



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 1, 2016

ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) NO. 16-57

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS  
ALL LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS  
ALL COUNTY ADOPTION AGENCIES  
ALL ADOPTION REGIONAL AND FIELD OFFICES  
ALL GROUP HOME PROVIDERS  
ALL FOSTER FAMILY AGENCIES  
ALL TITLE IV-E AGREEMENT TRIBES

SUBJECT: AID TO FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN-FOSTER CARE  
(AFDC-FC) CALIFORNIA NECESSITIES INDEX (CNI) INCREASES  
AND OTHER RATE INCREASES

REFERENCE: [SENATE BILL \(SB\) 1013](#), CHAPTER 35, STATUTES OF 2012;  
[ASSEMBLY BILL \(AB\) 403](#), CHAPTER 773, STATUTES OF 2015;  
WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE (WIC) SECTIONS 11364,  
11387, 11453, 11460, 11461, 11461(d)(2)(A), 11462, 11463, 11464,  
18254, 18358.30; [ACL NO. 11-63](#); [ACL NO. 11-63E](#); [ACL NO. 11-54](#),  
[ACL NO. 12-43](#); [ACL NO. 13-62](#); [ACL NO. 13-62E](#); [ACL NO.14-44](#);  
[ACL NO.14-104](#); [ACL NO. 15-58](#); [ACL NO. 15-58E](#)

<u>REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Law Change
<input type="checkbox"/> Federal Law or Regulation Change
<input type="checkbox"/> Court Order
<input type="checkbox"/> Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
<input type="checkbox"/> Initiated by CDSS

The purpose of this ACL is to provide the adjusted schedules of rates that reflect the CNI increase of 2.76 percent for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016-17. The CNI increase is applicable to out-of-home placements and the AFDC-FC program. In accordance with Assembly Bill (AB) 403 (Chapter 773, Statutes of 2015), the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) will issue a separate ACL for a new rate structure developed in consultation with county welfare departments and stakeholders. Effective 1/1/2017, there will be a new rate structure and rates for the Home-Based Family Care setting (HBFC) and Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP).

**Non-Federal and Federal Kinship Guardianships and State AFDC-FC Non-Related Legal Guardians (NRLGs)**

Effective July 1, 2016, the 2.76 percent CNI increase applies to the Foster Family Home (FFH) basic rate for guardianships established prior to May 1, 2011 and is reflected in Table A below:

**Table A**

Age	Birth-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-21
Rate 7/1/16- 6/30/17	\$517	\$562	\$602	\$664	\$728

Effective July 1, 2016, a 1.38 percent CNI increase applies only to the 12-14 age categories of the Orange County grandfathered FFH basic rate for guardianships established prior to May 1, 2011 and is reflected in Table A-1 below:

**Table A-1**

Age	Birth-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-21
Rate 7/1/16- 6/30/17	\$517	\$562	\$602	*\$710	\$728

\*[WIC section 11461\(d\)\(2\)\(A\)](#) provides that for grandfathered rates greater than the schedule of basic rates, only “one-half of the percentage [CNI] adjustments” shall be applied.

**Foster Family Homes**

Effective July 1, 2016, the 2.76 percent CNI increase applies to the FFH basic rate for a kinship guardianship and a non-related legal guardianship established on or after May 1, 2011, and a licensed or approved FFH, approved home of a relative, the approved home of a non-related extended family member, and a Title IV-E Tribal licensed or approved home and is reflected in Table B below:

**Table B**

Age	Birth-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-21
Rate 7/1/16- 6/30/17	\$707	\$765	\$805	\$843	\$883

**Non-Minor Dependents (NMDs) Ages 18 and Up**

All NMDs residing in a Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP) will receive the basic foster care rate of \$883 per month. The Specialized Care Increment (SCI) cannot be paid to NMDs in a SILP. Parenting NMDs can receive the infant supplement when residing in a SILP. Additionally, [AB 2668 Chapter 770, Statutes of 2014](#) has created a \$200 payment to NMD *parents* residing in a SILP upon completion and approval of a Parenting Support Plan effective July 1, 2015.

**Dual Agency Rates**

Effective July 1, 2016, the 2.76 percent CNI increase applies to the Dual Agency rate and is reflected in Table C below:

**Table C**

Age	FY 2016-17
Birth up to 3 years	\$1,041
*3 years and older	\$2,328

\*Under three years of age if eligible per [WIC section 11464](#).

