

SOCIAL RESEARCH

“Practice on providing financial support for children-orphans and children, deprived of parental care, who are placed under care (guardianship), in foster families, FTCH and internats”

Brief summary on analytical report

About social research

In accordance with the Order of President of Ukraine, dated 11th of July, 2005 № 1086 “On primary activities, aimed to protect children’s rights”, one of the main tasks to improve social protection of children-orphans and children, deprived of parental care is to develop mechanism “Money follow the child” to finance expenditures of children-orphans and children, deprived of parental care, irrelevant of type of their placement.

In order to implement this Order, Cabinet of Ministers issued 2 resolutions:

1. On payment of state social allowance for children-orphans and children, deprived of parental care, and payment for carers and foster parents for their social services (Resolution, issued by Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on the 6th of February, 2006, № 106).
2. On payment of state social allowance for children-orphans and children, deprived of parental care, who are placed under care (guardianship) or in institutions, in the framework of the experiment in Kyiv Oblast (Resolution, issued by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine as of 12th of July, 2006, № 956).

Ministry of Ukraine for Family, Youth and Sport is in charge of developing mechanism „Money follow the child”.

In accordance with Agreement on Cooperation, concluded between EU Project “Development of Integrated Social Services for Exposed Families and Children», implemented by “Every Child” Charity Organisation and State Institute for Family and Youth Affairs, a research was conducted during June-September, 2006 to analyse practices of financing children-orphans and children, deprived of parental care, placed in state institutions of different types and in the families.

Objective of the research – to study the mechanisms on appointing and payment of state social allowance for children-orphans and children, deprived of parental care, placed in families and internats (on the example of Kyiv Oblast).

Tasks of research:

1. To study the amount of state payments for financing children-orphans and children, deprived of parental care, placed in internats and in different forms of family care.
2. Study existing mechanisms of providing state social allowance for children-orphans and children, deprived of parental care.
3. To study opinion of experts on possible mechanism „money follow the child”.

Methods on collecting information:

- thorough interviews with parents, who rear children-orphans and children, deprived of parental care;
- focus groups with children, reared in different forms of placement;
- thorough interviews with managers and chief accountants in internats;
- thorough interviews with specialists on interested issues;
- analysis of documents.

Opinion poll was conducted from 11th till 21st of July, 2006 in Kyiv Oblast in the following rayons: Bila Tserkva rayon; Brovary rayon; Vasylkiv rayon; Vyshgorod rayon; Kyiv-Svyatoshyn rayon; Makariv rayon.

Structure of the report

Section 1 contains an overview and analysis of legislative basis, related to finances, provided for care and placement of children-orphans and children, deprived of parental care in Ukraine.

Section 2 describes system of care and placement of children-orphans and children, deprived of parental care, in state institutions of different management and subordination levels. This

Section provides description and major functions of the Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Health Protection, Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, Ministry of Family, Youth and Sport in Ukraine.

Section 3 thoroughly analyses system of care, provided for children-orphan and children, deprived of parental care, placed in alternative family environment, particularly, in foster families and family-type children homes. This Section also contains detailed information about financing family-type children homes and foster families, based on the principle «money follow the child».

Results of research

Law of Ukraine „On ensuring organisational and legal conditions for social protection of children-orphan and children, deprived of parental care” (Art. 9) stipulates that expenditures for children-orphan and children, deprived of parental care, placed in the families of guardians, foster families, family-type children homes and internats are financed from state and oblast budgets. If type of placement for children-orphan and children, deprived of parental care is changed, it is permitted to make transfers between the budgets of different levels.

The above-mentioned Law also guarantees, that children-orphan and children, deprived of parental care should be provided in line with state social standards with all the material and financial resources, necessary for the child, in order to satisfy the child’s needs and to create all the conditions for his/her normal life. State social standards for children-orphan and children, deprived of parental care are standards on minimal norms for satisfying normal life of children-orphan and children, deprived of parental care, which are stipulated by the Law.

Assistance and financial allowance, provided for these children cannot be lower than that, identified by minimal standards and should ensure that the child receives enough costs for physical, mental, moral and social development. Social allowance for such children should not be lower than minimal living wages.

In accordance with the Law of Ukraine „On pension allowances”, children-orphan should receive pension allowance if they lose a breadwinner. Alimonies for these children are appointed by the court in the process of examining the case, related to depriving children of parental care. Family Code of Ukraine defines that on the request of the plaintiff, if the court examines the case on deprivation of parental rights, it can simultaneously solve the issue of payment alimonies for children. Placement of children in health protection or educational institutions does not stop the payment of alimonies for that parent, who cared for the child before his/her placement in institution if these costs are spent properly.

Pension for loss of breadwinner, alimonies for the child and state allowance are provided for children-orphan and children, deprived of parental care, irrelevant of their type of their placement. If the child lives in the internat, costs are deposited on the personal account of the child. Social allowances for children under care, guardianship, placed in foster families and family-type children homes are spent in order to satisfy the needs of the child by adults, who are legal representatives of the child’s interests. Care and Guardianship Body controls the way social allowances, provided for children-orphan and children, deprived of parental care are spent.

Baby homes provide care for children under 3-4 years old and report to the Ministry of Health Protection in Ukraine. 48 children’s homes operate in the system of Health Protection of Ukraine. As of 2005, 5200 children lived in these children’s homes and they were either deprived of parental care, or came from families with many children or came from families with unsatisfactory living conditions, there were also children with disabilities among them, including 3606 children-orphan and children, deprived of parental care (69,3%).

If the child under one year old is placed in baby home (children’s home), which is financed from budget costs, and if child-birth allowance was not paid for this child earlier or was partly paid, payment should be carried out in line with „Order of payment of child-birth allowance for the child, placed in child institution (baby home)”.

Most of children-orphan and children, deprived of parental care stay in institutions, which report to the Ministry of Science and Education. Material and financial costs are provided for children, placed in internats in accordance with standards, stipulated by Law. The costs per child, placed in boarding-schools, which report to the Ministry of Science and Education range from 800,0 hrn. to 1700,0 hrn. Average costs, spent per child, placed in boarding-school makes up 1250,0 hrn. 10 or 20 hrn. are spent daily for the meals of the child, 11 – 50 hrn. are spent for clothes, footwear, linen per child. 1,2 or 2,2 persons take care for 1 child in the boarding school. Most of them are teachers and pastoral workers.

In accordance with Resolution on educational institutions for children-orphans and children, deprived of parental care, children's homes, which report to the Ministry of Science and Education function in Ukraine. Children from 3 to 16–17 years old are reared there. Costs, spent for children's meals in mixed type children homes range from 10,5 hrn. to 16,0 hrn a day. 325,5 hrn. to 2000,0 hrn are spent monthly for child's placement. Children-orphans, who live in children's homes get pension on loss of breadwinner, children, deprived of parental care get alimonies and all these costs are deposited on the personal account of the child. Directors as state guardians can use these costs in case of need. Although, Directors try to use their own costs, and to spare finances of the child until he/she gets 18 years old.

Students, who study in Technical Colleges, are paid in cash the following social payments: stipend – 187 hrn., pension – is paid on the personal account until he/she gets 18 years old, material allowance – 150 hrn., prize costs, paid to encourage prize winners of professional competitions, financial allowance for graduation – 4 thous.hrn. In accordance with obtained information, 15 hrn. is provided for one child per day. 1500 hrn. is paid monthly for one child, placed in institution.

If children have disabilities, they are placed in internats for children with disabilities, which report to the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy. In general, 1500-1600 hrn. are spent per child in a month (including all expenditures), which makes 53,0 hrn. a day. It is 22% more, than average costs, spent for children, placed in internats, which report to the Ministry of Science and Education. 10,68 hrn. are spent daily for meals.

A network of shelters was established in order to protect children in difficulties, who graduated from schools and technical colleges. An average cost per one child, spent in shelter makes up 1569,0 hrn. per month. In average, shelters spend daily 9,35 hrn. for meals, 29,0 hrn. for clothes, 2,7 hrn. for medicines, 9,0 hrn. for stationery per 1 child.

Social-psychological rehabilitation centers are set up in order to provide social, psychological, medical, legal and other types of help for children from 3 to 18 years old. From 1085,0 hrn. to 1585,0 hrn. are spent monthly per 1 child in these social-psychological rehabilitation centers. 9,55 - 12,8 hrn. are spent daily for the meals for 1 child.

