



The Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children

Bridging the Access Gap

Expanding access for Foster Children

The Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles (CCALA), its partner agencies, and the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Families Services (DCFS) lead the Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children (Bridge Program) across Los Angeles County.

The Bridge Program is a time-limited program designed to increase the number of foster children successfully placed in home-based family care settings, increase the capacity of child care programs to meet the needs of foster children in their care, and maximize funding to support the child care needs of eligible families. There are three components

Child Care



Eligible families can receive a child care voucher to help cover costs for foster children (birth to age 5), their siblings, and foster children with exceptional needs or severe disabilities up to age 21.

Navigator



Resource & Referral (R&R) agencies will provide child care navigators to support eligible foster care resource families with finding child care providers, securing subsidized placements, completing applications, and creating long-term child care plans tailored to the child's needs.

Referrals



Referrals are jointly managed by DCFS, CCALA, and the local R&R agency serving the DCFS Regional Office. Families are referred to the program by DCFS to support new placements, sibling placements, or to preserve existing placements.

Trauma-Informed Care



Child care programs in the Bridge Program will receive training and coaching on trauma-informed care, including infant and toddler development and best practices. Providers will also gain support in applying the curriculum and strategies for working with children in foster care.

Bridge Countywide Impact (Fiscal Year 23-24)



782 families served



302 trauma-informed trainings provided



1,245 children served
mostly ages 0-5



1,226 coaching sessions provided



1,262 provider partners
mix of family child care
and centers



25M annual investment

Working together to strengthen families and ensure high-quality child care and early learning across Los Angeles County

