

APRIL 2026

News...

from the desk of
California State Treasurer Fiona Ma, CPA



WELCOME LETTER

Dear Friends,

This month, we are proud to recognize ABLE to Save Month, highlighting the important role that CalABLE plays in helping individuals with disabilities save for the future. We're excited to introduce CalABLE's newest cohort of ambassadors, who will champion the program and share its benefits across California communities. Please turn to page 3 to meet our new ambassadors.

April also brings Earth Month, and on page 5 we're celebrating the ways our programs are helping to create a cleaner, greener California. From energy-efficient home and business initiatives to incentives supporting sustainable industries, the State Treasurer's Office is proud to advance solutions that protect our environment while strengthening our economy.

Lastly, please see page 7 for a roundup of key legislation that I'm sponsoring this year. From expanding retirement savings access and supporting small businesses, to promoting sustainable infrastructure, medical debt relief, and equity for educators and veterans, these bills reflect our commitment to economic opportunity, financial inclusion, and stronger communities across California.

In Peace & Friendship,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Fiona Ma".

Fiona Ma, CPA
California State Treasurer

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Past performance does not guarantee future results. Investment return and principal value may fluctuate, so account value in State Treasurer's Office savings programs at the time of the withdrawal may be higher or lower than the amount invested.

This material is not intended to provide, and should not be relied on, for tax, legal or financial advice.

For more information about our programs and upcoming events, please visit:

<https://www.treasurer.ca.gov>

Dear Fiona,

I'm a student at Cal Poly Pomona and I need help finding housing and food assistance. Any resources you can share would be much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Miguel

Dear Miguel,

For immediate assistance with your college costs, the financial aid advisors at your university are usually the best place to start. They can review your individual situation and help identify all available options, including scholarships, grants, work-study opportunities, and emergency support programs.

My office also provides a [Resource Guide for Higher Education](#), which includes information related to grants, loans, food assistance, and housing resources.

Additionally, each [UC](#) and [CSU](#) campus offers programs specifically designed to assist students in need of housing, food, and emergency funds.

Sincerely,

Fiona



Have a Question for the Treasurer?

Send emails to:

AskFiona@treasurer.ca.gov, with
the subject line: "Ask Fiona"

Address letters to:

California State Treasurer Fiona Ma
Post Office Box 942809
Sacramento, CA 94209-0001

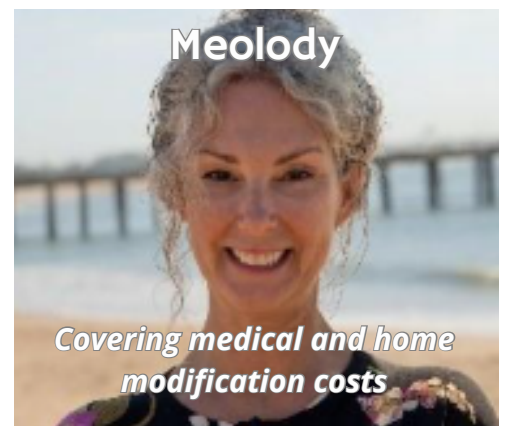
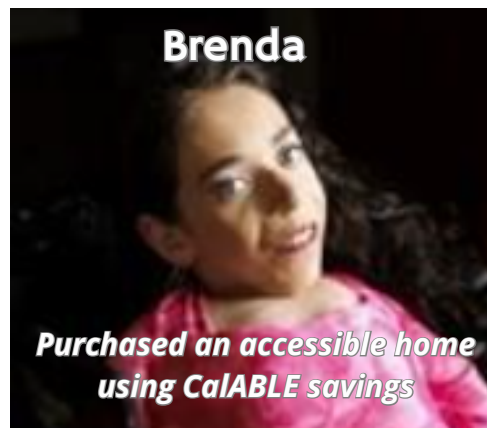
Spreading Awareness of CalABLE

April is ABLE to Save Month, a time to recognize the power of financial independence for Californians with disabilities. The [CalABLE](#) program helps individuals save for the future without jeopardizing eligibility for public benefits, providing a path to greater security, opportunity, and independence.

This month, we are excited to introduce the newest cohort of CalABLE Ambassadors. These inspiring individuals are champions for financial empowerment, sharing their experiences and helping others understand how CalABLE accounts can support long-term savings and financial planning.

Through their advocacy, outreach, and personal stories, our ambassadors help spread awareness of the tools and resources available through CalABLE to help other individuals with disabilities plan and save for the future.

Meet the 2026 CalABLE Ambassadors:





State Treasurer Ma at the Los Angeles Abilities Expo

State Treasurer Ma opened the 2026 [Abilities Expo](#), addressing Californians with disabilities, families, advocates, and service providers while highlighting expanded financial opportunities through the state’s CalABLE program.

