



23-1741

**DATE:** February 6, 2024  
**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Daniel Little, Director, Social Services Agency  
**SUBJECT:** HopSkipDrive Foster Youth Transportation

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Approve retroactive Agreement with HopSkipDrive, Inc., relating to providing foster youth transportation to school of origin and child-oriented services in an amount not to exceed \$374,574 for period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, with two one-year extension options, that has been reviewed and approved by County Counsel as to form and legality. An exemption to competitive procurement has been approved by the Office of Countywide Contracting Management pursuant to Board of Supervisors Policy 5.6.5.1(D)(1). (LA-1)

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

There is no new impact to the County General Fund as a result of the Recommended Action. The funding for the Recommended Action is included in the Social Services Agency's (SSA) Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-2024 Adopted Budget. No additional revenue or expenditure appropriation is needed.

**CONTRACT HISTORY**

On May 31, 2017, the County of Santa Clara (County) released the Request for Proposal (RFP) RFP-SSA-FY17-0247 for transportation services. This RFP included four main components, one for DFCS Youth Transportation. This RFP called for criteria in alignment with the ones outlined in All County Letter (ACL) No. 17-24. However, no qualifying bids were received by the County for these services. It was determined that a single source request would allow the County to procure these services should a qualified vendor become available. County staff became aware of an agreement between the County of Los Angeles and HopSkipDrive, Inc. for similar transportation services. The County approached HopSkipDrive, Inc. to inquire about the availability of services.

On May 11, 2018, the Office of Countywide Contracting Management approved a single source exception to competitive procurement. The County entered into an Agreement with HopSkipDrive, Inc. from July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2023.

In anticipation of the expiration of that Agreement, SSA conducted an online search for youth transportation services in December 2022. The search yielded results for taxi

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companies, on-demand ride-hire companies, and other less conventional options. None of the organizations offered specialized services for transporting youth on a scheduled, regular basis, or focused on other areas of youth transportation. More common ride-hailing services like Uber and Lyft do not offer specific youth transport.

## **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION AND BACKGROUND**

As required by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) All County Letter (ACL) Number (No.) 17-24, dated May 3, 2017, addressing the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) (114 P.L. 95, 129 Stat.1856), Child Welfare Agencies (CWA) and the County Office of Education are to outline roles and responsibilities to build upon the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 by ensuring foster youth remain at their school of origin unless it is determined not to be in their best interest. CWAs must also develop and implement clear written procedures for how transportation will be provided, arranged, and funded to ensure children and youth in foster care are properly transported to their school of origin for their time in foster care.

In response to ESSA, SSA Department of Family and Children’s Services will enter into an agreement with HopSkipDrive, Inc. to provide transportation services to the school of origin. HopSkipDrive, Inc. offers transportation services for children and families associated with foster care in the County. HopSkipDrive, Inc. specializes in on-demand, safe youth transportation and their service area spans the entire County. The company subjects all drivers to stringent background checks and offers parents and caregivers real-time monitoring of the ride from a mobile application.

The mission of SSA is to provide resources and opportunities in a culturally responsive manner to enhance the quality of life in our community by protecting, educating, and empowering individuals and families. The recommended action will result in providing professional, demand-responsive transportation for any foster youth referred by the County of Santa Clara to their school of origin and to other child-oriented services including but not limited to health/mental health services, pro-social activities, and other transportation needs. The contract for FY 2024 will provide an estimated 1,500 number of rides. The contract is retroactive because of extended negotiations between the County and Contractor.

In accordance with Board of Supervisors (Board) Policy 5.3.5.1, the Board is the only body that has the authority to enter into contracts and issue solicitations on behalf of the County, unless contracting authority has been delegated explicitly to someone other than the Board pursuant to state law, County Ordinance Code, resolution, or express action of the Board.

## **CHILD IMPACT**

The recommended action will have a positive impact on children and youth through the **High School Graduation Rates** and the **Youth Feel Valued by the Community** indicators by providing transportation services so that foster youth can remain at their school of origin if it is determined to be in their best interest.

## **SENIOR IMPACT**

The recommended action will have no/neutral impact on seniors.

## **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

The recommended action will have no/neutral sustainability implications.

## **CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION**

SSA will not be able to meet its operational goals as required by the ESSA and ACL No. 17-24, which will restrict services to children and families in the County.

## **STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL**

Upon approval, the Clerk of the Board is kindly requested to notify Jorge Montes, Alana Rainville, Chad Keele, and Sylvia Young from SSA.

## **ATTACHMENTS:**

- FY24 Contract Packet HSD FYTSO
- SIN-SSA-2022-1230-HopSkipDrive