

April 6, 2021

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 21-39

The purpose of this All County Letter is to provide information regarding the allocation methodology for the Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Program's Fiscal Year 2020-21 and the new process of quarterly conference calls between the California Department of Social Services and the CSEC Program opt-in counties.



KIM JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
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GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

April 6, 2021

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 21-39

TO: ALL COUNTY CHILD WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS
ALL FOSTER CARE MANAGERS
ALL CHILD WELFARE SERVICES PROGRAM MANAGERS
ALL TITLE IV-E AGREEMENT TRIBES
ALL COUNTY BOARDS OF SUPERVISORS

SUBJECT: COMMERCIALY SEXUALLY EXPLOITED CHILDREN
PROGRAM FISCAL YEAR 2020-21 ALLOCATION
METHODOLOGY AND PROGRAM INSTRUCTIONS

REFERENCE: [PUBLIC LAW \(PL\) 113-183; SENATE BILL \(SB\) 855 \(CHAPTER 29, STATUTES OF 2014\); SB 794 \(CHAPTER 425, STATUTES OF 2015\); WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE \(WIC\) SECTION 16501.35; WIC SECTION 16524.6-11.; ALL COUNTY LETTER \(ACL\) NO 16-08: IMPLEMENTATION FEDERAL PREVENTING SEX TRAFFICKING AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES ACT; ACL NO 16-15: YOUTH WHO ARE MISSING FROM FOSTER CARE; COUNTY FISCAL LETTER \(CFL\) NO 18/19-38: COMMERCIALY SEXUALLY EXPLOITED CHILDREN PROGRAM GENERAL FUND ALLOCATION; CFL NO. 20/21-50: COMMERCIALY SEXUALLY EXPLOITED CHILDREN PROGRAM GENERAL FUND ALLOCATION](#)

The purpose of this ACL is to provide all county child welfare and probation agencies (hereafter referred to as “counties”) the allocation methodology and program instructions for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21 Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Program. Specifically, this ACL addresses the following:

- Historical context of the CSEC Program
- FY 2020-21 CSEC Program allocation methodology
- New procedures regarding quarterly conference calls for state CSEC Program opt-in counties

BACKGROUND

To support counties in their efforts towards improving outcomes for minors who are at-risk or a victim of commercial sexual exploitation, California passed [SB 855 \(Chapter 29, Statutes of 2014\)](#). This established the county optional CSEC Program described in [WIC Sections 16524.6-11](#) and administered by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). Annually, the County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA) and CDSS collaboratively develop an allocation methodology for the distribution of funding to counties that opt to participate in the state CSEC Program.

After the passage of [SB 855](#), on September 29, 2014, the President signed into law the federal Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act ([PL 113-183](#)), which amended Title IV-E of the Social Security Act to require states to develop and implement policies and procedures related to commercially sexually exploited youth, and runaway or missing children and youth who receive child welfare services. This federal law was codified into state law in 2015 via [SB 794](#) through the addition of [WIC Section 16501.35](#), requiring all child welfare and probation departments to identify, document and determine appropriate services when serving youth who are at risk for, or identified as victims of, commercial sexual exploitation. In addition, [SB 794](#) required counties to implement policies and procedures related to expeditiously locating children and youth missing from care. The CDSS provided initial instructions to counties regarding the preventing child sex trafficking requirements in [ACL No. 16-08](#), and provided initial instructions regarding the runaway/missing youth protocol in [ACL No. 16-15](#). All county child welfare and probation agencies receive an annual allocation to perform these federally required activities.

FUNDING DISTRIBUTION STATE CSEC PROGRAM [SB 855 (CHAPTER 29, STATUTES OF 2014)] - OPT-IN COUNTIES

In consultation with the CWDA, \$15.9 million General Fund (GF) is distributed to County Welfare Director's (CWDs) that have opted to participate in the state CSEC Program established by Welfare and Institutions Code Section 16524.7 using the following methodology:

- From \$16.2 million, nine new opt-in counties (Alpine, Butte, Glenn, Kings, Lake, Napa, Nevada, Trinity, and Tuolumne) receive \$25,000 each (totaling \$225,000) for CSEC Program implementation.
- The remaining \$16.0 million GF is preliminarily allocated based on each previously opted-in (hereinafter referred to as "continuing") county's percentage of the total statewide state CSEC allocation, as displayed in [CFL No. 18/19-38](#).

