



California Child Support Association



2026 Policy Symposium

LEGISLATING TOMORROW: POLICY PATHWAYS FOR THE FUTURE OF CHILD SUPPORT

March 10, 2026
8AM - 5PM

Tsakopoulos Library Galleria
Sacramento, California

SPONSORED BY **CONDUENT**



PROGRAM

March 10, 2026

07:30 - 09:00 AM	Registration
09:00 - 09:15 AM	Welcome
09:15 - 09:30 AM	Keynote I Richard Figueroa
09:15 - 09:30 AM	Keynote II Dr. Debra Cooper
09:45 - 10:30 AM	The State of Child Support
10:30 - 11:30 AM	Budget at a Crossroads
11:30 - 01:00 PM	Lunch on your own
01:00 - 01:15 PM	Keynote II Assemblymember Stephanie Nguyen
01:15 - 02:15 PM	Policy Pathways
02:15 - 03:15 PM	Strengthening California Families
03:15 - 03:30 PM	Networking Break
03:30 - 04:30 PM	The State of the State
04:30 - 05:00 PM	CalCSA Legislative Day Overview & Closing

Nearby restaurants

Little Morocco Cafe

716 7th St, Sacramento, CA 95814

Yard House

405 K St, Sacramento, CA 95814

Il Fornaio

400 Capitol Mall, Sacramento, CA 95814

Koja Kitchen

732 K St, Sacramento, CA 95814

Cariño

729 J St, Sacramento, CA 95814

Koja Kitchen

732 K St, Sacramento, CA 95814

Crest Cafe

1017 K St, Sacramento, CA 95814

The Philly

915 K St, Sacramento, CA 95814

Bistro Bravado

1129 11th St, Sacramento, CA 95814

SESSIONS

Keynote I

09:15 - 09:30 AM

Richard Figueroa

HHS Deputy Cabinet Secretary
Governor's Office

Keynote II

09:30 - 09:45 PM

Dr. Debra Cooper

Assistant Secretary
California Health and Human Services, Office of Program and Fiscal Affairs

The State of Child Support

09:45 - 10:30 AM

This opening panel offers an on-the-ground view of the child support landscape in California, including what local agencies are experiencing, where families are facing the greatest barriers, and which trends are most shaping service delivery. The discussion will also spotlight emerging opportunities for policy and program improvements from the perspective of the CalCSA Board of Directors' leadership.

Liane Peck

CalCSA President
Director of Solano County Department of Child Support Services

Abraham Mendoza

CalCSA Vice-President
Director of San Joaquin County Department of Child Support Services

Ignacio J. Guerrero

CalCSA Board Member
Director of Santa Clara County Department of Child Support Services

Nicole Windom-Hurd

CalCSA Board Member
Director of Riverside County Department of Child Support Services

Budget at a Crossroads

10:30 - 11:30 AM

California's fiscal environment is changing, and child support must compete in a crowded budget landscape. This session will walk through the current and future budget outlook, pressures and tradeoffs, and what those dynamics may mean for child support funding and related family-support systems. Attendees will gain practical context to support budget conversations and advocacy messaging.

Ann Hollingshead

Principal Fiscal & Policy Analyst
California Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO)

Keynote II

01:00 - 01:15 PM

Assemblymember Stephanie Nguyen

California State Assembly
10th Assembly District

Policy Pathways

01:15 - 02:15 PM

In this fireside chat, two tenured attorneys will explore key policy pathways shaping the future of child support and the broader family-law ecosystem. The conversation will highlight how policy, courts, and implementation realities intersect and what it takes to translate reform ideas into workable, durable outcomes for families.

Anna Maves

Principal Managing Attorney/AB 1058 Program Manager
Judicial Council of California (JCC)

Vangeria Harvey

Acting Director
Alameda County Child Support Services

Strengthening California Families

02:15 - 03:15 PM

Lasting family stability requires coordination across systems. This panel brings together child support, human services, and tribal partners to discuss cross-system strategies that improve outcomes for children and parents, especially in communities facing higher barriers to access and stability. Expect practical examples, partnership models, and policy ideas that support whole-family solutions.

