

June 2, 2021

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTER

The purpose of this All County Welfare Directors Letter (ACWDL) is to provide counties with guidance on the implementation of Senate Bill (SB) 85 (Chapter 14, Statutes of 2021) regarding the distribution of flat-rate, one-time stipends in the amount of \$525 per qualifying child to child care providers caring for children receiving a child care voucher through the Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children (Bridge Program).



KIM JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

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

June 2, 2021

ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTER

TO: COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

FROM: DR. LUPE JAIME-MILEHAM, Deputy Director
Child Care and Development Division

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF SENATE BILL (SB) 85: ONE-TIME
STIPENDS FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS SERVING FAMILIES
RECEIVING AN EMERGENCY CHILD CARE BRIDGE PROGRAM
FOR FOSTER CHILDREN (BRIDGE PROGRAM) SUBSIDY

REFERENCE: [SENATE BILL \(SB\) 85](#) (CHAPTER 14, STATUTES OF 2021);
[ASSEMBLY BILL \(AB\) 82](#), (CHAPTER 6, STATUTES OF 2021);
[SB 820](#); [ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTER](#)
[\(ACWDL\) DATED JANUARY 8, 2021](#); [ACWDL DATED](#)
[NOVEMBER 13, 2020](#); [ACWDL DATED OCTOBER 2, 2020](#); AND
[ACWDL DATED MARCH 23, 2021](#)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this All County Welfare Directors Letter (ACWDL) is to provide guidance on the implementation of Senate Bill (SB) 85 (Chapter 14, Statutes of 2021), signed by the Governor on April 13, 2021. SB 85 authorizes the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to allocate funding to issue one-time stipends to child care providers caring for children receiving a child care voucher through the Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children (Bridge Program). The stipends are intended to provide financial relief to assist child care providers with ongoing 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

Assembly Bill (AB) 82 (Chapter 6, Statutes of 2021) authorized the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to allocate funding toward per child stipends for

All COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTER
Page Two

child care providers caring for children enrolled in subsidized child care. Initially the stipend distribution did not include child care providers serving children receiving a voucher through the Bridge Program. However, SB 85 revises the Budget Act of 2020, amending and adding items of appropriation to include eligible Bridge Program providers.

CHILD CARE PROVIDER STIPENDS

Pursuant to SB 85, child care providers serving children through the Bridge Program, including centers, family child care homes, and license-exempt providers, will receive a flat-rate, one-time stipend check for \$525 per qualifying child. This includes providers who submitted requests for reimbursement for children who were not in care due to the pandemic. Eligibility to receive a stipend will be determined using November 2020 enrollment data.

CDSS has contracted with the Foundation for California Community Colleges (FoundationCCC) to issue and distribute the stipends. In counties that contract out the administration of Bridge Program voucher through Alternative Payment Programs (APP), the APPs will receive the funding from the FoundationCCC via direct deposit. The APPs will use this funding to distribute stipends to eligible providers. For counties that administer the Bridge Program vouchers, the FoundationCCC will process payments directly to the eligible child care providers.

If you have any questions or need additional guidance regarding the information in this letter, please contact the Bridge Program email box at ChildCareBridge@dss.ca.gov.