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AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 19, 1997
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CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1997–98 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1193

**Introduced by Assembly Members Shelley, Aroner, Knox,
Ortiz, Perata, and Washington**
(Coauthors: Senators Alpert and Solis)

February 28, 1997

An act to add Section 16605 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to human services, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1193, as amended, Shelley. Family preservation and support services.

Existing law requires the State Department of Social Services to implement a program of family preservation and support services that meets federal requirements, and establishes specified procedures for the allocation of funding for family preservation and support programs. Existing law authorizes counties to participate in the program.

This bill would require the department to establish in 4 specified counties, at the option of each county, 3-year demonstration projects to provide community-based family support services to kinship (relative) caregivers and the children placed in their homes by the juvenile court. This bill

would appropriate \$125,000 per participating county from the General Fund to the department to fund these demonstration projects in calendar year 1998. The bill would also appropriate \$75,000 from the General Fund to the department to fund specified technical assistance provisions of the bill.

Vote: ²/₃. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature hereby declares its
2 intent to promote family stability for abused and
3 neglected children and to create a Kinship Support
4 Services Program by doing all of the following:

5 (a) Establishing a family support demonstration
6 project that provides support services to relatives who
7 provide homes for abused and neglected children who
8 would otherwise enter foster homes.

9 (b) Recognizing that relative caregivers, often
10 referred to as kinship caregivers, are a resource that help
11 to ensure that family ties are maintained when children
12 cannot reside with their own parents.

13 (c) Improving outcomes for children in the homes of
14 their relatives when supportive services are provided in
15 their community.

16 (d) Demonstrating that children in the homes of
17 relatives who receive supportive services will achieve:

- 18 (1) Increased stability and safety.
- 19 (2) A reduction in recidivism.
- 20 (3) Increased likelihood for family members and
21 relatives to assume responsibility and care of abused and
22 neglected children.
- 23 (4) A reduction in court dependency hearings.
- 24 (5) A reduction in the utilization of more restrictive
25 placements.
- 26 (6) A reduction in out of county placements.

27 SEC. 2. It is the intent of the Legislature to
28 implement a Kinship Support Services Program by
29 means of the following:



1 (a) Exploring and accessing all possible federal funds
2 for the purpose of funding services.

3 (b) Encouraging collaboration among agencies
4 serving children and families and any other agencies or
5 organizations that may impact the health and well being
6 of children and families.

7 (c) Utilizing the expertise of community-based
8 organizations.

9 (d) Providing alternatives to group home and foster
10 family agency care for children currently at risk of more
11 restrictive foster care placements.

12 (e) Supporting stability for children in family settings.

13 (f) Ensuring local community oversight of the
14 development and implementation of a support services
15 program.

16 (g) Enhancing and expanding family resource
17 programs already in existence in the community.

18 (h) Hiring a percentage of needy relative care
19 providers.

20 (i) A Kinship Support Services Program shall
21 incorporate the following strategies; interagency
22 collaboration, case management, flexible funding, and
23 individualized care.

24 SEC. 3. It is the intent of the Legislature to create
25 incentives for blending funding and increasing
26 collaboration and to test the feasibility of new financing
27 and reimbursement mechanisms that result in all of the
28 following:

29 (a) Reduced child welfare caseloads.

30 (b) Comprehensive services and case management
31 for foster children.

32 (c) Reduced public spending.

33 SEC. 4. Section 16605 is added to the Welfare and
34 Institutions Code, to read:

35 16605. (a) The department shall establish in San
36 Francisco, Los Angeles, Fresno, and Sonoma Counties, at
37 the option of each county, a three-year demonstration
38 project that creates model programs providing
39 community-based family support services to relative



1 caregivers and the children placed in their homes by the
2 juvenile court.

3 (b) (1) The Health and Welfare Agency, in
4 consultation with the counties, state and local agencies,
5 and private foundations, shall develop a funding plan for
6 maximizing opportunities that may include, but not be
7 limited to, the following revenue sources:

8 (A) Federal funds under Part A (commencing with
9 Section 601), Part B (commencing with Section 620), and
10 Part E (commencing with Section 670), of Subchapter IV,
11 Subchapter V (commencing with Section 701), and
12 Subchapter XIX (commencing with Section 1396), of
13 Chapter 7 of Title 42 of the United States Code.

14 (B) Family preservation and support funds.

15 (C) Private nonprofit funds, which include
16 philanthropic foundations and participating agencies.

17 (D) County funds.

18 (E) State general funds.

19 (2) The specific funding for the demonstration
20 projects shall ultimately be determined by the counties in
21 consultation with the state.

22 (3) The demonstration projects shall create a
23 public-private partnership. A combination of federal,
24 state, county, and private sector resources shall finance
25 the establishment and operation of the demonstration
26 projects.

27 (c) The counties participating in this demonstration
28 project shall meet the following requirements:

29 (1) Collectively represent the majority of children in
30 relative care placements statewide.

31 (2) Represent sites with a demonstrated proficiency in
32 child welfare and program development.

33 (3) Represent diverse geographic and demographic
34 concerns, both urban and rural.

35 (4) Represent the different types of managed health
36 care operations for Medi-Cal.

37 (5) Have strong and viable agencies to be the core of
38 the demonstration projects.

39 (6) Have capacity for local funding support.



1 (d) The demonstration projects shall demonstrate the
2 use of supportive services provided to relative caregivers
3 and children placed in their homes using a
4 community-based kinship support services model. This
5 model shall provide services to relative caregivers that
6 are aimed at helping to ensure permanent family kinship
7 placements for children who have been placed with them
8 by the juvenile court, and to provide family support
9 services that will eliminate the need for juvenile court
10 jurisdiction and the provision of services by the county
11 welfare department.

12 (e) The demonstration projects may target a specific
13 community based upon an identified need for the project
14 as reflected by the numbers of children in kinship care in
15 that community.

16 (f) The demonstration projects shall provide family
17 support services appropriate for the target populations.
18 These services may include, but are not limited to, the
19 following:

20 (1) Assessment and case management.

21 (2) Social services referral and intervention aimed at
22 maintaining the kinship family unit, for example, housing,
23 homemaker services, respite care, and day care.

24 (3) Transportation for medical care and educational
25 and recreational activities.

26 (4) Information and referral services.

27 (5) Individual and group counseling in the area of
28 parent-child relationships and group conflict.

29 (6) Kinship adoption and guardianship referral.

30 (7) Tutoring and mentoring.

31 (g) A successful demonstration kinship care support
32 project shall increase the permanency and stability of
33 foster children by reducing failed placements in the
34 county by 10 percent. To accomplish this, the project shall
35 demonstrate both of the following:

36 (1) A reduction in the rate of children placed in more
37 restrictive and costly institutional care by ~~five~~ 5 percent.

38 (2) A reduction in the rate of children placed in foster
39 family homes by ~~five~~ 5 percent.



1 (h) (1) The department shall, in collaboration with an
2 independent research group, conduct an evaluation of
3 the demonstration projects to determine costs and
4 treatment effectiveness. The evaluation shall be based on
5 the ability of the demonstration projects to do all of the
6 following:

7 (A) Reduce the number of nonrelative foster care and
8 group home placements for children placed with
9 relatives.

10 (B) Increase the number of children who are either
11 reunified, adopted by kin, or exit the child welfare
12 services under a guardianship.

13 (C) Increase the stability of placements for children.

14 (D) Increase the level of protection and safety for
15 children placed with relatives.

16 (2) The department and the demonstration counties
17 shall jointly identify the baseline data that will be used for
18 the evaluation of outcomes.

19 (3) The department shall pursue funding for the
20 evaluation from the private sector, including, but not
21 limited to, philanthropic foundations.

22 (i) A successful demonstration kinship care support
23 project shall provide employment for ~~five~~ 5 percent of
24 relative caregivers participating in the project.

25 (j) (1) A coordinating agency shall provide technical
26 assistance to the demonstration projects and address
27 issues of implementation and replication. In addition, the
28 coordinating agency shall facilitate the sharing of
29 information and resources among demonstration
30 projects.

31 (2) The department, in collaboration with an
32 independent research group, shall submit a report to the
33 Legislature and to the Governor upon completion of the
34 demonstration projects. This report shall be submitted no
35 later than July 1, 2001. This report shall include, but not
36 be limited to, the following findings:

37 (A) Actual costs per child for the children
38 participating in the demonstration projects.



1 (B) Actual costs per child for a child with similar
2 circumstances not participating in the demonstration
3 projects.

4 (C) Other cost savings generated by the
5 demonstration projects.

6 (D) The evaluation required under subdivision (g).

7 (k) (1) The sum of one hundred twenty-five thousand
8 dollars (\$125,000) per participating county is hereby
9 appropriated from the General Fund to the State
10 Department of Social Services for the purpose of funding
11 the demonstration projects in calendar year 1998.

12 (2) The sum of seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000)
13 is hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the
14 State Department of Social Services to fund the technical
15 assistance provisions of subdivision (j).

16 (3) *It is the intent of the Legislature that this program*
17 *result in cost efficiencies and that any cost savings*
18 *realized by participating counties as a result of this*
19 *program be utilized to supplement, not supplant, other*
20 *children's services programs, including children's health*
21 *and mental health initiatives and child welfare.*

