
SENATE COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND FISCAL REVIEW

Senator Scott Wiener, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular

Bill No:	AB 118	Hearing Date:	June 25, 2025
Author:	Committee on Budget		
Version:	June 24, 2025 Amended		
Urgency:	Yes	Fiscal:	Yes
Consultant:	Elizabeth Schmitt		

Subject: Human services

Summary: Provides for statutory changes necessary to enact human services related provisions of the Budget Act of 2025.

Proposed Law: As part of the 2025-26 budget package, this bill makes statutory changes to implement the budget act. This bill includes the following provisions:

- 1) Consistent with existing law, establishes a distribution methodology for the Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant. The distribution methodology includes the following provisions:
 - a. Retains the existing distribution methodology in 2025-26.
 - b. In 2026-27, establishes a by-county distribution as follows: 25 percent for the total realigned population; 20 percent for the realigned population not committed to a secure youth treatment facility (SYTF); 35 percent for the total youth population; and 20 percent for youth who were committed to an SYTF and then transferred to a less restrictive program.
 - c. In 2027-28, establishes a by-county distribution as follows: 20 percent for the total realigned population; 20 percent for the realigned population not committed to a SYTF; 35 percent for the total youth population; 10 percent for youth who were committed to an SYTF and then transferred to a less restrictive program; and 15 percent for youth who were committed to an SYTF and then transferred to a less restrictive program that is not in a facility regulated by Subchapter 5 (commencing with Section 1300) of Chapter 1 of Division 1 of Title 15 of the California Code of Regulations.
 - d. In 2028-29 and ongoing, establishes a by-county distribution as follows: 20 percent for the total realigned population; 20 percent for the realigned population not committed to a SYTF; 35 percent for the total youth population; 5 percent for youth who were committed to an SYTF and then transferred to a less restrictive program; and 20 percent for youth who were committed to an SYTF and then transferred to a less restrictive program that is not in a facility regulated by Subchapter 5 (commencing with Section 1300) of Chapter 1 of Division 1 of Title 15 of the California Code of Regulations.
 - e. Requires the Office of Youth and Community Restoration to review the formula and report to the Legislature with an assessment of the formula's efficacy in meeting the Legislature's intent to implement public health approaches to support positive youth development and outcomes, build

the capacity of a continuum of community-based approaches, and reduce recidivism.

- f. Prohibits a county board of supervisors from allocating funding to any juvenile hall, camp, ranch, or secure youth treatment facility that is, or at any time during the prior fiscal year was, deemed unsuitable and used for the confinement of youth on any day when the facility was prohibited by law from being used for the confinement of youth. Allows a county board of supervisors to withhold funding from any entity that is, or at any time during the prior fiscal year was, operating an unsuitable juvenile hall, camp, ranch, or secure youth treatment facility and is confining or did confine one or more youth in the unsuitable facility on any day when the facility was prohibited by law from being used for confinement of youth.
 - g. Requires county realignment block grant plans to include a description of less restrictive programs used by the county, including whether the programs are in a facility regulated by Subchapter 5 (commencing with Section 1300) of Chapter 1 of Division 1 of Title 15 of the California Code of Regulations.
 - h. Requires county realignment block grant plans to include a summary of expenditures from the prior fiscal year, including, but not limited to, total expenditures, a description of whether the expenditures were consistent with the county's realignment block grant plan, and a description of how those expenditures improve outcomes for the realigned population.
- 2) Clarifies the operational period for which the California Fruit and Vegetable pilot project will receive an evaluation, to prevent additional funding included in the 2025 Budget Act from delaying the scheduled evaluation.
 - 3) Clarifies that for participants in the CalWORKs program, counties shall provide a prepopulated semiannual report for program renewal either by mail or electronically. Requires final policy guidance for changes to the prepopulated semiannual report to be completed by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) by August 15, 2025.
 - 4) Beginning July, 2026, if the state ceases to receive enhanced federal financial participation due to noncompliance of timely case reassessment for the Community First Choice Option program within the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program, requires 100 percent of the federal penalty to be paid by counties. For the 2025-26 fiscal year only, establishes that the state and county shall each pay 50 percent of the federal penalty.
 - 5) Requires county child welfare agencies to convene child and family team meetings for children and youth receiving family maintenance services.
 - 6) Clarifies that in the event of a disaster declaration, CDSS shall receive up to \$300,000 General Fund to cover administrative costs associated with the implementation of the Disaster CalFresh program.
 - 7) Restricts the use of Adoption Assistance Program (AAP) payments for placement in an out-of-state residential treatment facility to only those adopted children whose parent(s) live in the state outside of California in which the facility is

located. Establishes parameters governing the authorization of AAP payments for families who meet this criteria, including the following:

- a. Requires the facility to be licensed, in good standing, eligible for federal funds, and a qualified residential treatment program, as specified.
- b. Prevents AAP payments from being used for facilities such as wilderness programs, boot camps, detention facilities, boarding schools, and military schools, as specified.
- c. For adoption assistance agreements executed prior to June 30, 2025, prohibits AAP payments at the negotiated benefit amount from exceeding the timeframe authorized in the adoption assistance agreement in effect on June 30, 2025, unless the responsible public agency and adoptive parents have negotiated and agreed upon up to an additional 60 days for the purpose of transitioning the child home.
- d. Commencing September 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, requires county adoption agencies to provide the following information to CDSS: the total number of children in out-of-state residential treatment facilities, the name and location of each out-of-state residential treatment facility, and the number of days each child placed in an out-of-state residential treatment facility remained in that facility.
- e. Requires CDSS to engage child welfare advocates, county child welfare agencies, tribes, and interested stakeholders to update policies regarding the use of AAP for in-home wraparound and out-of-home placements, and provide proposed statutory changes to the Legislature no later than February 1, 2026.

8) Makes technical and conforming changes.

Fiscal Effect: Appropriates \$208.8 million from the General Fund for the Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant.

Support: None on file.

Opposed: None on file.

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