

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



April 30, 1987

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 87-64

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL PROBATION OFFICERS
ALL GROUP HOME PROVIDERS

SUBJECT: RATES FOR AFDC-FC/REGIONAL CENTER CHILDREN

REFERENCE: ACIN NO. 1-11-87 AB 2520 (CHAPTER 355, STATUTES OF
1986)

The purpose of this letter is to provide further information and instructions to counties regarding the implementation of AB 2520 (Chapter 355, Statutes of 1986).

Effective July 1, 1987, certain foster care children with developmental disabilities will be eligible for an out-of-home care rate different than the current Aid to Families with Dependent Children-Foster Care (AFDC-FC) rates. County welfare departments (CWDs) shall pay foster care providers the rate established by the State Department of Developmental Services (SDDS) for 24-hour out-of-home nonmedical care and supervision for children with developmental disabilities who are both AFDC-FC recipients and regional center clients. Because these SDDS rates will be child-specific, CWDs will be notified by regional centers of the appropriate rate to pay for each eligible child.

ELIGIBLE POPULATION AND ELIGIBLE FACILITIES

All AFDC-FC recipients who are also receiving services as regional center clients shall be eligible for the rate of payment established by SDDS for 24-hour out-of-home nonmedical care and supervision. The majority of regional center placements are made into facilities of the small family home category, however, regional center placements may also be made into licensed foster family homes and group homes. The provisions of this statute apply to AFDC-FC children placed in any of these facilities having a "vendedorized" or contractual relationship with the regional centers.

RATE OF PAYMENT

The CWDs will be notified by the regional centers of the appropriate rate to pay for each eligible child. This will be determined by SDDS/regional center criteria which establish child-specific rates based upon assessment of the client and the facility size or type. To assure that federal and state AFDC-FC program standards are met, SDSS staff have analyzed the SDDS/regional center rate setting process and compared the cost components to existing AFDC-FC allowable cost provisions contained in the Manual of Policies and Procedures (MPP) Sections 11-401 (for family home rates) and 11-402.2 (for group home rates). From this review, we are assured that the rates established by the SDDS/regional centers for the cost components of the residential care rates and the personal and incidental amounts are comparable to the AFDC-FC allowable cost provisions. For your information, the regional center rate may include the following: the client's assessed rate, an additional negotiated rate and that portion of a special services rate which provides for more intensive care and supervision.

The regional centers will be responsible for paying directly to the providers any costs that they authorize that are not allowable under the AFDC-FC program. Costs that are not allowable for family or group homes under AFDC-FC are costs for medical, dental, psychiatric or therapeutic services. The regional centers will also be responsible for providing any special equipment, such as wheelchairs, that they may authorize.

In addition to paying the SDDS rate for eligible children, CWDs that have authority to provide for the cost of additional clothing pursuant to MPP Section 11-405.1 may apply their clothing allowance policies to this population.

INITIAL RATE NOTIFICATION PROCESS

Regional centers will identify their clients and the rates of payment established for them in order for the CWDs to be able to assume payment responsibility. The regional centers will send to the CWDs separate notices for each child with the following information: the name of the client, total rate of payment (combined residential care rate plus personal and incidental amount) and facility name and address.

CWDs are instructed to pay the total amount as established by the regional centers. The CWDs are instructed to keep this notice in the case as official documentation of the rate paid under the AFDC-FC program. CWDs will continue to pay this rate until notified of a change by the State Department of Social Services (SDSS) or the regional center. Reasons for a rate change include cost-of-living adjustments, change of placement, or change of regional center rates.

COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENTS (COLAs)

The COLA applied to the rates paid under this authority will be based upon the COLAs that are established for SDSS rates. SDSS will notify CWDs when COLAs are authorized for SDSS rate setting purposes.

COUNTY WELFARE DEPARTMENT-REGIONAL CENTER COMMUNICATION

It is recommended that CWDs contact the regional center in its area in order to establish a liaison between the two agencies and coordinate their AB 2520 implementation activities. It is also important for CWDs and regional centers to establish an effective on-going communication process to ensure that children with developmental disabilities receive, in a timely manner, the maximum benefits for which they are eligible.

CWDs should initiate referrals to regional centers for children who may be eligible for regional center services. Regional centers will accept the referrals for evaluation and assist the counties in identifying appropriate placement resources for regional center eligible children. The county's timely referral provides an opportunity for the regional center to provide placement resources and determine the residential rate for the child at the earliest possible time.

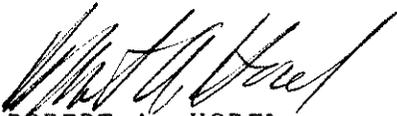
Whenever a child's AFDC-FC eligibility is being discontinued, it is important that the CWD notify the regional center as soon as possible to avoid interruption of payment should the out-of-home placement need to continue. Payment responsibility will shift to the regional center, where appropriate, in these instances.

CWDs will have the responsibility for arranging transfer of Social Security benefits from the regional center to the CWD.

IDENTIFICATION, CLAIMING AND TRACKING SYSTEM

It is recommended that CWDA develop a system to identify and track these cases to facilitate future statistical surveys, COLA changes, rate changes, etc. Instructions regarding fiscal claiming and Foster Care Information System (FCIS) reporting procedures for this population will be transmitted separately at a later date.

County staff with questions regarding these changes should contact Myra Meyer of the Foster Care Program Bureau at (916) 445-0813, (ATSS) 485-0813. Group home providers should contact the Foster Care Rates Bureau at (916) 323-1263.



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Welfare Program Division

cc: SDDS
CWDA
ARCA
All Regional Centers