Natalie Dillon

CalCSA Board Member
Director of Colusa Sutter Yolo Regional Child Support Agency

Jennifer Burgess

Program Manager
Yurok Child Support Services

Amanda Kirchner

Director of Legislative Advocacy
County Welfare Directors Association

The State of the State

03:30 - 04:00 PM

This session provides an “inside the Capitol” view of California’s political and policy climate and what it signals for the year ahead. The conversation will focus on the broader state priorities, the policy environment affecting counties and human services, and how child support leaders can position their message effectively in a fast-moving landscape.

Graham Knaus

Chief Executive Officer
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Richard Figueroa

HHS Deputy Cabinet Secretary
Governor's Office

Richard Figueroa is a deputy cabinet secretary in Governor Gavin Newsom's office, where he works on health, human services, and veterans' issues. Figueroa, who earned his MBA at UCLA in 1983, was previously director of prevention for The California Endowment, a foundation with a long track record of commitment to advancing health equity for all Californians.

Figueroa has served three California governors on health-related issues and he has a long track record of working to increase access to health insurance and lower the cost for Californians.

Figueroa served on the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board, where they ran public-private partnerships to provide coverage for groups of individuals that were hard to cover through private insurance because of pre-existing conditions. At the time, even pregnancy was considered a pre-existing condition.

During his tenure, the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board created the Health Insurance Plan for California, the state's first public co-op for small businesses to purchase insurance and a program for uninsured pregnant women. These private-sector health plan programs were state-sponsored and, in some cases, had state subsidies. The outcome: greater access to coverage for individuals.

Figueroa has also served as legislative director for Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi and a legislative consultant for the California State Senate Insurance and Budget and Fiscal Review Committees, and worked in the Legislative Analyst's Office.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Debra Cooper

Assistant Secretary
California Health and Human Services
Office of Program and Fiscal Affairs

Debra received a PhD in Neuroscience from Emory University and a BS in Psychology from Duke University. She undertook a postdoctoral fellowship at the Center for Addiction Research at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. She subsequently served as a Policy Consultant for the California State Senate Office of Research and then as Chief Consultant for the California State Assembly Committee on Human Services. Debra now serves as Assistant Secretary with the California Health and Human Services Agency (CalHHS) in the Office of Program and Fiscal Affairs.

Assemblemember Stephanie Nguyen

California State Assembly
10th Assembly District



Assemblemember Stephanie Nguyen was elected to the California State Assembly in November of 2022 to represent the 10th Assembly District as the first Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) women legislator in the Sacramento Region and recently reelected in November 2024.

Assemblemember Nguyen served as the Executive Director of Asian Resources, Inc. (ARI) to ensure that all communities, especially the low-income, immigrant, refugee, limited English-speaking, formerly incarcerated and undocumented, have access to support and services to help them get one step closer to self-sufficiency. She was elected to the Elk Grove City Council in 2017 and was the first Asian American woman in this role. She has lived, worked, and served the Sacramento and Elk Grove communities almost all her life.

The daughter of Vietnamese refugees who fled the Vietnam War by boat, she grew up in Sacramento's Little Saigon district and attended Sacramento schools before graduating from California State University, Sacramento. In her first term, she served as the first Vietnamese-American Assistant Speaker pro Tempore, on several key committees, was appointed to the Council of State Governments West Executive Committee, the Commission on the Status of Women and Girls, and the Seismic Safety Commission. This year 2025-26 legislative year, she championed several key budget wins that were signed by the Governor, including \$30 million for Special Olympics California and \$60 million for California Food Banks.

Assemblymember Nguyen serves on the Assembly Committees on Business and Professions; Governmental Organization; Insurance; Public Employment and Retirement; and Public Safety. She also serves as the Vice Chair for the AAPI Legislative Caucus and Co-Chair with the Majority Leader Aguiar-Curry in the Select Committee on Child Care Costs. She also serves on the following Select Committees: Biotechnology and Medical Technology, Cybersecurity, Nonprofit Sector, Ports and Goods Movement Transportation Costs and Impact of the Low Carbon Fuel, and Youth Mental Health and Treatment Accessibility.

