

October 30, 2020

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 20-121

The purpose of this All County Letter (ACL) is to notify counties and interested parties about the establishment of a Transitional Housing Placement for Nonminor Dependents (THP-NMD) Housing Supplement.



KIM JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
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GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

October 30, 2020

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 20-121

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAMS
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: ESTABLISHMENT OF A HOUSING SUPPLEMENT TO THE
TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PLACEMENT FOR NON-MINOR
DEPENDENTS (THP-NMD) PROGRAM

REFERENCE: ASSEMBLY BILL (AB) 79; WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE
(WIC) 11403.3; [ALL COUNTY LETTERS 11-53](#), [ACL 11-77](#), [ACL 12-44](#), AND [ACL 17-93](#)

The purpose of this ACL is to notify counties and interested parties of the passing of [AB 79](#) which, in part, establishes a Housing Supplement for THP-NMD placements. The THP-NMD rate paid to providers on behalf of NMDs placed in their programs will be supplemented in eligible counties. This bill contained a supplement to the existing rate only and does not makes any other general changes to the program, eligibility, licensing standards or notice of action requirements For purposes of distinguishing this supplement from other supplemental rates, the increase to the THP-NMD rate is not an actual supplement that is separated from the rate.

Per [WIC 11403.3](#), the THP-NMD Housing Supplement will be calculated annually by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) and implemented on a phased-in basis across the state, beginning July 1, 2021, in CalWORKs Information Network (CalWIN) counties, and fully implemented by September 1, 2022 in remaining California Statewide Automated Welfare System (CalSAWS) counties, contingent upon completion of the necessary automation changes. Additionally, the bill requires the CDSS to notify county welfare agencies annually of the amount of the new THP-NMD rate by means of ACLs or similar written instructions. (see Notice section below).

In 2019, the CDSS led a diverse stakeholder workgroup that endorsed an approach to address the impact of the rise in the cost of housing on the existing THP-NMD program and the establishment of a THP-NMD Housing Supplement.

The new THP-NMD Housing Supplement amounts will vary across eligible counties, based on the cost of housing in that county, according to Fair Market Rent (FMR). FMR is the calculation developed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to determine the allowable rent level for individuals who participate in their Housing Choice Voucher program. FMR data is available each October 1st and based on a federal fiscal year. The department selected the FMRs because it accounts for the cost of housing and utilities, apart from phone, cable, and internet. Each year the HUD calculates the FMR for all 58 counties in California. The total THP-NMD rate in each county will be the sum of their FMR housing supplement (if applicable) and the current fiscal year THP-NMD rate and will be transmitted to the provider in one payment. THP-NMD placements will qualify for a THP-NMD Housing Supplement if the FMR in the county is greater than the housing portion of the statewide THP-NMD rate and is based on whether a youth is parenting a child. CDSS has established two methodologies that are briefly described below and the final supplement amounts are displayed in the attachments included in this ACL. Counties are not expected to perform these calculations. Counties where the FMR calculation falls below the housing portion of the THP NMD will not qualify for a housing supplement but will receive the annual CNI increase.

NMDS WHO ARE NOT CUSTODIAL PARENTS

In order to determine whether a NMD will qualify for a supplement, the CDSS will calculate the difference between the FMR for **one-half of a two-bedroom apartment** in the county in which the NMD resides and 21.45% of the statewide THP-NMD rate. If the FMR rate is lower than the THP-NMD portion, a housing supplement will not apply. See attachment A.

NMDS WHO ARE CUSTODIAL PARENTS

In order to determine whether a NMD will qualify for a supplement, the CDSS will calculate the difference between the FMR for a **one-bedroom apartment** in the county in which the nonminor dependent resides and 21.45% of the statewide THP-NMD rate. If the FMR rate is lower than the THP-NMD portion, a housing supplement will not apply.

Please note: this does not change eligibility for NMDs who are custodial parents and eligible for the infant supplement.

NOTICE AND IMPLEMENTATION

Because the methodology for calculating the Housing Supplement is tied to the FMR and is responsive to changes in the housing market, as housing costs increase or decrease in a given county, the THP-NMD Housing Supplement amounts may shift from year to year. In addition, the total THP-NMD rate will continue to be increased annually based on the California Necessities Index (CNI). When the FMR data becomes available October 1 of each year; CDSS will use the updated FMR rates to calculate the supplement amount by November 1. The CDSS will use the annual CNI ACL to provide notice of the total THP-NMD rate inclusive of the housing supplement and CNI adjustment.

The THP-NMD housing supplement will begin issuance on July 1, 2021, for the counties utilizing the CalWIN system contingent on completing the automation changes. For the counties utilizing the CalSAWS system, the supplement will begin on September 1, 2022, contingent on completing the automation changes. Further directives will be issued when these systems are ready to issue the payments.

The CDSS will continue to work with the County Welfare Directors Association of California and the Statewide Automated Welfare System (CalSAWS) and LRS to develop and implement the necessary system changes to implement the THP-NMD Housing Supplement including any changes to the CMS/CWS system.

