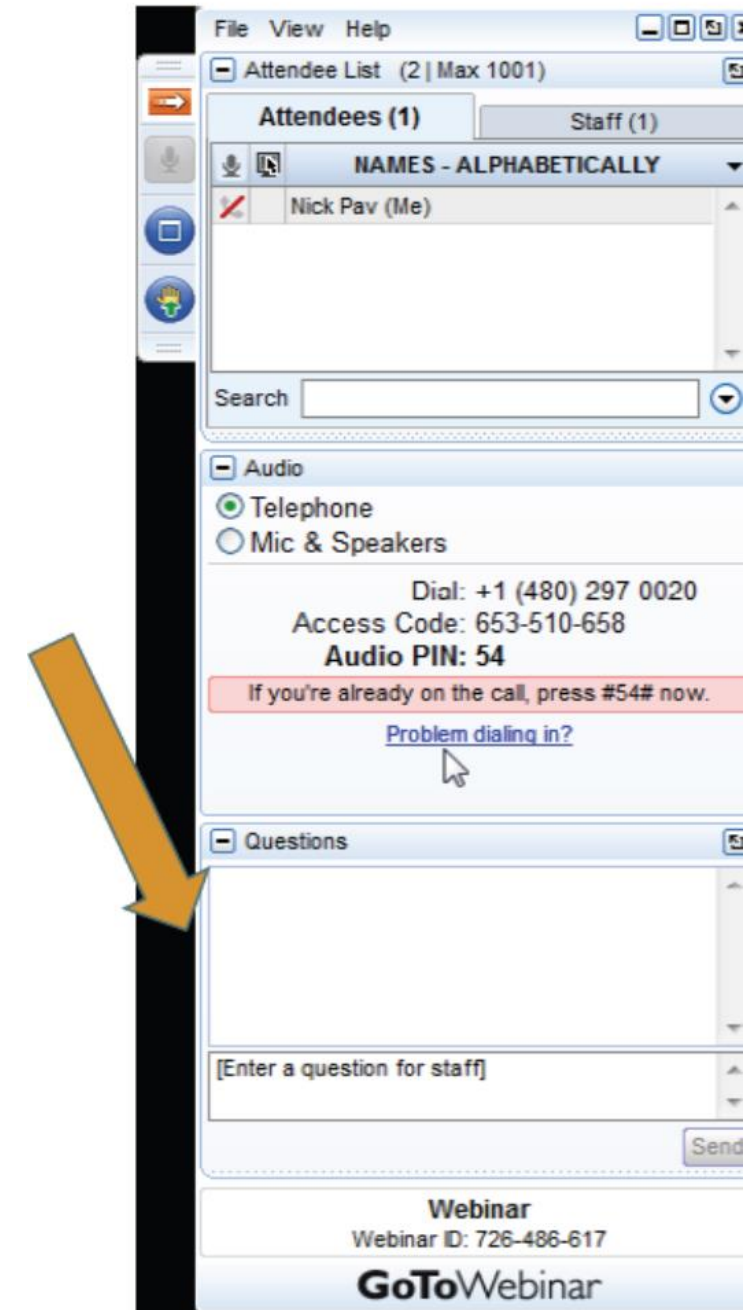# *FYI Voucher Pilot*

NEW OPPORTUNITY TO EXPAND ACCESS
TO HOUSING FOR FORMER FOSTER YOUTH

Logistics

▪ Webinar resources, including recording and supplemental materials, will be posted at https://allianceforchildrensrights.org/resources/

▪ All attendees are muted during webinar.

▪ Please submit questions using the "Questions" function on your GotoWebinar dashboard.

▪ Email Ines Rosales at irosales@alliancecr.org if you experience technical difficulties.

Agenda

FYI Initiative Overview

Building an FYI Program

- Existing Resources, Success Story & Newly Available Pilot

Technical Assistance & Resources

Questions

Presenters

Lauren Knott, Senior Associate, Technical Assistance Collaborative

Lourdes Chavez, MSW, Senior Social Services Supervisor for ILP and Transitional Housing Programs, County of Orange

Maria Hodson, Senior Housing Specialist, Santa Ana Housing Authority, Community Development Agency

Kristine Peters, WelcomeHomeOC Program Director, Orange County United Way

Kristin Power, Vice President, Policy & Advocacy, Alliance for Children's Rights

Angie Schwartz, Deputy Director, Children & Family Services Division, California Department of Social Services

Dr. Shay Sorrells, Chief Programs Officer, Orangewood Foundation

Cynthia Vatalaro, Bureau Chief, Children & Family Services Division, Resource Family and Permanency Services Branch, California Department of Social Services

FYI Initiative

HCV Assistance to PHAs in partnership with Child Welfare Agencies

- PHAs provide housing assistance to youth 18-24 who left foster care or will leave foster care within 90 days;
- And, are homeless or are at risk of becoming homeless at age 16 or older.

FYI Vouchers

Maximum of 36 months
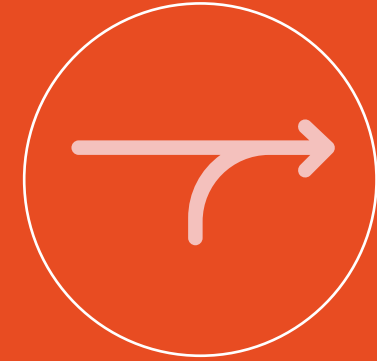
Supportive services to assist on path to self-sufficiency

Achieving Self-Sufficiency

- Basic Life Skills
- Rental Basics Counseling
- Working with Property Owners
- Job Preparation
- Education and Career Counseling

"The success of this effort requires that community partners coordinate effectively to identify, target, and connect eligible youth at-risk of or experiencing homelessness to housing and related supports."

Building an FYI Program

FOSTER YOUTH TO INDEPENDENCE
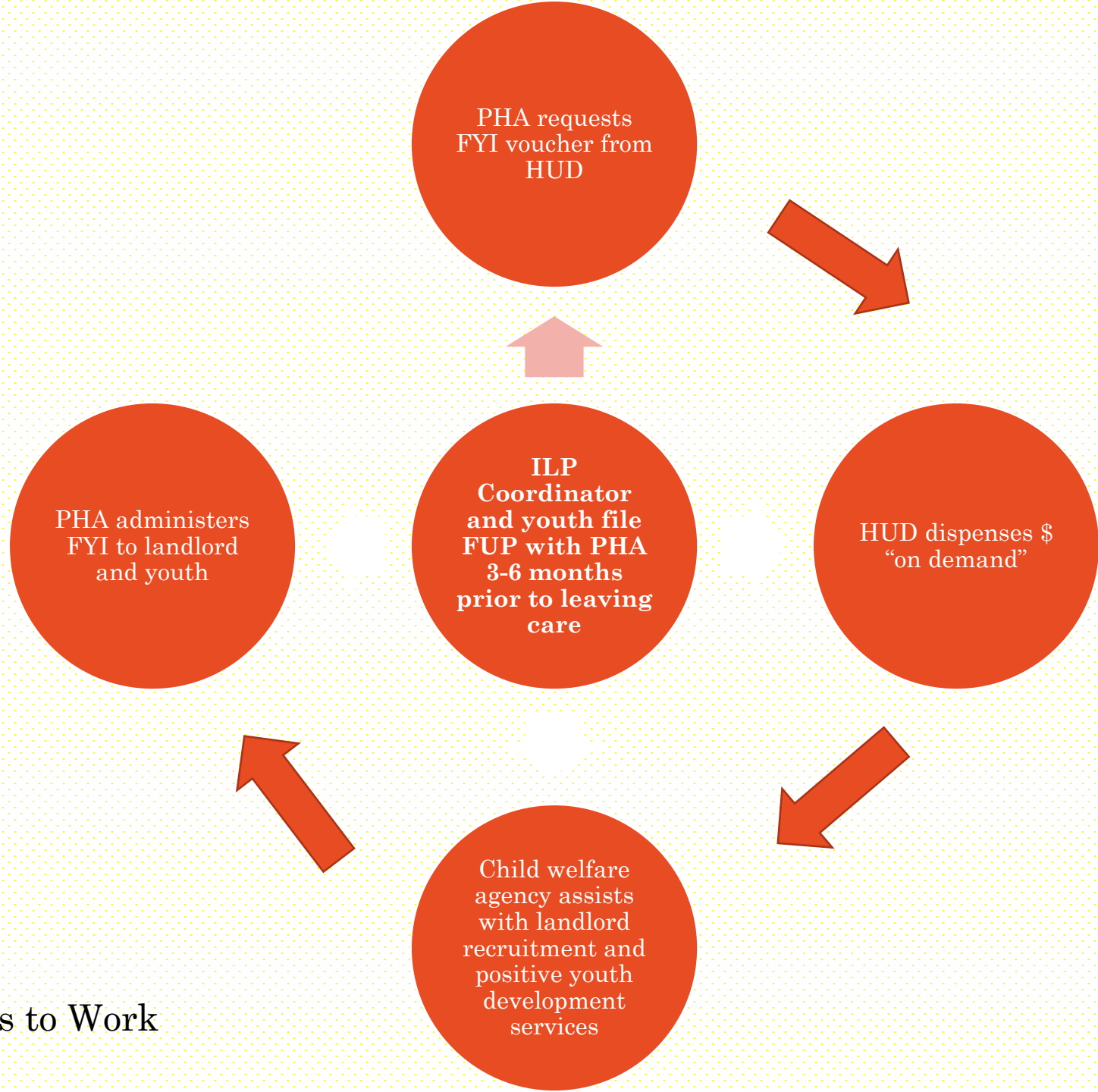
Putting FYI Vouchers to Work

