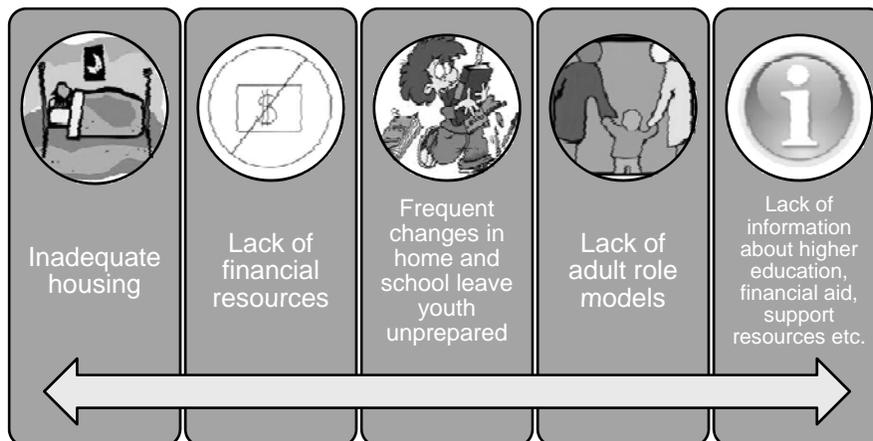


Supporting Young Adults: An Overview of Benefits for NMDs and Transition Age Youth



1

What challenges do transition age youth currently face?



2

What Is Different?

- When a youth turns 18
- When a young adult has been in foster care



Leaving Foster Care to ... What?



- Up to 65% of youth who leave foster care (including those in foster care through the 600 system) are homeless within 18 months.
- In some counties, youth with no family support make up over 20% of the GA population.
- Nationally, nearly 60% of former foster youth males have been convicted of a crime by 24.

Steven

- Steven is homeless. He turned 18 in June and has been living on the street since he ran away from his group home last year. He is tired and hungry and has had enough of street life. He would like to finish high school and go to college, but right now he needs a place to stay.

5

Sarah

- Sarah was living with a foster family until she got pregnant and got arrested for shoplifting, and things got difficult in that home. She is now couch surfing, but is afraid CPS will find out and take her baby. She would like to get a job and a more stable place to live. She will turn 18 next month.

6

The Cast

- Income Based – available to all who meet income requirements plus*
- Status Based
 - In state care
 - Exit to Permanence
 - Transition from state care
 - Permanency plan
 - Emancipated



7

Income Based Benefits

- CalWORKs
- Food Stamps
- General Assistance
- Medi-Cal
- SSI – Disability*



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Status Based Benefits: Supporting Youth In State Care

- AFDC-FC (Foster Care Benefits)
 - Dependency or Delinquency
 - AB 12 (Extended Foster Care)
- CalWORKs



9

Status Based Benefits: Supporting Exit to Permanence

- Kin-GAP and Extended Kin-GAP
 - Relative Guardianship in juvenile court
- Adoption Assistance and Extended AAP
- Non-Related Legal Guardianship and Extended AFDC-FC for NRLG





Eligibility and Overview of Income Based Benefits

CalWORKs
Food Stamps
General Assistance

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Categorical Eligibility: Who Can Get CalWORKs

- Child is living with caretaker relative
- CA resident and resident of county where aid is received
- “Needy”



Who is a relative?

An adult related to the child by blood, adoption, or marriage within the fifth degree of kinship.

Includes:

- Mother
- Father
- Stepparents
- Siblings
- Step-Siblings
- Grandparents (great, great-great, great-great-great)
- Aunts and Uncles (great, great-great)
- First cousins
- First cousins once-removed
- Nieces and nephews
- *Spouse of any relative on list (even if relative is divorced or deceased)*

Everyone else is a non-relative!

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Non-needy Caregiver Benefits

- Children in the home of a relative who is not his/her parent (biological or adoptive)
- Children in foster care who are not eligible for Title IV-E AFDC-FC



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Needy Relative Caretakers

Needy relative caregivers may receive CalWORKs for themselves if the child is receiving:

- CalWORKs
- AFDC-FC
- Kin-GAP
- SSI



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CalWORKs: What Do You Get?

