

September 26, 2025

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CHILD CARE BULLETIN (CCB) NO. 25-24

The purpose of this Child Care Bulletin (CCB) is to notify counties and child care and development contractors of the continuation of reimbursement based on enrollment and maximum authorized need provisions through June 30th, 2026, pursuant to Senate Bill (SB) 120, (Chapter 13, Statutes of 2025).



JENNIFER TROIA
DIRECTOR

CALIFORNIA HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • www.cdss.ca.gov



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September 26, 2025

CHILD CARE BULLETIN (CCB) NO. 25-24

GUIDANCE TYPE: **DIRECTIVE**

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY CHILD CARE COORDINATORS
ALL CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT CONTRACTORS

SUBJECT: CONTINUATION OF CHILD CARE REIMBURSEMENT BASED ON
ENROLLMENT AND MAXIMUM AUTHORIZED NEED FOR CHILD
CARE AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY
THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES (CDSS)

APPLICABLE
PROGRAMS: CALIFORNIA ALTERNATIVE PAYMENT PROGRAMS (CAPP);
MIGRANT ALTERNATIVE PAYMENT PROGRAMS (CMAP);
CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO
KIDS (CALWORKS) STAGES ONE, TWO (C2AP), AND THREE
(C3AP);
THE EMERGENCY CHILD CARE BRIDGE PROGRAM FOR
FOSTER CHILDREN (BRIDGE PROGRAM);
GENERAL CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
(CCTR);
FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME EDUCATION NETWORKS (CFCC);
MIGRANT CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
(CMIG);
CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN
WITH SPECIAL NEEDS (CHAN)

REFERENCE: [SENATE BILL \(SB\) 140 \(CHAPTER 193, STATUTES OF 2023\); SB 120 \(CHAPTER 13, STATUTES OF 2025\);](#)
[WELFARE INSTITUTION CODE \(WIC\) 10227.5; WIC 10280](#)

Purpose

The purpose of this Child Care Bulletin (CCB) is to guide counties and child care and development contractors regarding the continuation of the policy to reimburse for care in voucher programs based on a child's maximum authorized need rather than attendance, and to reimburse for care in center-based programs based on 100% of the contract maximum reimbursable amount or net reimbursable program costs, whichever is less, through June 30, 2026, pursuant to [SB 120](#). These reimbursement practices are sometimes referred to as "hold harmless" policies.

Background

Since July 1, 2020, centers as well, as family child care providers serving families in voucher-based programs on a variable schedule, and license-exempt family child care providers serving families on a part-time schedule, have been reimbursed based on the maximum authorized hours of care instead of attendance. This policy applied to center-based care and both licensed and license-exempt family child care homes reimbursed using vouchers through the CalWORKs Stage One, C2AP, C3AP, CAPP, CFCC, CMAP and Bridge Programs.

Since July 1, 2020, direct service contractors have been reimbursed at 100% of their contracts maximum reimbursable amount or net reimbursable program costs, whichever is less. Direct service contractors are those with CCTR, CMIG, and CHAN contracts.

In September 2023, these statutory reimbursement policies were extended through June 30, 2025, in accordance with [SB 140](#) and, for family child care providers, the Memorandum of Understanding between the Child Care Providers' United (CCPU and CDSS. On June 27, 2025, [SB 120](#) amended Welfare and Institutions Code Sections 10227.5 and 10280 to extend these hold harmless policies through June 30, 2026.

Guidance

Effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, pursuant to [SB 120](#) payment based on enrollment and reimbursement based on the maximum authorized need is extended according to the following:

For voucher-based providers:

Licensed and license-exempt child care providers receiving vouchers through CalWORKs Stage One, C2AP or C3AP, CAPP, CFCC, CMAP, or the Bridge Program who are open and available to provide services shall continue to be reimbursed based on families' maximum authorized hours of care as follows:

- Providers, including license-exempt providers, shall be reimbursed based on the maximum authorized hours of care, regardless of attendance.

- For families certified for a variable schedule, providers shall be reimbursed based on the maximum authorized hours of care.
- For license-exempt providers who provide part-time services, providers shall be reimbursed based on the maximum authorized hours of care.

For direct service contractors:

The CMIG, CCTR, or CHAN contractors that are open, remain open and provide services to certified children throughout the year in accordance with their approved program calendar shall be reimbursed 100% of the contract maximum reimbursable amount or net reimbursable program cost, whichever is less. Contractors who are not open and do not operate in accordance with their approved program calendar to serve certified children may not be eligible for the reimbursement provisions in [SB 120](#).

The CMIG or CCTR contractors utilizing a Family Child Care Home Education Network service delivery model shall continue to pay providers who are open and available to provide services based upon a family's certified need as follows:

- Providers shall be reimbursed based on the maximum authorized hours of care, regardless of attendance.
- For families certified for a variable schedule, providers shall be reimbursed based on the maximum authorized hours of care.

If you have any questions or need additional guidance regarding the information in this letter, please contact your Program Quality and Improvement Consultant or CalWORKs Stage One Child Care analyst. Please access their contact information on the [Child Care and Development Division contact webpage](#).

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By

LUPE JAIME-MILEHAM, EdD
Deputy Director
Child Care and Development Division