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FLEXIBLE FINANCING WORK GROUP

RECOMMENDATIONS DECEMBER 2001

INTRODUCTION

In order to assist California leaders in maximizing available financial resources, the Flexible Financing Work Group of the CalWORKs/Child Welfare Partnership Project developed recommendations in four areas:

- Identifying state and federally imposed legislative and regulatory limitations,
- Information sharing,
- Tools to operationalize funding of coordinated services, and
- Local challenges.

Although there are current legislative and regulatory limitations, the Work Group identified a number of innovative and effective programs that coordinate CalWORKs and Child Welfare Services (CWS) by utilizing integrated – or braided – funding. Identifying the funding streams and appropriate accounting procedures to fund such coordination is an important first step. This identification process can be aided through increased information sharing among counties and the development of standardized decision-making and accounting tools for “braiding” funding.

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STATE AND FEDERALLY IMPOSED LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY LIMITATIONS

California state law limits the use of some funding streams in ways that are not limited in federal statute or regulation. At the same time, some federal statutes and regulations do not allow federal funding for certain benefits and services to many of California's needy families and vulnerable children.

1. Definition of Needy Families Used for CalWORKs Performance Incentive Funds

California's statute for welfare reform does not permit counties to utilize their CalWORKs Performance Incentive funds for all needy families to the full extent allowed by federal law. According to federal law, TANF funds may be used in any manner that is reasonably calculated to:

- (1) provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives;
- (2) end the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage;
- (3) prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies; and
- (4) encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

For goals one and two above, federal law allows the states to determine their own definition of needy families. Goals three and four do not have a needs standard, thus making services to meet those goals available to all families regardless of income or resources. With respect to the allowable uses of performance incentives (funds earned by the counties based upon their performance in helping families receiving CalWORKs to secure employment), California chose to define a needy family as one with an income less than 200% of the federal poverty level. However, California's one-size-fits-all income limit disregards the wide variation in cost of living within California.

Recommendation:

- The Work Group recommends that the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) and the California Welfare Directors Association (CWDA) jointly develop a legislative proposal for regionalizing the income standard used to define a needy family for the purpose of determining eligibility for services funded by performance incentives. Regionalizing the income standard would permit those counties with a high cost of living to set a needy family income standard higher than the current statewide standard of 200% of the federal poverty level.

2. Funding for Improved Linkages Between CalWORKs and Child Welfare Services

The current separation of the state's CalWORKs and child welfare *funding streams* reinforces the lack of *programmatic* coordination between the two programs. This lack of coordination is significant because a considerable number of families receiving services through CWS are also current or former participants in CalWORKs. Furthermore, many other low-income families in the CWS system do not receive a CalWORKs cash grant, but are eligible for certain CalWORKs funded services.

Recommendations:

The Work Group recommends that CDSS and CWDA jointly develop legislative proposals to provide the following assistance to counties in their efforts to coordinate CalWORKs and CWS services:

- Provide a separate one-time state allocation of \$50,000 per county. While modest, this allocation would provide an impetus for planning and implementation activities for linking CalWORKs and CWS. Counties would be required to certify that these funds would be used to support the coordination of these two programs.
- Allow counties the flexibility to designate a portion of their CalWORKs Single Allocation and/or their CWS Emergency Assistance allocation to fund the coordination of CalWORKs and CWS programs. Counties opting for this flexibility would be required to incorporate this redirection of funding into their CalWORKs plan and, as appropriate, any CWS-related plan, with such plan modifications subject to review by CDSS.

The target population in the two recommendations above would include, but not be limited to, *"dual system"* families that are currently receiving both CalWORKs and CWS. Counties would be permitted to utilize these funds, allocated from the TANF Block Grant, in any manner allowable under federal law, consistent with the intent of promoting the coordination of CalWORKs and CWS.

- It is *further* recommended that CDSS and CWDA jointly determine an appropriate process for assessing the outcomes of the counties' activities should the above recommendation be implemented. This assessment could be used to determine the potential impact of an ongoing coordination of already existing CalWORKs and child welfare funding streams.

3. Child Welfare Single Allocation

Another limitation is the current state funding arrangement that provides funds for specific programs with restricted uses and with little county flexibility to redirect funding as needed to meet broader goals and outcomes.

