



## Funding Stream Fact Sheet: Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) Funds

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**Source of PSSF Funds:** Federal Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program.

**How Much PSSF Funding is Available?** Funds are distributed to the states. California's Fiscal Year (FY) 2014-15 PSSF allocation totaled over \$28,000,000. Eighty-five percent of the funds California receives are allocated to county child welfare departments by the California Department of Social Services based on a calculation related to the total number of children ages zero to seventeen living in the county. In FY 2014-15 counties received anywhere from \$10,000 to over \$2 million. (See link below for information about each county's allocation.)

**Intended Use of PSSF Funds:** Funds are intended to prevent maltreatment among at-risk families through the provision of community-based services for children and families. The four PSSF Program components: (1) family preservation, (2) community-based family support, (3) time-limited family reunification (subject to different requirements and allowables than other components), and (4) adoption promotion and support, are intended to provide coordinated services for children and families across the continuum from prevention to treatment through after care. Counties are required to expend at least 20% of their allocation in each of the four categories. The last 20% can be used as the county best sees fit, within one of the four categories.

### Target Population:

- Vulnerable families with children that are at risk of abuse or neglect.
- Families that have one or more risk factors.
- Families that have an open child welfare case.
- Youth being served by child welfare and probation agencies that have met certain requirements.

### Allowable activities include those that:

- Promote the safety and well-being of children and families.
- Increase the strength and stability of families (including adoptive, foster, and extended families).
- Increase parents' confidence and competence in their parenting abilities.
- Afford children a safe, stable, and supportive family environment.
- Strengthen parental relationships and promote healthy marriages.
- Enhance child development, including through mentoring.

### Types of services frequently funded by PSSF funds include:

- Basic needs, concrete supports
- Case management
- Childcare (temporary)
- Domestic violence services
- Early childhood services
- Financial literacy education
- Home visiting (parents of children ages 0-5)
- Housing services
- Parenting education
- Peer support
- Respite care / crisis nursery
- Substance abuse services
- Transportation
- Youth programs

### Examples of How FRCs/FSOs Use PSSF Funds:

- Provide differential response services (for child welfare services) through case management
- Aftercare services (provided after someone has aged out of foster care)
- Training for adoption support to parents
- Parent education sessions on attachment issues

- Training for foster parents, for adoption support to parents, and for parents on attachment
- Case management for children at risk of removal, or who are receiving child welfare services

**Considerations for FRC/FSOs wanting to access/use PSSF Funds:**

<b>Benefits</b>	<b>Potential Challenges</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funds are flexible and can be used to meet real local needs if appropriately planned.</li> <li>• Funds allocated in the “Community-Based Family Support Services” category support the types of services FRCs provide.</li> <li>• Participation in PSSF planning processes can help assure that community needs/strengths identified by FRCs are considered in plan development.</li> <li>• Participation in PSSF planning processes may help position FRCs to access this and other local funding streams.</li> <li>• Historically, many FRC’s services have been supported with these funds.</li> <li>• Funding may be for multiple years rather than requiring an annual application/RFP response (this varies by county).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child Welfare steers the planning process and may focus on intervention rather than prevention oriented services.</li> <li>• Participation in planning processes leading to funding may be time consuming.</li> <li>• Coordination of services with the child welfare department may be difficult due to confidentiality requirements.</li> <li>• Record keeping and reporting requirements may differ from what the FRC is currently documenting.</li> <li>• Funds may already be allocated for upcoming years, and/or are designated for specific services, such as mental health or substance abuse, that are not provided through the FRC.</li> <li>• Funds are targeted for services to children and families at risk of child abuse, or already involved in child welfare services and may not be able to be used to serve other families.</li> </ul>

**How PSSF Funding is Allocated:** The State allocates a formula-based amount to the counties, who must produce a plan for their use. The county child welfare agency administers PSSF funds at the local level and is responsible for adhering to the PSSF assurances. Typically a broad-based planning group is used to identify the range of needs and priorities for the target populations and to prioritize those needs. FRCs and allies should work to be included in the planning process.

**Stakeholder Participation:** Stakeholder participation is officially encouraged but may be constrained due to limited representation on the planning group. Some counties have local planning groups, while others do not. Having a voice at the table will help insure that community needs as identified by FRCs will be considered in the final plan.

**Oversight and Accountability:** Local county child welfare agency, and the Office of Child Abuse Prevention at the state level.

**How Can My Program Access PSSF Funding?**

- Learn about and/or participate in the planning process used to determine how funds will be allocated. Your local child welfare department director is a resource for this.
- Understand local PSSF funding priorities.
- Identify programs/services/activities your organization provides that align with funding priorities.
- Counties generally issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) when preparing to contract for PSSF services. Apply for the funds following the process outlined in the RFP or other application process.

**Find out more about the use of this funding stream in your county:**

Contact your county’s child welfare director, Child Abuse Prevention Council or Children’s Network for more information about PSSF funds in your county.

[childsworld.ca.gov/res/OCAP/PSSFFactSheet.pdf](http://childsworld.ca.gov/res/OCAP/PSSFFactSheet.pdf)  
[County Fiscal Letter Showing 2014-15 PSSF Allocations per County](#)