

# annual **report** 2020-21



**Champion. Partner. Advocate.**



# about **our organization**

## **Champion. Partner. Advocate.**

**The California Alliance:  
The collective voice for organizations  
that serve children, youth, and families.**

The California Alliance of Child and Family Services is the unifying force in the charge to lead change and provide support for the state's children, youth and families.

For those dedicated to improving the lives of children and families served in our public systems, the California Alliance stands apart as the champion and leading voice for organizations that advocate for children and families, and for advancing policy and services on their behalves.

When you join the California Alliance, your organization's voice is amplified and its mission is advanced. That's because our expert staff and consultants advocate proactively to impact policy, legislation and budgets. When our advocacy, expertise and effectiveness are paired with your organization's mission and services, children, youth and families win.

## **Passionate representative for California's children and families facing vulnerable circumstances**

More than 150 chief executives of organizations that serve California's most vulnerable populations trust the California Alliance to provide legislative and regulatory advocacy to the Governor and the Legislature, as well as a host of state departments, including: Health and Human Services, Finance, Healthcare Services, Social Services, and Education.

Member agencies rely on the California Alliance to:

- Unite an engaged, expert network of California's leading nonprofit child and family service agencies.
- Provide trusted leadership to organizations that address the most vulnerable circumstances facing the state's populations.
- Deliver trustworthy resources, policy-area expertise, real-world experience and sought-after guidance.
- Represent a collective voice in pursuing an aggressive agenda of advocacy to bring change.
- Act as a galvanizing force in uniting public and private child and family serving agencies.
- Fulfill a commitment to accreditation, high standards, best practices, successful client outcomes and high-quality continuing education.
- Recognize innovation and excellence in service of children, youth and families.

# legislative achievements —

- **SB 14 (Portantino)** - Pupil excused absences may include mental health
- **SB 221 (Wiener)** - Codifies existing timely access to care standards for health plans and health insurers, applies these requirements to Medi-Cal managed care plans, and adds a standard for non-urgent follow up appointments for non physician mental health care or substance use disorder providers that is within 10 days of the prior appointment.



- **SB 224 (Portantino)** - Addresses youth behavioral health crisis
- **SB 354 (Skinner)** - Addresses barriers to placing children with relatives when there are no safety risks but the relatives have a criminal history, which disproportionately impacts families of color.
- **AB 27 (Rivas)** - Ensures LEAs track homeless students and unaccompanied youth (school districts)
- **AB 46 (Rivas)** - Establishes the California Youth Empowerment Commission, with the goal of providing opportunities for civic engagement to improve the quality of life for California's disconnected and disadvantaged youth.



- **AB 260 (Stone)** - That guardianship laws and the probate court operate seamlessly with juvenile court laws and the dependency court so that those cases the probate court refers for a child welfare investigation are evaluated by the dependency court without limiting the probate court's ability to take immediate action to protect the child during the investigation, while securing appropriate services and supports for relative guardians to care for the children in their homes.
- **AB 309 (Gabriel)** - Requires California Department of Education to develop model mental health referral protocols and post on website.



- **AB 366 (Rubio)** - Keeps siblings in foster care together by specifying that an approved resource family shall be presumed to have the size and space to place siblings together unless there is a safety risk. Legal capacity restrictions on resource family homes can lead to separation of siblings creating more trauma and loss at the outset of the children's dependency case which can reduce the likelihood that siblings will have the same permanent plan, leading to life-long separation.

