

## Child Care “Bridge” Proposal for Foster Families Cost Estimate

The proposed **Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children** seeks to improve recruitment and retention of foster families and address the early learning and socio-emotional needs of foster children by ensuring that their child care needs are met. The Bridge Program consists of three parts, and the estimated total cost is \$31 million.

### 1. Emergency voucher for child care -- \$22 million

Age	Initial Placements <sup>1</sup>	Child Care Utilization Rate <sup>2</sup>	Monthly Cost of Child Care <sup>3</sup>	Cost of 6-Month Voucher
0 to 2	7,594	46%	\$727	\$15,237,513
2	1,847	46%	\$679	\$3,461,352
3	1,645	75%	\$679	\$3,082,796
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,086</b>			<b>\$21,781,661</b>

Assumptions and sources for this cost-estimate are provided in the footnotes. This is a conservative fiscal estimate for two main reasons. First, it does not account for the available federal offset.<sup>4</sup> Second, it assumes that all beneficiaries will need and use the full 6 months of the benefit. In reality, children will be transitioned to the general child care subsidy system as quickly as possible, and the navigators exist to facilitate a smooth, quick transition to a different subsidy before the six-month period ends.

### 2. Child care navigator support -- \$4 million.

Salary	Benefits	Program Cost	Cost per R&R	R&R Agencies	Statewide Cost
40,000	\$10,000	\$7,200	\$57,200	68	<b>\$3,889,600</b>

Cost assumptions for the navigator program component assume an annual cost of \$57,200 to provide and support one navigator position for each of the state’s 68 Resource & Referral Agencies.

### 3. Trauma-informed training & coaching -- \$5 million.

Salaries	Coordinating Agency	Curriculum Development	Materials	Total
\$3,889,600	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$960,400	<b>\$5,000,000</b>

Cost assumptions for the trauma-informed trained component utilize the same salary assumptions as for the navigator component. The fiscal estimate for this program component is conservative because it disregards the anticipated federal share of cost (Title IV-E). Claiming federal IV-E training funds is relatively easy in that it can be leveraged in all counties (including IV-E waiver counties), and it does not require case-level IV-E eligibility information.

<sup>1</sup> Source: California Child Welfare Indicators Project; Entries into Foster Care October 2014-September 2015; Placement Type: Kin, FFA, Foster  
<sup>2</sup> Source: RAND child care utilization rates for the general population  
<sup>3</sup> Source: California Department of Education, Early Education Support Division, Regional Market Rates (RMR): <http://www3.cde.ca.gov/rcscc/>. We base our monthly cost estimate on the average RMR for Family Child Care Home Network providers. We choose this rate to reflect our hope that these children will be placed in higher-quality child care settings, such as child care centers and Family Child Care Home Networks. However, due to system capacity issues, child care during the “bridge” period will more likely be provided by family, friends, and relatives who are Trustlined but not licensed and will not receive as high a rate. For these reasons, the cost estimate for the child care vouchers is a conservative one.  
<sup>4</sup> Federal Title IV-E funds are available in counties that do not participate in the Title IV-E waiver.