

POLICY WEBINAR | DECEMBER 2021

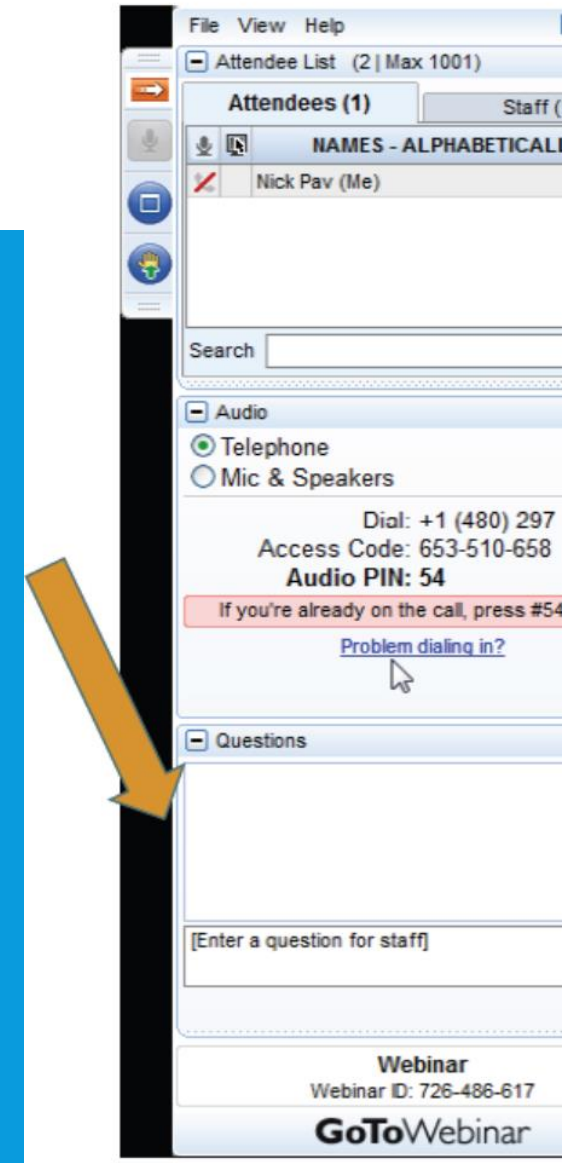
# 2021 Budget Allocations & New Laws – Supporting Youth in Foster Care

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.
- Email Ines Rosales at [irosales@alliancecr.org](mailto:irosales@alliancecr.org) if you experience technical difficulties.



## AGENDA

- *2021 Budget Allocations and New Laws Supporting Children and Youth in Foster Care, Families and Caregivers*
  - *Placement Stability & Supporting Families & Youth*
  - *Education Stability*
  - *Housing Stability*
  - *Youth Voice*
- *Q & A*

