

## **ATTACHMENT II**

### **FOSTER AND RELATIVE CAREGIVER RECRUITMENT, RETENTION AND SUPPORT (FPRRS)**

#### **INITIAL COUNTY APPLICATION FOR FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2016-17 FUNDING**

This form is to be completed by county child welfare or probation departments which did not receive FPRRS funding for FY 2015-16 (departments which did receive FPRRS funding for FY 2015-16 should complete an activities and outcomes report and continuing application for FPRRS funding rather than this form.) Submission of this completed form fulfills the requirements of Welfare and Institutions Code (W&IC) section 16003.5(b) and establishes 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.

In accordance with this statute, the California Department of Social Services requests that the following information be submitted concerning FPRRS funding available for FY 2016-17:

### **GOALS AND INTENDED OUTCOMES**

Baseline Data as of 8-15-16:

Number of children placed with non-relative foster caregivers: 0

Number of children placed with relative caregivers: 1

Number of children placed in congregate care settings: 25

Recruitment:

Increase the number of non-relative foster caregivers recruited by 5

Increase the number of relative foster caregivers recruited by 10

Retention:

Decrease the number of non-relative foster caregivers lost (for reasons other than achieving permanency with a foster child) by N/A

Decrease the number of non-relative foster caregivers lost (for reasons other than achieving permanency with a relative foster child) by N/A

Support:

Provide additional supports to N/A existing non-relative foster caregivers

Provide additional supports to 1 existing relative caregivers

Other (explain):

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### **ACTIVITIES**

Indicate the types of activities proposed to be implemented using FY 2016-17 FPRRS funding:

- ☒ Family-Finding – Staff (Direct Hire or Contracted)
- ☒ Family-Finding – Software/Other
- ☐ Recruitment, Outreach and Pre-Approval Support – Staff (Direct Hire or Contracted) (e.g., foster parent mentor during approval process, county staff support to complete approval process)
- ☐ Recruitment and Outreach – Applicant Support/Non-Staff (e.g., mobile LiveScan, child care for trainings)

- Recruitment and Outreach – Other
  - Placement Support – Staff (Direct Hire or Contracted) (e.g., staff to provide transportation, 24/7 crisis response, monitors/support staff for enhanced family visitation)
  - Initial Placement Support – Financial/Aid-in-Kind (e.g., stipend upon emergency placement with relatives)
  - Caregiver Support – Other (e.g., caregiver warm-lines, caregiver support groups)
  - ☐ Normalizing Activities – Extracurricular
  - ☐ Caregiver Training
  - ☐ Respite Care
  - ☐ Child Care (other than for participation at county trainings)
  - Facilitating the Movement of Children to Less-Restrictive/Family-Like Settings
  - ☐ Models for Engagement (e.g., Mockingbird, HUB homes, foster parent mentors)
  - ☐ Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI) Implementation Support
  - ☐ Wraparound Services
  - ☐ Public Health Nurse
  - ☐ Caregiver Appreciation Events
  - ☐ Caregiver Recruitment Incentives
  - ☐ Marketing and Outreach – Other
  - ☐ Automation
  - ☐ Other (explain)
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<b>Activity #: 1</b>	Short Title: 0.5 FTE Senior Deputy Probation Officer (SrDPO)-Integrated Services Coordinator (ISC)
<p data-bbox="203 268 613 304"><b>Description of this activity:</b></p> <p data-bbox="203 342 1451 451">Senior Deputy Probation Officer – Integrated Services Coordinator (SrDPO-ISC) would be responsible for many Continuum of Care Reform related activities including the following:</p> <p data-bbox="203 489 1451 779">SrDPO-ISC would work to develop and implement a standardized practice of Family Finding specifically for Ventura County Probation Agency (VCPA). This would include collaborating with various juvenile probation units within the agency to identify youth in need of family finding, submitting requests for search services via Seneca Search Services (Seneca Family Agencies), and assist Deputy Probation Officers (DPO) with family engagement and relationship building. This practice would include collaboration with juvenile units that have the earliest contact with the youth entering the juvenile justice system.</p> <p data-bbox="203 816 1451 1182">The SrDPO-ISC would work in conjunction with DPOs to coordinate Family Team meetings. The SrDPO-ISC would also facilitate these meetings which would occur regularly, with the frequency depending on the youth’s identified level of care and needs. During these meetings the SrDPO-ISC will ensure that barriers to the youth returning to a family-like setting will be identified, targeted, and that a plan for a remedy will be worked on by the Family Team. SrDPO-ISC would ensure the Family Team discusses the appropriateness of the youth returning to a lower-level of care/family-like setting and discusses what options, if any, are available should the youth be appropriate to step-down a level of care. If no options are identified, SrDPO-ISC would assist in ensuring that the Family Finding process is utilized as early as possible (see above).</p> <p data-bbox="203 1220 1451 1402">The SrDPO-ISC would be an additional point-of-contact for caregivers who may need increased support. DPO’s may also refer a family to the SrDPO-ISC if there is reason to believe the family or youth may need additional assistance in order to prevent the youth from being removed and placed at a higher level of care. The SrDPO would work to link the family to appropriate services and monitor progress and participation.</p>	

