



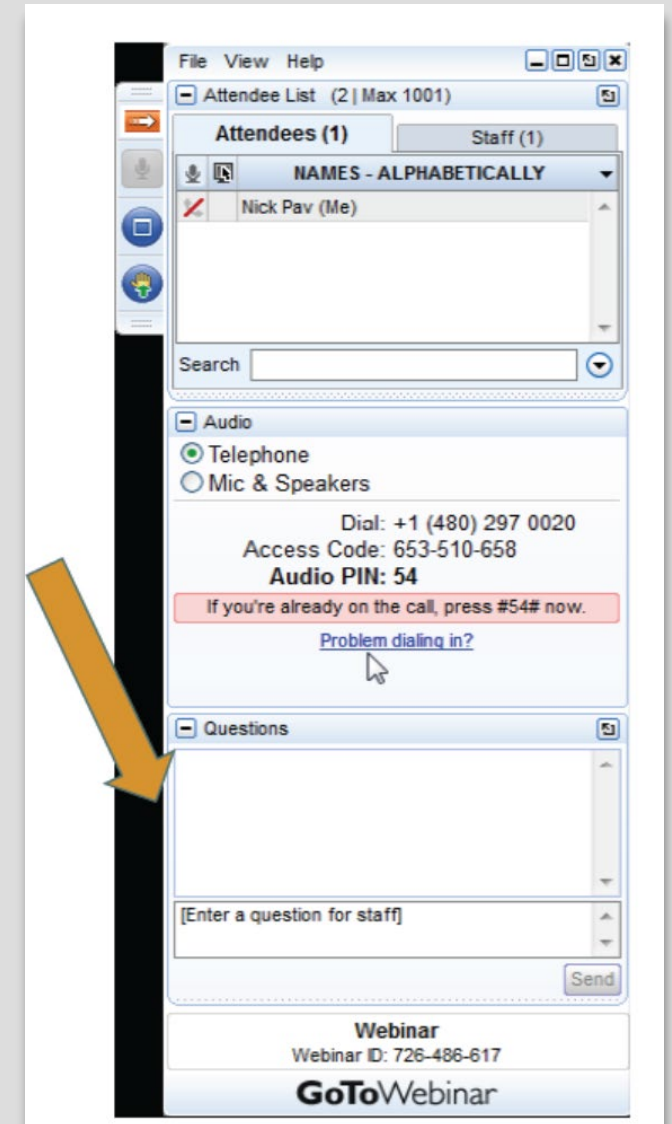
ALLIANCE
for **CHILDREN'S**
RIGHTS

POLICY WEBINAR | OCTOBER 2020

Changes to Laws and Policies to Support Families Impacted by COVID-19: What's New?

Logistics

- Webinars are recorded and archived at <https://kids-alliance.org/resources/>
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Agenda

- Child Welfare Court Hearings
- Child Welfare Placement and Resource Family Approval
- Child Welfare Visitation
- Child Welfare Case Management
- Extended Foster Care and Supports for TAY
- Financial Supports and Benefits
- Employment Resources
- Education Resources
- Healthcare Resources
- Food Assistance Resources
- Housing Resources
- Technology Resources
- Resources
- Questions

Speakers

- Angie Schwartz, Vice President, Policy and Advocacy, Alliance for Children's Rights
- Sue Abrams, Director of Policy and Training, Children's Law Center of California
- Kathy Yang, CalFresh Policy Section Chief, California Department of Social Services
- Sara Rogers, Branch Chief, Continuum of Care Reform Branch, California Department of Social Services
- Cathy Senderling-McDonald, Deputy Executive Director, County Welfare Directors Association of California

Stay At Home Order

EO N-33-20

- WHEREAS in a short period of time, COVID-19 has rapidly spread throughout California, necessitating updated and more stringent guidance from federal, state, and local public health officials; and
- WHEREAS for the preservation of public health and safety throughout the entire State of California, I find it necessary for all Californians to heed the State public health directives from the Department of Public Health.

[EO N-33-20](#)





CHILD WELFARE COURT HEARINGS

Supporting Children, Youth and Families in Foster Care



A group of diverse young people, including a young man with curly hair and a young woman with a rainbow sash, are smiling and hugging each other. The background is a soft, out-of-focus image of other young people.

Child Welfare Resources – Foster Youth Rights

I am a foster youth and my caregiver is denying visits with my family due to COVID-19. What should I do?

- *Despite the current public health situation, you still are entitled to your rights as a foster youth including access to medical care; right to contact family members, your county social worker, attorney, CASA or other advocate; and right to education and social contacts. [Read more about Foster Youth Rights.](#)*

Child Welfare Resources: Court Hearings

On April 6, 2020, the Judiciary adopted Emergency Rules of Court that apply all over California.

- [Link to the rules:
https://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/appendix-i.pdf](https://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/appendix-i.pdf)
- Rule 6: Dependency Court Rules
- Rule 7: Delinquency Court Rules
- The rules stay in effect until **90 days after the Governor lifts the state of emergency** related to COVID-19, or until they are changed by the Judiciary.

Rule 6: Emergency orders: juvenile dependency proceedings

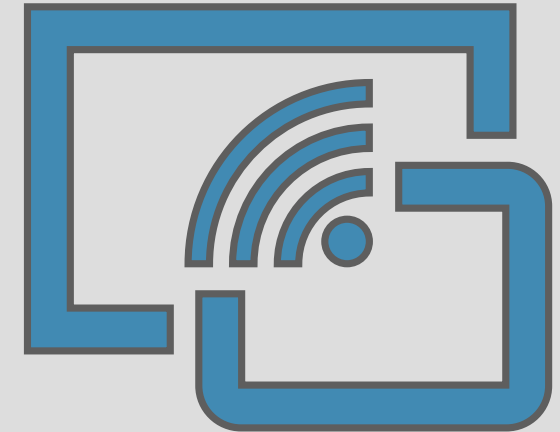
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- **Essential Hearings** – should be prioritized according to existing timelines:
 - 1) Protective Custody Warrants (*WIC 342*)
 - 2) Detention hearings (*WIC 391*)
 - 3) Psychotropic medication applications
 - 4) Emergency medical requests
 - 5) Re-entry petitions for non-minors
 - 6) Request to change a court order (*WIC 388*) that impacts the health and safety of a child

“Remote” Hearings

- All proceedings can be via remote technology.
Examples:
 - o Court call
 - o Webex
 - o Zoom
- The child welfare agency is responsible for notice of remote hearings, which must include instructions on how to participate remotely
- Notice can be provided by phone or electronically
- All court reports can be served electronically to attorneys
 - o If parents/children can't receive reports electronically, must be provided a hard copy



Considerations for Remote Hearings



Preserving confidentiality of hearings

Court rule requires judge to admonish all participants the proceeding is confidential – is that enough?



Do parties have access to technology to meaningfully participate in the court hearings?



Limitations for contested hearings

Are witnesses able to participate?
Difficulties in taking testimony and cross-examination

Court Findings & Title IV-E Funding

With courts scaling back hearings, certain findings required for federal funding eligibility, such as contrary to the welfare, reasonable efforts to prevent the removal, and reasonable efforts to finalize the permanency plan, could be delayed. Should counties shift from federal AFDC-FC funding to nonfederal funding?

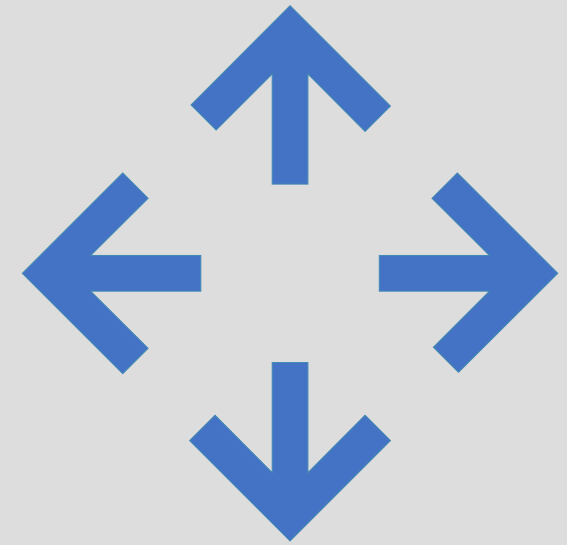
- If, at the initial hearing removing the child, the court does not make the required contrary to welfare finding, Title IV-E funding cannot be claimed for the case. Additionally, the court must determine whether reasonable efforts were made to prevent removal within 60 days of the date of removal. If either of these judicial findings are not made timely, counties must use non-federal funding (such as non-federal AFDC-FC or ARC) to fund the placement for the life of the case, so it is imperative that the county work diligently with the juvenile court to meet these requirements.
- Note that the [Emergency Rules of Court Related to COVID-19](#) direct courts to prioritize holding detention hearings at which the findings required for Title IV-E funding are made.

Non-Essential Hearings

- Other hearings can be continued
 - *However, to maintain IV-E eligibility, reasonable effort finding must be made within 12 months from date child entered foster care. Can be made without prejudice and reconsidered at a full hearing*
- IMPORTANT! Nothing in the rule prohibits other hearings from occurring – varies by jurisdiction
- Also court can still make statutorily required findings and orders by minute order
 - *Requires written stipulations from counsel*

Jurisdictional Differences

- Differences in practice from county to county
 - Essential Hearings v. Non-essential hearings
 - Remote Hearings v. In-Person Hearings
- What is happening in my jurisdiction?
<https://newsroom.courts.ca.gov/covid-19-and-courts/court-emergency-orders>



Advocating During the COVID-19 Crisis

- Even if court only conducting essential hearings, can make findings by stipulation of all counsel
- Consider:
 - Reunifying families whenever possible
 - Ensuring appropriate family contact
 - Least restrictive placement, especially given safety concerns of COVID-19 in congregate care settings
 - Placement with relatives
 - Adjudication of cases where child nearing 18th birthday to preserve eligibility for extended foster care
 - Immigration/predicate orders if child nearing 18th birthday
 - Access to educational resources, mental health services, etc.

Rule 6: Family Visitation



Emergency Rules of Court

During the state of emergency, all previously authorized visitation must continue

- Child welfare agency is to determine the “manner of visitation” to ensure the needs of the family are met
- To modify the manner of visitation, must consider:
 - *Public health directives,*
 - *Best interest of the child and*
 - *Whether in-person can continue to be held safely*
- If siblings/parents visits are modified, and the case is in family reunification or pending a .26 hearing, child welfare agency must notice attorneys for child and parents within 5 court days
- Attorneys can ask for court review– child or parent has burden to show change is not in best interest of child or based on public health care directives
- Can only suspend visits if detriment finding is made on particular case – CANNOT be based solely on crisis or public health care directives

CHILD WELFARE PLACEMENTS & RESOURCE FAMILY APPROVAL

Supporting Children, Youth and Families in Foster Care

Child Welfare Resources: Emergency Placement & LiveScan

If a child is placed in an emergency placement during the statewide “Stay at Home” order, what are the available options if live scan services are not available?

- In the event of an emergency placement made pursuant to WIC Code Sections 309 or 361.45, families are generally required to submit their fingerprints for background checks within 10 days of receiving the emergency placement of a child or within five business days of receiving the emergency placement, whichever is sooner.
- Counties are strongly encouraged to continuously check the availability of open live scan services and to develop plans that ensure delayed fingerprint-based checks are completed expeditiously. To determine if a live scan site within a reasonable distance from the caregiver’s residence is open, check the [Department of Justice](#) website.

Child Welfare Resources: Emergency Placements in Community Homes

- All prior statutory, regulatory, and written guidance requirements for emergency placements are reinstated as of August 4, 2020.
 - Between April 24, 2020 and August 4, 2020, emergency placements were allowed into any home, not just those of relatives or extended family members. This included “community families”, or unapproved families working towards approval with a Foster Family Agency.

Q: Are community families (“unapproved families”) eligible to continue to receive emergency caregiver funding beyond August 4, 2020 if they accepted placement as a community family prior to that date and the home is still pending resource family approval?

A: Yes. Placements made into a community family prior to August 4, 2020 that have not completed the RFA process may continue to be funded through the Emergency Caregiver funding, from August 5, 2020 onwards, **if** the community family:

- *has completed the requirements necessary for a compelling reason placement; OR*
- *now meets the definition of a nonrelative extended family member (NREFM).*

Voluntary Placement Agreements During COVID-19

If a Voluntary Placement Agreement (VPA) is set to expire during the COVID-19 state of emergency and courts are not holding hearings, may counties continue paying with federal foster care funds?

