

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



May 21, 2004

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-33-04

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
 ALL COUNTY FOSTER CARE SUPERVISORS
 ALL COUNTY ADOPTION SUPERVISORS
 ALL PRIVATE ADOPTION AGENCIES
 COMMUNITY CARE LICENSING COUNTY LIAISONS
 ALL CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM OFFICES

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: **ADOPTUSKIDS**: A NATIONAL FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTIVE HOME RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN

The purpose of this All County Information Notice is to provide you with information that California will be participating in a National Foster Care and Adoptive Home Recruitment Campaign. The National Recruitment Campaign is mandated by Congress and will generate national attention for foster and adoptive home recruitment. The Children's Bureau, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C., Administration on Children, Youth and Families in partnership with the Adoption Exchange Association entered into a cooperative agreement to implement and manage "The Collaboration to AdoptUSKids" to assist States and Tribes in the recruitment and retention of foster and adoptive families. The campaign "AdoptUSKids" is scheduled to be launched during the first two weeks of June 2004. There will be public service advertising on television, radio, print and Internet Public Service Announcements that includes a toll free number and website address for AdoptUSKids located in Baltimore, Maryland for interested families to contact. The mission of AdoptUSKids is "To recruit and connect foster and adoptive families with waiting children throughout the United States."

Each state is required to have a Recruitment Response Team (RRT) comprised of veteran adoptive/foster parents and staff knowledgeable of California child welfare services system and include a person fluent in Spanish. Family Builders by Adoption will provide California's RRT that will respond to the prospective foster/adoptive families who contact AdoptUSKids, as a result of the National Recruitment Campaign.

The RRTs will access AdoptUSKids' data base each day to retrieve family referrals. Families will be contacted within two business days and linked to the State/County/Private/Public agencies responsible for providing the pre-service training and homestudy. The RRT maintains contact with the families at regular intervals (at 2 weeks, 4 weeks and every thirty days after the initial personal contact) until the family

is connected with an agency to begin training or home study. California needs more resource families for children in the child welfare services system. Each family referred by AdoptUSKids will be contacting State/County/Private/Public agencies in their local area as designated by the State RRT. You are being asked to respond expeditiously to each family referral received from the AdoptUSKids campaign so that California can assist in making this program a success. Also, agencies' prompt responses to these families will enable counties to increase their pool of qualified foster and adoptive resource families and most importantly provide children with a family.

Should you have any questions, feel free to contact Robert Markell, Chief of the Foster Care Support Services Bureau at (916) 657-7465 or Vebra Switzer, Program Consultant, Recruitment Network Development Unit at (916) 654-2572.

Sincerely,

PATRICIA AGUIAR, Chief
Child and Youth Permanency Branch