



“Foster youth beat the odds when we succeed and thrive; California should do everything it can to help us do that. In the end, it’ll pay off big.”

Lazara Martinez, 16
Fresno

Who We Are

We are a coalition with one goal: to protect the lives and futures of California’s abused and neglected children. Abused and neglected children are our state’s most vulnerable children, and they are depending on us to stand up for them and invest in their futures. We believe that by investing in these children now and making them a priority, we ensure a brighter future for them and a more prosperous future for California.

We represent foster children and youth, foster families, social workers, service providers, county officials and others dedicated to our most vulnerable children and youth. Together, we make up the Child Welfare Services community – California’s primary public safety program for abused and neglected children – and are committed to providing the support and care these children and youth need to improve their lives.

What We’re Doing

Safe homes. Loving families. Basics like clothing, beds and medical care. Counseling services, tutoring and life skills training to succeed as adults. Abused and neglected children depend on the state to ensure their care and well-being. Unfortunately, children and youth in California aren’t being adequately cared for because of state budget cuts.

We have mounted a campaign to educate the Governor, Legislature and the public on the significant effect Child Welfare Services have in the lives of children and youth. Our coalition urges the Governor and the Legislature to restore the \$80 million cut to Child Welfare Services under former Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger’s budget vetoes in 2009-10 and 2010-11. As a parent to California’s nearly 60,000 foster children, we implore policy makers to take full responsibility for caring for abused and neglected children by restoring the vetoed funding.

Please join our coalition - Protect Our Children. Protect Our Future.



“Kids have enormous potential. When society fails in our responsibility to protect them, we throw that potential away. It’s such a waste – and it will cost us in the long run.”

Mike Ross, Supervising Children’s Social Worker
Los Angeles County

For information about the Protect Our Children. Protect Our Future. coalition or to get involved, contact Diana Boyer at dboyer@cwda.org or (916) 443-1749
www.protectourchildrenca.org