

[County letterhead]

Date

The Honorable Nancy Skinner, Chair
Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee
State Capitol, Room 5019
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Phil Ting, Chair
Assembly Budget Committee
State Capitol, Room 6026
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: FULLY FUND THE RESOURCE FAMILY APPROVAL (RFA) WORKLOAD IN THE CONTINUUM OF CARE REFORM (CCR) TRUE-UP

Dear Senator Skinner and Assembly Member Ting:

The County of XXX [or agency] respectfully requests full funding for the workload associated with performing the state-mandated Resource Family Approval (RFA) process as part of the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) True-up. The current estimate of these costs is approximately \$85 million General Fund (GF). These costs have been fronted by counties for years without reimbursement due to a disputed interpretation of the constitutional requirements of Proposition 30, as set forth below.

The state constitutional provisions of Proposition 30 require that the state fund the net costs to each county of any new state child welfare requirements or programs enacted after 2011 and also provides that counties only implement those new state requirements or programs to the extent state funding is provided. Although the RFA process existed in state statute prior to 2011, it was only operational as a pilot program in five counties. It was the CCR statutes, enacted in 2015, that made the RFA process a statewide mandate on all counties. Furthermore, in the implementation of the RFA process statewide, the state has imposed significant requirements not contemplated in the original legislation or pilot projects, which have further increased county workload and costs.

Specifically, the RFA process requires more intensive work up-front, including a comprehensive family assessment and pre-approval training. RFA staff provide direct support to the resource family as they go through the approval process to help them understand what it means to be a foster parent and assist them in meeting the health and safety requirements. While this has proved to be beneficial to preparing families for providing trauma-informed care, the RFA process is extensive in its requirements, many of which were imposed by the state during the post-CCR statewide implementation, and as such requires full funding in order to work optimally to continue to build the capacity of family-based caregivers throughout the state.

In our county, this funding would allow us to continue to [insert impact: for example ... continue to better prepare families to meet the needs of the vulnerable youth by tailoring the identification of the "right" family for each youth, reduces the maltreatment of youth, increase placement stability, and improve timeliness to achieving permanency, etc.]

Because of the statewide RFA mandate enacted in CCR legislation and the subsequent administrative requirements imposed by CDSS, the net new costs of the RFA process are subject to Proposition 30 and should be funded. Failure to provide full funding for the CCR True-up, including funding for RFA work, will

jeopardize counties' abilities to continue CCR work, as well as undermine the ability for counties to fulfill other child welfare mandates. The realignment revenue shortfalls as experienced by counties due to COVID-19, although not yet as dire as originally feared, still make these RFA costs even more impossible for counties to continue to absorb.

For these reasons, the **County of XXX [or agency]** urges you to provide \$85 million GF to fully fund the crucial work of RFA. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Name

Title

cc: Members and Staff of the Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 3
Members and Staff of the Assembly Budget Subcommittee No.1
County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA)