



CDSS

JOHN A. WAGNER  
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • www.cdss.ca.gov



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER  
GOVERNOR

December 28, 2009

ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) NO. 09-80

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS  
ALL STAFF DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS

SUBJECT: EXPANDED AUDIENCE FOR TITLE IV-E TRAINING

REFERENCE: PUBLIC LAW (PL) 110-351  
COUNTY FISCAL LETTER (CFL) NO. 09/10-19, DATED  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2009  
COUNTY FISCAL LETTER NO. 05/06-33, DATED DECEMBER 8, 2005

The purpose of this ACL is to advise child welfare and probation departments of federal legislation which impacts Title IV-E training.

The “Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008” (PL 110-351) provides for additional categories of trainees eligible to receive Title IV-E short-term training. Training can now be provided to relative guardians, State-licensed or State-approved child welfare agencies providing services, members of staff of abuse and neglect courts, agency attorneys, attorneys representing children or parents, guardians ad litem, and court-appointed special advocates representing children in proceedings of such courts. Clarification of State-licensed/State-approved child welfare agencies is provided in the attachment.

The Federal Financial Participation rate for the new audience will phase in over five Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) as follows:

FFY 2009	10/1/08 – 9/30/09	55%
FFY 2010	10/1/09 – 9/30/10	60%
FFY 2011	10/1/10 – 9/30/11	65%
FFY 2012	10/1/11 – 9/30/12	70%
FFY 2013	10/1/12 – 9/30/13	75%

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

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

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Specific claiming instructions can be found in CFL 09/10-19 dated September 30, 2009.

If you have any questions or concerns, you can contact me at (916) 657-2614 or Linné Stout, Chief of the Child Protection and Family Support Branch, at (916) 651-6600.

Sincerely,

***Original Document Signed By:***

GREGORY E. ROSE  
Deputy Director  
Children and Family Services Division

Attachments

## **California State Licensed or State Approved Child Welfare Agencies**

The Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, has given states discretion to define which entities constitute “state-licensed or state-approved child welfare agencies providing services.” The California Department of Social Services has defined “state-licensed or state-approved child welfare agencies” in this context to include all entities and organizations, including county welfare departments that directly engage in the development and/or implementation of the case plan for current foster and adoptive children who receive Title IV-E assistance. “Staff” of these agencies includes any individuals who are invited, contracted, or voluntarily participate in support of the child and family so long as they are doing so at the behest of a state-licensed or state-approved child welfare agency.

Consistent with the focus of the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoption Act of 2008, the recognition of the involvement of non-public child welfare staff in support of Title IV-E eligible children and families are integral to improving outcomes. It is crucial to have increased engagement of family members in identifying individuals, groups, and agencies that are engaged at key decision points and throughout the life of the case plan.

As part of the case plan implementation for Title IV-E eligible children and families these providers may be integrally involved in a variety of team processes such as: Team Decision Making, Family Group Decision Making, and Wraparound Teams. Given the nature of non-public child welfare groups and individuals (listed below) in their ongoing work with Title IV-E eligible children and families, it is critical that joint and cross system training occur to support consistent messaging and improved shared practice.

Below are listed the organizations or individuals that may be considered staff of state-licensed or state-approved child welfare agencies and how they fit within the context of providing child welfare services:

- **Parent/Family Support Partner individuals or organizations:** Activities of engagement result in reduced resistance by the family/child and increased readiness to engage and make necessary changes as described in their case plan.
- **Faith-based community organizations:** Provide culturally relevant sources of support, training, re-assessment and capacity building for the family--providing ready access support at the local/community level.
- **Extended family members, caregivers, and non-caregivers:** Maintain the continuity of care, connection, and support for children in care. As the child transitions to permanency, sustain and implement the case plan, and support and facilitate visitation.

## Attachment

- **Tribal ICWA workers without a Title IV-E plan:** Provide essential service and supports for tribal children youth and families.
- **Licensed child care providers:** Support families in the implementation of the case plan and address protective issues.
- **Providers of visitation services:** Link providers who support visitation with case plan goals and objectives for children and families.
- **Providers of domestic violence and child abuse services:** Support team members in assessment, case planning, and implementation to address protective issues for children and families.
- **Regional Center staff, Licensed medical staff, Providers of Mental Health services, Educational providers and advocates:** Assess and assist in meeting the child or youth's developmental, medical, mental health, and educational needs in support of the case plan.
- **Licensed counselors:** Support the child and family in resolving key issues and make necessary changes as described in their case plan.
- **CalWORKs Linkages staff:** Support the family and team members in assessment, case planning, and implementation to address protective issues for children and families.