

August 2023

**The Honorable Gavin Newsom**  
Governor  
State of California  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, California 95814

**The Honorable Susan Eggman**  
California State Senate  
1021 O St., Suite 8530  
Sacramento CA 95814



## Protect Funding for Children and Youth in Changes to the MHSA

Dear Governor Newsom and State Legislators,

The undersigned organizations urge you to include set-asides for children and youth, ages 0-25, in any changes to Proposition 63, also known as the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA). Since 2005, the MHSA has worked to fill in funding gaps where the State has underinvested, especially in the areas of prevention and children's services that impact our infants and toddlers, school-age children, and transition age youth. We are deeply concerned by the current proposal, outlined in Senate Bill 326 (Eggman), to severely limit and re-route hard fought investments away from child-serving programs.

According to recent data, rates of anxiety and depression among California's children have [shot up by 70%](#) and one-third of California adolescents [experienced serious psychological distress](#) between 2019 and 2021, including a 20% increase in adolescent suicides. Despite overwhelming research and data documenting the youth mental health crisis in California, the **proposed changes could ELIMINATE spending requirements on services for children and youth, which means counties would have the option to spend \$0 on children's mental health moving forward.**

We applaud the State's recent investment in California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) and the largely one-time investment of the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI). However, those investments have yet to be analyzed to understand if the promises of CalAIM and the CYBHI have been delivered. **It is premature to reroute funds from the MHSA due to the introduction of CalAIM and the CYBHI, when we have yet to fully realize and understand the impact of these investments.**

For years, children's advocates have worked to ensure MHSA funding prioritizes children and youth given the historic lack of focus on this population. These efforts resulted in programs that address the broad spectrum of needs of children, youth and their caregivers/families, including services such as, but not limited to:

- Parent coaching and education programs like Triple P (Positive Parenting Program): a parent support program that helps parents learn strategies to promote social competence and self-regulation in children.
- Suicide Prevention with Schools: to support school age youth in identifying and referring individuals at risk of self-harm and suicidality.
- Kinship Supportive Services: to provide individual and group supportive services to grandparents and/or other relative caregivers who are raising a relative's child(ren).
- School Based/Linked Behavioral Health Services, Supports, and Training: for ongoing support for all children and youth in schools, regardless of insurance status. These services continue in the community after school hours, during summers, and on weekends.
- Family Resource Centers: flexible, family-focused, and culturally sensitive hubs of support and resources that provide programs and targeted services based on the needs and interests of families. Family Resource Centers serve diverse populations and are located in a variety of community settings, including schools, housing, and stand-alone community-based programs.

To continue addressing our state's youth mental health crisis, we cannot divert or eliminate funding currently set-aside for children and youth and, therefore, **urge the Governor and Legislature to set aside funds for children and youth ages 0-25 in every category of MHSA funding outlined in the proposed changes.**

Sincerely,  
The Undersigned Organizations

CC:

The Honorable Toni G. Atkins  
Senate President pro Tempore

The Honorable Chris Holden  
Chair, Assembly Committee on  
Appropriations

The Honorable Caroline Menjivar  
Chair, Senate Subcommittee 3 on  
Health and Human Services

Joe Parra  
Principal Consultant, California State  
Senate Republican Caucus

The Honorable Robert Rivas  
Speaker of the Assembly

The Honorable Nancy Skinner  
Chair, Senate Committee on Budget and  
Fiscal Review

The Honorable Akilah Weber  
Chair, Assembly Subcommittee 1  
on Health and Human Services

The Honorable Anthony J. Portantino  
Chair, Senate Committee on  
Appropriations

The Honorable Phil Ting  
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee

The Honorable Jim Wood  
Chair, Health Committee



1st Place 2 Start

211 San Bernardino



3Strands Global Foundation



A Better Way, Inc.



A Greater Hope



AbilityPath



Access California Services



Acta Non Verba: Youth Urban Farm Project



Acterra



Advokids



Aeries Software

AIM Youth Mental Health

Alameda Family Services



All Five



Alliance for Children's Rights



Alum Rock Counseling Center



Alum Rock School District

Almaden Valley Counseling Service

Altura Centers for Health



Amanecer Consulting Group

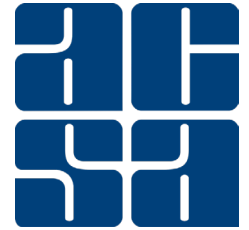
American Indian Child Resource Center

American SPCC

American Sports Institute



Amundson Consulting



Association of California School Administrators

Amundson Consulting

Architects of Hope

Aspiranet



BANANAS, Inc.



