

ALERT: Applications Open for CDSS’s Guaranteed Income (GI) Pilot Program for 300 Youth Aging Out of Extended Foster Care at 21

On October 16, 2023, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) released [All-County Information Notice \(ACIN\) I-60-23](#) about the state-funded Guaranteed Income (GI) Pilot Program for nonminor dependents (NMDs), including those supervised by juvenile probation, who are exiting foster care at age 21. This alert provides a brief overview of the program, including eligibility and how to apply.

What is the Guaranteed Income (GI) Pilot Program?

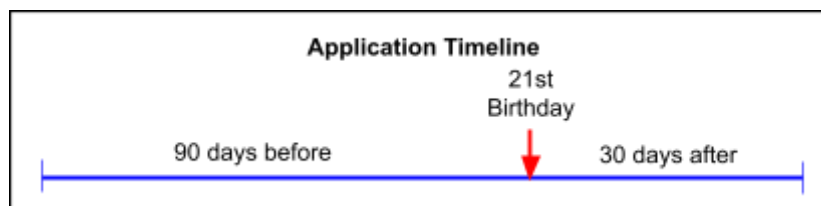
CDSS oversees the Guaranteed Income (GI) Pilot Program and has prioritized pilots that will serve individuals in one or both of the two target populations: youth aging out of extended foster care at age 21 and pregnant individuals. [iFoster](#) will be administering the statewide GI Pilot Program for youth exiting extended foster care. The GI Pilot Program will provide unconditional (no strings attached), individual, regular cash payments to selected youth.

iFoster will disburse \$750 per month for 18 months to 300 qualifying individuals. Because more youth are expected to apply than there are spots, youth will be chosen for receipt of GI using random assignment, or a lottery, on a regular basis over nine months *or until program slots are filled*. Youth who are not chosen to receive GI payments may still have an opportunity to be paid for participation in research activities.

Who is eligible for the GI Pilot Program through iFoster?

Eligible youth for the iFoster GI Pilot must be:

- Youth exiting extended foster care in California, and who are California residents, **except** for youth exiting foster care in the following counties: San Francisco, Ventura, Riverside, San Bernardino, Napa, San Mateo, and Alameda.¹
- Youth in foster care who are expected to exit foster care on their 21st birthday **and** who apply within 90 days prior to, or 30 days after, their 21st birthday (see timeline below).
- Those whose income falls below a certain level.²
- Those who are not currently enrolled in another GI program.



¹ Youth exiting extended foster care in these seven counties are not eligible for iFoster’s GI Pilot Program because there are other GI programs for the same or overlapping target population being conducted in these counties.

² The youth’s yearly income cannot be more than the Family Needs Calculator (FNC) income for a 2 adult/2 children household for their county of residence. The FNC is available here ([link](#)).

Counties should provide information about iFoster's GI Pilot Program during the development of the youth's 90-day Transition Plan.

How can youth exiting extended foster care at age 21 apply to the program?

Youth can apply for the iFoster Pilot Program on [iFoster's website](#). Additionally, referrals by the youth's social worker, probation officer, attorney, or other service provider(s) may begin effective immediately. The enrollment period is from November 2023 to July 2024 (or until spots are full), but the application or referral can be completed at any time within the enrollment period. iFoster will reach out to all youth who complete the iFoster Referral Form/Application on the iFoster website.

Additional Resources

California Department of Social Services (CDSS), ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE (ACIN) I-60-23

https://www.cdss.ca.gov/Portals/9/Additional-Resources/Letters-and-Notices/ACINs/2023/I-60_23.pdf?ver=2023-10-25-152245-517

iFoster, GUARANTEED INCOME (GI) PROGRAM PAGE

<https://www.ifoster.org/tay/>

iFoster, APPLICATION LINK

<https://www.tfaforms.com/5071002>

iFoster, FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

<https://www.ifoster.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/FAQ-GI-2023.pdf>