



Board of Supervisors Family & Social Services Cluster Agenda Review Meeting

DATE: April 2, 2025

TIME: 1:30PM

MEETING CHAIRS: Monica Banken, 5th Supervisorial District

CEO MEETING FACILITATOR: Claudia Alarcon

THIS MEETING IS HELD UNDER THE GUIDELINES OF BOARD POLICY 3.055.

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](#)

For Spanish Interpretation, the Public should send emails within 48 hours in advance of the meeting to: ClusterAccommodationRequest@bos.lacounty.gov

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. **Consent Item(s)** (Any Information Item is subject to discussion and/or presentation at the request of two or more Board offices):
 - a. **Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS):** Request to Approve a Sole Source Contract Extension with Fostering Unity for Caregiver and Youth Support Services.
 - b. **DCFS:** Request to Approve Amendment to Transportation Services Contract.
- III. **Presentation/Discussion Items:**
- IV. **Public Comment**
- V. Standing item(s) and those continued from a previous meeting of the Board of Supervisors or from a previous FSS Agenda Review meeting.
- VI. **NOTICE OF CLOSED SESSION**
 - CS1- **CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – Anticipated Litigation**
Government Code Section 54956.9, subdivision (d)(2)
Significant exposure to litigation (one case)
Department: Child Support Services

VII. Adjournment

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO EMAIL A COMMENT ON AN ITEM ON THE FAMILY & SOCIAL SERVICES CLUSTER AGENDA, PLEASE USE THE FOLLOWING EMAIL ADDRESS AND INCLUDE THE AGENDA NUMBER YOU ARE COMMENTING ON:

Family_Social_Services@ceo.lacounty.gov

**BOARD LETTER/MEMO
CLUSTER FACT SHEET**

Board Letter

Board Memo

Other

CLUSTER AGENDA REVIEW DATE	4/2/2025	
BOARD MEETING DATE	4/29/2025	
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	Request to extend the Caregiver and Youth Support Services contract with Fostering UNITY for Contract Number 23-0069 effective June 1, 2025 through May 31, 2026 with two optional one-year extension periods through May 31, 2028, to initiate and complete a Request for Proposal (RFP) solicitation.	
PROGRAM	The Caregiver and Youth Support Services contract is to provide Los Angeles County DCFS a unique, multi-faceted support and retention model designed to provide relative and foster caregivers with mentoring services, continuing education, in-the-moment support, family strengthening for successful reunification and/or permanency, and improved outcomes for children and youth experiencing foster care. In addition, Fostering UNITY will provide real-time ongoing support as needed and will provide a 30-day, 60-day and 90-day follow up engagement to assess additional support needs.	
AUTHORIZES DELEGATED AUTHORITY TO DEPT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
SOLE SOURCE CONTRACT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If Yes, please explain why: Fostering UNITY was selected as a vendor due to their proven record of accomplishment and established caregiver and youth supportive services. This extension will provide sufficient time for DCFS to initiate and complete a RFP solicitation.	
SB 1439 SUPPLEMENTAL DECLARATION FORM REVIEW COMPLETED BY EXEC OFFICE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No – Not Applicable If unsure whether a matter is subject to the Levine Act, email your packet to EOLevineAct@bos.lacounty.gov to avoid delays in scheduling your Board Letter.	
DEADLINES/ TIME CONSTRAINTS	The current Caregiver and Youth Support Services contract expires on May 31, 2025. The Department is requesting to extend this contract effective June 1, 2025 through May 31, 2026, to ensure there is no lapse in services to this vulnerable population and to start developing a RFP solicitation.	
COST & FUNDING	Total cost: \$297,500	Funding source: 100 percent Flexible Family Supports (FFS) funds provided by Assembly Bill (AB) 179
	TERMS (if applicable): June 1, 2025, through May 31, 2026, with two optional one-year extension periods through May 31, 2028.	
	Explanation: The Maximum Annual Contract Amount for this extension will be \$297,500 effective June 1, 2025 through May 30, 2026. This contract will be financed using 100 percent FFS funds provided by AB 179. Sufficient funding will be included in the Department's Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget Request. Additionally, alternative funding sources will be explored for the two optional one-year extension periods effective June 1, 2026 through May 31, 2028, and will be included in the Department's future budget requests.	
PURPOSE OF REQUEST	The purpose of the Caregiver and Youth Support Services contract is to provide Los Angeles County DCFS a unique, multi-faceted support and retention model designed to provide relative and foster caregivers with mentoring services, continuing education, in-the-moment support, family strengthening for successful reunification and/or	

