

POLICY WEBINAR | MARCH 2022

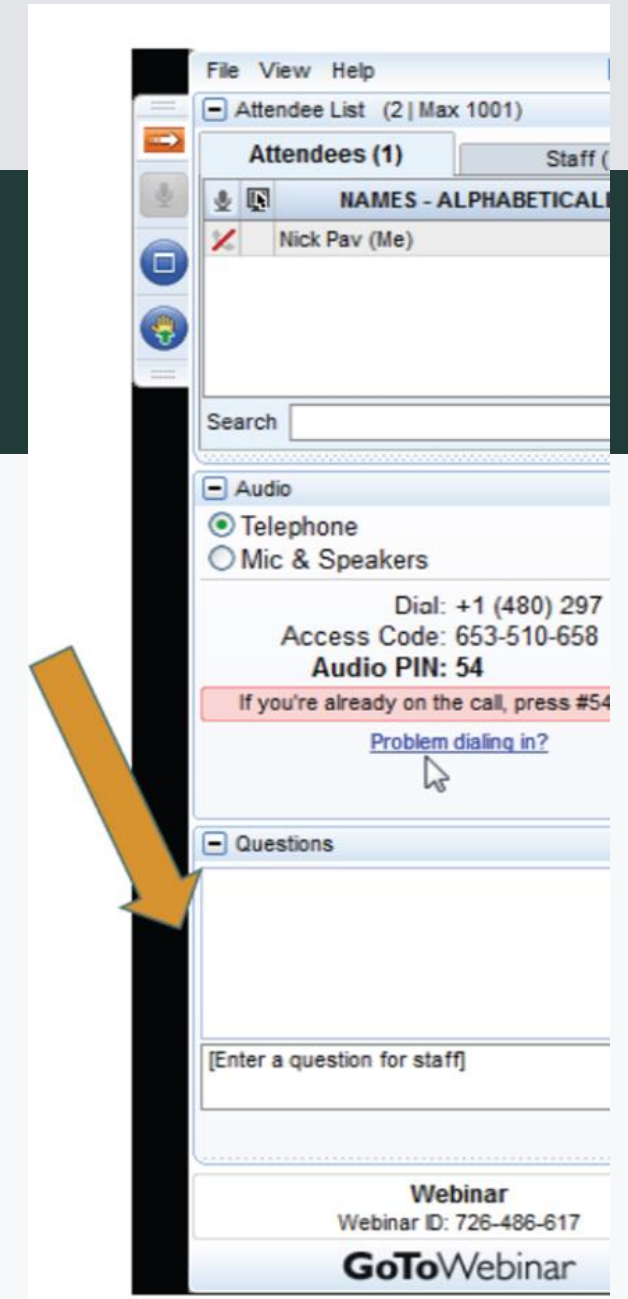
# 2022 Priority Legislation and Budget Requests

ALLIANCE  
*for* CHILDREN'S  
RIGHTS



# Logistics

- Webinar resources, including recording and supplemental materials, will be posted at <https://allianceforchildrensrights.org/resources/>
- All attendees are muted during webinar.
- Please submit questions using the “Questions” function on your GotoWebinar dashboard.





# 2022 PRIORITY LEGISLATION & BUDGET REQUESTS



# CALIFORNIA TRIBAL FAMILIES COALITION

*Blair Kreuzer*

# **AB 1862**

## **(Ramos)**

### ***Tribally***

### ***Approved Homes***

### ***Compensation***

### ***Program***

- establishes the **Tribally Approved Homes Compensation Program** to provide funding to eligible tribes and tribal organizations in California to assist in funding the costs associated with recruiting and approving homes for the purpose of foster or adoptive placement of an Indian child pursuant to ICWA
- requires CDSS to provide **annual allocations of \$75,000** to eligible tribes and tribal organizations in each fiscal year, subject to appropriation
- **requires a tribe or tribal organization that receives funding to submit an annual progress report** that includes details about how many homes were approved, recruitment efforts, and challenges experienced



# COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

*Diana Boyer &  
Paula Villescaz*

*FAMILY-BASED  
CARE  
PROPOSALS  
\$221.3 Million*

- Fund mandated **Resource Family Approval (RFA)** process (\$100 million).
- Reinstate **Foster Parent Recruitment, Retention and Support Program (FPRRS)** to support caregivers and for foster youth. (\$100 million)
- [AB 2579](#) (Bennett) - Provides \$15.2m dedicated funding to implement evidence-based model of family finding and child-specific approval.
- [SB 1090](#) (Hurtado) - Clarify populations of youth eligible for FURS.
- [AB 2259](#) (Berman) – Establishes a \$5m CDSS grant program to serve youth who have substance use needs
- Update the **Intensive Services Foster Care (ISFC)** model to encourage county implementation and add mental health services as part of those programs.
- Amend current law (AB 2944, 2020) to increase specialized rates and programming for youth with unique needs.

*TRANSITION-  
AGED YOUTH &  
INSURANCE  
\$23.5M*

**AB 2306 (Cooley)**

- **Enhances and invests in the Independent Living Program (ILP)** to better engage child welfare and probation-involved youth in skill-building up to age 23. (\$18M)
- **Creates a family-based residential care model as an alternative to the THPP-M**, operated through FFAs or county-based agencies. (\$500K)
- **Expands the current Foster Family Home and Small Family Home Insurance Fund** to create a statewide insurance pool to cover personal and property liability for both family-based and congregate-care facilities; and provides state legal counsel to represent providers if their acts/omissions were in good faith. (\$5M)

# CONGREGATE CARE & CROSSOVER ISSUES

- Establishes a **workgroup to revisit and establish new licensing standards for multi-model STRTPs** Require certain elements be included including, but not limited to, 90 day no eject/no reject, enhanced staff training, required use of CQI tools by providers. Consider RBS-type financing, regional rate-setting and use of CANS for rate. Require DSS to perform actuarial analysis of STRTP operational costs.
- Implement legislation to **require “bed holds” for foster youth returning to an STRTP from a brief hospitalization or psychiatric stay**, paid by the county.
- **Maintain STRTP capacity** by permitting counties to utilize existing vacant STRTP facilities or which have empty beds, to staff those facilities through MOU agreements with STRTP providers, without a change in licensure.

*CONGREGATE  
CARE &  
CROSSOVER  
ISSUES  
(\$9.8 Million)*

- Address current crisis of youth in county offices or other temporary settings by establishing an **“Intensive Assessment and Transition Facilities”** focused on foster youth who require STRTP or other higher level of care and who are in transition to other high-intensity treatments. Model would require multi-agency assessment and direct services to be delivered by behavioral health, regional centers and education. (\$5.8M)
  - Requires **CDSS to establish two facilities regionally**. (\$2.5M)
- **Require CDSS to explore and make recommendations for an automated solution to placement matching**, including identifying the appropriate care setting that meets the youth’s therapeutic and other needs, and to improve matching foster youth with care providers. (\$500k)

## *COMPLEX CARE*

*(\$37 Million)*

- **Reduce administrative barriers to the use of child-specific complex care needs funds by making funding available immediately to youth and families**, and require counties to report thereafter on the use of the funds. Add allowable uses for these funds to address a wider range of child-specific needs.
- **Modify allowable uses of 2021-22 State Budget \$43 million one-time over five years funds to counties for capacity building to serve foster youth with complex needs** to enable counties to increase capacity of care options locally.
- **Provide \$20 million to increase child welfare social worker staffing to support youth and families with complex care needs and \$9.2 million for probation agencies to similarly support youth with high level, cross-over needs.**

## *COMPLEX CARE*

- **Increase State Supplemental Rate for Community Treatment Facilities (CTFs) and require DHCS and DSS to evaluate model** for continued use and any necessary future changes. (\$4.6m)
- **Establish a pilot project for one or more regionalized Accountable Care Organization (ACO), or similar structures,** as permitted under Medicaid to manage and coordinate the complex care needs for some foster youth, to include direct contracting with service providers, quality assurance and oversight, blended funding, and specialized rate-setting. (\$3.2m)

*REGIONAL  
CENTER FOSTER  
YOUTH  
SERVICES  
(\$30 Million)*

**Provide funding:**

- **Regional Center staffing and services –** focused for foster youth with complex needs when youth are in shelters or other temporary settings pending placement into a regional center or other intensive setting;
- **Expand regional center facility capacity** based on AB 2083 gaps analysis, for example, Enhanced Behavioral Support Homes, Mental Health Rehab Centers;
- **Implement 12-month provisional eligibility** for children and youth in foster care and who are candidates of foster care.

