

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



August 22, 2001

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 01-55

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
 ALL CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS
 ALL COUNTY ADOPTION AGENCIES
 ALL GROUP HOME PROVIDERS
 ALL FOSTER FAMILY AGENCIES
 ALL LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS

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) AND KINSHIP GUARDIANSHIP ASSISTANCE PAYMENT (Kin-GAP)
 PROGRAM RATES

REFERENCE: SENATE BILL (SB) 739 (Chapter 106, Statutes of 2001)

SUPERSEDES: ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) NOs. 00-86 and 00-64

The purpose of this ACL is to provide information on the impact of the 2001-02 Budget Act, SB 739 (Chapter 106, Statutes of 2001). SB 739 provides an appropriation for a 4.85 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for Foster Care Programs, effective July 1, 2001. The State-approved increased rates for out-of-home placements and Foster Care support programs are provided below.

FOSTER FAMILY HOMES

The AFDC-FC standardized basic rates for foster family homes (FFH), including small family homes, are to be increased by 4.85 percent. The following chart provides the increased Schedule of Basic Rates that are effective July 1, 2001.

FAMILY HOMES Schedule of Basic Rates Effective July 1, 2001	
Age	Basic Rate
0-4	\$425
5-8	\$462
9-11	\$494
12-14	\$546
15-19	\$597

Counties that have FFH rates higher than the standardized Schedule of Basic Rates are to be adjusted in accordance with the Welfare & Institutions (W & I) Code sections 11461(d)(2)(A) and (d)(3). The rates for FFHs in Los Angeles, Marin, Orange, and Santa Clara counties have been increased by one-half of the current COLA or 2.43 percent. If the rate amount was less than the adjusted Schedule of Basic Rates then the full COLA amount was provided. The following charts provide the increased Schedule of Basic Rates that are effective July 1, 2001.

FAMILY HOMES Schedule of Basic Rates - Effective July 1, 2001					
County	Age 0-4	Age 5-8	Age 9-11	Age 12-14	Age 15-19
Los Angeles	\$425	\$462	\$500	\$546	\$597
Orange	\$425	\$462	\$494	\$628	\$628
Santa Clara	\$425	\$462	\$500	\$546	\$597

FAMILY HOMES Marin County Basic Rates – Effective July 1, 2001			
Age 0-4	Age 5-6	Age 7-12	Age 13-19
\$435	\$462	\$531	\$605

Except as specifically noted in this ACL, any county choosing to pay a rate higher than the State-approved basic rates indicated above shall pay any excess dollar amount using county-only funds. Counties should be aware that the increase to the Basic Rates also applies to children who are receiving Adoption Assistance Program (AAP) benefits. As stated in section 35333(f)(2) of the Adoptions Users Program Manual, AAP benefits shall be adjusted automatically at the same time and by the same percentage as the Basic Rates.

KINSHIP GUARDIANSHIP ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS (Kin-GAP) PROGRAM

Section 11364 of the W & I Code provides for Kin-GAP Program rates paid on behalf of eligible children at an amount equal to 100 percent of the basic rate paid to a licensed or approved foster family home. Please refer to the Family Homes Schedule of Basic Rates on page 1 for the Kin-GAP Program rates that are effective July 1, 2001.

FOSTER FAMILY AGENCIES

The Foster Family Agency (FFA) treatment and non-treatment rates are to be increased by 4.85 percent. **Individual FY 2001/02 Rate Notification Letters will be sent to FFAs. It is the responsibility of the FFA to forward copies of its annual Rate Notification Letters to all agencies from which it receives placements.**

The following charts provide the increased basic rates and components for treatment and non-treatment FFAs effective July 1, 2001.

Schedule of FFA Treatment Rates Effective July 1, 2001					
Age	0-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-19
Basic Rate	\$414	\$450	\$479	\$533	\$580
Child Increment	210	210	210	210	210
Social Work	329	329	329	329	329
Administrative	636	659	679	715	746
Total Rate	\$1,589	\$1,648	\$1,697	\$1,787	\$1,865

Schedule of FFA Non-Treatment Rates Effective July 1, 2001					
Age	0-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-19
Basic Rate	\$414	\$450	\$479	\$533	\$580

The 2001-02 Budget Act did not provide a COLA to those FFAs that currently receive a rate that is higher than the Schedule of Rates and components used to calculate an FFA rate.