Barnabas Charity Outreach

Association of Community Human Service Agencies (ACHSA)

Aviva Family & Children's Services



Berkeley Food Network



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF LAGUNA BEACH

Boys & Girls Club of Laguna Beach

Boys & Girls Club of the Redwoods

Bay Area Professional Family Child Care Network



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF FRESNO COUNTY

Boys & Girls Clubs of Fresno County



BUILD

Bridge the Gap

Bridge the Gap College Prep



CALICO Center



California Alliance of Caregivers



California Alliance of Child and Family Services

Cal Poly San Luis Obispo School of Education



California Association for the Education of Young Children

California Association for the Education of Young Children (CAEYC)

California Association of School Counselors

California Association of School Psychologists

California Church IMPACT



California Coalition for Youth



California Infant Development Association

California Youth Connection



Carolyn Kordich Family Resource Center

Casa De Amparo

CASA of Lassen Family Services

Capital Stage



Caulder Lamm Alliance for Children



Center for Autism and Related Disorders

Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice

Casa Pacifica Centers for Children & Families

Caulder Lamm Alliance for Children, Inc.



Certain Solar

Center for Health Justice

Central Coast YMCA

Chicano Federation



Child Abuse Prevention Council of Contra Costa County

Child Action, Inc.

Child Development Institute



Child Development Resources of Ventura County, Inc.



Children's Advocacy Centers of California



Children's Advocacy Institute

Children of the Rainbow, Inc.

Children's Advocacy Center of Santa Clara County



Children's Bureau of Southern California



Children's Institute, Inc.



Children's Law Center of California



The Children's Pre-School Center  
Children's Pre-School Center



Children's Receiving Home of Sacramento

Children's Specialty Care Coalition



City Youth Now



Civicorps



Coastal Kids Home Care



Community Asian Theatre of the Sierra

Community Partnership for Youth

Community Solutions



Contra Costa Youth Service Bureau

Cookie Good



Cope Family Center

Coronado Democratic Club



Crime Survivors, Inc.

Crisis Support Services of Alameda County

CSUSB Early Childhood Programs

Davis Street Family Resource Center



DC Children's Trust Fund

Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services



Doors of Change



Dorris Dann Kids Campus



Dunsmuir Community Resource Center



Early Education Action League



Easterseals Southern California



Edgewood Center for Children and Families



Educate California



Enriching Lives through Music

EntreNous Youth Empowerment Services

Escobar Family Child Care

ESCUELA DE LA RAZA UNIDA



Escuela de la Raza Unida



Everychild Foundation



Evolve California



FACTS (Families Advocating for Chemical and Toxics Safety)



Families Forward Learning Center



Family Connections

Family Matters SBC / Transcend Educational Services



Family Paths, Inc.



First 5 Association of California



First 5 Fresno County

First 5 Orange County



First 5 Sacramento



First 5 San Benito County



First 5 San Mateo County



First 5 Siskiyou Children and Families Commission



First Congregational Church of Palo Alto, UCC





Footsteps Child Care, Inc.



Foster Care Counts



Freedom 4 Youth

Fred Finch Youth and Family Services



Fresh Approach



Fresno Council on Child Abuse Prevention



From the Heart Preschool & Enrichment Center



Full Court Press Communications

**Gardner Rodriguez**

Gardner Rodriguez



Girls on the Run Bay Area



Going Digital: Behavioral Health Tech

Good2Know Partners

Growing Outreach Growing Opportunities

Harmony At Home

Haven of Hope, Inc.

Healing Together

Health Action Together

Heisters Generative

Help Me Grow San Mateo County

Helpline Youth Counseling







Hillsides



Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley



Hmong Cultural Center of Butte County



I'm a Movement Not a Monument



Imagine LA



InPlay

Humboldt County Transition Age Youth Collaboration



Integrated Behavioral Health Research Institute

InsideOUT Writers

Interface Children and Family Services

Israeli-American Civic Action Network



Kamali'i Foster Family Agency

Katki Molloy Windsor

It's Your Move Games

Just in Time for Foster Youth



Kern County Network for Children



Koinonia Family Services

Kelechi Ubozoh Consulting

Kids & Families Together



Krause Center for Innovation

Laura Valles & Associates

Lauren's House 4 Positive Change Inc

Law Offices of Barbara A. Goode



Legal Services for Prisoners with Children

LMT & Associates, Inc.



