

**EMERGENCY
CHILD CARE BRIDGE
PROGRAM
FOR FOSTER CHILDREN**

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AGENDA

Opening & Introductions

What is the Bridge Program?

What is Funded?

Who is Participating?

What's the Budget?

Potential for Expansion

Closing Remarks

WHAT IS THE BRIDGE PROGRAM?

A program to assist foster children and their families to close the “time gap” from when children are removed from their homes, put in a crisis, and are relocated to their prospective resource parent – who is often a relative – and need to access child care immediately in order to care for their new family member and maintain their job.



WHAT'S FUNDED?

County funding allocations are determined by caseload.

For counties that don't opt-in, their funds are redistributed amongst the participating counties.



Voucher

\$61.6 Million

Federal Match



Navigator

\$10 Million



*Trauma-Informed
Care Training*

\$7.2 Million

Federal Match



County Operations

\$7.6 Million



WHAT'S THE BUDGET?

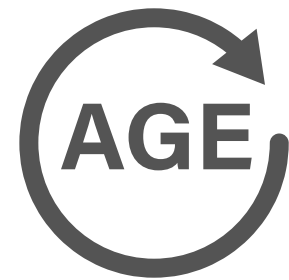
Initial program funding was \$31 million ongoing General Fund. These dollars supported the vouchers, navigation supports, and trauma-informed training and coaching.

Together, through our collective advocacy work, we have been able to increase the size of the program to *\$87.1 million.*



IDEAS TO ENSURE UTILIZATION OF FUNDING

Expand Eligibility Criteria



Consider all ages, with no additional criteria

If limited to 0-5, expand to 0-12

Expectant or parenting Nonminor Dependents



If limited to NRFEMs/Relatives, could include Foster Family Agencies

Expand vouchers beyond 12 months for a compelling reason



EXTENDING VOUCHERS BEYOND 12 MONTHS

Examples of Compelling Reasons

- Inability of the foster child to successfully transition to other subsidized child care
- Loss of voucher would disrupt stability for the child
- Loss of voucher would jeopardize a permanency plan or successful reunification.



thank you

