

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



September 12, 2000

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 00-64

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
 ALL CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS  
 ALL COUNTY ADOPTION AGENCIES  
 ALL GROUP HOME PROVIDERS  
 ALL FOSTER FAMILY AGENCIES  
 ALL LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS

**REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL**

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

SUBJECT: AID TO FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN-FOSTER CARE  
 (AFDC-FC) AND KINSHIP GUARDIANSHIP ASSISTANCE PAYMENT (Kin-GAP)  
 PROGRAMS RATES

REFERENCE: ASSEMBLY BILL (AB) 1740 (Chapter 52, Statutes of 2000)  
 AB 2876 (Chapter 108, Statutes of 2000)  
 AB 1111 (Chapter 147, Statutes of 1999)

SUPERSEDES: ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) NOs. 99-107, 99-103, 99-66 and  
 99-66 ERRATA

The purpose of this ACL is to provide information on the impact of AB 1740 (Chapter 52, Statutes of 2000), AB 2876 (Chapter 108, Statutes of 2000), and AB 1111 (Chapter 147, Statutes of 1999) regarding the rate structures for AFDC-FC children's programs and the Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment (Kin-GAP) Program. The Fiscal Year (FY) 2000/01 Budget Act provides an increase based on changes in the California Necessities Index (CNI), which was calculated to be 2.96 percent (rounded to the nearest dollar), effective July 1, 2000.

**FAMILY HOMES**

The AFDC-FC standardized basic rates for foster family homes, including small family homes, are to be increased by 2.96 percent in accordance with the provisions of Welfare and Institutions (W&I) Code section 11461(d)(1)(A). The following chart provides the increased basic rates that are effective July 1, 2000.

FAMILY HOMES Schedule of Basic Rates Effective July 1, 2000	
Age	Basic Rate
0-4	\$405
5-8	\$441
9-11	\$471
12-14	\$521
15-19	\$569

The FY 2000/01 Budget Act (AB 1740) made an appropriation to provide a rate increase based on the CNI for those counties that have foster family home rates higher than the standardized basic rates, consistent with W&I Code sections 11461(d)(2)(A) and (d)(3). The rates for FFHs in Los Angeles, Marin, Orange, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties have been increased by one-half of the current CNI, or 1.48 percent. The following charts provide the increased basic rates that are effective July 1, 2000.

FAMILY HOMES Basic Rates - Effective July 1, 2000					
County	Age				
	0-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-19
Los Angeles	\$405	\$441	\$488	\$530	\$581
Orange	\$405	\$441	\$471	\$613	\$613
San Mateo	\$412	\$450	\$480	\$532	\$580
Santa Clara	\$405	\$441	\$488	\$521	\$569

FAMILY HOMES Marin County Basic Rates – Effective July 1, 2000			
Age			
0-4	5-6	7-12	13-19
\$425	\$441	\$518	\$591

Except as specifically noted in this ACL, any county choosing to pay a rate higher than the basic rates indicated above shall pay any excess dollar amount using county-only funds.

### **KINSHIP GUARDIANSHIP ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS (Kin-GAP) PROGRAM**

Section 11364 of the W&I Code provides for Kin-GAP Program rates paid on behalf of eligible children at an amount equal to 100 percent of the basic rate paid to a licensed or approved foster family home. Please refer to the Family Homes Schedule of Basic Rates on page 2 for the Kin-GAP Program rates that are effective July 1, 2000.

### **FOSTER FAMILY AGENCIES**

Consistent with language contained in W&I Code section 11463(e)(1), AB 1740 appropriated funds for an increase in AFDC-FC Foster Family Agency (FFA) treatment and non-treatment rates. The schedule of rates and the components used to calculate a FFA rate are to be increased by 2.96 percent. **Individual FY 2000/01 Rate Notification Letters will be sent to FFAs. It is the responsibility of the FFA to forward copies of its annual Rate Notification Letters to all agencies from which it receives placements.**

The following charts provide the increased basic rates and components for treatment and non-treatment FFAs effective July 1, 2000.

Schedule of FFA Treatment Rates Effective July 1, 2000					
Age	0-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-18
Basic Rate	\$395	\$429	\$457	\$508	\$553
Child Increment	200	200	200	200	200
Social Work	285	285	285	285	285
Administrative	587	610	628	662	692
<b>Total Rate</b>	<b>\$1,467</b>	<b>\$1,524</b>	<b>\$1,570</b>	<b>\$1,655</b>	<b>\$1,730</b>

Schedule of FFA Non-Treatment Rates Effective July 1, 2000					
Age	0-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-18
Basic Rate	\$395	\$429	\$457	\$508	\$553

The FY 2000/2001 Budget Act did not provide an increase to those FFAs that currently receive a rate that is higher than the schedule of rates and components used to calculate an FFA rate referred to in W&I Code section 11463.

**Intensive Foster Care Programs**

AB 1740 appropriated funds to implement the provisions of W&I Code section 18358.30(d)(3). Therefore, the Intensive Foster Care Program rates for Intensive Treatment FFAs are to be increased by 2.96 percent effective July 1, 2000. The following chart provides the increased intensive treatment rates.

Schedule of Service and Rate Levels for FFA Intensive Programs Effective July 1, 2000					
Service Level	A	B	C	D	E
Rate	\$4,269	\$3,915	\$3,549	\$3,204	\$2,847

**SPECIALIZED CARE INCREMENTS**

AB 1740 appropriated funds for an increase to the specialized care increments. Consistent with W&I Code section 11461(e)(4), the increments have been increased by 2.96 percent effective July 1, 2000.

Counties are requested to submit their revised specialized care increments reflecting the 2.96 percent increase to Mr. Greg Lim, California Department of Social Services, Foster Care Branch, 744 P Street, M.S. 19-71, Sacramento, CA 95814.

