



OVERVIEW

CAPP AT A GLANCE

- One of six projects in the country funded through a \$100 million Presidential Initiative to reduce long-term foster care.
- Serious and rare opportunity to focus energy, resources and leadership on a critical issue for children and families.
- CAPP seeks to have fewer children and youth in long-term foster care as well as fewer entries into foster care in the first place.
- Focus is on all children in foster care with targeted effort to help children who are in care the longest and experience the worst outcomes. According to statewide data, these populations include African American and American Indian children.
- CAPP is working with African American community and tribal representatives to design and implement changes in child welfare and partner agency systems.
- Goal is to provide children with the greatest support possible to safely remain with their families, return to their families, or live with relatives or those with whom they have significant family or Tribal relationships.
- Ultimate goal is to help build a foundation for a statewide movement to improve outcomes for children and youth in foster care by ensuring they have loving and lasting permanent relationships and families.

Over the course of five years, CAPP will:

- Conduct an analysis of local child welfare systems to better understand and address the barriers to permanency for children and families and inform solutions to reduce long-term foster care;
- Develop a Child and Family Practice Model to be utilized by social workers in their day-to-day work that partners with families, communities and Tribes in understanding and meeting the needs of their children;
- Refine, test and evaluate the approach in four California counties; and then
- Replicate the approach in other California counties and develop a plan to spread statewide.

PARTNERSHIP APPROACH

CAPP is reaching out to parents, youth, caregivers, communities and Tribes to learn from those who have first-hand experiences with the child welfare system. Their expertise is assisting CAPP in understanding how the day-to-day actions and interactions of child welfare and other systems serving children and families should change so that all children remain connected to their families and to cultural, community and Tribal supports. CAPP is working to create and implement practices and policies that:

- Understand, engage and value the strengths and resources of families and their supportive communities and Tribes; and
- Make available and support the use of culturally-based and trauma-informed support services to address the specific needs of children and their families.

Broad Outreach and Input Continues to Evolve

Outreach to and engagement of state and local stakeholders is a central focus of CAPP's work as it develops and refines the Child and Family Practice Model and prepares to test the model in early implementing counties. Local and state CAPP partnerships continue to evolve. The passion and dedication of many continue to inform CAPP's work, including:

- Early Implementing CAPP Counties (Fresno, Humboldt, Los Angeles, Santa Clara)
- Other California Counties
- Members of Tribal Communities
- Members of African American Communities
- Birth Parents, Youth and Other Family Members
- Relative and Foster Parent Caregivers
- Educators, Behavioral Health Practitioners, Community-Based Providers and Probation Officers
- State and County Child Welfare Leadership and Staff
- State and County Court Systems including Judges, Attorneys and County Counsel
- Child Advocates and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)
- Philanthropic Organizations
- Social Work Curriculum Developers, Trainers and Coaches
- Policymakers, Advocates and Organizations
- Child Welfare Researchers and Evaluators
- Federal Technical Assistance

WHAT'S NEXT

Federal assistance launched CAPP in late 2010. First year efforts have focused on significant planning, including outreach to counties and stakeholders to develop a comprehensive implementation plan per the request of the Federal Government. Recently, CAPP's Implementation Plan (Version 1.0) has been approved, which permits CAPP to move forward with federal funding.

Next steps include continued outreach to families, communities and Tribes to refine practices core to the Child and Family Practice Model and on-going work to launch local implementation teams and ready counties for early implementation efforts in 2012.

To learn more about California Partners for Permanency, visit www.reducefostercarenow.org or contact Karen Gunderson, Project Director, at the California Department of Social Services, karen.gunderson@dss.ca.gov or (916) 651.7395.



This project is a service of the Children's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.