

Encouraging Recruitment and Retention of Caring, Committed Resource Families

SUMMARY

In 2015, to address an anticipated increase in the needed number of caregivers resulting from the implementation of the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) effort, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) initiated a time-limited, multi-year augmentation of realigned recruitment funds, known as Foster Parent Recruitment, Retention and Support (FPRRS).

Achieving the goals of CCR requires that foster families are available to prevent the long-term reliance on placing children and youth in foster care in Short-term Residential Treatment Programs (STRTPs).

ISSUE

Fulfilling the promise of CCR necessitates recruiting and retaining committed, nurturing and permanent foster family homes to meet the needs of children and youth in foster care.

PROPOSAL

Given the unending need to recruit and retain resource families and to maximize the impact of scarce and valuable state outreach resources, continue critically necessary FPRRS resources by appropriating funding for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-2020 and beyond at the FY 2017-2018 level of funding.

Further, narrow the scope of use of FPRRS funding to tangible supports and services for foster families, including:

- Foster Parent Liaisons to provide support and to connect caregivers with resources - lessening the burden on social workers;
- Respite Programs to assist caregivers in attending trainings, meetings and appointments, and to prevent caregiver burnout;
- Foster Parent Mentors to guide relatives through the Resource Family Approval (RFA) process, and for new caregivers when a foster child is first placed into their home;
- Foster Parent Support Groups to help caregivers access resources and process their experiences and challenges;
- Placement Specific Recruitment to find the right family for each child;
- Family Finding programs to locate familial connections for placement and permanency, and
- High quality recruitment campaigns and programs that can be used as templates in other counties.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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