



COUNTY of VENTURA

MELISSA LIVINGSTON
Director

February 27, 2024

HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

855 Partridge Drive
Ventura, CA 93003
805-477-5100

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

JENNIE PITTMAN
Deputy Director
Administrative Services

VICTORIA JUMP
Deputy Director
Aging & Disability Services

Subject: Approval of, and Authorization for the Purchasing Agent to Sign, Amendment #4 to Increase the Not-to-Exceed Amount from \$200,000 to \$255,000, an Increase of \$55,000, to the Contract with Ventura County Office of Education, for the Foster Youth Transportation Program Through June 30, 2024; and Authorization for the Purchasing Agent to Approve and Sign Additional Limited Amendments Upon Certain Conditions.

DAVID SWANSON HOLLINGER
Deputy Director
Children & Family Services

MARISSA MACH
Deputy Director
Community Access & Engagement

ELAINE MARTINEZ
Deputy Director
Community Services

Recommendations:

1. Approve, and authorize the Purchasing Agent to sign, amendment #4 to increase the not-to-exceed amount from \$200,000 to \$255,000, an increase of \$55,000, to the contract with Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE), for the Foster Youth Transportation Program through June 30, 2024 (Exhibit 1.)
2. Authorize the Purchasing Agent to approve and sign additional limited amendments to (a) decrease, or increase up to ten percent, the amount of the contract, (b) extend the time for performance up to six months, and (c) make corrections, clarifications and technical changes, when the changes are consistent with the original purpose of the contract, subject to review and approval by County Executive Office and County Counsel.

Fiscal/Mandates Impact:

Mandatory:	Yes
Source of Funding:	State Realignment Revenue
Funding Match Required:	No
Impact on other Departments:	None

Summary of Revenue and Costs:

	<u>FY 2023-24</u>	<u>FY 2024-25</u>
Revenue:		
Direct	\$55,000	\$0
Total Revenue	\$55,000	\$0

Costs:		
Direct	\$55,000	\$0
Indirect	Minimal	Minimal
Total Costs	\$55,000	\$0
Net County Cost	\$0	\$0

There is no net County cost associated with this action. There are sufficient revenues and appropriations in the Human Services Agency (HSA) Adopted Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24 and no additional appropriations are being sought at this time.

FY 2023-24 Budget for HSA Program Operations Division # 3410				
	Adopted Budget	Adjusted Budget	Projected Budget	Estimated Savings/(Deficit)
Appropriations	\$205,531,529	\$211,540,829	\$214,782,821	(\$3,241,992)
Revenue	\$181,427,098	\$181,427,098	\$186,585,653	\$5,158,555
Net Cost	\$24,104,431	\$30,113,731	\$28,197,168	\$1,916,563

Discussion:

Children in out-of-home placement have historically experienced many barriers to their academic and educational success due to placement disruptions. The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) promotes greater stability for children in out-of-home care so they can continue their education without disruption, maintain important relationships with peers and adults, and achieve college- and career-readiness. The ESSA requires that when a youth is placed into foster care, transportation is provided to the School of Origin unless a change of schools is determined to be in the best interest of the student. When it is not feasible for the caregiver to provide the transportation for the youth, VCOE, the state mandated partner for this program, works with the school district to arrange alternative modes of transportation, which may include school bus, public transportation, door-to-door transportation, etc. When these alternative arrangements are required, the school district provides 50% of the cost of the transportation services, and County provides the other 50%, which is represented in this contract.

On average, 30 youth are provided rides to their School of Origin each month through arrangements made by VCOE. The program has seen year-over-year increases in the quantity of student rides provided, with projections of 7,364 rides in FY 2023-24 compared to 6,323 in FY 2021-22—an increase of 16%. The distance traveled has also increased as out-of-home placements are often not within the same school district. In addition, the cost of fuel and vehicle maintenance has steadily increased, causing the current transportation provider to increase the base rate of each transportation.

We ask your Board to approve, and authorize the Purchasing Agent to sign, the amendment to increase the not-to-exceed amount of the contract with VCOE, by \$55,000, and authorize the Purchasing Agent to approve and sign additional limited amendments as detailed in recommendation two.

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Strategic Plan:

Providing school transportation to foster youth contributes to the Board of Supervisors' Strategic Plan priority of 'Address Homelessness and Lift Up the Most Vulnerable', Goal (2) Meet/sustain basic needs and be a reliable safety net for our vulnerable populations.

This item has been reviewed by the GSA Purchasing Agent, County Executive Office, the Auditor-Controller's Office and County Counsel. If you have any questions, please contact me at 805-477-5301, or David Swanson Hollinger, Deputy Director, Children & Family Services, at 805-477-5311.



Melissa Livingston
Director

Exhibit 1 – Ventura County Office of Education- Amendment 4