

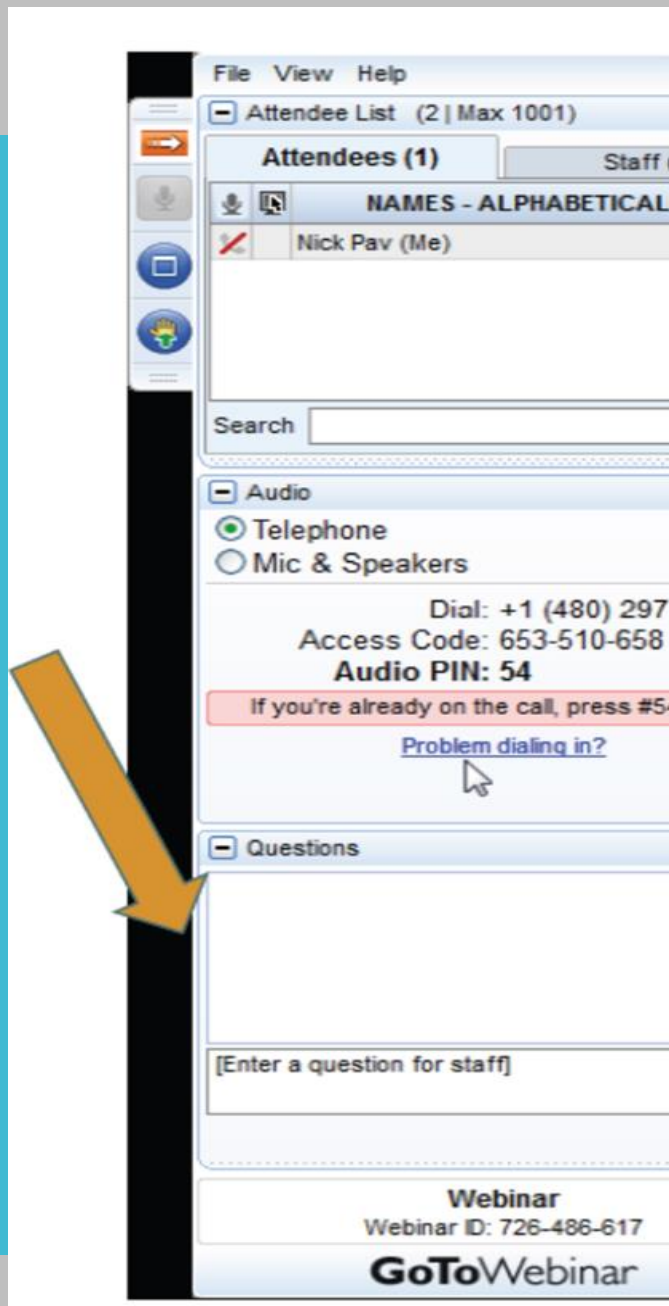
WEBINAR | MARCH 2024

2024 Child Welfare Bills, Budget Requests, and Budget Proposals


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 Bills,
Budget Requests
and Budget
Proposals



Children Now

Amanda Miller McKinney
Senior Policy Associate,
Child Welfare

FURS Elimination



- Governor's budget proposes 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.

**County Welfare
Directors
Association of
California**

Amanda Kirchner
Director of Legislative
Advocacy



Prevention Services State Block Grant

Allowing Counties to Build and Sustain Prevention Services

- Extending access to the existing \$222.45 million Family First Prevention Services (FFPS) State Block Grant funding for 1 year until June 30, 2025 and
- Proposing ongoing funding of the FFPS of \$100 million per year, to commence on July 1, 2024.

SB 1396 (Alvarado-Gil) Home Visiting Programs

SB 1396 proposes to extend the enrollment timeframe from a child under 24 months old to a child under 36 months old and extend the time that families can participate in the CalWORKs Home Visiting Program until the child's fifth birthday.

Extension will maximize the health and developmental benefits to families with young children, including those in underserved, rural, tribal, impoverished, and other vulnerable communities.



California Tribal Families Coalition

Michelle Castagne
Co-Executive Director



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

Reinforces California's commitment to Indian children, families and tribes by acknowledging the past harms caused by California policies and practices by mirroring language from Executive Order N-15-19.



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



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

- 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.
- Requiring county child welfare agencies and probation departments to **describe in their protocols the due diligence efforts** used by staff to expeditiously locate any child or nonminor dependent absent from foster care.

