



County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

510 S. Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90020
(213) 351-5602



BRANDON T. NICHOLS
Director

JENNIE FERIA
Chief Deputy Director

Board of Supervisors
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Fourth District
KATHRYN BARGER
Fifth District

September 24, 2024

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**REQUEST TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM ANNUAL CONTRACT AMOUNT FOR
THE SOLE SOURCE FAMILY VISITATION CENTERS AND SAFE CHILD CUSTODY
EXCHANGE CONTRACTS
(DISTRICTS 3 AND 5) – (3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) requests the Board's approval to increase the Maximum Annual Contract Amount for the sole source Family Visitation Centers and Safe Child Custody Exchange (FVC/SCCE) contracts.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Delegate authority to the Director of DCFS, or designee, to execute an amendment, substantially similar to Attachment A, to increase funding for one of the sole source FVC/SCCE contracts with El Nido Family Centers for the remaining two optional one-year periods. The contract amount is \$279,014. The increase is funded using 100 percent Flexible Family Supports (FFS) funds in the amount of \$126,796, for the third optional year period effective October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025 as specified in Attachment B. The fourth optional one year period increase will be funded by both FFS funds and AB 2994 funds through September 30, 2026. The new Maximum Annual Contract Amount is \$279,014, using 55 percent AB 2994 funds and 45 percent FFS funds. Funding is included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 Adopted Budget.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

2. Delegate authority to the Director of DCFS, or designee, to execute amendments to one or both of the two existing contracts to increase the Maximum Annual Contract Amount for additional deliverables including sibling visits, respite care, and any other activity that could enhance the FVC/SCCE program, provided that: a) sufficient funding is available for the increase; b) County Counsel approval is obtained prior to execution of such amendments; and c) DCFS notifies the Board and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), in writing, within 10 business days of execution.
3. Delegate authority to the Director of DCFS, or designee, to execute amendments to one or both of the two existing contracts for programmatic changes to the Statement of Work, Terms and Conditions of the contract and any of its Exhibits, provided that: a) County Counsel approval is obtained prior to the execution of such amendments; and b) DCFS notifies the Board and the CEO, in writing, within 10 business days of execution.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The State Budget Act of 2022, appropriated one-time funding in the amount of \$50 million from the General Fund to support children and youth in foster care and their foster caregivers. The funding has been authorized by the State through June 30, 2026.

The one-time funding was provided by Assembly Bill (AB) 179 to use as FFS and Home-Based Foster Care, which mandates specific activities, supports, or services. Counties that elected to utilize these funds are required to use them to provide respite care and enrichment activities for children and youth, unless authorized by the State otherwise. The FFS funds allocated to the FVC/SCCE program include three additional activities in line with AB 179 as follows: 1) Sibling visits will be arranged for a minimum of 10 families each month to help siblings connect and give caregivers of children in out-of-home care a break; 2) Children's nights are monthly events designed to give caregivers a break, allowing siblings to visit with one another, and help children develop social and emotional skills through age-appropriate enrichment activities. Children will take part in supervised activities tailored to their age groups (i.e., 5-11, 12-14 and 15-17), and food will be provided; and 3) Celebration events will consist of the contractor providing each celebrated child with a one-time gift card, or gifts, worth up to \$150.00 in value, for special occasions such as birthdays or graduations. Continuation of the aforementioned activities beyond June 30, 2026, will be funded through the Inter-Agency Council on Abuse and Neglect (ICAN) using AB 2994 funds.

The FVC/SCCE program has at its core a focus on keeping children safe while facilitating paths for connection to parents from whom they are separated either because they are in out-of-home care or their parents are separated with custody exchanges necessary in order for the children to maintain a relationship with both of their parents. When visitation

activities are linked to helping parents build protective capacities and change behaviors or conditions that caused children to be unsafe or at risk of future harm, children well-being is enhanced.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended actions are consistent with the principles of the Countywide Strategic Plan goals related to Board-directed Priority 1: Child Protection, North Star 1: Make investments that transform lives, Focus Area Goal D. Support vulnerable populations and North Star 2: Foster vibrant and resilient communities, Focus Area Goal F. Community Connections.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The Maximum Annual Contract Sum is \$279,014, which includes the increase in the amount of \$126,769 funded through FFS. Funding is included in the FY 2024-2025 Adopted Budget.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

In 1982, the Governor of California signed two bills into law, aimed at preventing and treating child abuse and neglect. The first bill, AB 1733/Papan (Chapter 1398, Statutes of 1982), authorized the allocation of State funding to counties for child abuse prevention and intervention services offered by public and private non-profit agencies.

