



CDSS

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EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

March 24, 2015

COUNTY FISCAL LETTER (CFL) NO. 14/15-58

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY FISCAL OFFICERS

SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY APPROVED RELATIVE CAREGIVER (ARC) FUNDING
OPTION PROGRAM BASE CALCULATION FOR CALENDAR YEAR
2015 (JANUARY 1, 2015 TO DECEMBER 31, 2015)

REFERENCE: [SENATE BILL 855 \(CHAPTER 25, STATUTES OF 2014\)](#)
[WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE, SECTION 11461.3](#)
[ALL COUNTY LETTER \(ACL\) NO. 14-44, DATED JULY 28, 2014](#)
[ACL NO. 14-89, DATED DECEMBER 16, 2014](#)
[CFL NO. 14/15-45, DATED FEBRUARY 4, 2015](#)
[CFL NO. 14/15-52, DATED MARCH 20, 2015](#)

This letter provides counties with a preliminary base calculation for the Approved Relative Caregiver (ARC) Funding Option Program as required by Senate Bill (SB) 855 (Chapter 25, Statutes of 2014). As stated in SB 855, this calculation is for the period of January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015, and will be adjusted annually by the California Necessities Index as described in [ACL No. 14-89](#), dated December 16, 2014.

The ARC program provides participating counties with the option to increase the amount paid to approved relative caregivers of children who are not eligible for federal Foster Care. Pursuant to [Welfare and Institutions Code \(W&IC\) section 11461.3](#), the amount paid to relative caregivers for in-home care of children who are ineligible for Aid to Families with Dependent Children-Foster Care (AFDC-FC) payments should be equal to the basic rate paid to a child who is eligible for federal AFDC-FC. The AFDC-FC basic rates can be found in [ACL No. 14-44](#), dated July 28, 2014. The ARC payments are comprised of the applicable regional California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) payment for those children eligible for CalWORKs and the remainder of the grant, up to the foster family home basic rate level, will be 100 percent General Fund (GF), as described in ACL No. 14-89. For those children who are not eligible for CalWORKs, the entire foster family home basic rate will be paid with 100 percent GF.

An initial base caseload was developed and submitted by counties to the CDSS. As stated in ACL No. 14-89, there will be a one-time opportunity to adjust the base caseload on or before October 1, 2015, which will be used to calculate the final ARC allocation.

Please note that the base calculations are preliminary and for informational purposes. The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) will continue to have discussions with the County Welfare Directors Association and the Department of Finance in order to define and refine the final county specific allocation for the ARC program. Some of these discussions will include whether or not to change the assumption for the proportion of base cases that are assumed to be eligible for CalWORKs, and the base caseload updates for the final allocation as part of the true-up process.

The preliminary base calculation for each county displayed on Attachment I takes into account the following county specific assumptions:

- County specific ARC caseload submitted to CDSS as instructed in [CFL No. 14/15-45](#), dated February 4, 2015.
- For those counties who were unable to submit an ARC caseload, CDSS used Child Welfare Services/Case Management System and Med-Cal Eligibility Determination System data match from July 2014 to develop the base caseload.
- The Foster Care basic rates and CalWORKs Maximum Aid Payment levels in effect July 1, 2014, were used.
- For purposes of the preliminary base calculation, it was assumed that 95 percent of each county's total ARC base caseload would be eligible for CalWORKs and five percent would be ineligible for CalWORKs.
- For purposes of the preliminary base distribution, a minimum ARC GF base calculation of \$10,000 is proposed to be distributed to counties with a calculated ARC GF fund level below \$10,000.

Administrative Claiming:

Eligibility activities conducted for these cases will continue to be claimed using the current CalWORKs eligibility Program Codes (PCs). County case workers should continue claiming case management for the associated Foster Care activities to the Foster Care administration PCs.

Assistance Claiming:

Effective with the March 2015 claiming month, five new aid codes will be available for use on the CA 800 ARC claim, which will be utilized to capture assistance costs associated with the ARC program. Please refer to CFL No. 14/15-52, dated March 20, 2015 for further claiming instructions.

Any questions concerning this preliminary base calculation should be directed to fiscal.systems@dss.ca.gov. Any general questions related to the ARC Program can be directed to ARCFO@dss.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

BRIAN DOUGHERTY, Chief
Financial Management and Contracts Branch

Attachment

**CALENDAR YEAR 2015
PRELIMINARY
APPROVED RELATIVE CAREGIVER FUNDING OPTION CALCULATION**

COUNTY	INITIAL CASELOAD	PRELIMINARY BASE CALCULATION **
Alameda	52	\$252,761
• Alpine	0	\$10,000 **
Amador	0	\$10,000 **
Butte	5	\$23,349
Calaveras	6	\$28,972
Colusa	2	\$10,765
Contra Costa	84	\$383,554
• Del Norte	6	\$29,176
El Dorado	10	\$48,498
Fresno	110	\$515,514
Glenn	8	\$37,733
Humboldt	13	\$68,666
• Imperial	7	\$30,790
Inyo	0	\$10,000 **
Kern	155	\$714,111
Kings	18	\$81,335
Lake	1	\$10,000 **
• Lassen	0	\$10,000 **
Los Angeles	3,431	\$15,445,667
Madera	13	\$62,426
Marin	7	\$31,790
Mariposa	4	\$19,070
Mendocino	1	\$10,000 **
Merced	33	\$147,146
• Modoc	0	\$10,000 **
Mono	0	\$10,000 **
Monterey	60	\$315,432
Napa	8	\$40,555
• Nevada	0	\$10,000 **
Orange	238	\$1,079,461
Placer	29	\$142,103
Plumas	3	\$15,272
Riverside	398	\$1,846,667
Sacramento	101	\$485,839
San Benito	3	\$17,708
San Bernardino	415	\$1,979,403
San Diego	293	\$1,330,414
San Francisco	20	\$97,764
San Joaquin	66	\$306,844
San Luis Obispo	25	\$115,467
San Mateo	26	\$123,932
Santa Barbara	41	\$193,409
Santa Clara	91	\$410,219
Santa Cruz	33	\$150,010
Shasta	14	\$68,000
• Sierra	0	\$10,000 **
Siskiyou	1	\$10,000 **
Solano	41	\$187,601
Sonoma	27	\$121,790
Stanislaus	13	\$65,090
• Sutter	2	\$10,000 **
Tehama	3	\$16,388
• Trinity	7	\$35,230
Tulare	78	\$371,663
Tuolumne	6	\$27,172
Ventura	90	\$393,486
Yolo	22	\$107,053
Yuba	7	\$36,118

* Initial caseload is estimated from CWS/CMS and MEDS data for July 1, 2014

** A minimum floor preliminary based calculation of \$10,000 is established for counties with a calculated funding level below \$10,000.