

# TITLE IV-E CALIFORNIA WELL-BEING PROJECT

OCTOBER 2014



## ACTIVITIES UNDER THE PROJECT

The Project will focus on two components across all participating counties, which are explained in more detail on the next page:

- ❖ **Prevention:** Wraparound for probation youth exhibiting delinquency risk factors that put them at risk of entering foster care.
- ❖ **Family Centered Practice:** Safety Organized Practice to further implement and enhance the Core Practice Model for child welfare.

## PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The California Well-Being Project provides California with the flexibility to invest existing resources more effectively in proven and innovative approaches that better ensure the safety of children and the success of families. This flexibility enables the opportunity to reinvest resources into more cost efficient approaches that achieve better outcomes.

The Project, which will operate in the following counties: Alameda, Butte, Lake, Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, Santa Clara, and Sonoma, has the following goals:

- ❖ Improve the array of services and supports available to children and families involved in the child welfare and juvenile probation systems;
- ❖ Engage families through a more individualized casework approach that emphasizes family involvement;
- ❖ Increase child safety without an over-reliance on out-of-home care;
- ❖ Improve permanency outcomes and timelines;
- ❖ Improve child and family well-being; and
- ❖ Decrease recidivism and delinquency for youth on probation.

The target population includes children and youth aged 0-17, inclusive, who currently are in out-of-home placement or who are at risk of entering or re-entering foster care.

## EVALUATION OF THE PROJECT

The State will conduct an evaluation of the Project to determine whether and how the Project's funding flexibility affects county child welfare and youth probation systems, and to measure the Project's success in meeting its stated goals for improved safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes for children. The evaluation will consist of three components: A process evaluation, an outcome evaluation, and a cost analysis.

## DURATION OF THE PROJECT

California's Project began on July 1, 2007 with Alameda and Los Angeles counties, and has continued under three short-term bridge extensions through September 30, 2014.

On September 29, 2014, the federal government approved a five-year extension and expansion of the Project, for seven additional counties through September 30, 2019.

## FISCAL METHODOLOGY OF THE PROJECT EXTENSION

California's Project has a two-cohort track:

- ❖ Cohort 1 consists of Alameda and Los Angeles Counties, and will retain its existing financial base, a three-year average of 2003-2005.
- ❖ Cohort 2 will include the seven new counties, with a base year period established as the five-year average of 2008-2012.

Both cohorts have a growth factor based on the actual California Necessities Index for each year.

If the state experiences significant unanticipated increases in either payments to families or administrative costs that exceed the growth rate that are unrelated to the implementation of the Project (e.g., stemming from federal, state or county policy changes, court orders, or other external factors), ACF may consider an adjustment to the base allocation.

Certain foster care costs incurred by participating counties are excluded from the Project, and will be paid outside of the Project's capped federal allocation, including:

- ❖ Any allowable title IV-E claims from counties not participating in the demonstration project
- ❖ Any allowable SACWIS (CWS/CMS) development or operational costs
- ❖ Any allowable title IV-E foster care licensing activities and 50% training
- ❖ Any allowable staff, provider, or professional partner training costs
- ❖ All eligible youth who are at least age 18 but have not yet attained the age of 21 (Extended Foster Care)
- ❖ Any allowable adoptions costs including Adoptions Assistance Payments

## PROJECT-WIDE INTERVENTIONS

### Safety Organized Practice (SOP) / Core Practice Model (CPM)

Specific elements of SOP include family engagement and assessment, behaviorally based case planning, transition planning, ongoing monitoring, and case plan adaptation as appropriate. Specific services to be implemented as part of SOP include Safety Mapping/Networks, effective safety planning at foster care entry and exit, Capturing the Children's Voice, solution-focused interviewing, motivational interviewing, and case teaming.

### Wraparound

The Wraparound model will involve a family-centered, strengths-based, needs-driven planning process for creating individualized services and supports for the youth and family. Specific elements of the Wraparound model will include case teaming, family and youth engagement, individualized strength-based case planning, and transition planning.

In addition to the Project-wide interventions above, each county may implement additional child welfare and probation interventions, at local discretion.



## CDSS WELL-BEING PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION

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