



History of The Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services

Approaches to child welfare have changed greatly over the decades as societal norms and expectations have shifted. The Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services originates from the Office of Superintendent of Children's and Women's Work that formed in 1891, to care for destitute women and their children under the guidelines of the 1851 Poor Law. In 1903, the First Juvenile Court in California was established, and in 1913, the first iteration of DCFS as we know it today was created under the Department of Charities.

Key Dates in the History of DCFS:

