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**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**  
**2011 REALIGNMENT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

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This Frequently Asked Questions document addresses some of the common questions asked by county welfare departments. If you have any comments or questions related to CDSS Realignment, please contact [CDSSAB118@dss.ca.gov](mailto:CDSSAB118@dss.ca.gov).

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**ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES**

***Why was PC 135 (SSI/SSP out of Home Care) excluded in CFL 11/12-18 (page 10)?***

The Non Medical Out Of Home Care (NMOHC) was not impacted by AB 118 and CFL No. 11/12-28, dated October 24, 2011, provides the counties the NMOHC general fund allocation.

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***What is the dollar amount that was used as the minimum floor for the APS calculation stated in Section C of CFL 11/12 – 18?***

The minimum floor previously established was set at \$100,000. This floor was established in accordance with prior year allocations for APS/CSBG, CFL No. 10/11-05, which can be accessed online via the link below.

[http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/lettersnotices/entres/getinfo/cfl/2010-11/10-11\\_05.pdf](http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/lettersnotices/entres/getinfo/cfl/2010-11/10-11_05.pdf)

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***With APS being realigned in FY 2011/12, what happens to the MOE requirement under APS?***

Due to AB 118, the MOE requirement for the APS program will no longer apply since State General Funds were realigned to the counties. The SUO codes 589 and 597 utilized for MOE purposes will be discontinued effective with the September 2011 Quarter.

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**ADOPTION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

***Looking at the FC Assistance and Adoption Assistance subaccounts percentage distribution, it seems that the State did not adjust the State portion of Foster Care and Adoptions assistance for the ARRA percentages in FY 2011-12; therefore, it seems counties are short funded in FY 2011-12 since it appears the counties will receive the same dollar amount under 2011 Realignment that they paid for these programs last year. Please explain.***

For the Foster Care Assistance and Adoption Assistance programs, the realigned General Fund appropriation amounts were \$381.8 million and \$242.4 million respectively. The FY 2011-12 appropriations for these programs do not include ARRA adjustments given that ARRA expired at the end of FY 2010-11.

The statewide total dollars displayed on CFL 11/12-18 for AAP (Attachment B-1, page 9) and FC Assistance (Attachment G-1, page 60) represent the actual county FY 2010-11 General Fund expenditures for AAP and FC Assistance as reported on the CA800 and were used to calculate the county specific percentage distribution for the AAP and FC Assistance subaccounts.

In order to keep the county specific distribution methodologies as clean and streamlined as possible at a point in time, for AAP and for FC assistance, it was agreed with CWDA and DOF to use the net General Fund payments as the best methodology for the county specific percentage distribution calculation.

Discussions will continue with DOF, CDSS, CWDA, and CSAC on how to further refine and implement subaccount distributions, claiming processes, and the requirements set forth in AB 118.

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#### **CHILD WELFARE SERVICES**

***The Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act (P.L. 112-34) extends Title IV-B funding for CWS Program and Promoting Safe and Stable Families. Where, in the process, is California in getting their IV-B plan approved due to Realignment?***

For FY 2011/12, counties need to spend at the same level in each of the funding components as in FY 2010/11 to ensure the full level of continued federal funding. The components are: Family Preservation, Family Support Svcs, Adoption Promotion and Support, and Time-Limited Family Reunification.

CDSS has submitted the Annual Progress and Services Review report for the Title IV-B program to ACF. We are waiting for approval from Central office which is expected by the first of the year.

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***Where is the State Health portion of the CWS and APS Subaccounts addressed in CFL No. 11/12-18?***

CFL No. 11/12-18 does not show amounts for Health/Reimbursement funds as County Fiscal Letters do not display these amounts. DSS will continue to process the County Expense Claims the same way and counties will continue to claim expenditures using the appropriate program codes. Therefore, counties may continue to view those amounts on the CEC upon entering expenditures using the appropriate program codes.

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***What flexibility do the counties have in funding the programs within each of the subaccounts? For example, is THP Plus considered as part of CWS, or a separate account?***

As stated with CFL No. 11/12-18, the distribution calculation for each subaccount reflects a county percentage rather than a dollar amount. Within each Subaccount, counties have the flexibility to spend across programs to meet their county's need. For example, since THP Plus is a realigned program within the CWS Subaccount, counties may decide to invest more in THP Plus and less within other areas of CWS.

