



CDSS

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**  
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EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
GOVERNOR

July 13, 2017

ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) NO. 17-75

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

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

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

SUBJECT: AID TO FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN-FOSTER CARE (AFDC-FC) CALIFORNIA NECESSITIES INDEX (CNI) INCREASES AND OTHER RATE INCREASES

REFERENCE: SENATE BILL (SB) 1013, CHAPTER 35, STATUTES OF 2012;  
ASSEMBLY BILL (AB) 403, CHAPTER 773, STATUTES OF 2015;  
AB 1997, CHAPTER 612, STATUTES OF 2016;  
WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE (WIC) SECTIONS 11364, 11387, 11453, 11460, 11461, 11461(d)(2)(A), 11462, 11463, 11464, 18254, 18358.30; ACL NO. 11-63; ACL NO. 11-63E; ACL NO. 11-54, ACL NO. 12-43; ACL NO. 13-62; ACL NO. 13-62E; ACL NO. 14-44; ACL NO. 14-104; ACL NO. 15-58; ACL NO. 15-58E; ACL NO. 16-03; ACL NO. 16-57; ACL NO. 16-79; ACL NO. 16-79E; ACL NO. 17-11

The purpose of this ACL is to provide the adjusted schedules of rates that reflect the CNI increase of 3.84 percent for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017-18. The CNI increase is applicable to out-of-home placements and the AFDC-FC program. In accordance with AB 403, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) issued ACL NO. 16-79 for Phase I and ACL NO. 17-11 for Phase II of the new Home Based Family Care (HBFC) and Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP) rates structure developed in consultation with county welfare departments and stakeholders.

Phase I rates became effective January 1, 2017 and are eligible for a CNI increase effective July 1, 2017 for the Basic Level Rate of \$889 given to all eligible placements. **Additionally, Phase II Level of Care (LOC) 2-4 rates that go into effect December 1, 2017, will implement with CNI increase of 3.84 percent effective July 1, 2017.** All other placements not affected by the new HBFC and STRTP rate structure will continue to receive the CNI increases as in previous years.

**Non-Federal and Federal Kinship Guardianship Assistant Programs (Kin-GAPs) and State AFDC-FC Non-Related Legal Guardians (NRLGs) (Including Probate)**

Effective July 1, 2017, the 3.84 percent CNI increase applies to Kin-GAP cases in which dependency was dismissed and NRLG cases (including probate) whose guardianship was established prior to May 1, 2011 and is reflected in Table A.

**Table A**

Age	Birth-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-21
Rate 7/1/17- 6/30/18	\$537	\$584	\$625	\$689	\$756

Effective July 1, 2017, a 1.92 percent CNI increase applies only to the 12-14 age column of the Orange County grandfathered FFH basic rate and is reflected in Table A-1 below.

**Table A-1**

Age	Birth-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-21
Rate 7/1/17- 6/30/18	\$537	\$584	\$625	*\$724	\$756

\*WIC section 11461(d)(2)(A) provides that for grandfathered rates greater than the schedule of basic rates, only “one-half of the percentage [CNI] adjustments” shall be applied.

Effective July 1, 2017, a 3.84 percent CNI increase applies to Kin-GAP cases in which dependency was dismissed and NRLG cases (including probate) in which guardianship was established by the juvenile court on or after May 1, 2011 through December 31, 2016 and is reflected in Table B.

**Table B**

Age	Birth-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-21
Rate 7/1/17- 6/30/18	\$734	\$794	\$836	\$875	\$917

Effective July 1, 2017, a 3.84 percent CNI increase applies to Kin-GAP cases in which dependency was dismissed and NRLG cases in which guardianship was established by the juvenile court on or after January 1, 2017 and is reflected in Table C.

In addition, the rates in Table C are applicable to: Resource Families (RFs), Foster Family Homes (FFHs), Relatives including Approved Relative Caregivers (ARCs), Non-Related Extended Family Members (NREFMs) and the Adoption Assistance Program (AAP).

**Table C:**

*Basic Level Rate	LOC 2	LOC 3	LOC 4
\$923	\$1,027	\$1,131	\$1,235

Please note, pursuant to ACL NO. 17-11, NRLG Probate cases where guardianship was established on or after January 1, 2017 are only eligible for the Basic Level Rate with the corresponding CNI increase.

**Adoption Assistance Payment (AAP)**

For information regarding AAP and the CNI increases, please refer to ACL 17-69 effective July 1, 2017.

