

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



May 5, 2006

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE: I-36-06

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS
ALL COUNTY FISCAL OFFICERS
ALL CHILD WELFARE SERVICES PROGRAM MANAGERS

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

- ☐ State Law Change
- ☐ Federal Law or Regulation Change
- ☐ Court Order
- ☐ Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- ☒ Initiated by CDSS

SUBJECT: APPLICATION FOR CHILD WELFARE SERVICES OUTCOME
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006/07

The purpose of this All County Information Notice is to inform counties that the proposed (FY) 2006/07 State Budget continues funding of the Child Welfare Services Outcome Improvement Project (CWSOIP). Upon Budget Act authorization funding will again be made available to counties for safety, permanency, well-being and/or system improvements identified as a part of an approved county System Improvement Plan, county Self-Assessment and/or county Peer Quality Case Review, completed in accordance with the State Child Welfare Services Outcome and Accountability System (AB 636). This notice seeks to begin the county application process for allocation of the funds upon Budget Act authorization.

The CWSOIP funds, which do not require a county match, are intended to support county efforts to improve AB 636 outcomes for children by providing counties with additional resources for activities such as: implementing new procedures, providing special training to staff or caregivers, purchasing services to meet unmet needs, conducting focused/targeted recruitment of caregivers or improving coordination between public and/or private agencies or any other activity that addresses AB 636 outcomes a county has identified as needing improvement.

These funds will again be made available to all counties through an application process (Attachments A and B). There are two primary components to this year's application process: 1) a 2005/06 Progress Report and 2) a Funding Application for 2006/07 CWSOIP funds.

All counties who received CWSOIP funds for 2005/06 must complete a Progress Report. This section of the application details how the strategies identified in your original 2005/06 CWSOIP request impacted the targeted outcome measure, lessons learned and expenditure of the CWSOIP funds. This information will be used to update lawmakers on the use and impact of these monies by county Child Welfare Services and Probation agencies. *Note: If you did not receive CWSOIP funds in 2005/06 you are not required to complete this section of the application.*

If you received funding in 2005/06 and submit a 2006/07 Funding Application without a 2005/06 Progress Report your application will not be considered complete and therefore will not be considered for receipt of 2006/07 CWSOIP funds.

All counties requesting CWSOIP funds for 2006/07 must submit a completed 2006/07 Funding Application. Consistent with the intent of these funds, counties are to clearly identify how the proposed strategy is going to impact the targeted outcome. Counties can request funds to continue a 2005/06 strategy, however; these types of requests must be clearly supported by the information contained in the 2005/06 Progress Report and in the 2006/07 Funding Application.

In completing the 2006/07 Funding application counties should ensure that the Outcome Measure/Systemic Factor being targeted for improvement is identified through the use of trend data obtained from the AB 636 Quarterly County Data Reports. The strategies in the application need to clearly relate back to the outcome targeted for response. For example, Placement Stability is the outcome measure. The proposed strategy is to develop a Pre-Placement Assessment Program that would assess children and match them with the best fit foster family. The desired outcome would be to reduce the number of placement moves.

In completing the budget section of the application counties are encouraged to itemize the requests to assist the reviewers in making decisions. Upon Budget Act approval allocations to counties will be with State General Fund (SGF). Therefore, when detailing the budget, counties will need to identify the activities they want to do and the total dollars requested for the project. For example, the budget should detail the service such as Family Group Decision Making at \$ 40,000, substance abuse treatment services \$ 100,000 and implementation of a relative liaison is \$30,000. Counties will need to identify the portion of SGF being used to draw down the associated Title IV-E funding based on a county's individual Federal discount rate for those activities eligible to be funded with Title IV-E. Counties should work with their County Fiscal Officers to determine appropriate county discount rates for claiming Title IV-E for this calculation.

