

April 20, 2021

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTER

The purpose of this All County Welfare Directors Letter (ACWDL) is to inform counties administering the Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children (Bridge Program) of funding available for the reimbursement of TrustLine registration services for license-exempt child care providers serving children receiving a Bridge Program voucher (subsidy payment).



KIM JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • www.cdss.ca.gov



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

April 20, 2021

ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTER

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

FROM: JENNIFER HERNANDEZ, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
FAMILY ENGAGEMENT AND EMPOWERMENT DIVISION

SUBJECT: REIMBURSEMENT OF TRUSTLINE REGISTRATION SERVICES
FOR LICENSE-EXEMPT CHILD CARE PROVIDERS SERVING
CHILDREN IN THE EMERGENCY CHILD CARE BRIDGE
PROGRAM FOR FOSTER CHILDREN (BRIDGE PROGRAM)

REFERENCE: [SENATE BILL \(SB\) 89 CHAPTER 24, STATUTES OF 2017](#);
[HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE \(HSC\) SECTION 1596.671](#);
[WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE \(WIC\) SECTION 11461.6](#);
AND ALL COUNTY LETTERS (ACL) NO. [19-18](#); ACL [18-80E](#);

The purpose of this letter is to inform County Welfare Departments (CWDs) of funds available for the reimbursement of TrustLine registration services costs for license-exempt providers serving children in the Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children (Bridge Program). The statewide General Funds (GF) available in Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21 total \$15,000 based on the 2021-22 Governor's Budget, with an additional \$16,000 available pending updates to the FY 2020-21 budget.

Background

Enacted through Senate Bill (SB) 89 and implemented in January 2018, the Bridge Program is designed to reduce child care barriers for children and parenting youth in the foster care system, their caregiver families, and for nonminor dependent parents. Counties choose to opt-in to the Bridge Program biennially to receive a share of the funding available through the California Department of Social Services (CDSS).

The Bridge Program consists of three major components: a time-limited voucher or payment for child care services, a child care navigator to help the caregiver negotiate the child care services continuum, and access to trauma-informed care training and

coaching for child care providers serving children receiving child care through the Bridge Program.

TrustLine is California's registry of license-exempt child care providers who have completed a criminal background screening and clearance process. Section 1596.671, of the HSC requires license-exempt child care providers who are caring for a Bridge Program eligible child to receive TrustLine registration services. These services have costs attached that include the live scan (fingerprinting) services fee, submission of a TrustLine Application fee, and costs associated with the administration of the background check by the Department of Justice (DOJ).

Before a license-exempt child care provider can care for a Bridge Program eligible child, the child care provider must be registered on TrustLine. Child care subsidy payments provided to a license-exempt child care provider for the Bridge Program shall cease if the provider is determined to have a criminal conviction for which a criminal conviction exemption has not been granted, pursuant to section 1596.671 of the HSC.

Often the cost of the TrustLine process is prohibitive for license-exempt child care providers, Bridge Program caregiver families, and County Child Welfare Departments. Therefore, funds are provided to support the cost of the fees associated with the TrustLine process. The Bridge Program TrustLine allocation as well as claiming details and instructions will be provided in a forthcoming County Fiscal Letter (CFL).

For questions or guidance regarding the information in this letter, email ChildCareBridge@dss.ca.gov. Questions regarding the Bridge Program allocation and/or claiming instructions should be directed to fiscal.systems@dss.ca.gov.