**Rationale for implementing this activity:**

There is currently no Family Finding practice in place for our agency. By creating the role of a SrDPO-ISC, the SrDPO-ISC will work on developing and implementing an efficient system for these promising practices. By having a designated officer collaborating with other units to identify familial supports as early on in the process as possible (information gathering at the youth's entry into the juvenile justice system), we may work to fortify those identified supports so that they are ready and able to support the youth, should the youth face removal from their home of origin. Family finding efforts are critical as outcomes may include the youth's successful exit from the juvenile justice system, improved well-being of the youth and placement permanency. The SrDPO-ISC will also work to engage Family Finding efforts for youth in the Independent Living Program/Transitional Housing Program Plus Foster Care (ILP/THP+FC) services. Identifying, linking, and fostering relationships between these youth and a positive, dedicated, consistent adult figure is crucial to gaining better outcomes and the youth's future success.

A SrDPO-ISC will give a youth's case additional oversight and ensure the Family Team is focusing on case plan and permanency goals by reviewing the youth's placement and potential family-like settings/lower levels of care and that Family Finding practice is implemented at the earliest juncture. A SrDPO-ISC would remain involved throughout the lifetime of the youth's case; therefore, providing continuity of care.

In addition, the SrDPO-ISC would be a resource for caregivers as well as for DPOs. The SrDPO-ISC would serve as an expert in local resources. In turn, the SrDPO-ISC would save the officers time by having knowledge of available resources and points-of-contact with the resources and supports in the community. Caregivers and youth would be linked with the most appropriate services and supports in a timely manner. Placement stability would be further fortified, as well as the retention of caregivers, by providing caregivers support and communication.

**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):**

As a result of the addition of a SrDPO-ISC, it is expected that families may be identified earlier in the juvenile justice process, thereby avoiding wardship and more families will be identified to become caregivers for probation foster youth. The SrDPO-ISC will be able to focus on available resources in the community to support the caregivers. Outcomes related to permanency and the decreased use of restrictive placements would be expected to improve using these practices.

<b>Activity #: 2</b>	<b>Short Title: Office Based Probation Case Aide (OBPCA)</b>
<p><b>Description of this activity:</b></p> <p>The OBPCAs role will to be assist DPOs with providing indirect and direct case services related to probation foster youth. The OBPCA role would be modeled after the Ventura County Human Services Agency's Office Based Case Aide position.</p> <p>The OBPCA will require extensive knowledge of probation foster youth cases in order to efficiently assist the DPO with locating information needed in a timely manner. OBPCAs will assist in tracking information and outcomes for DPOs regarding probation foster youth's placement status and progress. OBPCAs will assist with general data entry, entering case notes and contacts in the Child Welfare Services Case Management System ( CWS/CMS) and VCPA's information system. OBPCA would assist in the completion of required, time-sensitive documentation and dissemination of documentation to Courts, attorneys, the Family Team, and service providers. OBPCAs will be able to provide caregiver support by fielding phone calls and answering questions from caregivers and the public regarding placement, juvenile probation foster youth in general, and programs and services. OBPCA's will assist the youth and family/caregivers during their transition to their home of origin or family-like setting by acting as a liaison for obtaining pertinent school and medical information (i.e. immunization and medical records). OBPCAs will work with the Transportation Services Officer and DPOs to schedule visits for youth and their family/caregivers and track consistency and outcomes of visits. OBPCAs will assist in research, information gathering and compiling statistics and outcomes related to probation foster youth.</p>	
<p><b>Rationale for implementing this activity:</b></p> <p>VCPA does not currently have Case Aides. OBPCA will take on various tasks which will in turn free the DPO to focus on proper assessment, triage of crises and emergencies, Family Finding, family/caregiver engagement and support (aimed at retention and permanency), and thoughtful case plan development and implementation. Probation will be better able to prioritize and focus on youth who have the most challenges returning to a family-like setting. With OBPCAs ensuring current, updated information in databases, DPOs will be able to target interventions and case plans with greater efficiency, and provide more accurate information to the State's Department of Social Services.</p> <p>Family/caregivers will feel supported by being able to contact the OBPCA for information crucial to a smooth transition to a new placement setting. The OBPCA can assist in facilitating the retrieval and dissemination of documents (i.e. school transcripts and immunization records) so that youth will have un-interrupted access to various services. The OBPCA will be able to respond to requested information in a timely manner.</p>	

