



## **Providing Supplemental Support for Youth Experiencing Placement Instability AB 1112 (McKinnor) FACT SHEET**

**Sponsor:** Luciana Svidler, (323) 318-1032

**Staff Contact:** Sierra Sheppard, (916) 319-2061

**As Introduced:** February 15, 2023

### **ISSUE**

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The University of Chicago's Chapin Hall conducted the California Youth Transitions to Adulthood Study (CalYOUTH) which found that more than one in four foster youth surveyed had experienced at least one night of homelessness in the past two years and nearly 30 percent said they had 'couch surfed,' or 'crashed with friends,' because they had no other place to go while in foster care. Finding affordable housing is a challenge for most Californians given the disruptions from the COVID-19 pandemic, rising inflation, and overall limited housing stock.

While a minor or nonminor is eligible for certain services and supports while in foster care, including supplemental support for pregnant individuals and a clothing allowance if provided by the county, youth currently are ineligible for these payments if they do not reside in an approved placement setting. Because of the lack of sufficient housing and placements, many youth experience periods of homelessness and/or placement instability while in care. Under current law, pregnant youth cannot receive funding meant for their day-to-day survival when they are unhoused or in unapproved placements, which is when they need these funds the most.

### **SOLUTION**

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AB 1112 will ensure that foster youth receive specified benefits regardless of whether they are in an approved placement. If a county opts to provide a clothing allowance to foster youth, this bill requires the county to provide that clothing allowance to foster youth who are under the dependency jurisdiction but are not residing in an approved placement. Likewise, the bill requires that pregnant foster youth who would be eligible for foster care benefits if they resided in an approved placement be eligible for those benefits. These requirements will improve the conditions of foster youth in these two limited situations, particularly those who are unable to secure an approved placement because of the lack of sufficient housing.

### **SUPPORT**

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Children's Law Center of California (Sponsor)

Public Counsel (Sponsor)