The state shares a commitment with the counties to financially support the cost of locally provided child welfare services. Each year, the state budget process appropriates authorized amounts of federal and state funds by program and/or service category for use by the counties. These funds are distributed to the counties through many separate program allocations, each with limits on who may be served and what types of services may be provided. Since most CWS activities can be charged to any one of the many allocations, it is a daunting task to fully utilize each allocation, but not exceed it.

Current state funding provided by CDSS for child welfare services comes to most counties through at least 14 separate programs (see Table 1). All are designed to ensure that children are not at risk of abuse and have a safe and stable home.

In this complex and fragmented financing structure, valuable resources are diverted from service delivery. Social workers and other service providers find that time which should be focused on delivering services is spent tracking and reporting expenditures. Funding that could be used for service delivery is increasingly devoted to administrative and clerical support to allocate, monitor, and report expenditures against multiple funding sources.

Recommendation:

The Work Group recommends consolidating child welfare services allocations and funding streams aimed at protecting children at risk of abuse and neglect into a smaller number of allocations.

- Consolidating these child welfare services allocations would not impede a county's ability to continue to obtain Federal Title IV-E funding for the entire continuum of services through CWS. Furthermore, consolidation would reduce the considerable financial and data tracking and reporting now required for multiple and sometimes arbitrary funding streams, thus freeing counties to focus on services to maximize successful outcomes for children and families.¹
- It is suggested that a joint task force of CDSS and the Fiscal and Children's committees of CWDA be convened to determine which funding streams could be consolidated in order to streamline management, maximize local flexibility, and enhance program outcomes.

¹ The Work Group also considered the rather complex interplay of the CalWORKs Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment (MH/SAT) allocation and the CalWORKs Single Allocation. The Single Allocation provides TANF funding for eligibility determination, employment services, and child care and can be used to supplement MH/SAT, but not vice versa.

The Work Group is not recommending changes to the use criteria for these two allocations at this time. The earlier recommendation relating to flexibility of CalWORKs Single Allocation and/or CWS Emergency Assistance funds, if adopted, would provide counties an opportunity to assess the results of more flexible use of TANF funds.

Table 1
Separate Allocations in Child Welfare

- Adoptions
- Non-Recurring Adoptions
- Foster Family Home Licensing
- Child Welfare Services (CWS)
- CWS Group Home Visits
- Independent Living Skills Program
- Emancipated Youth Stipend
- Foster Parent Training and Recruitment
- Kinship Foster Care Emergency Fund
- Post Adoptions
- Family Preservation and Family Support (FPFS)
- State Family Preservation
- Supportive Therapeutic Options Program (STOP)
- Options for Recovery

Note: This list does not include individual grants offered by the state or federal governments for similar purposes, such as Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention, and Treatment (CAPIT) and Kinship Support Services Program (KSSP).

4. Flexibility in the Federal Funding Structure

The current federal funding structure does not adequately support state and federal goals of assisting families to remain intact and ensuring child safety in a permanent and stable home. Federal Title IV-E Foster Care funds only pay for out-of-home care *and* only for children whose families would qualify for the former AFDC program, if the July 1996 eligibility criteria for AFDC remained in effect today. As a result of the restriction on allowable activities under Title IV-E, funding for child abuse prevention and family preservation is severely limited. This restriction on the allowable service population obligates counties to waste *scarce* resources determining the income and resources of families whose children are removed from their home.

The Work Group is concerned about providing a safe and stable environment for *all* children, not just those who come from needy families. Funding for the out-of-home maintenance payment without funding for services does not acknowledge the need for services in order to move children to a permanent safe home. It is also shortsighted in that the potential for a reduction in length of stay in foster care and future cost avoidance may be greater if funds were available for services. If states were not required to expend resources on the activities necessary to meet the eligibility requirement of the AFDC connection for federal funds, those resources could be redirected into better services and outcomes for children.

In addition, rather than having limited (capped) federal funds for child abuse prevention and family preservation services, states would benefit from the ability to expand their efforts and services with shared financial responsibility and federal funding support.

Many other states have identified these same concerns and share California's desire to bring about a revised federal funding structure in support of improved outcomes for families and children. APHSA (American Public Human Services Association), in the child welfare section of their recently released report, *Crossroads: Summary of Proposals*, makes several key observations and recommendations to address the shortfalls in the current federal funding structure, including the inconsistencies in federal law/guidelines between the funding criteria and the desired outcomes.