BUDGET REQUEST:  
*EXPANDED*  
*CAPACITY FOR*  
*MSW STUDENTS*  
*IN CALIFORNIA*  
*SCHOOLS*

- **Require CalHHS Secretary and representatives of the UC and CSU Chancellors to convene a taskforce to develop and implement recommendations for expanding MSW capacity in California's CSU and UC systems.**
- **Establish a grant program of \$118 million State General Fund beginning FY 2022-23, available through June 30, 2026, administered through the Taskforce, to support:**
  - *\$30 million per year to be used as seed funding to provide grants to schools of social work to immediately expand the number of MSW students in public schools of social work.*
  - *Provide \$15 million per year to increase supports to community-based non-profit organizations and county agencies offering field internships, to support the required 900 hours field-practicum for all MSW students.*
  - *Provide \$13 million per year educational stipends to MSW students from under-represented communities.*
- **Require follow up study to SB 2030 (Chapter 785, Statutes of 1998) child welfare workload study given the significant new mandates that have been enacted in recent years.**



# CHILDREN NOW

*Susanna Kniffen*

**AB 1861**  
**(Bryan)**  
***California***  
***Foster Youth***  
***Hiring Tax***  
***Credit***

Qualifying employers receive a **tax credit of up to \$10,000** for each eligible transition-age foster youth that they employ.

AB 1861 incentivizes suitable hours of employment and requires employers to pay at least 120% of minimum wage.

Youth who spent time in foster care on or after their 13<sup>th</sup> birthday and are currently 16-26, including crossover youth, are eligible.

# SB 1090 (HURTADO) *FAMILY URGENT RESPONSE SYSTEM*

- Expands access to include children and youth who are the subject of a Voluntary Placement Agreement, and children or youth who are placed in California pursuant to the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children and makes other changes to avoid confusion over who FURS can serve

SB 1090



**24/7  
SUPPORT**

Are you a current or former foster youth? Having problems at home? Frustrated? Need someone to talk to? The 24/7 FURS hotline is here to help.

**CALL OR TEXT: 1-833-939-FURS | 1-833-939-3877**

Family Urgent Response System (FURS) is a free 24/7/365 hotline for current or former foster youth and your caregivers to call and get **immediate** help for any big or small issues you may be having.

- You will be connected to a trained counselor or peer who will listen to you.
- FURS is a **safe, judgement-free**, and **private** space to talk about your worries and vent.
- If you want more support, a team can come directly to where you are to help you work on the problem and to create a plan to help stabilize your situation and keep you safe.
- The team will follow-up by helping connect you and your caregiver to local services and support.



**CHECK OUT: CAL-FURS.ORG**



PUB No. 518 (3/21)  
OSP 21-151736

[www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/cdss-programs/foster-care/furs](http://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/cdss-programs/foster-care/furs)

Outreach Materials

## BUDGET REQUEST: CHILD WELFARE DISASTER RESPONSE

\$2-4 million one-time funding to:

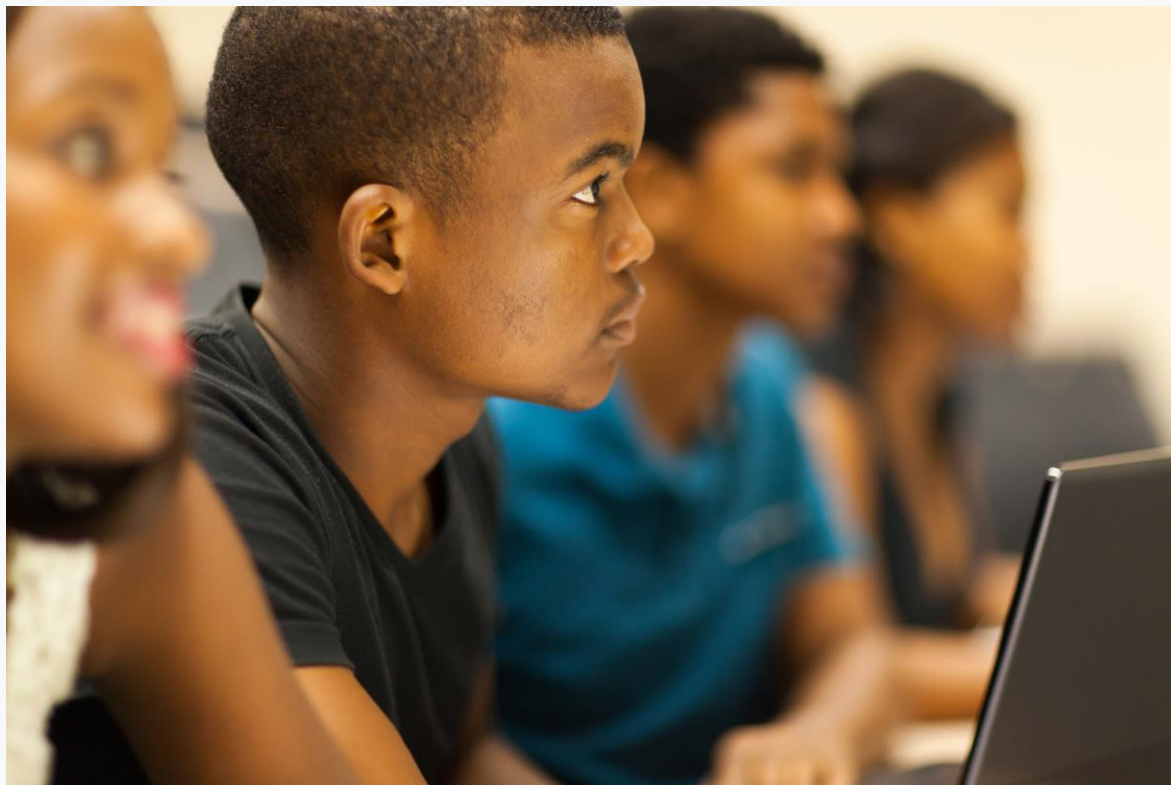
- **Support proactive local/county disaster planning and capacity building** to assist children and youth in foster care and their caregivers in the event of a natural disaster;
- **Ensure grants and resources are immediately available to disaster-impacted communities** to mitigate the urgent needs of children and youth in foster care and their caregivers, and
- **Aid CDSS efforts to work with communities to ensure local assistance centers understand the unique needs of foster families** and have the **capacity to connect children and youth in foster care and caregivers to targeted services and supports.**



# BUDGET REQUEST: EMERGENCY CHILD CARE BRIDGE

- **\$39 million to expand the amount of funding available to counties to be able to provide additional vouchers** to children in care,
- **\$5 million to support additional navigators** who are working to find child care for foster children, and,
- **\$4 million to deliver additional trauma-informed training** for child care providers as they care for foster children in their local early childhood programs.





# CALIFORNIA COALITION FOR YOUTH

*Kimberly Lewis*



## **SB 234 (Wiener) - SUPPORT Act**

- SB 234 creates a \$100 million forgivable loan program to be used to create new housing for youth between ages 16 and 26, who are currently or formerly in foster care, youth experiencing homelessness and youth under probation supervision.
- A portion of the funds would be specifically targeted to youth in foster care aged 18-21.
- Loans could be used for pre-development costs, site acquisition, architectural and design costs, and construction or refurbishing of sites.

# AB 2222 (Reyes)

## Golden State Social Opportunities Program

establishes the Golden State Social Opportunities Program to **provide grants to students who are enrolled in an in-state postgraduate program from a UC or CSU campus or an independent university or college, if the student commits to working in a California-based nonprofit eligible setting for two years**

**prioritizes youth with lived experience**



**BUDGET**

**REQUEST:**

***California***

***Youth***

***Empowerment***

***Commission***

Allocates **\$1.3 million** ongoing to fund to the activities of the California Youth Empowerment Commission.



