



San Francisco Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership + Family to Family Initiative (SFCIPP+)

Program Summary

WHAT IS THE GOAL OF SFCIPP+

Children impacted by parental incarceration are clearly woven into the population served by the child welfare system and – given the current trends in prison population – their numbers will continue to increase. The goal of this Initiative is to improve lives of children in the child welfare system with an incarcerated parent.

The Initiative builds on the strength of two existing partnerships --the San Francisco Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership (SFCIPP) and the Family-to-Family Initiative (F2F). Successful outcome measures that would indicate improvements in children's lives would include:

- reducing the number and rate of children placed away from their birth parents;
- increasing the proportion of children who are placed within their own community;
- reducing the number of children served in institutional and group care and shifting resources from institutional care to relative care, family foster care and family-centered services;
- decreasing the length of stay of children in out-of-home, non-relative placement;
- increasing the number and rate of children reunified with their birth families;
- decreasing the number and rate of children re-entering placement;
- reducing the number of placement moves children in care experience;
- increasing the number and rate of brothers and sisters placed together; and
- reducing any disparities associated with race/ethnicity, gender, or age in each of these outcomes.

Building on the existing strengths and relationships in San Francisco from SFCIPP and F2F, this initiative will create a model that can be replicated, adapted, and expanded in California counties and throughout the country.

ABOUT THE SAN FRANCISCO CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED PARENTS PARTNERSHIP (SFCIPP)

The San Francisco Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership (SFCIPP) is a ten-year partnership among nonprofit service providers and city departments. San Francisco Human Services Agency was a founding member of SFCIPP. Other city departments that work with SFCIPP include the police, sheriff's department, public defender, unified family court and juvenile and adult probation. SFCIPP service provider members include Centerforce, the Northern California Service League, Project Avary (summer camp for children of incarcerated parents), Get on the Bus (Catholic Diocese's prison visiting program), Community Works (which offers services and support to children of incarcerated parents in San Francisco public schools and also runs

Project WHAT, described below), Legal Services for Prisoners with Children, A Home Within, Homeless Prenatal Program, Friends Outside, and many others.

Together and individually, members of this nationally-recognized partnership has been instrumental in developing programs for children of incarcerated parents, including:

- a contract between SFHSA and Friends Outside to provide workers in the jail and prisons who act as liaisons between the child welfare department and incarcerated parents;
- a San Francisco Board of Supervisors resolution endorsing the Bill of Rights for Children of Incarcerated Parents;
- a court alternative specialist in the public defender's office dedicated to working with clients to meet their children's needs during an incarceration;
- a homeless prenatal program which has a jail outreach program, nationally recognized for its effective services;
- a resource manual and a curriculum to train social workers, teachers, police, and correctional officers developed by Project WHAT (a project for youth with currently or formerly incarcerated parents);
- a bill of rights for young mothers, which guarantees contact between juvenile incarcerated mothers and their children; and
- a police protocol aimed at keeping children safe at the time of arrest, and reducing shelter intake and unnecessary child welfare involvement via a streamlined police/child welfare partnership.

ABOUT FAMILY to FAMILY (F2F)

The Annie E. Casey Foundation's Family to Family (F2F) Initiative is a nationwide child welfare and foster care reform initiative that helps States and local child welfare agencies achieve better outcomes for children and families. The Family to Family Initiative is broken into four National Regions. The Pacific Region includes 25 of the 58 California Counties and the State of Washington and Alaska. The California Family to Family Initiative is a public-private partnership among national and state foundations and the State of California. Partners in the California Initiative include the Annie E Casey Foundation, Casey Family Programs, the Stuart Foundation, the Walter S. Johnson Foundation, the California Department of Social Services and the Center for Social Services Research at UC Berkeley. The Child and Family Policy Institute of California (CFPIC) supports the implementation of the F2F Initiative by developing and maintaining a pool of California-based consultants who provide training and technical assistance to the F2F county sites.

PLANS FOR SFCIPP +

The San Francisco Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership (SFCIPP) has been successful in raising awareness of the needs and strengths of children of incarcerated parents and in sparking crucial conversations among and within public agencies about these children and how better to serve them. Family to Family (F2F) has been successful in improving outcomes for children and families in the child welfare system. The goal in joining these two Initiatives in creating SFCIPP+ is to focus attention and resources to create system changes that will improve permanency outcome for children in the child welfare system with an incarcerated parent. Proposed plans include:

- increasing opportunities for cross-system communication and planning;
- providing multi-disciplinary training;
- improving coordination of services for clients and families;
- improving data collection; and
- creating a replication toolkit for child welfare agencies.

WHO ARE THE SFCIPP+ PARTNERS

+ The San Francisco Department of Human Services + The Annie E Casey Foundation + Casey Family Programs + The Zellerbach Family Foundation + The San Francisco Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership + Family to Family Initiative

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- For more information about SFCIPP, go to www.sfcipp.org
- For more information about California Family to Family, go to www.f2f.ca.gov

RESOURCES

- To download *Children of Incarcerated Parents: A Bill of Rights* (available in English and Spanish) by SFCIPP, go to <http://www.sfcipp.org/right1.html>
- *All Alone in the World*, by Nell Bernstein (available at Amazon.com)
- *Keeping Children Safe When Their Parents Are Arrested: Local Approaches that Work*, California Research Bureau, <http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/07/07-006.pdf>
- To learn more about the intersection between child welfare involvement and parental incarceration, see *What We Know Now That We Didn't Know Then*, University of Illinois at Chicago/Jane Addams College of Social Work, <http://www.sfcipp.org/images/whatweknow.pdf>
- For a by-and-for youth list of resources, see *A Resource Guide for a Youth with a Parent in Prison or in Jail*, Project WHAT!/Community Works, <http://www.community-works-ca.org/programs/projectwhat.html>