

# FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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Issue 17-08

Date: 02/27/17

## FAMILY REUNIFICATION HOUSING SUBSIDY (FRHS)

On February 9, 2016, the Board of Supervisors mandated a comprehensive set of recommended County Strategies to combat homelessness in Los Angeles County. As a result, the Department of Children and Family Services has implemented the county-wide Family Reunification Housing Subsidy (FRHS) to provide rapid re-housing and case management services to families in the child welfare system where the parent(s)' homelessness is the sole barrier to the return of the children. In order to participate in FRHS, the family must meet the following criteria:

- 1) The child(ren) are currently placed in out-of-home care (including relative caregivers),
- 2) The parents(s)' (Client) have complied with or are in substantial compliance with all court orders for the return of the children,
- 3) Homelessness is the sole barrier to the return of the child(ren) to their care; and
- 4) The family is a candidate for rapid re-housing, rather than a longer term housing subsidy.

**The outline below delineates the process for referring clients to the FRHS Program who meet the eligibility criteria listed above.**

### Children's Social Worker (CSW)

- Identifies and refers eligible Client based on the above criteria.
- Makes a recommendation at the next court hearing or walks the matter on to court, if the hearing is not upcoming
- Includes the following language in the court report indicating that the Client meets the entry criteria and is a candidate for the program:

*The mother/father, (parents) is/are in substantial compliance with the case plan. DCFS has identified this case as being eligible for the Family Reunification Housing Subsidy (FRHS) program that will assist in obtaining housing. DCFS respectfully recommends that the Court make a finding that the mother/father, (parents) is/are in substantial compliance with the case plan and, that mother/father, (parents) is/are referred to 211 LA. The Department respectfully asks the court to set a progress report for 90 days from today for an update on mother/father, (parents) housing. The Department respectfully asks the Court to make all findings in the report submitted for today's hearing.*

- Instructs Client to be present at the court hearing to receive a copy of the standardized housing court order signed by the Hearing Officer to take to the 211 LA\* Care Coordinator located at Children's Court in Room 3005.
- Follows up with the Client to ensure follow through with 211 LA\* and the contracted agency
- Once housing is located, assesses the home to ensure there are no immediate child safety issues and releases the child(ren) to the parent(s) within 5 days of housing being located.



If you have any questions regarding this release please e-mail your question to:

[Policy@dcfs.lacounty.gov](mailto:Policy@dcfs.lacounty.gov)

*(double click to open footer section and access link)*

**\*211 LA Information and Referral Service (211 LA)**

- 211 LA is an information and referral service that has provided referrals to families at Edmund D. Edelman Children's Court for over 20 years. Through the use of care coordination services, families referred for housing assessments to 211 LA will be able to receive guidance and understanding on the steps required to secure immediate linkage to housing service providers, and crucial follow up contact.

**Court Officer**

- Ensures the appropriate language is included in the report and that the dependency Hearing Officer signs the standardized housing court order and issues a copy to the client to provide to 211 LA staff located on at Children's Court in Room 3005.
- Notifies the assigned CSW that the Hearing Officer made the order and a copy was provided to the Client.

**211 LA Court Staff**

- Makes a copy of the standardized letter and conducts a preliminary client assessment.
- Contacts contracted housing agency in Clients last known zip code or zip code preference and sets up an appointment for Client at a specific contracted housing agency.
- Enters all Client information and updates in the 211 LA CareLinQ database.
  - 211 LA CareLinQ is a web based software system designed to be an all-in-one care coordination solution to record and manage client/family information.

**Contracted Housing Agency**

- Assigns a Case Manager upon Client entry and conducts a comprehensive assessment to determine all needs, including housing.
- Coordinates with DPSS staff in determining client eligibility or ineligibility for CalWORKS/GAIN services.
- Works closely with the Client in locating and obtaining housing.
- Provides case management services, including follow up services to ensure housing stability.
- Subsidizes the rent for a specified period of time with incremental decreases.

**DCFS FRHS Program Staff**

- Acts as liaison for Housing Agency staff, Dependency Court and Case Carrying CSWs to provide assistance, trouble shooting, and guidance with the FRHS referral process and services.
- Tracks all data and provides monthly updates on status of each family.
- Facilitates monthly meetings with housing agencies, Community Development Commission, and Dependency Court .
- Tracks deliverables and program outcomes.

If you have any questions, please contact the FRHS Program staff: V. Gail Winston, Manager at [winstj@dcfs.lacounty.gov](mailto:winstj@dcfs.lacounty.gov), Cynthia Wright Westbrooks at [carpec@dcfs.lacounty.gov](mailto:carpec@dcfs.lacounty.gov), or Jamie Ortega-Reyes at [ortegja@dcfs.lacounty.gov](mailto:ortegja@dcfs.lacounty.gov)



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