

POLICY WEBINAR | APRIL 2021

FYI Vouchers

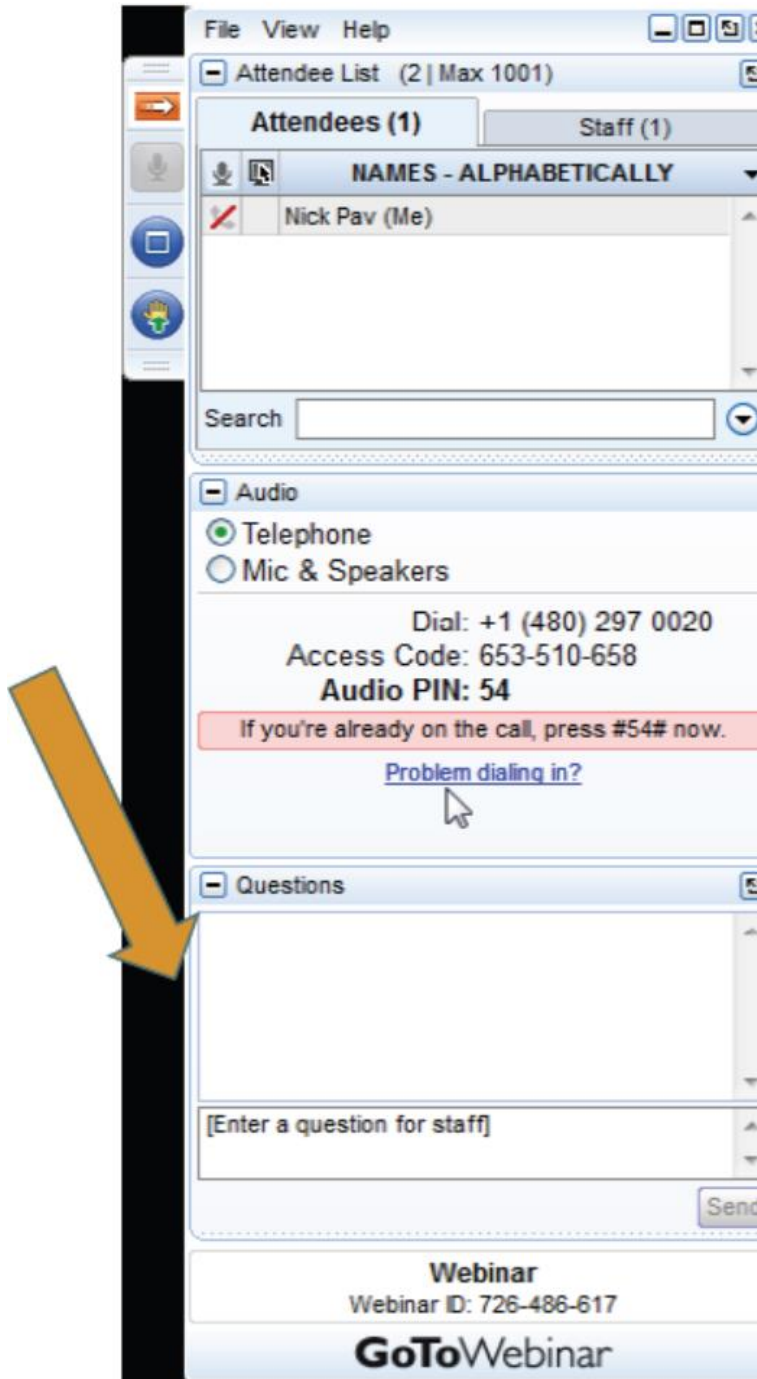
Flipping the Script: From Housing
Crisis for Foster Youth to Solution

ALLIANCE
for CHILDREN'S
RIGHTS



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.



