The County of Yuba

Health and Human Services Department

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Jennifer Vasquez, Director
Tony Gordon, Deputy Director
Health and Human Services Department

SUBJECT: Approve the Agreements between the Health and Human Services Department (HHSD) and Children's Home Society (CHS) of California

DATE: August 22, 2023

NUMBER: 417/2023

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors approve the Agreements between the Health and Human Services Department (HHSD), and Children's Home Society (CHS) of California for the Emergency Child Care Bridge Program and the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) Child Care Services for the term of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2026, and authorize the Chair to execute.

Background

In January 2018, the State of California made funds available to counties through the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) for the Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children (Bridge Program). This program provides assistance with child care for caregivers with a foster child in their home and for parenting foster youth. It is comprised of three major components: 1) emergency child care vouchers, 2) childcare navigator services including, enhanced referrals and support to families, and 3) Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) training with coaching for child care providers to enrich their ability to provide nurturing and safe environments for foster children. The child care voucher is a time-limited payment with the intent to successfully transition the child into long-term child care paid through another source.

In January 1998, the State of California made funds available through CDSS for CalWORKs Child Care services. The CalWORKs Child Care Program provides payments to subsidize child care services to enable parent participation in employment or Welfare-to-Work activities.

The CalWORKs and Bridge child care programs are designed to reduce barriers and aims to ensure caregivers have access to quality childcare. CHS is the sole provider of child care resources and provider services in the Yuba-Sutter area. The services provided by CHS are vital to help strengthen the family unit and support lifelong self-sufficiency.

Discussion

The Bridge Program helps families overcome one of the biggest barriers to fostering children: lack of child care. CHS is committed to making child care accessible. For over 130 years, CHS has been dedicated to supporting families and child care providers so they can create environments in which children thrive. In FY 20/21, CHS Yuba City assisted 64 child care providers in receiving $320,000 in child care relief funds and supported five (5) new providers in obtaining their child care licenses.

In January 2019, Child and Adult Protective Services (CAPS) first contracted with Children's Home Society for the Bridge Program. From July 2021 to December 2022, the following services were provided through this program:

- 26 Bridge Program eligible families were referred to child care navigators
- 40 Foster children were referred to the Bridge Program
- 12 Child care providers received Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) training through quarterly scheduled training sessions
- 153 Child care vouchers were issued to eligible families for a total of $93,427.53 in child care provider payments

Since July 2001, Yuba County CalWORKs has effectively partnered with CHS for the purpose of providing subsidized child care services and support to ensure that CalWORKs participants have access to stable and continuous child care. On average each month 178 CalWORKs children are in receipt of subsidized child care. From July 2021 through December 2022, there have been 2,687 children enrolled in the program.

CHS provides a variety of support and services to children, families, and child care providers, such as:

- In-person orientations to explain all aspects of the child care program and services.
- Assistance with completing necessary paperwork required for subsidized child care.
- Connecting families to suitable child care providers that fit their individual needs.
- Managing child care payments by coordinating with families and providers.
- Assisting licensed, exempt providers with the completion of Health and Safety Certification forms, Trustline applications and fingerprint processing to expand the availability of child care providers.

This partnership allows the County of Yuba and CHS to continue jointly administering a seamless system of stable, long-term child care.

Committee Action:

The Human Services Committee was bypassed as the renewal Agreements are routine in nature and has no impact to General Funds.

Fiscal Impact:

Budget

- Included in the FY 2023-2024 Budget Appropriation

Total Projected Cost

- Bridge Program: Three (3) year term at $156,770.00 annually for a total cost of $470,310 and will be recommended for Board approval in the FY 23/24, FY 24/25 and FY 25/26 Budget Appropriation
- CalWORKs: Three (3) year term at $1,600,000 annually for a total cost of $4,800,000 and will be recommended for Board approval in the FY 23/24, FY 24/25 and FY 25/26 Budget Appropriation

Source of Funds

- Non-General Fund $5,270,310.00 State and Federal funding
    - Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children
    - CalWORKs Stage I Child Care services

Attachments

417/2023 CHS - Bridge Program
417/2023 CHS - CalWorks Stage 1