ABOUT THE EXPECTANT PARENT PAYMENT TOOLKIT

The Expectant Parent Payment Toolkit was developed by John Burton Advocates for Youth (JBAY) for California social services agencies to support implementation of the Expectant Parent Payment. The Expectant Parent Payment was established by AB 153, funded in the 2021-22 state budget with $800,000 in ongoing funding to help foster youth to prepare for the birth of their child. Effective January 1, 2022, all youth in out-of-home placement who are pregnant are eligible to receive a monthly payment in the 7th, 8th, and 9th month of pregnancy that is equal to the amount of the monthly infant supplement which is $900. The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) provided guidance to county child welfare agencies on the Expectant Parent Payment via All County Letter 21-123 and All County Information Notice 1-45-22.

THE TOOLKIT INCLUDES:

1. A factsheet
2. A sample budget from CDSS
3. Outreach materials:
   - Email narrative
   - Social media post
4. Two sample policies from Los Angeles and San Luis Obispo Counties

Download and customize the factsheet using your county logo and contact information. For your convenience, a budget worksheet, email narrative and social media post outreach materials are also available for download.

The Table of Contents is provided on page 3 to help you navigate the Toolkit.

For questions or comments, or to provide helpful resources to share statewide, please contact Anna Johnson | anna@jbay.org.
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EXPECTANT PARENT PAYMENT FACT SHEET

DIRECTIONS:
This fact sheet provides information to expectant foster youth about the Expectant Parent Payment. It is meant to be customizable for each county agency in order to include contact information and any other helpful resources for expectant foster youth in your county. Take the following steps to complete the template:

1. Add your county’s logo into the highlighted portion in the top left box.
2. Add a QR code that links to your county’s website or social media page into the highlighted portion in the top right box.
3. Review the content and make any relevant changes.
4. Add any additional information to the highlighted portion at the bottom left section of the factsheet to include the most appropriate contact person at your agency. This way, expectant parents have someone they can call if they are having difficulty getting connected to the payment. This is also a place where you can include any other links to helpful webpages, resources, and/or benefits.
5. Send out to your network of expectant parents and providers in order to raise awareness about this important benefit.
$2,700 Expectant Parent Payment for Pregnant Foster Youth in California

What is the Expectant Parent Payment?
Starting in January 1, 2022, all youth in out-of-home placement expecting a child will be eligible to receive a $900 monthly payment during the 7th, 8th and 9th month of pregnancy, for a total of $2,700.
If you are pregnant and in foster care, keep reading to learn more!

Am I Eligible?
If you are in foster care and pregnant, you are eligible to receive the payment, regardless of whether you are ages 18-21 in extended foster care, are undocumented, or are on probation.

What can I use the Payments for?
You may use the funds for whatever will best help you prepare for your child.
Some common uses include:
- Furniture: a crib, changing table, or rocking chair
- Infant Carriers: car seat, stroller
- Feeding Supplies: breast pump, nursing bras, bottles
- Infant Items: clothing, diapers, pacifiers, bibs
- Other basic needs like rent and transportation

Important Things to Know
1. If you are past your 7th month of pregnancy and haven’t been paid yet, you are still eligible to receive the full payment amount.
2. The payments must be provided directly to you, and not to your caregiver.
3. Receiving the Expectant Parent Payment will not impact other benefit programs you may also be connected to, because it is not earned income and, like all foster care payments, it’s not reported during tax filing.

For more resources for expectant foster youth, visit:
- John Burton Advocates for Youth
- CDSS Expectant Parent and Parenting Support Hub
For questions, contact your county case manager.
### 1. PREGNANT/PARENTING MONTHLY BUDGET WORKSHEET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Items</th>
<th>$ Amount Budgeted</th>
<th>$ Amount Spent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pregnancy Expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maternity clothes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prenatal vitamins</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prenatal yoga</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL $</strong></td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Initial Baby Expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stroller</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car seat</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diapers, Wipes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crib, Mattress, Sheets, Blankets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other baby equipment:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrier, Swing, Playpen, Bassent, etc.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baby clothes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baby monitor</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fun stuff: Toys, Bath toys, Books, etc.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feeding:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bottles, Formula, Aids for nursing moms (ie: nursing pillow or sling carrier)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bath essentials:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comb, Shampoo, Soap</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicines: Tylenol, Butt cream</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bibs, Bath towels</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receiving blankets, Swaddle</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL $</strong></td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# 2. Pregnant/Parenting Monthly Budget Worksheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Items</th>
<th>$ Amount Budgeted</th>
<th>$ Amount Spent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ongoing Expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Living Expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rent</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities: Gas, Electric, Trash</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Groceries</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cell phone</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ongoing Baby Expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diapers, Wipes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baby clothes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feeding: Formula</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fun stuff: Toys, Bath toys, Books, etc.</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Bath essentials: Comb, Shampoo, Soap</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicines: Tylenol, Butt cream</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Childcare</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$</strong></td>
<td><strong>$</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EXPECTANT PARENT PAYMENT

EMAIL BLAST NARRATIVE

DIRECTIONS:
This sample email provides information to expectant foster youth about the Expectant Parent Payment.

