To: Board of Supervisors

From: Kathy Gallagher, Employment & Human Services Director

Date: December 7, 2021



Subject: Stipends to Contra Costa County Childcare Partner Agencies per California Assembly Bill 131 (Chapter 116, Statutes of 2021)

RECOMMENDATION(S):

APPROVE and AUTHORIZE the Auditor-Controller, or designee, to pay stipends to seven contracted child care partner agencies in an amount not to exceed \$244,200 (\$600 per child enrolled in March 2021) pursuant to California Assembly Bill 131 (Chapter 116, Statutes of 2021).

FISCAL IMPACT:

\$244,200 total stipend allocation is 100% funded by the California Department of Education (CDE) and California Department of Social Services (CDSS). No County match required.

AL# 93.596 AL# 93.575

BACKGROUND:

The County routinely receives funds from the California Department of Education (CDE) and California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to provide childcare and development services for infant/toddler and preschool children. The County receives the money via the Employment and Human Services Department (EHSD). EHSD contracts with seven child

care partner agencies to provide direct childcare and development services for infant/toddler and preschool children.

BACKGROUND: (CONT'D)

On July 15, 2021, Assembly Bill 131 (Chapter 116, Statutes of 2021) was passed and signed by Governor Newsom on July 23, 2021. Section 263(b)(1) of that bill states that CDE and CDSS are to provide a flat-rate one-time stipend amount of \$600 per child enrolled in state subsidized child care or state preschool program funded through CDE or CDSS. Funds may be used for any allowable expense that would be reimbursable under any existing child development contract to address COVID-19 related costs or to ensure programs are able to remain open or reopen. Use of these funds are subject to audit and will be appropriately tracked by EHSD. Stipend allocation will be distributed to EHSD as a direct payment outside of the child development contract and will not be subject to applicable reporting requirements.

On October 20, 2021, directives from CDSS Child Care Bulletin 21-12 states, "whereas applicable, Contractors [EHSD] must make every effort to distribute stipend payments to child care providers no more than thirty (30) calendar days after the check is received by the contactor." EHSD received the stipend funds on October 18, 2021. EHSD requests the Board of Supervisors authorize the Auditor-Controller to issue a one-time payment to the following child care partner agencies for services rendered in March 2021:

- First Baptist Church of Pittsburg, California \$157,200
- Tiny Toes Preschool and Childcare Center \$6,000
- KinderCare Learning Centers, LLC. \$9,600
- Richmond Elementary School, Inc. \$25,200
- San Ramon Valley Unified School District \$16,800
- We Care Services for Children \$14,400
- Little Angels Country School, LLC. \$15,000

March 2021 enrollment numbers have been verified by EHSD program and fiscal staff.

CONSEQUENCE OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

If not approved, child care partner agencies will not be paid for COVID-19 pandemic related expenses incurred to safeguard the health and safety of children in their care and child care partner agencies may experience diminished capacity to remain open for services rendered to EHSD.

CHILDREN'S IMPACT STATEMENT:

The Community Services Bureau of the Employment and Human Services Department's Head Start program supports three of Contra Costa County's community outcomes - Outcome 1: "Children Ready for and Succeeding in School," Outcome 3: "Families that are Economically Self-sufficient," and, Outcome 4: "Families that are Safe, Stable, and Nurturing." These outcomes are achieved by offering comprehensive services, including high quality early childhood education, nutrition, and health services to children from low income families throughout Contra Costa County.

ATTACHMENTS

March 2021 Childcare Enrollment by Provider