

## Program Goals

- **Timely and comprehensive strength-based assessment of children and families**
- **Earlier diagnosis of critical medical and mental health conditions**
- **Increased cooperation between families, caregivers, providers of services and DCFS**
- **More appropriate placement decisions for children**
- **More consideration given to sibling, relative, and community placements**
- **Earlier access to medical, educational and mental health services for children and families**



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Department of Children and Family Services  
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Department of Mental Health

## Multidisciplinary Assessment Team (MAT)



## What is MAT?

Multidisciplinary Assessment Team (MAT) is an exciting collaborative effort between the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), the Department of Mental Health (DMH), and other community providers. It is designed to ensure the immediate and comprehensive assessment of children and youth entering out-of-home placement. The MAT Program has been operational countywide as of October 2009.

## Program Description

When a child is newly detained, he/she is eligible to receive a Multidisciplinary Assessment Team (MAT) assessment through DCFS. The MAT assessment was designed to make sure that all child/family needs are assessed when a child/youth enters foster care.

This assessment is meant to help a family meet some special needs a child(ren) may have that place this family in danger of a lengthy separation. The information gathered by this assessment will be used to determine what services are most needed by the child(ren) with the intention of using this information for the most appropriate placement of the child while ensuring that his/her needs will be met.

### **MAT Assessments address the following areas:**

- Child and family strengths and needs
- Caregiver strengths and needs
- Education
- Mental Health
- Medical
- Dental
- Developmental
- Hearing/Language
- Vocational

## MAT Provider Agencies

- Alafia Mental Health Institute
- Amanecer Community Counseling
- Almansor
- Alma Family Services
- Aviva Family and Children's Services
- Bienvenidos
- CHCADA
- Child and Family Center
- Child and Family Guidance Center
- ChildNet
- Children's Bureau
- Children's Institute, Inc.
- Children's Hospital Los Angeles
- Compton Mental Health Services (SFC)
- Counseling 4 Kids
- DiDi Hirsch
- Drew Child Development Corporation
- Dubnoff Center for Child Development
- El Centro de Amistad
- ENKI
- Five Acres
- Foothill
- For the Child
- Hathaway/Sycamores
- Hillside
- Kedren Community Mental Health Center
- Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic
- Masada
- Mc Kinley
- PACS
- Pacific Clinics
- Penny Lane
- Personal Involvement Center
- Prototypes
- Providence
- SFVCMHC, Inc.
- South Central Health and Rehab Program
- SHIELDS for Families
- St. John's Child and Family Dev Ctr
- Star View Community Services
- Stirling Behavioral Health Institute
- Tarzana Treatment Center
- Tessie Cleveland Community Services
- The Guidance Center
- The Help Group
- The Village Family Services
- The Whole Child
- TIES for Families
- VIP
- Vista del Mar