Recommendations:

California should join with other states to facilitate changes in the federal funding structure that would make Title IV-E funds available to:

- Serve all children requiring out-of-home care without regard to income by eliminating the linkage of Title IV-E to the former AFDC eligibility criteria; and
- Be used in any manner currently allowed under Title IV-B and, thus, provide federal support for a range of services for all children in order to ensure that they are living in a safe and stable home. This would allow counties to use federal funds to support family preservation, family maintenance, counseling, teaching and demonstrating homemaking skills, whole family foster care, and other services directed toward keeping children safe.

INFORMATION SHARING

As part of the devolution created under CalWORKs, California gave counties substantial responsibility for welfare-to-work program design and implementation, and many counties took the initiative to develop systems and programs to address the needs of families accessing both CalWORKs and CWS.

However, there has been little sharing of information among counties and the state about the availability and use of various funding streams that support families in both CalWORKs and CWS, and there is no central repository of information in the state that catalogues specific activities and services, including prevention services, that can be funded with TANF and CWS funds.

Recommendations:

- The Work Group recommends that CDSS form a committee to determine the most effective process for regularly collecting and publishing, via the internet and elsewhere, information from counties and other states about funding the coordination of CalWORKs and CWS.
 - The published information should include data on demographics, economic conditions, geographic circumstances, and policy priorities that influenced the local coordination.
 - An ongoing CDSS/CWDA Committee should review information collected for appropriateness and applicability.
- The Work Group recommends that the CWDA Fiscal Committee sponsor “Information Sharing” seminars for county fiscal and program staff on the funding and accounting aspects of coordinating CalWORKs and CWS. Where appropriate, such training should include state and local partners.

TOOLS TO OPERATIONALIZE FUNDING OF COORDINATED SERVICES

Currently, counties planning and developing innovative CalWORKs/CWS collaborative programs must also independently research the use of funds criteria and develop the fiscal tools necessary to implement those programs. As a result, it is more difficult for counties to implement such collaborative programs than it would be if there were statewide tools that counties could utilize to assist them in designing their service delivery approach.

The challenge for counties goes beyond identifying available funding, as many counties would value technical and operational information on the “back room” accounting and reporting procedures needed to braid funding streams.² The Work Group has determined that many counties are currently struggling either with designing new systems that allow for coordination or with spending large amounts of resources to make current coordinated systems more efficient. The creation of a Tool Kit that outlines fund sources and their uses, provides a list of resources and specific examples of financial policies and procedures, and presents case studies of how some counties efficiently charge against funding streams in a coordinated system would go a long way in assisting counties to operationalize the funding of coordinated CalWORKs/CWS service systems.

Recommendations:

- The Work Group recommends the formation of a joint CDSS/CWDA Committee comprised of individuals with fiscal, data systems, and program expertise to identify and develop tools that would assist counties in accomplishing the financial coordination of CalWORKs and CWS. Such tools might include, but not be limited to, a catalogue or “library” of useful resources, case studies, specific matrices on uses of TANF and Title IV-E, narrative information on strategies for maximizing funds, and listings of County Fiscal Letters that contain funding and claiming instructions/clarifications.

During the process of developing such tools, the Committee may discover and pursue opportunities for the adoption of more cost-effective claiming and data-reporting methods for coordinated service systems.

The Flexible Financing Work Group developed first drafts of possible tools as discussed above, including case studies of accounting practices (see Appendices A, B, and C) and a matrix of coordinated programs that can be supported by Performance Incentive Funds (see Appendix D).

- The Work Group also recommends that this joint CDSS/CWDA Committee include other statewide agencies and associations, as Committee members believe appropriate.

² As many counties move forward with integrated, collaborative programs, the challenge goes beyond the ability to identify the availability of funding. The key to effective utilization of all available funds is to match them up to the target population and services to be provided. Then staff must select the strategy that *most likely* will achieve the desired program outcomes and develop the means to capture data in support of expenditures without overburdening program staff.

LOCAL CHALLENGES

The differences among counties – such as demographics, economic conditions, geographic circumstances, and varying policy priorities – mean that counties have different challenges to surmount in order to secure or maximize funds for coordinated service delivery.