Build Community Partnerships

Develop working partnership between PHA and PCWA

Bring information about the services you can provide

Identify a point of contact for questions and referrals

Plan for regular communication

Build and nurture the relationship

PCWAs should forecast who will need vouchers and when

Kristine Peters, CFRE
WelcomeHomeOC Program Director
United to End Homelessness
Orange County United Way

Maria Hodson
Senior Housing Specialist
Santa Ana Housing Authority
Community Development Agency

Lourdes Chavez, MSW
Senior Social Services Supervisor
Transitional Planning Services Program (TPSP)
ILP/Transitional Housing Placement Programs
Orange County Social Services Agency

Dr. Shay Sorrells
Chief Programs Officer
Orangewood Foundation

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ORANGE COUNTY LANDLORD ENGAGEMENT HISTORY

Orange County Public Housing Authorities:

January 2018 – Public Housing Authorities discussed the need for a landlord incentive program in Orange County

April 2018 – PHA's regrouped and reported that they did not have access to funding for landlord incentives

Orange County United Way:

February 2018 – Orange County United Way launched United to End Homelessness

March 2018 – Created United to End Homelessness rental working group, began discussion on landlord incentive program

April 2018 - Implemented survey to apartment owners around incentives

November 2018 – Launched pilot program - WelcomeHomeOC

THE IMPORTANCE OF COLLABORATION

March 2019

WelcomeHomeOC
Launched

August 2019

House 30 campaign
fundraising success
(mainstream vouchers)

October 2019

Housed 30 people from
House 30 campaign

December 2019

Housed 1st FYI voucher-holder

HUD visit

April 2020

All FYI recipients
housed!!

January 2020

FYI campaign
fully funded

July 2019

AAOC Partnership

Awarded $2.9M from
State of CA

Began pilot with the
VA & OCHA

September 2019

Formal rollout with AAOC

Housed 1st resident with CAA

November 2019

Partnering with
Orangewood Foundation,
launched FYI campaign

Whole Person Care pilot

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SANTA ANA HOUSING AUTHORITY BACKGROUND: FYI

- **2018** – Applied for Family Unification Program
  - Created MOU with Orange County Social Services agency
  - FUP application unsuccessful

- **July 2019** – HUD announces NOFA for FYIs
  - Able to move through process quickly; PHA acted with sense of urgency
  - Identified 25 youth with Orange County Social Services Agency

- **August 2019** – Applied for FYI vouchers, because unsuccessful for FUP application

- **October 2019** – Notified of application success; 1 of 2 communities in CA to receive vouchers

- **November 2019** – Partnered with United to End Homelessness and started issuing vouchers

- **April 2020** – All vouchers leased up

- **April 2021** – SAHA began issuing their next award of 25 vouchers.

- **June 30th 2021-** 14 of those 25 vouchers were leased up.

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Overview Pre-FYI

- Orange County actively participates in the FUP Vouchers for families in Reunification.

- Existing MOU for the FUP-FR Vouchers. OC currently has 260 vouchers total, plus 50 from the Urban Institute (2019 to 2021).

