

2021-22 State Budget:

Sexual, Reproductive, and Prenatal Health Investments for Foster Youth

The 2021-22 California state budget includes ongoing funding, championed by Assemblymember Blanca Rubio and Senator Melissa Hurtado to establish a monthly expectant parent payment for foster youth prior to giving birth and add new health and education information to court reports to ensure foster youth receive information and services they need and increase accountability for reproductive and sexual health outcomes. Information about these investments is included in the Public Social Services budget trailer bill, AB 153, summarized below.

EXPECTANT PARENT PAYMENT

What is the Expectant Parent Payment?

\$800,000 in ongoing funding was included in the 2021-22 budget to establish an Expectant Parent Payment for foster youth to prepare for the birth of their child. Effective January 1, 2022, all youth in out of home placement expecting a child will be eligible to receive a monthly payment in the 7th, 8th and 9th month of pregnancy that is equal to the amount of the monthly infant supplement which is \$900.

How will the Expectant Parent Payment be administered?

The funds will be administered in the same manner as foster care payments and the infant supplement (i.e. paid to the placement provider or caregiver, with the exception of nonminor dependents placed in Supervised Independent Living Placements who may choose to receive payments directly). Until the Expectant Parent Payment is automated on July 1, 2023, counties will process checks manually, and youth will receive their three monthly payments in one lump sum (one \$2,700 check). \$1 million in one-time funding was included in the 2021-22 budget for the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to work with the California Statewide Automated Welfare System (CalSAWS) and the County Welfare Directors Association of California (CWDA) to develop the payment system. Once automated, the payment will be made monthly.

What can the Expectant Parent Payment be used for?

The funds may be used to meet the specialized needs of the pregnant minor or nonminor dependent and to properly care for the needs of the infant.

REPRODUCTIVE & SEXUAL HEALTH INFORMATION ADDED TO COURT REPORTS

What new information will be added to court reports?

Effective January 1, 2023, the Judicial Council will update the rules of court and forms to include new education and health requirements already in the case plan.

- For youth ages 10 and older, the court report will include whether a child has received their sexual health rights, comprehensive sexual health education, and had barriers to care removed.
- For youth ages 16 and older, including nonminor dependents, the report will specify if the case manager has identified the person who will assist with postsecondary education and financial aid applications.