



March 4, 2020

Chris Pflaumer
Head Start Program Specialist
Administrative for Children and Families, Region IX
90 7th Street, Ninth Floor
San Francisco, CA 94103-6710

Dear Mr. Chris Pflaumer,


1470 Civic Court,
Suite 200
Concord, CA
94520

This letter is to request approval for a change in scope for Contra Costa County Community Services Bureau's (CSB) grant number 09HP000111 to reallocate fifteen (15) Early Head Start center-based Head Start slots to fifteen (15) Early Head Start home-based slots. The home-based slots will serve children and their families through CSB's existing partnership with Aspiranet. Therefore, we are requesting to add the home-based program option to this grant. This approval would support CSB's continued commitment to providing high quality services to the families of Contra Costa County.



P: 925 681 6300
F: 925 313 8301

CSB continually monitors service delivery to ensure compliance and support a system of continuous improvement. Through this ongoing monitoring, Baby Yale Academy was identified as a partner who was not able to demonstrate safe and compliant Early Head Start services to children as required by the Head Start Program Performance Standards. The partner was continually unable to meet requirements despite collaborative efforts to bring the partner into compliance, resulting in contract termination effective March 9, 2020. CSB has identified an opportunity to reallocate these 41 slots to increase the availability of quality Early Head Start services for pregnant mothers, infants and toddlers throughout the County.



www.cccounty.us/ehsd

On an ongoing basis, CSB analyzes multiple data sources to inform decisions that ensure program design continues to meet the changing needs of children and families in the community. As an existing partner, Aspiranet meets the needs of the community through providing strength-based home visiting services to pregnant mothers and infants/toddlers with goals to support health and wellbeing. The 2019 Community Assessment indicates a continued need for prenatal services as only 77% of pregnant women in the county receive adequate or better prenatal services, falling below the National Healthy People 2020 objective. Twenty-five (25) percent of the county's population and 60% of CSB's currently enrolled families are Hispanic residents and according to the Educational Profile 77.8% of all English Learners are Spanish Speakers. Aspiranet is responsive to these needs as all home visitors are bilingual with primary instruction given in Spanish. Experience working with the Hispanic community also supports the home visiting option as there is a well-known community practice of keeping infants and toddlers at home rather than utilizing out of home care. Furthermore, data also shows a decline in women who gave birth who were also in the labor force, a 5% reduction from 2016 to 2017. In 2019, Aspirant entered into collaboration with the county's public assistance (CalWORKS) agency to more systematically reach low income and high need first time mothers. Aspiranet consistently reaches full enrollment and has a waitlist of eligible families to fill the additional slots. To remain responsive to the needs of the community, we are requesting to increase the availability of county-wide Early Head Start home visiting services through this change in scope.



As stated in this request, 15 of the 41 Baby Yale slots will be allocated to Aspiranet. The remaining slots will be allocated to existing EHS-CCP partners, KinderCare in Antioch (14 slots) and YMCA of the East Bay in Richmond (12 slots). Contracted cost per child is the same for all partners with the exception of YMCA whose rate includes compensation for provision of Comprehensive Services through the partner's internal processes. The shifting of 41 slots from Baby Yale to Aspiranet, YMCA and KinderCare for three months will result in a net savings of \$90,932. Savings will be realized upon termination of Baby Yale because the contract includes allocation of Loss of Subsidy and Facility Upgrade that has not been utilized. These funds will be reallocated for repairs and maintenance of early childhood centers to meet Health and Safety requirements, including redirection of facility funds to outfit the new KinderCare site and playgrounds. Below is a tabular comparison representing the change in the budget for the remainder of the 2019-2020 contracted year.

Description	Baby Yale 41 slots at \$505 per slot	Aspiranet 15 slots at \$505 per slot	YMCA 12 slots at \$618 per slot	KinderCare 14 slots at \$505 per slot	Difference
EHS-CCP Services	\$62,115	\$22,725	\$22,248	\$21,210	(\$4,068)
Loss of Subsidy	\$10,000	-	-	-	\$10,000
Facilities Upgrade	\$85,000	-	-	-	\$85,000
Total Contract Balance	\$157,115	\$22,725	\$22,248	\$21,210	\$90,932

There will be no disruption of services to enrolled children and families. Families will continue to receive child care services through State childcare subsidy programs at Baby Yale as the location and hours of care meet their needs. Transfers from Baby Yale would have first priority should a family be interested in neighboring Early Head Start services. If approved, the change in scope will be implemented April 1, 2020. These services would continue to be provided in East County (where Baby Yale is located) where the need is most high, with family income well below the state and county average in population centers of Antioch, Oakley and Pittsburg.

As Head Start program providers, we remain cognizant of our obligations to maximize feasible and sustainable resources to promote the continuity of high quality care for our families and are committed to ensure all programs comply with Head Start Program Performance Standards. All partners are in compliance with staff qualifications as outlined in HSPPS 1302.91 and childcare centers are in good standing with Community Care Licensing. We thank you for the consideration of our slots reallocation. If you need additional information or have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (925)681-6345.

Sincerely,

Christina Reich, Division Manager
Cc: Camilla Rand, Community Services Bureau Director