



# NEVADA COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

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## Department of Social Services

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## NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Memo

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**MEETING DATE:** March 10, 2020

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Tex Ritter

**SUBJECT:** Resolution approving execution of Amendment No. 1 to the personal services 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 to: 1) increase the maximum contract price from \$600,000 to \$800,000 (an increase of \$200,000) due to increased referrals and expanded eligibility; 2) revise exhibit "B" Schedule of Charges and payments to reflect the increase in the maximum contract price for the term of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021; and 3) direct the Auditor-Controller to amend the Social Services budget for Fiscal Year 2019-20 (RES. 19-272). (4/5THS VOTE REQUIRED)

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve the attached Resolution.

**FUNDING:** Stage 1 Child Care is a mandated support program for CalWORKs participant families. Funding is received through the annual CalWORKs Single Allocation. The contract maximum is \$340,000 for fiscal year 2019-2020 and \$460,000 for fiscal year 2020-2021 for a total aggregate amount of \$800,000 for the two-year term. A budget amendment is required for FY 2019/20 and is included with this item (4/5 vote required). There are no county general fund dollars required in the agreement.

**BACKGROUND:** The availability of quality childcare is essential to the success of the CalWORKs Program. To ensure an adequate supply of childcare resources to the recipient and those transitioning off of welfare to work, AB 1542 eliminated seven former welfare-related childcare programs and consolidated them into the three-stage

CalWORKs childcare programs. The purpose of this program is to help a family transition smoothly from the immediate, short-term childcare needed as the parent starts work or work activities to the stable, long-term childcare 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 Education (CDE).

Per Resolution 19-272, the Board of Supervisors approved the renewal contract with Sierra Nevada Children's Services for FY 19/20. Through this contract, Sierra Nevada Children's Services 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 childcare for their CalWORKs families. The Stage 1 CalWORKs Child Care Program is the first childcare 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 Education, in addition to a variety of other subsidized childcare 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. Clients may continue to receive childcare 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 childcare, after transitioning off of aid (for former CalWORKs recipients).

The legislative intent of the childcare program includes connecting recipients as soon as possible to local childcare resources, making stable childcare 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" childcare system of moving an eligible family through the three stages of CalWORKs-related care as a family progresses towards self-sufficiency.

It is recommended the Board approve this Amendment No. 1 as this additional funding will 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:** Tex Ritter, JD, Director of Social Services