

# Determination of Adoption Assistance Program (AAP) Benefits

<b>Child's Special Needs</b>	<b>Benefit Conditions and Next Steps</b>	<b>Benefit</b>
<p>Child has special needs that qualify him/her for a SCI rate</p>	<p>Describe each special need and the underlying problem or condition in the child's Health and Education Notebook.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SCI Rates must have been approved in the last six (6) months for the rate to continue.</li> <li>▪ In these cases, ARA approval is not needed.</li> </ul>	<p>Include the combined foster care maintenance payment and any applicable SCI rate in the AAP benefit.</p> <p>If the child is already receiving a SCI Rate, the AAP benefit will be the same as what the child is already receiving in foster care.</p>
<p>Child is a client of a California Regional Center</p>	<p>If a child is not residing in a Regional Center vendorized home and the adoptive parent(s) are requesting a dual agency rate, request verification of the child's Regional Center eligibility and the effective date of that eligibility.</p> <p>Verification may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ An approval letter</li> <li>▪ Verification letter from the Regional Center</li> <li>▪ A copy of the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP), Individual Program Plan (IPP)</li> <li>▪ A copy of the Client Development and Evaluation Report (CDER).</li> </ul> <p>Prior to requesting a Regional Center Rate, CSW shall ensure that a child's receipt of Regional Center Services is documented on CWS/CMS in the child's Health Notebook.</p>	<p>Base the rate on the dual agency rate and any supplement to that rate, if applicable.</p> <p>If a child is residing in a Regional Center vendorized home, AAP benefits must be equal to the rate that the home was receiving prior to the adoptive placement.</p> <p>If the adoptive parent(s) leave California and the Alternative Residential Model (ARM) rates apply, they are eligible to continue receiving AAP benefits based on the ARM rate.</p>

Child is placed for adoption within Los Angeles County		
<p>Child is placed for adoption:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In California, but outside of Los Angeles County</li> <li>▪ Outside of California</li> <li>▪ Outside of the United States</li> </ul>	<p>Base the AAP benefit on the child's combined foster care maintenance payments, any SCI or dual agency rate, and any supplement to that rate, if applicable.</p> <p>The AAP benefit cannot exceed the combined foster care maintenance payment and any SCI rate that the child received while placed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ For a child out-of-state, request that the Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance (ICAMA) forms are completed on the DCFS 280, Technical Assistance Action Request and indicate the family's residence.</li> </ul>	<p>The AAP benefit is based on the foster care maintenance payment, not to exceed the applicable foster care maintenance rate of Los Angeles County, that of the host county or state, whichever is higher, for which the child would otherwise be eligible.</p>
Child has been relinquished and will be placed with an unattached family	Information about the child's eligibility for AAP benefits and the AAP benefit, if the child has special needs, should already be approved by the ARA and presented to the prospective adoptive family during the presentation.	
Child is temporarily living away from the adoptive home, and the AAP benefit is not authorized for an out-of-home placement	The child is considered to be residing in the adoptive home where the eligibility requirements continue to be met.	

## Reassessment Needed due to a Request Change in AAP Benefit Amount

If the adoptive parent(s) request an increase in the AAP benefit, the APRD CSW must adhere to all the applicable steps above as well as the following, as applicable:

Reason for Request for Increase in AAP Benefit Amount	Steps to Take/Rate
Adoptive parent(s)' request an increase (General / Non-Specified).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ask the family to provide documentation of the child's special needs to justify the increase.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Documentation must include reports by a licensed medical professional.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
The child is a Regional Center client.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Base the AAP benefit on the <a href="#">dual agency rate</a> and any applicable supplement to the rate.</li> </ul>
The request is for an age-related increase.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ensure that the adoptive parent request the age-related increase by calling the AAP Hotline (800) 697-4444.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Adoptive Placement Agreements signed prior to 1/1/2010 are eligible for an age related increase when the child turns five (5), nine (9), twelve (12), and fifteen (15) years old.</li> <li>▪ Adoptive Placement Agreements signed on or after 1/1/2010 are not eligible for age-related increases.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

If there is a change in payee, the APRD CSW must take the following steps, as applicable:

Reason for Change in Payee	APRD Required Actions
Adoptive parents have separated and one (1) parent is requesting a change in payee.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Request that the parent provide the dissolution decree document, showing his/her legal custody of the child.</li> </ul>
One (1) adoptive parent has died, and the other is requesting a change in payee.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Request that the parent obtain and provides a certified copy of the spouse's death certificate.</li> </ul>