Intensive Foster Care Programs

The Intensive Foster Care Program rates for Intensive Treatment FFAs are to be increased by 4.85 percent effective July 1, 2001. The following chart provides the increased intensive treatment rates.

Schedule of Service and Rate Levels for FFA Intensive Programs Effective July 1, 2001					
Service Level	A	B	C	D	E
Rate	\$4,476	\$4,105	\$3,721	\$3,359	\$2,985

SPECIALIZED CARE INCREMENTS

The specialized care increments are to be increased by 4.85 percent effective July 1, 2001. All counties are to submit by October 31, 2001, their revised specialized care increments reflecting the 4.85 percent increase, separating the basic rate amounts from the specialized care increments. Please submit to Greg Lim, California Department of Social Services, Foster Care Branch, 744 P Street, M.S. 19-71, Sacramento, California 95814.

If a child is receiving AAP benefits that include a specialized care increment, counties should also include this automatic increase in the child's AAP benefit. It is not necessary for families to apply for this COLA nor is it necessary to complete a new AAP Agreement.

CLOTHING ALLOWANCE

The clothing allowances are to be increased by 4.85 percent effective July 1, 2001. All counties are to submit by October 31, 2001, their revised clothing allowance rates reflecting the 4.85 percent increase to Greg Lim, California Department of Social Services, Foster Care Branch, 744 P Street, M.S. 19-71, Sacramento, California 95814.

STATE SUPPLEMENTAL CLOTHING ALLOWANCE

The 2001-02 Budget Act appropriated funds to provide the \$100 State supplemental clothing allowance per child per State fiscal year to **supplement** the counties' existing clothing allowances. This amount will not be subject to the 4.85 percent increase. The State supplemental clothing allowance shall be provided to every child placed in FFHs and certified homes of FFAs, including those children receiving Emergency Assistance (EA) – Child Welfare Services or EA – General Assistance.

INFANT SUPPLEMENT

The Infant Supplement rates are to be increased by 4.85 percent effective July 1, 2001. Children who are in receipt of Kin-GAP benefits are also entitled to receive the infant supplement. The following chart provides the increases to the Infant Supplement by placement type.

Infant Supplement Effective July 1, 2001		
Placement Type	Group Home	Foster Family Home/Foster Family Agency
Rate	\$848	\$391

GROUP HOMES

Effective July 1, 2001, the Rate Classification Levels (RCL) shall be increased by 4.85 percent. **Group Home providers will receive individual FY 2001/02 Rate Notification Letters. It is the responsibility of the group home provider to forward copies of its annual Rate Notification Letter to all placement agencies from which it receives placements.** The following chart provides the increases to the Standardized Schedule of Rates effective July 1, 2001.

GROUP HOMES Standardized Schedule of Rates Effective July 1, 2001		
RCL	Point Ranges	Standard Rate
1	Under 60	\$1,454
2	60- 89	1,835
3	90-119	2,210
4	120-149	2,589
5	150-179	2,966
6	180-209	3,344
7	210-239	3,723
8	240-269	4,102
9	270-299	4,479
10	300-329	4,858
11	330-359	5,234
12	360-389	5,613
13	390-419	5,994
14	420 & Up	6,371

The group home programs that currently receive a rate that is higher than the Standardized Schedule of Rates will not receive the COLA increase that is effective July 1, 2001.

INQUIRIES

County staff should contact their Foster Care Eligibility/Funding Consultant with questions regarding foster care rates at (916) 324-5809. Group home and FFA providers with questions regarding this ACL should contact their Foster Care Rates Consultant at (916) 323-1263. Any questions pertaining to Kin-GAP should be directed to the Kinship Care Policy Unit at (916) 445-0813. Questions regarding specialized care increments, clothing allowances, infant supplement rates, or the State supplemental clothing allowance, should be directed to the Innovative Programs Unit at (916) 324-5809. Questions regarding the Adoption Assistance Program should be addressed to the Adoptions Policy Unit at (916) 322-4228.

Sincerely,

SYLVIA PIZZINI
Deputy Director
Children and Family Services Division

- c: African-American Foster Parent and Group Home Association
- Association of Community Services Agency
- Association of Minority Adolescents in Residential Care Homes
- Association of Minority Adolescents in Residential Care Homes of Los Angeles County
- California Alliance of Child and Family Services
- California Association of Children and Families
- California State Care Providers Association
- California Welfare Directors Association
- Community Residential Care Association
- Community Residential Care Association in Los Angeles County
- Foster Care Alliance