- Monthly cash benefit
- Full scope MediCal with no share of cost
- Food stamps
 - Households receiving CalWORKs as non-needy caretaker may not be eligible for food stamps.

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CalWORKs: What Do You Get?

| REGION 1 | | |
|----------|------------|----------------|
| AU Size | MAP Exempt | MAP Non-Exempt |
| 1 | 369 | 333 |
| 2 | 606 | 542 |
| 3 | 750 | 670 |
| 4 | 891 | 800 |
| 5 | 1014 | 909 |
| 6 | 1140 | 1021 |
| 7 | 1252 | 1122 |
| 8 | 1366 | 1222 |
| 9 | 1475 | 1321 |
| 10 | 1586 | 1419 |
| 10+ | 1608 | 1441 |

Payment *Decreases* Per Child!

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CalWORKs: What Do You Get?

| REGION 2 | | |
|----------|------------|----------------|
| AU Size | MAP Exempt | MAP Non-Exempt |
| 1 | 351 | 315 |
| 2 | 578 | 515 |
| 3 | 715 | 638 |
| 4 | 849 | 761 |
| 5 | 969 | 866 |
| 6 | 1087 | 972 |
| 7 | 1194 | 1067 |
| 8 | 1301 | 1164 |
| 9 | 1407 | 1258 |
| 10 | 1511 | 1350 |
| 10+ | 1533 | 1372 |

Payment *Decreases* Per Child!

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CalWORKs: When Does It End?



- Age 18
- Age 19
School completion rule
- Age 21 – Extended foster care

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Food Stamps



- **Who Can Get Food Stamps?**
 - Higher income eligibility than CalWORKs
 - If past felony drug conviction, must show not using or selling drugs now
- **What Do You Get?**
 - EBT card to buy food (not household goods, alcohol, tobacco)
 - Amount depends on household size & income, e.g. max \$497/month for family of 3 with no income / \$189 for a family of 1
- **Also Note:**
 - Work requirements for adults age 16 to 60
 - Household = living together, buying & preparing food together

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Food Stamps



- **Youth in Foster Care**
 - Treated as a boarder, excluded from household
 - Can be included – both needs and income must be considered
- **Youth in Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP)**
 - SILP payment treated as income

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General Assistance (GA)



- **Who Can Get GA?**
 - Adults without children (minors qualify if they are not eligible for any other state or federal benefit program)
 - Resident of county
 - Very low assets (home & car don't count)
 - Very low income
 - Citizen, legal permanent resident (3 yr deeming), VAWA petitioners, U & T visa holders and applicants per SB 1569

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General Assistance (GA)



- **Other information:**

- Rules are different for each county
- Work requirements, exempt if disabled*
- GA recipients can also get food stamps
- GA is a loan and must be paid back if other income is earned later
- Screen clients for other benefits!

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Exceptions to GA Time Limits

- Disabled
- 64 or older
- County Specific
 - Former foster youth
18-24
- Other – county variations



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Eligibility and Overview of Income Based Benefits for Youth with Disabilities

SSI/SSP
Regional Center
TAY Services

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What is SSI/SSP?

- Supplemental Security Income / State Supplementary Payment
- Need-based program that provides cash aid and Medicaid to qualified individuals with low income, few resources, and who are:
 - Age 65 or older,
 - Blind, OR
 - ***Disabled***



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SSI/SSP: Basic Eligibility

Children may be eligible for SSI/SSP benefits if they meet the following criteria:

- Income and resources
 - No deeming if the child is living apart from parents
 - No deeming once a child turns 18
- Citizen or certain categories of immigrant
- Disability

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SSI/SSP: Basic Eligibility



- Children (under 18)
 - Marked or severe functional limitation
 - Expected to last at least 12 months or result in death
- Adults (over age 18)
 - Inability to engage in substantial gainful employment
 - expected to last at least 12 months or result in death

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Disability Listings

- Medical criteria for the evaluation of children under 18 can be found here:
<http://www.ssa.gov/disability/professionals/bluebook/ChildhoodListings.htm>
- Examples of categories of disabilities:
 - 103.00 Respiratory System
 - 111.00 Neurological
 - 112.00 Mental Disorders

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Listings

- If the child does not meet one of the listings, then SSA looks at the Six Domains.
 - Must show marked limitation in two domains *or* extreme limitation in one domain in order to meet or equal the listings.

