

April 7, 2023

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-12-23

The purpose of this All County Information Notice is to inform county agencies, Title IV-E Agreement Tribes, foster care providers, and other stakeholders of 2022 chaptered legislation that affects child welfare services and foster care programs.



KIM JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
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GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

April 7, 2023

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-12-23

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS
ALL CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS
ALL CHILD WELFARE SERVICES PROGRAM MANAGERS
ALL INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM MANAGERS
ALL INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM COORDINATORS
ALL TRANSITIONAL HOUSING COORDINATORS
ALL COUNTY RFA AND ADOPTION PROGRAM MANAGERS
ALL CDSS ADOPTION REGIONAL OFFICES
ALL LICENSED CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES
ALL LICENSED CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL PROVIDERS
HOMES CERTIFIED/APPROVED BY A FOSTER FAMILY AGENCY
ALL TITLE IV-E AGREEMENT TRIBES
JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

SUBJECT: 2022 CHAPTERED LEGISLATION AFFECTING CHILD WELFARE
SERVICES AND FOSTER CARE PROGRAMS

REFERENCE: [ASSEMBLY BILL \(AB\) 740 \(CHAPTER 400, STATUTES OF 2022\)](#), [AB 1051 \(CHAPTER 402, STATUTES OF 2022\)](#), [AB 1686 \(CHAPTER 755, STATUTES OF 2022\)](#), [AB 1735 \(CHAPTER 405, STATUTES OF 2022\)](#), [AB 1914 \(CHAPTER 765, STATUTES OF 2022\)](#), [AB 2085 \(CHAPTER 770, STATUTES OF 2022\)](#), [AB 2159 \(CHAPTER 691, STATUTES OF 2022\)](#), [AB 2309 \(CHAPTER 780, STATUTES OF 2022\)](#), [AB 2317 \(CHAPTER 589, STATUTES OF 2022\)](#), [AB 2466 \(CHAPTER 967, STATUTES OF 2022\)](#), [AB 2495 \(CHAPTER 159, STATUTES OF 2022\)](#), [AB 2595 \(CHAPTER 260, STATUTES OF 2022\)](#), [AB 2711 \(CHAPTER 870, STATUTES OF 2022\)](#), [AB 2866 \(CHAPTER 165, STATUTES OF 2022\)](#); [SENATE BILL \(SB\) 384 \(CHAPTER 811, STATUTES OF 2022\)](#), [SB 528 \(CHAPTER 812,](#)

[STATUTES OF 2022](#), [SB 1071 \(CHAPTER 613, STATUTES OF 2022\)](#), [SB 1085 \(CHAPTER 832, STATUTES OF 2022\)](#), [SB 1090 \(CHAPTER 833, STATUTES OF 2022\)](#);

The purpose of this All County Information Notice (ACIN) is to provide summaries of 2022 chaptered legislation affecting Child Welfare Services and Foster Care programs. The summaries below are for general informational purposes only. For each item, this ACIN identifies whether further guidance will be forthcoming from the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), and whether All County Letters (ACLs) or ACINs have been or will be issued for legislation identified as requiring more detailed descriptions of specific programmatic issues and necessary implementation activities.

- **Assembly Bill 740 Foster Youth: Suspension and Expulsion:** [AB 740](#) (amending Education Code (EDC) sections [47605](#), [47605.6](#), [48432.5](#), [48853.5](#), [48911](#), [48911.1](#), [48915.5](#), and [48918.1](#)). This bill grants the same rights that a parent or guardian has to receive notices of suspension, expulsion, manifestation determination, involuntary transfer and other documents to a foster child's educational rights holder, attorney, county social worker, and, if applicable, tribal social worker. This bill requires that written notice be given to a foster youth's educational rights holder, attorney, county social worker, and, if applicable, the tribal social worker in the following situations:
 - Before an expulsion hearing if a child is recommended for expulsion from school, including charter and continuation schools.
 - Before a child may be suspended, expelled for disciplinary reasons, or otherwise involuntarily removed from a charter school.
 - Before a child may be involuntarily transferred to a continuation school for specified reasons. The notice must include the opportunity to request a meeting with a designee of the district superintendent. The [ACL 23-15](#) provides further guidance.
- **Assembly Bill 1051 Medi-Cal: Specialty Mental Health Services: Foster Children:** [AB 1051](#) (amending Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) sections [14714](#) & [14717.1](#), adding WIC Sections [14717.2](#), [14717.25](#), [14717.26](#)). This bill makes changes for presumptive transfer of the responsibility to provide or arrange and pay for Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS) when a foster youth is placed in an out-of-county community treatment facility, group home, or short-term residential therapeutic program, or admitted to a children's crisis residential program. Other changes made by this bill include notification responsibilities for placing agencies, specified timely payment options for county Mental Health Plans (MHPs) and SMHS providers, and data reporting requirements for the CDSS and the Department of Health Care Services

