

August 4, 2023

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 23-69

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 6.85 percent for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24, effective July 1, 2023.



KIM JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

CALIFORNIA HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
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GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

August 4, 2023

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 23-69

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
ALL CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS

SUBJECT: ADOPTION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM RATES

REFERENCE: [WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE SECTIONS 16121\(a\) AND \(g\), ALL COUNTY LETTER 11-74, ALL COUNTY LETTER 12-45, ALL COUNTY LETTER 13-63, ALL COUNTY LETTER 14-45, ALL COUNTY LETTER 15-55, ALL COUNTY LETTER 16-55, ALL COUNTY LETTER 17-69, ALL COUNTY LETTER 18-93, ALL COUNTY LETTER 19-58, ALL COUNTY LETTER 20-68, ALL COUNTY LETTER 21-54, ALL COUNTY LETTER 21-97, AND ALL COUNTY LETTER 22-64](#)

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) rate. Please refer to [All County Letter \(ACL\) 11-74](#) for the AAP rate methodology as stated in [Welfare and Institutions Code \(WIC\) section 16121\(a\)](#). The adjusted schedule of rates in this letter reflects the CNI increase of 6.85 percent for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24, effective July 1, 2023.

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, 2023. 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.

The AAP Basic Rate

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, 2023, the 6.85 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	\$669	\$727	\$778	\$858	\$941

Table A-1

County/Age/Rate	0-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-21
Los Angeles	\$669	\$727	\$787	\$858	\$941
Orange	\$669	\$727	\$778	\$990	\$990
Santa Clara	\$669	\$727	\$787	\$858	\$941

Table A-2

County/Age/Rate	0-4	5-6	7-12	13-21
Marin	\$669	\$727	\$837	\$951

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, 2023, the 6.85 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	\$702	\$763	\$817	\$900	\$987

Table B-1

County/Age/Rate	0-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-21
Los Angeles	\$702	\$763	\$825	\$900	\$987
Orange	\$702	\$763	\$817	\$1,035	\$1,035
Santa Clara	\$702	\$763	\$825	\$900	\$987

Table B-2

County/Age/Rate	0-4	5-6	7-12	13-21
Marin	\$720	\$763	\$879	\$999

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, 2023, the 6.85 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	\$960	\$1,036	\$1,093	\$1,144	\$1,199

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, 2023, the 6.85 percent CNI increase applied to the statewide RF basic level through LOC 4 rate structure is reflected in Table D.

Table D

Level	Basic Level Rate	LOC 2	LOC 3	LOC 4
Rate	\$1,206	\$1,341	\$1,479	\$1,613

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 a subsequent 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, 2023, the 6.85 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	Age 0-3	Age 3 years or older
Rate	\$1,414	\$3,157

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 of 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

If you have any questions or need additional guidance regarding the information in this letter, contact the Adoption Services Branch at (916) 651-8089 or at AAP@dss.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By

ANGIE SCHWARTZ
Deputy Director
Children and Family Services Division