

December 9, 2022

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 22-93

The purpose of this All County Letter is to notify county child welfare services agencies of the \$50 million of state general funds appropriated in the State Budget Act of 2022 to enhance child welfare Emergency Response services. This letter provides information on county allocations, allowable funding uses, the county opt-in and opt-out process, and reporting requirements.



KIM JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

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



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

December 9, 2022

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 22-93

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL EMERGENCY RESPONSE STAFF
ALL CHILD WELFARE SERVICES PROGRAM MANAGERS
ALL CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS

SUBJECT: **CHILD WELFARE SERVICES EMERGENCY RESPONSE
ENHANCEMENT FUNDS FY 2022-23**

REFERENCE: [SENATE BILL 129 \(CHAPTER 69\) THE BUDGET ACT OF 2021](#);
[ASSEMBLY BILL 179 \(CHAPTER 249\) THE BUDGET ACT OF 2022](#);
[ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 22-02](#);
[COUNTY FISCAL LETTER NO. 21/22-111](#);
[COUNTY FISCAL LETTER NO. 21/22-73](#);

The purpose of this All County Letter (ACL) is to notify county child welfare services (CWS) agencies of the \$50 million of state general funds appropriated in the state Budget Act of 2022 to increase the number of child welfare social workers in Emergency Response (ER) services and enhance existing ER child welfare services. This letter provides information on county allocations, allowable funding uses, the county opt-in and opt-out process, and reporting requirements.

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

[The Budget Act of 2021](#) first appropriated \$50 million of state general funds for the purpose of enhancing a county CWS agency's existing ER services, resulting in a net increase of staff for hotline and investigative functions. These funds are available for encumbrance or expenditure until June 30, 2025 (See County Fiscal Letter (CFL) [No. 21/22-73](#) and [CFL No. 21/22-111](#)). The [CFL No. 21/22-111](#) provides the final allocations for all 58 counties for the FY 2021-22 funding.

[The Budget Act of 2022](#) has appropriated an additional \$50 million of state general fund for the same purpose of enhancing a county CWS agency's existing ER services. This additional funding is available for encumbrance or expenditure until June 30, 2026.

The ACL No. [22-02](#) provides county CWS agencies with examples of allowable uses for these funds, aimed to increase the number of staff entering and remaining in the ER workforce. The ACL also provides several ways these activities may result in better quality investigations and positive outcomes for children and families.

In ACL No. [22-02](#), county CWS agencies were also asked to opt-in or out of receiving the initial allocation of \$50 million by submitting to the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), the ER Enhancement Funding County Notice Letter (Attachment I). County CWS agencies that opted in were required to develop and submit a plan (Attachment II) to the CDSS that identifies:

- Their specific needs relevant to increasing ER staff and enhancing ER services quality;
- A description of each strategy they will implement that meets the needs of their specific ER programs;
- The method for measuring change;
- The specific outcomes the county expects to see for each strategy; and
- An explanation of how the funding will be spent and what strategies those dollars will impact.

CHILD WELFARE SERVICES ER ENHANCEMENT FUNDS PROGRAM

With the additional allocation of \$50 million in the [Budget Act of 2022](#), the CDSS would like to provide county CWS agencies who did not opt-in to receive the funding in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22, the opportunity to opt-in to receiving their allocated amount for FY 2022-23.

Any county may opt-in or opt-out of receiving an allocation of the [Budget Act of 2022](#) funding regardless of whether they chose to opt-in or opt-out of receiving an allocation of the [Budget Act of 2021](#) funding.

Opt-In Process

Consistent with Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22 instructions contained in ACL No. [22-02](#), all county CWS agencies that choose to opt-in and receive funding for FY 2022-23 must submit the ER Enhancement Funding County Notice Letter (Attachment I) by March 1, 2023, to childprotection@dss.ca.gov.

Counties who choose to receive funds must also develop and submit a plan (Attachment II) to the CDSS in accordance with the instructions in ACL No. [22-02](#). County CWS agencies that wish to make updates to their initially submitted plan may send in an updated plan using the county plan update template in Attachment III in ACL No. [22-02](#).

Opt-out Process

If a county CWS agency elected to opt-out of FY 2021-22 and wishes to opt-out of receiving funds for FY 2022-23 also, only Attachment I is required.

Annual Updates

Counties that receive funding must include in their annual update how the funding was allocated for each FY. Counties will submit their updated plans annually to CDSS, with the first annual update due on June 30, 2023 for those counties that opted to receive funding in FY 21-22. However, if a county is opting in for the first time in FY 22-23, the due date for the annual update will be June 30, 2024.

Allocation Methodology

Consistent with the FY 2021-22 allocation methodology, and as explained in ACL No. [22-02](#), in consultation with the County Welfare Directors Association, the [Budget Act of 2022](#) \$50 million of state general funds for the enhancement of child welfare ER services is distributed as follows:

- Fifty percent of the funds are distributed based on counties' total number of referrals and investigations from July 2020 to July 2021, as reported in Safe Measures Reports.
- The remaining 50 percent is distributed based on counties' ER caseload safety and risk data from July 2020 to July 2021, as reported in Child Welfare Services/Case Management System. Specifically, counties with larger, more unsafe, and higher risk ER caseloads are provided a larger allocation of funds.
- The allocation is then adjusted to ensure that each county receives a minimum of \$129,000 based on the estimated cost of funding a full-time equivalent child welfare social worker.

Attachment III displays estimated allocations for all counties if all counties opt-in for the FY 2022-23 funding. A final allocation distribution and claiming instructions will be provided in a forthcoming CFL. The CDSS will redistribute the planning allocation amount of any counties who choose to opt-out to the remaining participating counties.

