

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



September 16, 1999

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 99-66

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 SERIOUSLY EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED (SED) CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS RATES

REFERENCE: FISCAL YEAR (FY) 1999-00 BUDGET ACT
 ASSEMBLY BILL (AB) 1111 (Chapter 147, Statutes of 1999)

SUPERCEDES: ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) NO. 98-70
 ERRATA #2 FOR ACL NO. 98-70

The purpose of this ACL is to provide information on the impact of FY 1999-00 Budget Act and AB 1111 (Chapter 147, Statutes of 1999), on the rate structures for AFDC-FC, and SED Children's Programs; and the Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment (Kin-GAP) Program. AB 1111 provides an increase based on the changes in the California Necessities Index (CNI), which was calculated to be 2.36 percent (rounded to the nearest dollar).

FAMILY HOMES

The AFDC-FC standardized basic rates for foster family homes, including small family homes, are to be increased by 2.36 percent in accordance with the provisions of Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Section 11461(d)(1)(A). The following chart provides the increased basic rates that are retroactive to July 1, 1999:

FAMILY HOMES Schedule of Basic Rates		
Age	Prior Basic Rate	Basic Rate Effective 7/1/99
0-4	\$375	\$384
5-8	\$408	\$418
9-11	\$436	\$446
12-14	\$483	\$494
15-19	\$528	\$540

AB 1111 also contained a 2.36 percent CNI increase for those counties that have rates higher than the standardized basic rates (Los Angeles, Marin, Orange, San Mateo, and Santa Clara). The following charts provide the increased basic rates that are retroactive to July 1, 1999:

FAMILY HOMES Basic Rates - Effective July 1, 1999					
County	Age				
	0-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-19
Los Angeles	\$384	\$424	\$470	\$510	\$560
Orange	\$384	\$419	\$446	\$590	\$590
San Diego*	\$384	\$418	\$446	\$494	\$540
San Mateo	\$397	\$433	\$462	\$512	\$559
Santa Clara	\$384	\$418	\$470	\$494	\$540

FAMILY HOMES Marin County Basic Rates – Effective July 1, 1999			
Age			
0-4	5-6	7-12	13-19
\$409	\$418	\$498	\$569

Except as specifically noted in this ACL, any county choosing to pay a rate higher than the basic rates indicated above shall pay the excess dollar amount using county-only funds.

KINSHIP GUARDIAN ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS

AB 1111 provides for Kin-GAP Program rates paid on behalf of eligible children at an amount equal to 100 percent of the rate paid to a licensed or approved home as referenced in WIC Section 11364. The Kin-GAP rates will be effective on January 1, 2000.

FOSTER FAMILY AGENCIES

AB 1111 provides for an increase in AFDC-FC Foster Family Agency (FFA) treatment and non-treatment rates. The schedule of rates and the components used to calculate an FFA rate are to be increased by 2.36 percent in accordance with the provisions of WIC Section 11463(e)(1). **Individual FY 1999-00 Rate Notification Letters will be sent to FFAs beginning**

* San Diego rates equal the Schedule of Basic Rates and have been included in this chart based on their prior years' status as a higher rate county. The county has now reached parity with the Schedule of Basic Rates.

September 1999. It is the responsibility of the FFA to forward copies of its annual Rate Notification Letter to all agencies from which it receives placements.

The following charts provide the increased basic rates and components for treatment and non-treatment FFAs, which are retroactive to July 1, 1999:

Schedule of FFA Treatment Rates Effective July 1, 1999					
Age	0-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-18
Basic Rate	\$375	\$407	\$434	\$482	\$525
Child Increment	190	190	190	190	190
Social Work	271	271	271	271	271
Administrative	557	578	596	628	657
Total Rate	\$1,393	\$1,446	\$1,491	\$1,571	\$1,643

Schedule of FFA Non-Treatment Rates Effective July 1, 1999					
Age	0-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-18
Basic Rate	\$375	\$407	\$434	\$482	\$525

The FFAs that currently receive a rate that is higher than the schedule of rates and components used to calculate an FFA rate referenced in WIC Section 11463, are also eligible for the CNI rate increase, which is retroactive to July 1, 1999. The rates received by these FFAs will be increased by 2.36 percent in accordance with the provisions of WIC Section 11463(f).

Intensive Foster Care Programs

For those counties participating in Intensive Foster Care Programs, the rates for Intensive Treatment FFAs are to be increased by 2.36 percent pursuant to the provisions of WIC Section 18358.30(d)(2)(A). The following chart provides the increased intensive treatment rates, which are retroactive to July 1, 1999.

Schedule of Service and Rate Levels for FFA Intensive Programs					
Service Level	A	B	C	D	E
Rate	\$4,050	\$3,714	\$3,368	\$3,040	\$2,701

SPECIALIZED CARE INCREMENTS and CLOTHING ALLOWANCE

No CNI rate increase was provided for specialized care increments or clothing allowances in the FY 1999-00 Budget Act or AB 1111.

