



CDSS

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EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

July 20, 2018

ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) NO. 18-89

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

SUBJECT: AID TO FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN-FOSTER CARE
HOME BASED FAMILY CARE CALIFORNIA NECESSITIES INDEX
INCREASES AND OTHER RATE INCREASES; RATE POLICY AS TO
YOUTH AGES 18-21

REFERENCE: [ASSEMBLY BILL \(AB\) 403](#), CHAPTER 773, STATUTES OF 2015; [AB 1997](#), CHAPTER 612, STATUTES OF 2016; [SENATE BILL \(SB\) 1013](#), CHAPTER 35, STATUTES OF 2012; [SB 1811](#), CHAPTER 35, STATUTES OF 2018; WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE (WIC) SECTIONS 11364, 11387, 11405, 11453, 11460, 11461, 11461(d)(2)(A), 11462, 11463, 11464, 18254, 18358.30; [ALL COUNTY LETTER \(ACL\) 11-63](#); [ACL 11-63E](#); [ACL 11-54](#), [ACL 12-43](#); [ACL 13-62](#); [ACL13-62E](#); [ACL 14-44](#); [ACL 14-104](#); [ACL 15-58](#); [ACL 15-58E](#); [ACL 16-57](#) [ACL 16-79](#); [ACL 17-11](#); [ACL 17-75](#); [ACL 17-111](#); [ACL 18-06](#); [ACL 18-06E](#); [ACL 18-25](#); [ACL 18-32](#); [ACL 18-48](#)

The purpose of this All County Letter (ACL) is to provide the adjusted schedules of rates that reflect the California Necessities Index (CNI) increase of 3.96 percent for fiscal year (FY) 2018-19. The CNI increase is applicable to out of home placements and the Aid to Families with Dependent Children-Foster Care (AFDC-FC) program. Further, this letter

clarifies the rate policy for youth ages 18-21 who are receiving benefits through Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment (Kin-GAP), Approved Relative Caregiver (ARC), Adoption Assistance Payment (AAP), and Foster Care (FC). Implementation of the Level of Care (LOC) Protocol will begin once guidance is issued by California Department of Social Services (CDSS).

Non-Federal and Federal Kin-GAP, AFDC-FC Non-Related Legal Guardians (NRLGs) (Including Probate)

Effective July 1, 2018, the 3.96 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 below:

Table A

Age	Birth-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-21
Rate 7/1/18- 6/30/19	\$558	\$607	\$650	\$716	\$786

Effective July 1, 2018, a 1.98 percent CNI increase applies only to the 12-14 age column of the Orange County grandfathered rate for Kin-GAP cases in which dependency was dismissed and NRLG cases whose guardianship was established by the juvenile court, prior to May 1, 2011, and is reflected in Table A-1 below:

Table A-1

Age	Birth-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-21
Rate 7/1/18- 6/30/19	\$558	\$607	\$650	*\$738	\$786

[*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, 2018, a 3.96 percent CNI increase applies to Kin-GAP cases where dependency was dismissed and NRLG cases including probate where guardianship was established by the juvenile court, between May 1, 2011 and December 31, 2016, and is reflected in Table B below:

Table B

Age	Birth-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-21
Rate 7/1/18- 6/30/19	\$763	\$825	\$869	\$910	\$953

Effective July 1, 2018, a 3.96 percent CNI increase applies to Resource Families (RFs), Foster Family Homes (FFHs), relative placements funded through the ARC program, Non-Related Extended Family Members (NREFMs) and the AAP cases with agreements signed on or after January 1, 2017, and is reflected in Table C below:

Table C

RF LOC Rates, Kin-GAP, NRLG and AAP

Basic Level Rate	LOC 2	LOC 3	LOC 4
\$960	\$1,068	\$1,176	\$1,284

AAP

A separate ACL will continue to be issued specific to AAP, providing a comprehensive schedule of rates related to AAP and CNI increases, effective July 1, 2018.

Non-Minor Dependents (NMDs) Residing in a SILP

Effective July 1, 2018, the 3.96 percent CNI increase applies to the *Basic Level Rate only (See Table C) for all NMDs residing in a SILP. 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, 2018, the 3.96 percent CNI increase applies to the Dual Agency rate and is reflected in Table D below:

Table D

Age	FY 2018-19
Birth up to 3 years	\$1,124
*3 years and older	\$2,513

*Under three years of age if eligible per [WIC section 11464](#).

