



## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **AB 110 Interim Funding for Caregivers**

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**Background:** As of March 30, 2018, California families completing the resource family approval (RFA) process who have already accepted placement of a child in foster care will receive temporary funding. This funding is available in response to the plight of thousands of caregivers who struggled to complete RFA while simultaneously caring for a child in foster care without full foster care funding. Assembly Bill (AB) 110 demonstrates a clear commitment by California lawmakers and advocates to meeting the needs of children in foster care. We prepared the below questions and answers about AB 110 and what it means for families.

#### **Q: What does AB 110 do?**

A: AB 110 provides short-term funding for the period of March 30, 2018 through June 30, 2018, for families who accept or have already accepted placement of a child in foster care before being approved as a resource family, if the family has completed and submitted a Resource Family Approval (RFA) application. AB 110 funding is not available prior to March 30, 2018, even if the placement occurred before that date. In addition, funding is not retroactive back to March 30 if the RFA application was submitted after that date and/or if placement occurred after March 30.

The foster care payment will take the place of the AB 110 funding if a family is approved between March 30, 2018, and June 30, 2018.

**Q: When will AB 110 funding be available to families who are currently caring for a child placed in their home while going through the Resource Family Approval process?**

The effective date of funding is as follows:

- March 30, 2018, for those individuals who took placement AND submitted an RFA application prior to March 30, 2018.
- For those who accepted placement and/or submitted their RFA application after March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the payment is effective as of the date that the RFA application is submitted.

**Q: Does AB 110 provide funding back to the time the child was placed in a home prior to Resource Family Approval?**

A: No. Funding is available as of March 30, 2018. No funding is available for the period between the date of placement and March 30, 2018, if the placement occurred prior to March 30, 2018. **In other words, there is no retroactive payment back to the date of placement to cover the time that a child was placed in an emergency caregiver's home before enactment of AB 110.** For example, if a child was placed in the home of a caregiver in January 2017, there is no back payment for the period between January 2017 and March 30, 2018.

**Q: When will I receive the AB 110 funding?**

A: Each county has its own process to release AB 110 funding to caregivers. The county process for distributing the funds will determine when any individual family will receive their initial payment.

**Q: Why is the AB 110 funding only available through June 30, 2018?**

A: AB 110 passed as an urgent 2017-18 fiscal year budget bill and therefore funding expires on June 30, 2018 with the end of the fiscal year. The legislature and statewide agencies and advocates are working to craft a longer-term solution to provide support to families from the time of placement beyond June 30, 2018.

**Q: How much is the monthly payment?**

A: The AB 110 payment to emergency caregivers will be equivalent to the resource family basic level rate of \$923 per month.

**Q: Can caregivers who receive funding under AB 110 receive a specialized care increment?**

A: No. Funding is limited to the Level of Care basic rate, which is \$923 per month.

**Q: What paperwork do I need to complete in order to receive the AB 110 funding?**

A: Caregivers must have completed an [RFA application](#). Relatives caring for a non-federally eligible child must also sign the Approved Relative Care (ARC) application in order to receive AB 110 funding. The child's eligibility worker will determine your child's eligibility for federal funding and you will be provided the ARC application, if necessary.

Caregivers do not need to complete or sign the EA application. The county worker will complete and sign the EA application.

AB 110 funding cannot be initiated until an RFA application is submitted, which means that if a child is placed in your home prior to March 30, 2018 but you have not yet completed an RFA application, you will only receive funding from the day an RFA application is completed through June 30, 2018.

**Q: What is the Emergency Assistance Program?**

A: California's Emergency Assistance Program (EA) provides short-term assistance for up to 12 months to caregivers who accept emergency placement of a child. EA is available for children who are federally eligible and placed with a relative on an emergency basis or for a child placed with a non-relative regardless of the child's federal eligibility. A county worker will determine the child's federal eligibility based on the timing of the removal petition and the income and resources of the home where the child was removed.

**Q: What is the Approved Relative Caregiver program?**

A: The Approved Relative Caregiver (ARC) Program provides financial support equal to a foster care payment to those relatives caring for children who are not federally eligible. Again, the child's federal eligibility should be determined by a county worker. Relatives caring for a non-federally eligible child should be provided a copy of the ARC application at the time of placement.

**Q: Is it possible that I would not be eligible for Emergency Assistance or Approved Relative Caregiver programs and still be eligible for AB 110 funding?**

No. EA and ARC are simply the funding streams that support the AB 110 funding. The only conditions required to receive AB 110 funding are as follows:

- The caregiver is caring for a child or nonminor placed in the home as an emergency placement or based on a compelling reason;
- The emergency caregiver has a pending Resource Family Approval (RFA) application filed with the appropriate agency;
- The child or nonminor is not otherwise eligible for a foster care payment (this criteria is met when the home has not yet been approved as a resource family);
- The child or non-minor is placed in California.

As long as these criteria are satisfied, the caregiver is eligible to receive AB 110 funding back to either March 30, 2018, or the date that the four conditions are met (if the four conditions are not satisfied prior to March 30).

**Q: Does this interim funding apply to non-relatives?**

A: Yes, the AB 110 funding is available to both relatives and non-relatives who accept placement of a child in their home prior to resource family approval. Anyone who had placement of a child prior to approval and has submitted a resource family approval application as of March 30, 2018, will receive funding for that placement as of March 30, 2018, and through approval or June 30, 2018, whichever occurs first.

**Q: How long will emergency caregivers receive AB 110 funding?**

A: AB 110 funding expires on June 30, 2018, at the end of the current Fiscal Year. Foster care funding should replace the AB 110 funding if a caregiver is approved as a resource family by June 30, 2018. If the RFA application is still pending on June 30, 2018, the funding will terminate unless the state legislature has enacted a longer-term solution before then.

**Q: Will relatives and non-related extended family members receive the same AB 110 funding?**

A: Yes. Both relatives and non-relatives receive funding equal to the resource family basic rate of \$923 per month for the period of March 30, 2018, through June 30, 2018, under AB 110.