- HUD-FUP-Youth vouchers are administered in the transitional housing program by one ILP-senior social worker along with regularly assigned ILP Duties. Prior to 2019, the average vouchers received was about 3-5 a year

- The HUD-Youth voucher has been used as a resource for young adults aging out of foster care. (we prioritized parenting young adults)

- September 2019 is when SAHA presented the partnership for the FYI vouchers to our Administration.

County of Orange Social Services Agency

Benefits in partnering with SAHA-FYI

- More vouchers to support non-minor dependents aging out of foster care.

- Serving vulnerable NMD populations that are at higher risk of being homeless.

- Prevent homelessness.

- Able to serve single young adults aging out of foster care, not just parenting.

- Supporting the success of young adults that are on a good path, but need the support of housing stability.

- An extension of the Transitional Housing Programs

- Having a direct connection with SAHA-staff

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THE GOLDEN CITY

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Identified Challenges to Implement FYI

- **Limited ILP staff to process and provide case management**

- **Follow through with application process and support for applicants**

- **Outreach and recruiting efforts**

- **Financial Resources for applicants**
  - Deposits, rent and furnishings

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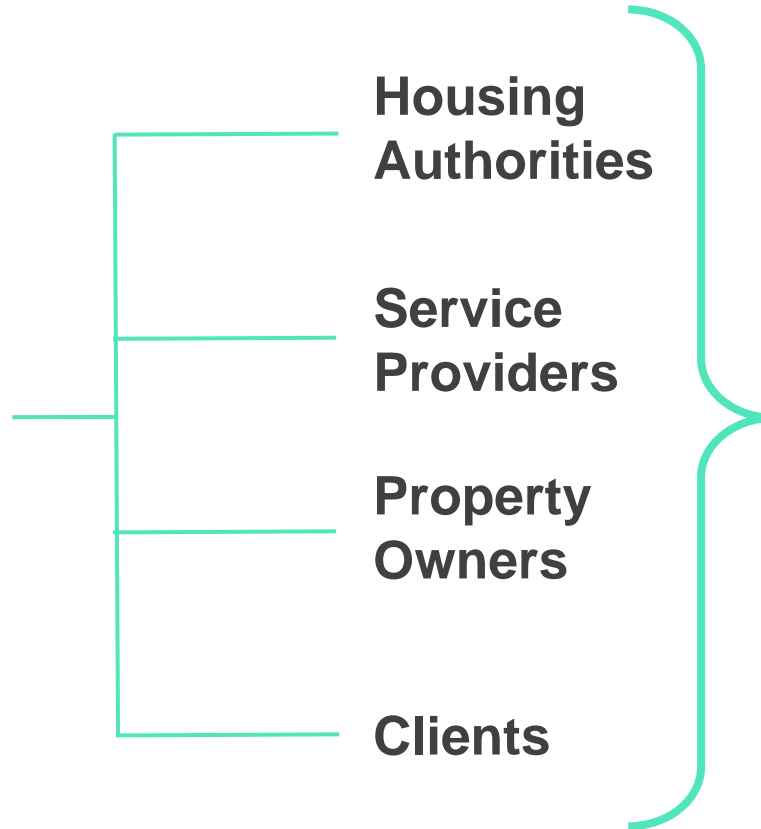
FYI – HOW WE CAN HELP YOUNG ADULTS FIND A HOME

Engaged Network of Property Owners

An Existing Inventory of Units

Security Deposit & Holding Fees

New Furniture

Safety Net: Damage Mitigation Fund

Supportive Services

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FYI VOUCHER HOLDERS – STATUS

Total of FYI Voucher Households Housed To Date: 39*

Average placement time from Housing Navigation Start Date to Lease Start Date: **57 days**

Median Time : 51 days

Shortest Placement: 23 days

Longest Placement: 149 days

* As of 9/7/21

FYI VOUCHER HOLDERS – CURRENT STATUS

- Voucher Issuance began in December 2019

- All recipients were leased up by April 2020

- All leased up within 90 days

FYI Results as of 9/7/21:

➡ **20** completed the WelcomeHomeOC Program & retained permanent housing

➡ **17** still enrolled in WelcomeHomeOC Program in permanent housing

➡ **95%** success rate

ONGOING SUPPORT SERVICES – ORANGE COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY

SSA: Oversight of all support services for FYI voucher holders, responsible for agreements of the MOU regarding visitations

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA): advocates for young adults, mentoring, linkages

