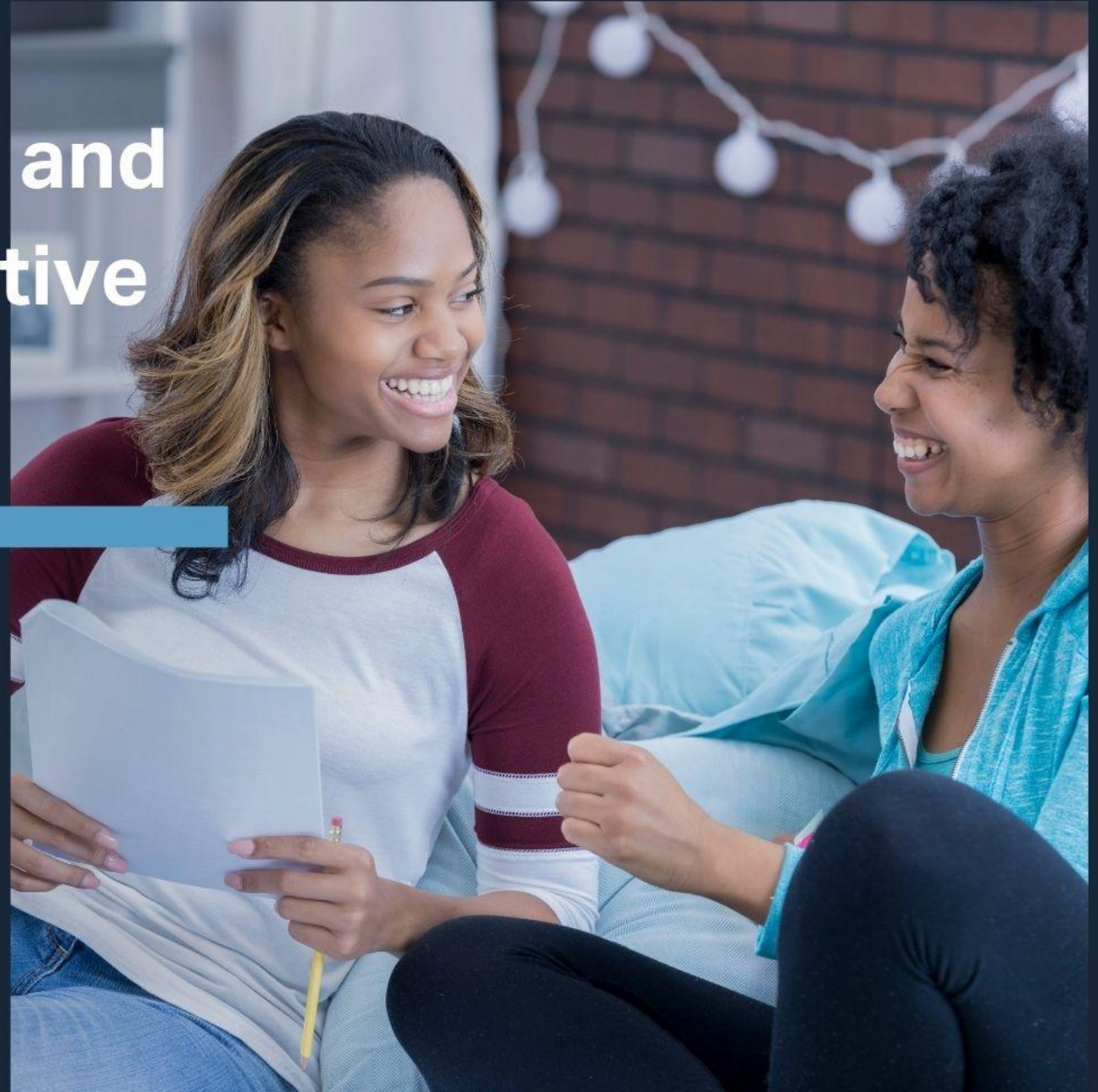


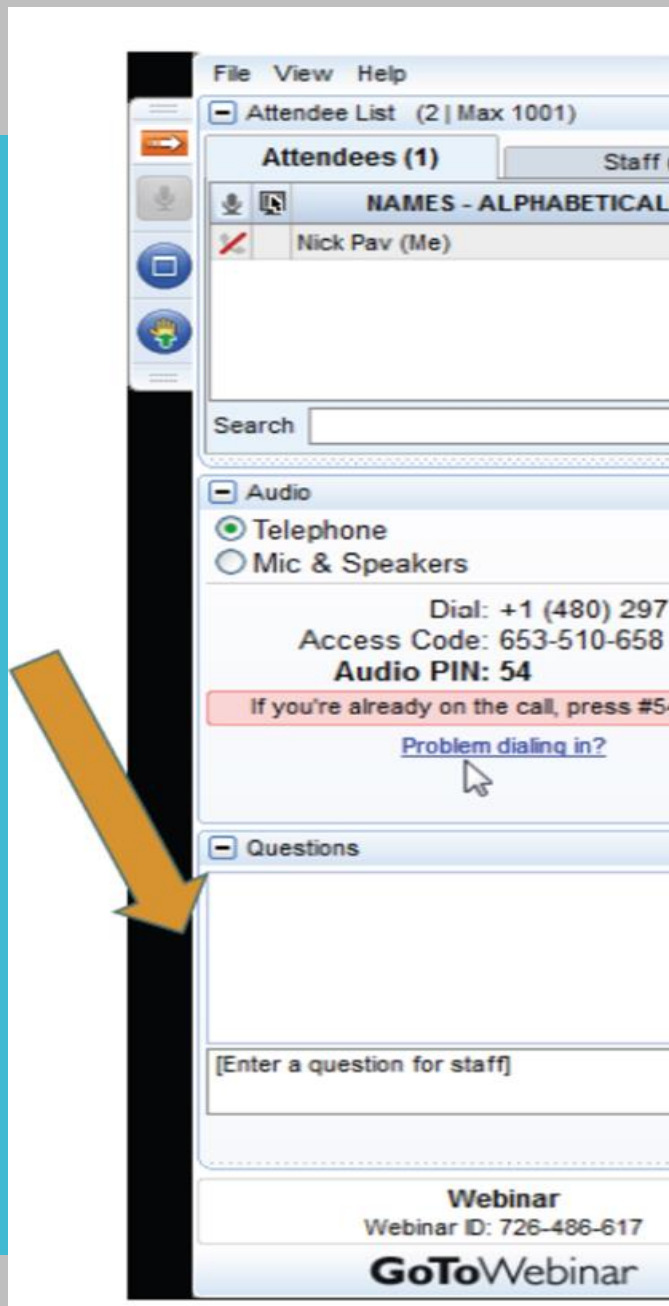
WEBINAR | OCTOBER 2024

2024 Child Welfare Bills and Budget Actions: Legislative Session Review

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.

2024 Child Welfare Laws and Budget Updates



**County Welfare
Directors
Association of
California**

Amanda Kirchner
Director of Legislative
Advocacy



Foster Care Caregiver Approvals Program Reduction *PREVENTED*



CalWORKs Home Visiting Program Reduction *PREVENTED*

- Rejected the Governor's May Revision ongoing reduction of \$47.1 million General Fund, starting in 2024-25 for the CalWORKs HVP, and instead reduces funding for the CalWORKs HVP by up to \$30 million in 2023- 24, and temporarily reduce by up to \$25 million in 2024-24 and 2025-26

[CalWorks Home Visiting Program](#)



Bringing Families Home *DELAYED*

[Bringing Families Home Program \(ca.gov\)](http://ca.gov)

FFPSA

Part 1

Prevention Services

Allowing Counties to Build and Sustain Prevention Services

Extending access to the existing \$222.4 million Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) Part 1 Prevention Services funding from June 30, 2024 to June 30, 2028



Federal Reporting and Communication Requirements with National Center for Missing and Exploited Children



State and Federal Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment Program Alignment



Specialized Care Increment

- Budget contains trailer bill language adding in tribes for the specialized care increment rate setting system, in addition to counties

California Tribal Families Coalition

Blair Kreuzer

Co-Executive Director



**AB 81 (Ramos)
Safeguarding Existing
State Statutes Protecting
Indian Children, Families
and the Rights of Tribes in
Child Welfare Cases**

- Authorizes tribes to approve foster homes on an emergency basis
- Ensures the burden does not shift to tribes to find placements within ICWA requirements
- Clears up appellate court issues so all Indian children receive ICWA protections regardless of how they enter foster care



AB 2108 (Ramos) Supporting Children and Youth Missing From Foster Care



AB 2108 helps to better protect, locate, and stabilize children and NMDs when they are missing while in foster care and provides greater collaboration, including with tribal representatives and tribal law enforcement, in ensuring services are provided to meet their immediate and longer-term needs when they return by:

- Revising the protocols county child welfare agencies and probation departments are required to develop and implement to expeditiously locate a child or NMD missing from foster care.
- Requiring **notification** to family members, court appointed counsel, tribes and tribal representatives, the court of jurisdiction, and law enforcement when a child or nonminor dependent is missing.