# PRESENTERS

***Faith Pulido***

***Jacqueline Rutheiser***

***Adrienne Shilton***

California Alliance of Children and Family Services

***Kim Lewis***

Lewis Advocacy for California Coalition for Youth

***Mica Llerandi***

California Tribal Families Coalition

***Julie McCormick***

Children's Law Center of California

***Susanna Kniffen***

Children Now

***Diana Boyer***

County Welfare Directors Association of California

***Anna Johnson***

John Burton Advocates for Youth

***Sabrina Forte***

***Kristin Power***

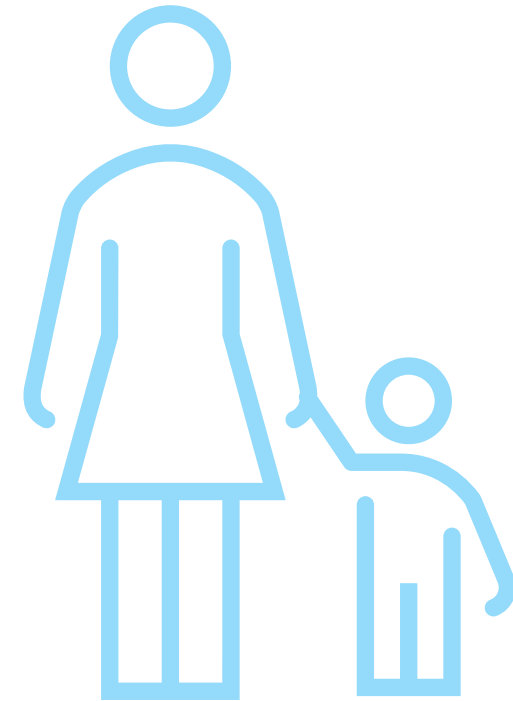
Alliance for Children's Rights

An open book with a blue banner overlaid. The book is open, showing the pages and the spine. The banner is a solid blue color and contains the text "PLACEMENT STABILITY" in white, uppercase letters. The book is positioned at the bottom of the frame, with the pages fanned out. The background is a light, neutral color.

# PLACEMENT STABILITY

## AB 153 (CMTE ON BUDGET) – EMERGENCY CAREGIVER PAYMENTS

- Makes emergency caregiver payments eligible for the federal and state share of payment **until approval or denial of the resource family application or for up to 120 days, whichever comes first, and authorizes an extension of eligibility for the federal and state share of payment for up to 365 days** if the county shows that the delay in approving the resource family application is outside the county's control.





# EMERGENCY CHILD CARE BRIDGE EXPANSION

- Goals of the Bridge Program are to:
  - Increase the number of foster children successfully placed in home-based family care settings,
  - Increase placement stability,
  - Increase capacity of child care providers to meet the needs of foster children in their care, and
  - Maximize funding to support the child care needs of eligible families.
- Bridge continues to be a vital program to stabilize placements.
- FY 21-22 budget allocation is an expansion which includes \$3.65 million to fund 500 "slots."

# PANDEMIC STIPEND

\$80 million children  
and youth living with  
resource families  
during the pandemic



**One-time stipend**



# AB 670 (CALDERON) - STRENGTHENING THE FAMILIES OF YOUNG PARENTS IN FOSTER CARE

- Strengthens families and disrupts intergenerational involvement in the child welfare system by providing important protections for parenting foster youth.



# SB 354 (SKINNER) – RELATIVE PLACEMENT

- Addresses California's shortage of foster care homes by reforming state regulations to make it easier to place children with family relatives
  - Adopts changes to the criminal background check process during the RFA process for relatives of children placed in the child welfare system and
  - permits the court to authorize placement of children with relatives in certain circumstances, regardless of the status of any criminal exemption or RFA





## AB 829 (LEVINE) – ACCESS TO IMMIGRATION COUNSEL FOR YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE

Improves access to legal immigration services for  
undocumented children in foster care.

# AB 366 (RUBIO) – PLACEMENT OF SIBLINGS

- Prohibits physical capacity alone from being the reason that placement of siblings together is denied, if there is an age-appropriate place to sleep and no other safety risks.



# SHORT TERM RESIDENTIAL THERAPEUTIC PROGRAMS

- \$42M in one time COVID-19 relief for STRTPs
- Creates bridge funding for STRTPs amidst DHCS's IMD determinations:
  - ~\$10.4M to aid the transition of programs and maintain sufficient capacity for the foster care and probation youth populations
  - ~\$7.5M to provide grants to qualified county mental health plans to match lost federal financial participation (FFP) for specialty mental health services

# SUICIDE PREVENTION

According to 2019 and 2020 data from CDPH, all age groups saw a decline in suicide rates between 2019 and 2020, except for youth aged 10-18 years. This group saw an increase of 20% in suicide rates for 2020.

- \$2.78 million SGF in 2021-22 and ongoing to create 5 positions and support for CDPH to establish and administer the Office of Suicide Prevention.
- AB 2112 (Ramos – Statutes of 2020) created the Office within CDPH (without secured funding).
- Positive change in the budget is meaningful in California's battle to bring hope and help in the fight to reduce suicide and self-harm.

# FOSTER FAMILY AGENCY SOCIAL WORKERS

\$5.4 million SGF ongoing to increase funding for FFA social workers who care for 30% of foster youth in home based care and 100% of youth who need ISFC.



