

Common ISFC Questions

- My foster child was determined to be ISFC eligible, can I receive the ISFC rate while I train to become an ISFC approved foster home?
 - Yes, if the LOCP determines the child/NMD is ISFC eligible, the resource family can receive the ISFC rate during the 120-day training period. If the ISFC training is not completed within the 120-day training period, the rate will be reduced.
- My foster child is ISFC eligible and they are already receiving Wraparound (WRAP) services. Can I receive the ISFC rate if the child is getting WRAP services?
 - Yes, the child/NMD can receive both Wraparound and ISFC services at the same time. If both services were provided, only one rate can be claimed (the Wraparound rate, the ISFC rate, or LOC rates). Assuming the Wraparound rate would be claimed (because it is the highest of the rates), the county would determine the amount paid to the ISFC provider and the caregiver first, and the remaining amount would be available for the Wraparound provider. Thus, the county may need to renegotiate the rate paid to the Wraparound provider. If the county chooses to pay the Wraparound provider the full Wraparound rate, county general funds or other funding sources would need to be used to pay the ISFC provider and the caregiver.
 - (Alternate answer for caregivers) Yes, the child/NMD can receive both WRAP services and ISFC services at the same time. Due to conflicting funding for these services, the county may need to re-negotiate their contract with the WRAP provider and/or secure other funding services to pay for both programs.
- I am RFA approved by a county that does not have an ISFC program, am I still able to receive the ISFC rate?
 - Only in certain circumstances. It is strongly recommended the RF become approved with an agency with an ISFC Program so the child/NMD (and RF) can receive the needed intensive services and supports. One way of doing this is to transfer your RF certification to a new agency through the Portability Process described in is ACL 19-97.

In some cases, it is possible to receive the Family-Only rate (described in ACL 17-11) on an ongoing basis, “based on the intensive needs of the child if they [the ISFC RF] meet a level of specified training and competencies matched to the child’s/NMD’s needs at this level” and the rate is based on the LOC protocol. The county is ultimately responsible for making sure all of the child’s/NMD’s needs and services are met and it would be a determination made by the county of the appropriateness for an ongoing Family-Only Rate. **Please note**, the ongoing Family-Only Rate cannot be paid due to the agency (county or FFA) not having an ISFC program, because the ongoing Family-Only Rate is based on the child’s/NMD’s needs and the RF’s specified training and competencies matched to the child’s/NMD’s needs.

- If a child/NMD is determined to be ISFC eligible and I am unwilling or unable to become an approved ISFC RF, does the child/NMD need to change placements? If not, what rate will I receive?
 - It depends, if the RF does not become an approved ISFC RF, then the county must determine whether the RF is able to meet the child’s/NMD’s individual needs. If the

county determined the placement is appropriate, then the RF could receive the LOC 4 rate as long as they are providing that level of care and supervision.

- If the child's/NMD's needs have changed and they no longer required the same amount of care and supervision, will the ISFC rate be lowered?
 - If the intensive supervision needs of the child/NMD have decreased, the ISFC rate may need to be lowered and a new LOCP should be completed to reflect the lower level of support needed to be provided by the RF.
- What are the training requirements to become an ISFC approved RF?
 - ISFC RFs must have a total of 40 hours of training to qualify as an ISFC home. Of the 40 required training hours, a minimum of 12 training hours must include the training required in the RFA pre-approval process toward becoming a RF. However, a county or FFA may require more training of the RF, or refresher training to meet the special needs of a child/NMD to provide trauma-informed care. The 28 training hours should be in the categories as follows:
 - 18 hours in trauma informed or attachment interventions.
 - 10 hours of electives that are individualized for the child/NMD's needs.

ISFC resource parents must complete 24 hours of ongoing training within 12 months of the placement of an eligible child/NMD, and 12 hours per year for each year thereafter, due every 12 months on the anniversary of the date of RF approval.

Common LOCP QAs

Q: What is considered a triggering event for a LOC determination for Kin-Gap. Is it only done at reassessment or can be done by the legal guardian's request at any time?

A: The triggering events for the LOCP are listed in ACL 21-17 under: Rate Effective Dates and Scoring the LOCP. A request from a caregiver is one of those events. You can re-negotiate the rate at this time, the Kin-GAP process will not be changing.

Q: Are Emergency Caregiver RFs eligible for the LOCP?

A: RF homes who have begun the RFA conversion process are eligible for the LOCP as of April 1, 2021.

Q: Can a rate be paid retroactively before April 1, 2021 to a RF?

A: No. Non-FFA RFs only became eligible for the full LOCP as of April 1, 2021.

Q: Can a RF receive the Static Rate after receiving a LOC Rate?

A: No. The Static Rate is a temporary/short-term rate for the immediate placement of a child. If there are circumstances where the child may require more services and supports than they are currently receiving, the RF can request a rate re-determination.

Q: Can a LOC rate be lowered if there is a triggering event?

A: Under no circumstances can the LOC 2-4 rate be lowered. The Static and ISFC Rate may be lowered per policies outlined in ACL 21-17.

Q: Are there any translations available for the LOC Matrix?

A: The CDSS Translations Unit is currently working on the Spanish translation of the LOC Matrix.

Common SCI Questions

1. Where can I get X County's SCI rates/plan?
 - a. SCI plans are found at <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/foster-care/specialized-care>. However, many were removed due to accessibility requirements, if you cannot find your needed plan please email sci@dss.ca.gov.
2. Do Non-minor Dependents qualify for SCI?
 - a. NMDs are allowed to receive SCI unless they are living in a SILP.
3. When does an SCI re-assessment occur?
 - a. That is up to your county's SCI plan to determine.
4. If the child resides in another county, which rate is used for the payment?
 - a. The hosting county's rate is paid.
5. Are children who receive ARC eligible for SCI?
 - a. An SCI payment MAY be made to a child that is eligible for ARC, but not with ARC funds. If the county chooses to use their own funds, that is acceptable.