Counties will be responsible for following the claiming instructions provided in County Fiscal Letter 05/06-30 for appropriate Federal match. Therefore, when detailing the budget, counties will need to identify how much of the request for each strategy is SGF. For example, the budget should detail substance abuse treatment services \$ 25,000 SGF and implementation of a relative liaison is \$30,000 SGF.

Finally, counties are encouraged to complete a separate application for each Outcome Measure/Systemic Factor being targeted.

Counties are encouraged to review the attached criteria (Attachment C) and to complete and submit the application to the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) by June 2, 2006. Please submit applications to the following address:

Children's Services Operations Bureau
744 P Street, Mail Station 3-34
Sacramento, California 95814

or

send electronically to chldserv@dss.ca.gov (signed application must be received by CDSS prior to final approval).

The CDSS will promptly review all applications in coordination with Child Welfare Directors Association and notify counties no later than June 30, 2006 of final recommendations. Counties are again cautioned that submission of the 2006/07 Funding Application at this time does not guarantee receipt of funds. Counties will be notified of the actual allocation amount via County Fiscal Letter and is contingent on Budget Act authorization. If you have any questions, please contact your Children's Services Operations Bureau analyst at (916) 651-8100.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

WESLEY A. BEERS, Chief
Operations and Evaluation Branch

Attachments

Child Welfare Services Outcome Improvement Project

1. County	2. Contact Name:
	Phone Number: () E-mail Address:

2005/06 PROGRESS REPORT

f

3. () No CWSOIP Funds received in 2005/06
4. Amount Funded for 2005/06:
5. Targeted Outcome Measure(s)/Systemic Factor(s):
6. Results of the strategy:
<div>Number of families served:</div> <div>Number of children served:</div>
7. Budget:
8. Lessons Learned:

FISCAL YEAR 2006/07 FUNDING APPLICATION

1. County	2. Contact Name: _____ Phone Number: () E-mail Address: _____	
3. Title of Request: { I New Project { I Continued Project < >		
4. Proposed Improvement Strategy/Service Gap: _____		
5. Lead Agency/Service Partners: _____		
6. Target Population/Estimated Service Level _____ Estimated families to be served: Estimated children to be served: _____		
7. AB 636 Outcome Measure(s)/Systemic Factor()t!> IJE! ddr'e\$\$ed: _____		
8. Budget	Amount of SGF Requested	Total Requested
County Personnel		
Confracted Services		
Other		
9. Expenditure Plan: _____		
10. Funding Support: _____		
11. Signature Signature: _____ Typed name and title: _____ Date: _____		

2006/07 Child Welfare Services Outcome Improvement Project Progress Report and Application Instructions

Use the template provided to complete the information outlined below. Please keep your Progress Report to two pages or less and each proposal to two pages or less. (The electronic version of the application on the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) website can be filled out online).

1. **County** – Enter the County name.
2. **Contact** – Enter the name, phone number and e-mail address for the person who is designated to respond to questions regarding the proposal.

2005/06 PROGRESS REPORT INSTRUCTIONS:

Complete this section only if you received Child Welfare Services Outcome Improvement Project (CWSOIP) funds in 2005/06.

3. **No CWSOIP Funds received in 2005/06** – Check this item if you're county did not receive any CWSOIP funding for 2005/06.
4. **Amount funded for 2005/06**–Identify the amount identified from the allocation letter
5. **Targeted Outcome Measure/Systemic Factor** – Identify the targeted outcome measure from your 2005/06 application.
6. **Results of the Strategy** – Discuss the impact of the strategy on the proposed outcome and:
 - a. How the strategy was tracked by the county using performance from the most recent AB 636 produced data and changes from the October 2005 Quarterly County Data Report Baseline.
 - b. Enter the number of families and children that were served.
7. **Budget** – Provide the itemized amounts and a brief explanation of each budget category along with the total amount expended for each activity funds were requested.
8. **Lessons Learned** –Describe the county's experience with implementing the strategy including strengths and areas that could be improved. If the strategy did not impact the outcome as desired, describe why and provide suggestions of what could be done differently.

