

PROTECTING FOSTER YOUTH IN THE STATE BUDGET

Coalition to Restore Proposed Cuts
to Housing Support Programs



March 15, 2024

Agenda

- 25 Assemblymembers on letter to preserving funding! (Amy)
- Yesterday's hearing a huge success! (Simone)
 - *Reminder about future hearings*
- Shoring up Senate support (Amy)
- SILP Housing Supplement: Impact of DSS' new foster care rates proposal (Simone)

25 Assemblymembers Sent a Letter to Budget Subcommittee Chairs

Assemblymember Phil Ting and:

- Assemblymember Juan Alanis
- Assemblymember Marc Berman
- Assemblymember Mia Bonta
- Assemblymember Juan Carrillo
- Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur
- Assemblymember Bill Essayli
- Assemblymember Laura Friedman
- Assemblymember Mike Gipson
- Assemblymember Matt Haney
- Assemblymember Ash Kalra
- Assemblymember Tom Lackey
- Assemblymember Brian Maienschein
- Assemblymember Devon Mathis
- Assemblymember Blanca Pacheco
- Assemblymember Diane Papan
- Assemblymember Sharon Quirk-Silva
- Assemblymember James Ramos
- Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez
- Assemblymember Blanca Rubio
- Assemblymember Miguel Santiago
- Assemblymember Pilar Schiavo
- Assemblymember Tri Ta
- Assemblymember Avelino Valencia
- Assemblymember Lori Wilson



*34 people provided public comment at March
14th hearing—we filled that room!*

THANK YOU to everyone who made it.

March & April Budget Hearings in Sacramento

Please Attend if You Can

Date & Time	Budget Subcommittee	Location	Relevant Program	RSVPs
Wednesday, April 3 rd at 1:30 p.m.	Assembly Budget Subcommittee 2 (Human Services)	State Capitol Room 444	SILP Housing Supplement	16 yes + 5 maybe
Tuesday, April 9 th at 1:30 p.m.	Assembly Budget Subcommittee 5 (State Admin)	State Capitol Room 447	Housing Navigation & Maintenance Program	7 yes + 9 maybe
Thursday, April 25 th at 9:30 a.m. or upon adjournment of session	Senate Budget Subcommittee 3 (Health & Human Services)	1021 O Street Room 1200	SILP Housing Supplement	3 yes

We've added the last hearing to the survey, so please revisit and indicate your availability: <http://tinyurl.com/JBAY-FORM>

Shoring Up Senate Support

Schedule Zoom Calls or Request In-Person District Meetings with Your State Senators

Request that your Senator:

- champion preserving these programs in the Senate's budget, or if they decline taking that on,
- educate and inform them about the impact of these cuts so it is on their radar.

How?

- Find your district, the Senator's Chief of Staff, an email script for scheduling, and talking points for the meeting here:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Z4Ea5-7lecx_J56YJ8GvgtS7zhAvQVOnyrqIIHMbZKA/edit#gid=1137165217
- Any meetings you get scheduled, add simone@jbay.org to the invite.



What does it mean when we ask them to be a Senate Champion?

They're agreeing to:

- Take any measures they can to urge the Senate to preserve these programs in their budget.
- Be identified as the Senate champion for preserving these programs, when coalition members are in discussion with members of the legislature and the Administration.
- Be listed on the [stakeholder budget request form](#) for Senate budget subcommittee 3 (Human Services) as the Senate Champion. *This does not count against any other limits on a Senator's budget requests that may exist but is meant to demonstrate support within the Senate

You may also mention:

- Assemblymember Ting, the Assembly Champion gathered 24 signatories from fellow members of the Assembly on a letter identified preserving this program as a priority.
- Given the more conservative parameters of the Senate in budget letter circulation this year, the coalition is not asking for a senate letter, but hoping for several Senators who will identify as champions in name.

DSS has proposed a new foster care rates structure, as required by state law

Overview

- The California Department of Social Services (DSS) was required to reform foster care rates by 2025. They've issued Trailer Bill Language and a proposed framework for what this will look like.
- They've indicated the changes are based on the needs of the child, not based on where they are placed.
- Children and youth will be assigned "Tiers" based on how they score on the Integrated Practice-Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (IP-CANS).
- Each Tier will have a "Care and Supervision rate" assigned to them, then some children and youth will be eligible for additional funding on top of that rate, depending on their Tier.
- The Trailer Bill Language pushes the 2025 date out to sometime between 2026-2028, for when these new rates would take effect.

What would this look like for youth in SILPs?

- Youth in SILPs will automatically qualify for Tier 1 only (youth in other placements may qualify for Tiers 2, 3, or 3+)
 - The Tier 1 Care and Supervision Rate is \$1,788 (up from the current SILP rate of \$1,206)
- Youth in SILPs may qualify for **one** of the three potential other types of funding:
 - ✓ **“Strengths Building & Maintenance”** which may be used for extra-curricular activities, education and skill building support, mentoring/engagement of family/community. Youth may access an additional \$500/month for these activities, managed by a financial management coordinator.
 - ✗ “Immediate Needs” (youth in SILPs not eligible)
 - ✗ “Admin” (this is for FFA and STRTP providers only; youth in SILPs not eligible)

What we know, and what we don't know

- **Questions remain regarding Strengths Building funds:** Its unclear **how accessible** the Strengths Building funding (\$500) will be, **how youth in SILPs will make use of it** (considering any expenses must be paid by a “spending plan manager”) and **what expenses would be approved.**
- **DSS’ rates proposal is an improvement:** Based on the SILP Care & Supervision Rate proposed, all youth in SILPs would receive a higher monthly rate than they are currently **(\$1,788 v. \$1,206).**
- **DSS’ rates proposal does not replace the need for the SILP Housing Supplement:** 2,111 youth across 22 counties would still receive a rate that is less than what the SILP supplement would provide them when applied to the existing rate. **This equates to 66% of all youth in SILPs.**
- **When applied together (new rate + SILP HS), youth in SILPs will fair better:** Increasing the SILP rate also increases the SILP Housing Supplement for **99.7%** of youth in SILPs. If the methodology for the SILP Housing Supplement is applied to the new SILP rate, the highest monthly SILP payment (Santa Cruz) would be \$2,898, as opposed to \$2,557.

DSS' Trailer Bill Language phases the SILP Housing Supplement out starting in 2028

- DSS' Trailer Bill Language phases out the SILP Housing Supplement in 2028 because existing statute ties the SILP Housing Supplement to the rates being phased out.

How do we ensure the SILP Housing Supplement Does Not Phase Out?

- We request amendments to DSS' Trailer Bill Language, tying the SILP Housing Supplement to the new care and supervision rate that youth in SILPs will receive.
- We continue to fight to preserve the funding for the SILP Housing Supplement in the state budget—the good news is, the new SILP rate makes the supplement less costly starting in 2028!

FOR FUTURE QUESTIONS OR MORE INFORMATION

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