



**Mendocino County**  
**Department of Social Services**  
*Healthy People, Healthy Communities*  
**Bekkie F. Emery, Director**  
**Kelsey Rivera, Assistant Director**  
**Family & Children's Services**  
**Jena Conner, Deputy Director**



**Background & Summary Information**

**Social Services- Family & Children's Services Proposed Agreement with  
Redwood Community Services for FY 23/24, \$300,000  
on July 11, 2023 Board of Supervisors Agenda**

Mendocino County Department of Social Services- Family & Children's Services has been contracting with Redwood Community Services (RCS) since Fiscal Year 2015/16 for Emergency Support Services (ESS) at a monthly flat rate of \$20,012 per month, \$27.41 per hour. This was the same rate through Fiscal Year 2021/2022. In Fiscal Year 2022/2023, RCS increased the monthly flat rate to \$24,449 per month, \$33.49 per hour. This is the same rate they have requested for Fiscal Year 2023/2024. This rate is a median salary plus benefits for the position for RCS to provide a staff person 24/7/365 days a year to support FCS staff caring for foster youth in county offices when there is no placement immediately available. Without ESS staff, FCS would need to provide two staff rather than one, to provide 24/7 supervision of foster youth until a placement was located.

FCS started tracking the number of days and foster youth in FCS offices in 2020. The data below reflects the unduplicated number of foster youth and days ESS has supported FCS staff to care for these youth. Although these are unduplicated counts of youth and days in office, there have been overlapping stays in the offices, meaning more than one child has been in the office at a time, and some youth have had multiple stays:

- June 2020 to December 2020: 6 kids, 23 days
- January 2021 to December 2021: 16 kids, 37 days
- January 2022 to December 2022: 8 kids, 65 days
- January 2023 to June 2023: 14 kids, 76 days
- Fiscal Year 2022/2023: 17 kids, 111 days

ESS also provides support when a foster youth has been 5150'd, but remains at the local hospital emergency room pending transport to a psychiatric hospital once the RCS Crisis program has been able to locate an available bed. The hospital requires a "sitter" to stay with the child until the child exits the hospital. When the foster parent is unable to stay with the child, ESS stays with the child instead of FCS staff. This circumstance is not a frequent occurrence, but having the ESS support when needed frees up FCS staff for other duties.

Most of the youth for whom there is not an immediately available foster care placement, have complex needs/behaviors involving substance use and/or mental health issues. RCS provides staff who are trained to be able to support FCS staff in caring for youth with challenging

needs/behaviors. FCS cannot predict when the support of ESS will be needed, but it is a critical support for FCS when needed. ESS staff promptly respond to the location identified by FCS, typically in Ukiah, often with little to no advance notice.