

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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Issue 20-01

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Intensive Services Foster Care (ISFC)

Intensive Services Foster Care (ISFC) is the highest level of home-based care for children with Serious Emotional and Behavioral Needs (SEBN) and/or Special Health Care Needs (SHCN). Children can be referred if they are already placed with a caregiver (“matched”), or if a caregiver needs to be identified for them (“unmatched”). The ISFC program is administered by contracted Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) for the delivery of intensive therapeutic services. The goals are to improve in social and emotional functioning, decrease aggressive and defiant behaviors, and promote placement stability, thereby reducing timelines to permanency for those youth deemed eligible for the program.

Eligibility Criteria

SEBN: Youth aged 6-21 who, within the last twelve months, have had one or more of the following qualifiers: aggressive and assaultive behavior, animal cruelty, Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC), eating disorder, fire setting, gang activity, habitual truancy, psychiatric hospitalization, frequent run-away, substance abuse, three or more placement disruptions due to behavior, are stepping down from a Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Placement (STRTP) or have an ISFC Level of Care (LOC) determination.

SHCN: Youth aged 0-21 who have a condition that can rapidly deteriorate, resulting in permanent injury or death, have a medical condition that requires specialized in-home health care, or have an ISFC LOC determination.

Referral Process

Serious Emotional and Behavioral Needs (SEBN): Upon recommendation by the Child and Family Team (CFT), an ISFC referral and Child Profile Sheet can be generated via the [Referral Portal](#) on LAKids. These documents and the [DCFS 179 Mental Health Consent/Minute Order](#) are then emailed to the ISFC team at: ISFC@DCFS.lacounty.gov

Special Health Care Needs (SHCN): Upon recommendation by the CFT, an ISFC referral and Child Profile Sheet can be generated via the [Referral Portal](#) on LAKids. These documents, the [DCFS 149/149a](#), and the [DCFS 1696](#) are then emailed to the ISFC team at ISFC@DCFS.lacounty.gov.

**Resource Parents who are caring for a child/youth/NMD who meet ISFC eligibility criteria and want to join the ISFC program under a Foster Family Agency can be referred to the ISFC team for consultation and linkage to an FFA provider. Resource Parents may be eligible for the ISFC Static Rate for up to 120 days while they are receiving ISFC training and undergoing the home certification process.



If you have any questions regarding this release please e-mail your question to:

Policy@dcsf.lacounty.gov

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Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Question:** If a child/youth is moved from a relative's home to a FFA, may the child/youth qualify for the Intensive Services Foster Care (ISFC) program and/or the ISFC rate using Static Criteria?

Response: Yes, in this scenario the LOC/initial CANS CSW would either complete the Level of Care Protocol to determine if a child/youth qualifies for ISFC, or if the child/youth has static indicators then Static Criteria can be used to qualify a child/youth for the ISFC rate. Payment of ISFC rate based on the Static Criteria is short term and does not assume the child/youth will continue to qualify for the ISFC rate once the LOCP rate determination is completed; nor does it mean the child/youth requires the level of support the ISFC program provides. If an ISFC FFA provider is not available and the Resource Family (RF) is willing and able to provide that level of care, the ISFC team will work closely with the FFA to ensure that the individualized array of intensive services are provided to meet the needs of the child/youth and maintain them safely in the home.

2. **Question:** Would a child/youth in a Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment (Kin-GAP) program, be eligible for the ISFC program? Is a child/youth placed with an Approved Resource Caregiver (ARC), eligible for the ISFC program?

Response: Kin-GAP and Non-Related Legal Guardian (NRLG) cases are not eligible for the ISFC program. ARC cases are eligible for the ISFC program and rate. In addition, Tribal placements where the child/youth is in a foster care placement, are also eligible for the ISFC program and rate.

3. **Question:** When a child/youth is receiving intensive services via the ISFC program, are the children also eligible to receive Wraparound, to secure additional services and/or supports?

Response: Yes, using an Integrated Core Practice Model (ICPM) approach to determine what and how the child/youth's and/or RF's needs can be met with additional supports, a county may utilize other programs and funding. This may include programs or services such as but not limited to Wraparound, TFC, or Intensive Care Coordination (ICC), Intensive Home Based Services, etc.

4. **Question:** A child/youth receives a "7" bump under the Behavioral/Emotional Domain and qualifies for the ISFC rate subsequently, the RF does not meet ISFC training requirements nor want to become an ISFC home, what happens next?

Response: When a Resource Family (RF) is not able or willing to become an ISFC resource parent provider, or meet the ISFC training requirements of an ISFC home and is not willing to



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provide intervention services in accordance with the treatment intervention, the LOCP must be used to reduce the ISFC rate. The CSW is expected to work with their Service Linkage Specialists and DMH to ensure that the appropriate array of intensive services and supports are provided to the child/youth in the RF home that would mitigate the need to place the child/youth with another RF.



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