SPEAKERS



Jennifer Burgess
Program Manager
Yurok Child Support Services

Jennifer has been the Program Manager for Yurok Child Support Services (YCSS) since Fall 2016. Prior to coming on to YCSS she was employed as the Yurok Tribal Court Operations Administrator and Chief Clerk of the Court for 4 years. Jennifer has worked with the Yurok Tribe for 16 years in the Tribal Court as well as the Enrollment and Elections Department. Jennifer currently serves on the Executive Board of the National Association of Tribal Child Support Directors (NATCSD). Jennifer is a citizen of the Comanche Nation and is also of Hupa and Yurok descent.



Natalie Dillon
CalCSA Board Member
Director of Colusa Sutter Yolo Regional
Child Support Agency

Natalie Dillon is the Director for the Colusa, Sutter, Yolo Regional Child Support Agency. In January 2021, the three local child support agencies merged to create a single regional agency.

Natalie had been the Director of the Yolo County Department of Child Support Services and previously worked as Deputy Director for the California Child Support Directors Association (CSDA). At CSDA she was heavily involved in the coordination of California local child support agency input in matters of automation, policy, and outreach. She was responsible for the Association's participation in and development of educational material, training and conferences.

Natalie is a Past President of the CSDA Board of Directors and is currently a Board member and officer. She served on the National Child Support Engagement Association (NCSEA) Board of Directors as well as Leadership Symposium Planning Committee and is a lifetime Board member of WICSEC (the Western Interstate Child Support Engagement Council) as well as Past President. Natalie previously served as Vice President on the Board of Directors for the children's home, Progress Ranch Treatment Services for Children.

Natalie has worked extensively in the Human Services arena. In addition to the Child Support Program, areas of expertise include public assistance and employment service programs and programs for at risk youth. She was a part time instructor for the University of California at Davis, Continuing and Professional Development.

Natalie received the CSAC (California State Association of Counties) credential for County Senior Executives and is the recipient of the 2008-09 American Society of Public Administrators (ASPA) Award for Intergovernmental Cooperation, the CSDA CCSAS Excellence Award and in 2022 received the CSDA Truly B. Knox award.



Ignacio J. Guerrero

CalCSA Board Member

Director of Santa Clara County Department of
Child Support Services

Ignacio J. Guerrero was appointed as Director for the Department of Child Support Services by the County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors in 2015. Previously, he was the Deputy Director for the Alameda County Department of Child Support Services for three years and was responsible for Department operations. Prior to this, Ignacio served as Deputy Director for the San Mateo County Department of Child Support Services for approximately five years. He has worked in County government for 30 years, with more than 25 years as a Manager in the child support program. Ignacio also worked as a Budget Analyst for the County Manager's Office in San Mateo County and as a Senior Manager in Administration for the County. He has completed the University of California's Berkeley Executive Seminar, Stanford University's Leadership & Transformation Program, and Harvard University's Senior Executives in State & Local Government Program. Ignacio holds a Bachelor's degree from Santa Clara University and Master's Degree in Public Administration from San Jose State University.

He is actively involved with the Child Support Director's Association and led Santa Clara County DCSS to be recognized as the 2023 CSDA (now CalCSA) Outstanding Program of the Year. He is married to Liane Peck, Solano County DCSS Director, and together they have a blended family of four.



Vangeria Harvey

Acting Director

Alameda County Child Support Services

Vangeria Harvey brings more than 25 years of legal and executive leadership experience to her role as Acting Director of Alameda County Child Support Services (ACCSS). She began her child support career in January 2001 with the County of Alameda, first as a Deputy District Attorney and later as a Child Support Attorney. In that role, she managed a large and complex caseload, specializing in financial analysis, enforcement, and negotiation of support obligations.

