



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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Issue 26-13

Date: 07/13/2026

2026 BACK-TO-SCHOOL CLOTHING ALLOWANCE

This is to advise staff that on July 10, 2026, the automatic Back-to-School Clothing Allowance (BTSCA) warrants were issued for children currently placed in foster care. In order for a new foster child to be considered, they were to have been updated in the Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS) by **July 8, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.** The following reasons to include or exclude the child in the automatic BTSCA process are outlined below:

1. Non-Minor Dependents receiving extended foster care benefits are eligible for County clothing allowances if the placement type is otherwise eligible for these allowances. A youth in a Supervised Independent Living Placement is also eligible for the applicable County clothing allowance.
2. The BTSCA for Foster Care placed in an out-of-County/State placement may be paid only when the County/State in which the child is placed allows such an additional payment and is entered into CWS/CMS in the amount allowed by that County/State.
3. The child must have been or is expected to be in placement for at least three full consecutive months as of September 30th of the current year.
4. The current placement action must have been made prior to July 1st of the current year and the child must **not** have received an initial/replacement clothing allowance after June 30th of the current year.
5. In relative placement (Youakim) cases, the BTSCA may be issued for a child who received an initial/replacement clothing allowance after June 30th if the child was placed prior to June 30th and Youakim eligibility determination exceeded 30 days.

NOTES:

- The allowance will be issued automatically in or close to August of each year for children who meet the above-stated criteria and who have reached age five before December 1st of the current year.
- Emergency Aid Requisitions **are not to** be used for the issuance of BTSCAs and staff shall adhere to this in order to avoid an overpayment. If an Emergency Aid Requisition was used to issue a BTSCA for this year, an automatic BTSCA will be issued – generating an overpayment. See Procedural Guide 0900-527.10, Emergency Aid Requisition, for more information.
- Current policy does not allow BTSCA for children residing in Group Homes. Procedural Guide 0900-506.10, BTSCA specifies that children receiving the dual agency rate are also not eligible for the BTSCA. However, children age three years and older are eligible for the BTSCA if in a qualified placement.

For full details, see Procedural Guides 0900-506.10, Clothing Allowances, for eligibility criteria and rates.

If you have any questions regarding this release, please email your question to:

Policy@dcfs.lacounty.gov