



CDSS

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

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REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

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

April 18, 2013

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-21-13

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
 ALL CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS  
 ALL FOSTER CARE MANAGERS  
 ALL INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM COORDINATORS  
 ALL CHILD WELFARE SERVICES PROGRAM MANAGERS  
 ADOPTION SERVICE PROVIDERS  
 TITLE IV-E AGREEMENT TRIBES  
 ALL ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES  
 ALL CDSS ADOPTIONS DISTRICT OFFICES

SUBJECT: AFTER 18 TRAINING RESOURCES

REFERENCE: CALIFORNIA'S FOSTERING CONNECTIONS TO SUCCESS ACT,  
ASSEMBLY BILL (AB) 12, Beall (CHAPTER 559, STATUTES OF 2010)

The purpose of this All County Information Notice is to provide counties with up-to-date information regarding training activities for the Extended Foster Care (*After 18*) Program contained in California's Fostering Connections to Success Act, Assembly Bill (AB) 12. *After 18* allows youth to remain in foster care and continue to receive foster care benefits and services beyond age 18, provided the youth meets participation and eligibility requirements and lives in an approved or licensed setting. In accordance with existing law, *After 18* allows a non-minor who left foster care, at or after the age of majority, to petition the court to resume foster care benefits.

The information in this notice is intended to provide a general description of the efforts underway to develop a statewide curriculum for *After 18*, including brief descriptions of the following:

- Stakeholder participants
- Youth Engagement, Training and Informing Team Process
- Training curriculum review and approval process
- Training curriculum content and distribution
- Upcoming events

### **Stakeholder Participants**

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) has worked in collaboration with a range of stakeholders in California including, but not limited to, county child welfare and probation representatives, bill sponsors, the courts, youth, regional training academies, the California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC), UC Davis Resource Center for Family Focused Practice, the Child and Family Policy Institute, tribal stakeholders and advocates, community colleges, and child advocates.

### **Youth Engagement, Training, and Informing Team Process**

The Youth Engagement, Training, and Informing Team have worked to develop a comprehensive standardized curriculum and a distribution plan for California. The Team developed a streamlined structure designed to achieve efficient production of accurate training products.

*Youth Engagement* occurs throughout the *After 18* informing and training process, and the opinions and concerns of youth are included in the development of policy, training, and informing products.

*Training* curriculum development has been divided into four areas, with a separate lead for each of those areas:

- Curricula for general audiences
- Curricula for youth and young adults
- Curricula for social workers, probation officers, and eligibility workers
- Curricula for caregivers, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), service providers, educators, juvenile court, and other stakeholders

### **Training Curriculum Content and Distribution**

The training curricula are diverse, comprehensive, and tailored for a variety of audiences. The Team has identified a list of audiences who need training and has identified the training topics that the identified audiences will need to receive in order to implement *After 18* effectively. Counties utilize CDSS' approved training materials to ensure the training material utilized is accurate.

Additionally, in July 2012, an online survey of county child welfare and probation staff was conducted regarding the provided training and needs identified during the time period covering January 1, 2012 through June 15, 2012. The survey was created by Chief Probation Officers of California, CDSS and Child Welfare Directors Association, with assistance from Shared Vision Consultants. The CalSWEC formulated the survey for data collection, provided technical assistance on completion, and provided analysis of the

data. These training topics were developed based on the feedback from 37 child welfare agencies and 45 Probation Departments. The following topics were identified as the highest priorities:

1. Basics of eligibility
2. Case management
3. Placement
4. Court procedures
5. Working with young adults

The state will distribute and deliver the training using California's statewide training delivery systems; curricula are being shared on a flow basis, consistent with the needs for implementation. Delivery will occur via webinars and in-person trainings as arranged between regional training academies and other entities using the approved curriculum for their specific audiences.

