



**CHILD CARE  
ALLIANCE  
LOS ANGELES**

**EMERGENCY  
CHILD CARE BRIDGE PROGRAM**

# Need: Children in Foster Care

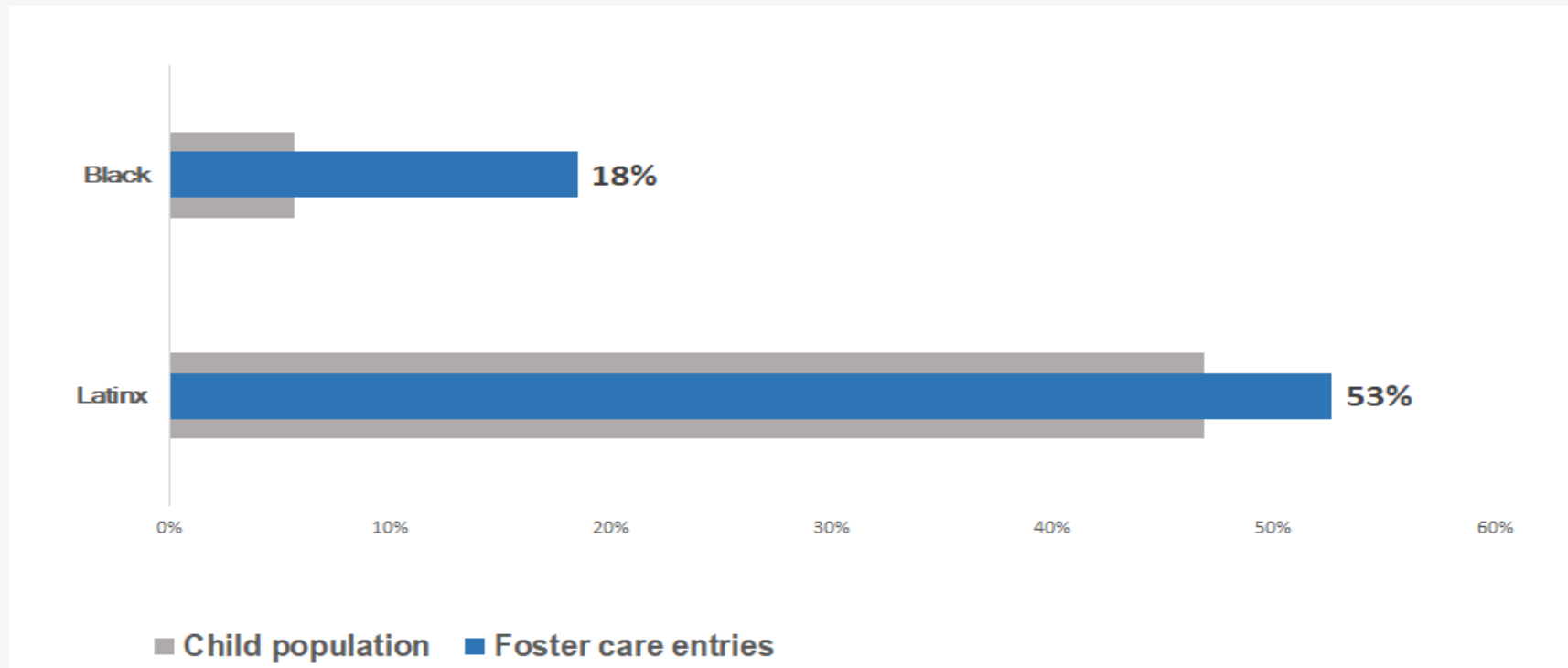
Age in foster care	Rate per 1,000: Los Angeles	Rate per 1,000: California
Under 1 year	10.8	8.5
1-2 years old	12.9	8.3
3-5 years old	9.3	5.8
6-10 years old	7.1	4.8

- Families First Prevention Services Act (2018): increased support for relative caregivers
- Challenges raised by LA DCFS regarding difficulty in placing the youngest children  
Imagine receiving a call in the middle of the night from a social worker that your grandson, age 18 months, was removed from his home and needs immediate placement. What goes through your mind? “I have to work tomorrow” might be one thought. Consider next that you are 62 years old, and your household income is \$38,000/year, and you already have great difficulty making ends meet. “How can I afford childcare? How do I find childcare?” might be your next thoughts, followed by “I don’t want him to be with a stranger.” What is your answer?

