



CDSS

WILL LIGHTBOURNE
DIRECTOR

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

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EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

July 2, 2015

ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) NO. 15-58

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS
ALL LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY ADOPTION AGENCIES
ALL ADOPTION DISTRICT OFFICES
ALL GROUP HOME PROVIDERS
ALL FOSTER FAMILY AGENCIES
ALL TITLE IV-E AGREEMENT TRIBES

SUBJECT: AID TO FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN-FOSTER CARE
(AFDC-FC) CALIFORNIA NECESSITIES INDEX (CNI) INCREASES
AND OTHER RATE INCREASES

REFERENCE: SENATE BILL (SB) 1013, CHAPTER 35, STATUTES OF 2012;
WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE (WIC) SECTIONS 11364,
11387, 11453, 11460, 11461, 11461(d)(2)(A), 11462, 11463, 11464,
18254, 18358.30; ACL NO. 11-63; ACL NO. 11-63E; ACL NO. 11-54,
ACL NO. 12-43; ACL NO. 13-62; ACL NO. 13-62E; ACL NO.14-44;
ACL NO.14-104

The purpose of this ACL is to provide the adjusted schedules of rates that reflect the CNI increase of 2.54 percent for fiscal year (FY) 2015-16. The CNI increase is applicable to out-of-home placements in the AFDC-FC Program. The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) will issue an ACL each year adjusting the rates to reflect changes in the CNI.

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

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

Non-federal and federal Kinship Guardianships (Kin-GAP) and State AFDC-FC Non-Related Legal Guardians (NRLG) prior to May 1, 2011

Effective July 1, 2015, the 2.54 percent CNI increase applies to the Foster Family Home (FFH) basic rate for Kin-GAP cases when dependency was dismissed prior to May 1, 2011, and for NRLG cases in which guardianship was established prior to May 1, 2011, and is reflected in Table A below:

Table A

Age	Birth-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-21
Rate 7/1/15- 6/30/16	\$503	\$547	\$586	\$646	\$708

Effective July 1, 2015, a 1.27 percent CNI increase applies only to the 12-14 age categories of the Orange County grandfathered FFH basic rate for cases when dependency was dismissed prior to May 1, 2011 and is reflected in Table A-1 below:

Table A-1

Age	Birth-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-21
Rate 7/1/15- 6/30/16	\$503	\$547	\$586	*\$700	\$708

*WIC Section 11461(d)(2)(A) provides that for grandfathered rates greater than the schedule of basic rates, only “one-half of the percentage (CNI) adjustments” shall be applied.

Foster Family Homes, Non-Relative Extended Family Members (NREFM), Kin-GAP and Non-Related Legal Guardianship (NRLG)

Effective July 1, 2015, the 2.54 percent CNI increase applies to the FFH basic rate for a licensed or approved FFH, an approved home of a relative, an approved home of a NREFM, a Title IV-E Tribal licensed or approved home, Kin-GAP cases in which dependency was dismissed after May 1, 2011, and NRLG cases in which the guardianship was established after May 1, 2011, and is reflected in Table B below:

Table B

Age	Birth-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-21
Rate 7/1/15- 6/30/16	\$688	\$744	\$783	\$820	\$859

Non-Minor Dependents (NMDs) Ages 18 and Up

All NMDs residing in a Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP) will receive the basic foster care rate of \$859 per month. The Specialized Care Increment (SCI) cannot be paid to NMDs in a SILP. Parenting NMDs can receive the infant supplement when residing in a SILP.

Dual Agency Rates

Effective July 1, 2015, the 2.54 percent CNI increase applies to the Dual Agency rate and is reflected in Table C below:

Table C

Age	FY 2015-16
Birth up to 3 years	\$1,013
*3 years and older	\$2,265

*Under three years of age if eligible per WIC section 11464.

Foster Family Agencies (FFAs)

Effective July 1, 2015, the 2.54 percent CNI increase applies to the FFA basic portion of the rates only and does not change the remaining components of the FFA treatment program rate as outlined in the Manual of Policies and Procedures section 11-403. As required by regulation, a minimum of the basic rate and the child increment are to be passed on to the FFA certified home for each child each month. The FY 2015-16 FFA rates are reflected in the following Tables D and E:

Table D

FFA Treatment Program Rates

Age	Birth-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-21
Basic Rate	\$688	\$744	\$783	\$820	\$859
Child Increment	\$189	\$189	\$189	\$189	\$189
Minimum Total to FFA Certified Home	\$877	\$933	\$972	\$1,009	\$1,048
Social Work	\$340	\$340	\$340	\$340	\$340
Administration	\$572	\$593	\$611	\$643	\$672
Total	\$1,789	\$1,866	\$1,923	\$1,992	\$2,060

Table E

FFA Non-Treatment Program Rates

Age	Birth-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-21
Basic Rate	\$688	\$744	\$783	\$820	\$859

Intensive Treatment Foster Care/Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care (ITFC/MTFC)

The SB 1013 authorized an interim increase in the ITFC/MTFC rates, changed the service hours and rate levels and increased the minimum amount paid to the certified foster parent. The interim rate increase was in effect for three FYs beginning on July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2015, by an amount equal to the CNI computed pursuant to WIC section 11453. The rate for FY 2015-16 ITFC/MTFC rates will remain the same as of the effective date of July 1, 2014, and is reflected in Table F below:

Table F

Service and Rate Level	In-Home Support Counselor Hours per Month	Standard Rate	Minimum Reimbursement to Certified Home
Level I	81-114 Hours	\$5,685	\$2,203
Level II	47-80 Hours	\$4,902	\$2,203
Level III	Less than 47 Hours	\$4,138	\$2,203

Additionally, children may not be placed at a Rate Level I or II for more than six months unless it is determined to be in the best interest of the child by the child's county interagency review team or the county placing agency, FFA and the child's certified foster parents. Extensions may be granted in six month increments.

Group Homes (GHs)

Effective July 1, 2015, the 2.54 percent CNI increase applies to each GH Rate Classification Level (RCL) and is reflected in Table G below:

Table G

RCL	Point Ranges	Standard Rate
1	Under 60	\$2,391
2	60-89	\$2,987
3	90-119	\$3,582
4	120-149	\$4,175
5	150-179	\$4,767
6	180-209	\$5,365
7	210-239	\$5,960
8	240-269	\$6,557
9	270-299	\$7,150
10	300-329	\$7,746
11	330-359	\$8,339
12	360-389	\$8,935
13	390-419	\$9,538
14	420 & Up	\$10,130

Wraparound

Effective July 1, 2015, the 2.54 percent CNI increase applies to the Wraparound rates and is reflected in Table H below:

Table H

RCL	Non-Federal Child	Federally Eligible Child
10/11	\$8,043	\$4,022
13	\$9,538	\$4,769

Out-of-State Group Homes

The rate paid for California out-of-state (GH) placements is the rate established by the rate-setting authority of the other state. The county cannot claim federal financial participation for any rate amount exceeding the current FY's RCL 14 or exceeding the rate determined by the rate-setting authority of the state in which the facility is located. The county is responsible for determining if any non-allowable costs are included in the rate and ensuring that only allowable costs are claimed for federal Title IV-E AFDC-FC reimbursement. Allowable costs are defined as food, clothing, shelter, daily supervision, school supplies, a child's personal incidentals and liability insurance with respect to a child, reasonable travel to the child's home for visitation and reasonable travel to the child's school of origin. For out-of-state GH placements, allowable costs also include reasonable administration.

Specialized Care Increment

In accordance with WIC section 11461(e)(4)(C)(i), the SCI will not receive a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) in FY 2015-16. However, a county may choose to apply a COLA to its SCI. Consistent with the realignment of funding, there will be no state share-of-cost for any adjustment.

Infant Supplement

The infant supplement rates are to remain at the levels approved effective January 1, 2008. If applicable, youth who are in guardianships receiving AFDC-FC benefits are also entitled to receive the Infant Supplement. The Infant Supplement rate is reflected in Table I below:

Table I

Infant Supplement Effective January 1, 2008						
Placement Type	GH	FFH/FFA	THP+FC Single Site Housing	THP+FC Remote Site Housing	THP+FC Host Family Model	SILP
Rate	\$890	\$411	\$411	\$411	\$411	\$411

Transitional Housing Placement Plus Foster Care (THP+FC)

Effective July 1, 2015, the 2.54 percent CNI increase applies to the THP+FC rates and is reflected in Table J below:

Table J

THP+FC Placement Type	Rate
Single Site Housing	\$3,007
Remote Site Housing	\$3,007
Host Family Model	\$2,393

Inquiries

Should you have any questions regarding the rates information in this ACL please contact Kelli Walker of the Foster Care Rates Bureau at (916) 651-9152.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

GREGORY E. ROSE
Deputy Director
Children and Family Services Division

c: CWDA