

October 8, 2021

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 21-123

The purpose of this letter is to inform counties, Title IV-E tribes and resource families of an expectant parent payment program. The payment will be made to pregnant children/nonminor dependents (NMD) three months prior to the due date of the pregnant child/NMD.



KIM JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

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



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

October 8, 2021

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 21-123

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
CONSORTIUM PROJECT MANAGERS

SUBJECT: NEW EXPECTANT PARENT PAYMENT

REFERENCE: WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE [\(WIC\) 11465](#), [42 US Code 675](#), [ASSEMBLY BILL \(AB\) 153](#), CHAPTER 86, STATUTES OF 2021, ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE [\(ACIN\) I-06-20](#), ALL COUNTY LETTER [\(ACL\) 16-32](#), [ACL 18-61](#).

The purpose of this All County Letter (ACL) is to inform counties, Title IV-E Tribes, resource families, and other relevant parties, that, effective January 1, 2022, an expectant parent payment will be available to pregnant minors and nonminor dependents (NMDs) three months prior to the expected due date, in accordance with [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 153](#). This payment will be in addition to the infant supplement payment which begins the month of birth.

INFANT SUPPLEMENT PAYMENT

In accordance with [WIC 11465](#) and [42 US Code 675\(4\)](#), a foster care maintenance payment may include an amount for a non-dependent infant living with their minor/NMD parent in an eligible Aid to Families with Dependent Children- Foster Care (AFDC-FC) or Approved Relative Caregiver Funding Program (ARC) placement. This payment, known as the infant supplement, begins the month that the infant is born and continues

as long as the non-dependent infant continues to reside with the minor or NMD parent in an eligible placement.

EXPECTANT PARENT PAYMENT

Beginning January 1, 2022, WIC 11465(e) authorizes a payment to be made directly to a pregnant minor or NMD, approximately three months prior to the child/NMD's due date. Prior to automation, this payment will be issued as a lump sum of \$2,700; once automation has been finalized, an amount equivalent to the home-based foster care infant supplement shall be paid monthly for the final three months of a minor/NMD's pregnancy. The payment will be the same regardless of placement type, and it will be paid directly to the pregnant minor or NMD.

This expectant parent payment is available to meet the specialized needs of the pregnant child/NMD, as well as prepare for the needs of the infant. Preparing for the birth of a newborn is expensive, some potential expenses this payment could be used for are included below. Listed expenses are only examples, the pregnant child/NMD that receives the payment shall not be required to submit any accounting or receipts to show how the funds are utilized. All items bought with these funds are the property of the child/NMD and go with them if/when they change facilities or age out.

Example uses of the payment include, but are not limited to:

- Cribs, rocking chairs, changing tables or other infant related furniture.
- Car seats, strollers, or infant carriers.
- Clothes for the infant or maternity clothes for the pregnant minor/NMD.
- Nursing bras, breast pumps, formula or other infant feeding necessities.
- Diapers, pacifiers, bibs, and other miscellaneous infant items.

Expectant parent payments are available to pregnant minors/NMDs who receive AFDC-FC or ARC payments, including those placed in Short Term Residential Treatment Placements (STRTPs), Supervised Independent Living Placements (SILPs), Transitional Housing Placements (THPP) or home-based foster care. It may be paid in the form of a check, debit cards or electronic payments consistent with current county practice. At this time, expectant parent payments are not available for children in the Adoption Assistance Program and the Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment Program. This payment shall not be prorated, and overpayments shall not be established or collected. If the pregnancy is not identified before the seventh month of pregnancy, the child/NMD shall still receive the entire three months of payments.

IDENTIFYING AND ENROLLING PREGNANT DEPENDENTS AND NONMINOR DEPENDENTS

Counties and case managers play a critical role in identifying and enrolling eligible children/NMDs for this program. Beginning January 1, 2022, children and NMD in the seventh month of pregnancy, or later, are eligible for the payment.

Counties should establish procedures for identifying and enrolling eligible children/NMD. It is also recommended that counties identify opportunities in which case management workers may be able to share information about the benefit with young people, such as during Child and Family Team meetings (CFTs) or during required annual conversations about sexual and reproductive health. Further guidance will be forthcoming on working with pregnant children/NMDs to spend this money wisely and budget for parenthood.

Counties should request verification of pregnancy from a qualified medical provider as part of this procedure; however, any verification and documentation procedure must abide by applicable confidentiality laws. Further information on identifying pregnancy, recording pregnancy in records, and talking to youth about pregnancy please see [All County Information Notice I-06-20](#), [ACL 16-32](#) and [ACL 18-61](#).

AUTOMATION

These payments will not be automated prior to July 1, 2023; therefore, counties must create work arounds within their counties to make the payments prior to automation.

A forthcoming County Fiscal Letter will provide further information on claiming and automation.

If you have any questions or need additional guidance regarding the information in this letter, contact the Rates Policy Unit at RatesPolicy@dss.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By

ANGIE SCHWARTZ
Deputy Director
Children and Family Services Division

c: CWDA