**Non-Minor Dependents (NMDs) Residing in a Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP)**

Effective July 1, 2017, the 3.84 percent CNI increase applies to the \*Basic Level Rate only (see Table C) for all NMDs residing in a SILP. The Specialized Care Increment (SCI) cannot be paid to NMDs residing in a SILP. Parenting NMDs can receive the infant supplement when residing in a SILP.

**Dual Agency Rates**

Effective July 1, 2017, the 3.84 percent CNI increase applies to the Dual Agency rate and is reflected in Table D.

**Table D**

Age	FY 2017-18
*Birth up to 3 years	\$1,081
3 years and older	\$2,417

\*Under three years of age, if eligible, per WIC section 11464.

**Foster Family Agencies (FFAs)**

Effective July 1, 2017, the 3.84 percent CNI increase is only applied to the age-based rate portion (as identified in ACL NO. 16-57) that is retained by the RF. For all existing and new FFA placements made prior to January 1, 2017 through November 30, 2017, will continue to receive the rates that are reflected in Table E, unless there is a triggering event as described in ACL NO. 17-11.

**Table E**

<b>FFA Rate Components – Phase I</b>					
Age	0-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-21
<b>FFA Certified Family Minimum Rate</b>	<b>\$923</b>	<b>\$983</b>	<b>\$1,025</b>	<b>\$1,064</b>	<b>\$1,106</b>
Social Worker	\$340	\$340	\$340	\$340	\$340
Services and Supports	\$156	\$156	\$156	\$156	\$156
RFA	\$48	\$48	\$48	\$48	\$48
Administration	\$672	\$672	\$672	\$672	\$672
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,139</b>	<b>\$2,199</b>	<b>\$2,241</b>	<b>\$2,280</b>	<b>\$2,322</b>

Effective July 1, 2017, the 3.84 percent CNL increase applies to the FFA RF Rate portion only during Phase II for all FFA placements made after December 1, 2017.

**Table F:**

<b>FFA Rate Components – Phase II December 1, 2017</b>				
	Basic Level Rate	LOC 2	LOC 3	LOC 4
<b>RF</b>	<b>\$923</b>	<b>\$1,027</b>	<b>\$1,131</b>	<b>\$1,235</b>
Social Work	\$340	\$340	\$340	\$340
Social Services & Support	\$156	\$200	\$244	\$323
RFA	\$48	\$48	\$48	\$48
Administration	\$672	\$672	\$672	\$672
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,139</b>	<b>\$2,287</b>	<b>\$2,435</b>	<b>\$2,618</b>

**Intensive Treatment Foster Care/Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care (ITFC/MTFC)**

Effective July 1, 2017, the 3.84 percent CNL increase applies to the minimum reimbursement only, which results in overall increase to the standard rate as reflected in Table G.

**Table G**

Service and Rate Level	In-Home Support Counselor Hours per Month	Standard Rate	Minimum Reimbursement to Certified Home
Level I	81-114 Hours	\$5,892	\$2,410
Level II	47-80 Hours	\$5,109	\$2,410
Level III	Less than 47 Hours	\$4,345	\$2,410

**Intensive Services Foster Care (ISFC)**

Effective July 1, 2017, the 3.84 percent CNI increase applies to the ISFC RF rate portion only, which results in an overall increase to the total rate as reflected in Table H.

**Table H:**

<b>FFA or County ISFC Rate</b>	
<b>ISFC RF</b>	<b>\$2,410</b>
Administrative Costs	\$3,482
Social Services & Support	\$200
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,092</b>

**Group Homes (GHs)**

Effective July 1, 2017, the 3.84 percent CNI increase applies to each GH Rate Classification Level (RCL) and is reflected in Table I.

**Table I**

RCL	Point Ranges	Standard Rate
1	Under 60	\$2,551
2	60-89	\$3,187
3	90-119	\$3,822
4	120-149	\$4,455
5	150-179	\$5,087
6	180-209	\$5,725
7	210-239	\$6,359
8	240-269	\$6,997
9	270-299	\$7,629
10	300-329	\$8,266
11	330-359	\$8,898
12	360-389	\$9,535
13	390-419	\$10,177
14	420 & Up	\$10,810

**Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP)**

Effective July 1, 2017, the 3.84 percent CNI increase applies to the STRTP rate and is reflected in Table J:

**Table J**

<b>STRTP Rate</b>	
Rate	\$12,498

**Wraparound**

Wraparound is a practice of partnering with families, relative caregivers, or resource families to provide intensive services to children and families with complex needs using a team-based approach. A Child and Family Team develop and follow a service plan that is comprehensive, family-centered, strengths-based and needs-driven. This is consistent with the goals of the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR).

