

County of Santa Clara
Social Services Agency
Financial Management Services
Office of Contracts Management



SSA02 101706


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DATE: October 17, 2006

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: 
Will Lightbourne
Agency Director, Social Services Agency

SUBJECT: Approve Delegation of Authority to Director of the Social Services Agency, or Designee, to Negotiate, Execute, Amend and Terminate a Memorandum of Understanding with San Jose State University to Provide Housing to Santa Clara County Former Foster Youth

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve delegation of authority to the Director of the Social Services Agency , or designee, to negotiate, execute, amend and terminate a Memorandum of Understanding with San Jose State University relating to providing dorm housing to former foster youth who have emancipated from the County of Santa Clara, Social Services Agency, Department of Family and Children's Services in an initial amount not to exceed \$107,604 for period August 27, 2006 through June 30, 2007, with an option of two additional one-year extensions, 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, 2009.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There will be no impact to the County General Fund. Payments for this program are currently included in the Social Services Agency budget which was part of the Board of Supervisors FY 2007 Approved Budget. The estimated payment for each of the participants (Cohort 1 is 9 participants for 5 months and Cohort 2 is 13 participants for 5 months) per month is \$975 for a total of \$107,250 for FY 2007. The Social Services Agency will bill the California Department of Social Services Transitional Housing Placement Plus Program at a reimbursement rate of 100%. In the event that State funding is no longer available, the Social Services Agency will use CalWorks Incentives funds designated for housing former foster youth who are participating in the California Connected by 25 Program.

CONTRACT HISTORY

Not Applicable.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

In accordance with Board of Supervisors policy for entering into an Agreement, the Social Services Agency is retroactively requesting delegation of authority to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with San Jose State University. In order to take advantage the San Jose State University housing and remain on course with the implementation of the Connected By 25 Career Pathways Program, the young adults had to move into the dorm on August 27, 2006. The Social Services Agency was only given three days to accept the dorm rooms at San Jose State University. In an effort to utilize the housing resources, the Social Services Agency authorized the young adults to move into dorm housing. Eight of the former

foster youth were homeless at the time and without dorm housing would not have been able to participate in the Career Pathways Program. Delegation of authority is requested retroactively so the Social Services Agency can enter into an official agreement with San Jose State University for dorm rooms being utilized by Santa Clara County former foster youth.

Delegation of authority will allow the Social Services Agency Director, or designee, to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding with San Jose State University and continue to modify the agreement as necessary without an interruption in services.

BACKGROUND

California Connected by 25 (CC25) is an initiative of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Stuart Foundation, and the Walter S. Johnson Foundation. As part of the CC25 Initiative, two of the Santa Clara County workgroups have been working together to secure housing for former foster youth who emancipated from Santa Clara County and are participating in the Career Pathways Program being implemented at Mission College. The Career Pathways Program is a collaboration between the Social Services Agency, work2future, and Mission College. It is a 16-week college bridge program that allows participants to attend Mission College to further their education while learning applicable job skills. The Department of Family and Children's Services worked with San Jose State University to secure dorm rooms on campus for nine of the Cohort 1 participants of the Career Pathways Program. Thirteen housing slots are budgeted for Cohort 2 participants (beginning February 1, 2007) and/or eligible Cohort 1 participants at San Jose State University.

During April 13, 2006, the Social Services Agency submitted a "Letter of Interest" to the California Department of Social Services along with a Transitional Housing Placement Plus Plan (THP-Plus) for FY 2007 to fund a designated number of slots for transitional housing for young adults ages 18-24 who have emancipated out of the foster care system. THP-Plus programs certified under the State regulations must be designed to provide a safe and adequate residence and allow participants the maximum amount of independence and self-sufficiency. Under the State regulations, acceptable residential units includes college dormitories. On July 12, 2006, the Governor signed into law budget trailer bill AB 1808 approving 100% State funding for the THP-Plus Program. On September 8, 2006, the California Department of Social Services issued All County Letter No. 06-38 outlining the funding allocations for FY 2006. The five counties who are currently operating a Transitional Housing Placement Plus Program received the bulk of the funding and approximately \$312,396 will be distributed on a

"first come, first served" basis to all counties with an approved THP–Plus plan until the funds are exhausted.

It is anticipated that the Agency will be able to draw down some State funding for the San Jose State placements. If needed, the CalWorks Incentive Funds designated for foster youth housing will be used to pay for the dorm housing for the young adults residing at San Jose State University.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Negative action will result in the possible homelessness of the nine former foster youth who are currently housed at San Jose State University. Negative action will also result in the Social Services Agency inability to continue to offer dorm housing as an alternative to homelessness for those former foster youth who are participating in the CC25 Initiative.

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 a Memorandum of Understanding with San Jose State University and forward a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding to the Clerk of the Board within 30 days of the execution of the agreement.