



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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Issue 25-06

Date: 4/15/2025

DPSS LINKAGES CHANGES: CASH AID NOW AVAILABLE FOR FAMILIES WHILE RECEIVING FAMILY REUNIFICATION (FR) SERVICES

This FYI outlines important information regarding Assembly Bill (AB) 135 aimed to support a family's economic stability while participating in Family Reunification (FR) services. Existing policy regarding the Linkages partnership between DPSS and DCFS is in the process of revision to indicate the changes below.

- **Cash Aid:** Families eligible for CalWORKs FR may **NOW** receive cash aid and childcare in addition to services, such as substance abuse treatment, mental health, job search, etc., as part of their reunification plan.
- **Temporary Homeless Assistance (THA):** DCFS staff can recommend to the FR GAIN Services Worker (GSW) to issue FR-THA funds if the parent needs housing in order to reunify with their child.

What does this mean for DCFS staff?

❖ Case Assessment

- Staff can recommend families, who had an open CalWORKs case at the time DCFS removed all the child(ren) from the home, to be provided GAIN services **and** receive cash aid for up to six (6) months, **OR**,
- Staff can recommend families receive eligible services through GAIN **without** cash aid.
NOTE: If no recommendation is made within thirty (30) calendar days of the DPSS case discontinuance date, families will not be eligible for cash aid and only eligible for DPSS services.

❖ Ongoing Collaboration with Linkages GAIN Social Workers (LGSW) and use of updated DCFS 5230 Notification Gram/form

- DCFS staff notify co-located LGSWs of the FR recommendation for the provision of cash aid via email, phone call or Child and Family Team Meeting (CFTM). A court order is not needed.
- DPSS Linkages GAIN Social Worker (LGSW), in consultation with the DCFS Children's Social Worker (CSW), jointly complete the existing DCFS 5230 form.
 - ✓ LGSW completes Part I and II of form, which identifies the service needs and recommendation for the FR family to receive cash aid.
 - ✓ CSW completes Part III, to request an extension of FR services, termination of FR services or recommendation for FR-THA. Part III is emailed directly to the FR GSW.

❖ Existing Family Reunification Services

- DCFS staff can reach out to the co-located LGSW or FR GSW to inform staff of their recommendation for FR cash aid.
- The FR GSW (DPSS) may inform DCFS staff of the availability of cash aid while receiving FR services and request amending the reunification plan to include the provision of cash aid on cases where the child removal is within the previous five (5) months.

Reach out to DCFS Linkages Coordinator, Rafaela Vargas at vargar@dcfs.lacounty.gov for any additional questions.