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# **Try Prayer!** Strategies to Strengthen Child Welfare Amidst California's Financial Crisis

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Presentation to California Alliance of Children and Family Services

February 4, 2010



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# Overview of Presentation

- **State Issues**

- AB 12 & THP-Plus
- \$80 million CWS veto
- Increased county share of cost
- Capped Allocation Project (IV-E Waiver)

- **Federal Issues**

- Finance reform
- New POMS RE from Social Security Administration

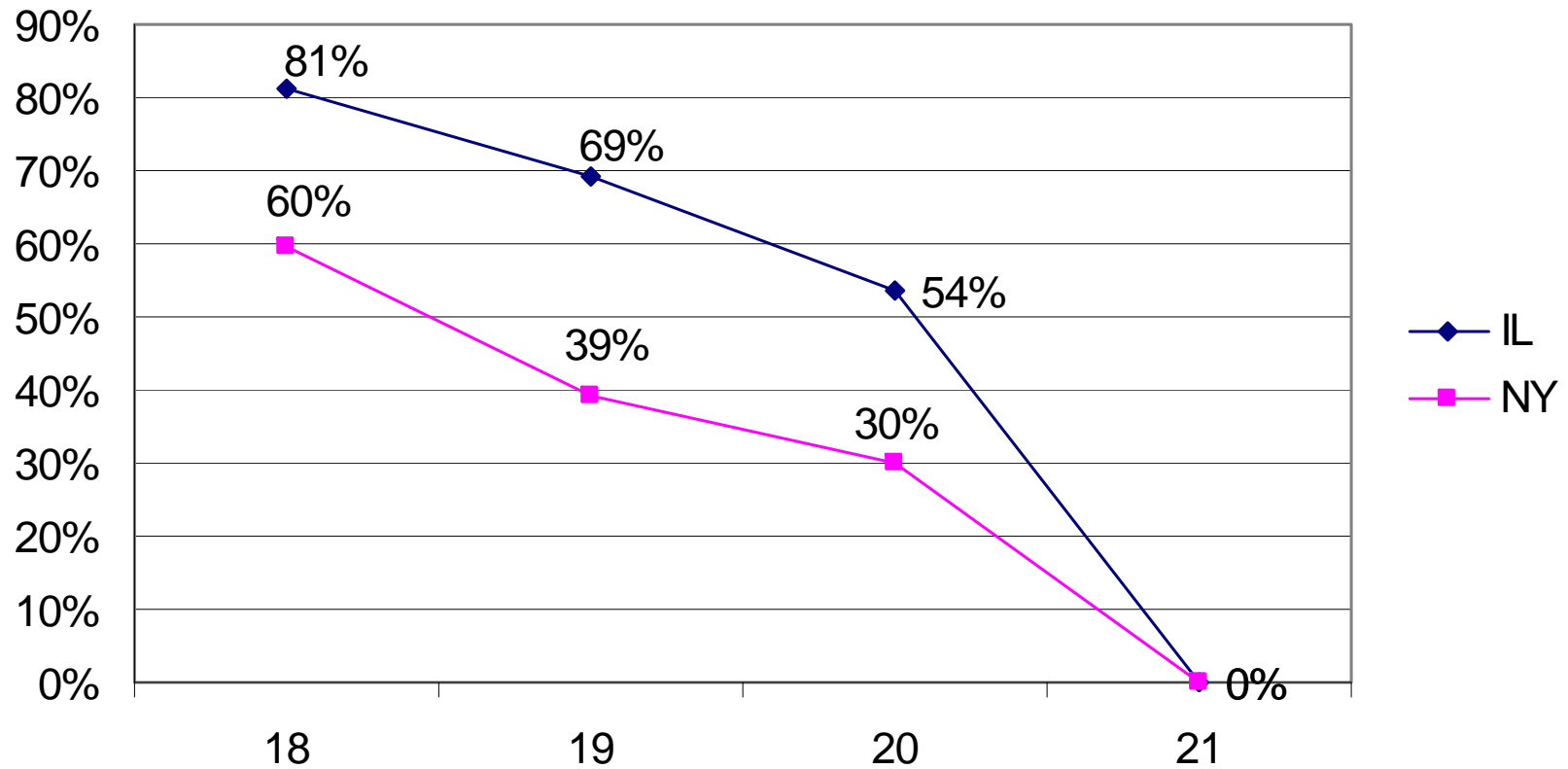
- **Organizing for the future**

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## 30 Second Overview of AB 12

