

**State of California
Office of Administrative Law**

In re:
California Hope, Opportunity, Perseverance,
and Empowerment (HOPE) for Children Trust
Account Program

Regulatory Action:

Title 10, California Code of Regulations

Adopt sections: 10500, 10501, 10502,
10503, 10504, 10505,
10506, 10507, 10508,
10509

Amend sections:

Repeal sections:

NOTICE OF APPROVAL OF REGULATORY
ACTION

Government Code Section 11349.3

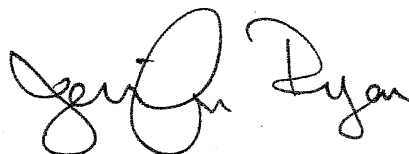
OAL Matter Number: 2025-0718-01

OAL Matter Type: Regular Resubmittal (SR)

This regular rulemaking action adopts requirements for the California Hope, Opportunity, Perseverance, and Empowerment (HOPE) for Children Trust Account Program.

OAL approves this regulatory action pursuant to section 11349.3 of the Government Code. This regulatory action becomes effective on 10/1/2025.

Date: August 26, 2025



Jenifer Ryan
Senior Attorney

For: Kenneth J. Pogue
Director

Original: Kathryn O'Connor, Executive
Director

Copy: Kasey O'Connor

STD. 400 (REV. 10/2019)

OAL FILE NUMBERS	NOTICE FILE NUMBER Z-	REGULATORY ACTION NUMBER 2025-0718-01SR	EMERGENCY NUMBER
For use by Office of Administrative Law (OAL) only			
NOTICE		REGULATIONS	

For use by Secretary of State only

ENDORSED - FILED
in the office of the Secretary of State
of the State of California

AUG 26 2025

1:49 PM

[Signature]

OFFICE OF ADMIN. LAW
2025 JUL 18 PM3:21

AGENCY WITH RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

AGENCY FILE NUMBER (if any)

California Hope, Opportunity, Perseverance, and Empowerment (HOPE) for Children Trust Account Program Board

A. PUBLICATION OF NOTICE (Complete for publication in Notice Register)

PER AGENCY
REQUEST
JR

1. SUBJECT OF NOTICE HOPE Trust Account Program		TITLE(S) 10	FIRST SECTION AFFECTED 10500	2. REQUESTED PUBLICATION DATE 07/26/2024
3. NOTICE TYPE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice re Proposed Regulatory Action <input type="checkbox"/> Other		4. AGENCY CONTACT PERSON Kasey O'Connor	TELEPHONE NUMBER (916) 653-2995	FAX NUMBER (Optional)
OAL USE ONLY	ACTION ON PROPOSED NOTICE <input type="checkbox"/> Approved as Submitted <input type="checkbox"/> Approved as Modified <input type="checkbox"/> Disapproved/Withdrawn		NOTICE REGISTER NUMBER 2024,30-2	PUBLICATION DATE 7/26/24

B. SUBMISSION OF REGULATIONS (Complete when submitting regulations)

1a. SUBJECT OF REGULATION(S) HOPE Trust Account Program	1b. ALL PREVIOUS RELATED OAL REGULATORY ACTION NUMBER(S) 2024-1209-035
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PER AGENCY
REQUEST
JR

2. SPECIFY CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS TITLE(S) AND SECTION(S) (Including title 26, if toxics related)	ADOPT 10500, 10501, 10502, 10503, 10504, 10505, 10506, 10507, 10508, & 10509
SECTION(S) AFFECTED (List all section number(s) individually. Attach additional sheet if needed.)	AMEND
TITLE(S) 10	REPEAL

3. TYPE OF FILING		
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Rulemaking (Gov. Code §11346)	<input type="checkbox"/> Certificate of Compliance: The agency officer named below certifies that this agency complied with the provisions of Gov. Code §§11346.2-11347.3 either before the emergency regulation was adopted or within the time period required by statute.	<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Readopt (Gov. Code, §11346.1(h))
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resubmittal of disapproved or withdrawn nonemergency filing (Gov. Code §§11349.3, 11349.4)	<input type="checkbox"/> Resubmittal of disapproved or withdrawn emergency filing (Gov. Code, §11346.1)	<input type="checkbox"/> File & Print
<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency (Gov. Code, §11346.1(b))		<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Changes Without Regulatory Effect (Cal. Code Regs., title 1, §100)	<input type="checkbox"/> Print Only	

PER AGENCY
REQUEST
JR

4. ALL BEGINNING AND ENDING DATES OF AVAILABILITY OF MODIFIED REGULATIONS AND/OR MATERIAL ADDED TO THE RULEMAKING FILE (Cal. Code Regs. title 1, §44 and Gov. Code §11347.1)
October 22, 2024-November 7, 2024 and April 17, 2025-May02, 2025

5. EFFECTIVE DATE OF CHANGES (Gov. Code, §§ 11343.4, 11346.1(d); Cal. Code Regs., title 1, §100)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Effective January 1, April 1, July 1, or October 1 (Gov. Code §11343.4(a))	<input type="checkbox"/> Effective on filing with Secretary of State	<input type="checkbox"/> §100 Changes Without Regulatory Effect	<input type="checkbox"/> Effective other (Specify)

6. CHECK IF THESE REGULATIONS REQUIRE NOTICE TO, OR REVIEW, CONSULTATION, APPROVAL OR CONCURRENCE BY, ANOTHER AGENCY OR ENTITY		
<input type="checkbox"/> Department of Finance (Form STD. 399) (SAM §6660)	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair Political Practices Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> State Fire Marshal
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)		

PER AGENCY
REQUEST
JR

7. CONTACT PERSON Kasey O'Connor	TELEPHONE NUMBER (916) 653-2995	FAX NUMBER (Optional)	E-MAIL ADDRESS (Optional) kasey.o'connor@treasurer.ca.gov
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8. I certify that the attached copy of the regulation(s) is a true and correct copy of the regulation(s) identified on this form, that the information specified on this form is true and correct, and that I am the head of the agency taking this action, or a designee of the head of the agency, and am authorized to make this certification.

For use by Office of Administrative Law (OAL) only

ENDORSED APPROVED

AUG 26 2025

Office of Administrative Law

SIGNATURE OF AGENCY HEAD OR DESIGNEE	DocuSigned by: Kasey O'Connor	DATE 7/18/2025
TYPED NAME AND TITLE OF SIGNATORY Kasey O'Connor, Executive Director HOPE Program		

PER AGENCY
REQUEST
JR

Proposed HOPE Regulations

California Code of Regulations

Title 10: Investment

Chapter 16: California Hope, Opportunity, Perseverance, and Empowerment (HOPE) for Children Trust Account Program

Section 10500-11000

General

§ 10500 Definitions

(a) Except where additional definitions are provided here, all meanings of the terms defined in Section 18997.51 of the Welfare and Institutions Code ("WIC") apply wherever the same terms are used throughout this Chapter, including "Account," "trust account," "HOPE trust account," "Board," "Department," "Eligible Child," "Eligible Youth," "Family household income," "Fund," "HOPE Trust Account Program," "Program," and "Program Enrollee."

(b) "Consequence of COVID-19 or Long-Term COVID" means an illness, condition, or affliction that the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the California Department of Public Health has recognized as being a result of COVID-19 or Long-Term COVID.

no space

(c) "COVID-19" means the illness caused by any variants of the virus SARS-CoV-2 recognized by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the California Department of Public Health.

(d) "Decedent" means the Eligible Child's parent, Indian custodian, or legal guardian, who died during the federally declared COVID-19 public health emergency and their cause of death is listed as COVID-19 on their death certificate or they died as a medically recognized consequence of having Long-Term COVID.

(e) "Domicile" means the place where an individual has a true, fixed, permanent home and principal establishment, and to which place the individual has, whenever they are absent, the intention of returning. It is the place in which an individual has voluntarily fixed the habitation of themselves and family, not for a mere special or limited purpose, but with the present intention of making a permanent home, until some unexpected event shall occur to induce the individual to adopt some other permanent home. Another definition of "Domicile" consistent with the above is the place where an individual has fixed their habitation and has a permanent residence without any present intention of permanently removing there from.

no space

(f) "Eligible Child" means a minor resident of California who is under 18 years of age, is not

emancipated from their parent, Indian custodian, or legal guardian, and meets one of the eligibility qualifications set forth in WIC Section 18997.51(d)(1) or (2).

(g) "Family Household Income" means the income of the family household, prior to the death of the Decedent, defined in WIC Section 18997.51(d)(1) as the income of parents, Indian custodian, or legal guardian, which was equal to or less than the amount that made the child in that household eligible for Medi-Cal benefits under WIC Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 14000) of Part 3 ("Medi-Cal for Children").