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***We are trying to identify the THP Plus Funding source and amount for FY 11/12. CFL 11/12-18 indicates that THP Plus is a realigned program under the CWS Subaccount, while still being claimed on CA 800. The CA 800 Consolidated Claim dated 10/5/11 has no change to THP Plus funding and still shows THP Plus as 100% State funded. Are the amounts in the Distribution column on page 25 in CFL 11/12-18 considered an allocation?***

THP-Plus has been realigned as stated in CFL 11/12-18. THP-Plus Step claim (CA800 STEP) will be made effective with the October 2011 claiming month, and the State column will reflect County 2011 due to realignment. The CA 800 Step Claims for July 2011 through September 2011 will be adjusted internally by CDSS to reflect the County 2011 share of costs.

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Also, as stated in CFL 11/12-18, the dollar amount displayed for each of the programs was used only to calculate the percentage distribution for the CWS Subaccount, and does not represent the actual dollars the county will receive. The State Controller's Office (SCO) uses the percentages to distribute the Local Revenue Funds to the CWS Subaccount each month as displayed on the SCO website: [http://www.sco.ca.gov/ard\\_payments\\_healthandhuman.html](http://www.sco.ca.gov/ard_payments_healthandhuman.html).

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**FOSTER CARE**

***We were wondering if the CFL regarding 2011 Realignment affects the SAWS county advance and claiming process with respect to the Foster Care program. It appears as though only the CEC and CA800 claiming processes are affected.***

Realignment 2011 did not realign any of the funds for the SAWS Automation Projects. Therefore, the claiming process for these projects remains current.

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***In regards to the FC Assistance subaccount, were costs related to SB 163 included in the dollars used for the calculation?***

Funding for Wraparound (SB 163) is a non-federal assistance payment. Wraparound expenditures are claimed on the Summary of Assistance Expenditures Foster Care, Non-Federal (CA 800 FC NonFed). Wraparound expenditures are not identified separately from other non-federal assistance payments on the CA 800 FC NonFed claim form. These expenditures were included as a non-federal assistance payment.

Cost savings realized from utilizing Wraparound are maintained at the county level. Cost savings are not claimed on any CDSS documents. CDSS only requires that counties have policies in place to ensure that cost savings are reinvested to further expand or enhance services and resources for children and families.

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***What expenditures were used to calculate the FC assistance distribution?***

The Foster Care (FC) Assistance expenditures used to calculate the FC Assistance percentage distribution include the Title XX adjustment made to the counties' FY 2010-11 FC Assistance expenditures. CFL No. 11/12-24, provides information on how the capped federal funds (Title XX for CWS and FC Assistance, Title IV-B and EA TANF) will be processed by CDSS.

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#### **MISC**

#### ***What are the Local Revenue Funds based on? And how are they going to be distributed?***

The 2011 Local Revenue Funds (LRF) is based on the monthly sales tax revenues reported to State Controller's Office and the revenues are not capped at any level. As stated in AB 118, certain accounts outside of the Health and Human Services Account have a hard dollar cap. To the extent one of those accounts reaches its cap limit, any funds over the cap will be placed into the Reserve Account for potential distribution to the Adoption Assistance Program Subaccount, the Foster Care Assistance Subaccount, and/or the Drug Medi-Cal Subaccount of the Health and Human Services Account. Distribution of these funds by the Controller will be determined by the Director of the Department of Finance (DOF).

The LRF will be distributed by the State Controller to each subaccount on a monthly basis based on the percentages established in AB 118 as amended by AB X1 16. Each subaccount will have a specific county distribution percentage that will be used to allocate these funds as provided in CFL 11/12-18 attachments A thru G. Similar to the flow of funding for 1991-92 Realignment, funds will be provided to counties on a monthly basis.

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#### ***Since the LRF will be distributed to each subaccount on a monthly basis, do counties need to create separate subaccounts similar to State Controller?***

Counties are not required to create individual subaccounts within the Health and Human Services Account; however, counties are required to track the revenues for each of the subaccounts since transferability of funds between the subaccounts does not yet exist. Therefore, creating subaccounts will make it easier for tracking purposes.

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#### ***How are counties to handle tracking expenditures against revenues and the timing of Realignment 2011 transfers of revenue to programs? Do the CEC calculations have to be used as justification for how much of the received Realignment 2011 revenue we can use? Will the CEC provide adequate information to do this?***

The primary reason for continuing with the CEC and CA800 are:

- For CDSS to continue calculating the Realignment 1991 growth calculation.
- For CDSS to capture the federally eligible expenditures in order to receive the federal fund match since CDSS still remains the single state agency for the administration of the federal funds.
- For CDSS to capture the nonfederal eligible expenditures to match the federal grants.

The counties may set up their own monitoring/tracking process to assist them on how to best manage the Realignment 2011 revenue funds, and/or assist them in budget decisions.

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