(DHCS). The provisions of this bill will be effective July 1, 2023, or July 1, 2024. [AB 551](#), introduced in February 2023, proposes to delay implementation of AB 1051 until July 1, 2024. The CDSS and DHCS will provide county placing agencies and MHPs implementation guidance via a joint letter prior to the required implementation date.

- **Assembly Bill 1686 Child Welfare Agencies: Enforcement:** [AB 1686](#) (amending Family Code (FC) section [17552](#)). The Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) and local child support agencies are responsible for collecting and enforcing child support obligations, including child support delinquencies, against parents whose children have been placed in foster care. Pursuant to federal law, county child welfare social workers are required to assess whether it is in the best interests of the child or nonminor dependent to have the case referred to the local child support agency for the collection of child support. This bill, consistent with federal guidance, requires the county child welfare department, in making that determination, to presume that the payment of support by the parent will likely pose a barrier to reunification, which would *limit the referral of these out-of-home cases to county child support enforcement departments*. The bill requires CDSS to revise its regulations to implement those changes on or before October 1, 2023. The [ACL 23-29](#) provides further guidance.
- **Assembly Bill 1735 Foster Care: Rights:** [AB 1735](#) (amending WIC sections [16001.9](#) and [16501.1](#)). This bill requires that, when a youth is entitled to receive a copy of their court report, case plan, transition to independent living plan, or foster youth rights, the social worker or probation officer shall ensure those items are translated in the youth's primary language, if English is not their primary language. The bill also adds to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights (FYBOR) the right to have these documents in the youth's primary language and requires the FYBOR be provided to the child in their primary language. The [ACL 23-04](#) provides further guidance.
- **Assembly Bill 1914 Resource Family Approval: Training:** [AB 1914](#) amending WIC section [16519.5](#)). This bill exempts a Resource Parent/Applicant from completing the Resource Family Approval (RFA) *first aid training* requirement if the parent has an active and unrestricted license as a health care professional issued by the Department of Consumer Affairs or the Emergency Medical Services Authority. This bill further exempts the Resource Parent/Applicant from completing the RFA *Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) training* requirement if the Resource Parent/Applicant has a certificate of completion for Basic Life Support for health care professionals, Pediatric Advanced Life Support, or a higher standard of training that certifies CPR

([Written Directives Version 8 Section 8-01: Annual and Other Training](#)). No further guidance is anticipated to be issued by the CDSS.

- **Assembly Bill 2085 Crimes: Mandated Reporters:** [AB 2085](#): Effective January 1, 2023, AB 2085 amended the definition of “general neglect” contained in Penal Code section [11165.2](#) to specify that a child must be at substantial risk of suffering serious physical harm or illness, and that “general neglect” does not include a parent's economic disadvantage. Further, for consistency in the statutes governing the mandated report of child abuse or neglect, this bill clarified throughout Penal Code sections 11166 and 11167 that mandated reporters must report “reasonably” suspected instances of child abuse or neglect. Further guidance will be forthcoming in an ACL.
- **Assembly Bill 2159 Reunification Services:** [AB 2159](#) (amending WIC section [361.5](#)). This bill clarifies that the provision permitting a court to deny reunification services for a parent who is incarcerated, institutionalized, or detained by the United States Department of Homeland Security, or has been deported to the parent's or guardian's country of origin does not apply to a parent who is in custody prior to conviction. Additionally, for the court's determination of reasonable reunification services, it requires the court to consider the barriers to an incarcerated, institutionalized, detained, or deported parent's or guardian's access to those court-mandated services and ability to maintain contact with the child, and requires this information to be documented in the child's case plan. No further guidance is anticipated to be issued by CDSS.
- **Assembly Bill 2309 Guardianships:** [AB 2309](#) (amending WIC sections [328](#) and [360](#)). This bill requires that if the court finds that a child is abused or neglected, and the parent has advised the court that the parent is not interested in family maintenance or family reunification services, and if the parent designates a specific person, the court would be required to appoint the proposed guardian as long as (1) the child, or the child's legal counsel if the child is under 12 years of age, does not object to that person's appointment, and (2) the proposed guardian agrees to the appointment. The court cannot appoint the proposed guardian if it finds by a preponderance of the evidence that the person's appointment would be contrary to the best interests of the child.

