




CONTINUUM OF CARE REFORM

Level of Care Rates Protocol

Pp C1




LOC Context

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- Designed to help CWS and Probation staff to organize the information about the child/youth and provides a way to document input from Resource Families.
- Builds on the existing SW/PO comprehensive assessment process
- Tool developed by small workgroup

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The Level of Care Rates Protocol

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- Standardizes levels of care based on 5 domains that are common to several assessment tools
- Supports a consistent application of the new rate structure
- Sets strength-based expectations for resource parents for meeting the care and supervision needs of the child/youth
- A matrix & scoring sheet, to be used by the case carrying SW/Probation Officer & considers all available information (i.e. CFTs, MH, existing County assessment tools, court reports, etc.)

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Use of LOC

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- At initial entry into care (will have up to 60 days to complete to align with the CFT meeting, final rate will be retro to date of placement)
- *Some* placement changes (e.g. when moving to FFA age-based rate, FFH to another, stepping down from ISFC or STRTP, etc.)
- When a child/youth's care and supervision needs have changed.

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The LOC Domains

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LOC rate protocol tool is based on 5 core domains:

1. Physical
2. Behavioral/Emotional
3. Educational
4. Health
5. Permanency/Family Services

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Physical Domain

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Physical Domain is defined as actions in which the Resource Family must engage to meet the child's individual daily living needs, such as food, clothing, shelter, hygiene, community, social functioning and extracurricular activities including teaching age appropriate life skills even when developmental delays are present. (Does not include specific medical activities
(see health domain)

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Behavioral/Emotional Domain

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Behavioral/Emotional domain is defined as actions in which the RF must engage to promote resilience and emotional well-being for the child/youth, as well as encourages the child/youth to engage in prosocial behavior and activities developing health relationship. (excludes medication management for psychotropic meds-see health domain)

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Education Domain

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Education domain is defined as actions in which the RF must engage to promote student achievement, foster educational excellence and equal access to services and when required, responds to suspensions and/or expulsions. School-aged youth includes any child/youth who are attending and participating in early childhood educational programs through adult programs.

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Health Domain

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Health domain defined as actions in which the RF must engage to promote the child's health by arranging and facilitating health care (i.e. CHDP wellness check, medical, dental, vision) medication administration and/or monitoring and ensuring access to services that address any special health care needs.

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Permanency & Family Domain

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Permanency/Family Services is defined as actions in which the RF must engage to promote and facilitate visitation, communication and the identification, development and maintenance of lifelong, support connections with members of the bio and non-bio families & natural support systems; also include efforts to connect the youth with their community of origin including connections with resources, cultural organizations, faith communities, and any other group or organization which promotes a sense of belonging identity & connection to culture.

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Static Criteria Factors

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- Static Criteria established factors that may influence ability to identify a home-based placement (includes high-needs youth factors, specialty populations i.e. CSEC and Dual Status) for children/youth with higher needs for care and supervision. These children/youth may be served with the ISFC rate whose care needs meet specified criteria:
 - Static factors must have occurred within the preceding 12 months
 - ISFC rate will last up to 60 days pending completion of an initial/updated LOC rate determination
 - A second 60 day rate may be granted

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Current Policies - LOC

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- Leveling Up
- Implementation Dates and Rates
- Triggering Events
- Static Criteria/ISFC

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Resource Family Tool

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- Also developed by the Small County workgroup to be used with the Resource Parents as an engagement tool.
- May assist Resource Family with identifying service needs for the child/youth or their own need for additional training to meet the needs of the child
- Ability to identify and communicate how much care and time they are committing to the child based on the Matrix in the Domains.

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All County Letters

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- ACL 16-79 Phase I Rates Letter
- ACL 17-11 Phase II Rates Letter
- ACL 17-75 California Necessities Index Letter
- ACL 18-06 Level of Care Protocol Tool
- ACL 18-06 Level of Care Protocol Tool Errata
- ACL 18-25 Intensive Services Foster Care (ISFC) Letter
- ACL 18-48 State Guidance for Specialized Care Rate Programs
- <http://www.cdss.ca.gov>

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Updates

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- LOC Statewide Implementation – subject to further Guidance by Director or July 1, 2018 which ever comes first
- LOC Inter Rater Reliability
- Modifications of Tool

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Contact Information

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