Presenters

Ruth White, Co-Founder and Executive Director, National Center for Housing and Child Welfare

Adaora Onuora, Fellow & Communications Consultant, National Center for Housing and Child Welfare



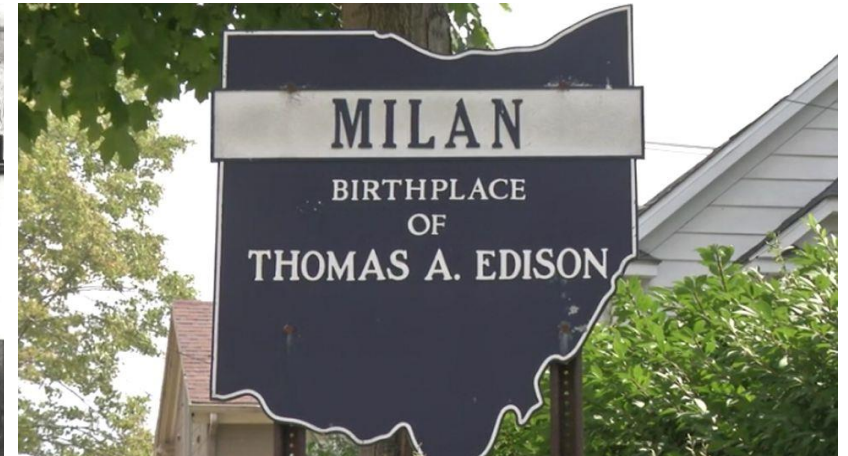
HUD's Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Initiative emerged directly from youth

- The Fostering Stable Housing Opportunities (FSHO) Coalition, led by ACTION Ohio, includes more than 55,000 foster care alumni and allies. Most of whom have been trained by the vast network of Youth Advisory Boards created by child welfare and Continua of Care.
- For over six years, The FSHO Coalition worked in partnership with the National Center for Housing & Child Welfare foster youth champions on the Hill such as Reps. Turner and **Karen Bass**, HUD and HHS to synchronize HUD's Family Unification Program with Chafee Independent Living Service to eliminate the gaps through which foster youth fall into homelessness.
- FYI capitalizes on the best services that child welfare and housing agencies have to offer – as well as the industriousness of the youth themselves.



FYI is a
revolutionary
distribution
mechanism for
FUP invented
by youth from
Ohio

This should not be surprising because Ohio is also the birthplace Thomas Edison, who created the most important distribution system ever conceived.



FYI ENDS
HOMELESSNESS
FOR YOUTH BY
SYNCHRONIZING
EXISTING FEDERAL
PROGRAMS AND
ELIMINATING
GEOGRAPHIC
DISPARITIES.

Predictability



Synchronization



Universalization



Adaora Onuora

- Child welfare staff must be aware of a range of housing options as they conduct transition planning meetings with youth.
- Working in partnership with PHA staff, child welfare staff can help youth access housing and self-sufficiency programs.
- Adaora is in the homeownership program as well!
- FYI matters because the window to access FUP can be brief and unpredictable.





MARCH 4, 2019 WITH SEC. CARSON

FSHO history

Foster care youth & alumni have been working with Congress, HUD, & housing experts for years to get FSHO right



2000

Sen. Bond adds youth to FUP

FUP for families has been an eligible use of HUD's TPVs since 1990. Youth are added and eligible to receive time-limited (18 mo.) vouchers through FUP.



2013

Youth identify FUP synchronization problems

Few youth are referred to FUP because the vouchers are not timed with emancipation. Vouchers are also only available in limited areas of the U.S.



2014

HUD research identifies synchronization problems

PHAs & PCWAs report problems making FUP referrals due to the unpredictable nature of FUP voucher availability



2016

Rep. Leutkemeyer extends FUP to 3 yrs, Sen. Murray creates FUP-FSS Demo

Young people form the FSHO Coalition and begin devising a way to universalize FUP-FSS demo for their brothers & sisters in care



2020

Fostering Stable Housing Opportunities Act Passes

Reps. Turner & Bass, HUD & young people universalize the FUP-FSS Demo to for all youth leaving care. HUD to implement in 2021

history

FYI history

Foster care youth & alumni create FYI out of the regulatory portions of FSHO



2019

HUD establishes FYI

HUD's taps TPVs to issue on demand three-year FUP vouchers to youth at non-FUP PHAs.



2020

Congress authorizes FYI for all PHAs

Through Notice 2020-28, HUD uses appropriations funds to universalize FYI to all PHAs in the US that administer vouchers.



