

**APPROVED RELATIVE CAREGIVER (ARC) PROGRAM**

The ARC Program increased payments to children placed with relative caregivers who do not qualify for state or federal foster care benefits. Previously, these children only were eligible for CalWORKs benefit rate levels, which are much lower than foster care benefits. The ARC Program is county-optional and provides State General fund (GF) for participating counties to increase the monthly payments to approved relative caregivers in an amount equal to the basic federal foster care rate. A county may opt out of the program at any time, but must meet notification and other requirements. Eligibility criteria include:

- Relative caregivers must be approved and live in California and meet health and safety standards that mirror those for licensed foster parents.
- Children must be under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court in a county that has opted in to the ARC program and are not federally eligible under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act.

**Authorizing Statute:**

Senate Bill 855 (Chapter 29, Statutes of 2014).

**Funding:**

	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17
Total	\$30.1 million	\$31.8 million
Federal	\$0	\$0
State	\$30.1 million	\$31.8 million
County	\$0	\$0

- Funding for ARC payments is capped and consists of CalWORKs and GF. Any costs that exceed the GF cap are paid with county funds.
- Counties provided CDSS a final base caseload of eligible relative caregivers on October 1, 2015 which was used to calculate the \$30.1 million.
- The ARC payments are adjusted annually for inflation in accordance with the California Necessities Index.
- There are 6,200 cases eligible for ARC payments. Currently 48 counties have opted in and account for approximately 4,700 cases.

**Implementation Status:**

- A total of 48 counties opted in: Alameda, Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Contra Costa, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Lake, Los Angeles, Madera, Marin, Mariposa, Mendocino, Mono, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Benito, San Diego, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare, Ventura, Yolo, and Yuba. Riverside County will begin participating on April 1, 2016.
- Eleven counties opted to make payments retroactive to January 1, 2015: Kings, Lake, Los Angeles, Napa, San Diego, San Francisco, San Joaquin, Santa Clara, Sonoma, Stanislaus, and Ventura.

COUNTY	TOTAL ARC ELIGIBLE CASELOAD
Alameda	52
Alpine	0
Amador	0
Butte	15
Calaveras	6
Colusa	4
Contra Costa	84
Del Norte	6
El Dorado	19
Fresno	110
Glenn	8
Humboldt	13
Imperial	7
Inyo	0
Kern	155
Kings	18
Lake	4
Lassen	0
Los Angeles	3431
Madera	13
Marin	7
Mariposa	4
Mendocino	10
Merced	33
Modoc	0
Mono	0
Monterey	60
Napa	8
Nevada	0
Orange	249
Placer	29
Plumas	4
Riverside	341
Sacramento	101
San Benito	3
San Bernardino	415
San Diego	424
San Francisco	20
San Joaquin	66
San Luis Obispo	25

COUNTY	TOTAL ARC ELIGIBLE CASELOAD
San Mateo	26
Santa Barbara	41
Santa Clara	91
Santa Cruz	33
Shasta	17
Sierra	0
Siskiyou	1
Solano	41
Sonoma	27
Stanislaus	15
Sutter	2
Tehama	4
Trinity	7
Tulare	78
Tuolumne	6
Ventura	90
Yolo	22
Yuba	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,252</b>