Needed to increase permanency outcomes for foster children and youth by reducing social worker turnover and bolstering retention.

# Dramatically Less Likely to Achieve Permanency



RESEARCH STUDIES SHOW EFFECTS OF SOCIAL WORKER TURNOVER



# EFC EXTENSION TO 12/31/2021

- State budget requires continuing assistance for any NMD who meets the eligibility requirements for EFC, but cannot meet any of the participation requirements, through 12/31/2021 (assuming Stafford Act flexibilities).
- State budget included \$49.1M GF (\$55M total funds) in FY 2021-22, including \$7.9M for administrative support, to extend assistance to youth who turned 21 during the pandemic through 12/31/2021.
  - Reflects federal requirement that youth remain in Extended Foster Care past age 21 through 9/30/2021 and draws upon IV-E funds for such support.
  - Includes youth who turned 21 years of age while in EFC between January 27, 2020, and April 16, 2020, who were not previously eligible for the initial state/GF support enacted through Executive Order and AB 89/SB 115.



A group of people, including children and adults, are captured in various playful poses in a grassy field. Some are jumping with their arms raised, while others are crawling or sitting on the grass. The scene is set against a clear blue sky and a distant horizon. The entire image has a blue color cast.

# SUPPORTING FAMILIES & YOUTH

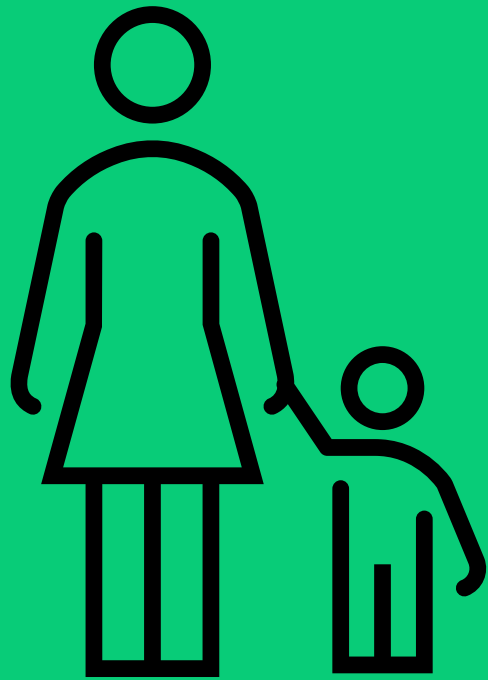
# BUDGET ALLOCATION - STRENGTHENING FAMILIES & COMMUNITIES

## Funding Prevention Through Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) - \$222.4 million:

*Local, Community-Driven Programming:* \$222.4 million will be allocated early in 2022 and available for three years to June 30, 2024 for county child welfare and probation agencies and tribes to invest in front-end services and supports to safely prevent entries into foster care and improve family well-being for families who come to the attention of the child welfare system

- ✓ ***Funding Use:*** Can be spent on programs and services that are listed on the Federal FFPSA Clearinghouse (mental health, substance use and in-home parenting skills) or other culturally-relevant services and programs, as determined locally through a stakeholder process.
- ✓ ***Eligible Populations:*** Candidates of foster care as well as pregnant & parenting foster youth.
- ✓ For more information visit the CDSS website: <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/ffpsa>

# CalWORKs CASH ASSISTANCE FOR PARENTS IN FAMILY REUNIFICATION



State Budget and [AB 135](#) provides \$9.0 million SGF:

- Will **continue cash benefits to parents who are working to reunify** when their children are placed into foster care, for a period of 6 months.
- Extension **begins July 1, 2022.**
- Parents in reunification currently have access to continued CalWORKs services such as employment services, mental health, substance use, etc. but lose their cash assistance. This puts them at substantial risk of losing their housing and can be destabilizing to their effort to reunify.

