



California Child Care Resource & Referral

NETWORK



Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children (Bridge Program)

October 3, 2019
10:00 – Noon
California Salon 4

Presenters: Jeremy Heebner and Tracy Urban, Family Engagement and Empowerment Division, California Department of Social Services, and Kelly Graesch, California Child Care Resource & Referral Network

Today's Topics

- Welcome, Introductions, Ice Breaker
- Program Updates: Jeremy Heebner, Tracy Urban, and Shanee Clark, California Department of Social Services
- Group Discussion
- Resource Sharing
- Planning for Navigator support for next year??

Discussion Topics



Outreach and Partnerships


Enhanced Referrals

Out of County Placements


Long-term Subsidy Plans




Outreach and Partnerships

- 
- R&R's navigate community resources and local landscapes.
What unique resources have you found to be beneficial in working with Foster Bridge families?
 - How are the resources different from other resources you used in the past?
 - Modern navigation involves integrated systems, what local partnerships are important for the Foster Bridge program.
 - Share challenges and successes with local partnerships.

Enhanced Referrals

- 
- What does enhanced referrals in the Foster Bridge program look like in your agency?
 - How are they different from other referrals?
 - What types of support are needed to feel successful with enhanced referrals?
 - Are there challenges related to enhanced referrals?

Out of County Placements

- 
- What has made your out of county placements successful?
 - What are the challenges related to out of county placements?
 - Are there resources needed to make out of county placements more successful?

Long-term Subsidy Plans



One of the goals for the Foster Bridge program is placement in a long-term subsidy program:

- What is working well as you try to find long-term placement?
- What challenges are you encountering during the long-term placement process?
- What resources or supports would be helpful?



“It is not the ship so much
as the skillful sailing that
assures the prosperous
voyage.”

- George William Curtis



The Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children (Bridge Program)

Child Welfare Placement Terms

Caregiver refers to licensed family homes, certified family homes, relative caregiver/non-related extended family members (NREFMs), Resource Families and families that have a child placed with them for emergency or compelling reason. By December 31, 2020, all placement types must convert their current certification or licensure to approval as a Resource Family.

Licensed family homes are licensed family residences that provides 24-hour care for no more than 6 children (eight if it is a sibling group). The California Department of Social Service (CDSS) is responsible for licensing and monitoring compliance but can delegate the licensing function to the county.

Certified Family Homes are family homes that are recruited and certified by licensed and private non-profit Foster Family Agencies (FFAs). The FFA provides social work and other supports to their certified homes. The CDSS licenses and monitors the FFA and has authority to investigate complaints about certified homes.

Non-related extended Family Members (NREFM) is any adult caregiver who has established familial or mentoring relationship with a child. The county welfare department verifies the existence of a relationship through interviews with the parent and child or with one or more third parties (i.e. relatives of the child, teachers, medical professionals, clergy, neighbors, and family friends).

Resource Family refers to an individual or family that a county determines to have successfully met the application and assessment criteria necessary for providing care for a child or nonminor dependent who is under the jurisdiction of juvenile court, or otherwise in the care of a county child welfare agency or probation department. Resource Family is not a generic term; it is reserved for those who have completed the Resource Family Approval (RFA) process.

Resource Family Approval is a family-friendly and child-centered caregiver approval process mandated by California State Statute that combines elements of the current foster parent licensing, relative approval, and approvals for adoption and guardianship processes. For more information visit <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/Resource-Family-Approval-Program>.

Emergency Placement is the placement of a child or nonminor dependent with a relative or NREFM prior to their completion of the RFA process.

Compelling Reason Placement is like the emergency placement process. Examples of compelling reasons are: a family is already caring for a child's sibling; placement will help the child stay connected to other family members; and/or the child has special needs best served by a specific caregiver.