

CALIFORNIA STATEWIDE CHILD WELFARE INITIATIVES INFORMATION

Katie A. - Katie A. is a class action lawsuit that was filed in 2002 against the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), and the County of Los Angeles (LA). Plaintiffs alleged that foster children do not receive adequate assessment and referral for mental health services and, as a result, suffer multiple unnecessarily restrictive foster care placements. LA settled its portion of the lawsuit in 2003, and CDSS and DHCS settled in 2011. For More Information on **Katie A.:**

- California Department of Social Services (CDSS): <http://www.childsworld.ca.gov/pg1320.htm>
- California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS): <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/Pages/KatieAImplementation.aspx>

Education Equals (Ed =s) - The Education Equals Grant is a partnership between the Stuart Foundation and three California Counties (Fresno, Orange, and Sacramento). The goal of the partnership is for foster youth to succeed in school at levels equal to or better than the general student population by 2017. The five year goal of the Education Equals project is ambitious as it requires double digit improvements for foster youth on key educational markers as regrettably foster youth continue to show achievement gaps in their education, particularly in high school graduation rates. For More Information on **Education Equals:**

- Stuart Foundation: <http://www.stuartfoundation.org/EducationEquals.aspx>

CAPP – California Partners for Permanency - California Partners for Permanency is a federally funded project to reduce the number of children in long-term foster care. It is funded through a Presidential Initiative. The California effort focuses on African American and Native American children who are over-represented in the state's child welfare system and for whom it has been most challenging to find loving and permanent homes. The project goals are to both reduce long-term foster care and improve child well-being. For More Information on **CAPP:**

- Child & Family Policy Institute of California: <http://www.reducefostercarenow.org/>

Foster Connections – AB12, the California Fostering Connections to Success Act, was signed into law by Governor Schwarzenegger on September 30, 2010. With this legislation, 1 in 5 youth who “age out” nationally will receive the support of the foster care system to age 21, ending an era of neglect and providing youth in foster care with the same common-sense assistance provided to children from in-tact families. For More Information on **AB12:**

- California Fostering Connections to Success: <http://www.cafosteringconnections.org/legislation.html>
- CDSS: <http://www.childsworld.ca.gov/res/pdf/AB12FactSheet.pdf>
- CDSS: <http://www.childsworld.ca.gov/PG2902.htm>

Continuum of Care (CCR) – The Continuum of Care initiative is a framework for integration of Congregate Care Reform efforts in California. The integrated framework is intended to guide the array of services provided for children and families served by Child Welfare, Probation, and Special Education Programs. For more information on **CCR:**

- CDSS: <http://www.childsworld.ca.gov/PG2976.htm>