The second law, AB 2994/Imbrecht (Chapter 1399, Statutes of 1982), established a County Children's Trust Fund for the purpose of funding child abuse and neglect prevention and intervention programs operated by private, nonprofit organizations. AB 2994 requires that \$4.00 of any fee for a certified copy of a birth certificate be paid to a County Children's Trust Fund.

Welfare and Institutions Code section 18967 directs the designated multi-disciplinary child abuse council in each County to develop and recommend funding priorities for the Children's Trust Fund to the Board of Supervisors. In Los Angeles County, the ICAN is the designated child abuse council.

On April 28, 2021, ICAN recommended to the Board of Supervisors the negotiation of sole source contracts with El Nido Family Centers and Grace Resources, Inc. in compliance with applicable statutory and/or regulatory provisions as stipulated by AB 1733/Papan and AB 2994/Imbrecht.

The current contracts were awarded effective October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2022, with the option to extend for four additional one-year periods as approved by the Board of Supervisors on August 31, 2021.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
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This Board letter has been reviewed by County Counsel and CEO. County Counsel has approved the Amendment (Attachment A).

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES

The FVC/SCCE program is consistently upheld as a most effective strategy to help maintain child-parent relationships in safe environments, assist in family reunification, reduce the time a child spends in out-of-home care, and improve family functioning to avoid recidivism and future referrals to DCFS. The new services funded by FFS enhance these efforts and provide additional support to families accessing FVC/SCCE services.

DCFS Children's Social Workers have come to rely heavily upon these programs and not having these services available would create a significant hardship for DCFS staff and the families they serve.

CONCLUSION

Upon approval by the Board of Supervisors, it is requested that the Executive Officer/Clerk of the Board send an adopted stamped copy of the Board Letter and attachments to the DCFS and ICAN.

Respectfully submitted,



BRANDON T. NICHOLS
Director

BTN:JF:CMM
LTI:AO:CK:tj:ja

Attachments

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors



AMENDMENT NUMBER THREE

TO

**FAMILY VISITATION CENTERS AND
SAFE CHILD CUSTODY EXCHANGE**

CONTRACT NUMBER XX-XX-XX

WITH

CONTRACTOR

SPA

X

AMENDMENT NUMBER XXXX
FAMILY VISITATION CENTERS AND SAFE CHILD CUSTODY EXCHANGE
CONTRACT NUMBER XX-XX-XX

This Amendment Number Three (“Amendment”) to the Family Visitation Centers and Safe Child Custody Exchange Services Contract Number XX-XX-XX, (hereinafter referred to as “Contract”) is made and entered into by and between the County of Los Angeles (“COUNTY”) and _____ (“CONTRACTOR”), in Los Angeles, California this ____ day of _____ 2024.

WHEREAS, COUNTY and CONTRACTOR are parties to the Contract approved by the Chief Executive Office on August 31, 2021, and CONTRACTOR has been providing Family Visitation Centers and Safe Child Custody Exchange Services to the COUNTY Department of Children and Family Services, Service Planning Area X;

WHEREAS, this Amendment uses the Director’s delegated authority as approved by the Board on September 24, 2024, to utilize Flexible Family Supports funds to provide new services in alignment with Assembly Bill 179 and increase units of services by augmenting the Maximum Annual Contract Amount;

WHEREAS, this Amendment exercises the County’s option to extend the contract term for the third optional one-year contract period effective October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025;

WHEREAS, this Amendment is prepared pursuant to the provisions set forth in Section **8.0 STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS**, Subsections 8.1 Amendments and 8.2 Assignment and Delegation; and

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing and mutual consent herein contained, COUNTY and CONTRACTOR hereby agree to amend the Contract as follows:

1. **Section 2.0, TERM, Subsection 2.1.2** is added to read as follows:

2.1.2 The term of this contract is extended for a period of one year, effective October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025, unless terminated earlier or extended.

