

Tehama County Children and Families Commission Annual Report 2001-2002: Executive Summary

Major Accomplishments:

On July 1, 2001, Tehama County Children and Families Commission began their first year of funding projects. Of the six projects funded, two were planning grants, one was a capital improvement grant, and three were direct service grants.

Planning Grants:

- ◆ Develop a business plan for a prevention education home visiting program using a best practice model incorporating an interdisciplinary approach.*
- ◆ Develop plan for employers to provide on-site child care or child care assistance programs.*

Capital Improvement Grants:

- ◆ New facility to expand infant and toddler care center, includes health and social services for families and parent education. New van to improve access.*

Direct Service Grants:

- ◆ Provides outreach, support and training activities for license-exempt child care providers and potential Spanish-speaking licensed and exempt child care providers through home visits, mass media outreach, community presentations, workshops, and technical assistance. Work to increase parents, providers, and community knowledge of the benefits of quality child care, childhood development and healthy and safe home environments.
- ◆ Expand existing Family Resource Center in both capacity and delivery of services. Core services include parent education, child development activities, resource and referral, drop-in availability, peer-to-peer supports, and on-site child care. Viable outreach plan delivered at end of year two.*
- ◆ Prenatal and Postpartum Education program serving women from early prenatal period through six weeks postpartum. "Kits for New Parents" will be utilized to develop curriculum and as a working tool throughout the series. Training of bilingual/bicultural staff for class instruction. Classes include breastfeeding, early prenatal, six-week postpartum, childbirth, and water birth classes *

*Includes outreach and services to Latino and Spanish speaking children and their families.

Impact of Proposition 10: The following is a description of the work Tehama County Children and Families Commission has done directed to the identified needs and issues, and the impact that work has made.

Access Barriers:

- ◆ Inadequate transportation in rural areas: Projects funded addressed this need directly providing funded services to specific rural areas or transporting families and children directly to the service. A van was purchased for an infant and toddler center to increase access, a home visitor provides direct services to licensed exempt child care providers, and two parent education programs offer services in satellite offices. Because of this small bridge to services, parents and children have access to needed child care, parent education, and support services.
- ◆ Inconvenient and lack of child care facilities: This need was addressed by purchasing a building to expand an infant and toddler center and through relocating existing family resource center to a larger space that included a separate child care space for on-site child care services. Also trainings and workshops provided for the licensed-exempt child care providers included on-site child care. All child care services provided included services for special needs children. Because of these expanded services, children are well cared for in quality environments and parents are able to attend services designed to improve family functioning, and child care providers were able to participate in classes designed to improve child development.
- ◆ Culture and Language: Because one of the principles for Tehama County Children and Families Commission is to serve ethnically, culturally, and linguistically diverse children and families, all the direct service projects addressed this need through the hiring and training of bilingual/bicultural staff and the outreach home visiting program to licensed exempt providers used a translator. One hundred percent (100%) of Prop 10 activities reduced cultural and language barriers for families in Tehama County.
- ◆ Few parental support resources: The Commission's number one priority area is improved family functioning. Three of the six (3 of 6) projects funded by our Commission positively impacted the few parental support resources in our community by funding strategies to support and expand parent education and counseling opportunities. The Commission funded an expansion of a Family Resource Center in both capacity and delivery of services, which increased physical access to resources and activities and increased staffing to enable offering a full compliment of parent education and support activities. The Commission also funded an expansion of an infant and toddler center which provides a comprehensive parent education component to the parents of the children at the centers. The Commission also funded the development and operation of Tehama County's very first Prenatal and Postpartum education program, servicing women from early prenatal period through six weeks postpartum.