“Accessibility and financial opportunity should be part of every Californian’s future.”
 -State Treasurer Fiona Ma, CPA



(Photo credit: State Treasurer’s Office)



Expanding Access to Financial Independence

An op-ed by CalABLE Exeutive Director and Ambassador Julienn Dallara

Recent expansions to CalABLE are removing barriers to saving, increasing flexibility, and helping more Californians with disabilities build financial security for the future.

“Financial inclusion isn’t just a policy goal—it’s what makes California’s economy stronger.”
 — Thomas Martin & Julienne Dallara

[Read in the full article.](#)

FINANCING A GREENER FUTURE: STATE TREASURER'S OFFICE PROGRAMS ARE POWERING CALIFORNIA'S CLEAN ECONOMY

"The State Treasurer's Office is turning climate ambition into action. Our programs are supporting families and businesses, driving innovation, creating jobs, reducing costs, strengthening our economy and helping California lead in a cleaner future,"

– State Treasurer Fiona Ma, CPA

Across California, programs supported by the State Treasurer's office are helping households, businesses, and manufacturers invest in cleaner, more efficient technologies, lowering costs while reducing emissions.

Through initiatives like [GoGreen](#) Home and GoGreen Business, homeowners and small businesses are able to finance energy-efficient upgrades. From improved insulation and energy-saving appliances to solar and other clean technologies, these programs help reduce energy usage while making homes and workplaces more efficient.

At the same time, the [Sales and Use Tax Exclusion Program](#) is accelerating clean manufacturing and enabling companies to invest in advanced technologies that create jobs while shrinking their carbon footprint.

Additionally, the [California Capital Access Program](#) works with lenders to support loans for small fleets transitioning to zero-emission medium- and heavy-duty vehicles, and the charging and fueling infrastructure needed for a more sustainable freight system.

Together, these programs demonstrate that climate action goes beyond meeting environmental goals. They help build resilient communities, expand economic opportunities, and position California as a global leader in clean innovation. The infographic on the next page offers a snapshot of how these programs are making a difference across the state.

#HELLOSTO

In April, as we celebrate Earth Month, we're spotlighting the impactful green initiatives happening within the State Treasurer's Office on our social media channels. These efforts show how we're turning ambition into action and advancing our commitment to a cleaner, more competitive California for generations to come.

Keep an eye out for these posts on [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [X](#)! And on April 22, we'll also be releasing a special video on our [YouTube channel](#).



Advancing California's Clean Economy

The **GoGreen Home** Program **reduces** a cumulative equivalent of:



1,544
vehicles from the
road

or



18,530,113
miles driven

or



8,082,876
metric tons in CO2
emissions

GoGreen Home Program **increased:**



24.8%
electric savings in 2024
compared to 2023



44.1%
gas savings in 2024 vs
2023

Since the inception of the **Sales & Use Tax Exclusion** program in **2010**, it has:



Awarded
\$1.4 billion in STE



Provided a net
benefit of nearly
\$2 billion



Supported
businesses in
40 counties



Created nearly
160,000 jobs

In **2025**, **Sales & Use Tax Exclusion Awards** supported:



21,714 jobs



37 businesses
for qualified
purchases

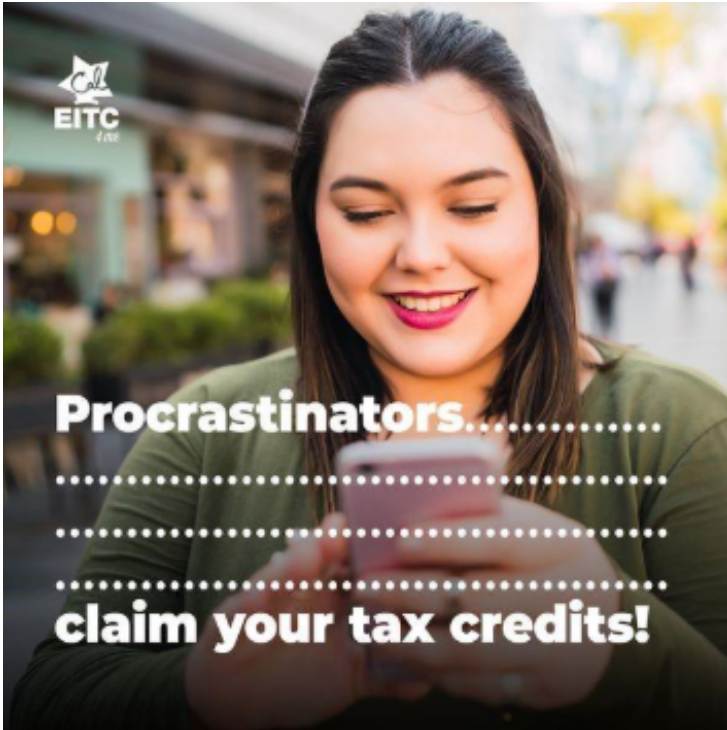


17 California
counties

State Treasurer Fiona Ma has sponsored the following key legislation that have been introduced by the Legislature.

