



California Family
Resource Association
Strong Families. Strong Communities.



FY 22-23 Budget Request

The Child Abuse Prevention Center (CAP Center), California Family Resource Association (CFRA) and California Alliance of Child & Family Services (CA Alliance) request \$40M ongoing beginning in FY 22-23 to stabilize and strengthen Family Resource Centers (FRC) in providing comprehensive, cost effective and culturally responsive support to children and families who are some of the most marginalized in our communities, who have been hit particularly hard amid the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic fallout. With additional funding, FRCs can connect families to underutilized benefits such as CalWORKS, Cal Fresh and others. In addition, they can be vital community navigators for CalAIM. Additionally, the funding will allow for an on-line referral process statewide allowing county agencies the ability to automatically refer resource families and particularly kinship care providers.

Direct Supports to Families & Communities

\$36,000,000 / Fiscal Year

- ~400 FRCs
- ~\$60 / person (weighted average, across service categories) for comprehensive services
- Opportunity to reach, serve, and leverage community and public benefits for ~600,000+ children/families each year across state's FRCs, help meet growing demand/need for services
- Reduced referrals to CPS, reduced child abuse & neglect, reduced entry into Child Welfare and Foster Care Systems, leveraging federal funding (e.g., FFPSA, Medi-Cal, American Recovery Act, Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention, community development funds, etc.)
 - o \$23.9B – Total economic burden incurred by CA communities for the lifetime costs of survivors of child maltreatment in 2020¹

Administration, Accountability & Reporting

\$4,000,000 / Fiscal Year (10%)

FRCs require administrative supports for the services provided to families and day-to-day operations. FRCs may function as a single entity, a network of FRCs, or utilizing a collective impact model. Each structure requires coordination and administration to support direct service provision. The maximum allowable indirect cost percentage will not exceed 15% of the funds allocated.

The Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) will have permissive authority to contract with an outside entity for administrative support. The administering agency will have significant administrative responsibilities to the FRCs and OCAP. The range of specific activities will be determined in collaboration with OCAP. Building on the experience of administering COVID-Relief funds for FRCs and receiving the feedback from FRCs about ongoing needs these costs will include, though not be limited to:

- The administrative support organization will be responsible for the overall operation of the funding. Responsibilities include but are not limited to developing a Notice of Funding Opportunity, conducting a review of applicants in coordination with OCAP and other partners, contracting with FRCs or their fiscal agents, providing and training to data collection forms, invoicing and other administrative forms, reviewing data and reports, contracting with an evaluator, training, technical assistance, & reporting, providing ongoing reports and information

¹ Economics of Child Abuse Report. Safe & Sound. 2020 [Safe & Sound \(safeandsound.org\)](https://safeandsound.org/)

to OCAP, and making site visits to ensure accountability. Fiscal supports, payment processing, fiscal oversight, such as audits, record keeping, and budget review, technical support, and other accounting and contracting demands for 400 FRCs.

- Coordinate with state associations and county departments to identify ways that the FRCs can work effectively to increase the access to benefits and services for those who are eligible. Likewise, to inform the role that FRCs can play in FFPSA planning and implementation, SIP planning, mental health planning, county child abuse prevention planning and other arenas in which FRCs can enhance the needs and voices of the communities.
- Provide training including Program and service delivery such as Standards for Family Strengthening and Support (national or state), Vehicles for Change, core practice competencies (e.g., family-strengthening, trauma-informed care, etc.) not otherwise available through state or federally funded training programs, evidence-based and promising practices models and curricula, required trainings to support FFPSA and other needs. Other training provided will be relative to the management of the funds and the FRC and best/helpful practices including Reflective Supervision, Equity and Inclusion, Data Collection and management, etc.
- Technical Assistance will be provided on an ongoing basis for FRCs and networks including:
 - Facilitating self-assessments (Standards, Protective Factors, Culturally & Linguistically Accessible Services, Trauma-Informed Care) & developing and monitoring follow-up plans,
 - Building collaborative relationships,
 - Implementation follow-up to trainings,
 - Evidence-based models and curricula,
 - Policy & procedure development,
 - Family/youth assessment tools,
 - Fiscal supports,
 - Assistance working with county departments on planning,
 - Connecting FRCs with experts,
 - Developing peer mentors,
 - Network development, and
 - Strategic planning.
- Developing a database and consistent data collection practices in order to simplify and manage data and do timely reporting. Also, to assist FRCs in consistent definitions and terms.
- Contracting with an independent evaluator, working with the evaluator and FRCs to develop an evaluation design, implement continuous quality improvement, and provide regular and annual reports. The evaluation will be a two-tier design. All FRCs funded will be required to provide output data. The evaluator will identify a sample of FRCs who represent the range of FRCs to participate in a more rigorous evaluation. FRCs who participate in the additional evaluation will be compensated for the costs of data collection, training, and staffing.
- Developing an online referral system to provide easy access to FRCs within a geographic area that can be accessed by anyone including families, public and non-profit agencies, and policy makers. Providing outreach to ensure awareness about the referral opportunity. Monitoring referrals and do sample follow-ups to identify the outcome of the referral.
- Identifying “resource deserts” and assisting in the planning, development, and implementation of services including new FRCs. This includes working with existing public and private agencies, policy makers, funders and others to identify opportunities; working to engage the community to understand their needs; building the necessary contracts, budgets, and staffing patterns; and providing hands-on support in the early stages by administrating staff, consultants, and peer supporters.

- Building and enhancing relationships with tribes so as to assist tribes in developing and enhancing the services most needed and to connect them to FRCs and/or support them in leveraging new or additional supports.
- Building supports for families in child welfare, resource families, and youth returning from juvenile justice.
- State and Regional convenings of FRCs:
 - Affinity groups such as rural FRCs, Tribes, Equity, etc.
 - State FRC/Networks Conferences.
 - Webinars

Total Budget Request

\$40,000,000 / Fiscal Year (ongoing)

The funding would be administered by the Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) within the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), which proactively included FRCs throughout the state plan understanding that FRCs will be critical to the implementation of FFPSA particularly with the community pathway.

Who are Family Resource Centers?

Family Resource Centers (FRC)² are a key delivery network of services and conduits for strengthening families via family-centered, community-based and culturally sensitive services that include cross-system collaboration as a means to prevent child abuse and neglect. The number of FRCs in California has grown to an estimated 500, with networks at county, regional, and statewide levels. California's FRCs are focused on strengthening families, building communities and mitigating risk factors which lead to abuse.

More specifically, FRCs play a vital role in communities, serving as trusted partner that helps connect children and families to resources and services that help lessen the everyday stressors. FRCs are embedded in underserved communities and operate at the neighborhood level, with leadership, staff, and volunteers from and reflective of the local community. They are uniquely positioned to provide family-strengthening supports that are community based and culturally sensitive, and that increase equity and opportunity for all. Their mission has been committed to helping children and families by providing high quality care across an array of services, programs and basic needs to the most vulnerable populations. In this time of unprecedented public health crisis, children and families--now more than ever--count on FRCs' support and guidance to help connect them to essential county, state and federal services and programs.

Further, over the years state and local governments and private funders have relied upon FRCs for the demonstrated relationship and trust their communities have in them to assist with implementation of the Affordable Care Act, DACA, Earned Income Tax Credit, disaster support such as fires, providing access to internet, and now working to increase access to the child tax credit.

Most recently, FRCs have worked diligently to support the most vulnerable in our communities impacted by COVID-19, to help provide direct support and services to children and families in

² SB 436 (Hurtado, 2019), Welfare & Institutions Code Section 18951(g)

(g) "Family resource center" means an entity providing family-centered and family-strengthening services that are embedded in communities, culturally sensitive, and include cross-system collaboration to assist in transforming families and communities through reciprocity and asset development based on impact-driven and evidence-informed approaches with the goal of preventing child abuse and neglect and strengthening children and families. A family resource center may be located in, or administered by, different entities, including, but not limited to, a local educational agency, a community resource center, or a neighborhood resource center.

need, including case management, mental health services, housing support, crisis support, support for children engaged in distance learning, including the provision of laptops, tablets and headsets, and access to basic survival items, such as food, diapers and hygiene products, and etc. FRCs are the lifelines to families during these challenging times and it is imperative that they receive adequate funding to continue to address the urgent needs of children and families in our communities during this unprecedented crisis.

