

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



July 19, 2001

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 01-45

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE 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: KINSHIP/FOSTER CARE EMERGENCY FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR
 (FY) 2001-02

In recognition of the number and importance of foster children placed with relative caregivers on an emergency basis, the Kinship/Foster Care Emergency Fund was established in FY 2000-01. Contingent upon approval of the State Budget, \$1 million in total funds will be made available in FY 2001-02 to allow counties to facilitate such placements. The purpose of the Kinship/Foster Care Emergency Fund is to enable successful placements with relative caregivers and foster parents by removing some of the barriers that can stand in the way of emergency placements. The fund can also assist in helping retain placements when extenuating circumstances may alter a stable relative placement.

This letter is intended to provide information regarding the Kinship/Foster Care Emergency Fund and describe the allocation procedures for the use of those funds in FY 2001-02. Counties that participated in last fiscal year's program (FY 2000-01) by submitting their letter of intent, and were funded per the October 24, 2000, County Fiscal Letter (No. 00/01-32) DO NOT NEED TO REAPPLY for this fiscal year's funding. (See Attachment A for verification of County participation.) If a participating county would like to terminate from the program, a letter of termination must be submitted to the contact address listed below before August 10, 2001.

Counties that would like to participate in the FY 2001-02, Kinship/Foster Care Emergency Fund program and did not previously participate, need to submit a letter of intent by Friday, August 10, 2001. The letter must include a statement that agrees to establish a kin (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 the county will report on the FY 2001-02 activities by August 1, 2002, (Attachment B) and the number of:

- 1) Children placed with relatives and prospective foster homes with the assistance of these funds;

- 2) Existing relative placements maintained with the assistance of these funds; and
- 3) A brief listing of the three main reasons the Emergency Funds were used.

Funds are intended to assist relatives in providing care to relative children. Additionally, funds can 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 their Kinship/Foster Care Emergency Fund allocations to:

- 1) Remove barriers (e.g., fire or water safety hazards, medicine storage, electrical repair or inadequate living space) that prevent a safe placement of a child;
- 2) Defray relocation expenses when necessary to ensure the child's safety or to provide adequate living space;
- 3) Meet a child's special needs when those needs cannot be met through other funding sources (e.g., Specialized Care Incentives and Assistance Program (SCIAP));
- 4) Make emergency purchases of major appliances when necessary to serve the placement of children;
- 5) Defray utility installation fees;
- 6) Provide short-term crisis counseling to prevent entry or re-entry into the child welfare system; and
- 7) Provide temporary childcare to permit rearrangement of job or 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.

Counties must submit a Letter of Intent (if they did not participate last FY), an annual report of funded services (See Attachment B), or other information to:

Kinship Care Policy Unit
ATTN: Jeannie Harvey
Foster Care Branch
California Department of Social Services
744 P Street, MS 19-78
Sacramento, CA 95817

Contingent upon approval of the State Budget, funds will be allocated in August 2001, through the county allocation process. A total of \$1 million will be allocated as follows to participating counties with:

- At least 500 or more children in relative placements \$47,500
- At least 100 but fewer than 500 children in relative placements \$15,500
- Less than 100 children in relative placements \$5,000

This allocation structure is based on the counties' CWS/CMS placement data for the month of April 2001, (see Attachment A). Depending on the number of counties participating in the FY 2001-02 program, there may be a surplus of funds that will be additionally allocated to augment the funding level of each participating county. Claiming instructions for the approved counties will remain the same as in FY 2000-01 and will again be issued in the County Fiscal Letter that will also designate final funding levels for this fiscal year's allocation.

If you have any questions regarding this Letter, please contact Jeannie Harvey in the Kinship Care Policy Unit at (916) 324-8257.

Sincerely,

***Original Document Signed by
Sylvia Pizzini on July 19, 2001***

SYLVIA PIZZINI
Deputy Director
Children and Family Services Division

Attachments

**KINSHIP/ FOSTER CARE EMERGENCY FUND
PRELIMINARY FUNDING ALLOCATION FOR FY 2001-2002**

ATTACHMENT A

COUNTY	Children Placed w/ Relatives April '01	Emergency Fund Base Allocation
TOTAL	43,576	\$ 1,000,000
Alameda *	1,744	47,500
Alpine *	6	5,000
Amador *	9	5,000
Butte *	147	15,500
Calaveras *	33	5,000
Colusa	6	5,000
Contra Costa *	896	47,500
Del Norte	45	5,000
El Dorado *	41	5,000
Fresno *	901	47,500
Glenn	11	5,000
Humboldt *	56	5,000
Imperial *	163	15,500
Inyo	6	5,000
Kern *	1,132	47,500
Kings *	161	15,500
Lake	50	5,000
Lassen	17	5,000
Los Angeles *	22,351	47,500
Madera	81	5,000
Marin	25	5,000
Mariposa	5	5,000
Mendocino	91	5,000
Merced *	70	5,000
Modoc	4	5,000
Mono	3	5,000
Monterey *	148	15,500
Napa *	36	5,000
Nevada *	15	5,000
Orange *	1,189	47,500
Placer *	121	15,500
Plumas	13	5,000
Riverside *	1,958	47,500
Sacramento *	1,769	47,500
San Benito *	12	5,000
San Bernardino *	2,298	47,500
San Diego *	2,829	47,500
San Francisco *	1,228	47,500
San Joaquin *	401	15,500
San Luis Obispo *	179	15,500
San Mateo *	185	15,500
Santa Barbara	148	15,500
Santa Clara *	1,003	47,500
Santa Cruz *	94	5,000
Shasta *	116	15,500
Sierra	3	5,000
Siskiyou	26	5,000
Solano	176	15,500
Sonoma *	117	15,500
Stanislaus *	230	15,500
Sutter *	56	5,000
Tehama	18	5,000
Trinity	5	5,000
Tulare *	577	47,500
Tuolumne *	26	5,000
Ventura *	261	15,500
Yolo *	195	15,500
Yuba	90	5,000

* FY 2000/2001 funded counties DO NOT NEED TO RE-APPLY FY 2001/2002 funding

**"Bolded" COUNTIES NEED TO SUBMIT LETTER OF INTENT
FOR FY 2001/2002 FUNDING**

**KINSHIP/FOSTER CARE EMERGENCY FUND
REPORT
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2001/2002**

Report the following by August 1, 2002 (Use additional pages if necessary)

- 1) The number of children placed with relatives and prospective foster homes with assistance of these funds:

- 2) The number of existing relative placements maintained with the assistance of these funds:

- 3) Briefly list the three (3) main reasons that Emergency Funds were utilized by families in your county:

- _____

- _____

- _____

- 4) (Optional) Please describe any additional case(s) that significantly impacted children and/or families due to the use of Kinship/Foster Care Emergency Funds in your county.

MAIL REPORT BY AUGUST 1, 2002 TO:

**Kinship Support Policy Unit
Foster Care Branch
Department of Social Services
744 P Street, MS 19-78
Sacramento, CA 95814**