- Extends support for youth to age 21 by 2014
- Requires child welfare and court oversight
- Will allow youth to live in all current placements, plus one new one: SILP
- Requires youth to meet one of 5 eligibility criteria
  - (1) Completing secondary education or a program leading to an equivalent credential,
  - (2) Enrolled in an institution which provides post-secondary or vocational education
  - (3) Participating in a program or activity designed to promote, or remove barriers to, employment
  - (4) Employed for at least 80 hours per month.
  - (5) Have a disability that makes prevents youth from doing any of the above.
- Establishes Fed-GAP

# Rate of Participation for 18 to 21: IL & NY



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# AB 12: Recent Developments

- Change in implementation date
- Continues to link expansion to age 21 with saving from Fed-GAP
- No federal guidance yet about how Kin-GAP caseload will be counted
- Regulations defining SILP may be issued in March;
- More AB 12 amendments to come...

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# Phased-In Implementation

- Extended to age 19, effective 1/1/12
- Extended to age 20, effective 1/1/13
- Extended to age 21, effective 1/1/14

Example: Johnny turns 19 on March 11, 2012

*Wave IV of Midwest Study to be release in April  
Urban Institute just completed analysis of AB 12 for LA County*

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# THP-Plus in the AB 12 Context

- Option 1: No Change
    - Continue to serve non-dependents, age 18 to 24
  
  - Option 2: Serve dependents & non-dependents, age 18 to 24
    - Possibly be licensed using newly developed adult standards
  
  - Option 3: Serve dependent & non-dependents, age 16 to 24
    - Possibly be licensed using newly developed adult standards & standards for minors
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## If I were a THP-Plus provider, I would....

- Begin thought process about how to convert THP-Plus to AB 12
- Investigate Family Unification Program (FUP) opportunities
  - Does my housing authority have them?
  - Are they still being used for FUP?
- Educate County BOS about Governor's proposal to eliminate THP-Plus
- Educate yourselves about HEARTH Act

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# Key Provisions of HEARTH Act

- Reauthorization of McKinney-Vento Act, signed in May 2009
- Expands definition of “homeless” to include youth; signals policy change away from “chronic homeless.”
- Obama has proposed \$200 million increase, bringing total for Assistance Grants to \$2.05 billion
- 2011: first year of new distribution process

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# Governor's \$80 Million Veto to CWS

- Governor vetoed \$80 million from CWS on July 28, 2009
- Resulted in cuts to 20+ CWS programs
  - County Child Welfare Funding
  - State Family Preservation Reduction
  - Emancipation Stipends
  - Kinship Support Services Program
  - Foster Parent Training and Recruitment
  - Many more!
- Sustained veto in proposed FY 2010-11 budget
- CDSS intends to reallocate \$80 million

# Increased County Share of Cost

- Governor proposes to redirect a portion of county savings to increase county share of cost.

<b>Program</b>	<b>Existing State/County</b>	<b>Proposed State/County</b>	<b>2010-11 Savings</b>
Child Welfare Services	70/30	30/70	\$93.2
Adoption Assistance Program	75/25	41/59	\$154.5
Foster Care	40/60	25/75	\$257.8
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$505.5</b>

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# Capped Allocation Project (CAP)

