

INCREASED MONTHLY PAYMENTS FOR FOSTER YOUTH PLACED IN SUPERVISED INDEPENDENT LIVING PLACEMENTS (SILP): Adopted in California's Rate Reform Eff. 2027

In response to the Newsom Administration's elimination of the SILP Housing Supplement established in 2023 which would have increased monthly SILP payments based on local cost of housing, an alternative was negotiated resulting in a statewide increase to monthly SILP payments within the California Department of Social Services' forthcoming foster care rate reform. The 2024-25 California state budget includes funding to begin automation for this sweeping rate reform. This compromise resulting in an increase to monthly SILP payments was championed by Assemblymember Phil Ting and Senators María Elena Durazo and Tom Umberg, in coalition with current and former foster youth and over 100 community-based organizations and public agencies across the state. Information about this investment is included in the human services budget trailer bill, [AB 161](#) and budget bill, [AB 107](#).

WHAT IS THE SILP?

The SILP is a foster care placement for "non-minor dependents" (NMDs), foster youth ages 18, 19, and 20. The SILP is the least restrictive placement for NMDs prepared to live independently without supportive services. Unlike other foster care placements where housing is provided, youth in SILPs are responsible for identifying and securing their own housing, which may be an apartment or house rented alone or with roommates; a room rental, a single room occupancy hotel, or college dorm. As of 4/1/24, the SILP was the single-most utilized placement for NMDs in California, with 3,028 (41%) NMDs in this placement.

HOW MUCH WILL THE MONTHLY SILP PAYMENT INCREASE UNDER RATE REFORM?

The SILP rate is currently the "Basic Rate," which in FY 2024-25 is \$1,258 per month. Under rate reform, which will take effect July 1, 2027 or when automation is in place, the monthly SILP payment will increase to \$2,288. This new amount will consist of a "Care and Supervision Rate" of \$1,788, which is intended for food, clothing, shelter, school supplies, personal incidentals, and reasonable travel; and a "Strengths Building Rate" of \$500, which is intended for a youth's strengths building objectives (e.g. extra-curricular/enrichment activities).

Like the Basic Rate does currently, the Care and Supervision Rate will increase annually, based on inflation according to the California Necessities Index. The Strengths Building Rate will remain at \$500.

WILL YOUTH STILL RECEIVE THEIR FULL SILP PAYMENT DIRECTLY?

Because youth in SILPs cover the cost of their housing, the SILP is the only foster care placement where the monthly foster care rate is paid directly to the youth. Under rate reform, this will not change; youth will receive the full \$2,288 directly. Youth currently receive their SILP payments via check. There will be no change to this process; the checks will just be a higher amount. Youth will still have the authority to make their own decisions about how to use their monthly SILP payment.

WHEN WILL THE INCREASE TO SILP PAYMENTS TAKE EFFECT?

The new foster care rate structure including the increase to SILP payments will take effect on July 1, 2027, or when the new rates are automated in the California Statewide Automated Welfare System (CalSAWS).

HOW CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT CALIFORNIA'S FRAMEWORK FOR FOSTER CARE RATE REFORM?

State Law required the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to establish an ongoing payment structure to replace the interim foster care rate structure created as part of Continuum of Care Reform. CDSS gathered feedback from stakeholders and aimed to develop a framework that bases rates on a child's assessed level of needs and strengths, rather than placement type. To learn more, visit CDSS' [webpage](#) on rate reform, which includes summary documents, presentations, notes from stakeholder calls, crosswalks of trailer bill language, and FAQs.