# legislative achievements cont.

- **AB 592 (Friedman)** - Promotes placement stability and the transition to independence by allowing resource families to serve as a host family and would allow counties to offer supportive services to non-minor dependents through a THP provider while the youth resides in a supervised independent living setting.
- **AB 670 (Calderon)** - Requires, when a report alleging abuse or neglect of the child of a dependent of the juvenile court is made, the agency that received the report to notify the attorney representing the dependent within 36 hours; and requires a social worker or probation officer to use a strengths-based approach to supporting a minor or non-minor dependent parent in providing a safe and permanent home for their child.
- **AB 788 (Calderon)** - Clarifies that “resisted” does not include a relapse that currently prevents parents who have experienced a relapse from family reunification services. A recent California appellate court decision has clarified that relapse is not the same as actively resisting drug treatment.
- **AB 1055 (Ramos)** - Ensures that tribal foster youth and youth with voluntary placement agreements meet the definition of foster youth under the Local Control Funding Formula.
- **AB 1140 (Rivas)** - Extends the Office of the State Foster Care Ombudsperson to include children who are placed in residential facilities and homes by the Office of Refugee Resettlement of the United States Department of Health and Human Services.
- **AB 1283 (Stone)** - Adopts changes to further facilitate implementation of Continuum of Care Reform.





## — state budget

- Sponsored Budget Proposal to Establish Ongoing Funding for Office of Suicide Prevention (2.7 million ongoing)
- Influenced components of Nonpublic School Study included in the State Budget
- Sponsored Budget Proposal to provide \$42M in COVID-19 relief for Short Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs)
- Sponsored Budget Proposal to create bridge funding for STRTPs amidst DHCS's IMD determinations:
  - ~\$10.4M to aid the transition of programs and maintain sufficient capacity for the foster care and probation youth populations
  - ~\$7.5M to provide grants to qualified county mental health plans to match lost federal financial participation (FFP) for specialty mental health services
- Sponsored Budget Proposal to provide an ongoing FFA increase of \$50 per month in the social worker component of the FFA rate.
- Sponsored Budget Proposal to keep a one-time FFA rate increase that CACFS successfully sponsored in 2019



# catalyst center —

- **Launched Vacancy Database**

In partnership with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), the Catalyst Center is collecting vacancy information from STRTP, FFA, and THP service providers throughout California. The vacancy information is aggregated and used to answer requests for placement information coming from state and county officials.

- **Launching Youth First Project**

The Youth First project is an innovative collaboration between Casey Family Programs and the Catalyst Center to assist counties and providers in designing and implementing individualized programs (“Enhanced Care Programs”) for youth that focus on permanency for youth and families.

- **Partnership with DHCS to assist with STRTP/IMD Determination**

- **Partnership with CDSS to assist with Individualized Placements for Youth with Complex Unmet Needs**

- **Completed ACEs Aware Grant**

The Catalyst Center conducted Communications, Provider Engagement, and Provider Training activities to promote the ACEs Aware initiative among Medi-Cal provider communities across the state of California. This was done in partnership with the National Council of Behavioral Health.

- **Racial Equity and Inclusion Series with CDSS**

The Catalyst Center offered a series of 4 webinars, each focused on Racial Equity and Inclusion. Setting the example for creating an environment that leads to active engagement and ongoing dialogue in essential conversations in STRTPS and family resource homes related to racial injustice and systemic racism over a period of time that supports individual and systemic healing and change.

- **Stuart Foundation Grant Recipient**



# 2021 member organizations

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- Alameda Family Services
- A Better Way
- A Coming of Age Foster Family Agency
- A Greater Hope
- A New Beginning Foster Family Agency
- Aaron's Boys Home
- Advent Group Ministries
- Agape Villages Foster Family Agency
- Aldea, Inc.
- Alliance Human Services
- Allies for Every Child
- Alternative Family Services
- Angels Foster Family Network
- Ark Homes Foster Family Agency
- Aspiranet
- Aviva Family and Children's Services
- Bayfront Youth & Family Services
- Berhe Group Home
- Bethany Christian Services
- Boys Republic
- Building Bridges Foster Family Agency
- California Family Life Center
- Casa de Amparo
- Casa Pacifica Centers for Children & Families
- Casey Family Programs- CA Strategies
- Chamberlain's Children Center
- Changing Faces Inc/Agage Homes
- Charis Youth Center
- Childhelp, Inc.
- ChildNet Youth & Family Services
- Children First Foster Family Agency
- Children's Bureau
- Children's Home of Stockton
- Children's Institute
- Children's Legacy Center
- Children's Receiving Home of Sacramento
- Community Solutions
- Contra Costa Youth Service Bureau
- Courage to Change
- Creative Solutions for Kids & Families, Inc.
- Crittenton Services for Children and Families
- Cultural Awareness, Inc.
- Dangerfield Institute of Urban Problems
- David & Margaret Youth and Family Services
- Dimondale Adolescent Care Facility
- D'Veal Family & Youth Services
- East Bay Agency for Children
- Edgewood Center for Children and Families
- Eggleston Youth Services
- Elite Family Systems, Inc.
- Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services
- Extraordinary Families
- Families For Children, Inc.
- Family Builders by Adoption
- Family Care Network
- Family Extension Foster Care
- Father's Heart - A Ranch for Children, Inc.
- Fields Comprehensive Youth Services, Inc.
- First Place for Youth
- Foster Children Safe Haven Inc.
- Foster Hope Sacramento
- Fred Finch Youth & Family Services.
- Fresno Youth Care Homes, Inc.
- Gateway Residential Programs
- Golden State Family Services
- Greater New Beginnings Youth Services
- Greenacre Homes and School
- Greenhouse Family Services
- Guiding Light Home for Boys Inc.
- Haven of Hope, Inc.
- Haynes Family of Programs
- Helpline Youth Counseling
- Heritage Group Homes, Inc.



# 2021 member organizations

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- Hermanitos Unidos-Siblings United FFA
- Hillsides
- Hope Refuge
- Inner Circle FFA
- Inspire A Youth Inc.
- International Christian Adoptions
- Kamali'i Foster Family Agency, Inc.
- Kern Bridges Youth Homes
- Koinonia Family Services
- KYJO Enterprises, Inc.
- Latino Family Institute Inc.
- Legacy Behavioral Services
- LifeCare Coalition Outreach FFA
- Lincoln
- Litehouse Children & Family Services
- Luvlee's Residential Care, Inc.
- Mary's Help
- Mary's Shelter DBA Mary's Path
- Maryvale
- McKinley Children's Center
- Mile High Group Homes
- Milestone House
- Mountain Valley Child & Family Services, Inc.
- New Beginnings Residential Treatment Facilities
- New Dimensions Foster Family Agency
- North Star Family Center
- Nuevo Amanecer Latino Children Services
- Oak Grove Center
- Oakendell Facility
- Olive Crest
- Optimist Youth Homes
- Paradise Adolescent Home, Inc.
- Paradise Oaks
- Parents by Choice
- Peacock Acres Inc.
- Pennylane
- Plan It Life, Inc.
- Plumfield Academy
- Progress Ranch, Inc.
- Promesa Behavioral Health
- Purposely Chosen, Inc.
- Rancho San Antonio
- Rebekah Children's Services
- Rebuilding Lives Foster Family Agency
- Redwood Community Services Inc.
- Remi Vista, Inc.
- Rite of Passage Adolescent Treatment Centers
- River Stones Residential Services Inc.
- Sacramento Children's Home
- Safe & Sound
- San Diego Center for Children
- Seneca Family of Agencies
- Side By Side
- Sierra Child & Family Services
- Sierra Vista Child & Family Services
- South Coast Children's Society, Inc.
- St. Anne's
- Stanford Sierra Youth & Families
- Stars Behavioral Health Group
- Summitview Child & Family Services
- Sycamores
- Tender Loving Care Home for Boys, Inc.
- The Guidance Center
- The Heart Matters FFA
- The REFUGE
- The Village Family Services
- TLC Child & Family Services
- Transitions Children's Services
- Triad Family Services
- Trinity Youth Services
- Two Feathers Native American Family Services
- Unicorn Gardens
- Unity Care Group, Inc.
- Uplift Family Services
- Valley Teen Ranch
- Victor Treatment Centers
- Victory Family Services
- Vista Del Mar Child & Family Services
- Walden Family Services
- Wayfinder Family Services
- Westcoast Children's Clinic
- Wellness Together
- Youth For Change
- Youth Homes, Inc.





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