- No, federal funds for VPAs have not been extended beyond the existing statutory timelines. While courts have been directed to prioritize hearings where findings necessary for Title IV-E funding are made, California Department of Social Services (CDSS) has not been granted specific federal authority to extend the VPA timeframe. Therefore, federal foster care funds must terminate unless there has been a judicial determination within the first 180 days of a voluntary placement that the placement is in the best interests of the child.

[ACL 20-81](#)

[Emergency Court Rules Related to COVID-19](#)

Temporary Shelter Care Facility on an Emergency Basis (E-TSCF)

What is an E-TSCF?

- A placement alternative of last resort to provide care and supervision for children and NMDs who have known exposure to, present symptoms of, or test positive for, COVID-19 and for whom a placement change was unavoidable, or a different placement alternative was not available.
- Only a county, or an existing Children's Residential licensee in good standing with the Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) and the recommendation of a county, may be licensed to operate an E-TSCF.

Streamlining Temporary Shelter Care Facility on an Emergency Basis

Streamlining TSCF Requirements

Pursuant to the Governor's state of emergency proclamation, CDSS is waiving specified licensing requirements applicable to a TSCF to help ensure there are sufficient numbers of facilities available to provide care and supervision to these children during the COVID-19 emergency.

Waiver applies to standards applicable to a TSCF relating to sections of the HSC; TSCF ILS; Title 22, Division 6 of the California Code of Regulations; and the AB-12 ILS for Group Homes - [PIN 20-22-CRP](#).

Child Welfare Resources: Resource Family Approval Flexibility

- **Family Evaluation:** During the effective period of the Governor's declared State of Emergency due to COVID-19, interviews for the family evaluation, including the applicants and children in the home, may be completed by videoconferencing (e.g., Skype, Zoom, etc.), rather than face-to-face
 - *If RFA program staff believe it is necessary to meet with the applicant and/or individual in person and there is not a way to do so that is consistent with state and local public health guidelines, in-person contact should be delayed and this delay should be documented in the RFA applicant's file as the reason for the delay of RFA approval.*
- **Capacity Restrictions:** Capacity requirements for resource families or applicants may be waived by a county if there is an immediate need for placement of additional children due to isolation or quarantine requirements of a child as a result of COVID-19
- **Home and bedroom sharing:** A county may waive home and grounds requirements related to bedroom sharing and use of common areas for sleeping as necessary for prevention, containment, and mitigation measures, as long as the health and safety of a child is not compromised

AB 2944 (Stone) – Family Provisions

- Requires trauma informed care and trauma informed practices to be implemented by all licensed providers serving children;
- Adds a new type of allowable AFDC-FC placement for a foster youth to include a residential family-based treatment facility for substance abuse when the foster child is placed with a parent in treatment beginning on April 1, 2021 (in accordance with the FFPSA; and
- Grants CDSS, at the request of a county, to approve new alternative funding models with individualized rates for innovative programs or models of care and services that provide children with service alternatives to residential care, enhance the ability of children to remain in the least restrictive, most family-like setting possible, and promote services that address the needs and strengths of individual children and their families (i.e., would include a STRTP home-based model).



Child Welfare Resources: Resource Family Approval Training

Will resource parent trainings still be available?

- *Counties are encouraged to utilize online training resources or videoconferencing platforms, such as Foster Parent College or Foster and Kinship Care Education (FKCE) programs, to facilitate completion of all training requirements.*





Child Welfare Resources: Resource Family Approval Training

What if applicants are unable to complete pre-approval training online?

- *County may approve applicants for up to 90 days if:*
 - the county is unable to provide the preapproval training through other allowable means as described in the Written Directives
 - the only pending requirement is the completion of the pre-approval training.

Child Welfare Resources: Resource Family Approval Annual Update

Assembly Bill 79 (Chapter 11, Statutes of 2020)

- *Resource Family Approval (RFA) Program requirement for updates to the RFA on an annual basis changed to instead require the update on a biennial basis.*
 - With this change, extensions to the annual approval update are not necessary for approval updates that are due July 1, 2020, or later.



CHILD WELFARE VISITATION

Supporting Children, Youth and Families in Foster Care

Child Welfare Resources: Federal Guidance on Family Visitation

- Family time is important for child and parent well-being, as well as for efforts toward reunification
 - *Discourage or refrain from issuing blanket court orders reducing or suspending family time*
 - *Encourage resource parents to supervise family time to limit additional people having to be involved*
 - *Consider the use of family members to supervise contact and engage in visitation outdoors, where feasible*
 - *Inquire whether parents and resource parents have access to technology to ensure virtual connections where in-person family time is not possible*
- Consider whether children may be reunified with their parents in an expedited manner if the child's safety would not be jeopardized.

Child Welfare Resources: [State Guidance](#) on Monthly Caseworker Visitation

Effective July 1, 2020, counties are advised to resume in-person visits but advise case workers to assess each situation to determine whether a face-to-face visit is appropriate.

When is a caseworker allowed to use remote methods to conduct a monthly visit?

- *The state, county, or other local public health department in the jurisdiction in which the child resides, as applicable, provides direction and/or shifts back to Stage 1.*
- *The family or caregiver refuses entry due to their own health and safety concerns related to the risk of COVID-19 infection. In this case, please identify additional means for accomplishing the visit, such as conducting visits outdoors with appropriate physical distancing or utilizing videoconferencing.*
- *The family, caregiver, child, or someone else in the household been exposed to, is experiencing symptoms of, or has tested positive for, COVID-19.*

Caseworker Visitation

EO N-75-20, signed by Governor Newsom on August 24, 2020, provides direction on caseworker visits.

*“Notwithstanding any contrary provision of law (including, but not limited to, section 31-320.3 of the DSS Manual of Policies and Procedures), **DSS may develop and implement policies and procedures to allow any periodic caseworker visitation requirement to be fulfilled through videoconferencing technology, rather than through in-person visits.** Any such use of videoconferencing technology shall be conducted in accordance with guidance from the DSS, and only after a child-specific decision based on the training and experience of the social worker, considering all available information, that an in-person visit is not necessary to ensure the child’s safety or well-being. **DSS shall adopt policies to ensure that the use of videoconferencing technology shall not be substituted for an in-person visit when an in-person visit is necessary to protect the safety, health, or well-being of the child.**”*

Child Welfare Resources: NMD Monthly Visits

- As with all youth in foster care, in-person monthly visits for NMDs are required but advise case workers to assess each situation to determine whether a face-to-face visit is appropriate.
- Regardless of what method is utilized for monthly visits, case workers shall ensure that NMDs have proper resources and a plan developed for following local public health guidance, including, but not limited to: housing, food, water, hygiene, and other needed items.



Out-of-State Visits presents unique challenges

- Extra travel through airports can increase risk of spread
- Other states and jurisdictions with policies for quarantines/testing
- Family reluctance to visits due to increased exposure
- Staffing in counties impacted due to pandemic



CASE MANAGEMENT

Supporting Children, Youth and Families in Foster Care



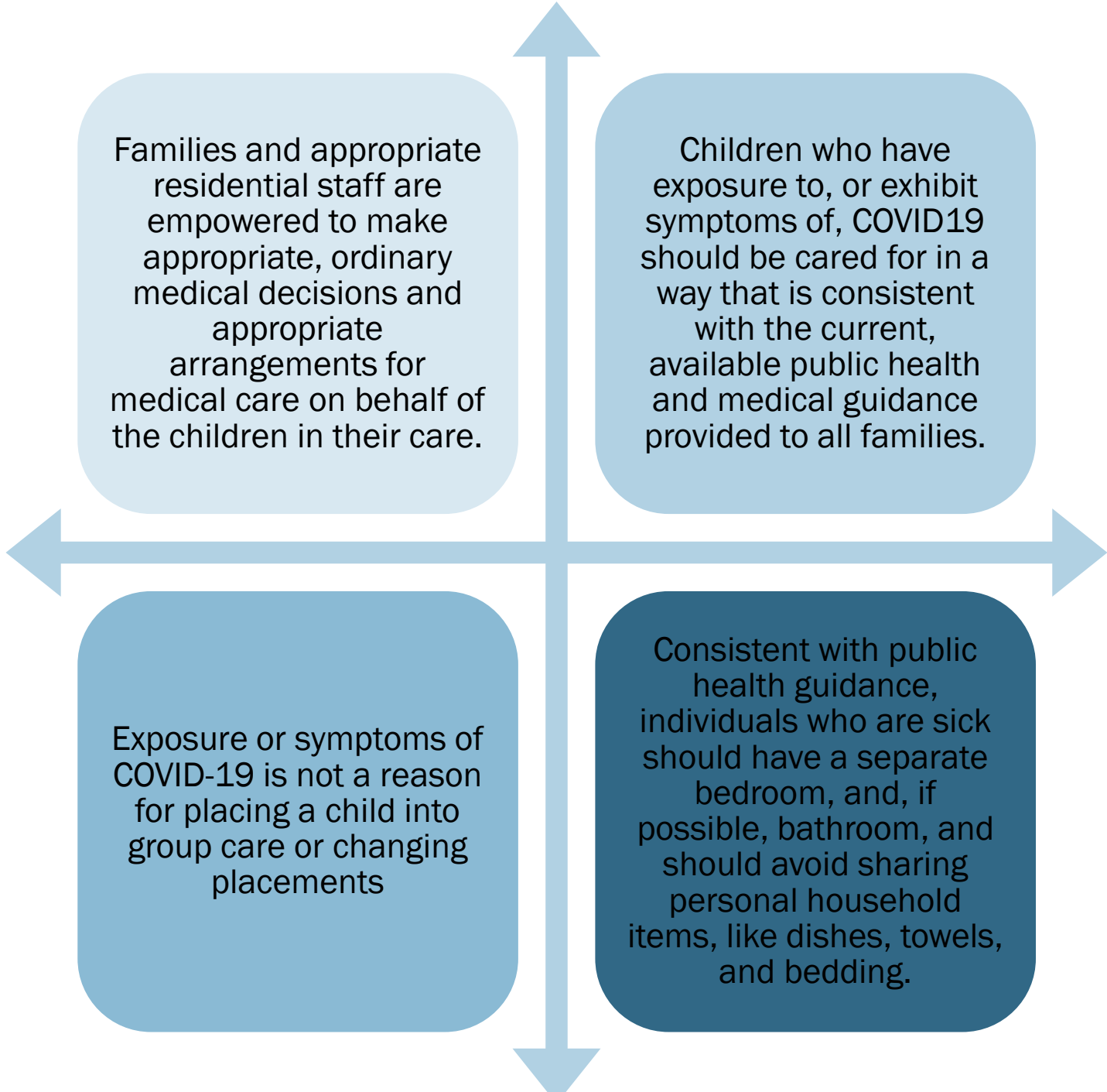
Child Welfare Resources: CFT Meetings

Will Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings occur during the “stay at home” order?

- Yes. CFT meetings are an essential strategy for ensuring that families and providers can continue caring for children and to provide a way for the county to learn of the emotional and practical needs of the children and families during this time. When it is not possible or advisable to conduct meetings in person, meetings may be conducted using alternative options, including using videoconference or teleconference technology (with several free options, such as Skype, Zoom, or freeconferencecall.com available).
- CDSS recommends counties prioritize holding CFT meetings focused on the immediate and contingency planning needs of children in home-based placements and in congregate care placements at risk of placement disruption or who may be particularly significantly impacted by disruptions related to COVID-19.

What resources are available to support facilitation of virtual CFTs?

- The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) and the Regional Training Academies released a Child and Family Teams (CFT) Remote Facilitation [Toolkit](#) providing guidance and best practices to caregivers and providers participating in virtual CFT meetings



Child Welfare Resources – What if a Youth in Foster Care Develops COVID-19?

Child Welfare Resources – What If a Resource Parent Develops COVID-19?

- If a caregiver has been exposed to, presents symptoms of, or tests positive for, COVID19, the caseworker should ensure that the caregiver has support in caring for the child and in effectively self-isolating, including through the resources linked here.
- Caregiver exposure or illness is not in and of itself reason for moving a child.
- When a health professional has recommended that a child or caregiver should be isolated or quarantined due to COVID-19 exposure or symptoms, the county or Foster Family Agency, as applicable, should work with the caregiver to develop an emergency plan to meet practical needs such as food delivery, medication delivery, telehealth consultations, and mental health services.



