

# DCFS Kinship Support Division



## Providing Assistance and Support to Relative Caregivers

Volume 1-September 2011

### What is Assembly Bill 12 (AB12)?

On September 30, 2010, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed into law the California Fostering Connections to Success Act, also known as Assembly Bill 12 (Beall, Bass).

According to the national data, one out of every five youth who "age-out" of foster care will receive the ongoing support of the child welfare system up to age 21, with the goal of ending the era of neglect and promote stability to the transitioning youth.

The new, federally-funded subsidized guardianship program has been introduced, and thousands of relative caregivers are expected to participate and receive ongoing support to promote the stability and well-being of the children in their care. (<http://www.cafosteringconnections.org/>)

One of the tasks of the Kinship Support Division in the implementation of AB12 is to contact every Kin-GAP caregiver and assist them in understanding the necessary agreement in order for Revenue Enhancement to convert from state to federal all eligible Kin-GAP cases. This monumental task needs to be completed by December 31, 2011 to ensure that aid and funding will continue for all relative caregivers.

The AB 12 Kin-GAP conversion process began in April 2011, and to date nearly 50 percent of the approximately 6,500 Kin-GAP caregivers have been personally-assisted by Kinship Division Social Workers!

### CONGRATULATIONS KINSHIP STAFF FOR A JOB WELL DONE!!!!

**Upcoming Assembly Bill 12 Workshops** will be held at the following locations and times:

DCFS-Torrance (Room A & B)  
2325 Crenshaw Blvd., Torrance, CA 90501  
September 14, 2011 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

DCFS- Lakewood (Room A-ER Section)  
4060 Watson Plaza Dr., Lakewood, CA 90712  
September 21, 2011 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

L.A. Harbor College  
(Large Conference Room/Room A)  
1111 Figueroa Place, Wilmington, CA 90744  
September 24, 2011 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### SAVE THE DATE: RELATIVE CAREGIVER CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

December 17, 2011 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

For Whittier reservation, contact (562) 777-1751

For Marina del Rey reservation, contact (323) 298-3515

### DID YOU KNOW ...

- Current Department data indicates that 50% of children in out of home care (7,708) are placed in the homes of relatives;
- There are 6,750 children receiving Kin-GAP subsidy and receive supportive services and assistance through our Kinship Centers' staff and community partners;
- Another 2,211 children are placed in the homes of Legal Guardians who also seek assistance through our Kinship Centers as many of them only have contact with their assigned CSW once every six months;
- In the period January through July 2011, 56 Kinship caregivers and 63 parents were assisted by Kinship Staff resulting in their not filing a WIC 388 petition to reinstate juvenile court jurisdiction. This was a 56% and 57% reduction respectively in petitions to have children's jurisdiction reinstated and re-enter active caseloads;
- From January through July 2011, 3,552 caregivers requested and were provided assistance at both Kinship Centers;
- From January 2011 through June 2011, 1,587 caregivers attended a support group or other activity in the Centers;
- Since the implementation of Assembly Bill 12, the Kinship Centers have been the base location and repository of records for the 3,133 caregivers that have been supported in obtaining the signed SOC 369A in support of the AB 12 conversion effort;
- Supportive assistance is also available and provided at each Center to Probate Guardian and informal kinship placements which support our prevention effort.

### Additional services provided by the Kinship Division include:

- Community Outreach
- Community Education
- Information and Referral
- Family Support through one-on-one intervention
- Permanency Planning
- Caregiver Support Groups
- Respite/Recreation
- And More!

Please visit us on LA Kids at

<http://dcfs.co.la.ca.us/kinshippublic/default.html>

or for inquiries, feedback and schedule of support groups, please contact us at:

