



**NEVADA COUNTY
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
AGENCY**

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: June 13, 2023

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Rachel Peña

SUBJECT: Resolution approving execution of a renewal contract with Sierra Nevada Children's Services (SNCS) for the administration of Stage 1 Child Care payments to fund the provision of child care services for CalWORKs participant families as referred by the County's Department of Social Services in the maximum amount of \$1,486,970 for the term of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: Stage 1 Child Care is a mandated support program for CalWORKs participant families. Funding is received through CalWORKs program. The contract maximum is \$743,485 per fiscal year for a total aggregate amount of \$1,486,970 for the two-year term. Services were budgeted in the department's FY 2023/2024 budget. There are no county general fund dollars required in the agreement.

BACKGROUND: The availability of quality child care is essential to the success of the CalWORKs Program. To ensure an adequate supply of child care resources to the recipient and those transitioning off welfare to work, AB 1542 eliminated seven former welfare related child care programs and consolidated them into the three-stage CalWORKs child care programs. The purpose of this program is to help a family transition smoothly from the immediate, short-term child care needed as the parent starts work or work activities to the stable, long-term child care necessary for the family to leave and remain off aid. The CalWORKs Child Care Program is administered in three stages. Stage 1 is administered by the County Welfare Departments. Stages 2 and 3 are administered by Alternative Payment Program (APP) agencies under contract with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS).

Since 2004, Social Services has contracted with SNCS to administer the Stage 1 Child Care Program Services. Stage 1 funds are provided to the County by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) and the local County Welfare Agency is required to coordinate Stage 1 child care for their CalWORKs families. The Stage 1 CalWORKs Child Care Program is the first child care step for parents receiving aid within Nevada County. These subsidies allow families the opportunity to become economically self-sufficient. Stage 1 begins with a family's entry into the CalWORKs program. Clients leave Stage 1 after six months or when their situation is stable, and when there is a slot available in Stages 2 or 3.

Sierra Nevada Children's Services, the designated local Resource and Referral Agency, also manages Stages 2 and 3 of the system under the supervision of the California Department of Social Services, in addition to a variety of other subsidized child care programs. Stage 2 begins after six months or after a recipient's work or work activity has stabilized, or when the family is transitioning off of aid. Customers may continue to receive child care in Stage 2 up to two years after they are no longer eligible for aid. Stage 3 begins when a funded space is available and when the client has acquired the 24 months of child care, after transitioning off of aid (for former CalWORKs recipients).

The legislative intent of the child care program includes connecting recipients as soon as possible to local child care resources, making stable child care arrangements, ensuring recipients continue to receive subsidized services after they leave aid, and ensuring that services are received in the same fashion as other low-income working families. The goal is to provide a "seamless" child care system of moving an eligible family through the three stages of CalWORKs-related care as a family progresses towards self-sufficiency.

It is recommended that the Board approve this contract to ensure continuation of affordable, stable, quality childcare services for CalWORKs participants that helps enable families to transition from dependency on assistance to self-sufficiency.

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