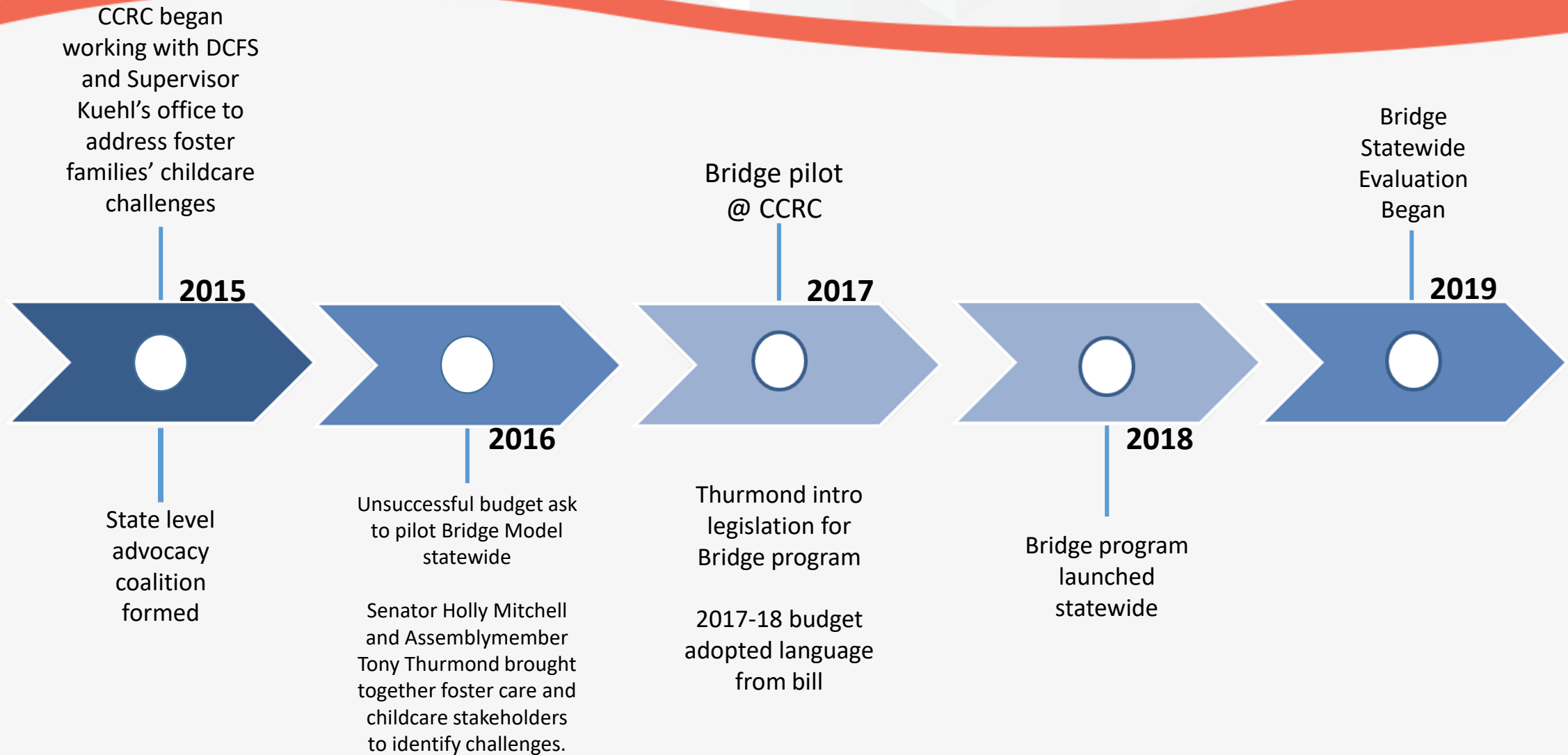
# Black and Latinx children disproportionately represented in the foster care system.



Black children account for 6% of children birth to age 5, but 18% of children in the foster care system.  
Latinx children account for 47% of children birth to age 5, but 53% of children in the foster care system.



# Bridge Timeline



# Taking Pilot to Scale Statewide

	2018 (6 months)	2021-21
# Counties	42	45
# Children	399	2,042
Funds		
CA	\$14.7M	\$40.5M*
LA	\$6M	\$15M

\* Carryforward funds resulted in total of \$70.9M (projecting is a significant challenge when additional funds flow in that must be spent down first and the following year might be capped)



## About the Emergency Child Care Bridge Program

# What is the purpose of the Bridge Program?

- To increase the number of foster children successfully placed in home-based family care settings
- To increase capacity of childcare programs to meet the needs of foster children in their care
- To maximize funding to support childcare needs of eligible families

# Who we serve



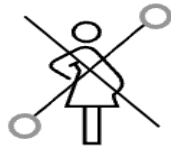
**The target audience are children ages 0 - 5yrs and their eligible siblings**



**Childcare services are time-limited; maximum of 12-months only**



**Although the foster parent must be eligible, the program follows the child**



**Biological parents, adoptive parents, and legal guardians are NOT eligible for Bridge services - with one exception...**



