



CWDA

Advancing Human Services
for the Welfare of *All* Californians

Sponsored 2026 Budget Priorities & Legislation

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Sponsored Legislation

AB 1846 (Stefani) Relative Placement Preference

- Clarifies that the preference to place a foster child with a relative extends through the length of the case and does not end at the dispositional hearing.

Sponsored Legislation

AB 2478 (Schultz) Kinship Family Approval Program

- Implements federal changes and AB 2830 (Rivas) to streamline the approval of kinship caregivers, including Non-Related Extended Family Members.
- Technical language provided by CDSS. Addresses some cleanup from SB 354 (Skinner) which was previously attempted in SB 824 (Ashby) and Co-Sponsored with Alliance for Children's Rights and Children's Law Center.

Sponsored Legislation

AB 2684 (Nguyen) Non-Minor Dependents Out of State Virtual Visitation

- Currently a spot bill.
- Federal law signed in 2025 allows states to use virtual visitation.
- Allows an NMD to opt-into virtual visitations with their social worker if they live out of state. Requires social workers to visit at least 4 times per year.

Sponsored Legislation

SB 1143 (Caballero) Forensic Interviews in Child Welfare

- Clarifies that if a county utilizes a Child Advocacy Center (CAC) to conduct a forensic interview in a child abuse investigation, law enforcement, county counsel, and child welfare can access the recording of the forensic interview.

Budget Priority

Emergency Response Funding

- \$100 million was allocated 5 years ago for Emergency Response Funding for county child welfare agencies. That money ends in 2026.
- CWDA is requesting \$20 million in one-time funding for Emergency Response for FY 26-27 to continue this critical investment.



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Questions?

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