2021

HUD issues a "competitive" FYI notice

HUD invites PHAs & PCWAs to apply for \$20 million for FUP vouchers for youth through a competitive notice (due March 22, 2021).



2021

Appropriators "collapse" categories

FYI vouchers are split into "non-competitive" and competitive vouchers. We have asked Congress to combine them and use the FYI distribution mechanism for all FUP youth vouchers.



2021

Fostering Stable Housing Opportunities Act

Full implementation of FUP+FSS for all youth leaving foster care.

history

timeline

IL coordinator (or POC) and young person file FUP paperwork with PHA POC about 3- 6 months prior to leaving care

PHA requests FYI voucher(s) from HUD (HUD-52515)

HUD

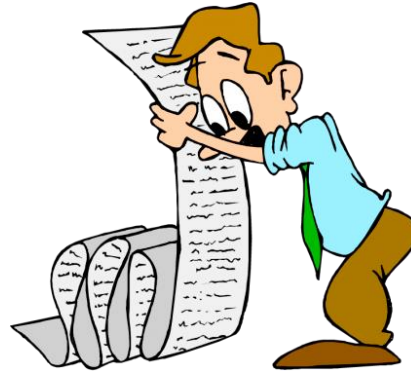


HUD dispenses the funds "on demand" (ACC)

The Public Housing Authority

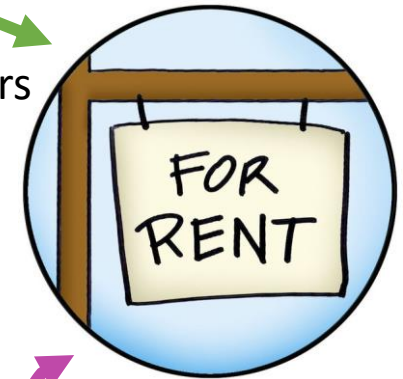


PHA Waiting List



*FSHO is conducted without further disadvantaging waiting list households

The PHA administers FYI to landlord and youth



PCWA assists with landlord recruitment and positive youth development services for the duration of the voucher (36 months)

The Public Child Welfare Agency Independent Living Coordinator



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| | A | B | C |
|----|---------|---|----------------------|
| 1 | State ▼ | PHA Code & Name | Sum of Units Count ▼ |
| 12 | CA | CA048- Regional Housing Authority | 25 |
| 13 | CA | CA052- Housing Authority of County of Marin | 5 |
| 14 | CA | CA053- Kings County Housing Auth | 10 |
| 15 | CA | CA061- City of Crescent City Hsg Auth | 0 |
| 16 | CA | CA067- Alameda County Hsg Auth | 25 |
| 17 | CA | CA093- Housing Authority of the City of Santa Ana | 50 |
| 18 | CA | CA123- Housing Authority of the City of Pomona | 5 |

CA PHAs with FYI (thus far)

- Any PHA capable of administering Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers can apply for FYI vouchers, on demand, in increments as small as one.

Funding source for housing options for youth under the age of 21 should be drawn from state and federal child welfare funds. HUD funding must not supplant funds available for foster care placements.

Funding Source is Housing Choice Voucher

Chafee IL Program

age 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

Independent Living

Foster Care
Kinship Care
Host Homes
Group Home
Homelessness
RHYA TLP
Other RHYA
Dual Juvenile Justice

In VPA states, Title IV-E can be used to extend foster care placements including rental assistance in private apartments, ongoing case management, and savings accounts. Per ACYF guidance, youth must work or go to school 80 hours per month to remain eligible.

Chafee Independent Living Assistance can be used to support case management, job training, transportation assistance, emergency cash assistance for youth until the age of 23 per the Family First Act. Chafee does not have a work requirement. ETVs were extended to 26 per FFPSA as well.

For a youth transitioning to HCV, this funding can also be used for first month's rent, security deposit, furniture, moving costs, and landlord recruitment.

HCV for youth drawn from FUP or TPV, Title IV-E self sufficiency efforts are maintained. Chafee IL services continue through age 23 to assure youth's momentum towards self-sufficiency. All youth interested in FSS are offered spots when available at the PHA. Young people in non-FSS jurisdictions are connected to local CAP agency.

