



IMPACT OF THE BRIDGE PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

One-quarter of children in foster care are under one year of age. Children 0-5 years are the most difficult to place in foster care, particularly if a caregiver needs child care to accept the child. The California Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for foster children connects the Child Welfare and Early Care and Education systems in each county across the state to provide Emergency Child Care vouchers and Child Care Navigators (CCN) for families, and Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) training and coaching for child care providers. The Child Care Resource Center (CCRC) Research team conducted a two-year study of the Bridge program to determine lessons learned and outcomes. In total, 346 surveys from caregivers and 608 surveys from providers were collected and analyzed for this study.

Caregivers across all implementing counties agreed that Child Care Navigators were key to the Bridge Program's success.....

CCNs coordinated the placement of child with a child care provider in a timely manner.

90%

CCNs provided quality child care referrals.

88%

Services their CCN provided reduced their levels of stress.

84%

Child Care Provider Selection

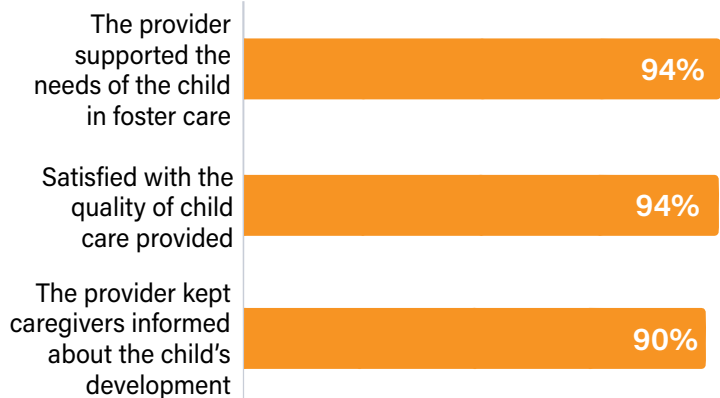
30%

of caregivers needed considerable help finding child care that fit their families needs.

65%

of caregivers accepted placement of the child the same day because they had access to Bridge services.

Caregivers felt...



Bridge Program's personal impact on caregivers

Area of Impact	Percentage
Reduced my level of economic stress	76%
Reduced my level of emotional stress	70%
Allowed me to keep a job	73%
Allowed me to get to work on time	68%

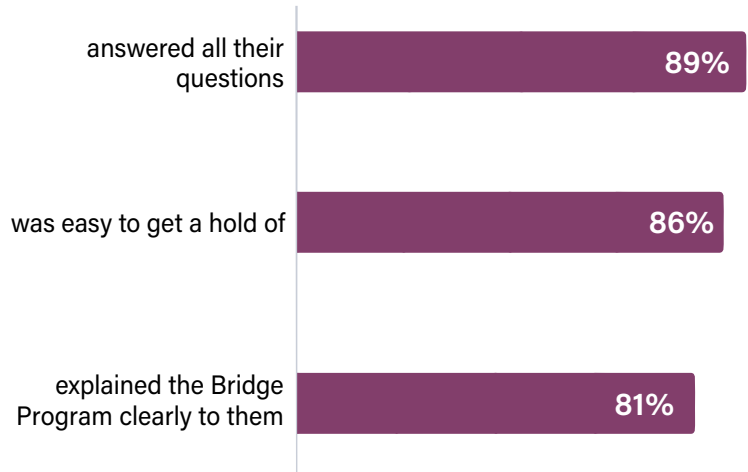
"It definitely helps my mental wellbeing, my emotional wellbeing, the stress level. It's great for him, also, like his social skills, helps him be happy, it helps our relationship because it just gives us that space. And then when we come back together, we're both happier, and we do better. I just think it's a win-win for sure."

-San Diego Caregiver

Child care provider experience with the child in the Bridge Program

Although most Bridge providers (72%) reported having no initial concerns accepting a foster child, 20% had concerns about the child's behavior. Therefore, the TIC supports are a great benefit and support for these providers.

Providers agreed that the Bridge Program staff...



Trauma Informed Care (TIC) Coaching

Average **before** and **after** ratings show TIC Coaching increased providers ability to support children in foster care

Scale was 1-5, with 5 representing "Very high."

Provider willingness to accept a foster child into their care

4.1 4.4

Provider ability to care for a child who experienced trauma

3.9 4.3

Provider knowledge of how trauma affects a child

3.8 4.3

"Cocokids has great mentors that will come to your facility and support you with coaching mechanisms and tools to help you and your foster children in the program."

-Contra Costa Provider

Caregiver Demographics

54% of caregivers were Certified Foster Family Homes or Licensed Foster Family Homes

91% of caregivers were female

65% of caregivers are in the 30-49 age range

Child Demographics

Ages of foster children accepted by providers

- 40% were 0-11 months
- 57% were 1-2 years old
- 65% were 3-5 years old
- 37% were 6-10 years old
- 15% were over 11 years old

