

This bill would, commencing January 1, 2018, establish the Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children (bridge program). The bill would authorize county welfare departments to administer the bridge program and distribute vouchers, or payment, for child care services for an eligible child who is placed with an approved resource family, a licensed or certified foster family, or an approved relative or nonrelative extended family member, or who is the child of a young parent involved in the child welfare system. The bill would require, for counties that choose to participate, that county welfare departments determine eligibility for the bridge program and provide monthly payment either directly to the family or to the child care provider or provide a monthly voucher for child care, in an amount that is commensurate with the regional market rate, for up to 6 months following the child's initial placement, unless the child and family are able to access long-term, subsidized child care prior to the end of the 6-month period. The bill would allow eligibility for a child care payment or voucher to be extended for 6 months, at the discretion of the county welfare department, if the child and family have been unable to access long-term, subsidized child care during the initial 6-month period. The bill would require that each child receiving a monthly child care payment or voucher be provided with a child care navigator, as specified, and would authorize the county to establish local priorities in the implementation of the bridge program.

(14) Existing law establishes the California Child Care Initiative Project for certain purposes, including increasing the availability of qualified child care programs in the state and establishing child care resource and referral programs to serve a defined geographic area.

This bill would require each child care resource and referral program to provide a child care navigator to support children in foster care, children previously in foster care upon return to their home of origin, and children of parents involved in the child welfare system. The bill would also require the child care resource and referral program to provide trauma-informed training and coaching to child care providers working with children, and children of parenting youth, in the foster care system.

(1) Existing law requires a county social worker to create a case plan for foster youth within a specified timeframe after the child is introduced into the foster care system. Existing law requires the case plan to include prescribed components, including, among other things, for youth in foster care 14 years of age and older and non-minor dependents, a document that describes the youth's rights with respect to education, health, visitation, and court participation, the right to be annually provided with copies of his or her credit reports at no cost, and the right to stay safe and avoid exploitation.

This bill would additionally require, for a youth in foster care 10 years of age and older who is in junior high, middle, or high school, and for certain non-minor dependents, the case plan to be reviewed annually, and updated as needed, to verify that the youth or non-minor dependent has received comprehensive sexual health education, as specified, and to be updated annually to indicate that a youth or non-minor dependent has been informed, among other things, that he or she may access age-appropriate, medically accurate information on reproductive and sexual health care, including, but not limited to, unplanned pregnancy prevention and abstinence. The bill would require the case plan to indicate that the youth or non-minor dependent has been informed how to consent to and access those

services, including facilitating that access and assisting with any identified barriers to care, as Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA), which established life time limits on assistance, expectations of recipients to engage in work or worklike activities, and state level participation rate requirements. While many changes have been made to the CalWORKs program over the past two decades, these fundamental components remain in place at both the federal and state levels.

(b) In the years since CalWORKs was established, much has been learned about the far-reaching impacts of poverty on children, adults, and families, and the Legislature has taken actions to develop services and supports within CalWORKs that are intended to support families in reaching self-sufficiency and mitigating the effects of poverty. However, there has never been a systematic approach to examining the program's operations and efficacy.

(a) It is the intent of the Legislature to reduce deep poverty in California, in part through the provision of high quality, effective services in the CalWORKs program.

(b) It is the intent of the Legislature to establish an outcomes and accountability review process in the CalWORKs program that will serve to provide information on key indicators that can be used to evaluate the performance of the program toward the overarching objective of family self-sufficiency, create a framework for rigorous self-assessment, and foster continuous quality improvement in the program. Furthermore, it is the intent of the Legislature that this process be inclusive, comprehensive, and transparent in order to establish local and state accountability for the performance of the program.

SEC. 3. Section 8212 of the Education Code is amended to read:

8212. (a) For purposes of this article, child care resource and referral programs, established to serve a defined geographic area, shall provide the following services:

(1) (A) Identification of the full range of existing child care services through information provided by all relevant public and private agencies in the areas of service, and the development of a resource file of those services which shall be maintained and updated at least quarterly. These services shall include, but not be limited to, family day care homes, public and private day care programs, full-time and part-time programs, and infant, preschool, and extended care programs.

(B) The resource file shall include, but not be limited to, the following information:

- (i) Type of program.
- (ii) Hours of service.
- (iii) Ages of children served.
- (iv) Fees and eligibility for services.
- (v) Significant program information.

