California Budget Perspective 2018-19

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Most state dollars spent through the California budget (70%) support health and human services or education.
More Than 7 in 10 State Dollars Support Health and Human Services or Education

Proposed 2018-19 General Fund and Special Fund Expenditures = $187.8 Billion

- Health and Human Services: 32.5%
- K-12 Education: 29.4%
- Higher Education: 8.3%
- Corrections: 7.8%
- Transportation: 7.1%
- Other*: 7.1%
- Environment and Natural Resources: 3.9%
- Legislative, Executive, and Judicial: 3.9%

*Includes Business, Consumer Services, and Housing; Labor and Workforce Development; Government Operations; and General Government. Source: Department of Finance
California is projected to spend over $100 billion in federal funds through the state budget in 2018-19.
Federal Funds Account for More Than One-Third of California’s State Budget
Total Proposed 2018-19 Expenditures = $296.2 Billion

Source: Department of Finance
More Than 7 in 10 Federal Dollars Spent Through the State Budget Support Health and Human Services

Federal Funds Estimated to Be Spent Through the State Budget in 2018-19 = $105.9 Billion

- Health and Human Services: 74.0%
- K-12 Education: 7.1%
- Labor and Workforce Development: 6.3%
- Transportation: 5.4%
- Higher Education: 4.9%
- Other*: 2.3%

* Includes Environmental Protection; Legislative, Judicial, and Executive; Corrections and Rehabilitation; and other state budget categories that account for relatively small shares of federal funds.

Source: Department of Finance
For most Californians, wages have not been keeping up with the state’s rising cost of living.
California’s Low- and Midwage Workers Have Seen Only Modest Gains Since 1979

Percent Change in Inflation-Adjusted Hourly Wages for Workers Ages 18-64

Note: Figures reflect 2017 dollars.
Workers’ Earnings Have Not Kept Pace With Rents in California

Percent Change in Inflation-Adjusted Median Rent and Median Annual Earnings Since 2006

Note: Median annual earnings for individuals working at least 35 hours per week and 50 weeks per year. Excludes workers with $0 or negative total earnings.
Source: Budget Center analysis of US Census Bureau, American Community Survey data
The Governor proposes to deposit $3.5 billion *more than required* into the state’s rainy day fund, bringing the fund balance to $13.5 billion.
Budget Proposal Calls for Bringing the Rainy Day Fund to Its Maximum Level

Governor Proposes an Extra $3.5 Billion Beyond What Proposition 2 Requires in 2018-19

* 2017-18 estimated and 2018-19 projected.
Source: Department of Finance
The Governor’s proposed budget continues the recent trend of reinvesting in K-12 and higher education.
Due to Higher Revenues, 2018-19 Spending Per Student Would Be More Than $3,400 Above 2011-12
K-12 Proposition 98 Spending Per Pupil, Inflation-Adjusted

Note: Figures reflect 2018-19 dollars and exclude spending for adult education, preschool, and child care. Prop. 98 spending reflects both state General Fund and local property tax dollars. Source: Legislative Analyst’s Office

* 2017-18 estimated and 2018-19 proposed.
State Spending Per Student at CSU and UC Remains Well Below Pre-Recession Levels, Despite Recent Increases
Direct General Fund Expenditures Per Full-Time Student, Inflation-Adjusted

* Estimated.
Note: Figures are in 2016-17 dollars and reflect "full-time equivalent" enrollment, which accounts for credits taken by each student relative to a full-time course load. Data exclude indirect state funding for CSU and UC attributable to Cal Grant tuition and fee payments. Source: Department of Finance, California State University, and University of California
The Governor proposes modest increases for child care and preschool, but total state funding would remain below the pre-recession level.
Annual Funding for Child Care and Preschool Remains Well Below the Pre-Recession Level

Total Funding for Subsidized Child Care and Preschool in California (Billions), Inflation-Adjusted

Note: Figures are in 2018-19 dollars and include federal and state funds for slots as well as for quality and support programs. Child care includes CalWORKs and non-CalWORKs programs. Preschool excludes Transitional Kindergarten. Source: California Department of Education and Department of Finance
The Governor’s proposed budget does not increase CalWORKs or SSI/SSP cash assistance levels.
Without an Increase in 2018-19, CalWORKs Grants Will Be Below the Deep-Poverty Line for the Eleventh Straight Year

Annualized Maximum Grant for a Family of Three as a Percentage of the Federal Poverty Line

Note: Grants are for high-cost counties. The proposed 2018-19 budget does not increase grant levels.

Source: Budget Center analysis of Department of Social Services, US Department of Health and Human Services, and US Social Security Administration data
Due to State Cuts, SSI/SSP Grants Are Only $4 Per Month Higher Than in 2009 and Remain Below the Poverty Line

Maximum Monthly Grant for Individuals Age 65 or Older or Who Have a Disability

Note: The federal cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for the SSI portion of the grant is projected to be 2.6% ($20 per month) effective January 1, 2019. The Governor’s proposed 2018-19 budget does not include a state COLA for the SSP portion of the grant in 2019.

Source: Department of Social Services and US Department of Health and Human Services
Even with recent criminal justice reforms, state spending on corrections remains high.
The Number of Adults Incarcerated at the State Level Is Projected to Decline by Just 5% From 2017 to 2022 As of June 30 of Each Year

* Projected.  
Note: Data reflect individuals housed in a range of facilities, including (but not limited to) prisons operated by the State of California and out-of-state correctional facilities.  
Source: California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
State Support for the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) Is Up Substantially From 2012-13
Inflation-Adjusted General Fund Dollars in Billions

* 2017-18 estimated and 2018-19 proposed.

Note: Effective July 1, 2017, the CDCR assumed responsibility for operating 24-hour inpatient psychiatric care in three prisons. This change increased CDCR spending by roughly $270 million beginning with the 2017-18 fiscal year. Figures reflect 2018-19 dollars.

Source: Department of Finance
Spending Per Incarcerated Adult Is Up by Nearly One-Third Since 2007-08
Per Capita Cost for Adults Housed in State Prisons and Fire Camps, Inflation-Adjusted

* 2017-18 estimated and 2018-19 proposed.
Note: Figures reflect 2018-19 dollars.
Source: Department of Finance
Key Issues to Watch

Federal actions

Legislature’s response

Revenue forecast
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