In addition, this bill requires the CDSS to submit a report to the Legislature on or before January 1, 2025, that provides the following:

1. The number of children in the care and custody of all county placing agencies pursuant to a voluntary placement agreement,

2. The number of child welfare agency investigations that resulted in a written plan for care of a child outside the home of the parent that is not a voluntary placement agreement,
 3. The number of children identified in (1) and (2) for whom a subsequent report is made by child protective services within one year of initial contact with the county agency, including whether the reports were substantiated, unsubstantiated, or inconclusive, and
 4. The number of children identified in (1) and (2) for whom a dependency court petition is filed within one year of the date of the voluntary placement agreement or written plan for care. Further guidance will be forthcoming in an ACL.
- **Assembly Bill 2317 Children's Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities:** [AB 2317](#) (amending Health and Safety Code (HSC) sections [1180.3](#), [1254](#), and [1262](#), and WIC sections [5328](#), [5405](#), [5600.4](#), and [6552](#); adding HSC section [1250.10](#), and WIC Sections [361.3](#), [727.13](#), [4081](#), [4082](#), [4083](#), and [16010.10](#)). The AB 2317 requires DHCS to license Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTF), which are facilities for providing short-term inpatient psychiatric care for children and youth up to age 21 in a nonhospital setting. These facilities will serve all Medi-Cal eligible youth, including children and youth within the jurisdiction of the juvenile courts. The DHCS, in consultation with CDSS, and others, is required to develop standards for oversight and enforcement. Further, this bill requires a PRTF to obtain and have in good standing a certification that conforms to federal Medicaid PRTF requirements and makes the facility eligible for federal reimbursement as a Medicaid PRTF.

In addition to establishing PRTFs, the bill creates uniform juvenile court procedures for voluntary admission of dependents, nonminor dependents and wards into the facilities. This bill also establishes uniform juvenile court procedures for a parent, guardian or Indian custodian to request that a dependent or ward in their custody be admitted to one of these facilities. It further creates uniform standards for juvenile court oversight of the care and treatment of dependents, nonminor dependents and wards while they are admitted to these facilities. Finally, it establishes standards for county child welfare services agencies and probation departments for ensuring youth receive all necessary services while in the facility and for transition to lower levels of care. Further guidance will be forthcoming in an ACL.

- **Assembly Bill 2466 Foster Children:** [AB 2466](#) (amending HSC section [1521.6](#) and WIC section and adding [16518.5](#) to the WIC). As it pertains to the placement of a foster child, this bill prohibits the placing agency from declining to place a child with a resource family because of resource family parent's actual or

perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. This bill also makes non-substantive amendments in specific provisions of the HSC and WIC by deleting the term "hard-to-place children" and instead identifying this population as those who are eligible for financial assistance under the Adoption Assistance Program (AAP). The [ACL 23-31](#) provides further guidance.

- **Assembly Bill 2495 The Parent and Child Relationship:** [AB 2495](#) (amending FC sections [7613](#), [8609.5](#), [8713](#), [8714](#), [8802](#), [8803](#), [8910](#), [8912](#), [9000](#), and [9324](#)). This bill requires CDSS to make various changes to family and adoption laws. Specifically, *this bill will* impact aspects of agency, independent, and intercountry adoptions in California.
 - The bill adds *readoption* to when filing the adoption request for a nondependent minor. Further, the bill allows an adoption request to be filed with the court in the county where the agency that placed the child is located, or where the petition for adoption was filed, in addition to where the prospective adoptive parent(s) reside.
 - The bill amends language involving postadoption contact agreements for agency adoptions.
 - The bill amends who can file an adoption request and the timing of when it can be filed for an independent adoption.
 - The bill amends language for various types of adoptions (agency, independent, and intercountry adoption) and prohibits the concealment of a child proposed to be adopted from the proper entities involved in the case, such as the agency investigating the adoption or from the court with jurisdiction over the adoption proceeding.
 - The bill amends language for various types of adoptions (agency, independent, and intercountry) by adding the child's birth name to the Adoption Order form. Implementing changes to the Adopt 200 form is for Judicial Council to determine since they oversee these forms. Further guidance will be forthcoming in an ACL.
- **Assembly Bill 2595 Juveniles: Dependency: Jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court:** [AB 2595](#) (adding WIC section [328.2](#)). This bill requires CDSS to update regulations and issue guidance to ensure that, when a social worker is investigating an alleged case of child abuse or neglect, a parent's use or possession of cannabis is treated in the same manner as a parent's use or possession of alcohol and legally prescribed medication. Further guidance will be forthcoming in an ACL.

