

NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES IN REGULATIONS OF THE
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES (CDSS)

ITEM # 2 Supportive Transitional Emancipation Program (STEP) Regulations

CDSS hereby gives notice of the proposed regulatory action(s) described below. Any person interested may present statements or arguments orally or in writing relevant to the proposed regulations at a public hearing to be held November 13, 2002, as follows:

November 13, 2002
Office Building # 9
744 P St. Auditorium
Sacramento, California

The public hearing will convene at 10:00 a.m. and will remain open only as long as attendees are presenting testimony. The Department will adjourn the hearing immediately following the completion of testimony presentations. The above-referenced facility is accessible to persons with disabilities. If you are in need of a language interpreter at the hearing (including sign language), please notify the Department at least two weeks prior to the hearing.

Statements or arguments relating to the proposals may also be submitted in writing, e-mail, or by facsimile to the address/number listed below. All comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. on November 13, 2002.

CDSS, upon its own motion or at the instance of any interested party, may adopt the proposals substantially as described or may modify such proposals if such modifications are sufficiently related to the original text. With the exception of nonsubstantive, technical, or grammatical changes, the full text of any modified proposal will be available for 15 days prior to its adoption to all persons who testify or submit written comments during the public comment period, and all persons who request notification. Please address requests for regulations as modified to the agency representative identified below.

Copies of the express terms of the proposed regulations and the Initial Statement of Reasons are available from the office listed below. This notice, the Initial Statement of Reasons and the text of the proposed regulations are available on the internet at <http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/ord>. Additionally, all the information which the Department considered as the basis for these proposed regulations (i.e., rulemaking file) is available for public reading/perusal at the address listed below.

Following the public hearing, copies of the Final Statement of Reasons will be available from the office listed below.

CONTACT: Anthony J. Velasquez, Chief
Office of Regulations Development
California Department of Social Services
744 P Street, MS 7-192
Sacramento, California 95814

TELEPHONE: (916) 657-2586 FACSIMILE: (916) 654-3286
E-MAIL: ord@dss.ca.gov

CHAPTERS

Manual of Policies and Procedures (MPP), Division 90 (KINSHIP GUARDIANSHIP ASSISTANCE PAYMENT PROGRAM), Chapter 90-200 [SUPPORTIVE TRANSITIONAL EMANCIPATION PROGRAM (STEP)], Sections 90-200 (STEP PURPOSE), 90-205 (DEFINITIONS), 90-210 (STEP ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS), 90-215 (COUNTY RESPONSIBILITIES), AND 90-220 (STEP RATES).

INFORMATIVE DIGEST/POLICY STATEMENT OVERVIEW

Assembly Bill (AB) 427, Chapter 125, Statutes of 2001, created the Supportive Transitional Emancipation Program (STEP) which promotes self-sufficiency by providing an assistance payment to emancipated foster youth until their 21st birthday under specified circumstances and helps to support a vulnerable population at risk of homelessness, unemployment, welfare dependency and incarceration. Youth participating in the Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment Program (Kin-GAP) are also eligible for the STEP when they emancipate.

The Aid to Families with Dependent Children – Foster Care (AFDC-FC) Program provides a payment to foster youth until their 18th birthday (can be extended to 19 under certain circumstances). The STEP provides a monthly stipend and medical benefits to these youths until their 21st birthday under specified circumstances. STEP will also provide a case worker for the child who will assist in the development of a STEP - Transitional Independent Living Plan (TILP) which outlines the child's goals for transitioning to adulthood including education and employment. These funds and services will help the former foster youth to finish their high school education, attend a college or technical training program, or develop work skills to become self supporting. By allowing the youth to finish their schooling and/or gain work skills, the youth will be more likely to acquire gainful employment and be less likely to end up homeless, incarcerated, or dependent upon public assistance.

These proposed regulations implement STEP pursuant to AB 427. This includes the adoption of regulations to provide definitions, STEP eligibility requirements, STEP county responsibilities, and STEP rates.

COST ESTIMATE

1. Costs or Savings to State Agencies: Additional expenditures of approximately \$819,000 are already included in the current State Fiscal Year (2002-2003).
2. Costs to Local Agencies or School Districts: Additional expenditures of approximately \$1,176,000 have already been budgeted in the current State Fiscal Year (2002-2003) which are reimbursable by the State pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution and Sections 17500 et seq. of the Government Code. Funding for this reimbursement is provided in Item 101, Budget Act of 2001 or Chapter 125, Statutes of 2001.
3. Nondiscretionary Costs or Savings to Local Agencies: None.
4. Federal Funding to State Agencies: No fiscal impact because this regulation does not affect any federally funded State agency or program.

LOCAL MANDATE STATEMENT

These regulations do constitute a mandate on local agencies, but not on local school districts. Local agency participation in STEP is optional. If the local agency chooses to participate in STEP then there are state-mandated local costs that require reimbursement, which is provided in the Budget Act.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE ECONOMIC IMPACT ON BUSINESS

CDSS has made an initial determination that the proposed action will not have a significant, statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting businesses, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states.

STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL COST IMPACT ON PRIVATE PERSONS OR BUSINESSES

CDSS is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action.

SMALL BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

CDSS has determined that there is no impact on small businesses as a result of filing these regulations because these regulations are only applicable to state and county agencies.

ASSESSMENT OF JOB CREATION OR ELIMINATION

The adoption of the proposed amendments will neither create nor eliminate jobs in the State of California nor result in the elimination of existing businesses or create or expand businesses in the State of California.

STATEMENT OF EFFECT ON HOUSING COSTS

The proposed regulatory action will have no effect on housing costs.

STATEMENT OF ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

CDSS must determine that no reasonable alternative considered or that has otherwise been identified and brought to the attention of CDSS would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the regulations are proposed or would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed action.

AUTHORITY AND REFERENCE CITATIONS

CDSS adopts these regulations under the authority granted in Sections 10553 and 10554 of the Welfare and Institutions Code. Subject regulations implement and make specific Sections 300, 601, 602, 10554, 11135 through 11139.5, 11363, 11401, and 11403.1 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

CDSS REPRESENTATIVE REGARDING RULEMAKING PROCESS OF THE PROPOSED REGULATION

Contact Person: Anthony J. Velasquez (916) 657-2586
Backup: John Flores (916) 657-2586

CDSS REPRESENTATIVE REGARDING SUBSTANCE OF THE PROPOSED REGULATION

Program Contact: Ty Starks Morgan (909) 782-6600
Backup: Jack Stroppini (916) 322-5949

AGENDA ITEM(S) FOR THIS PUBLIC HEARING - November 13, 2002

ITEM #1 ORD #0102-01 Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants Amendments

ITEM #2 ORD #0602-01 Supportive Transitional Emancipation Program (STEP)
Regulations