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DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
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GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

Mr. Eric Kanaga
County of Humboldt
Humboldt, CA

SUBJECT: *TOO SMALL TO FAIL* INFORMATION AND AGREEMENT

Dear Mr. Kanaga:

Thank you for your interest in participating in a pilot initiative sponsored by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) and Too Small to Fail (TSTF), the early childhood education initiative of the Clinton Foundation.

CDSS and TSTF are partnering to deepen the support for families with young children in California. This project will focus on transforming the waiting areas of County Welfare Department (CWD) offices into welcoming, language-rich environments for children and their caregivers. Our hope is that transforming these facilities will provide parents/caregivers with tools and information to support young children's early brain and language development. A similar initiative in laundromats in New York City found that children engaged in 30 times more literacy-related activities in laundromats with transformed spaces compared to laundromats without them.

This is the second phase of the TSTF pilot, and we continue to hope to expand to additional counties as we learn about what specific strategies are most effective. Public Profit, an evaluation firm based in Alameda County, will continue to evaluate the impact of this pilot through observations, surveys, and interviews. By agreeing to participate in this pilot, you will receive:

- 1) **A Family Read, Play and Learn kit** for the waiting area of your CWD office. This kit includes: a children's bookstand with 50 books, magnetic alphabet letters, a children's size table and chairs, rug, and a stand-up magnetic write and wipe center along with a monthly subscription of 20 books from Scholastic for a year. The Family Read, Play and Learn kit will be purchased by CDSS and installed by CDSS and TSTF. It will be yours to keep permanently, but it will be your responsibility to maintain the safety of the furniture and other materials in the kit. CDSS and TSTF do not make and have not made any warranties or representations, express or implied, concerning the components or installation of the Family Read, Play and Learn kit, and expressly disclaim all such warranties, including but not limited to the implied warranties of merchantability or fitness for

a particular purpose. You agree to direct any inquiries relating to warranties for any component of the kit to the applicable manufacturer.

- 2) **Tote bags** (with materials in English and Spanish) filled with high quality early learning resources including children's books, tip sheets and a mealtime placemat for the families who visit your CWD offices. The number of actual tote bags provided will depend on the average number of families that visit your offices and are subject to availability.

As part of this initiative, you agree to:

- 1) **Dedicate waiting room space for the Transformed Spaces installation.** You agree to provide a dedicated space for the Too Small to Fail **Read, Play and Learn** kit in your CWD lobby and agree to allow CDSS and Too Small to Fail staff to come and construct and place the installation at a mutually agreed upon time and date.
- 2) **Accommodate two site visits from Public Profit:** Two Public Profit staff members will visit your CWD office twice - once before the transformed space is installed and once after the space is installed. Currently the site visits are planned to occur in Summer and Fall 2023; you can expect a site visit for two days in summer and for another two days in fall. During each visit, Public Profit will sit in the waiting room and observe visitors' behaviors. Observations will not interrupt visitors' normal behavior. The observers will count how frequently the caregivers engage in literacy-related interactions with children, how frequently young children engage in literacy-related activities, and what activities children engage in while waiting. During these observations, the observers will not interact with any children. You will be provided at least 7 days' notice before each site visit.
- 3) **Allow Public Profit to administer visitor surveys:** During Public Profit's site visits, visitors to the office will be asked if they want to participate in a short survey and will be given a \$10 gift card as an incentive. These brief surveys, provided in both English and Spanish, will ask caregivers about their experiences in the waiting room transformed spaces, their awareness about early brain and language development, and the frequency of engaging in language-rich activities with their children. Visitors will receive a consent form before participating in the survey. All survey protocols have been approved by California Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects (IRB).
- 4) **Arrange for staff interviews:** Public Profit will ask CWD staff to participate in 45-minute interviews with a member of the evaluation team. You agree to arrange and allow staff to participate in these interviews. These interviews will ask staff about the impact of the pilot project on the services they provide to their clients and how the lessons learned from this pilot could inform the expansion of this model to waiting rooms in other CWD environments. Staff will receive a consent form before participating in the interview.
- 5) Sign below and the enclosed release form and return both to Michael Billingsley at Michael.billingsley@dss.ca.gov *on or before June 16, 2023*

The pilot initiative will take place from July to December 2023; you can expect a site visit in summer and another in fall. Please feel free to reach out to Michael Billingsley at Michael.billingsley@dss.ca.gov if you have any questions.

For: California Department of Social Services,

Julianna Vignalats

Julianna Vignalats,

Assistant Deputy Director, Chief Agency and State Data Liaison
Research, Automation and Data Division (RADD)
California Department of Social Services
Julianna.Vignalats@dss.ca.gov

For: Too Small to Fail,

Patti Miller, (She/Her/Hers)

CEO, Too Small to Fail
Clinton Foundation

For Humboldt County

ACKNOWLEDGED AND AGREED:

Steve Madrone

Signature of Authorized Representative

Chair of Board

Title of Authorized Representative

June 27, 2023

date