



RESOURCE FAMILY APPROVAL (RFA) PROGRAM OVERVIEW

RFA is a new family friendly and child-centered caregiver approval process that combines elements of the current foster parent licensing, relative approval and approvals for adoption and guardianship and replaces those processes. RFA:

- Is streamlined: It eliminates the duplication of existing processes.
- Unifies approval standards for all caregivers regardless of the child's case plan.
- Includes a comprehensive psychosocial assessment, home environment check and training for all families, including relatives.
- Prepares families to better meet the needs of vulnerable children in the foster care system.
- Allows seamless transition to permanency.

THE RFA & THE QUALITY PARENTING INITIATIVE (QPI) SUPPORT THE CONTINUUM OF CARE REFORM

THE RFA PROCESS IMPROVES THE WAY CAREGIVERS (RELATED AND NON-RELATED) FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE ARE APPROVED AND PREPARED TO PARENT VULNERABLE CHILDREN, WHETHER TEMPORARILY OR PERMANENTLY.

The **QPI** partners with caregivers in helping to design child welfare organizations at the local level to better recruit, support and retain quality foster caregivers who can effectively parent vulnerable children and youth.

The **CCR**: Together, these efforts work to build the capacity of the continuum of foster care placement options to better meet the needs of vulnerable children in home based family care. This increased capacity is essential to successfully moving children out of congregate care.

LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

RFA was enacted by legislation sponsored by CWDA in 2007 and expanded through Senate Bill 1013 (Chapter 35, Statutes of 2012). The statute requires the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), in consultation with county child welfare agencies, including Juvenile Probation, foster parent associations and other interested community parties to implement a unified, family friendly and child-centered resource family approval process.

RFA ENHANCES CURRENT SERVICES

RFA reaffirms the commitment to serving children, youth, young adults and families because it:

Focuses on Lifelong Relationships

- RFA supports connecting children, youth and young adults to safe, caring relationships that can last a lifetime by focusing on families
- RFA's purpose is to place children, youth and young adults with families that can provide a lifelong connection by determining permanency approval upfront

Achieves Results for Children, Youth, Young Adults and Families

- Upfront training and ongoing services prepare caregivers to meet the needs of children, youth and young adults and assisting families with forming lifelong relationships
- Supportive and loving long-term relationships lead to stable permanent placements and improved outcomes for children, youth and young adults

Improves Efficiency

- RFA is a streamlined process that includes one application, one background check and a combined home environment and permanency assessment
- The new coordinated process will eliminate duplication, reduce paperwork and maximize the efficient use of staff and system resources

RFA IMPLEMENTATION

- RFA has been implemented in five counties, San Luis Obispo, Kings, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara and San Francisco. The second cohort of RFA counties are Stanislaus, Orange, Madera, Butte, Yolo, Ventura, Monterey and San Joaquin and will be implemented in 2016, all counties are required to begin RFA January 1, 2017.

The early implementing counties continue to be instrumental in working with CDSS to shape RFA. For a list of county contacts, please refer to the table below.

LAUNCHING RFA IN YOUR COUNTY

WHEN LAUNCHING RFA IN YOUR COUNTY, PLEASE REFER TO THE RESOURCES BELOW:

- Work through the Implementation Assessment to determine whether your county may be ready to launch RFA as part of the second cohort of counties and develop a plan for implementation. <http://calswec.berkeley.edu/toolkits/resource-family-approval-rfa>
- Review Welfare and Institutions Code Section 16519.5 <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov>
- Review more information about RFA <http://www.childsworld.ca.gov/PG3416.htm>
- Email your questions or comments to CDSS at RFA@dss.ca.gov
- Contact early implementation counties for more information. See the table above for contact information

COUNTY	CONTACT NAME (RFA CHILD WELFARE/PROBATION)	CONTACT INFORMATION	LAUNCH DATE
Cohort 1			
San Luis Obispo	Linda Belch	lbelch@co.slo.ca.us	11/01/13
	Tom Milder (probation)	tmilder@co.slo.ca.us	
Kings County	Susan Turner	Susan.turner@co.kings.ca.us	01/15/14
	Kelly Zuniga (probation)	Kelly.zuniga@co.kings.ca.us	
Santa Barbara	Amy Krueger	a.krueger@sbcsocialserv.org	03/01/14
	Wendy Stanley (probation)	wstanle@co.santa-barbara.ca.us	
Santa Clara	Tracy Bowers	tracy.bowers@ssa.sccgov.org	07/31/14
	Giap Le (probation)	Giap.le@pro.sccgov.org	

San Francisco	Sophia Isom	Sophia.isom@sfgov.org	08/01/14
	Lisa Smith (probation)	Lisa.smith@sfgov.org	
Cohort 2			
Yolo	Lisa Muller	Lisa.muller@yolocounty.org	01/01/16
	Dan Fruchtenicht (probation)	Dan.fruchtenicht@yolocounty.org	
Orange	Dr. Joanne Munro	Joanne.munro@ssa.ocgov.com	02/16/16
	Fermin Sanchez (probation)	Fermin.sanchez@prob.ocgov.com	
Butte	Shelby Boston	sboston@buttecounty.net	03/01/16
Madera	Elizabeth Inman	Elizabeth.inman@co.madera.ca.us	03/01/16
	Chris Childers (probation)	cchilders@madera-county.com	
Monterey	Karen Clampitt	Clampittk@co.monterey.ca.us	03/01/16
	Charlene Lord	lordC@co.monterey.ca.us	
	Robert Tachibana (probation)	tachibanar@co.monterey.ca.us	
Ventura	Haleh Hashemzadeh	Haleh.Hashemzadeh@ventura.org	03/01/16
	Sandra Carrillo (probation)	Sandra.carrillo@ventura.org	
	Juanita Holguin (probation)	Juanita.holguin@ventura.org	
Stanislaus	Nenita Dean	Deanne@stancounty.com	04/01/16
	Olivia Lopez (probation)	lopezol@stancounty.com	
San Joaquin	Akkia Pride-Polk	apridepolk@sigov.org	07/01/16