

December 03, 2020

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**COUNTY FISCAL LETTER NO. 20/21-46**

The purpose of this County Fiscal Letter (CFL) is to provide comprehensive claiming instructions for counties to implement the Mobile Response Team as mandated by the Family Urgent Response System (FURS) as required by [SB 80](#) and amended by [AB 79](#).



KIM JOHNSON  
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**  
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GAVIN NEWSOM  
GOVERNOR

December 03, 2020

COUNTY FISCAL LETTER NO. 20/21-46

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS  
ALL INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM MANAGERS  
ALL INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM COORDINATORS  
ALL FOSTER CARE MANAGERS  
ALL TITLE IV-E AGREEMENT TRIBES  
ALL TRANSITIONAL HOUSING COORDINATORS  
ALL COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: CLAIMING INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE FAMILY URGENT RESPONSE SYSTEM (FURS) FOR CURRENT AND FORMER FOSTER CAREGIVERS AND CHILDREN OR YOUTH

REFERENCE: [SENATE BILL \(SB\) 80 \(CHAPTER 5.4, STATUTES OF 2019\)](#); [ASSEMBLY BILL \(AB\) 79, \(CHAPTER 11, STATUTES OF 2020\)](#); [ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 20-89](#), DATED AUGUST 6, 2020

The purpose of this County Fiscal Letter (CFL) is to provide counties with claiming instructions for the Family Urgent Response System (FURS) established by Senate Bill (SB) 80 and amended by Assembly Bill (AB) 79.

### **BACKGROUND**

In 2019, California established the FURS program through the enactment of SB 80, and as amended by AB 79, by adding [Welfare and Institutions Code \(W&I\) sections 16526 through 16530](#). The FURS is a coordinated statewide, regional, and county-level system designed to provide collaborative and timely state-level phone-based response, as well as county-level in-home, in-person mobile response during situations of instability for purposes of preserving the relationship of the caregiver and the child or youth. The FURS is intended to provide support to current and formal foster youth as well as their caregivers. The FURS also requires county child welfare, probation and behavioral health agencies to establish a joint county-based mobile response system, including a stabilization team to provide in-person support, as needed. The FURS builds upon the Continuum of Care Reform and the state's recent System of Care

development in order to provide current and former foster youth and their caregivers with immediate, trauma-informed support when needed.

Though [ACL No. 20-89](#) states FURS implementation begins January 1, 2021, the process of implementation was interrupted by urgent attention to the statewide response to COVID-19. Due to these factors, the CDSS will be implementing the statewide hotline on March 1, 2021, as opposed to January 1, 2021. State law expects mobile services to be implemented on March 1, 2021, unless an extension request is submitted and approved following the guidance in ACL No. 20-89, as long as approvals are in place from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The state statutory requirement for all county mobile response systems to be implemented by July 1, 2021, remains, but if federal approval has not been received from CMS, then county specialty mental health services via mobile response would be voluntary until approval is in place. Note that counties seeking a delay are still responsible for implementing an interim process to accept and respond to referrals from the state hotline. Please see [ACL No. 20-89](#) for more detailed information on FURS.

### **CLAIMING INSTRUCTIONS**

Effective with the September 2020 quarter, the following Program Codes (PCs) have been established for County Welfare Departments (CWDs) to claim FURS associated administrative costs.

- 985 (FURS Protocol and Development)
- 994 (FURS Mobile Response)
- 986 (SUO FURS Overmatch)

The PC 985 (FURS Protocol and Development) is used to claim time spent on the development and administration of the FURS program. The PC 994 (FURS Mobile Response) is also provided for caseworkers to claim allowable time and costs for participating on the FURS mobile response team. Counties may collaborate with other counties to create regional, cross-county mobile response teams. Further information regarding the implementation of a county regional approach can be found in [ACL No. 20-89](#).

The FURS allocation is tracked to Ledger 188 – Family Urgent Response System. Costs exceeding each county's GF allocation are shifted to county share. At year-end, a closeout process based on FY 2020-21 final expenditures compares each county's allocation against their expenditures. County-specific surplus balances are redistributed to counties with deficit balances in order to reduce the county-only portion of the nonfederal share of costs and maximize the use of GF dollars. Please refer to

Attachment I of this letter for more detailed claiming and time study instructions as well as Program Code Descriptions for the above PCs.

Although CWDs are the recipients of the FURS state allocation, the law requires child welfare, probation departments, and county behavioral/mental health agencies to jointly develop plans and implement local mobile response teams. As such, CWDs are encouraged to allocate resources locally that align with their local plans. Additionally, counties should reference [CFL No. 14/15-29](#), for probation departments, and [ACL No. 04-32](#), for other public agencies, regarding establishing a Memorandum Of Understanding needed for the pass-through of any Title IV-E funds to the extent that FURS activities are eligible for Title IV-E reimbursement.

To the extent that implementation of FURS has an overall effect of increasing certain costs already borne by a local agency for programs or levels of service mandated by the 2011 Realignment Legislation within the meaning of Section 36 of Article XIII of the California Constitution, it shall apply to local agencies only to the extent that the state provides annual funding for the cost increase. Any new program or higher level of service provided by a local agency for FURS implementation above the level for which funding has been provided shall not require a subvention of funds by the state or otherwise be subject to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.

