



May 16th, 2023

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
Chair, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee
1021 O Street, Room 8630
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Phil Ting
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
1021 O Street, Room 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814



The Honorable Caroline Menjivar
Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 3
1021 O Street, Room 6720
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Joaquin Arambula
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1
1021 O Street, Room 8130
Sacramento, CA 95814



Re: \$16.7 Million to Improve Housing Affordability and Reduce Homelessness Among Youth in Extended Foster Care



Dear Chairs and Members of the Committees,



A statewide coalition of the undersigned organizations led by John Burton Advocates for Youth (JBAY) respectfully requests an augmentation of \$16.7 million (GF) in FY 2023-24 and ongoing to improve housing affordability and reduce homelessness among the more than 3,300 youth in extended foster care placed in Supervised Independent Living Placements (SILPs). This investment, which would establish a "SILP Housing Supplement," would draw down \$10.8 million in federal matching funds.



Currently in California, 3,361 foster youth are placed in a SILP and receive a monthly foster care payment of \$1,129 to pay for all aspects of their household: housing, food, transportation, utilities, clothing, and supplies. The foster care rate paid to youth living in a SILP is the same across California, regardless of local housing costs.



There is strong evidence that this rate is insufficient, particularly in parts of the state with high housing costs. According to the CalYOUTH Study, 40% of youth residing in SILPs reported that they did not have enough income to pay for rent and other household expenses. This lack of economic support places youth at risk of homelessness: nearly one in five youth in foster care in California experienced an episode of homelessness between age 18 and 21 and more than one-third of those youth experienced homelessness more than once.



Children
Now

Funding this request would establish a SILP Housing Supplement, which will provide a supplementary payment to youth placed in a SILP based on the local cost of housing. It is modeled after the Housing Supplement for the Transitional Housing Placement for Nonminor Dependents (THP-NMD) adopted in 2020, which has been successfully implemented by the California Department of Social Services.



Like the THP-NMD Housing Supplement, the SILP Housing Supplement would augment the foster care rate paid for SILPs based on Fair Market Rent (FMR), which is the system developed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to determine





the allowable rent level for individuals who participate in their Housing Choice Voucher program. The SILP Housing Supplement would be calculated annually and would vary based on the cost of housing in each county according to that county's FMR.

Funding the SILP Housing Supplement would adjust the monthly basic rate paid to youth in SILPs to align with their local cost of housing, allowing them to stabilize their living, school, and work while in extended foster care. Providing the SILP Housing Supplement will help foster youth achieve housing stability while drawing additional federal funding assistance.

We respectfully request \$16.7 million in FY 2023-24 and ongoing, to ensure California's transition-age foster youth remain affordably housed, giving them a strong foundation to achieve their goals and improve their opportunities as they enter adulthood.

Sincerely,

- John Burton Advocates for Youth
- African American Wellness Center for Children & Family
- Alameda County of Education
- All Saints Church Foster Care Project
- Alliance for Children's Rights
- Allies for Every Child
- Bill Wilson Center
- Beyond Emancipation
- Calaveras County of Education
- California Alliance of Caregivers
- California Alliance of Child and Family Services
- California Latinas for Reproductive Justice
- Children Now
- Children's Advocacy Institute
- Children's Law Center of California
- Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice
- Corporation for Supportive Housing
- County Welfare Directors Association CWDA
- Covenant House California
- Central Valley Community Resources
- Creative Alternatives
- Crittenton Services for Children & Families
- Doing Good Works
- Encompass Community Services
- First Place for Youth
- Foster & Kinship Care Education
- Foster Care Counts
- Foster Greatness
- Gather Respect Advocate Change Engage



GLIDE
 Heritage Group Homes
 Hollywood NOW
 Latinas with Masters
 Law Foundation of Silicon Valley
 MILPA
 National Association of Counsel for Children
 National Association of Social Workers – California Chapter
 National Center for Youth Law
 Norco College
 Oak Grove Sanctuary Palm Springs
 Optimist Youth Homes & Family Services
 PAL Center
 PATH Scholars
 Peacock Acres
 Public Counsel Law Center
 Reedley College
 Safe Place for Youth
 San Francisco Court Appointed Special Advocates
 Sanctuary of Hope
 Santa Cruz Barrios Unidos
 Scholarship Prep
 Starting Over Inc.
 StarVista
 The Children’s Partnership
 The Community College Foundation
 The National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform
 The San Joaquin County Youth Action Board
 Think of Us
 Together We Rise dba Foster Love
 Trinity County Child Welfare Services
 Turn Behavioral Health Services
 Unity Care
 Urban Strategies Council
 Vista De Mar Child and Family Services
 VOICES
 Waking the Village
 Walden Family Services
 Youth Leadership Institute



STAR VISTA



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Cc: Members, Senate Budget Committee
 Members, Assembly Budget Committee
 Members, Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 3
 Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1
 Chris Woods, Office of the Senate Pro Tempore
 Mareva Brown, Office of the Senate Pro Tempore
 Jason Sisney, Office of the Speaker of the Assembly
 Kelsy Castillo, Office of the Speaker of the Assembly
 Jessica Barthalow, Office of Senator Skinner
 Tania Dikho, Office of Assemblymember Ting
 Elizabeth Schmitt, Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 3
 Nicole Vasquez, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1
 Chantelle Denny, Senate Republican Fiscal Office
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