

June 22, 2021

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 21-74

The purpose of this All County Letter (ACL) is to provide guidance on the treatment of grant payments received by foster care payment recipients from the Golden State Grant Program pursuant to Senate Bill (SB) 86 (Chapter 15, Statutes of 2021), SB 88 (Chapter 8, Statutes of 2021) and Assembly Bill (AB) 88 (Chapter 12, Statutes of 2021).



KIM JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
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GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

June 22, 2021

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 21-74

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS
ALL TITLE IV-E TRIBES
ALL COUNTY ELIGIBILITY SUPERVISORS
ALL COUNTY FOSTER CARE MANAGERS

SUBJECT: TREATMENT OF GRANT PAYMENTS RECEIVED BY FOSTER
CARE PAYMENT RECIPIENTS FROM THE GOLDEN STATE
GRANT PROGRAM

REFERENCE: [ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTER, DATED MARCH 11, 2021](#); [ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 21-23, DATED MARCH 24, 2021](#); [WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE \(WIC\) SECTION 8151 AND 13754](#); [SENATE BILL \(SB\) 86 \(CHAPTER 15, STATUTES OF 2021\)](#); [SB 88 \(CHAPTER 8, STATUTES OF 2021\)](#); [ASSEMBLY BILL \(AB\) 88 \(CHAPTER 12, STATUTES OF 2021\)](#)

The purpose of this All County Letter (ACL) is to provide County Welfare Departments and County Probation Departments with information and clarification on the treatment of the Golden State Grant Program (GSGP) payments received for individuals who are also foster care maintenance payment recipients, including children and nonminor dependents (NMDs). The GSGP, as added and amended by [SB 86](#), [SB 88](#) and [AB 88](#), provides a \$600 one-time grant payment to individuals who are a recipient of benefits under other benefits programs, including but not limited to those who receive a Social Security Income/State Supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP) payment. This GSGP one-time payment is provided to assist with financial challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. As described below, this payment cannot be used towards the maintenance costs for a child or nonminor dependent and does not impact foster care maintenance payments.

This letter does not address payments that may be made through the Golden State Stimulus program, which provides stimulus payments to certain families and individuals who have filed 2020 taxes and are otherwise eligible. Information regarding the [Golden](#)

[State Stimulus](#) program can be found on the State of California Franchise Tax Board website.

GOLDEN STATE GRANT PAYMENT FOR FOSTER CARE RECIPIENTS

The GSGP provides a \$600 one-time increased payment to individuals who received an SSI/SSP payment during the month of March 2021. Payments are being issued via paper checks and will be sent weekly beginning May 24, 2021 through the end of June 2021, based on zip code.

For foster care recipients, the GSGP payment is **not** counted as income, or against the resource limit for 12 months, and shall **not** be used to offset the foster care maintenance payment.

GRANT PAYMENT GUIDELINES

In the case where a GSGP for a foster youth was issued to a representative payee, the following guidance applies:

1. For NMDs, unless the youth has a conservator, the funds should be directly passed through to the NMD, for their use, without restriction
2. For foster youth under the age of 18, funds can be passed directly to the youth as appropriate depending on the age of the youth and the developmental level of the youth. If the funds are provided directly to the youth, they do not need to keep receipts documenting how the funds were spent. However, if the funds are provided to the resource family, the resource family should keep an itemized record of how the funds were spent

When the county is the representative payee, the following additional guidance and requirements apply, consistent with WIC Section [13754](#):

- If funds are not provided directly to the youth, funds should be deposited in a no cost, interest bearing account for the use and benefit of the child. The resource family or provider should be informed about the funds so they can identify needs of the child that could be met with the funds
- The county shall keep an itemized accounting for the use of any funds
- The county shall establish a method to disburse the funds to the youth upon release from care
- The county may only use the funds for:

- The use and benefit of the child, or
 - For purposes determined by the county to be in the child's best interest
- The county may **not** use the funds for:
 - Ordinary care and supervision
 - Other foster-care related costs

If a child, NMD, or caregiver who receives SSI/SSP has not received the GSGP payment or notice of the availability of the funding by June 30, 2021, please visit our website, [SSI/SSP](#) or call 1 (866) 312-3100.

Please call (916) 651-7464 or email the Resource Family Support Bureau at FC-KGEligibility@dss.ca.gov for any questions related to foster youth.

For general information about the GSGP payments, refer to the [SSP Payment FAQs](#).

Any additional questions about the GSGP for SSI/SSP recipients, please call (866) 312-3100.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By

ANGIE SCHWARTZ
Deputy Director
Children and Family Services Division