	<p>permanency, and improved outcomes for children and youth experiencing foster care. In addition, Fostering UNITY will provide real-time ongoing support as needed and will provide a 30-day, 60-day and 90-day follow up engagement to assess additional support needs.</p>
<p>BACKGROUND (include internal/external issues that may exist including any related motions)</p>	<p>On January 1, 2023, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) issued an All County Letter 23-02 for FFS funding and DCFS submitted a proposal to access the FFS funds. Subsequently, on April 7, 2023, DCFS received approval from the CDSS to utilize the funds to contract with Fostering UNITY. In addition, CDSS' Contracts Section approved the multi-year sole source contract.</p>
<p>The EQUITY INDEX OR LENS WAS UTILIZED</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Link to ARDI's Equity Lens: https://ceo.lacounty.gov/ardi/ If Yes, please explain how: The County seeks to make change by increasing access, economic opportunity, equity and overall health in communities. With this in mind, the contract was submitted to the Office of Equity for review and approval.</p>
<p>FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT (FFPSA) LENS WAS UTILIZED</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If Yes, please explain how: Yes, The contract was submitted to the Family First Services Act Manager, Robert Woolridge and reported the following; My team has reviewed the SOW with an FFPSA lens and does not have any input at this time. The SOW appears to capture all required elements of the work being requested and FFS as the funding source seems appropriate.</p>
<p>SUPPORTS ONE OF THE NINE BOARD PRIORITIES</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Link to BOS Priorities: https://ceo.lacounty.gov/category/priorities-initiative/ If Yes, please state which one(s) and explain how: CHILD PROTECTION This priority focuses on the Office of Child Protection. In partnership, DCFS, through its community efforts and strategic connections, forged relationships to ensure youth with the most complex care needs receive services and supports via the Caregiver and Youth Support Services</p>
<p>DEPARTMENTAL CONTACTS</p>	<p>Name, Title, Phone # & Email: Michael Ross, Division Chief 909-219-2284 / rossm@dcfs.lacounty.gov</p>



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

HILDA L. SOLIS

First District

HOLLY J. MITCHELL

Second District

LINDSEY P. HORVATH

Third District

JANICE HAHN

Fourth District

KATHRYN BARGER

Fifth District

April 29, 2025

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

Dear Supervisors:

**REQUEST TO APPROVE A SOLE SOURCE CONTRACT EXTENSION WITH
FOSTERING UNITY FOR CAREGIVER AND YOUTH SUPPORT SERVICES
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) seeks delegated authority to execute Amendment Two to extend the current Caregiver and Youth Support Services contract with Fostering UNITY for Contract Number 23-0069 effective June 1, 2025 through May 31, 2026, with two optional one-year extension periods through May 31, 2028, to initiate and complete a Request for Proposal (RFP) solicitation.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Delegate authority to the Director of DCFS, or designee, to execute Caregiver and Youth Support Services Contract Amendment Two, substantially similar to the attached amendment with Fostering UNITY, to extend the current contract effective June 1, 2025 through May 31, 2026, to initiate and complete a RFP solicitation.
2. Delegate authority to the Director of DCFS, or designee, to execute amendments to the Caregiver and Youth Support Services contract to meet program needs, provided that: (a) applicable Federal, State and County contracting regulations are observed; (b) sufficient funding is available; (c) County Counsel approval is obtained prior to execution of such amendment(s); and (d) the Director of DCFS notifies the Board and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), in writing, within 10 business days of executing such amendment(s).