Lodi House

Los Angeles Unified School District



MACLA/Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana

Margolis Consulting



Maternal and Child Health Access

Mental Health & Autism Insurance Project (MAIP)

Monterey County Rape Crisis Center

Mountain Valley Child and Family Services

NAMI Santa Clara County

National Asian Pacific American Families Against Substance Abuse (NAPAFASA)



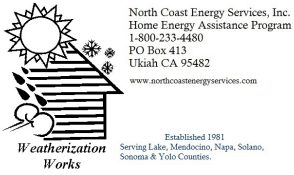
National Center for Youth Law

New Beginnings Residential Treatment Facilities

Newman Hall Nonviolent Peacemaking Group



North Bay Leadership Council



North Coast Energy Services



Oakland Starting Smart and Strong

Oceanic Preservation Society



Open Immigration Legal Services, Inc.

Open Source Wellness



Optimal Solutions Consulting

Our Turn California



Oxnard Performing Arts Center

Pacific Clinics



Para Los Niños

Parent Teen Bridges



Parents as Teachers®

Parent Teen Bridges

Parents as Teachers National Center

Parents Helping Parents



Partnership for Children and Youth



Pasadena Altadena Coalition of Transformative Leaders



Pathways LA

Pathways LA



Peninsula Family Service



Peninsula Youth Theatre

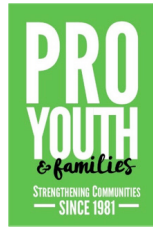


Penny Lane Centers

Phenomenal Families

Placer Nature Center

PLUS ME Project



PODER (People Organizing to Demand Environmental & Economic Rights)

PRO Youth and Families



Project KnuckleHead

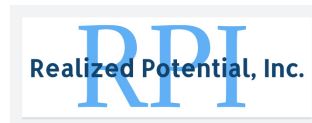
Promesa Behavioral Health



Puente de la Costa Sur



Raise A Child Inc.



Realized Potential Inc



Redwood Community Services



Resource Center for Community Engaged Scholarship, UC Merced

River City Democratic Club West Sacramento



Roots Education

RYSE



San Benito County Office of Education



San Diego Council on Literacy



San Diego for Every Child



San Diego Hunger Coalition



SAN FERNANDO COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

San Fernando Community Health Center

San Francisco Department of Early Childhood

San Gabriel Pomona Regional Center



San Mateo County Economic Development Association (SAMCEDA)



Santa Cruz Community Health



Sententia Vera, LLC

Shasta Cascade Health Centers



SISKIYOU COMMUNITY RESOURCE COLLABORATIVE

Sierra Vista Child and Family Services

Siskiyou Community Resource Collaborative

Sisters of the Holy Family

Six Seconds



Solano Family & Children's Services

Somali Family Service of San Diego

SOMOS Mayfair

Southland Symphony Guild Orchestra and Chorus



Southside Coalition of Community Health Centers



St. Anne's Family Services

Stanford Children's Health

Stanford Sierra Youth & Families

Stars Behavioral Health Group

Taft Union High School District

Teens4Teens Help

The Achievable Foundation



The California Children's Trust

The Center for Early Childhood Connections

The Child Unique Montessori School

The Children's Movement of Fresno



The Children's Partnership

The Eli Home for Abused Children

The Lake School

The Los Angeles Trust for Children's Health



The Mom and Dad Project

The Oakland Public Education Fund

The Opportunity Institute

The Primary School



The Salvador E. Alvarez Institute for Non-Violence

The Scott Foundation

The Stephan Center

The Whole Child Mental Health and Housing Services



Therapeutic Play Foundation, Inc.

Today's Youth Matter

Trinidad Civic Club

Tulelake/Newell Family Resource center



United Parents

United Way of Santa Cruz County

Urban Strategies Council

Valley Achievement Center



Valley Oak Children's Services, Inc.

