

July 12, 2024

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 24-51**

The purpose of this All County Letter is to inform all county welfare agencies, juvenile probation departments, and Title IV-E Tribes that the Federal contribution to Child Welfare Services Program Funding is reduced for the Federal Fiscal Year 2024.



**KIM JOHNSON**  
DIRECTOR

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

July 12, 2024

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 24-51

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS  
ALL CHILD WELFARE SERVICES PROGRAM MANAGERS  
ALL FOSTER FAMILY AGENCY DIRECTORS  
ALL TITLE IV-E AGREEMENT TRIBES  
ALL CDSS ADOPTION REGIONAL OFFICES

SUBJECT: FEDERAL FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION RATE FOR TITLE IV-B,  
SUBPART 1 CHILD WELFARE SERVICES IS REDUCED FOR  
FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2024

REFERENCE: [UNITED STATES CODE SECTION 624, SUBD. \(f\), CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2006 PUBLIC LAW \(PL\) 109-288, SOCIAL SECURITY TITLE IV-B, SUBPART 1, MANUAL OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES DIVISION 31 SECTION 320,](#)  
[ALL COUNTY INFORMATIONAL NOTICE \(ACIN\) NO. I-21-18,](#)  
[ALL COUNTY LETTER \(ACL\) NO. 19-87, ACL NO. 13-13,](#)  
[WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE \(WIC\) SECTION 16501.1](#)

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this All County Letter (ACL) is to inform all county welfare agencies, juvenile probation departments, and Title IV-E Agreement Tribes that the rate of Federal Financial Participation (FFP) for Title IV-B, Subpart 1 Child Welfare Services Program Funding is reduced for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2024. This reduction by the federal government is based on the state's failure to meet the requirement that 95 percent of children in foster care be visited on a minimum basis of once per month. The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) expectation and best practice is for counties to achieve 100 percent of monthly caseworker visits, as they are the most effective way to ensure the safety and well-being of every child within our custody.

## **BACKGROUND**

The [Child and Family Services Improvement Act of 2006 \(Public Law 109-288\)](#) established federal requirements for social workers and probation officers (hereinafter known as “caseworkers”) to conduct, at minimum, monthly visits with children in foster care under the responsibility of the county. This Act also established enforcement standards and penalties associated with non-compliance of caseworker visitation requirements. In 2011, through the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act of 2011, federal data reporting methodology was updated. For additional information on the impact of this federal law, please see [ACL 13-13](#).

Consistent with federal law and the [Welfare and Institutions Code \(WIC\) section 16501.1](#), each county shall ensure that the total number of visits made by caseworkers on a monthly basis to children in foster care during a federal fiscal year is **not less than 95 percent** of the total number of such visits that would occur if each child were visited once every month while in care. No more than two consecutive monthly visits may be held outside the residence of the foster child. If the visit does not occur in the place of residence, the social worker or probation officer shall document in the case file and in the court report the location of the visit and the reason for the visit occurring outside the place of residence.

The [Manual of Policies and Procedures \(MPP\) Division 31 Section 320](#) outlines mandates for caseworkers pertaining to visiting children/youth in Family Maintenance or Out of Home Placement, including non-minor dependents in extended foster care. Current law requires all children in foster care and under the jurisdiction of the court to be visited monthly, and a majority of those visits must occur in the child's residence. The regulations apply to **all youth** under a county's jurisdiction. These are the minimum requirements to meet federal and state mandates.

The CDSS released [ACL 19-87](#) in August of 2019. The ACL NO. 19-87 outlines caseworker visit regulations and what monthly visits should look like using the Integrated Core Practice Model. Please see ACL 19-87 for practice guidance and guides for visit documentation.

## **STATE PERFORMANCE PROGRESS**

The following information is from the Administration for Children and Families Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System, Federal Monthly Caseworker Visit Data for FFY 2023. These numbers are a combination of Child Welfare and Juvenile Probation and reflect only minors zero to 17 years of age who are in foster care.

FFY	Minors in Care	Percent visited	Percent not visited	Percent visited in residence	Percent Visited outside of residence
2023	55,175	93.0%	7.0%	84.81%	15.19%

California has been improving regarding conducting monthly visits in a child's residence. The percentage of visits completed in the child's residence exceeds the 50 percent performance standard. However, California has not achieved the 95 percent visit rate requirement since FFY 2019. Every year that California does not achieve the 95 percent monthly caseworker visitation requirement, Title IV-B funding for support services is reduced for the following FFY.

## **PENALTIES**

As required by [United States Code sections 624\(f\)\(1\)\(B\)](#) and (f)(2)(B), any state that does not comply with the Monthly Caseworker Visits and Visits In the Home performance requirement is subject to a reduction in its FFP rate for Child Welfare Services under [Social Security Title IV-B, Subpart 1 of the Act](#), in accordance with the table below:

<b>If the State falls short of the performance percentage by:</b>	<b>The FFP rate for Title IV-B, subpart 1 will be reduced by:</b>
Less than 10%	1%
10% or more but less than 20%	3%
20% or more	5%

For FFY 2023 California's performance fell short. California completed **93 percent** of required Monthly Caseworker visits, which is two percent below the performance standard. This means that FFP rate is reduced by **one percent** of the Title IV-B Subpart 1 funds. The new FFP rate for FFY 2024 is now 74 percent.

If you have any questions or need additional guidance regarding the information in this letter, contact the Permanency Policy Bureau at (916) 651-7394 or the Family Reunification and Pathways to Permanency Policy Unit at [Reunification-Permanency@dss.ca.gov](mailto:Reunification-Permanency@dss.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

***Original Document Signed By***

ANGIE SCHWARTZ  
Deputy Director  
Children and Family Services Division

cc: All Federally Recognized Tribes