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

3. Delegate authority to the Director of DCFS, or designee, to execute amendments to increase or decrease the Maximum Annual Contract Amount up to a total of 10 percent per year during the term of the Contract to accommodate any increase or decrease in service, provided that: (a) sufficient funding is available; (b) County Counsel approval is obtained prior to execution of such amendment(s); and (c) the Director of DCFS notifies the Board and the CEO, in writing, within 10 business days of executing such amendment(s).
4. Delegate authority to the Director of DCFS, or designee, to execute amendments in instances of acquisitions, mergers, or other changes in ownership, provided that: (a) County Counsel approval is obtained prior to execution of such amendment(s); and (b) the Director of DCFS notifies the Board and the CEO, in writing, within 10 business days of executing such amendment(s).
5. Delegate authority to the Director of DCFS, or designee, to terminate the contract for contractor's default, County's convenience, or contractor initiates termination for convenience, provided that: (a) County Counsel approval is obtained prior to termination of the agreement; and (b) the Director of DCFS notifies the Board and the CEO, in writing, within 10 business days of terminating the contract.
6. Delegate authority to the Director of DCFS, or designee, to extend the Caregiver and Youth Support Services contract for two years effective June 1, 2026 through May 31, 2028, if necessary, to complete the RFP solicitation process, provided that: (a) sufficient funding is available; (b) County Counsel approval is obtained prior to execution of such amendment(s); and (c) the Director of DCFS notifies the Board and the CEO, in writing, within 10 business days of executing such amendment(s).

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The purpose of the Caregiver and Youth Support Services contract is to provide Los Angeles County DCFS a unique, multi-faceted support and retention model designed to provide relative and foster caregivers with mentoring services, continuing education, in-the-moment support, family strengthening for successful reunification and/or permanency, and improved outcomes for children and youth experiencing foster care. In addition, Fostering UNITY will provide real-time ongoing support as needed and will provide a 30-day, 60-day and 90-day follow up engagement to assess additional support needs.

Without extending the Caregiver and Youth Support Services contract, the County will not have sufficient services to strengthen connections, form positive relationships, increase reunification/promote permanency, increase caregiver retention and improve overall outcomes for children and youth in out-of-home care placements.

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

The recommended actions are consistent with the Countywide Strategic Plan Goal 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 Amount for this extension will be \$297,500 effective June 1, 2025 through May 31, 2026. This contract will be financed using 100 percent Flexible Family Supports (FFS) funds provided by Assembly Bill 179. Sufficient funding will be included in the Department's Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget Request. Additionally, alternative funding sources will be explored for the two optional one-year extension periods effective June 1, 2026 through May 31, 2028, and will be included in the Department's future budget requests.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

On January 1, 2023, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) issued an All County Letter 23-02 for FFS funding and DCFS submitted a proposal to access the FFS funds. Subsequently, on April 7, 2023, DCFS received approval from the CDSS to utilize the funds to contract with Fostering UNITY. In addition, CDSS' Contracts Section approved the multi-year sole source contract.

On January 1, 2024, DCFS executed the Caregiver and Youth Support Services contract with Fostering UNITY to provide caregivers and foster youth with direct supports and services to establish connections, strengthen relationships and promote permanency. The current Caregiver and Youth Support Services contract with Fostering UNITY will expire on May 31, 2025.

On March 3, 2025, in accordance with Board Policy. 5.100, Sole Source Contract and Amendments, the Department notified the Board of its intent to request delegated authority to extend the term of the current contract beyond its original term pending solicitation of a replacement system and/or services.

The CEO and County Counsel have reviewed the Board Letter and Amendment Two has been approved as to form by County Counsel.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

This is a sole source contract based on approval from the CDSS to utilize FFS funds to contract with Fostering UNITY.

The extension of the current contract with Fostering UNITY will provide sufficient time for DCFS to initiate and complete the RFP solicitation process.

