



**Health & Human Services
Agency
COUNTY OF TULARE
AGENDA ITEM**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

KUYLER CROCKER
District One
PETE VANDER POEL
District Two
AMY SHUKLIAN
District Three
EDDIE VALERO
District Four
DENNIS TOWNSEND
District Five

AGENDA DATE: June 2, 2020

Public Hearing Required	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Scheduled Public Hearing w/Clerk	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Published Notice Required	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advertised Published Notice	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meet & Confer Required	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Electronic file(s) has been sent	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>
Budget Transfer (Aud 308) attached	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Personnel Resolution attached	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Agreements are attached and signature line for Chairman is marked with tab(s)/flag(s)	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>
CONTACT PERSON: Anita Ortiz PHONE: (559) 624-8097		

SUBJECT: Approve an agreement with Tulare County Superintendent of Schools

REQUEST(S):
That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve an agreement with Tulare County Superintendent of Schools for the Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children in the amount of \$988,301 in State and Federal funds, effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.
2. Authorize the Chair of the Board to sign one (1) copy of the agreement.

SUMMARY:
Senate Bill 89, All County Letter No. 19-18 provides guidance and funding on the county option to administer the Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children (Bridge Program). This program aims to increase the number of foster children successfully placed in home-based family care settings, increase capacity of child care programs to meet the needs of foster children in their care, and maximize funding to support the child care needs of eligible families. One of the primary barriers for potential families seeking to take in a foster child is the lack of access to child care immediately following the removal of the child. With the passage of Senate Bill 89, resource families and families that have a child placed with them in an emergency, licensed foster family homes or certified family homes, approved homes of relatives or nonrelative extended family members, and parents under the jurisdiction of juvenile court are eligible to receive time-limited monthly payments for child care and the assistance of a child care navigator.

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Funding for the Bridge Program for Fiscal Years 2020-2021 is from Title IV-E of the Social Security Act through the Federal Government and through the State General Fund. The funds will be received as a reimbursement for services performed and is claimed on a quarterly basis on the County Expense Claim. This program is not an entitlement program and has capped funding.

The Bridge program serves eligible families by providing three (3) separate, yet complementary program components. These activities include: (1) emergency child care payment, (2) child care navigator, and (3) trauma-informed care training and coaching. Tulare County Superintendent of Schools is responsible to operate all 3 program components of the Bridge Program

Under the first activity of the Bridge Program, eligible participants can receive child care payments. To be qualified to receive child care payments, care providers and non-minor dependent parents must be working or attending school. These child care payments will help compensate for child care costs for foster children birth through age twelve (12), children with exceptional needs, and severely disabled children up to age 21. Payments may be provided for up to six (6) months until the child is successfully enrolled into long-term, subsidized child care. Eligibility may be extended an additional six (6) months, not to exceed twelve (12) months. All payments must be in accordance with the Regional Market Rate (RMR) ceilings for subsidized child care payment rates. It is anticipated that 80 foster children a year will be served by these child care payments.

The second (child care navigator) component of the Bridge Program will be provided by the Tulare County Superintendent of Schools through this agreement. The child care navigator works with eligible families, CWS social workers, and the child and family teams to assess child care opportunities and provide consumer education to the family based on the child's age and needs. The navigator will be responsible to assist with finding a child care provider, securing a subsidized child care placement if eligible, completing child care program applications, and developing a plan for long-term child care. Eligibility for the navigator services is not contingent on a child's receipt of a child care payment. It is projected that 100 foster families will receive the services of a child care navigator.

The third (trauma-informed care training and coaching) component of the Bridge Program will be provided by the Tulare County Superintendent of Schools through this agreement. Trauma-informed care training and coaching will be provided through the Bridge Program to child care programs and providers serving eligible children. Trauma-informed training includes, but is not limited to, infant and toddler development and research-based, trauma-informed best care practices. Child care providers will also receive access to individual coaching to assist them to apply training curriculum and learn strategies for working with children in foster care. It is anticipated that 200 child care providers will receive Trauma-informed training annually.

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This agreement did not include a Request for Proposal process since the funding requires that Counties partner and contract with their local Resource and Referral provider to operate the Bridge Program. Tulare County Superintendent of Schools is the Resource and Referral provider in Tulare County.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

This agreement is for a total of \$988,301 which will be included in Fiscal Year 2020/2021. The budgeted costs associated with this contract are included in the Health and Human Services Agency 001-142 budget, line 4020-7043, professional services, for \$988,301. There is no net County cost to the General Fund.

The Bridge Child Care Program is an opt-in program with capped funding and is funded entirely through the State General Fund and the Federal government.

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:

The County's five-year strategic plan includes the Quality of Life initiative that encourages innovative provisions of quality supportive services to at-risk youth and children in state and federally mandated programs. This agreement increases the ability to fulfill the obligation by providing child care support to resource parents and parenting non-minor dependent. This support will reduce barriers for potential families seeking to take in a foster child due to the lack of access to child care immediately following the removal of the child.

ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:

/s/Anita Ortiz

Anita Ortiz

Director of Human Services

cc: County Administrative Office

Attachment(s) Agreement

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF TULARE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVE AN)
AGREEMENT WITH THE TULARE) Resolution No. _____
COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF) Agreement No. _____
SCHOOLS)

UPON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR _____, SECONDED BY
SUPERVISOR _____, THE FOLLOWING WAS ADOPTED BY THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, AT AN OFFICIAL MEETING HELD _____
_____, BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

ATTEST: JASON T. BRITT
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/
CLERK, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BY: _____
Deputy Clerk

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