



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



DATE October 28, 2019

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS Letter No: 19-22
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: RESOURCE FAMILY APPROVAL PROGRAM LINKED MEDI-CAL UNDER
NEW AID CODE 5L

The purpose of this All County Welfare Directors Letter (ACWDL) is to establish Medi-Cal policy instruction for a child who is eligible for the newly created aid code 5L when a Resource Family Approval (RFA) application is pending, and the child does not meet eligibility requirements for the federal Emergency Assistance Foster Care program, aid code 5K. Additional instructions are also provided for when a child must be moved to a different aid code due to a loss of eligibility under aid code 5L.

Background:

The California Department of Social Services administers the RFA Program. On or after July 1, 2019, a placement of a child with an emergency caregiver is made in California on an emergency basis pursuant to Welfare and Institution Code (WIC), Sections 309 or 361.45, or for a compelling reason pursuant to WIC 16519.5. Aid code 5L is intended for a child/youth at the time of their initial placement with an emergency caregiver, for the period of time when their emergency caregiver's RFA application is pending. Under aid code 5L, children, youth, and Non-Minor Dependents are entitled to full scope Medi-Cal coverage with no Share of Cost up to age 21 if they do not meet eligibility requirements for the federal Emergency Assistance Foster Care program, aid code 5K. For emergency caregivers currently awaiting approval of their RFA application pursuant to SB 80, under WIC 11461.36, the case shall continue to be eligible under aid code 5L for up to 120 days, and potentially up to 365 days if certain good cause criteria are met.

County Worker Action:

- When a RFA application is approved, the beneficiary should be moved into the appropriate Foster Care (FC) or Extended FC aid code.

- When a caretaker's RFA application is denied at any point in the 120 or 365 day process, and:
 - the child is under 18 years of age, the County Eligibility Worker (CEW) must place the child in an appropriate FC Medi-Cal aid code unless the child is placed with another relative that requires an RFA application, in which case an eligibility determination can be completed to see if they are eligible to stay in 5L.
 - the child is 18 years of age or older, an eligibility determination should be completed for the extended FC or Former Foster Youth (FFY) programs, unless the child is placed with another relative which requires an RFA application, in which case an eligibility determination can be completed to see if they are eligible to stay in 5L. See ACWDLs [12-03](#), [12-03E](#), [14-41](#) and [14-41E](#) for guidance regarding Non-Minor Dependents and FFY programs, respectively.
 - Note: When a child turns 21 years of age during the 120-day or 365-day process, 5L should be terminated and an eligibility determination should be completed for the FFY program.
- When the RFA is still pending or denied after 365 days, and:
 - the child is under 18, the CEW must place the child in an appropriate FC Medi-Cal aid code.
 - the child is 18 years of age or older, but under age 21, an eligibility determination should be completed for the extended FC or FFY programs.

For more information about the RFA Program, please follow the link below:
<http://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/Resource-Family-Approval-Program>

Statewide Automated Welfare System (SAWS) Programming:

Aid code 5L is already programmed and active in Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System. The SAWS shall make programming changes to add aid code 5L in the next available SAWS release.

If you have any questions regarding Medi-Cal linked to the RFA program, or if we can provide further information, please contact Dee Paull, by phone at (916) 345-8093 or by email at Dee.Paull@dhcs.ca.gov.

Original Signed By

Sandra Williams, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Division