



In July 2017, California adopted a new law (Senate Bill 89) to improve improves access to sexual health among youth and improve health outcomes among youth and young adults in foster care. STRTPs play an important role in ensuring the success of this effort and have specific requirements. These include:

1. Comply with “new” requirements established in Senate Bill 89

To become a licensed STRTP, all administrators must complete a 40-hour certification. State law specifies what content is required in this certification curriculum. SB 89 added the topic of sexual health to the list of required content, bringing the total number of topics to 12.

2. Comply with existing requirements in state law and CDSS policy instruction

There are seven specific duties required by caregivers related to sexual health, including STRTPs. These are not new requirements but play a critical role in ensuring the sexual health of youth and young adults in foster care. These duties are outlined in a document developed by the California Department of Social Services. [*“Healthy Sexual Development Resource Guide for Children’s Residential Facilities and Resource Families”*](#)

3. Comply with updated licensing regulations, to be issued mid-2019

The California Department of Social Services is currently in the process of updating licensing regulations for STRTPs and expect to issue these regulations in mid-2019. The draft regulations require every licensed provider to have at least one person on staff who is knowledgeable of the Responsible and Prudent Parent Standard.

4. Comply with terms of county contract, if applicable

Some counties are incorporating these requirements in contracts between the county child welfare agency and the STRTPs. Los Angeles is one county that will include these requirements in the county contract.

Recommended Activities

In addition to complying with these requirements, there are several recommended activities for STRTPs:

1. Modify program policies and procedures to align with state laws, regulations and guidance

An organization’s program policies and procedures drive the day-to-day practice and ensure consistent application of state requirements. Given this, it is important that STRTPs adapt their organization’s program policies and procedures to align with the state laws, regulation and guidance related to the sexual health of foster youth.

2. Train front-line personnel on sexual health topics and related requirements

While there is not a requirement to train front-line personnel on sexual health topics and related requirements for foster youth, it is an effective practice, given that front-line personnel have the most direct contact with youth.

3. Participate in a community of practice

In 2020, John Burton Advocates for Youth will convene a community of practice of STRTPs related to sexual health of youth in foster care. Participants in the community of practice will receive technical assistance and training to align policies and procedures with state laws, regulations and guidance. Participants will also have the opportunity to share best practices with their peers and learn how to integrate evidence-based practices into the organizations.