# SUPPORTING YOUTH WITH COMPLEX NEEDS

- \$39.2 million to assist counties with serving foster youth with complex needs and behavioral health conditions within California, and to support youth who returned from an out-of-state facility earlier this year.
- An additional \$100 million GF to develop in-state services and placement options for high needs youth on a one-time basis over two years.
- Adopted TBL intended to foster development of new placement options for high needs youth, including establishing the Children's Crisis Continuum Pilot Program; establishes a statewide moratorium on out of state placements for all children and youth served in California's system effective July 1, 2022.

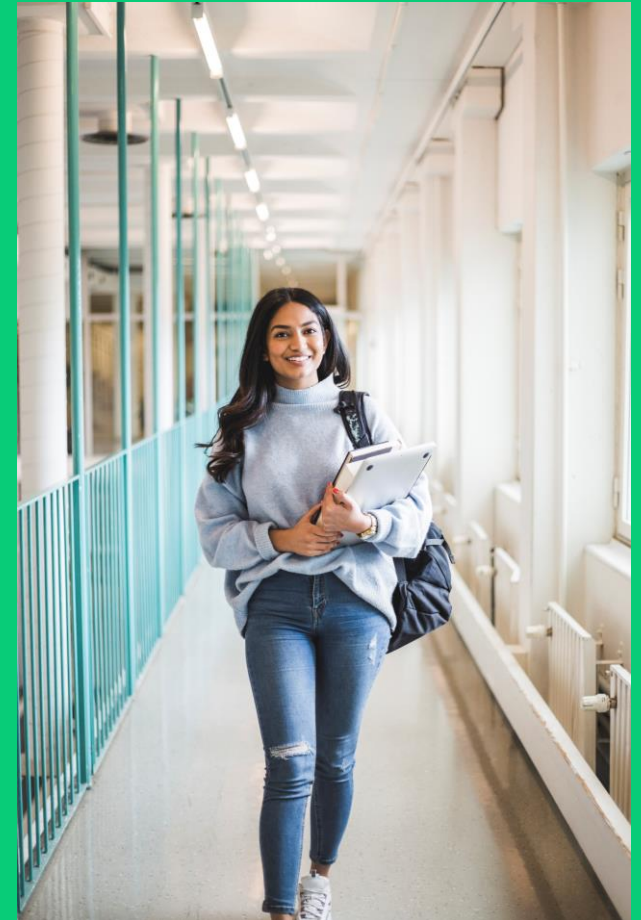
# INCREASING NUMBER OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE SOCIAL WORKERS

- \$100 million (\$50 million in 2021-22 and \$50 million in 2022-23) for use through June 31, 2025 to increase the number of county Emergency Response social workers in child welfare.



# AB 640 (COOLEY) – EFC REDETERMINATION

- ❖ Bolsters federal funding for Extended Foster Care (EFC) provided to non-minor dependents (NMDs). Estimated to increase federal funds statewide by up to \$28 million.
- ❖ Allow counties to establish federal Title IV-E funding eligibility for previously non-federal cases as a foster youth enters the EFC program.
- ❖ Allow counties to establish federal Title IV-E funding eligibility for previously non-federal cases as a foster youth enters the EFC program and prohibits any break in services during this process.



# AB 153 (CMTE ON BUDGET) - EXPECTANT PARENT PAYMENT

- Effective January 1, 2022, expectant parent payment available to pregnant minors and NMDs three months prior to the expected due date
  - payment will be:
    - made to pregnant children/NMDs three months prior to the due date of the pregnant child/NMD
    - issued as a lump sum of \$2,700 until systems are automated
    - an amount equivalent to the home-based foster care infant supplement paid monthly for the final three months of a minor/NMD's pregnancy once automation has been finalized
    - **the same regardless of placement type and paid directly to the pregnant minor or NMD**
- See [factsheet](#)





# AB 172 (CMTE ON HUMAN SERVICES) – SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH DATA

- Requires a report on annual performance and outcome data on the implementation of sexual and reproductive health training and education and the availability and use of sexual and reproductive health care services.
- See trailer bill [language](#).

# AB 260 (STONE) – LIMITING HIDDEN FOSTER CARE & BETTER SUPPORTING DEPENDENCY GUARDIANSHIPS

AB 260 will ensure that probate courts and dependency courts work together in concert and protect the due process interests of parents and children by:

- Requiring the Judicial Council to develop a form describing the services and supports available through the probate court and how those services differ from the services and supports available in dependency court and requiring that this form shall be provided with notice to parties in a probate guardianship case,
- Clarifying that the probate court's granting of a temporary guardianship is not a bar to the dependency court taking jurisdiction of the case, and
- Ensuring that children can ask the juvenile court to review decisions by the child welfare agency not to file a petition with the juvenile court after a case is referred by a probate judge for a child welfare investigation

*Research reveals that many children are being diverted to care by a relative at the urging of a child welfare worker who fails to file a petition with the dependency court or follow state-sanctioned voluntary placement procedures. Instead, the child welfare worker identifies and instructs a relative to secure a guardianship through probate court, effectively separating families without due process for the parent or adequate resources for the caregiver and child.*

# AB 788 (CALDERON) – FAMILY REUNIFICATION

- Helps ensure that families affected by drug addiction do not lose access to critical family reunification services.



AB 873 (RAMOS)  
– CHILD  
WELFARE  
SERVICES:  
INDIAN TRIBES

- Focuses on decreasing number of children in state foster care by increasing culturally-grounded and tribally-implemented child welfare systems.
- Brings federal dollars into California's child welfare system through encouraging Tribes to operate Title IV-E programs.
- Decreases the State's cost share portion and eliminating the tribal share of cost requirements for Title IV-E agreements.

The image features a wooden surface with several wooden letter tiles. A long wooden strip is positioned diagonally across the frame, with the word "EDUCATION" spelled out in blue letters on it. The tiles are scattered around, with some showing letters like 'S', 'A', 'G', 'C', 'E', 'D', 'H', and 'R'. The background is a soft, light blue color.

# EDUCATION STABILITY

# AB 1055 (RAMOS) – EDUCATION RIGHTS

- Expanded the supports and protections of AB 1962 (Wood, Statutes of 2018) to include foster youth under Tribal Court jurisdiction.
- Revised the definition of students in foster care for purposes of the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and for purposes of specified educational rights of students in foster care, to include those students subject to a voluntary placement agreement and by eliminating the requirement that a dependent child of the court of an Indian tribe also meet the definition of a dependent child of a county court.



# AB 130 (COMMITTEE ON BUDGET) – DIRECT EDUCATION SERVICES FOR FOSTER YOUTH

- Provides \$30 million in one-time Proposition 98 funds, available over a two year period, for the support of foster youth students to provide direct services to foster youth.
- Of the total, at least \$5 million shall be used to provide direct services to improve postsecondary education enrollment and outcomes for foster youth.
- Updates the Out of Home Care formula and provides funding for out of home placements based on one rate for foster youth (\$1,509) and a different rate for Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (\$14,603) and applies a cost of living adjustment in future years.

# AB 132 (CMTE ON BUDGET) – COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT BASIC NEEDS

- Provides \$30 million annually for each community college to establish a Basic Needs Center and a Basic Needs Coordinator for students experiencing basic needs insecurities.
- Provides \$100 million in one-time funding over three years to address food and housing insecurity. Of the total, at least \$5 million shall be used to provide direct services to improve postsecondary education enrollment and outcomes for foster youth.
- Provides \$15 million for basic needs for the California State University system.
- Maintains \$15 million for basic needs for the University of California system.
- See [factsheet](#).



# SB 512 (MIN) - COOPERATING AGENCIES FOSTER YOUTH EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PROGRAM

- Expands eligibility for priority enrollment for current and former foster youth at the UC, CSU, and California Community Colleges and expands eligibility for a student support program for current and former foster youth at the community colleges.



