

SUMMARY: SB 436 would formalize Family Resource Centers (FRC) as a key delivery network of services that prevent child abuse and strengthen families through family-centered, community-based and culturally sensitive services.



Two-thirds of California's adults have experienced at least one adverse childhood experience (ACE). These experiences are traumatic or stressful events such as abuse, neglect, or dysfunction such as a family member with chronic substance abuse issues.

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ACEs lead to risk behavior outcomes such as **drug use and missed work**. It can also lead to negative physical and mental outcomes such as **cancer, suicide attempts, depression, and diabetes**.



Child abuse costs our nation \$200 million every single day as it leads to the increased use of services such as mental health, foster care, child welfare, criminal justice, education, and more.

Family Resource Centers in California prevent and mitigate the impacts of ACEs through building stronger families and communities

WHAT IS AN FRC?

Family resource centers (FRCs) provide welcoming places offering a range of services, activities, and opportunities that respond comprehensively to the needs and hopes of local residents and families.

FRCs build protective factors that lead to family and community health and well-being. At their best, FRCs collaborate broadly across systems, provide effective supports based on a deep understanding of the community served, elevate family and community voices, and are truly “vehicles for change.”

From “Vehicles for Change, Volume II, The Evolving Field,” page 7

WHO DRAFTED THE BILL LANGUAGE?

CFRA took the definition for FRCs from “Vehicles For Change, Volume II” to draft the bill language. CFRA also received input directly from the field on the definition.

WHY IS THIS BILL NEEDED?

During the 2018 legislative cycle, CFRA met with the Department of Finance and Governor Brown’s policy team to discuss the importance of tying FRCs to the CalWORKs Home Visitation Initiative, since the wrap-around services that FRCs provide greatly benefit those who participate in Home Visitation services. While they were supportive of this provision, they were hesitant to introduce this language into the state budget since currently, FRCs are not codified in state statute.

This bill is an effort to lay the foundation to define FRCs in state law, so that we can take the first steps in officially recognizing FRCs as one of the sources of child abuse prevention and family strengthening through statute. This is just the beginning of the steps CFRA is taking to elevate FRCs and the family strengthening field as a whole.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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