

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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Issue 20-10

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FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR AT-RISK FAMILIES DURING NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) CALIFORNIA STATE OF EMERGENCY

The purpose of this FYI is to provide staff with information regarding fiscal support for eligible at-risk families with child welfare contact during the COVID-19.

On April 13, 2020, [Governor Newsom announced \\$42 million in additional investments](#) to address COVID-19 impacts on children and families. These investments included more than \$27 million for at-risk families to support families staying together.

- Prepaid Cards will be issued directly by the State to eligible recipients to provide an assistance payment for the months of April, May, and June of 2020. The fiscal supplement is \$200 per month per eligible household, or a supplement up to \$400 per month for eligible households with three or more children at risk of entering foster care (FC).

ELIGIBILITY

- A household is eligible to receive Supporting Families Struggling to Stay Together Initiative assistance payments if it meets one of the following criteria:
- Households with a Family Maintenance (FM) service component without a subsequent entry into FC.
 - Inclusive of cases open at some point in April 2020, and new cases opened in May and June 2020.
- Households with an Emergency Response (ER) service component without a subsequent entry into FC.
 - Inclusive of cases open at some point in April 2020, and new cases opened in May and June 2020.
- Households with a substantiated ER referral, without an accompanying case opening or entry into FC.
 - Inclusive of referrals received in April 2020 with a disposition in April, May, or June 2020, and new referrals received in May and June 2020.
- Households with an inconclusive ER referral, without an accompanying case opening or entry into FC, where the Structured Decision Making (SDM) Risk Assessment was considered "high" or "very high."
 - Inclusive of referrals received in April 2020 with a disposition in April, May or June 2020, and new referrals received in May and June 2020.



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

Policy@dcfs.lacounty.gov

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If a household is determined to be eligible, CSWs are strongly encouraged to use this as an opportunity to engage clients to explain the program to the family, i.e., what to expect, who is eligible, and spending flexibility, indicating that it is to help cover expenses in any way the family feels is necessary. CSWs may refer to All County Information Notice [ACIN I-44-20](#) when explaining the program.

PAYMENTS

- For those households meeting the eligibility requirements above, Prepaid Cards will be issued to provide the supplement to all eligible cases to assist with purchasing basic necessities (e.g., food or rent). The assistance payment is \$200 per month per eligible household, or \$400 per month for an eligible household with three or more children at risk of entering FC.
- For detailed information regarding payments to households with children at risk of entering FC meeting the eligibility requirements outlined above please refer to [ACIN I-44-20](#)

ENGAGING CLIENTS

- CSWs are strongly encouraged to use this as an opportunity to engage clients and to communicate that Prepaid Cards are being provided to families to use in ways that meet their basic needs. CSWs can inform clients that there is no requirement to account for how the funds are used, and that this information will not be collected by counties or the state.

It is important to note that the pre-paid cards do NOT count as income and as such clients who receive CalWORKs or CalFresh, are not required to report this as income.



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