



**LIFTING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OUT OF POVERTY TASKFORCE
PROGRESS REPORT
12/31/2020**

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 (H RTP) 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 H RTPs

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)