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Questions regarding this letter should be directed to the Family Centered Safety and Support Bureau, at childprotection@dss.ca.gov or call (916) 651-6160.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

ANGIE SCHWARTZ
Deputy Director
Children and Family Services Division

Attachments

ER ENHANCEMENT FUNDING COUNTY NOTICE LETTER

California Department of Social Services
Attention: Family Centered Safety and Support Bureau
744 P Street, MS 8-11-542
Sacramento, CA 95814

Director Kim Johnson:

The purpose of this letter is to inform the California Department of Social Services that _____ County elects to: (Choose Option 1 or 2)

OPTION #1

___ Opt-in to receiving state funds allocated under Section 161, Provision 16 of the State Budget Act of 2022 (AB 178) to enhance the county's Emergency Response services, resulting in an increase in the number of Emergency Response child welfare services staff. **(Newly opted-in counties must attach a plan per ACL No. [22-02](#).)**

- a) _____ County also opted in to receive funding for FY 2021-22 and have no changes to their existing plan.
- b) _____ County also opted in to receive funding for FY 2021-22 and would like to make updates to their initially submitted Program Plan. Attached is _____ County's updated plan.

As a condition of receiving these funds, _____ County agrees to submit annual updates to its plan, beginning June 30, 2023 (for FY 21-22) or June 30, 2024 (for FY 22-23), and to track and report county strategies and outcomes in accordance with ACL No. 22-02.

OPTION #2

___ Opt-out from receiving state funds allocated under Section 161, Provision 16 of the State Budget Act of 2022 (AB 178) to enhance the county's Emergency Response services.

By choosing not to receive an allocation, _____ County understands they will not receive an allocation of ER enhancement funds under this provision and will not be required to report to CDSS the information outlined in ACL No. 22-02.

This notice is only for ER enhancement funds appropriated in the FY 2022-23 state budget. **This County Notice Letter and plan, if a county is opting in for the first time, must be received by the Family Centered Safety and Support Bureau (childprotection@dss.ca.gov) on or before March 1, 2023.**

Signature of Authorized County Representative

Date

EMERGENCY RESPONSE (ER) ENHANCEMENT FUNDING PROGRAM PLAN

The CDSS will review and approve county plans before finalizing allocations for FY 2022-23. County plans must be received by **March 1, 2023**.

Participating counties will submit their plan updates annually to CDSS via the template in Attachment III below to childprotection@dss.ca.gov.

County:

County Contact:

Specific Needs

[Describe the specific needs of the county relevant to increasing ER staff and enhancing ER services quality.]

Funding

[Describe how the funding will be spent and what portion, in dollars, of the funding will be committed to each strategy.]

STRATEGIES AND OUTCOMES

Strategy 1

[Identify a specific strategy for using the ER Enhancement funds that will impact your ER program.]

Outcome 1

[What will be the measured outcome of this specific strategy?]

Outcome Measure 1

[List specific outcomes that will be measured for this strategy.]

Strategy 2

[Identify a specific strategy for using the ER Enhancement funds that will impact your ER program.]

Outcome 2

[What will be the measured outcome of this specific strategy?]

Outcome Measure 2

[List specific outcomes that will be measured for this strategy.]

[Counties may include as many strategies as they see fit. Continue following this format for the remaining Strategies, Outcomes, and Outcome Measures.]

PROMISING PRACTICES/OTHER SUCCESSES

[Enter a description of any other successes experienced as a result of receiving the ER Enhancement funds.]

OBSTACLES AND BARRIERS TO IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ER FUNDING

[Provide a description of any identified challenges the county experienced with implementation of the funding as well as any changes or updates the county would like to make for the next FY.]

ER ENHANCEMENT FUNDING GENERAL FUND ALLOCATION

COUNTIES	ALLOCATION
Alameda	\$892,710
Alpine	\$129,000
Amador	\$129,000
Butte	\$270,494
Calaveras	\$129,000
Colusa	\$129,000
Contra Costa	\$762,857
Del Norte	\$129,000
El Dorado	\$226,606
Fresno	\$2,062,448
Glenn	\$129,000
Humboldt	\$255,111
Imperial	\$237,898
Inyo	\$129,000
Kern	\$1,189,900
Kings	\$289,830
Lake	\$129,000
Lassen	\$129,000
Los Angeles	\$11,777,495
Madera	\$365,279
Marin	\$129,000
Mariposa	\$129,000
Mendocino	\$281,913
Merced	\$442,334
Modoc	\$129,000
Mono	\$129,000
Monterey	\$427,433
Napa	\$157,513
Nevada	\$129,000
Orange	\$2,721,976
Placer	\$326,793
Plumas	\$129,000
Riverside	\$4,505,051
Sacramento	\$2,428,718
San Benito	\$129,000
San Bernardino	\$3,757,451
San Diego	\$4,855,491
San Francisco	\$347,019
San Joaquin	\$942,873

Attachment III

San Luis Obispo	\$346,035
San Mateo	\$381,207
Santa Barbara	\$819,462
Santa Clara	\$1,504,793
Santa Cruz	\$233,014
Shasta	\$459,593
Sierra	\$129,000
Siskiyou	\$129,000
Solano	\$466,464
Sonoma	\$448,462
Stanislaus	\$815,755
Sutter	\$129,000
Tehama	\$129,320
Trinity	\$129,000
Tulare	\$982,901
Tuolumne	\$129,000
Ventura	\$810,912
Yolo	\$224,054
Yuba	\$143,835
Total	\$50,000,000