

Bringing Families Home Program

- May Revision proposed to revert \$80 million GF from the FY 2022-23 pot of funding that had been allocated to counties (out of \$82.8 million provided to counties).
- Final budget instead reappropriates that \$80 million GF to FY 2024-25 (current year), and allows \$40 million to be spent by June 30, 2026, and the other \$40 million to be spent by June 30, 2027.
- The original BFH pilot program required a dollar-for-dollar match. When BFH was expanded, state law waived the required match. AB 161 TBL extends this “match exemption” through June 30, 2027.
- A redistribution of FY 2022-23 BFH funds is likely to occur and CWDA will work with CDSS to reallocate funds to counties, with the goal of maximizing statewide expenditure.

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BFH is a one-time program that will expire in FY 27-28. BFH is administered by both counties and tribal agencies with excellent outcomes per the recent evaluation. <https://capolicylab.org/bringing-families-home-program-evaluation/> Findings include:

- BFH served a particularly vulnerable and high-need population, even compared to other families involved in the child welfare system.
- Families were not otherwise connecting to the broader homeless response system prior to BFH enrollment.
- BFH reduced the use of shelter services and increased the use of rapid rehousing services.
- Most families that exited the BFH program exited to permanent housing.
- For families that entered BFH with a child in foster care and receiving Family Reunification (FR) services, family reunifications were higher than among control-group families by approximately 20 percentage points at 180 days after BFH entry.
- For families that entered BFH receiving in-home services through Family Maintenance (FM), more BFH children were still receiving services through FM or were receiving FR services at the 180-day mark as compared to the control group.

Caregiver Approval Funding

- May Revision proposed full elimination of funding (\$50 million) on permanent, on-going basis. Final Budget retains full funding. County CWS programs are currently spending in excess of this and covering those costs through 2011 Realignment.
- Trailer Bill (AB 161) extends RFA approval timeline from 90 days to 120 days, in alignment with the Emergency Caregiver Approval funding.
- CDSS working with stakeholders to determine changes in the RFA process for kinship caregivers, in alignment with new federal regulations. Speaker Rivas pending legislation – AB 2830 – requires streamlining by January 1, 2027.
- Work underway, led by CDSS, to promote “Kin-first” culture and placements, through Excellence in Family Finding, Engagement and Support Program.
- CWDA concern with unanticipated and significant increased workload in 2024-25 due to loss of insurance from FFAs, resulting in FFA closures, and FFA family approvals need to be “ported” to counties.



CWDA

Advancing Human Services
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