



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 11, 2017

ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) NO. 17-69

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL ADOPTION REGIONAL OFFICES
ALL COUNTY PLACEMENT SUPERVISORS
ALL ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES
ALL COUNTY ADOPTION AGENCIES
ALL TITLE IV-E AGREEMENT TRIBES

SUBJECT: ADOPTION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (AAP) RATES

REFERENCE: WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE (W&IC) SECTIONS 16121(a) AND (g); ACL NOs. 11-74, 12-45, 13-63, 14-45, 15-55, 16-55 AND 17-11

This letter is to inform counties, California Department of Social Services (CDSS) Regional Offices and other interested parties of the California Necessities Index (CNI) increase to be applied to the AAP basic rate. Please refer to ACL NO. 11-74 for the AAP basic rate methodology as stated in W&IC section 16121(a). The adjusted schedule of rates in this letter reflects the CNI increase of 3.84% for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017-18, effective July 1, 2017.

In addition, this letter reflects the CNI increase to be applied to Dual Agency rates, effective July 1, 2017. The negotiated AAP rate continues to be based on the child's needs and the circumstances of the family and may include the Specialized Care Increment (SCI), if eligible. The SCI rate is added to the basic rate. Therefore, recipients who receive this rate will also receive the CNI increase to the basic rate. The adjusted schedules of AAP basic rates stated on the following pages are to be used when determining the maximum eligible initial and subsequent AAP basic rate.

I. AAP Basic Rates

The 2007 Foster Family Home (FFH) rate structure is to be used for initial AAP agreements signed on or after October 1, 1992 through December 31, 2007, and the adoption finalized before May 27, 2011.

2007 FFH Rates Includes 3.84% CNI Increase for State Fiscal Year 2017-18					
Age	0-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-21
2007 FFH Rate Effective July 1, 2017	\$512	\$557	\$595	\$657	\$720
County/Age	0-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-21
Los Angeles	\$512	\$557	\$603	\$657	\$720
Orange	\$512	\$557	\$595	\$757	\$757
Santa Clara	\$512	\$557	\$603	\$657	\$720

County/Age	0-4	5-6	7-12	13-21
Marin	\$512	\$557	\$640	\$729

The 2008 FFH rate structure is to be used for initial AAP agreements signed on or after January 1, 2008 through May 27, 2011, and the adoption finalized on or before May 27, 2011.

2008 FFH Rates Includes 3.84% CNI Increase for State Fiscal Year 2017-18					
Age	0-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-21
2008 FFH Rate Effective July 1, 2017	\$537	\$584	\$625	\$689	\$756

County/Age	0-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-21
Los Angeles	\$537	\$584	\$632	\$689	\$756
Orange	\$537	\$584	\$625	\$793	\$793
Santa Clara	\$537	\$584	\$632	\$689	\$756

County/Age	0-4	5-6	7-12	13-21
Marin	\$551	\$584	\$673	\$765

The statewide rate structure, effective July 1, 2017, is to be used for initial AAP agreements signed and the adoption finalized on or after May 27, 2011 through December 31, 2016. These agreements may be renegotiated to the statewide Resource Family (RF) Basic Level Rate based on a reassessment of the child's needs and the circumstances of adoptive parent(s) to the RF Basic Level Rate on or after January 1, 2017.

Statewide FFH Rates Effective July 1, 2017 Includes 3.84% CNI Increase for State Fiscal Year 2017-18					
Age	0-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-21
FFH Rate Effective July 1, 2017	\$734	\$794	\$836	\$875	\$917

The statewide RF Basic Level Rate, effective January 1, 2017, is to be used for initial AAP agreements signed on or after January 1, 2017. The rate structure to be used for initial AAP agreements signed on or after December 1, 2017 includes the RF Basic Level Rate, and Level of Care (LOC) rate 2 through 4. Refer to forthcoming ACLs for the LOC protocol to determine the child's eligibility for the LOC 2 through 4 rates.

<u>Statewide</u> RF LOC Rates Includes 3.84% CNI Increase for State Fiscal Year 2017-18			
Basic Level Rate Effective July 1, 2017	LOC 2 Effective December 1, 2017	LOC 3 Effective December 1, 2017	LOC 4 Effective December 1, 2017
\$923	\$1,027	\$1,131	\$1,235

- Initial AAP agreements signed on or after January 1, 2017 with an RF Basic Level Rate, may be renegotiated on or after December 1, 2017 based on a reassessment of the child's needs and the circumstances of the adoptive parent(s) to the LOC rate 2, 3 or 4.
- Initial AAP agreements signed prior to January 1, 2017 with an AAP basic rate based on the statewide structure effective May 27, 2011, may be renegotiated on or after December 1, 2017 based on a reassessment of the child's needs and the circumstances of adoptive parent(s) to the RF Basic Level Rate, or LOC rate 2, 3 or 4.

II. Dual Agency Rates

Effective July 1, 2017, Dual Agency rates are to be increased 3.84% to reflect the CNI increase for FY 2017-18, in accordance with the below rate structure. The CNI increase is not applied to the supplement to the rate. The supplement to the rate, if eligible, is added to the Dual Agency rate. Therefore, recipients who receive this rate will also receive an increase due to the increase to the total Dual Agency rate.

<u>Statewide Dual Agency Rates</u> Effective July 1, 2017 Includes 3.84% CNI Increase for State Fiscal Year 2017-18	
Age 0-3	\$1,081
Age 3 years and older	\$2,417

III. Counties and the California Department of Social Services (CDSS)
Regional Offices' Responsibility

Counties and CDSS' Regional Offices shall adjust monthly AAP basic rates and the Dual Agency rate to include an annual CNI increase should one occur, effective July 1st of each year. The adjustment must be documented by sending AAP recipients a Notice of Action (NOA) reflecting the AAP rate change. A copy of the NOA must be placed in the AAP case file maintained by the responsible public agency for documentation purposes.

To process the automatic CNI increase, the Adoption Assistance Program Agreement (AD 4320) and Payment Instructions Adoption Assistance Program (AAP 2) are not required to be completed by the responsible public agency. While CNI increases do not require an amended AAP agreement, all other changes to the AAP benefit continue to require an amended agreement.

IV. INQUIRIES

Please direct all AAP questions to the Adoptions Services Bureau at (916) 651-8089.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

GREGORY E. ROSE
Deputy Director
Children and Family Services Division

c: County Welfare Directors Association