



KIM JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • www.cdss.ca.gov



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

May 4, 2020

PIN 20-10-CRP

TO: ALL LICENSED CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES
ALL LICENSED FOSTER FAMILY AGENCIES
ALL CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM STAFF

FROM: *Original signed by Pamela Dickfoss*
PAMELA DICKFOSS
Deputy Director
Community Care Licensing Division

SUBJECT: **GUIDANCE REGARDING EXTENDED FOSTER CARE PROGRAM
FLEXIBILITIES DUE TO COVID-19 IMPACTS**

Provider Information Notice (PIN) Summary

The purpose of PIN 20-10-CRP is to provide information regarding statewide waivers and associated guidance related to the Extended Foster Care (EFC) program for nonminor dependents (NMDs) during the current state of emergency related to COVID-19, as outlined in [All County Letter \(ACL\) NO. 20-45](#).

Pursuant to the authority in the Governor's April 17, 2020, [Executive Order N-53-20](#), the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) is announcing statewide waivers and associated guidance for EFC age, placement, and eligibility requirements for placing agencies. Use of these waivers is subject to the Waiver Terms and Conditions set forth in [ACL 20-45](#) and outlined below.

EXTENDED FOSTER CARE PROGRAM

Current law allows an NMD to continue to be in foster care up to age 21. Due to the impacts of COVID-19, the statewide waivers outlined in [ACL 20-45](#) pursuant to the Governor's [Executive Order N-53-20](#) would allow an NMD to stay in an extended foster

care placement beyond their 21st birthday if the NMD turns 21 on or after April 18, 2020. Before an NMD reaches their 21st birthday, the placing agencies and Title IV-E tribes, as applicable, have been encouraged to discuss this temporary EFC extension with the NMD and ensure their desired participation through June 30, 2020. This extension of the program includes all NMDs regardless of their placement type. For additional information regarding eligibility criteria and continued funding of the NMDs placement please see [ACL 20-45](#).

Needs and Services and Transitional Independent Living (TILP) Plans

Providers are encouraged to work with NMDs on their needs and services plan to be consistent with their TILPs. The needs and services plan should include, but not be limited to, what the NMDs plans are following the COVID-19 emergency, as well as other core independent living plan related services. Case workers should continue to assist NMDs with their development of goals and plans. This can be achieved through the use of an NMD's previous needs and services plan and TILP and/or by assisting them with establishing goals that meet their current needs or any anticipated needs following the COVID-19 emergency.

Terms and Conditions for Waiver

1. Providers should demonstrate flexibility when working with an NMD who has experienced disruptions in meeting the EFC program eligibility criteria, as described in ACL 20-45. Providers must give the following notice when implementing a waiver for Extended Foster Care beyond age 21: When implementing a waiver pursuant to the statewide waivers set forth in [ACL 20-45](#), the provider shall immediately notify CDSS in writing at their local [Children's Residential Program Regional Office](#), and shall post this waiver in a public location within the facility or home.
2. A licensee must inform the nonminor dependent and/or their authorized representative of any revised policy impacted by the waiver and shall notify any family member impacted by the revised policy.
3. The licensee shall not restrict CDSS, CDPH, local health department officials, and healthcare providers, Ombudsman, and essential government authority from entering or conducting investigations at the facility. Facilities should accommodate the use of video conferencing, teleconferencing, or other technology to support and actively participate in visitation conducted remotely.

Expiration Dates

The Extended Foster Care program waivers and guidance contained in [ACL 20-45](#) shall expire on June 30, 2020, or sooner if determined by CDSS, unless this guidance is extended in writing. All prior statutory, regulatory, and written guidance requirements modified herein shall be reinstated upon the expiration of this guidance PIN.

If you have any questions or need additional guidance regarding the information in this PIN, please contact the Children's Residential Program Office at (916) 651-5380 or via [email](mailto:CRPOPpolicy@dss.ca.gov) at CRPOPpolicy@dss.ca.gov.

To access [all PINs published by the Children's Residential Program](https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/community-care-licensing/policy/provider-information-notices/childrens-residential), please visit <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/community-care-licensing/policy/provider-information-notices/childrens-residential>.

To access [all published ACLs](https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/2020-all-county-letters), please visit <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/2020-all-county-letters>.