(h) "Financial Education and Money Management Training Services" means to teach Program Enrollees how to develop financial skills and practices, through efforts such as workshops, classes, seminars, coaching, and mentoring, that maximize economic autonomy, including, but not limited to, how to build wealth, budgeting for short and long-term goals, identifying opportunity costs, saving, establishing, using, and maintaining credit, investing and managing investments, protecting and insuring assets for future benefit, and applying for and navigating government, nonprofit, and other programs that support building their income and wealth.

(i) "Long-Term COVID" means the long-term effects caused by any variants of SARS-CoV-2, also known by terms including post-acute sequelae of COVID-19 (PASC), chronic COVID, Long-COVID, long haul COVID, long hauler COVID, post-acute sequelae SARS-CoV-2 infection, post COVID, post COVID syndrome, post COVID condition (PCC), or any variation thereof that has been recognized by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the California Department of Public Health.

(j) "Medi-Cal for Children" means California's Medicaid health care program under the Welfare and Institutions Code, Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 14000) of Part 3.

(k) "Program Enrollee" means an Eligible Child who has been enrolled in the program and an Eligible Youth who was enrolled as an Eligible Child in the Program and has not terminated their participation.

(l) "Residency in California" means an individual who is Domiciled in the State.

NOTE: Authority cited: Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC), Sections 18997.5 and 18997.52. Reference: Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC), Sections 300, 601, 602, 1400, 11400, 11403, 14000, 14005.64, 18997.5, 18997.51, 18997.52, 18997.58, and 18997.59. Title 42 of the United States Code (USC) Section 9902. Title 18 California Code of Regulations Section 17014.

§ 10501 Eligibility

(a) Eligibility for HOPE trust accounts under WIC Section 18997.51(d)(1), Covid-bereaved, will be determined by establishing all of the following factors:

(1) COVID-19 related death of the Decedent must have died on or after March 1, 2020, the beginning of the national emergency concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Outbreak, 85 Fed. Reg. 53, 15337 (March 18, 2020) as shown by one of the following:

(A) A death certificate that states the date of death and that the cause of death was COVID-19, or medically recognized consequence of Long-Term COVID; or

(B) A signed statement under penalty of perjury of an Eligible Child's living parent, Indian custodian, or legal guardian that states the date of death and that the cause of death was COVID-19, or a medically recognized consequence of Long-Term COVID, along with documentation that the person was diagnosed or was in the process of being diagnosed with COVID-19 or Long-Term COVID.

(2) The Eligible Child to be enrolled must have been under 18 years old and a resident of California when the Decedent died, and the Decedent must have been their parent, Indian custodian, or legal guardian. These facts may be determined by one or more of the documents listed below:

(A) U.S. or foreign government documents pertaining to the Eligible Child or their parent, Indian custodian, or legal guardian, such as birth certificates, medical records, passports, voter registration, vehicle registration, drivers' licenses, or school records;

(B) Records that demonstrate the Eligible Child's Residency in California as defined in Section 10500 (l); or,

(C) A signed statement affirming the information provided under Section 10501 (a)(2)(B) is true and accurate and to be signed by the Eligible Child's parent, Indian custodian, or legal guardian under penalty of perjury.

(3) Family Household Income eligibility as defined in Section 10500 (g) may be determined by reference to any of the following:

(A) Current enrollment of the Eligible Child in Medi-Cal for Children prior to the death of the Decedent;

(B) State or federal income tax records of the Eligible Child's Decedent;

(C) Current enrollment of the Eligible Child in a local, state, or federal program that had the

same or lower income qualification as that required by Medi-Cal for Children prior to the death of the Decedent;

(D) Information obtained through the Income and Eligibility Verification System (IEVS);

(E) Verification of income by a local, state, or federal government agency that the Family Household Income was equal to or less than that required for Medi-Cal for Children eligibility;
or

(F) Upon the inability to determine the facts in (a)-(e) in this Section, a signed statement under penalty of perjury of the Eligible Child's parent, Indian custodian, or legal guardian that the Family Household Income was equal to or less than that required by Medi-Cal for Children in the year prior to the Decedent's death.

(b) Eligibility for HOPE trust accounts and annual deposits under WIC Section 18997.51 (d)(2), foster eligibility, will be determined by the California Department of Social Services using data derived from its data systems.

