



CDSS

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
GOVERNOR

February 27, 2009

ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) NO. 09-13

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY CHILD CARE COORDINATORS
ALL WELFARE-TO-WORK COORDINATORS

SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO
KIDS (CalWORKs) CHILD CARE PROGRAMS – UPDATE TO ALL
COUNTY LETTER (ACL) 09-03 AND CHANGES TO INSTRUCTIONS
REGARDING THE REGIONAL MARKET RATE (RMR) PAYMENT
CEILINGS AND FAMILY FEES

REFERENCE: SENATE BILL (SB) 4 (CHAPTER 12, STATUTES OF 2009-10 THIRD
EXTRAORDINARY SESSION; ACL 09-03; ASSEMBLY BILL 1279
(CHAPTER 759, STATUTES OF 2008)

The purpose of this letter is to inform County Welfare Departments (CWDs) of changes to the family fee payments as well as changes in the budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2008-09 that will delay the implementation of the new child care Regional Market Rate (RMR) payment ceilings. This letter rescinds instructions previously issued in ACL 09-03 regarding the change in RMR ceiling payments and family fees for CalWORKs families. Except for the changes in this letter, other provisions of ACL 09-03 remain in effect. These changes were discussed with the County Welfare Directors Association, on February 24, 2009, and this letter confirms those conversations.

RMR PAYMENT CEILINGS

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) had previously instructed CWDs via ACL 09-03, dated January 23, 2009, to implement the new RMR payment ceilings utilizing the 2007 RMR Survey Data effective March 1, 2009. Subsequent to the release of ACL 09-03, legislation was passed during the special session of the legislature that was convened to address California's fiscal emergency. SB 4 signed by the Governor on February 20, 2009, requires child

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

- State Law Change
- Federal Law or Regulation Change
- Court Order
- Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- Initiated by CDSS

care costs to continue to be reimbursed using the 2005 RMR payment ceilings.

CWDs must continue to use the 2005 RMR payment ceilings through the remainder of FY 2008-09. Although SB 4 also states it is the intent of the Legislature to consider the new rate limits based on 2007 RMR survey data for FY 2009-10, CWDs shall continue to use the 2005 rate limits until further notification.

The RMR reimbursement ceilings can be found at:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/aa/cd/ap/index.aspx>.

FAMILY FEES FOR CalWORKs FAMILIES

CDSS also instructed CWDs via ACL 09-03, dated January 23, 2009, to implement the language found in Assembly Bill 1279 that prohibited the assessment of a family fee for current CalWORKs cash aid recipients. CDSS has learned that additional coordination and clarification with the California Department of Education (CDE) is needed prior to making any changes to the family fee provisions. Therefore, this letter rescinds the instruction issued in ACL 09-03 requiring counties to stop assessing family fees for current CalWORKs cash aid recipients. CWDs should continue to assess all CalWORKs child care recipients for a family fee if one would have been applied previously until further notice.

We apologize for any inconvenience caused to CWDs for the need to make additional process and system changes resulting from instructions included in this letter and we will work diligently to avoid having this happen again in the future. If you have any questions regarding this, please contact the Child Care Programs Bureau at (916) 657-2144.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

CHARR LEE METSKER
Deputy Director
Welfare to Work Division

c: CWDA