



Opportunity, Questions, and Funding (Finally!): An Analysis of the Proposed Rates Structure

The information provided in this training and the referenced materials do not constitute legal advice. All content is for general informational purposes only.

Values and Caveats

- The priority of the foster care system is for children to remain safely at home with family. This is a requirement of federal and state law as well as supported by research and ethics.
- Older youth have a right to independence and self-autonomy.
- Young people should be able to receive support **whenever and however** they need it.
 - They should have access to services in their communities and while living at home (i.e., with families and/or independent living settings).
 - They should not have to move to other placements, other counties, or institutions to receive the care they need.
- California's foster rates should be built in such a way to support these outcomes and values.
- **Caveat:** What follows is an analysis of the rates proposal and should not be taken to be a criticism – in any way – of any other alternative proposal or request for additional funding.

Proposed New Rates Structure

- New Foster Care Rates Structure
 - As set out in [TBL](#) and subsequent CDSS [webinars, working groups, and listening sessions](#)
 - Result of multi-year process with 30+ work groups and listening sessions
 - Responsive to feedback from youth, caregivers, counties, providers, tribes, and others.

Proposed New Rates Structure

High Level Opportunities

- Creates a rate that for the first time
 - Is based on the strengths and needs of a young person.
 - provides funding to go directly to what a young person wants and needs regardless of placement – or even if they are temporarily not in a placement at all.
 - provides incentives for county and state level child welfare and children’s mental health to de-silo, collaborate, and integrate implementation
 - finally provides the necessary rate structure and funding to implement the promise of reforms that were started with Continuum of Care Reform
 - CCR wins: funding and structure for kinship
 - CCR fails: little funding and shaky structure for community based supports

Extracurriculars and Strengths

- Long been an adamant request to the State from young people: funding dedicated for what they want and need
 - Annual [\\$340 million investment](#)* to young people and caregivers
 - Not based on placement – or even being in a placement at all
- **Questions:**
 - How can we be sure the funding is administered quickly with little administrative barriers?
 - How can we be sure funding for NMDs is administered differently to ensure they have access to all of it in a timely manner that follows principles of self-determination?

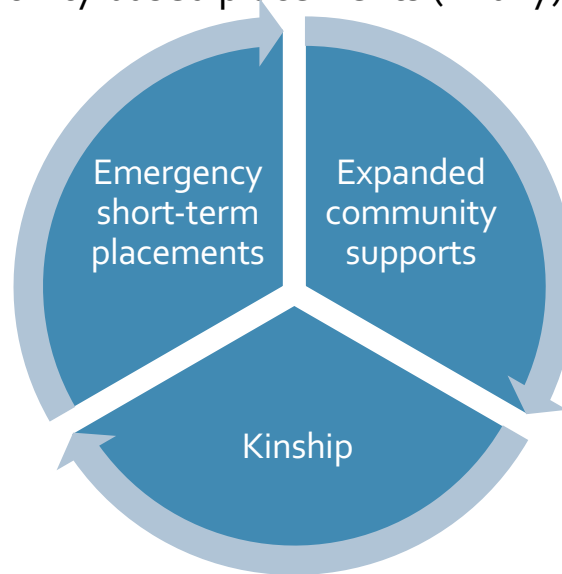
*all numbers are based on YLC's own calculations, which we believe are conservative and likely an under-estimate.

Community Based Supports and Wraparound

- (Finally) provides a more appropriate level of funding for community-based supports
- Annual investment of \$216 million with funding going to providers to provide culturally appropriate, wraparound supports
- (Finally) will allow FFAs and community providers to support children with complex care needs safely at home.
 - Only 4% of all foster youth currently receive ISFC.
- **Questions:**
 - How can we ensure Medicaid match on immediate needs funding as appropriate?
 - How can we develop a case rate to make this administratively streamlined in implementation?

Impact on Emergency Placements

- Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) provided funding for kin and specialized congregate care placements
- These rates would provide more appropriate funding for supporting kin and community based placements (finally)



Impact on Older Youth

- Funding for extracurriculars (finally!)
- Increased funding for young adults in SILPs
 - Proposed new care and supervision rate is more than Fair Market Rate (FMR) in all 58 counties
 - New total SILP rate is [annually \\$12.5 million](#) more than young adults were anticipated to begin receiving in 2026 (when automation makes it possible to modify the rates).
- **Question**
 - How can we ensure that the new strength building dollars are administered differently for NMDs to ensure that 100% is accessed each year?

Overall Takeaway

- These rates represent a huge step forward in systems reform in California and a substantial investment in children and families involved in the child welfare system.
- All of us will need to work together to ensure that implementation is done in such a way as to realize that promise:
 - Low administrative burden in accessing funding for extracurriculars and strength building
 - Different processes for young adults in SILPs so that they can access 100% of the strength building funding in a way that supports their independence and self-determination
 - Case rate for immediate needs dollars allowing counties to receive funding matched for specific wraparound activities

Questions?

Brian Blalock

Senior Directing Attorney

bblalock@ylc.org