

March 1, 2024

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-09-24**

The purpose of this All County Information Notice (ACIN) is to provide awareness to counties of “The Protective Factors Building Strong Families” brochure. The brochure is for use by families applying for or receiving California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) and the public to support primary child abuse prevention efforts.



**KIM JOHNSON**  
DIRECTOR

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**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**  
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March 1, 2024

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-09-24

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL COUNTY CHILD WELFARE SERVICES DIRECTORS  
ALL CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS  
ALL WELFARE TO WORK COORDINATORS  
ALL CALWORKS PROGRAM SPECIALISTS  
ALL COUNTY LINKAGES COORDINATORS  
ALL COUNTY CHILD WELFARE SERVICES COORDINATORS  
ALL FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBES  
ALL TRANSITIONAL HOUSING COORDINATORS  
ALL FOSTER CARE MANAGERS  
ALL COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE PROGRAMS

SUBJECT: LINKAGES: PROTECTIVE FACTORS BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES BROCHURE

The purpose of this All County Information Notice (ACIN) is to provide awareness to counties of "The Protective Factors Building Strong Families" fillable brochure. The brochure template is for all families applying for or receiving California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) and the public to support primary child abuse prevention efforts.

## **BACKGROUND**

The California Department of Social Services, [Office of Child Abuse Prevention \(OCAP\)](#) promotes the incorporation of family strengthening approaches as an essential primary prevention strategy. The OCAP serves as a statewide source of information, developing and disseminating educational material regarding prevention/early intervention programs, activities, and research. Primary prevention consists of activities directed at the general population to strengthen communities and improve child well-being by focusing on the social determinants of health (the conditions into which people are born, grow, work, live, and age, and the wider set of forces and systems that shape the conditions of daily life). Social determinants include both risk factors and protective factors. The Protective Factors Building Strong Families brochure was developed by the statewide [Linkages Project](#) to help counties and tribes

promote awareness of the protective factors framework and share state and local resources available to assist families in building protective factors, increasing resiliency and reducing risk.

The Linkages Project has been in existence in California counties for over 20 years. It is a collaboration between CalWORKs and Child Welfare Services that creates a continuum of services and supports to promote child and family well-being. In 2019, the California Department of Social Services, in partnership with counties, renewed its commitment to the Linkages Project with a major new focus on primary prevention. The goal of Linkages Primary Prevention is to facilitate county efforts to support and strengthen families applying for or receiving CalWORKs irrespective of whether the family has risk factors associated with future child maltreatment.

Research supports prevention strategies that strengthen the family by promoting the protective factors of parental resiliency, concrete supports in times of need, knowledge of parenting and child development, social connections, and child social and emotional competence. With that in mind, the Protective Factors Building Strong Families brochure was developed for use in counties as a form of primary prevention with families participating in CalWORKs and as a valuable resource for all families. The brochure describes the Strengthening Families approach and shares information about how to strengthen each of the five protective factors.

## **THE BROCHURE**

The brochure is available in an electronic format on [The Child and Family Policy Institute of California website](#). This ACIN and brochure will be posted on the [Linkages Prevention Toolkit Website](#). There will be an English and Spanish version of the brochure. The brochure has editable fields that enable counties to customize with county-specific logos. The Counties can also customize information about how to access local resources including culturally responsive services to meet community needs (i.e. Tribal TANF, Indian Health Clinics, Tribal organization, etc.) to address each of the protective factor domains. Once the brochure is customized with local information, each county will identify how it will distribute the brochure to CalWORKs applicants, recipients, and others. Possible approaches include (but are not limited to):

- Posting on the county's CalWORKs website
- Including in electronic communications with CalWORKs applicants and recipients
- Printing and mailing with checks/warrants
- Printing and mailing with application and redetermination packets

- Printing and providing to recipients and applicants at any time of engagement, including at case closure
- Printing and placing in waiting rooms at County Human Services Agencies, Child Care Centers, Health Centers
- Printing and providing to Community Based Organizations including Indian Health Clinics, and Tribal organizations that are not affiliated with a Tribal TANF program.

If you have any questions or require additional guidance regarding the information in this letter, contact the OCAP at [OCAP-PND@dss.ca.gov](mailto:OCAP-PND@dss.ca.gov) or CalWORKs Engagement Bureau at [CWEngagement@dss.ca.gov](mailto:CWEngagement@dss.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

***Original Document Signed By***

LISA WITCHEY, Branch Chief  
CalWORKs and Family Resilience Branch  
Family Engagement and Empowerment  
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