

Hope, Opportunity, Perseverance, & Empowerment (HOPE) for Children

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-03

RESOLUTION OF THE HOPE BOARD ESTABLISHING AN ANNUAL REVIEW PROCESS FOR DISTRIBUTION AMOUNTS TO HOPE TRUST ACCOUNTS

WHEREAS, the California Hope, Opportunity, Perseverance, and Empowerment for Children Trust Account Program (“HOPE” or “Program”) was created under Assembly Bill 156 (Chapter 569, Statutes of 2022) and codified in Chapter 161 (commencing with section 18997.5) of the Welfare and Institutions Code (“HOPE Act”); and

WHEREAS, eligibility for foster youth is determined to be children under 18 who have been in foster care for at least 18 months (does not have to be consecutive OR youth placed into foster care after 16 and where reunification services have been terminated; and

WHEREAS, eligibility for COVID-bereaved low-income children is determined to be children under 18 whose parent, Indian custodian, or legal guardian died during the federally declared COVID-19 public health emergency and COVID-19 is listed on their death certificate as cause of death or they died as a consequence of having long-term COVID-19 and the household income before death of that parent, custodian, or guardian would have qualified the child for Medi-Cal benefits; and

WHEREAS, the HOPE Act authorizes the Board to set the distribution amount for the HOPE trust accounts. This authority includes the ability to increase or decrease distribution amount in future years should HOPE receive significant funds and/or if evaluations of the program funds indicate the ability or necessity to do so; and

WHEREAS, the Board shall use a variety of information to determine the amount to be distributed to trust accounts of enrollees turning 18, including but not limited to: current funds available in the pooled trust account, expected long-term investment returns and risks for the pooled trust account, current and expected enrollment levels, ongoing expected annual appropriations, ongoing expected philanthropic contributions, the current inflation rate and the expected long-term inflation rate, and expected ability of the HOPE Program to achieve and main intergenerational equity; and

WHEREAS, the Board pursuant to this resolution must determine the annual distribution amount for the upcoming calendar year, and may increase, or upon necessity decrease, that distribution amount over time to adjust for cost of living, as well as taking into consideration any evaluations or reports that are specific to program enrollees and the HOPE Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby approves this resolution to establish an annual review process, where the Board shall review all pertinent fiscal market and State budget information, as well as evaluations and reports specific to the needs of HOPE eligible enrollees as described herein, and as supported by the January 2024 Report to the Department of Finance and the Legislature. The chair of the Board ("Chair"), any deputy to the Chair, and Executive Director are hereby authorized, for and on behalf of the Board to fulfill the recommendations as discussed in the meeting:

Attest: _____

Chairperson

Date of Adoption: _____