



**County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

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PRESS RELEASE

**Grand Opening of DCFS University on September 10th Features State-of-the-Art
Enhanced Training for New County Social Workers.**

(LOS ANGELES, September 1, 2015) — Thursday, September 10th marks the grand opening of DCFS University, a 28,000-square foot state-of-the-art training center, located at 1149 S. Hill St. in downtown Los Angeles. The training center provides an enhanced comprehensive learning experience for Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) social workers.

DCFS University features four “home visit” simulation labs, six classrooms that together accommodate 270 people, and multi-media and e-Learning technology. Two computer labs allow trainees to familiarize themselves with child welfare software programs they’ll be using in their work.

New DCFS social workers complete a 10-week training academy covering a wide spectrum of child welfare topics such as investigation techniques, child safety, legal and multicultural issues and establishing effective relationships with families. As part of their training, the new social workers also visit DCFS offices throughout the County and learn from experienced social workers.

DCFS Director Philip L. Browning stated, “In the last 2 years, over 1,000 new social workers have attended our training academies. An additional 260 new workers will be hired in the next year. For our new social workers, the DCFS University will address every aspect of what the job entails. Our simulation labs are especially effective as new workers will have the opportunity to role-play scenarios, based on actual case records, they are likely to encounter in their work.”

“To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service”

Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe, DCFS Director Philip L. Browning, and Marilyn Flynn, Dean of USC School of Social Work, are the featured speakers for the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The center reflects the collaborative efforts of the University Consortium for Children and Families (UCCF), a federally-funded program and partnership between DCFS and the University of Southern California, California State University Long Beach, University of California Los Angeles, California State University Los Angeles, California State University Northridge, California State University Dominguez Hills and Azusa Pacific University. All of these universities offer a Master of Social Work degree.

DCFS is the nation's largest public child welfare agency also encompassing the largest public adoption agency in the country. In 2014, the Department received over 200,000 calls to our Child Protection Hotline and investigated about 90,000 referrals alleging child abuse or neglect involving over 150,000 children. We have an ongoing caseload of over 35,000 children, with nearly 18,000 children in out-of-home placement; over 9,000 of those children are placed with relatives.

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