For more than 30 years, state and county governments have relied on Family Resource Centers to be the friendly face that enables them to more fully meet family and community needs—in response to repeated crises as well as ongoing issues and inequities. They respond with as-needed, formal and informal resources, referrals, case management, and on-site resources. FRCs have stepped up and responded to the state's needs often without additional funding, or at most with time-limited, program-specific funds. In fact, those features of FRC work that make them trusted supports and that are a part of the protective factors for families—their welcoming environments, availability to all families in a community, open-ended drop-in supports, parent leadership development—do not have stable, ongoing funding. Providing FRCs with support to, in turn, support our communities will ensure the State can meet its commitment to children and families head-on.

What do we know about Family Resource Center effectiveness?³

According to Casey Family Programs, while there are other programs that may provide similar services as FRCs, “FRCs are distinct in that they are uniquely community-focused, are driven by family needs, and offer a multitude of programs and resources....Despite being located in different facilities and having diverse approaches to service selection and service delivery, FRCs generally share a common goal of improving outcomes for children and families by strengthening and supporting families and the communities in which they live. FRCs also are designed to help stabilize families before a crisis reaches a level requiring CPS intervention, or a child's placement in out-of-home care.”

Findings from Casey Family Programs specific to effectiveness include:

- 45% reduction in cases of child abuse and neglect in Alachua County, Florida
- Significantly lower rates of child maltreatment investigations in communities with FRCs in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania
- Statistically significant gains in family self-sufficiency in Colorado
- A 20% increase in parents' self-reports on their ability to keep the children in their care safe from abuse in Massachusetts
- A 25% increase in the probability that a family reduced its risk of abuse with the addition of one additional differential response case management visit per week at an FRC in San Francisco

In addition to the Casey Family Programs research, other recent findings on the return on investment (ROI) for FRCS include:

- A September 2021 study of ROI at the Westminster Family Resource Center in Orange County found direct child welfare savings of \$3.65 for every dollar spent on prevention services through the FRC.⁴

³ Casey Family Programs <https://www.casey.org/family-resource-centers/>

⁴ OMNI Institute (2021). Return on Investment of a Family Resource Center to the Child Welfare System: Westminster Family Resource Center, Orange County, CA. Submitted to National Family Support Network, Washington, D.C.
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/6149fd6b8447df72f4c3c18f/t/616466186857d74d8627f316/1633969690479/Westminster+Family+R>

- Recent and ongoing research co-led by Safe and Sound, an FRC in San Francisco, indicates that if only half of the money currently spent on dealing with the repercussions of child maltreatment was redirected to prevention efforts — particularly, efforts to strengthen families' protective factors — child abuse and neglect would be reduced by almost 50%.⁵ Calculations reveal an estimated economic burden of child maltreatment of \$456,033 per victim in San Francisco County in 2018, or more than \$233 million over the course of the year, based on a conservative estimate (given that child maltreatment is often underreported, the financial impact could be as high as \$6.8 billion a year).¹⁸ The 2019 report noted the verified financial impact of child abuse and neglect in 2018 as \$223 million in San Francisco alone (\$2 billion dollars for the Bay Area as a whole). The analysis indicates that the financial impact of child maltreatment in San Francisco in 2018 was enough money to send 23,000 children to pre-school.⁶
- An external evaluation of the Birth and Beyond program in Sacramento found that comprehensive home visiting services provided through a network of FRCs reduced the risk of substantiated child abuse and neglect complaints in participating families.⁷
- In Alabama, an analysis of short- and long-term impacts shows that for every \$1 invested in the Alabama Network of Family Resource Centers, the State of Alabama receives \$4.70 of immediate and long-term financial benefits⁸
- In Vermont, it was determined that through services to prevent adverse childhood experiences, the Vermont Parent Child Center Network saved the state \$210,000 (in 2010 dollars) per family that would have otherwise been spent on addressing the effects of child abuse and neglect, including “\$33,000 in childhood health care costs, \$11,000 in adult medical costs, \$144,000 in productivity losses, \$8,000 in child welfare costs, \$7,000 in criminal justice costs, and \$8,000 in special education costs.”⁹

