



CDSS

CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL SERVICES

STATE FAMILY PRESERVATION PROGRAM (SFP)

**Office of Child Abuse Prevention
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State Family Preservation (SFP) Program

I. What is SFP?

State Family Preservation (SFP) is a state funded program aimed at reducing the necessity of out-of-home placement of children who have experienced child abuse or neglect within the family and, when appropriate, at expediting the reunification of children with their families when the children are in out-of-home placements.

II. Authority

State: Effective July 1, 2011, Assembly Bill 118 (Chapter 40, Statutes of 2011), realigned the SFP funds from state to local government revenue funds. In addition, Senate Bill 1013 (Chapter 35, Statutes of 2012) amended Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Sections 16500.5 - 16500.65 to update the SFP requirements and to require that the funds be expended in a manner that will maximize federal financial participation.

In accordance with fiscal policy, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) utilizes SFP local expenditures to meet the maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements for the Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) Program as well as the federal match for the PSSF (County Fiscal Letter (CFL) Numbers 12/13-11, dated August 22, 2012 and 12/13-11E, dated November 21, 2012) and the California Partners for Permanency (CAPP) Project, a competitive federal grant awarded to California.

In order for California to maintain federal grant eligibility, including for the PSSF annual allocation, SFP counties must utilize SFP funds in accordance with the statute's target population, allowable services, and reporting requirements.

The Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) within the CDSS has been designated by the Governor as the single state agency to oversee SFP. Pursuant to statute, the OCAP will provide administrative oversight, consultation, and technical assistance. The OCAP is required to monitor how the participating counties are using SFP funds.

Counties: County participation in SFP was established via application per requirements and instructions outlined in All County Letter Number 92-13, dated January 30, 1992. Pursuant to this process, the CDSS approved 15 counties to participate in the Program.

SFP Counties		
<i>Alameda</i>	<i>Napa</i>	<i>San Luis Obispo</i>
<i>Contra Costa</i>	<i>Placer</i>	<i>Santa Clara</i>
<i>Humboldt</i>	<i>Riverside</i>	<i>Santa Cruz</i>
<i>Los Angeles</i>	<i>Sacramento</i>	<i>Solano</i>
<i>Mendocino</i>	<i>San Diego</i>	<i>Stanislaus</i>

State Family Preservation (SFP) Program

III. Purpose

Participating SFP counties shall encourage continuity of the family by providing services that would:

- Reduce the necessity of out-of-home placements for children at risk of child abuse or neglect;
- Significantly reduce the length of stay for children in out-of-home placements; and
- Reduce the necessity for more restrictive out-of-home placements.

IV. Target Population

The SFP target population may include but is not limited to:

- Families whose children are the subject of an in-home case;
- Families whose children are placed in out-of-home care;
- Families whose children are at risk of entering out-of-home care;
- Families whose children are under the supervision of county probation; and
- Parents or guardians of these children to facilitate reunification or allow children to remain at home.

V. Use of Funds

Funds may be used for the following activities:

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|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Counseling | • Parenting |
| • Day Treatment | • Respite Care |
| • Family Maintenance | • Transportation |
| • Family Support | • Mental Health Treatment |
| • Family Reunification | • Substance Abuse Treatment |

Funds shall supplement, not supplant, child welfare services funds designated for family maintenance and family reunification.

VI. Program Requirements

WIC sections 16500.5 - 16500.65 require that the participating SFP counties provide specific programs of direct services based on individual family needs as reflected in their service plans. These include family support, family maintenance (WIC 16506) and family reunification (WIC 16507) services for families whose children, without these services, would be subject to:

- Being at imminent risk of out-of-home placement.
- Remaining in existing out-of-home placement for longer periods of time.
- Being placed in a more restrictive out-of-home placement.

State Family Preservation (SFP) Program

Each county shall include, in its county System Improvement Plan, information that details what services are to be funded by SFP, who will be served, and how the services are coordinated with the array of services available in the county. In order to meet federal and state requirements, counties shall submit annual reports on types of services and numbers served.

VII. Program Outcomes

The program in each county shall be deemed successful by meeting the following standards:

- Families can resolve their own problems, effectively utilize service systems, and advocate for their children in educational and social agencies.
- Family functioning is enhanced by building on family strengths.
- At least 75 percent of the children receiving services remain in their own home for six months after termination of services.

During the first year after services are terminated:

- At least 60 percent of the children receiving services remain at home one year after services are terminated.
- The average length of stay in out-of-home care of children selected to receive services who have already been removed from their home and placed in out-of-home care is 50 percent less than the average length of stay in out-of-home care of children who do not receive program services.

Two years after the termination of family preservation services:

- The average length of out-of-home stay of children selected to receive services under this section that, at the time of selection, are in out-of-home care, is 50 percent less than the average length of stay in out-of-home care for children in out-of-home care who do not receive services pursuant to this section.
- At least 60 percent of the children who were returned home pursuant to this section remain at home.

VIII. References

[All County Letter Number 92-13, dated January 30, 1992](#)

[Assembly Bill 118 \(Chapter 40, Statutes of 2011\)](#)

[County Fiscal Letter Number 12/13-11, dated August 22, 2012](#)

[County Fiscal Letter Number 12/13-11E, dated November 21, 2012](#)

[Senate Bill 1013 \(Chapter 35, Statutes of 2012\)](#)

State Family Preservation (SFP) Program

[Welfare and Institutions Code Sections 16500.5 - 16500.65, 16506 and 16507](#)

IX. Program Resources

- The California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse
www.cebc4cw.org
- Strengthening Families
<http://www.cssp.org/reform/strengthening-families>
- Strategies
<http://www.familyresourcecenters.net/>
- Family Development Matrix
<http://matrixoutcomesmodel.com/famdevmatrix.php>