

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

**REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL**

- State Law Changes
- Federal Law or Regulations Change
- Court Order or Settlement Agreement
- Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- Initiated by CDSS

August 17, 2000

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 00-56

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: KINSHIP/FOSTER CARE EMERGENCY FUND

In recognition of the number of foster children placed with relative caregivers in foster homes on an emergency basis, the Governor's Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2000-01 contained \$1,000,000 to allow counties to facilitate such placements. The Kinship/Foster Care Emergency Fund is intended to be used for the purpose of removing some of the barriers to making successful placements with relative caregivers and foster parents. This letter is thus intended to provide information regarding the Kinship/Foster Care Emergency Fund and to describe the allocation procedures for the use of those funds in FY 2000-01.

These funds are intended to assist relatives in providing care to relative children. Further, to assist prospective foster family home applicants in meeting the requirements to provide care to children. These funds may not be used to assist currently licensed foster family homes in meeting the requirements to continue to provide care to children.

Counties may use allocations from this Fund to:

- (a) Remove barriers --such as fire or water safety hazards, medicine storage, electrical repair or inadequate living space-- that prevent a safe placement of a child;
- (b) Defray relocation expenses when necessary to ensure the child's safety or to provide adequate living space;
- (c) Meet a child's special needs when those needs cannot be met through other funding sources, such as the Specialized Care Incentives and Assistance Program (SCIAP);
- (d) Make emergency purchases of major appliances when necessary to serve children;
- (e) Defray utility installation fees;

- (f) Provide short-term crisis counseling to prevent entry or reentry into the child welfare system; and
- (g) Provide temporary childcare to permit rearrangement of job and home schedules when an emergency placement is made.

All expenditures are on a one-time basis. Counties may serve relative caregivers and/or prospective foster parents requiring emergency services not covered by other sources, such as SCIAP, or clothing allowances.

To be eligible, counties must submit a letter of intent by September 15, 2000. The letter must include a statement agreeing to establish a relative advisory committee to assist in determining funding needs, a description of the assistance that will be provided with the allocated funds, and an estimated number of caregivers who will be assisted. In addition, the letter of intent must include a statement of agreement that by August 1, 2001, the county will report on all of the following activities for FY 2000/2001:

- (a) The number of children placed with relatives and prospective foster homes with the assistance of these funds;
- (b) The number of existing relative placements maintained with the assistance of these funds and;
- (c) The number of children removed from relative care and why.
- (d) The number of children removed from prospective foster homes that used these funds to become licensed and why.

This report is to be submitted to the California Department of Social Services, Children and Family Services Division, Foster Care Branch, 744 P Street, MS 19-78, Attention: Kinship Care Policy Unit, Sacramento, CA 95814 (see Attachment 1).

Funds will be allocated in September 2000 through the county allocation process. A total of \$1,000,000 is available to be allocated as follows:

Counties with 500 or more children in relative placements	\$47,380
Counties with at least 100 but fewer than 500 children in relative placements	\$15,000
Counties with fewer than 100 children in relative placements	\$ 5,000

These allocations are based upon county placement data for the month of June 2000 (see Attachment 2). Depending upon the number of counties that return their letter of intent, there may be a surplus of funds. Should there be a surplus of funds during the allocation process, each participating county's allocation will be augmented. Claiming instructions for approved counties will be issued in the December 2000 quarter time study and claiming county fiscal letter.

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If you have any questions regarding this Letter, please contact the Kinship Care Policy Unit at (916) 445-0813.

Sincerely,

SYLVIA PIZZINI
Deputy Director
Children and Family Services Division

Attachments

**KINSHIP/FOSTER CARE
EMERGENCY FUND REPORT
FY 2000/2001**

Report the following by August 1, 2001

- (a) The number of children placed with relatives and prospective foster homes with the assistance of these funds;

- (b) The number of existing relative placements maintained with the assistance of these funds and;

- (c) The number of children removed from relative placements and why (Add additional pages if necessary).

- (d) The number of children removed from prospective foster homes that used these funds to become licensed and why (Add additional pages if necessary).

MAIL REPORT TO:

California Department of Social Services
Children and Family Services Division, Foster Care Branch
744 P Street, MS 19-78, Attention: Kinship Care Policy Unit
Sacramento, CA 95814

ATTACHMENT 2

Counties with 500 Or More Children in Relative Placement

Alameda	Sacramento
Contra Costa	San Bernardino
Fresno	San Diego
Kern	San Francisco
Los Angeles	Santa Clara
Orange	Tulare
Riverside	

Counties with at Least 100 But Fewer than 500 Children in Relative Placement

Butte	Santa Barbara
Imperial	Shasta
King	Solano
Monterey	Sonoma
Placer	Stanislaus
San Joaquin	Ventura
San Luis Obispo	Yolo
San Mateo	

Counties with Fewer than 100 Children in Relative Placement

Alpine	Merced
Amador	Modoc
Calaveras	Mono
Colusa	Napa
Del Norte	Nevada
El Dorado	Plumas
Glenn	San Benito
Humboldt	Santa Cruz
Inyo	Sierra
Lake	Siskiyou
Lassen	Sutter
Madera	Tehama
Marin	Trinity
Mariposa	Toulumne
Mendocino	Yuba