

FCLCA believes that society has a responsibility to provide all its residents with appropriate human services. These include education, public assistance, housing and community care. The state has a responsibility to respect human dignity in the delivery and regulation of human service.

### Education

Education is essential to the health of the community and individual fulfillment. Therefore, FCLCA supports education that promotes peace and equality, and FCLCA promotes strong public funding of public schools that are locally controlled, with statewide standards of achievement to ensure accountability.

FCLCA favors a strong publicly funded education system rather than a voucher system which would utilize public funds to support private schools. Should any public funds be given for any reason to private schools, the schools should be mandated to follow all public school testing and reporting rules.

Funding for schools should include accommodating students with special needs using strategies to maximize the integration of special needs students into the regular classrooms to the fullest extent possible.

Standardized testing of individuals should be a guide to comparing schools, and school districts, and give guidance for change. Standardized testing, however, should not be punitive for schools, or for individual students.

For this reason, FCLCA supports granting high school degrees to students who fail the California Exit Exam if they have fulfilled all other district graduation requirements.

In addition, alternative and vocational education programs should be provided as an option to students. FCLCA's position on additional specific curricula areas are as follows:

- 1) Schools should be encouraged to utilize proven programs in non-violent conflict resolution and involve parents in the process if possible,
- 2) Education should be based on the best currently available scientific information, and,
- 3) Responsible sex education should include full information about human sexuality and safe sex practices (see Family Planning policy)
- 4) Education should be accessible to all residents including those with limited English language ability.

### Public Assistance

Government is obligated to provide all residents who need it with access to food, shelter, education, and access to public transportation. Job training and placement programs should be provided. Work programs should pay fair wages and should fill a social or public need thereby adding satisfaction to the service the worker provides. When a parent is required to work, safe, affordable childcare should be provided.

Homelessness is a problem that the state must address. Private charities cannot alone handle the problem. We support expansion of emergency services, including safe and decent temporary housing, medical care, expansion of permanent low cost housing, and doing so for reasonable costs.

### Institutional Services

Institutions and service providers must provide humane treatment for their voluntary and involuntary residents. This requires: 1) small institutions with competent staff; 2) programming based on residents' needs; 3) community interaction; and 4) public monitoring. Institutional programs should make assistance available to help those leaving institutions adjust to community living. Where the needs of the individual and the society can be met in a less restrictive setting, alternatives to institutionalization are preferred.