JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA
OPERATIONS AND PROGRAMS DIVISION
CENTER FOR FAMILIES, CHILDREN & THE COURTS

Federally Funded Dependency Representation Program (FFDRP)

Eligible Activities[1] for Attorneys

Updated August 1, 2025

The following chart outlines attorney activities that can and cannot be reimbursed under the Federal Funded Dependency Representation Program (FFDRP). This chart will be updated as the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) and Judicial Council refine eligible activities.

	Activity	Reimbursable	Not Reimbursable
1.	Attorney as GAL for child in civil or criminal proceeding		✓
2.	Attorney as GAL for parent		✓[2]
3.	Case Preparations for Dependency Foster Care Proceedings	✓	
4.	CFT/TDM/ and other multidisciplinary team meetings	✓	
5.	Dependency Foster Care Court Hearings	✓	
6.	Juvenile dependency collaborative court hearings	✓[3]	
7.	Dual Status/Dual Jurisdiction Court Appearances	✓[4]	
8.	In state client visit/meeting	✓	
9.	Out-of-state client visit/meeting	✓[5]	
10.	Housing Application		✓[6]
11.	Immigration Hearings		✓

[1] Eligible activities for FFDRP are governed under 45 CFR 1356.60 (c)(2) and further clarified in the Child Welfare Policy Manual 8.1. The information in this document is based on laws in effect at the time of publication (June 2020). Federal and state laws may change at any time. An activity that is marked as eligible on this document is only eligible when the activity is tied to an active foster care dependency case. Activities on behalf of clients in other legal contexts are not eligible for reimbursement.

[2] Underlying CAC funds cannot be used for GALS. This is a cost that is paid from the local court's general fund.

[3] The attorney must be participating to advocate for services that are part of the client's current case plan. See FAQ C-13.

[4] For dependency foster care proceedings only, time spent on delinquency matters is not eligible.

[5] Out-of-state travel expenses are ineligible for reimbursement. Time spent meeting with the client during out-of-state travel is eligible. Virtual meetings with out-of-state clients are eligible.

[6] CDSS will not reimburse this activity as this is a county social worker activity that is not covered by underlying CAC funds; it is not a legal activity that can be reimbursed for attorneys or social workers working with attorneys.

	Activity	Reimbursable	Not Reimbursable
12.	Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) – Enrollment in a Tribe		✓[7]
13.	Individualized Education Planning (IEP) Meeting	✓[8]	
14.	Legislative/Policy work		✓
15.	Parking at the court for attorneys if court outside walking distance	✓	
16.	School Discipline Hearing		✓
17.	Special Immigrant Juvenile (SIJ) Findings		✓
18.	FFDRP Eligible Trainings	✓[9]	
19.	Travel to court	✓[10]	
20.	Travel to FFDRP eligible trainings	✓[11]	
21.	Travel to meet with client	✓[11]	
22.	Writs and Appellate Consultation	✓[12]	
23.	Consult with Supervisor – non case specific	✓[13]	
24.	Staff Meeting		✓[14]
25.	Consult with Supervisor – case specific	✓	
26.	Pre-petition advocacy		✓[15]
27.	Requesting a restraining order in juvenile court	✓[16]	
28.	Legal representation of a child's relative caregiver who is not the child's legal guardian		✓ [17]
29.	Legal representation in civil legal proceedings necessary to carry out the requirements in the agency's title IV-E foster care plan		✓ [18]

Supervisory and Administrative Activities:
Supervisory and Administrative activities for oversight of an attorney's FFDRP eligible legal work or program are reimbursable under FFDRP. Supervision that is case specific is eligible provided that the organization is documenting that activity by case in its files. Other FFDRP eligible supervisory activities, that are not case specific, are billable at the overhead rate.

[7] CDSS will not reimburse many ICWA issues; Attorneys can raise ICWA issues, but notice, inquiry, and investigation are duties of the county social worker. Attorneys cannot claim costs for helping enroll a child or parent in a tribe.
[8] The attorney must be participating to ensure the agency is providing reasonable efforts as it relates to educational activities in the case plan. The attorney cannot appear or advocate as a special education attorney. See FAQ C-10.
[9] See FAQ F-5 on training time spent out of state.
[10] Travel to Court includes mileage and time.
[11] See FAQ D-11 on rules for travel reimbursement.
[12] Only the time a dependency attorney spends discussing the case with an appellate attorney is reimbursable.
[13] Can only be billed at the overhead rate.
[14] See FAQ E-12 on staff meetings.
[15] Pre-petition activities are not currently eligible for FFDRP, because the underlying funding that is the match for FFDRP is only for activities starting upon the filing of the petition.
[16] See FAQ C-12. The restraining order must further the objectives of the client's case plan.
[17] This activity is not eligible for matching under the FFDRP program administered by the Judicial Council because it is not covered by court appointed counsel funding; the relative caregiver must be the child's legal guardian.
[18] This activity is not eligible for matching under the FFDRP program administered by the Judicial Council because it is not covered by court appointed counsel funding.

Activities that are NOT reimbursable:

- Federal or State Advocacy work
- Federal, State, or Local Legislative/Policy work
- Travel for any advocacy, legislative, or policy work
- Out-of-state travel for training and client visits
- Any activities not covered by the underlying Court Appointed Counsel work including administrative activities for any grants or other contracts.