



CDSS

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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

July 20, 2018

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO.18-88

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS
ALL LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY ADOPTION AGENCIES
ALL ADOPTION DISTRICT OFFICES
ALL GROUP HOME PROVIDERS
ALL FOSTER FAMILY AGENCIES
ALL TITLE IV-E AGREEMENT TRIBES
ALL OUT-OF-STATE GROUP HOMES
ALL COUNTY ELIGIBILITY SUPERVISORS

SUBJECT: ESTABLISHMENT OF A SERVICES-ONLY RATE TO SECURE
ADDITIONAL SERVICES AND SUPPORTS

REFERENCE: ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) [16-84;17-11](#); [ACL18-06](#); [ACL 18-06-E](#);
[ACL 18-23](#);[ACL 18-25](#) [ACL 18-48](#);[ACL 18-81](#)

The purpose of this All County Letter (ACL) is to notify county child welfare agencies and probation departments about the establishment of a services-only rate available to the county to secure additional services and supports for children/youth placed with Resource Families (RF) transitioning to a home-based setting not affiliated with a Foster Family Agency (FFA).

ESTABLISHMENT OF A “SERVICES-ONLY” (SO) RATE FOR COUNTY USE

In the rates workgroup meetings, stakeholders provided valuable input that resulted in the development of a SO rate for foster children/youth placed with RFs or those who are transitioning to a home-based setting. Effective July 1, 2018, the SO rate may be used by the county to secure services and supports from a FFA, Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP), Community Based Organization (CBO) or other appropriate public or private entity for children/youth placed with RFs in order to stabilize the placement with a RF.

The SO rate is intended to support the successful transition of youth to provide short-term supports to prevent a change of placement from a RF to a STRTP. Although there is no limitation to the length of time the SO rate may be used for an individual child or youth, counties are encouraged to use the SO rate to support the youth in the instance where the county has determined that the transition from a GH or STRTP to a RF is expected to occur within 30 to 60 days. Counties also have flexibility to determine the amount of the SO rate they intend to use, which means the county may pay a portion of SO rate or the entire amount.

The SO rate must be used to supplement but not supplant existing services and programs such as, but not limited to, Promoting Safe and Stable Families funding and the Wraparound Program, if available, in the county. Funding made available to counties through the General Fund for the SO rate is capped. County allocations and claiming instructions will be described in the upcoming County Fiscal Letter (CFL). The SO rate is reflected below.

Services-Only Rate Table

Rate	\$833
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SERVICES AND SUPPORTS BEST PRACTICES AND DOCUMENTATION

These funds are intended to be used flexibly based on the needs of the child, youth and families to support permanency and/or placement stability efforts. The use of a strengths-based, family-centered Child and Family Team (CFT) process is key to engaging children, youth, nonminor dependents, and families in the development and implementation of their individual case or treatment plans or other related services designed to meet their needs ([ACL 16-84](#), [ACL 18-23](#)). Counties may choose to enter into service agreements, memorandums of understanding, or contracts with public or private entities. The service needs should be identified through the CFT and the completion of the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) tool. CANS results are shared and discussed within the CFT process to guide case planning, make informed placement decisions, and support care coordination ([ACL 18-81](#)). Counties may apply the principles and practices currently used in the Wraparound program as a model for how the Services-Only rate can be applied.

Some examples to consider, but are not limited to, are the following:

- Additional visits to a RF home when a foster youth has recently transitioned from an STRTP or ISFC program to support the youth and caregiver.
- To secure new RF placements to avoid placement in a higher level of care.

- To support visits to the RF home for a youth who is on extended visits in anticipation of discharging from an STRTP or moving from an ISFC or a Therapeutic Foster Care RF (particularly helpful if the youth was placed out-of-county).
- Acquisition of services or tangible items to secure the placement, such as covering the costs of registration, equipment and incidentals for extracurricular activities to support youth well-being, or tangible items to enable a RF to accommodate a foster youth (e.g. furniture, etc.).
- In partnership with the county mental health plan, these funds may be matched to Medi-Cal funds to support parent or youth peer mentors to support transitions.

The services provided through the SO rate should be documented in the child/youth's case plan.

Inquiries

If you have any questions regarding the information in this ACL, please contact the Foster Care Audits and Rates Branch at (916) 651-9152 or LOC@dss.ca.gov. Claiming instructions will be provided in a future County Fiscal Letter. For information regarding claiming instructions and allocations, please send questions via email to fiscal.systems@dss.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

GREGORY E. ROSE
Deputy Director
Children and Family Services Division

c: CWDA