



Interim Support to Emergency Caregivers Prior to Resource Family Approval

Logistics

- Webinars will be recorded and archived at <http://kids-alliance.org/webinars/>
- All attendees will be on mute – type any questions you have into the chat box or if you experience technical difficulties email Shanti Ezrine at s.ezrine@kids-alliance.org
- A certificate of participation will be posted online after the webinar at <http://kids-alliance.org/webinars/>
- We will be answering your questions – please submit questions using the “chat” function on your GotoWebinar dashboard

Today's Speakers

- Freddie Goldberg, Relative Caregiver
- Sara Rogers, California Department of Social Services
- Angie Schwartz, Alliance for Children's Rights
- Cathy Senderling, County Welfare Directors Association of California
- Kim Wrigley, California Department of Social Services

RESOURCE FAMILY APPROVAL

Resource Family Approval (RFA) vision

- A family-friendly and child-centered caregiver approval process
- Streamlines and eliminates duplication of existing processes
- Unifies approval standard for all caregivers
- Prepares families to meet the needs of children in foster care
- Allows seamless transition to permanency



Overview of RFA Process

All resource family applicants will:

1. Receive a RFA orientation
2. Undergo criminal clearances and background checks
3. Undergo home environment assessment
4. Participate in 12 hours pre-approval training (some counties/FFAs may require additional training hours)
5. Participate in a family evaluation (previously called “psychosocial assessment”)
6. Receive a written report of the resource family

Placement prior to RFA

1. Compelling Reason:

- Based on needs of the child
- After home environment approval completed
- Permanency assessment to be completed within 90 days

2. Emergency Basis:

- Must be with relative or nonrelative extended family member
- Requires WIC 309/361.45 assessment (WIC 309 requirements have **not** changed)
- Home environment assessment must be initiated within 5 business days and caregiver must turn in RFA application

Breaking Down the Problem

- In some counties RFA is taking longer than intended, and delays in approvals has led to the following impacts for many families:
 - **Delays in placements** with caregiver relatives
 - **Delays in transitioning children to family** settings
 - **Discouraging families** from signing up as foster families or remaining families within our system
- Up until March 30, 2018, families that took in children prior to approval did not receive foster care benefits until they were approved. Delayed funding has had the following impacts:
 - **Placement disruptions** due to lack of funding
 - Relatives and extended family members have endured **months of financial stress and hardship** while simultaneously attempting to navigate a bureaucratic maze and care for traumatized children

Resource Family Approval: A Caregiver's Perspective



- Delays in Approval
- Financial Hardship
- Reflection



RELIEF FOR FAMILIES

Assembly Bill 110 (2018)

- Governor Brown signed AB 110 into law on March 13, 2018
- Implements Welfare & Institutions Code § 11461.35
- Provides funding to caregivers who are completing resource family approval **for the period of March 30, 2018 through June 30, 2018**



Eligibility for AB 110 funding

The eligibility criteria are as follows:

1. A caregiver is caring for a child or nonminor placed in the home **as an emergency placement or based on a compelling reason**,
2. The caregiver has a **pending RFA application** filed with the appropriate agency,
3. The child or nonminor is **not otherwise eligible for a foster care payment** (this criterion is met when the caregiver has not yet been approved as a resource family), and
4. The child or nonminor is **placed in California**

Effective Dates for AB 110 funding

- March 30, 2018 for individuals with a current placement who are not yet approved AND submitted an RFA application **prior** to March 30, 2018
- The date an RFA application is signed for those families who accept placement prior to approval and sign an RFA application **after** March 30, 2018

Required applications for AB 110 funding

1. RFA application (RFA-01A)

(Note: the placing agency is required to have a caregiver submit the RFA application within five days of an emergency placement OR prior to placement on a compelling reason)

2. Emergency Assistance (EA) application or the Approved Relative Caregiver (ARC) application

*(Note: the placing agency should assess a child's eligibility for EA or ARC and provide the caregiver with appropriate paperwork) – **funding is back to the date the RFA application is signed or March 30, 2018***

Practice tips to ensure immediate funding

- Placing worker should **help** the caregiver complete (1) the RFA application at **the moment of placement**
- Placing worker should complete the EA or ARC application and **submit** all the applications immediately on the caregiver's behalf (caregiver must sign the ARC application)
- Why? Because AB 110 funding cannot be provided until the application is submitted. Funding is back to the date of the RFA application (even if EA and ARC are submitted later)




Amount of funding

- AB 110 funding to emergency caregivers is equivalent to the resource family basic level rate of **\$923** per month. No specialized care or other supplements.
- Relatives and non-relative caregivers receive the **same** AB 110 funding amount
- AB 110 funding is **not retroactive** – it is not available prior to March 30, 2018 even if placement occurred prior to that date

Post-approval funding

- Caregivers will continue receiving foster care funding (through AFDC-FC or ARC) once approved as a resource family
- Caregivers should contact their county if there is a gap in funding once they are approved as a resource family

State of California – Health and Human Services Agency California Department of Social Services



RESOURCE FAMILY APPROVAL CERTIFICATE

COUNTY NAME: _____

Is the approval child/NMD – specific? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, refer to RFA 01C.

