



CONTINUUM OF CARE REFORM

CCR builds on California's current reform efforts

Approved Relative Caregivers Program (ARC)

Participating counties support relative caregivers with a payment equal to the basic foster care rate.

Child and Family Teaming

An effective approach to coordinated care and case planning for all children and youth in the child welfare system.

Pathways to Mental Health

Originating from the Katie A. lawsuit settlement, Pathways is intended to improve the coordination between child welfare and mental health systems so that children in foster care receive timely, and effective individualized mental health services.

Quality Parenting Initiative

Will create new strategies and practices within child welfare for the recruitment and retention of quality caregivers, and support biological parents with reunification efforts.

Residentially-Based Services Reform (RBS)

A demonstration project begun in 2008 that tested a short-term residential program model with ongoing community-based services and support, and which serves as the foundation for STRTC.

Resource Family Approval (RFA) Program

A pilot program which provides upfront training and assessment of families seeking to parent children in foster care will expand statewide.

NATIONAL ACCREDITATION

SUBJECT

On or after January 1, 2017, [Foster Family Agencies](#) (FFAs), Short-term Residential Therapeutic Centers (STRTC), Community Treatment Facilities, and out of state programs must be accredited by a national accrediting body as a condition of licensure and in order to receive a foster care rate.

BACKGROUND

The Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) embodies a comprehensive framework to improve the experiences and outcomes of children and youth in foster care. In order to promote the most effective services and practices the Department, in consultation with expert stakeholders, recommended that providers obtain accreditation through a national accrediting organization. This recommendation became law through Assembly Bill 403 (Chapter 773, Statutes of 2015).

BENEFITS

- Improves staff professionalism and service delivery through training; evaluates ongoing effectiveness through provider reports and unannounced site reviews.
- Establishes best practices and promotes continuous quality improvement; provides tools to enhance performance, accountability, and transparency.

PROCESS

- The provider submits an application for accreditation and conducts a self-study.
- The provider undergoes onsite review of business and service practices.
- Upon approval, the provider receives a qualified public certificate.
- The accreditation process takes approximately 12-18 months.
- Accreditation is maintained via annual reporting and unannounced site reviews.
- A provisional license may be extended, if needed, to secure accreditation.
- A group home and/or FFA may request a rate extension up to December 31, 2018, if needed, to maintain operation while working to obtain accreditation.

APPROVED ACCREDITING AGENCIES

The Department, in consultation with stakeholders, has identified the following three national accrediting agencies:

- [Council of Accreditation](#) (COA)
- [Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities](#)
- [The Joint Commission](#)

A chart at the following link compares the three agencies: [Accrediting Process Comparison](#)

COST

Fee structures vary across accrediting agencies and often consider agency size and budget.

MORE INFORMATION AND QUESTIONS

- For additional information or questions, please contact: CCR@dss.ca.gov.