“Given the findings from the few existing studies... there is reason to believe that FRCs have been, and can be, instrumental in increasing protective factors and supporting children’s safety through family support and strengthening. Additionally, given states’ new flexibility under the Family First Prevention Services Act to spend Title IV-E funds on evidence-based prevention services,¹⁰ it is imperative that the positive effects FRCs have on families and communities are well documented. Moreover, if the findings from some of the most promising studies can be replicated, there is no better time than the present to increase the literature on FRCs and make a deep investment in them.”¹¹

Just as Family Resource Centers have been a responsive, culturally sensitive support for vulnerable families, they also have served as a force for community well-being. In the words of the landmark, OCAP-commissioned *Family Resource Centers: Vehicles for Change, Volume II*,¹² “FRCs go beyond traditional social service entities by taking on broad community change efforts. A core value of FRCs is reciprocity, meaning that all participants both receive from and contribute to the FRCs through participation and leadership. In an entrepreneurial spirit, FRCs embrace an asset development approach to community change, honoring community strengths while addressing very real needs and/ or social injustices through resident engagement.” By facilitating

[esource+Center+Child+Welfare+Return+on+Investment+Technical+Appendix_Revised+Figure-Oct+2021.pdf](#)

⁵ Safe and Sound. (2018a). *The Economics of Child Abuse: A Study of San Francisco: Infographic*.

Retrieved https://safeandsound.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/2018_Economics_Infographic_SF.pdf

⁶ Safe and Sound. (2019). *The Economics of Child Abuse: A Study of San Francisco*. Retrieved from <https://safeandsound.org/SF-Cost/>

⁷ Applied Survey Research (2019) *Birth & Beyond 2018-19 Annual Report*, Submitted to First 5 Sacramento.

⁸ Community Services Analysis Company LLC. (2014). *Alabama Network of Family Resource Centers: Social Return on Investment Analysis*. Retrieved from <http://csaco.org/files/103503730.pdf>

⁹ Vermont Parent Child Center Network. (n.d.). Retrieved

from https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/ec0538_bc6da8393da54b58bbdb5c8f09362b0d.pdf

¹⁰ See HR 253, Family First Prevention Services Act of 2017, at <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/253>

¹¹ Casey Family Programs [Family Resource Centers – Casey Family Programs](#)

¹² Citation: J. Sherman & Y. McQuaid (2017) *Family Resource Centers: Vehicles for Change, Volume II*; the California Office of Child Abuse Prevention.

parent leadership and civil engagement, and through supporting grassroots micro-enterprise and mutual aid initiatives, FRCs have transformed neighborhoods and communities around the state.

In 2018, FRC providers UpValley Family Services and On the Move documented how, building on their disaster response from 2014, their Family Resource Centers quickly provided much-needed support in the wake of the 2017 fire in Napa Valley. Their close connections to families allowed them to identify families in need, mobilize community resources and logistics, and provide material support. This responsiveness came at a price, however, and the community organizations that were there for their community had to weather organizational and financial hardship.¹³

Family Resource Center State Support

The CAP Center, CFRA and CalAlliance have been pleased to work with the Newsom Administration and Legislature the last two budget cycles, in particular, to secure critically needed funding to help child and families amid the challenges and impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. More specifically, we were pleased to have received one-time COVID-19 focused allocations, as follows, the last two years:

COVID-19 FRC Emergency Funding April – June 2020 \$2,819,563¹⁴

- 10 weeks to expend funds amid onset of the pandemic (April 13 – June 30)
- Funding distributed via Notice of Funding Opportunity in conjunction with OCAP / CDSS
- 349 FRCs received funding in 54 of 58 counties
- 117,569 individuals served
 - o Included 6,401 foster family beneficiaries and 2,756 Indian Tribe beneficiaries
 - o Comprehensive services provided for, on average, \$24 per individual¹⁵
- Services included material goods (food, diapers, hygiene supplies), housing support, access to telehealth and remote case management, behavioral health services, parenting resources, remote learning resources, virtual support groups, transportation, linkages to public benefits, mental health support, domestic violence and crisis management services, employment assistance, and more.