- **Assembly Bill 2866 Dependent Children:** [AB 2866](#) (amending WIC sections [366.21\(e\) & \(f\)](#) and [366.22\(a\)](#)). The WIC requires that, when a child is removed from the custody of their parent or legal guardian and reunification efforts are ordered, the child welfare department must provide reasonable services designed to aid the parent or legal guardian in overcoming the problems that led to removal. Prior to the passage of AB 2866, the WIC did not specify an evidentiary standard of proof the child welfare department had to meet in showing it had provided reasonable services at subsequent review hearings.

The AB 2866 amended WIC section 366.21(e), WIC section 366.21(f), and WIC section 366.22(a) to expressly provide that the court must determine whether reasonable services have been provided or offered to the parent or legal guardian based upon a clear and convincing evidence standard of proof at every review hearing held during reunification. Clear and convincing evidence is a higher standard of proof than a preponderance of the evidence. It does not mean that more services must be provided to be considered reasonable, but rather that more detailed information or stronger evidence may be needed to prove that reasonable services were provided. The [ACL 23-05](#) provides further guidance.

- **Senate Bill 384 Juveniles: Relative Placement: Family Finding:** [SB 384](#) (amending WIC sections [309](#) and [628](#)). This bill requires county child welfare and probation departments to notify the CDSS, through email or other correspondence, on or before January 1, 2024, as to whether they have adopted one of the suggested practices for family finding, as described in the CDSS' [ACL 18-42](#); and, generally, whether those practices have been implemented. If a county child welfare department or probation department has not adopted one of the suggested practices for family finding, this bill requires the county child welfare and probation department to provide a copy of its existing family finding policies and practices as reflected in the memoranda, handbooks, manuals, training manuals, or any other document in existence prior to January 1, 2022, to the CDSS on or before January 1, 2024.

This bill adds that the social worker or probation officer shall use due diligence in investigating the names and locations of any parent and alleged parent, including, but not limited to, asking the child in an age-appropriate manner about any parent or alleged parent, consistent with the child's best interest. This bill requires the due diligence of the social worker or probation officer to include, but not be limited to, identifying relatives and kin through a computer-based search engine to connect the youth with those relatives and kin to provide family support and possible placement. Further guidance will be forthcoming in an ACL.

- **Senate Bill 528 Juveniles: Medication Documentation:** [SB 528](#) amended WIC sections [369.5](#) and [739.5](#)) to specify that once a juvenile court approves the request for the authorization for the administration of psychotropic medications, the copy of the court order provided to the child's caregiver must include the last two pages of form JV-220(A) or JV-220(B), and all medication information sheets that were attached to form JV-220 (A) or JV-220(B). If the child changes placement, the social worker or probation officer is also required to provide the new caregiver a copy of the order, as well as the last two pages of form JV-220(A) or JV-220(B) and the attached medication sheets. This bill codifies existing requirements previously established under California Rule of Court 5.640. The [ACL 23-22](#) provides further guidance.
- **Senate Bill 532 Pupil Instruction: High School Coursework and Graduation Requirements: Exemptions and Alternatives:** [SB 532](#) (amending EDC sections [49069.5](#), [51225.1](#), and [51225.2](#)). This bill expands the rights afforded to foster youth or homeless youth to receive exemptions from local graduation requirements needed to complete their high school education. This bill also requires the local educational agency to consult with a pupil in foster care, or a pupil who is a homeless child or youth, regarding the pupil's right to remain in the pupil's school of origin when it is reasonably anticipated that the youth could complete statewide coursework requirements within the student's fifth year of high school. The [ACL 23-16](#) provides further guidance.
- **Senate Bill 1085 Juveniles: Dependency: Jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court:** [SB 1085](#). This bill prohibits a child from being found to be within the jurisdiction of the juvenile court solely on the basis of conditions of financial difficulty unless there is willful or negligent action or failure to act and a nexus to harm such that the child has suffered or there is a substantial risk the child will suffer serious physical harm or illness. Further guidance will be forthcoming in an ACL.