The sample provides a pre-populated subject line, as well as the narrative for the body of the email. It is meant to be flexible so that you can add any additional information to best serve the expectant foster youth in your county.
EMAIL BLAST NARRATIVE:

Subject Line: New $2,700 Expectant Parent Payment for Pregnant Foster Youth in California

Hello,

We are reaching out from ____ County to give you some information about an important new benefit program that you might be eligible for. Starting January 1, 2022, all youth in out of home placement expecting a child will be eligible to receive a $900 monthly payment during the 7th, 8th, and 9th month of pregnancy, for a total of $2,700. If you are pregnant and in foster care, keep reading to learn more!

Am I Eligible?
If you are in foster care and pregnant, you are eligible to receive the payment, regardless of whether you are ages 18–21 in extended foster care, are undocumented, or are on probation. 

What Can I Use the Payments For?
You may use the funds for whatever will best help you prepare for your child. Some common uses include:

- Furniture: a crib, changing table, or rocking chair
- Infant carriers: car seat, stroller
- Feeding supplies: breast pump, nursing bras, bottles
- Infant items: clothing, diapers, pacifiers, bibs
- Other basic needs like rent and transportation

How Do I Receive the Payment?
Each county child welfare agency has their own process for providing you with your payment. Talk to your county social worker or probation officer to get more information about how your county’s process works.

**Input best phone number/email address for Expectant Parents to contact here

**Links to any other relevant information or resources

Important Things to Know

1) If you are past your 7th month of pregnancy and haven’t been paid yet, you are still eligible to receive the full payment amount.

2) The payments must be provided directly to you, and not to your caregiver.

3) Receiving the Expectant Parent Payment will not impact other benefit programs you may also be connected to because is not earned income and, like all foster care payments, it’s not reported during tax filing.

For more resources for expectant foster parents, visit:

John Burton Advocates for Youth
CDSS Expectant Parent and Parenting Support Hub

For questions, please contact your county case manager or supervisor directly.
EXPECTANT PARENT PAYMENT

SOCIAL MEDIA POST

DIRECTIONS:

This social media post provides information to expectant foster youth about the Expectant Parent Payment. Take the following steps to complete the template:

1. **Add your county’s name or logo** into the highlighted portion on Slide 1.
2. **Review the content** and make any relevant changes.
3. **Add any additional information** to the highlighted portion on Slide 5 to include the most appropriate contact person at your agency. This way, expectant parents have someone they can call if they are having difficulty getting connected to the payment. This is also a place where you can include any other links to helpful webpages, resources, and benefits.
4. **Post on Instagram, Facebook, and any other social media platforms** in order to raise awareness about this important benefit.
Slide 1

- Download “EPP Social Media Post” Word Document onto your computer;
- Right-click on the image below;
- Select “Save as Picture;”
- Save as Slide 1;
- Upload the slides in order when you create your social media post; and,
- Use the caption below with your county’s specific contact information.

CAPTION:
There’s a new benefit for pregnant foster youth in California! Are you pregnant and in custodial care? If so, you are probably eligible to receive $900 each month for during the last three months of your pregnancy in order to help you prepare for your baby! Scroll to learn more about this important resource! Expectant foster youth can contact ____ for more information.
Slide 2

- Right-click on the image below;
- Select “Save as Picture;”
- Save as Slide 2; and,
- Upload the slides in order when you create your social media post.

What is the EXPECTANT PARENT PAYMENT?

Starting January 1, 2022, all youth in out of home placement expecting a child will be eligible to receive $900 monthly payment during the 7th, 8th, & 9th month of pregnancy, for a total of $2,700.

If you are pregnant and in foster care, keep reading to learn more!
Slide 3

- Right-click on the image below;
- Select “Save as Picture;”
- Save as Slide 3; and,
- Upload the slides in order when you create your social media post.

