DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 322-6333

March 7, 1979

ALL-COUNTY LETTER NO. 79-14

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE STATE FUNDS FOR 24-HOUR SOCIAL SERVICE INTERVENTION IN PROTECTIVE SERVICES FOR CHILDREN

We wish to inform all counties that state funds have been included in the Governor's Budget for 1979/80 for provision of 24-hour, seven day a week social service intervention in reported cases of child abuse and neglect. However, these funds are subject to review and approval by the Legislature.

A number of projects in various locations around the country have demonstrated the value of a 24-hour continuous in-home social service response system in minimizing the traumas which children suffer, and in decreasing the likelihood of their entrance into the juvenile justice system and out-of-home care. In California, most after-hour referrals are handled by law enforcement agencies. Although the officers are sincerely concerned with protecting children, they do not have immediately available to them the resources which County Welfare Departments can provide, including skilled social service intervention in these family crises at the point of referral.

Because of our conviction at the state level that the first step in upgrading the services for children who are neglected or abused is to provide continuous social service intervention at times of crisis, we have proposed that state funds should be channeled into this activity. In a forthcoming letter, County Welfare Departments will be provided with details of what must be done to qualify for these funds. As in other social services funding, a 25 percent county match will be required. You may want to alert your Board of Supervisors of the possibility of these funds.

If you have any questions, please contact Sylvia Kerr or Gary Matthies, Family and Children's Services Branch, 744 P Street, Room 940, Sacramento, CA 95814, at (916) 322-6333.

Sincerely,

James H. Gomez

JAMES H. GOMEZ
Deputy Director

cc: CWDA