Purpose:

Effective April 1, 2001, Yuba County has established a four level Specialized Care Rate (SCR) system. Any Yuba or Sutter County licensed foster home caring for a child assessed at a Level 1, 2, 3, or 4 rate, will be eligible to receive that rate in addition to the basic rate.

I. Specialized Care Rate

A. At this time, Yuba County is only implementing SCR for Levels 1, 2, and 3.

B. Level 4 SCR is currently under development and will not be implemented at this time.

C. Foster parents will be identified, trained and certified to qualify for the new specialized care rates.

D. The higher rates require additional training in providing specialized foster care to higher needs children.

E. The purposes of the specialized care rate system are:

1. To retain qualified foster families by paying rates appropriate to the work required when caring for a foster child with special needs.

2. To reduce out-of-area placement of foster children by meeting their needs in Local County licensed foster homes.

3. To enable staff to directly supervise more placements.

4. To enable foster parents in upgrading their skills.

5. To enhance the quality of care provided to foster children.

6. To keep children in geographic proximity to their families and their communities.

7. To attain cost savings by using local specialized care homes as an alternative to higher cost placements.
II. Effective January 1, 2008 Yuba County’s Basic Rates are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child’s Age</th>
<th>Basic Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 – 4</td>
<td>$446</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 – 8</td>
<td>$485</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 – 11</td>
<td>$519</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 – 14</td>
<td>$573</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 – 19</td>
<td>$627</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

III. Specialized Care Rates are paid in addition to the Basic Rates. Effective January 1, 2008 Yuba County’s Specialized Care Rates are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Care Type</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level 1</td>
<td>Moderate Care</td>
<td>$221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 2</td>
<td>Intensive Care</td>
<td>$331</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 3</td>
<td>Exceptional Care</td>
<td>$440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 4</td>
<td>Therapeutic Care</td>
<td>$991</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IV. Specialized Care Rate Determination

A. The Social Worker will complete an assessment of the child’s needs.

B. Upon completion of the assessment, the Social Worker will complete the YCW 350 Specialized Care Rate form.

C. This form will specify what level the Social Worker determined the child is at. The Social Worker’s Supervisor will review this determination.

D. If the Supervisor agrees with the determination, the Supervisor will sign the YCW 350 and route it to the Office Assistant for distribution.

E. The white copy of page one will be sent to the Foster Care Eligibility Technician (ET).

F. The need to continue the specialized care rate for foster children, and the need for a particular level, will be reevaluated every six months.

G. Without the YCW 350 form authorizing additional 6-months, the Foster Care ET can not continue the specialized care benefit payment. Regular foster care benefit payments will be authorized.
V. Requirements

A. Each specialized care home will be licensed for a particular level. If a specialized care home is not available to meet the needs of a level 1, 2 or 3 child, the Foster Care Licensing Worker may provisionally approve a home for a level 1, 2 or 3 for 90 days. After 90 days, regular foster care benefit payments will be authorized.

B. The Foster Care Licensing Worker will route copies of licenses and the provisional certification to the Foster Care ET.

VI. Eligibility

A. The YCW 350 will indicate which level the home has been approved for. It will also indicate the 6-month time period. When the YCW 350 is received, the Foster Care ET will:

1. Verify there is a letter from licensing which indicates the foster home is certified (including provisionally) for the level indicated on the assessment form.

2. If a letter is on file, process the rate change and send an approval notice to the Foster Home notifying them of the change in benefits.

3. If a letter is not on file, contact licensing to see if an approval has been made.

4. If no approval has been made, wait until the approval letter comes through.

B. The effective date of the rate change is the approval date of the assessment for the specialized care at a particular level providing the home agrees to meet the certification requirements.
Approval Page of Assessment Form for Specialized Care Rate

Child’s Name: ___________________________ DOB: __________

Case Name: ________________________________

Approved for:
Level 1 ( ) $221.00 + basic FC rate
Level 2 ( ) $331.00 + basic FC rate
Level 3 ( ) $440.00 + basic FC rate
Level 4 ( ) $991.00 + basic FC rate

Time Period authorized (6 month time period): _____________ to ______________

SW Signature: ____________________________ Date: __________________

SW Sup Signature: _________________________ Date: __________________

Distribution: White: Eligibility FC, Yellow: Foster Parent Licensing Staff, Pink: Placement Staff, Gold: Case Copy

YCW 350 (2/01) Page 1