

PROTECTING FOSTER YOUTH IN THE STATE BUDGET

Coalition to Restore Proposed Cuts
to Housing Support Programs



May 23, 2024

Agenda

- Brief Recap of SILP-Related Amendments in Proposed Foster Car Rate Structure
- Where We're Directing Current Advocacy for Housing Navigation & Maintenance Program
- New Social Media Posts
- Discussion


Recap: We've Reached a Strong Compromise for Youth in SILPs



The California Department of Social Services has amended their proposed new foster care rate structure to significantly increase the Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP) monthly payment starting in 2026.

- Would raise the monthly payment youth in SILPs receive from \$1,206 to **\$2,288 statewide**.
 - \$1,788 of this funding is intended for basic needs (“Care & Supervision Rate”); \$500 of this funding is intended for “Strengths Building Activities” such as extra-curriculars.
 - There will no changes to the oversight of this monthly payment: Youth may continue to use it where they need to/choose to.
 - This increase would provide more funding than the SILP Housing Supplement would have, to 95% of youth in SILPs across 53 counties.
 - State *intent* is that the funding from the Strengths Building Rate will not be considered income or resources for the purposes of benefits eligibility—*state is checking with federal partners on this*.

This is a Win for Youth in SILPs, But We're Not Done Yet...

- This increase meets the goal of the SILP Housing Supplement: Preventing homelessness among foster youth in SILPs by equipping them with more money to afford housing.
 - This is a **bright spot** in the face of billions in budget cuts.
 - Given this, we are no longer advocating for the SILP Housing Supplement.
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- ***But***, for this to move forward for youth in SILPs, **the rate proposal must pass.**
 - The Governor has placed a **“trigger”** on the rate proposal, meaning that it even if the trailer bill passes, the new rates would only move forward if there was funding for them in 2026.
 - The legislature and advocates are pushing for removing the trigger.

Where We're Directing Current Advocacy for Housing Navigation & Maintenance Program & Removing the Trigger on Foster Care Rates

ASSEMBLY

- Subcommittees had final hearings this week; full Budget Committee hearing scheduled for 5/30.
- **Submit written testimony to Assembly Budget Chair Jesse Gabriel next week on both issues:** link will be emailed Tuesday.

SENATE

- Appears Subcommittees are continuing to meet into next week.
- **You can still submit written testimony to Senate Budget Subcommittee Chair Padilla between now and 5/29 on HNMP:**
<https://tinyurl.com/written-testimony-sub4>
- **Submit written testimony to Senate Budget Chair Wiener once the subcommittees close out on both issues (*we will notify coalition*).**

GOVERNOR

- We will want to reach out to the Governor's Office on both issues after the Legislature releases their budget (June).
- We will keep coalition up to date on timing.

Social media posts!

On May 22nd, several Assemblymembers joined the Budget Subcommittee on Human Services hearing to speak out against the numerous #CABudget cuts proposed by the Newsom Administration to human services programs, including those serving foster youth. Thank you California Assembly for standing with foster youth! #notthesecutsnotthesekids



May 22nd - California Assemblymembers join the Budget Subcommittee on Human Services to voice concerns & opposition to proposed child welfare cuts

#notthesecutsnotthesekids



May 22nd - California Assembly Budget Subcommittee on State Administration discusses the proposed elimination of the \$13.7 million Housing Navigation & Maintenance Program serving former foster youth

“It’s embarrassing that we can’t even think of \$13.7 million to support the youth programs that have helped measurably more than 1,000 former foster youth with their stability so with all the complications in their lives, they’re not falling into homelessness.” - Assemblymember Chris Ward on the Housing Navigation & Maintenance Program.

@asmchrisward78 #CABudget
#notthesecutsnotthesekids

Take action: <https://jbay.org/advocate>

FOR FUTURE QUESTIONS OR MORE INFORMATION

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