



Child Welfare Council

June 10, 2026



State of California
Child Welfare Council





Housekeeping Items

- **Bagley–Keene Open Meeting Act:**
Per the Bagley–Keene Open Meeting Act, CWC Members who are participating remotely must be visible on camera during the open portion of the meeting, unless it is technologically impracticable to do so. If you are unable to be on camera, please indicate so in the Zoom chat.
- Council Members attending via Zoom – Please **rename** yourself as follows: First Last – Member (i.e., Jane Smith – Member)
- Please **remain on mute** when not presenting or planning to speak.



Options for Member Comments



In person

- Members **participating in person**, seek recognition of the Co-Chairs by raising your hand and wait for the microphone before speaking

Virtual

- Members **participating virtually**, “Raise Hand”

Options for Public Comment



In person

- Members of the public **participating in person** may seek to make comments during the Public Comment portion of the meeting by letting one of the meeting staff know

Virtual

- Members of the public **participating virtually** should raise their hand in Zoom if they want to make a comment during the Public Comment portion of the meeting

Call to Order

Justice Stacy Boulware Eurie, Co-Chair

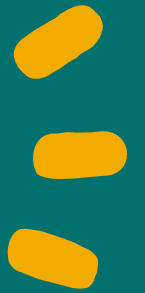
Secretary Kim Johnson, Co-Chair



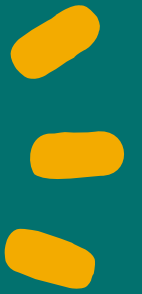
Child Welfare Council Meeting



ANNOUNCEMENTS



PUBLIC COMMENT



A young child with dark hair, wearing a red t-shirt and blue and white striped overalls, is holding a red toy airplane with black wheels. The child is looking off to the side with a focused expression. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a play area with colorful toys.

CalHHS Updates

Budget & Legislative Update

Secretary Kim Johnson, Co-Chair

Budget Updates for Children and Families

CDSS Specific Updates

Current Year and Budget Year Overviews

- **Current Year FY2025-26:** May Revision includes \$10 billion (\$1.1 billion General Fund) in FY2025-26 for Child Welfare Services Programs, which reflects a decrease of \$0.9 million (\$2.5 million General Fund) from the Governor's Budget.
 - The decrease reflects a slower foster care and Fed-GAP caseload growth than previously projected, partially offset by growth in the average foster care and Federal Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment (Fed-GAP) grant, and foster care expenditures associated with the home-based family care rate.
- **Budget Year FY2026-27:** May Revision proposes \$10.5 billion (\$1.1 billion General Fund) in 2026-27, which reflects a net increase of \$180.1 million (\$75.3 million General Fund) from the Governor's Budget.
 - The net increase reflects growth in the projected foster care expenditures associated with the home-based family care rate and inclusion of the 2023-24 Continuum of Care Reform reconciliation funding.

Continued Support for the Title IV-E Stipend Project

- May Revision proposes a one-time augmentation of \$18.4 million GF to provide continuity for those currently enrolled in Bachelors of Social Work/Masters of Social Work programs. This funding will provide a bridge to adjustments of sharing ratios in the Title IV-E Stipend Project contract, so the training plans reflect the allowable reimbursement percentage for Title IV-E eligible foster youth.
 - The Senate Budget plan further proposes an additional \$4.5 million in one-time funds to support this program.
 - Budget discussions continue, but the Administration, Senate, and Assembly all propose continuing this valuable program.

Other Budget Highlights

- Tiered Rate Structure: While there are no additional investments to the TRS proposed, implementation efforts continue.
- Child Welfare Services – California Automated Response and Engagement System (CWS-CARES) May Revise includes \$357.3 million (\$179.8M General Fund) for the continued development and implementation of the CWS-CARES.

Committee & Task Force Updates

- Permanency Committee: Bob Friend & Hon. Leonard Edwards (Ret.)
- Data Linkage and Information Sharing Committee: Dr. Daniel Webster
- Behavioral Health Committee: Karen Larsen & Pete Weldy
- Prevention and Early Intervention Committee: Kathryn Icenhower & Dana Blackwell



PEI COMMITTEE UPDATE: A Focus on Child and Family Well-Being

Child Welfare Council Meeting

June 10, 2026

PEI Well-Being Workgroup

Purpose: To bring a focused conversation of Child, Family, and Community Well-Being to the Child Welfare Council for strategic discussion. The primary goal is to present and adopt a set of recommendations that will continue to advance Well-Being for all children and families in California.

The Process: The PEI Well-Being Workgroup has grounded its work in state and national research to inform a recommended approach for California. The process has included:

- Selection and research on 14 jurisdictions with well-being goals and focus aligned with California's efforts to date, including CA counties and other states.
- Extensive review of 7 of the 14 jurisdictions chosen based on their innovative approach, multi-system considerations, alignment with the current efforts in California and what seems to be sustainable change.

Research Focus: The Original 14 Jurisdictions

Key questions we researched

- What was the impetus for starting. For example: Community-driven, influence of a high-level gov't official, community crisis (child fatality, lawsuit), other?
- What were their goals?
- What built momentum?
- Who was key to the change?
- What was/is their definition of Well-Being?
- How permanent is the change?
- How are they leveraging and braiding funding streams? For example, what are the federal, state, and local funding streams, and how are they leveraging them?
- Do they have outcomes at this stage? If yes, what are the well-being outcomes they are measuring, and what data are they using to measure?
- Was the change legislated, or did the change create legislation?

Extensive Research on 7 Promising Jurisdictions

All 7 jurisdictions are “state supervised, county administered”

- Alleghany County, PA
- Calaveras County, CA
- Colorado
- New York City
- New York State
- Ohio
- San Diego County, CA

The “Design Features” Analyzed:

- Organizational Structure: System design and when the system change was initiated; child-welfare or cross-system approach
- Primary Orientation: Prevention-focused, intervention-focused, whole-family, or system-alignment oriented
- Program Coverage: Audience served and services provided
- Coordination Method: How cross-system/department collaboration works
- Financing Approach: How financing is structured and aligned; blending and braiding; potential for sustainability.
- What is Tracked: Metrics identified; how success is determined; methods for collecting.
- Results: Early outcomes and learnings
- Critical Enablers: What and/or who made it work

Next Steps & Questions

Now through December

- Conduct interviews with the 7 target jurisdictions to better understand planned and realized outcomes, barriers, and overall learnings
- Share synthesis and learnings from all research in advance of the September CWC meeting
- September CWC meeting: Invite 1 – 2 jurisdictions to present and discuss learnings, through a frame of “how does this align with the work in California”
- December CWC meeting: Share a set of preliminary recommendations for discussion, with a formal set of recommendations for March 2027

Questions and/or Curiosities

More Committee & Task Force Updates

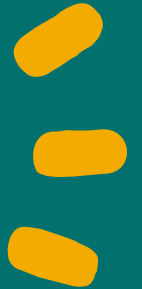
- Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Action Team: Leslie Heimov & Kate Walker Brown
- Empowerment Committee: Jevon Wilkes
- Youth Justice Committee: Hon. Katherine Lucero (Ret.)



INFORMATION ITEM

MANDATED REPORTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MRAC) UPDATE

Kathryn Icenhower and Dana Blackwell
PEI Co-Chairs





**Mandated Reporting to
Community Supporting**

*Communities Keeping Children Safe
and Families Together*

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT: Mandated Reporting Advisory Committee (MRAC)

Child Welfare Council Meeting

June 10, 2026



In December, the CWC gave the greenlight to continue advancing the recommendations with the same process, partnership, and commitment demonstrated during the development of the MRAC implementation plan

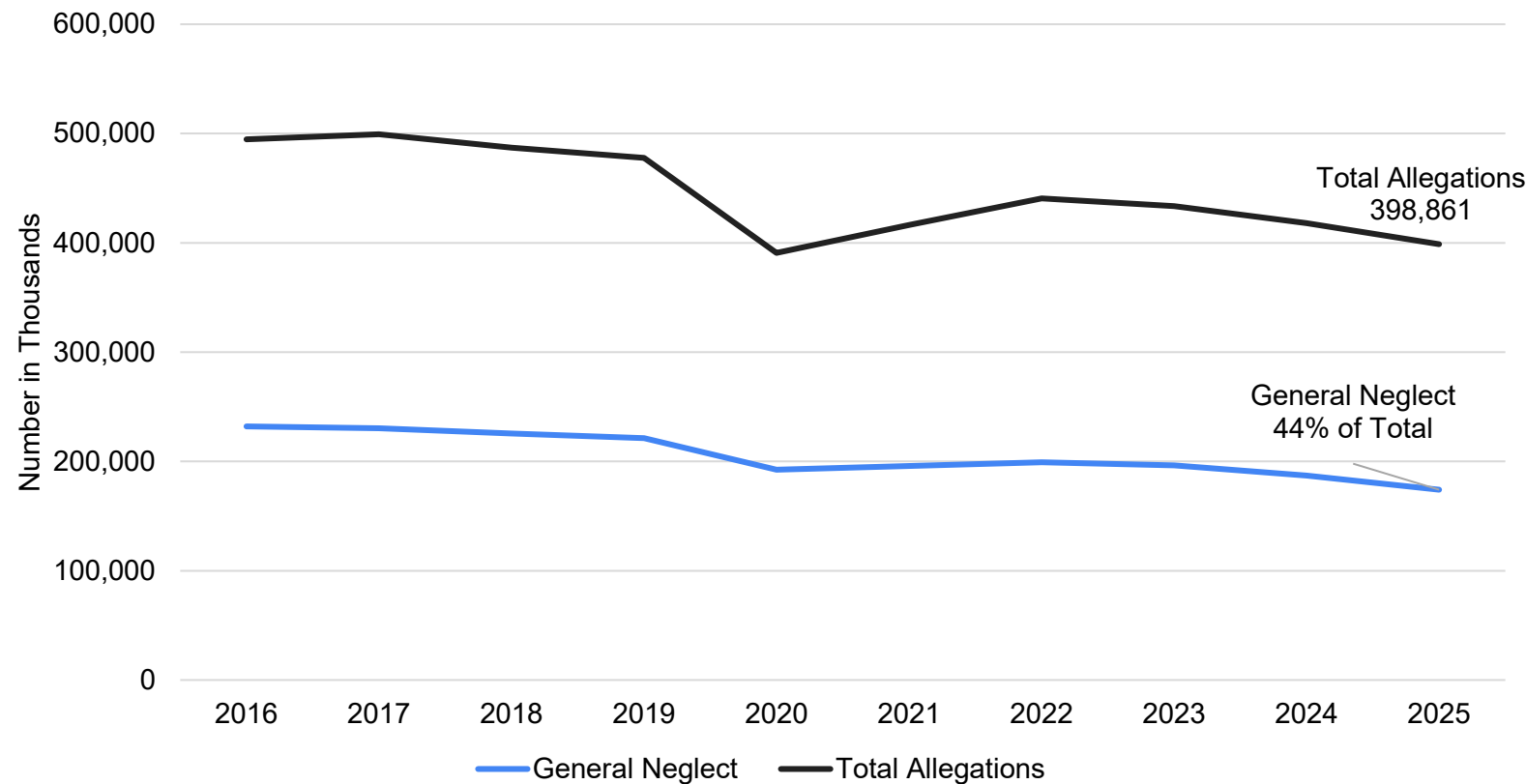
The MRAC is not simply a committee tasked with carrying out recommendations. It is a statutorily mandated body with a clear charge: ensure California's shift from mandated reporting to community supporting moves forward, and that it drives the measurable elimination of disparities in the child welfare system.