INFANT SUPPLEMENT

AB 1111 provides for an increase to the infant supplement of 2.36 percent in accordance with the provisions of WIC Section 11465(c)(2)(A). It also permits children who are in receipt of Kin-GAP benefits (effective on January 1, 2000) to receive the infant supplement. The following chart provides the increases to the infant supplement by placement setting, which are retroactive to July 1, 1999.

Infant Supplement - Effective July 1, 1999		
Placement	Group Home	Foster Family Home/FFA
Rate	\$768	\$354

GROUP HOMES

The AFDC-FC/SED standardized rate for each group home's Rate Classification Level (RCL) shall be increased by 2.36 percent in accordance with the provisions of WIC Section 11462(g)(1)(A). **Group Home providers will receive individual FY 1999-00 Rate Notification Letters beginning September 1999. It is the responsibility of the Group Home provider to forward copies of its annual Rate Notification Letter to all agencies from which it receives placements.**

The following chart provides the increases to the Standardized Schedule of Rates, which are retroactive to July 1, 1999:

GROUP HOMES Standardized Schedule of Rates Effective July 1, 1999		
RCL	Point Ranges	Standard Rate
1	Under 60	\$1,284
2	60- 89	1,604
3	90-119	1,923
4	120-149	2,243
5	150-179	2,561
6	180-209	2,881
7	210-239	3,201
8	240-269	3,521
9	270-299	3,840
10	300-329	4,160
11	330-359	4,478
12	360-389	4,799
13	390-419	5,121
14	420 & Up	5,439

PROGRAM CHANGES

AB 1111 extends the freeze from FY 1998-99 through FY 1999-00 pursuant to WIC Section 11462(k)(2), whereby the rate for a group home program cannot be increased, due to a program change, from the rate established for the program effective July 1, 1999. WIC Sections 11462(k)(1) and (k)(3)(A) define the types of program changes that are subject to this freeze. For purposes of this freeze, a program change is defined as any alteration to an existing group home program that will increase the RCL or the AFDC-FC rate. Also included in this definition are any alterations that increase the licensed capacity of a program as a result of decreases in another program with a lower RCL or lower AFDC-FC rate that is operated by that provider.

An increase in the licensed capacity or other alteration to an existing group home program that does not increase the program's RCL or AFDC-FC rate is not considered a program change. However, for rate setting purposes, these changes are still considered program changes and the appropriate applications must be submitted. When requesting a program change, group home providers must submit a complete program change application in accordance with the Manual of Policies and Procedures, Division 11, Section 11-402.432. Providers must also include the additional documentation required by the Exceptions Criteria pursuant to WIC Sections 11462(k)(3)(i) and (k)(3)(ii) as indicated below.

NEW GROUP HOME PROGRAMS

AB 1111 extends the prohibitions in FY 1998-99 to FY 1999-00 as referenced in WIC Section 11462(k)(3)(A), which prevents the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) from establishing a rate for a new group home program of a new or existing provider or approving an increase in licensed capacity from a program with a lower RCL. However, CDSS may establish a rate for a new group home program or existing provider if the Exceptions Criteria pursuant to WIC Sections 11462(k)(3)(A)(i) and (k)(3)(A)(ii) are met as indicated below.

EXCEPTIONS TO GROUP HOME PROGRAM CHANGE & NEW PROGRAM PROHIBITION

WIC Sections 11462(k)(3)(A)(i) and (k)(3)(A)(ii) allow CDSS to set a rate during FY 1999-00 for a new program of a new or existing provider and, a program change for an existing provider that either increases the program's RCL or AFDC-FC rate or increases the licensed capacity of the program as a result of decreases in another program with a lower RCL or lower AFDC-FC rate that is operated by that provider, if the provider meets **both** of the following conditions:

1. The licensee obtains a letter of recommendation from the host county, primary placing county, or regional consortium of counties regarding the proposed program change or new program; **and**
2. The county determines that there is no increased cost to the State General Fund.

FURTHER RATE INCREASES

The CDSS will provide further information regarding any rate increases that will become effective on January 1, 2000, in a subsequent ACL that will be issued in late 1999.

INQUIRIES

County staff should contact their Foster Care 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 Shantel Hill, Placement Policy Unit at (916) 445-2886. Questions regarding specialized care increment, clothing allowance, or infant supplement rates, should be directed to Greg Lim, Innovative Programs Unit at (916) 324-5874.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by Wesley A. Beers
on 9/15/99

WESLEY A. BEERS
Acting Deputy Director
Children and Family Services Division

c: CWDA
California Association of Children's Homes
California Association of Services for Children
Residential Care Providers Association in Los Angeles County
Foster Care Alliance
African-American Foster Parent and Group Home Association
Association of Minority Adolescents in Residential Care Homes of Los Angeles County
Los Angeles County