CONTRACTOR PERFORMANCE

Fostering UNITY provides quality services as specified in the contract deliverables. They are timely, they meet contract requirements and submit required reports. Fostering UNITY sufficiently met the terms as stated in the contract's specifications and their staff conduct themselves in a professional manner.

DCFS Program staff will continue to monitor the contractor's performance.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES

The Caregiver and Youth Support Services contract provides critical support to caregivers and foster youth, and if the contract is not extended, the County will not have sufficient services to strengthen connections, form positive relationships, increase reunification/promote permanency, increase caregiver retention and improve overall outcomes for children and youth in out-of-home care placements.

Fostering UNITY services will continue to support and enhance the following DCFS programs:

Placement Stability Team: Current DCFS program that aims to stabilize youth in placement. Emphasizes relationship building and after hours support during behavioral and mental health crisis for difficult to place children/youth and high-risk behaviors.

Family Urgent Response System: Current DCFS program for current and former foster youth and their caregivers that aims at preventative placement disruption by preserving relationships and promoting stability.

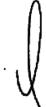
Therapeutic Shelter Home Pilot: Current pilot program led by Optimist Boys' Home and Ranch dba Optimist Youth Homes & Family Services, which aims at eliminating congregate shelter care by utilizing skilled caregivers to provide DCFS youth shelter care in a small home setting. Fostering UNITY will enhance this program by providing caregivers and youth support and services during their stay at the shelter foster home.

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 this Board Letter and attachment to the Department of Children and Family Services.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
April 29, 2025
Page 5

Respectfully submitted,



BRANDON T. NICHOLS
Director

BTN:JF:CMM
RW:LTI:JS:as

Enclosure

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

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES



AMENDMENT NUMBER TWO

TO

CAREGIVER AND YOUTH SUPPORT SERVICES

CONTRACT NUMBER 23-0069

WITH

FOSTERING UNITY

JUNE 2025

ASSISTANCE LISTING NUMBER (CFDA): N/A

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES
AMENDMENT NUMBER TWO TO CAREGIVER AND YOUTH SUPPORT SERVICES
CONTRACT NUMBER 23-0069**

This Amendment made and entered into by and between the County of Los Angeles, hereinafter referred to as "County" and Fostering UNITY, hereinafter referred to as "Contractor." Fostering UNITY is located at 4649 Shannon View Road, Acton, CA 93510.

WHEREAS, The Caregiver and Youth Support Services Contract Number 23-0069 was made and entered into on January 1, 2024 by and between the County of Los Angeles and Fostering UNITY; and

WHEREAS, this Amendment is prepared pursuant to the provisions set forth in Section 8.1 Changes and Amendments; and

NOW THEREFORE, County and Contractor agree to modify the Caregiver and Youth Support Services Contract as follows:

1. Section 4.0 TERM OF CONTRACT, Sub-sections 4.1.1 are added as follows:
 - 4.1.1 The contract term is extended, effective June 1, 2025 through May 31, 2026, with two optional one-year extension periods, to be exercised at the sole option of the County, through May 31, 2028, unless sooner terminated or extended, in whole or in part, as provided in this Contract.
2. Section 5.0, CONTRACT SUM, Sub-section 5.1, Total Contract Sum, Sub-sections 5.1.2 is updated as follows:
 - 5.1.2 The Total Contract Sum for this Contract is \$892,500.
3. Section 5.0, CONTRACT SUM, Sub-section 5.1.1.2, 5.1.1.3 and 5.1.1.4 are added as follows:
 - 5.1.1.2 The Maximum Annual Contract Amount, effective June 1, 2025 through May 31, 2026, is \$297,500 (Exhibit C-2).
 - 5.1.1.3 The Maximum Annual Contract Amount for the one-year optional extension period, effective June 1, 2026 through May 31, 2027, is \$297,500 (Exhibit C-2).
 - 5.1.1.4 The Maximum Annual Contract Amount for the one-year optional extension period, effective June 1, 2027 through May 31, 2028, is \$297,500 (Exhibit C-2).
4. Section 5.0, CONTRACT SUM, Sub-sections 5.1.6 and 5.1.7 are added as follows:

5.1.6 The Contract Sum under this contract will be the total monetary amount payable by County to Contractor for supplying all the tasks, deliverables, goods, services and other work specified under this Contract. Contractor will provide services at the rates identified in Exhibit B (Pricing Schedule) and any subsequent additions to Exhibit B (Pricing Schedule) via an Amendment, Change Notice, or Budget Modification.

