



CDSS

WILL LIGHTBOURNE
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

July 28, 2014

ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) NO. 14-44

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

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;
WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE (W&IC) 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

This ACL provides the adjusted schedules of rates that reflect the CNI increase of 2.17 percent for fiscal year (FY) 2014-15.

The CNI increase is applicable to out-of-home placements and the AFDC-FC Program. The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) will be issuing an ACL each year adjusting the rates to reflect changes in the CNI.

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

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

Non-Federal and Federal Kinship Guardianships and State AFDC-FC Non-Related Legal Guardians

Effective July 1, 2014, the 2.17 percent CNI increase applies to the Foster Family Home (FFH) basic rate for guardianships established prior to May 1, 2011 and is reflected in Table A below:

Table A

Age	Birth-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-20
Rate 7/1/14- 6/30/15	\$491	\$533	\$571	\$630	\$690

Effective July 1, 2014, a 1.09 percent CNI increase applies only to the 12-20 age categories of the Orange County grandfathered FFH basic rate for guardianships established 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	15-20
Rate 7/1/14- 6/30/15	\$491	\$533	\$571	*\$691	*\$691

*W&IC 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.

Foster Family Homes

Effective July 1, 2014, the 2.17 percent CNI increase applies to the FFH basic rate for a kinship guardianship and a non-related legal guardianship established on or after May 1, 2011; this includes a licensed or approved FFH, approved home of a relative, the approved home of a non-relative extended family member, and a Title IV-E Tribal licensed or approved home, as reflected in Table B below:

Table B

Age	Birth-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-20
Rate 7/1/14- 6/30/15	\$671	\$726	\$764	\$800	\$838

Non-Minor Dependents (NMDs) (Ages 18 and Up)

All NMDs residing in a Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP) will receive the basic foster care rate of \$838.00 per month. The Specialized Care Increment (SCI) cannot be paid to NMDs in a SILP. Parenting NMDs can receive the infant supplement when residing in a SILP.

Dual Agency Rates

Effective July 1, 2014, the 2.17 percent CNI increase applies to the Dual Agency rate and is reflected in Table C below:

Table C

Age	FY 2014/15
Birth up to 3 years	\$988
*3 years and older	\$2,209

*Under three years of age if eligible per W&IC section 11464.

Foster Family Agencies (FFAs)

Effective July 1, 2014, the 2.17 percent CNI increase applies to the FFA basic rate only and does not change the remaining components of the FFA treatment program rate as outlined in the Manual of Policies and Procedures section 11-403. As required by regulation, a minimum of the basic rate and the child increment are to be passed on to the FFA certified home for each child each month. The FY 2014-15 FFA rates are reflected in Tables D and E below:

Table D

FFA Treatment Program Rates

Age	Birth-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-20
Basic Rate	\$671	\$726	\$764	\$800	\$838
Child Increment	\$189	\$189	\$189	\$189	\$189
Minimum Total to FFA Certified Home	\$860	\$915	\$953	\$989	\$1,027
Social Work	\$296	\$296	\$296	\$296	\$296
Administration	\$572	\$593	\$611	\$643	\$672
Total	\$1,728	\$1,804	\$1,860	\$1,928	\$1,995

Table E

FFA Non-Treatment Program Rates

Age	Birth-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-20
Basic Rate	\$671	\$726	\$764	\$800	\$838

Intensive Treatment Foster Care/Multi-dimensional Treatment Foster Care (ITFC/MTFC)

SB 1013 authorized an interim increase in the ITFC/MTFC rates, changed the service hours and rate levels, and increased the minimum amount paid to the certified foster parent. The interim rate increase will be in effect for three fiscal years beginning on July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2015 by an amount equal to the CNI computed pursuant to W&IC section 11453. Effective July 1, 2014, the 2.17 CNI is calculated based only on the caregiver portion of the ITFC/MTFC rate and is reflected in Table F below:

Table F

Service and Rate Level	In-Home Support Counselor Hours per Month	Standard Rate	Minimum Reimbursement to Certified Home
Level I	81-114 Hours	\$5,685	\$2,203
Level II	47-80 Hours	\$4,902	\$2,203
Level III	Less than 47 Hours	\$4,138	\$2,203

Additionally, children placed at Service and Rate Level III must receive behavior de-escalation and other support services on a flexible as-needed basis from an in-home support counselor. The FFA must provide one full-time support counselor for every 20 children placed at Level III. Children may not be placed at a Rate Level I or II for more than six months unless it is determined to be in the best interest of the child by the child's county interagency review team or the county placing agency, FFA and the child's certified foster parents. Extensions may be granted in six month increments.

Group Homes (GHs)

Effective July 1, 2014, the 2.17 percent CNI increase applies to each GH Rate Classification Level (RCL) and is reflected in Table G below:

Table G

RCL	Point Ranges	Standard Rate
1	Under 60	\$2,332
2	60-89	\$2,913
3	90-119	\$3,493
4	120-149	\$4,072
5	150-179	\$4,649
6	180-209	\$5,232
7	210-239	\$5,812
8	240-269	\$6,395
9	270-299	\$6,973
10	300-329	\$7,554
11	330-359	\$8,132
12	360-389	\$8,714
13	390-419	\$9,302
14	420 & Up	\$9,879

Wraparound

Effective July 1, 2014, the 2.17 percent CNI increase applies to the Wraparound rates and is reflected in Table H below:

Table H

RCL	Non-Federal Child	Federally Eligible Child
10/11	\$7,844	\$3,921
13	\$9,302	\$4,652

Out-of-State Group Homes

The rate paid for California (GH) placements made out-of-state is the rate established by the rate-setting authority of the other state. The county cannot claim federal financial participation for any rate amount exceeding the current FY's RCL 14 or exceeding the rate determined by the rate-setting authority of the state in which the facility is located.

The county is responsible for determining if any non-allowable costs are included in the rate and ensuring that only allowable costs are claimed for federal Title IV-E AFDC-FC reimbursement. Allowable costs are defined as food, clothing, shelter, daily supervision, school supplies, a child's personal incidentals, and liability insurance with respect to a child, reasonable travel to the child's home for visitation and reasonable travel to the child's school of origin. GH placements and allowable costs also include reasonable administration.

Specialized Care Increment

In accordance with W&IC section 11461(e)(4)(C)(i), the SCI will not receive a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) in FY 2014-15. However, a county may choose to apply a COLA such as the CNI to its SCI. Consistent with the realignment of funding, there will be no state share of cost for any adjustment.

Infant Supplement

The Infant Supplement rates are to remain at the levels approved effective January 1, 2008. If applicable, youth who are in guardianships receiving AFDC-FC benefits are also entitled to receive the Infant Supplement. The Infant Supplement rate is reflected in Table I below:

Table I

Infant Supplement Effective January 1, 2008						
Placement Type	GH	FFH/FFA	THP+FC Single Site Housing	THP+FC Remote Site Housing	THP+FC Host Family Model	SILP
Rate	\$890	\$411	\$411	\$411	\$411	\$411

Inquiries

Should you have any questions regarding the rates information in this ACL, please direct them to the Foster Care Rates Bureau at (916) 651-9152.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

GREGORY E. ROSE
Deputy Director
Children and Family Services Division

c: CWDA