In order to fund Wraparound, CDSS historically permitted the redirection of the non-federal portion (which is now realigned to counties) of the RCL GH rate. This portion is used for Wraparound services minus any concurrent placement costs. Counties are reminded that any actual cost savings generated as a result of adhering to fidelity of the model are to be reinvested into other child welfare services and/or may be used to expand wraparound to cover the costs for other child welfare or probation populations including federally eligible children. Cost savings are not defined as funds that are put into the wraparound trust fund prior to the delivery of services. Cost savings are generated as a result of having a child or youth use less funding for services and supports in out-of-home care in obtaining permanency quickly.

A change to the wraparound rate is subject to the enactment of [AB 404](#). Upon enactment, the proposed rate would be retroactive to January 1, 2017, which will include a 3.84 percent CNI increase. Counties will be allowed to adjust their claims to reflect the new rate. Until [AB 404](#) is passed, counties have the discretion to pay above the current statutory Wraparound rate listed in [ACL NO. 16-79](#) using county only funds up to the amount authorized in AB 404. Effective July 1, 2017, until the enactment of AB 404, the 3.84 percent CNI increase is applied to the Wraparound rate reflected in Table K.

**Table K**

<b>Wraparound Rate</b>	<b>\$8,902</b>
Non-Federal Child	\$8,902
Federally Eligible Child	\$4,451

### **Out-of-State GHs**

The rate paid for California GH placements made out-of-state is the rate established by the rate-setting authority of the other state. However, the county cannot pay any rate amount exceeding the current fiscal year STRTP rate.

### **Specialized Care Increment (SCI)**

A county may choose to apply a CNI to the SCI. Consistent with the realignment of funding, there will be no state share-of-cost for any increase made to the SCI. Counties are reminded that if the SCI plan is subsequently updated, then it must be sent to CDSS for review and posting to the Department's website link for access and public viewing. See link: <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/Foster-Care/Specialized-Care>.

### **Infant Supplement**

Effective July 1, 2017, children who are living with a teen parent in a Whole Family Foster Home (WFFH) shall be eligible for the Infant Supplement provided in an FFH, FFA and RFA home as reflected in Table L. This standardizes the infant supplement rate for all non-dependent children placed with their dependent parent.

**Table L**

<b>Infant Supplement</b>						
Placement Type	GH	FFH/FFA/RFA	THP+FC Single Site Housing	THP+FC Remote Site Housing	THP+FC Host Family Model	SILP
Rate	\$1,379	\$900	\$900	\$900	\$900	\$900

### **Transitional Housing Placement Plus Foster Care (THP+FC)**

Effective July 1, 2017, the 3.84 percent CNI increase applies to the THP+FC rates and is reflected in Table M.

**Table M**

<b>THP+FC Placement Type</b>	<b>Rate</b>
Single Site Housing	\$3,209
Remote Site Housing	\$3,209
Host Family Model	\$2,553



### **Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URMs)**

This section is specific only to the URM program and the providers that serve this population and will not require any changes to the automation systems used to make FC payments. The URM program is required to mirror the FC system and provide services and supports as if the children and youth were in FC. The FFAs that serve URMs will continue to receive the age-based rate and the RFs will be eligible for the CNI increases in Table E through Phase I. However, for Phase II, the FFAs will use Table F and follow new HBFC FFAs rate structure. Please see ACL NO. 16-03 for further information regarding the URM program.

### **Inquiries**

If you have any questions regarding the rates information in this ACL, please contact your Rates Consultant or the Foster Care Rates Bureau at (916) 651-9152.

### **Assistance Claiming Instructions and Payment Questions**

For information on claiming instructions, questions may be sent via email to [fiscal.systems@dss.ca.gov](mailto:fiscal.systems@dss.ca.gov). For information on payments, questions may be sent via email to [assistance.claims@dss.ca.gov](mailto:assistance.claims@dss.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

### ***Original Document Signed By:***

GREGORY E. ROSE  
Deputy Director  
Children and Family Services Division

c: CWDA