

Introduced by Senator McPherson

February 24, 2000

An act to amend Section 16605 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to social services, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1946, as introduced, McPherson. Kinship support services.

Existing law requires the State Department of Social Services to conduct a Kinship Support Services Program that is a grants-in-aid program providing startup and expansion funds for local kinship support services programs that provide community-based family support services to kinship care givers and the children placed in their homes by the juvenile court or who are at risk of dependency or delinquency. Under existing law, the counties participating in the program must meet specified requirements, including the requirement that 40% or more of dependent children in the county be in relative care placements.

This bill would revise the requirements for participating counties by requiring that 25% or more of dependent children in the county be in relative care placement, and would prescribe a priority for those counties in certain circumstances.

The bill would also appropriate \$750,000 from the General Fund to the department for implementation of the program.

Vote: $\frac{2}{3}$. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16605 of the Welfare and
2 Institutions Code is amended to read:
3 16605. (a) The department shall, subject to the
4 availability of funds appropriated therefor, conduct a
5 Kinship Support Services Program that is a grants-in-aid
6 program providing ~~start-up~~ *startup* and expansion funds
7 for local kinship support services programs that provide
8 community-based family support services to relative
9 caregivers and the children placed in their homes by the
10 juvenile court or who are at risk of dependency or
11 delinquency. Relatives with children in voluntary
12 placements may access services, at the discretion of the
13 county.

14 (b) The Kinship Support Services Program shall
15 create a public-private partnership. A combination of
16 federal, state, county, and private sector resources shall
17 finance the establishment and ongoing operation of the
18 program.

19 (c) The counties participating in the program shall
20 meet the following requirements:
21 (1) Have ~~40~~ 25 percent or more of dependent children
22 in relative care placements.
23 (2) Have a demonstrated capacity for collaboration
24 and interagency coordination.
25 (3) Have a viable plan for ongoing financial support of
26 the local kinship support services program.
27 (4) Utilize relative caregivers as employees of the
28 program.
29 (5) Have strong and viable public or private agencies
30 to operate the program.

31 (d) The Kinship Support Services Program shall
32 demonstrate the use of supportive services provided to
33 relative caregivers and children placed in their homes
34 using a community-based kinship support services model.
35 This model shall provide services to relative caregivers
36 that are aimed at helping to ensure permanent family
37 kinship placements for children who have been placed
38 with them by the juvenile court, and to provide family



1 support services that will eliminate the need for juvenile
2 court jurisdiction and the provision of services by the
3 county welfare department.

4 (e) The program shall provide family support services
5 appropriate for the target populations. These services
6 may include, but are not limited to, the following:

7 (1) Assessment and case management.

8 (2) Social services referral and intervention aimed at
9 maintaining the kinship family unit, for example, housing,
10 homemaker services, respite care, legal services, and day
11 care.

12 (3) Transportation for medical care and educational
13 and recreational activities.

14 (4) Information and referral services.

15 (5) Individual and group counseling in the area of
16 parent-child relationships and group conflict.

17 (6) Counseling and referral services aimed at
18 promoting permanency, including kinship adoption and
19 guardianship.

20 (7) Tutoring and mentoring.

21 (f) The Edgewood Center for Children and Families
22 in San Francisco shall provide technical assistance to the
23 Kinship Support Services Program and shall facilitate the
24 sharing of information and resources among the local
25 programs.

26 (g) *For the 2001–02 fiscal year, the department shall*
27 *give priority in the grants-in-aid program to counties with*
28 *25 percent or more children in placement with relative*
29 *caregivers, when the Kinship Support Services Program*
30 *in those counties meets the provisions of this section.*

31 (h) (1) The sum of seven hundred fifty thousand
32 dollars (\$750,000) is hereby appropriated from the
33 General Fund to the State Department of Social Services
34 for the purpose of funding this grants-in-aid program.

35 (2) The sum of seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000)
36 is hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the
37 State Department of Social Services for funding of the
38 technical assistance to be provided by the Edgewood
39 Center for Children and Families.



1 (3) The sum of seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000)
2 is hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the
3 State Department of Social Services to fund the costs of
4 state administration of the program.

5 (4) It is the intent of the Legislature that this program
6 result in cost efficiencies and that any cost savings
7 realized by participating counties as a result of this
8 program be utilized to supplement, not supplant, other
9 children's services programs, including children's health
10 and mental health initiatives and child welfare.

11 SEC. 2. In addition to any other funds appropriated
12 for purposes of Section 16605 of the Welfare and
13 Institutions Code, there is hereby appropriated from the
14 General Fund to the State Department of Social Services
15 the sum of seven hundred fifty thousand dollars
16 (\$750,000) for purposes of implementing the Kinship
17 Support Services Program provided for pursuant to
18 Section 16605 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