- **SB 769 (Caballero) - Golden State Infrastructure Fund:** Establishes the Golden State Infrastructure Fund and create a new infrastructure financing option to support sustainable and resilient infrastructure projects led by private entities, governmental entities, and public-private partnerships.
- **AB 65 (Aguiar-Curry) - Pregnancy Leave For Educators:** Grants public school employees experiencing pregnancy issues up to 14 weeks of leave with full pay, addressing sizeable equity gaps for female educators.
- **SB 1265 (Richardson) - GoGreen Financing:** Establishes the Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Expansion Fund and clarifies its authority to receive funding from publicly owned utilities and cooperative sources.
- **AB 2650 (Pellerin) - Savings Access and Vested Empowerment (S.A.V.E) for All Workers Act:** Clarifies CalSavers' statute, making the program more accessible for users through streamlining administrative processes, strengthening compliance enforcement, and updating outreach mandates.
- **AB 2444 (Rodriguez) - Secure 2.0 Conformity & 529 Tax Incentive:** Aligns California law with federal Secure 2.0 provisions by allowing penalty-free rollovers from ScholarShare529 accounts to Roth IRAs and establishing a state tax deduction for ScholarShare529 contributions.
- **SB 1407 (Archuleta) - Military Tax Exemption:** Excludes military retirement pay from state personal income tax, supporting efforts to retain veterans in California.
- **AB 2607 (Nguyen) - CalCAP ADA:** Modifies CalCAP to support loans for small businesses seeking to improve ADA accessibility in workplaces, display areas, and gathering spaces.
- **AB 2123 (Aguiar-Curry) - Medical Debt Relief:** Establishes a medical debt relief program in the California Health Facilities Financing Authority to eliminate patient medical debt.





File Your Taxes Today and Claim Your Credits

With the April 15th tax filing deadline approaching, now it the time to file your taxes if you haven't done so already. This is an opportunity for you to claim valuable credits and refunds that can put money back in your pockets.

Many families qualify for tax credits that can significantly reduce the amount of taxes owed or increase a refund. Programs such as the [California Earned Income Tax Credit](#), the [Young Child Tax Credit](#), and [Foster Youth Tax Credit](#) are designed to support working Californians and their families.

If you need help preparing your taxes, free filing assistance is available. Californians can access free, safe, and easy tax filing through [MyFreeTaxes](#) and [CalEITC4Me](#). Both options offer online and in-person options.

Filing your taxes can also open the door to other financial opportunities. Tax refunds can be used to build savings, pay down debt, or invest in long-term goals such as education or homeownership.

Don't wait until the last minute—**file by April 15**, claim the credits you've earned, and take an important step toward financial well-being.

Please consult a qualified tax professional for guidance specific to your individual circumstances.



Fast Tax Fact

If you qualified, but didn't claim, the California Earned Income Tax Credit in the last three years, you can still file or amend your taxes to claim it all now. This means more money back in your pocket for the things that matter.

**Inside the Vault:
Resources for Local Leaders**

A Quarterly Webinar Series!

Receive updates and learn more about the State Treasurer's Office programs and resources that can benefit the communities you serve.

June 17, 2026 @ 1:00p - 1:30p Register at: bit.ly/4sxb5JW

Inside the Vault: Resources for Local Leaders

Reserve your spot! - June 17, 2026

Attend our upcoming quarterly webinar to hear updates from the State Treasurer's Office and learn more about our programs.

Join the State Treasurer's Office Intern Team!

Ready to make a real impact? Build skills, expand your network, and launch your career with the State Treasurer's Office 2026 Internship Program. Gain mentorship and hands-on experience in public service.

Apply now! During their time in the program, interns have the opportunity to work on meaningful projects, receive mentorship, and gain insight into the workings of state government.



Welcome Home: Opening the Doors at the Newly Renovated Unruh Building



State Treasurer Ma celebrates the reopening of the Jesse M. Unruh State Office Building with a ceremonial ribbon cutting. (Photo Credit: State Treasurer's Office)

The California State Treasurer's Office recently welcomed partners, stakeholders, and community leaders to an open house at the newly renovated Jesse M. Unruh State Office Building, a historic hub of California public service. Guests connected with staff, learned more about key programs and initiatives, and celebrated the building's renewed role as a place where public service and collaboration come together.

