



**Contra  
Costa  
County**

To: Board of Supervisors  
From: Todd Billeci, County Probation Officer  
Date: March 28, 2017

Subject: Contract Amendment with Justice Benefits Incorporated

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**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

APPROVE and AUTHORIZE the County Probation Officer, or designee, to execute a contract amendment with Justice Benefits Incorporated, Ltd. effective May 15, 2017, to extend the term through May 31, 2018, with no change to the original payment limit of \$300,000, for continued training and Title IV-E claiming assistance.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Actual cost to the Probation Department will not exceed 15% of the total Title IV-Claim, approximately \$90,000 annually.

**BACKGROUND:**

Title IV-E of the Social Security Act authorized the Foster Care and Adoption Assistance programs to provide federal matching funds to states for directly administering the programs. Its objectives were to improve the quality of care of children in foster care, reduce the number of children in foster care, return children to their homes as soon as conditions permit, and facilitate the adoption or permanent placement of children who cannot be returned to their homes. A single State agency is designed to claim Federal Title IV-E. In California, the agency is the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). The state

☒ APPROVE

☐ OTHER

☒ RECOMMENDATION OF CNTY

☐ RECOMMENDATION OF BOARD

ADMINISTRATOR

COMMITTEE

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Action of Board On: **03/28/2017** ☒ APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED ☐ OTHER

Clerks Notes:

**VOTE OF SUPERVISORS**

AYE: Candace Andersen, District II  
Supervisor  
Diane Burgis, District III  
Supervisor  
Karen Mitchoff, District IV  
Supervisor  
Federal D. Glover, District V  
Supervisor

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of an action taken and entered on the minutes of the Board of Supervisors on the date shown.

ATTESTED: March 28, 2017

David Twa, County Administrator and Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By: Rolanda Hartfield, Deputy

Contact: Danielle Fokkema,  
925-313-4195

cc:

designates implementation at the local level

### BACKGROUND: (CONT'D)

through the county's Social Services Agency. In Contra Costa County that agency is Employment and Human Services (EHSD). In late 2013, the Federal Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) conducted site visits of two Probation departments in California. During their visits they determined that Probation did not have a clear understanding of which juveniles could properly be claimed under Title IV-E. As a result the DHHS froze funding to all Probation departments. At the time they froze funding to all Probation Departments while CDSS worked DHHS to ensure that Probation departments statewide received training to ensure compliance with Title IV-E. Funding for Probation statewide has now been lifted but Contra Costa Probation has seen Title IV-E revenue drop from \$4.5 million annually to \$424,000. On April 24, 2015 CDSS audited Contra Costa Probation's Title IV-E claims. During this audit it was determined that Probation is properly claiming the correct juveniles but there was concern that Probation was under reporting the amount of time they are working with these youths. Justice Benefits, Inc. (JBI), founded in 1997, specializes in Federal Revenue Maximization for state and local entities. They are the national experts in Title IV-E claiming assistance for Probation departments and they contract with 30 Probation departments in California alone. Contra Costa Probation needs the assistance of JBI to determine how to accurately capture the amount of time deputies work with Title IV-E eligible youths.

### CONSEQUENCE OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Contra Costa County will no longer have the training and claiming expertise provided by Justice Benefits Incorporated, Ltd.

### CHILDREN'S IMPACT STATEMENT:

This action supports four of the community outcomes established in the Children's Report Card, 1) "Children Ready for and Succeeding in School"; 2) "Children and Youth Healthy and Preparing for Productive Adulthood"; 3) "Families that are Safe, Stable and Nurturing"; and, 4) "Communities that are Safe and Provide a High Quality of Life for Children and Families".