

# 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 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  
- ✓ **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 25<sup>th</sup>.
  - **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!***
  - Webpage on rate proposal: <https://cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/cdss-programs/foster-care/foster-care-audits-and-rates/foster-care-rate-reform-proposal>
  
- ❑ 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*

Date & Time	Budget Subcommittee	Location	Relevant Program	RSVPs
Wednesday, April 3 <sup>rd</sup> at 1:30 p.m.	Assembly Budget Subcommittee 2 (Human Services)	State Capitol Room 444	SILP Housing Supplement	17 yes + 5 maybe
Tuesday, April 9 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> 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	4 yes + 4 maybe

Please indicate your availability: <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 (10<sup>th</sup> & 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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