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Six Domains

- Acquiring and Using Information
- Attending and Completing Tasks
- Interacting and Relating with Others
- Moving About and Manipulating Objects
- Caring for Yourself
- Health and Physical Well-Being

See 20 CFR 416.926a(c)(4)

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SSI/SSP: What Do They Get?

- Medicaid + Cash Benefit

- Disabled child - \$784.40
- Disabled child in the home of another - \$547.50
- Independently living adult - \$877.40

- **Non-Medical Out of Home Care:**
\$1133.00
 - Children who are not living with their parents.
 - Must complete the ³²SSP 22 to get the full benefit.

NMOHC

- Non-Medical Out of Home Care (MPP 140.63)
 - (A) Assistance in dressing, grooming, bathing and other personal hygiene.
 - (B) Assistance with taking medication, as specified in section.
 - (C) Central storing and/or distribution of medications, as specified in section.
 - (D) Arrangement of and assistance with medical and dental care.
 - (F) Supervision of client schedules and activities.
 - (H) Monitoring food intake or special diets.
- CWD certifies and returns SSP-22 within 13 working days.

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Adult SSI/SSP: What Do You Get?



- Non-Medical Out of Home Care rate if
 - Living in a state licensed NMOHC facility OR In the home of a relative or guardian/conservator AND
 - Receiving “care and supervision” MPP 46-140.13 – 46-140.2.
- If not receiving NMOHC, then adult rates apply.

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Representative Payees



- The County should be the payee of last resort.
 - “... when no other appropriate party is available to serve.” WIC 13754
- Legal guardian or caregiver can become payee by making a request with the local Social Security Office.
 - Good idea? When the child is receiving SSI benefits, but the caregiver is receiving less than \$1100 for the child.
- Youth can be his or her own payee.
 - Age 18 unless legally incompetent 20 CFR §416.601
 - Age 15 - 20 CFR §§416-610(b), 416-611
 - Capable of using benefits to provide for his or her own needs.
 - Applying within 7 months of age 18.

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SSI/SSP: When Does it End?

- Continues as long as disability, income and resources criteria are met
- Different disability standard for adults
 - Continuing Disability Review (“CDR”) to determine if the youth meets adult disability criteria
 - Benefits continue until CDR is complete – no need to reapply at 18.

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Benefit Continuation Rule for TAY (18 – 24 years)

- Benefits Continuation Rule: Allows benefits to continue even **after** SSA determines individual does not meet adult standard
 - Individuals must participate in approved programs of vocational rehabilitation that began before SSA determined that their disabilities ended.
 - Generally SSA must also determine that the completion of this program will reduce the likelihood that the recipient will need to rely on disability benefits.
 - Continuation in an IEP program is automatically considered an acceptable program that will reduce dependence on benefits. 20 C.F.R. 404.328(b), 416.1338(e)(2).

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Establishing SSI Eligibility and Using SSI to Help in Transition Planning



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Important Legislation to Assist Foster Youth with Disabilities

AB 1633



- (1) development of best practice guidelines
- (2) counties manage benefits in youth's best interests
- (3) assist youth in receiving direct payment of finding payee
- (4) Inform youth of process of maintaining eligibility as adults

AB 1331



- (1) Screen every youth for SSI eligibility between age 16.5 and 17.5
- (2) Make an SSI application on behalf of likely eligible youth
- (3) Goal to have SSI in place by age 18!

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Timing the SSI Application Under AB 12



- Timeline for application remains the same
 - Ensuring SSI is in place at age 18 provides youth maximum flexibility and choice among benefits, services and supports
 - Youth approved for SSI have same right to participate in EFC as all other youth at age 18
 - Offsetting rules apply – youth in EFC might receive SSI, AFDC-FC, or a combination of both benefits

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Receiving AFDC-FC and SSI Concurrently

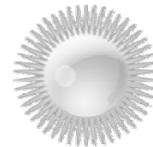
- Federal AFDC-FC
 - SSI is offset dollar for dollar
- State AFDC-FC
 - AFDC-FC is reduced by the amount of SSI benefit, which is counted as income



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SSI and Extended Foster Care: New Requirements for NMDs

- If youth approved for SSI who actually receives a monthly SSI benefit elects to remain in EFC, county must assist youth in receiving direct payment
- If youth is approved for SSI but receives federal foster care in excess of SSI – county must maintain SSI eligibility (using workaround)



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How Can SSI Help a NMD Transitioning Out of Foster Care?

- SSI links to Medi-Cal (while in care and after the youth exits care)
- Often provides more support while a youth is in care and can help avoid homelessness once a youth exit cares
- SSI eligibility may qualify youth for permanent affordable housing – can use time in EFC to apply for these housing slots!
- Social Security has programs to help recipients pursue education or attempt work without losing eligibility
- Youth can receive school scholarships and receive SSI simultaneously
- Allows youth additional time to establish SSI eligibility under adult standards

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Other Benefits for Youth with Disabilities



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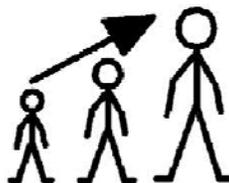
Regional Center and Youth

- **Lanterman Act:**
 - Mental retardation, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism, and the “5th Category”
 - Comprehensive services for youth 0-3 and post special education (usually after 22)
 - List of services at WIC § 4512(b)
 - Most common for 3-22 year olds: respite, daycare, in-home behavioral support.
- **Problems? Call Disability Rights CA Advocate**
 - A full list of advocates is available here →
<http://www.disabilityrightscalifornia.org/ocra/ocrabios.html>

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Transition Aged Youth Services

- Case management, housing, and/or other services to youth with Seriously Emotionally Disturbed or Seriously Mentally Ill diagnosis.
- Funded by Mental Health Services Act



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Eligibility and Overview of Status Based Benefits – Supporting Youth In Care

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Historical Context – Why benefits for children in out-of-home care are so complicated

- 1961 Title IV-A AFDC
- 1979 Youakim (**440 U.S. 125**)
- 1980 Title IV-E (**42 U.S.C. § 670 et seq**)
- 1987 King (**186 Cal.App.3d 648**)
- 1992 Lipscomb (**962 F.2d 1374**)
- 1996 Welfare Reform PRWORA (TANF and CalWORKs) (**42 U.S.C. § 601**)
- 1997 ASFA (*42 U.S.C. § 671*)
- 1999 FCIA Chafee (*P.L. 106-169*)
- 2003 Rosales (*321 F.3d 835*)
- 2005 Deficit Reduction Act (*P.L. 109-171*)
- 2008 Fostering Connections to Success Act (*P.L. 110-351*)

Aid to Families with Dependent Children-Foster Care (AFDC-FC)

- Title IV-E of the Social Security Act
 - 42 U.S.C. § 670 et seq.
 - 45 C.F.R. § 1356 et seq.
- Cal. Welf. and Inst. Code § 11400 et seq.
- California's Manual of Policy and Procedure (MPP) § 45-200 et seq.

AFDC-FC (Foster Care Benefits)



- Licensed foster family home, group home, or foster family agency*
- Approved home of a relative, *IF eligible for federal financial participation**
- Approved home of a nonrelative extended family member*
- Home of a non-related legal guardian
- Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP) – over 18

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AFDC-FC



Also Available for:

- Youth in probation supervised foster care placements
- Youth living with non-related legal guardians

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Foster Care Benefits (AFDC-FC): Basic Eligibility (42 U.S.C. § 672; WIC § 11401)

- 1. Categorical requirements of the child
 - Age, residency, immigration status, deprivation
- 2. Conditions of removal from the home and placement into approved/licensed facility
- 3. Financial eligibility
- For full set of the 1996 AFDC Regulations see <http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/ord/PG1780.htm>



Foster Care Benefits – Two Different Programs with the Same Name

Federal AFDC-FC (or “IV-E”)
– Must meet federal eligibility criteria

State AFDC-FC
- Available to all placements **except** relatives



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Federal Foster Care Benefits: Financial Eligibility

To receive **federal** foster care benefits, the youth must meet the 1996 AFDC criteria **in the home of removal** in the month of removal or one of the six months prior to removal

– In 1996, income limit for a family of 3 to qualify for AFDC was \$723**

o **BY CONTRAST:** The income limit for the **same** family to qualify for cash assistance today is \$1,200**

- **What that means:** a child can be removed from a parent receiving welfare benefits and **STILL** not qualify for federal foster care benefits

IMPORTANT: Federal test has **nothing** to do with the needs of the child or the needs of the relative where the child is placed

** California income eligibility limits. See ACL 13-48.

Little Known Facts about Federal Eligibility



- Federal eligibility is a **one-time determination** done at removal
- Federal eligibility does not depend on the type of placement
 - A youth who is not federally eligible in a relative home, is also not federally eligible in a group home
- Eligibility for federal foster care benefits is distinct from meeting federal home approval standards
 - A relative in California who meets federal home approval standards is still denied foster care benefits when the child does not meet the 1996 welfare standards
 - Federal eligibility has nothing to do with the home where the child is placed
 - 56% of California's foster youth are NOT federally eligible

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AFDC-FC: What Do They Get?

(WIC § 11461) (ACL 13-62)



- Youth who are **eligible** for AFDC-FC receive a monthly cash benefit based on:
 - Placement: different rates for relatives/foster homes, FFAs, Group Homes, THP-Plus Foster Care, SILPs
 - Special needs: specialized care increments and dual agency rates available in some types of placements
- Full scope Medi-Cal, no share of cost (Medicaid if they move out of state)
- Other funded services/allowances
 - County clothing allowance (if provided by county)
 - Infant supplement

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Benefits to Care for Rachel and Naomi

If Rachel and Naomi are **federally eligible**, they receive the same level of support

| | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Naomi: placed with a Non-Relative Foster Parent | \$820 (federal foster care) |
| Rachel: placed with Grandma | \$820 (federal foster care) |

**The foster family home rates are based on a report from the Center for Public Policy Research at UC Davis that calculated the Minimum Adequate Care Rates for children in foster care

Benefits to Care for Rachel and Naomi

If Rachel and Naomi are **not federally eligible**, their caregivers receive different benefits based on whether they are related to the child

| | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Naomi: placed with a Non-Relative Foster Parent | \$820 (state-only foster care) |
| Rachel: placed with Grandma | \$369 (CalWORKs aka TANF) |

FACT: The CalWORKs grant for one child is equal to just 39% of the federal poverty line



Specialized Care Increments

(WIC § 11461(e))

- County supplement to the basic rate for the caring for children with medical or emotional/behavioral needs.
- County creates its own policy on how child qualifies and the increment amount. CDSS must approve the plan.
- Most counties provide the specialized care increment (exceptions: Modoc, Plumas and Sierra counties)

Dual Agency Children: Regional Center Consumers in Foster Care

(WIC § 11464)

- Dual agency rate available to foster children who are Regional Center consumers AND receiving an AFDC-FC payment
 - \$2,162 (children with developmental disability diagnosed) + up to \$1,000 additional supplement (available in increments of \$250)
 - \$967 (Early Start program children 0-3 not diagnosed yet)

Relatives Struggle to Support Youth with Special Needs

When relative foster parents care for youth with special needs who are **not** federally eligible, the relatives do **not** receive:

- Specialized Care Increments to provide for the special needs of the youth
- Dual Agency Rates for youth with developmental disabilities
- Infant Supplement for youth who are parenting

| | Naomi (placed with non-relative) | Rachel (placed with grandma) |
|---|--|--|
| If the youth has severe emotional disturbance and qualifies for Specialized Care Increment in LA County | \$1,220 | \$369 |
| Youth with autism who is a regional center consumer | \$2,162 - \$3,162 | \$369 |
| Youth who is parenting | \$1,210 | \$606 |

Other Benefits for “Foster Youth”

- Transitional Medi-Cal (if eligible at 18)
- Transitional Housing: THP Plus (if eligible at 18)
- Independent Living Skills Program (ILSP) (if eligible at 16)
- Education and training



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What Must a NMD Do To Receive Extended Benefits?

