



**Dear County Partners,**

Each year, the Child & Family Policy Institute looks forward to hosting the annual PACT (Preventing & Addressing Child Trafficking) Convening. This event serves as a statewide learning opportunity for local child trafficking response programs and their multidisciplinary partners.

We recognize that counties are navigating one of the most challenging budget seasons in recent years. At the same time, we strongly believe that dedicated, in-person learning is not only impactful — it is essential. The Convening ensures that local programs have access to the most current evidence-based practices and emerging information to strengthen service delivery, collaboration, and coordination across California.

To help address current fiscal constraints, a portion of PACT’s contract with CDSS has been set aside to offset registration costs and make attendance more accessible. Additionally, limited scholarships are available.

We encourage you to send staff and leadership to the Convening. Should you need fiscal justification, we have included supporting information below to assist with training and travel approvals.

Please consider joining us this year and registering early to demonstrate your continued support of this valuable statewide event. We look forward to partnering with you in strengthening our collective response.

To take advantage of Early Bird Rates and learn more about the event Visit the [ImPACT 2026 Convening Event Page Now!](#)

Thank you for your ongoing support, **The Convening Planning Team** 😊

## **About the PACT Convening**

The PACT Convening started as a small annual gathering of the 2014 PACT Pilot Counties and over time, the network expanded significantly — now reaching 48+ of California's 58 counties. As participation and impact grew, the annual in-person gathering evolved from a one-day meeting into a three-day conference bringing together child welfare agencies and their multidisciplinary partners for in-person learning.

**Today, attendees represent a broad cross-section of systems and community partners, including child welfare, probation, community-based organizations, public health, education, and other youth-serving agencies.**

A significant portion of the event costs are covered by the PACT Contract, funded through CSEC Program SB-855 Funding. As the Convening has grown and inflation has increased event expenses, PACT has adopted a cost-sharing approach. The planning team remains committed to keeping registration costs as low as possible to ensure equitable access for local leaders and network members. Limited scholarships are also available.

Historically, the Convening has generated meaningful and lasting impact. Examples include:

- Launched Harm Reduction Training education with Statewide partners, which significantly influenced practice approaches in serving youth impacted by commercial sexual exploitation.
- Introduced tools enabling counties to access and implement locally led training through recorded videos centered by lived expertise leaders.
- Created a forum and supported counties who wish to expand their CSEC program protocols and identification efforts to address child labor trafficking and intersections with CSE.
- Most importantly, relationship building, cross-county innovation, and collaborative problem-solving occur when county leaders are in the same room. This depth of connection and learning cannot be replicated in a virtual environment.

## **Fiscal Justification Notice**

For those seeking fiscal approval to attend, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) has provided the following statement for PACT Members. You may also reference [ACL 21-142](#) .

### **CDSS Statement:**

Per [WIC 16524.7](#), CSEC Program funds may be used for training costs. Relevant excerpts include:

(2) The department, in consultation with the County Welfare Directors Association of California, shall develop an allocation methodology to distribute funding for the program. Funds allocated pursuant to this section shall be utilized to cover expenditures related to the costs of implementing the program, prevention and intervention services, and training related to children who are victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

(3)(A) Funds shall be provided to counties that elect to participate in the program for the provision of training to county children's services workers to identify, intervene, and provide case management services to children who are victims of commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking, and to foster caregivers for the prevention and identification of potential victims.

Per CDSS interpretation, this includes registration and travel costs associated with conferences such as the PACT Convening.

If you have further questions regarding approval of fund use, please contact the Child Trafficking Response Team inbox: [CSECProgram@dss.ca.gov](mailto:CSECProgram@dss.ca.gov).