

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Family and Social Services

FESIA A. DAVENPORT
Acting Chief Executive Officer



DATE: Wednesday, September 30, 2020
TIME: 1:30 PM

DUE TO THE CLOSURE OF ALL COUNTY BUILDINGS, MEETING PARTICIPANTS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL NEED TO CALL IN TO PARTICIPATE:

Teleconference Call-In Number: (323) 776-6996/ Conference ID: 747311624#

AGENDA

| |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Members of the Public may address agenda item. Three (3) minutes are allowed for each item. |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

- I. Call to Order
- II. **Presentation/Discussion Items:**
 - a. **Department of Children and Family Services/Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect:** Request to Approve a Three-Year Contract with Alma Family Services for the Child Abuse Prevention and Early Intervention Services Program.
- III. Informational Items:
 - a. **Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services:** Request Authorization to Accept Emergency Food and Shelter Program Funds.
- IV. Items continued from a previous meeting of the Board of Supervisors or from a previous FSS Agenda Review meeting.
- V. Public Comment
- VI. Adjournment



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COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, AGING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

3175 West Sixth Street • Los Angeles, CA 90020

Tel: 213-738-2617



wdacs.lacounty.gov

Hilda L. Solis
Mark Ridley-Thomas
Sheila Kuehl
Janice Hahn
Kathryn Barger

"Connecting communities and improving the lives of all generations"

Otto Solórzano
Acting Director

October 13, 2020

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:

AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER PROGRAM FUNDS (FOUR SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)

SUBJECT

Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services (WDACS) has been awarded federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act funding in the amount of \$12,400 for the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) operated throughout Los Angeles County (County). These federal grant funds are passed through the United Way to WDACS and will support emergency food distribution to County residents at ten of the fourteen WDACS-operated community and senior centers, which serve as food pantry sites (See Attachment A for the full list of sites).

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Delegate authority to the Acting Director of WDACS, or designee, to accept approximately \$12,400 in funds from the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act for the EFSP Phase 37 for the purchase of food commodities by December 31, 2020.
2. Delegate authority to the Acting Director of WDACS, or designee, to use the EFSP funds to purchase food from the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank and the Food Bank of Southern California in an amount not to exceed the grant funds.
3. Delegate authority to the Acting Director of WDACS, or designee, to accept any future McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act funding and execute contracts and/or

contract amendments annually over the next five (5) years through Fiscal Year 2024-25, as needed, provided that the Acting Director informs the Chief Executive Office in writing within twenty (20) work days of accepting the funding.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

WDACS has significantly increased emergency food assistance to meet rising needs during the COVID-19 pandemic. We partnered with the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank to increase distribution from 31,500 pounds in February to about 200,000 pounds per month since April. We have provided more than 1 million pounds of food during the pandemic and served about 19,000 residents per month. We also transitioned to an appointment-based, drive-thru food pickup model at the ten Centers to ensure social distancing.

Our food distribution efforts target low-income individuals, those experiencing homelessness, older adults and others in need. The recommended actions will allow WDACS to augment our food assistance to County residents in four Supervisorial Districts (SD). WDACS does not operate a Center in SD3.

WDACS' funding allocation is based on the EFSP formula, which considers population, poverty level and unemployment data for the zip codes within the Service Planning Areas (SPA) that we serve through the ten Centers. Food is obtained at .25 cents per pound, although the retail value is approximately 16 times greater. This will enable WDACS to serve approximately 49,600 meals to area residents with the \$12,400 allocation, as follows:

| District | Funding Level | Number of Meals |
|------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| District 1 (SPAs 3, 4, 6, 7) | \$5,166 | 20,664 |
| District 2 (SPAs 6,7,8) | \$4,134 | 16,536 |
| District 4 (SPAs 6,7,8) | \$1,034 | 4,136 |
| District 5 (SPA 2) | \$2,066 | 8,264 |
| Total | \$12,400 | 49,600 |

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended actions support Countywide Strategic Plan Goal II: Foster Vibrant and Resilient Communities, specifically Strategy II.2 – Support the Wellness of Our Communities.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

EFSP is fully financed by federal funds and there will be no impact to the County's General Fund.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act provides grant funding annually to local food and shelter programs to help those most in need. These funds are administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and are governed by the EFSP National Board. The United Way is the local lead agency in providing these funds to grantees in the County. WDACS was awarded \$12,400 in August to purchase food from the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank and the Food Bank of Southern California. The funds must be spent by December 31, 2020.

The EFSP funding augments other USDA commodities and food donations that WDACS obtains from the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank for distribution to older adults, individuals experiencing homelessness, unemployed individuals, and low income residents within the County.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

United Way allocates funding to WDACS on an annual basis consistent with the EFSP funding formula. WDACS signs an annual Agreement with United Way to accept the grant funds and follow EFSP guidelines in purchasing and distributing the food commodities.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES

The recommended actions will enhance and ensure continuity of WDACS' services to address food insecurity within the County.