Am I ELIGIBLE?

If you are in foster care and pregnant, you are eligible to receive the payment, regardless of whether you are:

1. Ages 18-21 in extended foster care
2. Undocumented
3. On probation
Slide 4

- Right-click on the image below;
- Select “Save as Picture;”
- Save as Slide 4; and,
- Upload the slides in order when you create your social media post.

What can I use THE PAYMENTS FOR?
Whatever will best help you prepare for your child!

SOME COMMON USES INCLUDE:
- Furniture like cribs, changing tables & rocking chairs
- Infant carriers like car seats & strollers
- Feeding supplies like breast pumps, nursing bras & bottles
- Infant items like clothing, diapers, pacifiers & bibs
- Other basis needs like rent & transportation
Slide 5

- Right-click on the image below;
- Select “Save as Picture;”
- Save as Slide 5; and,
- Upload the slides in order when you create your social media post.

How do I RECEIVE THE PAYMENT?

Each county child welfare agency has their own process for providing you with your payment. Talk with your county social worker or probation officer to get more information about how your county’s process works.
Slide 6

- Right-click on the image below;
- Select “Save as Picture;”
- Save as Slide 6; and,
- Upload the slides in order when you create your social media post.

OTHER IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW?

1. If you are past your 7th month of pregnancy and haven’t been paid yet, you are still eligible to receive the full payment.

2. The payments must be provided directly to you, not to your caregiver.

3. Receiving the Expectant Parent Payment will **not** impact other benefit programs you may also be connected to, because it is not earned income and, like all foster care payments, it’s not reported during tax filing.
• Right-click on the image below;
• Select “Save as Picture;”
• Save as Slide 7; and,
• Upload the slides in order when you create your social media post.

QUESTIONS?
or want to learn about OTHER RESOURCES?

For more resources for expectant foster parents, visit:

JBay.org/health/parenting-youth

https://cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/cdss-programs/foster-care/
healthy-sexual-development-project/expectant-parent-
and-parenting-hub

For questions, contact your county case manager.
EXPECTANT PARENT PAYMENT (EPP)

The purpose of this FYI is to inform DCFS staff that, effective January 1, 2022, an Expectant Parent Payment (EPP) in the amount of $900 per month, for a total of $2,700, will be available to (female) pregnant minors and non-minor dependents (NMDs) in placement, three months prior to the expected delivery date, in accordance with Assembly Bill (AB) 153 and ACL 21-123. This payment will be in addition to the infant supplement payments which begin the month of birth of the infant. The payment is the same regardless of placement type, and it is paid directly to the pregnant minor or NMD.

The EPP takes the place of the Early Infant Supplement (EIS) financial benefit that was previously provided to DCFS pregnant youth in placement in the 7th, 8th, and 9th months of pregnancy. EPP is a State-sponsored program and is now available throughout California with State funds.

Eligible youth must be in formal placement. Expectant parent payments are available to pregnant minors/NMDs who receive AFDC-FC or ARC payments, including those placed in Short Term Residential Treatment Placements (STRTPs), Supervised Independent Living Placements (SILPs), Transitional Housing Placements (THPP) or home-based foster care. Expectant parent payments are not available for youth in the Adoption Assistance Program and the Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment Program. The address provided on the EPP request must match the pregnant youth’s placement address as reflected in CWS/CMS. A verification of pregnancy letter from a qualified medical provider, reflecting the Expected Delivery Date, must be submitted as a part of the application.

Pregnant youth residing in the home of one or both parents (HOP) are not eligible to receive EPP payments. However, they are eligible to receive financial assistance from the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS).

Description of EPP

EPP funds are available to meet the specialized needs of the pregnant minor/NMD, as well as to prepare for the needs of the infant. Pregnant youth receiving EPP funds are not required to show how the funds are utilized. All items purchased with EPP funds are the property of the youth/NMD and go with them if/when they change facilities or age out. Examples of items that can be purchased with the funds include, but are not limited to, cribs, rocking chairs, changing tables or other infant related furniture, car seats, strollers, infant carriers, clothes for the infant or maternity clothes for the pregnant youth, diapers, formula, and other miscellaneous infant items. Funds may also be used for a birth
preparation or parenting class. CSWs are encouraged to discuss the availability of EPP funds with the pregnant youth.

To implement the EPP benefit, CSWs are to obtain and submit a copy of an official medical record given directly to the pregnant youth from a qualified medical provider, containing both verification of pregnancy and the Expected Delivery Date. A determination of the 7th, 8th, or 9th month of pregnancy for the purpose of implementing the EPP payment(s) will be based on the Expected Delivery Date provided in the medical record. Youth are eligible for the entire lump sum payment even if the EPP application is submitted after the 7th month of pregnancy.

