

## **FACTS ON THE PRIVATE ADOPTION AGENCY REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM (PAARP)**

- **FACT:** The County Welfare Directors Association states that, “Non-Profit Private Adoption Agencies provide a vital service to ensure children that have high needs find a permanent home with a loving family that is able and willing to care for them.” (County Welfare Directors Association of California, Letter of Support, April 6, 2007)
- **FACT:** California has **54,450** children who could grow up in long-term foster care if not adopted. (Source: CDSS Adoptions Program Annual Statistical Report)
- **FACT:** Only **7,103** children from foster care were adopted in the past year. (Source: CDSS Adoptions Program Annual Statistical Report)
- **FACT:** Non-Profit Private Adoption Agencies finalized 31% of all foster care adoptions in the past year, over **2,200**. (Source: CDSS Budget Estimate, November 2006 Subvention)
- **FACT:** If the PAARP payment were increased from \$5,000 to \$10,000, the number of adoptions of foster children finalized by Non-Profit Private Adoption Agencies would increase. (California Alliance of Child and Family Services Survey, April 2007)
- **FACT:** The federal government pays for 47% of the cost of PAARP. Increasing the PAARP payment from \$5,000 up to an average of \$10,000 will only cost the state an additional \$2,650 per adoption because the state’s share is only 53%. (Source: CDSS Budget Estimate, November 2006 Subvention)
- **FACT:** PAARP is the only **funding mechanism linked to outcome performance** in Child Welfare Services. Payment is made only after a successful placement and adoption. (Source: CDSS)
- **FACT:** Non-Profit Private Adoption Agencies **are losing** on average \$5,000 per adoption of foster children. **NO NEW AGENCIES** are opting to handle adoptions of foster children. (California Alliance of Child and Family Services Adoption Agency Members, 2007)
- **FACT:** According to CDSS, there have been **no new applications** to participate in the PAARP program in the past three years and **five agencies have dropped out in the past year**. There were 50 agencies participating in 2005-2006 and now there are only 45. (Source: CDSS Financial Service Bureau)
- **FACT:** Existing Non-Profit Private Adoption Agencies want to finalize more adoptions but they are **limited in their growth**. They cannot expand in an area that loses large amounts of money with each adoption. There is a limit to how much private funds can be raised to make up the gap. (Source: California Alliance of Child and Family Services Adoption Agency Members, 2007)
- **FACT:** The PAARP payment has not been increased in seven years and during that time, **recruitment of foster families and facility costs have increased dramatically**. (Source: California Statute, Welfare and Institutions Code 16122 and CNI Index)
- **FACT:** Children who would otherwise remain in long-term foster care who are adopted “**achieve a substantial savings to the state in foster care costs**.” (Source: California Statute, Welfare and Institutions Code 16122)