

ATTACHMENT I

FOSTER PARENT AND RELATIVE CAREGIVER RECRUITMENT, RETENTION AND SUPPORT (FPRRS)

COUNTY ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2015-16 FUNDING AND CONTINUING APPLICATION FOR FY 2016-17 FUNDING

This form is to be completed by county child welfare or probation departments which received FPRRS funding for FY 2015-16 (departments which did not receive FPRRS funding during FY 2015-16 should complete an initial application for FY 2016-17 FPRRS funding rather than this form.) The information on this form supplements information contained in county plans submitted to the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) through December 31, 2015, and fulfills the requirements of Welfare and Institutions Code (W&IC) sections 16003.5(b) and 16003.5(c) to establish eligibility for receipt of FPRRS funding for FY 2016-17.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

Assembly Bill 403 (Chapter 773, Statutes of 2015) added section 16003.5 to the W&IC. This section generally governs the use of funds allocated for the purpose of FPRRS. Subdivision (a) of this section provides that FPRRS may be used for purposes including, but not limited to, the following:

- (1) Staffing to provide and improve direct services and supports to licensed foster family homes, approved resource families, and relative caregivers and to remove any barriers in those areas defined as priorities in the county implementation plan and subsequent reports on outcomes.
- (2) Exceptional child needs not covered by the caregiver-specific rate that would normalize the child's experience, stabilize the placement, or enhance the child's well-being.
- (3) Child care for licensed foster parents, approved resource families, and relative caregivers.
- (4) Intensive relative finding, engagement, and navigation efforts.
- (5) Emerging technological, evidence-informed or other nontraditional approaches to outreach to potential foster family homes, resource families, and relatives.

Subdivision (b) of this section provides that counties requesting FPRRS funding submit a plan (application) by September 1 of the FY during which funding is available. This application (plan) must include the following:

- a. A definition of the specific goal or goals related to increasing the capacity and use of home-based family care and the provision of services and supports to such caregivers that the county intends to achieve,

- b. A description of the strategy or strategies the county proposes to pursue to address these goal or goals,
- c. An explanation or rationale for the proposed strategy or strategies relative to these goal or goals and
- d. A list or description of the outcomes to be reported, including baseline data for those outcomes.

Subdivision (c) of this section provides that counties receiving FPRRS funds “shall, by September 30 of the year following the end of the fiscal year in which the funding was available, report to the department the outcomes achieved through the use of that funding and the activities that contributed to those outcomes.” In accordance with this statute, CDSS is requesting that counties provide the following information concerning activities supported by FPRRS funding during FY 2015-16. Please provide any available data, anecdotal or otherwise, which supports the outcomes reported:

GENERAL OUTCOMES

1. How many new non-relative foster caregivers were recruited between January 1, 2016 and June 30, 2016? 41 non-relative foster caregivers attended a Foster Care Inquiry meeting. Ten non-relative foster caregiver homes were approved and 3 homes were pending approval as of June 30, 2016.
2. How many Relative/Non-Relative Extended Family Member (NREFM) caregivers were recruited between January 1, 2016 and June 30, 2016? 124 relative or NREFM caregivers were recruited. Of those 124, there were 119 relatives or NREFMs that started the approval process.
3. Generally speaking, did the number of foster caregivers lost between January 1, 2016 and June 30, 2016 (for reasons other than establishing permanency with a foster child) increase, decrease, or hold steady compared to previous years? The number of caregivers lost has increased, however this is due to an increase in adoptions.
4. Did FPRRS activities assist in placing children in less-restrictive settings, and/or stepping down children from group homes to family-like placements? 6 families were approved as relative caregivers for children who would otherwise have gone into a county foster home or foster family agency (FFA) home. No children stepped down from group home to a family-like placement during the reporting period. If yes, approximately how many children were affected? _____
5. Did FPRRS activities assist in achieving permanency for children in care? Yes, FPRRS activities assisted in permanency for children in care If yes, approximately how many children were affected? 88 children were directly affected by FPRRS activities.

ACTIVITY REPORTS

Please complete the following information for each activity listed in the county's FY 2015-16 FPRRS County Plan for which funding was provided:

Activity #: 1	Short Title: Increase efforts to recruitment, support, and retain resource families, foster parents, nonrelative extended family members, and relative caregivers.	
Approximate amount expended to implement this activity:	FPRRS FY 2015-16 Funds: \$4,803.87	Other funds (if any): \$
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate, organize, and financially support recruitment efforts. • Financially assist families with costs associated with licensing (items to support licensing, household items, furniture, etc.) 		
<p>Was this activity implemented as planned? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If the activity <u>was</u> implemented, explain any significant differences between planned implementation and actual implementation (e.g., decided to contract rather than directly provide services, hired different staff than anticipated). If the activity was <u>not</u> implemented, explain why (e.g., insufficient funds, time constraints, programmatic barriers):</p> <p>This activity was partially implemented. Probation partnered with Social Services on three community outreach efforts for recruitment. Numerous meeting were held with stakeholders to provide education, solicit feedback for planning events and discuss recruitment efforts. As this was the first 6 months of implementation time constraints limited the amount of activities able to be planned. This is an ongoing effort and will continue through the next funding cycle.</p>		