OUT OF COUNTY PLACEMENTS

Where NMDs are placed outside the placing county, the host county rate shall be paid consistent with CDSS general policy. However, the placing county is not expected to make the higher payment until automation is in place. For example, if the county of jurisdiction is a CalWIN county and the NMD is placed into a CalSAWS county prior to the latter's implementation, the provider on behalf of the NMD may receive the higher

supplemental rate because CalWIN will have automated those rates. However, if the placing county is a CalSAWS county and the NMD is placed into a CalWIN county, the provider will receive the basic THP-NMD rate on behalf of the NMD until the housing supplement has been automated. Here is a [SAWS link](#) to a list of which counties belong to each system.

CLAIMING INSTRUCTIONS

Effective with the July 2021 claiming month, specified counties may claim the THP-NMD Housing Supplement, an amount above the THP-NMD base rate established for each county, on the CA 800CCR assistance claim workbook. The THP-NMD rate supplement is for cases residing in specified high-cost counties as described in this letter.

Please note that the THP-NMD Housing Supplement is contingent upon its approval in the Budget Act of 2021 and future annual appropriations. Additional claiming instructions will be provided in a forthcoming County Fiscal Letter.

Counties shall claim costs for the THP-NMD Housing Supplement for Federal and Nonfederal cases as follows:

- For federally eligible cases reported to Aid Code 49, costs shall be claimed in *THP-NMD Housing Supplement* section on the CA 800CCR 18+ FED tab. These costs shall be funded 50/50/00/00 (Fed/State/Health/County).
- For nonfederal cases reported to Aid Code 43, costs shall be claimed in the *THP-NMD Housing Supplement* section on the CA 800CCR 18+ NONFED tab. These costs shall be funded 00/100/00/00 (Fed/State/Health/County).

Proration of Costs

Proration of costs occurs when the effective date of payment or cost is incurred on any day after the first of the month. Proration calculations should be executed per normal claiming protocol. For cases eligible for a THP-NMD rate, counties shall prorate the THP-NMD rate costs when claiming to the CA 800CCR 18+ FED or CA 800CCR 18+ NONFED tabs, based on the effective date of the eligibility minus total number of days in the month and divided by total number of days in the month. Example: If an NMD gains eligibility for the THP-NMD Rate on August 15, 2021, the county shall prorate the amount as follows:

- Total days in the month of August (31) minus days the rate change applies based on the date of eligibility or placement change (15) divided by total days in August (31) equals a proration of 51.6 percent.

If you have any questions or need additional guidance regarding the information in this letter, email RatesPolicy@dss.ca.gov or contact your Rates Consultant or the Foster Care Rates Bureau at (916) 651-9152. If you have claiming questions, please contact Fiscal.Systems@dss.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By

GREGORY E. ROSE
Deputy Director
Children and Family Services Division

c: CWDA

Attachments

Appendix A: THP-NMD Housing Supplement NMDs (Non-Custodial) By Counties With a THP-NMD program*

County	THP-NMD Rate	Housing Supplement*	Total Rate
Alameda	\$3,603	\$420	\$4,023
Alpine	\$3,603	n/a	\$3,603
Amador	\$3,603	n/a	\$3,603
Butte	\$3,603	n/a	\$3,603
Calaveras	\$3,603	n/a	\$3,603
Colusa	\$3,603	n/a	\$3,603
Contra Costa	\$3,603	\$420	\$4,023
Del Norte	\$3,603	n/a	\$3,603
El Dorado	\$3,603	n/a	\$3,603
Fresno	\$3,603	n/a	\$3,603
Glenn	\$3,603	n/a	\$3,603
Humboldt	\$3,603	n/a	\$3,603
Imperial	\$3,603	n/a	\$3,603
Inyo	\$3,603	n/a	\$3,603
Kern	\$3,603	n/a	\$3,603
Kings	\$3,603	n/a	\$3,603
Lake	\$3,603	n/a	\$3,603
Lassen	\$3,603	n/a	\$3,603
Los Angeles	\$3,603	\$257	\$3,860
Madera	\$3,603	n/a	\$3,603
Marin	\$3,603	\$1,005	\$4,608
Mariposa	\$3,603	n/a	\$3,603
Mendocino	\$3,603	n/a	\$3,603
Merced	\$3,603	n/a	\$3,603
Modoc	\$3,603	n/a	\$3,603
Mono	\$3,603	n/a	\$3,603
Monterey	\$3,603	\$125	\$3,728
Napa	\$3,603	\$237	\$3,840
Nevada	\$3,603	n/a	\$3,603
Orange	\$3,603	\$394	\$3,997
Placer	\$3,603	n/a	\$3,603
Plumas	\$3,603	n/a	\$3,603
Riverside	\$3,603	n/a	\$3,603
Sacramento	\$3,603	n/a	\$3,603
San Benito	\$3,603	\$65	\$3,668
San Bernardino	\$3,603	n/a	\$3,603

