

July 10, 2019

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 19-70

The purpose of this All County Letter (ACL) is to provide the adjusted schedules of rates that reflect the California Necessities Index (CNI) increase of 4.15 percent for fiscal year (FY) 2019-20. This letter also addresses new policy and rates changes related to Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment Program (Kin-GAP), Specialized Care Increment (SCI) and Foster Family Agencies (FFAs). The CNI increase is applicable to out of home placements and the AFDC-FC program.



KIM JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
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GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

July 10, 2019

ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) NO. 19-70

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL FOSTER CARE ELIGIBILITY SUPERVISORS
ALL SHORT-TERM RESIDENTIAL THERAPEUTIC PROGRAM
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
ALL OUT-OF-STATE GROUP HOMES
CONSORTIUM PROJECT MANAGERS

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

REFERENCE: [ASSEMBLY BILL \(AB\) 403](#), CHAPTER 773, STATUTES OF 2015;
[AB 1997](#), CHAPTER 612, STATUTES OF 2016; [SENATE BILL \(SB\) 1013](#), CHAPTER
35, STATUTES OF 2012; [SB 1811](#), CHAPTER 35, STATUTES OF 2018; WELFARE
AND INSTITUTIONS CODE (WIC) SECTIONS [11364](#), [11387](#), [11405](#), [11453](#), [11460](#),
[11461](#), [11461\(d\)\(2\)\(A\)](#), [11462](#), [11463](#), [11464](#), [18254](#), [18358.30](#); [ALL COUNTY LETTER](#)
[\(ACL\) 11-63](#); [ACL 11-63E](#); [ACL 11-54](#), [ACL 12-43](#); [ACL 13-62](#); [ACL13-62E](#); [ACL 14-44](#);
[ACL 14-104](#); [ACL 15-58](#); [ACL 15-58E](#); [ACL 16-57](#) [ACL 16-79](#); [ACL 17-11](#); [ACL 17-75](#);
[ACL 17-111](#); [ACL 18-06](#); [ACL 18-06E](#); [ACL 18-25](#); [ACL 18-32](#); [ACL 18-48](#); [ACL 18-89](#);
[ACL 19-34](#)

The purpose of this All County Letter (ACL) is to provide the adjusted schedules of rates that reflect the CNI increase of 4.15 percent for fiscal year (FY) 2019-20. This letter also addresses new policy and rates changes related to Kinship Guardianship

Assistance Payment Program (Kin-GAP), Specialized Care Increment (SCI) and Foster Family Agencies (FFAs). The CNI increase is applicable to out of home placements and the AFDC-FC program.

Non-Federal and Federal Kin-GAP, AFDC-FC Non-Related Legal Guardians (NRLGs) (Including Probate)

Effective July 1, 2019, the 4.15 percent CNI increase applies to Kin-GAP cases in which dependency was dismissed. The AFDC-FC payments must cease as of the date the dependency is dismissed and Kin-GAP payments shall begin the following day after the court dismisses dependency or terminates wardship. The CNI increase also applies for NRLG cases including probate whose guardianship was 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 7/1/19- 6/30/20	\$581	\$632	\$677	\$746	\$819

Effective July 1, 2019, a 2.08 percent CNI increase applies only to the 12-14 age column of the Orange County grandfathered rate for Kin-GAP cases in which dependency was dismissed and NRLG cases whose guardianship was established by the juvenile court, 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 7/1/19- 6/30/20	\$581	\$632	\$677	*\$753	\$819

*[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.

Effective July 1, 2019, a 4.15 percent CNI increase applies to Kin-GAP cases where dependency was dismissed and NRLG cases including probate where guardianship was established by the juvenile court, between May 1, 2011 and December 31, 2016, and is reflected in Table B below:

Table B

Age	Birth-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-21
Rate 7/1/19- 6/30/20	\$795	\$859	\$905	\$948	\$993

Effective July 1, 2019, a 4.15 percent CNI increase applies to Kin-GAP cases in which dependency was dismissed and NRLG cases in which guardianship was established by the juvenile court on or after January 1, 2017. Probate NRLG cases continue to only be eligible for the Basic Level Rate.