Children's Law Center of California

Ann Quirk

Policy Attorney



AB 866 (Rubio)

Medically Assisted
Treatment for
Opioid Disorder

- AB 866 will confirm that youth in foster care 16 years and older may also consent to receive medications for opioid use disorder without court authorization.

AB 2929 (J. Carrillo)

Advancing Family
Finding Efforts for
Youth in Foster Care

- AB 2929 will strengthen existing requirements around social workers' and/or probation officers' documentation of family finding efforts when children are not placed with relatives.

- AB 2664 will ensure that families with child welfare cases receive a fair opportunity to reunify.
- It also reaffirms that the timeline for reunification services is triggered when the Court orders:
 - the child(ren) to be removed from the custodial parent or legal guardian and
 - reunification services, both of which are made at the dispositional hearing.

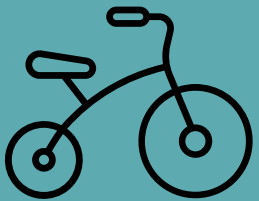
AB 2664 (Bryan)

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.**

California Alliance of Child and Family Services

Adrienne Shilton

Vice President of
Public Policy and
Strategy



AB 2544 (Low)

Addressing
Background
Check Delays in
Childrens'
Residential
Programs

- AB 2544 allows for prospective employees in CCL Children's Residential Programs who have lived out of state within the past 5 years and awaiting the out-of-state child abuse check to be hired, prior to a complete background check, as long as they do not have unsupervised contact with kids.
- Employee must already be cleared by the Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the California Child Abuse Central Index Check (CACI) through the state's background check system.

AB 2711 (Ramos)

Serving Youth and
Reducing Substance Use

- AB 2711 revises school suspension and expulsion policies for drug-related infractions by requiring local education agencies to create policies using a public health approach, in lieu of suspensions and expulsions.

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.

FFA Bridge Funding Budget Request

FFA Bridge Funding

- Continuation of the 8.8% increase provided in the current fiscal year.
- 4.14% increase, inclusive of ISFC, consistent with the preliminary California Necessities Index automatic adjustment provided to other foster care rates.

**John Burton
Advocates for Youth**

Simone Tureck Lee

Director of Housing
and Health

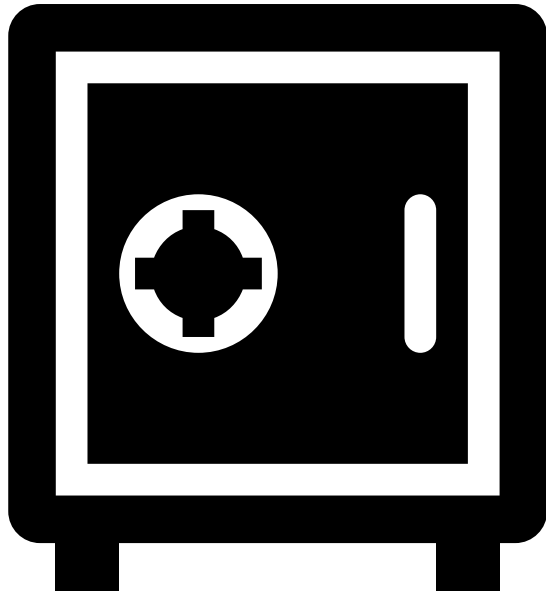


AB 2137 (Quirk-Silva) Expanding Ability of Foster Youth Services Coordinating Programs to Provide Direct Student Support