**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):**

DPOs case management abilities will increase and they will be able to focus on rectifying the identified barriers to youth returning to their home of origin or to a family-like setting. This will also likely decrease the youth's time spent in an Short Term Residential Treatment Program. Gaps in service will be bridged by the OBPCA by keeping up-to-date records. OBPCAs will disseminate records, as appropriate, in a timely manner to family/caregivers and service providers ensuring a smoother transition to a new placement and continuity in services for youth.

<b>Activity #: 3</b>	<b>Short Title: Corrections Services Officer II (CSO II)</b>
<b>Description of this activity:</b>  <p>A CSO II will be available to assist DPOs with providing transportation services related to probation foster youth 30 hours per week.</p> <p>The CSO II would assist the DPOs in communicating with family/caregivers regarding allowable visits as well as assist in scheduling the visits. The CSO II would also ensure consistent visits are occurring by providing transportation for youth and family/caregivers when transportation has been identified as a barrier. The CSO II, would, in some cases, supervise visits between the youth and family members/caregivers and provide coaching to both parties on case plan, permanency, and Family Team goals.</p> <p>The CSO II would also assist DPOs with transportation of youth from their current placement to a less restrictive, or family-like setting. Part of the transportation process would be supporting, mentoring, and coaching the youth throughout travel. The CSO II will communicate with the youth's new caregiver and share insights and assistance to ensure a smoother transition. CSO II will have considerable involvement with the youth and family, they will participate in the Family Team process as deemed necessary.</p>	



**Rationale for implementing this activity:**

VCPA currently does not have transportation services designated specifically for youth in suitable placement. By assigning an incumbent Corrections Services Officer II designated hours per week as a transportation officer for placement youth, we would be filling the position with an officer who already possesses working knowledge and many of the tools and skills needed to perform in this role. Supplemental on-the-job training specific to probation placement youth role would be provided by the Juvenile Placement Unit (PLAU) Supervising Deputy Probation Officer (SDPO), PLAU SrDPO, and SrDPO-ISC. CSO II staff are already trained in the following areas, to include, but are not limited to: working with youth and family/caregivers, transportation of high-risk youth, diffusing volatile situations, communication within chain-of-command, supervision of visits, trauma informed care, providing for the physical and safety needs of youth, CPR and first aid, maintaining written and electronic records of visits and observations of behavior, and completing documentation in our Agency's information system.

Transportation services for youth in placement will also free the assigned DPOs to focus on proper assessment, triage of crises and emergencies, Family Finding, family/caregiver engagement and support (aimed at retention and permanency), thoughtful case plan development and implementation.

At a case's onset, probation foster youth are projected to be rated at the highest levels of care due to their delinquency, as well as severe mental health and substance abuse issues. Due to their levels of care, many will initially be placed in Short Term Residential Treatment Programs (STRTP) throughout the State of California (many times outside of Ventura County and at times out-of-state, due to the severity of the youth's behaviors). Currently, visits from family/caregivers should be more frequent and consistent; however, oversight of visits, communication with family/caregivers regarding visit protocol and scheduling, and transportation are lacking. Transportation has been a large challenge for family/caregivers due to youth being placed outside of Ventura County. A CSO II will be able to break down this barrier and increase the frequency and quality of visits with youth and their family/caregivers.

