

December 3, 2020

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**COUNTY FISCAL LETTER NO. 20/21-52**

This letter informs counties of the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Family Urgent Response System General Fund planning allocation. A total of \$26.1 million is available based on the Budget Act of 2020.



KIM JOHNSON  
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**  
744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • [www.cdss.ca.gov](http://www.cdss.ca.gov)



GAVIN NEWSOM  
GOVERNOR

December 3, 2020

COUNTY FISCAL LETTER (CFL) NO. 20/21-52

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS  
ALL INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM MANAGERS  
ALL INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM COORDINATORS  
ALL FOSTER CARE MANAGERS  
ALL TITLE IV-E AGREEMENT TRIBES  
ALL TRANSITIONAL HOUSING COORDINATORS  
ALL COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: FISCAL YEAR 2020-21 FAMILY URGENT RESPONSE SYSTEM  
GENERAL FUND PLANNING ALLOCATION

REFERENCE: [ALL COUNTY LETTER \(ACL\) NO. 20-89, DATED AUGUST 6, 2020](#)  
[ACL NO. 04-32, DATED SEPTEMBER 7, 2004](#)  
[CFL NO. 20/21-46, DATED DECEMBER 3, 2020](#)  
[CFL NO. 14/15-29, DATED OCTOBER 29, 2014](#)

This letter informs counties of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21 Family Urgent Response System (FURS) General Fund (GF) planning allocation. A total of \$26.1 million for county mobile response systems is available based on the Budget Act of 2020.

### Background

The Family Urgent Response System (FURS) is a coordinated statewide, regional, and county-level system designed to provide collaborative and timely state-level phone-based response, as well as county-level in-home, in-person mobile response, during situations of instability for purposes of preserving the relationship of the caregiver and the child or youth. The FURS is intended to provide support to current and former foster youth as well as their caregivers. Please see [ACL No. 20-89](#) for more detailed information on the population that FURS serves. The FURS also requires county child welfare, probation and behavioral health agencies to establish a joint county-based mobile response system, including a stabilization team to provide in-person support, as needed. The FURS builds upon the Continuum of Care Reform and the state's recent System of Care development to assist current and former foster youth and their caregivers with trauma-informed supports intended to have multiple effects, including:

- Preventing placement disruptions and preserving the relationship between the child or youth and their caregiver;
- Preventing the need for a 911 call or law enforcement involvement and avoiding the criminalization of traumatized youth;
- Preventing psychiatric hospitalization and placement into congregate care; and
- Promoting healing as a family.

Further information regarding FURS and timelines for program implementation can be referenced in [ACL No. 20-89](#).

### **Funding**

In consultation with the County Welfare Directors Association, each county will receive \$443,508 GF and Los Angeles County will receive \$887,044 GF. Funds allocated to counties in FY 2020-21 for FURS are intended for infrastructure, start-up costs, and implementation of the county mobile response systems.

Though [ACL No. 20-89](#) states FURS implementation begins January 1, 2021, the process of implementation was interrupted by urgent attention to the statewide response to COVID-19. Due to these factors, the CDSS will be implementing the statewide hotline on March 1, 2021, as opposed to January 1, 2021. State law expects mobile services to be implemented on March 1, 2021, unless an extension request is submitted and approved following the guidance provided in ACL No. 20-89, as long as CMS approvals are in place. The state statutory requirement for all county mobile response systems to be implemented by July 1, 2021, remains, but if federal approval has not been received, then county specialty mental health services via mobile response would be voluntary until approval is in place. Note that counties seeking a delay are still responsible for implementing an interim process to accept and respond to referrals from the state hotline.

As a reminder, the allocation amounts in the attachment are for planning purposes. An additional CFL finalizing the allocation amounts is forthcoming. The CDSS, in collaboration with the County Welfare Directors Association, County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California, and the Chief Probation Officers of California will continue discussions throughout the FY to determine if allocation adjustments are needed based on the utilization of funds.

Beginning in FY 2021-22, ongoing funding for each county will be structured based on how select counties regionalize, and the non-supplantation requirements associated with the FURS statute will be taken into account.



## Claiming

The FURS allocation is tracked to Ledger 188 – Family Urgent Response System. Program Codes (PC) have been established to monitor administrative costs tracked to the GF allocation. Costs exceeding each county's GF allocation are shifted to county share. At year-end, a closeout process based on FY 2020-21 final expenditures compares each county's allocation against their expenditures. County-specific surplus balances will be redistributed to counties with deficit balances in order to reduce the county-only portion of the nonfederal share of costs and maximize the use of GF dollars.

