

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



October 5, 2001

COUNTY FISCAL LETTER (CFL) NO. 01/02-32

TO: COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
COUNTY FISCAL OFFICERS
COUNTY AUDITOR CONTROLLERS
COUNTY PROBATION OFFICERS

SUBJECT: REVISED COUNTY EXPENSE CLAIM (CEC) CLAIM INSTRUCTIONS
AND ASSISTANCE CLAIM INSTRUCTIONS FOR SB 163
WRAPAROUND SERVICES PROJECT

REFERENCE: CFL 98/99-18 AND 98/99-19, DATED SEPTEMBER 25, 1998

The Senate Bill (SB) 163, Wraparound Services Project, was established in October 1997. To date, approximately 15 counties are participating. This letter provides updated information on claiming policy and instructions for the SB 163 Wraparound Services Project.

Sunset Date Eliminated

As a part of Assembly Bill (AB 429) that was recently passed into law on July 28, 2001, the sunset date of October 31, 2003 for the SB 163 Wraparound Services Project has been eliminated. Therefore, the SB 163 Wraparound Services Project will continue under the auspices of the Foster Care Program Development Bureau.

Case Designation

There has been some confusion regarding whether or not SB 163 cases should be designated as Family Maintenance or Family Reunification. All children in SB 163 Wraparound slots must remain Family Reunification cases in order to continue the foster care board and care payment.

Foster Care Advance Dollars

A new procedure has been established to ensure that counties participating in SB 163 receive funds through the normal foster care payment advance process. Therefore, by the 5th of each month, counties participating in the SB 163 Wraparound Services Project will provide the number of filled slots (both federal and nonfederal) to their State Consultant. A Fiscal Policy Analyst will use the information to determine the dollar amount to be advanced for each county. This data will then be provided to the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) County Assistance Payment Section to be included in the calculation of each county's Foster Care advance. Once the County receives the advance, they will transfer the SB 163 Wraparound nonfederal foster care dollars into a separate account to pay for the costs of this project.

Reporting of Maintenance Payments

In order to be reimbursed for the SB 163 project, counties must also report the total non-federal Foster Care maintenance payments for the number of filled slots each quarter. To do this, the county calculates the amount to be reported on the CEC by multiplying the number of filled slots for each of the three months by the current Rate Classification Level (RCL) 10.5 or 13 dollar amounts. If a child enters the project after the first of Month, the amount is to be prorated based on the number of days the child filled a SB 163 slot. The total dollars for all filled slots are reported on the CEC to Program Identification Number (PIN) 565095.

Social Worker Costs

Under the SB 163 Wraparound Services Project, social worker costs associated with providing non-administrative services to clients such as counseling, parenting training, etc. must be paid with the SB 163 Wraparound nonfederal foster care dollars (flexible fund). All social worker service costs must be paid from the SB 163 flexible fund in order to meet the State requirement that the project be cost neutral.

Based on the above information, it was determined that a separate Time Study Code (TSC) was necessary in order to appropriately report the social worker costs to County Only Codes. Therefore, Time Study Code (TSC) 5651 Wraparound Services Project was previously deleted effective with the September 2000 quarter.

The following Program Code (PC) and TSC have been established to capture staff time:

PC 165	SB 163 Wraparound Services Project
TSC 1651	SB 163 Wraparound Social Worker Services

These codes will be funded at 0/0/100 (federal/state/county). The county will pay the social worker costs for services related activities from the SB 163 nonfederal foster care flexible fund.

Adoption Assistance Program (AAP)

Effective with the September 2001 quarter, the AAP Wraparound PC 566, TSC 5661, and PIN 566095 will be deleted. Costs associated with an AAP Wraparound child will be claimed through the normal CA 800 Assistance Claim process. It is no longer necessary to track these costs separately from the normal Adoption Assistance Payments.

Federally Eligible Child in SB 163 Wraparound

A federally eligible child can be served in the SB 163 Wraparound Project. However, the county will not receive the federal portion of the RCL rate, which is currently 51.25 percent.

Example:

RCL 13 rate (Effective 7-1-01)	\$5,994.00
Minus 51.25% Federal Share	- 3,072.00
SB 163 for Federally Eligible Child	\$2,922.00

This section will clarify what steps must be taken to claim federal funds for placement costs on the CA 800 FC, when a county is serving a federally eligible child who is in placement. These steps are to ensure that the correct amount of state and county dollars are claimed for these cases.

Counties may claim Title IV-E placement costs at the FMAP rate of 51.40 percent when serving a federally eligible child in the SB 163 Wraparound Services Project.

Example:

For a federally eligible child in the SB 163 Wraparound Project with placement costs of \$1,000.00, Multiply the placement costs by the FMAP rate of 51.40 percent ($\$1,000 \times 51.25\% = \514.00). Title IV-E funds will pay placement costs of \$514.00. The remaining balance of \$486.00 is claimed at 40 percent State, which is \$194.00 and 60 percent county which is \$292.00.

The federal share of placement costs is listed on the CA 800 FC (see attachment). The State and County share of the placement cost for a federally eligible child is paid from the SB 163 flexible fund.