(County Name)

Resource Family:

In accordance with applicable provisions of the Welfare and Institutions Codes section 16519.5 and the Resource Family Approval Written Directives,

_____ has issued

(County Name)

this **Resource Family Approval Certificate** to

(Insert name of all individuals approved as a Resource Family)

at

(Insert Address)

Conditions on Approval: _____

Approval Date: _____ Capacity: _____

_____ Authorized County Representative

PLEASE KEEP ON FILE IN RESOURCE FAMILY HOME

RFA 05A (8/17) Page 1 of 1

AB 110 FUNDING SOURCES

Emergency Assistance (EA)

- EA provides short-term assistance, up to 12 months, to qualifying individuals providing emergency placement to a child
- Available to children who are federally eligible and placed with a relative on an emergency basis
- Also available to children placed with a non-relative regardless of the child's federal eligibility
- *County workers will determine the child's federal eligibility based on the timing of the removal petition and the income and resources of the home where the child was removed*
- *County workers complete the EA application – caregiver signature is not required*

Approved Relative Caregiver (ARC) Program

- ARC provides financial support equal to a foster care payment to relatives caring for children who are not federally eligible
- *County workers will determine the child's federal eligibility based on the timing of the removal petition and the income and resources of the home where the child was removed*
- *Caregivers must sign the ARC application – counties should assist to make sure applications are complete*



Payment mechanisms

- CDSS will cover the first 60 days of Emergency Assistance (EA) payments
 - After 60 days, counties are required to pay the nonfederal share of the EA payment **unless** counties:
 - Document good cause for the RFA applicant not yet being approved created by circumstances outside the direct control of the county (ACL 18-33 gives examples of such circumstances) OR
 - Counties identify a prior existing backlog of RFA applicants and submit a backlog plan by May 15, 2018
- CDSS will cover the ARC payment until the caregiver is approved or until June 30, 2018 (whichever is earlier)

ACL 18-33 was issued March 30, 2018

The ACL includes the
form counties must
submit to detail their
backlog plan

See the ACL at
[www.cdss.ca.gov/infor
esources/2018-All-
County-Letters](http://www.cdss.ca.gov/information/resources/2018-All-County-Letters)

Please submit the following information no later than May 15, 2018 to RFA@dss.ca.gov. The County may submit the information in an equivalent format; please ensure that the following elements are included.

Name of County: _____
Submitted by: _____
Date: _____

Purpose: The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) shall extend the emergency assistance payments for an additional 30 days, but no longer than June 30, 2018, if either of the following conditions are met:

1. Ensure that applications, with placements prior to approval, pending past 90 days, due to circumstances outside the direct control of the county, are documented in the applicant's file. Circumstances such as lengthy criminal background checks and exemptions, the need for additional evaluative assessments, out-of-county placements, or individual family circumstances or emergencies, among other reasons, if outside the control of the county, may be considered a good cause for the delay.

Please quantify the number of Resource Family Approval (RFA) applications with placements prior to approval that have been delayed for good cause below:

_____ (insert number of applications)

- 2 Identify the county's existing backlog of RFA applicants and submit a backlog plan that:
 - A. Quantifies the existing backlog, based on the number of RFA applicants pending past 90 days **without good cause**, and separately identifies families with current placements and those without.

RFA Applicants Pending Without Good Cause	With Placement	Without Placement
Greater than 90 days		

- B. Please explain the strategies and steps the County will take to eliminate the overall backlog of **all** RFA applicants by September 1, 2018, including ensuring that emergency caregivers with applications over 90 days are timely processed. Also provide the communication strategy to notify the emergency caregivers of the anticipated date to process their application.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: WHEN WILL I RECEIVE THE AB 110 FUNDING?

A: Each county has its own process to release AB 110 funding to caregivers. The county process for distributing the funds will determine when any individual family will receive their initial payment.

Q: IS IT POSSIBLE THAT I WOULD NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE OR APPROVED RELATIVE CAREGIVER PROGRAMS AND STILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR AB 110 FUNDING?

A: No. The only conditions required to receive AB 110 funding are as follows:

- (1) The caregiver is caring for a child or nonminor placed in the home as an emergency placement or based on a compelling reason;
- (2) The emergency caregiver has a pending Resource Family Approval (RFA) application filed with the appropriate agency;
- (3) The child or nonminor is not otherwise eligible for a foster care payment (this criteria is met when the home has not yet been approved as a resource family);
- (4) The child or non-minor is placed in California.