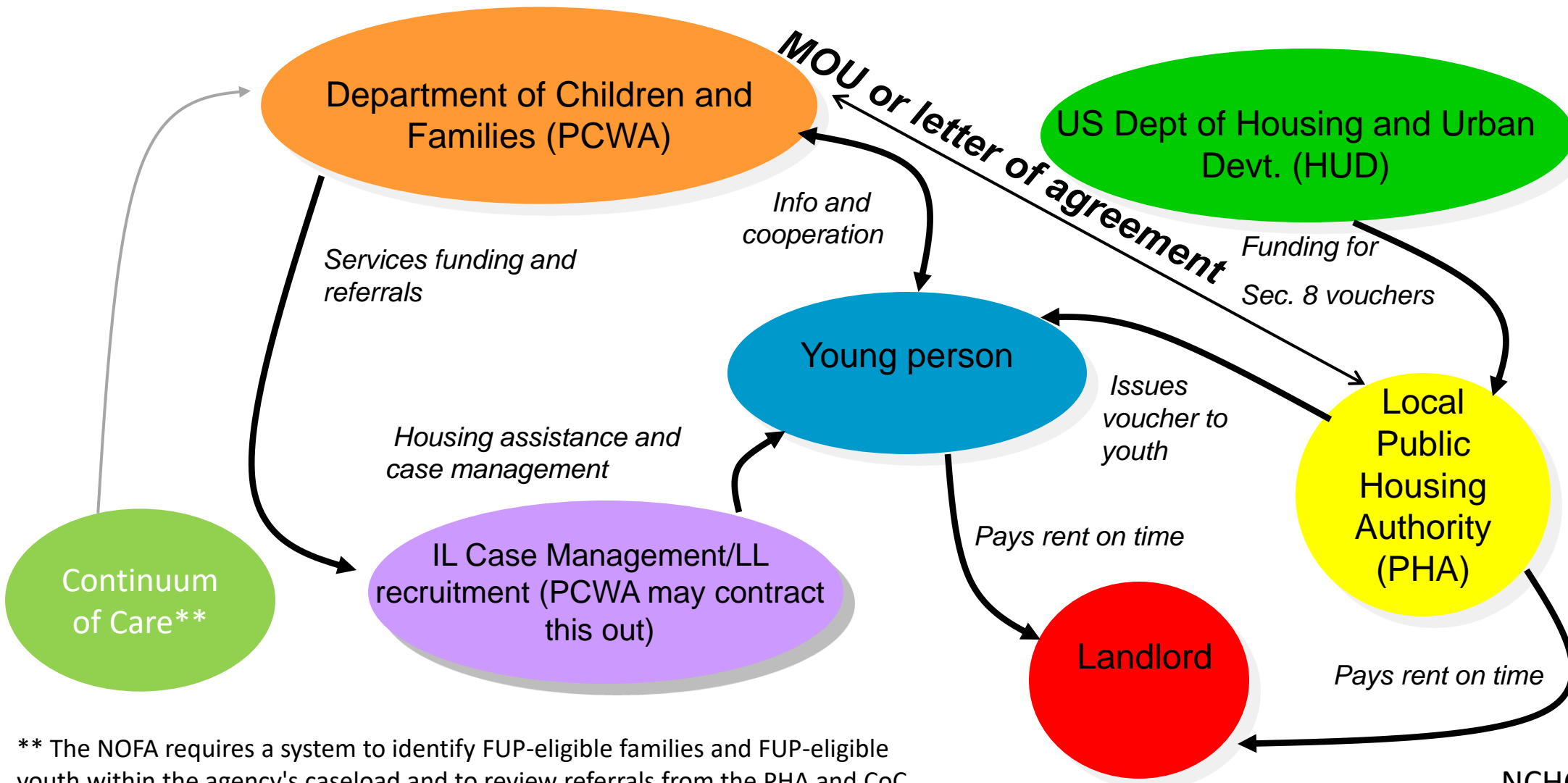
- Private apt
- LIHTC
- Permanent Supportive Housing
- Roommate
- Other subsidy
- Adult Services

