

County of Santa Clara

Social Services Agency

333 West Julian Street
San Jose, California 95110-2335



DATE: June 14, 2019

TO: Board of Supervisors
Jeffrey V. Smith, M.D., J.D., County Executive

FROM: Robert Menicocci, Agency Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Menicocci", is written over the "TO:" line.

SUBJECT: Off-Agenda Report relating to the Emergency Child Care Bridge Program

At the April 9, 2019 Board of Supervisors (Board) meeting, the Board requested the Social Services Agency (SSA) to report back on developing an outreach plan for the Emergency Child Care Bridge Program (ECCBP).

ECCBP is an optional, capped program offered by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). The program is designed to eliminate the barrier that child care poses to the placement of a child. Often, relatives and non-related extended family members accept children into their care prior to having child care in place. The ECCBP allows caregivers to work, go to school, or attend training to become approved as caregivers beyond the emergency placement. The ECCBP facilitates emergency childcare for six months or until a community based resource is available or the caregiver becomes eligible to be paid through Title IV-E or similar childcare funding. While an extension for another six months is allowed, the program does not pay for more than 12 months of childcare. Biological parents are not eligible to receive services under the ECCBP, unless the biological parent is a foster youth under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court and receiving services from the Department of Family and Children's Services (DFCS). In Fiscal Year (FY) 2018-2019, 46 counties opted to participate in the program in California.

The allocation for the program has varied from year to year. For example, in FY2018-19, the County of Santa Clara received \$754,665 to support child care vouchers; this includes state-provided rollover funds from FY2017-18. The FY2019-20 allocation is anticipated to be approximately \$724,000. Although the state has reappropriation authority for this program, at this time the County does not have information on how much unutilized FY2018-19 funds the state will actually rollover to the following fiscal year. Having a significant amount of funding available for a second year makes FY2019-20 an optimal time to conduct outreach in order to increase program utilization.

DFCS' outreach plan will include working with key stakeholders, such as social workers, caregivers, and community organizations, to increase ECCBP availability awareness. DFCS will provide informational materials and conduct informational sessions with social workers, including at the annual social worker resource fair, to ensure that social workers are aware of

the Bridge Program and can advise caregivers of it during monthly visits. In addition, DFCS staff will conduct informational sessions with relevant caregiver agencies' staff and send informational material out to current caregivers who have a child placed in their home to inform on ECCBP. Furthermore, informational materials will be included in each Health and Education Passport Binder for every child who comes into placement. Newly approved resource parents will be given the same informational materials so that they can contact DFCS directly once they receive placement of a child. Lastly, the DFCS will establish a dedicated phone line and email address for caregivers and social workers to direct childcare questions.

c: Chief Board Aides
Miguel Marquez, Chief Operating Officer
James R. Williams, County Counsel
Megan Doyle, Clerk of the Board