



California State Treasurer's Office **MEDIA ADVISORY**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**PR 26:13
MARCH 17, 2026**

**Contact: Courtney Dal Porto
(916) 653-3485**

State Treasurer Fiona Ma Announces Launch of Website for HOPE Trust Account Program

SACRAMENTO – Today California State Treasurer Fiona Ma, CPA, announced the launch of the [Hope, Opportunity, Perseverance, and Empowerment \(HOPE\) Program](#) website, a California initiative to provide trust accounts for children who have spent 18 or more months in the foster system and have had family reunification services terminated, or who have lost a parent or primary caregiver due to COVID.

Established through Assembly Bill 156 in 2022, the program will provide \$3,000 in invested, flexible seed funding per impacted child, accessible at age 18 to support them in achieving their future goals. The HOPE program is designed to address intergenerational poverty, provide security and economic autonomy and facilitate capacity for wealth building through financial education for vulnerable youth. Approximately 56,000 children stand to benefit. Applications are expected to open late Spring 2026.

“HOPE is about lifting up our state’s most vulnerable children and providing them with a foundation for stability, opportunity and long-term financial security,” said California State Treasurer Fiona Ma, CPA, who serves as chair of HOPE. “This program is a vital component of our ongoing effort to ensure that all Californians have access to savings plans that can help them build a financial future. We are thrilled to be opening applications this Spring and paving the way for the first checks to be issued later this summer.”

Visit the new HOPE program website at HOPEAccount.ca.gov to learn who is eligible and how to apply. Interested individuals can sign up to receive updates and to be notified when applications are open.

Follow HOPE on social media for updates, announcements and resources:

- Instagram: [@HopeAccounts](#)
- Facebook: [HOPE for Children Trust Account Program](#)
- LinkedIn: [HOPE for Children Trust Account Program](#)
- X: [@CAHopeAccounts](#)

###

The HOPE Program provides financial support to California’s most vulnerable youth—those who lost a parent, legal guardian, or Indian custodian to COVID or spent 18 months or more in foster care with family reunification services terminated. Established through Assembly Bill 156 (2022), HOPE helps close the racial wealth gap and break the cycle of poverty by giving young people a financial foundation for the future. HOPE is designed for equitable access and lasting impact.

###

Fiona Ma is California’s 34th State Treasurer. She is the first woman of color, and the first woman Certified Public Accountant (CPA) elected to the position. Treasurer Ma serves as the state’s banker and is agent of sale for all state bonds and trustee of billions of dollars of state indebtedness. The State Treasurer’s Office also processes more than \$3 trillion in banking transactions annually and manages a \$150 billion investment portfolio. As State Treasurer, Ma is also chair of many boards, commissions, and authorities that provide financing for schools, housing, recycling and waste management, alternative energy, hospitals, and other projects that create jobs, improve California’s economy, and better the lives of residents.