As the CSO II will help to ensure that consistent visits with family members are occurring by aiding with transportation and organization of visits. As a result, youth will build more meaningful and solid relationships with family/caregivers. The CSO II will coach the youth and caregiver throughout the visit on the case plan, Family Team, and permanency goals. DPOs often travel across the state and country to provide case management to our youth in congregate care. By designating an allotted amount of hours for a CSO II to provide transportation, logistical aspects of relocating youth to new placements will be performed more expeditiously. In addition, the CSO IIs very frequently have an established rapport with the youth as they have previously supervised them at the Juvenile Facilities and will provide quality coaching and mentoring of the youth before, during, and after the youth is transported to their new placement.

**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):**

By providing transportation services to placement youth via a CSO II, Probation will experience better case management practices resulting in better service to our youth and family/caregivers. It is expected that the number and quality of visits between youth and family/caregivers will increase with the assistance of a CSO II. This will support placement stability and strengthened bonds between youth and family/caregivers. The CSO II will provide additional coaching, guidance, and support for the youth and caregivers, and this will contribute to better outcomes, including permanency, for youth and family/caregivers.

<b>Activity #: 4</b>	<b>Short Title: Flex Funding for Foster Caregiver Support and Placement Stability</b>
<p><b>Description of this activity:</b></p> <p>With the addition of a flex funding account, Probation will be able to directly and swiftly alleviate some financial stress for families in transition. Funds would be utilized to assist with the following common barriers, to include (but not limit to): transportation (to and from Court hearings, probation appointments, counseling services, doctor's appointments, etc.) basic necessities (clothing, school supplies, furniture for youth's room, smoke detector, etc.), services to support the youth's needs (i.e. specialized counseling, involvement in extra-curricular activities, camps and special events) and utilizing Seneca Search services in the event a youth needs family-finding services. Seneca Search Services is a service provided through Seneca Family of Agencies' National Institute for Permanent Family Connectedness. Once information regarding a youth's family is submitted by Probation to Seneca Search Services, the service will have an experienced search agent access multiple premium search databases and social media to provide a customized search report with the most comprehensive information available.</p>	
<p><b>Rationale for implementing this activity:</b></p> <p>Often times, when probation youth are preparing for a transition, or are in the midst of transitioning into a new home setting, unforeseen expenses occur. By having a flex funding account available to Probation, we would be able to assist families with immediate needs, alleviate barriers to permanency, and relieve some financial stress from families waiting to receive reimbursement for foster care expenses. For example, a family may not have a working smoke detector and this is the only barrier keeping the child in an STRTP as opposed to returning home. With flex funding, Probation would be able to monetarily assist in overcoming the barrier by replacing the smoke detector, allowing the youth to be transitioned home as planned. Another example is if a foster family is in need of childcare in order to attend training or treatment, Probation will be able to access funds to assist in paying for childcare. Flex funds could also be utilized to purchase clothing, hygiene items, and school supplies for probation foster youth in need, while other funding sources are pending. Funds would either supplement a need for a purchase, or depending on cost, cover the entire purchase. If Probation is having difficulty locating relatives for youth, we will utilize money from flex spending to purchase search services from Seneca Family Agencies on an as-needed basis.</p>	

**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):**

By providing this financial assistance to youth and families, we expect that barriers of the above noted nature will be addressed swiftly, helping youth to transition seamlessly to a family-like setting. By alleviating some financial stress of unexpected expenses, we would be easing the transitions for families welcoming youth home and improving permanency and retention of caregivers/families. With the ability to utilize flex spending for Seneca Search Services, we expect to expand Family Finding efforts for youth and identify potential resources for familial connections, support, and/or familial placement options.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

Include any additional information the county wishes to share regarding its planned FPRRS activities during FY 2016-17:

We believe that relative caregivers are potentially the best source of foster families for probation youth. We recognize the importance and benefit of our youth having strong kinship connections and support for long-lasting success and permanency. While we also recognize the need to recruit and expand resources of non-relative foster families for this population, many of our youth currently have parents and relatives that, with the addition of services and supports, appear suitable and willing to take the youth into their care; however, currently the youth's behavior warrants intensive treatment due to severe mental health disorders and/or serious substance abuse issues. Therefore, the emphasis in the above proposal is based strongly in recruiting, supporting, and retaining relative caregivers as foster families while still recognizing a need to expand our non-relative foster family resources.