Effective July 1, 2019, a 4.15 percent CNI increase applies to Resource Families (RFs), Foster Family Homes (FFHs), relative placements including those funded through the Approved Relative Caregiver (ARC) program, Non-Related Extended Family Members (NREFMs) and Adoption Assistance program (AAP) cases with agreements signed on or after January 1, 2017, and is reflected in Table C below:

Table C

RF LOC Rates, Kin-GAP, NRLG and AAP

Basic Level Rate	LOC 2	LOC 3	LOC 4
\$1,000	\$1,112	\$1,225	\$1,337

Non-Minor Dependents (NMDs) Residing in a Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP)

Effective July 1, 2019, the 4.15 percent CNI increase applies to the Basic Level Rate only (See Table C) for all NMDs residing in a SILP. Specialized Care Increment (SCI) cannot be paid to NMDs residing in a SILP. Parenting NMDs can receive the infant supplement when residing in a SILP.

Dual Agency Rates

Counties should note the Dual Agency rates are established in statute and not determined by the Level of Care Rate Determination Protocol (LOCP). Effective July 1, 2019, the 4.15 percent CNI increase applies to the Dual Agency rate and is reflected in Table D below:

Table D

Age	FY 2019-20
Birth up to 3 years	\$1,171
*3 years and older	\$2,617

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

Foster Family Agencies (FFAs)

Effective July 1, 2019, the 4.15 percent CNI increase is applied to the age-based rate portion that is retained by the RF. Additionally, effective July 1, 2019, the Legislature approved a 4.15 percent increase to the components of the FFA that is not retained by the RF, specifically the Social Worker, Services and Supports, Resource Family Approval (RFA) and Administration components of the rate.

All FFA age-based placements that occurred prior to December 1, 2017 shall remain on the age-based rate. Please note that if the county has issued the child/youth a SCI, the FFA is responsible to forward the entire SCI amount to the FFA-certified or RFA home.

Table E

FFA Rate Components – Age Based

Age	Birth-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-21
FFA Certified Family Minimum Rate	\$984	\$1,048	\$1,094	\$1,137	\$1,182
Social Worker	\$354	\$354	\$354	\$354	\$354
Services and Supports	\$162	\$162	\$162	\$162	\$162
RFA	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
Administration	\$700	\$700	\$700	\$700	\$700
Total	\$2,250	\$2,314	\$2,360	\$2,403	\$2,448

Effective July 1, 2019, the 4.15 percent CNI increase is applied to the *FFA RF Rate* portion for all FFA placements made after December 1, 2017. Additionally, effective July 1, 2019, for all FFA placements made after December 1, 2017, the Legislature approved a 4.15 percent increase to the components of the FFA that is not retained by the RF, specifically the Social Worker, Services and Supports, RFA and Administration components of the rate.

Table F**FFA Rate Components - LOCP**

	Basic Level Rate	LOC 2	LOC 3	LOC 4
RF	\$1,000	\$1,112	\$1,225	\$1,337
Social Worker	\$354	\$354	\$354	\$354
Social Services & Support	\$162	\$208	\$254	\$336
RFA	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
Administration	\$700	\$700	\$700	\$700
Total	\$2,266	\$2,424	\$2,583	\$2,777

Intensive Services Foster Care (ISFC)

Effective July 1, 2019, the 4.15 percent CNI increase applies to the ISFC RF rate portion only, and is reflected in Table G below:

Table G**FFA or County ISFC Rate**

ISFC RF	\$2,609
Administrative Costs	\$3,482
Social Services & Support	\$ 200
Total	\$6,291

Group Homes (GHs)

Effective July 1, 2019, the 4.15 percent CNI increase applies to each GH Rate Classification Level (RCL) and is reflected in Table H below:

Table H

RCL	Point Ranges	Standard Rate
1	Under 60	\$2,762
2	60-89	\$3,450
3	90-119	\$4,138
4	120-149	\$4,823
5	150-179	\$5,507
6	180-209	\$6,199
7	210-239	\$6,885
8	240-269	\$7,576
9	270-299	\$8,260
10	300-329	\$8,950
11	330-359	\$9,634
12	360-389	\$10,324
13	390-419	\$11,019
14	420 & Up	\$11,704

Short Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs)

Effective July 1, 2019, the 4.15 percent CNI increase applies to the STRTP rate and is reflected in Table I below:

Table I

STRTP Rate	
Rate	\$13,532

Wraparound

Effective July 1, 2019, the 4.15 percent CNI increase applies to the Wraparound rate and is reflected in Table J below:

Table J

Wraparound Rate	
Rate	\$13,532

Wraparound services are available to children and youth who are at risk of or are currently placed in out-of-home care. The maximum rate for Wraparound is the rate that would have been paid had the youth been placed in an STRTP. The Wraparound rate is funded using nonfederal foster care assistance dollars, which were realigned to counties in 2011. As a reminder, when a federally-eligible youth is enrolled in Wraparound, the maximum amount available is limited to the nonfederal share of the rate. The non-federal amount of the Wraparound rate is \$6,766.

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. However, the county cannot pay any rate amount exceeding the current FY STRTP rate.

SCI

A county may choose to apply a CNI to the SCI. Consistent with the realignment of funding, there will be no state share-of-cost for any increase made to the SCI. Please refer to [ACL 18-48](#) for additional SCI information. Regarding SCI plans that have been revised and submitted to the CDSS, counties are reminded that those revised plans cannot be used until the full implementation of the LOCP applies to all RFs. If a county was to apply a CNI to their current SCI, they will need to send that revised plan to CDSS for review and posting.

Infant Supplement

The infant supplement remains the same and standardizes the infant supplement rate for all non-dependent children placed with their dependent parent as reflected in Table K below:

Table K

Infant Supplement						
Placement Type	GH/STRT	FFH/FFA/RFA/WFFH	THP-NMD Single Site Housing	THP-NMD Remote Site Housing	THP-NMD Host Family Model	SILP
Rate	\$1,379	\$900	\$900	\$900	\$900	\$900

Transitional Housing Placement-Non-Minor Dependent (THP-NMD)

Effective July 1, 2019, the 4.15 percent CNI increase applies to the THP-NMD (formerly Transitional Housing Placement-Foster Care) rates and is reflected in Table L below:

Table L

THP-NMD Placement Type	Rate
Single Site Housing	\$3,474
Remote Site Housing	\$3,474
Host Family Model	\$2,764

Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URMs)

The URM program is required to mirror the Foster Care (FC) system and provide services and supports as if the children and youth were in FC. The FFAs that serve URM's will continue to receive the age-based rate and the RFs will be eligible for the CNI increases in Table E through Phase I. However, upon full LOCP implementation, the FFAs will use Table F and follow new HBFC FFAs rate structure. Please see [ACL16-03](#) for further information regarding the URM program. As these payments are not issued by the counties, but rather by the Office of Refugee Resettlement, this section is purely for informational purposes and does not require changes to the automated systems used to make FC payments.

Kin-GAP, ARC, AAP, FC (Over 18 Years of Age)

Please refer to policy outlined in [ACL 18-15](#) concerning youth over 18 years of age receiving benefits through Kin-GAP, ARC and FC. Assuming all other eligibility requirements are met, these benefits may only be received through the day before the youth turns the age of 21. AAP placements receive their benefits up to the end of the month they turn 21.

AAP

A separate ACL will continue to be issued specific to AAP providing a comprehensive schedule of rates related to AAP and CNI increases, effective July 1, 2019.

Inquiries

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

Assistance Claiming Instructions and Payment Questions

For information on claiming instructions, questions may be sent via email to fiscal.systems@dss.ca.gov. For information on payments, questions may be sent via email to assistance.claims@dss.ca.gov

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By

GREGORY E. ROSE
Deputy Director
Children and Family Services Division

c: CWDA