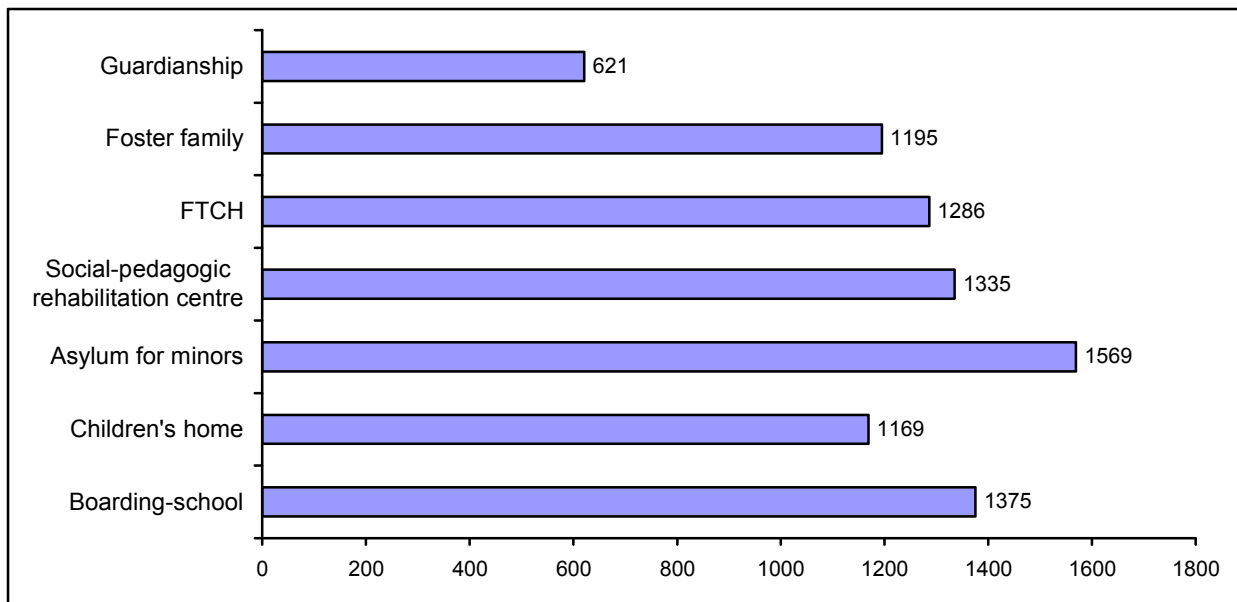
Different forms of family care are now provided for children-orphans and children, deprived of parental care, they are subdivided in historical types of family placement (family care) and modern types of family placement (foster family and family-type children homes). Social allowance for children under care and guardianship, was appointed for 1165 children during the 1st half of 2006 in Kyiv Oblast, which made up 4348,0 hrn., approximately 621,14 hrn. per child. Average costs for placement of one child-orphan in foster family makes up 1195,0 hrn., which includes payment for foster parents - 418,0 грн. per one child in one month, and social allowance per one child – 777 hrn.

In general, during the 1st half of 2006, in Kyiv Oblast 1142,7 thous.hrn. were paid for foster parents. Approximately 1286,0 hrn. were spent monthly per 1 child. Parents in family-type children homes also get their payment.

Table

An average cost, spent per month for children, placed in children's institutions, which report to different Ministries

| Ministry of Science and Education | Ministry of Labour and Social Policy | Ministry of Ukraine for Family, Youth and Sport |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1150,0 | 1600,0 | 1569,0 |



Picture. 7. Average monthly cost for rearing the child, placed in different types of care

Results of social research prove that there is a significant difference in costs, spent per child-orphan or child, deprived of parental care, placed in different types of care. An average cost for one child, placed in state institution range from 1169,0 hrn. to 1569,0 hrn. An average cost for one child, placed in family care ranges from 621,0 hrn. to 1286,0 hrn. The least amount of costs are spent for the child, placed under guardianship and care. Low level of support for guardians brings about child's placement in state institutions.

Constitution of Ukraine says that all the Ukrainian children have equal rights. Children-orphans and children, deprived of parental care are special category of children, and state should provide care for them. Financing of children, irrelevant of their type of placement, plays an important role. Finances, provided for children, irrelevant of their type of placement, should be properly regulated and should satisfy children's needs and ensure social development of children - small citizens of Ukraine. Financial support should be provided for the development of family forms of care for children-orphans and children, deprived of parental care.