

News Release



Controller of the State of California - Kathleen Connell

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For Immediate Release

STATE CONTROLLER CONNELL ANNOUNCES FOSTER CARE AUDITS TO SAFEGUARD FUNDING FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

CONNELL SAYS RECENT FINDINGS WARRANT INVESTIGATION

Los Angeles, CA, July 26, 2001 – State Controller Kathleen Connell today announced that she will conduct audits of the Department of Children and Family Services in Los Angeles County and Sacramento County Department of Human Assistance. These audits are prompted by major problems within the foster care system, which indicate funding may not be reaching the children it is supposed to benefit.

“As a parent, I am concerned that all children receive necessary support to enrich their family life,” said Connell. “It is imperative that the resources that are intended to assist them arrive in a timely and accurate manner.”

The audit will track local, State and Federal funding to determine whether the money is indeed reaching the foster families, group homes and other agencies and providers of services to children. For fiscal year 1999-2000, Los Angeles County received \$446 million in funding. Sacramento County received \$93 million.

“Our intent is to stop misallocation of funds where it occurs,” said Connell. “We can always hope for additional resources in the future, but we must make certain we are maximizing the funding that is provided now.”

Several factors lead the Controller to call for the audit, including recent media accounts of problems and grand jury reports recommending reform of the programs in both counties. The Controller’s Office has authority to audit any agency receiving state funding.

The State Controller’s auditors have issued entrance letters to both Los Angeles County and Sacramento County requesting access to their records in order to perform the audits which will be conducted simultaneously.