

**Flexible Family Supports and Home-Based Foster Care Request for Funding
Letter of Intent**

*This form is to be completed by counties that elect to access the funding. Letters of Intent will be **accepted on a rolling basis through July 1, 2024**. All funding expires on June 30, 2025, and all services using these funds must be encumbered by this date.*

County Name: County of Fresno

Indicate the primary contact regarding the request for funding.

Contact Name and Title: Kirk Haynes, Chief Probation Officer

Address: 3333 E. American Ave, Bldg. 701, Ste. B, Fresno, CA 93725

Email Address: khaynes@fresnocountyca.gov

Phone Number: (559) 600-1298

I. PROGRAM DETAIL: SERVICES AND SUPPORTS TO BE PROVIDED

In the Letter of Intent, please address the following:


- 1) If you have an existing program that provides additional services and supports to children, youth, and their foster caregivers, please describe your current program and how you will utilize the funding to enhance that program including the projected number of children/youth who will be served with these additional funds.
- 2) Describe your capacity to design and implement any additional services and supports through the Flexible Family Supports and Home-Based Foster Care funding to either your existing program(s) or to start a new program. Please include any steps that will need to be taken in order to maximize the use of the funding. For example, include items related to developing or finalizing formal partnerships with contractors.
- 3) Describe the county plans to provide financial assistance that will be available to support the expenses associated with securing and maintaining home-based placements (clothing, furniture, etc.). Counties should leverage community-based organizations (CBOs) for tangible items first.

**II. COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTOR'S/CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER'S
CERTIFICATION**

I certify that the County will administer the Flexible Family Supports and Home-Based Foster Care funding pursuant to the conditions set forth by the California Department of

Social Services. I certify that the information completed above and attached is true and correct.

Director's/Chief's Name: Kirk Haynes

Signature:  Date: 3/15/2023

Fresno County Probation Department
Flexible Family Supports and Home-Based Foster Care Request for Funding Letter of Intent - Attachment

- 1) If you have an existing program that provides additional services and supports to children, youth, and their foster caregivers, please describe your current program and how you will utilize the funding to enhance that program including the projected number of children/youth who will be served with these additional funds.**

The Fresno County Probation Department (Department) is contracted with a CBO that has access to resources that can be used to help youth and foster caregivers (including relative or nonrelative extended family member, or extended family member) to remove barriers to maintain or secure placements. At present, the Department does not have services or supports to provide respite care to foster caregivers or to assist youth with participating in enrichment activities. The Department seeks to use the Flexible Family Supports funding to increase the Department's capacity to: assist foster caregivers with having access to respite care; paying for concrete costs (such as furniture and clothing) that may act as barriers to placement; and assist youth to be able to engage in enrichment activities. It is estimated that these program enhancements would benefit up to 50 youth at one time, and up to 75-100 youth through June 30, 2025.

- 2) Describe your capacity to design and implement any additional services and supports through the Flexible Family Supports and Home-Based Foster Care funding to either your existing program(s) or to start a new program. Please include any steps that will need to be taken in order to maximize the use of the funding. For example, include items related to developing or finalizing formal partnerships with contractors.**

As stated above, at present, the Department does not have services or supports to provide respite care to foster caregivers or to assist youth with participating in enrichment activities. The costs for enrichment activities for youth would be variable depending on the activity chosen. Initial program design would allot \$300 per youth for enrichment activities, but this allotment could be increased or decreased, depending on overall funding usage and availability. Funding for respite care could be provided to allow youth to stay with approved respite caregivers, with an anticipated allotment of \$150 per day for approved respite caregivers, for no more than three days per month. Funding usage would be evaluated every 3-6 months to determine scalability and the need to increase or decrease allotments per activity, depending on usage.

- 3) Describe the county plans to provide financial assistance that will be available to support the expenses associated with securing and maintaining home-based placements (clothing, furniture, etc.). Counties should leverage community-based organizations (CBOs) for tangible items first.**

The Department would leverage an existing partnership with a contracted CBO to continue to access tangible items, such as clothing and furniture, needed to secure and maintain placements. At present, the contracted CBO utilizes fundraising efforts to obtain resources, and the Department is dependent on availability of those resources. The Flexible Family Supports funding will be utilized to secure tangible items when resources are not available through the contracted CBO.