Orangewood: Youth Support Specialists - half of FYI young adults connected to them

Full Service Partnerships:
- Youth Offender Wraparound: mental health services, independent living skills: employment, education, life skills, medication regiments
- Orangewood: mental health services, independent living skills, employment, education, life skills, medication regiments
- Supporting Transitional Age Youth: Health Care Agency, specific to mental health issues

Young Lives Redeemed: Mentoring, funding room and boards while young adults are waiting to be placed, transportation for job interviews, linkages to MH services

Non Profit Case Managers for literal homeless FYI voucher holders e.g. shelter case worker

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CA Dept. of Housing & Community Development Grants to County Agencies
Feb. 2020

- Housing Navigator Program (18-24 yr olds)

- Transitional Housing Program (18 -21 yr. olds)

Grant money was utilized to partner with the Orangewood Foundation to support the recipients and provide them case management for the 3 years while in the HUD program.

- It allowed them to add more staff.

Getting Started

- Existing partner with Social Services

- Contracted to provide ILP services

- Had relationships with the youth

- Had a drop in Resource Center

- *In order to get this program launched quickly, the program was added as an amendment to our current contract*

Supportive Services

- There are 2 full time case managers focused on all youth with vouchers
- Utilizing assessments to prioritize highest areas of concern in maintaining housing and building toward self-sufficiency
- "Safety net" funds built in to support youth during crisis or situations and to provide opportunities to meet their goals
- Links youth to all other services offered through orangewood in education completion, employment training and more

How It's Going

- We were able to support 88 youth in securing housing

- We have been able to support 68 youth in stabilizing housing

- We have only had 4 youth exit the program

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Lessons Learned:

- Focus on young adults whose County funded housing resources will be ending soon (22-24 yr. olds)
- Prepare the young adult for move-in, setting up utilities, renters; insurance, animal fees
- Educate the PHAs and other providers of the dynamics of foster youth:
  - Some foster youth have never lived alone or in an apartment
  - Foster youth use defense mechanisms that appear that they are uncooperative or as if they don't care when they are afraid or unsure of what's to come
    - It's hard to ask for help
  - Respect when they say "no" to an apartment.
    - You don't know the trauma they may have experienced in the neighborhood
  - Understand that many still want their parents'/family approval and might jeopardize their voucher . . . be patient
  - All partners need to be aware of the developmental stage of this age group and specific needs to this population