- **Senate Bill 1090 Family Urgent Response System:** [SB 1090](#) (amending WIC section [16526](#)). This bill expands the definition of "current or former foster youth" for the purposes of determining eligibility to receive services through the Family Urgent Response System (FURS), the coordinated statewide, regional, and county-level system designed to provide collaborative and timely state-level phone-based responses and county-level in-person mobile responses during situations of instability. The definition of "current or former foster child or youth" now includes not only the previously identified populations, but also the following: a child or youth who exited foster care for any reason, including, but not limited to, reunification, guardianship, adoption, or emancipation; a child or youth who is the subject of a voluntary placement agreement; a child or youth who is placed in foster care and is the subject of a dependency petition; and a child or youth placed in California pursuant to the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children. Any child or youth meeting this definition is eligible to receive services through the FURS program until they attain 21 years-of-age. The [ACL 23-01](#) provides further guidance.
- **Assembly Bill 2711 Juvenile Records Access:** [AB 2711](#) (amending FC section [9100](#) and WIC sections [366.26](#) and [827](#)). This bill allows the CDSS access to complete case files of children subject to a petition for an adoption set aside, including juvenile court case files, for the purpose of fulfilling CDSS' statutory mandate to investigate such petitions. This bill also authorizes specified individuals who are actively participating in specific administrative hearings to inspect a juvenile's case file and requires the confidential information to remain confidential during the administrative proceeding and to be sealed after the conclusion of the administrative hearing. The [ACIN I-83-22](#) provides further guidance.
- **Senate Bill 1071 Public Social Services: Administrative Hearings: Juvenile Records Access:** [SB 1071](#) (amending WIC sections [10952](#), and [10952.5](#)). The bill requires, where regulations require the agency to allow the applicant for, or recipient of, public social services to examine the case record or other nonprivileged information that has been used in taking the action that is being appealed, the records and information to be available for inspection by the applicant or recipient no later than 5-working days prior to the hearing if the agency has been made aware of the issues in the appeal. This bill requires the agency to attach to any position statement prepared for an administrative hearing a copy of documentary evidence and a list of witnesses the agency intends to use at the hearing and, in certain circumstances, portions of the juvenile case file that the agency used in making its decision to take the action that is being

appealed. Such material is to remain confidential as described in the AB 2711 Juvenile Records Access bill.

Funding and Allocations

The following section describes programs that received funding through the 2022 Budget Act and its related statutory changes have been enacted into law by [AB 154](#) (Budget Bill), [AB 178](#), [AB 179](#), (Chapter 45, Statutes of 2022) (Budget Bill Jr.), [SB 187](#), [AB 207](#) (Chapter 187, Statutes of 2022) (Human Services Omnibus Trailer Bill), and [AB 210](#) (Chapter 62, Statutes of 2022) (Early Childhood Education Omnibus Trailer Bill). The 2022 Budget includes \$43 billion in total funds (including county share of costs) to support CDSS programs. Availability of funding and claiming instructions will be provided by the CDSS through County Fiscal Letters (CFLs) and letters sent directly to Tribes.

- **Budget Act of 2022:** Made appropriations for the support of the government of the State of California and for several public purposes in accordance with the provisions of Section 12 of Article IV of the Constitution of the State of California, relating to the state budget, to take effect immediately, budget bill. [SB 154](#)
- **Excellence in Family Finding, Engagement, and Support Program:** Guidance released via [ACL 23-12](#) (February 9, 2023), [CFL 22-23-49](#) (February 13, 2023), and [CFL 22-23-52](#) (March 10, 2023). Program implementation for Tribes, consortia of Tribes, and tribal organizations was determined through a formal consultation process with Tribes in California. An All Tribal Leader letter and Memorandum of Understanding Program Exhibit have been developed and will be released in early April 2023. Participating Tribes will receive individual allocation letters.