(1) The requirement that an Eligible Child under this Section must reach at least 18 months in care may be met by adding up the total time in care and need not be consecutive.

(2) Program Enrollees who become dependents or wards of the court under WIC Section 300, 601, or 602, after being reunified with their parents, adopted, or placed in legal guardianship, shall not be required to reach an additional 18 months in care to be eligible for additional deposits to their HOPE trust account.

(c) Eligibility for withdrawal or transfer of funds from HOPE trust accounts may be determined by reference to documents listed in Section 10501 (a)(2) that identify the Eligible Youth's 18th birthday.

NOTE: Authority cited: Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Section 18997.52.

Reference: Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Sections 18997.5 and 18997.51.

§ 10502 Enrollment

(a) HOPE program administrators shall work with the Department of Social Services, the Department of Public Health, and other California state and local government agencies to verify all eligibility criteria except for information that can only be provided by the potentially Eligible Child, an Eligible Youth, or their surviving parent, Indian custodian, or legal guardian.

(b) HOPE administrators shall use information provided by, but not limited to, potentially Eligible Children, their parent, Indian custodian, or legal guardian, or Eligible Youth, as well as state, county, local, and tribal government agencies, and community organizations to identify potentially Eligible Children.

(c) Upon verification of eligibility, HOPE shall enroll Eligible Children and Eligible Youth, create HOPE trust accounts for them, and begin making annual deposits to those accounts.

(d) Denial of enrollment and appeals process:

(1) Upon determination that an applicant does not meet eligibility criteria, HOPE staff shall submit a Notice of Action (NOA) form via mail or email informing the applicant, and the applicant's surviving parent, legal guardian, or Indian custodian that the applicant does not meet eligibility criteria. The NOA shall include:

(A) The name of the applicant that was denied enrollment.

(B) The date of application.

(C) The date of denial.

(D) A reason for denial.

(E) A description of the appeals process.

(2) Within sixty (60) calendar days from date of postmarked letter of denial or date of sent email, the applicant or their parent, Indian custodian, or legal guardian, may submit a written appeal. The appeal must be sent electronically via email to: HOPEforChildren@treasurer.ca.gov with the subject heading: HOPE eligibility appeal or may be mailed to the address identified in the NOA.

(A) The request for appeal must include the original NOA, along with the letter explaining why the decision is inaccurate.

(B) Provide any supporting information or documentation that was not previously submitted to HOPE.

(3) HOPE staff will review the submitted information or documentation and make a determination of eligibility.

(A) Within sixty (60) calendar days from the date the appeal was received, HOPE staff will submit a final determination to the appellee or their surviving parent, Indian custodian, or legal guardian, using the NOA via mail or email that will either confirm the original denial of enrollment or overturn the denial and enroll the applicant into the HOPE program.

NOTE: Authority cited: Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Sections 18997.5, 18997.52, and 18997.54.

Reference: Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Sections 18997.51, 18997.54, and 18997.58.

§ 10503 Deposits

(a) With the consent of the HOPE Board of Directors, the HOPE Executive Director will establish or modify the amount and timing of annual deposits to HOPE trust accounts to maximize the number of Program Enrollees, participation by Eligible Children and their autonomous wealth-building capacity, and the amount of funds deposited per account based on consideration of all of the following criteria:

(1) The number and age distribution of Program Enrollees;

(2) Money available from the HOPE Fund and any other sources that may be used to make deposits in HOPE trust accounts;

(3) Ensuring that Eligible Youth will be able to withdraw the maximum amount possible from their HOPE trust accounts upon reaching 18 years of age in amounts that adjust for inflation after calendar year 2025; and

(4) Grants, gifts, appropriations, and other money received from federal, state, or local government or any other person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other entity for deposit to the fund.

NOTE: Authority cited: Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Sections 18997.5 and 18997.52
Reference: Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Sections 18997.51 and 18997.52

§ 10504 Disbursement

(a) The amount of money requested and available in an Eligible Youth's HOPE trust account will be disbursed to a qualifying disbursement account on or after their 18th birthday. No funds shall be dispersed prior to age 18.

(b) Eligible Youth must request all funds in their HOPE trust account before their 27th birthday.

(c) After the Eligible Youth's 27th birthday, any and all unused monies in the Eligible Youth's HOPE trust account shall be re-deposited into the HOPE Trust Fund to be dispersed to other eligible HOPE trust accounts.