Via International

Village Community Resource Center

HOME-SAFE  
A DIVISION OF VISTA DEL MAR

Vista Del Mar Child & Family Services



Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club

WestCoast Children's Clinic

Walden Family Services

Wayfinder Family Services



Willows in the Wind

Worksite Wellness LA

World of Powerful Youth

WOW Explorations





Young Minds Advocacy



Young Storytellers

YMCA of San Diego County

Yolo County Green Party



Youth Alliance



Youth Transforming Justice

Youth For Change



Yuba-Sutter United Way

Yuba-Sutter-Colusa United Way



ZERO TO THREE, Western Office

## The Children's Movement of California

### List of Signed Organizations

1st Place 2 Start	Barnabas Charity Outreach	Caulder Lamm Alliance for Children, Inc.	Contra Costa Youth Service Bureau
211 San Bernardino	Bay Area Professional Family Child Care Network	Center for Autism and Related Disorders	Cookie Good
3Strands Global Foundation	Berkeley Food Network	Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice	Cope Family Center
A Better Way, Inc.	Boys & Girls Club of Laguna Beach	Center for Health Justice	Coronado Democratic Club
A Greater Hope	Boys & Girls Club of the Redwoods	Central Coast YMCA	Crime Survivors, Inc.
AbilityPath	Boys & Girls Clubs of Fresno County	Certain Solar	Crisis Support Services of Alameda County
Access California Services	Bridge the Gap	Chicano Federation	CSUSB Early Childhood Programs
Acta Non Verba: Youth Urban Farm Project	Bridge the Gap College Prep	Child Abuse Prevention Council of Contra Costa County	Davis Street Family Resource Center
Acterra	BUILD	Child Action, Inc.	DC Children's Trust Fund
AdvocacySD	Cal Poly San Luis Obispo School of Education	Child Development Institute	Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services
Advokids	CALICO Center	Child Development Resources of Ventura County, Inc.	Doors of Change
Aeries Software	California Alliance of Caregivers	Children of the Rainbow, Inc.	Dorris Dann Kids Campus
AIM Youth Mental Health	California Alliance of Child and Family Services	Children's Advocacy Center of Santa Clara County	Dunsmuir Community Resource Center
Alameda Family Services	California Association for the Education of Young Children (CAEYC)	Children's Advocacy Centers of California	Early Education Action League
All Five	California Association of School Counselors	Children's Advocacy Institute	Easterseals Southern California
Alliance for Children's Rights	California Association of School Psychologists	Children's Bureau of Southern California	Edgewood Center for Children and Families
Almaden Valley Counseling Service	California Church IMPACT	Children's Institute, Inc.	Educate California
Altura Centers for Health	California Coalition for Youth	Children's Law Center of California	Enriching Lives through Music
Alum Rock Counseling Center	California Counseling Associates	Children's Pre-School Center	EntreNous Youth Empowerment Services
Alum Rock School District	California Infant Development Association	Children's Receiving Home of Sacramento	Escobar Family Child Care
Amanecer Consulting Group	California Youth Connection	Children's Specialty Care Coalition	Escuela de la Raza Unida
American Indian Child Resource Center	Capital Stage	City Youth Now	Everychild Foundation
American SPCC	Carolyn Kordich Family Resource Center	Civicorps	Evolve California
American Sports Institute	Casa De Amparo	Coastal Kids Home Care	FACTS (Families Advocating for Chemical and Toxics Safety)
Amundson Consulting	CASA of Lassen Family Services	Community Asian Theatre of the Sierra	Families Forward Learning Center
Architects of Hope	Casa Pacifica Centers for Children & Families	Community Partnership for Youth	Family Connections
Aspiranet		Community Solutions	Family Matters SBC / Transcend Educational Services

