

# California Alliance of Child and Family Services 2024 Public Policy Platform

The California Alliance of Child and Family Services (California Alliance) is the unifying force leading change and providing support for the state's marginalized and vulnerable children, youth, and families, which are disproportionately individuals and families of color, LGBTQ+, and those with disabilities. With over 160 member organizations, our vision is for all children and families to thrive in safe, loving, and healthy communities. Committed to advancing racial and gender equity, we work to eliminate disparities in child- and family-serving systems across our policy platform.

The Alliance's public policy platform is rooted in the daily work of our members, who advocate tirelessly for systems change for children, youth and families in California. To achieve this vision, the Alliance is dedicated to advocacy in several areas, including:

## Behavioral Health

- **Reform school discipline policies, ensuring youth are supported and not punished for substance use**
- Sustain full and equitable access to behavioral healthcare for children, youth, and families (mental health and substance use services) in public behavioral health systems, private insurers, and managed care organizations
- Advocate for adequate, sustainable rates through CalAIM payment reform

## Residential Capacity and Support

- **Advocate for sustainable Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) permanent rates to support foster youth and providers that serve them**
- Advocate for original vision of CCR
- Advocate for expansion of community-based supports for families
- Advocate for more resources for adoptive placements and families, and the providers that serve them

## Workforce

- **Advocate to reduce background check barriers for prospective employees coming from out-of-state to work in residential programs**
- Advocate for maintaining and expanding the workforce in child-serving systems
- Support efforts on creating a more racially, ethnically, and linguistically diverse workforce

## Juvenile Justice

- Reduce employment barriers for justice-involved youth
- Support restorative justice, rehabilitative practices, and preventive services that elevate the needs of youth involved in the juvenile justice system so they are appropriately served

## Family-Based Services

- **Advocate to restore funding to the California Family Urgent Response System (FURS)**
- **Advocate to prevent Foster Family Agency rate cuts**
- **Protect LGBTQ+ youth with identity-affirming resource families**
- Integrate family finding and engagement in all counties

## Education

- Aid in implementation efforts to prioritize **access to foster and homeless students in expanded learning program enrollment**
- Expand access to school-based mental health services, especially for foster and probation youth and students in special education
- Guarantee children and youth have access to educational resources needed to be college/career ready

## Transition Age Youth

- **Advocate for gender flexibility in Transitional Housing Programs** to ensure that LGBTQ+ youth, siblings, specialized populations, and parenting and co-parenting youth have opportunities for adequate and safe housing supports
- **Advocate to restore funding to the Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP) Supplement**
- Uphold safe and stable housing for transition age youth and families, especially for TAY with higher needs that need a step-down from an STRTP

## Prevention

- Support the efforts of the Mandated Reporter to Community Supporter Task Force (MRCS)
- Fulfill the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)
- Promote Wraparound as a high-quality prevention and early intervention program

Click [HERE](#) to view our policy platform in its entirety.

Bolded items are areas in which the Alliance will sponsor legislation or budget requests. Please reach out to Adrienne Shilton, Vice President of Public Policy and Strategy at [ashilton@cacfs.org](mailto:ashilton@cacfs.org) with any questions.