NOTE: Authority cited: Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Sections 18997.5 and 18997.52
Reference: Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Sections 18997.5 and 18997.59

§ 10505 Notification and Acknowledgement

(a) HOPE shall ensure that all Program Enrollees and, if they are still under 18, their parent(s), Indian custodian(s), or legal guardian(s), will receive notice that they have been enrolled in the HOPE program within three months of enrollment and again once a year.

(1) For Program Enrollees determined to be eligible under WIC Section 18997.51 (d)(2), notice may be made via agreement with the California Department of Social Services or tribal authorities to distribute the required information to Program Enrollees, their parent(s), legal guardian(s), or Indian custodian(s).

(2) For all other Program Enrollees, notice shall be sent by mail or email directly to the Program Enrollee, their parent(s), legal guardian(s), or Indian custodian(s).

(b) The notice shall include the amount that has been deposited in the Program Enrollee's HOPE trust account, the first and last dates when the Program Enrollee will be eligible to withdraw from their HOPE trust account, the amount of money expected to be available for withdrawal on those dates, how to access financial planning and management services, and a description of the Program Enrollee's rights and responsibilities, including their right to use the funds as needed without restriction.

(c) The notice shall also instruct Program Enrollees and, if they are still under 18, their parent(s), legal guardian(s), or Indian custodian(s), how to acknowledge receipt of this information via the HOPE Trust Account Dashboard, email, or mail.

NOTE: Authority cited: Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Section 18997.5.

Reference: Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Sections 18997.5, 18997.51, and 18997.57.

§ 10506 Online Eligibility Portal and HOPE Trust Account Dashboard

(a) HOPE will create and maintain an online eligibility portal that is accessible via a mobile optimized website through which potentially eligible Program Enrollees and their parent(s), legal guardian(s), or Indian custodian(s), or others may provide the minimum information necessary to determine and verify their eligibility.

(b) HOPE will provide all Program Enrollees access to a HOPE trust account dashboard accessible by the mobile optimized website that will state, at minimum, the amount in the Program Enrollee's HOPE trust account, when the Program Enrollee will be eligible to withdraw the funds, the amount expected to be available when the Program Enrollee can first draw down monies available to them, the expected monetary total if the Program Enrollee opts to leave the money invested in their HOPE trust account until they must withdraw it (prior to their 27th birthday), and how to access financial planning and management services.

(1) The HOPE trust account dashboard shall be accessible by the Program Enrollee as well as their parent(s), legal guardian(s), or Indian custodian(s), until the Program Enrollee turns 18.

(2) Upon turning 18, the Program Enrollee will have sole access and may opt to provide another adult access to their HOPE trust account dashboard.

NOTE: Authority cited: Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Section 18997.5.

Reference: Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Section 18997.59.

§ 10507 Data Collection, Privacy, and Confidentiality

(a) The HOPE program administrator or its designee may request, gather, and maintain demographic information regarding Eligible Children, Program Enrollees, and Eligible Youth in the HOPE trust accounts program, such as gender, race or ethnicity, geographic location, language, and general income level, in order to improve the administration of, and services provided by, the HOPE program. Such information may be voluntarily provided by the Program Enrollee, their parent(s), legal guardian(s), or Indian custodian(s).

(b) Any information compiled pursuant to this Section shall be maintained by the Board and protected consistent with the requirements of the Information Practices Act of 1977. (Civil Code Section 1798, et seq.)

NOTE: Authority cited: Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Section 18997.5.

Reference: Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Section 18997.58. California Civil Code (CIV) Section 1798.

§ 10508 Fund Management and Investment [reserved]

§ 10509 HOPE Financial Education and Money Management Training Services

(a) HOPE Program Enrollees are eligible to receive Financial Education and Money Management Training Services as defined in Section 10500 (h) through HOPE partnerships on or after their 13th birthday until age 30.

(b) The HOPE program shall offer these services to eligible Program Enrollees through partnerships with government, community-based, nonprofit, social entrepreneur, and other similar service providers.

(c) Service providers will be selected for partnerships based on their capacity to provide age-appropriate, trauma-informed, and evidence-based curricula and mentorship services that help Program Enrollees develop a plan for maximizing their economic autonomy and wealth building capacity.

(d) HOPE will regularly review partnerships for quality of performance and ongoing sustainability.

NOTE: Authority cited: Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Section 18997.5.
Reference: Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Section 18997.5.