



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

**REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL**

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

July 18, 2017

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 17-26

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL COUNTY CALWORKS PROGRAM SPECIALISTS  
ALL COUNTY CALFRESH COORDINATORS  
ALL COUNTY WELFARE TO WORK COORDINATORS  
ALL COUNTY CONSORTIUM PROJECT MANAGERS  
ALL COUNTY CHILD WELFARE SERVICES PROGRAM MANAGERS  
ALL COUNTY PROBATION OFFICERS  
ALL COUNTY ELIGIBILITY SUPERVISORS  
ALL FOSTER CARE MANAGERS  
CHILD WELFARE SERVICES NEW SYSTEM  
ALL TITLE IV-E AGREEMENT TRIBES

SUBJECT: APPROVED RELATIVE CAREGIVER FUNDING PROGRAM (ARC):  
CLARIFICATION OF EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT (ETR)

REFERENCE: THE FOSTERING CONNECTIONS TO SUCCESS AND INCREASING ADOPTIONS ACT OF 2008 ([PUBLIC LAW \(P.L.\) 110-351](#)); [SENATE BILL \(SB\) 855](#) (CHAPTER 29, STATUTES OF 2014); [ASSEMBLY BILL \(AB\) 1612](#) (CHAPTER 725, STATUTES OF 2010); [WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE \(W&IC\) SECTIONS 11461.3, 11460, 11253.45, AND 16519.5](#); ALL COUNTY LETTERS (ACL) [11-51](#), [13-03](#) AND [16-79](#); COUNTY FISCAL LETTERS (CFL) [11/12-05](#) AND [11/12-18](#).

The purpose of this ACL is to clarify the ETR as it pertains to the ARC funding program .

**The ARC Background**

The purpose of the ARC Program is to provide additional support to approved relative caregivers of dependent children who are not eligible to receive federal Aid to Families with Dependent Children—Foster Care benefits, and who otherwise might only be eligible for California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) benefits. The ARC Program combines any applicable CalWORKs benefits with state funds to pay to these caregivers a monthly aid payment equal to the Home-Based Family Care Rate (HBFCR) at the child's assessed level of care. As outlined in [ACL 16-79](#), effective January 1, 2017, this

is the Basic Level. The four Level of Care rates which comprise the entire HBFCR are scheduled to become effective December 1, 2017.

### **The ETR Background**

In 2008, P.L. 110-351 provided for the cost of reasonable travel for a child to remain in the school in which are enrolled at the time of placement as an allowable foster care maintenance cost. In 2010, AB 1612 amended the definition of "care and supervision" in subdivision (b) of W&IC section 11460 to include the reasonable travel to maintain the child in the school in which he or she was enrolled at the time of placement. Instructions and guidance to county child welfare and probation departments regarding reimbursement of costs related to transporting a child in kindergarten through 12th grade to his or her school of origin was provided in [ACL 11-51](#). Instructions and guidance for nonminor dependents was provided in [ACL 13-03](#).

### **The ARC and ETR**

Approved relative caregivers who receive funding through the ARC program are providing care and supervision as defined by W&IC section 11460. This also includes relatives who have been approved as a resource family pursuant to W&IC section [16519.5](#). Therefore, ARC caregivers are eligible for ETR if all other eligibility conditions are met. Similarly, caregivers in a county that has not opted into the ARC Program, and instead pays approved relative caregivers pursuant to W&IC section [11253.45](#) (as specified on page two of [ACL 16-92](#)), are also eligible for ETR.

### **Funding and Claiming Information**

As described in [CFL No. 11/12-05](#), funding for ETR is part of 2011 Realignment, which replaced the state's share of costs with Local Revenue Funds. The 2011 Realignment ETR funding included relative and non-relative cases, therefore, no additional funding for ETR will be appropriated and funds specific to ARC may not be used to provide ETR. Final claiming instructions for ETR were provided in [CFL 11/12-18](#). An updated ARC claim and corresponding claiming instructions for ETR will be provided in a forthcoming CFL.

### **Questions**

If you have questions regarding the ARC program, please contact the Foster Caregiver Policy and Support Unit at (916) 651-7465 or [CFSARCFO@dss.ca.gov](mailto:CFSARCFO@dss.ca.gov). If you have questions regarding the ETR rates, please contact the Foster Care Rates Bureau at (916) 651-9152. Any questions regarding the assistance claim can be emailed to [assistance.claims@dss.ca.gov](mailto:assistance.claims@dss.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

***Original Document Signed By:***

GREGORY E. ROSE  
Deputy Director  
Children and Family Services Division