



abuse and neglect. This bill does not create new programs or mandates. It simply ensures that California's statutes align with proven, prevention-focused practices that help families stay strong, connected, and safe.

- 2) **Background.** State law establishes an Office of Child Abuse Prevention within CDSS. The office must, among other duties, support coordination and sharing of best practices implemented by family resource centers with other agencies, when the best practices reflect strategies and outcomes that were achieved and supported by evidence-informed programs and data. Existing law also authorizes a county to establish a child abuse multidisciplinary personnel team to allow provider agencies to share confidential information so that provider agencies may investigate reports of suspected child abuse or neglect, or for the purpose of child welfare agencies making a detention determination. The team may include a representative of a local child abuse prevention council or family-strengthening organization, including, but not limited to, a family resource center.

State law defines a "family resource center" to mean an entity providing family-centered and family-strengthening services that are embedded in communities, culturally sensitive, and include cross-system collaboration to assist in transforming families and communities through reciprocity and asset development based on impact-driven and evidence-informed approaches with the goal of preventing child abuse and neglect and strengthening children and families.

In 2025, a federal definition of "family resource center" was enacted. That definition contains elements not in the California definition. The federal definition states:

A "family resource center" is a community or school-based hub of support services for families that: utilizes an approach that is multi-generational, strengths-based, and family-centered; reflects, and is responsive to, community needs and interests; provides support at no or low cost for participants; and builds communities of peer support for families, including kinship families, to develop social connections that reduce isolation and stress.

This bill expands the state definition of a family resource center to include elements of the federal definition. According to the bill's cosponsors, the Child Abuse Prevention Center and the California Family Resource Association, this update will better position the state's more than 500 family resource centers for future federal funding.

**Analysis Prepared by:** Jennifer Swenson / APPR. / (916) 319-2081