Describe any identifiable outcomes (qualitative or quantitative) resulting from this activity (e.g., number of relative/NREFM and non-relative caregivers recruited, retained, supported, or trained):

- Increase new licensed foster homes by 5 within the County.
- Increase community knowledge of extended foster care, commercially sexually exploited children, childhood trauma, adverse childhood experiences, and intensive foster care by hosting 2 public forums/meetings or presenting at community events/meetings annually (jointly with Social Services).
- Outreach with community for a Child Welfare Resource Center and support staff
- Outreach with community based organizations to bring awareness to the extreme need for foster parents by hosting at least three meetings with community based organizations per year.

A total of three events (one at Bethel, one at Cool April Nights, one at the Water Shed event) were held which included education and recruitment. Approximately thirty families applied to become foster homes. These applications are pending with Social Services.

Will this activity be continued during FY 2016-17? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If the activity is to be continued during FY 2016-17, explain any noteworthy differences between the activity's past implementation and its intended implementation. If the activity was not implemented previously but is intended to be implemented, explain the change in circumstances that makes implementation possible (e.g., sufficient funds now available, priority elevated, needs have changed, timeframe more favorable for implementation). If the activity will not be continued, explain why (e.g., activity completed, funding shifted to higher priorities, programmatic barriers):

Shasta County Probation will continue efforts to organize and support recruitment and educational activities on all levels described in our outcomes, with specific efforts being made to recruit foster homes for probation youth and educate on trauma informed care and commercially sexually exploited children. Probation will financially support applicants during the licensing process if items are needed to be purchased to complete the licensing process. These items could include but are not limited to: fencing, fire extinguishers, furniture, and household items. In addition, a new staff member will be in charge of these activities which will alleviate a variety of staff being responsible for these tasks as secondary duties and provide consistency in implementation.

If this activity is to be implemented during FY 2016-17, identify specific outcomes which are expected to result (e.g., number of caregivers recruited, retained, supported, or trained):

- Receive a minimum of 20 new applications for resource families.
- Process applications and license 3 new resource families.

Activity #: 2	Short Title: Improve family finding efforts	
Approximate amount expended to implement this activity:	FPRRS FY 2015-16 Funds: \$	Other funds (if any): \$
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purchase family finding software (contract with Lexis Nexis) 		
<p>Was this activity implemented as planned? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If the activity <u>was</u> implemented, explain any significant differences between planned implementation and actual implementation (e.g., decided to contract rather than directly provide services, hired different staff than anticipated). If the activity was <u>not</u> implemented, explain why (e.g., insufficient funds, time constraints, programmatic barriers):</p> <p>The negotiations and contracting process with Lexis Nexis took longer than anticipated, but this contract is expected to be in place no later than September 2016.</p>		
<p>Describe any identifiable outcomes (qualitative or quantitative) resulting from this activity (e.g., number of relative/NREFM and non-relative caregivers recruited, retained, supported, or trained):</p> <p>No identifiable outcomes as this activity was not implemented during 2015/16.</p>		
<p>Will this activity be continued during FY 2016-17? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If the activity is to be continued during FY 2016-17, explain any noteworthy differences between the activity's past implementation and its intended implementation. If the activity was <u>not</u> implemented previously but is intended to be implemented, explain the change in circumstances that makes implementation possible (e.g., sufficient funds now available, priority elevated, needs have changed, timeframe more favorable for implementation). If the activity will <u>not</u> be continued, explain why (e.g., activity completed, funding shifted to higher priorities, programmatic barriers):</p> <p>The family finding software (Lexis Nexis) contract will be completed in 2016/17 and staff will be hired and trained. Having a staff specifically assigned to this task alleviates the issues with assigning this activity to other staff as a secondary duty.</p>		

If this activity is to be implemented during FY 2016-17, identify specific outcomes which are expected to result (e.g., number of caregivers recruited, retained, supported, or trained):

- Locate at least 5 eligible family members or extended family members willing and able to accept probation youth.