CONCLUSION

Should you have any questions, please contact me directly, or your staff may contact Mr. Kevin Anderson, Special Assistant, at (213) 738-2593.

Respectfully submitted,

OTTO SOLÓRZANO
Acting Director

OS: LZ: AM

Enclosure

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

INTER-AGENCY COUNCIL ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

County of Los Angeles



COUNCIL MEMBERS

JACKIE LACEY, Co-Chairperson
District Attorney

ALEX VILLANUEVA, Co-Chairperson
Sheriff, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

XAVIER BECERRA
California Attorney General

AUSTIN BEUTNER
Superintendent, LA Unified School District

BOBBY CAGLE
Director, Children and Family Services

SHERRI R. CARTER
Executive Officer/Clerk, Superior Court

RALPH DIAZ
Secretary, California Department of
Corrections and Rehabilitation

DEBRA DUARDO, MSW, Ed.D
Superintendent, Office of Education

BARBARA FERRER, PH.D., MPH, MED
Director, Department of Public Health

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Los Angeles City Attorney

RICARDO D. GARCIA
Public Defender

CHRISTINA GHALLY, MD
Director, Health Services

VICTOR GREENBERG
Presiding Judge, Juvenile Court

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Chief Executive Officer

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Development Commission

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Interim Chief Probation Officer

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Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner

MICHEL MOORE
Chief, Los Angeles Police Department

FRANCE NUYEN
Appointee, Board of Supervisors

DARYL OSBY
Fire Chief, Forester and Fire Warden

SKYE PATRICK
County Librarian, Public Library

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Appointee, Board of Supervisors

JONATHAN E. SHERIN, MD, Ph.D.
Director, Mental Health

OTTO SOLORZANO
Acting Director, Workforce Development, Aging
and Community Services

LILIA A. VARGAS
Appointee, Board of Supervisors

CLAUDIA WANG, MD
UCLA Health System SCAN Team

JOHN WICKER
Director, Parks and Recreation

MARY C. WICKHAM
County Counsel

October 20, 2020

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

4024 N. DURFEE AVENUE
EL MONTE, CA 91732
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DEANNE TILTON DURFEE
Executive Director

Dear Supervisors:

REQUEST TO APPROVE A THREE-YEAR EXTENSION OF THE CONTRACT WITH ALMA FAMILY SERVICES FOR A PROGRAM ADDRESSING CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL AND UNIQUE NEEDS FUNDED WITH AB 2994 SURPLUS CHILDREN'S TRUST FUNDS

(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)

SUBJECT

This is to request the Board's approval to extend the Child Abuse Prevention and Early Intervention Services Program contract with Alma Family Services. This contract is funded by the County Children's Trust Fund (AB 2994).

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Delegate authority to the Director of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), or designee, to execute an amendment to extend the term of the contract with Alma Family Services for the Child Abuse Prevention and Early Intervention Program. The extension will be effective January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2023 with two one-year contract extension options through December 31, 2025. The Maximum Annual Contract Amount for this contract is \$300,000. The aggregate five-year amount for this contract is \$1,500,000, using 100 percent AB 2994 funds.



INTER-AGENCY COUNCIL ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

County of Los Angeles



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DEANNE TILTON DUFFEE
Executive Director

2. Delegate authority to the DCFS Director, or designee, to execute future amendments to change terms and conditions, if necessary, to accommodate unanticipated changes in service needs and to increase or decrease the contract amounts not to exceed 10 percent of the Annual Contract Amount. Approval from County Counsel will be obtained prior to executing such amendments, and the Director will notify the Board and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in writing within 10 business days after execution.

3. Delegate authority to the Director of DCFS, or designee, to execute two optional one-year periods through December 31, 2025. The extension options will be exercised by written notice provided that: (a) sufficient funding is available; (b) prior County Counsel approval is obtained; and (c) the Director of DCFS notifies the Board and the CEO in writing, within 10 working days of execution.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Alma Family Services developed a child abuse and neglect prevention/early intervention program that serves children with special and unique needs. For purposes of this program special and unique needs include a developmental delay or disability, mental health diagnosis, learning disability, receiving special education services or displaying behavioral challenges. The program goals are to provide child abuse prevention/early intervention and specialized case management services for parents and caregivers of children and youth with special and unique needs. The population to be served includes children and youth who are at risk of or have been abused or neglected, and the program seeks to prevent re-victimization. Alma also works toward building and strengthening the bridge between DCFS staff, Regional Center staff, school districts, county agencies and community service providers.

