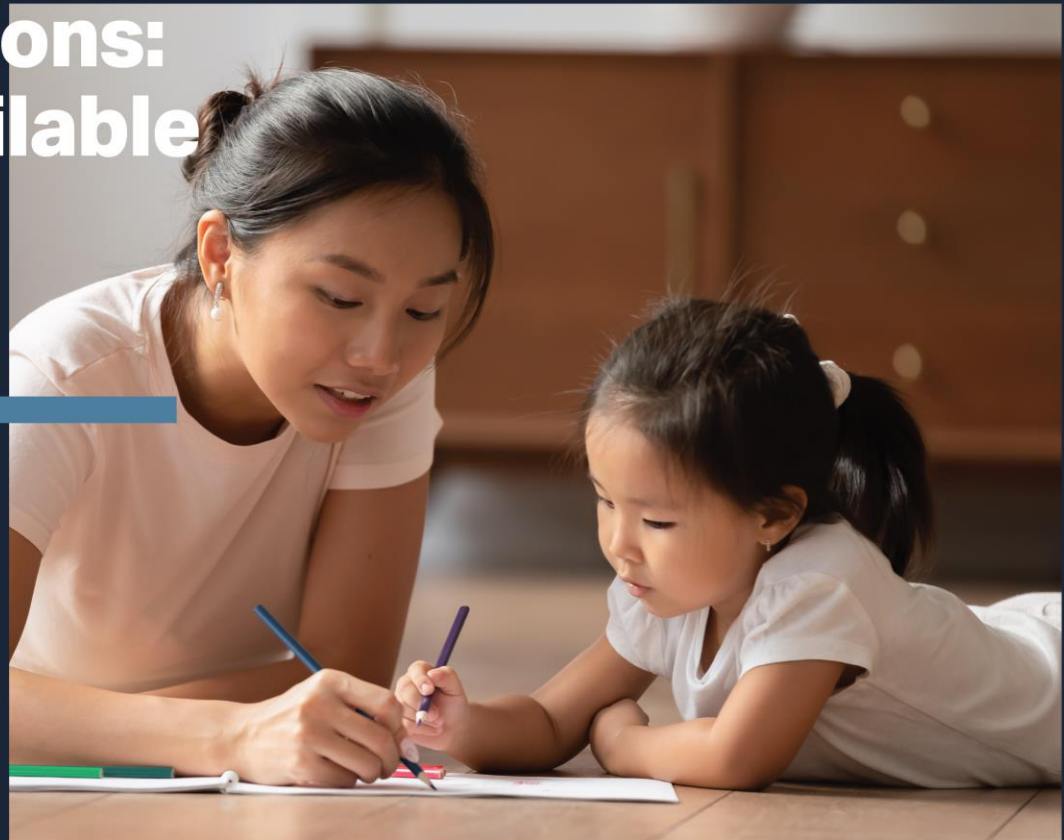


POLICY WEBINAR | APRIL 2022

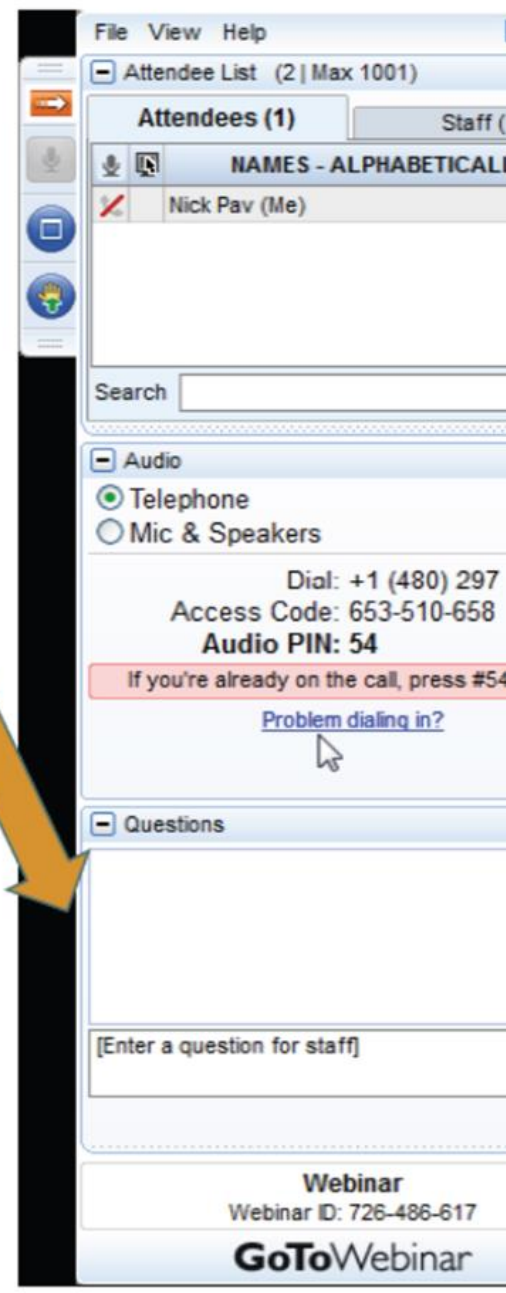
Child Care Options: Accessing Available Resources

