

February 20, 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,



RIGHTS

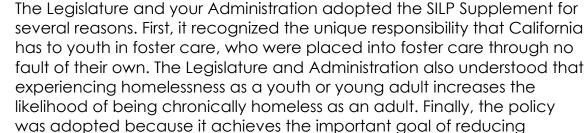
The undersigned coalition of organizations, public agencies, and young adults are writing to express concern about two budget cuts included in your Administration's proposed 2024-25 budget that will increase homelessness among foster youth. These include \$18.8 million (General Fund, ongoing) for the 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 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 escalating housing costs, 1 in 5 current foster youth in California have at least one episode of homelessness between ages 18 and 21.





not address the needs of young adults in foster care living



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

homelessness among youth in foster care by leveraging federal funding.



independently.

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



CAREGIVERS





























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.

Sincerely,

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 Competes

California State Association of Counties

California Youth Connection



Casa de Amparo

Casa Pacifica Centers for Children and Families

Catholic Charities of Santa Clara

Child Advocates of Silicon Valley



Children Now

Children's Advocacy Institute

Children's Law Center of California

Children's Receiving Home of Sacramento

City Without Orphans



Coalition for Responsible Community Development

Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice

Corporation for Supportive Housing

County Welfare Directors Association of California

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Los Angeles

Creative Alternatives

Crittenton Services for Children & Families

Cty Housing



David and Margaret Child and Family Services

Doina Good Works

EA Family Services

Edgewood Center for Children & Families

El Dorado County Health and Human Services Agency

Encompass Community Services



Everychild Foundation

The Feather House Foundation

First Place for Youth



Foster Care Counts

Foster Greatness

Fostering Promise



Fresh Lifelines for Youth

Gather Respect Advocate Change Engage (GLIDE)



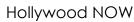
Generation Up

GRACE/End Child Poverty California

Heritage Group Homes, Inc.



Hillsides





Housing Authority of the County of Contra Costa

Irvine Valley College Guardian Scholars Program

Just in Time for Foster Youth





Los Angeles County



Lutheran Social Services of Northern California Make it Happen for Yolo County

Mary's Path

Mesa





Monterey County Children and Family Services Agency

New Alternatives

Northern California College Promise Coalition

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

And 203 young adults who have experienced foster care in California:



Roslyn Acosta, San Diego County Sebastian Acosta, Santa Clara County Jahaziel Aguilera, San Diego County

Ngozi Alumona, Los Angeles County

Laura Alvarez, Fresno County

Yazmin Alvarez Bernabe, Fresno County

Sarah Anderson, Merced County

















































SACRAMENTO









Malia Apelu, San Diego County Priscilla Arciniega, San Diego County Marlenne Arellano, Orange County Desiree Armstrong, Los Angeles County Shauneace Arrington, Los Angeles County Victoria Ashley, Yolo County Kassandra Bahena, Los Angeles County Maria Baldovinos, San Bernardino County Grace Banks, Los Angeles County Carol Bardoff, Alameda County Daniel Barragan, Sutter County Esmeralda Barrera, Los Angeles County Sharyn Baumheckel, Santa Clara County Ana Betina Bustillo, Sonoma County Daniel Bisuano, Riverside County Natasha Bradfield, Butte County Elena Bringhurst, Fresno County Naseer Brown, Orange County Freya Brown, Merced County Tashianna Brown, San Bernardino County Alex Buckley, San Diego County Ashley Burch, San Diego County Azula Burke, Los Angeles County Richard Butcher, San Francisco County Laura Caballero, San Bernardino County Iziko Calderon, Los Angeles County Ashlee Campbell, San Diego County Yontae Capers-Stinson, Placer County Jesse Cardenas, Sacramento County Katherine Carpenter, Merced County Mariah Carrera, Los Angeles County Brenda Castillo, Los Angeles County Mariah Chavez, Sonoma County Artem Chebney, Los Angeles County Alex Chiang, Contra Costa County Karli Cirovski, San Diego County Kelly Clamens, San Bernardino County Christina Cole, Sacramento County Mariah Corder, Los Angeles County River Covey, Merced County Elijah Crane, Los Angeles County Christina Crimi, San Bernardino County Travis Crown, Los Angeles County Andrea Cruz, Los Angeles County Vanessa Cruz Plascencia, Los Angeles County Rashanda Dauphine, Los Angeles County Kalila Davis, San Francisco County







