**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**
744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 322-6333

March 7, 1979

ALL-COUNTY LETTER NO. 79-14

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT:  POSSIBLE STATE FUNDS FOR 24-HOUR SOCIAL SERVICE INTERVENTION IN
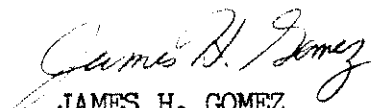PROTECTIVE SERVICES FOR CHILDREN

We wish to inform all counties that state funds have been included in the
Governor's Budget for 1979/80 for provision of 24-hour, seven day a week social
service intervention in reported cases of child abuse and neglect.  However,
these funds are subject to review and approval by the Legislature.

A number of projects in various locations around the country have demonstrated
the value of a 24-hour continuous in-home social service response system in
minimizing the traumas which children suffer, and in decreasing the likelihood
of their entrance into the juvenile justice system and out-of-home care.  In
California, most after-hour referrals are handled by law enforcement agencies.
Although the officers are sincerely concerned with protecting children, they
do not have immediately available to them the resources which County Welfare
Departments can provide, including skilled social service intervention in
these family crises at the point of referral.

Because of our conviction at the state level that the first step in upgrading
the services for children who are neglected or abused is to provide continuous
social service intervention at times of crisis, we have proposed that state
funds should be channeled into this activity.  In a forthcoming letter, County
Welfare Departments will be provided with details of what must be done to
qualify for these funds.  As in other social services funding, a 25 percent
county match will be required.  You may want to alert your Board of
Supervisors of the possibility of these funds.

If you have any questions, please contact Sylvia Kerr or Gary Matthies, Family
and Children's Services Branch, 744 P Street, Room 940, Sacramento, CA 95814,
at (916) 322-6333.

Sincerely,

JAMES H. GOMEZ
Deputy Director

cc:  CWDA

GEN 654  (7/78)