



## EXTRAORDINARY COSTS FOR FOSTER YOUTH AND FAMILIES PROGRAM GUIDELINES

This program is intended to assist foster youth and families with extraordinary costs arising from needs that directly affect the youth and the cost for which is not covered by any other source.

Sonoma County foster youth with an open CPS case, school-age to 18 (or still in high school), may be eligible for assistance. This includes Sonoma County foster youth placed out of county and foster youth placed in Sonoma County from out of county.

Awards will be considered for financial assistance for items and services directly benefiting foster youth, which may include but are not limited to:

- Medical: glasses, fitness
- Dental: orthodontia (treatment plan must be included as part of documentation)
- Mental Health: attachment therapy, art therapy, music therapy, equine therapy
- Education: tuition, tutoring, books, school supplies, calculator, fieldtrips, driver's education and Behind the Wheel classes
- Enrichment activities: music, art, science, math, dance, sports, cheerleading, summer programs, camps
- Extraordinary needs for foster families, especially costs associated with keeping siblings together

We require that you try alternative methods to fill the request first and list any rejections received on this application.

We do not reimburse for costs expended prior to SCCV approval.

### **Complete Extraordinary Cost Program Request Form:**

- Social Workers should retrieve the latest copy of the Extraordinary Cost Program Request Form from HSD Forms.
- All applications must be filled out completely and approved by FY&C Social Worker or CASA. Medical, dental and mental health requests require FY&C Social Worker approval.
- Child's name should only appear on the "Child's Name" line of the Request Form. Initials or pronouns should be used elsewhere on the Request Form and supporting documentation; except for medical, dental and orthodontic treatment plans.
- Social workers or other authorized representatives authorize the release of information to SCCV when signing Request Form.
- Services requested should begin within 6 months of approval.
- Forms should be sent through encrypted email or by postal mail.

### **SCCV Request Form Approval:**

- All child information will be kept confidential. Request Forms are redacted when presented to the Board for approval.
- We make approvals on a case by case basis.
- All requests will be considered at an upcoming monthly Board meeting or by Board e-mail vote.
- A unanimous vote of the voting Board members is required for funding to be approved.
- If you have not received a response from SCCV within 30 days, please contact us to make sure the request was received.
- Once approved, payment will be made directly to the service provider per the payment terms noted on the Request Form.
- SCCV will respond by email or phone call with any additional information needed, approval or denial using the child's initials.

*This program is subject to change by Board vote at any time.*