

# *These are* Some of the faces of California.

People  
who are  
**vulnerable**



**trusting**

**fragile**

and

**struggling**

toward independence  
in every one of  
our Counties.



## Who in California...

Protects children from abuse and neglect: **Counties Do**

Provides health care insurance to low-income children, parents, seniors and disabled adults. **Counties Do**

Ensures 24 hour response to seniors who are victims of abuse: **Counties Do**

Works with the unemployed to sharpen their job hunting skills: **Counties Do**

Establishes resources and program referral services for dependent adults and seniors: **Counties Do**

Assists and encourages parenting and pregnant teens to remain in high school: **Counties Do**

Recruits foster homes for children in need: **Counties Do**

Helps families in crisis to learn to parent: **Counties Do**

Helps adults with special needs live independently: **Counties Do**

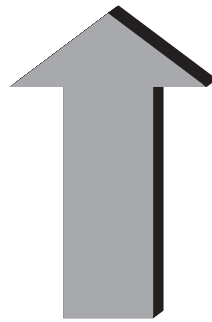
Initiates truancy prevention programs: **Counties Do**

Provides support services for grandparents caring for their grandchildren to avoid foster care placement: **Counties Do**

Ensures transportation and childcare so the unemployed can look for work: **Counties Do**

# California Counties are key to enabling the vulnerable, trusting and fragile to become successful, safe and productive citizens.

Counties help our communities' children and elderly adults be free from neglect and abuse. We help low-income families support themselves and gain independence from public aid. However, the viability of many of these primary protective and support programs is being challenged today in California.



## Increasing demands and new mandates for services

Counties face growing public demands and new mandates for services to vulnerable children and families, plus growing expectations from employers for employment preparation and training programs.

## Financial penalties tied to complex and changing programs

Social Service Departments face increasing State and Federal expectations for achieving results in programs that are often underfunded and are constantly being redefined.



## Significant reductions to social service funding this decade

There have been over \$2.8 billion in funding cuts to basic Social Service programs serving children, adults and low-income families in California since 2001.

# California Counties accept the Governor's challenge

to strike a responsible balance between maintaining essential services to our State's most vulnerable and at risk residents, while implementing strategies to better manage and control program costs over the long term.

## *accountable*

We fight waste, fraud and abuse.

Our performance effectiveness and accountability programs are alive, well and growing in the administration of social service programs.

- Children's Services that target safety and permanence
- Food Stamp accuracy improvement program
- Foster Parent and Relative Caretaker quality control reviews and corrective actions
- Medi-Cal performance standards
- CalWORKs employment, wage gain, and job retention measurement
- Fraud prosecution and programs to collect child support



## Counties are cost-conscious leaders in managing California's service delivery systems.

## *efficient*

California Counties administer cost-effective programs on behalf of State and Federal Governments.

- County efforts in prevention and permanency services for youth have resulted in a 17% decline in the number of child welfare supervised foster care placements since 1998, saving the State and Federal governments over \$200 million.
- California's counties resolved over 545,000 allegations of child abuse and neglect last year, for less than \$1,100 per allegation.

■ Counties' aggressive efforts to root-out welfare fraud and abuse resulted in \$86 million being identified or collected this last fiscal year.

■ California's abused and neglected children and their families receive emergency response services, court intervention, family maintenance, family reunification and permanency services for less than \$600 per month per family.

■ County Adult Protective Service programs managed over 89,000 allegations of adult abuse and neglect last year at a cost of \$81 per allegation.

■ Over 328,000 frail seniors or disabled individuals receive in-home services each month for approximately \$825, thus avoiding costly institutionalization, which runs upwards of \$3,100 per month.

■ County Social Service Departments provide In-Home Supportive Services intake assessments, care evaluations, service authorization, ongoing case monitoring, and overhead and support costs, for less than 8¢ per dollar of service.

■ Counties deliver CalWORKs services for less than 9¢ for each CalWORKs dollar of Employment Services, Child Care, Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and cash assistance provided.



# California Counties have turned tax consumers into tax payers.

## *effective*

■ We have helped 474,000 families move from welfare to work through the implementation of employment focused services over the past five years, thus reducing welfare expenditures by \$3 billion.

■ County-provided training and educational programs not only assure that Californians are ready to find and keep jobs, but also fuels the Workforce Development effort to attract new business to our state.

■ County provided childcare not only helps low income families find and retain employment, but supports businesses and creates jobs in local communities.

■ In Home Supportive Services provide jobs and income to over 200,000 care providers statewide who pay taxes and and purchase goods.

■ Social Service programs administered by California Counties have been recognized for their efficiency, effectiveness and program accountability by state and federal agencies, recognized research organizations, leading professional associations and the news media.



## Who in California...

Teaches families how to nurture their children: **Counties Do**

Drives seniors to congregate meal sites: **Counties Do**

Creates mentoring opportunities for whole families in crisis: **Counties Do**

Helps people who are mentally and physically disabled to access Social Security benefits: **Counties Do**

Visits and supports first time parents: **Counties Do**

Trains and supports foster parents: **Counties Do**

Finds loving adoptive homes for children: **Counties Do**

Provides educational assistance for the unemployed: **Counties Do**

Supports groups for adoptive families: **Counties Do**

Finds needed training for job skills for the unemployed: **Counties Do**

Assists frail seniors to live at home safely: **Counties Do**

Designs youth programs in low-income/high crime communities to stop drugs and gangs: **Counties Do**

Ensures that low-income families and the elderly don't go hungry: **Counties Do**

Identifies college scholarships and no-cost loans for emancipating foster youth: **Counties Do**



# California Counties

**partner** with private and public sector businesses to address service delivery demands and meet program accountability standards.

In addition to thousands of foster parents, child care providers, community colleges, and adult schools, our partners include:

- J. P. Morgan Financial
- The Pew Family Trust
- Electronic Data Systems
- The Stuart Foundation
- District Attorneys
- Accenture
- Deloitte Touche
- First 5 Commissions
- IBM
- Annie E. Casey Foundation
- Casey Family Foundation
- Workforce Development Boards
- United Way
- Catholic Charities



**California Counties also invest their own resources** to deliver programs that are efficient, effective and accountable.

In FY 2003-04, Counties will invest over \$1.4 billion of their own funds in Federal and State mandated social service programs.

*effective!*  
*efficient!*  
*accountable!*

The County Welfare Directors Association of California (CWDA) is a non-profit association representing the human service directors from each of California's 58 counties. The Association's mission is to promote a human services system that encourages self-sufficiency of families and communities, and protects vulnerable children and adults from abuse and neglect.



To accomplish this mission, the Association...

- ...**Advocates** for policies that will further the mission of the organization.
- ...**Educates** state and federal policy-makers and the public regarding the impact of human services policies on individuals, communities, and county social services operations.
- ...**Collaborates** with governmental and community-based organizations to ensure efficient and effective service delivery.
- ...**Facilitates** effective communication between and among county social service agencies, and state and federal administrative agencies, including the exchange of knowledge and best and promising practices.



**CWDA**

[www.cwda.org](http://www.cwda.org)