National research shows that children and adolescents with special and unique needs are known to be vulnerable to abuse and neglect and are likely to be victimized at a much higher rate than other children (4 to 10 times more often). In addition, these children are often inadequately educated and supported to seek alternatives to abusive situations. It is also known that there is often an underreporting of abuse, neglect and victimization for children and adolescents with special and unique needs. Through this program, Alma Family Services is providing important and necessary services to this underserved and highly at-risk group of children.

Alma's current contract is for \$100,000/year and services have been provided at one site, the El Monte/South El Monte office. It is being recommended that the Alma contract be expanded to three additional sites with a \$300,00 annual budget. Given that Alma is one of very few agencies that currently provide parenting for caregivers of children with special needs in Los Angeles County, expanding Alma's service delivery will significantly broaden DCFS' impact and capacity to offer these critical preventive services to hard-to reach populations (please see Attachment I: Alma Family Services Proposed Statement of Work).



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DEANNE TILTON DURFEE
Executive Director

Alma's proposal for the extension and expansion of these services states:

"Alma Family Services provides a range of community supportive services in the above-listed sites. Direct feedback from parents as well as staff's own experience in seeking additional resources for families has demonstrated the scarcity of court-approved bilingual parenting classes [especially for special needs children]. Additionally, these are multi-stressed communities comprised of parents who display a significant need for additional support and education."

Alma Family Services proposes to offer both group and in-home individual education in the following Los Angeles County areas: East Los Angeles, El Monte, Huntington Park and Boyle Heights. These sites have been identified as spaces conducive for the delivery of parenting education. Alma's Child Abuse Prevention Specialists will offer weekly instructional and support groups for parents of children with special needs in both English and Spanish. Group sessions will focus on both foundational and more complex parenting skills. Alma utilizes the Breakthrough Parenting curriculum for both group sessions and one-on-one parenting training and support.

Alma will provide parents and their children in-home instruction, modeling, and support weekly. Services will be offered at the client's place of residence unless an alternative location is agreed upon with the family for specific sessions in the field. The Child Abuse Prevention Specialists will collaboratively address parenting and family patterns that might contribute to challenges related to the child's behavior and special needs. Alma staff will utilize a needs assessment to collaboratively identify with the parent the needs of the family. One-on-one in-home sessions with parents will focus on ways to promote family unity, managing conflict, positive dynamics of change and appropriate ways of addressing problematic behaviors. Additionally, Alma staff will offer linkage and support access to additional resources as needed.

Alma proposes to expand the number of adults who participate in Parenting Classes from 100 to 300 per calendar year. It is estimated that 900 parents will participate in this service category at the end of the three-year contract term. Additionally, the number of children/parents with special and unique needs and their parents receiving in-home parent training and support services will increase from 100 children/parents to 200 children/parents per calendar year. It is estimated that 600 families will participate in this service category at the end of the three-year contract term.

Alma will provide parenting classes series as follows:

El Montes site: 8 series of 10 classes each (4 in English and 4 in Spanish); East Los Angeles site: 4 series of 10 classes each (2 in English and 2 in Spanish); Huntington Park site: 4 series of 10 classes each (2 in English and 2 in Spanish); Boyle Heights site: 4 series of 10 classes each (2 in English and 2 in Spanish).



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DEANNE TILTON DURFEE
Executive Director

Parents must maintain 80% attendance to complete a series of classes (8 out of 10 sessions), earning a certificate of completion which can be submitted to referral sources as needed.

With the expansion to 3 additional sites, the increased budget will cover the costs of:

- One 0.30 FTE Program Coordinator to provide administrative supervision and oversight for all staff, including overseeing data collection and documentation, provision of specialized knowledge and insight to assist in implementing plans aimed at promoting parent's growth and family wellness, and provision of a minimum of one hour of individual supervision each week per staff;
- One FTE Family Support Services Supervisor to serve as the team lead under the Program Coordinator to support the communication and coordination with DCFS, screen and assign referrals, monitor cases, review caseloads, facilitate team meetings and trainings, and provide programmatic supervision to the Child Abuse Prevention Specialists.
- Three FTE Child Abuse Prevention Specialists to carry a caseload of children who have developmental disabilities and an open child abuse file with DCFS. The child abuse prevention specialists will augment the services provided by DCFS staff and provide case management services to include, coordinating with DCFS staff to identify developmentally disabled children who have experienced child abuse or neglect, consulting with DCFS staff (as well as the child and family) regarding the types of supports and services that are needed, and coordinate with DCFS staff parents/foster parents to remove barriers to placement.

Alma also will apportion some of their rental costs for the three new sites to this contract (\$18,000), an expense that was not needed before as they do not pay rent at the El Monte site (please see Attachment II: Budget and Budget Narrative).

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

This program addresses the County's strategic goals related to Children, Family and Adult Well-Being, Health and Mental Health and Public Safety. In addition, they provide collaboration and coordination between County departments, the community and contracting partners. This program promotes interventions and specialized case management services for parents and caregivers of children and youth with special and unique needs and for children and youth who are at risk of or have been abused or neglected, while significantly preventing re-victimization.