Child Welfare Resources: Youth in Congregate Care

- Children’s residential care providers should establish health screening protocols for new admissions, for children returning from being off the premises of the facility, and for staff who enter and exit the facility each day.
- Children/youth **should only be placed into isolation or quarantine conditions under medical or public health instruction.**
- If quarantine or isolation is recommended by the child’s medical doctor or the public health officer, then counties and facilities should closely partner to **ensure the developmental, trauma-related, and overall needs of each child are identified and addressed while in this restrictive setting.**
- CDSS recommends facilities review and update their [infection control preparedness plan](#).



Children's Residential Facilities: Face Coverings

- Staff working at congregate care facilities or home-based settings who do not reside in that facility or setting are mandated to wear face coverings; certain exceptions for flexibility include:
 - need to be without a mask when de-escalating a situation or comforting a traumatized child
 - in situations where face masks cannot be used because it would interfere with the care of the child (for example, when assisting young children or those with special needs)
- CDSS recommends facilities consider other ways to present the faces of staff, through pictures, a bulletin board, or similar methods to ensure that children are served in accordance with their needs.

Q: What should facilities do if a youth leaves the facility without permission and engages in activities that potentially expose them to COVID-19?

- Licensees, caregivers, administrators, and staff are encouraged to stress the importance to youth of state and local stay at home orders and engage in social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to engage the youth and members of the child and family team to identify activities and resources that will support the youth remaining home. However, licensees cannot physically restrain or otherwise prevent a youth from leaving the premises.
- If a youth returns after being off the premises, licensees should not refuse to take the youth back into their home or facility. Possible, or known, exposure of a child to COVID-19 is not in and of itself a reason for removal from placement, as this could cause significant trauma to the child and may contribute to additional community spread, placing an unnecessary strain on the child and on emergency COVID-19 response infrastructure and mitigation efforts.
- It is reasonable for licensees to establish protocols that include screening of children before bringing them back into care, and to communicate these to youth before the unapproved absence from placement occurs.

Governor Newsom's Announcement of Additional Investments to Support At- Risk Children

- **Supporting Families Struggling to Stay Together – \$27,842,000.** Stipends of \$200 per month to families in the Emergency Response and Family Maintenance programs
- **Additional Social Worker Outreach – \$6,896,552.** Support for social worker overtime and additional outreach by county social workers to foster family caregivers at higher risk of COVID-19 (e.g. caregivers who are over 60 years old).
- **Family Resource Centers – \$3,000,000.** Funding will provide direct support and services to foster families, including material items, assistance with isolation needs, parenting resources, and staff time to help link families to other state and federal supports (e.g. food, housing, etc.)
- **Expansion of Helplines – \$250,000.** Funds will assist 2-1-1 and Parents Anonymous to offer immediate assistance to families in crisis who are seeking assistance
- **Age Extension for Non-Minor Dependents – \$1,846,165.** Suspension of participation for current non-minor dependents and continued support for youth beyond beyond age 21 for youth that would have otherwise aged out of extended foster care prior to June 30, 2020 (continued through budget process through FY 00-01).
- **Additional Support for Resource Families Impacted by COVID-19 – \$1,728,655.** Families impacted by COVID-19 can receive higher monthly reimbursement rates to cover the extra costs associated with supporting children with more complex needs.
- **Extended Timeframe for Caregiver Approvals – \$166,000.** Funding to allow caregivers to continue to be paid beyond 365 days while awaiting Resource Family Approval.
- **Access to Technology – \$313,128.** This will allow the purchase of 2,000 laptops and 500 cell phones and will provide for short-term staffing assistance to iFoster.



EXTENDED FOSTER CARE AND SUPPORTS FOR TAY

Supporting Children, Youth and Families in Foster Care

Foster Club Poll: Impact of Pandemic on Transition-Age Youth

Employment

- *Nearly 65 percent of transition-age youth from foster care who were working before the pandemic lost their employment*
- *Half of those who applied for unemployment benefits did not receive assistance*

Food Insecurity: Nearly 1 in 5 young, or 19% of those questioned, reported they had run out of food

Housing Stability:

- *23% of young people reported that they were being forced to move or feared being forced to leave their current living situation*
- *Many young people in this age group indicated that their housing was tied to their schooling, and worried where they will go if school does not reopen in the fall*

Guidance from Adults:

- *Just 37% of the transition-aged youth from foster care have family members (legal or chosen) to rely on during the crisis*
- *One in 5 youth reported that they are entirely on their own*

Expansion of Definition of “Supervised Independent Placement” to Include Temporary Housing

Supervised Independent Placement includes:

- *SILP*
- *THP-NMD*
- *A transitional living setting approved by the county to support youth who are entering or reentering foster care or transitioning between placements.*
- *The short-term independent living setting shall not include a youth homelessness prevention center or an adult homeless shelter. A transitional living setting approved by the county for purposes of this paragraph is not subject to licensing pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (l) of Section 1505 of the Health and Safety Code.*

SILP Approval Maintained for 12 Months

“A county may elect to certify that a supervised independent living placement meets health and safety standards once every 12 months, as long as the county has no reason to believe that the health and safety conditions of the housing option have changed. This subdivision does not require that individual placements be certified every 12 months if the same youth remains continuously in the placement.”

SILP Approval: Waivers of In Person Inspection in FY20-21

“A county may elect to complete an inspection of a supervised independent living placement to ensure that it meets health and safety standards through methods other than an in-person visit, including, but not limited to, videoconferencing and telephone calls that include pictures of the living space, and may, for the 2020–21 fiscal year, temporarily approve the supervised independent living placement pending the submission of required forms by the nonminor dependent, based on the nonminor dependent’s agreement that the forms will be submitted.”



Re-Entry into Extended Foster Care

Nonminors ages 18 to 21 requesting entry or re-entry into EFC must continue to be served

A nonminor's inability to immediately satisfy the participation criteria for the program due to the COVID-19 pandemic is not grounds to deny entry or re-entry into EFC, because only the nonminor's intent to satisfy at least one of the participation criteria is required

Assessment regarding the youth's eligibility may be initially conducted through video conferencing, telephone, or other technology

Mutual Agreement for Extended Foster Care (SOC 162) and the Voluntary ReEntry Agreement for Extended Foster Care (SOC 163) must still be completed with the nonminor; however, these may temporarily be completed without a face-to-face meeting.

CDSS reminds county placing agencies and Title IV-E tribes that placement and care responsibility starts when the agreement with the NMD is signed (or agreed upon) and counties may not postpone housing and services in order to file or hear an entry or re-entry petition in the juvenile court.

Support Through the Budget Act of 2020

Legislature included \$28,629,000 to support transition age youth in extended foster care during the pandemic

Funding to support two provisions, to:

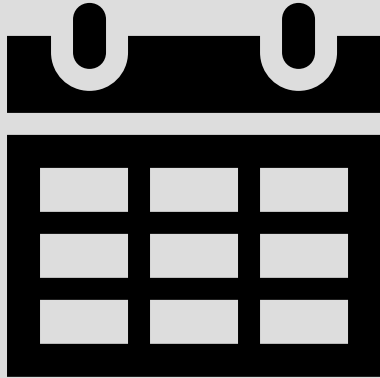
- Allow a nonminor dependent to remain in extended foster care even if they are not meeting eligibility criteria, and
- Extend foster care benefits beyond 21 for any nonminor dependent who turned 21 between April 17, 2020 through June 30, 2021

PROVISION #1: ELIGIBILITY EVEN IF NOT MEETING PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

Can continue extended foster care benefit assistance payment for:

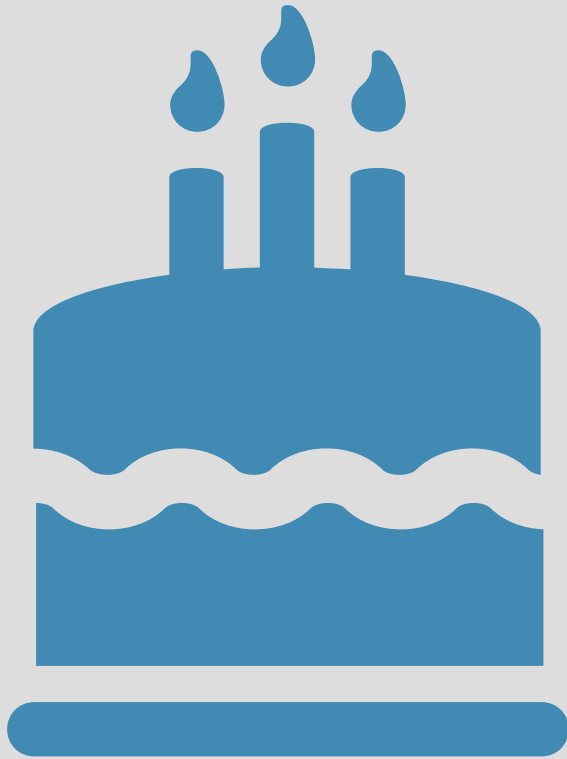
1. Any nonminor dependent who met eligibility requirements for the Extended Foster Care program,
2. But who lost their employment or experienced a disruption in their education program resulting from COVID-19, AND
3. Who cannot otherwise meet any of the participation requirements

SB 115, also see All County Letter 20-45 and federal letter ACYF-CB-PI-20-10 for further guidance



Ability to waive eligibility criteria will
be in effect until June 30, 2021
unless federal Stafford Act
rescinded prior to June 30, 2021

PROVISION #2: TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF EFC BEYOND 21ST BIRTHDAY



“...to assist with housing stability, the funds shall be used to make monthly payments to, or on behalf of, any individual who attained 21 years of age while in extended foster care on or after April 17, 2020, through June 30, 2021. Payments shall be consistent with applicable rates for existing foster care placement settings.”

FINANCIAL SUPPORTS AND BENEFITS

Supporting Children, Youth and Families in Foster Care

Federal CARES Act Stimulus Payments

Who should have received the stimulus payments?

- *Individuals who filed taxes in 2018, 2019, or are receiving Social Security benefits, and file using a Social Security Number are potentially eligible to receive a stimulus payment (refundable credit). Some key rules are as follows:*
 - Those with adjusted gross income up to \$75,000 (individual/head of household) or \$150,000 (married filing jointly) and who are not claimed as a dependent on someone else's taxes, are eligible for \$1,200 (\$2,400 for married).
 - Above those amounts, the credit goes down \$5 for every \$100 above the \$75,000/\$150,000 limits. The credit is entirely phased-out at \$99,000 for single filers, \$136,500 for head of household filers with one child, and \$198,000 for joint filers with no children.
 - Additionally, those eligible for an adult payment also will receive an additional \$500 per dependent child who is 16 years old or younger.

Note: This is a “refundable credit,” so individuals who have no income, who do not have to file taxes because they do not earn enough, and whose income is from non-taxable, means-tested benefit programs like Supplemental Security Income (SSI) can all receive payments.

Federal CARES Stimulus Payments, Cont.

When will I get a payment?

Distribution began in April 2020. However, as of August 2020, the IRS estimated it still had between 30 million and 35 million checks to distribute.

You should have received a payment automatically with no action required if you:

- Filed taxes for 2018 or 2019
- Receive Social Security or Social Security Disability
- Receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) – newly announced on April 15

What if I don't file taxes?

If you receive veterans disability compensation, a pension, or survivor benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs, or your income level does not require you to file a tax return, then you need to submit information to the IRS to receive an [Economic Impact Payment](#).

What can an individual do if they have not received stimulus payment yet?

- For some Americans, the payments are not automatic: Individuals who normally do not file a tax return -- including homeless people, low-income people and others -- can register for the payment and must submit their information through the IRS's "[Non-Filers](#)" tool
- If you submitted your information through the non-filers tool before May 17 and received your stimulus check but it was missing the extra \$500 payment for a dependent, the IRS said it began mailing out those payments on August 5 by October 15.
- [Taxpayer Advocate Service](#) helps individuals who are missing some of, or all of, their stimulus payments.
- If the IRS sent a letter (Notice 1444) notifying you that the money was issued but you still have not received the cash, request a trace on your payment by calling the agency at 800-919-9835 (be prepared for long wait times) or submitting [Form 3911](#).

Stimulus Payments: FAQs

Can a Resource Parent Receive a Stimulus Payment for a Foster Child?

- *If the resource parent filed taxes in 2018 or 2019, claimed a foster child as a dependent, and is otherwise income-eligible for a payment, they will automatically receive an additional payment for that child.*

What if I have not filed 2019 taxes?

- *If a foster parents did not yet file 2019 taxes, go to <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/economic-impact-payment-information-center> for information on how to use the “Get My Payment” tool and/or to file taxes.*
- *For non-filers, the IRS has a web [tool](#) to assist those who don’t normally file taxes*
- *IRS recently extended deadline to November 21, 2020*

Can nonminor dependents receive a stimulus check?

- *Yes, as long as no one else claims them as a dependent and they meet all other requirements*
- *Adult supporters and advocates should support youth in filing taxes, using the non-filer tool if applicable, and establishing checking accounts (since receiving a paper check could take many months)*

MediCal: Suspended Discontinuances

- Although there was a temporary suspension of redeterminations for eligibility for CalFresh, IHSS and CAPI benefits, the authority to suspend redeterminations expired on the following dates:
 - June 30, 2020: Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants
 - July 6, 2020: Suspension of reassessments for IHSS.
 - August 31, 2020: Suspension of recertifications for CalFresh
- **However redeterminations for Medi-Cal have been suspended through January 31, 2021:**
 - *“As to individuals currently eligible for benefits under Medi-Cal, and to the extent necessary to allow such individuals to maintain eligibility for such benefits, any state law, including, but not limited, to California Code of Regulations, Title 22, section 50189(a), that would require redetermination of such benefits is suspended.”*

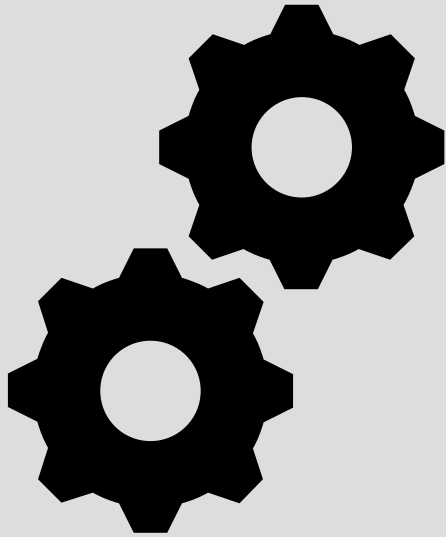
CalWORKs: Time on Aid

- Through June, 30, 2021 or the termination of the State of Emergency, whichever is sooner, any month or partial month in which California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) aid or services are received pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 11200 et seq. shall (to the extent consistent with the federal time limits set forth in 45 C.F.R. § 264.1 and other applicable provisions of federal law) not be counted for purposes of the 48-month time limit set forth in Welfare and Institutions Code Section 11454
- Applies to all current CalWORKs recipients (not just those approaching the 48-month time limit)

Funding for Emergency Placements

EC funding is available for emergency or compelling reason placements made on or after July 1, 2020, and through June 30, 2021 for up to 120 days, and can be continued for up to 365 days if there is good cause for the delay in resource family approval.

AB 2944 (Stone) – Financial Provisions




- Allows counties to pull down new matching federal funds for innovative individualized rates and models of care;
- Requires counties to pay the nonfederal share of any additional cost for providing these innovative programs or models of care;
- Requires providers to include the innovative models of care and services in their program statement;
- Requires counties to monitor the performance and outcomes of the provider to ensure that the purposes of the innovative program will be achieved.



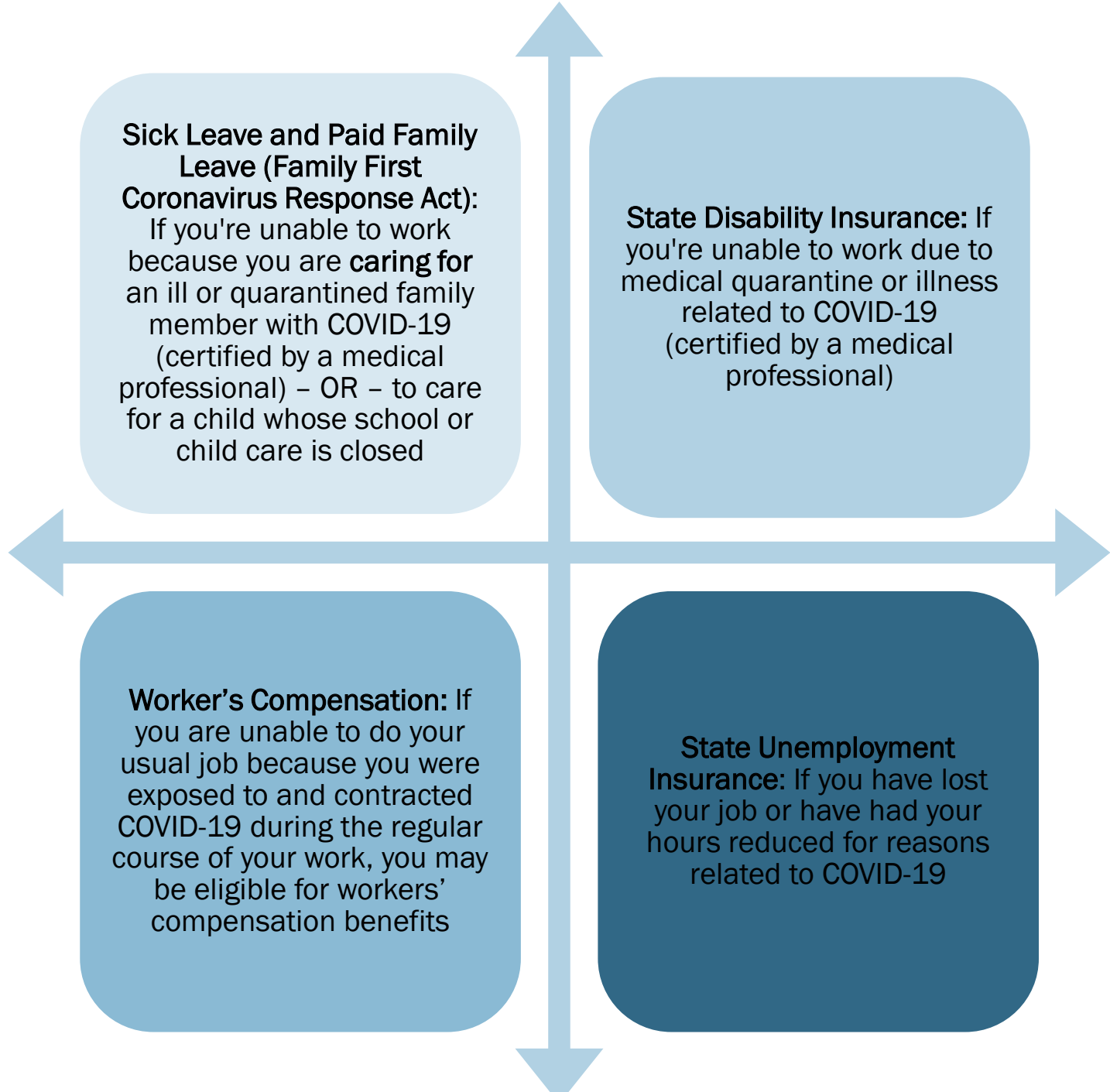
EMPLOYMENT RESOURCES

Supporting Children, Youth and Families in Foster Care



A photograph of three fast-food workers in a kitchen. The worker in the foreground is a woman wearing a dark visor with the company logo, a dark t-shirt, and a white apron. She is smiling and looking down at her work. Behind her are two other workers, a man and a woman, also in uniform. They are standing in front of a counter with various food items and equipment. The background shows a brick wall and a sign that says "MAKE IT YOURSELF!".

“28.4 MILLION WORKERS ARE EITHER ON UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS OR HAVE APPLIED RECENTLY AND ARE WAITING TO GET APPROVED.”



Types of Financial Assistance to Support Employees During Layoffs or Periods of Reduced Hours

Additional Benefits During the Pandemic

Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC):

- *Available to individuals actively searching for employment and have exhausted benefits under regular unemployment*
- *Up to 13 weeks of additional benefits.*
- *States must offer flexibility in meeting PEUC eligibility requirements related to those who are “actively seeking work” if an applicant is impacted by COVID-19*

PUA Program

- Available to individuals ordinarily left out of state unemployment benefits
- Originally ran retroactively from February 2, 2020 through December 31, 2020 (max. 39 weeks), however, **an extra seven weeks was recently added** for eligible recipients.
- Eligible recipients originally received a \$600 weekly benefit amount as part of the separate CARES Act Pandemic Additional Compensation program, but those payments **ended July 31, 2020**.
- To apply, applicants must show they are partially or fully unemployed OR are unable to work because of COVID-19 related conditions such as:
 - *a COVID-19 diagnosis or symptoms;*
 - *a household member has been diagnosed with COVID-19;*
 - *the applicant is providing care for a child who cannot attend school or other household members who cannot go to work due to COVID-19 closures;*
 - *recently left work because of COVID-19*
 - *place of employment is closed because of COVID-19; OR*
 - *the applicant qualifies under other criteria as defined by the Secretary of Labor.*

PUA Program

Up to **46 weeks of benefits available** to eligible workers under PUA, which can be backdated to February 2, 2020 and available until **December 31, 2020**. However, you may receive fewer than 46 weeks of PUA benefits if:

- *You previously collected regular UI and extended UI benefits (not including PEUC benefits). We will subtract these weeks from the 39 total weeks of your PUA claim.*
- *Your unemployment or partial unemployment is no longer due to a COVID-19 reason.*
- *PUA program is no longer available (for weeks of unemployment after December 31).*

Additional Benefits During the Pandemic

LWA

DUA

Lost Wages Assistance Program (LWA)

- Available for individuals who are unemployed or partially unemployed as a result of Covid-19 and who are currently receiving at least \$100 a week in unemployment benefits will receive an additional **\$300** in benefits per week.
- The payments are for weeks of unemployment beginning *July 26, 2020*.
- Exempt for consideration as income for the purpose of determining CalWORKs/CalFresh eligibility.

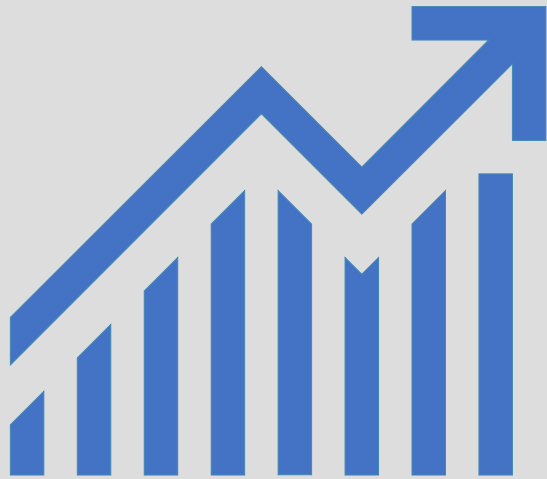
Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA)

- DUA benefits are available for up to **26 weeks** for individuals directly affected by recent wildfires who would not be able to claim unemployment assistance will now be supported.
- Exempt for consideration as income for the purpose of determining CalWORKs and CalFresh eligibility.

Governor Newsom Signs Law Requiring Supplemental Paid Sick Leave

- On September 9, 2020, Governor Newsom signed AB 1867, providing supplemental paid leave for California employees and modifying provisions of Executive Order N-51-20 that had already provided paid sick leave for “food sector workers.”
- Every California employee that has been exposed to or tests positive for COVID-19 will have access to paid sick days for the rest of the 2020 calendar year.
- COVID-19 supplemental paid sick leave expires on **December 31, 2020.**

Tax Credits



Federal EITC

<https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/individuals/earned-income-tax-credit>

California EITC and Young Child Tax Credit

<https://www.ftb.ca.gov/file/personal/credits/california-earned-income-tax-credit.html>

Child Care for At-Risk Populations

Executive Order N-33-20

Executive Order N-45-20

Executive Order N-47-20

ACWDL dated March 30, 2020

- Early learning and child care programs are a critical support and source of continuity for at-risk children and their caregivers and their participation should not be interrupted if possible.
- Under the current Executive Orders children at-risk can continue to receive child care at the request of the caregiver and/or parent even if they are not designated as essential workers.
- Children at-risk have priority to receive new limited term child care subsidies under the Emergency Child Care Program

At-Risk (for Child Care) Includes:

- *Reported to be abused or at-risk of abuse;*
- *Receiving a child care voucher through the Bridge Program;*
- *Families experiencing homelessness*
- *Children of domestic violence survivors.*
- *Children with exceptional needs*

To find child care, contact the local Resource and Referral Agency or go online to <https://rrnetwork.org/family-services/find-child-care>

Emergency Child Care Bridge Voucher

On May 4, 2020 CDSS released a letter to All County Welfare Directors providing guidance regarding temporary extension of the Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children during the COVID-19 crisis.

- If a Bridge Program voucher is scheduled to expire (either at the 6- or 12-month limit) during this emergency period, counties have the discretion to extend voucher services for an additional 60 days.
- This flexibility is in place until **June 30, 2020** or when the State of Emergency has officially ended.