Reminder of the “Why” for Mandated Reporting Reform

General Neglect is the #1 Allegation

44% of all children with an allegation of maltreatment are related to general neglect, an occurrence that can often be mitigated by community supports. General neglect is a “catch-all” allegation that is often driven by racism, bias, and the absence of economic opportunity and resources. It can also include issues related to domestic violence, substance abuse, and mental health.

Child with an Allegation of Maltreatment in California, 2016-2025



Data Source: [CWS/CMS 2025 Quarter 4 Extract](#).

Program version: 2013.12.05 Database version: 7C5F1B6E

Black/African American, Native American, and Latino families are significantly more likely to be reported to child abuse hotlines

1 in 3 Children

in the U.S. is subject to an investigation of child abuse by the time they turn 18.¹

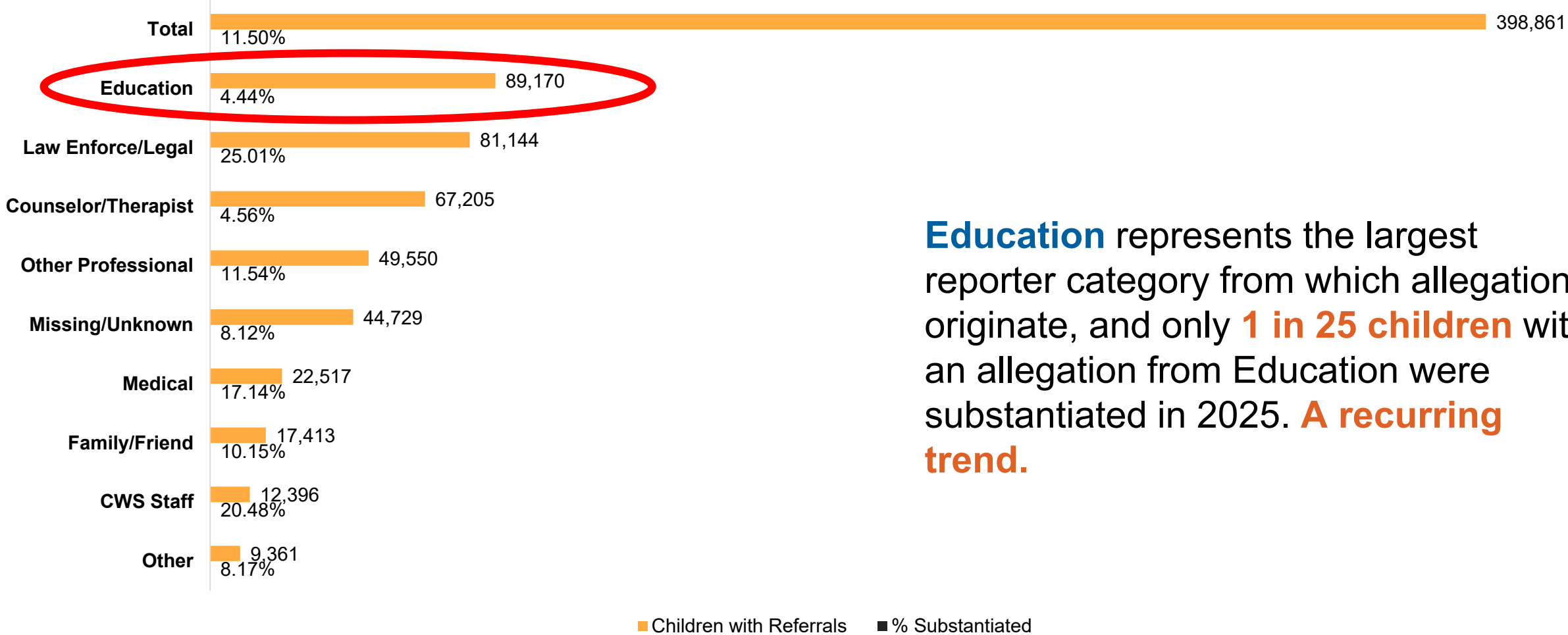
1 in 2 Black & Native American Children

in California is subject to an investigation of child abuse by the time they turn 18.²

¹ American Journal of Public Health, 2017
² California Legislative Analyst's Office, 2024₅

In 2025, only 1 in 9 children with an allegation of abuse and/or neglect was substantiated in California

Children with One or More Allegations by Mandated Reporter Type and Percent Substantiated, 2025



Education represents the largest reporter category from which allegations originate, and only **1 in 25 children** with an allegation from Education were substantiated in 2025. **A recurring trend.**



North Star: Keep children and families together, safe, well, and strengthened by the resources they need to thrive

We Believe That ...

All children deserve the right to grow up free from harm in their own family and thriving in their own strong communities that are well resourced

Parents want to do what is best for their children and sometimes need help because they may lack the networks, supports, and services needed to bring about what they want for their children and their families

Moving from mandated reporting to community supporting will greatly help California children grow up healthy, happy, and free from harm

The child welfare system must be free from racial and cultural bias. The structure of the current system results in a disproportionately negative impact on African American, Native American/Indigenous People, and Latino families. This must be fixed by better understanding how mandated reporting contributes to racism, and by recommending actions for change

Communities must be well-resourced to be able to provide quality services to help families stay together and keep children well and safe

The current child welfare mandated reporting system steals hope and personal power from families, minimizing their natural ability and strength to keep their children well and safe. This is especially true for African American, Native American/Indigenous People, and Latino families who disproportionately experience the trauma of intrusive investigations and sometimes harmful separation

Families and communities are the best agents of their own change and must be respected and trusted

Who are the Changemakers of the MRAC

Mandated Reporting Advisory Committee

36 TOTAL MEMBER SEATS + TRI-CHAIRS

21 Community, Organization, and Provider Seats – Invited applicants from Mandated Reporting to Community Supporting Task Force and Subcommittee members



9 CalHHS Department Seats – Identify and invite candidates from each selected Department (one person per seat)



6 State Association Seats – Identify and invite candidates from each selected Association (one person per seat unless noted)

MRAC Members

Community, Organization, and Provider Seats	CalHHS Department Seats	State Association Seats	
<p>Parents & Caregivers with Lived Expertise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tina Rios • Jason Sharpe <p>Tribal Communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keishanne Whitworth <p>Youth with Lived Expertise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monique Nunes • Jevon Wilkes <p>System of Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melissa Preader • Cindy Sutcliffe <p>CBO: Domestic Violence Advocacy/ Provider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arati Vasani <p>CBO: Family Resource Centers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kula Koenig <p>CBO: Behavioral Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Danielle Lowe <p>CBO: Child Welfare Prevention Provider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liz Oseguera • Mara Ziegler 	<p>CBO: Data & Research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daniel Webster <p>Education: Elementary/Middle/High School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marcelino Serna <p>Education: Early Childhood and Childcare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anthony Garcia <p>Health Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heather Briscoe <p>Legal Representation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Progress <p>Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Luciana Svidler <p>Law Enforcement/First Responder</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Progress <p>Probation/Juvenile Justice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Progress 	<p>Department of Developmental Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leah Dempsey <p>Department of Public Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jane Andrews <p>Department of Social Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jenny Pearlman <p>Department of Education (outside of CA Health and Human Services)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erika Torres <p>Community Services and Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Progress <p>Department of Healthcare Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Pam Riley <p>Managed Health Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Progress <p>Department of Rehabilitation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Progress <p>Office of the Surgeon General</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lauren Groves <p>Office of Youth and Community Restoration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Josefa Rodriguez Fontan 	<p>County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayle Johnson <p>California Behavioral Health Directors Association (CBHDA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gail Gronert <p>Association of Regional Centers Agencies (ARCA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jennifer Bloom, Director of Client Services <p>California Teachers Association (CTA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patricia Rucker, Legislative Advocate • Connie Rosales, Regional Executive Director <p>California Child Abuse Prevention Centers (CAPC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cindy Marroquin, Training Director <p>Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Program and State Advocacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Progress <p>Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Progress

Implementation Highlights & Dashboard

Key Levers of Implementation: The Recommendations are each connected to a key lever of change to focus the implementation strategy

Shared Framework: To organize development of the implementation plan, the MRAC established a shared framework that articulates the deliverables for each recommendation, guides the identification of key activities, and highlights productive intersections across Workgroups

- Data and Accountability
- Policy
- Training
- Connecting to a Community Pathway of Supports and Services
- Narrative Shift

A BIG WIN: Advanced in Legislation



SB 119, signed into law in July 2025

- The California Child Welfare Council shall establish a Mandated Reporting Advisory Committee (MRAC). It is the intent of the Legislature that the MRAC ensure the transformation of mandated reporting to community supporting continues and disparities in the child welfare system are eliminated. (Recommendation 1)
- The new statewide mandated reporter training will incorporate content identified in the Task Force recommendations. (Recommendation 9)
- When counties update their Comprehensive Prevention Plans, the update shall include information for mandated reporters regarding the resources available to support families in their communities. (Recommendation 12)

Implementation Overview



**Mandated Reporting to
Community Supporting**

*Communities Keeping Children Safe
and Families Together*

Implemented & Ongoing

- **Mandated Reporting Advisory Committee** created (Rec 1)

Advanced to the MRAC for Approval

- **Narrative Shift** (Rec 14): Key messaging & FAQs (approved for use); Elevator Speech and Story Bank process (revisions in process based on feedback, then final review before use)
- **Data & Accountability** (Rec 2): Metrics to monitor MR reform efforts with a focus on disproportionality (approved to advance to CDSS with revisions incorporated)