ALLIANCE
for CHILDREN'S
RIGHTS



LOGISTICS

- Webinar resources, including recording and supplemental materials, will be posted at <https://allianceforchildrensrights.org/resources/>
- All attendees are muted during webinar.
- Please submit questions using the “Questions” function on your GoToWebinar dashboard.



The screenshot displays the GoToWebinar interface. At the top, there is a menu with 'File', 'View', and 'Help'. Below this is a section for 'Attendee List (2 | Max 1001)'. Underneath, there is a sub-section for 'Attendees (1)' with a 'Staff' button. The attendees list shows 'Nick Pav (Me)' with a microphone icon and a red slash through it, indicating they are muted. Below the attendees list is a search bar. The 'Audio' section is expanded, showing 'Telephone' selected and 'Mic & Speakers' unselected. Below the audio settings, there is a red box with the text 'If you're already on the call, press #54'. Below this is a link for 'Problem dialing in?'. The 'Questions' section is also expanded, showing a text input field with the placeholder '[Enter a question for staff]'. At the bottom of the interface, there is a 'Webinar' section with the text 'Webinar ID: 726-486-617' and the 'GoToWebinar' logo.

AGENDA

- Affordable Child Care Options
- Accessing the Emergency Child Care Bridge
- Trauma-informed Training
- Increasing Availability of Emergency Child Care Bridge

Laurie Furstenfeld,
Co-Director of Legal &
Legislative Advocacy,
Child Care Law Center

Candy Duperroir, Resource
& Referral Program
Manager, CocoKids

Presenters

Kim Lewis, Lewis Advocacy
for Children Now

Eva Chou, Trauma Informed
Care Training & Coaching
Manager, California Child
Care Resource & Referral
Network