AB 2948 (Ramos)

AAP Tribal Court Order

- Adds a final order of adoption issued by a tribal court as a qualifying circumstance to make a child eligible for AAP





Children Now

Susanna Kniffen
Senior Managing Director,
Child Welfare & Government
Relations

FURS Elimination: *PREVENTED*



- Governor's budget proposed eliminating the Family Urgent Response System.
- FURS is a free, 24/7/365, immediate, trauma-informed support for children and youth (up to age 21) currently or formerly in foster care in California and their caregivers.

**Emergency Child
Care Bridge Cuts:
*PREVENTED***

PROPOSED CUTS

- Proposed cuts of \$34.8 million ongoing from the Bridge program as part of Governor's May Revise

Children's Law Center of California

Ann Quirk

Policy Attorney



- AB 866 clarifies that youth in foster care who are 16 years of age or older can consent to receive medications for opioid use disorder without the additional authorization of their parent, guardian, social worker, or court order

AB 866 (Rubio)

**Medically Assisted
Treatment for Opioid
Disorder**

AB 2929 (J. Carrillo)

Advancing Family Finding Efforts for Youth in Foster Care

- Requires the Court to consider, in status review hearings **whether appropriate efforts have been made to locate family members who could support or accept placement** of a child or nonminor dependent in foster care
- Requires any continued family finding efforts to be included in court reports

- AB 2664 clarifies the dates a child will be deemed to have entered foster care for the purpose of establishing timelines for the provision of reunification services.
- AB 2664 will ensure that families with child welfare cases receive a fair opportunity to reunify.

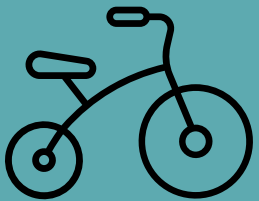
AB 2664 (Bryan)

Reunification Services



SB 1197 (Alvarado-Gil)

In-home Respite Services



- In-home respite services offer caregivers much-needed relief from the constant demands of caring for children and adults with developmental disabilities, services that are crucial to maintaining regional center consumers in home settings
- SB 1197 will **clarify the availability of in-home respite services through regional centers for certain children and nonminor dependents**

SB 1043 (Grove) Accountability in Children's Treatment Act

- Requires STRTPs to provide a child subject to seclusion or behavioral restraints with information about their personal rights within 24 hours of the incident
- Requires STRTPs to provide a written description of the incident within 7 days to the child, their parent or guardian, their attorney, and their tribal representative, as well as CDSS.
- Requires CDSS to review all reported incidents involving the use of seclusion or behavioral restraints and investigate any incidents that indicate a potential health and safety concern or licensing violation.
- Requires CDSS to display specific data relevant to these incidents on its website by January 1, 2026.

California Alliance of Child and Family Services

Adrienne Shilton

Vice President of
Public Policy and
Strategy



AB 2711 (Ramos)

**Serving Youth and
Reducing Substance Use**

- Prohibits the suspension of students in grades 1-12 who voluntarily disclose their use of a controlled substance, alcohol, an intoxicant of any kind, or tobacco, in order to seek help through services or supports

AB 2802 (Maienschein)

Gender-Inclusive Options in Transitional Housing



- **AB 2802 creates gender-inclusive options for housing arrangements in THP Programs, which serve current and former foster youth, to improve access for parenting youth, sibling sets, and transgender and gender non-conforming individuals**