** the young person and the public system have had, at this point, potentially as many as ten years to plan for the transi-

What is the difference between FUP and FYI?

| | FUP | | FYI | |
|--|---------------------------|---|---|--|
| | FUP Families (estb. 1990) | FUP Youth (pre Oct. 2020) | FYI TPV (estb. 2019) | FYI (estb. Oct 6, 2020) |
| | Purpose | Family Preservation/Reunification | Ease the transition to adulthood & independence | Ease the transition to adulthood & independence |
| | Eligible Households | Families for whom housing is a primary risk for separation or barrier to reunification | Youth 18-25* who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, including parenting youth | Youth 18-25* who are homeless or at risk of homelessness after age 16, including parenting youth |
| | Time limit | No limit if family is income eligible | 36 months | 36 months |
| | Services | Recommended for a year (post placement in housing), FSS encouraged. | Chafee-like IL 36 months | Chafee-like IL 36 months |
| | Eligible PHA | ACC | ACC, does not administer FUP | ACC |
| | Distribution | Competitive NOFA. Do not sunset. Can be reallocated if PHA no longer needs for families or youth elsewhere. Has a “waiting list” provision. | Non-Competitive (“on demand”), drawn from Tenant Protection Act, sunset | Non-Competitive (“on demand”), do not sunset but can be reallocated – youth only. Adds a “waiting list” provision. |
| | Notice length | 47 Pages (link) | 10 Pages (link) | 12 Pages (link) |

FYI Agency Partnership (based on FUP)



** The NOFA requires a system to identify FUP-eligible families and FUP-eligible youth within the agency's caseload and to review referrals from the PHA and CoC.

Approaching your PHA partner



Take your PHA director to lunch



Bring information about the services you can provide
(these should include the services listed in the FYI Notice)



Identify a point of contact for questions and referrals



Plan for regular communication



Build and nurture the relationship – provide cross-
trainings



PCWAs can and should use tools for forecasting the youth
who will need vouchers and when.

IL coordinator (or POC) and young person file FUP paperwork with PHA POC about 3- 6 months prior to leaving care

2

PHA requests FYI voucher(s) from HUD (HUD-52515)

3

HUD



HUD dispenses the funds "on demand" (ACC)

The Public Housing Authority



4

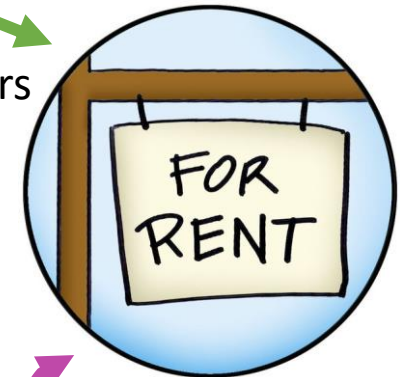
PHA Waiting List



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5



PCWA assists with landlord recruitment and positive youth development services for the duration of the voucher (36 months)

The Public Child Welfare Agency Independent Living Coordinator

1



A LETTER OF INTENT IS AN ACCEPTABLE VERIFICATION OF SERVICES**

** PCWAs do not have to be the service provider, nor do they have to fund services.

FYI Sample Letter of Intent with a Co-Signing Organization that will make services available

PCWA Letterhead

[Type here]

Date

First Name Last Name, Executive Director

PHA Name

Street Address

City, State, Zip

- Providing written certification to the PHA that a youth is FUP-eligible.
- Providing or secure a commitment for the provision of required supportive services.

Again, please accept our deepest appreciation as we all move forward to improve the lives of youth in our community who are transitioning to adulthood alone, without the support of a permanent family. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our public child welfare agency (PCWA) FYI point of contact, Contact Name, Position at 301-600-2639 or case management agency name point of contact, Contact name at contact telephone #.

Respectfully,

Name, Director

PCWA

Street Address

City, State, Zip

Name, Director

Name of Agency

Street Address

City, State, Zip

- Counseling on compliance with rental lease requirements and with HCV program participant requirements, including assistance/referrals for assistance on security deposits, utility hook-up fees, and utility deposits.



Planning for successful transition to adulthood is required by federal law

- The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-351) (FCSA) **requires child welfare agencies** to create a youth directed plan 90 days prior to discharge.
- This plan **MUST** include housing.