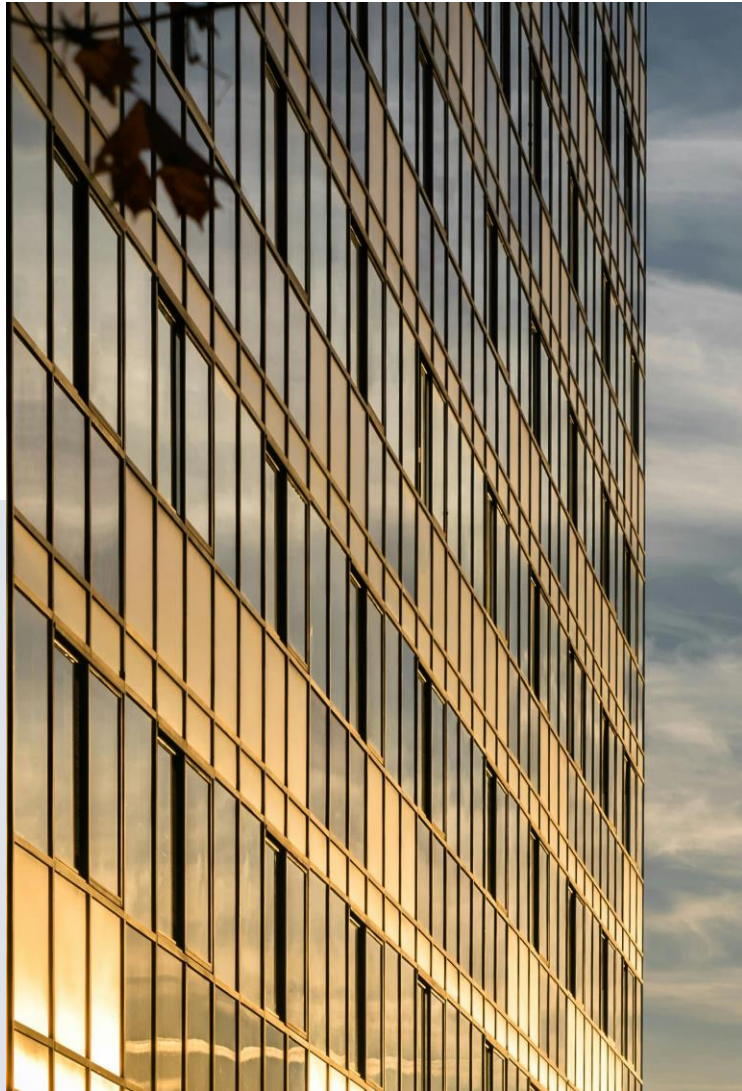
- Authorizes a foster youth services coordinating program to provide tutoring, mentoring, and counseling to a foster youth, in coordination with the student's school, if a foster youth educational services coordinator determines that it is in the best interest of the student to do so.



AB 2508 (McCarty)

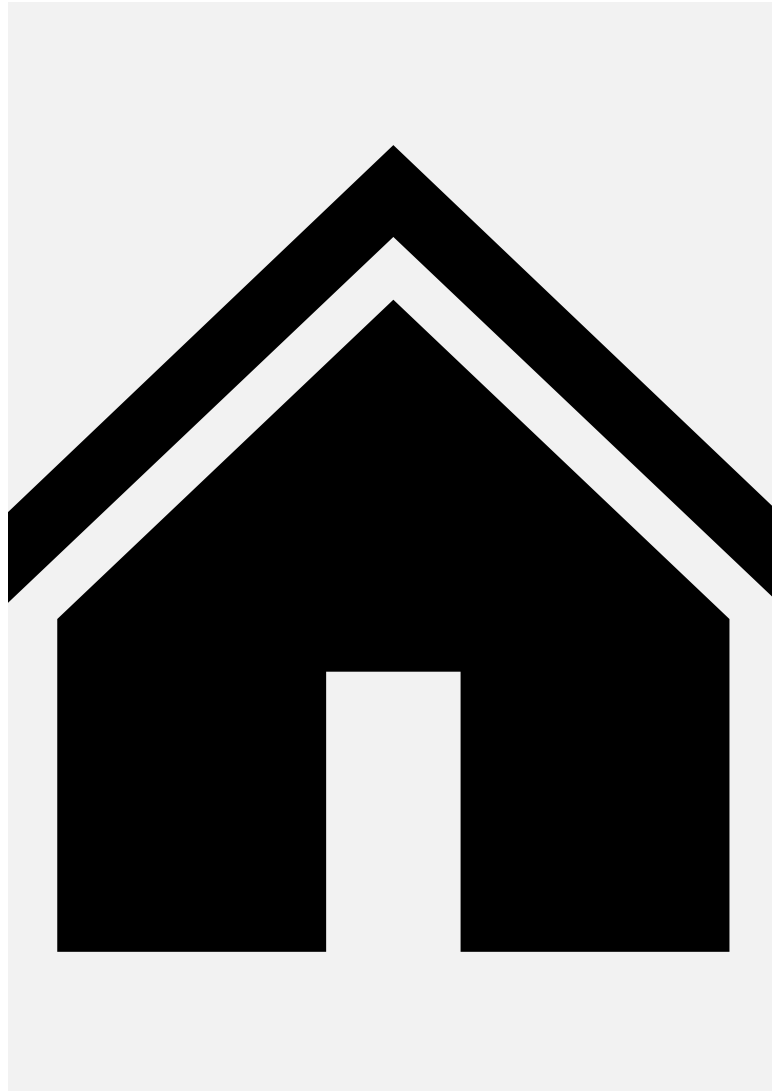


- Modifies CalKIDS program to expand availability to foster students.
- More info on CalKIDS at [CalKIDS](#)



