

**RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
WORKFORCE PREPARATION**

FOSTER & KINSHIP CARE EDUCATION PROGRAM

Overview of the Program

Originally entitled the Foster Care Education (FCE) program, the Foster and Kinship Care Education (FKCE) Program, as it is known today, was established in 1984, as a result of Senate Bill 2003 – the Foster Children and Parent Training Act. The Community College Chancellor's Office was designated as the agency to administer the program and to provide funding to community colleges for the provision of training and education to potential and existing foster parents.

Funding

- Senate Bill 2003 (1984) – appropriation of \$1 million
- State budget of 1998-99, an increase of \$4 million
- Program received another augmentation of several million in 2000-01, bringing the total to over \$11.5 million – additional funding designed to include kinship providers in training.

Program

All licensed Foster Care providers are required by law to attend continuing education training hours each year in order to maintain their license. California state requirement is 8 hours per calendar year; Riverside County requires 20 hours.

The FKCE Programs funded through the Chancellors Office must provide a minimum total of 150 training hours per year for foster parents and kinship providers. RCC provided more than 230 hours during the years 2003 through 2008, and in 2009 that number reached 440 hours.

Curriculum includes, but is not limited to, age appropriate child development, positive discipline, self esteem, attachment, brain development and the effects of trauma, living with difficult children, emancipation and other teen issues, caregiver self-care, caregiver rights and responsibilities, etc.

RCC serves foster parents and kinship providers throughout the whole of Riverside County. Workshops are held in various locations (Banning, Corona, Hemet, Lake Elsinore, Moreno Valley, Riverside, Temecula, Desert community), and times (mornings, evenings, and Saturdays) enabling participants to attend classes close to home, and at times convenient for them. Classes are offered in both English and Spanish. While specifically funded to meet the needs of foster parents and kinship providers, other parents/caregivers/professionals may attend the workshops.

The FKCE program also provides professional development workshops for social service staff (social workers, foster parent trainers, administrators, etc).

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<http://academic.rcc.edu/workforcepreparation>