Elisabeth

Bernadette

WelcomeHomeOC SUCCESSES

Responsive network of owners who trust us

Collaboration
Partnerships with variety of community stakeholders

Fundraising
Matching donor fundraising for tangible cause

Help House OC Homeless Youth This Holiday Season

Donate Now

UNITED TO END HOMELESSNESS

Empowered by Orange County United Way

HUD Visit
Good publicity & awareness

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OrangewoodFoundation.org

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Building an FYI Program

NEWLY AVAILABLE PILOT RESOURCES
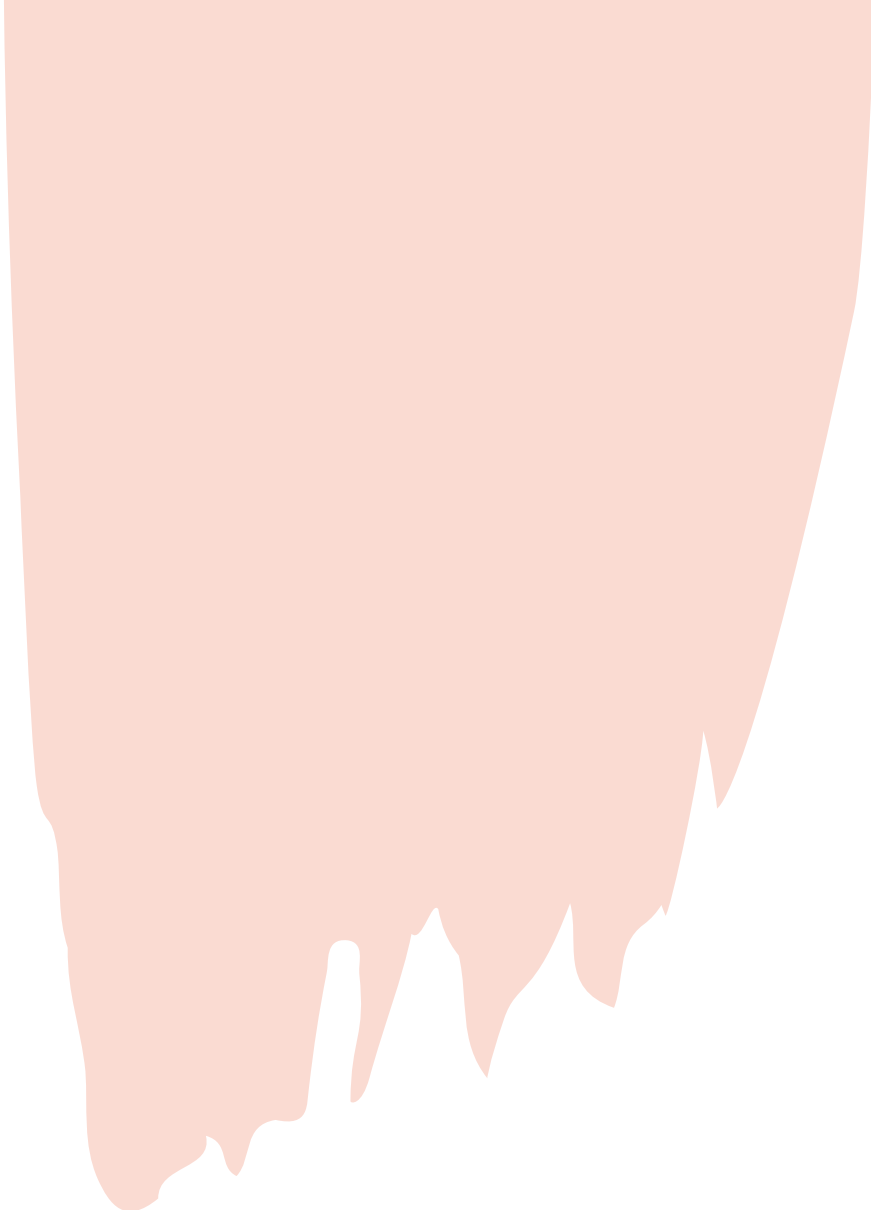
FYI Pilot

- CDSS is releasing $4 million for county child welfare agencies and IV-E Tribes to assist young adults ages **21-23** with the case management activities which are required by HUD to apply for the Foster Youth Initiative (FYI) Program.

Pilot Program Goals

Stable Housing	Assist youth who have left the foster care system in securing access to stable housing.
Housing Management Services	Provide housing management services to assist youth in developing skills in managing their long-term housing needs.
Case Management	Provide skills and knowledge-based case management support to young adults in maintaining housing, completing education, and developing employment skills.

Requirements

- Counties/IV-E Tribes must be able to **enter into or have executed an MOU with their local PHA by 1/30/22**.

- County/tribe **may choose to provide case management services directly or through a contract**.

- **95% of the funds must be directed to case management to support youth in the pilot, 5% of the funds may be used for administrative activities**.

- Counties/IV-E Tribes must be able to **fully encumber funds by 9/30/22**.

- Counties/ IV-E Tribes must agree to **utilize the state contracted housing support consultant who will provide training and support in meeting all the requirements for the FYI program** including supporting the development and negotiation of the MOU and providing technical assistance and support in working with housing providers to meet HUD standards.

- Counties/ IV-E Tribes will need to certify that they will **use Housing Navigators and/or have identified housing providers who are able to offer units where an FYI voucher is accepted** to ensure youth are able to find housing to utilize the voucher.

- Funding received for this program shall **supplement and not supplant existing funding**.

- Programs must **coordinate with the greater homelessness response system**, including the local homeless Continuum of Care (CoC) and Coordinated Entry (CE) System.

- Programs must **provide CDSS required data on pilot implementation and progress** over the course of the pilot.

Submitting An FYI Program Proposal

Counties/IV-E Tribes applying for funds will need to submit a program plan which includes anticipated timelines for implementation and milestones (including anticipate completions dates, if applicable) and address the following:

- Description of your capacity to design and implement a FYI program, and include any steps that will need to be taken in order to begin full program operation on or before Jan 30, 2022.

Submitting an FYI Program Proposal

Description of your capacity to design and implement a FYI program, and include any steps that will need to be taken in order to begin full program operation on or before 1/30/22.