When the family secures a long-term child care placement, the Bridge Program voucher shall be terminated.

Child Care for Essential and Low-Income Workers in LA

Eligible families:

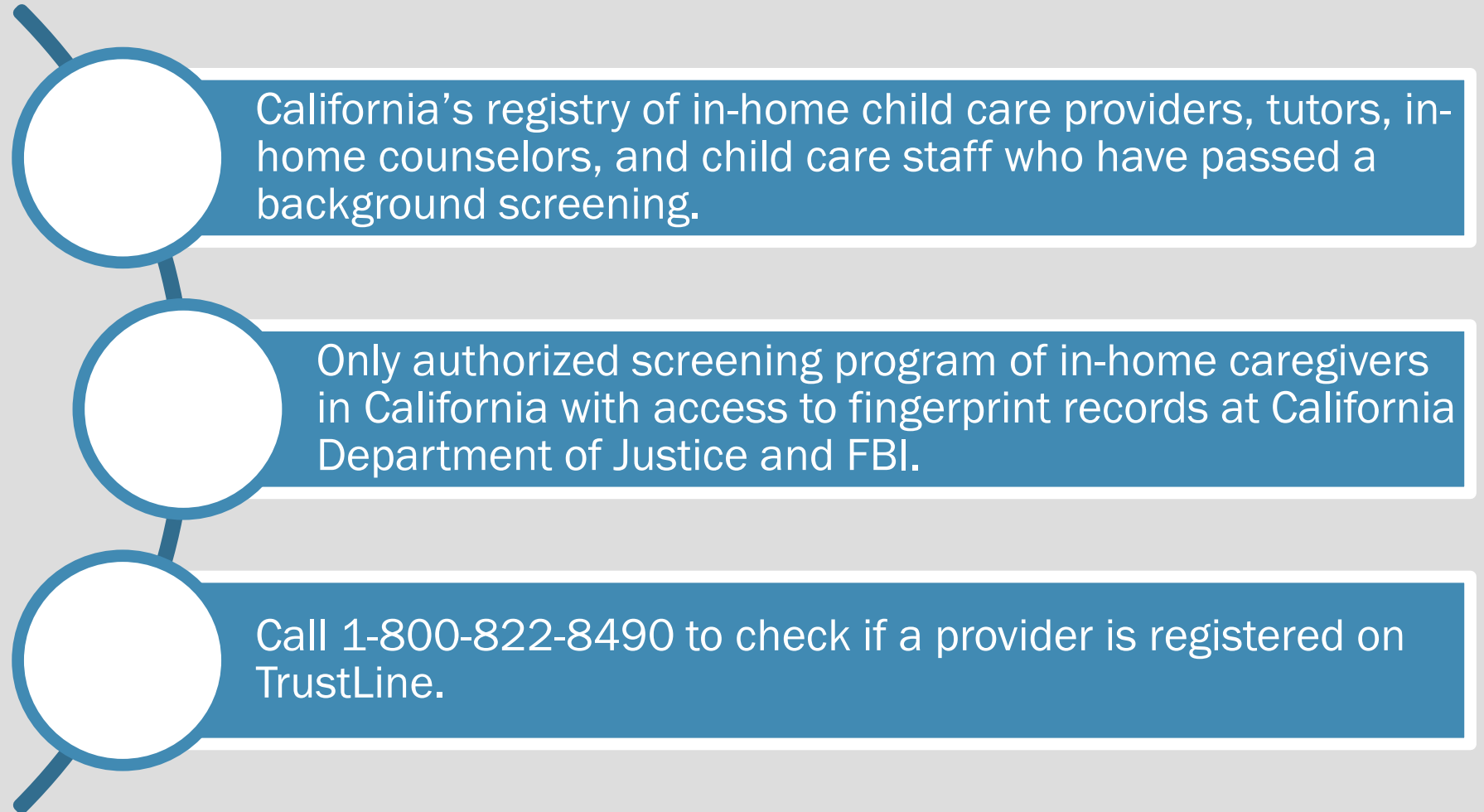
- *Essential workers or low-income working families (essential worker includes: parents/guardians working in essential services such as, the health care industry, emergency services, food and agriculture, and other businesses currently open as per the Governor's most recent guidelines)*
- *Must live in Los Angeles County*
- *Need child care to perform their essential work Is not able to work remotely*
- *Meet certain income eligibility*
- *If the family includes a two-parent household, both parents must either be essential workers, or the other parent must be unable to provide care for the child due to incapacitation.*

Online Portal for Child Care Assistance

- Governor Newsom announced a state portal on the covid19.ca.gov website designed to help essential workers find high quality child care and information about child care facilities throughout the state of California.
- Online portal allows search by location, health and safety details, ages of children, capacity, and hours of care.

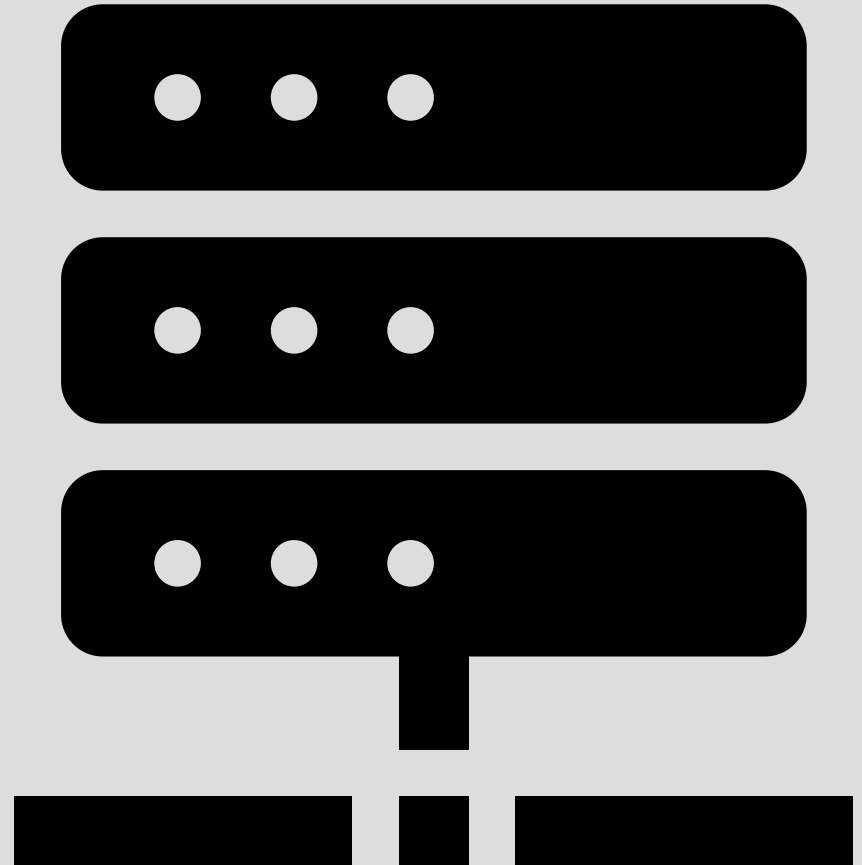
View the online portal and get access to a
child care facility near you at:
<https://mychildcare.ca.gov/#/home>

Child Care Provider Background Screening Check - TrustLine



Child Care: Resource and Referral County Listing

- Resource and Referral agencies and programs (R&Rs) provide a variety of services to parents seeking care, to providers seeking professional development and incentives for remaining in the profession, and to communities seeking support for their children/youth.
- Locate a R&R in your area [here](#).



A large blue L-shaped graphic is positioned on the left side of the slide, extending from the top-left corner towards the center. A smaller blue L-shaped graphic is located in the bottom-right corner of the slide.

EDUCATION RESOURCES

Supporting Children, Youth and Families in Foster Care

Learning Continuity & Attendance Plans

SB 98
SB 802

- Governor Newsom signed SB 98 on 6/29/20 and SB 820 on 9/21/20 to provide LEAs with flexibility to respond to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their local community and to clarify requirements for LEAs.
- Among other things, these bills created the requirement for school districts, county offices or education, and charter schools (LEAs) to develop a Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan (Learning Continuity Plan or LCP) for the 2020-2021 school year and to engage in efforts to mitigate learning loss.

Learning Continuity Plan



Learning Continuity Plan is a vehicle to:

- Clarify and communicate thinking around how the LEA is supporting its students and families.
- Reflect on planning and stakeholder engagement that has taken place.
- Communicate with stakeholders through meaningful engagement.
- LEAs were required to engage stakeholders in the development of the LCP and review completed LCP on the district website.

Small Cohort Distance Learning Hubs

- California Department of Public Health provided guidance on September 4, 2020 for necessary in-person child supervision and limited instruction, targeted support services, and facilitation of distance learning in small group environments for a specified subset of children and youth and for those programs to understand the required health and safety practices needed to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in their settings. **In-person targeted, specialized support and services in stable cohorts is permissible when the school is able to satisfy all of the conditions detailed in the Cohorting Guidance.**
- Guidance enables schools to provide supervision and care for students, including specialized services for students with disabilities and English learners, access to internet and devices for distance learning, and in-person support for at-risk and high-need students.
- **Goal:** Districts immediately implement small cohort distance learning hubs to support students with unique needs, as identified in their Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan, in compliance with federal and state law and guidance.

Distance Learning IEPs/IFSPs

- A distance learning IEP allows for:
 - **Meaningful parental participation** in the development of the distance learning plan, and
 - Allows the school district and the parent an opportunity to reach agreement as to what services will be provided.
- An IEP cannot legally be changed without parental consent.
- **A modified IEP/IFSP must be uniquely designed by a qualified team** including a child's general and special education teachers and/or any service providers (e.g., speech and language pathologist).
- **IEPs can use technology to meet virtually** and ensure meaningful parental participation.

Distance Learning IEPs/IFSPs: Advocating to Support Your Child's Needs

Work with the child's IEP/IFSP team to:

- **Identify what services the child has a right to** in their IEP/IFSP that can still be provided.
 - *For example, many services, including speech and language, occupational therapy, or school based counseling/mental health services, can be provided through telehealth/virtually. In addition, pursuant to DPH guidance, these types of services can be provided in-person*
- For these types of services, consider:
- **Asking for the full amount of the service during the COVID-19 pandemic** as the child received prior to school/regional center physical closures, and
- **Whether the frequency and duration of services should be modified** (e.g., 60-minute session per week may need to become 2 separate 30-minute sessions to accommodate for virtual teacher models and child attention/focus needs).

Public libraries are providing free online tutoring services for K-12 students and adult learners.

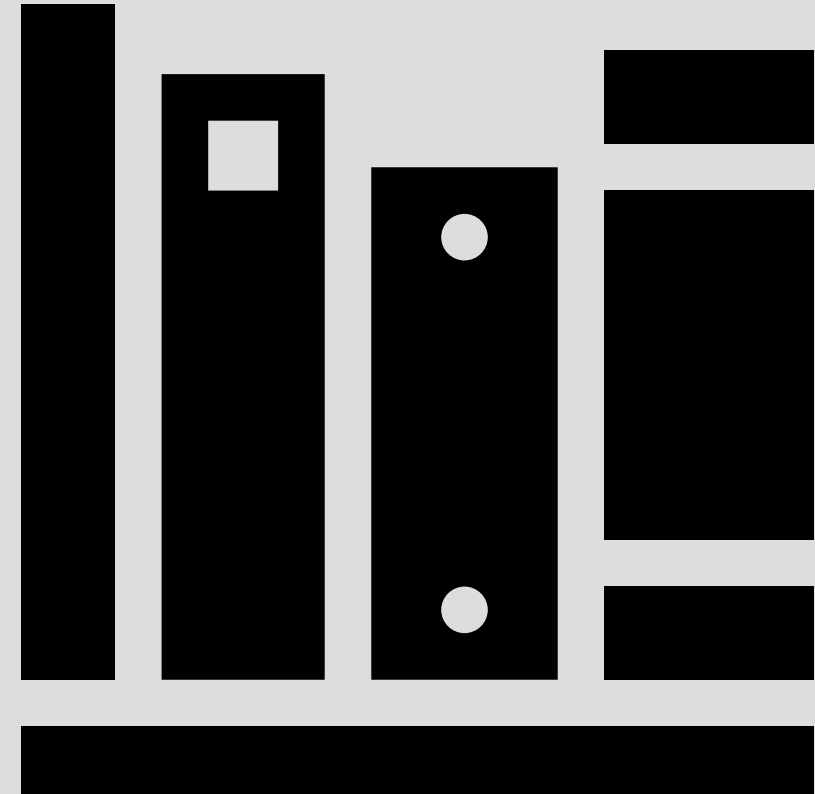
- [Search](#) for online tutoring services at your local public library.