If the pregnant youth does not have an official medical record from her health care provider containing the required information, the CSW may request a verification of pregnancy letter from the medical provider on formal letterhead with an Expected Delivery Date. Any verification and documentation procedure must abide by applicable confidentiality laws.

A DCFS 6119, DCFS Expectant Parent Payment (EPP) Health Care Provider Request, including a signature line for the pregnant youth authorizing the health care provider to disclose the youth’s pregnancy and Expected Delivery Date is attached.

CSWs are encouraged to request a health care provider verification of pregnancy letter, if other medical documentation is not available. The health care provider may submit the verification letter of pregnancy to the CSW by mail, email or fax.

The EPP will be issued by the Special Payment Section as a lump sum payment of $2,700, paid directly to the minor/NMD youth. After the state implements automation of the payments, anticipated to occur in July, 2023, the payments will be made on a monthly basis.

To request EPP payments, CSWs are to complete and submit the following documents directly to the Special Payments Section In-Box at: SpecialPaymentRequests@dcfs.lacounty.gov

- Completed and approved DCFS 5540, Special Payment Authorization/Request requesting EPP by selecting “Other” and writing “EPP” with the correct timeframe of the 7th, 8th and 9th month of the pregnancy, based on Expected Delivery Date reflected in the official medical record, and requesting the $2,700 payment;
- Official medical record containing verification of pregnancy and the Expected Delivery Date;
- History of Child Placement Report from CWS/CMS to confirm the last known address.

The DCFS 5540, Special Payment Authorization/Request (see SAMPLE DCFS 5540 attached) must be signed by the CSW, SCSW, ARA, and RA. CSWs are to complete all yellow highlighted mandatory fields and attach the verification of pregnancy letter including the Expected Delivery Date, as well as
If you have any questions regarding this release please e-mail your question to:
Policy@dcfs.lacounty.gov
(right click to open footer section and access link)
CWS/CMS. Obtain approval of the DCFS 5540 from SCSW, ARA, and RA.

- Note: Submission of EPP payment requests will only be possible at the youth’s 7th month of pregnancy or beyond via the DCFS 5540.

6. Scan and email the approved DCFS 5540, the official medical record containing verification of pregnancy and the Expected Delivery Date, and the History of Child Placements Report from CWS/CMS to the DCFS Special Payments Section In-box: 
SpecialPaymentRequests@dcfs.lacounty.gov

7. Notify the DCFS Special Payments Section in a timely manner by sending an email to the DCFS Special Payments In-box: SpecialPaymentRequests@dcfs.lacounty.gov if the youth’s situation changes, (i.e., if the youth is no longer pregnant, no longer a dependent, or if there is a change in the youth’s address).

8. As soon as the infant is born and under the care of the now parenting youth, initiate an Automated DCFS 280 request to start the official Infant Supplement payment of $900 per month or $1379 per month for group home/STRTP placements, and to begin Medi-Cal coverage for the infant.

SCSW Responsibilities:

1. Review the official medical record or verification letter with the Expected Delivery Date for accuracy of the DCFS 5540 payment request based on the youth’s Expected Delivery Date.

2. If accurate, approve the DCFS 5540 EIS payment request and forward it to the ARA and RA for review and approval.

3. If the case is in the process of being transferred to another CSW, or in the absence of the CSW, if the youth’s situation changes, (i.e., if the youth is no longer pregnant, no longer a dependent, or if there is a change in the youth’s address) notify the Special Payment Section by sending a notification email to SpecialPaymentRequests@dcfs.lacounty.gov
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References:
ACL 21-123
EXPECTANT PARENT PAYMENT

BACKGROUND
Per ACL 21-123 and WIC 11465(e), effective January 1, 2022, an expectant parent payment will be available to pregnant minors and Non-Minor Dependents (NMDs) three months prior to the expected due date, in accordance with Assembly Bill (AB) 153.

The payment to be made directly to a pregnant minor or NMD, and intended to be issued three months prior to the child/NMD's due date. The payment can be one lump sum or in three payments. This payment will be in addition to the infant supplement payment which begins the month of birth.

ELIGIBLE YOUTH
Expectant parent payments are available to pregnant minors/NMDs who receive AFDC-FC or ARC payments, including:

- Short Term Residential Treatment Placements (STRTPs),
- Supervised Independent Living Placements (SILPs),
- Transitional Housing Placements (THPP) or,
- Home-based foster care.

