

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



April 7, 1998

ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-25-98

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
 ALL COUNTY FAMILY PRESERVATION AND
 SUPPORT PROGRAM COORDINATORS

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

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

SUBJECT: REAUTHORIZATION OF THE FAMILY PRESERVATION AND SUPPORT
 PROGRAM (FPSP)

On November 19, 1997, the President signed into law, Public Law 105-89 the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997. This law was enacted to improve the safety of children, to promote adoption and other permanent homes for children who need them and to support families. As a part of this new law, the FPSP has been reauthorized with a number of significant changes:

- Subpart 2 of part B of title IV was titled Family Preservation and Support Services and has been renamed "Promoting Safe and Stable Families" (PSSF).
- The federal FPSP has been reauthorized for three years with a total increase in funding of approximately \$110 million nationally. The federal funding levels are as follows: FY 1999 at \$275 million; FY 2000 at \$295 million; and FY 2001 at \$305 million.
- In addition to programs of family preservation services and community-based family support services, funds may be used for time-limited reunification services and adoption promotion and support services. Time-limited reunification services include counseling, substance abuse treatment services, mental health services, assistance to address domestic violence, temporary child care and therapeutic services for families, including crisis nurseries and transportation to and from these services. Family reunification services are limited to a 15-month period. Adoption promotion and support services are pre-and post-adoptive services and activities designed to expedite the adoption process and support families.
- State plans are now required to contain assurances that in administering and conducting service programs, the safety of the children to be served will be of paramount concern.

The California Department of Social Services is in the process of working with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to clarify various sections in P.L. 105-89 and, specifically, the future planning process for PSSF. The DHHS plans to issue regulations and/or federal policy interpretations on portions of the law requiring further guidance to states. As we receive further guidance, we will notify you by means of subsequent All-County Letters or All-County Information Notices.

If you have any questions, or need clarification, please contact your FPSP consultant in the Children's Services Operations Bureau at (916) 445-2832.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marjorie Kelly".

MARJORIE KELLY, Deputy Director
Children and Family Services Division

c: California Welfare Directors Association