2. **Section 3.0, CONTRACT SUM**, Subsection 3.1.1, is revised as follows:

3.1.1 The Maximum Annual Contract Sum for each year is as follows:

For Contract Term Effective 10/1/2021-09/30/2022	\$XXX,XXX
For Contract Term Effective 10/1/2022-09/30/2023	\$XXX,XXX
For Contract Term Effective 10/1/2023-09/30/2024	\$XXX,XXX
<u>For Contract Term Effective 10/1/2024-09/30/2025</u>	<u>\$XXX,XXX</u>

3. **Table of Contents, Section 7.7, Campaign Contribution Prohibition Following Final Decision in Contract Proceeding**, is added as follows:

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FAMILY VISITATION CENTERS AND SAFE CHILD CUSTODY EXCHANGE
CONTRACT NUMBER XX-XX-XX

7.7 Campaign Contribution Prohibition Following Final Decision in Contract Proceeding

4. **Section 7.7, Campaign Contribution Prohibition Following Final Decision in Contract Proceeding**, is added as follows:

7.7 Pursuant to Government Code Section 84308, Contractor and its Co-contractors, are prohibited from making a contribution of more than \$250 to a County officer for twelve (12) months after the date of the final decision in the proceeding involving this Contract. Failure to comply with the provisions of Government Code Section 84308 and of this paragraph, may be a material breach of this Contract as determined in the sole discretion of the County.

5. **Exhibit A, Statement of Work, Section 2.0, Background/Overview**, Subsection 2.2 through Subsection 2.5.4, are renumbered, and **Subsection 2.2**, is added to read as follows:

2.2 On January 1, 2023 the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) issued instruction and guidance regarding Flexible Family Supports (FFS) and Home-Based Foster Care funding provided by the Budget Act of 2022. As indicated by CDSS, "Support for foster caregivers can reduce the need for changes in placements and increase life-long familial connections for children and youth in care. Flexible Family Supports and Home-Based Foster Care funding is intended to increase the use of home-based family care and provide increased support to children and youth to maintain these connections. This funding is being made available to support children and youth placed with relative caregivers, resource families, tribally approved homes, a home with a placement funded pursuant to WIC Section 11461.3, and the home of a relative or nonrelative extended family member, or extended family member as defined in WIC Section 224.1 in the case of an Indian child, with an emergency placement pursuant to WIC Sections 309, 319, 361.45, or 727.05, or a compelling reason placement pursuant to subdivision (e) of WIC Section 16519.5. Funds can also be used for the purpose of making one of the family based placements possible for a child or youth who is currently in a more restrictive placement.

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) will utilize FFS funding, as well as other funding sources, to enhance the services offered by the FVC/SCCE program in support of foster caregivers and the children in their care.

DCFS will commence with piloting the enhancements in SPA 2.

- 2.3 The services are designed to keep children safe while facilitating connections to their parents from whom they were separated either because they are in out-of-home care or their parents are separated with

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custody exchanges necessary in order for these children to be able to spend time in the care of both of their parents.

2.4 AB2994 funds established a County Children’s Trust Fund for the purpose of funding child abuse and neglect prevention and intervention programs operated by private, non-profit based organizations. The services will be provided in Supervisorial District 3 and 5.

2.5 Research in child welfare indicates family visitations are critical for the child(ren)’s welfare and in expediting family reunification (FR). The following are a few examples of recent research that demonstrates the important relationship between visitation and family reunification (FR).

2.5.1 Face-to-face visits between parents and their child(ren) in out-of-home care (OHC) is the primary intervention for maintaining and supporting the development of parent-child relationships necessary for reunification. (Wendy L. Haight, Jill Doner Kagle, James E. Black; Understanding and Supporting Parent-Child Relationships during Foster Care Visits: Attachment Theory and Research, Social Work, Volume 48, Issue 2, 1 April 2003, Pages 195–207, <https://doi.org/10.1093/sw/48.2.195>).