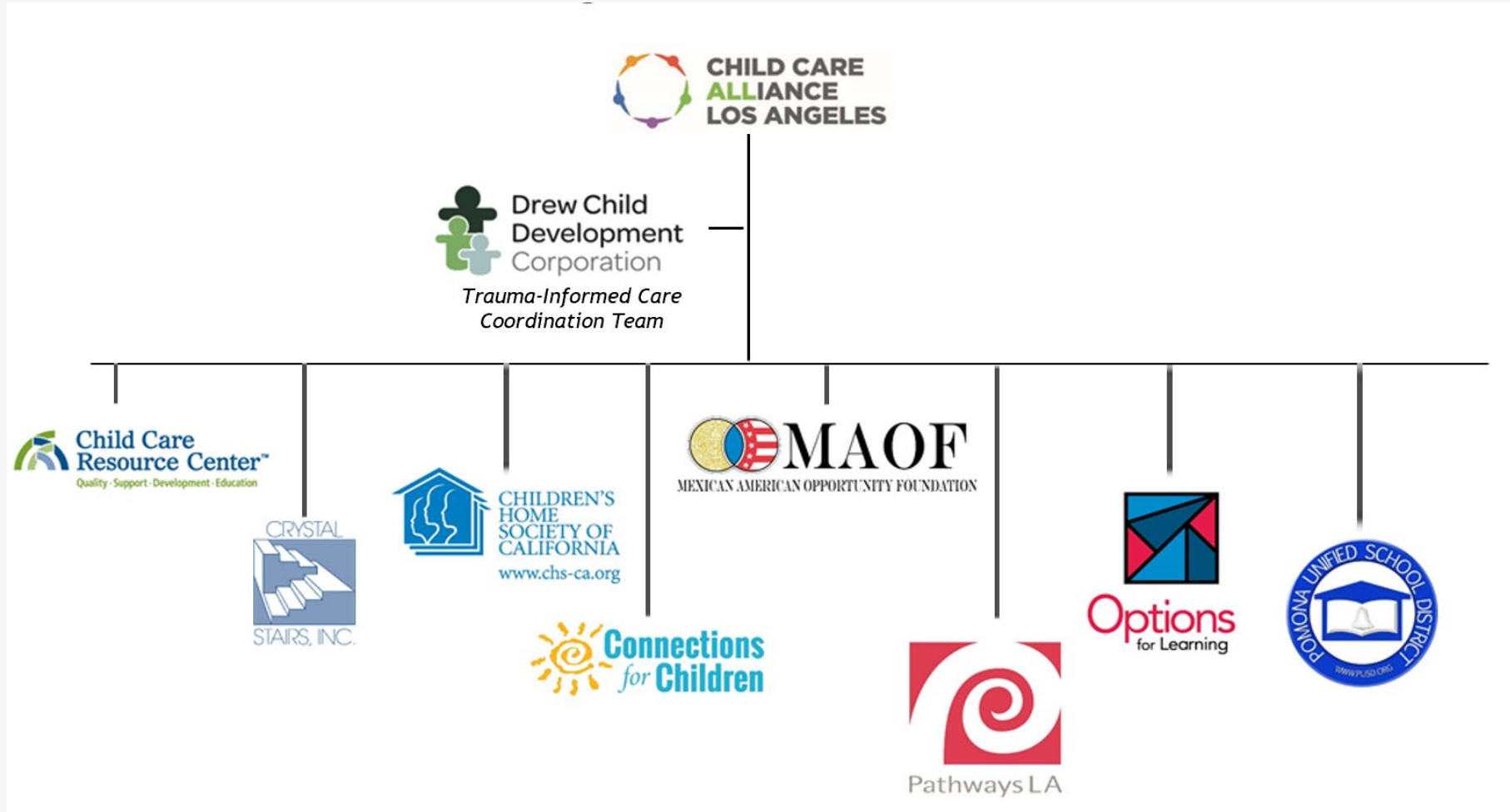
**Parenting teens (under age 18) and non-minor dependents (18 - 21yrs) with an open DCFS foster case**





**CHILD CARE  
ALLIANCE  
LOS ANGELES**

# CCALA Partnership



# Program Components

**NAVIGATOR**



**VOUCHER**



**TRAUMA-INFORMED**



# Navigator

Child Care Navigators placed at each Resource & Referral agency throughout Los Angeles County assist eligible foster care resource families with:

- Finding a childcare provider
- Securing a subsidized childcare placement
- Completing childcare program applications, and
- Developing a plan for long-term childcare appropriate to the child's age and needs

# Navigator Data



Total unique children served from August 2018 through August 2021

**4,918**

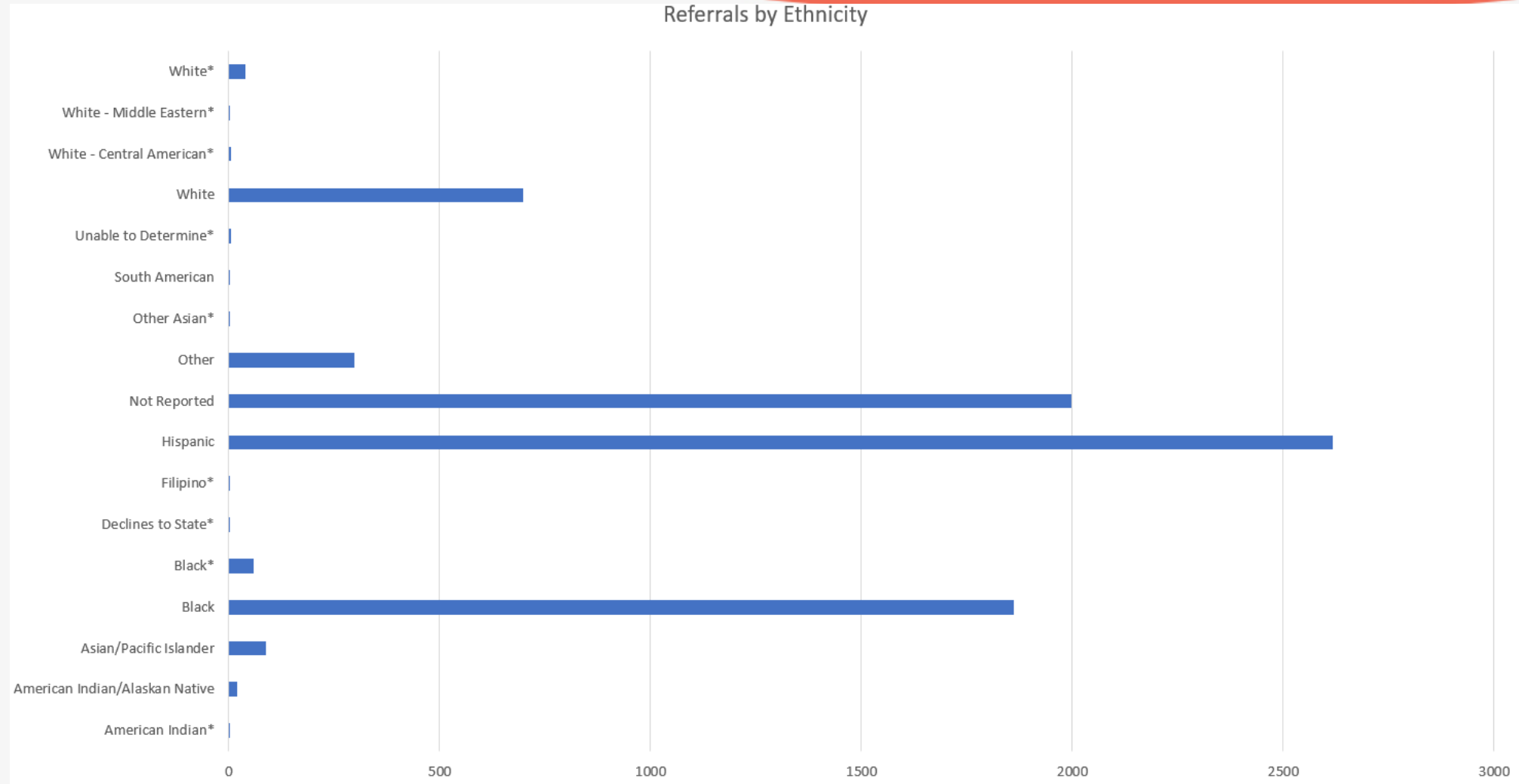
Average number of children served per month

