



CDSS

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

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EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

September 3, 2014

ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) NO. 14-62

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

SUBJECT: **COMMERCIALLY SEXUALLY EXPLOITED CHILDREN (CSEC) PROGRAM**

REFERENCES: [SENATE BILL \(SB\) 855, CHAPTER 29, STATUTES OF 2014](#); [CALIFORNIA STATE BUDGET SUMMARY 2014-15](#); [WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS \(WIC\) CODE SECTION 300](#); [WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS \(WIC\) CODE SECTION 16524.6 – 16524.11](#)

The purpose of this All County Letter is to provide information to counties regarding recent legislation (SB 855, Chapter 29, Statutes of 2014) that amended the Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) section 300 to clarify that under existing law, commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC) whose parents or guardians failed or were unable to protect them may fall within the description of 300(b) and be adjudged as dependents of the juvenile court. The Legislature also amended the WIC (commencing with section 16524.6) to establish a state-funded county CSEC Program to be administered by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) that counties may opt to participate in.

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

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

The 2014-15 Budget Act appropriated \$5 million State General Fund (SGF) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2014-15 for the CSEC Program. This letter outlines activities related to FY 2014-15.

In order to implement the training provisions of WIC section 16524.7(a)(3)(B), the CDSS will spend \$1.75 million to provide statewide training for county child workers and out-of-home caregivers. Training programs will begin to roll-out in October 2014, and will cover awareness and identification of children who are commercially sexually exploited, or who are at risk of being commercially sexually exploited. Trainings will be made available throughout the state and be provided by a variety of contractors, such as the Regional Training Academies and community colleges. Training partners will utilize a range of curricula and modalities to reach many training populations.

An additional \$750,000 is also provided for the training of foster youth to help them recognize and avoid commercial sexual exploitation. The statute permits counties to target training to foster youth who are at risk of commercial sexual exploitation [see WIC section 16524.7(a)(4)(A)]. This funding will be allocated to counties who elect to participate in the CSEC Program, and will be based on the number of youth in care ten years of age or older as projected by the Department of Finance as of January 2013.

The remaining \$2.5 million for FY 2014-15 will be allocated to participating counties for protocol development and capacity building for services to commercially sexually exploited children. This funding will be allocated to counties based on the population aged zero to 20 in each participating county. Allowable CSEC Program funded activities are detailed in WIC section 16524.7(a)(2), WIC section 16524.7(a)(3), and WIC section 16524.7(a)(4). These activities include CSEC Program implementation expenditures and training or services related to victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

The CDSS will release County Fiscal Letters (CFLs) following this ACL with detailed CSEC Program fund allocation information and claiming instructions for counties. For FY 2014-15, any county that claims reimbursement for activities under the CSEC Program will be considered opted into the CSEC Program for FY 2014-15. Opting in for FY 2014-15 does not infer a county is opting in for FY 2015-16; separate instructions will be provided by CDSS in January 2015 regarding how counties who choose to opt in for FY 2015-16 may do so.

The FY 2014-15 allocation CFL will include funding to all participating counties to support the development of local protocols to serve children who are commercially sexually exploited. Pursuant to WIC section 16524.8, the development of local protocols is a condition of receiving funds under the CSEC Program. It is expected that by FY 2015-16, and annually thereafter, all participating counties will have an interagency protocol pursuant to WIC section 16524.8 to serve commercially sexually exploited children. This protocol must be developed by a team led by representatives of the county human

services department, and including representatives from county probation, county mental health, county public health, and the juvenile court. Additional representatives may include, but are not limited to, local education agencies, local law enforcement, survivors of commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking and other providers. These protocols must include the use of multidisciplinary teams, and describe, at a minimum, the provision of services to children who are, or have been, victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

While the development of interagency protocols is required of counties electing to participate in the CSEC Program, counties are not assumed to have opted-into the CSEC Program in FY 2015-16 by establishing local protocols. Counties may elect to establish local protocols without opting into the program in FY 2015-16. Pursuant to WIC section 16524.7(d)(1), participating counties will be required to submit a plan to the CDSS describing how the county intends to utilize CSEC Program funding for prevention and intervention activities and services to children. The CDSS will issue further instructions in January 2015 concerning the process for plan submittal for FY 2015-16 and ongoing thereafter.

If you have any additional questions, please call the Office of Child Abuse Prevention at (916) 651-6960.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

Kevin Gaines, for

GREG ROSE, Deputy Director
Children and Family Services Division