

Governor Newsom revealed his May Revise budget proposal yesterday which proposes dire budget cuts to early childhood, education, health and child welfare. While we of course recognize the extraordinary fiscal situation that the state faces, if enacted, these cuts will have a devastating impact on the state's children. Children Now released the following statement in response:

“The May Revise proposal fails to reflect that the majority of the state's children were in crises before the pandemic, in part because California failed to prioritize children above other interests. Since then, kids have been significantly affected by the pandemic – from a dramatic loss of learning time to a sharp increase in the need for mental health support. The May Revise proposed reductions to child care and elimination of a crises hotline for foster youth experiencing trauma are particularly inexplicable given the need for such emergency supports at this time. As California leaders make decisions in the upcoming and extremely difficult state budget process, they must ensure that programs serving kids, including early childhood, K-12, children's physical and mental health and foster care, are the least impacted by budget cuts, and not repeat the history of the last recession when many of these services were cut the most.”

A review of the cuts affecting children across our issue areas is available [here](#).

The May Revise proposal did address some of the requests in [this letter](#) we sent from 760 organizational members of The Children's Movement to the Governor and Legislature urging them to prioritize kids in the upcoming 2020-21 state budget by holding crucial children's programs and services harmless, and increasing targeted supports as much as possible. For example, the Governor proposed funding for summer school programs to address the deep learning loss too many of our kids are experiencing and professional development for educators to address health and mental health barriers for high-need students. However, yesterday's proposal did not prioritize kids programs overall as members had urged.

The pandemic has exposed and exacerbated the profound racial and economic disparities in children's access to supports and services that preceded this crisis. As the budget process continues – the May Revise is just the first step of several - Children Now, along with The Children's Movement, will continue to push leaders to put kids first as they navigate difficult decisions ahead.