#### **Title IV-E Discount Rate**

As described in [CFL No. 15/16-46](#) and updated in [CFL No. 18/19-81](#), the Title IV-E discount rate will be applied to PC 985 (FURS Protocol and Development) via PC 994 (FURS Mobile Response).

Questions regarding the FURS Program should be directed to the Placement Services and Support Unit, at (916) 657-1858, or by emailing [FURS@dss.ca.gov](mailto:FURS@dss.ca.gov). Questions regarding this CFL should be directed to [fiscal.systems@dss.ca.gov](mailto:fiscal.systems@dss.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

#### ***Original Document Signed By***

Salena Chow, Branch Chief  
Fiscal Forecasting and Policy Branch  
Administration Division

Attachment

### Claiming Attachment

The following Program Codes (PCs), Time Study Codes (TSCs), Program Identifier Numbers (PINs) and Direct-To-Program (DTPs) codes have been established for counties to claim costs for the FURS program. The FURS allocation is tracked to Ledger 188 – Family Urgent Response System. Costs exceeding each county’s GF allocation are shifted to county share. At year-end, a closeout process based on FY 2020-21 final expenditures compares each county’s allocation against their expenditures. County-specific surplus balances are redistributed to counties with deficit balances in order to reduce the county-only portion of the nonfederal share of costs and the maximization of GF dollars.

#### **FURS Protocol and Development**

County Welfare Departments (CWDs) should claim the costs associated with the administrative activities related to the start-up and implementation of the FURS program to PC 985 (FURS Protocol and Development).

PC	985	FURS Protocol and Development
TSC	9851	FURS Protocol and Development
PIN	985031	Contracted Activities
PIN	985068	Direct Costs - Unemployed
PIN	985088-91	Support Operating*
PIN	985092	Casework OT/CTO Costs
PIN	985093	Support Staff – OT/CTO Costs
PIN	985094	Startup/ Nonrecurring Costs
DTP	A95	FURS Mobile Response

The sharing ratio for PC 985 is 50/50/00/00 (Fed/State/Health/County).

\*Per [CFL No. 00/01-78](#), dated May 21, 2001, counties must have a Letter of Intent on file with CDSS to use Support/Operating PIN codes (88-91).

The Title IV-E discount rate will be applied to PC 985 (FURS Protocol and Development) via PC 994 (FURS Mobile Response). Costs exceeding the FURS general fund allocation will be shifted to PC 986 (SUO FURS Overmatch), funded at 100 percent county funds.

#### **Time Study Instructions**

Effective with the September 2020 quarter, counties should time study eligible activities to TSC 9851 (FURS Protocol and Development). As a reminder, there will be no retroactive time study claiming prior to the effective date of this letter. Any eligible direct-to-program support staff time will be reported to Direct-to-Program (DTP) Code A95.

**TSC 9851 (FURS Protocol and Development)**

*Includes time spent on FURS protocol and development. The administrative activities include, but are not limited to:*

- *Developing and implementing the single, coordinated plan for administering policies, protocols, procedures and provisions of the mobile response team.*
- *Establishing protocols for training requirements and in-person response.*
- *Developing and implementing policies for completing data reporting requirements.*

**FURS Mobile Response**

Counties should claim costs associated with the administrative activities related to the FURS mobile response team to PC 994 (FURS Mobile Response).

<b>PC</b>	<b>994</b>	<b>FURS Mobile Response</b>
TSC	9941	FURS Mobile Response
PIN	994031	Contracted Activities
PIN	994068	Direct Costs - Unemployed
PIN	994088-91	Support Operating*
PIN	994092	Casework OT/CTO Costs
PIN	994093	Support Staff – OT/CTO Costs
PIN	994094	Startup/ Nonrecurring Costs
DTP	A95	FURS Mobile Response

The sharing ratio for PC 994 is 00/100/00/00 (Fed/State/Health/County).

\*Per [CFL No. 00/01-78](#), dated May 21, 2001, counties must have a Letter of Intent on file with CDSS to use Support/Operating PIN codes (88-91).

**Time Study Instructions**

Effective with the September 2020 quarter, the county should time study eligible activities to TSC 9941 (FURS Mobile Response). As a reminder, there will be no retroactive time study claiming prior to the effective date of this letter. Any eligible direct-to-program support staff time will be reported to Direct-to-Program (DTP) Code A95.

**TSC 9941 FURS Mobile Response**

*Includes caseworker time spent on the FURS Mobile Response. The FURS Mobile Response activities include, but are not limited to:*

- *Providing in-home de-escalation, stabilization, and support services and supports.*

- *Coaching and working with the caregiver and the child or youth in order to preserve the family unit and maintain the current living situation.*
- *Connecting with community organizations, peer partners, and other individuals necessary for the mobile response team to respond to the crisis or episode of need.*
- *Training staff for the Mobile Response Team.*
- *Follow up with the youth and family after the initial response.*

Costs exceeding the FURS general fund allocation will be shifted to PC 986 (SUO FURS Overmatch), funded at 100 percent county funds. Expenditures for FURS training will include people employed or preparing for employment in all classes of positions for the FURS Mobile Response Team and the training will not qualify for Title IV-E reimbursement.