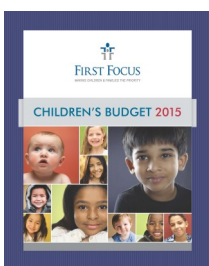


Children's Budget 2015

The federal government makes more than 200 distinct investments in children. These include traditional children's initiatives like education and child abuse and neglect prevention. They also include other investments that improve the lives of kids, like Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly Food Stamps).



Children's Budget 2015 offers a detailed guide to federal spending on children and an invaluable resource for those seeking to improve the lives of America's youth.

Substantiated Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect per 1,000 children under age 18

Locations	Rate per 1,000
California	8.9
Alameda County	2.7
Alpine County	LNE
Amador County	10.8
Butte County	11.3
Calaveras County	23.9
Colusa County	11.8
Contra Costa County	5.1
Del Norte County	18.6
El Dorado County	9.2
Fresno County	8.6
Glenn County	14.6
Humboldt County	8.5
Imperial County	7.7
Inyo County	7.9
Kern County	15.2
Kings County	7.7
Lake County	8.4
Lassen County	10.8
Los Angeles County	12.2
Madera County	12.2
Marin County	3.7
Mariposa County	21.1
Mendocino County	16.8
Merced County	10.4
Modoc County	25.6
Mono County	LNE
Monterey County	3.2
Napa County	6.5
Nevada County	5.9
Orange County	7.2
Placer County	8.2
Plumas County	13.2
Riverside County	10.3
Sacramento County	10.4
San Benito County	4.6
San Bernardino County	8.3
San Diego County	6.9
San Francisco County	5.5
San Joaquin County	7.0
San Luis Obispo County	12.2
San Mateo County	2.6
Santa Barbara County	5.8
Santa Clara County	4.9
Santa Cruz County	7.3
Shasta County	15.9
Sierra County	LNE
Siskiyou County	23.0
Solano County	5.1
Sonoma County	4.9
Stanislaus County	15.8
Sutter County	5.9
Tehama County	14.2
Trinity County	31.2
Tulare County	5.8
Tuolumne County	18.0
Ventura County	7.4
Yolo County	8.8
Yuba County	12.3

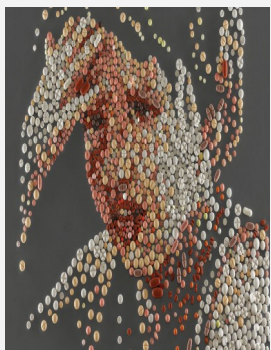
California Senate approves faster reporting of possible child abuse or neglect

Legislation authored by Senate Minority Leader Bob Huff (R-San Dimas) that will lead to faster reports of possible child abuse and neglect cases received unanimous support during a recent Senate Floor vote and will now move to the State Assembly. SB 478, sponsored by Los Angeles County and the County Welfare Directors Association, would amend current state law to allow specified mandated reporters to make initial reports of non-emergency child abuse or neglect to the Child Protection Agency through a detailed and comprehensive online report.

[Faster Reporting](#)

California's Plan to Curb America's Overmedication of Foster Kids

California may adopt what could be a national model for states to curb the prescription of antipsychotics to children in foster care. In the United States, low-income and foster-care kids are prescribed psychotropic drugs at an alarmingly higher rate than their peers in America or abroad. *Governing* recently wrote about the problem and what states are doing to deal with it in March. But since then, California began closing in on a package of bills that could make the state a leader in controlling overmedication.



[Overmedication](#)

What Does it Mean to Be a CASA Volunteer?

Becoming a CASA volunteer is an investment of time, energy and heart. But as many volunteers have said of the children they worked with: "It wasn't about what I gave them, it was what they showed me."

No special background or education is required to become a CASA volunteer. We encourage people from all cultures and professions, and of all ethnic and educational backgrounds. Once accepted into the program, you will receive all necessary training in courtroom procedures, social services, the juvenile justice system and the special needs of abused and neglected children.

Requirements include:

- Be 21 years old
- Be willing to complete necessary background checks, provide references and participate in an interview
- Complete a minimum of 30 hours of pre-service training
- Be available for court appearances, with advance notice
- Be willing to commit to the CASA program for at least one year.

CASA volunteers are appointed by judges to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children in court and other settings. The primary responsibilities of a CASA volunteer are to:

- **Gather information:** Review documents and records, interview the children, family members and professionals in their lives.
- **Document findings:** Provide written reports at court hearings.
- **Appear in court:** Advocate for the child's best interests and provide testimony when necessary.
- **Explain what is going on:** Help the child understand the court proceedings.
- **"Be the glue":** Seek cooperative solutions among individuals and organizations involved in the children's lives. As one volunteer said: *Be the glue that connects the pieces in a complicated child welfare system.*
- **Recommend services:** Ensure that the children and their family are receiving appropriate services and advocate for those that are not immediately available. Bring concerns about the child's health, education, mental health, etc. to the appropriate professionals.
- **Monitor case plans and court orders:** Check to see that plans are being followed and mandated review hearings are being held.
- **Keep the court informed:** Update the court on developments with agencies and family members. Ensure that appropriate motions are filed on behalf of the child so the court knows about any changes in the child's situation.

READY, SET, CALL Sheryn at 489-5346 for more information and to begin your journey.....A child needs you!

KIDS COUNT (Apr. 2013)



**Will you be
 my CASA?**