Significant Progress

- **Training** (Rec 3): AB 2085 Statewide Training, multiple pilots completed/planned, will be refined based on feedback
- **Training** (Rec 9): Statewide Gold Standard Training, CDSS partnered with the MRAC training workgroup, lived experts, counties, and tribes to develop a four-module general training. The narrative has been reviewed, feedback addressed, and the next phase is design and production

Initiated and Moving Forward

- **Community Pathways** (Rec 12): Provide recommended information and education for mandated reporters for inclusion in Comprehensive Prevention Plans (CPPs) when the CDSS requires updates to the Plans (scheduled for MRAC review during June 18 meeting)

Implementation Dashboard

LEGEND

GREEN - Started and moving forward

YELLOW - Started and slowed due to a lack of key components and/or information

RED - Started and delayed or blocked for various reasons

Data & Accountability	Initiated	Significant Progress	Approved by the MRAC to Advance (or in process of)	Implemented and Ongoing
<p>Rec 1 Establish MRAC; track data to monitor and support progress</p>	GREEN	GREEN	GREEN	GREEN
<p>Rec 2 Recommend and apply data sets to advance MR reform</p>	GREEN	GREEN	GREEN	
<p>Rec 13 Continue to advance MR reform through ongoing data analysis</p>	GREEN			

Implementation Dashboard

Training	Initiated	Significant Progress	Approved by the MRAC to Advance (or in process of)	Implemented and Ongoing
<p>Rec 3 Ensure implementation of AB 2085 with fidelity to its legislative intent. [shared with Data & Accountability for tracking]</p>				
<p>Rec 8 Require standardized mandated reporter training</p>				
<p>Rec 9 Develop statewide “gold standard” curriculum with lived expertise</p>				
<p>Rec 10 Develop a statewide mandated reporter webpage</p>				

Implementation Dashboard

Policy	Initiated	Significant Progress	Approved by the MRAC to Advance (or in process of)	Implemented and Ongoing
Rec 4 Support LAO analysis of narrowing MR categories				
Rec 5 Amend CANRA to eliminate General Neglect as a reporting requirement				
Rec 6 Update CANRA definition of Severe Neglect to align with SDM				
Rec 7 Implement 2-year liability immunity pilot using decision-making tools				

Implementation Dashboard

Community Pathways	Initiated	Significant Progress	Approved by the MRAC to Advance (or in process of)	Implemented and Ongoing
<p>Rec 11 CDSS to assess capacity of community supports/services for MR and OCAP funding alignment</p>				
<p>Rec 12 CPPs must include MR-specific info/education on community pathways</p>				

Implementation Dashboard

Narrative Shift	Initiated	Significant Progress	Approved by the MRAC to Advance (or in process of)	Implemented and Ongoing
Rec 14 Create a statewide narrative change initiative to shift beliefs and values from mandated reporting to community supporting				

Where Support is Needed

- The work of the Policy Workgroup is more complicated than the other recommendations being advanced. Guidance from the CWC may be needed in the future.
- The 18-month term limits for the Tri-Chairs and MRAC members will expire in December 2026. The MRAC hopes to have continued support from the CWC in engaging active participation from essential and required partners.

What's Next

- Significant progress that we anticipate reporting in December 2026 includes:
 - An **agreed upon set of metrics to track outcomes** of this reform work, and where/how the data will be publicly shared
 - Completion and **launch of statewide AB 2085 training**
 - Completion and **launch of gold standard statewide mandated reporting training**
 - Comprehensive **narrative shift communications plan** to further advance the work already underway
 - Inclusion of **information and education on mandated reporting reform in county Comprehensive Prevention Plans**, as plans are updated per guidance from CDSS

“We ask you to open your hearts and be bold, not only to the Recommendations, but by inviting more persons with lived expertise to join the tables where decisions are made.” ~ Lived Experience Group of the MRCS Task Force



**Mandated Reporting to
Community Supporting**

*Communities Keeping Children Safe
and Families Together*

Q&A and Discussion

INFO ITEM

2024 OFCO ANNUAL REPORT & UPDATED TRANSLATED PUBLICATION

Larry Fluharty

California Foster Care Ombudsperson



2024 OFCO ANNUAL REPORT And Updated Translated Publication

Larry Fluharty
California Foster Care
Ombudsperson



Office of the Foster Care Ombudsperson 2024 Annual Report



The California Foster Care Ombudsperson Annual Report CY 2024

Annual Report Themes



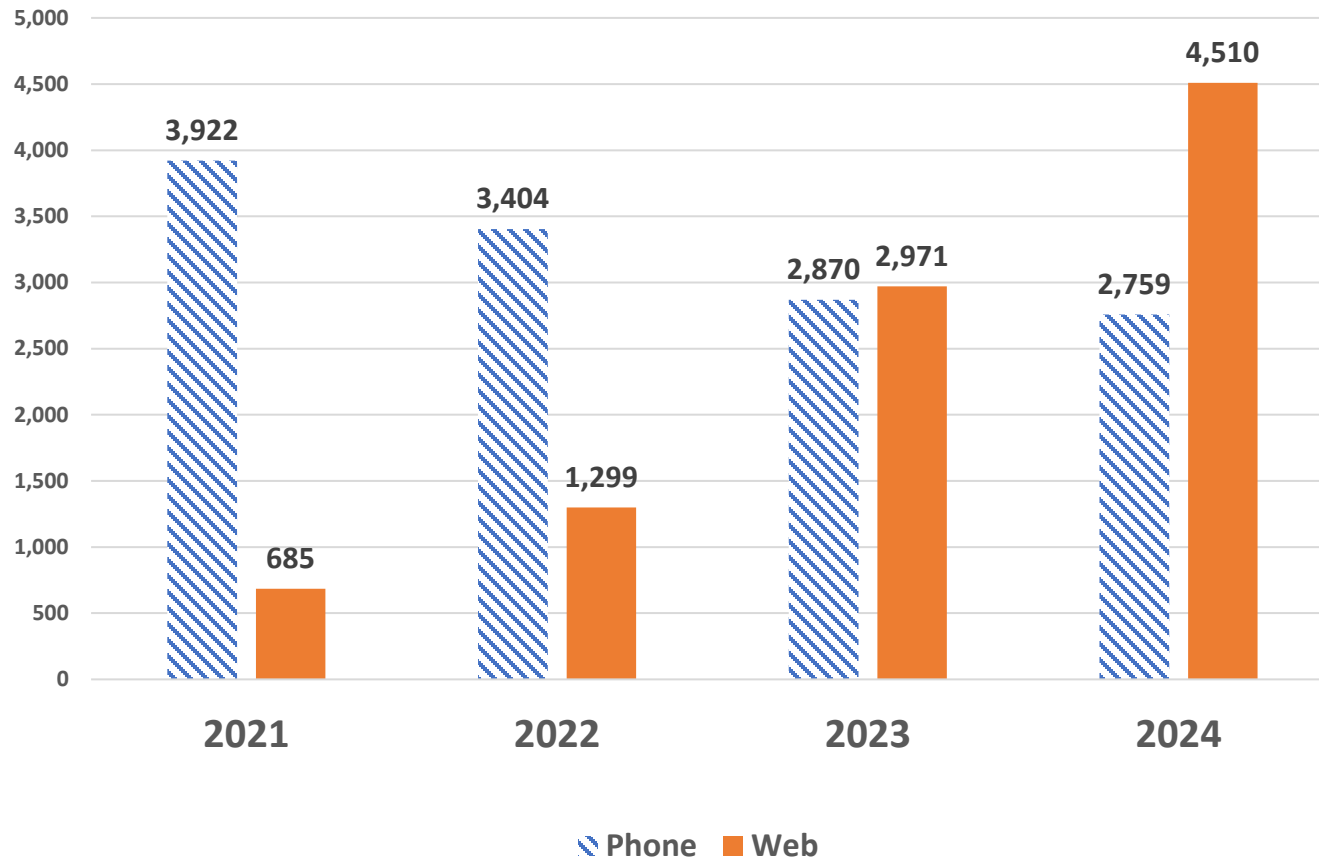
- **Case Origins**
 - **Shift from phone to web**
- **Recommendations**
 - **Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Expression (SOGIE)**
 - **Discuss and share rights with youth**
 - **Foster youth kept in Juvenile Hall**

OFCO Functions

- **Investigate** complaints about care, placement, and services and foster youth rights.
- **Train** training on Foster Youth Bill of Rights (FYBOR) and Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard (RPPS).
- **Provide Foster Youth Verification Letters**
- **Create and Publish FYBOR Material**
- **Center** Foster Youth voices when influencing policy and practice changes.
- **Collect Data**
- **Recommend System Change and Submit** and annual reports to the Legislature.

Shift in how OFCO is contacted from 2021 to 2024

Case Origin: Web and Phone Comparison 2021-2024



- Source of cases has now flipped
- Number of web cases in 2024 (4510) is almost equal to the total for 2021 (4600)
- Total cases increased

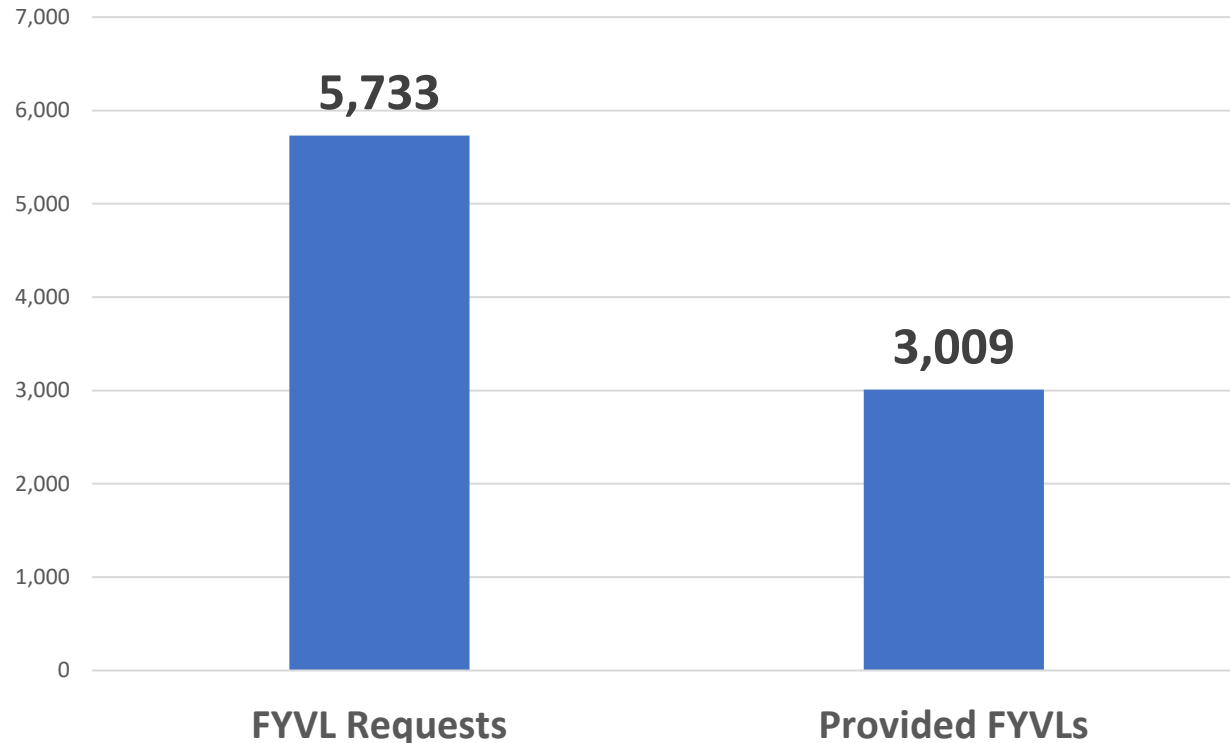
Shift in how OFCO is contacted from 2021 to 2024 (b)

