



BRANDON T. NICHOLS
Director

JENNIE FERIA
Chief Deputy Director

County of Los Angeles

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

510 S. Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90020

(213) 351-5602

Board of Supervisors

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Third District

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Fourth District

KATHRYN BARGER

Fifth District

May 6, 2025

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

Dear Supervisors:

REQUEST TO APPROVE AMENDMENT TO TRANSPORTATION SERVICES CONTRACT (ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)

SUBJECT

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) requests the Board's approval of an amendment to increase the funding for the Transportation Services Contract with HopSkipDrive, Inc.

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, with HopSkipDrive, Inc. for the provision of transportation services, to increase the Maximum Annual Contract Sum by \$6,000,000 for a new Maximum Annual Contract Sum of \$10,000,000, financed using 43 percent State Realignment funds, 43 percent funds from the participating school districts and 14 percent Flexible Family Supports (FFS) funds. Sufficient funding is included in the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Adopted Budget.
2. Delegate authority to the Director of DCFS, or designee, to execute amendments to increase or decrease the Maximum Annual Contract Sum up to 10 percent, if such an amendment is necessary to meet a change in service demands and the necessary funding is available in the budget, provided that: a) approval from County Counsel is obtained prior to executing such amendment; and b) the Director of DCFS notifies the Board and the Chief Executive Office (CEO), in writing, within 10 business days after execution.

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3. Delegate authority to the Director of DCFS, or designee, to execute amendments to the contract to make changes to the scope of work or the terms and conditions to meet program needs, provided that: a) prior County Counsel approval is obtained; and b) the Director of DCFS notifies the Board and the CEO, in writing, within 10 business days after execution of such amendment.
4. Delegate authority to the Director of DCFS, or designee, to exercise the two one-year extension options by written notice or amendment, provided that: a) sufficient funding is available; b) County Counsel approval is obtained prior to execution of such amendments; and c) the Director of DCFS notifies the Board and the CEO, in writing, within 10 business days of executing such amendments.
5. Delegate authority to the Director of DCFS, or designee, to extend the Transportation Services contract by written notice or amendment for a period not to exceed six months beyond June 30, 2027, if such additional time is necessary to complete the negotiation or solicitation of a new contract, provided that: a) the cost of living adjustment is not included; b) sufficient funding is available for the extension; c) County Counsel approval is obtained prior to executing the extension; and d) the Director of DCFS notifies the Board and the CEO, in writing, within 10 business days of execution.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

The recommended actions will allow youth in foster care that are removed from their home or change placements to remain at their School of Origin (SOO) when that has been determined to be in their best interest and there is no other suitable transportation available. The budget increase is necessary to ensure that youth in foster care receive transportation to their SOO and other school-related activities. Additional funds are necessary due to an increase in the number of referrals submitted for transportation services for youth in foster care. The initial annual projected funding amount of \$4,000,000 was based on data that was analyzed two years prior to the contract award. This projection did not account for changes that have occurred since that time, such as an increase in HopSkipDrive rates, an increase in the number of Local Education Agencies participating in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and the growing number of youth utilizing transportation services.

In 2015, in an effort to prevent negative and adverse impacts to youth in foster care that were removed from their home or changed placement, former President Obama signed the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The ESSA requires school districts and child welfare agencies to collaborate to ensure school stability for youth in foster care by creating agreements to provide for transportation for these youth to attend their SOO upon removal from their homes or foster care placements.

Increasing school stability improves educational outcomes for youth in foster care and makes it more likely for children to develop long-term relationships with teachers or peers at a time that is crucial to have supportive permanent connections with adults for the benefit of the youth's mental health and well-being.

IMPLEMENTATION OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY'S STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

The recommended actions support the County's Strategic Plan, North Star One: Make investments that transform lives, Focus Area Goal D - Support Vulnerable Populations, Strategy ii, Child Safety and Family Well-being.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The total contract sum will increase to \$10,000,000 for the term ending June 30, 2025. The budget increase is necessary to ensure that youth in foster care receive transportation to their SOO and other school-related activities. Sufficient funding is included in the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Adopted Budget. Funding of the contract is financed using 43 percent State Realignment funds, 43 percent funds from the participating school districts and 14 percent FFS funds.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

DCFS currently provides transportation for youth in foster care to their school of origin through a MOU with Los Angeles County school districts to share the cost of transportation. Additionally, the Los Angeles County Office of Education is providing additional funding through the one-time State awarded Assembly Bill 130 Emergency Grant for direct services to youth in foster care to cover costs, which are currently limited through the current MOU.

County Counsel and the CEO have reviewed the Board letter. County Counsel has approved the amendment as to form.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES

Approval of the recommended action will provide continuous transportation services to school-aged children and youth involved with DCFS. This contract provides transportation services to the SOO and other school-related activities for youth placed in out-of-home care. Therefore, these services will help prevent some placement disruptions, improve school stability, and provide children and youth the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities. There is a performance-monitoring tool in place whereby a Technical Review will be completed to ensure HopSkipDrive's contract compliance.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

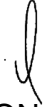
May 6, 2025

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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 attachment to the Department of Children and Family Services.