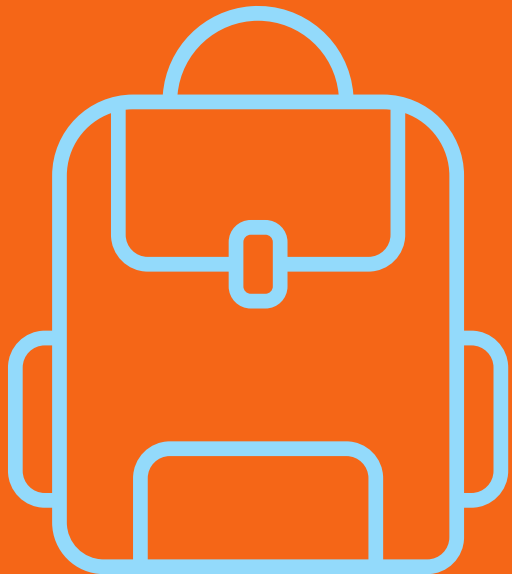
# SB 224 (PORTANTINO) – MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION

- Requires schools that offer one or more courses in health education to pupils in middle school or high school to include in those courses instruction in mental health

“Education about mental health is one of the best ways to increase awareness, empower students to seek help, and reduce the stigma associated with mental health challenges. Schools are ideally positioned to be centers of mental health education, healing, and support. As children and youth spend more hours at school than at home, the public education system is the most efficient and effective setting for providing universal mental health education to children and youth. Historically, health education in subjects such as alcohol, tobacco and drugs, the early detection of certain cancers, and HIV have become required because they were recognized as public health crises. The mental health of our children and youth has reached a crisis point. California must make educating its youth about mental health a top priority.”

- Senator Portantino

# AB 130 ( COMMITTEE ON BUDGET) - ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION



- \$550 million to support families and schools in resolving IEP disputes to enable students to expeditiously receive the education assessments, aids, resources and services required in their IEP and to address the learning loss associated with the disruption of education caused by the pandemic
  - \$100 million in one-time Proposition 98 funds to SELPAs for the purpose of supporting member local educational agencies in conducting dispute prevention and voluntary alternative dispute resolution activities to prevent and resolve special education disputes resulting from school disruptions stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - \$450 million in one-time Proposition 98 funds to SELPAs for purposes of providing learning recovery support to pupils, associated with impacts to learning due to school disruptions stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic.



# HOUSING STABILITY



# PROJECT HOMEKEY

## Budget allocation:

- \$2.75 billion total FY 21-22 and 22-23, of which at least \$220 million to be used to **create new housing for youth under the age of 26**, who are currently or formerly in foster care, experiencing homelessness and under probation supervision.
- [NOFA available](#).
- Local government partner required.



## AB 592 (FRIEDMAN) – PROMOTING STABLE & POSITIVE HOUSING IN EFC

*Promotes placement stability and a positive, supported transition to independence for youth in EFC by:*

- restructuring host family transitional housing model to allow families already licensed as a resource family to be eligible to serve as a host family and to divide the THP payment between caregiver, non minor dependent and provider, and
- providing targeted safe and appropriate housing and supports to young adults who need additional supportive services, including youth of color and who identify as LGBTQ.



# BRINGING FAMILIES HOME (BFH) EXPANSION



*Approved funding of \$92.5 million GF in 2021-22 and \$92.5 million GF in 2022-23, allowing for both appropriations to be spent until June 30, 2024.*

*This funding will be provided to county child welfare agencies and tribes to support and stabilize families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and who are receiving services through the county Family Maintenance or Family Reunification programs.*

- *State Budget also waives the county match for the three-year period on these new funds.*
- *Expansion of the BFH Program, originally began in 2016 and expanded in 2019 to \$25 million to 22 counties and one Tribe.*

# AB 153 (TING) – HOUSING INVESTMENTS FOR TRANSITIONING FOSTER YOUTH

*Helping current and former foster youth achieve stable housing through ongoing funding and training:*

- \$9M for THP-Plus Housing Supplement
- \$8M for THP
- \$5M for Housing Navigators Program
- Training for Social Workers and Probation Officers on housing resources
- See [factsheet](#)





# AB 140 (CMTE ON BUDGET) – HOMELESS, HOUSING, ASSISTANCE AND PREVENTION PROGRAM (HHAP)

*\$200 million over two years to address homelessness among unaccompanied homeless youth:*