5.1.7 The Department may increase the total contract amount by up to 10%, as approved by the Board. The County does not warranty or represent that all, or any portion, of the not-to-exceed contract amount will be authorized, allocated, or expended by the County; nor does the County warranty or represent that it will authorize the selection contractor(s) to perform any work or services of any monetary amount.

5. Table of Contents, Section 8.0 STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS, Sub Section 8.13 Contractor's Acknowledgement of County's Commitment to the Safely Surrendered Baby Law, is deleted and replaced as follows:

8.13 Contractor's Acknowledgement and Notice to its Employees the Safely Surrendered Baby Law

6. Section 8.0, STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS, Sub Section 8.13, Contractor's Acknowledgement of County's Commitment to Safely Surrendered Baby Law is deleted in its entirety and replaced as follows:

8.13 Contractor's Acknowledgement and Notice to its Employees the Safely Surrendered Baby Law

The Contractor acknowledges that the County places a high priority on the implementation of the Safely Surrendered Baby Law. The Contractor must notify and provide to its employees, and will require each Subcontractor to notify and provide to its employees, a [Fact Sheet](#) regarding the Safely Surrendered Baby Law, its implementation in Los Angeles County, and information on where and how to safely surrender a baby. Additionally, the Contractor understands that it is the County's policy to encourage all County Contractors to voluntarily post the County's "[Safely Surrendered Baby Law Poster](#)" (available in [English/Spanish/Chinese/Korean](#)) in a prominent position at the Contractor's place of business. The Contractor will also encourage its Subcontractors, if any, to post this poster in a prominent position in the Subcontractor's place of business.

The Contractor, and its Subcontractor(s), can access posters and other program material at www.babysafela.org.

7. Section 8.0, STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS, Sub Section 8.33, Notice to Employees Regarding the Safely Surrendered Baby Law is revised as follows:

8.33 Intentionally Omitted

8. Exhibits C-2, Line Item Budget and Budget Narrative is added as attached to this Amendment Two.
9. Exhibit N-2, Federal Award Notification is added as attached to this Amendment Two.
10. Exhibit T-1, Contribution and Agent Declaration Form is added as attached to this Amendment Two.

**ALL OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE CONTRACT REMAIN
IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT**

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES
AMENDMENT NUMBER TWO TO CAREGIVER AND YOUTH SUPPORT SERVICES
CONTRACT NUMBER 23-0069**

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles has caused this Amendment to be subscribed on its behalf by the Director of the Department of Children and Family Services and the Contractor has caused this Amendment 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 Amendment. 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

Fostering UNITY

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

By: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

By: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Tax Identification Number

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

DAWYN R. HARRISON
County Counsel

By: _____
David Beaudet, Senior Deputy County Counsel

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 30 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



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
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, 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

NOTICE OF INTENT TO EXTEND THE CAREGIVER AND YOUTH SUPPORT SERVICES CONTRACT

In compliance with Board Policy 5.100, Sole Source Contract and Amendments, this is to notify the Board that the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) intends to submit a Board letter to request delegated authority to execute Amendment Two to extend the current Caregiver and Youth Support Services contract with Fostering UNITY, Contract Number 23-0069, effective June 1, 2025 through May 31, 2026, with two optional one-year extension periods through May 31, 2028, to initiate and complete a Request for Proposal (RFP) solicitation.

