

January 27, 2025

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 25-06

The purpose of this All County Letter is to provide information regarding the allocation methodology for the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Commercially Sexually Exploited Children Program and new requirements for regular communication and more details, where reasonably possible, to be provided by Title IV-E agencies to law enforcement and the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children when a child or youth who is at risk of or a victim of commercial sexual exploitation is missing from care.



JENNIFER TROIA
DIRECTOR

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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
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GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

January 27, 2025

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 25-06

TO: ALL COUNTY CHILD WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS
ALL FOSTER CARE MANAGERS
ALL CHILD WELFARE SERVICES PROGRAM MANAGERS
ALL TITLE IV-E AGREEMENT TRIBES
ALL COUNTY BOARDS OF SUPERVISORS

SUBJECT: COMMERCIALLY SEXUALLY EXPLOITED CHILDREN
PROGRAM FISCAL YEAR 2024-25 ALLOCATION
METHODOLOGY AND NEW NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING
AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN AND LAW ENFORCEMENT
REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

REFERENCE: [SENATE BILL \(SB\) 855 \(CHAPTER 29, STATUTES OF 2014\);](#)
[WELFARE & INSTITUTIONS \(WIC\) SECTIONS 16524.6 -](#)
[16524.11; PUBLIC LAW 113-183;](#)
[SB 794 \(CHAPTER 425, STATUTES OF 2015\);](#)
[WIC SECTION 16501.35; ALL COUNTY LETTER \(ACL\) 16-08;](#)
[ACL 16-85; ACL 16-15;](#)
[ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE \(ACIN\) I-14-19;](#)
[WIC SECTION 16501.45;](#)
[COUNTY FISCAL LETTER \(CFL\) 16/17-73; ACL 21-142;](#)
[CFL 23/24-20; PUBLIC LAW 117-348;](#)
[ASSEMBLY BILL \(AB\) 161 \(CHAPTER 46, STATUTES OF 2024\);](#)
[PENAL CODE SECTION 11166; WIC SECTION 827.14;](#)
[WIC SECTION 224.1](#)

The purpose of this All County Letter (ACL) is to provide all county child welfare and probation agencies (hereafter referred to as counties) and Tribes with a Title IV-E Agreement the allocation methodology for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25 Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Program, including the federal sex trafficking prevention requirements under Title IV-E of the Federal Social Security Act.

This ACL also provides information on new requirements for regular communication and more details, where reasonably possible, to be provided by Title IV-E agencies to law enforcement and the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children when a child or youth who is at risk of or a victim of commercial sexual exploitation is missing from care.

Specifically, this ACL addresses the following:

- Historical context of the CSEC Program.
- Requirements for opt-in counties.
- Requirements for all counties.
- FY 2024-25 CSEC Program allocation methodology.
- New NCMEC and law enforcement reporting and communication requirements.

Counties should ensure services are provided to meet the needs of American Indian/Alaska Native youth that have experienced or are at risk of experiencing commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) and that the services provided are culturally relevant. Allocated funds should be proportionally earmarked to meet these needs. The Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons epidemic disproportionately impacts American Indian/Alaska Native women and girls, who go missing and are trafficked at disproportionately higher rates than other groups. The CSEC Program Funds can be utilized to address this risk.

BACKGROUND

To support counties in their efforts to improve outcomes for minors who are at-risk or a victim of CSE, California enacted [Senate Bill \(SB\) 855 \(Chapter 29, Statutes of 2014\)](#). SB 855 established the county optional CSEC Program described in [Welfare and Institutions Code \(WIC\) sections 16524.6 - 16524.11](#) and administered by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). Each year CDSS consults with the County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA) to determine the allocation methodology for the distribution of funds to counties that opt in to participate in the state CSEC Program.

The FY 2024-25 Child Welfare Services (CWS) funding for Title IV-E Agreement Tribes will be provided annually in allocation letters for those tribes that have Title IV-E Agreements. This funding is combined with all other CWS funding and part of the General Fund allocations. Specifically, Tribes with Title IV-E Agreements can utilize their CWS allocation for CSEC program related activities.

On September 29, 2014, the federal Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act ([Public Law 113-183](#)) was signed into law, which amended Title IV-E of the Social Security Act to require states to develop and implement policies and procedures related to youth for whom a state has placement, care, or supervision responsibility and who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing CSE, including children who have

run away from care. This federal law was then codified into state law in 2015 via [SB 794](#), through [WIC section 16501.35](#), which required counties to implement policies and procedures related to expeditiously locating children and youth missing from care as well as requiring all child welfare and probation departments to identify, document, and determine appropriate services when serving youth who have been identified as victims of CSE or are at risk for being victims of CSE.