SILP Housing Supplement Elimination

- Governor's budget proposes eliminating the SILP Housing Supplement.
- SILP Housing Supplement augments the statewide rate paid to youth, based on the local cost of housing in their county.
- More info at [Advocate With Us | John Burton Advocates for Youth \(jbay.org\)](#)



Housing Navigation & Maintenance Program Elimination

- Governor's budget proposes eliminating the Housing Navigation & Maintenance Program.
- Helps the state tap into federal housing assistance through federal vouchers: Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) and Family Unification Program (FUP).
- More Info at [Advocate With Us | John Burton Advocates for Youth \(jbay.org\)](#)

CalGrant Reform Implementation

- Budget request to fund CalGrant reform implementation, which includes the elimination of high school GPA requirements for CalGrant eligibility, a barrier for many foster youth.





California Coalition for Youth

Kim Lewis, Lewis Advocacy

SB 1079 (Menjivar) Youth Housing Bond Act of 2024

- SB 1079 will combat homelessness and housing instability for California's most vulnerable youth, including foster youth.
- By prioritizing building housing and supporting capital expenditures for necessary equipment for youth housing, SB 1079 will create a youth housing bond to increase the availability and accessibility of youth housing to help stem the pipeline of youth homelessness to chronic adult homelessness.



AB 2520 (Ramos) Youth-Specific Coordinated Entry System

- Creates or maintains a documented youth-specific process with their coordinated entry system, youth-specific assessment tool, and an array of youth-specific housing inventory.
- Ensures there is a youth with lived experience advisory board for HHAP grantees to consult.



**Alliance for
Children's Rights**

Kristin Power

Vice President,
Policy & Advocacy



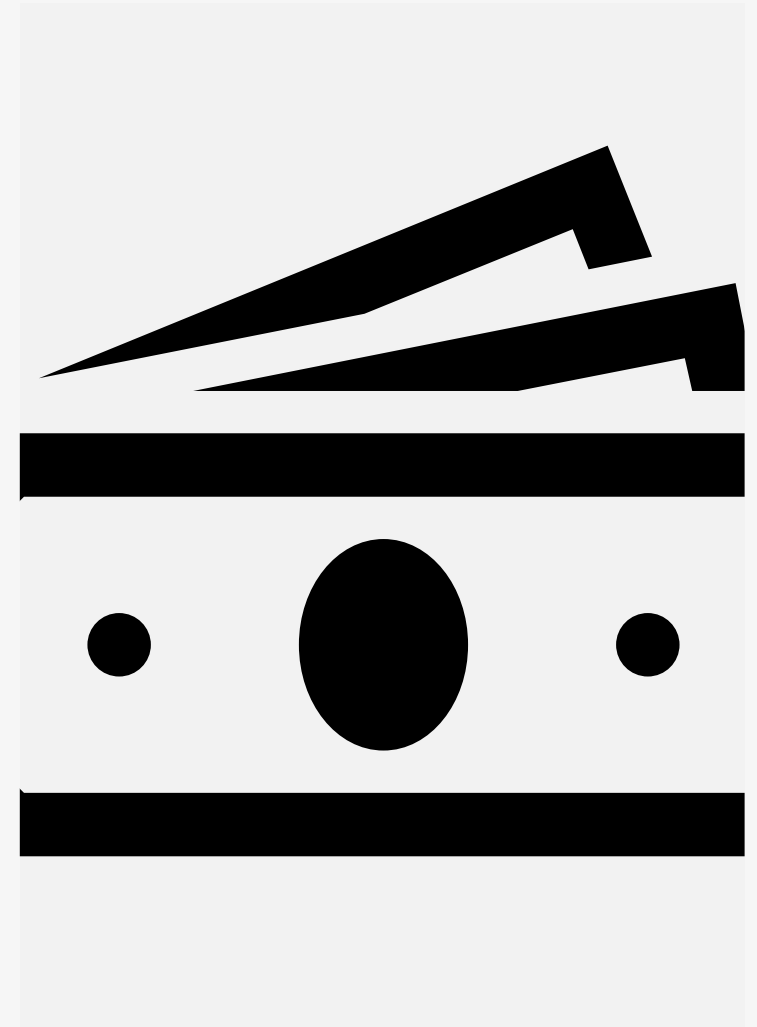


AB 2477 (Zbur) Supporting Successful Transitions for Former Foster Youth

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

AB 2906 (Bryan) Social Security 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.



