PROTECTING FOSTER YOUTH IN THE STATE BUDGET

Coalition to Restore Proposed Cuts to Housing Support Programs

March 28, 2024
Agenda

• Updates Since Last Meeting:
  • Thank you letters / posts for 25 Assemblymembers
  • Meetings & communications with key legislative members

• April Hearings Prep: What to Expect, How to Prepare
Updates Since Last Call

✓ Thank you letters sent to all Assemblymembers who signed onto Assemblymember Ting’s letter

➢ Don’t forget to thank your district Assemblymembers if they signed on: Find your district member and see tab 5 to check if they signed on - https://tinyurl.com/district-info-for-coalition

➢ Social media posts available in toolkit to thank members: https://tinyurl.com/FYcoalition-social-media
Updates Since Last Call

- Aspiranet met with Assemblymember Jackson last week, Chair of Assembly Budget Subcommittee 2 on Human Services
  - He is very supportive! Will raise this up in the budget hearing on April 3rd.

- Small group of coalition members met with Senator Menjivar last week, Chair of Senate Budget Subcommittee 3 on Human Services
  - She is very supportive! Will raise this up in the budget hearing on April 25th.
  - We still need Senate support—to schedule a meeting with your district Senator, use this document: https://tinyurl.com/district-info-for-coalition

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.

Simone is available to join these meetings – text or email for scheduling availability / add to calendar invite.
Updates Since Last Call

✓ Response provided to Senate Budget Subcommittee on questions raised at 3/14 hearing regarding Housing Navigation and Maintenance Program

  ➢ Provides new data from aggregated public award notices from HUD on FYI to illustrate the increase in vouchers since the establishment and expansion of HNMP

Since the 2022 increase in funding for the Housing Navigation and Maintenance Program, our state has seen a significant increase in new FYI vouchers, specifically:

- **91%** increase in the number of FYI vouchers in California from **349 to 782**
- **64%** increase in the number of county child welfare agencies partnering with housing authorities on FYI (from **11 to 18 counties**)
- Increase in the amount of federal housing assistance our state receives through FYI from **$5.9 million to $13.1 million**
Near Future

- Feedback will be submitted tomorrow to DSS requesting amendments to their proposed foster care rates reform Trailer Bill Language
  - Preserve the SILP Housing Supplement and apply it to the new proposed SILP Care and Supervision rate of $1,788
  - *If your organization is submitting feedback, make sure its in by tomorrow!*

- Communication with key legislative stakeholders will follow regarding concerns with new rates framework phasing out SILP Housing Supplement
## March & April Budget Hearings in Sacramento

### Please Attend if You Can

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date &amp; Time</th>
<th>Budget Subcommittee</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Relevant Program</th>
<th>RSVPs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday, April 3rd</strong></td>
<td>Assembly Budget Subcommittee 2</td>
<td>State Capitol Room 444</td>
<td>SILP Housing Supplement</td>
<td>17 yes + 5 maybe</td>
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<tr>
<td>at 1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>(Human Services)</td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday, April 9th</strong></td>
<td>Assembly Budget Subcommittee 5</td>
<td>State Capitol Room 447</td>
<td>Housing Navigation &amp; Maintenance Program</td>
<td>7 yes + 9 maybe</td>
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<tr>
<td>at 1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>(State Admin)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday, April 25th</strong></td>
<td>Senate Budget Subcommittee 3</td>
<td>1021 O Street Room 1200</td>
<td>SILP Housing Supplement</td>
<td>4 yes + 4 maybe</td>
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<tr>
<td>at 9:30 a.m. or upon adjournment</td>
<td>(Health &amp; Human Services)</td>
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<td></td>
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Please indicate your availability: [http://tinyurl.com/JBAY-FORM](http://tinyurl.com/JBAY-FORM)
Budget Hearings: What to Expect

LOGISTICS

- Remote testimony no longer accepted; must attend in person.
- Hearings are held in Sacramento either at State Capitol (10th & L) or Capitol Annex Swing Space (1021 O St.)
- It’s a good idea to block off 3-4 hours for full participation in a budget hearing.
- Hearings starting “upon adjournment of session” may start later than planned.
- Professional attire still practiced in the Capitol.
- Although arriving right at the start of the hearing is not necessary, there is a chance the hearing room will fill up so arriving on time gets you a better chance of seating inside.

If you can’t attend full hearing but can be close by, Simone can text you when our agenda item is close.

- Not necessary to have multiple individuals from same organization participate in public comment, but ok (it will count as one org).
- Bringing young adults is encouraged - make sure you prepare them for what to expect and that they are comfortable if telling their story.
Budget Hearings: How to Prepare

PUBLIC COMMENT

Always start your comment by stating:

- Your name
- Your organizational affiliation or connection to the issue/lived experience
- What your position is - i.e. “I’m here in support of the preservation of the [Housing Navigation and Maintenance Program / SILP Housing Supplement]”

If they are limiting time to a sentence or what’s called a “me too,” the bullet above will likely be all you have time to get out, but they may give you more time.

Have a 30 sec. version and a 1 min. version ready:

Someone will have likely stated the facts/stats already, so best to have a unique story, anecdote or point to make in your time, for example -

- **Person 1**: States scope of issue / related stats
- **Person 2**: Tells a personal story
  (e.g. “I was homeless for 6 months while in a SILP—a higher monthly payment could have prevented this” or “I was unable to find housing with a voucher because I didn’t have support/help” or “I’ve watched countless youth exit into homelessness because we have limited vouchers; we can’t afford to downsize this program”)
- **Person 3**: Identifies a special issue
  (e.g. “parenting youth are particularly affected” or “youth in my county are experiencing housing prices of XYZ”)
FOR FUTURE QUESTIONS OR MORE INFORMATION

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