assist you.

Sincerely,

*Case Manager Name*