Note: At this time, expectant parent payments are not available for children in the Adoption Assistance Program and the Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment Program.

LIST OF EXPENSES
This expectant parent payment is available to meet the specialized needs of the pregnant youth/NMD, as well as prepare for the needs of the infant. Below are listed examples of what the pregnant youth/NMD can purchase with the payment, but they are not required to submit any accounting or receipts to show how the funds are utilized. All items bought with these funds are the property of the youth/NMD and go with them if/when they change facilities or age out.

Example uses of the payment include, but are not limited to:

- Cribs, rocking chairs, changing tables or other infant related furniture.
- Car seats, strollers, or infant carriers.
- Clothes for the infant or maternity clothes for the pregnant youth/NMD.
- Nursing bras, breast pumps, formula or other infant feeding necessities.
- Diapers, pacifiers, bibs, and other miscellaneous infant items.

INFANT SUPPLEMENT PAYMENT
In accordance with WIC 11465 and 42 US Code 675(4), a foster care maintenance payment may include an amount for a non-dependent infant living with their minor/NMD parent in an eligible Aid to Families with Dependent Children-Foster Care (AFDC-FC) or Approved Relative Caregiver Funding Program (ARC) placement. This payment, known as the infant supplement, begins the month that the infant is born and continues as long as the non-dependent infant continues to reside with the minor or NMD parent in an eligible placement.

Refer to the Infant Living with Dependent Parent (Infant Supplement) P&P for more information.
ROLE OF SOCIAL WORKER

IDENTIFYING PREGNANT DEPENDENTS / NON-MINOR DEPENDENTS (NMDS)

Effective January 1, 2022, children and NMD in the seventh month of pregnancy, or later, are eligible for the payment. When a pregnant youth is identified, the SW will:

1. Request from the youth a verification of pregnancy from a qualified medical provider. Any verification and documentation procedure must abide by applicable confidentiality laws.

   **NOTE:** Further information on identifying pregnancy, recording pregnancy in records, and talking to youth about pregnancy refer to All County Information Notice I-06-20, ACL 16-32, and ACL 18-61.

2. Determine how the youth will receive the $2700 payment: one lump sum or in three payments.
   a. If youth is in 7th month of pregnancy when reported, issue (3) payments – 7th, 8th and 9th month.
   b. If youth is in 8th month of pregnancy when reported, issue (2) payments – 8th and 9th month.
   c. If youth is in 9th month of pregnancy when reported, issue (1) payment – 9th month.

   **NOTE:** SW has the discretion to issue one lump sum payment even if youth is in 7th or 8th month of pregnancy. The payment schedule should be dependent on the pregnant youth’s need. The guidelines above are just a suggestion.

3. Send an email with the following information to Unit AA:
   a. Youth name.
   b. Payment schedule – 1, 2 or 3 payments.
   c. Attach pregnancy verification.

ROLE OF ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

1. Send an email to the assigned FC ERS with the following information:
   a. SOC 158A (include payment schedule).
   b. Pregnancy verification.

ROLE OF FOSTER CARE ERS

1. Upon receiving the pregnancy verification and SOC 158A, complete an NSDI Request, as the payments will be issued via NSDI by the FC ESS.

   **NOTE:** If payment is to be received in installments, FC ESS will track the payments and issue according to appropriate schedule. FC ERS only needs to submit one NSDI request.

2. Enter case comments in CalWIN – indicate payment schedule.

3. Send the correct NOA to the youth informing them of the expectant parent payment.

ABOUT THE PAYMENT

This payment shall not be prorated, and overpayments shall not be established or collected. If the pregnancy is not identified during the seventh month of pregnancy, the child/NMD shall still receive the full payment amount. The payment will be the same regardless of placement type, and it will be paid directly to the pregnant minor or NMD in the form of a check.
ROLE OF FOSTER CARE ESS

1. Upon receiving the NSDI Request from FC ERS, track the payments and issue according to the appropriate schedule.
   
   **NOTE:** FC ERS will only submit one NSDI request showing the schedule for the youth.

2. Complete the following in the CalWIN NSDI screen:
   - **Select Payment Type drop down option:**
     - Supplemental Payments
   - **Select Issuance Type drop down option:**
     - Warrant
   - **Select Payment Sub-Type drop down option:**
     - Pregnancy
   - **Select Issuance Reason drop down option:**
     - Expectant Parent Payment (EPP)