

March 3, 2022

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 22-17

The purpose of this All County Letter is to provide information regarding the Caregiver Pandemic Assistance payment authorized in the Budget Act of 2021.



KIM JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • www.cdss.ca.gov



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

March 4, 2022

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 22-17

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS
ALL COUNTY CALWORKS PROGRAM SPECIALISTS
ALL COUNTY CONSORTIUM PROJECT MANAGERS
ALL COUNTY CHILD WELFARE SERVICES PROGRAM MANAGERS
ALL COUNTY ELIGIBILITY SUPERVISORS
ALL COUNTY FOSTER CARE MANAGERS
ALL TITLE IV-E AGREEMENT TRIBES
ALL FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBES
COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

SUBJECT: CAREGIVER PANDEMIC ASSISTANCE PAYMENT FUNDED THROUGH THE CALIFORNIA BUDGET ACT OF 2021

REFERENCE: [SENATE BILL 129](#) (BUDGET ACT OF 2021), [WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE \(WIC\) 224.1](#), [WIC 309](#), [WIC 361.45](#), [WIC 727.05](#), [WIC 11363](#), [WIC 11385](#), [WIC 11405](#), AND [WIC 16519.5](#)

The purpose of this All County Letter (ACL) is to provide county child welfare agencies, probation departments, tribes, and tribal agencies with information regarding a one-time, direct support payment provided through the Budget Act of 2021 for caregivers with whom a child, nonminor dependent, or nonminor former dependent (hereinafter child or youth) was placed between March 19, 2020, through June 15, 2021; hereinafter referred to as the Caregiver Pandemic Assistance (CPA) payment.

BACKGROUND

The CPA payment is a COVID-19 pandemic-related relief payment to provide fiscal assistance to caregivers for their increased responsibilities during the initial stages of the COVID-19 emergency as it relates to the home-based care and supervision of children and youth under the jurisdiction of the county child welfare agency or probation department during the specified time period.

ELIGIBILITY

A caregiver is eligible to receive the CPA payment if they met one of the following criteria during the period of **March 19, 2020 through June 15, 2021**:

- Received aid on behalf of a child or youth placed on an emergency basis pursuant to [WIC 309](#), [WIC 361.45](#), or [WIC 727.05](#), or for a compelling reason pursuant to [WIC 16519.5](#), prior to approval as a Resource Family (RF) as defined in [WIC 16519.5](#) or prior to approval as a Tribally Approved Home (TAH) as defined in [WIC 224.1](#);
- Received aid on behalf of a child or youth placed in the home and the caregiver was an RF approved by the county or Foster Family Agency or an approved TAH, including placements made pursuant to a Voluntary Placement Agreement;
- Was a juvenile court legal guardian who received aid on behalf of a child or youth pursuant to WIC Sections [11363](#), [11385](#), or [11405](#), during the specified period.

FUNDING METHODOLOGY

The payment methodology was designed to provide fiscal pandemic assistance in light of the obstacles and barriers caregivers faced during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic while providing safe and nurturing family-based care for children and youth. Obstacles, barriers, and added costs or expenses included, but were not limited to, remote educational or learning environments, court-ordered or mandated case plan visitation, and existing and emergent health concerns and needs. The methodology provides increased fiscal assistance to caregivers with placement(s) that extended beyond 30 days.

Placement Duration	Methodology	Maximum
29 days or less	\$200 for each placement per child	\$1,001
30 days or more	\$1,267 for first placement over 30 days or more, plus \$202 for each additional child placed	\$5,000

For caregivers who only had individual placement(s) that were 29 days or less, the maximum payment is capped at \$1,001. For caregivers who had at least one individual placement of 30 days or more and additional individual placements, the total maximum payment is capped at \$5,000.

DISBURSEMENT/DISTRIBUTION OF PAYMENT

The California Department of Social Services will be responsible for the coordination of the CPA payment and will be extracting the applicable caregiver recipient name and address information from the statewide Child Welfare Services/Case Management System database and other applicable state-maintained databases, such as the Statewide Automated Welfare System, etc. The CPA payments will be made via prepaid debit cards, and the distribution of the prepaid debit cards will be coordinated by a third-party vendor. Included in the distribution of the prepaid debit card will be contact information for caregivers regarding how to report issues and concerns related to the prepaid debit cards, i.e., lost or damaged debit cards, re-setting Personal Identifier Numbers, payment discrepancies, etc.

TREATMENT OF THE CPA PAYMENT

The CPA payment will not be considered income to the caregiver. It is a supplemental foster care or Kin-GAP payment, as applicable, to the caregiver on behalf of the child or youth in their care for increased care and supervision needs of the child or youth related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

For questions or concerns related to use of the prepaid debit card, please contact CPApayment@dss.ca.gov. For policy related questions regarding the information in this letter, please contact the RFA Policy Unit by email at RFA@dss.ca.gov or by calling 916-651-1101.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By

ANGIE SCHWARTZ
Deputy Director
Children and Family Services Division