

**2023 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*
  - **SB 824 (Ashby): Strengthening Placement and Permanency with Extended Family:** Fulfills the promise of SB 354 (Skinner, 2021) by:
    - Extending the provisions of SB 354 to non-relative extended family members (NREFM) and, for cases governed by ICWA, extended family members;
    - Ensuring that state permanency funding is available to these caregivers when guardianship and adoption is in the best interest of the child; and
    - Clarifying the eligibility requirements for the Approved Relative Caregiver (ARC) program to include families that are denied as Tribally Approved Homes and caregivers whose approval has been rescinded.
  
- *Ensuring educational success for foster youth by increasing educational stability and opportunities for academic achievement*
  - Increasing education travel reimbursement rate to assist caregivers who provide transportation to promote children remaining in their school of origin.
  
- *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 369 (Zbur): Strengthening the Continuum of Independent Living Supports for Former Foster Youth:** Requires CDSS to exercise the federal option to provide independent living services to transition age youth up to age 23 and to evaluate and update the Independent Living Program; and amends state law to clarify that young adults can accumulate cash savings while in Extended Foster Care.
  - **AB 866 (Rubio): Food Assistance for Nonminor Dependents:** Addresses food insecurity among nonminor dependents and mitigating the impact of foster care payments on their CalFresh eligibility by establishing a state supplement to pay the difference between the maximum CalFresh grant and the amount the youth receives from CalFresh based on their income.
  - **AB 1512 (Bryan): Preserving Federal Benefits for Youth in Foster Care:** Establishes procedures for counties to conserve foster youths' Social Security/SSI benefits for their current and future use rather than using those benefits to pay for the cost of their foster care placement.
  - **SB 456 (Menjivar): Housing Vulnerable Youth:** Combats homelessness and housing instability for California's most vulnerable youth by expanding opportunities for service providers to apply directly for Homekey 2.0 youth set aside funds.

- *Ensuring equitable access to services and supports for communities that are most impacted by the foster care system*
  - **AB 273 (Ramos): Protecting Children Missing From Foster Care:** Ensures that state protocols to locate children missing from foster care are inclusive of tribes and provides for court oversight of the county's investigation into the child's whereabouts.
  - **AB 505 (Ting): Office of Youth and Community Restoration:** Strengthens the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) and the OYCR Ombudsperson's authority to access records and provide meaningful oversight over juvenile probation facilities, training, and operations. whereabouts.
  - **AB 1324 (Bryan): Debt Cancellation for Child Welfare-Impacted Families:** Instructs county child support departments to cancel past debts incurred by parents for the costs of their child's foster care placement, based on research demonstrating that such debts impede reunification and entrench families in poverty.

