



CDSS

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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
GOVERNOR

August 15, 2008

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-60-08

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

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

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
 ALL CHILD WELFARE SERVICES
 PROGRAM MANAGERS
 CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS
 ALL INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM MANAGERS
 ALL INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM COORDINATORS
 ALL COUNTY TRANSITIONAL HOUSING COORDINATORS

SUBJECT: APPLICATION RELEASE FOR TEAM SELECTION FOR THE
 CALIFORNIA BREAKTHROUGH SERIES COLLABORATIVE (BSC)
 ON INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM (ILP) TRANSFORMATION

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) is pleased to announce the pending release of the application for counties to participate in the California Breakthrough Series Collaborative (BSC) on Independent Living Program (ILP) Transformation. The BSC on ILP is sponsored through the California Co-Investment Partnership and funded by the CDSS, Casey Family Programs and the Walter S. Johnson Foundation.

Through collaborative efforts the CDSS applied for and was chosen as one of six states to participate in a National Governor's Association (NGA) Policy Academy for Youth Transitioning out of Foster Care. Through an inclusive inter-disciplinary process, focused on addressing the challenges faced by transition-aged foster youth, the NGA Policy Academy for Youth Transitioning Out of Foster Care provided an opportunity to assess current efforts in California, make recommendations, and implement change to systematically address key challenges and improve transition outcomes. This process resulted in a new vision for California's Independent Living Program.

The NGA Team's new vision for ILP is as follows:

- Supports young people who themselves are the heart of the planning and decision-making process.
- Engage caregivers and service providers as critical partners to the success of ILP.
- Emphasizes permanency, education, and employment preparation that is integrated into every aspect of a youth's daily life.
- Envisions a broad array of integrated, relevant, developmentally appropriate services, supports and opportunities individually planned to meet each youth's needs.
- Provides transition services that are community-based and integrated across a range of public and private systems.
- Leverages resources and opportunities for ILP.

The BSC methodology was identified as an effective approach that could help counties in California translate the NGA's recommendations and vision into action. It can redefine and reshape ILP services and programs that will help youth with permanency and preparation for adulthood. The methodology is developmental in nature and related to an age group much broader than the older youth currently served by ILP programs in the state. The BSC is a quality improvement methodology that uses small-scale rapid tests of change to result in dramatic system-wide improvements. Approximately 20 public child welfare agencies and tribes will be selected through a competitive application process that will take into account state demographics and regions. Agencies must demonstrate a commitment to improve the way they provide ILP services.

Collaborative Mission

The mission for each participating team in this BSC is to ensure every foster youth achieves:

- **Permanency** – every youth has lifelong connections with family and supportive adults;
- **Education** – every youth receives a quality education, high school diploma, and support in pursuing postsecondary opportunities; and
- **Employment** – every youth has work experience and training opportunities that prepare them for, and place them in, living wage employment and careers.

Participating teams will work to achieve these youth-centered goals by focusing intensively on the following system-level goals:

- **Partnerships with Youth** - developing relationships with and engaging youth in all aspects of transition planning and implementation
- **Supportive Adults and Community** – caregivers, and other supportive adults and community members play meaningful roles in planning and supporting early and continuous preparation for and supported transition to successful adulthood for youth
- **Using an Integrated Approach in Practice** – service, supports and opportunities for youth are provided early and continuously to provide successful transition to adulthood

BSC Leadership

This BSC is co-chaired by Kristina Gelardi, Northern Regional Policy Coordinator for California Youth Connection and Rhelda Shabazz, Chief of Youth Development Services for the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services. Together they will be leading the teams and expert faculty throughout the BSC. The co-chairs will work closely with the faculty members selected for this project. The application is due for release on August 8, 2008. The applications will be available through the California Welfare Directors Association (CWDA), the Children & Family Policy Institute of California (CFPIC), and through a number of other venues.

For information on how to apply, please contact the Project Director, Karen Lofts-Jarboe at Karen.Loftsjarboe@cfpic.org. Applications will be due to the BSC ILP Leadership Team September 15, 2008. Teams will be selected in late September 2008. There will be a conference call for interested applicants on August 18, 2008 from 1-2 p.m., and subsequent technical assistance calls for applicants. The conference call line is 1-866-210-1669. The participant code is 9506332.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

GREGORY E. ROSE
Deputy Director
Children and Family Services Division

c: CWDA
Crystal Luffberry