

# BRIDGE PROGRAM

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH TULARE COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY,  
CHILD WELFARE SERVICES AND TULARE COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION



**Tulare County  
Office of Education**

*Tim A. Hire, County Superintendent of Schools*

# CHILD CARE

# BRIDGE PROGRAM

# FOR RESOURCE FAMILIES

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## THE EMERGENCY CHILD CARE BRIDGE PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE

Lack of access to child care is one of the primary barriers to finding stable resource family placements for California's youngest children in foster care. In response, the Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children was adopted into law by the state legislature in 2017. The program allocates \$31 million in funding annually for implementation in 46 counties in California.

**The three-part program provides:**



### CHILD CARE VOUCHERS

Vouchers assist resource families to pay for child care for 6-12 months following a child's placement in the home. The program serves children ages 0-12.



### CHILD CARE NAVIGATORS

Navigators assist resource families with the child care process, help families to immediately access child care, and transition families to long-term child care settings through the state-subsidized system.



### TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE TRAINING & COACHING

The training provides the child care workforce trauma-responsive best practices to better meet the unique needs of children who have experienced abuse, neglect, and removal from the home or family.

### TO LEARN MORE, CONTACT:

#### Giovana Gomes

Program Coordinator  
giovana.gomes@cc.tcoe.org  
559-651-0185 ext. 3821

#### Jajaira Ortiz

Client Services Technician  
jajaira.ortiz@cc.tcoe.org  
559-651-0185 ext. 3822

#### Brenda Larson

School Psychologist  
brenda.larson@cc.tcoe.org  
559-651-0185 ext. 3820

## BUILDING THE BRIDGE

Implementation of the Child Care Bridge Program in Tulare County began in 2018 and has been an incredible success, benefiting vulnerable children in foster care and increasing collaboration among local child welfare and child care systems. The partnership of Tulare County Health and Human Services Agency, Child Welfare Services and the Tulare County Office of Education, Resource and Referral Services has supported a child-centered approach that increases well-being and positive outcomes.



### CHILD SOCIAL WORKER

- Removes child from unsafe home
- Identifies resource parent and places child in foster care with resource parent
- Refers foster parent to the Child Care Bridge Program run by the Tulare County Office of Education Resource and Referral agency



### RESOURCE FAMILY

- Opens their home and cares for the children in foster care, provides a nurturing environment and builds relationships with children to help mitigate the effects of trauma
- Maintains a safe environment for child to minimize instability and encourage optimal development



### CHILD CARE NAVIGATOR

- Identifies a child care provider and secures the child's placement
- Arranges child care payment using the emergency bridge voucher and informs trauma-informed care coach
- Works to identify and connect with options for long-term subsidized care for the resource family



### TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE COACH

- Provides trauma-informed trainings for child care providers throughout the County of Tulare
- Remains available to the provider for trauma-informed coaching



### CHILD CARE PROVIDER

- Provides nurturing care to child in foster care while allowing resource family to work and earn wages that keeps the family strong
- Creates an environment that supports optimal development of children in foster care
- Builds bonds with children and families that help mitigate the effects of trauma