Los Angeles County

- Online tutoring services are available from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. for library card holders. Online program offers interactive features for students and parents to communicate in a virtual classroom with professionally trained tutors. [Visit site.](#)

Sacramento County

- Free online tutoring services are available from 1 p.m. to 11 p.m. to local students and parents. Families with a library card can access online tutors, digital library resources and other learning materials needed while participating in distance learning. [Visit site.](#)



Public Libraries



HEALTHCARE RESOURCES

Supporting Children, Youth and Families in Foster Care



Accessing Health Care

“Providing these paths to coverage will ensure that those who have lost jobs, suffered a loss of income, or have been affected by wildfires have an opportunity to get health care coverage, whether it is through Covered California or Medi-Cal.”

What if I need health insurance?

- Covered California [announced](#) new paths to coverage that will run through the end of 2020, for Californians who have lost employment or income due to the pandemic and resulting recession or have been affected by the wildfires.
- For more information on how to keep your Medi-Cal during a pandemic: healthconsumer.org/covid19



Free COVID-19 Testing

California now has several COVID-19 testing sites available.

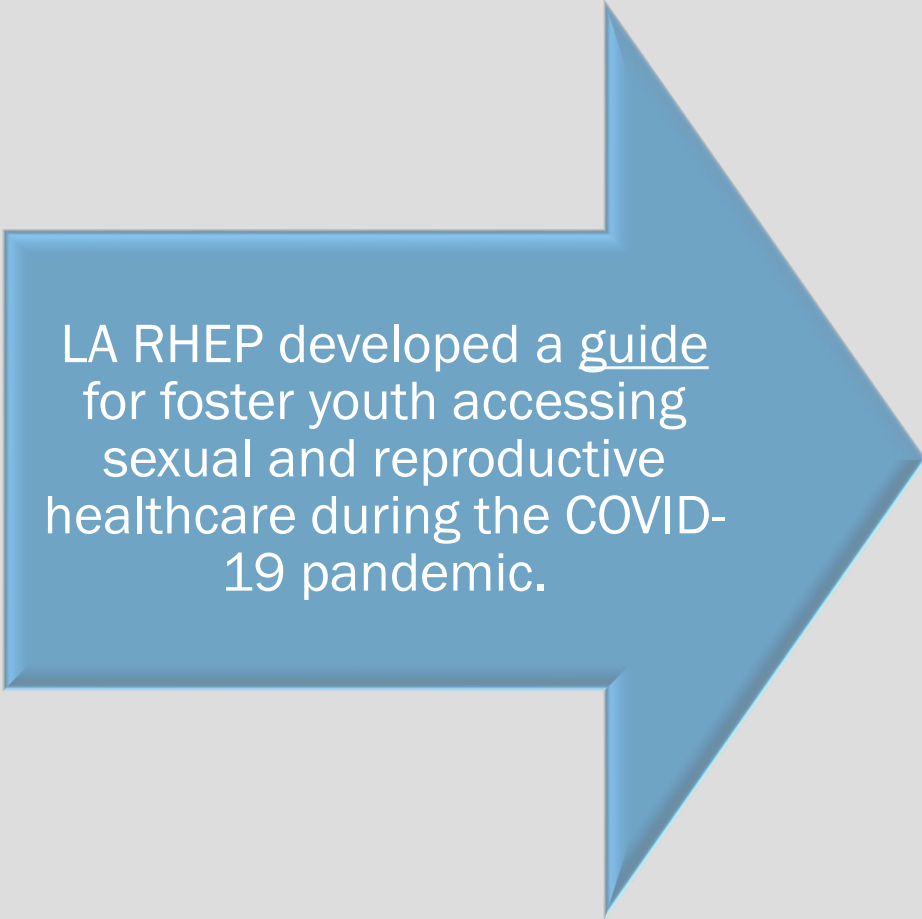
- *Find a COVID-19 testing site near you, try one of these options:*
 - Choose Current Location
 - Search by Address, City or Zip Code
 - Click on the Map

Temporary Medi-Cal Benefits related to COVID-19 testing and treatment (for individuals not otherwise eligible for Medi-Cal)

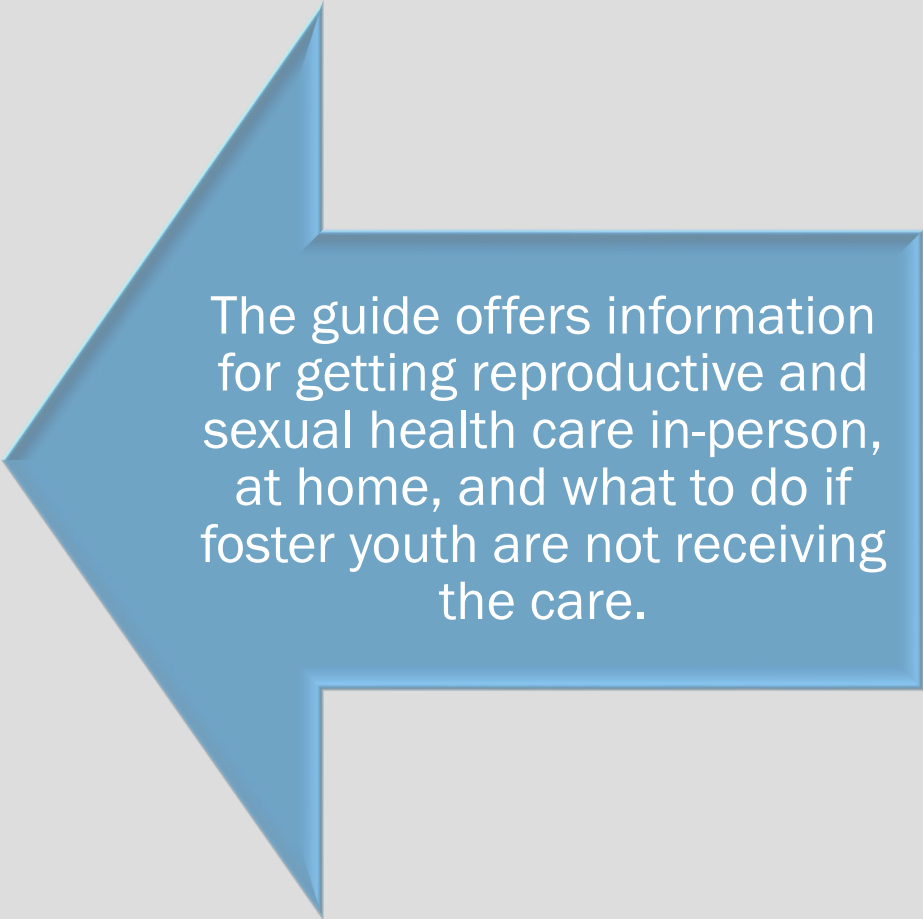
Medical Hub Clinics for Foster Children & Youth

- To be seen at a [Medical Hub](#) clinic, child must be referred by DCFS or a law enforcement agency. Additionally, patients may be referred from community pediatricians, hospital clinics, pediatric emergency departments, or inpatient units.
- Medical Hubs offer:
 - *Compassionate care by medical providers who understand the needs and concerns commonly experienced by children, families and caregivers in the child welfare system;*
 - *Services for children in all stages of DCFS involvement, including medical assessments of suspected child abuse or neglect, comprehensive medical exams for children entering out-of-home care, and ongoing well-child care and sick visits.*
 - *Linkages to pediatric specialty care for children with complex medical needs;*
 - *Board-certified child abuse pediatricians and child interview specialists with extensive training in assessing suspected child abuse and neglect;*
 - *Close coordination with DCFS Children's Social Workers and Public Health Nurses and the Department of Mental Health, to ensure that identified health, mental health and developmental needs are addressed.*

Sexual & Repro Health Guide for Youth



LA RHEP developed a guide for foster youth accessing sexual and reproductive healthcare during the COVID-19 pandemic.



The guide offers information for getting reproductive and sexual health care in-person, at home, and what to do if foster youth are not receiving the care.

Accessing Mental Health Services



- LA County Department of Mental Health clinics and drop-in centers will remain open to clients. Mobile units will continue to provide field services. If clients prefer to receive mental health services by telephone and/or telehealth, contact [HIPAABridge](#).
 - HIPAABridge supports a free [mobile application](#) that families and youth can download on their telephone.
- NAMI is maintaining a mental health helpline to support those who are struggling with anxiety, depression, and stress due to COVID-19 as well as sharing useful tips. **Crisis Text Line is open 24/7; text NAMI to 741741.**
- **California Youth Crisis Line: 1-800-843-5200** (call or text)
- **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Disaster Hotline: 1-800-985-5990** or text TalkWithUs to 66746

Mental Health Services: California Peer-Run Warm Line

Peer-Run Warm Line is a non-emergency resource for anyone in California seeking emotional support providing assistance via phone and webchat on a nondiscriminatory basis to anyone in need.

- *Phone Number: (1-855-845-7415)*
- *Webchat: <https://www.mentalhealthsf.org/peer-run-warmline/>*

FOOD ASSISTANCE RESOURCES

Supporting Children, Youth and Families in Foster Care



Accessing Food Assistance



Find a nearby food bank through
<http://www.cafoodbanks.org/>



Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority
(LAHSA) list of [Food and Grocery Programs by
Service Planning Area](#)



CA “Meals for Kids” mobile app has been updated
to help families find meals during COVID-19-related
school closures

- **Apply:** at [GetCalFresh.org](https://www.getcalfresh.org) (CalFresh only) and www.benefitscal.org (CalFresh, CalWORKs and/or MediCal)
- **Administrative Flexibilities:**
 - **Emergency Allotments:** Provides supplement to CalFresh households, increasing monthly benefit to maximum allowed per household size (extended thru October 31, 2020).
 - **Signatures:** Makes telephonic or electronic signatures available for initial and recertification interviews (waiver extended thru November 30, 2020).
 - **Interviews:** California waived face-to-face interview requirements for new applicants and existing households, allowing interviews to be conducted virtually, and if certain criteria are met, the initial certification and recertification interview may be waived (waiver extended thru June 30, 2021).

CalFresh Food Benefits



Disaster CalFresh (D-CalFresh)

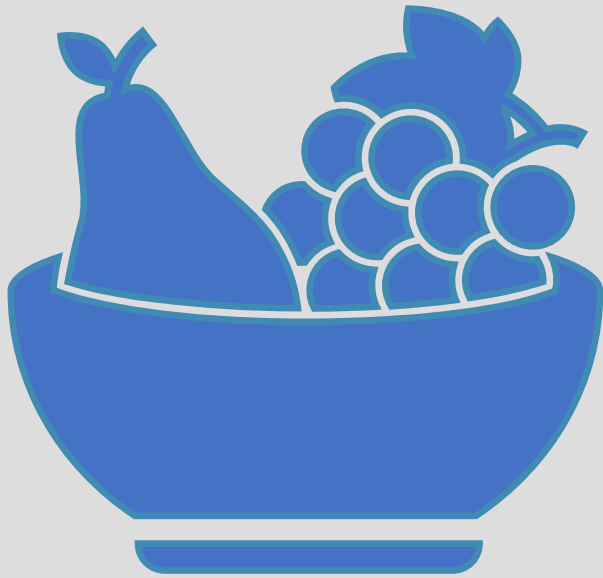
Who is eligible?

Residency

- The household must have lived in the disaster area at the time of the disaster.
- In some cases, D-CalFresh approvals may include eligibility for people who worked in the disaster area.

