

## 2022-23 State Budget:

### Higher Monthly Payments for Foster Youth in the Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP)

The 2023-24 California state budget includes \$1 million in 2023-24 and starting in 2025-26, a total of \$18.8 million in ongoing funding, championed by Assemblymember Phil Ting and Senator María Elena Durazo to establish a “Housing Supplement” for foster youth placed in Supervised Independent Living Placements (SILPs). Information about this investment is included in the Human Services budget trailer bill, [AB 120](#) and budget bill, [SB 101](#).

#### WHAT IS THE SILP?

The SILP is a foster care placement for “non-minor dependents” (NMDs), foster youth ages 18-21. The SILP is the least restrictive placement for NMDs prepared to live independently without supportive services. Unlike other foster care placements where housing is provided, youth in SILPs are responsible for identifying and securing their own housing, which may be an apartment or house rented alone or with roommates; a room rental, a single room occupancy hotel, or college dorm. As of 4/1/23, the SILP was the single-most utilized placement for NMDs in California, with 3,177 (40%) NMDs in this placement.

#### HOW MUCH MONEY DO YOUTH RECEIVE IN SILPS NOW?

Because youth in SILPs cover the cost of their housing, the SILP is the only foster care placement where the monthly foster care rate is paid directly to the youth. The SILP rate is the “Basic Rate,” which in FY 2022-23 is \$1,129 per month. This rate increases annually, based on inflation according to the California Necessities Index.

#### WHAT IS THE SILP HOUSING SUPPLEMENT?

The SILP Housing Supplement will increase the amount of the monthly payment youth in SILPs receive, based on the cost of housing in the county where they live. The CalYOUTH Study found nearly one in five California NMDs experienced homelessness between age 18-21. The goal of the SILP Housing Supplement is to reduce homelessness and housing instability by providing youth additional funding for housing costs, which have increased drastically since the establishment of the SILP, outpacing the growth in the Basic Rate paid to youth.

#### HOW MUCH WILL THE MONTHLY PAYMENTS BE ONCE THE SILP HOUSING SUPPLEMENT IS IMPLEMENTED?

The new monthly SILP payments inclusive of the Housing Supplement will vary by county, according to the local

cost of housing. The average monthly payment, which will consist of the Basic Rate plus the SILP Housing Supplement, will be \$1,624, ranging from \$1,206 in Modoc to \$2,437 in Santa Cruz. To view each county’s prospective total monthly SILP payment starting in 2025-26, follow this [LINK](#).

#### HOW ARE THE SUPPLEMENT AMOUNTS DETERMINED?

The amount of the SILP Housing Supplement is calculated as the difference between 30% of the statewide foster care Basic Rate, and 2023 Fair Market Rent for half of a two-bedroom apartment in each county. This formula was developed based on the following factors:

- 30% as a common measure: The common measure used by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for housing affordability is to ensure that no more than 30% of a household’s income be spent on housing costs.
- Fair Market Rent (FMR): FMR is the system developed by HUD to determine the allowable rent level for their Housing Choice Voucher program. FMRs are based on median rental prices and are calculated nationwide, including for California’s 58 counties.
- Half of a two-bedroom: Because shared living is developmentally appropriate and common for young adults, the methodology uses half of the FMR amount for a two-bedroom apartment.

#### WHEN WILL THE SILP HOUSING SUPPLEMENT TAKE EFFECT AND HOW WILL YOUTH RECEIVE IT?

Youth in SILPs will begin to receive the higher monthly payments inclusive of the SILP Housing Supplement on 7/1/25, or when the new rates are automated in the CA Statewide Automated Welfare System (CalSAWS). Youth currently receive their SILP payments via check. There will be no change to this process; the checks will just be a higher amount.