

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



January 15, 1998

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE I-05-98

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

**REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL**

- State Law Change
- Federal Law or Regulation Change
- Court Order or Settlement Agreement
- Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- Initiated by CDSS

SUBJECT: KINSHIP SUPPORT SERVICES PROGRAM

REFERENCE: ASSEMBLY BILL (AB) 1193 , CHAPTER 794, STATUTES OF 1997

The purpose of this letter is to notify counties that the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) is implementing the Kinship Support Services Program as authorized by AB 1193, Chapter 794, Statutes of 1997. This grants-in-aid program will provide start-up and expansion funds for local kinship support services programs that provide community-based family support services to kinship caregivers and the children who are placed in their homes by the juvenile court or who are at risk of dependency or delinquency. The Kinship Support Services Program is intended to create a public-private partnership, therefore a combination of federal, state, county and private sector resources will finance the establishment and ongoing operation of the program.

It is anticipated that the CDSS will distribute an Invitation to Counties for Participation (ICP) to eligible counties in March of 1998. The CDSS has identified the following counties as having an average of 40 percent of their dependent children in relative care placements and therefore are the counties that will be eligible to submit proposals: Alameda, Contra Costa, Fresno, Kern, Los Angeles, Monterey, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara and Tulare. It is expected that the proposals will be due no later than June of 1998, and the CDSS will select programs and allocate funds by August of 1998.

The legislation requires that the Kinship Support Services Program demonstrate the use of supportive services provided to relative caregivers and children in their homes using a community-based kinship support services model. This model shall provide services to relative caregivers that help ensure permanent kinship placements for dependent children as well as family support services that will eliminate the need for juvenile court jurisdiction and the provision of services by the county welfare department.

The legislation also designates the Edgewood Family Center for Children and Families in San Francisco, the organization upon which the model is based, to provide technical assistance to participating counties and facilitate the sharing of information and resources among local programs. Services provided may include, but are not limited to: assessment and case management; social services referral and intervention aimed at maintaining the kinship family unit; transportation for medical care and educational and recreational activities; information and referral services; individual and group counseling in the area of parent-child relationships and group conflict; counseling and referral services aimed at promoting permanency, including kinship adoption and guardianship; and tutoring and mentoring.

Eligibility criteria in the law specifies that participating counties shall: a) have 40 percent or more of dependent children in relative care placements; b) have a demonstrated capacity for collaboration and interagency coordination; c) have a viable plan for ongoing financial support of the local kinship support services program; d) utilize relative caregivers as employees of the program; and e) have strong and viable public or private agencies to operate the program.

Enclosed is a Statement of Interest form, which we would like to receive from eligible counties interested in participating in the program. **If your county is identified in this letter as being eligible, please complete the form and fax it to Charlene Welty of the Foster Care Policy Bureau at (916) 324-9539 by February 10, 1998.** The CDSS will use the form to distribute the ICPs to the appropriate representatives of the counties interested in applying for the program.

Those counties requesting ICPs will receive further information regarding a bidder's conference with CDSS staff which will provide an overview of program expectations and answer questions from potential participants.

If you have any questions about the Kinship Support Services Program, please call Charlene Welty of the Foster Care Policy Bureau at (916) 445-5472. We look forward to working with you to develop these important community services for kin families.

Sincerely,

  
MARJORIE KELLY  
Deputy Director  
Children & Family Services Division

enclosure

c: CWDA

**KINSHIP SUPPORT SERVICES PROGRAM**  
(AB 1193, Chapter 794, Statutes of 1997)

**Statement of Interest  
for an  
Invitation to Counties for Proposal (ICP)**

County: \_\_\_\_\_

This form will indicate to the CDSS whether or not your county would like to receive an ICP to apply for participation in the Kinship Support Services Program. Please indicate on this form your county's interest in participating in the program along with the name, title, address, telephone number, and fax number of the individual who should receive the ICP.

Our county is interested in participating in the Kinship Support Services Program. Please send an ICP to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax No.: \_\_\_\_\_

*Fax to Charlene Welty at (916) 324-9539 by February 10, 1998.*