Activity #: 3	Short Title: Increase support to resource families, foster parents, nonrelative extended family member, and relative caregivers to engage youth's success in placement		
Approximate amount expended to implement this activity:	FPRRS FY 2015-16 Funds: \$	Other funds (if any): \$	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial support of pro-social activities for youth (school supplies/college support, clothing, household items, memberships, transportation costs/travel costs, extra-curricular activities, including but not limited to) • Train staff on EBP journaling intervention 			
<p>Was this activity implemented as planned? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If the activity <u>was</u> implemented, explain any significant differences between planned implementation and actual implementation (e.g., decided to contract rather than directly provide services, hired different staff than anticipated). If the activity was <u>not</u> implemented, explain why (e.g., insufficient funds, time constraints, programmatic barriers):</p> <p>Due to time constraints the activities during this 6 month period were limited to community education, outreach and recruitment efforts.</p>			
<p>Describe any identifiable outcomes (qualitative or quantitative) resulting from this activity (e.g., number of relative/NREFM and non-relative caregivers recruited, retained, supported, or trained):</p> <p>No identifiable outcomes as this activity was not implemented during 2015/16.</p>			

Will this activity be continued during FY 2016-17?

☒ Yes

☐ No

If the activity is to be continued during FY 2016-17, explain any noteworthy differences between the activity's past implementation and its intended implementation. If the activity was not implemented previously but is intended to be implemented, explain the change in circumstances that makes implementation possible (e.g., sufficient funds now available, priority elevated, needs have changed, timeframe more favorable for implementation). If the activity will not be continued, explain why (e.g., activity completed, funding shifted to higher priorities, programmatic barriers):

As new resource families complete the licensing process staff will target those families and the youth to provide pro-social activities and support to assure a successful placement or step down. Hiring a new staff member will allow designated time to focus efforts in this area. Training for probation staff on EBP journaling intervention will increase staffs ability to work with probation families, specifically the youth, which will increase the success both for those youth in resource family placements and prevent future placements of other youth in the juvenile justice system.

If this activity is to be implemented during FY 2016-17, identify specific outcomes which are expected to result (e.g., number of caregivers recruited, retained, supported, or trained):

- Train 15 probation staff in EBP journaling intervention
- 50% of the youth placed with newly licensed resource families (relative and nonrelative) will remain stable in their placement longer than 6 months.

(add additional entries as needed)

NEW ACTIVITIES

If any previously-unidentified activities are intended to be implemented using FPRRS funding for FY 2016-17, please complete the following information for each new planned activity:

Activity #: 4	Short Title: Increase support to staff, resource families, foster parents, nonrelative extended family member, and relative caregivers to engage youth's success in placement
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Description of this activity: Train all staff who work and supervise placement youth or youth at risk of placement and resource families, foster parents, nonrelative extended family member, and relative caregivers in Risky Connections, a framework and skill set for working with survivors of traumatic experiences. The focus is on relationship as healing and on self-care for service providers.

- 20 hour training of Risky Connections for Probation staff
- 9 hour training of Risky Connections for resource families, foster parents, nonrelative extended family member, and relative caregivers
- 6 hour instructor led RICH relationship 101
- Risky Connections online access

Rationale for implementing this activity:

The youth we serve have experienced trauma in their lives and are impacted daily by these experiences. Training staff and adults working with the youth will allow them to deliver services from a trauma informed care model while working to support the youth in their growth and healthy well-being. It will further provide the education necessary to better understand youth who have experienced repeated, chronic, or multiple traumas plus the symptoms and consequences.

Specific outcomes which are expected to result from this activity (where applicable, include baseline data and the extent of the change which is expected to occur):

- Train 25 Probation staff
- Train 10 resource families, foster parents, nonrelative extended family member, and relative caregivers

Activity #: 5

Short Title: Hire a fulltime Deputy Probation Officer to fully implement CCR.

Description of this activity:

Hire a fulltime Deputy Probation Officer to organize and facilitate our departments efforts to: 1.) work with local group homes and foster homes to increase the number of youth placed within Shasta County as opposed to placements outside Shasta County; 2.) work with placements and youth to increase step down efforts; 3.) organize and facilitate recruitment efforts; 4.) increase family finding and family engagement efforts; 5.) assist resource families with the pre-approval and RFA process; 6.) facilitate permanency efforts; 7.) partner with community based organizations; 8.) foster care outreach and marketing. Costs will include salary and benefits for a full time Deputy Probation Officer I/II, operating expenditures, and the purchase of a vehicle. The vehicle will be used for transportation to outreach efforts, home visits, trainings, pro social activities with the youth, and other grant activities.

Rationale for implementing this activity:

This employee will be able to concentrate on all recruitment, retention and support activities. They will be able to spend the necessary time with the providers, youth and his/her family, and probation officer to work toward a lower level and permanent placement for the youth. This will allow a staff member to assist and support the resource families through the RFA process. They will be able to provide probation specific education and training to the resource families. Having one staff member being able to focus strictly on recruitment, retention and support, will increase the continuity of care, placement stability, permanent placements (including extended foster care), treatment provided, successful and placement; and decrease law violations, technical violations and runaways.

Our overarching goal from this activity is to implement CCR successfully and reduce the use of group home placements.

Specific outcomes which are expected to result from this activity (where applicable, include baseline data and the extent of the change which is expected to occur):

- Reduction of group home placements by 5 %.