

County of Santa Clara
Social Services Agency
Department of Development & Operational Planning
Office of Contracts Management



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DATE: June 9, 2009

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: 
Will Lightbourne
Agency Director, Social Services Agency

SUBJECT: Adopt Resolution Delegating Authority to the Social Services Agency Director to Enter Into Agreements for Transitional Housing Placement-Plus Related Services

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Adopt Resolution delegating authority to the Director of the Social Services Agency, or designee, to negotiate, execute, amend and terminate Agreements with Transitional Placement-Plus Providers and Case Managers relating to the provision of transitional housing services to eligible former foster youth in an amount not to exceed \$2,215,401.00, unless additional revenue is available, for the period July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010, including the option of two additional one-year terms following approval by County Counsel as to form and legality, and approval by the Office of the County Executive. Delegation of authority shall expire on June 30, 2012 (Roll Call Vote).

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no negative impact to the General Fund as a result of the Recommended Action. The County receives 100% expense reimbursement from the State for approved slots. Funding for FY 2010 is included in the FY 2010 Recommended Budget. Matching revenues and expenditures will be included in the FY 2011 budget as it is being developed.

CONTRACT HISTORY

Since February 1, 2007, the Social Services Agency has contracted with the following organizations to provide THP-Plus services: Unity Care Group, Inc., Bill Wilson Center, and EHC Lifebuilder's. San Jose State University provides the housing component for THP-Plus while the Agency provides the case management function. Additionally, the Agency enters into Host Family Agreements with persons identified by the participant as a life-long connection. Case Management plays an integral role in the San Jose State University and Host Family models.

The Social Services Agency issued an Intent to Participate requesting responses from new agencies interested in providing THP-Plus services during FY 2010 and current providers to continue services. The Agency will be working with current providers to update their THP-Plus plans and with interested providers to submit a plan. It is the intent of the Agency to have a continuum of housing options available to eligible participants based on need.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

Currently, the Social Services Agency has delegation of authority under different transmittals for each of the THP-Plus categories - San Jose State University, Host Family Agreements, and scattered site providers. It is the intent of the Agency to merge the separate delegation of authority approvals under a single delegation of authority.

In accordance with the Board of Supervisors policy for entering into an Agreement, the Social Services Agency is requesting delegation of authority to enter into Agreements (Memoranda of Understanding, Host Family Agreements, and Service Agreements) with Transitional Housing Placement-Plus Providers and Case Managers in Santa Clara County. Delegation of authority will allow the Agency Director, or designee, to negotiate and execute the Agreements. Additionally, delegation will provide the Agency Director, or designee, with the authority to amend and terminate the agreements as necessary to meet the needs of the Department of Family and Children's Services (DFCS) and the target population.

Agreements are based on person slot counts which is limited to a total of 98 slots per month and the reimbursement associated with each slot varies based on the type of housing category. The Agency monitors the slot count and expenditures for the THP-Plus Program on a monthly basis. Memoranda of Understanding will be used for Agreements with providers who are providing scattered site housing and services, Service Agreements will be used for Case Manager contracts and Host Family Agreements will be in a boilerplate format following approval by County Counsel and to form and legality, and approval by the Office of the County Executive. The approved boilerplate Agreement allows the Agency to maintain client confidentiality while ensuring compliance with State and County policy. An approved boilerplate is currently on file.

BACKGROUND

There are over 600 foster youth ages 14 -18 in the Santa Clara County foster care system. Every year between 100 and 200 youth emancipate from the County foster care system. Many of these youth leave foster care lacking the support needed to succeed, with only 58% completing high school or its equivalent and 45% attending college. Secure and safe housing is one of the largest issues facing youth as they leave the foster care system. Many youth report they have ended

up homeless at some point during the first few years after leaving foster care.

As part of the DFCS California Connected by 25 Initiative, a Housing Workgroup was established to seek and secure affordable housing for young adults who have emancipated from the foster care system. On a parallel timeframe, the State of California, Department of Social Services (CDSS) issued an All County Letter asking counties to submit a Transitional Housing Placement-Plus (THP-Plus) plan for approval. THP-Plus is a State funded program that provides housing and support services for young adults who emancipate from the foster care system and meet the eligibility criteria (which includes ages 19 up to their 24th birthday) for up to twenty-four cumulative months. The Social Services Agency successfully submitted a THP-Plus plan to the CDSS and received approval with an effective date of July 1, 2006. Under the extraordinary efforts of the John Burton Foundation, funding for the program was changed to 100% State funds.

In an effort to meet the goal of securing affordable housing, the Agency has implemented three transitional housing models funded under the THP-Plus State program: 1) Host Family Model - participants are living with their former foster family or other life-long connection; 2) San Jose State University Dorm Model - full-time students reside on campus in the San Jose State University residence halls while they attend an accredited college or vocational program; and 3) Scattered Site Model via contracted services - participants can live in a variety of "scattered sites" including their own apartments or shared housing.

CDSS approved the County's funding request for a rate of \$1,800 per single participant and \$3,500 per parenting participant. The Social Services Agency currently has 98 participants with a waiting list of close to 200. The program has served approximately 261 young adults since 2007 and continues to grow and evolve as statewide workgroups are convened and information is disseminated across counties.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

The Social Services Agency will be unable to enter into Agreements with THP-Plus Providers and Case Manager's and housing and supportive services will not be available to emancipated foster youth.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The Clerk of the Board will follow the usual steps for a transmittal of this type. The Social Services Agency Director, or designee, will negotiate and execute Agreements associated with THP-Plus in Santa Clara County. A copy of the Agreements will be forwarded to the Clerk of the Board within 30 days of execution.

ATTACHMENTS

- Resolution for the THP-Plus Program