

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



August 11, 2006

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 06-26

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: KINSHIP/FOSTER CARE EMERGENCY FUND ALLOCATION FOR
FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2006/2007

REFERENCE: SUPERSEDES ALL COUNTY LETTER 05-22

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 FY 2006/07 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 the stability of the placement. 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.

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 2006/07.

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 (February, 2006). Depending on the number of counties receiving funds from the FY 2006/2007 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 06/07 have been issued in County Fiscal Letter (CFL) 05/06-54, 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 | \$48,396 |
| • 100 or more but less than 500 children in relative placements | \$16,132 |
| • Less than 100 children in relative placements | \$5,000 |

HOW TO RECEIVE AN ALLOCATION

Counties that received an allocation of the FY 2005/2006 appropriation will receive an allocation for FY 2006/2007. A letter of non-participation is required from any county that received an allocation from the fund in FY 2005/2006 but does not want to receive an allocation from the fund for FY 2006/2007. Please submit this letter to the address listed on the following page by **September 15, 2006**.

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**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 2006/2007 Fund activities (see Attachment B) **by August 1, 2007**. 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,

Original Document Signed By:

MARY L. AULT
Deputy Director
Children and Family Services Division

Attachments

c: CWDA

KINSHIP/FOSTER CARE EMERGENCY FUND
Preliminary Funding Allocation FY 2006/2007

Attachment A

COUNTY	Children Placed w/Relative February '06	Base Allocation in Dollars
Alameda	1,034	48,396
Alpine	1	5,000
Amador	3	5,000
Butte	193	16,132
Calaveras	27	5,000
Colusa	12	5,000
Contra Costa	626	48,396
Del Norte	25	5,000
El Dorado	71	5,000
Fresno	599	48,396
Glenn	25	5,000
Humboldt	82	5,000
Imperial	98	16,132
Inyo	10	5,000
Kern	978	48,396
Kings	160	16,132
Lake	41	5,000
Lassen	19	5,000
Los Angeles	12,008	48,400
Madera	76	5,000
Marin	25	5,000
Mariposa	14	5,000
Mendocino	91	5,000
Merced	236	16,132
Modoc	3	5,000
Mono	2	5,000
Monterey	208	16,132
Napa	26	5,000
Nevada	24	5,000
Orange	1,398	48,396
Placer	119	16,132
Plumas	15	5,000
Riverside	2,070	48,396
Sacramento	1,302	48,396
San Benito	22	5,000
San Bernardino	1,649	48,396
San Diego	2,427	48,396
San Francisco	1,000	48,396
San Joaquin	477	16,132
San Luis Obispo	206	16,132
San Mateo	192	16,132
Santa Barbara	223	16,132
Santa Clara	962	48,396
Santa Cruz	151	16,132
Shasta	137	16,132
Sierra	3	5,000
Siskiyou	41	5,000
Solano	160	16,132
Sonoma	168	16,132
Stanislaus	132	16,132
Sutter	48	5,000
Tehama	37	5,000
Trinity	14	5,000
Tulare	399	16,132
Tuolumne	52	5,000
Ventura	213	16,132
Yolo	147	16,132
Yuba	42	5,000

**KINSHIP/FOSTER CARE EMERGENCY FUND
REPORT
Fiscal Year 2006/2007**

Please provide the following information by August 1, 2007. 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 3 most common reasons for using these funds.