# YOUTH LAW CENTER

*Jenny Pokempner*

# AB 2945

## (Arambula)

### *Extracurricular Activities*

- requires agency coordination and that funds are allocated to ensure meaningful access to extracurricular and enrichment activities for children and youth in foster care, so that they have the opportunity to recover from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and
- creates requirements related to the case plan and court reviews, so that there is accountability in the use of funds for enrichment and extracurricular activities and child and youth involvement in decisions about how the funds are used



# CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER OF CALIFORNIA

*Julie McCormick*

**AB 740**  
**(McCarty)**  
***Foster Youth***  
***Suspension***  
***and Expulsion***

Ensures that **whenever disciplinary action is taken by a school against a child in foster care, the child's attorney and the appropriate representative of the county child welfare receive notice** – including suspension and expulsion documents and related information – and have the right to attend suspension and expulsion meetings and conferences.

**AB 1735 (Bryan)**  
*Eliminating  
Language  
Barriers for  
Youth in Foster  
Care*

Requires that **essential court documents, such as court reports, case plans, and transition to independent living plans, be translated into a youth's native language** so they can meaningfully participate in their case.

**AB 1794**  
**(Gipson)**  
***Strengthening***  
***Family***  
***Connections for***  
***Adoptive***  
***Children***

Strengthens family connections for adoptees when appropriate by **promoting ongoing contact between siblings** and allowing parental rights to be reinstated for children and nonminor dependents in foster care after an adoption has failed.

**AB 2085 (Holden)**  
***Addressing Racial  
Disparities  
Through Mandated  
Reporting Reform***

Addresses racial disparities and ensures families are not unnecessarily brought to the attention of the child welfare system by **revising the standards for mandated reporting.**

**AB 2189 (Friedman)**  
*Providing  
Supplemental  
Support for Youth  
Experiencing  
Housing  
Instability/Ensuring  
Youth Exiting Foster  
Care Can Succeed*

Expands eligibility for the expectant parent benefit to include minors and nonminor dependents (NMDs) who are transitioning between placements.

Requires the county agency to make intensive and ongoing efforts to ensure youth have housing stability before exiting the system and would give the court the ability to keep a case open past age 21 if the requirements to terminate jurisdiction have not been satisfactorily met.

Additionally, ensures that youth experiencing housing instability are still able to receive critical benefits.

**AB 2665**  
**(Carrillo)**  
***Addressing***  
***Racial***  
***Disparities in***  
***Child Welfare by***  
***Establishing a***  
***Blind Removal***  
***Pilot Project***

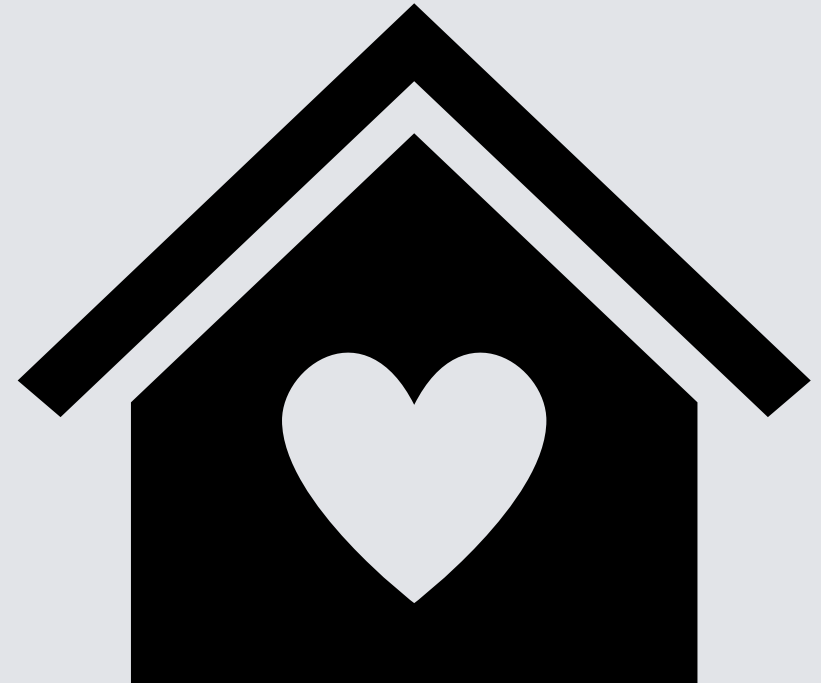
Establishes a pilot project where participating counties would create and implement a process to remove identifiable information from the case file prior to deciding to remove a child from their parent's custody.

## **BUDGET REQUEST:**

### **CSEC HOUSING**

*Building and Supporting Family Homes for Children Impacted by Commercial Sexual Exploitation*

Funding is urgently needed to increase the availability of specialized family homes for children who have been impacted by CSE, and to provide families tools and resources necessary to keep children safe and help them manage their trauma. A one-time appropriation of \$60 million would serve to expand innovative pilots throughout the state over a 3-year period and to support robust evaluation.





# JOHN BURTON ADVOCATES FOR YOUTH

*Anna Johnson*

# AB 1615 (Ting)

## *Foster Youth Housing*

- **Lengthens the duration of THP-Plus from 24 months to 36 months and changes the upper age limit of youth eligible for the program to 24.**
- **Increases the annual budget for THP administered by \$25.3 million** to fund the third year of THP-Plus and to create 473 additional housing slots.
- **Increases the annual budget for the Housing Navigators Program** and increases the upper age limit to align with federal Housing Choice Voucher program, and **expands the priority population from foster youth to also include former foster youth.**
- Eases the administration of THP and HNP, authorizing HCD to administer the programs jointly.

# SB 885 (Laird)

## *Next Up*

## *Expansion*



Expands access to college retention services for current and former foster youth by doubling California's investment in the NextUp program from \$20 to \$40 million. JBAY is also supporting a proposal from Governor Newsom to create a parallel network of support for foster youth at each of the nine University of California campuses and 22 campuses of the California State University System funded with \$18 million in state funds.

**BUDGET  
REQUEST:**  
*Foster Youth  
Tax Credit*

- \$21 million to establish a \$1,000 refundable tax credit for current and former foster youth aged 18 through 25 who were in care on or after their 13th birthday.

## BUDGET

### REQUEST:

*Homeless  
Housing,  
Assistance &  
Prevention  
Program (HEAP)*

- Requires local jurisdictions to **dedicate at least 10% of funds to addressing youth homelessness.**



# CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE OF CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES

*Adrienne Shilton &  
Hope Kamer*

# *Behavioral Health*

**AB 552 (Quirk-Silva) Integrated School Partnerships:** Would establish the Integrated School-Based Behavioral Health Partnership Program to provide prevention and early intervention for, and access to, behavioral services for all students in California public schools.

**AB 2317 (Ramos) Children's Crisis Residential Programs:** Would require DCHS to implement a new licensing category for children's crisis residential services: the Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF). Inpatient psychiatric services to individuals under 21 provided in a PRTF would be included as mental health services under Medi-Cal.

**SB 1229 (McGuire) Mental Health Professional Grant Program:** Would establish a scholarship program at the Department of Health Care Access and Information to provide 10,000 grants of up to \$25,000 each for students pursuing behavioral health professional degrees (MSW, MFT, MA in Psychology, MA in School Counseling, and MA in School Psychology degrees), and then commit to working in public schools or community-based organizations for two years.

# *Family- Based Services*

## **SB 1091 (Hurtado) Family Finding and**

**Engagement:** Would require funds appropriated by the Legislature to be available for targeted family finding and engagement techniques to identify, support, and sustain permanent relationships with caring adults for foster children. This proposal targets youth who have been in care for more than 24 months who are at elevated risk of not achieving emotional or physical permanency.

## **Cost of Living Adjustment for Foster Family**

**Agencies:** Would provide an augmentation, based on the cost-of-living adjustment provided to other child welfare placement categories, to the social services rate for foster family agencies (FFAs). This seeks to address high rates of FFA Social Worker turnover and stabilize permanency outcomes for youth placed in FFAs.

***BUDGET  
REQUEST:  
Prevention  
Services***

Provides a **stable stream of funding for approximately 500 Family Resource Centers (FRCs) who provide comprehensive services** to about 600,000 of the most marginalized Californians.

FRCs are trusted community partners who ease the stressors in the home and build resiliency in both children and parents, reducing the prevalence of child abuse and neglect, therefore reducing entry into the Child Welfare and Foster Care Systems.