**Foster Family Agencies (FFAs)**

Effective July 1, 2016, the 2.76 percent CNI increase applies to the FFA basic rate only and does not change the remaining components of the FFA treatment program rate as outlined in Manual of Policies and Procedures section 11-403. As required by regulation, a minimum of the basic rate and the child increment are to be passed on to the FFA certified home for each child each month. The FY 2016-17 FFA rates are reflected in Tables D and E below:

**Table D**

FFA Treatment Program Rates					
Age	Birth-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-21
Basic Rate	\$707	\$765	\$805	\$843	\$883
Child Increment	\$189	\$189	\$189	\$189	\$189
<b>Minimum Total to FFA Certified Home</b>	\$896	\$954	\$994	\$1,032	\$1,072
Social Work	\$340	\$340	\$340	\$340	\$340
Administration	\$572	\$593	\$611	\$643	\$672
<b>Total</b>	\$1,808	\$1,887	\$1,945	\$2,015	\$2,084

**Table E**

FFA Non-Treatment Program Rates					
Age	Birth-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-21
Basic Rate	\$707	\$765	\$805	\$843	\$883

**Intensive Treatment Foster Care/Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care (ITFC/MTFC)**

[SB 79, Chapter 20, Statutes of 2015](#), extended the interim rates through December 31, 2016. Effective July 1, 2016, the 2.76 percent CNI increase applies to the minimum reimbursement to certified home which results in a corresponding increase to the standard rate. The FY 2016-17 ITFC/MTFC rates are reflected in Table F below:

**Table F**

Service and Rate Level	In-Home Support Counselor Hours per Month	Standard Rate	Minimum Reimbursement to Certified Home
Level I	81-114 Hours	\$5,803	\$2,321
Level II	47-80 Hours	\$5,020	\$2,321
Level III	Less than 47 Hours	\$4,256	\$2,321

Additionally, children placed at Service and Rate Level III must receive behavior de-escalation and other support services on a flexible as-needed basis from an in-home support counselor. The FFA must provide one full-time support counselor for every 20 children placed at Level III. Children may not be placed at a Rate Level I or II for more than six months unless it is determined to be in the best interest of the child by the child’s county interagency review team or the county placing agency, FFA, and the child’s certified foster parents. Extensions may be granted in six month increments.

**Group Homes (GHs)**

Effective July 1, 2016, the 2.76 percent CNI increase applies to each GH Rate Classification Level (RCL) and is reflected in Table G below:

**Table G**

RCL	Point Ranges	Standard Rate
1	Under 60	\$2,457
2	60-89	\$3,069
3	90-119	\$3,681
4	120-149	\$4,290
5	150-179	\$4,899
6	180-209	\$5,513
7	210-239	\$6,124
8	240-269	\$6,738
9	270-299	\$7,347
10	300-329	\$7,960
11	330-359	\$8,569
12	360-389	\$9,182
13	390-419	\$9,801
14	420 & Up	\$10,410

**Wraparound**

Effective July 1, 2016, the 2.76 percent CNI increase applies to the Wraparound rates and is reflected in Table H below:

**Table H**

RCL	Non-Federal Child	Federally Eligible Child
10/11	\$8,265	\$4,133
13	\$9,801	\$4,901

**Out-of-State GHs**

The rate paid for California GH placements made out-of-state is the rate established by the rate-setting authority of the other state. The county cannot claim federal financial participation for any rate amount exceeding the current FY's RCL 14 or exceeding the rate determined by the rate-setting authority of the state in which the facility is located. The county is responsible for determining if any non-allowable costs are included in the rate and ensuring that only allowable costs are claimed for federal Title IV-E AFDC-FC reimbursement. Allowable costs are defined as food, clothing, shelter, daily supervision, school supplies, a child's personal incidentals, and liability insurance with respect to a child, reasonable travel to the child's home for visitation and reasonable travel to the child's school of origin. The GH placements and allowable costs also include reasonable administration.

**Specialized Care Increment (SCI)**

In accordance with [WIC section 11461\(e\)\(4\)\(C\)\(i\)](#), the SCI will not receive a cost-of-living adjustment in FY 2016-17. However, a county may choose to apply a CNI to its SCI. Consistent with the realignment of funding, there will be no state share of cost for any adjustment.

**Infant Supplement**

SB 831 required the infant supplement rate to be increased by \$489 per month commencing July 1, 2016. If applicable, youth who are in guardianships receiving AFDC-FC benefits are also entitled to receive the Infant Supplement. The new Infant Supplement rate is reflected in Table I below:

**Table I**

Infant Supplement						
Placement Type	GH	FFH/FFA	THP+FC Single Site Housing	THP+FC Remote Site Housing	THP+FC Host Family Model	SILP
Rate	\$1,379	\$900	\$900	\$900	\$900	\$900

**Transitional Housing Placement Plus Foster Care (THP+FC)**

Effective July 1, 2016, the 2.76 percent CNI increase applies to the THP+FC rates and is reflected in Table J below:

**Table J**

THP+FC Placement Type	Rate
Single Site Housing	\$3,090
Remote Site Housing	\$3,090
Host Family Model	\$2,459

**Inquiries**

If you have any questions regarding the rates information in this ACL, please contact the Foster Care Rates Bureau at (916) 651-9152.

Sincerely,

***Original Document Signed By:***

GREGORY E. ROSE  
Deputy Director  
Children and Family Services Division

c: CWDA