



Suspension of Competition Acquisition Request

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1. Fully describe the product(s) and/or service(s) being requested.

The Department of Social Services (DSS) is seeking to contract with a qualified Fresno County approved Child Care Resource and Referral (R&R) Agency and Alternative Payment Program (APP) provider to administer comprehensive services under the Emergency Child Care Bridge program for Foster Children (Bridge Program). The selected provider will deliver child care navigation services, trauma-informed training and coaching, and be responsible for administering voucher disbursement services.
2. Identify the selected vendor and contact person; include the address, phone number and e-mail address for each.

Central Valley Children's Services Network
Marco Jimenez
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3. What is the total cost of the acquisition? If an agreement, state the total cost of the initial term and the amounts for potential renewal terms.

The initial term of the agreement for these services will be effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2029 and will include two (2) optional one (1) year extensions.
Base Term One FY 26-27: \$1,042,318
Base Term Two FY 27-28: \$1,042,318
Base Term Three FY 28-29: \$1,042,318
Optional Term One: FY 29-30: \$1,042,318
Optional Term Two: FY 30-31: \$1,042,318
4. Identify the unique qualities and/or capabilities of the service(s) and/or product(s) that qualify this as a Suspension of Competition acquisition.

Participation in the Bridge Program requires DSS to deliver multiple coordinated program components in accordance with guidance from the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). These components include Child Care Navigator services, Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) training and coaching for child care providers, and the administration of child care voucher payments.

CDSS requires counties to partner with their locally designated Child Care Resource and Referral (R&R) agency to provide Child Care Navigator services and TIC training and coaching. Each county has only one designated R&R agency responsible for coordinating these services within its service area. Central Valley Children's Services Network (CVCSN) is the designated R&R agency serving Fresno County and is therefore the only entity authorized to provide these specific program components locally.

In addition, the administration of child care voucher payments under the Bridge Program must be performed by an approved Alternative Payment Program (APP) provider if contracted out. CVCSN is an approved APP provider operating within Fresno County and has the required infrastructure and experience to administer voucher disbursement services in compliance with state requirements.

CVCSN's combined designation as both the county's R&R agency and an approved APP provider uniquely positions the organization to deliver all required components of the Bridge Program in a coordinated and efficient manner. Integrating Child Care Navigator services, TIC training and coaching, and voucher administration under a single provider supports streamlined service delivery, consistent reporting, and alignment with State program requirements, while ensuring families and providers receive timely and comprehensive support.
5. Identify from Administrative Policy #34 what circumstances constitute a Suspension of Competition.
 - In an emergency when goods or services are immediately necessary for the preservation of the public health, welfare, or safety, or for the protection of County property.
 - When the contract is with a federal, state, or local governmental agency.
 - When the department head, with the concurrence of the Purchasing Agent, finds that the cost of preparing and administering a competitive bidding process in a particular case will equal or exceed the estimated contract amount or \$5,000 whichever is more.
 - When a contract provides only for payment of per diem and travel expenses and there is to be no payment for services rendered.
 - When obtaining the services of expert witnesses for litigation or special counsel to assist the County.
 - When in unusual or extraordinary circumstances, the Board of Supervisors or the Purchasing Agent/Purchasing Manager determines that the best interests of the County would be served by not securing competitive bids or issuing a request for proposal.

6. Explain why the unique qualities and/or capabilities described above are essential to your department.

CVCSN's capabilities are essential to DSS because access to reliable, coordinated child care is a critical factor in placing and maintaining children in home-based foster care. CVCSN is uniquely positioned to provide all three components of the Bridge Program (voucher administration, Child Care Navigator Services, and TIC training and coaching) under a single contract.

These services address key barriers faced by families and caregivers. Voucher administration provides time-limited child care subsidies that allow caregivers to secure immediate child care while transitioning to longer-term arrangements. Child Care Navigator services guide families through identifying and accessing appropriate child care and completing enrollment requirements. TIC training and coaching enhances the ability of the child care providers to understand and respond to the unique needs of children who have experienced trauma.

By consolidating these interrelated services, CVCSN supports DSS in ensuring program coordination, consistent reporting, and compliance with State requirements. These capabilities promote successful foster care placements, long-term stability, and permanency for children, while providing families with the resources necessary to maintain safe and supportive home environments.

7. Provide a comprehensive explanation of the research done to verify that the recommended vendor is the only vendor with the unique qualities and/or capabilities stated above. Include a list of all other vendors contacted, what they were asked, and their responses.

Research was conducted to verify which vendors in Fresno County are qualified to provide the required services for the Bridge Program. For voucher administration, two approved APP providers operate in Fresno County: CVCSN, and Supportive Services, Inc.

However, the Bridge Program also requires counties to contract with their state-designated R&R agency to provide Child Care Navigator services and TIC training and coaching. CVCSN is the sole designated R&R agency in Fresno County and is therefore the only vendor authorized to provide these two components. No other vendors in Fresno County are eligible to deliver R&R services or the associated Navigator and TIC components.

Because all three program components (voucher administration, Child Care Navigator services, TIC training and coaching) are interrelated and require coordinated reporting and compliance with State requirements, contracting with CVCSN ensures administrative efficiency, program continuity, and compliance. Other vendors were not considered for all components because no entity besides CVCSN is eligible to provide the R&R services required by CDSS.

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Requested By:

Staff Analyst

Title

[\[✕ Sign\]](#) Double click!

I approve this request to suspend competition for the service(s) and/or product(s) identified herein.

martik 4/14/2026 3:01:30 PM

Department Head Signature

[\[✕ Sign\]](#) Double click!

rblackburn 4/23/2026 12:02:11 PM

Purchasing Manager Signature

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