

## 2022 CWDA Child Welfare/Foster Care Legislative and Budget Priorities (4/20/22)

County child welfare agencies continue to face challenges in meeting the diverse needs of foster children, youth and families. This is due to many factors, including pandemic-related impacts, a growing mental health crisis among all children and youth, and incomplete Continuum of Care (CCR) implementation. Additionally, recent juvenile justice reforms are impacting child welfare and highlights the need to invest in services and supports. To address these issues, CWDA is pursuing both legislative changes and budgetary investments in the following areas:

Family-Based Care Proposals	Cost in SGF	TBL/BBL/Legislation
<b>Resource Family Approval:</b> Fund the mandated Resource Family Approval (RFA) process. <i>SEIU co-sponsoring.</i>	\$100 million, on-going	No BBL nor TBL developed or proposed.
<b>FPRRS:</b> Re-instate Foster Parent Recruitment, Retention and Support (FPRRS) Funding to child welfare and probation agencies. <i>SEIU &amp; CPOC co-sponsoring.</i>	\$100 million, on-going	TBL to amend WIC 16003.5.
<b>Up-Front Family Finding/Workforce:</b> Provide dedicated funding to county child welfare agencies to implement evidence-based models of family-finding and child-specific recruitment, such as “30 Days to Family.” <a href="#">AB 2579</a> Asm. Bennet (Gipson/Stone co-authors). <i>SEIU co-sponsoring.</i>	\$15.2 million, on-going	Refer to <a href="#">AB 2579</a> .
<b>Enhanced ISFC:</b> Update the current Intensive Services Foster Care (ISFC) program to include a mental health component, as an alternative to Therapeutic Foster Care, and update staffing requirements to enable county agency to deliver case management services through a county-administered ISFC model, and other modifications.	\$100,000 One-time cost to update the regulations.	TBL to amend WIC 18360.10, 18360.35 and add WIC 18361.
<b>FURS:</b> Clarify populations of youth eligible for the Family Urgent Response System (FURS), specifically: all children/youth in family maintenance, those investigated by ER but not detained, children placed by the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children, and emancipated foster youth. <a href="#">SB 1090</a> by Sen. Hurtado. <i>ChildrenNow co-sponsoring.</i>	Absorbable within current FURS budget.	Refer to <a href="#">SB 1090</a> .
<b>Specialized Rates:</b> Amend AB 2944 to allow rates for specialized programming to be implemented on a statewide basis, rather than on a county-by-county basis only. For example, this would allow use of the ISFC static rate for emergency homes.	\$1 million; on-going for support to DSS for this process.	TBL to amend WIC 11460.
<b>Family-based services/Substance Use Disorders (SUD):</b> Establishes a grant program through CDSS to serve youth who have substance-use needs. Requires CDSS and DHCS to identify, for implementation, evidence-based models and promising practices to serve youth with through family-based treatment settings, establish provider incentives	\$5 million, one-time grant to counties	Refer to <a href="#">AB 2259</a> .

to establish trauma-informed models of care and treatment, and provide technical assistance/training to counties/providers to implement models of care. <a href="#">AB 2259</a> Asm. Berman.		
<b>Subtotal of Family-Based Care Package</b>	\$221.3 million	
<b>Transition-Aged Youth and Insurance</b>	<b>Cost in SGF</b>	
<b>Independent Living Programs:</b> Enhance the Independent Living Program (ILP) to better engage child welfare and probation-involved youth in skill-building. <a href="#">AB 2306</a> by Asm. Cooley.	\$18 million; on-going	Refer to <a href="#">AB 2306</a>
<b>TAY Transitional Housing:</b> Create a family-based residential care model as an alternative to the Transitional Housing Placement Program for Minors (THPP-M), operated through Foster Family Agencies or county-based agencies. <a href="#">AB 2306</a> by Asm. Cooley.	\$500,000, one-time to DSS for the workgroup	Refer to <a href="#">AB 2306</a>
<b>Insurance:</b> Expand the current Foster Family Home and Small Family Home (FSH) Insurance Fund to create a statewide insurance pool to cover personal and property liability for both family-based and congregate-care facilities. Provide state legal counsel to represent providers if their acts/omissions were in good faith. <a href="#">AB 2306</a> by Asm. Cooley.	\$5 million; on-going	Refer to <a href="#">AB 2306</a>
<b>Subtotal of TAY and Insurance Package</b>	\$23.5 million	
<b>Congregate Care and Cross-Over Issues</b>	<b>Cost in SGF</b>	
<b>Revisit STRTP Model:</b> Establish a workgroup to revisit and establish new licensing standards for multi-model STRTPs that include those with, and without, integrated mental health programs. Establish SUD-specific STRTPs. Require certain elements be included including, but not limited to, 90 day no eject/no reject, enhanced staff training, required use of CQI tools by providers. Consider RBS-type financing, regional rate-setting and use of CANS for rate. Require DSS to perform actuarial analysis of STRTP operational costs.	\$1.0 million one-time cost to DSS & DHCS for staffing workgroup; unknown future costs due to new rates.	TBL to add WIC 11461.21
<b>Preserving Treatment for Youth:</b> Implement legislation to require “bed holds” for foster youth returning to an STRTP from a brief hospitalization or psychiatric stay. Allow child-specific funding to be used to cover the cost of the bed holds.	No cost.	TBL to amend Health and Safety Code 1562.01
<b>Staffing Unused Facilities:</b> Permit counties to utilize existing STRTP facilities that are vacant or which have empty beds, to staff those facilities for use by foster youth requiring either temporary care or STRTP-level placement, through MOU agreements with STRTP providers, without a change in licensure.	No cost.	TBL to add Health and Safety Code 1562.05