County	THP-NMD Rate	Housing Supplement*	Total Rate
San Diego	\$3,603	\$290	\$3,893
San Francisco	\$3,603	\$1,005	\$4,608
San Joaquin	\$3,603	n/a	\$3,603
San Luis Obispo	\$3,603	\$61	\$3,664
San Mateo	\$3,603	\$1,005	\$4,608
Santa Barbara	\$3,603	\$415	\$4,018
Santa Clara	\$3,603	\$754	\$4,357
Santa Cruz	\$3,603	\$739	\$4,342
Shasta	\$3,603	n/a	\$3,603
Sierra	\$3,603	n/a	\$3,603
Siskiyou	\$3,603	n/a	\$3,603
Solano	\$3,603	\$37	\$3,640
Sonoma	\$3,603	\$226	\$3,829
Stanislas	\$3,603	n/a	\$3,603
Sutter	\$3,603	n/a	\$3,603
Tehama	\$3,603	n/a	\$3,603
Trinity	\$3,603	n/a	\$3,603
Tulare	\$3,603	n/a	\$3,603
Tuolumne	\$3,603	n/a	\$3,603
Ventura	\$3,603	\$190	\$3,793
Yolo	\$3,603	n/a	\$3,603
Yuba	\$3,603	n/a	\$3,603

* N/a indicates the county does not qualify for a housing supplement.

Appendix B: THP-NMD Housing Supplement For Youth Who Are Custodial Parents By
Counties With A THP-NMD Program

County	THP-NMD Rate	Housing Supplement	Total Rate
Alameda	\$3,603	\$1,162	\$4,765
Alpine	\$3,603	\$47	\$3,650
Amador	\$3,603	\$114	\$3,717
Butte	\$3,603	\$132	\$3,735
Calaveras	\$3,603	\$65	\$3,668
Colusa	\$3,603	n/a	\$3,603
Contra Costa	\$3,603	\$1,162	\$4,765
Del Norte	\$3,603	\$55	\$3,658
El Dorado	\$3,603	\$416	\$4,019
Fresno	\$3,603	\$79	\$3,682
Glenn	\$3,603	n/a	\$3,603
Humboldt	\$3,603	\$91	\$3,694
Imperial	\$3,603	\$38	\$3,641
Inyo	\$3,603	\$79	\$3,682
Kern	\$3,603	n/a	\$3,603
Kings	\$3,603	\$131	\$3,734
Lake	\$3,603	\$41	\$3,644
Lassen	\$3,603	n/a	\$3,603
Los Angeles	\$3,603	\$833	\$4,436
Madera	\$3,603	\$109	\$3,712
Marin	\$3,603	\$2151	\$5,754
Mariposa	\$3,603	\$64	\$3,667
Mendocino	\$3,603	\$169	\$3,772
Merced	\$3,603	\$110	\$3,713
Modoc	\$3,603	n/a	\$3,603
Mono	\$3,603	\$234	\$3,837
Monterey	\$3,603	\$694	\$4,297
Napa	\$3,603	\$759	\$4,362
Nevada	\$3,603	\$241	\$3,844
Orange	\$3,603	\$1,116	\$4,719
Placer	\$3,603	\$416	\$4,019
Plumas	\$3,603	n/a	\$3,603
Riverside	\$3,603	\$334	\$3,937
Sacramento	\$3,603	\$416	\$4,019
San Benito	\$3,603	\$498	\$4,101

County	THP-NMD Rate	Housing Supplement	Total Rate
San Bernardino	\$3,603	\$334	\$3,937
San Diego	\$3,603	\$869	\$4,019
San Francisco	\$3,603	\$2,151	\$5,754
San Joaquin	\$3,603	\$192	\$3,795
San Luis Obispo	\$3,603	\$491	\$4,094
San Mateo	\$3,603	\$2,151	\$5,754
Santa Barbara	\$3,603	\$1,243	\$4,846
Santa Clara	\$3,603	\$1,786	\$5,389
Santa Cruz	\$3,603	\$1,520	\$5,123
Shasta	\$3,603	\$152	\$3,755
Sierra	\$3,603	\$177	\$3,780
Siskiyou	\$3,603	n/a	\$3,603
Solano	\$3,603	\$579	\$4,182
Sonoma	\$3,603	\$747	\$4,350
Stanislas	\$3,603	\$215	\$3,818
Sutter	\$3,603	\$108	\$3,603
Tehama	\$3,603	n/a	\$3,603
Trinity	\$3,603	n/a	\$3,603
Tulare	\$3,603	n/a	\$3,603
Tuolumne	\$3,603	\$73	\$3,676
Ventura	\$3,603	\$747	\$4,350
Yolo	\$3,603	\$375	\$3,978
Yuba	\$3,603	\$109	\$3,712

* N/a indicates the county does not qualify for a housing supplement.