



CDSS

WILL LIGHTBOURNE
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • www.cdss.ca.gov



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

August 2, 2018

ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) NO. 18-93

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 11-74](#), [ACL 12-45](#), [ACL 13-63](#), [ACL 14-45](#), [ACL 15-55](#), [ACL 16-55](#) AND
[ACL 17-69](#)

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 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 3.96% for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018-19, effective July 1, 2018.

In addition, this letter reflects the CNI increase to be applied to Dual Agency rates, effective July 1, 2018. 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.

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. Effective July 1, 2018, the 3.96 percent CNI increase applied to the 2007 FFH rate structure is reflected in Table A and A-1.

Table A

Age	0-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-21
Rate	\$532	\$579	\$619	\$683	\$749
Age/County/Rate	0-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-21
Los Angeles	\$532	\$579	\$627	\$683	\$749
Orange	\$532	\$579	\$619	\$787	\$787
Santa Clara	\$532	\$579	\$627	\$683	\$749

Table A-1

Age/County/Rate	0-4	5-6	7-12	13-21
Marin	\$532	\$579	\$665	\$758

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. Effective July 1, 2018, the 3.96 percent CNI increase applied to the 2008 FFH rate structure is reflected in Table B and B-1.

Table B

Age	0-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-21
Rate	\$558	\$607	\$650	\$716	\$786
Age/County/Rate	0-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-21
Los Angeles	\$558	\$607	\$657	\$716	\$749
Orange	\$558	\$607	\$650	\$824	\$824
Santa Clara	\$558	\$607	\$657	\$716	\$786

Table B-1

Age/County/Rate	0-4	5-6	7-12	13-21
Marin	\$573	\$607	\$700	\$795

The statewide rate structure, effective July 1, 2018, is to be used for initial AAP agreements signed and the adoption finalized on or after May 27, 2011 through December 31, 2016. Effective July 1, 2018, the 3.96 percent CNI increase applied to the statewide rate structure is reflected in Table C.

Table C

Age	0-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-21
Rate	\$763	\$825	\$869	\$910	\$953

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 July 1, 2018 includes the RF Basic Level Rate, and Level of Care (LOC) rate 2 through 4. Refer to forthcoming ACLs for the implementation date of the AAP LOC Protocol to be used to determine the child's eligibility for the LOC 2 through 4 rates. Effective July 1, 2018, the 3.96 percent

CNI increase applied to the statewide RF basic level and LOC rates 2 through 4 rate structure is reflected in Table D.

Table D

Basic Level Rate	LOC 2	LOC 3	LOC 4
\$960	\$1,068	\$1,176	\$1,284

Initial AAP agreements signed on or after January 1, 2017 with an RF Basic Level Rate, may be renegotiated on or after July 1, 2018 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. Refer to forthcoming ACLs for the implementation date of the AAP LOC Protocol to be used to determine the child's eligibility for the LOC 2 through 4 rates.

- Initial AAP agreements signed prior to January 1, 2017 with an AAP basic rate based on the statewide structure effective May 27, 2011 that have been renegotiated to the RF Basic Level Rate between January 1, 2017 and the date of this ACL, the amended agreement will remain in effect until terminated or an amended agreement is signed. If there is a benefit renegotiation based on a reassessment at a later date, the child will remain eligible to receive the RF Basic Level Rate.
 - If a request for a benefit renegotiation based on a reassessment has been submitted between January 1, 2017 and the date of this ACL and a benefit increase is warranted, the AAP basic rate may be increased to the RF Basic Level Rate. The amended AAP agreement will remain in effect until terminated or an amended agreement is signed. If there is a benefit renegotiation based on a reassessment at a later date, the child will remain eligible to receive the RF Basic Level Rate.

Dual Agency Rates

Effective July 1, 2018, Dual Agency rates are to be increased 3.96% to reflect the CNI increase for FY 2018-19, 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. Effective July 1, 2018, the 3.96 percent CNI increase applied to the dual agency rate structure is reflected in Table E.

Table E

Age 0-3	\$1,124
Age 3 years or older	\$2,513

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 files maintained by the eligibility unit and 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.

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