

2024 State Budget, Legislative and Regulatory Priorities

*Focus on Racial Justice and Equity, Placement Stability,
Housing Stability and Education Stability*

Creating a child-centered, family-focused child welfare system for children who cannot remain safely in the home of a parent

- **AB 2906 (Bryan)** - Disallowing the practice of county agencies collecting survivor benefits to pay for the cost of foster care and creating notification requirements to increase the number of eligible foster youth linked to Social Security benefits upon their exit from care
- Ensuring proposed permanent foster care rate structure supports children and youth in foster care and caregivers
- Advocating against the elimination of the critical children, youth and caregiver support Family Urgent Response System (FURS) proposed in the Governor's FY 24-25 Budget
- Removing barriers and creating more opportunities in the foster care system for children to be housed with non-relative extended family member caregivers regardless of a prior criminal conviction, provided that the conviction does not endanger the child; and to ensure that these caregivers receive ongoing support if they subsequently assume guardianship or adopt the child

Ensuring that all transition age youth who elect to participate in Extended Foster Care or are aging out of foster care are appropriately and safely housed and have access to appropriate supports and services

- **AB 2477 (Zbur)** - Clarifying ambiguities in state law that appear to cap youths' cash savings while they are in Extended Foster Care to help promote successful transitions when youth exit foster care
- **SB 1079 (Menjivar)** - Increasing housing stability and enhancing the impact of California's investments in housing for youth by creating a dedicated funding source, the 2024 Youth Housing Bond Fund, to combat youth homelessness and allowing both public agencies and community-based organizations with specific youth expertise to apply for youth bond funds
- Opposing cuts to transition age youth housing supports including Supervised Independent Living Program (SILP) housing supplement and Housing Navigation and Maintenance Program proposed in the Governor's FY 24-25 Budget

Ensuring equitable access to services and supports for communities that are most impacted by the foster care system

- **AB 2108 (Ramos)** - Building on past legislative efforts and formalizing best practices by requiring notification to family members, court appointed counsel, tribes and tribal representatives, law enforcement and the court of jurisdiction

when a child or nonminor dependent is missing from foster care to locate, place and stabilize children and youth when they return, with a particular focus on the inclusion of tribes and tribal representatives to address the crisis of missing indigenous youth

- Extending and augmenting funding for child maltreatment and foster care entry prevention programs and services for California's most vulnerable families by extending access to the existing \$222.45 million Family First Prevention Services State Block Grant funding for one year until June 30, 2025, and proposing ongoing funding of \$100 million per year