Affordable Child Care Options

April 27, 2022

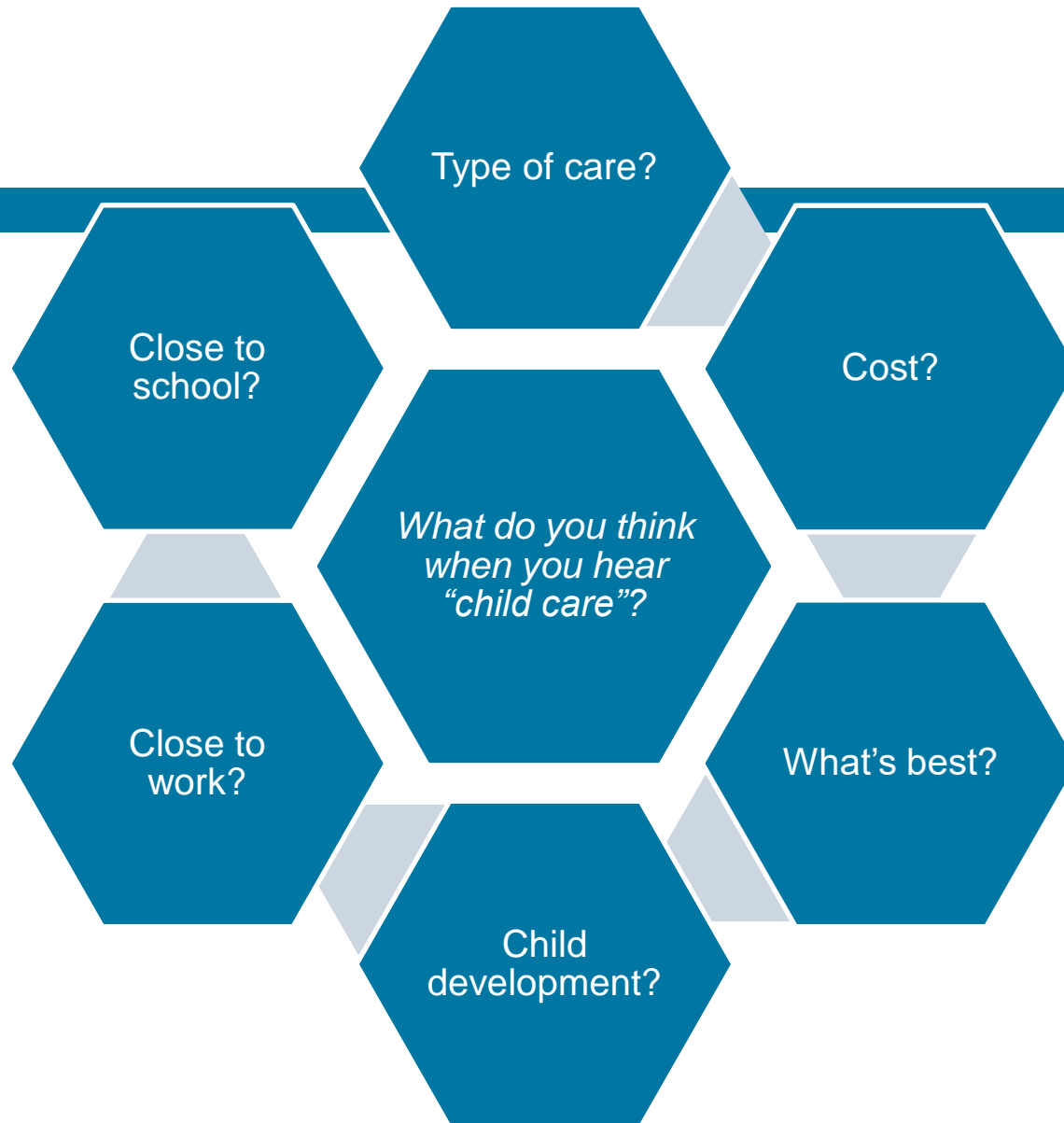
Laurie Furstenfeld, Co-Director of Legal & Legislative Advocacy
lfurstenfeld@childcarelaw.org

Child Care Law Center

6

Statewide child care legal organization

- Answer child care legal questions
- Create just child care policies
- Provide trainings and publications
- Offer limited representation to parents and child care providers
- Provide technical assistance to direct legal services



Child Care Settings

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- Child Care Centers
- Family Child Care Homes
- Family, Friend & Neighbor (license-exempt)



Child Care Resource & Referral Agency (R&R)

9



State & Federally Funded Child Care Programs

10

CDSS Child Care

- CalWORKs Child Care
- AP Vouchers & Contracted Spaces
- Emergency Child Care Bridge Vouchers (children living w/Resource Families or expectant & parenting youth)
- Emergency Child Care Vouchers (COVID-19)

CDE ECE Programs

- State Preschool
- Transitional Kindergarten (TK)

Head Start

Locally funded programs

CalWORKs Child Care

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- **Stage 1:** Entitlement for parents or guardians receiving CalWORKs cash-assistance or who formerly received cash assistance or a diversion payment
- **Stage 2:** Entitlement for qualifying parents or guardians who received CalWORKs cash-assistance in past 24 months
- **Stage 3:** Subject to enough funding until child turns 13

AP Vouchers & Contracted Spaces

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- **Must meet at least one “eligibility” and one “need” requirement**
- CalWORKs Stages 2 and 3 programs also included
- Children up to age 13; children with disabilities up to age 21



AP Vouchers & Contracted Spaces

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Eligibility Requirements (one below):