**1,068**

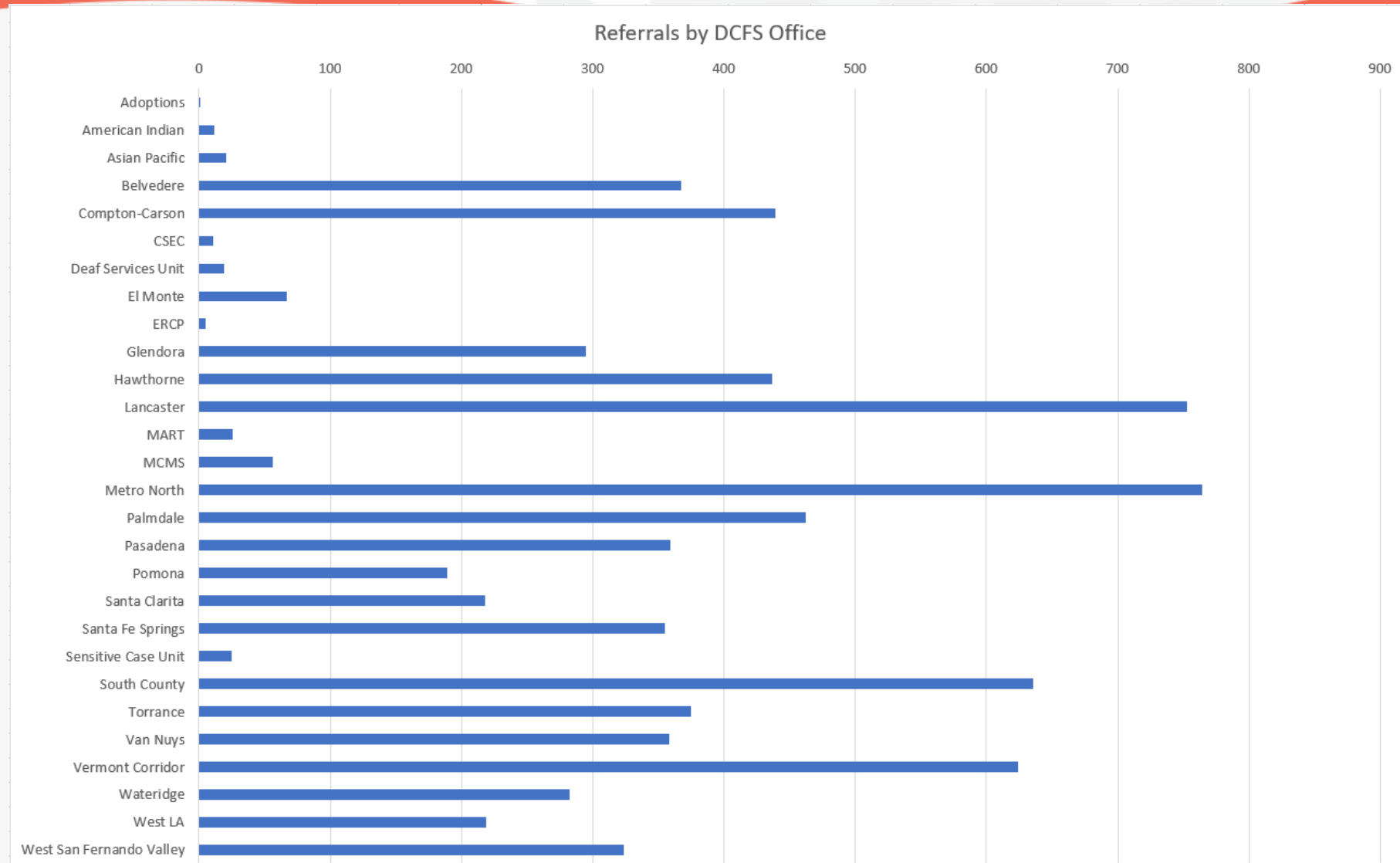
Successful transitions to long-term childcare within the last 6 months

**73%**

# Childcare Referrals by Ethnicity



# Childcare Referrals by DCFS Office



# Trauma-Informed Care

Trauma-Informed Care Advisors also are housed at each of the Resource & Referral agencies. TIC Advisors deliver trainings and coaching to childcare providers across the county.

- Workshops are accessible to all childcare providers (in person prior to pandemic; online since)
- Workshops entail 16, 2-hour modules, specifically designed to address Trauma-Informed Care for foster children
- Coaching is also provided to childcare providers, as identified/needed

# Trauma-Informed Care Data



Trauma-Informed Care Advisors have:

- Trained 4,645 unique providers across 3,122 facilities
- Coached 1,371 unique providers across 1,306 facilities



# VOUCHERS

- Eligible families may receive a time-limited childcare voucher to help pay for childcare costs for foster children birth through age 5, and their siblings
- Referrals for childcare are submitted by the Children's Social Worker
- Eligibility criteria are:
  - Child must have an open foster case in Los Angeles County.
  - Resource parents must be actively working, attending school, or participating in required DCFS trainings/workshops



Average monthly voucher payments for Los Angeles County is  
**\$985,198.00**



# California Emergency Child Care Bridge Evaluation

Conducted by: Child Care Resource Center



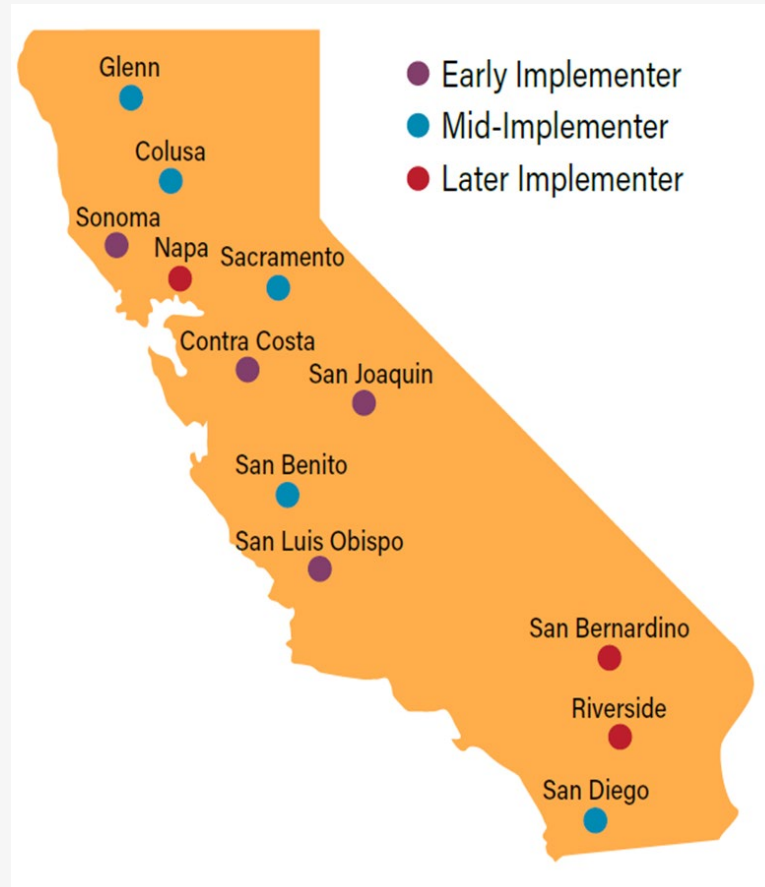
Funded by:  **FIRST5**  
CALIFORNIA



Partnered with:



# Sample of 12 Counties



Findings

# **THE BRIDGE PROGRAM & RESOURCE FAMILY WELL-BEING**

# Caregiver Findings

35% of caregivers would not have accepted the foster child **without the Bridge Program.**

“

*The baby, she's developmentally progressed. I was able to keep her because of you all, because if it wasn't for you, I would not have been able to keep her. It was less stress for me. I was in school, working, and having a foster baby. [The Bridge Program] was so beneficial.*

- Caregiver

“

*I would have liked to say yes, but **before I was taking school aged kids so that I could work** while they were at school. No, nobody under five. **Then, 'can you take one who's one?' , 'just for the weekend?' Yeah, because childcare was an issue, so initially, probably not.***

-Sacramento Caregiver

*Only because he is my nephew. But **I would not have taken any foster children if I hadn't had been able to have daycare.** It just wouldn't have been possible.*

-Sacramento Caregiver

*I wouldn't be able to be a resource parent if I didn't have access, and support to childcare. Especially for the little ones, it's super expensive. And **even though we get money for taking care of her, it wouldn't even cover the cost of childcare if I use that money to pay for childcare.** It would really **not be possible** for me to do it without some sort of assistance.*

-San Diego Caregiver

***Without the program,** we would have either had to **not keep the girls, or one of us would have to choose to leave our source of employment.***

-San Benito Caregiver

## Bridge Program Reduced **STRESS** for Caregivers

- **96%** reported reduced **stress** levels due to their foster child attending child care
- **85%** agreed the Child Care Navigator reduced their **stress** levels
- **76%** reduced **economic stress**
- **70%** reduced **emotional stress**

“

*When a **parent has stress**,  
the **child has stress**. It goes  
hand in hand.*

- Caregiver

”

# Caregivers Satisfied with Childcare Providers

## Caregivers felt their foster children were in quality child care

- **94%** were satisfied with the quality of their child care
- **94%** agreed the provider supported the needs of their child
- **90%** agreed the provider kept them informed about their child's development





Findings

# **THE BRIDGE PROGRAM & CHILD WELL-BEING**

# Positive Effects on Foster Child Well-Being

Caregivers attributed positive effects due to **access to quality child care**

- **78%** noticed a positive change in their child's well-being
  - **Thrived** socially, cognitively, and physically
- **90% built strong bonds** with their child care provider
- **93%** maintaining a consistent **routine** was helpful for the child
- Felt **safe** in a **trauma-informed** environment

## Children Thrive socially, cognitively, and physically

**"I think it's also great for the child to get some sort of structure and socialization.** I think that's really helpful, especially a child that's maybe been in a traumatic situation. Making positive attachments and having some security and some regularity, I think that's really important for them. "