The following *After 18* Training Resources are posted online at:

<http://calswec.berkeley.edu/fostering-connections-after-18-ab-12-training-resources>:

**Curricula for General Audiences:**

<http://calswec.berkeley.edu/curricula-general-audiences>

1. AB12 Overview

This 60-minute training module provides a comprehensive overview of AB 12 and is intended for a variety of audiences, including child welfare and probation staff, caregivers, and community partners. (Note: a Spanish-language PowerPoint document is available.)

2. Resources for Youth

This curriculum contains materials that guide trainees through a variety of resources available to assist youth in maintaining *After 18* eligibility. Materials include a Trainer's Guide, PowerPoint presentation, and resources web page.

**Curricula for Youth and Young Adults**

<http://calswec.berkeley.edu/curricula-youth-and-young-adults>

1. *After 18* (AB12) Youth Orientation

This 90-minute orientation for youth is designed to be shown in a group setting, but it can also be used to facilitate a one-on-one conversation with a youth while reviewing the slides at a computer. It provides a comprehensive overview of AB 12 and can

also be used with a variety of audiences including child welfare and probation staff, caregivers, and community partners.

- *Includes a 20 minute video overview.*

2. Court Issues for Youth and Young Adults

This brief curriculum provides an overview of the court process for youth and young adults participating in extended foster care.

3. Introduction to Transition Planning for Youth and Young Adults

This one-hour training for youth provides basic information about transition planning including the purpose of the plan, who will develop the plan with the youth, and the content of the plan

**Curricula for Social Workers, Probation Officers, and Eligibility Workers**

<http://calswec.berkeley.edu/curricula-social-workers-probation-officers-and-eligibility-workers>

1. Implementation Guide for Supervisors

This implementation guide was developed for supervisors to help staff become familiar with the legislation and the nuances of the law. It provides background materials for review and reference, provides materials to introduce this bill to the supervisor's unit, and provides tools for implementation.

- *Includes a webinar that provides implementation steps for supervisors.*

2. Supervisor Guide for Unit Meeting Training

This guide is intended to assist supervisors in providing brief (30-45 minute) training to staff in a unit meeting setting. The guide includes five topics and provides sample agendas, talking points, handouts, suggested additional materials, and key areas for follow-up discussions in supervision.

3. Supporting Youth to Successful Transitions from Foster Care

This curriculum provides an in-depth exploration of social work practice with non-minor dependent youth and includes key aspects of *After 18* placement, benefits and eligibility. Content can be used in full or in separate modules to meet the needs of the agency and audience.

4. Extending Foster Care for Juvenile Justice Involved Youth

This curriculum provides an in-depth look at the benefits and policies related to extended foster care services for probation officers and others working with youth involved in the juvenile justice system. Content includes key aspects of transition

jurisdiction, eligibility, placements and benefits. Content can be used in full or separate modules to meet the needs of the agency and audience.

5. Benefits Essentials

This brief curriculum provides an overview of the basic benefits for non-minor dependent youth, the benefits of extended Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment, and the benefits of extended Adoption Assistance Payment for youth ages 18 through 20.

- *Includes a webinar to assist trainers with understanding this curriculum.*

6. Benefits for Eligibility Workers

This recorded webinar [presentation from Ty Starks Morgan \(CDSS\), Teresa Arevalo \(Los Angeles County Foster Care Division Chief\), and Lisa Molinar \(Shared Vision Consultants\) provides information about extended foster care eligibility for eligibility workers.](#)

- *Includes a PowerPoint presentation.*

7. AB 12 Legal Process for Social Workers

This curriculum for social workers provides an overview of the four types of hearings that will occur for non-minor dependent youth and includes checklists regarding what to include in court reports for each hearing.

- *Includes a [45-minute online training module called Legal Process for Social Workers](#) and a [two-hour Legal Process Overview from the Administrative Office of the Courts](#).*

8. Post-Secondary Education: Opportunities for Foster Youth in the Era of AB12

This curriculum was developed for social workers and probation officers to provide information about post-secondary education resources available for youth in extended foster care.

