



Foster Care in California

Since 1984 there have been two types of foster care available to California's 58 counties:

- i. County-**Licensed** Homes = Individual families work directly with their local county, meet licensing requirements, and accept children in to their care. *It is the Legislature's intent that county-licensed foster homes be utilized for the least-demanding children, e.g. children without behavioral, emotional or physical challenges. Families are expected to independently problem solve their placement needs, and to contact on-call CWS staff with emergent needs.*
Funding is part of the county's Social Service CPS budget, and the county pays each family directly for each child. County CWS funding ratios apply.
- ii. Private, Non-Profit **Certified** Homes = Individual families work directly with an agency of their choosing. The licensing requirements are the same as with the county. *It is the Legislature's intent that agency-certified foster homes be utilized for the children with serious emotional disturbances, significant behavioral or physical challenges. Families are supported with an assigned Masters-level social worker, 24-7 support, and help with both emergent and ongoing needs.*
Funding is part of the county's Social Service CWS budget, and the county pays the agency directly for each child. The agency then reimburses the families for services rendered. Funding ratios are 50% federal/15% state/35% county.

At any given time there are approximately 71,000 children placed in foster care throughout CA.

U.C. Berkeley's Center for Social Services Research has the contract to collect statewide CWS data to track these children. As of 1/1/10 there were 263 children placed through El Dorado County's CWS:

- 24 = county-licensed foster care
- 102 = agency-certified foster care**
- 76 = kinship care
- 27 = group home residential care
- 1 = transitional housing program
- 20 = guardianship care
- 13 = other temporary status

These statistics are relatively consistent across CA's counties, but there are some regional differences driven primarily by the county-specific plans and budgets.