Call Type	2021	2022	2023	2024
Inbound	13,882	7,134	6,826	7,961
Outbound	4,297	4,272	6,164	9,038

- In 2021, $\frac{3}{4}$ of calls were inbound and $\frac{1}{4}$ were outbound.
- In 2023, it is split.
- In 2024, more outbound than inbound.
- Outbound calls take more time for employees.

Foster Youth Verification Letters

Requested vs. Provided FYVLs



- Verification Letters allow youth to receive services. Most are for education.
- Almost half of requests do not result in issuing a letter. Most are referred to the county.
- Issuing more letters than ever to justice involved youth.

Annual Report Recommendations

SOGIE

- **30% + of youth in care identify as LGTBQ+**
- **Ensure proper training of caregivers and social workers**
- **Treat all youth with dignity and respect**

Annual Report Recommendations (b)

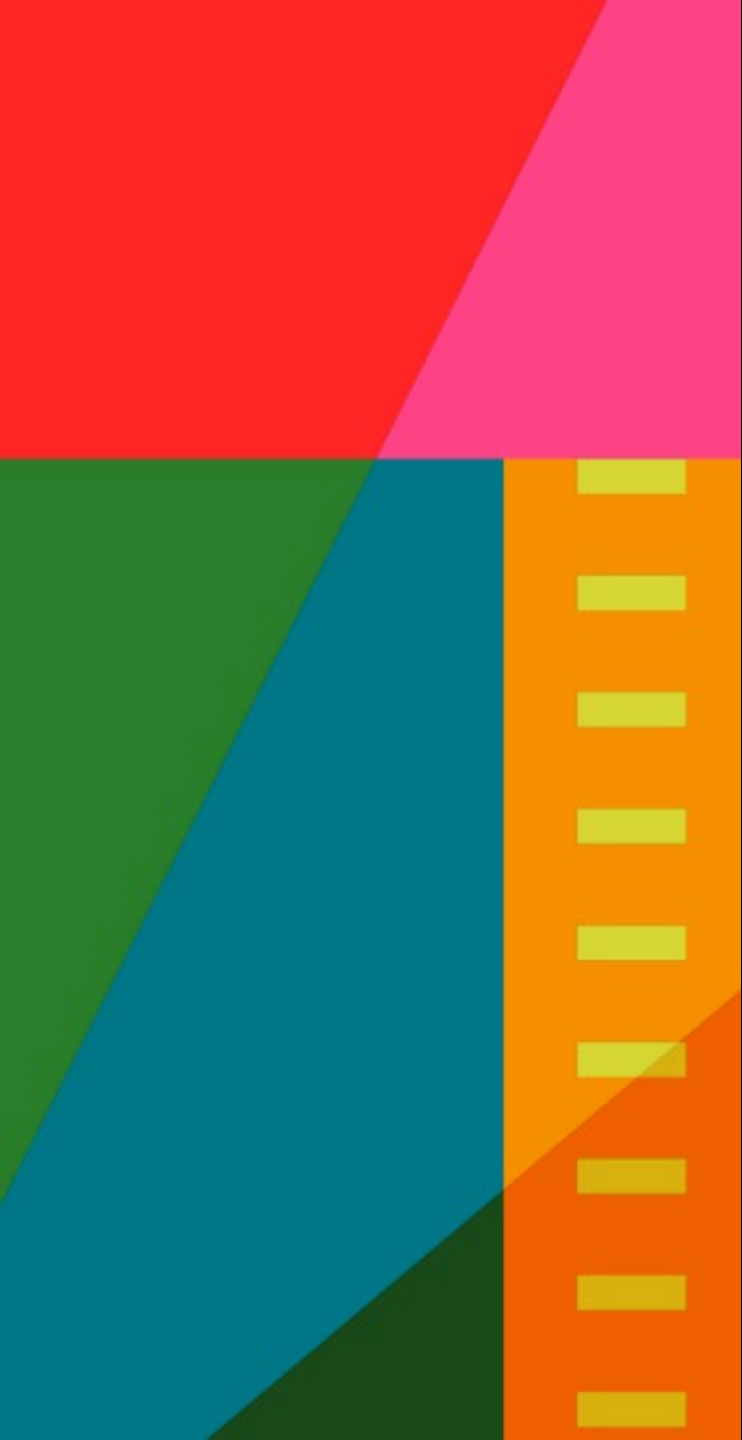
Social Worker or Probation Officer to discuss rights and provide a copy every 6 months or at placement change

- 79% of youth in LA County STRTPs did not recall a discussion**
- Need to be able to track discussion of FYBOR in CARES**
- Judges and lawyers need to review case plans for compliance**

Annual Report Recommendations (c)

Ensure youth do not remain in Juvenile Hall due to lack of a home

- **Law is clear**
- **Impact greater on youth of color and with disabilities**
- **Responsibility is shared judges, lawyers, social workers, probation officers, Interagency Leadership Teams, and others**

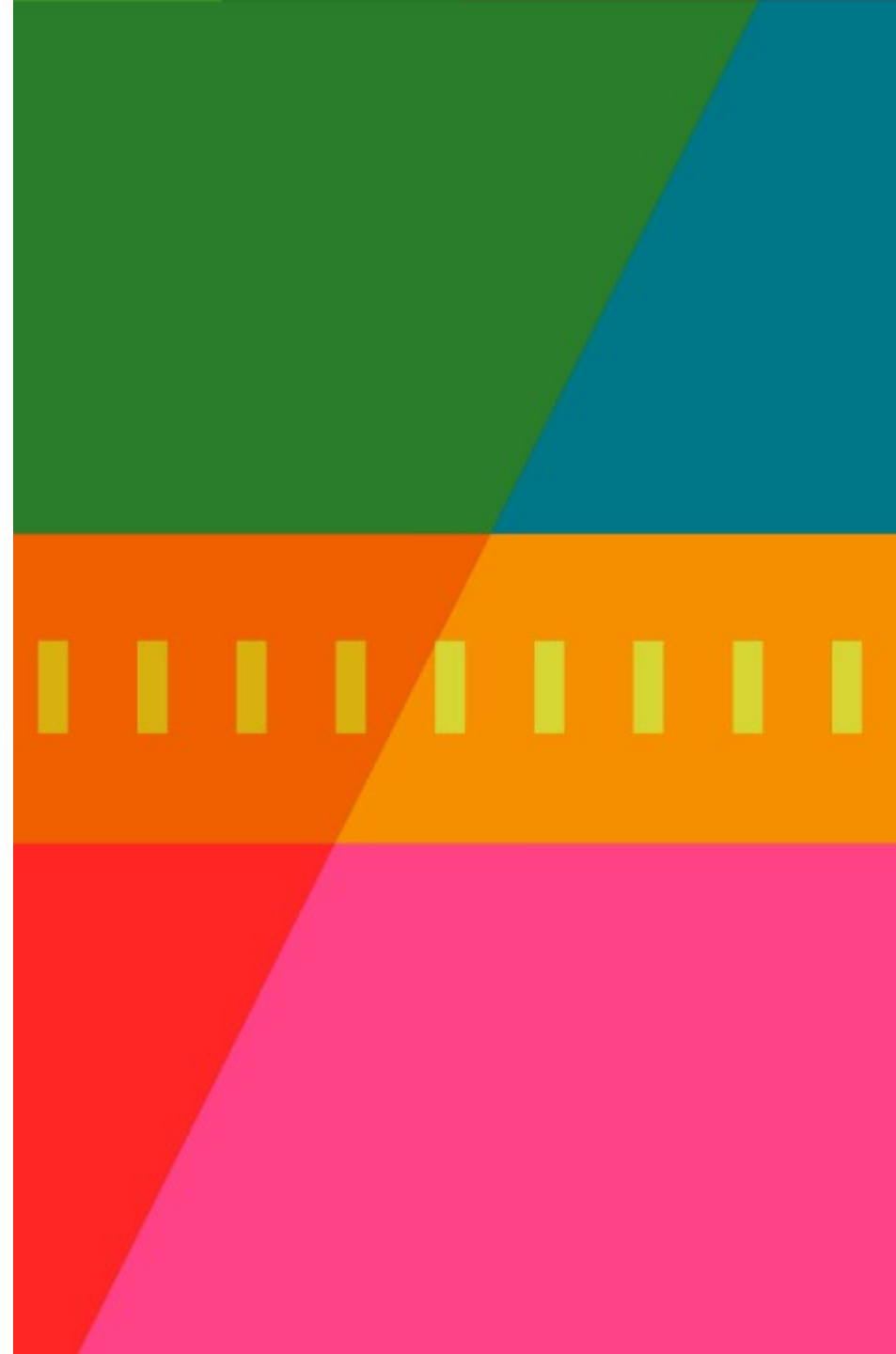


Office of the Foster Care Ombudsperson

The Foster Youth Bill of Rights
Update and Translation

Introduction

- **The Foster Youth Bill of Rights was enacted in 2001 (AB 899) through advocacy of California Youth Connection and others**
- **AB 1067 (2016) Required a workgroup to produce a report**
- **1067 report led to AB 175 (2019) major overhauled of the FYBOR went from 20 to 41 rights**
- **Also led to creation of new publications which were released in 2021 - Poster, Handbook, Coloring Book, and Wallet Brochure**
- **WIC §§ 16164, 16501.1, and HSC § 1530.91 require use of material created by the OFCO**



