

PROTECTING FOSTER YOUTH IN THE STATE BUDGET

Join Us and Take Action!



January 18, 2024

Agenda

1. Introduction & Welcome
2. Governor's Proposed Budget Cuts
3. Overview & Impact of Programs Proposed for Elimination
> Questions/Discussion
4. State Budget Process Overview
5. Take Action!
> Questions/Discussion



Thank you for joining the
coalition!

In less than a week, 70
organizations joined to maintain
these important programs!

Governor's Proposed Budget Cuts We'll Discuss Today

**Eliminates the \$13.7 million
Housing Navigation &
Maintenance Program**

**Serves more than 1,300 current and
former foster youth age 18-24**

**Eliminates the \$18.8 million
Supervised Independent Living
Placement (SILP) Housing
Supplement**

**Will begin serving more than 3,000 foster
youth age 18-20 starting in 2025**

**Eliminates the \$30 million
Family Urgent Response System
(FURS)**

Responds to nearly 5,000 calls per year



Overview & Impact of Programs Proposed for Elimination

The Housing Navigation & Maintenance Program (HNMP) Plays a Special Role Leveraging Federal Housing Support

Program overview

- **Administration:** Annual budget of \$13.7 million, administered by California Department of Housing & Community Development to county child welfare agencies.
 - **Population:** Serves current and former foster youth ages 18-24 (have not yet turned 25).
 - **Key purpose:** Only state funding designated for providing housing navigation and services to former foster youth with federal housing vouchers (FYI/FUP).
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Why is this program Important?

- **HNMP helps our state tap into federal housing assistance:** FYI/FUP vouchers are underutilized—Public Housing Authorities can and should be requesting vouchers in partnership with county child welfare for ALL youth in need.
 - **HNMP enables counties to fulfill their federal mandate, in partnership with housing authorities:** County child welfare is required by HUD to provide or secure services to youth with vouchers from their partner housing authority.
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Losing State HNMP Funding Would Mean Losing Up to \$22M Annually in Federal Housing Support for Former Foster Youth

HNMP WAS A SOLUTION

In 2021, counties identified their biggest obstacle to FYI/FUP being there was no designated services funding. HNMP solved that.

Along with federal policy changes, this state funding led to a 54% increase in vouchers in CA between 2021-2023.

LOSING HNMP WILL REVERSE THIS PROGRESS

Counties are required to provide or secure services in order for their partner housing authorities to request vouchers.

Without funding for services, these county/housing authority partnerships will request less vouchers or none at all.

YOUTH WILL LOSE HOUSING & SERVICES

More than 1,300 former foster youth had an FYI/FUP voucher as of October 2023.

Many of these youth may lose services, and future youth in need of housing support as they exit care or after they exit, will not have access to a voucher.

The Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP) Housing Supplement Will Prevent Foster Youth Homelessness

Program overview

- **What is a SILP?** The most independent extended foster care placement (no provider, no services, youth must find their own housing, youth receive their monthly foster care payment directly from the county child welfare agency).
- **Population:** “Non-minor dependents” or “NMDs” (age 18-20 in extended foster care) who are placed in SILPs (approx. 40% of NMD population).
- **Purpose:** The SILP Housing Supplement augments the statewide rate paid to youth, based on the local cost of housing, ensuring youth have enough money to pay rent.
- **Administration:** SILP Housing Supplement has an annual budget of \$18.8 million, administered by California Department of Social Services to county child welfare agencies. Would take effect July 1, 2025 (requires payment system automation).

Why is this program important?

- **It will prevent housing stability and homelessness:** 1 in 5 youth in extended foster care experience homelessness. More money for rent means better-quality and more stable housing.
- **It bases youth monthly payments on local housing costs:** Having a statewide, flat foster care rate is inequitable, especially because the majority of foster youth live in the most expensive counties.

Without the SILP Housing Supplement, Most NMDs Cannot Afford Housing.

THE COST OF HOUSING HAS OUTPACED THE GROWTH OF THE SILP RATE

Since 2010, the cost of housing has increased 80% in CA's 15 highest-cost counties, while the SILP rate has increased 41%.

60% of NMDs in SILPs reside in the 15 highest-cost counties.

YOUTH IN SILPS ARE LIVING BELOW THE POVERTY LINE

Youth in SILPs receive \$1,206 monthly = \$14,472 annually, which is below the federal poverty level.

This reinforces the intergenerational cycle of poverty, particularly for parenting youth.

THE SILP HOUSING SUPPLEMENT DRAWS DOWN FEDERAL FUNDING

The SILP Housing Supplement leverages \$6.7 million in federal funding.

Other state-funded housing programs generally do not leverage federal funding.

The Family Urgent Response System (FURS) Prevents Youth Placement Instability, Criminalization and Hospitalization

Program overview

- **Administration:** Annual budget of \$30 million, administered to county child welfare agencies which implement local FURS mobile response teams.
- **Population:** Serves current and former foster youth up to age 21 and caregivers of current and former foster youth.
- **Key purpose:** Provides free, 24/7/365, immediate, trauma-informed support for children, youth and caregivers, via a statewide hotline and county-based mobile response teams.

Why is this program important?

- **Prevents placement instability:** FURS is available during “situations of instability” as defined by the child, youth, or caregiver.
- **Prevents needless criminalization and hospitalization:** Provides a trauma-informed intervention, knowledgeable about the child welfare system before escalation to law enforcement or hospitalization.
- **Engages youth and caregivers in services:** Connects youth and families to longer-term community-based supports and services.

833-939-3877 / cal-furs.org

Without FURS, California Will Have No Statewide Hotline or Mobile Response Specific to Foster Youth

PLACEMENT INSTABILITY IS A SIGNIFICANT ISSUE

1 in 3 foster youth in California experience 3 or more placements during their first year in care.

FURS is available as a preventative measure to help youth consider placement options, and also as an emergency intervention when crisis arises.

FURS IS SPECIFIC TO THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM

FURS response understands the unique experiences of foster youth and caregivers.

FURS provides individualized support and resources tailored to each caller's specific situation and needs.

FURS PROVIDES EQUITABLE ACCESS TO SUPPORT

FURS is available in every county, regardless of local resources.

FURS is available to current AND former foster youth regardless of when they left care or why, including probation-supervised youth.

Sign onto Children Now's letter by sending your organization's logo to Sara Fung (sfung@childrennow.org) TODAY

A photograph of the State Capitol building at night, featuring a large central dome and classical architectural details. The building is illuminated, and the scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent orange rectangle. The text "State Budget Process Overview" is centered in white on this rectangle.

State Budget Process Overview



Please type into the chat if you're located in one of the below areas!



California State Senate

Budget Chair: Senator Nancy Skinner

California State Assembly

Budget Chair: Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel

HNMP
Budget Sub #4

SILP
Supplement &
FURS
Budget Sub #3

HNMP
Budget Sub #5

SILP
Supplement &
FURS
Budget Sub #2

Chair:
Senator
Stephen Padilla

Chair:
Senator
Caroline Menjivar

Chair:
Assemblymember
Sharon Quirk-Silva

Chair:
Assemblymember
Corey Jackson

Represents:
San Diego,
Imperial,
Riverside and San
Bernardino

Represents:
Burbank and San
Fernando Valley

Represents:
Buena Park,
Cypress, Fullerton,
Stanton, La Palma,
and West
Anaheim

Represents:
Riverside
County

Budget Hearings Start on January 23rd and Will Continue through June

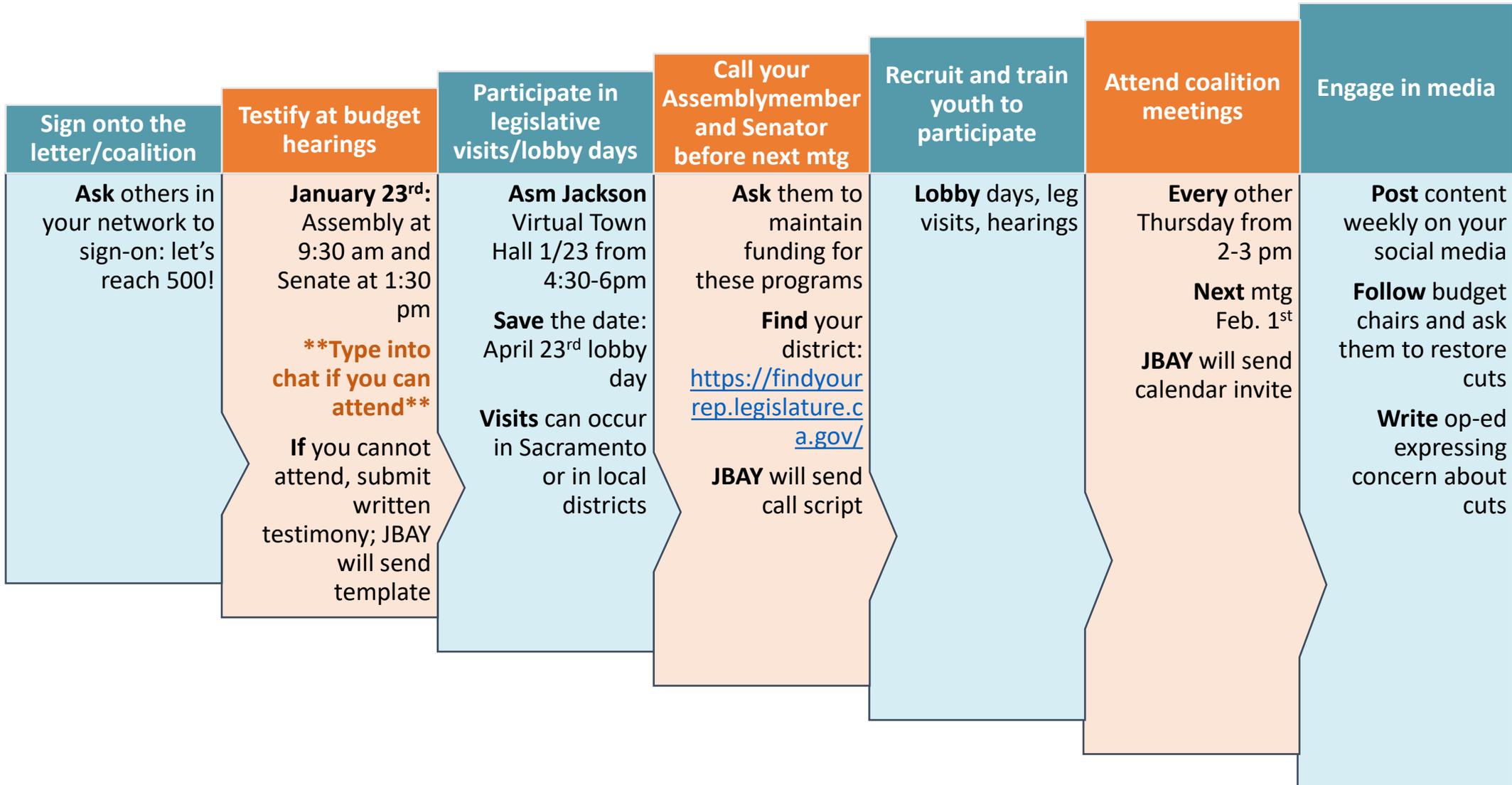


- ▶ **There will be at least 2 meetings per subcommittee: $4 \times 2 = 8$**
- ▶ **There will be at least 4 full budget committee meetings: $2 \times 2 = 4$**
- ▶ **Testimony will likely be required in person, not telephonically.**

A woman with dark curly hair, wearing a dark blue business suit, is walking from left to right in a modern office. She is holding a tablet computer in her hands. The background consists of large windows with horizontal blinds, and the scene is bathed in a warm, orange light. The text "Take Action" is overlaid in the center of the image in a white, sans-serif font.

Take Action

What You Can Do to Prevent These Cuts & Protect Youth



Together, We CAN Maintain These Programs!

The Governor has a strong track record of supporting foster youth.

The State Legislature takes its commitment to foster youth seriously.

Assemblymember Phil Ting as committed himself to sustaining the programs he championed.

Creative budget solutions have been found to protect programs much bigger than these.

Both housing support programs leverage significant federal funds, something the state always values.

The programs prevent homelessness, a high priority for the Administration and Legislature.

We are a diverse and committed coalition that includes strong youth leaders!

FOR FUTURE QUESTIONS OR MORE INFORMATION

JOHN BURTON ADVOCATES FOR YOUTH

- > *Housing Navigation & Maintenance Program*
- > *SILP Housing Supplement*

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CHILDREN NOW

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