- From the preliminary calculation, a reduction of \$321,260 is distributed across all continuing counties for the implementation of county training, technical assistance, and cross-county coordination through the Preventing and Addressing Child Trafficking Project based on each continuing county's projected FY 2019-20 state CSEC allocation balance. Continuing counties with projected surplus balances contribute 2.42 percent of their preliminary allocation; continuing counties with projected deficit balances contribute 1.0 percent of their preliminary allocation.
- An adjustment is made to ensure counties receive no less than \$25,000 GF.

In summary, \$15.7 million GF is allocated to continuing counties and \$225,000 GF is allocated to nine new opt-in counties, for a total of \$15.9 million GF. Further information regarding the allocation methodology and claiming information can be referenced in [CFL No. 20/21-50](#).

FEDERAL PREVENTING SEX TRAFFICKING REQUIREMENTS [SB 794 (CHAPTER 425. STATUTES OF 2015) - ALL COUNTIES]

In consultation with CWDA, \$678,800 GF is distributed to CWDs using the following methodology:

- Each county's percentage of the total statewide foster care caseload, ages ten through 20 years, based on 2020 second-quarter data from the California Child Welfare Indicators Project on the University of California (UC), Berkeley website.
- To ensure all counties implement the federally mandated activities, a minimum floor of \$2,500 GF was provided.

In consultation with the Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC), \$1.0 million GF is distributed to County Probation Department's based using the following methodology:

- Each county's percentage of the combined total statewide foster care caseload, ages ten through 20 years, based on 2020 second-quarter data from the California Child Welfare Indicators Project from the UC Berkeley website and candidacy caseload as reported by counties to CDSS.
- To ensure all counties implement the federally mandated activities, a minimum floor of \$2,500 GF is provided.

Specific allocations for each county and claiming instructions will be provided in a forthcoming CFL.

FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2020-21 STATE CSEC PROGRAM [[SB 855 \(CHAPTER 29, STATUTES OF 2014\)](#)] PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

Previously, counties who have opted into the CSEC Program have submitted annual written county plans. For FY 2020-21, in lieu of annual county plans the CDSS Child Trafficking Response Unit (CTRU) will host quarterly calls with all opt-in counties.

Continuing counties can anticipate discussing the following topics during the first quarterly call:

- FY 2019-20 expenditure data
- Anticipated shifts in spending plans for FY 2020-21
- Overarching program successes
- Overarching program challenges
- Supports that CDSS can offer

All continuing counties are expected to continue their current programs and expenditures in accordance with their existing county plans. Any updates to the existing plans may be submitted via email to CSECProgram@dss.ca.gov, and will be discussed during quarterly calls.

New opt-in counties can anticipate discussing the following topics during the first quarterly call:

- Interagency Protocol Development
- Multi-Disciplinary Teaming
- Allocation and expenditure planning
- Supports that CDSS can offer

New opt-in counties who received one-time funding of \$25,000 in FY 2019-20 and submitted a county plan may continue to develop their county plans during FY 2020-21. New opt-in counties will be expected to develop and submit their interagency protocols to CSECProgram@dss.ca.gov.

PREVENTING AND ADDRESSING CHILD TRAFFICKING (PACT) PROJECT

In 2014, the CDSS was awarded a federal grant by the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (ACF) Children's Bureau to address trafficking in the child welfare population. The CDSS contracted with the Child and Family Policy Institute of California (CFPIC), to develop and implement the "Preventing and Addressing Child Trafficking: A Multi-Disciplinary System to Address Trafficking within the Child Welfare Population (PACT)" Project. The PACT's mission is

to implement a state and county level coordinated cross-system, interagency collaborative model that effectively serves child sex and labor trafficking victims. State CSEC program funds will continue to support this critical work facilitating cross-county coordination, training, and technical assistance.

While the initial PACT pilot included a cohort of ten California counties, in FY 2020-21 the Project has expanded to include all interested CSEC Program opt-in counties. Under the administration of the PACT Project Director, participating counties benefit from shared learning through regional cohorts and gain access to virtual or in-person training, customized technical assistance and peer mentorship. For more information relative to the PACT Project, please reach out to the Project Director, Melissa Gomez at melissa.gomez@cfpic.org.

If you have any questions or need additional guidance regarding the information in this letter, contact the CTRU within the Child Welfare Policy and Program Development Bureau at (916) 651-6160 or at CSECProgram@dss.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

ANGIE SCHWARTZ
Deputy Director
Children and Family Services Division

c: County Welfare Directors Association
Chief Probation Officers of California