



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
Department of Health Care Services



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
Governor

January 10, 2012

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS Letter No.: 12-03  
ALL COUNTY WELFARE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS  
ALL COUNTY MEDI-CAL PROGRAM SPECIALISTS/LIAISONS  
ALL COUNTY HEALTH EXECUTIVES  
ALL COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS  
ALL COUNTY MEDS LIAISONS

SUBJECT: SIX NEW AID CODES TO IDENTIFY ASSEMBLY BILL 12 NON-MINOR  
DEPENDENTS IN THE FOSTER CARE, KINSHIP GUARDIANSHIP  
ASSISTANCE PAYMENT PROGRAM, CALWORKS AND ADOPTION  
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The purpose of this All County Welfare Director's Letter is to inform counties of the implementation of six new aid codes to address Assembly Bill (AB) 12 (Chapter 359, Statutes of 2010, California Fostering Connections to Success Act) that were requested by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). These new aid codes will be used to identify non-minor dependents (NMDs) age 18 through 21, who qualify for the current Foster Care (FC), Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment (Kin-GAP) program, California Work Opportunities to Kids (CalWORKs) program, and the Adoptions Assistance Program (AAP), who meet certain participation criteria under the provisions of AB 12 to continue to receive extended benefits starting January 1, 2012.

The provisions of AB 12 provide for the first extension of coverage for those eligible youth up to age 19, effective January 2012. Effective April 1, 2012, counties must begin using all aid codes (43, 49, 07, 4N, 4S, and 4W) to track the impacted population. In the interim, beginning January 1, 2012, until the new aid codes are operable in April 2012, counties shall perform a Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS) transaction using the continuing Eligibility Status Action Code (ESAC) for "exception eligible" in their current aid code for any youth impacted.

### **Background on the CDSS Social Services' Programs Impacted**

Currently under the FC, Kin-GAP, CalWORKs, and AAP programs, dependent children are eligible to receive these cash benefits until age 18 and may continue if they are enrolled full-time in high school, a vocational or technical training program, and will graduate before reaching age 19. There is an ESAC for "exception eligible" in place for those who have eligibility until age 19.

AB 12 established a new category of NMDs eligible to receive extended FC, Kin-GAP, CalWORKs, and AAP benefits up to age 21. An NMD is defined as a current or former dependent child or ward of the Juvenile Court, who is at least 18, but less than 21 years of age, in a foster care placement under the responsibility of the county social services agency, county probation department, or Indian tribe, and participating in a transitional independent living case plan. These NMDs are required to meet specific employment or education conditions in order to remain eligible (Welfare and Institutions Code, Section 11403 (b)) for the benefits extension, as specified by CDSS in All County Letters 11-61, 11-69, 11-77, 11-78.

For those youths meeting the requirements for an extension, the extension will be phased in over a three-year period based on age as follows:

- Effective January 1, 2012, an eligible NMD can receive aid up to 19 years of age.
- Effective January 1, 2013, an eligible NMD can receive aid up to 20 years of age.
- Effective January 1, 2014, an eligible NMD can receive aid up to 21 years of age contingent upon a funding appropriation by the State Legislature.

### **Aid Codes**

The NMD children will receive the same level of Medi-Cal benefits they received while under their former existing aid codes if they meet the applicable Medi-Cal eligibility requirements. The Medi-Cal funding ratio will be 50 percent federal and 50 percent State General Fund.

The table below shows the existing and new aid codes for the eligible youth transitioning and the Medi-Cal eligibility requirements which must be met before putting the youth in the new aid code:

<b>Aid Code</b>	<b>Minor Dependent Aid Code Description</b>	<b>Aid Code</b>	<b>New AB 12 NMD Aid Code Description</b>
<b>4H</b>	CalWORKs: Covers children, on whose behalf financial	<b>4N</b>	CalWORKs FC State Cash Aid/FFP Medi-Cal: Covers NMDs, age 18 but

assistance is provided for foster care placement, living with an approved CalWORKs relative, who is not eligible for Kin-GAP or AFDC-FC.

under age 21, under AB 12 on whose behalf CalWORKs financial assistance is provided for foster care placement, living with an approved relative.

**Medi-Cal Requirement:** These youth must meet the requirements of the Former Foster Care Children's (FFCC) program. In order for a child to be eligible under the FFCC program, the child must be in foster care under the responsibility of the state on his/her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, be under 21 years of age, and reside in the State of California.

**40** AFDC-FC State: Covers children on whose behalf financial assistance is provided for state only foster care placement.

**43** AFDC-FC State Cash Aid/FFP Medi-Cal: Covers NMDs, age 18 but under age 21, under AB 12 on whose behalf state-only AFDC-FC financial assistance is provided for foster care placement.

**Medi-Cal Eligibility Requirement:** These youth must meet the eligibility requirements of the FFCC program.

**42** AFDC-FC Title IV E Federal: Covers children on whose behalf financial assistance is provided for Title IV E federal foster care placement.

**49** AFDC-FC Title IV-E /Federal Cash & Medi-Cal: Covers NMDs, age 18 but under age 21, under AB 12 on whose behalf federal AFDC-FC financial assistance is provided for foster care placement.

**Medi-Cal Eligibility Requirement:** Medi-Cal is automatic upon the determination of eligibility for the Title IV-E payment.

**03** Adoption Assistance Program (AAP) Title IV E Federal: A cash grant program to

**07** Adoption Assistance Program (AAP) Title IV-E Federal Cash and Medi-Cal: A cash grant program to facilitate the

facilitate the adoption of hard-to-place children under age 18 and those up to age 21 based on a disability, who would require permanent foster care placement without such assistance.

ongoing adoptive placement of hard-to-place non-minors, whose initial AAP payment occurred on or after age 16 and are over age 18, but under age 21, who would require permanent foster care placement without such assistance.

**Medi-Cal Requirement:** Medi-Cal is automatic with the determination of eligibility for the IV-E payment.

**4T** Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program (KinGAP) Federal: Serves former and current foster youth by moving them from foster care placements to more permanent placement options through the establishment of a relative guardianship.

**4S** KinGAP Title IV-E Federal Cash and Medi-Cal: Serves former and current foster care NMDs, over age 18, but under age 21, by moving them from foster care placements to more permanent placement options through the establishment of a relative guardianship that occurred on or after age 16. (Also "includes youth age 18, but under age 21 based on a disability".)

**Medi-Cal Eligibility Requirement:** Medi-Cal is automatic upon the determination of eligibility for the Title IV-E payment.

**4G** Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program (KinGAP) Cash Assistance. Covers non-Title IV-E children/non-TANF MOE countable in the state program for children in relative guardian placement receiving cash assistance.

**4W** KinGAP State Cash Aid/FFP Medi-Cal after full Medi-Cal determination: Covers NMDs, age 18, but under age 21, eligible for extended KinGAP assistance based on a disability or based on the establishment of the guardianship that occurred on or after age 16.

**Medi-Cal Eligibility Requirement:** Must have full Medi-Cal eligibility determination completed.

All former aid codes will remain intact for the FC population under age 18.

**Alerts**

Case management oversight will be handled at the county level or within the consortium system programming. MEDS will continue to send the annual redetermination alert notice and an alert prior to the youth turning age 21.

If you have any questions or if we can provide further information, please contact Stephanie Hockman at (916) 319-9356 or by email at [Stephanie.hockman@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:Stephanie.hockman@dhcs.ca.gov) or contact Rose Pankratz at (916) 327-0422 or by email at [rose.pankratz@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:rose.pankratz@dhcs.ca.gov).

Original Signed By

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