Foster Family Agencies (FFAs)

Effective July 1, 2018, the 3.96 percent CNI increase is only applied to the age-based rate portion that is retained by the RF. All placements made prior to December 1, 2017, will continue to receive the age-based rates reflected in Table E, unless there is a triggering event as described in [ACL 17-11](#). Please note that if the county has issued the child/youth a SCI, the FFA is responsible to forward the entire SCI amount to the FFA-certified or Resource Family(RF).

Table E

FFA Rate Components – Age Based

Age	Birth-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-21
FFA Certified Family Minimum Rate	\$952	\$1,014	\$1,058	\$1,099	\$1,142
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
Total	\$2,168	\$2,230	\$2,274	\$2,315	\$2,358

Effective July 1, 2018, the 3.96 percent CNI increase applies to the *FFA RF Rate* portion only for all FFA placements made after December 1, 2017. The CNI increase does not change the remaining components and these FY 2018-19 FFA rates are reflected in Table F below:

Table F

FFA Rate Components – Phase II December 1, 2017

	Basic Level Rate	LOC 2	LOC 3	LOC 4
RF	\$960	\$1,068	\$1,176	\$1,284
Social Work	\$340	\$340	\$340	\$340
Social Services & Support	\$156	\$200	\$244	\$323
RFA	\$ 48	\$ 48	\$ 48	\$ 48
Administration	\$672	\$672	\$672	\$672
Total	\$2,176	\$2,328	\$2,480	\$2,667

Intensive Services Foster Care (ISFC)

Effective July 1, 2018, the 3.96 percent CNI increase applies to the ISFC RF rate portion only reflected in Table G below:

Table G

FFA or County ISFC Rate	
ISFC RF	\$2,505
Administrative Costs	\$3,482
Social Services & Support	\$ 200
Total	\$6,187

Group Homes (GHs)

Effective July 1, 2018, the 3.96 percent CNI increase applies to each GH Rate Classification Level (RCL) and is reflected in Table H below:

Table H

RCL	Point Ranges	Standard Rate
1	Under 60	\$2,652
2	60-89	\$3,313
3	90-119	\$3,973
4	120-149	\$4,631
5	150-179	\$5,288
6	180-209	\$5,952
7	210-239	\$6,611
8	240-269	\$7,274
9	270-299	\$7,931
10	300-329	\$8,593
11	330-359	\$9,250
12	360-389	\$9,913
13	390-419	\$10,580
14	420 & Up	\$11,238

Short Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs)

Effective July 1, 2018, the 3.96 percent CNI increase applies to the STRTP rate and is reflected in Table I below:

Table I

STRTP Rate	
Rate	\$12,993

Wraparound

A change to the Wraparound rate occurred due to the enactment of [AB 404](#). Effective July 1, 2018, the 3.96 percent CNI increase applies to the Wraparound rate and is reflected in Table J below:

Table J

Wraparound Rate	
Rate	\$12,993
Non-Federally Eligible Child	\$12,993
Federally Eligible Child	\$ 6,497

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. Please refer to [ACL 18-48](#) for additional SCI information.

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 K. The infant supplement remains the same and standardizes the infant supplement rate for all non-dependent children placed with their dependent parent.

Table K

Infant Supplement						
Placement Type	GH/STRTP	FFH/FFA	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, 2018, the 3.96 percent CNI increase applies to the THP+FC rates and is reflected in Table L below:

Table L

THP+FC Placement Type	Rate
Single Site Housing	\$3,336
Remote Site Housing	\$3,336
Host Family Model	\$2,654

Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URMs)

The URM program is required to mirror the Foster Care (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, upon full LOC implementation, the FFAs will use Table F and follow new HBFC FFAs rate structure. Please see [ACL16-03](#) for further information regarding the URM program. As these payments are not issued by the counties, but rather by the Office of Refugee Resettlement, this section is purely for informational purposes and does not require changes to the automated systems used to make FC payments.

Kin-GAP, ARC, AAP, FC

We are clarifying policy in [ACL 18-15](#) concerning youth over 18 years of age receiving benefits through Kin-GAP, ARC and FC. Assuming all other eligibility requirements are met, these benefits may only be received through the day before the youth turns the age of 21. AAP placements receive their benefits up to the end of the month they turn 21.

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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. For information on payments, questions may be sent via email to assistance.claims@dss.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

GREGORY E. ROSE
Deputy Director
Children and Family Services Division

c: CWDA