

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



October 31, 2002

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 02-87

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

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

SUBJECT: **KINSHIP/FOSTER CARE EMERGENCY FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2002-03**

In recognition of the number and importance of foster children placed with relative caregivers on an emergency basis, the Kinship/Foster Care Emergency Fund was established in FY 2000-01. The legislature has approved \$1 million in total funds to be made available in FY 2002-03 to allow counties to facilitate such placements. The purpose of the Kinship/Foster Care Emergency Fund is to enable successful placements with relative caregivers, Non-Related Extended Family Members (NREFMs) and foster parents by removing some of the barriers that can stand in the way of emergency placements. The fund can also assist in helping retain placements when extenuating circumstances may alter a stable relative or NREFM placement.

This letter is intended to provide information regarding the Kinship/Foster Care Emergency Fund and describe the allocation procedures for the use of these funds in FY 2002-03. Counties that participated in last fiscal year's program (FY 2001-02) by submitting their letter of intent, and were funded per the September 7, 2001 County Fiscal Letter (No. 01/02-15) DO NOT NEED TO REAPPLY for this fiscal year's funding. (See Attachment A for verification of county participation.) If a participating county would like to terminate from the program, a letter of termination must be submitted to the contact address listed below before November 15, 2002.

Counties that would like to participate in the FY 2002-03, Kinship/Foster Care Emergency Fund program and did not previously participate, **need to submit a letter of intent by Friday, November 15, 2002.** The letter must include a description of the assistance that will be provided with the allocated funds and the estimated number of caregivers who will be assisted. In addition, the letter of intent must include a statement of agreement that the county will report on the FY 2002-03 activities by August 1, 2003 (Attachment B) and the number of:

- 1) Children placed with relatives, NREFMs, and prospective foster homes with the assistance of these funds.
- 2) Existing relative and NREFM placements maintained with the assistance of the fund.

- 3) A brief listing of the three main reasons the Emergency Funds were used.

Funds are intended to assist relatives in providing care to relative children. Additionally, funds can assist prospective NREFMs and foster family home applicants in meeting the requirements to provide care to children. These funds may not be used to assist currently licensed foster family homes in meeting the requirements to continue to provide care to children.

Counties may use their Kinship/Foster Care Emergency Fund allocations to:

- 1) Remove barriers (e.g., fire or water safety hazards, medicine storage, electrical repair or inadequate living space) that prevent the safe placement of a child.
- 2) Defray relocation expenses when necessary to ensure the child's safety or to provide adequate living space.
- 3) Meet a child's special needs when those needs cannot be met through other funding sources (e.g., Specialized Care Incentives and Assistance Program (SCIAP)).
- 4) Make emergency purchases of major appliances when necessary to serve the placement of children.
- 5) Defray utility installation fees.
- 6) Provide short-term crisis counseling to prevent entry or re-entry into the child welfare system.
- 7) Provide temporary childcare to permit rearrangement of job or home schedules when an emergency placement is made.

All expenditures are on a one-time basis. Counties may serve relative caregivers, NREFMs, and prospective foster parents requiring emergency services not covered by other sources, such as SCIAP or clothing allowances.

Counties must submit a Letter of Intent (if they did not participate last FY), an annual report of funded services (See Attachment B), or other information to:

**California Department of Social Services
Child & Youth Permanency Branch
ATTN: Karen Mooers, Kinship Care Policy Unit
744 P Street, MS 19-67
Sacramento, California 95814**

Funds will be allocated in October 2002, through the county allocation process. A total of \$1 million will be allocated as follows to participating counties with:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| 1) At least 500 or more children in relative placements | \$46,290 |
| 2) At least 100 but fewer than 500 children in relative placements | \$15,190 |
| 3) Less than 100 children in relative placements | \$5,000 |

This allocation structure is based on the counties' Child Welfare Services/Case Management System placement data for the month of April, 2002 (see Attachment A). Depending on the number of counties participating in the FY 2002-03 program, there may be a surplus of funds that will be additionally allocated to augment the funding level of each participating county. Claiming instructions for the approved counties will remain the same as in FY 2001-02 and will again be issued in the County Fiscal Letter that will also designate final funding levels for this fiscal year's allocation.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Karen Mooers of the Kinship Care Policy and Support Unit, at (916) 323-0463.

Sincerely,

***Original document
signed by***

SYLVIA PIZZINI
Deputy Director
Children and Family Services Division

Enclosures

**KINSHIP/ FOSTER CARE EMERGENCY FUND
PRELIMINARY FUNDING ALLOCATION FOR FY 2002-2003**

ATTACHMENT A

COUNTY	Children Placed w/Relatives April '02	Base Allocation
TOTAL	36,428	1,000,000
Alameda *	1,743	46,290
Alpine *	1	5,000
Amador *	9	5,000
Butte *	179	15,190
Calaveras *	59	5,000
Colusa	14	5,000
Contra Costa *	892	46,290
Del Norte*	35	5,000
El Dorado *	40	5,000
Fresno *	869	46,290
Glenn	15	5,000
Humboldt *	57	5,000
Imperial *	167	15,190
Inyo*	9	5,000
Kern *	1,123	46,290
Kings *	194	15,190
Lake*	37	5,000
Lassen*	12	5,000
Los Angeles *	15,550	46,290
Madera*	58	5,000
Marin	24	5,000
Mariposa	9	5,000
Mendocino*	113	15,190
Merced *	98	5,000
Modoc	6	5,000
Mono	3	5,000
Monterey *	104	15,190
Napa *	40	5,000
Nevada *	17	5,000
Orange *	1,461	46,290
Placer *	109	15,190
Plumas*	27	5,000
Riverside *	1,941	46,290
Sacramento *	1,623	46,290
San Benito *	18	5,000
San Bernadino *	2,070	46,290
San Diego *	2,762	46,290
San Francisco *	1,238	46,290
San Joaquin *	405	15,190
San Luis Obispo *	174	15,190
San Mateo *	170	15,190
Santa Barbara	129	15,190
Santa Clara *	994	46,290
Santa Cruz *	105	15,190
Shasta *	110	15,190
Sierra	1	5,000
Siskiyou	28	5,000
Solano*	151	15,190
Sonoma *	126	15,190
Stanislaus *	193	15,190
Sutter *	55	5,000
Tehama	37	5,000
Trinity*	8	5,000
Tulare *	531	46,290
Tuolumne *	21	5,000
Ventura *	230	15,190
Yolo *	157	15,190
Yuba	77	5,000

*FY 2001/02 funded counties DO NOT NEED TO RE-APPLY FY 2002/03

**"Bolded" COUNTIES NEED TO SUBMIT LETTER OF INTENT
FOR FY 2002/2003 FUNDING**

**KINSHIP/FOSTER CARE EMERGENCY FUND
REPORT
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002/2003**

Report the following by August 1, 2003 (Use additional pages if necessary)

1) The number of children placed with relatives, NREFMs, and prospective foster homes with assistance of these funds:

2) The number of existing relative and NREFM placements maintained with the assistance of these funds:

3) Briefly list the three (3) main reasons that Emergency Funds were utilized by families in your county:

- _____
- _____
- _____

MAIL REPORT TO:

**Kinship Support Policy Unit
Child & Youth Permanency Branch
Department of Social Services
744 P Street, MS 19-67
Sacramento, CA 95814**