

ACF Administration for Children and Families	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES Administration on Children, Youth and Families	
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	3. Originating Office: Children's Bureau	
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INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

TO: State and Tribal Agencies Administering or Supervising the Administration of Titles IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act.

SUBJECT: NEW LEGISLATION – Public Law (P.L.) 116-127, Section 6008 of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, enacted March 18, 2020 and P.L. 116-136, Section 3720 and Title VIII of Division B of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), enacted March 27, 2020.

LEGAL AND RELATED REFERENCES: The Families First Coronavirus Response Act, P.L. 116-127 and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) P.L. 116-136.

PURPOSE: To inform title IV-B/IV-E agencies of the enactment of the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act* and the *CARES Act* and to provide basic information on the new laws.

BACKGROUND: The President signed the [Families First Coronavirus Response Act, P.L. 116-127](#), into law on March 18, 2020, and signed the [CARES Act, P.L. 116-136](#) into law on March 27, 2020. Section 6008 of P.L. 116-127 provides a temporary increase in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) rate that is used in determining the Federal share of expenditures for assistance payments under the title IV-E Foster Care, Adoption Assistance and Guardianship Assistance programs. In addition, Title VIII of Division B of the CARES Act makes additional appropriations for title IV-B, subpart 1 of the Act.

INFORMATION: Section 6008 of P.L. 116-127 temporarily permits eligible states to increase by 6.2 percentage points the FMAP rate calculated under section [1905\(b\) of the Social Security Act](#) (“the Act”) for each calendar quarter occurring during the period beginning on the first day of the emergency period (January 27, 2020) and ending on the last day of the calendar quarter in which the last day of such emergency period occurs. Therefore, the period during which the increased FMAP rate is in effect starts from January 1, 2020 (beginning of quarter in which emergency declaration was in effect). For more information about eligibility and FMAP

calculations, please see the Medicaid.gov [Families First Coronavirus Response Act – Increased FMAP FAQs](#). For purposes of federal financial participation under title IV-E of the Act, the increased FMAP rate applies to state, tribal and territory title IV-E agencies; however, it does not apply to the FMAP rate of Washington, D.C.

Title VIII of Division B of the CARES Act appropriates an additional \$45,000,000 for child welfare services under title IV-B, subpart 1. The non-federal matching requirement does not apply to this funding increase. Additionally, the legislation specifies that any reduction per section 424(f) of the Act for not meeting the caseworker visit standards does not apply to this increase. The funding increase does not apply to:

- Section 426 of the Act, Research, Training or Demonstration Projects,
- Section 427 of the Act, Family Connection Grants, and
- Section 429 of the Act, National Random Sample Study of Child Welfare.

The Children’s Bureau will provide further information on implementation of these provisions through a separate issuance.

INQUIRIES TO: [Children’s Bureau Regional Program Managers](#)

/s/
Elizabeth Darling
Commissioner,
Administration on Children, Youth and
Families

Attachments:

A -- [P.L. 116-127, Sec. 6008](#)

B -- [P.L. 116-136](#)

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