- Communities will be able to develop a range of housing options for youth experiencing homelessness.
- Rapid rehousing, rental subsidies, landlord incentives
- Operating subsidies
- Services coordination
- Street outreach
- Prevention and shelter diversion
- Delivery of permanent housing
- Interim sheltering and navigation centers
- Improving local coordinated entry and assessment tools for youth
- See [factsheet](#)



# AB 546 (MAIENSCHEIN) - DOCUMENTS



- Expands the list of housing-related information, documents, and services that a county welfare department must provide in a report for the last review hearing prior to a youth's 18th birthday. Specifically, the county must report:
  - Progress in providing housing-related assistance and referrals to the youth, and
  - Whether **referrals to transitional housing have resulted in housing being secured for the minor or nonminor, and, if not, what, if any, different or additional referrals or assistance the department or any other agency has provided that are intended to prevent homelessness**

# AB 674 (BENNETT) - DOCUMENTS

- Expands the list of information, documents, and services that a county welfare department, at the last review hearing prior to that youth's 18th birthday, must report to the court on its progress in providing to the youth written information **notifying the minor or nonminor that they may be eligible to receive, and where they may apply for, CalFresh benefits.**





# PROMOTING YOUTH VOICE

# AB 46 (RIVAS, L.) – CALIFORNIA YOUTH EMPOWERMENT ACT

- Establishes a 13-person commission in the state government of youth ages 14-25
  - at least half of the commission members have experienced homelessness, foster care, disabilities, or juvenile incarceration.



- The commission's mission is to empower underrepresented youth with formal opportunities to engage in California's civic process.

# FAMILY URGENT RESPONSE SYSTEM



CDSS  
CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
SOCIAL SERVICES

**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.

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



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




CDSS  
CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
SOCIAL SERVICES

Cal-FURS  
CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
SOCIAL SERVICES  
1-833-939-FURS

Are you a caregiver of a current or former foster youth? Are you feeling frustrated? Would you like additional support?

**Family Urgent Response System**

The Family Urgent Response System (FURS) includes a statewide hotline as well as local mobile response teams to provide immediate trauma-informed support to current and former foster youth and their caregivers.

Local mobile response teams are comprised of compassionate, trained professionals who are available to provide face-to-face support during critical moments.

Both the statewide hotline and local mobile response teams are available 24/7/365.

**FURS Support is Always Available**

- 24/7 hotline support via phone, text, and chat.
- Local mobile response support with COVID-19 precautions in place.
- Personalized support and stabilization at the hotline and local level.
- Relevant aftercare support and follow-up.



FURS Provides Support When Needed Most

Call or Text:  
1-833-939-FURS

Online:  
CAL-FURS.ORG



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

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

# OTHER SUPPORTS

# AB 153 – (COMMITTEE ON BUDGET) UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME

- \$35 million pool to support current or new pilots that prioritize foster youth who recently exited care and pregnant individuals
- For more information, see <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/guaranteed-basic-income-projects>

*“The first-of-its kind pilot we championed in Santa Clara County is only one example of guaranteed basic income working successfully to improve lives and lift people out of poverty. I’m excited that 40 million Californians will now get a chance to see how guaranteed income works in their own communities”*

*- Senator Cortese*



AB 1140 (RIVAS) –  
UNACCOMPANIED  
IMMIGRANT  
CHILDREN  
PROTECTIONS ACT

- Specifies that children who are placed in residential facilities and homes by the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) of the federal Department of Health and Human Services are included among those that are:
  - Protected by the Foster Youth Bill of Rights, and
  - Within the jurisdiction of the Office of the State Foster Care Ombudsperson for purposes of investigating and addressing violations of personal rights.

# JUVENILE DEPENDENCY COURT FUNDING

- \$10 million one-time funds to address pandemic-related expenses and the temporary increase in dependency counsel caseloads due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and to up \$30 million GF in 2021-2022 to correct for any shortfall in federal funding.



# 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/legislative-budget-priorities>
- John Burton Advocates for Youth - <https://jbay.org/advocate/>

**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*  
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