- CPS or identified as or at-risk of abuse, neglect, exploitation
- Experiencing homelessness
- Family receives cash-assistance
- 85% of State Median Income (SMI)

AP Vouchers & Contracted Spaces

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Need Requirements (one below):

- CPS or identified as or at-risk of abuse, neglect, exploitation
- Experiencing homelessness
- Work or seeking work
- Searching for home
- Vocational training
- Educational program for English language learners
- High school diploma or GED
- Incapacitated

AP Vouchers & Contracted Spaces

15

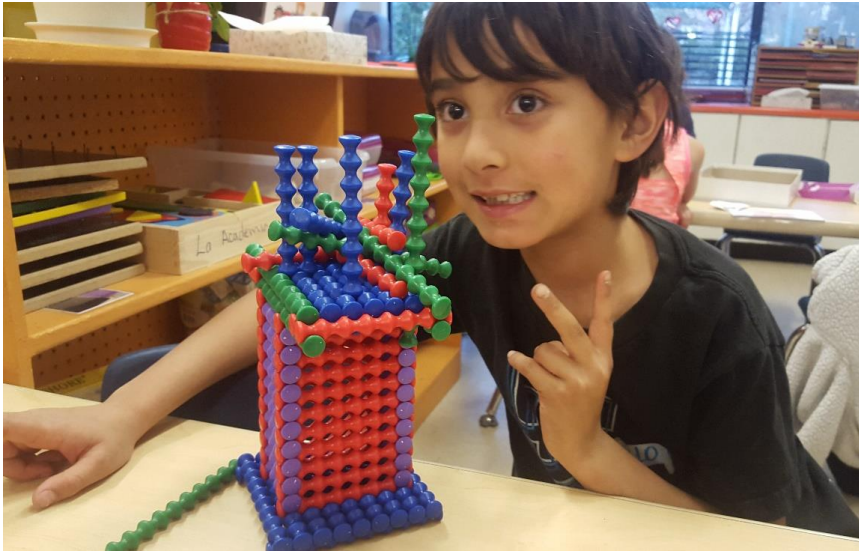
CPS or identified as or at-risk of abuse, neglect, exploitation

- Categorially eligible
- Prioritized on child care waiting lists
- Required referral from:
 - CPS, medical, or social services agency
 - LEA liaison for homeless children and youths
 - Head Start program
 - Emergency or transitional shelter



California State Preschool

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- Three- to five-year-olds
- AP voucher or contracted space eligibility requirements apply to full-day program
- No “need” requirements for part-day program

CA State Preschool: Twelve-Month Eligibility

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No less than 12 months of continuous child care
until recertification



CA State Preschool: Family Fees & Co-Payments

18

Family Fees

- Share of care cost based on family size, family adjusted monthly income, and full-time or part-time care
- No family fees
 - CPS or at-risk status (up to 12 months), receipt of cash-assistance, part-day preschool
 - ALL families until June 30, 2022
- Assembly Bill 92 – Equitable family fee bill

Co-Payment

- Difference between cost of care and subsidy amount



Head Start & Early Head Start

19



- Eligibility based on federal income guidelines
 - Example: Family of 3 = \$21,960
- Children in foster care, or in families experiencing homelessness, or receiving TANF or SSI qualify regardless of income
- Head Start: Children ages 3 to 5
- Early Head Start: Children under age 3 and pregnant mothers

Transitional Kindergarten (TK)