Chafee is not the only line item for services, but it is an important one

“The Families First Prevention Services Act of 2018” (Sec. 2) amends part E (Foster Care and Adoption Assistance) of title IV of the Social Security Act to improve the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program to:

- authorize states electing to extend foster care eligibility up to age 21 to extend assistance and services to youths who have aged out of foster care but have not yet reached age 23,
- authorize redistribution of unexpended amounts among states that apply for additional program funds, and
- allow states to make individuals eligible for participation in the educational and training voucher program through age 25 (but no more than 5 years)

FYI (by design) simply requires services that are funded via the Chafee Independent Living Program

Chafee Services

[A description of Chafee from the U.S. Children's Bureau](#)

- The John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP) offers assistance to help current and former foster care youths achieve self-sufficiency. Grants are offered to States and Tribes who submit a plan to assist youth in a wide variety of areas designed to support a successful transition to adulthood. Activities and programs include, but are not limited to, help with education, employment, financial management, housing, emotional support and assured connections to caring adults for older youth in foster care. The program is intended to serve youth who are likely to remain in foster care until age 18, youth who, after attaining 16 years of age, have left foster care for kinship guardianship or adoption, and young adults ages 18-21 who have "aged out" of the foster care system.
- The Educational and Training Vouchers Program (ETV) for Youths Aging out of Foster Care was added to the CFCIP in 2002. ETV provides resources specifically to meet the education and training needs of youth aging out of foster care. In addition to the existing authorization of \$140 million for the CFCIP program, the law authorizes \$60 million for payments to States and Tribes for post secondary educational and training vouchers for youth likely to experience difficulty as they transition to adulthood after the age of 18. This program makes available vouchers of up to \$5,000 per year per youth for post secondary education and training for eligible youth.

FYI Services

[From HUD's FYI \(and original FUP\) Notice](#)

- Basic life skills information/counseling on money management, use of credit, housekeeping, proper nutrition/meal preparation; and access to health care (e.g., doctors, medication, and mental and behavioral health services).
- Counseling on compliance with rental lease requirements and with HCV program participant requirements, including assistance/referrals for assistance on security deposits, utility hook-up fees, and utility deposits.
- Providing such assurances to owners of rental property as are reasonable and necessary to assist a FUP-eligible youth to rent a unit with a voucher.
- Job preparation and attainment counseling (where to look/how to apply, dress, grooming, and relationships with supervisory personnel, etc.).
- Educational and career advancement counseling regarding attainment of general equivalency diploma (GED); attendance/financing of education at a technical school, trade school or college; including successful work ethic and attitude models.

Which young people are eligible? (FYI does not change FUP eligibility)

- Has attained at least 18 years and not more than 24 years of age (note: HUD interprets age differently than HHS, thus a person is 24 UNTIL their 25th)
- Left foster care, or will leave foster care within 90 days, in accordance with a transition plan described in section 475(5)(H) of the Social Security Act at age 16 or older; and
- Is homeless or is at risk of becoming homeless