A county may have one or more of the following circumstances affect their ability to maximize fiscal opportunities:

- Lack of departmental and/or community resources to adequately perform even a required program activity;
- Insufficient funding to pay the required share of a very desirable, but optional, program activity; and
- An extraordinary situation that can only be addressed by extraordinary funding.

Many local challenges are at least partially the result of insufficient information and/or tools to assist individual counties in maximizing currently available funds. No forum or repository exists for counties to share both the successful and unsuccessful strategies that they have developed to obtain local matching funds.

Recommendation:

- The Work Group recommends that counties take advantage of the materials and training opportunities that result from implementation of the recommendations in the previous sections, titled Information Sharing and Tools to Operationalize Funding of Coordinated Services. It is expected that these educational opportunities and materials will offer considerable information to assist with developing strategies to address local challenges.

END NOTE

The Flexible Financing Work Group has made specific fiscal recommendations for changes in state and federal law that would give counties greater flexibility to coordinate CalWORKs and CWS programs. These recommendations would involve modifying the definition of needy families used for CalWORKs Performance Incentive Funds, providing funding for improved linkages between CalWORKs and CWS, consolidating some of the child welfare services allocations, and making changes in the Title IV-E program to increase and broaden support for children.

The Work Group also calls for state-level support – through conferences, seminars, and the development of case studies and tools – to increase the information sharing among counties and allow county experts to share existing, proven strategies to braid program funding.

APPENDIX A: PARTNERSHIP PROJECT CASE STUDY
County of Santa Barbara
Utilization of TANF Incentive Funds to Help Sustain
a Multi-Integrated System of Care for At-Risk Children (MISC)

What is the MISC program?

MISC is a collaborative made up of various agencies that operate as a unified system of care, working with children with emotional and behavioral problems and with their families through a multi-agency, strengths-based, family-focused approach. The vision of this program is to assist families with at-risk children to grow and thrive together as full and active members of their communities. The Santa Barbara County Department of Alcohol Drug and Mental Health Services (ADMHS) serves as the lead agency.

What is MISC's financial structure?

MISC is a collaborative effort of the Santa Barbara County Departments of ADMHS, Public Health (PH), Probation, and Social Services (DSS), as well as public schools and community-based organizations (CBOs). MISC is funded via various funding streams, such as Medi-Cal, EPSDT, preventive placement Title IV-E, federal TANF incentive funds, realignment and tobacco settlement revenue.

Note: Specific approval for Title IV-E placement funding was obtained from the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) prior to claiming costs against this funding source.

How does the agency take a pool of costs and properly allocate and claim them to various sources with different eligibility and use rules?

All children that are served by the MISC collaboration must have a case opened specifically to this program.

The intake process for this program requires that each case be evaluated:

- by a DSS eligibility worker to determine Medi-Cal eligibility;
- by an ADMHS client representative to determine if the family meets the California definition of needy family; and
- to determine if there is any third party payee.

The case is then assessed, and a multidisciplinary team develops a case plan. This assessment will determine if:

- the child would be at risk of out-of-home placement if services were not rendered (preventive placement Title IV-E eligibility requirement);
Note: This determination must be made by a CWS caseworker.
- the case plan would help maintain and/or form a two-parent household (TANF goal 4 requirement); and
- provision of TANF services (board and care/basic needs) would allow the child to remain with a parent or relative (TANF goal 1 requirement) or prevent unwanted pregnancy (TANF goal 3 requirement).

Once these assessments are made, specific programmatic eligibility for each case is then entered into the ADMHS client tracking system. In addition to this data segregation, it is also possible to capture services provided by case, by activity, and by minute. This allows sorting of every service provided to a specific funding source by eligible population.

This data, along with the actual cost of providing a minute of service, will provide the actual costs eligible to be claimed to the various funding sources. By flagging each case in various ways, it is possible to make various funding decisions that could not be made without this data.

APPENDIX B: PARTNERSHIP PROJECT CASE STUDY
County of Stanislaus
Utilization of Braided Funds for Families In Partnership

What is the Families In Partnership program?

The Families In Partnership (FIP) program is a collaborative effort between five Stanislaus County Departments:

- Chief Executive Office (CEO)
- Health Services Agency (HSA)
- Probation
- Community Services Agency (CSA)
- Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS)

The *vision* of FIP is to provide an innovative and collaborative approach to family support and preservation. The *mission* of the FIP program is to protect at-risk children and families by providing comprehensive prevention and intensive interventions through a creative integrated services approach. The services are strengths based and culturally sensitive with the primary goal of keeping families together.

