



Governor Newsom Announces \$42 Million to Protect Foster Youth and Families Impacted by COVID-19

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California is investing \$42 million to protect vulnerable younger Californians

\$27.8 million to help families stay together

Nearly \$7 million will support overtime and additional outreach by county social workers to foster family caregivers at higher risk of COVID-19

\$3 million will fund Family Resource Centers and provide direct support and services to foster families

SACRAMENTO –Governor Gavin Newsom announced today, during [Child Abuse Prevention Month](#), \$42 million new investments to protect younger Californians who are at heightened risk for abuse and mistreatment due to COVID-19. The Governor is making more than \$27 million available to help families stay together, nearly \$7 million to support social workers and \$3 million to support Family Resource Centers.

“Every child deserves to grow up in a safe, stable and nurturing environment free from fear, abuse and neglect,” said Governor Newsom. “Our foster youth and the families who care for them need our support to get through this difficult time. We’re ramping up funding on initiatives that keep families together and support the social workers who provide critical services to help families thrive.”

These new investments, totaling \$42 million (\$40.6 million in state general fund and \$1.4 million in federal funds) over the next three months will support foster youth and reduce child abuse. These investments include:

- **Supporting Families Struggling to Stay Together – \$27,842,000**

This funding will provide a \$200 per month supplement to families in the Emergency Response and Family Maintenance programs and who need additional support to be able to stay together.

- **Additional Social Worker Outreach – \$6,896,552**

Support for social worker overtime and additional outreach by county social workers to foster family caregivers at higher risk of COVID-19 (e.g. caregivers who are over 60 years old). Social workers will engage these caregivers to identify specific needs or concerns.

- **Family Resource Centers – \$3,000,000**

Family Resource Centers play a critical role in preventing child abuse and neglect, strengthening children and families, and connecting families to an array of county support systems of care. This funding will provide direct support and services to foster families, including material items, assistance with isolation needs, parenting resources, and staff time to help link families to other state and federal supports (e.g. food, housing, etc.).

- **Expansion of Helplines – \$250,000**

Funds will assist 2-1-1 and Parents Anonymous to offer immediate assistance to families in crisis who are seeking assistance. Parents Anonymous will provide expanded hours of services, link parents to online support groups and will make referrals to county and local services and Family Resource Centers as needed.

- **Age Extension for Foster Youth – \$1,846,165**

Approximately 200 young adults age out of the foster care system every month. Too many of them are at risk of homelessness and food insecurity. During this crisis, foster care payments and eligibility will be extended to help them maintain their living arrangements and to provide food security.

- **Additional Support for Resource Families Impacted by COVID-19 – \$1,728,655**

Families impacted by COVID-19 can receive higher monthly reimbursement rates to cover the extra costs associated with supporting children with more complex needs. Flexibility for counties to use these reimbursement rates will make sure that foster children can stay in their homes and not be moved into shelters or other facilities.

- **Extended Timeframe for Caregiver Approvals – \$166,000**

Funding will allow caregivers to continue to be paid beyond 365 days while awaiting Resource Family Approval. The extension in funding is required due to delays in caregiver approvals and caseworker diversion to emergency work.

- **Access to Technology – \$313,128**

iFoster will give more foster youth access to cell phones and laptops so they can stay connected with their families and communities, and continue to participate in educational opportunities during this crisis. This will allow the purchase of 2,000 laptops and 500 cell phones and will provide for short-term staffing assistance to iFoster to help process the applications and get phones configured and shipped to foster youth quickly.

Governor Newsom is also directing the state Government Operations Agency to utilize the State Surplus Property Program to identify laptops that can be distributed to foster youth attending higher education.

The foster care system has been heavily impacted by COVID-19 due to school closures and social isolation. To learn how to become a foster parent and to identify the county contact in your area, visit www.cdss.ca.gov or call 1-800-KIDS-4-US (1-800-543-7487).

Learn more about the state's ongoing COVID-19 response efforts [here](#). Visit covid19.ca.gov for critical steps Californians can take to stay healthy, and resources available to those impacted by the outbreak.

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