# ***BUDGET REQUEST: Residential Capacity and Support***

**COVID Relief for STRTPs:** Would backfill the one-time STRTP COVID relief grant program administered by the CDSS Foster Care Rates Unit (\$42M 2021-22 SGF), providing applicants with 100% of their requested COVID relief.

**IMD Transition Support for STRTPs:** Would provide additional funding for June-December 2022 to ensure adequate time for programming to shift in a culturally competent and trauma-informed manner that can support all youth in need of care.

**STRTP Care and Supervision Rate:** Would revisit the STRTP care and supervision rate to ensure adequate resources are being provided to youth served in short-term behavioral health settings.



# ALLIANCE FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

*Sabrina Forte*

**AB 1686**  
**(Bryan)**  
***Child Support***



to reduce barriers to family reunification,  
requires child welfare agencies to presume that  
payment of foster care costs unnecessarily  
extends children's time in foster care

# AB 2309 (Friedman) *Supporting Family-Centered Guardianships Out of Foster Care*

AB 2309 would promote family decision-making by amending the Welfare and Institutions Code to:

- **Authorize the juvenile court to order a guardianship at any time** while the court is adjudicating an abuse or neglect petition, including prior to the court's finding of abuse or neglect;
- **Allow parents to designate an individual of their choice to serve as the guardian** as long as the child's safety is not jeopardized; and
- **Require CDSS to collect demographic and outcome data** of children living with relative caregivers in and out of the juvenile court system.

## SB 532

(Caballero)

### *Education Rights*

- expands and strengthens the rights for foster youth, homeless youth, former juvenile court school students, children of military families, and migratory children to be exempted from local graduation requirements;
- requires local educational agencies (LEAs) to provide those students the option to remain in school for a fifth year to complete the statewide coursework requirements; and
- requires LEAs to annually report to the California Department of Education on the number of students, who in the prior school year, graduated with an exemption from the LEA's local graduation requirements



## SB 1071 (Umborg)

### *Administrative Hearings*

- authorizes specified individuals who are actively participating in certain administrative hearings to inspect a juvenile's case file
- requires CDSS to attach to any position statement prepared for an administrative hearing a **copy of documentary evidence and a list of witnesses** the agency intends to use at the hearing and, in certain circumstances, portions of the juvenile case file that the agency used in making its decision to take the action that is being appealed

## **SB 1300**

**(Durazo)**

### ***SSI Eligibility for NMDs***

revises and expands existing law with respect to nonminor dependents, including **requiring the county, if the youth elects to remain in foster care as a nonminor dependent after attaining 18 years of age, to assist the youth in establishing continuing disability as an adult, including identifying an appropriate representative payee**, which may include the youth, a trusted adult, or the county and specifies the duties of the county if selected as a nonminor dependent's representative payee

**Budget Request:**  
***KinGAP Funding***

\$800,000 in FY 22-23 and \$5.8 million ongoing to **expand the state Kin-GAP program to include all children who are ordered into relative guardianships pursuant to WIC § 360(a), not just children who meet the six-month requirement, allowing committed relative guardians** to receive critical funds on behalf of a child in their care without having to subject their families to extended system involvement

# RESOURCES



## Resources

Alliance for Children's Rights -

<https://allianceforchildrensrights.org/policy/>

California Alliance of Children and Family Services -

<https://www.cacfs.org/advocacy>

California Coalition for Youth -

<https://calyouth.org/advocacy-policy/>

California Tribal Families Coalition -

<https://caltribalfamilies.org/>

Children's Law Center of California -

<https://www.clccal.org/our-work/legislation-and-policy/>

Children Now -

<https://www.childrennow.org/childwelfare/>

County Welfare Directors Association of California -

<https://www.cwda.org/state-budget-priorities>

John Burton Advocates for Youth -

<https://jbay.org/advocate/>

Youth Law Center - <https://www.ylc.org/our-work/>

**ALLIANCE**  
*for* **CHILDREN'S**  
**RIGHTS**



**CALIFORNIA**  
**TRIBAL FAMILIES**  
**COALITION**



**Children**  
**Now**



**CWDA**

Advancing Human Services  
for the Welfare of All Californians



*Webinar resources, including recording and supplemental materials,  
will be posted at <https://allianceforchildrensrights.org/resources/>*