In addition, for this same population of youth, the Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2022 ([Public Law 117-348](#)) was signed into law on January 5, 2023, amending Title IV-E of the Social Security Act to require regular communication and more details, where reasonably possible, to be provided when Title IV-E agencies report missing or abducted children to law enforcement and the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC). This federal law was codified into state law through [AB 161 \(Chapter 46, Statutes of 2024\)](#), which amended [Penal Code \(PEN\) section 11166\(j\)](#) to add these additional reporting requirements, as specified below. The [AB 161](#) also added [WIC section 827.14](#) to permit counties to disseminate information from the juvenile case file to NCMEC as necessary to carry out the duties required by [PEN section 11166\(j\)\(3\)](#).

CDSS provided initial instructions to counties regarding the requirements for preventing child sex trafficking in [ACL No. 16-08](#), statewide policies and procedures to prevent child sex trafficking in [ACL No. 16-85](#), and initial instructions regarding the protocol for youth who leave care or are missing in [ACL No. 16-15](#).

Additionally, [ACIN No. I-14-19](#) highlights best practices for serving youth who have experienced exploitation, such as guidance on reporting procedures, engagement for youth during and post leaving care, prevention guidance, and safety planning for future incidents of leaving care. All county child welfare and probation agencies receive an annual allocation to perform these federally required activities.

REQUIREMENTS FOR OPT-IN COUNTIES

The CSEC Program provides funding to participating counties to support training, prevention activities, intervention services, and the utilization of a multidisciplinary approach while serving children and youth who are, or are at risk of becoming, commercially sexually exploited. Counties may opt-in on an annual basis to receive state funding for the CSEC program pursuant to [WIC sections 16524.6 - 16524.11](#). To participate, the counties are required to develop an Interagency Protocol as described in [WIC section 16524.8](#). Counties are encouraged to involve and include Tribes in the development and implementation of their Interagency Protocols. To access this funding, counties participating in the state CSEC program are also required to participate in two calls annually with the Child Trafficking Program Support Unit to discuss progress in Program implementation.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL COUNTIES

For all counties, the federal Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act, [Public Law 113-183](#), includes additional requirements under the Title IV-E program for states to prevent and address child sex trafficking. California incorporated the requirements of [Public Law 113-183](#) into state law in [WIC section 16501.35](#) and [WIC section 16501.45](#), requiring all counties to perform these federally required activities for children receiving child welfare services. For information regarding federal requirements for preventing sex trafficking and statewide policies and procedures applicable to all counties, please see [ACL No. 16-85](#) and [CFL No. 16/17-73](#).

In addition, the federal Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2022, [Public Law 117-348](#), includes additional requirements related to communication with and reporting to NCMEC and law enforcement agencies regarding missing youth receiving child welfare services who are reasonably believed to be, or are at risk of being, victims of CSE. These requirements were codified in state law in [PEN section 11166\(j\)\(3\)\(C\)](#), which requires all counties to maintain regular communication with NCMEC and law enforcement agencies, including tribal law enforcement agencies in the case of an Indian child, in efforts to provide a safe recovery of the missing youth, including by sharing information pertaining to the youth's recovery and circumstances related to the recovery. Additionally, [PEN section 11166\(j\)\(3\)\(B\)](#) requires all counties to include in the report that must be submitted to law enforcement agencies and NCMEC, where reasonably possible, additional information, as specified below. [WIC section 827.14](#) permits counties to disseminate information from the juvenile case file to NCMEC as necessary to carry out the duties required by [PEN section 11166\(j\)\(3\)](#).

ALLOWABLE STATE PROGRAM EXPENDITURES AND FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

To support flexible expenditure planning of the CSEC program annual allocations, CDSS developed the document entitled, "State CSEC Program Expenditures and Federally Required Title IV-E Preventing Sex Trafficking Activities." This document is attached to [ACL No. 21-142](#) and is meant to provide child welfare agencies and probation departments examples of allowable expenditures and activities for the associated funding source and program requirements. This document may also be used as a resource for Tribes with Title IV-E Agreements for how they may use their CWS Start-Up funding to support youth at risk of or experiencing CSE.

Both counties and Tribes with a Title IV-E Agreement can obtain support in the implementation of their programming and use of the allocated funds by contacting the Child Trafficking Response Team at CDSS by emailing CSECProgram@dss.ca.gov.

**FUNDING DISTRIBUTION FOR THE STATE COMERCIALY SEXUALLY
EXPLOITED CHILDREN PROGRAM [SENATE BILL 855 (CHAPTER 29, STATUTES
OF 2014) – OPT-IN COUNTIES]**

In consultation with CWDA, approximately \$15.7 million General Fund (GF) is distributed to County Welfare Departments (CWDs) that have opted to participate in the state CSEC Program established by [WIC section 16524.7](#) using the following methodology:

- Approximately \$16.2 million GF is preliminarily allocated based on each previously opted-in (hereinafter referred to as “continuing”) county’s percentage of the total statewide FY 2023-24 state CSEC allocation less adjustments for the Preventing and Addressing Child Trafficking Project and minimum floor adjustments, as displayed in [CFL No. 23/24-20](#).
- From the preliminary calculation, a reduction of \$488,640 is distributed across all continuing counties for the implementation of county training, technical assistance, and cross-county coordination through the Preventing and Addressing Child Trafficking Project based on each continuing county’s actual FY 2023-24 state CSEC allocation balance as of the June 2024 quarter Continuing counties with surplus balances contribute 5.49 percent of their preliminary allocation; continuing counties with projected deficit balances contribute 1.0 percent of their preliminary allocation.
- An adjustment is made to ensure counties receive no less than \$25,000 GF.