In 2019, Vangeria was promoted to Supervising Child Support Attorney, where she led the Legal Division and worked closely with staff, operations, the Court, and numerous legal partners to enhance service delivery for the child support program. This role allowed her to fully embrace the breadth of the child support mission beyond the courtroom, expanding her leadership and impact at the county, state, and national levels.

As a member of ACCSS's leadership team, Vangeria has developed extensive expertise in program administration, legal compliance, strategic planning, and organizational development. She has a proven track record of directing large-scale operations, implementing automation and modernization initiatives, strengthening interagency partnerships, and leading high-performing teams through innovation and collaboration.

Vangeria is an active and committed participant in the Child Support Directors Association (CSDA), where she has served as Co-Chair of the Managing and Lead Attorney Forum, Co-Chair of the Annual Legal College Planning Workgroup, and Co-Chair of the Advocacy Committee. She has contributed to numerous statewide workgroups, with particular pride in her work on the FEM Final Rule Workgroup, which she credits as a meaningful source of professional growth. Nationally, she serves on the NCSEA Policy Forum Planning Committee and the NCSEA Policy & Governmental Relations Committees.

In 2025, Vangeria received CSDA's Outstanding Attorney Award in recognition of her significant contributions to improving program performance, enhancing court processes, and elevating customer service across the state.

Vangeria earned her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from UC Berkeley

(Go Bears!) and her Juris Doctor from UC Davis King Hall School of Law. She and her husband are embracing life as empty nesters.

Vangeria is deeply humbled by her appointment as Acting Director by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors on November 25, 2025, following the retirement of Phyllis Nance. She is honored to continue serving the community and remains steadfast in her passion for the child support program: “a beacon of light for the families we serve.”



Ann Hollingshead

Principal Fiscal & Policy Analyst
California Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO)

Ann Hollingshead is a principal fiscal and policy analyst at the Legislative Analyst's Office. She covers the overall condition of the state budget, federal funding, budget reserves, the state's overall debts and liabilities, and the state appropriations limit.



Amanda Kirchner

Director of Legislative Advocacy
County Welfare Directors Association

Amanda Kirchner is Director of Legislative Advocacy of the County Welfare Directors Association of California. she advocates for CWDA's legislative and budget priorities across the spectrum of services and programs operated by county human services agencies. Before joining CWDA, Amanda served as Legislative Director for Assembly Member Ken Cooley, representing California's 8th District, for more than 11 years. Prior to joining the Assembly Member's office, she was the Senior Consultant in the Speaker's Office of Member Services for 5 years. She also has extensive campaign experience.



Graham Knaus

Chief Executive Officer
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)

Graham Knaus is CEO for the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and the California Counties Foundation, representing California's 58 counties and their 296 elected supervisors. Prior to his current role, he was the deputy executive director of operations and member services for CSAC. In this role he was responsible for operations, communications, and strategic

planning. During this time, he also served as CEO of the California Counties Foundation, where he had previously been a faculty member for several years. The California Counties Foundation oversees the CSAC's nationally recognized leadership and policy development and the CSAC Grants Initiative, which supports counties in maximizing state and federal funding. Graham has spent his career working for California counties, including six years with Placer County as the county's assistant director of Health and Human Services and as the county budget director. Prior to that, he served as a senior fiscal and policy analyst for the County Welfare Directors Association and as a legislative advocate for a firm representing California counties. While in these roles, he was a primary strategic advisor on the 2013 Health Realignment, which implemented the Affordable Care Act; he was also a principal architect on the 2011 State Public Safety Realignment, which realigned \$6 billion of services and funding from the state to counties. In addition to his CSAC role, he serves as vice president of the CSAC Finance Corporation board and as president of the National Council of County Association Executives. He also sits on the board of Easy Smart Pay, an online platform to facilitate property tax and other public payments; the California Foundation on the Environment and the Economy (CFEE); as well as a variety of nonprofit boards, including the Public Policy Institute of California's Statewide Leadership Council. He received his BA degree in political science/public policy from UC San Diego, and his MPA from the University of Southern California.