The total SB 163 Wraparound rate of \$2,922.00 is claimed with other Wraparound costs for all filled slots under PIN 565095 on the CEC.

Other

A social worker performing normal Child Welfare Services case management activities on a SB 163 Wraparound case will time study to the appropriate Child Welfare Services time study codes.

When a county is using a private provider as the lead agency, the provider will not receive an individual rates letter for RCL 10.5 or 13.

SB 163 Questions and Answers (From Fiscal Training in March)

The following is a list of answers to questions asked by county staff who attended the March 22 and 28, 2001, SB 163 Fiscal Training.

1. Q: Can a voluntary Foster Care child fill a wraparound slot?
A: Welfare and Institution (W & I) Code Section 188251 (c) (1) defines eligible child for Wraparound purposes as either a dependant or ward of the Juvenile Court. Therefore, all children in SB 163 Wraparound need to be dependents or wards or pursuant to W & I Code in 1855251 (c) (2) except a SED child.
2. Q: In a SB 163 Public Model, the County Social Worker is not able to bill for Medi-Cal costs such as Early Periodic Diagnosis Screening and Treatment (EPSDT) or Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS) as the county welfare department is not a Medi-Cal certified agency. How can these funds be accessed in this model?
A: Social Workers are not Medi-Cal certified providers. Therefore, these dollars are not accessible through the model you have described. However, in the above Public Model, you could contract with a certified Medi-Cal provider who could access these Title XIX dollars.
3. Q: Can a child who is being transitioned from a Group Home Level 10 to 14 to the Transitional Housing Program be placed in a SB 163 slot?
A: Yes, as long as the child remains a ward or dependent.

4. Q: What does Permanently Residing Under Color of Law (PRUCOL) mean to counties?

A: At this time, the PURCOL status for CWS cases is being researched at the State. A CFL and ACL with clarifying instruction will be issued in the future.

5. Q: Is the \$100.00 clothing allowance available to group homes?

A: No. As outlined in CFL NO. 00/01-34, only children placed in Foster Family Homes or Foster Family Agencies are eligible for the supplemental clothing allowance.

6. Q: What is the current RCL rate for 13 and 10.5?

A: We have confirmed with the CDSS Rates Bureau that effective January 1, 2001, RCL 13 is \$5,994.00 and RCL 10.5 is \$5,046.00. The Rates Bureau will issue an All County Letter regarding any future rate changes.

7. Q: If a non-custodial parent is involved with the Wraparound child, are they still required to pay child support?

A: The California Department of Child Support Services issued a Child Support Letter No. 01-05 regarding the collection of child support for children and parents participating in SB 163. This letter states "that although the Wraparound program uses foster care funds, a child support order should not be sought for foster care reimbursement if both parents are still in the home with the child. If the parents are not married, paternity should be established and the case closed. If the parents are not residing together, but the custodial parent and child are receiving Wraparound services, do not pursue a child support order against the custodial parent, however, a child support order against the non-custodial parent should be established."

Based on this letter, a child support order against the non-custodial parent would be established.

8. Q: How should a county prorate based on the number of days in a month?

A: Divide the current RCL rate by the number of days in a month. Then multiply that sum by the number of days the child has been in SB 163 Wraparound slot.

9. Q: What happens to interest earned on dollars in the SB 163 fund?
A: It should be reinvested into a child welfare services program.
10. Q: What is the funding source for the AAP Program?
A: Federal funding is provided by Title IV-E for those cases meeting eligibility criteria with the amount of the federal financial participation (FFP) rate based on the federal FMAP rate. Nonfederal cases are shared at 75 percent State and 25 percent County.
11. Q: How can the AAP be used in the Wraparound Project?
A: The CDSS Adoption Bureau has confirmed that AAP funds, both federal and state, are already flexible and can be used in a similar manner as the Wraparound Demonstration Project. However, because the SB 163 legislation could not waive any federal and state AAP requirements, the AAP funds must remain child and family specific and can not be pooled with any other funds or another child's AAP payment.
12. Q: Can an AAP child fill a SB 163 slot?
A: No. An AAP child can not fill a SB 163 slot.
13. Q: Could the parent/county suspend the AAP dollars to obtain funding from SB 163?
A: No. The only way to access SB 163 funds is if the child is at risk of abuse, neglect, or exploitation and is a dependent, ward or is designated as a SED child, who is at risk of placement. The purpose of the AAP program is to help adoptive parents pay for services necessary to keep the child in their home. Therefore, counties can not shift back and forth between AAP and the SB 163 Wraparound Programs.
14. Q: Would an AAP Wraparound child's parent(s) be exempt from child support collection? Does the same waiver apply as for SB 163 custodial parents?
A: No. See response to Question #7.

If you have questions about these instructions, please contact Connie Hamilton at (916) 657-3438 or Paula Najarzadeh at (916) 654-0996.

Sincerely,

***Original Document Signed by
MARY JANE ARCHER on 10/5/01***

MARY JANE ARCHER, Chief
Fiscal Systems and Accounting Branch

c: CWDA