

Attachment B:

Emergency Response Enhancement Program Funding - Proposed Budget Bill Language

Item 5180-151-0001

- (a) Of the funds appropriated in Schedule (1), \$20,000,000 shall be available to counties for the purpose of maintaining and increasing the number of child welfare social workers in emergency response services. The funding shall be used by county child welfare agencies to enhance its existing emergency response services to ensure timely emergency response to reports of child abuse, neglect or exploitation by well-trained social workers, with the goal of reducing entries into foster care where possible and appropriate, reducing the disproportionate representation of children of color entering foster care, promoting kin-based care, and strengthening families through connection to community-based resources. These funds shall be available for encumbrance or expenditure until June 30, 2028.
- (b) The department shall develop, in consultation with the County Welfare Directors Association of California, a method for allocation of the funds which may take into account historical referral data and outcomes including, but not limited to, caseloads, timeliness to completing investigations, expenditures, and the use of established risk and safety assessments.
- (c) The department, in consultation with the County Welfare Directors Association of California, shall require an implementation plan and outcome report from the participating counties, which may be integrated into county system improvement plans required pursuant to Section 10601.2 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.
- (d) Notwithstanding Chapter 3.5 (commencing with section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, the department may implement, interpret, or make specific this Item, in whole or in part, by means of information notices or other similar instructions, without taking any further regulatory action.