In accordance with Board Policy 5.100, Sole Source Contract and Amendments, County departments must provide advance written notice and justification to the Board when the departments do not have delegated authority to extend the term of the current contract.

BACKGROUND

On January 1, 2023, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) issued an All County Letter 23-02 for Flexible Family Supports (FFS) funding and DCFS submitted a proposal to access the FFS funds. Subsequently, on April 7, 2023, DCFS received approval from the CDSS to utilize the funds to contract with Fostering UNITY. In addition, CDSS' Contracts Section approved the multi-year sole source contract.

On January 1, 2024, DCFS executed the Caregiver and Youth Support Services contract with Fostering UNITY to provide caregivers and foster youth with direct supports and services to establish connections, strengthen relationships and promote permanency.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

The current Caregiver and Youth Support Services contract with Fostering UNITY will expire on May 31, 2025.

JUSTIFICATION

The purpose of the Caregiver and Youth Support Services contract is to provide Los Angeles County DCFS a unique, multi-faceted support and retention model designed to provide relative and foster caregivers with mentoring services, continuing education, in-the-moment support, family strengthening for successful reunification and/or permanency, and improved outcomes for children and youth experiencing foster care. In addition, Fostering UNITY will provide real-time ongoing support as needed and will provide a 30-day, 60-day and 90-day follow up engagement to assess additional support needs.

Without extending the Caregiver and Youth Support Services contract, the County will not have sufficient services to strengthen connections, form positive relationships, increase reunification/promote permanency, increase caregiver retention and improve overall outcomes for children and youth in out-of-home care placements.

NOTIFICATION TIMELINE

Consistent with the procedures of Board Policy 5.100, DCFS is informing the Board of its intent to extend the current contract. DCFS will file a Board letter in the near future to request delegated authority to execute contract amendment for extension.

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

BTN:JF:CMM
RW:LTI:JS:as

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

**BOARD LETTER/MEMO
CLUSTER FACT SHEET**

Board Letter

Board Memo

Other

CLUSTER AGENDA REVIEW DATE	4/2/2025	
BOARD MEETING DATE	4/29/2025	
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	
SUBJECT	New Contract	
PROGRAM	Transportation Services	
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:	
SB 1439 SUPPLEMENTAL DECLARATION FORM REVIEW COMPLETED BY EXEC OFFICE	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No – Not Applicable Submitted on 3/4/25	
DEADLINES/ TIME CONSTRAINTS	A budget increase is being requested for the current contract with private transportation vendor, HopSkipDrive Inc., Contract No. 21-0076 for fiscal year (FY) 24-25, 25-26 and 26-27.	
COST & FUNDING	Total cost: \$30,000,000	Funding source: 50% State Realignment funds and 50% Local Education Agencies (LEAs) funds. Flexible Family Support (FFS) has agreed to fund \$1,288,000 for FY 24-25.
	TERMS (if applicable): The full term of the contract is three years, initial year from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 plus two one-year options.	
	Explanation: The current annual contract budget is \$4,000,000.00. The County would be responsible for 50% of annual costs and the participating LEAs will be responsible for the other 50%.	
	This request is for a budget increase for the maximum annual contract sum of \$10,000,000.00 and a maximum contract sum of \$30,000,000.00 over the course of three years. Flexible Family Support (FFS) has agreed to fund \$1,288,000 for FY 24-25.	
PURPOSE OF REQUEST	<p>Increasing school stability improves educational outcomes and mental health for youth in foster care. Developing long-term relationships, supportive permanent connections with adults and peers is beneficial to the youth in foster care's overall well-being.</p> <p>The Transportation Services contract supports youth in foster care's stability and academic advancement by providing transportation to the youth's identified School of Origin (SOO). This support is consistent with the requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which requires Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and child welfare agencies to collaborate, fund and establish plans that enable prompt transportation to youth in foster care to their SOO in order to ensure educational stability.</p>	