Submitting an FYI Program Proposal

Case Management Plans (including the use of evidence-based models, such as supportive youth-focused programs and trauma-informed care to engage young adults).

Housing navigation and/or identification of housing providers who can provide units that are eligible for FYI vouchers.

Rent and Housing-Related Financial Assistance that will be available to support the upfront expenses associated with securing housing (utility payments, first and last month's rent, furniture, etc.). Counties should leverage Independent Living Programs (ILP), Community Based Organizations (CBOs) for tangible items first.

Housing Stabilization and Retention Services (including ongoing tenant engagement, case management, public systems assistance, legal services, credit repair assistance, life skills training, and conflict mediation with landlords and neighbors).

Pilot Participant Selection and Services

- If you have an existing program, what population to you serve? How many youth do you currently serve? Please include the demographics of your current program. i.e., age, ethnicity, gender, prior agency serving youth i.e., probation, child welfare.

- Identify the number of youth your program intends to serve through the FYI Pilot with the funds requested.

- Number of former foster youth your FYI Program intends to serve by 6/30/22 and how this goal was determined.

- Number of youth your FYI Pilot intends to serve between June and September 2022.

- How you will prioritize the youth for the program (i.e., active homeless youth, risk of homelessness).

- Describe the process for FYI enrollment, including a description of the process from referral to approval of a voucher and identification of an eligible housing unit and how housing intervention determinations will be made. Include a proposed timeline for this process.

- Identify the assessment tool that will be used to determine a youth's service need and include the process that will be used to help them meet their identified needs.

- **How the county will coordinate with the local CoC to foster communication and collaboration**, independent of the way a county chooses to operate their program. (i.e., through a contract or directly).
  - Include a description of steps and timeline for integration. Responses should include how you will participate in the flow and ongoing functions of the CoC (e.g., the ability to accept referrals and send referrals, by-name list discussions, etc.).
  - Indicate your current partnership with other homelessness services in your community and any plans for expanding these partnerships to implement FYI.
- **How the agency will leverage community provider/CBO expertise** to ensure participants are fully able to sustain their housing following their 3-year program participation.
- **How the program will meet the needs of your community** and aligns with best practice to ensure participants are provided with the resources and supports to sustain future housing or maintain housing at the end of the pilot.
- **Any significant partnerships and their anticipated role** in your FYI program.
  - Clarify how collaboration will operate across the programs and/or Tribes and how the collaborative entities will work together to meet program requirements.

Collaboration

Describe:

Funding Request

Budget requests must be based on yearly, per participant basis.

Budget request per participant may not exceed $10,000 per year, (i.e., 15 participants x $10,000 x 3 years = $450,000).

Note: of the $450,000, a 5% administrative fee can be added to the total budget.

Reporting Requirements

Number of youth served, including demographics (i.e., age race, gender identity),

Number of youth in program by month

Ages of youth served

Types of services provided to youth

Description of recruitment and outreach activities performed and outcomes that were achieved

Number of appropriate units and housing options available for potential participants

Number of youth and reasons why youth who came into contact with a FYI that could not be served

