

# PROTECTING FOSTER YOUTH IN THE STATE BUDGET

Coalition to Restore Proposed Cuts  
to Housing Support Programs



May 15, 2024

# Agenda

- Overview of what's occurred since last call
- What is provided to youth in SILPs in amended foster care rate structure?
- Reaction to amended plan
- Focusing efforts on Housing Navigation & Maintenance Program
- Discussion

# What's Occurred Since Last Coalition Call

- People have felt the pressure and received the message from this coalition that youth in SILPs need more monthly income to afford housing.
- CDSS has released an amended version of their Trailer Bill Language for the proposed new foster care rate structure.
  - Amendments are based on stakeholder feedback gathered from workgroup calls and written feedback.
- The Governor has released a revised budget plan (“May Revise”).
  - Neither SILP Housing Supplement nor Housing Navigation & Maintenance Program restored (nor FURS).
  - Significant additional cuts proposed.
  - “Trigger-on” language included regarding rate reform indicating future investment in the new structure would be subject to the availability of state funding in spring 2026.

# What's Provided to Youth in SILPs in Amended Foster Care Rate Structure?

- Would raise the monthly payment for youth in Supervised Independent Living Placements (SILPs) from **\$1,206** (current “Basic Rate”) to **\$2,288** (proposed Tier 1 Care & Supervision Rate + Strengths Building Rate)
  - **\$1,788** of this funding is intended for basic needs (Care & Supervision Rate)
  - **\$500** of this funding is intended for extra-curricular/enrichment (Strengths Building Rate)
- The Care & Supervision Rate will grow every year based on inflation; the Strengths Building Rate will remain at \$500.
- State intent is that the funding from the Strengths Building Rate will not be considered income or resources for the purposes of benefits eligibility.

# Reaction to Amended Plan



## Pros

- We achieve something significant for foster youth in the face of billions in cuts.
- Youth receive the full Strengths Building Rate, leaving no money on the table.
- Youth do not have to jump through administrative hoops to access their Strengths Building Rate.
- Youth in 53 counties receive a monthly payment that is higher than what they would under the SILP Housing Supplement because not based on local housing costs. **(3,031 or 95% of youth in SILPs)**
- Does not require special automation; will go into effect seamlessly with foster care rate reform automation.

## Cons

- Dependent on minimal rates reform package passing.
- If youth have particularly expensive housing, they may have to dip into their Strengths Building portion of the monthly payment to cover housing.
- Youth in 5 counties receive less than they would under SILP Housing Supplement because not based on local housing costs **(153 or 5% of youth in SILPs)**

# More Info on Changes to Proposed Rate Structure

- View amended Trailer Bill Language: <https://esd.dof.ca.gov/trailer-bill/public/trailerBill/pdf/1062>
- Visit CDSS' webpage on rates for walkthrough charts: <https://cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/cdss-programs/foster-care/foster-care-audits-and-rates/foster-care-rate-reform-proposal>
- Attend a CDSS May Revise briefing on Friday, May 17 from 10-11am.
- Attend a feedback session related to nonminor dependents on Friday, May 31 from 10-11am.
- To attend either session, email [Emily.Smallson@dss.ca.gov](mailto:Emily.Smallson@dss.ca.gov).

# Refocusing Efforts on Housing Navigation & Maintenance Program

- The Senate Budget Subcommittee 4 will take action on whether to preserve this program (and others) next week
  - **Submit written testimony – instructions here:** <https://tinyurl.com/written-testimony-sub4>
  - **Call Subcommittee Chair Stephen Padilla this week**
    - Call (916) 651-4018 and you can leave this information with who answers:  
*“I’d like to provide my position on an item being considered in budget subcommittee 4. My name is \_\_\_ and I represent [organization/agency]. I want to express strong support for the preservation of the \$13.7 million Housing Navigation & Maintenance Program.”*
- Stay tuned...things are moving fast!

# FOR FUTURE QUESTIONS OR MORE INFORMATION

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