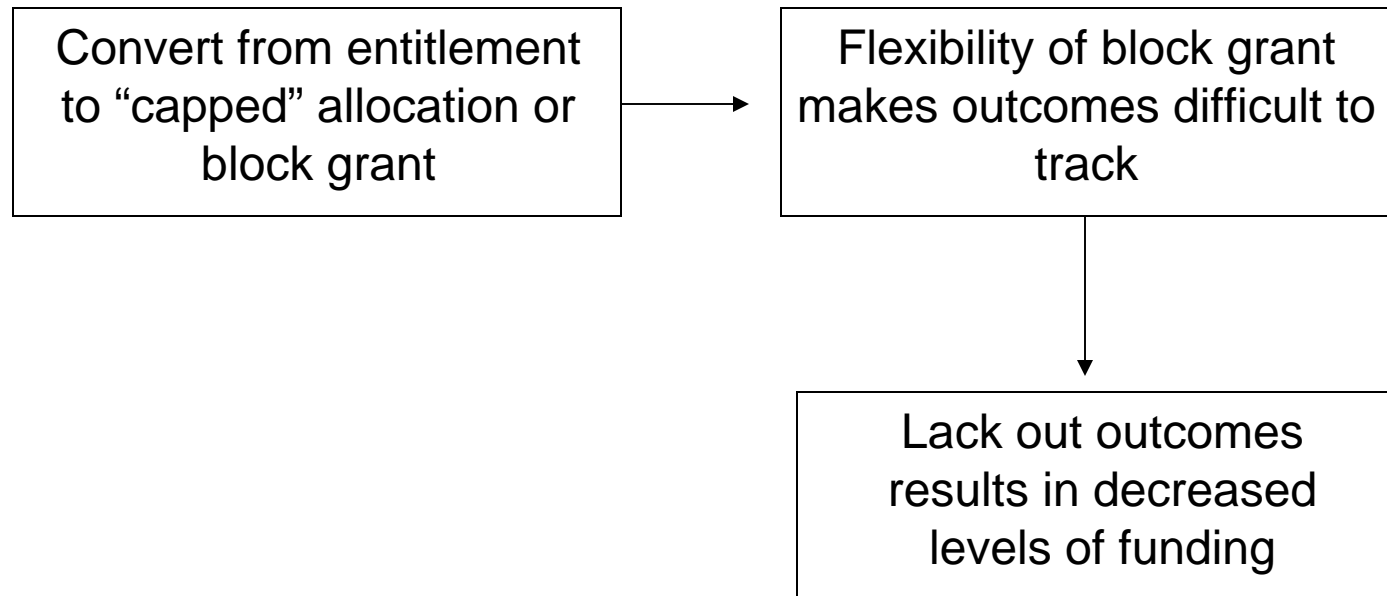
- Implemented in Alameda and Los Angeles Counties
- First implemented in 2007; referred to as “The IV-E Waiver”
- Creates strong financial incentives to reduce caseload
- Creates different incentive structures CAP counties and non-CAP counties
- Important questions to be addressed in process of determining whether or not to renew
- Official evaluation is problematic- *“the design...does not allow the evaluation to determine causality.”*

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## On to Federal Issues.... Finance Reform

- With Fostering Connections passed, this is next on federal agenda
- Obama's federal freeze of domestic non-military spending raises concerns
- HR 3229: De-links IV-E from 1996 AFDC income requirements
- Important to not trade funding stability for flexibility

# How Federal Government has Used Block Grants to Reduce Funding to States



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# Case Study: Social Services Block Grant (Title XX)

- Purpose: 11% of federal funding for child welfare services
- 1981:
  - Converted from entitlement to block grant
  - Intended to be permanently funded at \$2.8 billion
- 1996:
  - Reduced to \$2.3 billion in 1996
- 2001:
  - Reduced to \$1.7 billion (85% reduction in value)
- Currently under threat due to “accountability issues”

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# Common Sense Approaches to Child Welfare Finance Reform

- Start by eliminating the 1996 AFCD “Look Back”
- Increase Title IV-B - Subpart 1 - Child Welfare Services
- Increase Title IV-B - Subpart 2 - Promoting Safe and Stable Families
- Restore Title XX Social Services Block Grant
- Increase Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA)
- Increase Chaffee Independence Program

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# Other Federal Developments

- SSA recently issued new POMS about youth with disabilities accessing SSI
- Worse than California's approach: AB 1331

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# Organizing for the Future

- Creation of statewide coalition to oppose cuts to child welfare
- March 2<sup>nd</sup>: day of legislative visits to oppose:
  - Eliminate THP-Plus
  - \$80 million veto
  - Massive state disinvestment from child welfare
- AB 12 Senate HS and Appropriations Committees
- May: National Foster Care Awareness Month
- CAP renewal decision: 2011
- Governor's election