Effective with the September 2020 quarter, the following PCs have been established for counties to claim administrative costs associated with FURS on the County Expense Claim:

- PC 985 – FURS Protocol and Development
- PC 994 – FURS Mobile Response

The PC 985 (FURS Protocol and Development) is used to claim time spent on the development and administration of the FURS program. The PC 994 (FURS Mobile Response) is also provided for caseworkers to claim allowable time and costs for participating on the FURS mobile response team. Costs claimed in excess of the FURS GF allocation will be shifted to and funded with 100 percent county funds using State Use Only (SUO) code 986 – SUO FURS Overmatch. As mentioned above, a year-end closeout process will redistribute surplus funds to counties with deficit balances. Please refer to Attachment I of [CFL No. 20/21-46](#) for further claiming information.

Although CWDs are the recipients of the FURS state allocation, the law requires child welfare, probation departments, and county behavioral/mental health agencies to jointly develop plans and implement local mobile response teams. As such, CWDs are encouraged to allocate resources locally that align with their local plans. Additionally, counties should reference [CFL No. 14/15-29](#) for probation departments, and [ACL No. 04-32](#) for other public agencies, regarding establishing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) needed for the pass-through of any Title IV-E funds to the extent that FURS activities are eligible for Title IV-E reimbursement.

To the extent that implementation of FURS has an overall effect of increasing certain costs already borne by a local agency for programs or levels of service mandated by the 2011 Realignment Legislation within the meaning of Section 36 of Article XIII of the California Constitution, it shall apply to local agencies only to the extent that the state provides annual funding for the cost increase. Any new program or higher level of service provided by a local agency for FURS implementation above the level for which funding has been provided shall not require a subvention of funds by the state or otherwise be subject to Section 6 of Article XIIB of the California Constitution.

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For program-related questions regarding FURS, please contact the Placement Services and Support Unit at (916) 657-1858, or by emailing [FURS@dss.ca.gov](mailto:FURS@dss.ca.gov). Questions regarding the allocation should be directed to [fiscal.systems@dss.ca.gov](mailto:fiscal.systems@dss.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

***Original Document Signed By:***

SALENA CHOW, Chief  
Fiscal Forecasting and Policy Branch

Attachment

**FISCAL YEAR 2020-21 FAMILY URGENT RESPONSE SYSTEM  
GENERAL FUND PLANNING ALLOCATION**

<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>TOTAL ALLOCATION</b>
Alameda	\$443,508
Alpine	\$443,508
Amador	\$443,508
Butte	\$443,508
Calaveras	\$443,508
Colusa	\$443,508
Contra Costa	\$443,508
Del Norte	\$443,508
El Dorado	\$443,508
Fresno	\$443,508
Glenn	\$443,508
Humboldt	\$443,508
Imperial	\$443,508
Inyo	\$443,508
Kern	\$443,508
Kings	\$443,508
Lake	\$443,508
Lassen	\$443,508
Los Angeles	\$887,044
Madera	\$443,508
Marin	\$443,508
Mariposa	\$443,508
Mendocino	\$443,508
Merced	\$443,508
Modoc	\$443,508
Mono	\$443,508
Monterey	\$443,508
Napa	\$443,508
Nevada	\$443,508
Orange	\$443,508
Placer	\$443,508
Plumas	\$443,508
Riverside	\$443,508
Sacramento	\$443,508
San Benito	\$443,508
San Bernardino	\$443,508
San Diego	\$443,508
San Francisco	\$443,508
San Joaquin	\$443,508
San Luis Obispo	\$443,508
San Mateo	\$443,508
Santa Barbara	\$443,508
Santa Clara	\$443,508
Santa Cruz	\$443,508
Shasta	\$443,508
Sierra	\$443,508
Siskiyou	\$443,508
Solano	\$443,508
Sonoma	\$443,508
Stanislaus	\$443,508
Sutter	\$443,508
Tehama	\$443,508
Trinity	\$443,508
Tulare	\$443,508
Tuolumne	\$443,508
Ventura	\$443,508
Yolo	\$443,508
Yuba	\$443,508
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$26,167,000</b>