



# CARE AND SUPERVISION AND CREATING A KIN-FIRST CULTURE

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## HOW THE TIERED RATE STRUCTURE IS CONSISTENT WITH CALIFORNIA'S VISION FOR CHILD WELFARE

- The tiered rate structure aims to advance equity in California's Child Welfare system by:
  - Strengthening our kin-first approach;
  - Keeping families together; and
  - Putting services in place based on the child's CANS assessment and needs, not based on their placement via a County or Foster Family Agency or within a Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program.



# Kinship Caregiver Needs

- Support Groups
- **Peer** Mentor/Navigator
- Strengths Building & Maintenance Navigator
- Respite
- Regional Center Navigation Support
- Resource Parent Handbook with all Updated **State** & Local Policies, Benefits, Resources
- Family Urgent Response System
- Child Care Bridge Program
- Child Specific Training (Foster & Kinship Care Education, Foster Parent College, etc.)
- Tangible Needs Access (foster care closet, Care Portal)





# Regional Center Navigation & Information

Dual-agency rates for children & youth in foster care who are also regional center clients will continue to co-exist alongside the new tiered rate structure.

It is essential that both county and FFA social workers, as well as caregivers, clearly understand the entitlement of receiving the dual agency rate, and the statewide supplemental rate to the dual agency rate, to ensure that children and youth receive the appropriate level of funding and support.



# Caregiver Listening Session Discussion

1. What do you like about the new Foster Care Tiered Rate System?
2. What are barriers to enrolling and supporting youth in extra-curricular activities?
3. What is needed to ensure that caregivers understand how their child was assigned a tier in the new Foster Care Tiered Rate Structure?
4. What is needed to ensure that caregivers understand Due Process in the new Foster Care Tiered Rate Structure? How should they receive that information?
5. What information does a caregiver need regarding the CANS assessment results and assigned Foster Care Tier? How should they receive the information?
6. What information does a caregiver need in order to appeal a Foster Care Rate Tier that they believe is incorrect or doesn't meet the child's needs? How should they receive the information?
7. What types of immediate needs support/services are needed and most effective to support and stabilize youth?



# Caregiver Feedback

1. Caregivers like that the TRS is “thinking outside of the box,” has a separate administrator for activity funds, flexible/more behavioral health options, and increased funding for care and supervision.
2. Barriers to extra-curricular activities include: transportation, coordinating activities for multiple siblings, finding appropriate activities in communities, and extra support needed for ages 2-6.
3. To ensure that caregivers understand how their child was assigned a tier in the new Foster Care Tiered Rate Structure caregivers need transparency, communication, training, website/portal with FAQ’s, printed handbook/materials, and video instructions.
4. Caregivers need detailed summary of the CANS assessment results, verbal and written training, hard and soft copy of results, and specific examples of a youth’s needs and challenges.