– San Diego caregiver

**" Being in school has helped with development.** Helped his socialization and all of the above..... **interacting in school, being around his peers, having that structured environment to learn and grow** and being just exposed to something other than the house all day, every day." - Sacramento Caregiver

Findings

# **TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE TRAINING AND COACHING**



## Building Childcare Capacity to Support Foster Children

### TIC Training

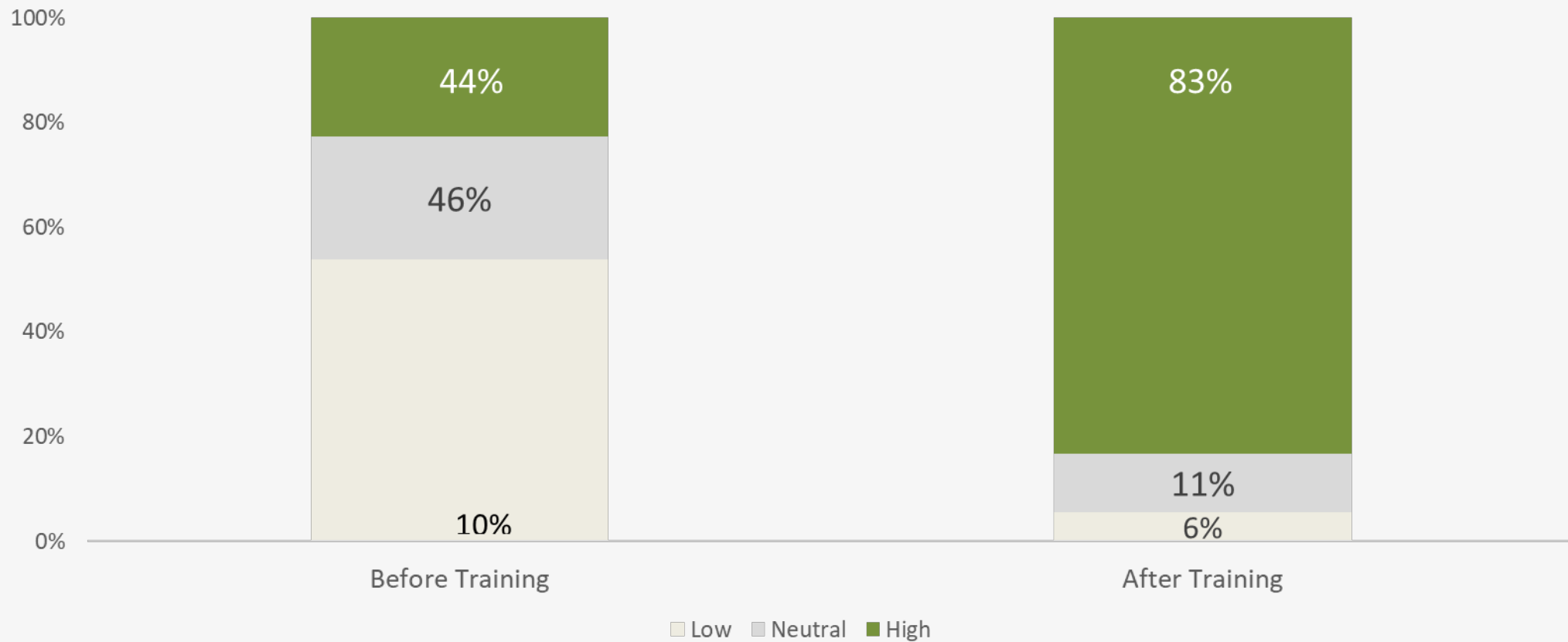
- **89%** agreed that TIC **training** helped them better support a foster child in their care.

### TIC Coaching

- **86%** agreed that TIC **coaching** helped them better support a foster child in their care.

