







Aspiranet







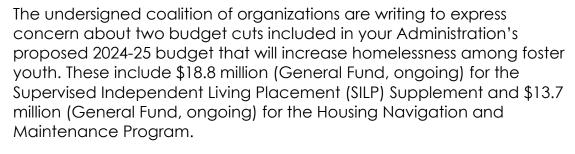
The Honorable Gavin Newsom

California State Governor

1021 O Street, Suite 9000 Sacramento, CA 95814

January 31, 2024



















The SILP Supplement was included in the FY 23-24 budget. It will provide a supplementary payment to foster youth placed in a SILP, based on the cost of housing in the county where they live. These young people currently receive \$1,206 monthly for all living expenses: rent, food, utilities, clothing, transportation and more. Given this low rate and escalating housing costs, 1 in 5 current foster youth in California have at least one episode of homelessness between ages 18 and 21.

The Legislature and your Administration adopted the SILP Supplement for several reasons. First, it recognized the unique responsibility that California has to youth in foster care, who were placed into foster care through no fault of their own. The Legislature and Administration also understood that experiencing homelessness as a youth or young adult increases the likelihood of being chronically homeless as an adult. Finally, the policy was adopted because it achieves the important goal of reducing homelessness among youth in foster care by leveraging federal funding.

The undersigned organizations support the foster care rate reforms underway. However, their focus is on ensuring foster children and youth in family settings receive the correct level of care, such as mental health counseling. They do not address the housing affordability crisis experienced uniquely by young people who live in a SILP and they do not address the needs of young adults in foster care living independently.





























The second proposed reduction of concern is the elimination of the Housing Navigation and Maintenance Program, which pays for supportive services for 1,300 foster youth who have a federal housing voucher specifically for former foster youth. These vouchers are known as Family Unification Program (FUP) and Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) vouchers.

Prior to the creation and expansion of the Housing Navigation and Maintenance Program, these federal vouchers were underutilized in California because there was not a source of public funding to provide the required supportive services. Since the creation and expansion of the Housing Navigation and Maintenance Program, the number of vouchers has increased 54% in California, bringing \$22 million in federal investment to California annually. The effectiveness of this expansion is one key reason why homelessness among transition-age youth has decreased 16% between 2020 and 2023. If this program is eliminated, this effective state/federal partnership will come to a halt and put 1,300 youth at risk of homelessness.

We appreciate the complexity of the state budget and the need to responsibly steward scarce public resources. However, we request that your Administration sustain its long-standing commitment to children and youth in foster care by revisiting these decisions and maintaining these important state investments.

Thank you for all you have done for the children and youth of California. We look forward to ongoing dialogue about these important issues in the months ahead.

Sincerely,

John Burton Advocates for Youth Alameda County Office of Education Aldea

All Saints Church Foster Care Project
Alliance for Children's Rights
Allies for Every Child

Alternative Family Services
Aspiranet

Association of Community Human Services

Better Youth, Inc. Beyond Emancipation

Bill Wilson Center Butterfly's Haven

California Alliance of Caregivers

California Alliance of Child and Family Services

California State Association of Counties

California Youth Connection





Casa de Amparo

Casa Pacifica Centers for Children and Families

Catholic Charities of Santa Clara

Children Now

Children's Advocacy Institute

Children's Law Center of California

Children's Receiving Home of Sacramento

Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice

Corporation for Supportive Housing

County Welfare Directors Association of California

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Los Angeles

Creative Alternatives

Crittenton Services for Children & Families

Cty Housing

Doing Good Works

**EA Family Services** 

**Edgewood Center for Children & Families** 

El Dorado County Health and Human Services Agency

**Encompass Community Services** 







Foster Greatness

Fostering Promise

Gather Respect Advocate Change Engage (GLIDE)

Generation Up

GRACE/End Child Poverty California

Heritage Group Homes, Inc.

Hillsides

Hollywood NOW

Housing Authority of the County of Contra Costa

Just in Time for Foster Youth

Kamali'i Foster Family Agency, Inc.

Lens Co

Lutheran Social Services of Northern California

Make it Happen for Yolo County

Mary's Path

Mesa

Monterey County Children and Family Services Agency

Northern California College Promise Coalition

Oak Grove Sanctuary Palm Springs

Optimist Youth Homes & Family Services

Orange County United Way

Orangewood Foundation

Peacock Acres

**Progress Foundation** 

**Public Counsel** 

Reedley College





EA FAMILY SERVICES



















































Robles, LLC
Sacramento County Executive Office
Safe Place for Youth
San Benito County Health and Human Services Agency
San Bernardino County Administrator's Office
Sanctuary of Hope LA
Santa Ana Housing Authority
A Sense of Home
Seneca Family of Agencies
Silegra
Specialty Family Foundation

Sycamores
Tha Hood Healers
Unity Care
Waking the Village
Walden Family Services
Wellnest
Whole Person Learning
Urban Health, Inc.

Stepping Forward LA Students Rising Above

StarVista

Urban Health, Inc.
Urban Strategies Council
Youth and Family Programs

Cc: Members, Senate Budget Committee Members, Assembly Budget Committee Members, Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 3 Members, Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 4 Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 2 Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 5 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 Bartholow, Office of Senator Skinner Tania Dikho, Office of Assemblymember Ting Bethany Renfree, Office of Senator Durazo Elizabeth Schmitt, Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 3 Timothy Griffiths, Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 4 Nicole Vasquez, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 2 Genevieve Morelos, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 5 Chantelle Denny, Senate Republican Fiscal Office Megan De Sousa, Assembly Republican Fiscal Office Diana Boyer, County Welfare Directors Association of California Rosie McCool, Chief Probation Officers of California Justin Garrett, California State Association of Counties Ginni Bella Navarre, Legislative Analyst's Office





























Lourdes Morales, Legislative Analyst's Office Angela Short, Legislative Analyst's Office Dr. Mark Ghaly, Health & Human Services Agency Kim Johnson, Department of Social Services Angie Schwartz, Department of Social Services Jennifer Troia, Department of Social Services Sasha Kergan, Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency Gustavo Velasquez, Dept. of Housing & Community Development Jennifer Seeger, Department of Housing & Community Development Pedro Galvao, Department of Housing & Community Development Joe Stephenshaw, Department of Finance Gayle Miller, Department of Finance Kris Cook, Department of Finance Kia Cha, Department of Finance Marlon Davis, Department of Finance Chris Hill, Department of Finance Andrew March, Department of Finance Blair Huxman, Department of Finance