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Family Paths, Inc.	Hip Housing	Margolis Consulting	Pasadena Altadena Coalition of Transformative Leaders
First 5 Association of California	Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley	Maternal and Child Health Access	Pathways LA
First 5 Fresno County	Hmong Cultural Center of Butte County	Mental Health & Autism Insurance Project (MAIP)	Peninsula Family Service
First 5 Orange County	Humboldt County Transition Age Youth Collaboration	Monterey County Rape Crisis Center	Peninsula Youth Theatre
First 5 Sacramento	I'm a Movement Not a Monument	Mountain Valley Child and Family Services	Penny Lane Centers
First 5 San Benito County	Imagine LA	NAMI Santa Clara County	Phenomenal Families
First 5 San Mateo County	InPlay	National Asian Pacific American Families Against Substance Abuse (NAPAFASA)	Placer Nature Center
First 5 Siskiyou Children and Families Commission	InsideOUT Writers	National Center for Youth Law	PLUS ME Project
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Footsteps Child Care, Inc.	Interface Children and Family Services	Newman Hall Nonviolent Peacemaking Group	PRO Youth and Families
Foster Care Counts	Israeli-American Civic Action Network	North Bay Leadership Council	Project KnuckleHead
Fred Finch Youth and Family Services	It's Your Move Games	North Coast Energy Services	Promesa Behavioral Health
Freedom 4 Youth	Just in Time for Foster Youth	North Marin Community Services	Puente de la Costa Sur
Fresh Approach	Kamali'i Foster Family Agency	Oakland Starting Smart and Strong	Raise A Child Inc.
Fresno Council on Child Abuse Prevention	Katki Molloy Windsor	Oceanic Preservation Society	Realized Potential Inc
From the Heart Preschool & Enrichment Center	Kelechi Ubozoh Consulting	Open Immigration Legal Services, Inc.	Redwood Community Services
Full Court Press Communications	Kern County Network for Children	Open Source Wellness	Resource Center for Community Engaged Scholarship, UC Merced
Gardner Rodriguez	Kids & Families Together	Optimal Solutions Consulting	River City Democratic Club West Sacramento
Girls on the Run Bay Area	Koinonia Family Services	Our Turn California	Roots Education
Going Digital: Behavioral Health Tech	Krause Center for Innovation	Oxnard Performing Arts Center	RYSE
Good2Know Partners	Laura Valles & Associates	Pacific Clinics	San Benito County Office of Education
Growing Outreach Growing Opportunities	Lauren's House 4 Positive Change Inc	Para Los Niños	San Diego Center for Children
Harmony At Home	Law Offices of Barbara A. Goode	Parent Teen Bridges	San Diego Council on Literacy
Haven of Hope, Inc.	Legal Services for Prisoners with Children	Parent Teen Bridges	San Diego for Every Child
Healing Together	LMT & Associates, Inc.	Parents as Teachers National Center	San Diego Hunger Coalition
Health Action Together	Lodi House	Parents Helping Parents	San Fernando Community Health Center
Heisters Generative	Los Angeles Unified School District	Partnership for Children and Youth	San Francisco Department of Early Childhood
Help Me Grow San Mateo County	MACLA/Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana		San Gabriel Pomona Regional Center
Helpline Youth Counseling			San Mateo County Economic Development Association (SAMCEDA)
Hillsides			

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Sententia Vera, LLC	The Primary School	Youth Transforming Justice
Shasta Cascade Health Centers	The Salvador E. Alvarez Institute for Non-Violence	Yuba-Sutter-Colusa United Way
Sierra Vista Child and Family Services	The Scott Foundation	ZERO TO THREE, Western Office
Siskiyou Community Resource Collaborative	The Stephan Center	
Sisters of the Holy Family	The Whole Child Mental Health and Housing Services	
Six Seconds	Therapeutic Play Foundation, Inc.	
Solano Family & Children's Services	Today's Youth Matter	
Somali Family Service of San Diego	Trinidad Civic Club	
SOMOS Mayfair	Tulelake/Newell Family Resource center	
Southland Symphony Guild Orchestra and Chorus	United Parents	
Southside Coalition of Community Health Centers	United Way of Santa Cruz County	
St. Anne's Family Services	Urban Strategies Council	
Stanford Children's Health	Valley Achievement Center	
Stanford Sierra Youth & Families	Valley Oak Children's Services, Inc.	
Stars Behavioral Health Group	Via International	
Taft Union High School District	Village Community Resource Center	
Teens4Teens Help	Vista Del Mar Child & Family Services	
The Achievable Foundation	Walden Family Services	
The California Children's Trust	Wayfinder Family Services	
The Center for Early Childhood Connections	Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club	
The Child Unique Montessori School	WestCoast Children's Clinic	
The Children's Movement of Fresno	Willows in the Wind	
The Children's Partnership	Worksite Wellness LA	
The Eli Home for Abused Children	World of Powerful Youth	
The Lake School	WOW Explorations	
The Los Angeles Trust for Children's Health	YMCA of San Diego County	
The Mom and Dad Project	Yolo County Green Party	
The Oakland Public Education Fund	Young Minds Advocacy	
	Young Storytellers	
	Youth Alliance	