

# Too Small to Fail & California Department of Social Services: Transformed Spaces Pilot Project

## Frequently Asked Questions

Prepared by Public Profit | March 2023

### General Information

#### What is involved in the Too Small to Fail Transformed Spaces project?

Too Small To Fail (TSTF), the early childhood initiative of the Clinton Foundation, and CDSS are partnering to deepen the support for families with young children. This project transforms waiting areas into welcoming, language-rich environments for families. Our hope is that transforming these facilities may offer opportunities to empower parents/caregivers with tools and information to support young children's early brain and language development.

We will start this project in select California Counties, with the hopes of expanding based on what we found to be effective later. Public Profit, an evaluation firm based in Alameda County, will be evaluating the impact of this initiative through observations, surveys, and interviews.

Each county will transform the waiting area using a kit TSTF provides.

#### How will we know that the transformed space impacted our families?

Public Profit, an evaluation firm based in Alameda County, will measure the impacts of this project. Over time, through observations, surveys, and interviews, Public Profit and TSTF will assess the potential effects of these changes in the hopes of expanding what works to other counties. Public Profit will visit your county office one time in June 2023 and then during the fall of 2023.

#### How will my staff get informed about this initiative?

Once you've signed on to participating in this pilot, we encourage you to share information with your staff through a staff meeting, memo, poster. We suggest including the purpose of the initiative, what changes they might notice in the office, and how they can support the project. We will give you more information about all of these components during the project orientation.

#### What is the length of the project?

We anticipate that the pilot will run from June 2023 through Fall 2023. We encourage you to continue using the transformed space beyond the project.

#### What languages will the resources be available in?

The resources are currently available in English and Spanish.

## What is the minimum number of families visiting an office in order to participate?

In order to make the most of this initiative, we recommend that you anticipate at least five caregivers who have young children (either present with the caregiver or at home) visit your office each day.

## Will every child get a tote with high-quality materials?

Yes, tote bags will be available to all caregivers with young children.

## About the Waiting Room Transformed Spaces

### What is included in the waiting room transformed space?

The transformed waiting room space includes 50 start-up books, a “Family Read, Play and Learn Space” sign, a bookstand with storage, stacking child-size chairs, a washable rug, and materials for young children to play and learn. The exact materials included in the kit will depend on the size of the waiting room.

### How big are the waiting room set ups?

There are three size options for the waiting room set ups. Your office will be able to indicate what size best fits your space.

- Large: 6 feet x 9 feet
- Medium: 6 feet x 6 feet
- Small: 4 feet x 6 feet

### Do we have to pay anything to get the materials?

No, all of the transformed space materials will come free of charge, including free shipping.

### Who sets up the waiting room spaces?

Someone from CDSS and/or Too Small to Fail will come and set up the transformed space materials at a mutually agreed on time. More information and coordination coming soon.

### Do we need electricity in the waiting room?

No, the materials do not need electricity.

### What kind of cleaning is involved in transformed space due to COVID?

Too Small to Fail does not have cleaning or sanitization requirements; your office can make decisions about cleaning these materials that align with the policy for the rest of your offices. Too Small to Fail may initially provide sanitization materials; further details will be confirmed soon.

## What do the materials in the waiting room look like?

Here is an example of some of the transformed space materials that might be included in your kit (depending on the size you order):



Read & Relax Comfy Couch + Plastic Book Baskets - Set of 3 + 2 Small Dishwasher-Safe Plastic Baskets



Help-Yourself Bookstand with Storage



Heavy-Duty Adjustable Round Table - 42" Diameter



4 Heavy-Duty Stacking Chair - 13 1/2"



Washable Rectangular Rug - 5' x 7' - Black



Tabletop Hardwood Blocks - Master Set



Stand-Up Magnetic Write & Wipe Center



Giant Magnetic Letters - Uppercase + Giant Magnetic Numbers



Big Mouth Bear, Dog, Frog, & Cow Puppets