The goal of the FIP program is to provide integrated services to multi-problem families who have had considerable difficulty succeeding in existing programs. Children in these families are often at extreme risk for placement outside of the home. Services are integrated across agencies and delivered in a seamless fashion.

What is FIP's financial structure?

CSA acts as the fiscal agent for FIP. All costs for FIP are paid and accounted for by CSA.

Costs include:

- Labor costs, allocated overhead, and training costs of the multidisciplinary team;
- Direct contracted staff; and
- Direct client services provided by community-based organizations, local professionals, and wrap-around services.

FIP is supported primarily through funds available in the CWS allocation. A portion of the funding comes from State Family Preservation and Probation IV-E dollars. The balance of the funding, the required County share, is paid by the annual contributions made by the five participating agencies.

How does the agency take a pool of costs and properly allocate and claim them to various sources?

Families who are specifically targeted for FIP services include:

- Families whose children are at risk for out-of-home placement;
- Families with infants and children who have been exposed to substance abuse;
- Families currently involved with the CWS Family Reunification program, who have children in foster care and where substance abuse is an issue;
- Children placed in long-term foster care who could be placed with relatives if they could access services; and
- Children on probation who could remain with their families or be returned home from placement if family treatment and supportive services were available.

These cases are assigned to the FIP team and are identified and tracked separately.

FIP caseworkers time study to the CWS, State Family Preservation (SFP), and Probation IV-E programs based on the activities they perform. Following the County Cost Allocation Plan (CCAP), allocable support costs are allocated to these programs based on the time-studied hours.

FIP-related purchased training and request for services/goods documents include the Program Identifier Number (PIN) so that the resulting payments can be linked to FIP unit activities for CWS and Probation cases. FIP-related direct costs (vouchers and contract payments) are clearly identified as FIP-CWS, FIP-SFP, FIP-Probation, and FIP-CWS Time Expired (Probation and Time Expired directs are county-only expenditures).

All costs are claimed for Federal or State reimbursement as appropriate through the County Expense Claim (CEC).

APPENDIX C: PARTNERSHIP PROJECT CASE STUDY
County of Stanislaus
Utilization of Multiple Funds including TANF Incentive Funds for
Kinship Support Services Program (KSSP)

What is the KSSP?

KSSP is a family support program that provides support services to relatives who provide homes for abused and neglected children and teens who would otherwise enter foster homes or who are at risk of dependency or delinquency.

KSSP is a collaborative of Stanislaus County:

- Community Services Agency (CSA)
- Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS)
- Health Services Agency (HSA)
- Area Agency of Aging (AAA)
- Housing Authority
- Families First, a private foster care agency
- Healthy Start Centers
- Community-based organizations (CBOs)

This collaborative operates as a comprehensive system of care using a multidisciplinary approach.

The Center Director coordinates the efforts of the multidisciplinary team to establish a plan of services and supports which may include:

- Support groups and parent education programs
- Recreation activities for children, which provide the caregivers respite
- Homework clubs and school advocacy
- Accessing public benefits
- Permanency and adoptions counseling
- Post-permanency and adoptive services
- Health assessments
- Facilitation for families obtaining needed medical services
- Medical case management
- Independent living skills
- Translation services
- Emergency response services
- Wrap-around services
- Housing and legal services

What is KSSP's financial structure?

CSA serves as the lead agency with program and fiscal oversight. All costs are paid, claimed, and accounted for by CSA with the exception of a BHRS contract with Families First, which is directly paid and administered by BHRS for additional parent partners and counselors. Operating costs for the Apron Strings Center, the Families First location where services are provided, are allocated to the BHRS contract based on the number of contracted full-time equivalent (FTE) positions.

Costs include:

- Salaries, benefits, and overhead for administering the Apron Strings Center
- Direct services salaries and benefits for case managers, parent partners, counselors, social workers, and a public health nurse
- Wrap-around services, including legal services and respite care
- Recreation, media and outreach, training and conferences

Funding for this program is primarily:

- KSSP grant funds
- TANF Incentives - TANF goal 1
- County General Funds
- Kinship/Foster Care Emergency Allocation
- CWS Allocation
- Medi-Cal Federal Financial Participation (FFP)
- Mental Health State Funds
- Private donations and grants

How does the agency take a pool of costs and properly allocate and claim them to various sources with different eligibility and use rules?

