

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, add new health and education information to court reports and establish annual state reporting to ensure foster youth receive reproductive and sexual health information and services. Information about these investments is included in the Public Social Services budget trailer bill, [AB 153](#) and the Human Services budget trailer bill [AB 172](#), 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. This [toolkit](#) includes a sample fact sheet, budget, outreach materials, and local policies to support implementation.

How will the payment be administered?

The funds will be administered directly to the minor or nonminor dependent. 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. Learn more via All County Letter [21-123](#) and [All County Information Notice 1-45-22](#).

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.

HEALTH DATA & REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

What measures will be included in the new data report?

Effective July 1, 2023, CDSS will release an annual report of performance and outcome data on the implementation of [SB 89](#), including sexual and reproductive health training completion for social workers, probation officers, judges, group home administrators, and resource families; foster youth receipt of comprehensive sexual health education; and foster youth access to health care services.

What health outcomes will be in the new data report?

Health outcome data will be drawn from CDSS, the California Department of Health Care Services and the California Department of Public Health related to maternal and child health; prenatal and postnatal care; and access to contraceptive counseling, contraception, testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections, and annual wellness exams. All data will be deidentified to protect the confidentiality of foster youth. Performance measures and health outcome data will be discussed and developed with stakeholder input.

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.