AB 2496 (Pellerin) FFAs

RFA Porting

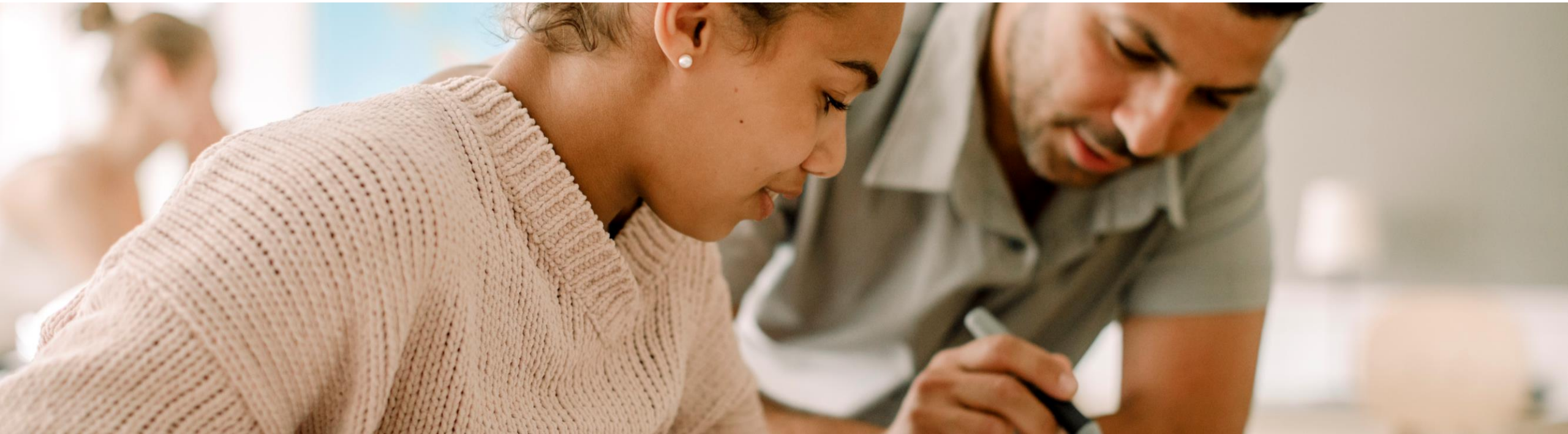
- Allows CDSS to temporarily waive provisions in order to facilitate the expedient transfer of an approval of a resource family from a FFA to a county
- Provides that an FFA may be held liable for injury or damage caused by the negligence of the FFA, but not for the injury or damage caused by the public entity
- Requires the FFA and the public entity to each bear the cost of insuring against their respective acts and omissions, and to each bear the costs of defending itself against claims arising from those risks

However, the FFA insurance crisis continues . . .

**John Burton
Advocates for Youth**

Simone Tureck Lee

Director of Housing
and Health

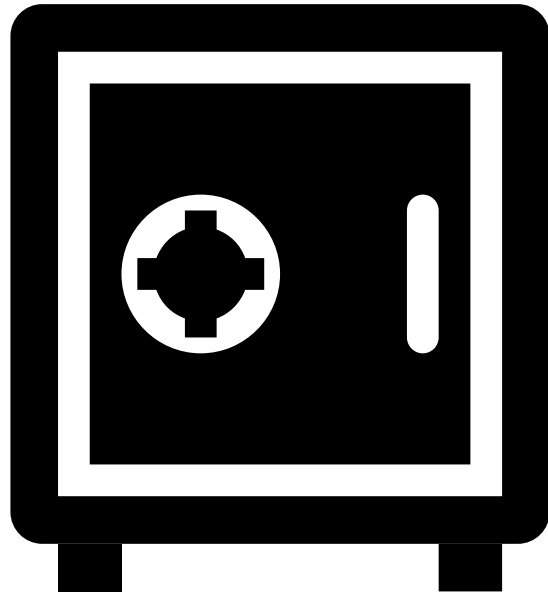


AB 2137 (Quirk-Silva) Expanding Ability of Foster Youth Services Coordinating Programs (FYSCPs) to Provide Direct Student Support

- Increases school success by authorizing County Offices of Education to use their existing state funding to provide direct services to foster youth via FYSCPs



Cal-KIDS Accounts AB 2508 (McCarty)

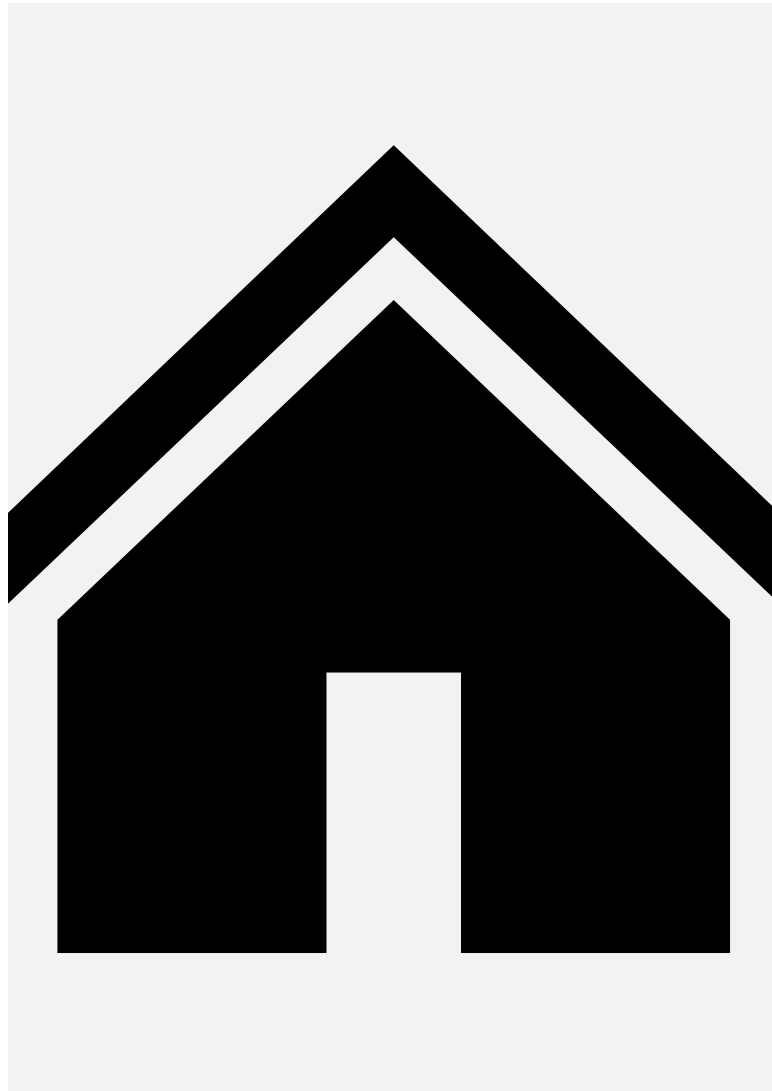


- Modifies CalKIDS program to expand availability to foster students in grades 1-12 starting in fall 2025.
- Eligible foster youth will receive \$500 and an additional \$500 for being low-income, if not yet received.
- More info on CalKIDS, including eligibility and access, at CalKIDS.org



Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP) Housing Supplement Elimination *AVERTED*

- Governor's budget proposed eliminating the SILP Housing Supplement.
- SILP Housing Supplement was to take effect 7/1/25 and would have augmented the monthly statewide rate paid to foster youth placed in SILPs, based on the local cost of housing in their county.
- The SILP Housing Supplement was ultimately eliminated and instead replaced with a flat increase to the statewide SILP monthly payment within foster care rate reform, taking effect 7/1/27.
- More info at <https://jbay.org/resources/increased-silp-payments/>



Housing Navigation & Maintenance Program Elimination

PREVENTED

- Governor's budget proposed eliminating the \$13.7 million Housing Navigation & Maintenance Program
- Helps the state tap into federal housing assistance for former foster youth through federal vouchers: Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) and Family Unification Program (FUP)
- More info:
<https://jbay.org/resources/hnmp-fact-sheet-2024/>

A close-up photograph of two young women with long dark hair embracing each other. The woman on the right is smiling warmly, her eyes closed in a joyful expression. She is wearing a red and white striped sweater. The woman on the left is seen from the back, also wearing a similar striped sweater. The background is a bright, clear sky. A teal-colored rectangular box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing white text.

California Coalition for Youth

Kim Lewis, Lewis Advocacy



AB 2477 (Zbur) Supporting Successful Transitions for Former Foster Youth

- Clarifies ambiguities in state law that appear to cap youths' cash savings while they are in foster care, to reflect recent CDSS guidance

Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP)



Round 6 Funding

- Provides another \$1 billion one-time funding for a new round of HHAP program grants
- Eliminates the restriction on creating new interim housing for youth

Round 5 Funding

- Reduces FY 2025-26 funding from Supplemental Grants in Round 5 HHAP by \$260 million

Alliance for Children's Rights

Kristin Power

Vice President,
Policy & Advocacy



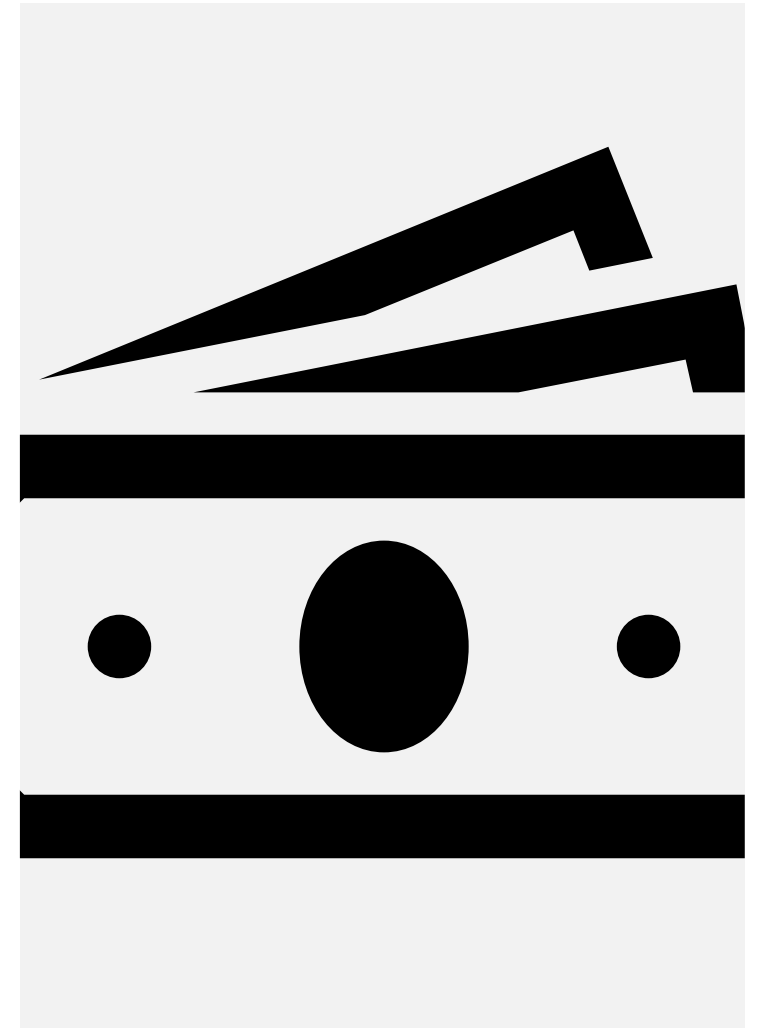


AB 2830 (R. Rivas) Streamlining RFA for Relatives

- Requires CDSS to adopt a simplified approval process for relative caregivers by January 1, 2027
- Allows CDSS to convene consultation with tribes and communicate with other interested individuals and organizations to develop a simplified approval process for relative and kinship caregivers that achieves the goals of safety, permanency, and well-being for children in out-of-home care
- Requires CDSS to track and report relevant data to the Legislature

AB 2906 (Bryan) Social Security Survivor Benefits

AB 2906 will **stop the practice of county agencies collecting Social Security survivor benefits to pay for the cost of foster care** and create notification requirements to increase the number of eligible foster youth linked to Social Security benefits upon their exit from care



A composite image featuring a child's hand resting on a brown teddy bear in the upper left and a child's foot on a white rug in the lower right. A teal rectangular box is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the title text.

Other Child Welfare-Related Proposals

AB 2935 (Maienschein)

Consumer Credit Services and Credit Freeze Removals



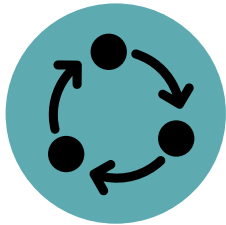
Authorizes CDSS to provide a list of authorized county welfare and probation officers who may make requests on behalf of children in a foster care setting



Requires a credit reporting agency to automatically block information on a credit report, if it is determined that the foster youth has a credit report as a minor

AB 3145 (Bryan)

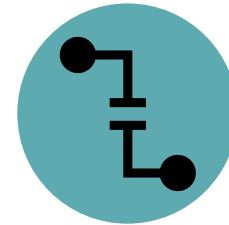
Foster Care Justice through Meaningful Help for Parents Act



Requiring service providers to have demonstrated success at avoiding out-of-home placement or reducing the length of stay in out-of-home placement



Requiring each service provider's outcomes at the time of the initial selection, and no less than every three years thereafter, to be reviewed



Adding to the criteria that deems the family preservation services successful



Requiring additional reporting requirements on outcomes and providing transparency by posting the reports publicly

SB 1005 (Ashby)

Restorative Justice

- Allows a probation officer to refer an offense committed by a minor to a youth court that implements restorative justice practices, rather than filing a petition in juvenile court



AB 2723 (Irwin) Cradle-to- Career Data System



AB 2723 makes several changes and updates to The California Cradle-to-Career (C2C) Data System Act by clarifying the role C2C holds in relation to the data they maintain on behalf of the data providers, and reinforces how C2C works within the Information Practices Act

[California Cradle-to-Career Data System | C2C](#)



AB 3216 (Hoover) Phone Free School Act

- AB 3216 requires local educational agencies to implement a policy that prohibits the use of smartphones by their students while present at a schoolsite during operational hours



Foster Care Permanent Rate Structure

Foster Care Permanent Rate Structure

- Rate based on a child's assessed level of need
- Funding shifts away from being connected to the placement type and is connected to the needs of the child
- Two new categories of funding:
 - Strengths building
 - Immediate needs

[cdss-summary-of-foster-care-permanent-rate-structure.pdf](#)

[Bill Text - AB-161 Human services. \(ca.gov\)](#)





Improving Outcomes for Children and Families in California's Foster Care System

Permanent Rate Structure

Permanent Foster Care Tiered Rate Structure Framework

Tier 1 (74% of children and youth) (Latent Classes 1 and 2 for the 0-5-year-olds and Latent Classes 1, 2, and 3 for the 6+ year olds)	
Care and Supervision* Paid to the caregiver	\$1,788
Strength Building and Maintenance Child and Family work with a Financial Management Coordinator	\$500
Immediate Needs	NA
FFA Admin (for youth placed in an FFA)* <i>Recruitment, retention, approval, training, etc.</i>	\$1,610

Tier 2 (19% of children and youth) (Latent Class 3 for the 0 – 5-year-olds and Latent Classes 4 and 5 for the 6+ year olds)	
Care and Supervision* Paid to the caregiver	\$3,490
Strength Building and Maintenance Child and Family work with a Financial Management Coordinator	\$700
Immediate Needs County or contracted provider coordinate services	\$1,000
FFA Admin (for youth placed in an FFA)* <i>Recruitment, retention, approval, training, etc.</i>	\$2,634

Tier 3 (ages 0-5) (4.5% of children and youth) (Latent Class 4 for 0 – 5-year-olds)	
Care and Supervision* Paid to the caregiver	\$6,296
Strength Building and Maintenance Child and Family work with a Financial Management Coordinator	\$900
Immediate Needs County or contracted provider coordinate services	\$1,500
FFA Admin (for youth placed in an FFA)* <i>Recruitment, retention, approval, training, etc.</i>	\$2,634

Tier 3+ (ages 6+) (2.5% of children and youth) (Latent Class 6 and 6a for 6+ year olds)	
Care and Supervision* Paid to the caregiver	\$6,296
Strength Building and Maintenance Child and Family work with a Financial Management Coordinator	\$900
Immediate Needs County or contracted provider coordinate services	\$4,100
FFA/STRTP Admin (for youth placed in an FFA or an STRTP)* <i>Recruitment, retention, approval, training, etc.</i>	\$7,213

*Components of the rate that will receive a California Necessities Index increase.

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/>
- 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 - [Advocate With Us | John Burton Advocates for Youth \(jbay.org\)](https://www.jbay.org/)

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CALIFORNIA
TRIBAL FAMILIES
COALITION



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Children
Now



CWDA
Advancing Human Services
for the Welfare of *All* Californians



JOHN BURTON
Advocates
for **Youth**