The KSSP spending plan is completed annually and revised on an ongoing basis as major changes occur. This plan designates each budgeted line item cost to the appropriate funding source that meets all eligibility and claiming rules. If possible, the most flexible funding sources, those having the capability of rolling over to subsequent fiscal years (i.e., TANF Incentives and County General Funds), are planned and expended last. Budgeted line items are assigned General Ledger Coding Strips based on their funding stream to ensure that costs are paid and claimed correctly.

All families served by KSSP must have a case opened and a KSSP case number assigned. Client information is tracked in a database as required by CDSS for KSSP grant funding.

During the intake process, each case is evaluated to determine if the child meets:

- Medi-Cal eligibility, and
- California's definition of needy families.

These cases are tracked; and HSA and BHRS bill Medi-Cal directly for Medi-Cal services provided by the Public Health Nurse, BHRS Parent Partners, and BHRS Counselors. One parent partner provides services to only those families meeting the needy family definition.

**APPENDIX D: Uses of CalWORKs Performance Incentives
Related to Child Welfare
Selected Examples**

PROGRAM TYPE AND ACTIVITY
<p>CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT PREVENTION: CalWORKs Children's Fund This Fund was established for children and their families who are at risk of abuse or neglect. Funds will purchase basic need items not covered by the cash grant, such as clothing, infant safety equipment, beds, school supplies, appliances, and special housing needs. Items and services funded to enhance self-esteem include camps, lessons (music, dance, martial arts), bicycles and helmets, sports equipment/activities, musical instruments, incentives, and rewards.</p>
<p>CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT PREVENTION: CalWORKs Stop Grant Provides case management services for CalWORKs families with health issues and children ages 0-5 at risk of abuse. The goal is to improve family functioning by improving parenting skills and life skills and achieving normal development for children. The project will help parents assess family health needs; ensure that appropriate treatment is obtained; and coordinate with other health care systems including WIC, Family Planning, Continental Currency Services (CCS), and Child Health & Disability Prevention (CHDP).</p>
<p>CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT PREVENTION: Cross-Over Case Management Cross-over case management provides high risk families with coordinated, comprehensive services that will enable them to maintain healthy relationships, ensure the retention and safety of children in their homes, and become economically self-sufficient. Residential substance abuse treatment provides substance abuse treatment and increases life skills of CalWORKs mothers with children to assist them in becoming self-sufficient.</p>
<p>DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: Domestic Violence Support Services The department plans to outstation a Family Advocate to a CalWORKs office. The Family Advocate provides counseling to survivors of domestic abuse and consultation to staff. The YWCA operates the local safe house for survivors of domestic abuse and will be a partner in this effort.</p>
<p>HOUSING: Revolving Rental Loan Fund The agency initiated discussions with the county's oldest and largest housing support provider to implement this fund. This is a countywide revolving loan fund to serve CalWORKs families who need assistance in paying moving costs and preventing eviction.</p>
<p>HOUSING: Homeless Recovery Provides transitional housing assistance to homeless or at-risk CalWORKs and TANF-eligible families. Homeless Recovery funds will provide for a range of transitional housing assistance, including first/last month's rent payments, utility deposits, and short-term rental assistance.</p>
<p>RELATIVE CAREGIVER: Family Ties Program Program provides support to minor children living with a relative caregiver. Services include individual, family, and group counseling; parent education; youth recreation; life skills training; respite child care; transportation; food closet services; crisis intervention; and weekly support groups.</p>
<p>SCHOOL-RELATED: Truancy Prevention Project The project is most effective when working with families, not simply with CalWORKs children. The project will help families address social barriers to employment (e.g., dealing with truant/delinquent children) so they find and retain jobs, advance in their careers, and end dependence on public assistance.</p>
<p>SUBSTANCE ABUSE: For Our Recovering Families This program provides intensive outpatient substance abuse treatment services for parents and children. Services include intensive day treatment, educational day treatment, aftercare and relapse prevention, child care, and employment preparation. The focus is to strengthen families and reduce the number of needy parents on government benefits.</p>