The 2022 Budget Act included one-time funding, available for expenditure until June 2027, to counties and tribes, consortia of tribes, or tribal organizations that elect to participate for specialized permanency work, including culturally responsive, family-centered, and trauma-informed family finding and engagement services.

Counties that elect to access these block grant funds are required to provide a match of local funds equal to one-half of state funds provided.

Additionally, ongoing funding was allocated to CDSS to establish the Center for Excellence in Family Finding, Engagement, and Support to provide multitiered, culturally appropriate training and technical assistance to county child welfare and probation departments, participating tribes, and foster care providers to

enhance their practices, policies, and efforts for family finding, support, and engagement. [AB 179](#), [AB 207](#) (adding Chapter 5.6 (commencing with section 16546) to Part 4 of Division 9 of the WIC).

- **Flexible Family Supports for Home-Based Foster Care:** Guidance released via [ACL 23-02](#) (January 20, 2023), [CFL 22-23-42](#) (December 29, 2022), and [CFL 22-23-51](#) (February 06, 2023). Program implementation for Tribes, consortia of Tribes, and tribal organizations was determined through a formal consultation process with Tribes in California. An All Tribal Leader letter and Memorandum of Understanding Program Exhibit have been developed and will be released in early April 2023. Participating Tribes will receive individual allocation letters.

The 2022 Budget Act included one-time funding, available for expenditure until June 2025, to counties and tribes, consortia of tribes, or tribal organizations that elect to participate in the program to increase the use of home-based family care and the provision of services and supports to children in foster care and their foster caregivers. [AB 179](#)

- **Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP) Provider Program Changes in Response to Institutions of Mental Disease (IMD) Determinations:**

The 2022 Budget Act includes funding in FY 2022-23 to support the transition of eligible STRTP providers to facilities with a reduced capacity of 16 or fewer beds to continue to maintain sufficient capacity to meet the needs of foster care youth. This funding will help prevent a loss of federal Medicaid funding for foster youth placed in an STRTP resulting from the STRTP being designated as an IMD by the Department of Health Care Services, as clarified in federal guidance from the federal Administration for Children and Families. Foster Care Audits and Rates Letter [\(FCARL\) 2021-02](#) and [FCARL 2022-01](#) provide further information about IMD transition funding availability and the application process for eligible STRTP providers.

- **Caregiver Approval:** Guidance released via [CFL 22/23-56](#) (March 3, 2023).

The 2022 Budget Act includes funding in FY 2022-23 and annually thereafter for county welfare agencies to support activities to reduce Resource Family Approval (RFA) timelines. The CFL also includes RFA Backlog Resources funding available on a one-time basis to help address the RFA home approval backlog.

- **Youth Victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation:**

The 2022 Budget Act includes one-time funding with expenditure authority through June 30, 2026, to support placement and services for youth who have been impacted by commercial sexual exploitation and to develop a targeted training curriculum for child welfare and their multidisciplinary partners who interact with youth who have been impacted by commercial sexual exploitation.

- **Tribally Approved Homes Compensation Program:** The 2022 Budget Act includes funding to support caregiver recruitment and approval activities for Tribally Approved Homes. All Tribal Leader Letter and Memorandum of Understanding are in development. Individual letters are expected to be released in Spring 2023.
- **Tribal Dependency Representation Program:** The 2022 Budget Act includes funding for legal counsel to represent Tribes in California juvenile court proceedings. All aspects of program implementation will be reviewed and determined through consultation with Tribes in California. All Tribal Leader letters and Memorandum of Understanding are in development and expected to be released in Spring 2023.
- **Social Security Income (SSI) for Foster Youth:** The 2022 Budget Act includes funding in FY 2022-23 to support activities related to screening and applications for SSI benefits for transition age foster youth including filing requests for reconsideration and appeals for denied applications, assisting youth in selecting appropriate representative payees, and screening and filing applications for nonminor dependents in certain circumstances. County claiming instructions and guidance are in development and expected to be released in April 2023.

If you have any questions or need additional guidance regarding the information in this letter, contact CFSDCentralOps@dss.ca.gov or (916) 657-2614.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By

CHERYL TREADWELL, Branch Chief
Safety, Prevention and Intervention Branch
Children and Family Services Division