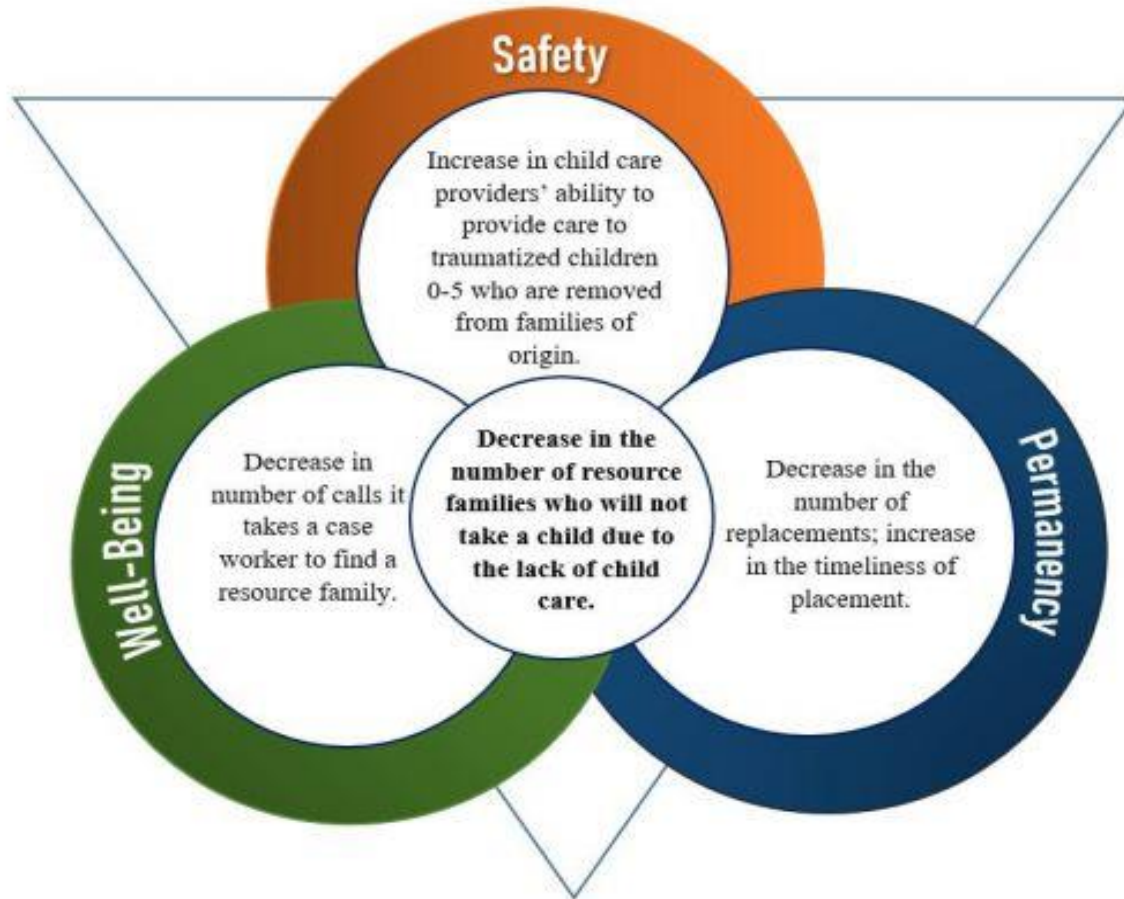
20

- No-cost early care & education for 4-year-olds
- Offered only on school campuses
- Parents with subsidies can keep their children in non-school settings
- Expansion starts July 1, 2022



Emergency Child Care Bridge Program

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Emergency Child Care Bridge Program

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- Vouchers
- Child Care Navigators
- Trauma-informed Training

Counties Participating in the Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children
FY 2021-22, 2022-23



Emergency Child Care Bridge Program

23



Eligibility Requirements

- **Eligibility:** Approved resource families, families with emergency placement or for a compelling reason, parents under jurisdiction of the juvenile court (including non-minor dependents)
- **Need:** Work, school, or parenting activities (ex. attendance at administrative or judicial reviews, case conferences, family trainings)

Emergency Child Care Bridge Program

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Child Care Navigator at the R&R help parents/guardians:

- Find a child care provider
- Complete required paperwork
- Secure long-term child care



Child Care Law Center

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Child Care Law Center

- Laurie Furstenfeld,
lfurstenfeld@childcarelaw.org

EMERGENCY CHILD CARE BRIDGE PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

ALSO KNOWN AS FOSTER BRIDGE

Candy Duperroir
Resource & Referral Program Manager
candy.duperroir@cocokids.org
www.cocokids.org



CHILD CARE BRIDGE NAVIGATORS

How can Child Care Bridge Navigators help Caregivers (Resource Families including Emergency Placements and Expectant & Parenting Youth) in the Foster Care system find & pay for child care that meets their needs?