COVID-19 Response Funding September 2021-June 2022 \$13,000,000¹⁶

- Notice of Funding Opportunity for FRC COVID-19 Relief Funds released July 27th
- 99 applications received representing 386 FRCs statewide
 - o Applications submitted requested over \$15M
 - o Expected service delivery to 265,000 individuals through 53 counties
 - o 84 applicants committed to serving foster and Tribal-connected families
- Services in focus for applications include material goods (30%), parenting resources (6%), utilities assistance (10%), isolation needs (9%), personnel/staffing (25%), indirect (8%), mental health/counseling (5%), and support for education/distance learning (7%).

Of note, a February 2021 survey of FRCs across the state related to the 2020 COVID-19 Emergency Funding found significant challenges for FRCs including staff stressors (mental health, low pay, long hours, etc.), increased demand for services, and more. The survey also

¹³ Citation: Alissa Abdo, MSA, Jenny Ocon, MSW (2018) The Role of On The Move and Upvalley Family Centers in The Local Response to The 2017 Napa County Wildfires: Lessons in Disaster Recovery. <https://strategiesca.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/North-Bay-Fire-Response-Nonprofit-Lessons-Learned.pdf>

¹⁴ CAP Center & CFRA Requested Funding was \$6.3M to serve over 103,000 individuals

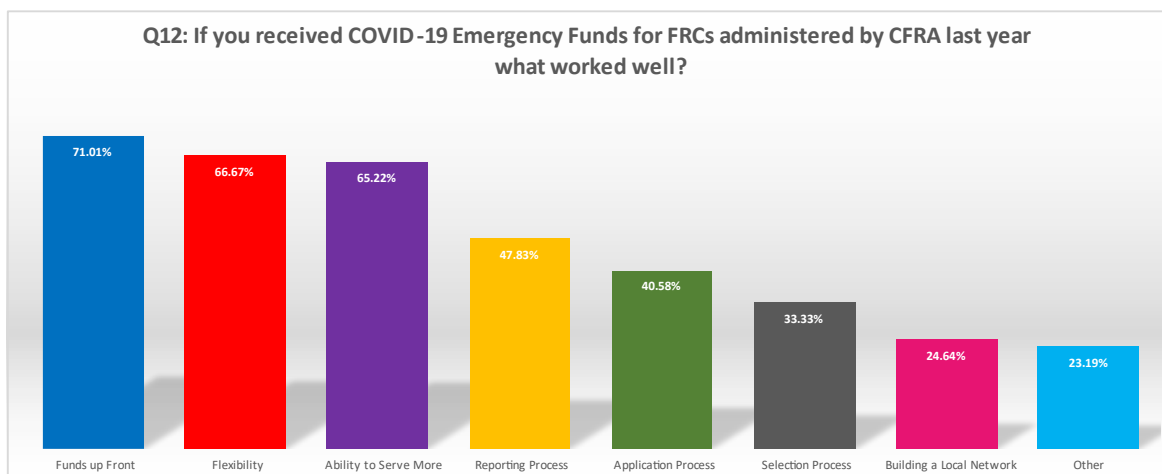
¹⁵ Note: Doesn't account for braiding the COVID-19 funding with funding and support from other services, agencies

¹⁶ FY 21-22 CAP Center & CFRA Requested Funding was \$33M

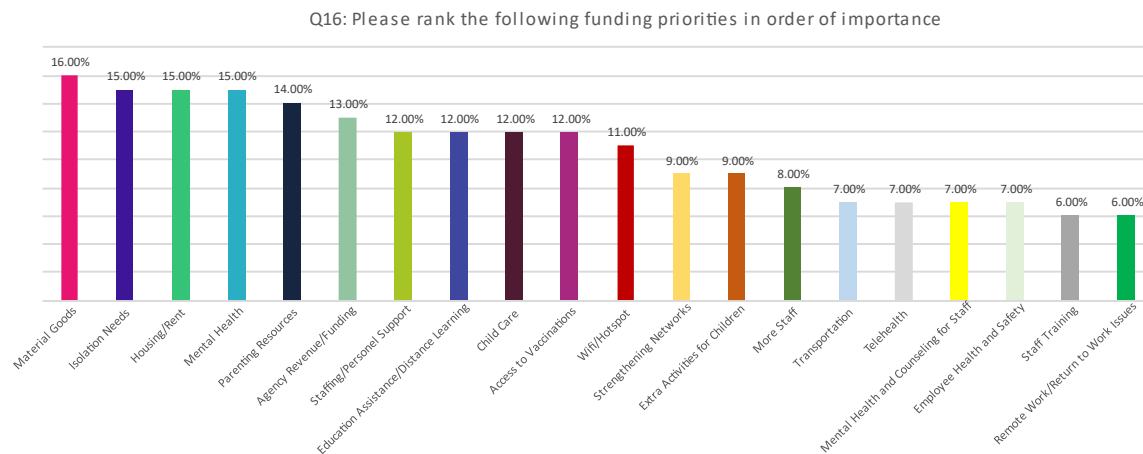
provided a number of important insights for the needs of the community, needs of FRCs, what worked well in the 2020 approach to FRC funding, and funding priorities in order of importance/need.



