



CDSS

WILL LIGHTBOURNE
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

July 29, 2016

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-58-16

TO:

ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL CHILD WELFARE SERVICES PROGRAM MANAGERS
ALL COUNTY ELIGIBILITY SUPERVISORS
ALL FOSTER CARE MANAGERS
ALL CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS
ALL COUNTY CALWORKS PROGRAM SPECIALISTS
ALL COUNTY CALFRESH COORDINATORS
ALL COUNTY CONSORTIUM PROJECT MANAGERS
CHILD WELFARE SERVICES NEW SYSTEM
ALL COUNTY EBT PROJECT MANAGERS
TITLE IV-E AGREEMENT TRIBES
ALL ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES
JUDICIAL COUNCIL STAFF

SUBJECT:

APPROVED RELATIVE CAREGIVER FUNDING OPTION
PROGRAM (ARC PROGRAM): UPCOMING CHANGES

The purpose of this notice is to inform County Welfare Departments (CWDs) of changes being made to the ARC Program in response to certain county concerns communicated to the California Department of Social Services in recent months. A forthcoming ARC Program All County Letter (ACL) will supersede ACL Nos. [14-89](#), [15-20](#), [15-20E](#), [15-83](#), and [15-96](#) and any informal guidance provided via ARC county calls and consortia meetings. The comprehensive ACL will incorporate and clarify existing ARC program requirements and will also include details regarding the following changes to the ARC Program:

Retrospective Payments and Payments Only for Days in Care

ARC payments to approved relative caregivers are currently made prospectively on the first of each month for the whole month or, for the initial month, a prorated amount for the remainder of the month based on the beginning date of aid.

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

- State Law Change
- Federal Law or Regulation Change
- Court Order
- Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- Initiated by CDSS

Payments will be changing to a retrospective payment system where approved relative caregivers will be paid in arrears only for days the child was in their care.

Discontinuance of Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) to Deliver ARC Benefits

Currently CWDs have the ability to issue ARC payments through the EBT system. With the new changes, EBT will no longer be used for the ARC Program. CWDs will have the option of issuing paper checks and/or offering direct deposit to approved relative caregivers.

Biennial Eligibility Redeterminations

Previous direction instructed CWDs to redetermine eligibility on an annual basis for the ARC Program. CWDs will be instructed to complete the eligibility redeterminations every two years. Because the Department of Health Care Services requires an annual redetermination for Medi-Cal, which would have been satisfied by annual redeterminations in the ARC Program, the CWD must complete a Medi-Cal redetermination in years the ARC redetermination does not occur.

It is anticipated that the ACL with detailed instructions and timelines for implementation of these new policies will be released in September 2016.

If you have policy-related questions concerning the ARC Program, please contact the Foster Caregiver Policy and Support Unit at (916) 651-7465 or ARCFO@dss.ca.gov. Fiscal inquiries should be directed to fiscal.systems@dss.ca.gov. Questions concerning CalWORKs policy should be directed to the CalWORKs Eligibility Bureau at (916) 654-1322.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

KÄREN DICKERSON, Chief
CalWORKs Employment and Eligibility Branch