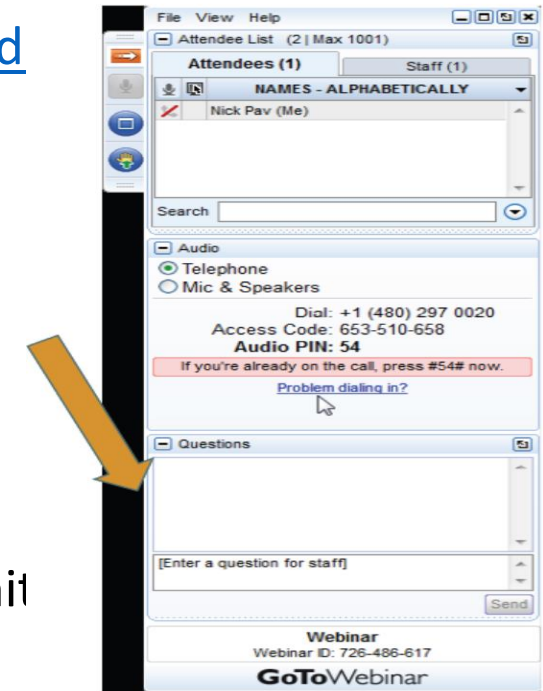


# **Emergency Caregiver Funding: Overview of AB 110 and AB 1811**

# Logistics

- Webinars will be recorded and archived at <http://kids-alliance.org/webinars/>
- All attendees will be on mute – if you experience technical difficulties email Shanti Ezrine at [s.ezrine@kids-alliance.org](mailto: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 “Questions” function on your GotoWebinar dashboard



# Today's Speakers

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- Sara Rogers, California Department of Social Services
- Kim Wrigley, California Department of Social Services
- Angie Schwartz, Alliance for Children's Rights

# Why these changes are so important

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- Families who took in children prior to being approved **were not eligible to receive foster care benefits** until approved as a resource family
  - Families faced **financial burdens and stress** while simultaneously navigating the RFA application process and caring for children
  - **Placement stability was impacted** potentially resulting in negative outcomes due to a lack of funding
  - Financial implications **affected some family's decisions to become resource parent**

# Emergency Caregiver (EC) funding

- “EC funding” is funding provided to families who are caring for a child before a family is approved as a resource family
- Relevant legislation:
  - AB 110 (short-term)
  - AB 1811 (long-term)



# Assembly Bill 110 (2018): Short-Term Funding Solution

- Governor Brown signed AB 110 into law on March 13, 2018 (**Welfare & Institutions Code § 11461.35 and ACL 18-33**)
- Provides eligible families completing resource family approval funding **for the period of March 30, 2018 through June 30, 2018**



# Eligibility for AB 110 funding

The eligibility criteria were as follows:

1. A caregiver was caring for a child or nonminor placed in the home **as an emergency placement or based on a compelling reason,**
2. The caregiver had a **pending RFA application** filed with the appropriate agency,
3. The child or nonminor was **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 was **placed in California**

# Effective dates for AB 110 funding

1

**March 30, 2018** for individuals with a current placement who were not yet approved **AND** submitted an RFA application prior to March 30, 2018

OR

2

The **date an RFA application** was signed for those families who accept placement prior to approval and sign an RFA application **after** March 30, 2018

NOTE: If you had a pending RFA application and placement of a child at some point between March 30, 2018 and June 30, 2018 and have not yet received any funding, **you are still entitled to this support**



# Required applications for EC funding under AB 110

## 1. RFA application (RFA-01A)

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

**EC funding under AB 110 is back to the date the RFA application is signed or March 30, 2018 - whichever date is later**

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

The placing agency will assess a child's eligibility for EA or ARC and provide appropriate paperwork to the family

# Amount of EC funding under AB 110

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

**AB 110 expired June 30, 2018.**

**So now what?**

# Assembly Bill 1811 (2018): the Long-Term Funding Solution!!

- Governor Brown signed AB 1811 ([Welfare & Institutions Code § 11461.36 ACL 18-75](#)) on June 27, 2018
- Long-term solution - provides families completing resource family approval emergency caregiver funding
- Effective July 1, 2018
- Families who received EC funding under AB 110 will receive funding up to 180 days (and in some cases up until 365 days) OR until approval or denial, whichever occurs first
- Families with placement on or after July 1, 2018 will qualify for EC funding if they meet AB 1811 eligibility criteria (see next slide)

# What does AB 1811 mean for families who received EC funding under AB 110?

- If a family received EC funding under AB 110 and they were not approved or denied as of June 30, 2018, EC funding will continue
  - There should be no break in funding – the AB 110 funding continues uninterrupted
- Families who continue to receive EC funding after June 30, 2018 will receive an increase in the monthly payment up to \$960 per month effective July 1, 2018

# Eligibility for AB 1811 funding\*

\* If the placement occurred  
before July 1, 2018, AB 110  
may apply!