VOUCHERS: ACCESSING THE BRIDGE PROGRAM

1. Caregiver speaks with the child's Social Worker at FFA or County Child Welfare Office
2. Social Worker submits Bridge Program Application to the Local Child Care R&R Agency
3. Child Care Bridge Navigator processes application including Foster Code approval codes
4. Navigator contacts Caregiver (Resource Family) about child care needs
5. Once the Family chooses a Child Care Provider, Navigator enrolls into Subsidy Voucher Program

HOW DOES THE BRIDGE PROGRAM CHILD CARE VOUCHERS WORK?

- Once the child(ren) are enrolled, the Subsidy Voucher is approved for 6 months to one year.
- If the Caregiver still needs a child care subsidy after 12 months, the Navigator can help move the child to a more permanent subsidy voucher program such as the California Alternative Payment Program (CAPP) if funding is available.

OPTIONS FOR CONTINUITY OF CARE AFTER THE VOUCHER EXPIRES OR WHEN THE CHILD RETURNS HOME WITH BIO-FAMILY

Goal: Keep children in the same child care program so they can thrive and grow!

- CAPP
- CalWORKs Child Care Stage 1 or 2
- Head Start
- Subsidized Child Care Center

Emergency Child Care Bridge Program

Trauma-Informed
Care Training and
Coaching



California Child Care Resource & Referral
NETWORK



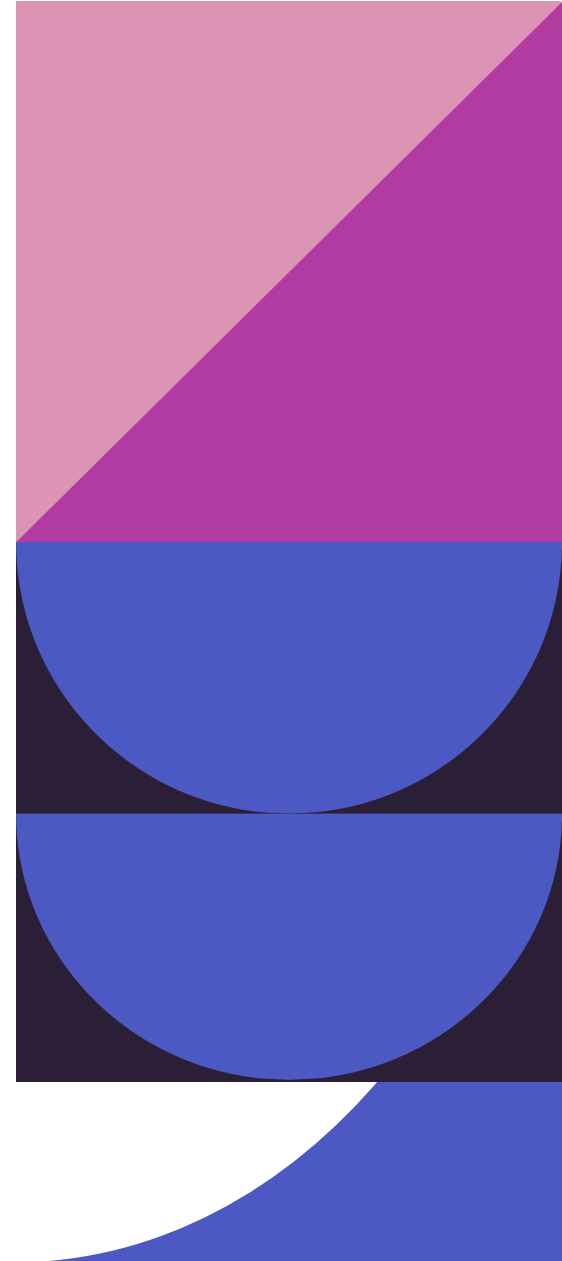
California Child Care Resource & Referral

NETWORK

- Non-profit membership organization of 58 local child care resource and referral agencies promoting affordable, quality child care through research, education, policy and advocacy.
- Leader in:
 - Understanding state demographics
 - Developing innovative partnerships with business and government
 - Helping members respond to changing economic, social and family needs

