

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.
- Any payments issued for this program 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.

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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