2.5.2 At any point in time, over 400,000 children are in foster care in the United States (Children’s Bureau, 2019). When children are removed from their homes, child welfare agencies use supervised visitation to maintain contact between parents and their children. This contact is crucial to ensure attachment, which has been established in developmental psychology as a key factor to ensure healthy child development (Ainsworth, 1985; Bowlby, 1982). McWey and Mullis (2004) found the number of visits a child experienced and the consistency of their mother’s visits were both significantly correlated with increased quality of attachment. Additionally, a higher frequency of contact for children in foster care is related to lower levels of depression and less externalizing of problem behaviors in children (Cantos et al., 1997; McWey et al., 2010), though it should be noted that parent–child relationships are diverse and complex (Haight et al., 2003; Leathers, 2003).

2.5.3 A study of 123 children in out-of-home care receiving supervised visitation with their biological parents indicated that children who have more consistent and frequent contact with their biological parents have stronger and higher levels of attachment, have fewer behavioral problems, are less likely to take psychiatric medication, and are less likely to be termed “developmentally delayed” than children with fewer or no visits with their biological parents. (Improving the Lives of Children in Foster Care: The Impact of Supervised Visitation* Lenore M. McWey, Ann K. Mullis, 21 September 2005, <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.0022-2445.2004.0005.x>).

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2.5.4 Maintaining family relationships while child(ren) are in out-of-home care is a critical component of any successful reunification practice. Frequent family visitation is linked to both the likelihood of reunification and post-reunification stability. (Child Welfare Information Gateway, (2011). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families).

6. **Exhibit A, Statement of Work, Section 5.0, Service Goals**, is amended to read as follows:

5.0 SERVICE GOALS

The purpose of the Family Visitation Center / Safe Child Custody Exchange Program (FVC/SCCE) is to keep children safe while improving connections to their parents or legal guardians from whom they were separated by providing coached monitored visits by trained Visitation Coaches. FVC/SCCE will enhance child/parent interaction during visits which is consistently demonstrated as the number one factor impacting family reunification. This objective will be achieved by: 1) having planned and purposeful visitation involving parents or legal guardians whose children have been removed from their care by DCFS and placed in out-of-home care; 2) maintaining family-friendly sites where meaningful visits can take place between children in out-of-home care and their parents or legal guardian, and 3) having trained visitation coaches to monitor and coach parents or legal guardians during visits with their children.

The delivery of the FVC/SCCE program services will be designed to achieve the following objectives: 1) strengthen attachment between children and their parents or legal guardians; 2) promote family reunification; 3) promote child well-being; 4) help parents and legal guardians learn and practice how to nurture and connect with their child(ren); and 5) link visitation activities to help parents or legal guardians build protective capacities and change behaviors or conditions that caused them to be involved with child welfare services.

The purpose of the Family Visitation Center / Safe Child Custody Exchange Program (FVC/SCCE) will also focus on maintaining sibling and familial connections for children in out-of-home care, as well as support foster/resource caregivers to further enhance placement stability.

The delivery of the FVC/SCCE program services will also include the following objectives: 1) strengthen attachment between children and their siblings and/or other relatives/non-related extended family; 2) stabilize out-of-home placements by providing opportunities for respite; 3) enrich child experience by offering child-focused enrichment activities and opportunities to celebrate significant life events.

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7. **Exhibit A, Statement of Work, Section 6, Target Demographics**, is amended to add bullet numbers and to add items four and five to read as follows:

6.0 TARGET DEMOGRAPHICS

CONTRACTOR shall serve families with open DCFS FR cases with children in out-of-home placements who require monitored visits as ordered by Dependency Court. The families shall meet the following criteria:

1. Parents or legal guardians who will benefit from intensive coaching during their monitored visits by trained Visitation Coaches. Priority will be given to parents or legal guardians who are participating in the first six months of FR services provided by DCFS.
 2. Parents or legal guardians who are willing to comply with FVC/SCCE policies, procedures, and guidelines.
 3. Parents or legal guardians who have been assessed by the CSW as not presenting an undue safety risk to their child(ren).
 4. Children in out-of-home care who require support in maintaining relative, non-related extended family or sibling connections.
 5. Families and resource parents of the above referenced target population who could benefit from respite care services in support of maintaining familial connections.
 6. At a minimum, CONTRACTOR shall accept all referrals on open DCFS Family Reunification (FR) cases classified as WIC 300 A-Physical Abuse, B-General Neglect, C-Emotional Abuse, G-Caretaker Absence/Incapacity and J-At Risk Sibling Abuse. Exemptions may be made after consulting with County Program Manager.
- 6.1 CONTRACTOR shall accept open DCFS FR cases under other WIC 300 subsections if the case is deemed to be appropriate after consulting with the case-carrying CSW.
- 6.2 CONTRACTOR may be requested to serve families from various DCFS offices outside of SPA 1 and 2, depending on availability of resources and needs of the families such as the Asian and Pacific Islander (API) families needing services in an API language and American Indian/Alaska Native families, or Regional offices needing additional FVC/SCCE support services.

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6.3 The Safe Child Custody Exchange Program, CONTRACTOR shall serve families with an open case or referral under the jurisdiction of the Los Angeles County Superior Court Family Court Services, Dependency Court, Criminal Court, DCFS regional offices or families who are self-referred at a local LAPD or Sheriff Department station in Service Planning Area 1 and 2.

6.4 CONTRACTOR's Program Coordinator shall ensure that parents meet the criteria for Safe Child Custody Exchange, as follows:

6.4.1 CONTRACTOR's Program Coordinator or designee shall assess if parent is stable prior to custody exchange and shall ensure the parent has sufficient internal resources for a productive exchange of child(ren) from one parent to the other.

6.4.2 CONTRACTOR shall ensure that any parent is not under the influence of alcohol, marijuana, or controlled substances; or impaired by prescription medications; or in a state of severe withdrawal prior to and during any scheduled custody exchange.

8. Exhibit A, Statement of Work, Section 13.0, Scope of Work, Subsections 13.56, 13.57, 13.58 and 13.59, are added to read as follows:

13.56 CONTRACTOR must provide FVC/SCCE services to promote continued sibling and familial connections for children in out-of-home care through visitation and celebration events, as well as promote placement stability through child-focused enrichment events/respite support for children and foster/resource caregivers.

13.56.1 CONTRACTOR must track participants/service recipients through sign-in sheets/signature in acknowledgement of gifts and make these available to the County for review.

13.56.2 CONTRACTOR must track expenses for the additional services (1. Sibling Visitation; 2. Child-Focused Enrichment Events/Respite Care; 3. Celebration Events) and clearly identify expenses for each service category separately on monthly invoices.

Sibling Visitation/Respite Care

13.57 Facilitate a minimum of two (2) sibling visits for a minimum of ten (10) families a month in order to support sibling connection and provide respite care for caregivers of children placed in out-of-home care.

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Children's Night: Child-Focused Enrichment Events/Respite Care

13.58 Host monthly "Children's Night" events to provide caregivers with respite time, allow sibling visitation, and build social and emotional competence for children through age appropriate activities. CONTRACTOR must ensure children participate in age-appropriate supervised activities based on the child's age (5-11, 12-14, and 15-17). CONTRACTOR must provide food for each child participant during each event.

13.58.1 Each event must accommodate all age ranges (5-11, 12-14, and 15-17).

13.58.2 Each event must be offered for a minimum of three (3) hours in duration per event.

13.58.3 CONTRACTOR must foster a safe and fun environment for all children and ensure appropriate supervision for all participants during events.

Celebration Events

13.59 CONTRACTOR to coordinate and host celebration events for FVC participants. CONTRACTOR is to provide a onetime gift card (per child) of up to \$150.00 or purchase gifts totaling up to \$150.00 to celebrate a child's special occasion, such as a birthday or graduation, during sibling visitation or children's night out. In addition, the CONTRACTOR will purchase items for the celebration, such as a meal, decorations, and activities.

13.59.1 CONTRACTOR is to facilitate maintaining familial connections and relationship building by including guests/extended family supports, that are an important part of the focus-child's life.

13.59.2 CONTRACTOR must ensure that all participants/guests are cleared by DCFS and must be assessed as appropriate to participate in the celebration event by obtaining the CSW Approval Checklist for Family Visitation Center / FVC/SCCE Program (Exhibit A-9).

13.59.3 CONTRACTOR must provide all FVC participants/guests a copy of the Attendee Instructions Terms and Conditions for Celebration Events (Exhibit A-10), prior to scheduling or planning a celebration event.

