BACKGROUND:

In November 2018, the Lifting Children and Families Out of Poverty Task Force (Task Force) issued a report, commissioned by the CA State Legislature per Chapter 415, Statutes of 2017 (Assembly Bill 1520, 2017, Burke). AB 1520 required the Task Force to develop comprehensive strategies aimed at addressing deep child poverty and reducing child poverty in CA. Since the issuance of the report, there has been progress made on all the recommendations and thirty-three of the forty-four recommendations have been fully or partially adopted. The following are the list of recommendations and the progress made in the 2019-2020 CA Legislative Cycle.

SOCIAL SAFETY NET

Priority Recommendations:

• Expand CalEITC
  Progress Made: Expanded to over a $1 Billion Program and ITIN exclusion was eliminated
• Establish a Targeted Child Tax Credit for families living in deep poverty
  Progress Made: $1,000 Young Child Tax Credit established from CalEITC Eligible filers w/ children 6 and under.
• Increase CalWORKs grant amounts to end deep poverty
  Progress Made: CalWORKS grant amounts increased to at least 50% FPL (Federal Poverty Line) in accordance with AB 1811

Comprehensive Recommendations:

• Align CalWORKs time limits with federal limits
  Progress Made: CalWORKS time limits aligned with federal limits
• Fund Summer Lunch Program and develop EBT pilot
  Progress Made: COVID-19 Related Expansions
• Expand Community Eligibility Provision for Schools
**Progress Made:** AB 3006 (Berman) introduced
- Increase SNAP benefits ($30/family)

**Progress Made:** COVID-19 Related Increases
- Prevent SNAP sanctions for families w/ children ages 0-5

**Progress Made:** Sanctions Temporarily Suspended due to pandemic

### EARLY CHILDHOOD

**Priority:**
- 100% Parental Leave wage replacement for low income workers
  **Progress Made:** PFL extended to 8 weeks and 90% of wage replacement for low income workers
- Guarantee access to child care of low-income families
  **Progress Made:** Increased slots, AP vouchers and full day preschool, but pandemic has highlighted a greater need with closure of child care centers across the state
- Establish a tiered reimbursement structure
  **Progress Made:** Legislation introduced and Governor’s Early Childhood Policy Council created
- Support Workforce training and Improvement
  **Progress Made:** $195 Million Investment made in workforce training for early care and education

### HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

**Priority:**
- Protection and Landlord incentives for families using Section 8 and other rent vouchers
  **Progress Made:** SB 329 (Mitchell) signed into law
- Fund shallow rental subsidies
  **Progress Made:** Various Homeless Assistance Programs
- Implement 1) Rent stabilization and 2) Set housing supply provisions in jurisdictions falling short of their low-income housing goals and/or experiencing rent increases in excess of inflation
  **Progress Made:** Various Budget and Policy Bills adopted

**Comprehensive:**
- Expand Bringing Families Home Statewide
  **Progress Made:** BFH One Time Investment
- Long-term subsidies for homeless families and youth
  **Progress Made:** Homeless Assistance Programs *% Set aside for Youth
- Provide Eviction Defense and related legal services to low-income households
  **Progress Made:** Increase in Equal Access Fund for renters and landlord-tenant disputes
• Housing vouchers for young adults aging out of extended foster care  
  **Progress Made:** N/A, focus was on increasing number of slots in Transitional Housing Programs and flexibility in SILPs (Supervised Independent Living Placements)

**HEALTH CARE**

**Priority:**
• Expand Medi-Cal coverall to all adults up to 138% of the FPL regardless of immigration status  
  **Progress Made:** Medi-Cal expanded to everyone up to the age of 26
• Develop state funding mechanism to fund nonprofit federally qualified health centers  
  **Progress Made:** Budget proposal introduced for the expansion of school-based health centers

**Comprehensive:**
• Develop Early Intervention and Primary Intervention Programs  
  **Progress Made:** Budget proposal introduced for the expansion of school-based health centers and school mental health services, MHSA created school based MH grant
• Reimburse non-profit health providers to provide care coordination case management  
  **Progress Made:** ACE (Adverse Childhood Experiences) screening in primary care offices

**EDUCATION, WORKFORCE & TRAINING**

**Priority:**
• Fund Support Services for low-income workforce and education program participants  
  **Progress Made:** Legislation introduced
• Ensure that the education funds allocated to serve children in poverty, foster children, and ELL (English Language Learners) are expended in these subgroups, pair with expected educational outcomes.
  - Reassess the current funding structure to ensure that this can be achieved  
  **Progress Made:** Legislation introduced
• Prioritize parents living in poverty for workforce and training programs  
  **Progress Made:** Expansion of High Roads Training Partnership (HRTP) type programs targeted for low income communities

**Comprehensive:**
• Create career pipeline opportunities for youth  
  **Progress Made:** Investment in CTE programs
• Increase access to occupational licenses and credentials  
  **Progress Made:** Expansion of HRTPs

**COORDINATED SERVICES**
Priority:

- Improve data collection, applications, and database systems
  *Progress Made:* $10 Million made in integrated Cradle to Career data system
- Expand voluntary evidence-based home visiting for families in deep poverty
  *Progress Made:* $74 Million expansion of home visiting programs
- Create 20 new Promise Neighborhoods
  *Progress Made:* Legislation introduced.
- Strengthen Integration and Coordination of key state agencies (data sharing, vital records, education, human services, public safety, and health organizations)
  *Progress Made:* Investments made in integrated Cradle to Career data system and continued work in horizontal integration across state agencies

SPECIAL POPULATIONS

Priority:

- Waive Outstanding Juvenile Court Fees and Fines
  *Progress Made:* Legislation signed to waive Juvenile Court Fees and Fines
- Create safeguards for families being referred to juvenile court, prosecuted, and fined for truancy
  *Progress Made:* Legislation introduced
- Expand Childcare Bridge Program
  *Progress Made:* Childcare Bridge Program expanded by $10 Million
- Ensure Adequate and Appropriate Housing for Transition Aged Youth and Non-Minor Dependents
  *Progress Made:* THP placements increased and legislation providing more flexibility for appropriate placement codified. ($13 Million Investment)
- Examine Strategies to increase contact between children and parents in local jails.
  *Progress Made:* Structural shift in justice system to be more compassionate, COVID-19 outbreaks negatively impacted this recommendation.
- School stability for youth who have the right to remain in their school of origin.
  *Progress Made:* Legislation introduced

Comprehensive:

- Fully Fund Youth Reinvestment Fund
  *Progress Made:* Youth Reinvestment Fund expanded ($20 Million)
- Facilitate Post-Secondary education for justice-involved and foster youth
  *Progress Made:* Targeted programs for justice-involved and foster youth funded.
- Enhanced support for justice-involved youth
  *Progress Made:* Creation of the Office of Youth and Community Restoration
- Create and expand kinship navigator programs
**Progress Made:** Navigators funded ($5 Million)

- Promote placement stability for foster and homeless youth

**Progress Made:** Family Urgent Response System funded ($30 Million)