

RESOURCE FAMILY APPROVAL PROGRAM (RFA)

The RFA program was enacted into law as a pilot program and was reauthorized as an early implementation program authorizing statewide implementation in 2012. In 2015, RFA was expanded and mandated as part of CCR implementation effective January 1, 2017. The RFA program is a streamlined approval process that combines elements of prior approval or licensing processes that were once separated and duplicative and included foster care licensing, relative approval, and adoption approvals. Once approved, the Resource Family will not have to undergo any additional approval processes if the family is interested in providing permanency to a child, youth or young adult. The program includes required training prior to approval and on an annual basis for all prospective caregivers and the completion of a psychosocial assessment. The RFA program has incorporated many of the practices of the Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI) to better recruit, support and retain quality caregivers and increased the standards for all caregivers so they will be better equipped to best meet the needs of children placed in their care either on a temporary or permanent basis.

Authorizing Statute:

AB 340 (2007), SB 1013 (2012), AB 403 (2015).

Funding:

	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17
Total	\$0	\$16.2 million
Federal	\$0	\$5.0 million
State	\$0	\$11.2 million
County	\$0	\$0

Implementation Status:

- In 2013 and 2014, the following five counties were approved to participate in the initial group (Cohort One) and implemented the RFA program for all their new incoming families.
 - Kings
 - San Francisco
 - San Luis Obispo
 - Santa Barbara
 - Santa Clara
- Nine additional counties (and their implementation dates) include in Cohort Two are as follows:
 - Yolo (January 1, 2016)
 - Orange (February 16, 2016)
 - Butte (March 1, 2016)
 - Madera (March 1, 2016)
 - Monterey (March 1, 2016)
 - Ventura (March 1, 2016)
 - Stanislaus (April 1, 2016)
 - Siskiyou (June 30, 2016)
 - San Joaquin (July 1, 2016)
- By July 1, 2016, it is anticipated that at least one foster family agency (FFA) will begin implementation.
- The remaining counties will implement on January 1, 2017.