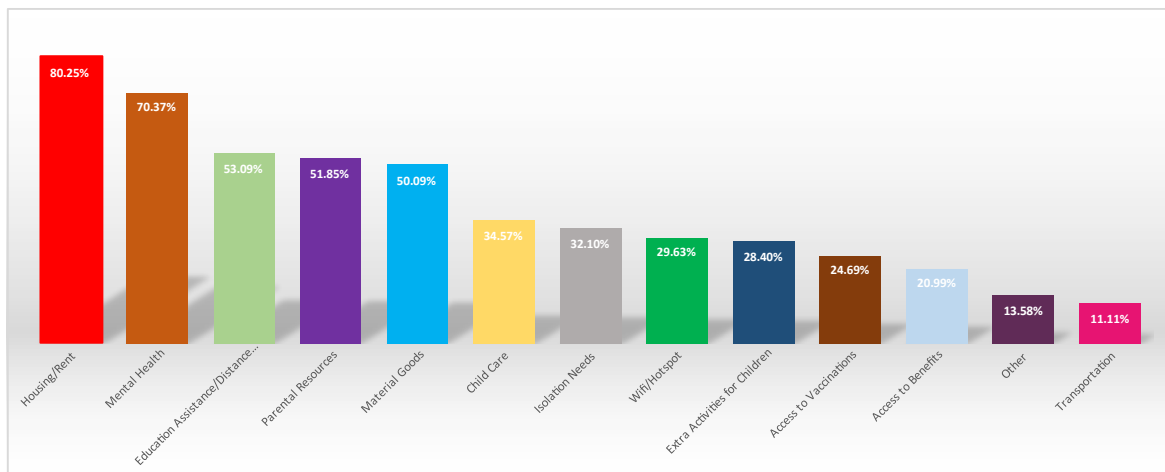
If you received COVID-19 Emergency Funds for FRCs administered by CFRA last year, what worked well?



Please rank the following funding priorities in order of importance



What are the top 5 greatest needs for your community?



At the time of the first round of COVID-19 emergency relief funding for Family Resource Centers to respond during the immediate crisis in 2020, no one knew how long it might continue. Unfortunately, it has not only continued, but worsened on top of an already growing socioeconomic divide and associated challenges for children and families in our state. Children, families and communities need ongoing support as Californians, most specifically those in vulnerable communities, continue to face unemployment, loss of homes and loved ones, uncertain availability of child-care, isolation, and desperation. The most trusted source of support within their community is their FRC where they obtain services and information they trust in the languages they speak. The services FRCs provide are cost effective and culturally responsive.

The CAP Center, CFRA and CalAlliance greatly appreciate the Newsom Administration and Legislature's recognition of the important support FRCs provide within their communities statewide. As demonstrated the last two years amid the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, FRCs have continued to step up to serve their communities statewide.

Ongoing Family Resource Center Funding Needs

While many of these core services, trainings and efforts are already undertaken by FRCs across the state, any funding available for these activities and priorities are short term and inconsistently available across the state. It is imperative to ensure these core services are maintained with stable, consistent funding as FRCs statewide see increases in need and historical funding sources decline or disappear.

