



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,



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.



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.



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.



Sincerely,



John Burton Advocates for Youth
Abode Services
African American Wellness Center for Children & Families
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
 Corporate Social Responsibility Associates
 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
 Doing 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.
 Hillside
 Hollywood NOW
 Housing Authority of the County of Contra Costa
 iFoster
 Irvine Valley College Guardian Scholars Program
 Just in Time for Foster Youth
 Kamali'i Foster Family Agency, Inc.
 Lens Co
 Los Angeles County
 Lutheran Social Services of Northern California
 Make it Happen for Yolo County
 Mary's Path
 Maryvale
 Mesa



Monterey County Children and Family Services Agency
New Alternatives



Norco College
Northern California College Promise Coalition



Oak Grove Sanctuary Palm Springs
Optimist Youth Homes & Family Services



Orange County United Way
Orangewood Foundation



Peacock Acres
Phoenix Transitional Housing Plus



Hillsides

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

Urban Health, Inc.

Urban Strategies Council

Waking the Village

Walden Family Services

Wellnest

Whole Person Learning

Youth and Family Programs

And 251 young adults who have experienced foster care in California:



Roslyn Acosta, Orange County
Sebastian Acosta, Orange County
Jahaziel Aguilera, San Diego County
Kim Alcantar, San Diego County
Ngozi Alumona, San Diego County



Laura Alvarez, Santa Clara County
 Yazmin Alvarez Bernabe, Orange County
 Kaitlyn Anderson, Orange County
 Sarah Anderson, Orange County
 Malia Apelu, San Diego County
 Priscilla Arciniega, San Diego County
 Marlene Arellano, Los Angeles County
 Desiree Armstrong, Fresno County
 Shauneace Arrington, Los Angeles County
 Victoria Ashley
 David Baeza, San Diego County
 Cassandra Bahena, Orange County
 Maria Baldovinos, Fresno County
 Breanna Ballard, Orange County
 Grace Banks, Merced County
 Carol Bardoff, Alameda County
 Daniel Barragan, Orange County
 Esmeralda Barrera, Orange County
 Sharyn Baumheckel, Santa Clara County
 Salem Berhanu, San Diego County
 Daniel Bisuano, Los Angeles County
 Diana Bonilla, Orange County
 Natasha Bradfield, Butte County
 Elena Bringhurst, Fresno County
 Freya Brown, Orange County
 Tashianna Brown, Alameda County
 Naseer Brown, Los Angeles County
 Alex Buckley, San Diego County
 Ashley Burch, San Diego County
 Azula Burke, Sacramento County
 Ana Betina Bustillo, Orange County
 Richard Butcher, Yolo County
 Selina Byers, Orange County
 Laura Caballero, Orange County
 Iziko Calderon, Los Angeles County
 Ashlee Campbell, San Bernardino County
 Delfina Campos, Orange County
 Anne Caney, San Diego County
 Yontae Capers-Stinson, Los Angeles County
 Jesse Cardenas, Yolo County
 Katherine Carpenter, Sutter County
 Alyse Carr, Orange County
 Guiselle Carreon, San Diego County
 Mariah Carrera, Orange County
 Brenda Castillo, Orange County
 Mariah Chavez, Orange County
 Artem Chebnev, Los Angeles County
 Alex Chiang, Orange County



Karli Cirovski, San Diego County
 Kelly Clamens, Riverside County
 Christina Cole, San Joaquin County
 Mariah Corder, San Joaquin County



River Covey, Orange County
 Elijah Crane, Merced County
 Christina Crimi, San Bernardino County



A SENSE OF HOME

Travis Crown, Los Angeles County
 Andrea Cruz, Orange County
 Vanessa Cruz Plascencia, Sonoma County
 Brianna Cuellar, Riverside County



SENECA
 PROVIDER OF RESOURCES | PROFESSIONAL CARE

Ami Curtis, San Diego County
 Rashanda Dauphine, San Francisco County

silegra

Kalila Davis, Orange County
 Gabriela De La Torre, San Diego County



SPECIALTY
 FAMILY FOUNDATION

Jessica Demartini, San Bernardino County
 Sherbert Diaz, Los Angeles County

Stepping Forward LA



Carina Dimapilis, San Diego County
 Destiny Dominguez, San Diego County



STUDENTS
 RISING ABOVE

Michelle Doupe, Placer County
 Briana Downey, Sonoma County



Sycamores
 a better life

Monique Dunn, San Diego County
 Jeanna Edrei, Orange County
 Marcelo Elliott-Lopez, Sacramento County



Machi England, San Diego County
 Jasmine Espinoza, Orange County



TLC
 Child & Family Services
 TRANSITION AGE
 YOUTH HOUSING
 PROGRAMS

Richard Espinoza, Merced County
 Emily Estrada, Los Angeles County
 Gutierrez Evelyn, Orange County



MAKING THE VILLAGE

Damian Faulhaber, San Diego County
 Cynthia Flores, Riverside County



Walden
 Family
 Services

Luis Flores, Orange County
 Judy Freed, San Diego County
 Kayla Fuerte, Orange County



Whole Person Learning

Destiny Galvan, Los Angeles County
 Christina Garcia, San Diego County



URBAN
 HEALTH

Leila Gilkerson, Orange County
 Stephanie Gomez, Orange County



urban
 strategies
 council

Joyce Gonzales, Yuba County
 Violet Gonzales, Sonoma County

Alina Gonzalez, San Diego County
 Natalie Goodliffe, Los Angeles County

Kayla Gordon, Contra Costa County
 Carissa Guillen-Neria, San Bernardino County

Monica Guss, Sacramento County
 Selena Gutierrez, San Diego County

Whimzi Ha, Los Angeles County
 Yvonne Hampton, Solano County

Isiaah Haro, Merced County
Joachim Hausser, Los Angeles County
Tajanea Hayes, San Bernardino County
Isabel Hernandez, Orange County
Vicclaudiana Hernandez, Los Angeles County
Karina Hernandez, Los Angeles County
Kayley Hill, Los Angeles County
Laura Holland, San Diego County
Ashley Holly, Los Angeles County
Tyrese Holt, Los Angeles County
Yuki Huang, San Francisco County
Crystal Huanosta, Los Angeles County
Lisa Huggins, San Joaquin County
Monica Huizar, San Bernardino County
Juleian Isaiah, Orange County
Rozan Jaara, Riverside County
Naomi Jimenez, Los Angeles County
Candiss Johnson, San Diego County
Derrianna Johnson, Los Angeles County
Adriana Johnson, Contra Costa County
Faith Johnson, Los Angeles County
Katherine Jones, Sacramento County
Jean Juarez, San Diego County
Dakota Kaiser, Sonoma County
Dennis Kelley, Sacramento County
Morgen Koonce, San Diego County
Jason Koster, Alameda County
Hailey Koster, Orange County
Zarah Latifi, Butte County
Carolina Llerenas, Los Angeles County
Mariana Lopez, San Diego County
Scarlett Lopez, Orange County
Juliana Lopez, San Diego County
Luzvianeth Lopez, Orange County
Sherry Lozano, San Diego County
Navya Mackey, Los Angeles County
Jeffrey Madrid, Los Angeles County
Gilbert Manuel A., San Diego County
Melissa Martel, Los Angeles County
Jazmyne Martin, Orange County
Nicholas Martinez, San Diego County
Victoria Martínez, San Diego County
Alina Medina, Orange County
Maybelline Mejia, Los Angeles County
Rachel Membreno, San Diego County
Jade Mendez, Los Angeles County
Emilia Mendoza, Orange County
Ari Metzli, Los Angeles County

Angelyn Meza, Merced County
Quincy Monroe, Los Angeles County
Joelynn Montelongo, Butte County
Tina Moraga, San Diego County
Jaimeyana Morris
Brian Morrissette, Orange County
Crystal Mueller, San Diego County
Nataly Munoz, Kern County
Ilynn Nava, San Bernardino County
Reese Odriscoll, San Diego County
Maria Olaiz, Orange County
Aamiyah Orozco, Orange County
Victoria Ortiz, Sonoma County
Joseph Osborn, Los Angeles County
Deyanira Paulino, San Diego County
Axel Pecero, Los Angeles County
Keegan Pederson, Butte County
Caitlin Peterson, Sacramento County
Kaylee Peterson, Los Angeles County
Rosalinda Pina, Orange County
Alyssa Player, San Diego County
Aaron Polanco, Orange County
Angel Ponce, Orange County
Wednesday Pope, El Dorado County
Cherise Pratti, Los Angeles County
Sarah Prince, Orange County
Charles Prowse, Sonoma County
Lisa Purdum, San Diego County
Seth Putnam, Orange County
Adriana Quiroz, Orange County
Isela Ramirez, Orange County
Sasha Randolph, Santa Clara County
Destiny Raya, San Bernardino County
Raylene Raya, San Bernardino County
Lucy Razo, Riverside County
Destiny Rickman, San Bernardino County
Pika Ritz, Los Angeles County
Murjaz Rivers, San Diego County
Tamary Robinson, Los Angeles County
Elizabeth Robinson, Los Angeles County
Aahloni Robinson, Los Angeles County
Berania Rocha, Sacramento County
Maria Rocha, Los Angeles County
Marian Rodriguez, San Diego County
Kevin Rodriguez, Orange County
Billi Romain, Alameda County
Francisco Romero, Contra Costa County
Leonardo Romero, San Francisco County

Dianna Romero, Contra Costa County
Nathalie Romero, Los Angeles County
Cristian Rosete, San Diego County
Allison Ross, San Diego County
Maeleena Saephanh, Shasta County
Andrea Sanchez, San Diego County
Janet Sandoval, Los Angeles County
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Jazmine Sapenter-Coulter, Yolo County
Isbella Saylor, Orange County
Jodi Schenck, San Diego County
Sofia Sease, Orange County
Jacob Seibert, Butte County
Nathaniel Serros, Madera County
Ella Shanks, Yolo County
Blake Shimabukuro, Orange County
Chaely Sieh, Orange County
Sara Smith, Butte County
Jenessa Smith, San Diego County
Anthony Solomon, Orange County
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Kadie Staggs, Shasta County
Samantha Stanley, Sacramento County
Lauren Stanton Horsey, Orange County
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Rafaela Tapia Rodriguez, San Diego County
Blanca Tellez, Orange County
Shannyn Thomas, San Diego County
Talya Thompson, Los Angeles County
Ari Tippet, Los Angeles County
Sean Tomm
Carolyn Travis, Los Angeles County
Gabriela Trujillo, San Diego County
Esmeralda Trujillo, San Diego County
Amy Utter, San Diego County
Madeline Utter, Los Angeles County
Mark Utter, San Diego County
Alex Grey Valdez, Los Angeles County
Emilio Valladolid, San Diego County
Ashley Vargas, Orange County
Daniela Ventura, Orange County
Christiana Walton, Orange County
Aleecyah Ward, Butte County
Keairah Washington, Los Angeles County
Deandre Waters, Yolo County
Joshua Weatherbee, San Diego County
Amari Weatherby, Los Angeles County
Lania Whiteside, Los Angeles County

JoAnn Wilkinson, San Diego County
Emanuel Williams, Solano County
Amy Williamson, Riverside County
Alyx Wilson, Orange County
Leisa Wyman, San Diego County
Tyler Zeno, Sacramento County

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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
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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
Tania Dikho, Office of Assemblymember Ting
Bethany Renfree, Office of Senator Durazo
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Timothy Griffiths, Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 4
Nicole Vasquez, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 2
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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
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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
Joe Stephenshaw, Department of Finance
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