**CLOTHING ALLOWANCE**

AB 1740 also appropriated funds for an increase to the clothing allowance. Consistent with W&I Code section 11461(f)(3), the clothing allowance has been increased by 2.96 percent effective July 1, 2000.

Counties are requested to submit their revised clothing allowance rates reflecting the 2.96 percent increase to Mr. Greg Lim, California Department of Social Services, Foster Care Branch, 744 P Street, M.S. 19-71, Sacramento, CA 95814.

**SUPPLEMENTAL CLOTHING ALLOWANCE**

AB 2876 added W&I Code sections 11461(f)(4) and 11463(g), which provide, subject to the availability of funds, a \$100 clothing allowance per child per year to **supplement** the counties' existing clothing allowances paid to FFHs and FFAs. The FY 2000/01 Budget appropriated funds for this purpose effective July 1, 2000. The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) will release a County Fiscal Letter (CFL) explaining claiming procedures related to the supplemental clothing allowance.

**INFANT SUPPLEMENT**

Section 11465(c)(3) of the W&I Code provides that, subject to the availability of funds, the infant supplement rates are to be increased annually based on changes in the CNI. AB 1740 appropriated funds for a 2.96 percent increase to the infant supplement rates effective July 1, 2000. Children who are in receipt of Kin-GAP benefits are also entitled to receive the infant supplement. The following chart provides the increases to the infant supplement by placement type.

Infant Supplement Effective July 1, 2000		
Placement Type	Group Home	Foster Family Home/Foster Family Agency
Rate	\$809	\$373

**GROUP HOMES**

Consistent with W&I Code section 11462(g)(2), AB 1740 appropriated funds to adjust the standardized schedule of rates for group homes by an amount equal to the CNI. Effective July 1, 2000, each group home's Rate Classification Level (RCL) shall be increased by 2.96 percent. **Group Home providers will receive individual FY 2000/01 Rate Notification Letters. It is the responsibility of the group home provider to forward copies of its annual Rate Notification Letter to all agencies from which it receives placements.**

The following chart provides the increases to the Standardized Schedule of Rates effective July 1, 2000.

GROUP HOMES Standardized Schedule of Rates Effective July 1, 2000		
RCL	Point Ranges	Standard Rate
1	Under 60	\$1,353
2	60- 89	1,691
3	90-119	2,026
4	120-149	2,364
5	150-179	2,699
6	180-209	3,036
7	210-239	3,374
8	240-269	3,711
9	270-299	4,047
10	300-329	4,384
11	330-359	4,720
12	360-389	5,057
13	390-419	5,397
14	420 & Up	5,732

The group home programs that currently receive a rate that is higher than the standardized schedule of rates will not receive the CNI increase that is effective July 1, 2000.

### **PROGRAM CHANGES/NEW GROUP HOME PROGRAMS/ EXCEPTIONS**

#### **Program Changes**

AB 2876 extends the prohibition of group home increases resulting from program changes for FY 2000/01, consistent with W&I Code section 11462(k)(2). The types of programs that are subject to this prohibition are defined in W&I Code sections 11462(k)(1) and (k)(3)(A). A program change is defined as any alteration to an existing group home program that will increase the RCL or the AFDC-FC rate. Also included in this definition is any alteration that increases the licensed capacity of a program as a result of decreases in another program with a lower RCL or lower AFDC-FC rate operated by that provider.

## **New Group Home Programs**

AB 2876 also extends the prohibitions contained in W&I Code section 11462(k)(3)(A) for FY 2000/01. This section prevents the establishment of a rate for a new group home program of a new or existing provider or approving an increase in licensed capacity from a program with a lower RCL. However, a rate may be established for a new group home program or existing provider if the exception criteria contained in W&I Code sections 11462(k)(3)(A)(i) and (ii) are met.

## **Exceptions to Group Home Program Change and New Program Prohibition**

For FY 2000/01, W&I Code sections 11462(k)(3)(A)(i) and (ii) allow a rate to be set for: 1) a new program of a new or existing provider; and 2) a program change for an existing provider that either increases the program's RCL or AFDC-FC rate, or increases the licensed capacity of the program as a result of decreases in another program with a lower RCL or AFDC-FC rate, if the provider meets **both** of the following conditions:

1. The licensee obtains a letter of recommendation from the host county, primary placing county, or regional consortium of counties regarding the proposed program change or new program; **and**
2. The county determines that there is no increased cost to the State General Fund.

## **SALARY, WAGE AND BENEFIT INCREASE**

Enacted with the passage of AB 2876, funds were appropriated in AB 1740 to provide an increase in the salaries, wages and/or benefits of child care and social workers of group homes and social workers of foster family agencies effective January 1, 2001. A subsequent ACL will be released detailing the increases. The CDSS will also release a CFL explaining claiming procedures related to this increase.

## **INQUIRIES**

County staff should contact their Foster Care Funding Consultant with questions regarding foster care rates at (916) 324-5809. Group home and FFA providers with questions regarding this ACL should contact their Foster Care Rates Consultant at (916) 323-1263. Any questions pertaining to Kin-GAP should be directed to the Kinship

Care Policy Unit at (916) 445-0813. Questions regarding specialized care, clothing allowances, infant supplement rates, or the supplemental clothing allowance, should be directed to the Innovative Programs Unit at (916) 324-5809.

Sincerely,

SYLVIA PIZZINI  
Deputy Director  
Children and Family Services Division

c: CWDA  
California Alliance of Child and Family Services  
Residential Care Providers Association in Los Angeles County  
Foster Care Alliance  
African-American Foster Parent and Group Home Association  
Association of Minority Adolescents in Residential Care Homes of Los Angeles County