Trauma-Informed Care Training and Coaching

- Child care providers participating in the Bridge Program receive access to trauma-informed training and coaching from their local Resource and Referral (R&R) Agency.
- Find your local child care R&R [HERE](#)



Trauma-informed Care Trainings & Coaching



- Over 200 trainers and coaches authorized statewide
- 51 counties have at least one authorized trainer and coach
- Trainings and coaching offered in English, Spanish and Farsi
- Since 2018, local R&Rs have offered over 1,750 trainings

Curriculum

Overview of Trauma-informed Care

Enhancing Caregiver Resilience

Historical and Intergenerational Trauma

Importance of Trauma-informed Care

- Almost all children in foster care have experienced some type of trauma
- Supports recovery after a traumatic event
- Shifts perspective from “What’s wrong with you?” to “What happened to you?”
- Avoids re-traumatization by identifying and understanding trauma triggers
- Supports child care providers, families and children by practicing strategies to build resilience



One single loving adult can be a protective resiliency factor for a child against the impact of trauma.



**"Every child needs one person who
is crazy about him/her/them."**

- Urie Bronfenbrenner

Building the Emergency Child Care Bridge



**Children
Now**



NEED FOR CHILD CARE

- ▶ Addressing Trauma
- ▶ Stabilizing Children in Family Placements
- ▶ Recruiting & Retaining Foster Parents



ADDRESSING TRAUMA

- ▶ Stress can be buffered by supportive relationships with family and caregivers and through access to community supports and services.
- ▶ Early care and education for young children in foster care can:
 - ▶ Support caregivers
 - ▶ Enhance child development
 - ▶ Bring additional nurturing adults into children's lives
 - ▶ Support children and help them recover from trauma
- ▶ High quality early care and education programs have been shown to improve social and emotional well-being and readiness for school. /

STABILIZING PLACEMENTS

- ▶ Research shows that the initial stage of placement is when children are at greatest risk for experiencing placement instability, especially in the first six to seven months.
- ▶ Evidence also suggests that infants experience the most placement moves during the first month of their placement as compared to older children.
- ▶ Children are more likely to experience instability when placed in a home where the foster parents have children of their own under age 5.
- ▶ Adequately supporting initial foster placements—including providing access to child care—is key in reducing placement instability.

