

**Protect Foster Youth in the State Budget:
Reject the Proposed Elimination of Two Housing Programs**

The Newsom Administration proposed to eliminate two housing programs for foster youth in its January 10th budget: the Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP) Housing Supplement and the Housing Navigation and Maintenance Program. These programs are critical and must be maintained for the following reasons:

- 1 in 5 foster youth in California, aged 18 to 21 now experience at least one episode of homelessness while they are in foster care.
- Research shows that individuals who experience homelessness as a youth are the most likely subgroup to become chronically homeless as adults.
- Each year, these two programs house and support 4,300 foster youth and leverage \$29 million in federal funding, which will be lost if these programs are cut.
- The annual cost to the State of California per person to safely house and support these youth with these programs is \$7,400. That is 6 times less than the cost of a homeless shelter, which does not provide services.
- California has a unique responsibility to foster youth, who were removed from their families due to abuse and neglect. When this removal occurred, the State assumed the full legal responsibility to responsibly care for them.

Additional Information

SILP Housing Supplement

The SILP Housing [Supplement](#) will increase the payment made to foster youth, ages 18-20 who are living in a specific foster care placement, the SILP. The level of the payment increased will be based on the cost of housing in the county where the foster youth live. Currently, all youth receive a monthly payment of \$1,206 for all expenses: housing, transportation, food, utilities, school and personal supplies. This is below the poverty line and is a flat rate across California. Unlike youth placed in foster homes, youth in a SILP are their own head of household, rather than joining an existing household. The growth in the cost of housing has outpaced the growth of the SILP rate since the SILP was established in 2010: 80% growth in housing costs in California's 15 highest-cost counties vs. 41% growth of the SILP rate.

Housing Navigation and Maintenance Program

This [program](#) was established 2019 and provides housing navigation and supportive services to former foster youth up to age 25 who hold a special population Housing Choice Voucher for former foster youth issued by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Prior to the expansion of the Housing Navigation & Maintenance Program, California underutilized these federal housing vouchers because county child welfare agencies did not have a source of funding for required supportive services. Since funding has been made available, the number of vouchers has increased by 54%. The effectiveness of this program is one key reason homelessness among transition-age youth in California has decreased 16% between 2020 and 2023.

For more information contact Simone Tureck Lee at simone@jbay.org or visit this [website](#). The preservation of these programs in the state budget is supported by a statewide coalition of organizations, public agencies, and youth who have experienced foster care.



[AND 96 OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND PUBLIC AGENCIES](#)