Anna Maves

Principal Managing Attorney
AB 1058 Program Manager
Judicial Council of California (JCC)

Ms. Anna L. Maves is a Principal Managing Attorney for the Judicial Council of California's Center for Families, Children & the Courts (CFCC) where she oversees the AB 1058 Child Support Commissioner and Family Law Facilitator Program, the Access to Justice and Self Help, Family Law and Domestic Violence, JusticeCorp and Access to Visitation Unit within CFCC. She joined the Judicial Council in July 2006 as an attorney in the AB 1058 Program before becoming a Supervising Attorney in 2015 overseeing the AB1058 Program. In that capacity Ms. Maves oversees the statewide training for the Child Support Commissioners and Family Law Facilitators on governmental child support, develops rules of court and Judicial Council forms to implement legislative and programmatic mandates, manages California's quadrennial uniform statewide child support guidelines review and annual certification of the commercial child support calculators. Ms. Maves manages a \$60 million budget for the administration of the child support program by the trial courts. She brings a very strong Title IV-D

background with her, as well as extensive experience working in collaboration with the judicial branch, Department of Child Support Services, and local child support agencies. Ms. Maves is member of the Judicial Branch Stakeholders group. Before coming to the Judicial Council, Ms. Maves worked as a Staff Attorney for the California Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) and began her career in child support with the Yolo County District Attorney's Office, Family Support Division in 1998, but gained her management skills in raising her four sons.



Abraham Mendoza

CalCSA Vice-President
Director of San Joaquin County Department of
Child Support Services

Abe began his career with the Child Support Program in 2008, serving in San Mateo and Sutter Counties before joining the California Department of Child Support Services (CA DCSS) in 2014. At CA DCSS, he played a key role in policy development, training, and change management, focusing on strategies to enhance program effectiveness and service delivery. As a Regional Administrator for the Northern Region, he worked closely with local agencies to drive performance, assist with policy interpretation, and voice operational concerns to CA DCSS.

In 2022, Abe was appointed Director of San Joaquin County Child Support Services, where he leads initiatives to streamline processes, strengthen team leadership, and improve outcomes for families. His commitment to continuous improvement and leadership development has positioned him as a key voice in the field. In 2024, he joined the California Child Support Directors Association Board, further advancing statewide collaboration and innovation.

Abe holds a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from California State University, Sacramento, and a Master's in Business Administration from Ashford University. Outside of work, he enjoys traveling, exploring new restaurants and wine, and spending time outdoors with his wife.



Liane Peck

CalCSA President
Director of Solano County Department of
Child Support Services

Liane has worked in the child support program for over 26 years in a variety of LCSAs including, Sacramento County DCSS, Siskiyou/Modoc Regional

DCSS, Central Sierra Child Support Agency and as the Director of Solano County DCSS since 2021. Liane has extensive experience in all facets of the child support program including, but not limited to Case Management, Laws, Policies, & Regulations, Legal/Court Processes, Human Resource Management, Budget/Fiscal Services, Labor Relations, and Performance Management.

Liane has presented at various conferences such as WICSEC and NTCSA on behalf of her respective counties, as well as the California Child Support Association. She has participated on many committees throughout the state, both via CalCSA as well as through the California Department of Child Support Services. Currently, Liane holds the role as President of CalCSA as well as Conference Chair.

Liane and her husband Ignacio share 4 children, 2 recent college graduates and 2 high schoolers, and a 100+ pound chocolate lab. In her spare time, she enjoys shopping, spending time with family and friends, and traveling.



Nicole Windom-Hurd

CalCSA Board Member

Director of Riverside County Department of
Child Support Services

Nicole Windom-Hurd is the Director of the Riverside County Department of Child Support Services and has devoted over 26 years to public service in Riverside County. With 21 years in the child support program and five years with the Office of County Counsel, she brings extensive administrative and operational leadership to her role. Nicole serves on the board of the California Child Support Association (CalCSA) and participates on several association and county committees. She understands the importance child support plays in the lives of families and believes in the work done by child support professionals. Outside of work, Nicole enjoys football and traveling with friends and family—living by her motto, “Travel is a way of life.”

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