(2) (A) (i) Establishment of a referral process which responds to parental need for information and which is provided with full recognition of the confidentiality rights of parents. Resource and referral programs shall make referrals to licensed child day care facilities. Referrals shall be made to unlicensed care facilities only if there is no requirement that the facility be

licensed. The referral process shall afford parents maximum access to all referral information. This access shall include, but is not limited to, telephone referrals to be made available for at least 30 hours per week as part of a full week of operation. Every effort shall be made to reach all parents within the defined geographic area, including, but not limited to, any of the following:

- (I) Toll-free telephone lines.
- (II) Office space convenient to parents and providers.
- (III) Referrals in languages which are spoken in the community.

(ii) Each child care resource and referral program shall publicize its services through all available media sources, agencies, and other appropriate methods.

(B) (i) Provision of information to any person who requests a child care referral of his or her right to view the licensing information of a licensed child day care facility required to be maintained at the facility pursuant to Section 1596.859 of the Health and Safety Code and to access any public files pertaining to the facility that are maintained by the State Department of Social Services Community Care Licensing Division.

(ii) A written or oral advisement in substantially the following form will comply with the requirements of clause (i):

“State law requires licensed child day care facilities to make accessible to the public a copy of any licensing report pertaining to the facility that documents a facility visit or a substantiated complaint investigation. In addition, a more complete file regarding a child care licensee may be available at an office of the State Department of Social Services Community Care Licensing Division. You have the right to access any public information in these files.”

(3) (A) Maintenance of ongoing documentation of requests for service tabulated through the internal referral process. The following documentation of requests for service shall be maintained by all child care resource and referral programs:

- (vi) Number of calls and contacts to the child care information and referral program or component.
- (vii) Ages of children served.
- (viii) Time category of child care request for each child.
- (ix) Special time category, such as nights, weekends, and swing shift.
- (x) Reason that the child care is needed.

(B) This information shall be maintained in a manner that is easily accessible for dissemination purposes.

(4) Provision of technical assistance to existing and potential providers of all types of child care services. This assistance shall include, but not be limited to:

(A) Information on all aspects of initiating new child care services including, but not limited to, licensing, zoning, program and budget development, and assistance in finding this information from other sources.

(B) Information and resources that help existing child care services providers to maximize their ability to serve the children and parents of their community.

(A) Dissemination of information on current public issues affecting the local and state delivery of child care services.

(B) Facilitation of communication between existing child care and child-related services providers in the community served.

(5) (A) (i) Provision of a child care navigator to support children in foster care, children previously in foster care upon return to their home of origin, and children of parents involved in the child welfare system, including the children of non-minor dependents. The navigator shall work with the child's family, as described in paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Section 11461.6 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, and the child's social worker and child and family team to assess child care opportunities appropriate to the child's age and needs, assist the family in identifying potential opportunities for an ongoing child care subsidy, assist the caregiver in completing appropriate child care program applications, and develop an overall, long-term child care plan for the child.

(ii) As a condition of receiving funds pursuant to this subparagraph, each resource and referral program shall develop and enter into a memorandum of understanding, contract, or other formal agreement with the county child welfare agency in order to facilitate interagency communication and, to the maximum extent possible, to leverage federal funding, including administrative funding, available pursuant to Title IV–E of the federal Social Security Act, to enhance the navigation support authorized under this subparagraph, or the resource and referral program shall explain, in writing, annually, why entering into a memorandum of understanding, contract, or other formal agreement with the county child welfare agency is not practical or feasible. Navigator services provided pursuant to this subparagraph shall be made available to any child in foster care, any child previously in foster care who has returned to his or her home of origin, and any child of parents involved in the child welfare system, including any child who meets the eligibility criteria for the Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children established pursuant to Section 11461.6 of the Welfare and Institutions Code. Eligibility for navigator services shall not be contingent on a child's receipt of a child care payment or voucher.

(B) (i) Provision of trauma-informed training and coaching to child care providers working with children, and children of parenting youth, in the foster care system. Training shall include, but not be limited to, infant and toddler development and research-based, trauma-informed best care practices. Child care providers shall be provided with coaching to assist them in applying training techniques and strategies for working with children, and children of parenting youth, in foster care.

(ii) As a condition of receiving funds pursuant to this subparagraph, each resource and referral program, in coordination with the California Child Care Resource and Referral Network, shall develop and enter into a memorandum of understanding, contract, or other formal agreement with the county child welfare agency in order to, to the maximum extent possible, leverage federal funding, including training funds, available pursuant to Title IV–E of the federal Social Security Act, to enhance the training support authorized under this

subparagraph, or the resource and referral agency shall explain, in writing, annually, why entering into a memorandum of understanding, contract, or other formal agreement with the county child welfare agency is not practical or feasible.