Working to Find Financial Services Solutions for Cannabis Industry



Pictured above: State Treasurer Fiona Ma joined with West Hollywood Vice Mayor Danny Hang at the Emerald Village West Hollywood’s Cannabis, Culture and Change Conference (Photo Credits: Emerald Village West Hollywood, City of West Hollywood and AMN Production)

February 28 (West Hollywood): State Treasurer Fiona Ma spoke at the Cannabis, Culture and Change Conference hosted by Emerald Village West Hollywood. Treasurer Ma spoke about the ongoing challenges cannabis business owners face in accessing financial capital and banking services.

Cannabis tourism is a fast-growing industry, with Emerald Village West Hollywood leading the charge. Since 2016, it has been one of California’s top cannabis tourist spots, featuring ten dispensaries and six consumption lounges.

As the industry expands, so does the need for reliable financial services for cannabis-related businesses. Treasurer Ma has long advocated for solutions that would allow legal cannabis operators to safely access banking and financial tools necessary to grow and operate responsibly.

While serving on the California State Board of Equalization, Treasurer Ma explored options for a state-run bank to serve the cannabis industry and has long advocated for safe banking solutions. In 2019, she testified before Congress in support of the SAFE Banking Act and co-sponsored SB 51, a bill that would have allowed private banks and credit unions to obtain state-chartered licenses to provide financial services to cannabis businesses.

Sacramento Seminar Connects LMU Students with Treasurer Ma

March 2 (Sacramento): State Treasurer Fiona Ma welcomed undergraduate political science students from Loyola Marymount University (LMU) to the State Capitol as part of the university’s Sacramento Seminar, an immersive program designed to connect students with public leaders and policymakers.

During a lunchtime discussion, Treasurer Ma shared insights into her path in public service and the role of the State Treasurer’s Office in managing California’s finances and expanding programs that support education savings and economic opportunity.

Later in the afternoon, Treasurer Ma joined a fireside conversation moderated by Dr. Fernando J. Guerra, LMU Professor of Political Science and Chicana/o and Latina/o Studies. The discussion explored leadership in government, the importance of building trust with communities, and how collaboration across sectors can help deliver results for Californians.



State Treasurer Fiona Ma poses with students from Loyola Marymount University during their Sacramento Seminar visit on the front steps of the Jesse Unruh Building, home to the California State Treasurer’s Office. (Photo Credit: Executive Office, State Treasurer’s Office)

Treasurer Ma Tours Family Respite Center in Del Paso Heights



State Treasurer Fiona Ma tours the Family Respite Center and Community Services Hub at HeartLand Child & Family Services in Del Paso Heights with program leadership and representatives from the Sacramento County Division of Behavioral Health Services. *(Photo Credit: State Treasurer’s Office)*

March 3 (Sacramento): State Treasurer Fiona Ma visited HeartLand Child & Family Services in Sacramento’s Del Paso Heights neighborhood to tour the soon-to-open Family Respite Center and Community Services Hub, a facility designed to support children, youth, and families facing mental health and behavioral challenges.

The center will provide short-term respite care and supportive services for young people ages 0 to 21 and their caregivers. The program is designed to help families navigate periods of crisis by offering in-person support, coaching, and connections to community resources in a safe and welcoming environment. The program is funded by the Sacramento County Division of Behavioral Health Services through the voter-approved Mental Health Services Act (Proposition 63).

During the visit, Treasurer Ma met with program leaders and staff to learn more about HeartLand’s approach to family stabilization and youth development. For more than 40 years, the nonprofit has served North Sacramento communities through counseling, mental health services, and family support programs focused on strengthening families and improving outcomes for children.

Treasurer Ma noted the importance of community-based services that support families close to home.

“Programs like this provide critical support during challenging moments. By strengthening local resources, we help ensure young people and their caregivers have access to the care and stability they need.”

– State Treasurer Fiona Ma, CPA

Funding opportunities for Entrepreneurs in the Creative Economy

March 5 (Los Angeles): State Treasurer Ma joined creative entrepreneurs and students at BUILD 2026, an annual gathering hosted by The Difference Engine, to explore financing opportunities for innovation.

In her keynote address, Treasurer Ma discussed how California’s public financing programs can help to unlock capital for underrepresented founders and community-driven ventures. She also shared details about the Creative Economy Financial Resource Network, a new initiative launched by State Treasurer’s Office’s that serves to connect creative talent with financial resources and support the growth of California’s creative economy.



Pictured above: Ehsan Zaffar, Chief Difference Engineer-The Difference Engine, Arizona State University and State Treasurer Fiona Ma at BUILD 2026 *(Photo Credit: California State Treasurer’s Office)*