

November 13, 2020

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTER

The purpose of this All County Welfare Directors Letter is to inform County Welfare Departments about stipends for child care providers receiving a CalWORKs Stage One child care subsidy intended to provide financial relief to assist with the hardships experienced due to the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19 or novel coronavirus).



KIM JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
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GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

November 13, 2020

ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTER

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTER

FROM: JENNIFER HERNANDEZ
Deputy Director
Family Engagement and Empowerment Division

SUBJECT: GUIDANCE REGARDING STIPENDS FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS
RECEIVING A CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO
KIDS (CALWORKS) STAGE ONE SUBSIDY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this All County Welfare Directors Letter is to inform County Welfare Departments about the dissemination of child care provider stipends intended to provide child care providers who serve children receiving CalWORKs Stage One Child Care one-time financial assistance with the hardships experienced due to the pandemic such as decreased enrollment, increased teacher-to-child ratios, costs associated with added cleaning protocols, and other expenses.

BACKGROUND

On March 4, 2020, the Governor declared a State of Emergency in California in response to COVID-19. The federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Child Care and Development Block Grant supplemental payment awarded California funding to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on child care providers and the families they serve. Pursuant to Section 111 of Senate Bill 820, the 2020-21 Budget Act, funding has been authorized to fund stipends to providers receiving a subsidy through CalWORKs Stage One.

STIPEND CHECKS

Child care providers will receive a stipend check that reflects the stipend amount as authorized by the 2020 Budget Act. Child care providers who were open in July and submitted requests for reimbursement for children receiving a subsidy for care in Stage 1 will receive a stipend. This includes providers who submitted requests for reimbursement for children who were not in care due to the pandemic. Stipends are based on the number of children enrolled and the average per child cost of care as determined by the Regional Market Rate specific to the age and child care setting from the CW 115/115A. Therefore, providers who serve the same number of children, but provide child care in different counties may receive different stipend amounts based on this market rate. Stipends are intended to provide child care providers with one-time financial assistance with the hardships experiences due to the pandemic such as decreased enrollment, increased teacher-to-child ratios, costs associated with added cleaning protocols, and other expenses.

Child Care providers will receive their stipend check in one of two ways. In counties that directly administer their Stage One Child Care program, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) has contracted with the Foundation for California Community Colleges to issue and distribute the stipend checks. These stipend checks will be mailed to child care providers in November. A second round of stipends will be mailed out after consultation with counties to determine if any child care providers may have been missed due to submission of late reimbursement forms. In counties that contract out their Stage One Child Care through an Alternative Payment Provider (APP), APPs will be issuing the stipend checks with funding that has been provided to them from the California Department of Education. The California Department of Education will be releasing guidance to APPs on stipend issuance via an upcoming communication.

If you have any questions or need additional guidance regarding the information in this letter, contact the Child Care Intergenerational Services Bureau at (916) 657-2144 or at CCPB@dss.ca.gov. As well, you can visit the [Child Care Stipend Webpage](#) for information about these stipends in Spanish and English.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

JENNIFER HERNANDEZ, Deputy Director
Family Engagement and Empowerment Division