

**Chapter and State Association
Membership Benefits**

Local associations are formed into chapters of the non-profit (CSFPA and hold periodic (usually monthly) meetings. The state-wide CSFPA (made up of chapters throughout the state) holds quarterly meeting alternating between Northern, Central, and Southern California. Membership in (and dues paid to) your local association also makes you a member of the State Association. You are invited to join and attend the local and state meetings, whereby you will be entitled to several typical benefits, such as those listed below:

1. Become part of a support group established for foster and kinship partner where you can learn from others, discuss your concerns, brag about your kids and learn how to work with your local county or foster family agency, which is responsible for looking out for the welfare of our children.
2. Most local associations offer 2-3 hours of training (required of foster parents) at local and State Association meeting, for which you, as a member, will receive a certificate of training. Notices and reminders of upcoming training sessions being offered are routinely sent out to all members.
3. A quarterly State Association newsletter with meeting announcements, articles of special interest to foster and kinship parents, and the latest information on issues and concerns impacting the foster and kinship care communities.
4. Receive information on the CSFPA Annual training conference scheduled in October of each year, that provides an opportunity to meet other foster parents from around the state: to hear and participate in many exciting and informative seminars; to attend the awards banquet recognizing outstanding service by selected foster parents and social workers; get ideas on what other county FPAs are doing for their members; and also, a chance to get away for a few days.
5. Scholarships for foster and kinship children are offered by the State Association and often by the local chapters.
6. Eligibility for all children in your family (including your natural, kinship, adopted, and guardianship children) to participate in local association special events. These may include such things as annual Christmas parties, summer picnics, reduced registration fees for the annual State Association Training Conference, "Parents Night Out" and other events as developed and sponsored by your local and State Association .

NEW DIRECTIONS FOSTER PARENT ASSOCIATION

7. Information on the activities and upcoming change in county and state policies affecting foster and kinship parents via participation in Foster Care Advisory Boards, (which involves a quarterly or even monthly meetings between the chapter presidents and local agency supervisors and management). You are also welcome to submit common foster and kinship parenting issues and concerns through the chapter president to the CSFPA for evaluation/resolution.

Local chapters generally obtain their non-profit status through the CSFPA's group exemption non-profit number grant by the IRS to the CSFPA. Therefore, your local chapter or support group can raise funds for special projects without liability, for paying associated taxes. This also allows the chapter to give donating organizations a tax write-off for goods and services donated to or in support of the chapter's activities.

Note: By signing application, members agree to abide by the State and local FPA bylaws and operating procedures.

Membership dues are established by each local association and include State Association Membership dues of \$15.00 per person. Please note that if one person, as shown on the license or certification joins the FPA both members must join\ per our CSFPA bylaws. You are encouraged to join the CSFPA through your local association, who will forward your State Association dues to the State Membership Chairperson. However, you may join the CSFPA directly as an associate member by paying annual dues of \$50.00 per person and sending the application directly to the State Association Membership Chairperson.

Mail to:

New Directions

P.O. Box 1283

Eureka, CA 95502



Membership Application

(send to chapter membership chairperson)

Chapter Name: New Directions Date: _____

Your Name: _____

Spouse or Significant Other's Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Tel. No: () _____ Fax# _____

E-mail: _____

Membership Classification: _____ Foster Parent(s)

_____ Associate _____ Kinship Parent(s)

_____ Agency _____ Community Supporter

(Signature)

(Signature)

Membership dues are enclosed as follows:

Single Membership \$ 35.00 Dual Membership \$ 45.00

or CSFPA Associate Membership \$ 50.00 per person.

Chapter membership chairperson shall forward a copy of this application and dues within 30 days to CSFPA Membership Chairperson, Mary Haghenbeck, 4377 Wesley Way, El Sobrante. CA 94803.