silegra

























Gabriela De La Torre, San Diego County Jessica Demartini, Riverside County Sherbert Diaz, Los Angeles County Carina Dimapilis, San Diego County Destiny Dominguez, Contra Costa County Michelle Doupe, Los Angeles County Monique Dunn, San Diego County Jeanna Edrei, Orange County Marcelo Elliott-Lopez, Sonoma County Machi England, San Diego County Richard Espinoza, Sacramento County Jasmine Espinoza, Butte County Emily Estrada, Los Angeles County Damian Faulhaber, San Diego County Luis Flores, San Diego County Kayla Fuerte, Orange County Destiny Galvan, Los Angeles County Leila Gilkerson, Los Angeles County Stephanie Gomez, Orange County Violet Gonzales, Los Angeles County Joyce Gonzales, Yuba County Natalie Goodliffe, Los Angeles County Kayla Gordon, Los Angeles County Carissa Guillen-Neria, Los Angeles County Monica Guss, Merced County Selena Gutierrez, Los Angeles County Whimzi Ha, Butte County Yvonne Hampton, San Bernardino County isiaah haro, Orange County Joachim Hausser, Orange County Tajanea Hayes, Sonoma County Vicclaudiana Hernandez, San Diego County Karina Hernandez, Los Angeles County Ashley Holly, Butte County Tyrese Holt, Sacramento County Yuki Huang, Los Angeles County Lisa Huggins, Sonoma County Juleian Isaiah, Orange County Rozan Jaara, Santa Clara County Naomi Jimenez, San Bernardino County Adriana Johnson, Los Angeles County Faith Johnson, Los Angeles County Derrianna Johnson, Los Angeles County Katherine Jones, Los Angeles County Jean Juarez, San Diego County Dakota Kaiser, Los Angeles County Dennis Kelley, Contra Costa County

Jason Koster, San Francisco County hailey koster, Contra Costa County Zarah Latifi, Los Angeles County Carolina Llerenas, Los Angeles County Juliana Lopez, Yolo County Luzvianeth Lopez, Butte County Navya Mackey, Butte County Jeffrey Madrid, San Diego County Gilbert Manuel A., San Diego County Melissa Martel, Los Angeles County Nicholas Martinez, San Diego County Victoria Martínez, San Diego County Alina Medina, Shasta County Maybelline Mejia, Orange County Jade Mendez, Los Angeles County Emilia Mendoza, Los Angeles County Ari Metztli, Los Angeles County Angelyn Meza, Butte County Quincy Monroe, Los Angeles County Joelynn Montelongo, Yolo County Tina Moraga, San Diego County Jaimeyana Morris, Los Angeles County Brian Morrissette, Los Angeles County Crystal Mueller, San Diego County Nataly Munoz, Solano County Nataly Munoz, Sacramento County llynne Nava, San Joaquin County Maria Olaiz, Orange County Aamiyah Orozco, Orange County Victoria Ortiz, Orange County Joseph Osborn, Alameda County Deyanira Paulino, Orange County Axel Pecero, Orange County Keeaan Pederson Caitlin Peterson, San Joaquin County Kaylee Peterson, Los Angeles County Rosalinda Pina, Orange County Aaron Polanco, Orange County Angel Ponce, Sacramento County Wednesday Pope, Yolo County Cherise Pratti, Orange County Sarah Prince, Orange County Charles Prowse, Orange County Seth Putnam, Orange County Adriana Quiroz, Orange County Isela Ramirez, Orange County Sasha Randolph, Orange County

Raylene Raya, Orange County Destiny Raya, San Bernardino County Lucy Razo, Riverside County Pika Ritz, Orange County Murjaz Rivers, San Diego County Elizabeth Robinson, Orange County Aahloni Robinson, Orange County Tamary Robinson, Orange County Maria Rocha, Orange County Kevin Rodriguez, Orange County marian rodriguez, San Diego County Billi Romain, Alameda County Francisco Romero, Orange County Leonardo Romero, Orange County Dianna Romero, Orange County Nathalie Romero, San Diego County Cristian Rosete, San Diego County Janet Sandoval, Orange County Jazmine Sapenter-Coulter, Orange County Isbella Saylors, Orange County Jodi Schenck, San Diego County Jacob Seibert, Orange County Nathaniel Serros, Orange County Blake Shimabukuro, Orange County Chaely Sieh, Solano County Sara Smith, Alameda County Jenessa Smith, Orange County Anthony Solomon, Orange County Ana Sosa Kadie Stagas, Orange County Samantha Stanley, Sacramento County Lauren Stanton Horsey, Orange County Joel Swazo, Orange County Rafaela Tapia Rodriguez, San Diego County Talya Thompson, Orange County Ari Tippett, Orange County Sean Tomm Carolyn Travis, Los Angeles County Amy Utter, San Diego County Madeline Utter, Los Angeles County Mark Utter, San Diego County AlexGrey Valdez, Los Angeles County Emilio Valladolid, San Diego County Ashley Vargas, El Dorado County Christiana Walton, Los Angeles County Aleecyah Ward, Los Angeles County Keairah Washington, Madera County

Deandre Waters, Kern County
Joshua Weatherbee, San Diego County
Amari Weatherby, San Joaquin County
Lania Whiteside, Madera County
Emanuel Williams, Kern County
Amy Williamson, Riverside County
Alyx Wilson, Sacramento County
Tyler Zeno, Los Angeles 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 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 Keraan, 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 Chris Hill, Department of Finance Lourdes Morales, Department of Finance