(b) Services prescribed by this section shall be provided in order to maximize parental choice in the selection of child care to facilitate the maintenance and development of child care services and resources.

(c) (1) A program operating pursuant to this article shall, within two business days of receiving notice, remove a licensed child day care facility with a revocation or a temporary suspension order, or that is on probation from the program's referral list.

(2) A program operating pursuant to this article shall, within two business days of receiving notice, notify all entities, operating a program under Article 3 (commencing with Section 8220) and Article 15.5 (commencing with Section 8350) in the program's jurisdiction, of a licensed child day care facility with a revocation or a temporary suspension order, or that is on probation.

11461.6. (a) The Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children is hereby established, to be implemented at the discretion of each county, for the purpose of stabilizing foster children with families at the time of placement by providing a time-limited payment or voucher for child care following the child's placement, or for a child whose parent is in foster care, and by providing the family with a child care navigator to assist the family in accessing long-term subsidized child care.

(b) The Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children shall be administered by county welfare departments that choose to participate in the program.

(c) (1) As determined by the county welfare department, and consistent with guidance issued jointly by the State Department of Social Services and the State Department of Education, counties may establish local priorities and may either provide payment directly to the family or child care provider, or contract with a local alternative payment program to distribute vouchers for child care.

(2) Counties that elect to provide payment directly to a family or child care provider shall pay commensurate with the regional market rates, as described in Section 8357 of the Education Code.

(1) For counties that elect to contract with a local alternative payment agency, as described in Section 8220 of the Education Code, to distribute child care vouchers, the vouchers shall be in an amount commensurate with the regional market rates, as described in Section 8357 of the Education Code and the contract shall not displace, or result in the reduction of, an existing contract with a current local alternative payment program.

(d) (1) Participating county welfare departments shall determine eligibility of a child for the Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children using the criteria outlined in paragraphs (2) and (3).

(2) Family placements eligible to receive payment or a voucher for child care include all of the following:

(A) Approved resource families, as defined in Section 16519.5 and Section 1517 of the Health and Safety Code, and families that have a child placed with them in an emergency or for a compelling reason, as described in Section 16519.5

(B) Prior to January 1, 2020, licensed foster family homes or certified family homes.

(A) Prior to January 1, 2020, approved homes of relatives, as defined in Section 319, or nonrelative extended family members, as described in Section 362.7.

(B) Parents under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court, including, but not limited to, non-minor dependent parents.

(3) A participating county welfare department may provide a payment or voucher if work or school responsibilities preclude resource families from being at home when the child for whom they have care and responsibility is not in school or for periods when the family, as described in paragraph (2), is required to participate, without the child, in activities associated with parenting a child that are beyond the scope of ordinary parental duties, including, but not limited to, attendance at administrative or judicial reviews, case conferences, and family training.

(e) Each child receiving a monthly child care payment or voucher shall be provided with a child care navigator, pursuant to paragraph (5) of subdivision (a) of Section 8212 of the Education Code, who shall work directly with the child's family, social worker, and the child and family team to assist in accessing child care at the time of placement as well as long-term, subsidized child care for the child, as necessary.

(c) Each child receiving a monthly child care payment or voucher shall be eligible to receive the payment or voucher for up to six months. If the child and family access long-term, subsidized child care prior to the end of the six-month period covered by the payment or voucher, eligibility for the monthly payment or voucher shall terminate upon enrollment in long-term, subsidized child care.

(d) Eligibility for the monthly payment or voucher may be extended beyond the initial six-month period for an additional six-month period, not to exceed 12 months in total, at the discretion of the county welfare department, if the child and family have been unable to access long-term, subsidized child care during the initial six-month period.

(e) The department shall seek all federal approvals necessary to claim federal reimbursement under Title IV-E of the federal Social Security Act in order to maximize state and local funding for child care.

(f) This section shall not be interpreted to create an entitlement to child care payment or voucher.

(g) The program established pursuant to this section is intended to complement county child welfare agency efforts to recruit, retain, and support resource families as described in Section 16003.5, and any funding provided to counties pursuant to this section shall supplement those county activities to support the goals of Chapter 773 of the Statutes of 2015 and Chapter 612 of the Statutes of 2016.

(h) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2018.