Other Child Welfare- Related Proposals



AB 1952 (Dixon)

Increasing the Infant Supplement



Increases the infant supplement by \$517.24 monthly, to be adjusted for inflation and subject to an appropriation in the annual Budget Act.

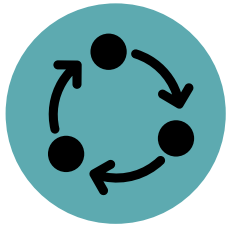
AB 2441 (Kalra)

Eliminate Unnecessary Police Action With Schools

- **AB 2441 empowers educators, protects students, and restores educator discretion** by:
 - Eliminating state mandates for school notification of law enforcement of many types of incidents, thereby empowering schools to adopt non-punitive, supportive, trauma-informed and health-based approaches to school related behaviors.
 - Increasing educator discretion in determining when to notify law enforcement about a student's school related behaviors.
 - Eliminating prosecution of school staff who fail to report incidents of alleged assaults or physical threats against school employees.
 - Eliminating the criminal penalty for students for the "willful disturbance" of public schools and public school meetings.

AB 3145 (Bryan)

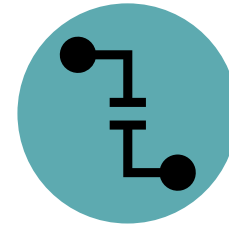
Foster Care Justice through Meaningful Help for Parents Act



Requires family preservation programs to be evidence-based and culturally competent



Requires CDSS to define, by regulation, the terms “culturally competent” and “qualified professional”



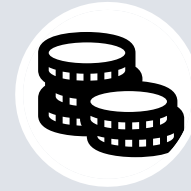
Adds standards for county programs’ services levels



Requires county annual reports to include description of how county contracts ensure minimum qualifications

AB 2935 (Maienschein)

Consumer Credit Services and Credit Freeze Removals



Requires social workers and probation officers to verify that youth in foster care have availed themselves of consumer credit services.



Requires that a credit freeze be removed upon request by a foster youth 16 or older.

SB 1005 (Ashby) Restorative Justice

Allows a probation officer, with the consent of the minor and minor's parent, to refer an offense to youth court.



SB 1126 (Min)

Mandated Reporter Requirements Related to Child Witnessing Domestic Violence


- Provides that a child witnessing domestic violence is not a sufficient basis for reporting child abuse or neglect.
- And, that the definition of child abuse or neglect does not apply to how a child witnessing domestic violence or residing in a household where domestic violence exists may be relevant to, among other things, a determination of child custody or visitation.

SB 1322 (Wahab)

Chafee Grant Eligibility



Lowers the age that foster youth become eligible for the California Chafee Grant from 16 to 14 to mirror existing federal guidelines.

A photograph of two young children, a girl in a pink shirt and a boy in a yellow shirt, running happily on a grassy lawn in a park. In the background, other children and adults are partially visible, and there are many trees under a bright sky. A teal-colored rectangular overlay covers the right side of the image, containing the title and subtitle text.

FY 2024-25 Budget

Governor's Budget Proposal: Foster Care Rates

Proposed Permanent Foster Care Rates 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

Los Angeles County Public Health Nursing Early Intervention Program

- Governor's budget proposes eliminating Public Health Nursing Early Intervention Program in LA County.
- Provides early intervention services to prevent children from entering or returning to the child welfare system.
- Serves children and youth 0-18 with prior DCFS engagement, those exiting DCFS custodial care, and/or those at imminent risk of entering child welfare system.



A black and white photograph showing a close-up of an adult's hand gently holding a baby's hand. The baby's hand is small and positioned in the center, with the adult's fingers wrapped around it. The background is a soft, textured fabric, possibly a blanket or shirt. The lighting is soft and natural, highlighting the skin tones and the texture of the fabric.

Bringing Families Home

- Governor's budget proposes delaying \$80 million GF for the Bringing Families Home program to FY 2025-26.
- BFH program provides housing supports and services to families receiving child welfare services who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness.
- Goal is to increase family reunification and prevent foster care placement among participants in cases where housing instability prevents reunification or could lead to foster care placement.

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