1. Be enrolled in high school or equivalent program
2. Be enrolled in college/vocational school
3. Work at least 80 hours/month
4. Participate in a program/activity that helps you find a job or removes barriers to employment
5. Be unable to do one of the above because of a medical or mental health condition



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NMDs Placed With Relatives: AFDC-FC vs. CalWORKs?

- If federally-eligible, NMD in foster care placed with relatives get foster care benefits (AFDC-FC)
- If NOT federally eligible AND placed in foster care with a relative, NMD gets CalWORKs
 - Rates are much lower for CalWORKs and decrease with each additional child
 - No specialized care rates or dual agency rates



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Are NMDs Subject to CalWORKs Rules?

- In general, NMDs are NOT subject to CalWORKs program rules (ie Welfare to Work)
- Parenting NMDs can receive Extended CalWORKs or establish their own CalWORKs case



- If parenting NMD establishes own CalWORKs case: Subject to CalWORKs rules BUT child is also aided
- If parenting NMD chooses extended CalWORKs: No infant supplement and the child is not included in the CalWORKs grant

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Placements for NMDs



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Licensed or an Approved Setting

- Youth has to be in a licensed/approved facility or home
 - New licensing/approval standards for NMDs
- Same placement options exist for NMDs as for minors
 - Limitations on group home placements for NMDs (more later)
 - Limitations on THPP for NMDs (more later)
- Two new placements for NMDs
 - THP-Plus Foster Care (more later)
 - SILPs (more later)
- NMDs placed out-of-state can receive benefits



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Group Homes for NMDs



- Decision on group home placement is to be a youth-driven, team-based case planning process
- Youth can remain in group home if under age 19 AND continuing in group home is in NMDs best interest in order to complete high school or equivalent
- Once NMD completes high school or turns 19, whichever is first, continuing in a group home is prohibited UNLESS
 - NMD has a medical or mental health condition (participation condition #5) and continuing in group home functions as a short-term placement;
 - Treatment services to alleviate the medical condition cannot be sole basis for disqualification from group home (Ex: youth is seriously emotional disturbed and is in therapeutic day treatment);
 - Treatment strategies should prepare NMD for discharge to a less restrictive and more family-like setting.

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Supervised Independent Living Setting (SILS)

- SILP – Supervised Independent Living Placement
- THP+FC – Transitional Housing Program Plus **Foster Care**



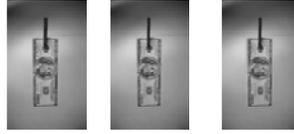
SILP Overview

- Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP) is a new placement option for NMDs ready for greater independence
- Settings may include but not limited to:
 - Apartment living
 - Renting a room (*including w/ a relative*)
 - Shared roommate settings
 - Dorms
 - Living situations with adult siblings, appropriate extended family members, tribal members, NREFM or mentors should be explored



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SILP Rate



- Basic rate (currently \$822/ month) – no specialized care
- NMD may receive the foster care benefit directly
- Clothing allowance available (if offered by county)
- Parenting NMDs receive the Infant Supplement (currently \$411.00/month)
 - Whole Family Foster Homes, as FFA' s or THP+FC host family homes, are eligible for the \$200 Shared Responsibility Plan payment but not SILPs

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SILPs With Relatives: AFDC vs. CalWORKs

- SILP can be in the home of a relative



- NMD who receives CalWORKs while placed with a relative receives AFDC-FC if they move into a SILP with that relative

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Placement with Relative vs. SILP with Relative

| | Placement with Foster Parent/Relative Caregiver | SILP with a relative/former foster parent |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
| Approval Standards | Must meet approval standards (same as licensing of FFH) | Basic health and safety standards |
| Benefit Available | AFDC-FC (if federally eligible) - OR - CalWORKs (if not federally eligible) | AFDC-FC (regardless of federal eligibility) |
| Youth with Special Needs | Dual Agency Rate or Specialized Care Increment | No specialized rates available |

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SILP Readiness Assessment

- Example reasons for denial:
 - Rent and utilities exceed income
 - Unstable income
 - No knowledge of how to manage money
 - Unable to care for self without assistance due to a medical or mental health condition
- If NMD is not ready for a SILP, areas of improvement should be turned into goals in their TILP
- Reason for denial should be documented on the assessment and provided to NMD
- If NMD disagrees, he/she has the right to a grievance process



