

February 13, 2024



The Honorable Gavin Newsom California State Governor 1021 O Street, Suite 9000 Sacramento, CA 95814



RE: Proposed Elimination of Housing Supports for Foster Youth



Dear Governor Newsom,

ALDEA ALLIANCE for CHILDREN'S RIGHTS



The undersigned coalition of organizations, public agencies, and young adults are writing to express concern about two budget cuts included in your Administration's proposed 2024-25 budget that will increase homelessness among foster youth. These include \$18.8 million (General Fund, ongoing) for the Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP) Supplement and \$13.7 million (General Fund, ongoing) for the Housing Navigation and Maintenance Program.

The SILP Supplement was included in the FY 23-24 budget. It will provide

escalating housing costs, 1 in 5 current foster youth in California have at

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

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.







EDGEWOOD Transforming Lives. Restoring Hope.









Sincerely,









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.

John Burton Advocates for Youth Abode Services 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

Catholic Charities of Santa Clara Child Advocates of Silicon Valley

Children's Law Center of California

Corporation for Supportive Housing

Children's Receiving Home of Sacramento

Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice

County Welfare Directors Association of California

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Los Angeles

Children's Advocacy Institute

City Without Orphans

Casa Pacifica Centers for Children and Families

Casa de Amparo

Children Now















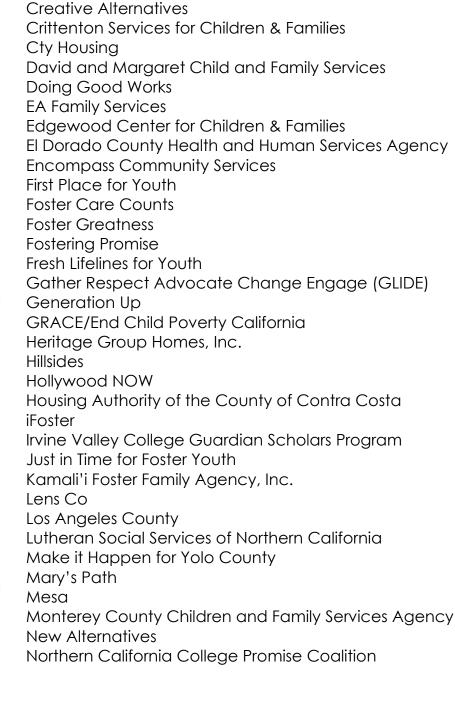
COMPASS PROGRAMS













GRACE

HERTAGE









Kamali'i



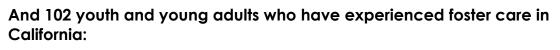






MARY'S PATH

maryvale





Oak Grove Sanctuary Palm Springs **Optimist Youth Homes & Family Services** Orange County United Way Orangewood Foundation Peacock Acres **Progress Foundation** Public Counsel Reedley College The Rightway Foundation 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 St. Andrew's Residential Programs for Youth StarVista Stepping Forward LA Students Rising Above Sycamores Tha Hood Healers TLC Child and Family Services Unity Care Waking the Village Walden Family Services Wellnest Whole Person Learning Urban Health, Inc. Urban Strategies Council

Youth and Family Programs





northern california college promise coalition





















Richard Butcher, Yolo County Iziko Calderon, Los Angeles County Ashlee Campbell, San Bernardino County Yontae Capers-Stinson, Los Angeles County Katherine Carpenter, Sutter County Artem Chebnev, Los Angeles County Kelly Clamens, Riverside County River Covey, Orange County Elijah Crane, Merced County Christina Crimi, San Bernardino County Travis Crown, Los Angeles County Vanessa Cruz Plascencia, Sonoma County Rashanda Dauphine, San Francisco County Jessica Demartini, San Bernardino County Sherbert Diaz, Los Angeles County Destiny Dominguez, San Diego County Michelle Doupe, Placer County Marcelo Elliott-Lopez, Sacramento County Richard Espinoza, Merced County Emily Estrada, Los Angeles County Destiny Galvan, Los Angeles County Violet Gonzales, Sonoma County Natalie Goodliffe, Los Angeles County Kayla Gordon, Contra Costa County Carissa Guillen-Neria, San Bernardino County Monica Guss, Sacramento County Whimzi Ha, Los Angeles County isiaah haro, Merced County Joachim Hausser, Los Angeles County Tajanea Hayes, San Bernardino County Vicclaudiana Hernandez, Los Angeles County Karina Hernandez, Los Angeles County Ashley Holly, Los Angeles County Tyrese Holt, Los Angeles County Yuki Huang, San Francisco County Rozan Jaara, Riverside County Naomi Jimenez, Los Angeles County Adriana Johnson, Contra Costa County Faith Johnson, Los Angeles County Dakota Kaiser, Sonoma County Dennis Kelley, Sacramento County Zarah Latifi, Butte County Carolina Llerenas, Los Angeles County Juliana Lopez, San Diego County Luzvianeth Lopez, Orange County Navya Mackey, Los Angeles County Jeffrey Madrid, Los Angeles County Melissa Martel, Los Angeles County



silegra





















Maybelline Mejia, Los Angeles County Jade Mendez, Los Angeles County Ari Metztli, Los Angeles County Angelyn Meza, Merced County Quincy Monroe, Los Angeles County Joelynn Montelongo, Butte County Ilynne Nava, San Bernardino County Maria Olaiz, Orange County Aamiyah Orozco, Orange County Victoria Ortiz, Sonoma County Deyanira Paulino, San Diego County Axel Pecero, Los Angeles County Keegan Pederson, Butte County Caitlin Peterson, Sacramento County Cherise Pratti, Los Angeles County Charles Prowse, Sonoma County Isela Ramirez, Orange County Sasha Randolph, Santa Clara County Raylene Raya, San Bernardino County Pika Ritz, Los Angeles County Elizabeth Robinson, Los Angeles County Aahloni Robinson, Los Angeles County Maria Rocha, Los Angeles County Francisco Romero, Contra Costa County Leonardo Romero, San Francisco County Dianna Romero, Contra Costa County Nathalie Romero, Los Angeles County Janet Sandoval, Los Angeles County Jazmine Sapenter-Coulter, Yolo County Jacob Seibert, Butte County Sara Smith, Butte County Jenessa Smith, San Diego County Ana Sosa, Los Angeles County Kadie Staggs, Shasta County Lauren Stanton Horsey, Orange County Joel Swazo, Los Angeles County Talya Thompson, Los Angeles County Ari Tippett, Los Angeles County Aleecyah Ward, Butte County Keairah Washington, Los Angeles County Deandre Waters, Yolo County Amari Weatherby, Los Angeles County Lania Whiteside, Los Angeles County Emanuel Williams, Solano County Tyler Zeno, Sacramento County

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, Leaislative 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