- Stabilized funding for core FRC services:
 - o Outreach and enhanced referral for public benefits and emergency support;
 - o Parent, child, and youth peer supports, cultural activities, leadership development, and civic engagement;
 - o Crisis intervention
 - o Information & referral;
 - o Distributing food and material supports for emergency needs;
 - o Staffing for drop-in & call-in supports to families in need;
 - o Access to internet
 - o Support to parent and community led micro-enterprise and mutual aid initiatives;
- Disaster response and recovery
 - o Maintaining a welcoming, neighborhood-based environment for all parents and families;
 - o In home supports and visits
 - o Opportunities for building social connections
 - o Fatherhood engagement
 - o Access to health care
- Training in Standards for Family Strengthening and Support
- Start-up for new FRCs where there is community need, particularly in Tribal Nations and rural communities
- Technical Assistance for management and program best practice
- Non-profit sustainability and infrastructure development (including data systems and evidence-based practices)
- Local network infrastructure
- Program continuous quality improvement and impact measurement.

Other Needs Addressed by Family Resource Centers

The following supports and focus areas are either new or in need of enhancements based on the growth in needs statewide as well as children and families, and the FRCs that serve them, grapple with new issues each year. FRCs are best positioned to respond to these needs as trusted partners in their communities.

- Immigration and Refugee Support
- Growing poverty, particularly child poverty
- Racial/Ethnic Disparities, particularly in foster care

- High Unemployment
- Homelessness and access to affordable housing
- Juvenile realignment supports and collaboration with probation
- Additional child abuse and domestic violence prevention
- Technology access: connecting families to low-cost internet and computer donation programs.
- Child Tax Credit: connection and outreach to families who earn too little to benefit directly through tax returns.
- COVID vaccine access: partnering with health providers for outreach and/or on-site vaccination to underserved communities.
- Access to health care, including Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) screening and referral
- Multiple service needs, e.g., play care, respite care, peer support, healthy living classes, immigration training, youth development and activities, life skills (financial literacy, computer literacy, job training, ESL), domestic and intimate partner prevention, services for children with special needs, education supports

Proposed Trailer Bill Language *(under development)*

Criteria for FRC funding

- Funding formula based on child population and income status in defined catchment area?
- Family-centered and family-strengthening services
- Embedded in communities
- Culturally sensitive
- Cross-system collaboration
- Transforming families and communities
- Reciprocity and asset development
- Impact-driven and evidence-informed approaches
- Goal of preventing child abuse and neglect and strengthening children and families.
- Located in, or administered by, different entities, including, but not limited to, a community resource center, a neighborhood resource center, or local educational agency.
- Criteria for admin costs, caps:
 - o Non-supplantation of other ongoing federal, state, or county ongoing support.
 - o Phase-in of declining First 5 funds.
 - o Funding level based on population level of service area?
 - o Any mix of Funding Categories below that meet funding criteria (above)?
 - o % for core operating costs

Possible Funding Categories

- o Neighborhood-based facilities;
- o Information & referral;
- o Case management;
- o Staffing for drop-in & call-in supports to families in need;
- o Outreach and enhanced referral for public benefits and emergency support (e.g., CalFresh, CalWorks, MediCal, Child Tax Credit, etc.);
- o Staffing and maintenance costs for distributing food and material supports for emergency needs;
- o Parent peer supports, cultural activities, leadership development, and civic engagement;

- Financial and staffing support for parent and community led micro-enterprise and mutual aid initiatives;
- Staffing, contracting, and technology for continuous quality improvement and impact measurement.

Documentation & Reporting Requirements

- Existing number served
- Needs of the community
- Agreement to provide consistent data
 - TBD data details
- Permissive authority to consolidate FRC reporting via CDSS / OCAP contract with outside entity

Program Support

- Permissive authority for CDSS/OCAP to contract with an outside entity
- Training & technical assistance
- Developing a database and consistent data collection
- Independent evaluation
- Regional convenings of FRCs
 - Affinity groups such as rural FRCs, Tribes, etc.
 - State FRC Conference
 - Webinars
 - Contracting & Accounting for 400 FRCs
- Funding categories

Contact

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The Child Abuse Prevention Center (CAP Center) is a state and national training, education, research and resource center dedicated to strengthening children, families and communities.

California Family Resource Association (CFRA) is a statewide membership association of FRCs and FRC Networks that work together to bring children, families and communities to the forefront of policymaking in California.

The California Alliance is a statewide membership organization representing community based organizations serving children and families through prevention services, behavioral health, foster care and juvenile justice.

STABILIZING & STRENGTHENING FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS

FY 22-23 BUDGET PROPOSAL

SUPPORTERS