The eligibility criteria are as follows:

1. Placement on or after July 1, 2018
2. Child or nonminor placed on an **emergency basis or based on a compelling reason**
3. Caregiver submitted an **RFA application** (BUT, **funding is back to the date of placement**)
4. Emergency Assistance (EA) application was submitted (by the county)
5. The child or nonminor is **not otherwise eligible for a foster care payment** (i.e. the caregiver has not yet been approved) AND
6. The child or nonminor is **placed in California**



## **Required applications for AB 1811 funding**

### **1. RFA application (RFA-01A)**

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

### **2. Emergency Assistance (EA) application**

The county completes and submits the EA application

Even though the above applications are required to start funding, **emergency caregiver funding is back to the date placement**

# Emergency Caregiver (EC) funding - amount

As of July 1, 2018, equivalent to the resource family basic level rate of **\$960** per month.

no specialized care or other supplements.



Relatives and non-relative caregivers receive the **same** funding amount



# How long will a family receive EC funding?

A family who had a pending RFA application AND is not approved after March 30, 2018 will receive EC funding for up to 180 days

If the application is not approved/denied by 180 days AND the county can **demonstrate good cause** for the delay, the federal/state share of funding can continue up to 365 days

- NOTE: even if the state/federal funding stops at 180 days, the county can continue to provide funding to the family beyond 180 days and until approval

# Good Cause for Delay in RFA Beyond 180 Days

- Federal/state share of the Emergency Caregiver payment can continue beyond 180 days (up to 365 days) **IF on a monthly basis:**
  1. County has documented good cause for the delay (Good cause reasons are outside the direct control of a county)
    - EXAMPLES: processing background check clearances or exemptions, medical examinations, or out of county approvals
  2. Deputy director or director, or his or her designee, has been notified of the delay and notification is documented in the resource family approval file
  3. County provides to CDSS a list of the resource family applications that have been pending for more than 90 days, the number of cases that have received more than 90 total days of payments pursuant to this section and Section 11461.35, and the reason for the delays in approval or denial of the resource family applications

# Questions and Answers

# If a child is not eligible for Emergency Assistance, will they still be supported if placed in a home prior to approval?

- **YES!** While AB 1811 utilizes Emergency Assistance as the funding stream whenever possible, the law states that a child will still receive EC funding
  - In these situations, the state pays 70% of the cost and the county pays the remaining 30%

**When does  
EC funding  
begin if a  
child is  
placed on or  
after July 1,  
2018, prior  
to the family  
being  
approved?**

EC is paid back to the date of placement  
(for placements after July 1, 2018)



But it will not be initiated until the RFA  
application AND the Emergency Assistance  
(EA) application are submitted.

EA applications are completed by  
the county and NOT the caregiver.

**Do  
counties  
have  
discretion  
to pay  
families  
EC  
funding?**

**No** - counties are required to issue EC funding to eligible families under both AB 110 and AB 1811



If a family qualifies for EC funding under AB 110 and has yet to receive it, the county is still required to issue EC funding for the period the family was eligible

Can  
caregivers  
who receive  
EC funding  
receive  
specialized  
care  
increments?

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A: **No.** EC funding is limited to the resource family basic level rate of \$960 per month per child.

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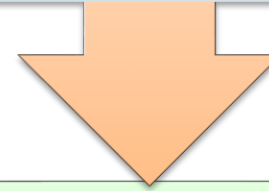
The family may receive supplemental payments, if the child is eligible, **once the caregiver is approved** as a resource family

# What happens to funding once a family is approved as a resource family?

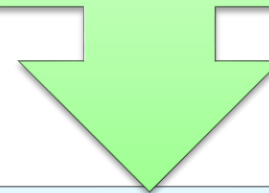
Family will continue funding if approved

Families receiving ARC funding pursuant to AB 110 will continue to receive ARC payment

Families receiving EA under AB 110 or AB 1811 will be transferred either to ARC or AFDC-FC once approved



Funding amount determined by Level of Care (LOC) protocol and other needs (SCI, dual agency, infant supplement)



There should be no break in funding when moving a family from EC funding to post-approval funding



# Why these changes are so important

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- Families who now take in children will receive financial assistance even if they are not approved as a resource family
  - Families **will receive financial relief** and support while completing RFA and caring for their loved one
  - Placements will be better **set up for success** and families can focus more on working with children to help them
  - **Families will be encouraged** to become resource parents and remain resource parents

