

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



August 31, 2005

ALL-COUNTY LETTER NO. 05-22

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: KINSHIP/FOSTER CARE EMERGENCY FUND ALLOCATION FOR
FISCAL YEAR 2005/2006

SUPERSEDES: ALL-COUNTY LETTER 04-23

REFERENCE: COUNTY FISCAL LETTER 05/06-12

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

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

This letter is to provide counties with information regarding the allocation of funding of the Kinship/Foster Care Emergency Fund. The Fiscal Year (FY) 2005/2006 Budget Act contains a \$1,000,000 State General Fund (SGF) appropriation to this fund. The per-county-allocation listed in Attachment A is provided at this time to aid counties in planning their funding related to this allocation.

BACKGROUND

The purpose of the Kinship/Foster Care Emergency Fund is to enable successful emergency placement of a child with a relative, nonrelative extended family member (NREFM), or foster parent by removing barriers to such a placement. The fund may also be used to retain a placement when extenuating circumstances may alter a stable relative or NREFM placement. Funds are intended to assist a relative in providing care to a relative child. Additionally, funds may be used to assist a prospective NREFM or foster family home applicant in meeting the requirements to provide care to a child.

Recent policy clarification of Section 1356.60 of the Code of Federal Regulations indicates that costs for items that are needed in order to license or approve a foster family home are closely related to foster family home recruitment and are allowable Title IV-E administrative costs. As such, allowable costs claimed to the Kinship/Foster Care Emergency Fund are eligible for federal financial participation as a Title IV-E administrative cost. Therefore, the \$1,000,000 SGF will be used to match Title IV-E funds, which results in a total of \$1.6 million being made available to counties for this program in FY 2005/2006.

Examples of the types of costs for which a county may use the Kinship/Foster Care Emergency Fund allocation are costs that:

- Remove barriers that prevent the safe placement of a child (e.g., fire or water safety hazards, medication storage, electrical repair, or inadequate living space).
- Defray relocation expenses when necessary to ensure the child's safety or to provide adequate living space.
- 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)).
- Make emergency purchase of a major appliance or furniture when necessary to serve the placement of a child.
- Defray utility installation fees.
- Provide temporary childcare to permit adjustment of job and/or home schedules when an emergency placement is made.

All expenditures of this funding are to be for one-time needs and not to pay for recurring expenses. (Note: Social services such as short-term counseling previously claimed under this fund are not an allowable Title IV-E cost and as such, may not be claimed to this fund.) A county may serve a relative caregiver, NREFM, or prospective foster parent requiring one-time emergency assistance for expenses not covered by other funding sources, such as SCIAP or clothing allowance.

ALLOCATION METHODOLOGY AND AMOUNT

The per-county allocation was calculated using the most recent Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS) relative placement data (March 2005). Depending on the number of counties receiving funds from the FY 2005/2006 appropriation, there may be a surplus of funds that will be allocated to augment the proposed funding level for each county. Claiming instructions for FY 05/06 have been issued in CFL 05/06-12, available at: www.dss.cahwnet.gov/lettersnotices/CountyFisc_544.htm.

Funds will be allocated through the county allocation process. The \$1.6 million total funds are proposed to be allocated to a participating county as follows:

- | | |
|---|----------|
| • 500 or more children in relative placements | \$47,777 |
| • 100 or more but less than 500 children in relative placements | \$15,926 |
| • Less than 100 children in relative placements | \$5,000 |

HOW TO RECEIVE AN ALLOCATION

Counties that received an allocation of the FY 2004/2005 appropriation will receive an allocation for FY 2005/2006. A county that did not receive a FY 2004/2005 allocation but has since submitted a Letter of Intent will also receive a FY 2005/2006 allocation.

A letter of non-participation is required from any county that received an allocation from the fund in FY 2004/2005 but does not want to receive an allocation from the fund for FY 2005/2006. Please submit this letter to the address listed below by September 15, 2005.

California Department of Social Services
Child & Youth Permanency Branch
ATTN: Kinship Care Policy & Support Unit
744 P Street, M.S. 14-66
Sacramento, CA 95814

All counties that receive Kinship/Foster Care Emergency Funds must submit a report of its FY 2005/2006 Fund activities (see Attachment B) by August 1, 2006. A reminder will be sent to all participating counties prior to the submission deadline.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact the Kinship Care Policy and Support Unit at (916) 657-1858.

Sincerely,

MARY L. AULT
Deputy Director
Children and Family Services Division

Attachments

cc: CWDA

KINSHIP/FOSTER CARE EMERGENCY FUND
Preliminary Funding Allocation Fiscal Year 2005/2006

Attachment A

COUNTY	Children Placed w/Relative March '05	Base Allocation in Dollars
Statewide	32,193	1,000,000
Alameda	1,128	47,777
Alpine	2	5,000
Amador	5	5,000
Butte	243	15,926
Calaveras	24	5,000
Colusa	14	5,000
Contra Costa	743	47,777
Del Norte	17	5,000
El Dorado	58	5,000
Fresno	663	47,777
Glenn	29	5,000
Humboldt	63	5,000
Imperial	114	15,926
Inyo	8	5,000
Kern	1,147	47,777
Kings	163	15,926
Lake	36	5,000
Lassen	32	5,000
Los Angeles	13,364	47,785
Madera	69	5,000
Marin	31	5,000
Mariposa	20	5,000
Mendocino	94	5,000
Merced	198	15,926
Modoc	3	5,000
Mono	4	5,000
Monterey	173	15,926
Napa	39	5,000
Nevada	12	5,000
Orange	1,356	47,777
Placer	108	15,926
Plumas	10	5,000
Riverside	1,944	47,777
Sacramento	1,234	47,777
San Benito	18	5,000
San Bernardino	1,795	47,777
San Diego	2,318	47,777
San Francisco	1,050	47,777
San Joaquin	487	15,926
San Luis Obispo	175	15,926
San Mateo	183	15,926
Santa Barbara	160	15,926
Santa Clara	970	47,777
Santa Cruz	151	15,926
Shasta	139	15,926
Sierra	3	5,000
Siskiyou	30	5,000
Solano	185	15,926
Sonoma	184	15,926
Stanislaus	186	15,926
Sutter	48	5,000
Tehama	40	5,000
Trinity	13	5,000
Tulare	466	15,926
Tuolumne	43	5,000
Ventura	240	15,926
Yolo	122	15,926
Yuba	39	5,000

**KINSHIP/FOSTER CARE EMERGENCY FUND
REPORT
Fiscal Year 2005/2006**

Please provide the following information by August 1, 2006. Completed reports should be mailed to:

California Department of Social Services
Child & Youth Permanency Branch
ATTN: Kinship Care Policy & Support Unit
744 P Street, M.S. 14-66
Sacramento, CA 95814

REPORTING COUNTY: _____

COUNTY CONTACT: _____
(Please provide name and telephone number)

NUMBER of children **PLACED** with a relative, NREFM or prospective foster parent with the assistance of these funds:

NUMBER of children in a relative or NREFM placement **MAINTAINED** with the assistance of these funds:

HOW were the funds **SPENT**? Briefly describe the three (3) most common reasons for using these funds.