Foster Youth Rights Publications

Coloring Book
Handbook
Wallet Accordion
Poster

FOSTER YOUTH BILL OF RIGHTS A Guide to Your Rights in Foster Care



Personal Rights

You have the right to live in a safe, comfortable home where you are treated with respect and to have:

- enough clothes and healthy food
- clothing, grooming, and hygiene products that respect your culture and ethnicity
- a private place to keep your things
- a phone you can use to make private calls (unless a judge says you cannot)
- a caregiver that has special training on trauma and ways to help you

You have the right to:

- go/NOT go to religious services and activities of your choice
- participate in cultural, racial, ethnic, personal enrichment, and social activities
- fair and equal access to all available foster care services, placements, care, and benefits

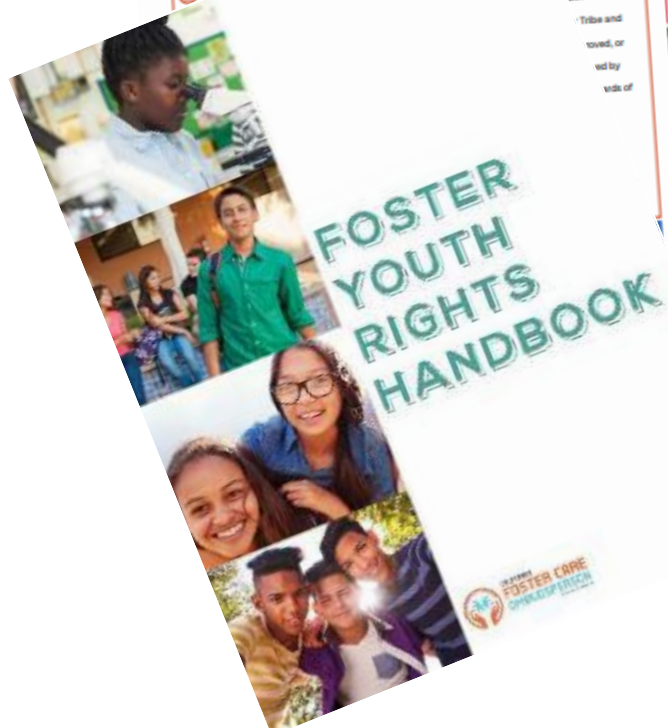
No one can:

- lock you in a room or a building (unless you are in a community treatment facility)
- make you stay in juvenile hall because they can't find you a home
- use law enforcement as a threat or retaliation
- abuse you physically, sexually, emotionally, or exploit you for any reason
- punish you by physically hurting you, unless they have a reasonable or legal reason
- look through your things unless they have a reasonable or legal reason
- treat you unfairly because of your race, ethnicity, ancestry, national origin, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital or physical disability, HIV status, or membership in a federally recognized Indian tribe

Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Expression (SOGIE)

You have rights to protect your SOGIE. You have the right to:

- live in a home or STRIP based on your gender identity
- be called by your chosen name and gender pronouns
- see a doctor or counselor who is gender affirming
- have clothing, grooming, and hygiene products that respect your gender identity
- have a caregiver, social worker/probation officer, and social worker/probation officer who is SOGIE and how to care for LGBTQ+ youth
- keep your SOGIE information private



Case Plan

You have the right to:

- help create your case plan
- have a case plan within 60 days of being in foster care
- have your case plan updated at least every 6 months
- be told of any changes to your case plan
- get a copy of it if you are age 12 and older
- have your tribe involved in case plan decisions

Your case plan will have:

- health and education plans
- the best place for you to live
- the services you need
- a long-term plan for where you will live
- gender-affirming healthcare plans
- plans for visitation with your parents and siblings
- transition to independent living plan (TILP), if you are 16 or older

Court

You have rights at court too. You have the right to:

- be told about court hearings in writing
- go to court and talk to the judge
- tell the judge what you want to have happen in your case
- tell the judge how you feel about your psychiatric medications
- ask the judge for visits with your siblings
- request a hearing if you feel like your lawyer is not acting in your best interest
- ask for people to be in the courtroom or ask for people to leave
- keep your court records private (unless the law says otherwise)
- tell the judge how you feel about your family, lawyer, and social worker/probation officer
- a lawyer, separate from your parents and the county

Your lawyer must:

- keep what you tell them private
- have special training on ICWA and SOGIE
- make sure you are safe and have the services and supports you need
- tell the judge what you want to have happen
- answer questions you have about court, foster care, and other laws

Children and Family Team (CFT)

You have the right to a CFT. You have the right to:

- request CFT meetings
- have support people at your CFT meeting
- talk about your needs in the CFT meeting
- a CFT meeting within 60 days of entering foster care
- a CFT meeting every 6 months
- a CFT meeting at least every 90 days if you are in a STRIP or in a therapeutic foster home
- a CFT meeting at least every 90 days if you are getting certain types of services
- a CFT meeting when any changes are going to be made to your case plan

Family and Social Connections

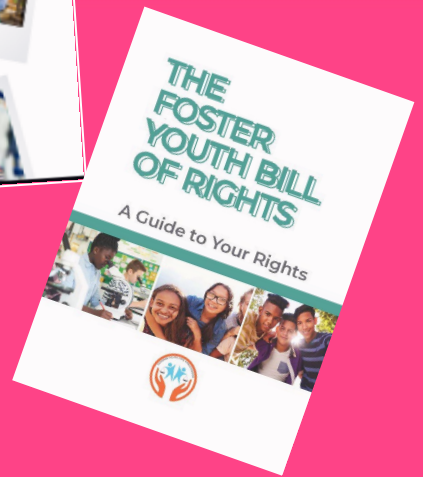
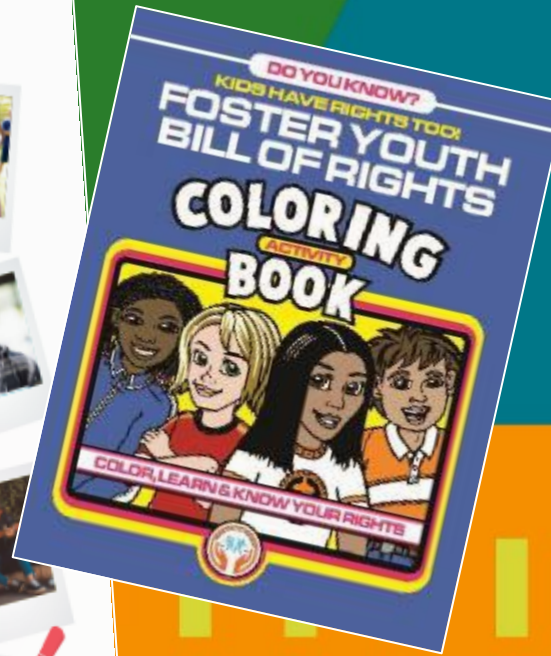
You have the right to:

- visit and contact your parents, siblings, and other family members in private (unless a judge says you cannot)
- contact people who are not in the foster care system (like friends, church members, teachers, and others), unless a judge says you cannot

Preparing for Adulthood and Money Management

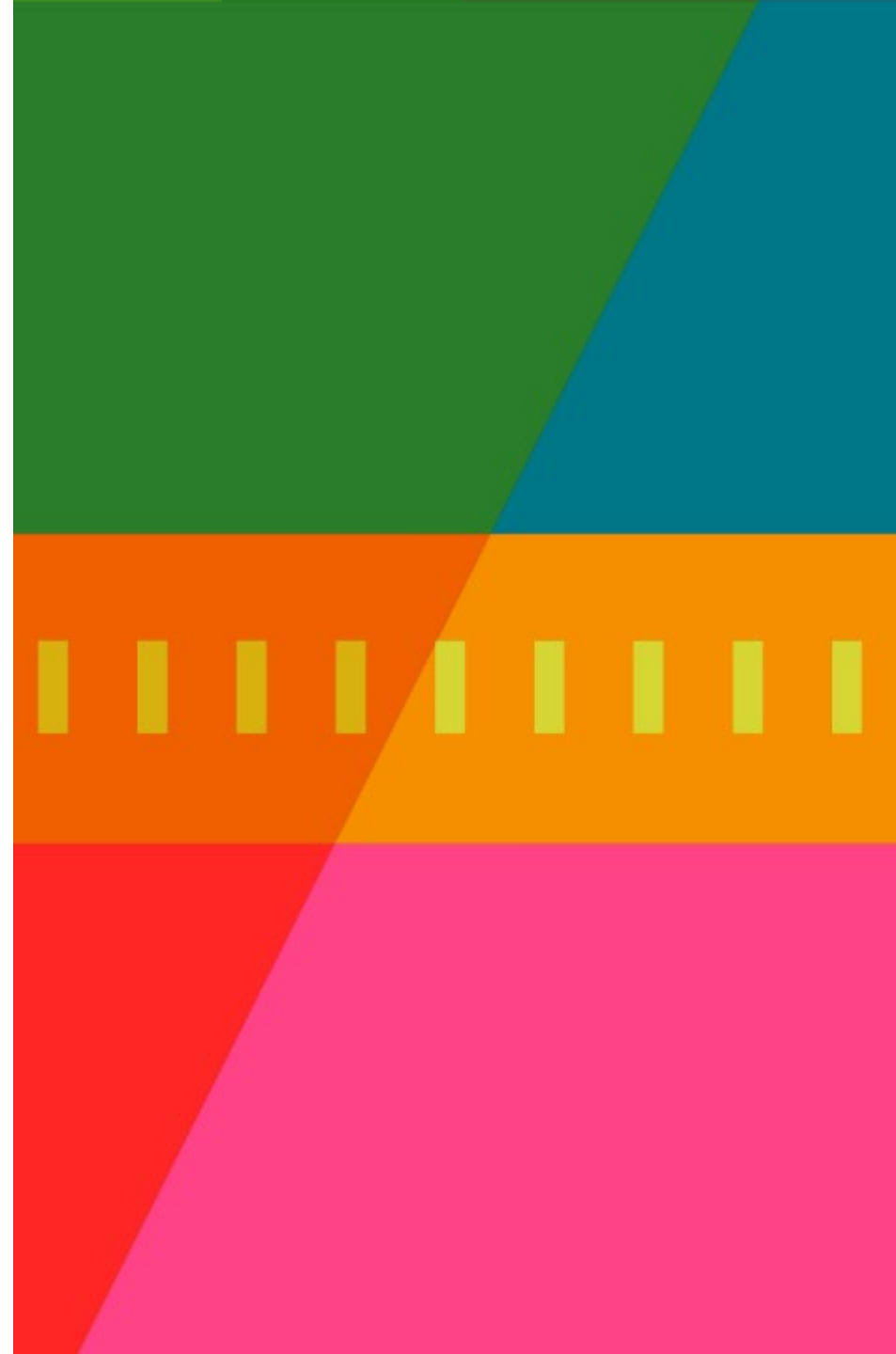
You have the right to do some things on your own. You have the right to:

- have an allowance
- your own bank account (unless your case plan says you cannot)
- learn job skills for your age
- work (unless the law says you are too young)
- earn, save, and manage your money (unless your case plan says you cannot)
- go to Independent Living Program (if you are old enough)



Translation

- **AB 1735 (2022) added right to receive FYBOR and other documents in youth's primary language**
- **Prior to AB 1735 FYBOR material was a single document poster and brochure created in 2002**
- **Poster/brochure only available in English and Spanish**
- **Updates to BOR material require consultation with many partners**
- **Determined to translate in 16 languages and other if needed**
- **64 translation which includes formatting**
- **During update translated Handbook to Vietnamese due to request**



Languages Translated

THE FOSTER YOUTH BILL OF RIGHTS

A Guide to Your Rights

LA DECLARACIÓN DE DERECHOS DE LOS JÓVENES EN LA CRIANZA TEMPORAL

Una guía de sus derechos

ԽՆԱՍԱՍՏԱՐ ԵՐԻՏԱՍԱՐԿԱՆԵՐԻ ԻՐԱԿՈՒՆԵՆԵՐԻ ՄԱՍԻՆ ՕՐԵՆԸ

Ըն իրավունքների ուղեցույց

PHAB NTAWV TEEV COV CAI UAS TXHUA TUB NTXHAIS NROG NIAM QHUAV TXIV QHUAV NYOB MUAJ

Ib Cov Lus Qhia Txog Cov Cai Uas Koj Muaj

វិក្កយបត្រ ស្តីពីសិទ្ធិ បុរសជន

វិន័យសិទ្ធិរបស់អ្នក

寄養青年權利法案

您的權利指南

LA DÉCLARATION DES DROITS DES JEUNES EN FAMILLE D'ACCUEIL

Un guide de vos droits

위탁 보호 청소년 권리 장전

위탁 보호 청소년을 위한 권리 안내서

NAAN BIENH DOZ-LEIZ-MAAC GUNV ZE-BUONC BEU ZE-BUONC BUN FUJUEV-HLORPV

Sou-guv njaaux bun hiuv taux maaih leiz beu ze'buon bun meih

DECLARAȚIA DE DREPTURI A TINERILOR ÎN PLASAMENT

Un ghid al drepturilor dumneavoastră

ПЕРЕЧЕНЬ ПРАВ ПРИЕМНЫХ ДЕТЕЙ

Руководство по вашим правам

ANG PANUKALANG BATAS NG MGA KARAPATAN NG FOSTER YOUTH

Isang Gabay sa Iyong Mga Karapatan

ПЕРЕЛІК ПРАВА ПРИЙОМНИХ ДІТЕЙ

Посібник з ваших прав

LUẬT VỀ CÁC QUYỀN CỦA THANH THIẾU NIÊN ĐƯỢC NUÔI DƯỠNG TẠM THỜI

Hướng dẫn về Quyền của Bạn

د حؤاڤانو د پاملرني د حقونو قانون

ستاسو د حقونو لپاره لارښود

منشور حقوق جوانان تحت سرپرستی

راهنمای حقوق شما

نون حقوق الشباب في دور الرعاية الابدية دليل حقوقك



List of Languages

Arabic

French

Cambodian

Hmong

Mien

Pashto

Romanian

Tagalog

Korean

Spanish

Chinese

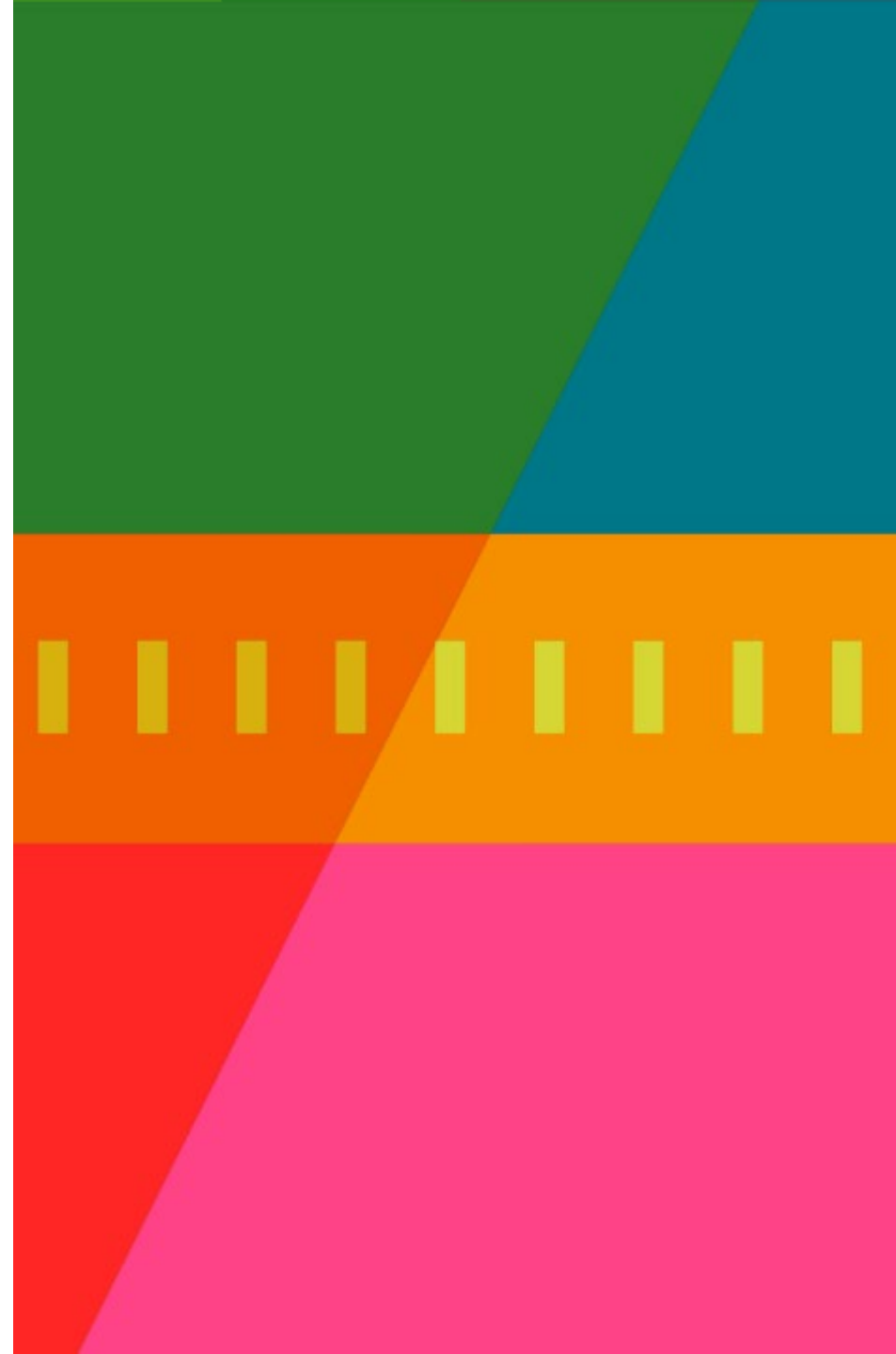
Vietnamese

Farsi

Russian

Armenian

Ukrainian



Updated versions say Last Updated 9/2025

Contact Us

**California Foster Care
Ombudsperson**

1-877-846-1602

✉ fosteryouthhelp@dss.ca.gov

🌐 fosteryouthhelp.ca.gov

Last Updated 09/2025

fosteryouthhelp.ca.gov

1-877-846-1602



MORE INFORMATION ITEMS

IMPACTS TO DATE OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INITIATIVE (CYBHI)

Dr. Sohil Sud and Brittany Blake

CYBHI

CYBHI

Children and Youth
Behavioral Health Initiative



*Transforming the way California
supports children, youth and families*

June 2026



Health Care Settings

- Expanding the behavioral health workforce
- Increasing access to behavioral health services
- Supporting non-specialist care providers

Educational Settings

- Bringing wellness into the classroom
- Nurturing a supportive campus culture
- Expanding access to school-linked care services

Digital Environment

- Bringing behavioral health services online
- Preparing for the next-generation of digital supports

Homes & Communities

- Enhancing community resilience
- Building a community-based workforce

**Elevating the Conversation,
Holding Youth at the Center and Equity as Foundational.**



***Transforming
the way
California
supports
children, youth
and families***

\$2.2B+

awarded to 1.6K+ California
organizations advancing efforts
through 2K+ activities



\$2.2B+

awarded to 1.6K+ California organizations advancing efforts through 2K+ activities

4B+

impressions from public awareness campaigns

live beyond

TAKE SPACE TO PAUSE

Never @ Bother

\$2.2B+

awarded to 1.6K+ California organizations advancing efforts through 2K+ activities

4B+

impressions from public awareness campaigns

live beyond



Never @ Bother

500K+

children, youth and families receiving support from digital platforms

BrightLife Kids
A Calnet program by Brightline

soluna



Mirror

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children, youth and families receiving support from digital platforms

BrightLife Kids
A Calyx program by Brightline

soluna



Mirror

120K+

school-linked services provided in 160+ school districts and colleges, financed by 35+ health plans through the CYBHI Fee Schedule Program

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4B+

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70K+

individuals supporting along their behavioral health path, including 4K+ Certified Wellness Coaches and 10K+ Peer Support Specialists



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soluna



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Cal-MAP



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4K+
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12K+
individuals working with youth receiving training in trauma-informed practices



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Cal-MAP

12K+

individuals working with youth receiving training in trauma-informed practices



8.5K+

new treatment outpatient slots coming online at newly constructed health facilities