- *Includes a webinar.*

9. Guide to the Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP) for Social Workers and Probation Officers

This curriculum walks trainees through the process of approving a SILP placement, including tips for readiness assessment and health and safety inspections.

- *Includes a webinar.*

10. Young Adults Transitioning from Congregate Care

This curriculum provides theoretical and practical information about best practice approaches to working with older adolescents and young adults transitioning from

congregate care in the context of the newly developed program of extended foster care.

**Curricula for Caregivers, CASAs, Service Providers, Educators, Juvenile Court, and Other Stakeholders**

<http://calswec.berkeley.edu/curricula-caregivers-casas-service-providers-and-other-stakeholders>

1. Partnering to Serve Emerging Adults:

This day-long curriculum is designed to serve as an overview of the developmental and psychosocial transition of adolescents to adults. Content is intended for caregivers, service providers, Court Appointment Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers, youth, and any stakeholders who may be involved with providing services to non-minor dependent youth.

2. Caregivers Serving Emerging Adults

This day-long curriculum, especially for caregivers, provides an overview of the developmental and psychosocial transition of adolescents with additional content related to the effects of trauma on development. The curriculum also provides basic information about extended foster care.

3. Shared Living Arrangements

This two-hour training, especially for caregivers, provides an overview of the Shared Living Agreements caregivers can develop with non-minor dependent youth. Content includes a sample Shared Living Agreement and a brief refresher on brain development.

4. Top Ten Things Post-Secondary Education Professionals Need to Know about AB 12

This curriculum was developed for post-secondary education professionals to help them become familiar with the legislation and their role in assisting non-minor dependent youth in extended foster care.

**In Development:**

1 *After 18* and ICWA: Emerging Practice with Tribal Youth

This curriculum is being developed to educate professionals about the intersection between *After 18* and the engagement of tribes.

2 Working with Caregivers to Support non-minor Dependent Youth in Placement

This curriculum is being developed to educate child welfare workers and probation officers about their role in preparing caregivers about their changing role in supporting young adults in placement.

- 3 The CDSS will be contracting with the Administration of Courts (AOC) to conduct a training on Permanency for Older Youth/Nonminor Dependents for social workers, court officers, and CASA's.

- 4 Fostering Connections *After 18* (AB12) Tool Kit

<http://calswec.berkeley.edu/toolkits/fostering-connections-after-18-ab-12>

The *After 18* toolkit details the process of putting this new practice into action. The toolkit lays out a set of practical tools, which can be used together or separately, to help implementers systematically execute and evaluate the *After 18* program and practice. The tool kit includes the following:

- Definitional tools;
- Engagement and communication tools;
- Assessment tools;
- Planning tools;
- Training, coaching and transfer of learning tools;
- Policies and procedure tools;
- Evaluation tools;
- Fiscal and funding tools.

- 5 Fostering Connections *After 18* (AB12) Online Resources Guide

<http://calswec.berkeley.edu/toolkits/fostering-connections-after-18-ab12-online-resources-guide>

The resources on this web page are intended to help professional staff provide relevant, tangible, and accessible resources to young adults who will eventually transition from the foster care system. Young adults may also find the page helpful. The web page lists resources in the following areas:

**[Completing High School or Its Equivalency \(GED\)](#)**  
**[College, Community College, & Vocational](#)**  
**[Employment & Vocational Resources](#)**  
**[Special Programs for Youth in Foster Care](#)**

[Housing & Placement](#)

[Medical & Health Information](#)

[Legal Services](#)

[Food Services](#)

[Recreation & Wellness](#)

[A list of all the resources](#)

If you have any further questions regarding *After 18* training resources please submit questions to: [ab12@dss.ca.gov](mailto:ab12@dss.ca.gov) .

Sincerely,

***Original Document Signed By:***

KAREN B. GUNDERSON, Chief  
Child and Youth Permanency  
Children and Family Services Division