As long as these criteria are satisfied, the caregiver is eligible to receive AB 110 funding back to either March 30, 2018, or the date that the four conditions are met, whichever is earlier.

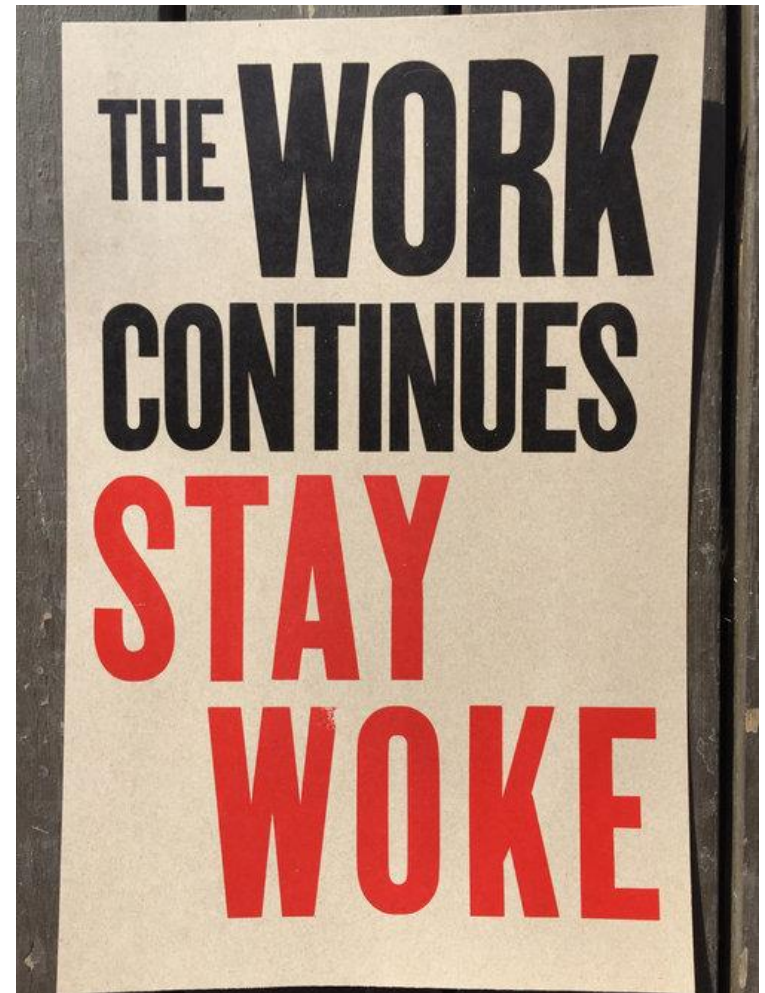
Q: WHY IS THE AB 110 FUNDING ONLY AVAILABLE THROUGH JUNE 30, 2018?

A: AB 110 passed as an urgent 2017-18 fiscal year budget bill and therefore funding expires on June 30, 2018 with the end of the fiscal year. The legislature and statewide agencies and advocates are working to craft a longer-term solution to provide support to families from the time of placement beyond June 30, 2018.

BEYOND JUNE 30, 2018

AB 110 sunsets on June 30, 2018, but. . .

The Legislature and stakeholders are working to craft a long-term solution to provide support to families at the time of placement beyond June 30, 2018



Assembly Bill (AB) 2183

authored by Assemblymember Blanca Rubio

- Require counties to secure short-term funding for individuals who accept emergency placement while they work to complete RFA
- Permits counties to waive approval requirements that are not related to health and safety, on a case-by-case basis, based on extraordinary circumstances
- Initiates School of Origin (SOO) funding at the time of placement, regardless of whether the family has been approved as a resource family and ensures that STRTPs can access SOO funds

How can you help make AB 2183 a reality?



Send in a support letter
[sample letter: [AB2183](#)]



Attend and testify at Committee
hearings



Meet with legislators in the district



Encourage foster youth and
caregivers to get involved



Stay tuned for more work over the
spring and summer

CONCLUSION

Resources

- AB 110 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document
- [All County Letter \(ACL\) No. 18-33](#)
re: short-term, interim funding
- Version 2.0 of the Resource Family Approval Toolkit will be released soon at www.stepupforkin.org/rfatoolkit



Upcoming Webinar on Family First Prevention Services Act this Wednesday

- Panelists will discuss a major overhaul of how the federal government funds child welfare programs, which has significant implications for child welfare systems across California.
- Register at www.kids-alliance.org/webinars/



Questions?

- The PowerPoint slides, webinar recording, FAQs, and a certification of participation will be posted at www.kids-alliance.org/webinars