Health Care Settings

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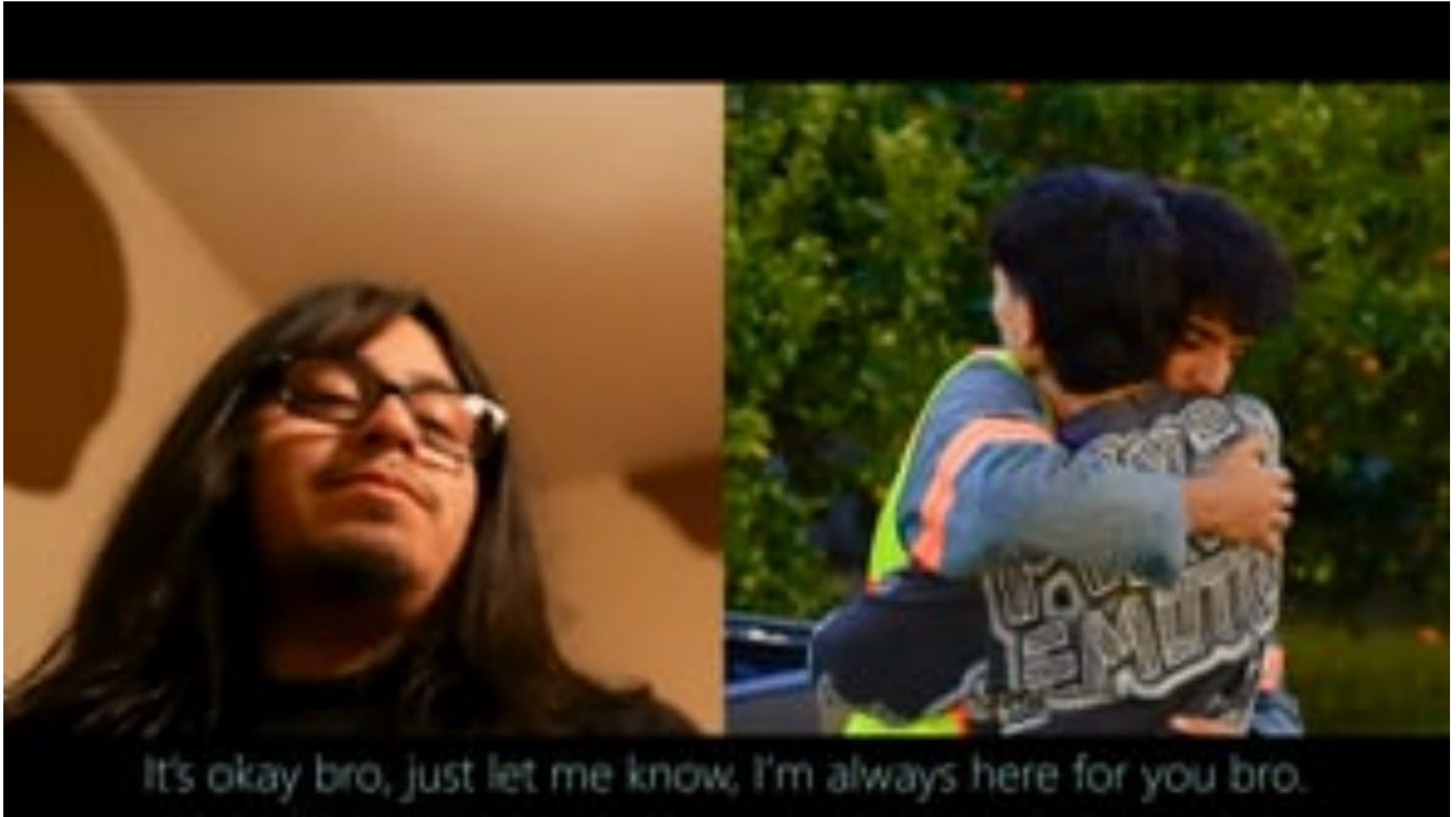
- Enhancing community resilience
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CYBHI
Children and Youth
Behavioral Health Initiative

*Transforming
the way
California
supports
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and families.*





It's okay bro, just let me know, I'm always here for you bro.



CYBHI Evaluation

Selected findings

Child Welfare Council

June 2026

MATHEMATICA'S EVALUATION OF CYBHI

- Mathematica conducted a statewide evaluation of the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI) on behalf of CalHHS.
- Evaluated CYBHI as a systems transformation effort and assessed how CYBHI investments are changing the behavioral health ecosystem for children and youth by:
 - Expanding access to prevention and early intervention services
 - Building behavioral health workforce capacity
 - Strengthening cross-sector collaboration
 - Improving support for populations with elevated behavioral health needs



Youth Co-Lab Leader and Napa resident, Chizu Ukachi-Nwata, joins other youth at the CYBHI's CYF Network Convening in January of 2026.

Source: Alton Pitre | Hoops 4 Justice

Are investments creating the infrastructure, workforce, and partnerships needed for sustainable behavioral health transformation?

HOW TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR FINDINGS

The evaluation is publishing several reports prior to the conclusion of Mathematica's evaluation on the CYBHI Evaluation Hub:

Now available:

CYBHI data dashboard

County case studies:

Butte, El Dorado, Siskiyou, Stanislaus

Special topic report: Certified Wellness Coaches

Coming soon:

Additional county case studies:

Madera, Napa, San Bernadino, San Diego

Special topic report: CYBHI Fee Schedule Program

2026 Evaluation report

CYBHI Evaluation Hub <https://cybhi.chhs.ca.gov/evaluation-hub/>



COUNTY-LEVEL FINDINGS

- Despite differences in geography and population, counties consistently invested in:
 - School-based behavioral health
 - Workforce expansion
 - Cross-sector coordination
 - Prevention and early intervention supports
- Counties tailored CYBHI locally, but overall transformation model is consistent.

San Diego: 57 staff members and clinicians from four CBOs and one LEA completed training in EBPs and CDEPs as of May 2025



Siskiyou: Increased social-emotional learning screening volume in 5 LEAs across 11 schools by 36%; chronic absenteeism declined across all participating LEAs

Madera: Expanded telehealth availability by partnering with Camerena Health, MCPs, and LEAs to build telehealth readiness across 8 LEAs and 34 schools using SBHIP.

WORKFORCE EXPANSION – CERTIFIED WELLNESS COACHES

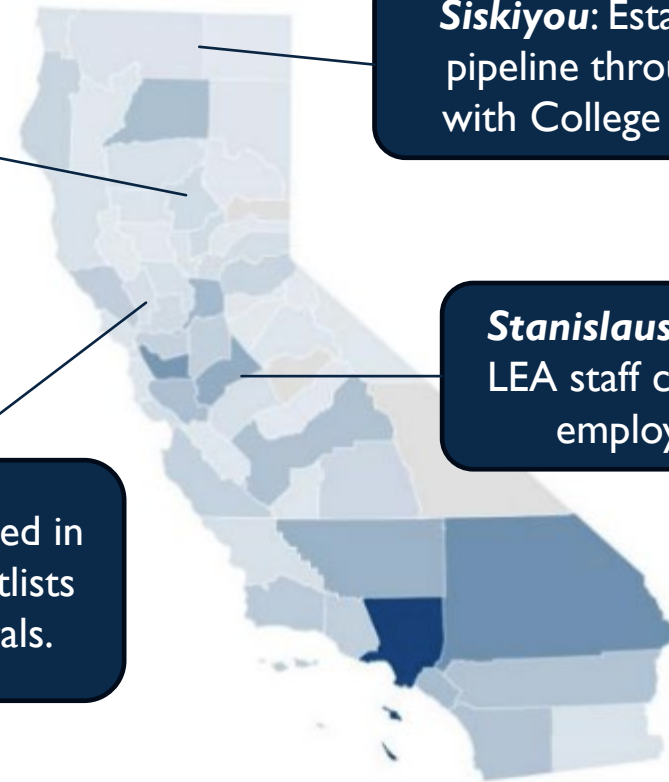
- More than 4,000 CWCs certified statewide.
- 638 scholarships awarded.
- 64 employer support grants.
- Near statewide reach.
- Among six early adopter organizations we studied, over 160 CWCs served over 7,500 students at more than 240 sites in six months.

Butte: CWCs provided more than 5,000 sessions, school safety increased, suspension rates decreased.

Siskiyou: Established a CWC pipeline through partnership with College of the Siskiyous

Stanislaus: Over 100 CBO and LEA staff certified as CWC and employed in CWC role

Napa: 14 CWCs placed in schools. Reduced waitlists and improved referrals.

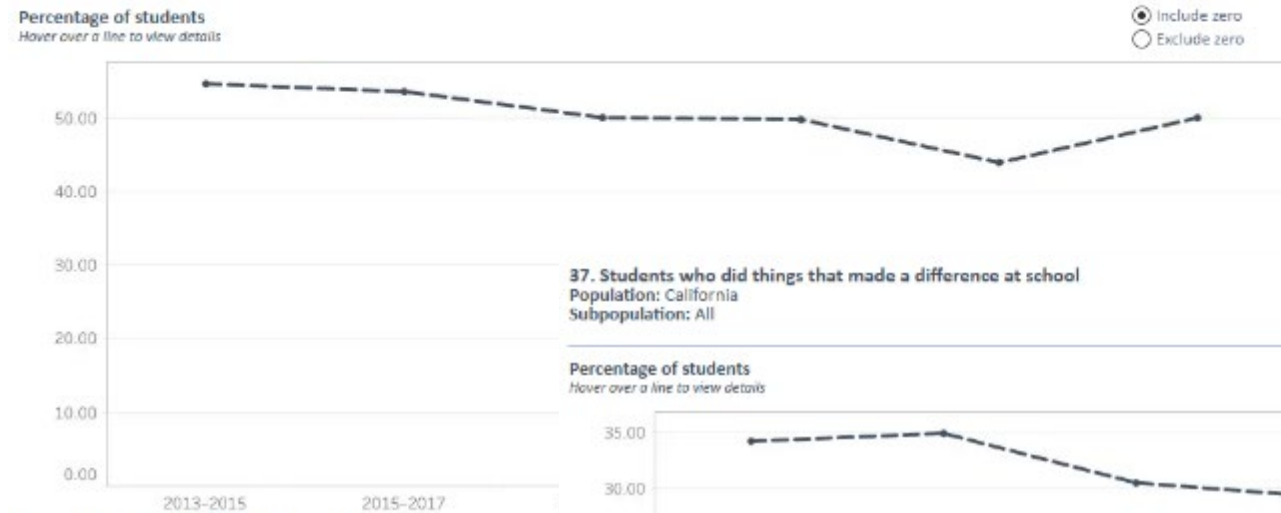


WHAT IS HAPPENING FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH?