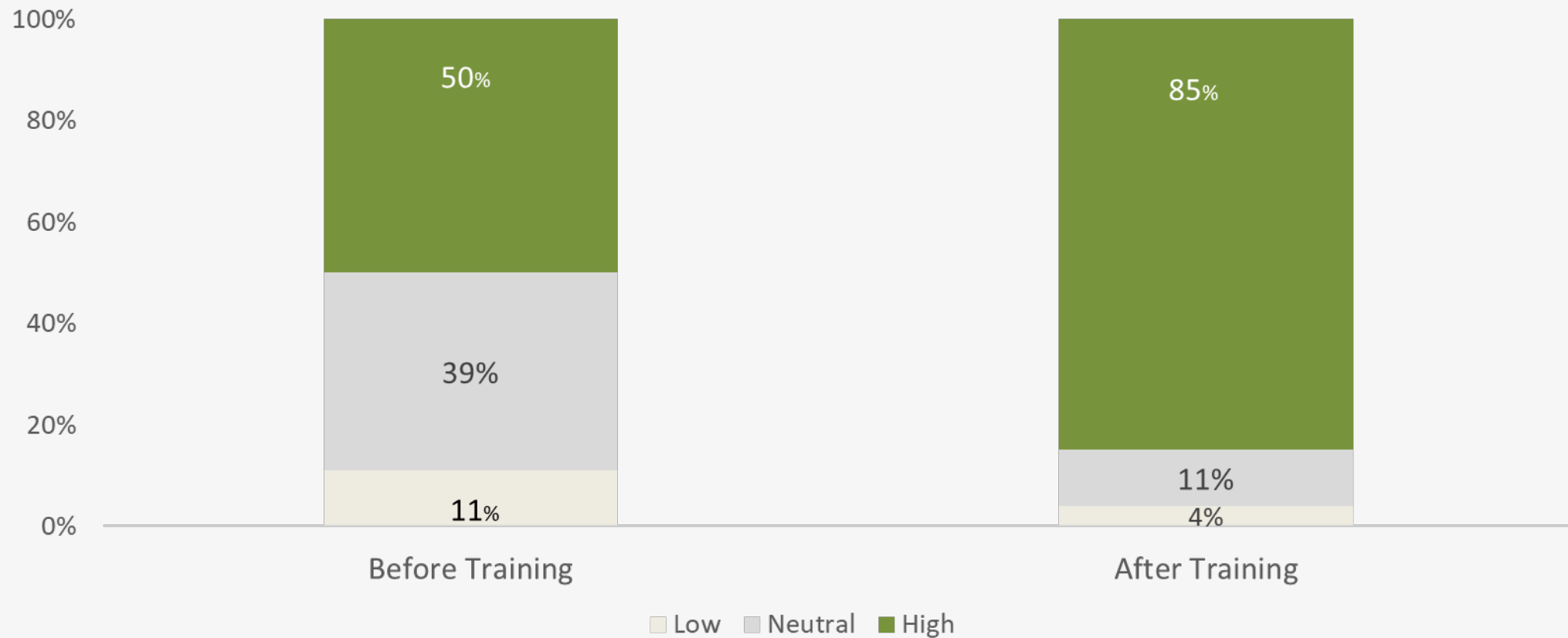
# Increased Child Care Provider Knowledge

Knowledge of how trauma affects a child and their behavior



# Increased Child Care Provider Ability

My ability to care for a child who experienced trauma



## TIC Trainings Supported **Communication** Between Providers and Caregivers

*[TIC trainings] gave me the ability to feel free and be **encouraged to have difficult conversations**. Before there was a fear of telling the parents something that, I don't know if I could say, I don't know if she wants to hear it, I don't know if she's going to be offended, I don't know if it's okay for me to even suggest that I'm looking at this behavior that could be a cause or consequence of something. Now, **I'm confident to have that conversation with a parent, because I can present it in a way that I'm doing it for the benefit of the child**, for the benefit of the family, and to support me as a caregiver in what I do every day while I'm caring for that child. I feel okay doing that now.*



THANK YOU!



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**Questions?**



In partnership with the Los Angeles County Department of Children & Family Services

# CHILD CARE BRIDGE PROGRAM

Bridging the Access Gap

## EXPANDING ACCESS FOR FOSTER CHILDREN

Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles (CCALA) and its partner agencies are excited to launch the new Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children (Bridge Program). This is a new State funded program administered through the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) and the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS).

The new Bridge Program is a time-limited program designed 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.

**There are three components to the Bridge Program:**

### NAVIGATOR



Resource & Referral agencies throughout Los Angeles County will house child care navigators to assist eligible foster care resource families with:

- Finding a child care provider,
- Securing a subsidized child care placement,
- Completing child care program applications, and
- Developing a plan for long-term child care appropriate to the child's age and needs

### VOUCHER



Eligible families may receive a time-limited child care voucher to help pay for child care costs for foster children birth through age 5 and their siblings. This also includes foster children with exceptional needs and severely disabled children up to age 21.

- Referrals to the Child Care Bridge Program must be made through the resource family's Children's Social Worker (CSW) at DCFS
- Vouchers will be approved for an initial period of up-to six months, with a possible six-month extension
- The Resource parent will work with a Navigator to locate an appropriate child care placement for the child

### TRAUMA-INFORMED



Child care programs engaged in the Bridge Program will receive access to trauma-informed care training and coaching. Topics of the training include, but are not limited to:

- Infant and toddler development
- Research-based, trauma-informed best care practices

Child care providers will also receive access to coaching to assist them in applying training curriculum and learn strategies for working with children in foster care

