

Youth Homes, Inc. and
CALIFORNIA'S CHILD WELFARE CONTINUUM OF CARE REFORM

Qs & As

Why is the State of California rolling out CCR?

CCR adds to an ongoing effort to reduce group home placements while increasing home-based family settings. The ultimate goal is to provide foster youth with a permanent place to live resulting in increased positive outcomes for children, youth and families in the foster care system.

What does CCR mean for children and families in the foster care system?

When CCR is fully implemented, there will be a number of positive changes. Most importantly, a child will have the greatest chance to grow up in a permanent and supportive family home. Children will be placed more quickly with a family receiving the necessary family, financial, and mental health support to address the trauma and emotional/behavioral health needs of the child. CCR ensures that youth and families have a voice in determining their care and it increases accountability for better outcomes in foster care.

What does CCR mean for Youth Homes' residential programs?

Youth Homes will continue to operate our residential programs. The length of stay in our programs already aligns with CCR recommendations. We will have more resources to secure permanent placements for our children, and we will continue to expand our specialized mental health services to support this transition into a healthy family environment.

How is Youth Homes preparing for these changes?

Youth Homes fully supports the changes embodied in CCR. Our leadership team has been involved at both the state and local level of this reform. We are considered by the county to be a "model program" for CCR. For example, Youth Homes provided trainings to other Contra Costa County group home programs on how to effectively navigate CCR reform. Furthermore, our treatment outcomes are double the national average.

In 2014, Youth Homes earned national accreditation through the Council on Accreditation (COA) making us the only nationally accredited agency in Contra Costa County providing Intensive Residential Treatment Services.

Youth Homes has been closely tracking best practices and trends for years, and as a result we have:

- increased our focus on addressing the effects of multiple trauma in providing quality intensive treatment to youth in its residential programs;
- increased our community-based mental health services for youth transitioning from the residential programs to family homes;
- continued and strengthened our public-private partnership with key stakeholders in the Contra Costa County Departments of Child Welfare and Community Mental Health;
- expanded our foster family program to prepare for the increased need of "resource families".

If you have additional questions, please contact Stuart McCullough, Chief Executive Officer, at StuartM@youthhomes.org or 925-933-2627.