

August 30, 2021

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 21-97

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 Adoption Assistance Program (AAP) rates. The adjusted schedule of rates in this letter reflects the CNI increase of 2.11 percent for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22 effective July 1, 2021.



KIM JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

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

August 30, 2021

ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) NO. 21-97

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, ACL 18-93, ACL 19-58, ACL 20-68 AND ACL 21-54](#)

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 rate. Please refer to [ACL 11-74](#) for the AAP rate methodology as stated in W&IC section 16121(a). The adjusted schedule of rates in this letter reflects the CNI increase of 2.11 percent for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-2022, effective July 1, 2021.

The negotiated AAP rate continues to be based on the child's needs and the circumstances of the family. The adjusted schedules of AAP basic rates which includes the Level of Care (LOC) rates are stated on the following pages and are to be used when determining the maximum eligible initial and subsequent AAP rate. In addition, this letter reflects the CNI increase to be applied to dual agency rates, effective July 1, 2021. The child's maximum eligible AAP rate may include the Specialized Care Increment (SCI), if applicable. The SCI rate is not eligible to receive the CNI increase.

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, 2021, the 2.11 percent CNI increase applied to the 2007 FFH rate structure is reflected in Tables A, A-1 and A-2.

Table A

Age	0-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-21
Rate	\$587	\$638	\$683	\$753	\$826

Table A-1

County/Age/Rate	0-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-21
Los Angeles	\$587	\$638	\$691	\$753	\$826
Orange	\$587	\$638	\$683	\$869	\$869
Santa Clara	\$587	\$638	\$691	\$753	\$826

Table A-2

County/Age/Rate	0-4	5-6	7-12	13-21
Marin	\$587	\$638	\$734	\$835

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, 2021, the 2.11 percent CNI increase applied to the 2008 FFH rate structure is reflected in Tables B, B-1 and B-2.

Table B

Age	0-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-21
Rate	\$616	\$670	\$717	\$790	\$867

Table B-1

County/Age/Rate	0-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-21
Los Angeles	\$616	\$670	\$724	\$790	\$867
Orange	\$616	\$670	\$717	\$909	\$909
Santa Clara	\$616	\$670	\$724	\$790	\$867

Table B-2

County/Age/Rate	0-4	5-6	7-12	13-21
Marin	\$632	\$670	\$772	\$877

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, 2021, the 2.11 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	\$842	\$910	\$959	\$1,004	\$1,052

The rate structure to be used for initial AAP agreements signed on or after January 1, 2017 includes the statewide Resource Family (RF) basic level through LOC 4 rate. Refer to [ACL 21-54](#), dated June 16, 2021 for the implementation date of the AAP LOC Protocol to be used to determine the child's eligibility for the RF basic level through LOC 4 rate. Effective July 1, 2021, the 2.11 percent CNI increase applied to the statewide RF basic level through LOC 4 rate structure is reflected in Table D.

Table D

Basic Level Rate	LOC 2	LOC 3	LOC 4
\$1,059	\$1,177	\$1,298	\$1,416

Initial AAP agreements signed on or after January 1, 2017 with an RF Basic Level Rate, may be renegotiated 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 [ACL 21-54](#) for the implementation date of the AAP LOC Protocol to be used to determine the child's eligible LOC rate.

- For 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 August 2, 2018, 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.

Dual Agency Rates

Effective July 1, 2021, the 2.11 percent CNI increase is to be applied to the dual agency rates reflected in Table E. 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 E

Age 0-3	\$1,241
Age 3 years or older	\$2,771

Counties and the CDSS Regional Offices' Responsibility

Counties and the CDSS' Regional Offices shall adjust the monthly AAP basic rate and the Dual Agency rate to include an annual CNI increase should one occur, effective July 1st of each year. The CNI increase applies to children with an AAP rate based on a California AAP rate structure regardless if they are a resident of California, another state

or country. 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 file maintained by the eligibility unit and the AAP case file maintained by the 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 a renegotiation, if applicable and an amended agreement.

Inquiries

Please direct all AAP questions to the Adoptions Services Branch at (916) 651-8089 or to the email address AAP@dss.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By

ANGIE SCHWARTZ
Deputy Director
Children and Family Services Division

c: County Welfare Directors Association