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9. **Exhibit A, Statement of Work, Section 14.0, Reports and Record Keeping,** Subsection 14.10, is added to read as follows:

Sibling Visitation/Respite Care/Celebration Events

14.10 CONTRACTOR must track participation for the additional services (1. Sibling Visitation; 2. Child-Focused Enrichment Events/Respite Care; 3. Celebration Events) and include information in the monthly and quarterly service reports submitted to the CPM.

10. **Exhibit A, Statement of Work, Section 15.0, Quality Assurance Plan,** Subsection 15.4, is replaced in entirety and replaced to read as follows:

Pilot Evaluation

15.4 CONTRACTOR must establish a program evaluation plan approved by the COUNTY Program Manager upon the Contract start date to evaluate the impact of 1. Sibling Visitation; 2. Child-Focused Enrichment Events/Respite Care; and 3. Celebration Events.

15.4.1 Client and CSW surveys must be administered to evaluate program demand, as well as cost/benefit analysis in support of program continuation. Additionally evaluation of service impact on maintaining sibling/familial connections, as well as in providing respite opportunities for caregivers must be performed.

11. **Exhibit A-1, Performance Requirement Summary,** is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the amended **Exhibit A-1, Performance Requirement Summary,** attached to this amendment and incorporated as part of the contract.
12. **Exhibit A-2, Performance Outcome Measure Summary,** is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the amended **Exhibit A-2, Performance Outcome Measure Summary,** attached to this amendment and incorporated as part of the contract.
13. **Exhibit A-9, CSW Approval Checklist for Family Visitation Center / FVC/SCCE Program,** is attached to this amendment and incorporated as part of the contract.
14. **Exhibit A-10, the Attendee Instructions Terms and Conditions for Celebration Events** is attached to this amendment and incorporated as part of the contract.

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15. A Line Item and Budget Narrative for the period of October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025, are attached to this amendment and incorporated as part of Exhibit C Line Item Budget and Narrative.

EXCEPT AS AMENDED HEREIN, ALL TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS CONTRACT SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT.

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles has caused this Amendment Number XXXX to be subscribed on its behalf by the Director of the Department of Children and Family Services and the CONTRACTOR has caused this Amendment Number XXXX to be subscribed on its behalf by its duly authorized officer(s) as of the day, month and year first above written. The person(s) signing on behalf of the CONTRACTOR warrants under penalty of perjury that he or she is authorized to bind the CONTRACTOR in this Contract.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

By: _____
BRANDON T. NICHOLS, DIRECTOR
Department of Children and Family Services

XXXX
CONTRACTOR

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

XXXX
Tax Identification Number

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
BY THE OFFICE OF COUNTY COUNSEL
DAWYN R. HARRISON, COUNTY COUNSEL

BY _____
David Beudet, Senior Deputy County Counsel

FAMILY VISITATION CENTERS AND SAFE CHILD CUSTODY EXCHANGE (FVC/SCCE) CONTRACT AMOUNTS

		CONTRACT PERIODS					
SPA	AGENCY NAME	10/01/2021 to 09/30/2022 (AB 2994 Funding)	10/01/2022 to 09/30/2023 Opt 1 Yr. Ext. (AB 2994 Funding)	10/01/2023 to 09/30/2024 Opt 2 Yr. Ext. (AB 2994 Funding)	10/01/2024 to 09/30/2025 Opt 3 Yr. Ext. (AB 2994 Funding)	10/01/2024 to 09/30/2025 Opt 3 Yr. Ext. (FFS)	3rd Optional Year Total
1	Grace Resources, Inc.	\$ 138,380.00	\$ 138,380.00	\$ 152,218.00	\$ 152,218.00		\$ 152,218.00
2	El Nido Family Centers	\$ 138,380.00	\$ 138,380.00	\$ 152,218.00	\$ 152,218.00	\$ 126,796.00	\$ 279,014.00