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Approval of SILP Site



- SILP may **not** include living with biological parent*
- Sites are subject to health and safety inspection
 - Basic health and safety only
 - NMDs allowed to live in an unapproved SILP temporarily
 - County must inspect new SILP within 10 calendar days
- Ensuring privacy
 - Roommates and landlords not assessed
 - Social workers should arrange inspections and home visits in such a way that respects young adult's privacy
- Must be re-inspected annually

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YOUTH ALERT: Food Stamps

- Non-Minor Dependent (NMD) foster youth living in SILPs may be eligible for food stamps as long as they are otherwise eligible.
- Average grant between \$26 and \$120 depending on utilities

GROCERY SHOPPING!



Transitional Housing Plus Foster Care

- Transitional housing for non-minor dependents
- Need to be licensed by CCL (ACL 12-44)
 - May be THPP expansion.
- No more requirement to reduce THP+ by 70%
 - If county intends to significantly reduce THP+, then decision must be affirmed in open session by BOS.

THP-Plus Vs. THP-Plus Foster Care

THP-PLUS

- No child welfare supervision
- Ages 18-24
- No participation conditions
- Up to 24 months
- Dependency or delinquency dismissed

THP-PLUS FC

- Child welfare supervision
- Ages 18-21 (phase in)
- Must meet participation conditions
- No maximum time
- Remain under dependency, delinquency, or transition jurisdiction



**Eligibility and Overview of
Status Based Benefits –
Supporting Exits to Permanence**

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**Kinship Guardianship
Assistance Payment Program
(Kin-GAP)**



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What is Kin-GAP?



- California's Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment program
- Children in relative guardianship established by the juvenile court
- Allow youth to exit foster care to guardianship with a relative caregiver without loss of funding

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Kin-GAP: What do You Get?



- Monthly negotiated payment:
 - Up to foster family home rate, including specialized care or dual agency rates and “whole family home” rate for minor parents
 - Maximum Kin-GAP depends on date of Kin-GAP guardianship
 - Set forth in agreement - adjusted as needs of the child change
- Medi-Cal (Medicaid in other states)
- Education/Training Vouchers – if youth entered Kin-GAP at 16 or older

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Kin-GAP: When does it end?



- **Age 18:** if Kin-GAP payments started *prior* to the youth turning 16 and no physical or mental disability
 - NOTE: if youth meets the completion rule benefits can continue until 19 or completion, whichever is first)
- **Age 21:** if the child has mental or physical handicaps that warrant continuation – does not matter how old the youth was when entered Kin-GAP
- **Age 19** (in 2012) **Age 20** (in 2013) **Age 21** (in 2014): if negotiated Kin-GAP payments commenced at age 16 or older and the youth meets one of the five participation conditions

NOTE: *Kin-GAP continues if the family moves to another state*

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Adoption Assistance Payments (AAP)



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What are Adoption Assistance Payments (AAP)?

- Monthly cash assistance available to relatives or nonrelatives who adopt children with “special needs”
- “Special needs” is broadly defined -- includes all youth who are adopted out of foster care
- Others – At Risk of Foster Care; SSI



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AAP: What Do You Get?



- Monthly negotiated payment:
 - Up to foster family home rate, including specialized care or dual agency rates
 - Maximum AAP depends on date the AAP agreement was signed
 - Set forth in agreement - adjusted as needs of the child change
- Residential Care or Wrap Around services
- Medi-Cal (Medicaid in other states)
- Education/Training Vouchers – if youth entered AAP at 16 or older

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AAP: When does it end?



- **Age 18:** if the initial AAP agreement was signed *prior* to the youth turning 16 years old and no physical mental disability
- **Age 21:** IF the child has mental or physical handicaps that warrant continuation of benefit – does not matter how old the youth was when entered AAP program
- **Age 19** (beginning Jan. 1 2012) **Age 20** (beginning Jan. 1 2013) **Age 21** (beginning Jan. 1 2014) – if date the initial AAP Agreement was signed is when the youth was age 16 or older and the youth meets one of the five participation conditions

NOTE: AAP continues if the family moves to another state

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Questions?



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