



**NEVADA COUNTY
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**NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Board Agenda Memo**

MEETING DATE: July 11, 2023

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Rachel Peña

SUBJECT: Resolution approving execution of a renewal contract with Sierra Nevada Children's Services (SNCS) for services related to administration of the Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children (Bridge Program) in the maximum amount of \$238,218 for the term of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: Contract services are funded through State general funds from the California Department of Social Services Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children (Bridge Program) allocation and 1991 Realignment. There are no county general fund dollars required pursuant to this agreement.

BACKGROUND: The goal of the Bridge Program is to increase the number of foster children successfully placed in home-based family care settings. One of the primary barriers for potential families seeking to take in a foster child is the lack of access to childcare immediately following the removal of the child. With the passage of SB 89, resource families that have a child placed with them in an emergency or for a compelling reason are eligible to receive a time-limited monthly payment or vouchers for childcare and a childcare navigator. Childcare programs and providers serving children in the Bridge Program shall be provided with trauma-informed care training and coaching.

The three components of the Bridge Program are as follows:

1. **Emergency childcare voucher or payment:** Eligible families may receive a time-limited childcare voucher or payment to help pay for childcare costs for foster children from birth through age 12, children with exceptional needs, and severely disabled children up to age 21.

2. Childcare navigator: SNCS shall provide a childcare navigator to eligible families. The navigator shall assist with finding a childcare provider, securing a subsidized childcare placement if eligible, completing childcare program applications, and developing a plan for long-term childcare appropriate to the child's age and needs. Eligibility for navigator services shall not be contingent on a child's receipt of a childcare payment or voucher.
3. Trauma-informed care training and coaching: Childcare programs participating in the Bridge Program shall receive access to trauma-informed care training. The training shall include, but is not limited to, infant and toddler development and research-based, trauma-informed best care practices. Childcare providers shall also receive access to coaching to assist them in applying training curriculum and learn strategies for working with children in foster care.

The California Department of Social Services is providing an allocation of funding to assist counties pursuant to the Bridge Program. These funds will support all three of the components of the Bridge Program to enable families to receive a voucher to help with childcare, a childcare navigator to help families find childcare, and provide trauma-informed care training and coaching to child care providers.

Sierra Nevada Children's Services, a private, nonprofit childcare resource and referral agency that has served families, early childhood professionals, and the Nevada County community since 1978, will provide services related to the administration of the Bridge Program pursuant to this Agreement.

It is recommended that the Board approve this Contract as the services the Contractor will be providing will help decrease the barriers for placement of foster children.

Item Initiated and Approved by: Rachel Peña, LCSW, Director of Social Services