

INFORMATION FOR APPROVED CAREGIVERS

If you are an approved relative caregiver of a foster child, or want to become one, you may be eligible to receive funds under a new program. This program is called the Approved Relative Caregiver (ARC) Program.¹ Under this program, an approved relative caregiver with whom an eligible child is placed will be able to receive a payment equal to the basic foster care rate.

Participating in the ARC program is optional for counties. Talk to your social worker or contact your local child welfare office to find out if your county is participating in the ARC program.

¹ SB 855 added ARC Funding Option Program provisions to Section 11461.3 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

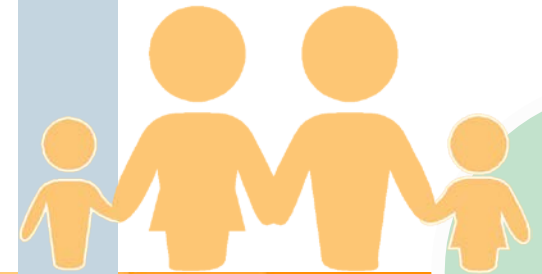
State of California
Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Social Services



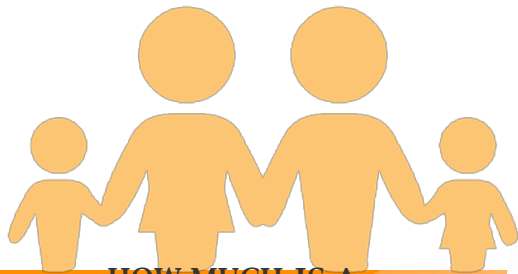
CONTACT YOUR LOCAL OFFICE:

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APPROVED RELATIVE CAREGIVERS FUNDING OPTION PROGRAM



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HOW MUCH IS A PER-CHILD, PER-MONTH ARC PAYMENT?

The payment is the same as the basic foster care rate. Due to cost-of-living increases, this rate can vary from year to year. For 2014, the basic foster care rate is as follows:

- **Birth to four years of age: \$671**
- **Five to eight years of age: \$726**
- **Nine to 11 years of age: \$764**
- **Twelve to 14 years of age: \$800**
- **Fifteen to 20 years of age: \$838**

If you are already receiving this amount or more, this program will not provide additional funds to you.

MEDI-CAL ELIGIBILITY?

Yes, a child is eligible for Medi-CAL under the ARC Program.

HOW DOES A CHILD QUALIFY FOR THIS PROGRAM?

A child must meet all the following criteria:

- Be a dependent or ward of the California juvenile court, or be placed under a voluntary placement agreement.
- Reside in California and be placed with an approved relative caregiver.
- Be ineligible for federally funded foster care benefits (your eligibility worker may be able to help you determine this).

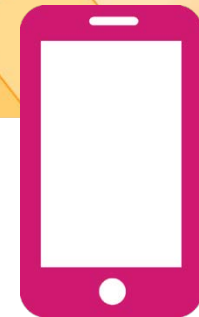
In addition, an ARC Program Application must be completed for each child, even if the child is already receiving CalWORKs. Please contact the child's social worker for more information.

HOW DO RELATIVE CAREGIVERS QUALIFY FOR THE PROGRAM?

To qualify for participation in the ARC Funding Option Program, relative caregivers must reside in California and be "approved" by the county.

SO ...WHAT DO I DO NOW?

For more information, talk to your social worker or contact your local child welfare office.



CONTACT YOUR LOCAL OFFICE:

