

The logo for JBAY, featuring the letters "JBAY" in white, bold, sans-serif font on a dark blue square background with an orange horizontal bar at the top.

JBAY

John Burton Advocates for Youth

View information on JBAY's 2026 proposals at:

<https://jbay.org/2026-advocacy/>

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Budget Proposal to Protect California's Safety Net for Youth Experiencing Homelessness

Assemblymember Chris Ward (D-San Diego)

JBAY is leading a coalition of 50+ organizations supporting Assemblymember Ward's budget proposal to establish an ongoing investment of \$80 million in youth homelessness.

Budget Proposal: \$80 million ongoing from State General Fund (SGF), offset by 10% of this year's Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) appropriation.

What does this mean?

- If HHAP is funded at \$1 billion, no additional SGF dollars would be necessary, because after administrative funds are subtracted, HHAP's youth set-aside would be about \$80 million.
- If HHAP is funded at \$500 million, then about \$40 million in SGF dollars would be necessary to reach the \$80 million funding guarantee.
- If HHAP is not funded, then \$80 million in SGF dollars would be necessary to reach the \$80 million funding guarantee.

AB 2162: Preventing Homelessness Among Former Foster Youth & Maximizing Federal Housing Assistance

Assemblymember Isaac Bryan (D-Los Angeles)

Bill Provisions:

- **Increases the upper age limit from 24 to 28** for the state-administered Housing Navigation and Maintenance Program (HNMP), to better **match eligibility for federal FYI/FUP Vouchers** for former foster youth.
 - *HNMP is primarily used to provide housing navigation and services to youth with vouchers. Youth can receive a voucher up until they turn 25, but can keep it for up to 5 years.*
- For counties that accept HNMP funds, requires **reporting on FYI/FUP vouchers** to improve transparency and build statewide accountability for maximizing federal funds.
- **Clarifies state statute** to reflect HNMP's purpose.

AB 2766: Improving Access to Student Housing & Course Enrollment

Assemblymember Patrick Ahrens (D-Silicon Valley)

Bill Provisions:

- Establishes **priority housing at California Community Colleges for eligible students with experience in foster care or homelessness**, aligning CCCs with existing CSU and UC practices
- Requires housing applications to **identify current/former foster youth and students experiencing homelessness** across CCCs, CSUs and UCs
- Improves transparency by ensuring eligibility information is **clearly posted on campus websites** across CCCs, CSU, UCs
- Allows **deferral (not waiver)** of housing deposits and upfront housing fees until financial aid disbursement
- Aligns priority registration eligibility with **NextUp eligibility** so that all youth in NextUp, including those over the age of 25, have access at the CCCs

AB 2251: Making Cost of Attendance (COA) Transparent, Flexible, & Student-Centered

Assemblymember Celeste Rodriguez (D-San Fernando)

Co-sponsored with California Student Aid Commission, UC Student Association, and Cal State Student Association

To receive the Cal Grant, institutions must:

- **Publicly explain how COA budgets are calculated**
- **Post information about the COA appeal process** on their websites
- Allows students to request **COA adjustments for any expense category, with no limit on the number of requests**
- Establish **clear timelines for review and notification** of decisions
- Provides students with the **opportunity of a second review process** for an adjustment request that is denied, if requested.
- Allow students to **submit appeal documentation in electronic or paper form.**

AB 2764: Increasing Stability for Foster Youth by Removing Barriers to Extended Foster Care

Assemblymember Patrick Ahrens (D-Silicon Valley)

Co-sponsored with California Alliance of Child and Family Services and California Youth Connection

Bill Provisions:

- **Prohibit arbitrary re-entry or placement requirements that are not grounded in state or federal law**, such as mandatory waiting or “cooling-off” periods, or requirements to participate in both work *and* school.
- **Prohibit involuntary discharge** from EFC or specific foster care placements for failing to meet participation conditions that **exceed legal standards**.
- **Align statute with recently released permanent Community Care Licensing regulations** for the Transitional Housing Placement for Nonminor Dependents (THP-NMD).