

GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED 2024-25 STATE BUDGET ELIMINATES FUNDING GOING DIRECTLY TO FOSTER YOUTH TO HELP THEM AFFORD HOUSING

The 2024-25 California state budget proposal released by the Newsom Administration in January eliminates the \$18.8 million ongoing investment in the Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP) Housing Supplement. Below are frequently asked questions about the program and the proposed elimination.

What is the Supervised Independent Living Placement?

The Supervised Independent Living Placement (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 10/1/23, the SILP was the single-most utilized placement for NMDs in California, with 3,184 (43%) NMDs in this placement.

How much money do youth in SILPs receive 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 2023-24 is \$1,206 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 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 SILP Housing Supplement provide to youth in each county?

The new monthly SILP payments will vary by county, according to the local cost of housing as determined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban

Development’s Fair Market Rent. In 2025-26, the first year this policy takes effect, the estimated average monthly payment, which will consist of the Basic Rate plus the SILP Housing Supplement, will be ~\$1,745, ranging from ~\$1,327 in Modoc to ~\$2,557 in Santa Cruz. To view each county’s estimated total monthly SILP payment starting in 2025-26, follow this [LINK](#).

Why is the SILP Housing Supplement important?

- **It prevents homelessness and poverty:** Youth in SILPs are living below the federal poverty level based on the monthly payment provided to them, with no financial or housing support from family. This reinforces the intergenerational cycle of poverty and leads to homelessness—research shows 1 in 5 youth in extended foster care experience homelessness.
- **It acknowledges California’s housing crisis and its impact on young adults in foster care:** California’s 25 most expensive counties are home to 81% of the state’s non-minor dependents. Since 2012 when extended foster care was implemented, the cost of housing has increased 95% in these counties, while the SILP rate has increased 51%. The SILP Housing Supplement promotes housing equity by equipping youth with funding based on local rental costs versus a statewide rate.
- **It supports important community connections and safety:** Having adequate money for rent provides youth with the ability to live close to school, work, and any self-identified support systems. It provides choice and empowers youth to live where they feel safe and secure.
- **It draws down federal funding:** The SILP Housing Supplement will draw down approximately \$6.7 million in federal foster care funding annually. Most other state-funded housing programs do not.