FISCAL YEAR 2006/07 FUNDING APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. **County** – Enter the County name.
2. **Contact** – Enter the name, phone number and e-mail address for the person who is designated to respond to questions regarding the proposal.
3. **Title of Request**– Provide the title for your request. Check appropriate request type.
4. **Proposed Improvement Strategy / Service Gap** – Briefly describe the proposed strategy for improving Child Welfare Services including:
 - a. Concept to be tested.

- b. Service gap to be addressed.
 - c. Program design.
 - d. Services to be provided.
 - e. How this proposal is consistent with the county's Self Improvement Plan (SIP) and/or information gathered in the county Peer Quality County Review (PQCR).
 - f. Implementation strategy.
5. **Lead Agency/Service Partners** – List organizations that the county will partner with to provide this service noting which agency will take the lead. Note in this section any multi-county effort.
 6. **Target Population / Estimated Service Level** – Identify the target population to be served. Enter the estimated number of families and children that will be served.
 7. **AB 636 Outcome Measure / Systemic Factor to be Addressed** – List the outcome measure/ systemic factor noting the following for each as appropriate.
 - a. Current performance using the most recent AB 636 produced data.
 - b. The degree of improvement expected in FY 2006/07 with the implementation of the proposed service, and
 - c. An explanation of why the proposed service is expected to improve the performance measure.
 8. **Budget** – Provide the itemized amounts and a brief explanation of each budget category along with the portion of SGF requested for each activity funds are being requested.
 9. **Expenditure Plan** – Identify how the county will ensure that all funds requested will be expended within the fiscal year.
 10. **Funding Support** – Outline any other funding that the county will commit to this effort from other sources. This might include county plans to use Child Abuse Prevention Intervention and Treatment (CAPIT), Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP), and/or Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) funding, in-kind resources, Proposition 10 Grants, Foundation Grants or any other public or private funding source. Note the source and the amount from each source.
 11. **Signature** – Include the county social services director's signature noting the date signed.

Child Welfare Services Outcome Improvement Project

Grants from the Fiscal Year 2006/2007 Child Welfare Services Outcome Improvement Project (CWSOIP) budget item will be allocated to counties based on Budget Act authority and applications approved by the California Department of Social Services that meet the following priorities using the evaluation criteria listed below. *(Note-in order to receive an allocation, counties must certify that they will fully expend their base CWS Allocation)*

Outcome Priorities:

Applications will be considered for all of the areas below, however if the total requests exceed available funding resources the following outcome priorities will be utilized:

1. Safety-proposal will improve safety outcomes for children.
2. Permanence-proposal will improve permanency outcomes for children.
3. Well Being-proposal will improve well-being outcomes for children.
4. Systemic Improvements-proposal will improve county operations.

Funding Priorities:

Applications will be considered for all of the areas below, however if the total requests exceed available resources the following funding priorities will be utilized:

1. Proposals from counties who did not receive any CWSOIP funds in 2005/06.
2. Proposals that continue a 2005/06 strategy to improve an outcome.
3. Proposals to fund new strategies.

Evaluation Criteria:

- Proposed issue/strategy identified in the county System Improvement Plan, the county Self-Assessment and/or Peer Quality Case Review.
- Requested funds will be expended in the 2006/2007 Fiscal Year.
- Proposed strategy will either impact a high percentage of children and families or a distinct underserved population.
- Proposed strategy will likely result in stated improvements to targeted AB 636 outcome measure.
- Proposed strategy must be able to be measured.
- Proposal uses CWSOIP funds to leverage/match other available resources.
- Proposed strategy will be implemented in conjunction with other counties and/or other public/private agencies.
- Proposed strategy takes an innovative approach to improving performance or outcomes and the results will inform the county, other counties and the State on the viability of the proposed strategy.