

June 24, 2024

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 24-45

This All County Letter (ACL) is to inform counties, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) Regional Offices, Tribes who have Title IV-E Agreements with CDSS, and all other interested parties of the California Necessities Index (CNI) increase to be applied to the Adoption Assistance Program (AAP) rates. The adjusted schedule for the AAP rates in this ACL reflects the CNI increase of 4.32 percent for Fiscal Year 2024-25, effective July 1, 2024.



KIM JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

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

June 24, 2024

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 24-45

TO: ALL COUNTY ADOPTION AGENCIES
ALL ADOPTION REGIONAL OFFICES
ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY PLACEMENT SUPERVISORS
ALL TITLE IV-E AGREEMENT TRIBES
ALL FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBES
ALL ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES

SUBJECT: ADOPTION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (AAP) 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, ALL COUNTY LETTER 22-64, AND ALL COUNTY LETTER 23-69](#)

This All County Letter (ACL) is to inform counties, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) Regional Offices, Tribes who have Title IV-E Agreements with CDSS, and all other interested parties of the California Necessities Index (CNI) increase to be applied to the Adoption Assistance Program (AAP) rates. The adjusted schedule for the AAP rates in this ACL reflects the CNI increase of 4.32 percent for Fiscal Year 2024-25, effective July 1, 2024.

Please refer to [ACL 11-74](#) for the AAP rate methodology as stated in [Welfare and Institutions Code section 16121\(a\)](#). The negotiated AAP rate shall be based on the needs of the child and the circumstances of the family.

AAP BASIC RATES

Effective July 1, 2024, the 4.32 percent CNI increase applies to the AAP Basic rates reflected in Tables A, A-1, A-2, B, B-1, B-2, C, and D. The adjusted schedules for the

AAP Basic rates, which includes the Level of Care (LOC) rates, are to be used to determine the child's initial and subsequent maximum eligible AAP Basic rate. The child's maximum eligible AAP Basic rate may include the Specialized Care Increment (SCI), if applicable. The CNI increase, however, does not apply to the SCI.

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, 2024, the 4.32 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	\$698	\$758	\$812	\$895	\$982

Table A-1

County/Age/Rate	0-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-21
Los Angeles	\$698	\$758	\$821	\$895	\$982
Orange	\$698	\$758	\$812	\$1,033	\$1,033
Santa Clara	\$698	\$758	\$821	\$895	\$982

Table A-2

County/Age/Rate	0-4	5-6	7-12	13-21
Marin	\$698	\$758	\$873	\$992

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, 2024, the 4.32 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	\$732	\$796	\$852	\$939	\$1,030

Table B-1

County/Age/Rate	0-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-21
Los Angeles	\$732	\$796	\$861	\$939	\$1,030
Orange	\$732	\$796	\$852	\$1,080	\$1,080
Santa Clara	\$732	\$796	\$861	\$939	\$1,030

Table B-2

County/Age/Rate	0-4	5-6	7-12	13-21
Marin	\$751	\$796	\$917	\$1,042

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, 2024, the 4.32 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	\$1,001	\$1,081	\$1,140	\$1,193	\$1,251

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 rate through LOC rate 4. 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 rate through LOC rate 4. Effective July 1, 2024, the 4.32 percent CNI increase applied to the statewide RF Basic Level rate through LOC rate 4 structure is reflected in Table D.

Table D

Level	Basic Level Rate	LOC 2	LOC 3	LOC 4
Rate	\$1,258	\$1,399	\$1,543	\$1,683

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 AAP agreement will remain in effect until terminated or a subsequent amended AAP 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, 2024, the 4.32 percent CNI increase applies to the Dual Agency rates reflected in Table E. The child's maximum eligible dual agency rate may include the supplement to the Dual Agency rate, if applicable. The CNI increase, however, does not apply to the supplement to the Dual Agency rate.

Table E

Age	Age 0-3	Age 3 years or older
Rate	\$1,475	\$3,293

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 whether they are a resident of California, another state, or another 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 financially responsible county and the AAP case file maintained by the responsible public agency, for AAP documentation purposes.

To process the automatic CNI increase, the Adoption Assistance Program Agreement Form (AD 4320) and Payment Instructions Adoption Assistance Program Form (AAP 2) are not required to be completed by the responsible public agency. CNI increases do not require an amended AAP agreement. However, all other changes to the AAP rate continue to require a reassessment/renegotiation, if applicable, and an amended AAP 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