

BREAKING THE FOSTER CARE CYCLE



Children's Law Center
of California
Excellence In Advocacy

Advocacy for Former Foster Youth at
Risk of Child Welfare Involvement

DID YOU KNOW?

*Parents maltreated as children are **more likely** to have child welfare involvement with their own children*

25%

Among girls who were in foster care at age 17, more than 25% had given birth by age 20

50%

A recent Canadian study found that 50% of children born to mothers previously in foster care entered the system before age 2

Preventing the Next Generation of Child Welfare Involvement

In Los Angeles County, at any given time there are **more than 4,000 parents** with open dependency cases who were **previously in the child welfare system as children themselves**. These primarily young and disproportionately Black and Brown parents constitute approximately **15% of all parents in the system**. Many of these young families are before the court due to poverty and/or challenges that could be resolved with interventions or supportive services rather than court involvement.

This new project will focus on precisely these families to provide them with support and advocacy to avoid child welfare involvement. By working with former CLC clients to avoid court jurisdiction, our **innovative model will reduce the number of young families facing unnecessary disruption, breaking the intergenerational cycle of foster care**. As CLC has already seen great success in supporting current expectant and parenting clients in parenting their own children and avoiding system involvement on their babies, our experience in this arena positions us well to see positive results once the doors to our new program are open.

This **multidisciplinary** model will include both legal advocacy and case management support; significant community networking to identify clients in need as well as provide resources to clients; and what we expect will be a productive collaboration with the child welfare agency. Key program components include:

- Parent support partners, along with attorney support;
- Service navigation/stakeholder connection;
- Creative solution-building where resources don't currently exist;
- Small caseloads/ability to devote significant time to support clients in wide range of issues;
- Work with community based organizations to procure needed supplies to parent successfully; and
- Directly support, or provide linkage to support for, legal issues ranging from housing/eviction to custody orders/family law issues and more

ABOUT CLC

Children's Law Center of California (CLC) is the largest children's legal services organization in the nation, advocating for over 30,000 children and youth in the Los Angeles, Sacramento, and Placer County foster care systems. Our staff of over 500 lawyers, social work investigators, peer advocates and support staff work to ensure that all of California's children to have the opportunity to succeed through direct legal representation and multidisciplinary advocacy.