Adverse Effect

- The household must have experienced one of the following adverse actions:
 - *Damage to home or self-employment property*
 - *Disaster-related expenses*
 - *A disruption in income*
 - *Inaccessible liquid resources*
 - *In some cases, D-CalFresh approvals may include eligibility for households that lost food, but had no other disaster-related expenses.*



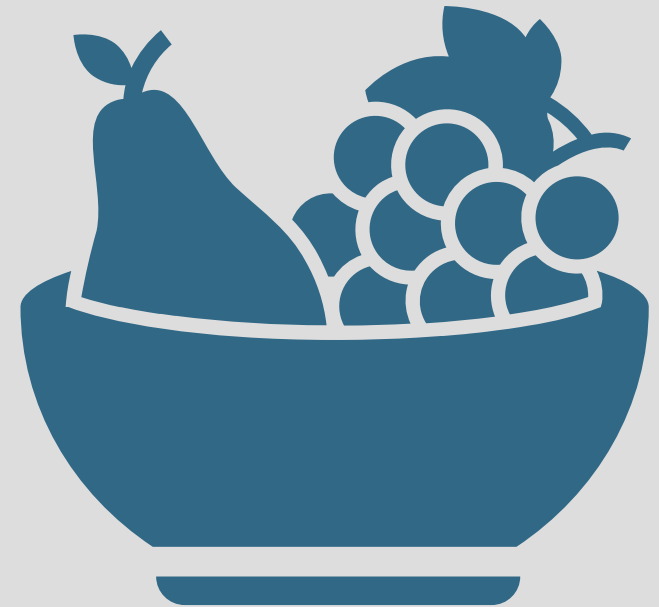
More information can be found on the CalFresh disaster response webpage:
<https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/calfresh/disaster-calfresh>

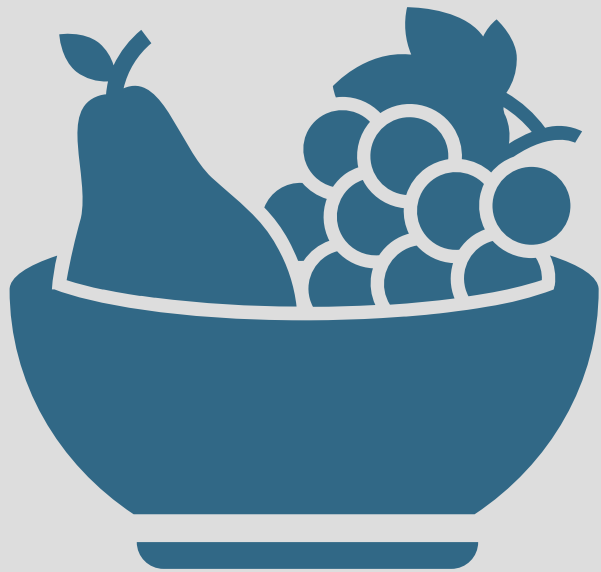
EBT Online

- As of April 28, 2020, individuals and families can purchase groceries online at Walmart and Amazon using their EBT card.
- The EBT card allows recipients to purchase groceries and have them delivered to their home.
- CalFresh food benefits cannot be used to cover the cost of delivery at this time.
 - *Orders of \$35 or more qualify for free delivery.*

Pandemic EBT 1.0

- In response to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 pandemic emergency, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020 provided the Secretary of Agriculture the authority to approve state plans for the issuance of temporary emergency nutrition benefits, known as P-EBT benefits, to children who would otherwise receive free or reduced price school meals under the federal School Breakfast Program and/or National School Lunch Program if not for school facility closures resulting from the pandemic emergency.
- P-EBT benefits were originally issued for the months of March, April, May, and June 2020. Some families received their card in the mail automatically, while others had to apply online.
- California launched P-EBT operations in early May 2020 and, as of the end of September 2020, the CDSS completed issuance of P-EBT cards to children determined eligible through a data match between CDSS and CDE.





Pandemic EBT 1.0 – Data Outcomes

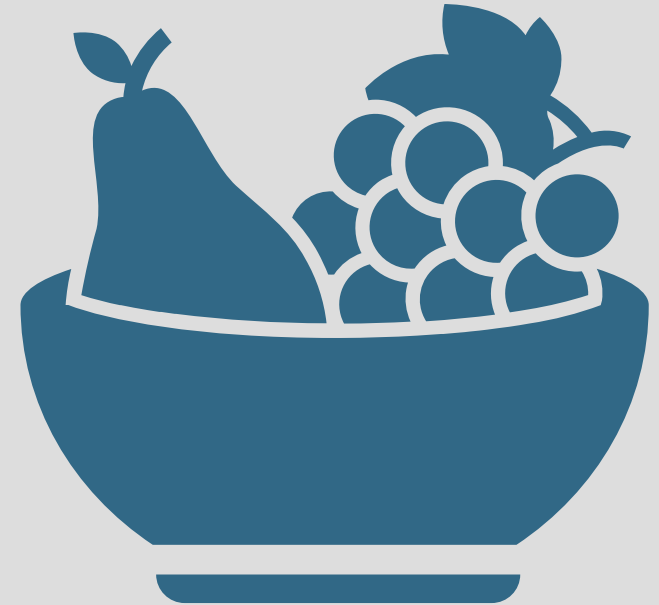
- Total Eligible Children Issued Benefits: 3,738,746
- Total P-EBT Benefits Issued: \$1,362,140,097
- Statewide P-EBT Reach Rate: 94.8%

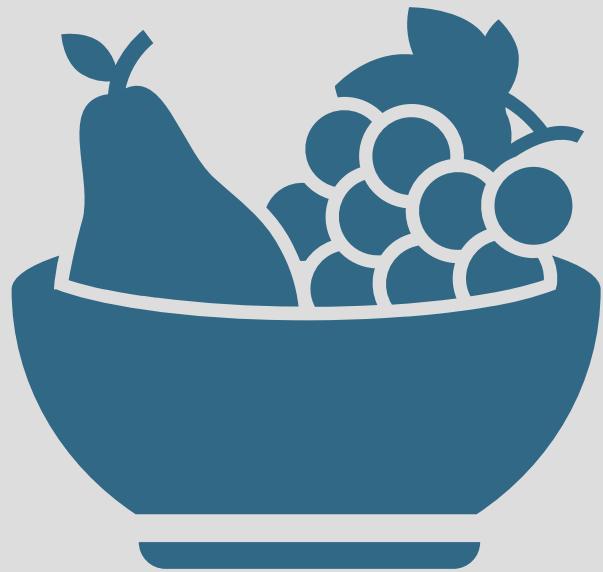
Statewide and County-by-County Data Now Posted!

Visit www.cdss.ca.gov/pandemic-ebt

Pandemic EBT Extension – August and September 2020 Benefit Months

- At the end of September, California was approved to provide additional P-EBT benefits to children that previously received P-EBT benefits and are attending school via virtual instruction.
- Children who previously received benefits under the original P-EBT 1.0 program will receive P-EBT extension benefits if they did not complete school/graduate and can be assumed to be attending school via virtual instruction (all virtual or hybrid of virtual and in-person instruction).
- Families do not need to do anything to get P-EBT extension benefits. Families will get a new P-EBT card(s) in the mail with P-EBT extension benefits. P-EBT cards will be mailed to the address on file for the child. New P-EBT cards will be issued for each child in the family.
- P-EBT extension benefit amounts will vary among eligible students. The maximum amount of P-EBT extension benefits an eligible child can receive is \$246.
- California will begin mailing P-EBT cards with extension benefits in late October. Mailing will continue through late December.



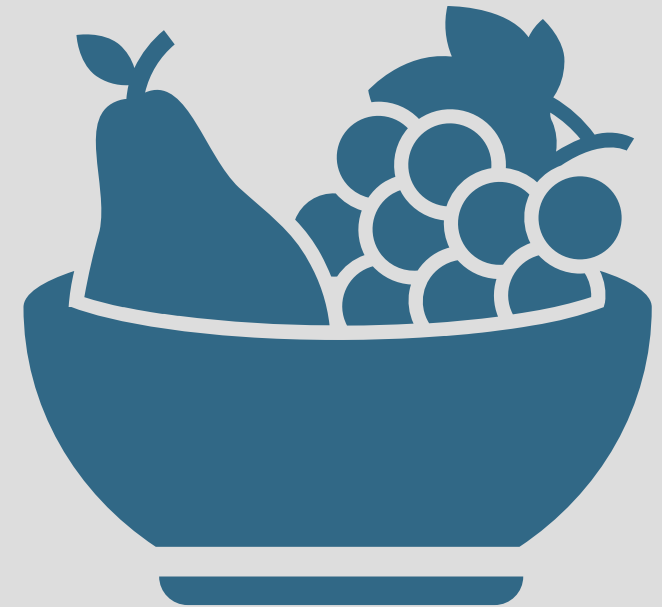


Pandemic EBT Helpline Info

- The P-EBT Helpline will have expanded capacity service and will be available as new P-EBT cards are mailed out. Customer support via the P-EBT Helpline will be available through the end of the year.
- The P-EBT Helpline will be reached by calling EBT Customer Service at (877) 328-9677.
- Helpline agents will be able to support:
 - P-EBT PIN set-up,
 - Address changes, and
 - Replacing stolen cards.
- Helpline agents are able to provide general information but are not able to assist with P-EBT eligibility issues.
- More information to come regarding when new cards will be mailed out and the P-EBT Helpline is available.

Pandemic EBT 2.0

- On September 30, 2020, H.R. 3887 Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021 and other Extensions Act provided the state option to submit a new plan to USDA to serve eligible children for the entire 2020-21 school year, including both children eligible for free or reduced-price meals at school and qualifying childcare sites (beginning October 1, 2020). Schools and childcare sites must be operating entirely via virtual instruction or have reduced their hours/days of in-person instruction/care for children to be eligible. Allows states to provide P-EBT benefits to children attending a school that has reduced hours or days of attendance due to COVID through the 2020-21 SY
- HR 8337 authorizes 100% reimbursement of P-EBT administrative costs, which expands California's capacity to establish much needed program infrastructure and customer service, like the P-EBT Helpline.
- States are currently awaiting USDA guidance.



Women, Infants and Children (WIC Benefits)

- WIC benefits provide families with young children nutrition benefits.
- Many WIC offices are not providing face-to-face services and instead are providing remote services to families through outreach [by phone, text and email](#)
 - *People who have been economically affected by the COVID-19 crisis and are pregnant, postpartum or have a child under five years old can apply for WIC services by texting APPLY to 91997, calling WIC at 888-942-2229, or visiting [phfewic.org/apply](https://www.phfewic.org/apply)*



HOUSING RESOURCES

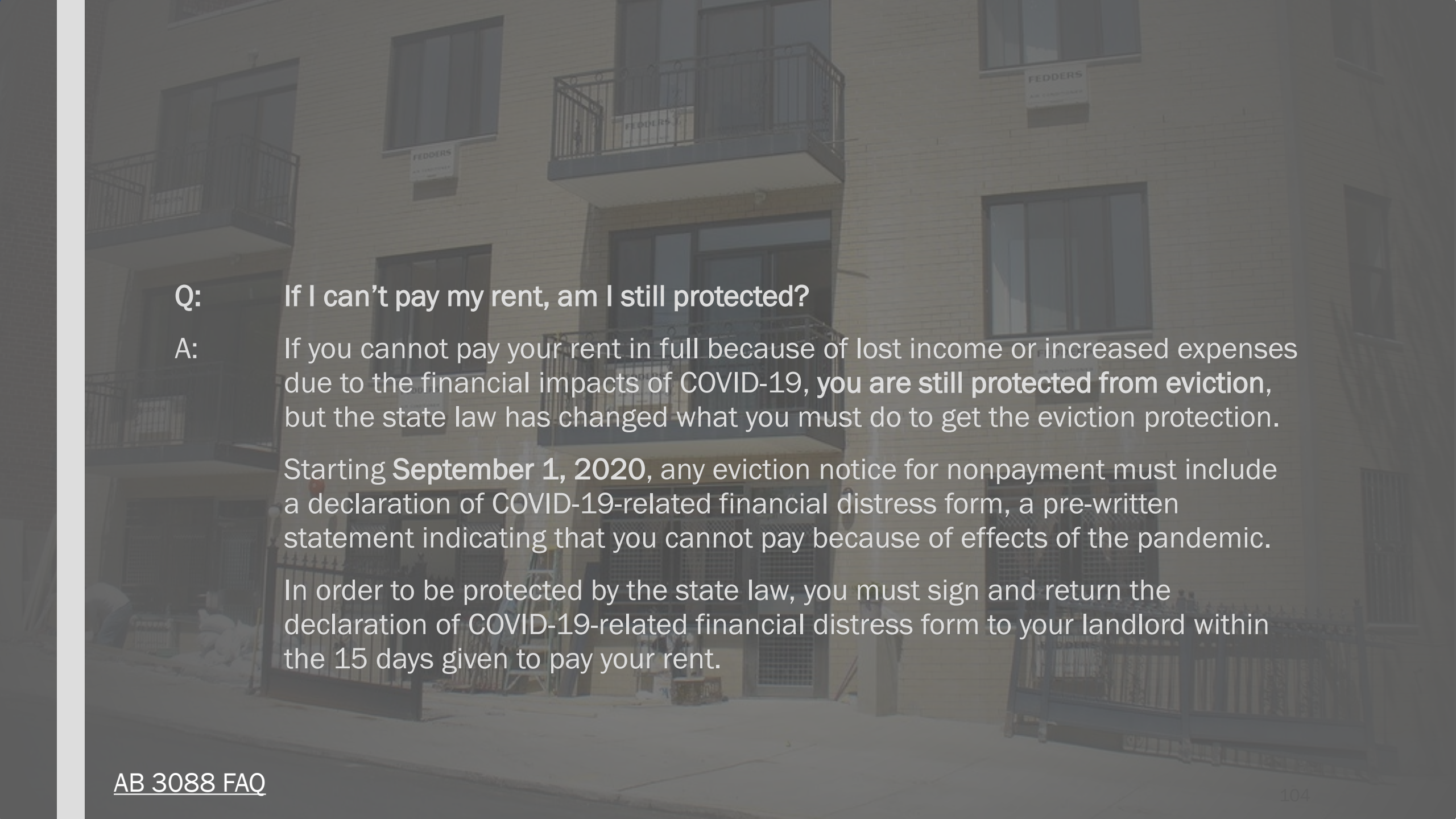
Supporting Children, Youth and Families in Foster Care



Tenant & Landlord Protection

AB 3088 (Chapter 37, Statutes of 2020)

- No tenant can be evicted before February 1, 2021 as a result of rent owed due to a COVID-19 related hardship accrued between March 4 – August 31, 2020, if the tenant provides a declaration of hardship according to the law's timelines.
- For a COVID-19 related hardship that accrues between September 1, 2020 – January 31, 2021, tenants must also pay at least 25 percent of the rent due to avoid eviction.
- Tenants are still responsible for paying unpaid amounts to landlords, but those unpaid amounts cannot be the basis for an eviction.
- Landlords may begin to recover this debt on March 1, 2021, and small claims court jurisdiction is temporarily expanded to allow landlords to recover these amounts.



