



North Los Angeles County Regional Center

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ANNUAL FAMILY PROGRAM FEE Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Annual Family Program Fee (AFPF)?

The AFPF is a program that went into effect as of July 1, 2011 as part of the Welfare and Institutions Code, Section 4785. The AFPF will assess an Annual Family Program Fee of \$200 per family to families with children between the ages of 0 through 17 who receive services other than respite or day care through the Regional Center.

Who will be assessed an Annual Family Program Fee?

Parents who have a child who meets all of the following criteria:

- A) The child has a developmental disability or is eligible for services under the California Early Intervention Services Act.
- B) The child is between the ages of 0 through 17 years of age.
- C) The child lives with his or her parent.
- D) The child or family receives services beyond eligibility determination, needs assessment, and service coordination.
- E) The child does not receive services through the Medi-Cal program.

Will I be assessed an AFPF fee if I am participating under the Family Cost Participation Program (FCPP)?

If your family meets the criteria listed above, participates in the FCPP, and only receives respite, day care, or camp services, the family will not be assessed the AFPF. If your family meets the criteria listed above, participates in FCPP and receives any services other than respite or day care the family will be assessed the AFPF.

When will the assessment take place?

Everyone who is required to participate in the AFPF will be assessed by June 30 of the current fiscal year. A registration form will be mailed to all families who will be assessed the AFPF during the course of the fiscal year (July 1 through June 30).

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The assessment will take place during your child's birth month. For example, if your child is born in December, a notice will be mailed to you in December. For those who are in the intake process, you will be notified that this fee may be assessed. For a consumer who has added a service that makes them eligible for the AFPF, you will be assessed the fee at intake, at the IPP, or at the time of review. If assessed, you will be mailed payment form approximately one month after receiving the AFPF registration form. Payment should be mailed to the California Department of Developmental Services (DDS).

What if I have more than one child who is a consumer?

The AFPF is a family fee. You will be assessed for one amount annually regardless of the number of children in the family who are consumers.

How much is the fee that is initially assessed to families who meet the criteria of the AFPF?

The initial assessment of the AFPF is always \$200 per family.

What if I disagree with the initial fee amount assessed by the Regional Center?

If you disagree with the fee amount assessed, you can provide the North Los Angeles County Regional Center (NLACRC) with documentation that serves as proof of income. Documents that can be accepted as proof of income include: Form 1040 Federal Individual Tax Return, Form W-2: Wage and Tax Statement or employment paystubs. At the time that proof of income is provided to the Regional Center, NLACRC will review the total adjusted gross (AGI) income of your family.

The AGI, combined with your family's size, will then be compared to the current year's Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to determine if your family's income warrants a reduction of the fee. If the family's total AGI is less than 400% of the FPL, the fee will be reduced to \$0. If the family's total AGI is between 400% and 799% of the FPL, the fee will be reduced to \$150. If the family's total AGI is at or above 800% of the FPL, the fee will remain at \$200.

How is the parents' income calculated?

The total adjusted gross family income is determined by adding the gross income of both parents, regardless of whether they are divorced or legally separated, unless a court order directs otherwise, or unless the custodial parent certifies in writing that the income information from the noncustodial parents cannot be obtained. In this circumstance only the income of the custodial parents shall be used to determine the AFPF.

The total AGI means income acquired, earned, or received by parents as payment for labor or services, support, gift or inheritance, or parents' return on investment. It also includes the community property interest of a parent.

“Parent(s),” for the purpose of assessment of a fee, means the parents, whether natural adoptive, or both, of a child with a developmental disability under 18 years of age.

What if I disagree with the fee amount assessed by regional center?

If you disagree with the fee amount assessed, you can provide NLACRC with proof of income documentation that demonstrates that you should pay a lower fee or no fee.

What if I still disagree even after giving proof of income documentation?

If after providing documentation as proof of income you are assessed a fee that you do not agree with, a fair hearing may be requested. Pending outcome of the hearing, the fee assessment may be resumed. Regional center will notify the DDS when a parent has requested a fair hearing after the account has been referred to DDS for collection, and shall provide DDS with the result of the hearing.

Are there exemptions for the Annual Family Program Fee?

Yes. To be considered for an exemption, parents must demonstrate the following:

- The exemption is necessary to maintain the child in the family home.
- The existence of an extraordinary event that impacts the parents' ability to pay the fee or the parents' ability to meet the care and supervision needs of the child.
- The existence of a catastrophic loss that temporarily limits the ability of the parents to pay and creates a direct economic impact on the family.

When do I make the payment?

You will make the payment when you receive the Annual Family Program Fee Payment Form (DS 6010). Payment is due upon receipt of this notice and should be made in full with a check or money order. The payment will be mailed to the State of California, Department of Developmental Services.

What happens if I do not pay the AFPF?

If payment is not received, NLACRC will send out a second notice reminder that payment is due. If payment is not remitted after the second notice, the DDS will begin the collection process to collect the funds from you. Nonpayment of the AFPF will not impact the services that you are receiving from the Regional Center.

Will there be an AFPF every year?

The Regional Center is required to assess this fee annually to all consumers who meet the designated criteria.

Where can I find additional information?

You can find more information about the AFPF on the DDS website:

<http://www.dds.ca.gov/annualfamilyprogram>

Who can I contact if I have additional questions?

Please speak to your service coordinator if you have any additional questions.