TOTAL \$ 431,232.00

SOLE SOURCE CHECKLIST

Department Name: _____

- New Sole Source Contract
- Sole Source Amendment to Existing Contract

Date Existing Contract First Approved: _____

Check (✓)	JUSTIFICATION FOR SOLE SOURCE CONTRACTS AND AMENDMENTS Identify applicable justification and provide documentation for each checked item.
	➤ Only one bona fide source (monopoly) for the service exists; performance and price competition are not available. A monopoly is an <i>“Exclusive control of the supply of any service in a given market. If more than one source in a given market exists, a monopoly does not exist.”</i>
	➤ Compliance with applicable statutory and/or regulatory provisions.
	➤ Compliance with State and/or federal programmatic requirements.
	➤ Services provided by other public or County-related entities.
	➤ Services are needed to address an emergent or related time-sensitive need.
	➤ The service provider(s) is required under the provisions of a grant or regulatory requirement.
	➤ Services are needed during the time period required to complete a solicitation for replacement services; provided services are needed for no more than 12 months from the expiration of an existing contract which has no available option periods.
	➤ Maintenance and support services are needed for an existing solution/system during the time to complete a solicitation for a new replacement solution/system; provided the services are needed for no more than 24 months from the expiration of an existing maintenance and support contract which has no available option periods.
	➤ Maintenance service agreements exist on equipment which must be serviced by the original equipment manufacturer or an authorized service representative.
	➤ It is more cost-effective to obtain services by exercising an option under an existing contract.
	➤ It is in the best economic interest of the County (e.g., significant costs and time to replace an existing system or infrastructure, administrative cost and time savings and excessive learning curve for a new service provider, etc.). In such cases, departments must demonstrate due diligence in qualifying the cost-savings or cost-avoidance associated with the best economic interest of the County.

Chief Executive Office

Date

Sole Source Justification

ONE FAMILY VISITATION CENTERS AND SAFE CHILD CUSTODY EXCHANGE (EL NIDO & GRACE RESOURCES)

1. What is being requested?

Delegate authority to the Director of DCFS, or designee, to execute an amendment, substantially similar to Attachment A, to increase funding for one of the Family Visitation Center and Safe Child Custody Exchange (FVC/SCCE) contractors, El Nido Family Centers, for the remaining two optional one-year periods. The contract amount is specified in Attachment B. The increase is funded using 100 percent Flexible Family Supports (FFS) funds in the amount of \$126,796, for the third optional year period effective October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025. The fourth optional one-year period increase will be funded by both FFS funds and AB 2994 funds through September 30, 2026.

The new Maximum Annual Contract Amount is \$279,014, using 55 percent AB 2994 funds and 45 percent FFS funds.

2. Why is the service needed – how will it be used?

The recommended FVC/SCCE program is consistently upheld as a most effective strategy to help maintain child-parent relationships in safe environments, assist in family reunification, reduce the time a child spends in out-of-home care, and improve family functioning to avoid recidivism and future referrals to DCFS. The new services funded by FFS enhance these efforts and provide additional support to families accessing FVC/SCCE services. These services are typically designed for parents who are in conflict with one another or who have a history of domestic violence.

DCFS Children's Social Workers have come to rely heavily upon these programs and not having these services available would create a significant hardship for DCFS staff and the families they serve.

3. Is this brand of product the only product the only one that meets the user's requirements?

N/A

4. Have other products or vendor been considered?

Other vendors were not considered at this time, as it would take a long time to add another vendor. Other vendors will be considered at the end of this contract period.

5. Will purchase of this product avoid other costs?

No. However, this service will enable DCFS to provide a safe place for: 1) family visitations, which may facilitate family reunifications; and 2) child custody exchanges, which may avoid a emotional/physical harm to children and parents. The FVC/SCCE program has at its core a focus on keeping children safe while facilitating paths for connection to parents from whom they are separated either because they are in out-of-home care or their parents are separated with custody exchanges necessary in order for the children to maintain a relationship with both of their parents.

6. Is this service available from other providers?

This service may be available from other providers and will be considered at the end of this contract term.

7. Reasonableness of price. Does County obtain a percentage discount or special discount not available to the private sector?

N/A. This service is not utilized by the private sector.

8. What is the dollar value of the existing equipment?

N/A.

9. Is this service the only one that meets the user's requirements?

No. Other providers may be able to offer this service, but the department is not able to bring on new vendors at this time.