Q: If I can't pay my rent, am I still protected?

A: If you cannot pay your rent in full because of lost income or increased expenses due to the financial impacts of COVID-19, you are still protected from eviction, but the state law has changed what you must do to get the eviction protection.

Starting September 1, 2020, any eviction notice for nonpayment must include a declaration of COVID-19-related financial distress form, a pre-written statement indicating that you cannot pay because of effects of the pandemic.

In order to be protected by the state law, you must sign and return the declaration of COVID-19-related financial distress form to your landlord within the 15 days given to pay your rent.

Housing Assistance: Mortgage Payments

Relief from Financial Institutions

- CARES Act requires financial institutions that service federally-backed mortgage loans to offer six months (180 days) of mortgage forbearance to any borrower who requests it and affirms they are experiencing financial hardship during the COVID-19 emergency. Financial institutions are required to extend the initial period of forbearance by an additional 180 days upon request from any borrower.
 - *Borrowers are not required to provide extensive documentation or proof of their hardship to qualify for CARES Act forbearance.*
 - *During any forbearance period, your servicer cannot charge any penalties, interest, or fees in connection with your mortgage relief.*
 - *CARES Act mortgage relief is effective beginning March 27, 2020.*
- For those without federally backed mortgages, California is working to soften the financial impact of COVID-19 on residents who are struggling to pay their mortgage and bills. Citigroup, JP Morgan Chase, US Bank, Wells Fargo, and nearly 200 state-chartered banks, credit unions, and servicers have committed to providing relief for consumers and homeowners in California. See the [list of participating financial institutions.](#)

Utilities Assistance

Utilities including LADWP, PG&E, SMUD, SDG&E, and SoCalEdison are providing resources and relief to eligible residents.

- *Utilities will not shut off or disconnect customers who are delinquent or behind in service or permit payments until the Stay at Home order is lifted.*
- *Utilities are offering payment arrangements to help pay your bill.*
- *Contact your utility provider for more information.*

CDSS: Housing & Homelessness Programs



CalWORKs Homeless Assistance (HA) Program.



Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP)



Home Safe



CalWORKs Housing Support Program (HSP)



Bringing Families Home (BFH)

CDSS: Housing & Homelessness Programs

Does a three-day pay or quit notice meet the program eligibility requirements for CDSS-funded programs?

- A three-day pay or quit notice meets the eligibility requirements of imminent risk of homelessness for CalWORKs HA, the BFH Program, HDAP, and Home Safe Program.

How can CDSS programs help with housing instability?

- CalWORKs HA can be used to pay up to two months of rental arrearages to prevent eviction. Additionally, the CalWORKs HSP, BFH, HDAP, and Home Safe program funds can be used to provide supports and financial assistance, as needed, to prevent program participants from returning to homelessness.

For program participants impacted by COVID-19, can housing assistance be extended, including rental or interim housing assistance?

- For all program participants, routine assessments of service and financial assistance needs should be completed, and programs should provide necessary resources, consistent with current program guidance, to ensure housing stability is maintained and loss of shelter or returns to homelessness are avoided as much as possible

Project Roomkey - Emergency Housing for Immediate Protection

- California has become the first state in the nation to secure FEMA approval of Public Assistance funding costs related to emergency, non-congregate sheltering (NCS) for tens of thousands of people experiencing homelessness in California in order to protect them from COVID-19.
- FEMA will reimburse Emergency NCS costs incurred for:
 - Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 that do not require hospitalization, but need isolation or quarantine (including those exiting from hospitals);
 - Individuals who have been exposed to COVID-19 (as documented by a state or local public health official, or medical health professional) that do not require hospitalization, but need isolation or quarantine; and
 - Individuals who are asymptomatic, but are at “high-risk,” such as people over 65 or who have certain underlying health conditions (respiratory, compromised immunities, chronic disease), and who require Emergency NCS as a social distancing measure.
- **California procured 15,679 hotel and motels rooms and 1,345 trailers and served an estimated 14,200 individuals in 52 counties in the first three months.**



Project Roomkey: What can the State do to help?

- California is providing technical assistance to local communities, in coordination with local emergency operations centers, tribes, county social services agencies, cities and homeless Continuums of Care, to help communities establish occupancy agreements with local property owners to secure emergency housing to keep people experiencing homelessness safe from COVID-19.
- Includes offering template legal agreements which reflect FEMA requirements, examples and resource documents related to services necessary for immediate onsite operation, and consulting regarding questions about onsite operations, potential resources, and fiscal matters.

Project Homekey

- Homekey has the financial backing of \$1.3 billion in funds available through the 2020-21 Budget Act and will facilitate local jurisdictions' efforts in acquiring and rehabilitating hotels, motels, vacant apartment buildings, residential care facilities, and other tiny homes.
- Under the Homekey program, counties will partner with the state to acquire and rehabilitate a variety of housing types: hotels, motels, vacant apartment buildings, residential care facilities, and other tiny homes. All these new placements will serve people experiencing homelessness.
- Acquisitions and conversions undertaken as part of Homekey will benefit from new legislation that the Governor signed yesterday, providing a CEQA exemption and automatic zoning compliance to new homeless housing utilizing newly available state and federal funding.

Housing Assistance for TAY

- Some foster youth who live on-campus may have no home to go to when their college campuses close. If you are or know of a foster youth that is staying at a college dorm room that is going to be closed, please contact **Together We Rise** (info@togetherwerise.org) and they will provide or help find housing.
- U-Haul is offering **30 days of free self-storage** to help college students who are currently housing insecure.
- If you are a student affected by COVID-19 and in need of emergency relief, contact the **Student Relief Fund**.

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TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES

Supporting Children, Youth and Families in Foster Care

Technology Assistance



- iFoster is offering technology access to foster youth ages 13-24:
 - *free, unlimited high-speed data hotspots,*
 - *headsets, and laptops*
 - *call 1-855-936-7837 or email phone@ifoster.org*
- Current and former foster youth in need a laptop for remote learning, email [One Simple Wish](mailto:info@onesimplewish.org) at info@onesimplewish.org



- Many providers are offering free broadband or Wi-Fi Access
- See <https://kids-alliance.org/covid-19/> for more information



[Facetime](#)

[Whatsapp](#)

[Snapchat](#)

[Zoom](#)

[Google Hangouts](#)

[Google Duo](#)

[Skype](#)

[Facebook Messenger](#)

[Free Conference Call](#)

[Google Voice](#)

RESOURCES IN TIME OF CRISIS

Supporting Children, Youth and Families in Foster Care

General Resources

- California Coronavirus Response: <https://covid19.ca.gov/>
- California Department of Public Health: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Guidance.aspx?fbclid=IwAR2JzIMU2EntjU12yXw8YwXxbrfAmORTw43xaDVuXVZj7sf03t53jb1bgCk>
- Covered CA: <https://www.coveredca.com/>
- Centers for Disease Control COVID 19 : <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- Alliance for Children’s Rights COVID-19 Resources: <https://kids-alliance.org/covid-19/>
- Western Center on Law and Poverty COVID-19 Information: <https://wclp.org/covid-19-coronavirus-information-response-and-considerations/>

Child Welfare Resources

- CDSS COVID-19 Resources: <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/#covid19>
- John Burton Advocates for Youth: <https://www.jbaforyouth.org/covid-19-resources/>
- When you can't be there in person: <https://haralambie.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/When-You-Cant-Be-Therein-Person.pdf>
- Youth Law Center Making Emergency Plans With Youth in Foster Care: <https://ylc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/YLC-Toolkit-for-Emergency-Planning-with-Youth-in-Congregate-Care.pdf>
- Los Angeles Opportunity Youth Collaborative Fact Sheet for Foster Youth: https://kids-alliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/OYC_COVID19-info.pdf
- Center for Parent & Teen Communication: <https://parentandteen.com/>
- Counties Participating in Courtesy Supervision: <https://www.cwda.org/county-tools/counties-participating-courtesy-supervision>
- Child Welfare COVID: childwelfarecovid.org

Benefits and Financial Support Resources

- [Income Benefits for Transition Aged Youth:](https://www.jbaforyouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Student-income-resources-4.10.20.pdf)
<https://www.jbaforyouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Student-income-resources-4.10.20.pdf>
- [California Employment Development Department COVID-19:](https://www.edd.ca.gov/about_edd/coronavirus-2019.htm)
https://www.edd.ca.gov/about_edd/coronavirus-2019.htm
- [Pandemic Unemployment Assistance:](https://edd.ca.gov/about_edd/coronavirus-2019/pandemic-unemployment-assistance.htm)
https://edd.ca.gov/about_edd/coronavirus-2019/pandemic-unemployment-assistance.htm
- [Benefits.Gov COVID-19 Support:](https://www.benefits.gov/help/faq/Coronavirus-resources)
<https://www.benefits.gov/help/faq/Coronavirus-resources>
- [IRS Coronavirus Tax Relief:](https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus-tax-relief-and-economic-impact-payments) <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus-tax-relief-and-economic-impact-payments>

Substance Abuse Resources

- AA Meetings in California: <https://alcoholicsanonymous.com/aa-meetings/california/>
- NA Meetings in California: <https://www.narcotics.com/na-meetings/california/>
- Resources for Emotional Support and Well Being: <https://covid19.ca.gov/resources-for-emotional-support-and-well-being/>

Mental Health Resources

- [Helping Children Cope in Emergencies: https://www.cdc.gov/childrenindisasters/helping-children-cope.html](https://www.cdc.gov/childrenindisasters/helping-children-cope.html)
- [Resources for Supporting Children's Emotional Needs During the COVID-19 Epidemic: https://www.childtrends.org/publications/resources-for-supportingchildrens-emotional-well-being-during-the-covid-19-pandemic](https://www.childtrends.org/publications/resources-for-supportingchildrens-emotional-well-being-during-the-covid-19-pandemic)
- [National Institute of Mental Health Coping With Traumatic Events: https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/coping-with-traumatic-events/index.shtml](https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/coping-with-traumatic-events/index.shtml)
- [National Institute of Mental Health Tips for Talking With Your Health Care Provider: https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/tips-for-talking-with-your-health-care-provider/index.shtml](https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/tips-for-talking-with-your-health-care-provider/index.shtml)
- [Build a Teen Stress Management Plan: https://parentandteen.com/teen-stress-management-plan/](https://parentandteen.com/teen-stress-management-plan/)
- [National Alliance on Mental Illness: https://www.nami.org/covid-19-guide](https://www.nami.org/covid-19-guide)

Legal Resources

- National Association for Counsel of Children: <https://www.naccchildlaw.org>
- American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law: www.americanbar.org
- Family Justice Initiative: www.familyjusticeinitiative.org
- Judicial Council of California: www.courts.ca.gov

ALLIANCE *for* CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

PowerPoint slides, webinar recording and supplemental materials will be posted at <https://kids-alliance.org/resources/> after October 21, 2020