Respectfully submitted,



BRANDON T. NICHOLS

Director

BTN:JF:CMM:RW

LTI:SS:TN:ec

Enclosures

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



County of Los Angeles

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KATHRYN BARGER

Fifth District

April 1, 2025

To: Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Chair
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell
Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath
Supervisor Janice Hahn

From: Brandon T. Nichols
Director

NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO REQUEST DELEGATED AUTHORITY TO APPROVE AN INCREASE EXCEEDING 10 PERCENT OF THE MAXIMUM ANNUAL CONTRACT AMOUNT

This is to notify the Board that the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) intends to request the Board's delegated authority to increase the funding amount above 10 percent of the current Maximum Annual Contract amount for the Transportation Services Contract with HopSkipDrive, Inc. This notice is issued in compliance with Board Policy 5.120, *Authority to Approve Increases to Board Approved Contract Amounts*, which requires departments to provide advanced written notice and justification to the Board of Supervisors when increasing the maximum amount of the current contract(s).

Additional funding is necessary due to an increase in the number of referrals submitted for transportation services for youth in foster care. The initial annual projected funding amount of \$4,000,000 was based on data that was analyzed two years prior to the contract award. This projection did not account for changes that have occurred since that time, such as an increase in HopSkipDrive rates, an increase in the number of Local Education Agencies participating and the growing number of youth utilizing transportation services.

Children and youth under DCFS' care have a significant need for a quality education and school stability. In 2015, President Obama signed the Every Student Succeeds Act, which imposed requirements on Local Education Agencies and child welfare agencies to jointly establish plans that enable prompt transportation for children and youth in foster care to their School of Origin (SOO) in order to ensure educational stability. In December 2017, DCFS, the Office of Child Protection, Los Angeles County Office of Education and

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Los Angeles Unified School District implemented the Foster Youth School Stability Transportation Pilot program to keep children and youth in foster care in their SOO. The purpose of this pilot was to immediately provide rides to the child(ren)'s SOO, while allowing time for DCFS and the school districts to collect data on the costs to implement this work in the long-term and develop detailed procedures. As the pilot was successful, the SOO Transportation Program was implemented and has continued to provide children and youth in foster care with transportation to their SOO and other school-related activities.

The total contract sum will increase to \$10,000,000 for the term ending June 30, 2025. The budget increase is necessary to ensure that youth in foster care receive transportation to their SOO and other school-related activities. Sufficient funding is included in the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Adopted Budget. Funding of the contract is financed using 43 percent State Realignment funds, 43 percent funds from the participating school districts and 14 percent Flexible Family Supports funds.

If you have any questions or need additional information, you may call me or your staff may contact Aldo Marin, Board Liaison, at (213) 371-6052.

BTN:JF:CMM:RW

LTI:SS:TN:ec

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



AMENDMENT NUMBER ONE

CONTRACT NUMBER 21-0076

WITH

HOPSKIPDRIVE, INC.

FOR

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

**AMENDMENT NUMBER ONE
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
CONTRACT NUMBER 21-0076**

This Amendment Number One (hereinafter referred to as "Amendment") to the Transportation Services Contract Number 21-0076, (hereinafter referred to as "Contract") is made and entered into at Los Angeles, California this ____ day of _____, 2025, by and between the County of Los Angeles (hereinafter referred to as "COUNTY") and HopSkipDrive, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as "Contractor").

WHEREAS, County and Contractor are parties to the Contract adopted by the Board of Supervisors on June 04, 2024, and Contractor has been providing transportation services for youth in foster care, to their school of origin and other school-related activities; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this Amendment is to increase funding to the contract term effective upon execution of Amendment;

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

- 1. Terms and Conditions, Section 5.0 Contract Sum, Subsection 5.1.1.** is deleted in its entirety and replaced as follows:

5.1.1. The Maximum Annual Contract Sum is \$10,000,000 for this contract period. The Maximum Contract Sum for this contract, including the two additional one-year option extensions, is \$30,000,000.


ALL OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS CONTRACT SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT.

**AMENDMENT NUMBER ONE
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
CONTRACT NUMBER 21-0076**

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles has caused this Amendment Number One 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 One 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. This Amendment may be executed in separate counterparts and may be delivered by electronic facsimile; each counterpart, when executed and delivered, shall constitute a duplicate original but all counterparts together shall constitute a single agreement.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

CONTRACTOR
HopSkipDrive, Inc.

By: 
Brandon T. Nichols, Director
Department of Children
and Family Services

By: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Tax Identification Number

APPROVED AS TO FORM
BY THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL
Dawyn R. Harrison, County Counsel

By: 
David Beaudet, Senior Deputy County Counsel