Improving metrics related to social emotional learning (SEL)

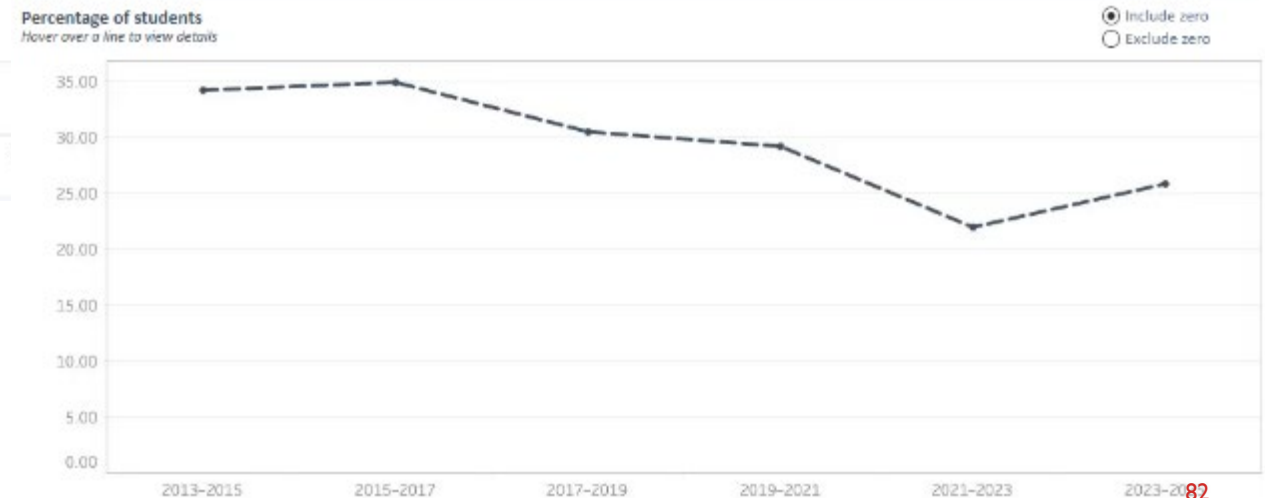
- More students are doing interesting things at school and doing things that made a difference at school.
- Both were declining until 2021-2023.

36. Students who did interesting activities at school
Population: California
Subpopulation: All



Data source: CHKS Biennial Survey: Grades 7, 9, and 11

37. Students who did things that made a difference at school
Population: California
Subpopulation: All



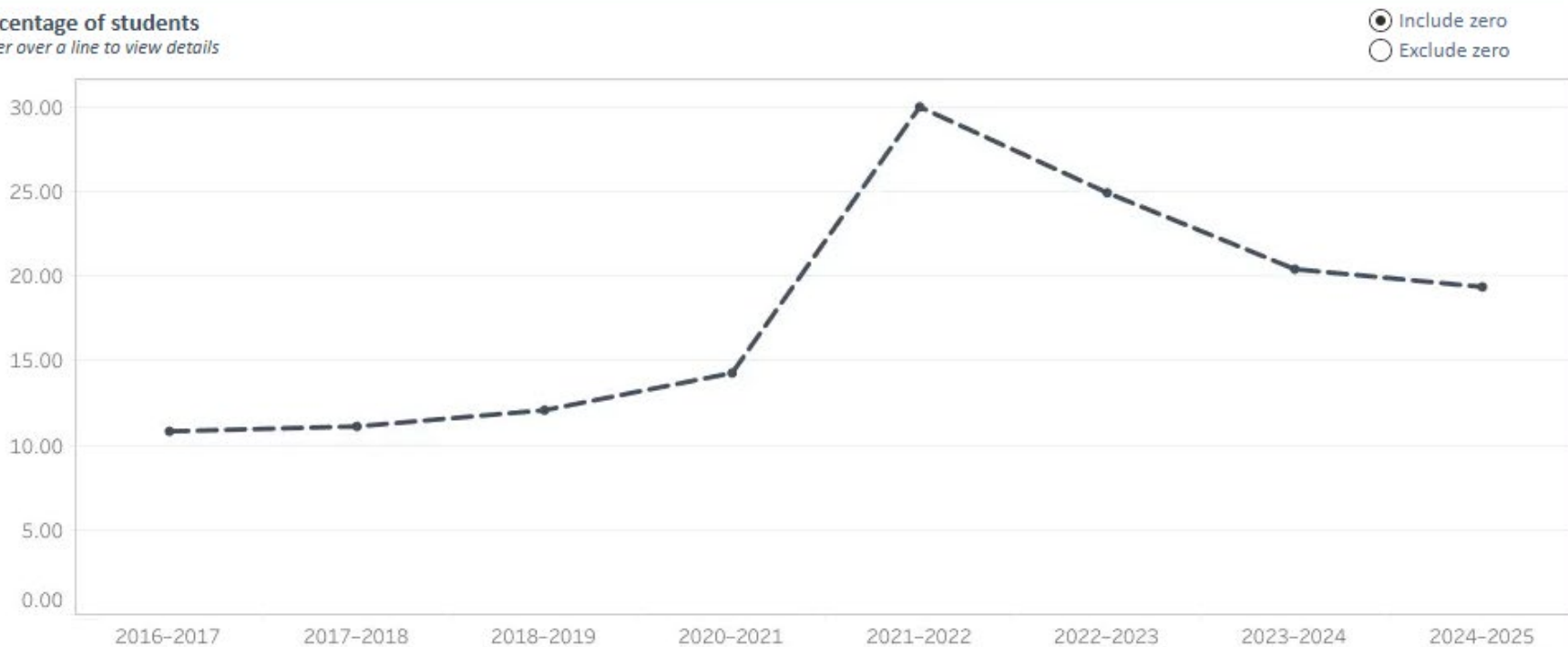
Data source: CHKS Biennial Survey: Grades 7, 9, and 11

WHAT IS HAPPENING FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH? (B)

Fewer students are chronically absent following post-pandemic spike.

32. Students who were chronically absent
Population: California
Subpopulation: All

Percentage of students
Hover over a line to view details

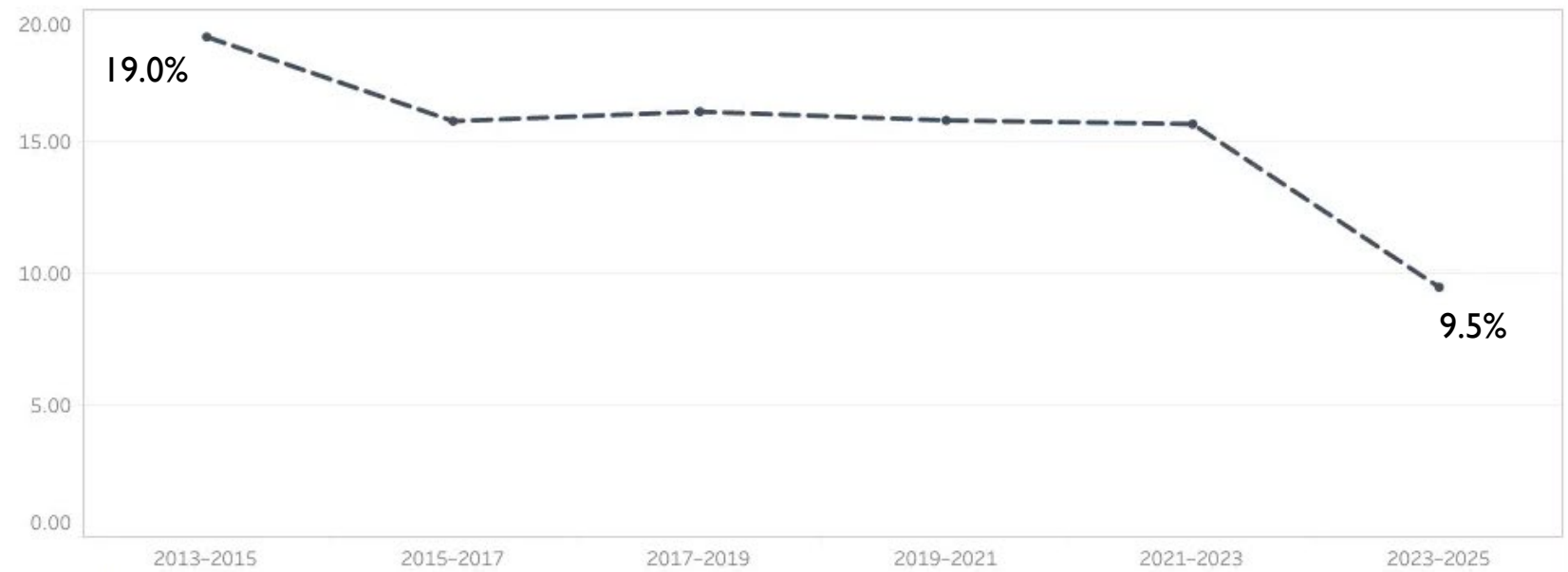


WHAT IS HAPPENING FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH? (C)

Fewer students report seriously considering attempting suicide in the past 12 months.

59. Students who reported seriously considering attempting suicide in the past 12 months
Population: California
Subpopulation: All

Percentage of students
Hover over a line to view details



Data source: CHKS Biennial Survey; Grades 9 and 11

EXAMPLES OF CYBHI INVESTMENTS BENEFITING CHILDREN INVOLVED IN CHILD WELFARE SYSTEMS

- San Bernadino: Under Scaling EBPs/CDEPs workstream:
 - established Incredible Years and Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT). Special focus to incorporate into services provided for children ages 4-8 who are reunifying after foster care.
 - Implemented Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP) for children 0-5 by helping caregivers understand trauma's impact on behavior and emotional responses.
- Madera: Under Scaling EBPs/CDEPs workstream:
 - delivered Triple P and Attachment and Biobehavioral Catch-Up (ABC) coaching at a supervised visitation center in Eastern Madera
 - Madera County Behavioral Health Services (MCBHS) and the Department of Social Services (DSS) used non-CYBHI funds to integrate Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) into child welfare touchpoints.
 - By August 2025, 26 participants had been served, with 20 completing Triple P. Respondents reported earlier engagement for high-risk families and reduced escalation.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- We found consistent evidence that CYBHI is:
 - Expanding access
 - Growing workforce capacity
 - Strengthening collaboration
 - Building infrastructure for long-term sustainability
- Findings especially relevant to child welfare populations
 - Warm handoffs matter as kids move across settings
 - Following crisis, clearer step-down pathways (such as after ED)
 - Safe, culturally responsive supports are essential
- Continuing to build on the population-health outcomes will require:
 - Successfully transitioning from program expansion and reach to durable systems transformation.
 - Counties that appeared furthest along were the counties that created systems capable of sustaining over time, such as referral and billing infrastructure, wellness centers, and blended/braided funding approaches



Youth participants of Teens Connect, a program of Mentis that supports the mental health and wellness of teens in Napa County.

CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS

