



California State Treasurer's Office **NEWS RELEASE**

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Treasurer Fiona Ma Hosts Historic Summit as California Leads Nation in Children's Wealth-Building Innovation

**Special Guest Tiffany Haddish to Highlight the Power of Financial Access for
Foster Youth and Low-Income Families**

SACRAMENTO, CA – California is charting a bold new path for economic equity by giving millions of children a financial head start. On April 9, State Treasurer Fiona Ma will host the inaugural California's Early Wealth Account Systems (CEWAS) Summit: Pathways to Promise, a first-of-its-kind gathering of leaders, educators, researchers, and advocates focused on strengthening early wealth-building tools for families across the state.

The full-day event, taking place at The Sofia, Home of B Street Theatre, will spotlight California's national leadership in children's savings programs, particularly [CalKIDS](#), which has invested more than \$2.15 billion to help nearly 5 million children build a foundation for higher education and career training. The CEWAS Summit comes at a pivotal moment, as California continues expanding its savings infrastructure with a focus on economic mobility, intergenerational wealth-building, and racial equity.

"Even small savings early on can make a big difference," said State Treasurer Fiona Ma. "This summit is about sharing ideas and exploring what's possible when every child has a financial head start."

Special Guest: Tiffany Haddish

Actress, comedian, and foster youth advocate Tiffany Haddish will share her personal story of resilience and discuss how early financial empowerment can change the

trajectory for vulnerable youth. As founder of the She Ready Foundation, Haddish has been a national voice for foster youth and underserved communities.

By the Numbers: A Growing Impact

- \$2.2 billion has been invested statewide in child savings accounts through CalKIDS and 15 local programs.
- More than 5.2 million children are currently supported through these initiatives.
- CalKIDS automatically awards up to \$1,500 to eligible public school students and up to \$175 for all babies born in California after July 1, 2022.
- Local programs like San Francisco's K2C report a 12% college enrollment increase among underrepresented students with even modest savings.

Speakers & Highlights

In addition to Treasurer Ma and Tiffany Haddish, featured speakers include:

- Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis
- State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond
- CSA experts, financial institutions, researchers, and community advocates

Sessions will explore how early savings contribute to academic success, long-term financial stability, and thriving communities.

Join Us

What: California's Early Wealth Account Systems (CEWAS) Summit

When: April 9, 2025 | 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Where: The Sofia, Home of B Street Theatre | 2700 Capitol Ave, Sacramento, CA 95816

For more information on CalKIDS or to check eligibility, visit www.CalKIDS.org.

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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.