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## California Budget Must Keep Promises to Children and Youth

**Sacramento, CA** – Governor Newsom opened today with the theme of keeping promises. Providers of care to youth and families touched by California’s child welfare system know there is no more important commitment the state can keep than to our children and youth. We appreciate this budget proposal’s acknowledgement that rates paid to providers and resource families caring for foster youth must meet the youth’s individual needs; we look forward to working closely with the Administration and Legislature to ensure youth who have experienced poverty, racism, and trauma have all the resources they need to heal and thrive. For this same reason, we are deeply concerned by the proposed elimination of the Family Urgent Response System (FURS), a critical tool to promote stability in family placements for youth in child welfare.

At a time of unprecedented behavioral health crisis for California’s youth, we again express appreciation for Governor Newsom’s landmark investment in the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative. What we know about young brains makes clear - there is simply no time to wait when it comes to interventions that help children succeed now and prevent more serious outcomes from hospitalization to homelessness. For this reason, we caution against delaying investments in workforce and infrastructure needed to serve youth across California, as well as bridge housing funds that are needed now to address the growing crisis.

The California Alliance - made up of 167 member organizations serving youth and families across California - will continue to be a resource to the Administration and Legislature on the impact budget decisions have on vulnerable youth and families.

For more information about the CA Alliance and its member organizations, please visit [cacfs.org](http://cacfs.org).

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*The California Alliance: The collective voice for organizations that serve children, youth, and families. For those dedicated to improving the lives of these at-risk populations, the California Alliance stands apart as the champion and leading voice for organizations that advocate for children, youth, and families and for advancing policy and services on their behalf.*