	<p>Additional funds are necessary due to an increase in the number of referrals submitted for transportation services 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, such as an increase in HopSkipDrive (HSD) rates, an increase in the number of LEAs participating in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the various transportation programs and the growing number of youth utilizing transportation services.</p>
<p>BACKGROUND (include internal/external issues that may exist including any related motions)</p>	<p>Youth under the Department of Children and Family Services' (DCFS) care have a significant need for a quality education and school stability. When youth in foster care are removed from their home or change placements, they are also often forced to change schools, which adversely affects their academic growth. To prevent this negative outcome, President Obama signed ESSA in 2015. In 2017, at the direction of a Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors motion put forth by Supervisor Mark Ridley Thomas and Supervisor Kathryn Barger, the Office of Child Protection (OCP), the Department, Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), and Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) launched a pilot program to provide transportation to youth in foster care to their SOO. The pilot lasted for two years and over \$6,000,000 was provided by DCFS, LACOE, LAUSD, and philanthropy to fund transportation countywide.</p> <p>To help meet the requirements of ESSA, in July 2017, LACOE issued a competitive procurement to provide private transportation services for youth in foster care to their SOO. HopSkipDrive, Inc. was the winning proposer, and LACOE executed contract number 122236 with HopSkipDrive, Inc. on or about October 20, 2017. The term of the Contract was for an initial one (1) year period with four (4) one (1) year options to extend.</p> <p>On October 9, 2018, the County took over the HopSkipDrive Contract from LACOE and Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services (WDACS) assumed responsibility for administering the contract. WDACS provided contractual and fiscal oversight, while DCFS managed the program piece.</p> <p>Based on the data collected on needs, costs, and lessons learned, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between DCFS and LEAs was created and disseminated in August 2019. The MOU included detailed logistic and cost-sharing procedures between DCFS and LEAs. Through the MOU, LEAs share 50% of the private vendor transportation costs with DCFS. When a LEA signs on to the MOU, the LEA and DCFS deposit the total forecasted amount for the year into a trust account managed by the LA County Auditor Controller.</p> <p>In April 2022, WDACS extended HopSkipDrive Inc., Contract No. 122236 for an additional two years through June 30, 2024 to allow for sufficient time for the issuance of new proposals for contracts beginning July 1, 2024.</p> <p>The administration of the contract was subsequently transferred from WDACS to the DCFS on December 1, 2022.</p> <p>On November 16, 2023, DCFS released an Invitation for Bids (IFB) and HopSkipDrive, Inc. submitted the lowest responsive bid and was awarded the new contract. The term of the contract was be effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, with two additional one-year renewal options through June 30, 2027.</p> <p>DCFS is currently in the process of requesting approval to extend the contract for the second optional year for FY 25-26.</p>
<p>EQUITY INDEX OR LENS WAS UTILIZED</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If Yes, please explain how: We are attempting to provide services to all Los Angeles County youth in foster care and are consistently reaching out to all LEAs serving this population as well. We have also gathered demographic data to ensure we are targeting all youth in foster 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: The Transportation Services contract support Priority 1, Child Protection. Through our SOO Transportation Program, youth placed in out-of-home care can continue to attend their SOO, which promotes their well-being by providing school stability and maintaining meaningful connections. We are able to achieve this through the collaboration between DCFS and the 75 LEAs signed onto the ESSA MOU, and the support from the OCP.</p>
<p>DEPARTMENTAL CONTACTS</p>	<p>Name, Title, Phone # & Email:</p> <p>Jennifer Higuchi, MSW Children Services Administrator II Education & Developmental Services Section 626-261-5857 hwangj@dcfs.lacounty.gov</p> <p>Daisy Garza, LCSW Children Services Administrator I Education & Developmental Services Section 323-919-4877 garzad@dcfs.lacounty.gov</p>



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
HILDA L. SOLIS
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Second District
LINDSEY P. HORVATH
Third District
JANICE HAHN
Fourth District
KATHRYN BARGER
Fifth District

April 29, 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.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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

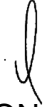
April 29, 2025

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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



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