



2019 Legislative and Budgetary Policy Agenda

Child Welfare Policy Roundtable 2.1.19

The Youth Law Center advocates to transform foster care and juvenile justice systems across the nation so every child and youth can thrive. Our 2019 legislative and budgetary policy agenda includes the following priorities:

- Ensure that high school graduates in juvenile probation and DJJ facilities have access to post-secondary academic and career and technical education programming so that they can continue to pursue their education and career goals while in custody.
Efforts this year will require probation collaboration with community colleges, UCs, and CSUs to provide these youth with an array of post-secondary programming options.
- Provide transition supports for youth in juvenile facilities so that they receive the best education possible while in custody and continue their studies when they return to their community, including support for re-enrollment, records transfer, and course credits.
Efforts this year will require transition plans for youth in court school 20+ days and a designated staff person to oversee and track successful transitions for these youth.
- Support foster youth participation in extracurricular activities, which research shows facilitates healthy child development, increases self-esteem and school success, develops skills and interests, and improves pro-social peer and supportive adult relationships.
Efforts this year will create a pilot program to fund developmentally appropriate extracurricular activities for foster children and youth in 2 urban and 2 rural counties.
- Reduce/eliminate the use of chemical spray on youth in juvenile facilities. Chemical spray use is unnecessary for public safety, runs counter to the rehabilitative goals of the juvenile justice system, and has harmful physical and emotional effects on youth already affected by trauma.
Efforts this year in partnership with MILPA, ARC, CDF, and the ACLU of Southern CA will analyze data on chemical spray use in California facilities, research strategies to eliminate its use, and report on effective alternatives being used in juvenile facilities nationwide.
- Stop the harm to and violence against cisgender and transgender women and girls and gender non-conforming people who are disproportionately impacted by violence, and guarantee access to support services for them to heal from trauma and live healthy and self-determined lives.
Efforts this year in partnership with the Young Women's Freedom Center will create a Women's Freedom Fund to support services for low-income individuals, individuals with system involvement, individuals who have experienced intimate partner violence, and survivors of physical and sexual violence.

For more information about the Youth Law Center's 2019 legislative policy agenda, contact:

Lucy Salcido Carter

lcarter@ylc.org

415-543-3379 x3

For more information about the Youth Law Center, go to our brand new website: www.ylc.org