



Board of Supervisors Family & Social Services Cluster Agenda Review Meeting

DATE: February 14, 2024

TIME: **2:15PM** – 3:30PM

MEETING CHAIRS: Susan Kim & Aaron Fox, 3rd Supervisorial District

CEO MEETING FACILITATOR: Claudia Alarcon

This meeting will be held in a hybrid format which allows the public to participate virtually, or in-person, as permitted under the Board of Supervisors' August 8, 2023 order, which suspended the application of Board Policy 3.055 until March 31, 2024.

To participate in the meeting in-person, the meeting location is:

Kenneth Hahn Hall Of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012
Room 140

To participate in the meeting virtually, please call teleconference number 1 (323) 776-6996 and enter the following 995 916 944# or

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Members of the Public may address the Family & Social Services Cluster on any agenda item during General Public Comment.

The meeting chair will determine the amount of time allowed for each item.

THIS TELECONFERENCE WILL BE MUTED FOR ALL CALLERS. PLEASE DIAL *6 TO UNMUTE YOUR PHONE WHEN IT IS YOUR TIME TO SPEAK.

- I. Call to Order
- II. Notice of Closed Session

CS1-	CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – Existing Litigation	<u>1:30PM</u>
	Government Code Section 54956.9, subdivision (d)(1)	
	Ocean S., et al. v. Los Angeles County, et al.	
	US District Court Case No. 2:23-cv-06921-JAK-E)	
	Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)/ Department of Mental Health	
- III. **Consent Item(s)** (Any Information Item is subject to discussion and/or presentation at the request of two or more Board offices):
 - a. **DCFS:** Recommendation to Approve to Execute Emergency Shelter Care Services Contracts with Various Approved Resource Family Parents.
- IV. **Presentation/Discussion Items:**
 - a. **Department of Youth Development:** Department Update.

V. Public Comment

VI. Standing item(s) and those continued from a previous meeting of the Board of Supervisors or from a previous FSS Agenda Review meeting:

-- No Items --

VII. Adjournment

BOARD LETTER/MEMO CLUSTER FACT SHEET

 Board Letter

 Board Memo

 Other

CLUSTER AGENDA REVIEW DATE	2/14/2024		
BOARD MEETING DATE	3/6/2024		
SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT AFFECTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All <input type="checkbox"/> 1 st <input type="checkbox"/> 2 nd <input type="checkbox"/> 3 rd <input type="checkbox"/> 4 th <input type="checkbox"/> 5 th		
DEPARTMENT(S)	Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)		
SUBJECT	RECOMMENDATIONS TO AWARD CONTRACTS FOR EMERGENCY SHELTER CARE SERVICES WITH VARIOUS APPROVED RESOURCE FAMILY PARENTS (ALL DISTRICTS – 3 VOTES)		
PROGRAM	Emergency Shelter Care		
AUTHORIZES DELEGATED AUTHORITY TO DEPT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
SOLE SOURCE CONTRACT	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
	If Yes, please explain why:		
DEADLINES/ TIME CONSTRAINTS	New contracts to begin April 1, 2024.		
COST & FUNDING	Total cost: \$2,000,000	Funding source: Financed by 85 percent (\$1,700,000) Federal funds and 15 percent (\$300,000) net County cost.	
	TERMS (if applicable): Effective April 1, 2024 through March 31, 2025, with the County's option to extend up to four additional one-year periods.		
	Explanation: On February 8, 2023, DCFS obtained written approval from the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to solicit and procure new contracts for a five-year term with qualified licensed foster parents using the Request for Statements of Qualifications (RFSQ) solicitation process, which includes a review of qualifications and compliance with appropriate policies and procedures.		
PURPOSE OF REQUEST	New contract term commencing April 1, 2024.		
BACKGROUND (include internal/external issues that may exist including any related motions)	<p>Approval will allow the Department to continue to provide ESC services by entering into new contracts with prospective resource parents to provide temporary shelter in their homes to children and youth taken into protective custody by DCFS.</p> <p>The ESC program provides continuous bed availability 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for up to 14 days or less at pre-established monthly rates to ensure emergency shelter care is available when needed for teen mothers with infants, children, youth and Non-Minor Dependents (NMDs).</p>		
EQUITY INDEX OR LENS WAS UTILIZED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If Yes, please explain how: The CDSS and DCFS licensing, contracting, review, and selection process ensures equal opportunity for all qualified ESC Providers.		

	<p>Additionally, ESC Contracts are monitored for compliance to ensure the Contractors meet the program goals and needs of placed children, youth, and NMDs, in accordance with State and County requirements, which ensure and support service delivery on the basis of equity and fair treatment for all children, youth, and NMDs in care.</p>
<p>SUPPORTS ONE OF THE NINE BOARD PRIORITIES</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If Yes, please state which one(s) and explain how: Child Protection: ESC services ensure that immediate placement and a healthy and safe environment are available to children, youth, sibling groups, teen mothers with infants, and NMDs taken into protective custody after regular office hours, weekends, and holidays.</p>
<p>DEPARTMENTAL CONTACTS</p>	<p>Name, Title, Phone # & Email: Aldo Marin, Board Liaison (213) 371-6052 marina@dcfs.lacounty.gov</p>



BRANDON T. NICHOLS
Director

**County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

510 S. Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90020
(213) 371-6236



Board of Supervisors
HILDA L. SOLIS
First District
HOLLY J. MITCHELL
Second District
LINDSEY P. HORVATH
Third District
JANICE HAHN
Fourth District
KATHRYN BARGER
Fifth District

March 6, 2024

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:

**RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE TO EXECUTE EMERGENCY SHELTER CARE
SERVICES CONTRACTS WITH VARIOUS APPROVED RESOURCE FAMILY
PARENTS
(ALL DISTRICTS – 3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) requests the Board's approval to execute 14 Emergency Shelter Care (ESC) services contracts to provide temporary shelter to children and youth taken into protective custody by DCFS.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Delegate authority to the Director of DCFS, or designee, to prepare and execute 14 contracts (substantially similar to Attachment A) for the provision of ESC services, effective April 1, 2024 through March 31, 2025, with the County's option to extend up to four additional one-year periods. The Maximum Annual Contract Amount for the ESC program is \$400,000, with the aggregate five-year funding amount of \$2,000,000, financed by 85 percent Federal funds and 15 percent net County cost. Funding is included in the Department's Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-2024 Adopted Budget, and will be included for subsequent fiscal years in the Department's future budget requests.

2. Delegate authority to the Director of DCFS, or designee, to execute additional contracts (substantially similar to Attachment A), resulting from subsequent Statements of Qualifications submissions that are found to be responsive and responsible through the closing of the Request for Statements of Qualifications (RFSQ), which is on September 30, 2028. These contracts will be executed with a six-month contract term with an anticipated sunset date of March 31, 2029, provided that: a) sufficient funding is available, b) County Counsel approval is obtained, and c) DCFS notifies the Board and Chief Executive Office (CEO), in writing, within ten business days after the execution of such contracts.

3. Delegate authority to the Director of DCFS, or designee, to extend the contracts by amendments for optional term extensions, which includes a six-month extension beyond March 31, 2029, and to execute amendments to the current contracts to increase or decrease bed capacity as necessary, or for any changes to the terms and conditions to meet program needs, provided that: a) sufficient funding is available, b) County Counsel approval is obtained, and c) DCFS notifies the Board and CEO, in writing, within ten business days after the execution of such amendments.

4. Delegate authority to the Director of DCFS, or designee, to terminate contracts for convenience, provided that the contractor requests termination in writing, and/or the Director of DCFS, or designee, finds that it is in the best interest of the County to terminate the contract for convenience, provided that: a) County Counsel approval is obtained prior to such termination, and b) DCFS notifies the Board and CEO, in writing, within ten business days after the termination of such contracts.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The ESC program is designed to provide continuous bed availability twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, for up to 14 days or less at pre-established monthly rates to ensure emergency shelter care is available when needed for teen mothers with infants, children, youth and Non-Minor Dependents (NMDs).

The current ESC contracts will sunset on March 31, 2024. The recommended actions will ensure continuous availability of beds for temporary placements of children and NMDs taken into protective custody by DCFS staff, pending court disposition, or until stable placement is secured. These services ensure that immediate placement and a healthy and safe environment are available to children, youth, sibling groups, teen mothers with infants, and NMDs.

It is important that DCFS continue to maintain reliable and safe temporary placements for children taken into protective custody after regular office hours, weekends, and holidays. Without approval of the recommended actions, placements would not be readily available for emergency placements, and child safety and well-being would be jeopardized.

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

The recommended actions are consistent with the principles of the County Strategic Plan Goal #1, Make Investments That Transform Lives – By aggressively addressing society’s most complicated social, health, and public safety challenges through implementing programs in order to respond to complex societal problems – one person at a time.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The aggregate five-year Maximum Contract Amount is \$2,000,000. The Maximum Annual Contract Amount is \$400,000. The annual contract costs will be financed by 85 percent (\$340,000) Federal funds and 15 percent (\$60,000) net County cost. Funding is included in the Department’s FY 2023-2024 Adopted Budget, and will be included for subsequent fiscal years in the Department’s future budget requests.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The ESC services contracts with qualified contractors who are approved resource family parents by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) and have at least six months of active experience as an approved resource family parent in Los Angeles County providing ESC services. The current contracts were procured as a result of the ESC RFSQ that opened on December 8, 2017 and closed on December 30, 2022.

The contract requires the contractors to have beds continuously available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, at pre-established monthly bed availability rates as follows: \$400 per bed for children ages 0-17 and Non-Minor Dependents (for sibling groups, two beds must be available at a minimum); and \$600 per teen mother and infant child (one bed and one crib). When the contractor’s available beds are utilized, the contractor receives additional compensation as determined by the Level of Care Protocol, including any applicable Specialized Care Increments as established and approved by the CDSS and under Aid to Families with Dependent Children-Foster Care (AFDC-FC) Specialized Care Rate (SCR) category for foster children, based on the child’s status and the number of days in the contractor’s home. Upon placement, the contractor provides full supportive services, including but not limited to, supervision, clothing, food, emergency medical treatment and transportation to and from medical and dental appointments.

The contract complies with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws and regulations in delivering ESC services. It also expressly provides that the County is not obligated to pay contractors any amount whatsoever in excess of the Maximum Annual Contract Sum.

County Counsel has approved the form contract, Attachment A, as to form.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

On February 8, 2023, DCFS obtained written approval from CDSS to solicit qualified licensed foster parents using the RFSQ solicitation process, which includes a review of qualifications and compliance with appropriate policies and procedures. Applicants with the necessary qualifications and licenses who comply with RFSQ requirements are eligible to contract with the County. On August 1, 2023, DCFS released the RFSQ for ESC services and posted the RFSQ on the County's website and the DCFS website. The RFSQ is open continuously from August 1, 2023, through September 30, 2028.

Fourteen Statements of Qualifications were submitted, with no protests to the Solicitations Requirements Review, and the 14 contractors have been found to be responsive and responsible, and in compliance with all requirements. Eight of the 14 recommended contractors are current ESC contractors for the contracts that will sunset on March 31, 2024, and six are new contractors.

After consulting with CEO Risk Management and County Counsel, DCFS determined that it was necessary for the contract to deviate from the standard insurance coverage requirements established for most County contractors. ESC contractors are not required to maintain liability insurance coverage since they meet the definition of "caregivers" as defined in Welfare and Institutions Code 326.06 (a) (1), which states, "a caregiver shall be immune from liability in a civil action to recover damages for injury, death, or loss to person or property." Therefore, DCFS would be responsible for any liability in connection to their services related to these contracts. Additionally, the Department has assessed ESC services and determined that a Living Wage Program (County Code Chapter 2.201) does not apply to the recommended contracts.

DCFS will maintain regular contact with the contractors and will conduct comprehensive foster family home-visit evaluations every six months. The home-visit evaluations allow DCFS to monitor the contractors' compliance with the contract and applicable regulations, including the well-being of placed children and the condition of the foster home.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)


Approval of the new contracts will allow the Department to continue to provide continuous bed availability 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to children and youth taken into care by DCFS. Current ESC services contracts have allowed DCFS to access temporary placement options for children taken into protective custody after normal business hours, during weekends and holidays.

CONCLUSION

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
March 6, 2024
Page 5

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 Department of Children and Family Services.

Respectfully submitted,



BRANDON T. NICHOLS
Director

BTN:CMM:LTI
AO:CK:tj

Attachments

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