Entry and exit dates (if applicable) of a youth entering into a housing program including date of enrollment, move in date to their housing unit, and move out dates (if applicable) to their housing unit and associated reasons
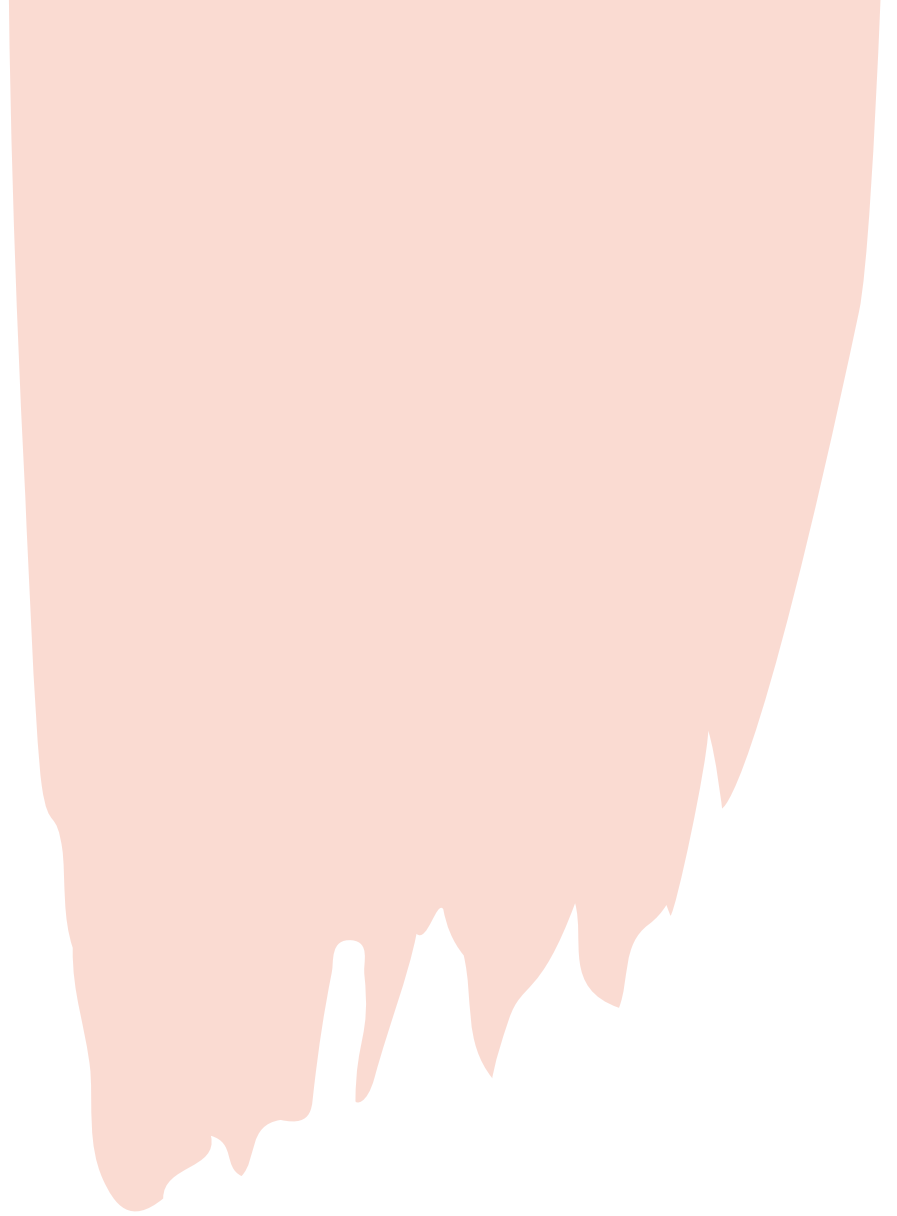
Program Evaluation

Describe

how data and outcomes are or will be used to inform continuous quality improvement, and/or any future plans for program improvement

Resources

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Other resources besides the pilot funding can be used to fund supportive services:

- Continuum of Care Program
- Emergency Solutions Grant Program
- Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP)
- California Emergency Solutions and Housing (CESH)

Approaching Supportive Services

Technical Assistance

TAC will be available to help counties meet the requirements of FYI including:

- Coordinating with the greater homelessness response system, including the local homeless Continuum of Care (CoC)
- Brainstorming strategies for unit identification for use with FYI vouchers
- Assisting in development of FYI program plan
- Developing data measurements and milestones

Expand Access to Housing for Former Foster Youth

Deadline to Apply: TBD

Contact: FYIapps@dss.ca.gov

- Notice PIH 2021-26 - https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/OCHCO/documents/2021-26pihn.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0ugkH36K9wtNtC8rFLUr2SbjRaJaI3aM9hoDHskQLQKL87APJb00o_fSY

- FYI Vouchers for the Foster Youth to Independence Initiative - https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/hcv/fyi

- Fostering Stable Housing Opportunities - https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5a7dcc2a01002 77e36127414/t/5ff35b760db4f45ccb027c7d/160978 41 82237/FSHO+Final+Enacted+Bill.pdf

- FYI Vouchers: Flipping the Script from Housing Crisis for Foster Youth to Solution - https://allianceforchildrensrights.org/resources/fyivo uchers/

Resources

FOSTER YOUTH TO INDEPENDENCE

FYI Pilot Program Contact:
FYIapps@dss.ca.gov

Thank You

PowerPoint slides, webinar recording and supplemental materials, including the certificate of participation, will be posted on the Alliance website at https://allianceforchildrensrights.org/resources/

CDSS

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