

CALIFORNIA CHILD WELFARE COUNCIL

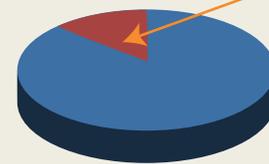
Prevention and Early Intervention Committee

FEDERAL CHILD WELFARE FINANCE REFORM: A CALL TO ACTION TO SUPPORT CALIFORNIA FAMILIES

In the United States, the majority of federal child welfare funding supports children placed in foster care through Title IV-E entitlement funds, with very limited resources available to support services designed to keep children safely at home with their families. Nationally, stakeholders have been working to change that system by enacting a federal child welfare finance reform so that the goals of maintaining safety, well-being and permanency for children can be better realized. While there is still a need for consensus in certain areas, there are three things that everyone agrees federal finance reform should do:

- **Broaden Eligibility** to include more families without restrictions.
- **Enhance Strategic Investments and Accountability** to provide services, strategies and supports that meet child, family and community needs.
- **Provide Incentives and Utilize Savings** to enhance outcomes for all children and families.

FOR EVERY \$6 SPENT TO MAINTAIN A CHILD IN FOSTER CARE, ONLY \$1 IS AVAILABLE TO BE INVESTED IN A BROADER ARRAY OF SERVICES AND SUPPORTS THAT PREVENT THE NEED FOR FOSTER CARE.



Taking Action: What you can do

California, with the largest number of children and families in the child welfare system nationally, could benefit from comprehensive federal child welfare finance reform, if we make our voices heard. If you want to demonstrate your support, consider the action steps outlined below – acting decisively will make a difference in the lives of California’s children, youth and families.

1. **Continue to educate yourself on this issue and partner with others who are involved in this important effort.** Join with the California Child Welfare Council, an advisory body that looks at child and family policy and financing issues, to help educate and advocate for improvement. The California Child Welfare Council was established by the Child Welfare Leadership and Accountability Act of 2006 (Welfare and Institutions Code Sections 16540 – 16545) and serves as an advisory body. More information can be found at: <http://www.chhs.ca.gov/Pages/CACChildWelfareCouncil.aspx>
2. **Support the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth.** Contact the bipartisan Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth Co-Chairs, composed of U.S. Reps. Karen Bass (D-Calif.), Tom Marino (R-Penn.), Jim McDermott (D-Wash.) and Michele Bachmann (R-Minn.) and indicate your support of their work to better serve children and youth in the foster care system. More information may be found at: <http://fosteryouthcaucus-karenbass.house.gov/>
3. **Contact your congressional representative to provide your feedback and input on this issue.** Take action to educate and inform California’s congressional representatives and others who are in a position to act decisively to positively reform federal child welfare financing. You will find contact information for your representatives at: <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/CA>

