



State Policy Agenda

United Ways of California
December 7, 2023



United Way Priorities

- **Financial Stability**
 - Tax Credits
 - Real Cost Measure/Living Wage Formula
- **Housing**
 - Housing Voucher Acceleration Program
- **Community Supports**
 - 211 Infrastructure Act
 - Reimagining CalWORKs
 - SOAR Program
 - CalFresh Minimum Benefit

Passed Legislation

- Healthcare/Fast Food Minimum Wage
 - Rental Security Deposits
-

Financial Stability

AB 1128 (Santiago) Young Child Tax Credit Expand Expansion

- **Summary:** AB 1128 would have expanded eligibility for the YCTC to match eligibility requirements for the CalEITC to include:
 - Children ages 6-18
 - Children ages 19-23 who are students
 - Children of any age with permanent and total disabilities
- **Final Status:** Died in Asm. Rev. & Tax
- **Next Step:** Will be reintroduced in 2024

Financial Stability

AB 1498 (Gipson) Increase the CalEITC Minimum Credit to \$300

- **Summary:** The current California Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC) minimum is \$1. Nearly all CalEITC recipients (88%) got less than \$300 from the credit in tax year 2021, with 79% getting less than \$200 and 43% getting less than \$100. This bill would have established a CalEITC minimum of at least \$300 will provide a meaningful credit and ease administration.
- **Final Status: Died in Asm. Rev. & Tax**
- **Next Step:** Reintroduce in 2024 as a standalone bill.



Financial Stability

SB 352 (Padilla) Living Wage Formula

- **Summary:** The bill would have required the Workforce Development Board, the Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development, and the Director of the Department of Housing and Community Development to create a living wage formula by examining housing costs by county.
- **Final Status: Died in Senate Appropriations**
- **Next Step:** Reintroduce in 2024. We're also considering establishing a "Living Wage Coalition" to support this bill and get it across the finish line.

Housing

AB 653 (Reyes) Increasing Housing Voucher Utilization:

- **Summary:** This bill would have created a program to provide housing search assistance, landlord incentives, and deposit resources to help tenants with vouchers find and secure housing units in low poverty neighborhoods. The bill would also require housing authorities that have low lease-up rates to apply evidence-based tools to increase utilization and to work with the Department of Housing and Community Development to further analyze and improve their voucher policies.
- **Final Status:** 2 Year Bill
- **Next Steps:** Continue conversations with Public Housing Authorities to come to an agreement on reporting requirements that are receptive to PHAs' concerns, but do not compromise on accountability measures.



Community Supports

SB 318 (Ochoa Bogh) 211 Infrastructure Act

- **Summary:** This bill would have created a grant program to support core activities of 211 and a Statewide Innovation Program for the purpose of collective 2-1-1 statewide network coordination with a focus on building shared strategies and project management of state and regional initiatives and related information and services, and scaling up and assisting with the operations of 2-1-1 services in disaster-prone counties.
- **Final Status:** Died in Assembly Appropriations
- **Next Steps:** Reintroduce in 2024



Community Supports

AB 310 (Arambula) - Reimagining CalWORKs

- **Summary:** Would have restructured the CalWORKs program to make it family centered & anti-racist by shifting the focus of the program from prescriptive work requirements to family assistance activities.
- **Final Status:** Died in Senate Human Services
- **Next Steps:** Reintroduce in 2024

SB 333 (Cortese) - California Success, Opportunity, and Academic Resilience (SOAR) Guaranteed Income Program

- **Summary:** Would have established the SOAR Guaranteed Income Program to provide a \$1000 grant to high school students who are homeless for 5 months.
- **Final Status:** 2-year bill
- **Next Steps:** Continue work in 2024

SB 600 (Menjivar) - California CalFresh Minimum Benefit Adequacy Act of 2023

Summary: Would require the Department of Social Services to establish the CalFresh Minimum Nutrition Benefit to ensure all CalFresh households receive a minimum monthly benefit of \$50.

Final Status: Died in Assembly Human Services

Next Steps: Reintroduce in 2024



Passed Legislation

- **Healthcare/Fast Food Minimum Wage**
 - **AB 525 (Reyes) - Raising Healthcare Minimum Wage:** Would raise the minimum wage for California's lowest-paid health workers to \$25 an hour. The wage hike is expected to benefit an estimated 469,000 employees.
 - **AB 1228 (Holden) - Fast Food Minimum Wage:** Would raise the minimum wage for workers to \$20 an hour next April. It would also require the state in 2024 to convene a new fast food council to set labor standards across the sector, including on wages, safety and other workplace conditions. Local governments would be barred from requiring an even higher fast food minimum wage.
- **Rental Security Deposits**
 - **AB 12 (Haney) Rental Security Deposits:** Limits the amount that landlords can require in security deposits to one month's rent, rather than the previous two months' rent. The bill aims to make securing housing more attainable for California renters, who often have to save up thousands of dollars to rent a home.



Q&A Wrap Up

Do you have any questions?