<b>Intensive Assessment and Transition Facilities:</b> Amend the current Transitional Shelter Care Facility (TSCF) statute into “Intensive Assessment and Transition Facilities” that are focused on foster youth who require STRTP or other higher level of care and who are in transition to other high-intensity treatments. Model would be co-staffed with behavioral health, regional center and other agencies pursuant to the AB 2083 MOU agreements. Establish a Title IVE rate for these facilities.	\$5.8 million, on-going	TBL to amend to amend H&S Code 1502.3 (TSCF) and WIC 16521.6 (AB 2083 code section)
<b>State Intensive Assessment and Transition Facility:</b> Require DSS to establish two regional care facilities in California for the temporary care of foster youth with intensive needs.	\$2.5 million, on-going	TBL add WIC 16001.2
<b>Placement Identification:</b> Require DSS to explore and make recommendations for an automated solution to placement matching, including identifying the appropriate care setting that meets the youth’s therapeutic and other needs, and to improve matching foster youth with care providers.	\$500,000, one-time.	TBL to add WIC 16520.5.
<b>Subtotal of Congregate Care Package</b>	\$9.8 million	
<b>Complex Care</b>	<b>Cost in SGF</b>	
<b>Complex Care Child-Specific Funding:</b> Reduce administrative barriers to the use of the funds by allowing counties to spend their allocations immediately, upon the identification of child-specific needs, and require counties to report thereafter on the use of the funds. Increase allowable uses for these funds to address a wider range of child-specific needs. <i>CPOC co-sponsoring.</i>	No cost	TBL to amend WIC 16001.1
<b>Complex Care Capacity Building:</b> The 2021-22 State Budget provide \$43 million one-time over five years to counties for capacity building to serve foster youth with complex needs. This proposal would modify allowable uses of the funds to enable counties to increase capacity of care options locally. <i>CPOC co-sponsoring.</i>	No cost.	TBL to amend WIC 16001.1
<b>CWS Secondary Support Staff/Workforce:</b> Augment the \$1.4 million for staffing complex care to intensive case management in support of youth and families with intensive, complex needs. <i>SEIU co-sponsoring.</i>	\$20 million, on-going	BBL
<b>Probation cross-over youth/Workforce:</b> Co-staff Probation with child welfare to provide additional a team-based approach to serving youth with trauma-based needs who are in transition between juvenile justice and child welfare agency programs. <i>SEIU co-sponsoring.</i>	\$9.2 million; on-going	BBL

<b>Community Treatment Facilities:</b> Increase State Supplemental Rate for Community Treatment Facilities (CTFs) and require DHCS and DSS to evaluate model for continued use and any necessary future changes.	\$4.6 million; on-going	TBL to amend WIC 4094.1, 4094.2, 4094.7.
<b>Regional Care Administrator:</b> Establish a pilot project for one or more regionalized Accountable Care Organization (ACO), or similar structures, as permitted under Medicaid to manage and coordinate the complex care needs for some foster youth, to include direct contracting with service providers, quality assurance and oversight, blended funding, and specialized rate-setting.	\$3.2 million, one-time of which \$250,000 to DSS/DHCS for staffing.	TBL to add WIC 16521.9
<b>Subtotal Package Cost</b>	\$37.0 million	
<b>Regional Center Youth</b>		
<b>Regional Center Youth:</b> Provide funding to (1) Dedicated navigators for foster youth at regional centers; (2) expand regional center facility capacity based on AB 2083 gaps analysis, for example, Enhanced Behavioral Support Homes, Mental Health Rehab Centers; (3) Implement provisional eligibility for children and youth in foster care and who are candidates of foster care.	\$30 million, on-going. Includes -\$2.625 for item #1 -\$7.5 million for item #2 -\$20.4m for item #3.	TBL to amend WIC 4512 and BBL to provide funding to CA Department of Developmental Services
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$ 321.4million</b>	