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DEANNE TILTON DURFEE
Executive Director

Children and adolescents with special and unique needs are known to be vulnerable to abuse and neglect and are likely to be victimized at a much higher rate than other children. Providing specialized services to this vulnerable population has at its core a focus on keeping these children safe while facilitating paths for connections to resources, helping caregivers build protective capacities and change behaviors or conditions that caused these children to be unsafe or at risk of future harm; these activities enhance children's well-being and stabilize families.

This program also builds and strengthens the bridge between DCFS, Regional Centers, school districts, the Department of Mental Health and other specialty service providers who work with children with special and unique needs. These activities promote connections with health and mental health providers to ensure child and family well-being as well as public safety with greater emphasis on improving reports of child abuse/neglect for this population. Also, a focus on early intervention, and education are recognized child abuse prevention approaches.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The Maximum Annual Contract Amount is \$300,000. The aggregate three-year amount for this contract is \$900,000 and the Maximum Contract Amount if all optional years are exercised is \$1,500,000 using 100 percent AB 2994 funds. There is no fiscal impact to the County. AB 2994 funds stem from birth certificate surcharge fees deposited into the County Children's Trust Fund. The DCFS Finance Section has assured ICAN that sufficient funds remain with the Children's Trust Fund to continue this program for an additional three years.

FACTS AND PROVISIONAL/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

In 1992, the Governor of California signed into law two bills aimed at preventing and treating child abuse and neglect. The first bill, Assembly 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, non-profit organizations. AB 2994 requires that \$4.00 of any fee for a certified copy of a birth certificate shall be paid to a County Children's Trust Fund. Both of these laws provide that a designated multi-disciplinary child abuse council develop and recommend funding priorities to the Board of Supervisors. In Los Angeles County, the designated child abuse council is ICAN.



INTER-AGENCY COUNCIL ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

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DEANNE TILTON DURFEE
Executive Director

ICAN engaged in a very serious and lengthy process to review and evaluate the proposal for this program. ICAN formed a special Ad Hoc Group comprised of members from numerous County and City agencies. This Ad Hoc Group held a face-to-face meeting and engaged in an extensive process to vet Alma's proposal so that any concerns about the program could be addressed, and to reach consensus regarding recommending approval for funding. Approval for funding this specialized program also was given by the ICAN Policy Committee. Specialized programs are currently funded in all five supervisorial districts. ICAN works with DCFS Program staff to monitor the effectiveness of the services being provided and it has been determined that this program fills a vital need in the County and the services should be expanded and continued.

RECOMMENDED PROGRAM

Child Abuse Prevention and Early Intervention Program

The program provides in home parent-child education and support to children and their parents who reside in the First District and have been identified or suspected of having special and unique needs. Special and unique needs include a developmental delay or disability, mental health diagnosis, learning disability, receiving special education services or displaying behavioral challenges. The needs of this specialized population have often been inadequately addressed in the past and this program will promote effective services and case management for them.

CONTRACT PROCESS

No additional contracting process is required. ICAN is responsible for making recommendations to select non-profit community-based agencies that receive funding through AB 2994; and DCFS has responsibility for administering the contracts between the County and the private non-profit community-based agencies.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES

Linking children and families with service providers who specialize or are familiar with children with special and unique needs, providing education on child abuse and prevention, and building and strengthening the bridge with service providers for this population are important activities for maintaining family relationships and supporting goals for stability. These services promote connections with health and mental health providers to ensure child and family well-being and can alleviate problems such as safety concerns and fear of ongoing abuse experienced by these children. This program provides an opportunity to assess the impact of interventions designed to improve parenting skills and parent-child interactions.



INTER-AGENCY COUNCIL ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

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DEANNE TILTON DURFEE
Executive Director

The investment in supportive interventions on educational needs, parenting, and skill building needed to work with this population can begin the process of healing for families. The program strengthens the bridge between DCFS, Regional Centers and other specialty service providers working with this population and provides access to highly specialized services that otherwise would be difficult to obtain. This program is meeting needs that would otherwise not be met and reduces DCFS' and the community's ability to reduce trauma to these children and youth.

CONCLUSION

Upon Board approval, the Executive Office, Board of Supervisors, is requested to return an adopted, stamped Board letter and attachments to the Department of Children and Family Services and Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Deanne Tilton Durfee".

Deanne Tilton Durfee, Doc.hc
Executive Director
Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect

DTD:ES

Attachments

- c: Sheriff Alex Villaneuva, ICAN Co-Chairperson
District Attorney Jackie Lacey, ICAN Co-Chairperson
Sachi Hamai, Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Bobby Cagle, Director, DCFS
Children's Board Deputies
Mary Wickham, County Counsel
Celia Zavala, Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

