

June 26, 2020

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 20-68**

This letter is to inform counties, the 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 rates. The adjusted schedule of rates in this letter reflects the CNI increase of 3.72 percent for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21 effective July 1, 2020.



KIM JOHNSON  
DIRECTOR

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

June 26, 2020

ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) NO. 20-68

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, ACL 17-69 AND ACL 18-93 AND ACL 19-58](#)

This letter is to inform counties, the 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 3.72 percent for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21, effective July 1, 2020.

In addition, this letter reflects the CNI increase to be applied to Dual Agency rates, effective July 1, 2020. 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, 2020, the 3.72 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	\$575	\$625	\$669	\$737	\$809
Age/County/Rate	0-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-21
Los Angeles	\$575	\$625	\$677	\$737	\$809
Orange	\$575	\$625	\$669	\$851	\$851
Santa Clara	\$575	\$625	\$677	\$737	\$809

Table A-1

Age/County/Rate	0-4	5-6	7-12	13-21
Marin	\$575	\$625	\$719	\$818

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, 2020, the 3.72 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	\$603	\$656	\$702	\$774	\$849
Age/County/Rate	0-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-21
Los Angeles	\$603	\$656	\$709	\$774	\$849
Orange	\$603	\$656	\$702	\$890	\$890
Santa Clara	\$603	\$656	\$709	\$774	\$849

Table B-1

Age/County/Rate	0-4	5-6	7-12	13-21
Marin	\$619	\$656	\$756	\$859

The statewide rate structure 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, 2020, the 3.72 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	\$825	\$891	\$939	\$983	\$1,030

The statewide Resource Family (RF) Basic Level Rate, effective January 1, 2017, is to be used for initial AAP agreements signed on or after January 1, 2017. Effective July 1, 2020, the 3.72 percent CNI increase of the statewide RF rate is \$1,037.

#### Dual Agency Rates

Effective July 1, 2020, the 3.72 percent CNI increase is to be applied to the Dual Agency rates reflected in Table D. 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

Table D

Age 0-3	\$1,215
Age 3 years or older	\$2,714

#### Counties and the CDSS Regional Offices' Responsibility

Counties and the 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 or to the email address [AAP@dss.ca.gov](mailto:AAP@dss.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

#### ***Original Document Signed By:***

GREGORY E. ROSE  
Deputy Director  
Children and Family Services Division

c: County Welfare Directors Association