For additional information regarding the allocation methodology and claiming information, please reference the forthcoming FY 2024-25 CSEC Program GF Allocation County Fiscal Letter.

**FUNDING DISTRIBUTION FOR THE FEDERAL SEX TRAFFICKING PREVENTION
REQUIREMENTS [SENATE BILL 794 (CHAPTER 425, STATUTES OF 2015) – ALL
COUNTIES]**

In consultation with CWDA, \$678,800 GF is distributed to CWDs using the following methodology:

- Each county’s percentage of the total statewide point-in-time number of children in foster care caseload, ages 10 through 20 years, as of January 1, 2024, taken from the California Child Welfare Indicators Project (CCWIP) on the University of California (UC) Berkeley website.
- To ensure all counties implement the federally mandated activities, a minimum floor of \$2,500 GF is provided.

In consultation with the Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC), approximately \$1.0 million GF is distributed to County Probation Departments (CPDs) using the following methodology:

- Each county's percentage of the combined total statewide point-in-time number of children in foster care caseload, ages 10 through 20 years, as of January 1, 2024, taken from the CCWIP on the UC Berkeley website, and candidacy caseload as of March 2024, as reported by counties to CDSS.
- To ensure all counties implement the federally mandated activities, a minimum floor of \$2,500 GF is provided.

INCREASED ALLOCATION FOR ADDITIONAL NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN AND LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS [AB 161 (CHAPTER 46, STATUTES OF 2024) – ALL COUNTIES]

An additional \$432,000 is included for newly mandated reporting and regular communication requirements. The following is a summary of these new requirements, and a forthcoming ACL will further detail the new requirements. When a child or youth who is receiving child welfare services and who is reasonably believed to be the victim of, or is at risk of being the victim of, CSE is discovered to be missing from care, reports from counties to NCMEC and to law enforcement, including tribal law enforcement when applicable, must now include, where reasonably possible, all of the following ([see PEN section 11166 \(j\)\(3\)\(B\)\(i\)-\(iv\)](#)):

- A photo of the missing or abducted child or youth.
- A description of the child or youth's physical features, such as height, weight, sex, ethnicity, race, hair color, and eye color.
- Endangerment information, such as the child or youth's pregnancy status, prescription medications, suicidal tendencies, vulnerability to being sex trafficked, and other health or risk factors, to the extent such information is released in compliance with other applicable laws.
- Information about whether the child or youth is or may be an Indian child, as defined in [WIC section 224.1](#), including the name of the child's Tribe.

The [AB 161](#) also added [PEN section 11166 \(j\)\(3\)\(C\)](#), which requires probation and child welfare to maintain regular communication with NCMEC and applicable law enforcement agencies, including tribal law enforcement when applicable, for this same population of children and youth. An ACL detailing these new requirements is forthcoming. The purpose of this communication is in efforts to provide safe recovery of the missing child or youth, including by sharing any information related to the child's or youth's recovery and circumstances related to the recovery. This information may also include but is not limited to:

- The location of the child or youth, or a previous recent location.
- Names of persons recently in contact with the child or youth.
- New social media handles of the child or youth or recently uploaded information on existing handles.
- Any new photos obtained from persons in contact with the child or youth or from social media.

In consultation with CWDA, \$409,536 GF is distributed to CWDs using the following methodology:

- Each county's percentage of the total statewide point-in-time number of children in foster care caseload, ages 10 through 20 years, as of January 1, 2024, taken from the CCWIP on the UC Berkeley website.
- To ensure all counties implement these mandated activities, a minimum floor adjustment ensures counties receive no less than \$1,000 GF.

In consultation with CPOC, \$22,464 GF is distributed to CPDs using the following methodology:

- Each county's percentage of the total statewide point-in-time number of children in foster care caseload, ages 10 through 20 years, as of January 1, 2024, taken from CCWIP on the UC Berkeley website.
- To ensure all counties implement these mandated activities, a minimum floor adjustment ensures counties receive no less than \$300 GF.

If you have questions or need additional guidance regarding the information in this letter, contact the Child Trafficking Response Team within the Safety and Early Intervention Bureau at (916) 651-6160 or CSECPProgram@dss.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By

ANGIE SCHWARTZ
Deputy Director
Children and Family Services Division

cc: County Welfare Directors Association
Chief Probation Officers of California
All Federally Recognized Tribes