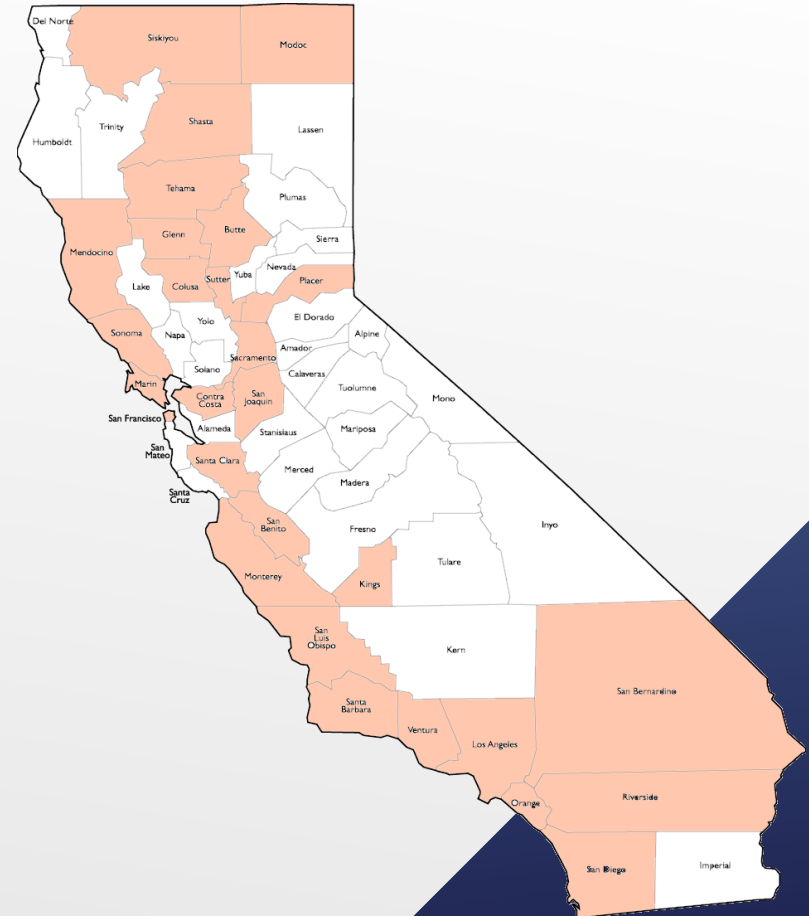


RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

In 2015, the Legislature set aside \$17.8 million to support foster parent recruitment and retention activities. **28** of the 54 counties that submitted funding requests, **proposed to use funds to provide child care to foster children.**

“Lack of child care makes it impossible for many of our relative and foster families to care for children and pay for full-time child care.”

*“This is the **number one most frequently identified barrier** for foster parents in our county being able to accept placement of non-school age children... Most of our foster parents and relative caregivers work outside the home and child care costs are not affordable to these families to also be able to cover the costs of daily food, clothing and shelter needs of foster children in their care.”*




NEED FOR THE BRIDGE

- ▶ Even with categorical eligibility and priority enrollment, foster children and families still struggled to access subsidized child care:
 - ▶ Child Care Centers and Alternative Payment programs are almost always full, have long waiting lists, and very short periods of enrollment.
 - ▶ Foster families are formed in an instant and are not able to anticipate the need for child care and get on waiting lists. This is especially true for relative caregivers.
 - ▶ The moment a foster child is placed rarely coincided with the availability of a child care slot.



BACKGROUND

- ▶ Los Angeles County piloted a program for children in the child welfare system to be connected to ECE providers.
 - ▶ 2016 Budget Ask – passed Budget Conference Committee, but died at the 11th hour due to competition with other costly proposals.
 - ▶ In 2017, AB 1164 (Thurmond) and budget ask resulted in a \$15.5M appropriation starting 1/1/18 that increased to \$31M for full-year implementation.
- 
- A decorative graphic consisting of several parallel blue lines of varying lengths and orientations, located in the bottom right corner of the slide.

CURRENT PROGRAM FUNDING

Total of \$44.75 million:

- ▶ \$35.75 million for vouchers
- ▶ \$5 million for navigators
- ▶ \$4 million for training

Child care providers serving kids in the bridge are eligible for the COVID-19 pandemic supports:

- ▶ hold harmless
- ▶ 16 paid nonoperational days
- ▶ stipend



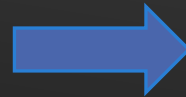
CCRC BRIDGE EVALUATION

- ▶ Bridge program reduced stress for caregivers
 - ▶ 96% reported reduced stress levels due to their foster child attending child care
 - ▶ 85% agreed the Child Care Navigator reduced their stress levels
- ▶ Caregivers satisfied with quality of child care
 - ▶ 94% agreed the provider supported the needs of their child
- ▶ Caregivers report positive results for children
 - ▶ 78% noticed a positive change in their child's well-being
- ▶ 89% of caregivers agreed that it is important that their child care provider is trained in Trauma-informed care (TIC)
- ▶ 95% of navigators coordinated timely placement with a child care provider

2022 BUDGET ADVOCACY

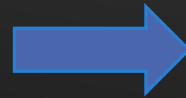
Increase funding to **\$92.75 million**

▶ \$35.75 million - vouchers



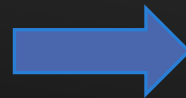
\$74.75 million - vouchers

▶ \$5 million - navigators



\$10 million - navigators


▶ \$4 million - training




\$8 million - training



HOW TO HELP

- ▶ Sign on in support of budget request
 - ▶ If organizational representative: email kim@lewisadvocacy.com with organization name and logo
 - ▶ Recruit additional supporters
 - ▶ Testify in support at future budget hearings
- 
- A series of parallel blue lines of varying lengths and orientations, located in the bottom right corner of the slide, creating a modern, abstract graphic element.

Search



Neila Kuehl
Los Angeles County Supervisor, 3rd District

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Background & Success Stories of California's Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children

Oct 15, 2019

0 0 SHARE

RESOURCES

[Background and Success Stories](#)

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