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Dear Caregiver/s:

Thank you for contacting the Alliance regarding the level of funding you receive for the child/ren in your care.

Unfortunately, we are unable to assist you if: 1) You have not first requested a specialized care rate assessment, and 2) the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) has not yet issued a formal denial of the requested specialized care rate. DCFS must assess a child for the proper level of funding based on the child's special needs. It is often helpful to gather and provide documentation directly to DCFS so that DCFS may properly and quickly assess the funding rate. To get the child assessed for a specialized care rate, you can take **one** of the following steps below, based on the current status of the child's case:

- If the child has an **open foster care case**, please contact the child's DCFS social worker and request an assessment for the proper rate. If this worker states that the child does not qualify for such a rate, be sure to request a written Notice of Action to confirm this denial. If the social worker is not responsive, please contact his or her supervisor. Additionally, you may ask the child's attorney for assistance.
- If the child has a **closed foster care case with Kin-GAP**, please contact Kinship Care Services at **1-888 MY Grand (694-7263)** and request a specialized care rate assessment based on the child's special needs.
- If the child has a **closed foster care case and you are not a relative**, please contact the Foster Care Hotline at **1-800-697-4444** and request a specialized care rate assessment based on the child's needs.
- If the child is adopted out of foster care, **call Post Adoption Services (PAS) at 1-800-735-4984** to request a specialized care rate assessment. **It is important that you keep a record of the date you notified PAS, because any funding at the specialized care rate will begin from that date.**

Once an assessment is done, DCFS must then provide a Notice of Action approving or denying the request. If you disagree with this determination, you have the right to appeal and can do so by requesting a fair hearing. **If you receive a Notice of Action from DCFS, you must request a fair hearing within 90 days.** If you choose to request a fair hearing, the following is a list of helpful tips to assist you in the appeal process:

- File a fair hearing by calling **1-800-743-8525** or faxing a request to **(916) 651-5210 and/or (916) 651-2789** (keep a copy of the fax confirmation). State that you are requesting a fair hearing because DCFS made a mistake.
- While you are waiting for the state to schedule a hearing date and time, your case will be assigned to a County Hearing Specialist who works for the County of Los Angeles.

Please note that the County Hearing Specialist represents the County, the **opposing party** in your case. The County Hearing Specialist should **not** dissuade you from continuing with the hearing process – if he or she tries to talk you out of attending the hearing, please contact the Alliance at **213-368-6010** as soon as possible to let us know.

Finally, the Alliance may be able to assess further once a written denial is issued. If you disagree with the denial, please contact our intake line at **213-368-6010**.

### AAP BASIC RATES

Initial AAP agreements signed on or after October 1, 1992, through December 31, 2007 and the adoption finalized before May 27, 2011:		
<i>2007 FFH rates</i>		
Includes 2.98 Percent CNI Increase for State Fiscal Year 2012/13		
<b>AGE</b>	<b>Effective July 1, 2012</b>	
<b>0-4</b>	\$446.00	
<b>5-8</b>	\$485.00	
<b>9-11</b>	\$525.00	
<b>12-14</b>	\$573.00	
<b>15-20</b>	\$626.00	

Initial AAP agreements signed on or after January 1, 2008 through May 27, 2011, and the adoption finalized on or before May 27, 2011:		
<i>2008 FFH rates</i>		
Includes 2.98 Percent CNI Increase for State Fiscal Year 2012/13		
<b>AGE</b>	<b>Effective July 1, 2012</b>	
<b>0-4</b>	\$469.00	
<b>5-8</b>	\$509.00	
<b>9-11</b>	\$551.00	
<b>12-14</b>	\$601.00	
<b>15-20</b>	\$658.00	

Initial AAP agreements signed and the adoption finalized on or after May 27, 2011		
State-Wide FFH rates Includes 2.98 Percent CNI Increase for State Fiscal Year 2012/13		
<b>AGE</b>	<b>Effective July 1, 2012</b>	
<b>0-4</b>	\$640.00	
<b>5-8</b>	\$693.00	
<b>9-11</b>	\$729.00	
<b>12-14</b>	\$763.00	
<b>15-20</b>	\$799.00	