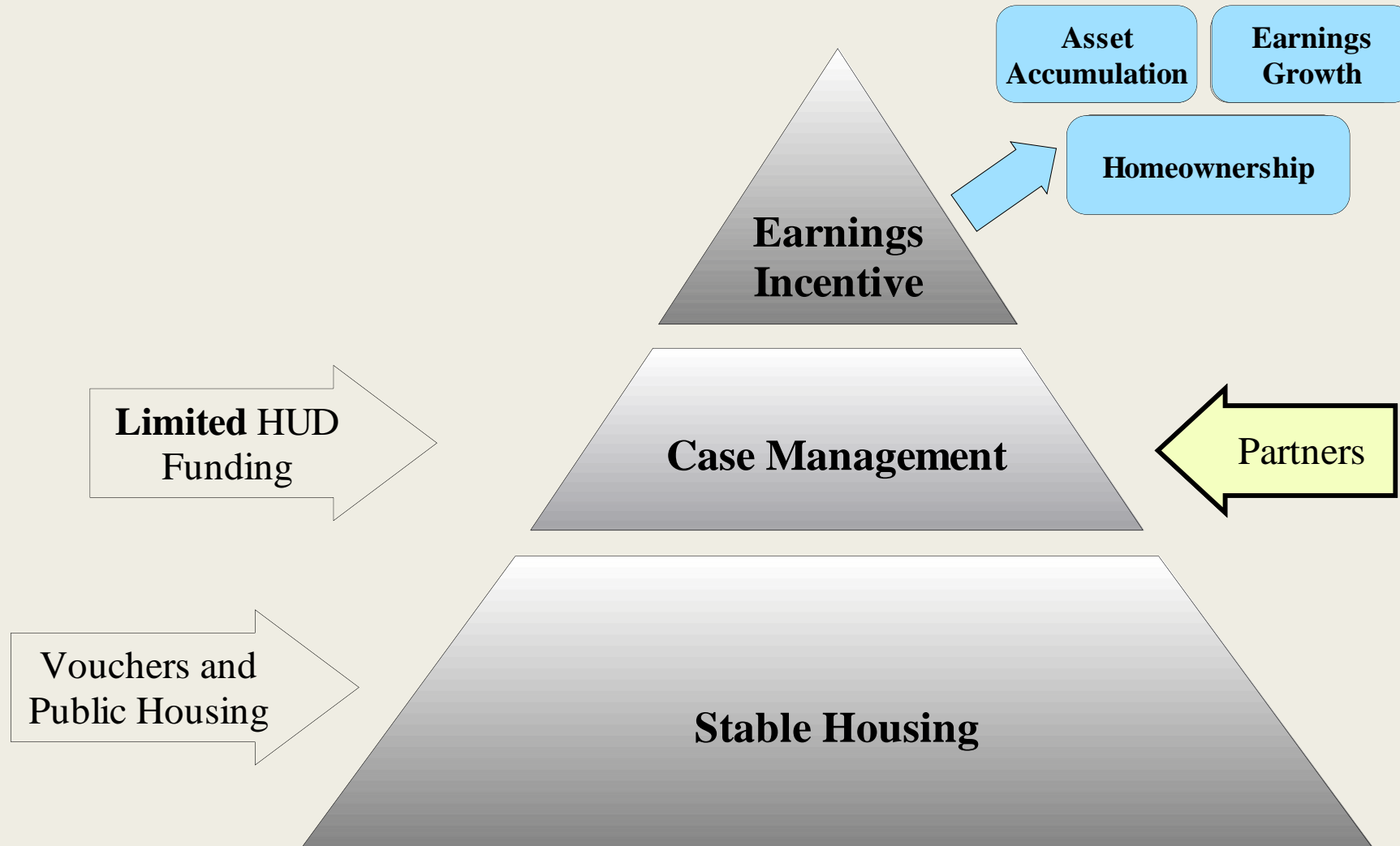
Note: Eligibility is not limited to single persons. For example, pregnant and/or parenting youth are eligible to receive assistance under this notice assuming they otherwise meet eligibility requirements.

FAMILY SELF SUFFICIENCY PROGRAM

- The head of each participating family execute a FSS Contract of Participation that specifies the rights and responsibilities of both parties.
- The term of the FSS contract is generally 5 years, but it may be extended for another 2 years by the PHA for good cause. The FSS contract also incorporates the family's individual training and services plan (ITSP). This includes intermediate and long-term goals and the steps the family needs to take – and the services and resources they may need to access – to achieve those goals.
- Some of the services coordinated through the program include: child care, transportation, education, job training, employment counseling, financial literacy, and homeownership counseling, among others. Services are generally not provided by the PHA, but rather outsourced to service providers in the community.
- An interest-bearing escrow account is established by the PHA for each participating family. Any increases in the family's rent as a result of increased earned income during the family's participation in the program result in a credit to the family's escrow account. Once a family graduates from the program, they may access the escrow and use it for any purpose.
- The HUD FSS Fact Sheet is available here:
https://www.hud.gov/sites/documents/FSSFACTSHEET_FEB2016.PDF

Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS)

(Thanks to Jeff Lubell and the Center for Housing Policy for the graphic)



How does it work?

- Families self-select
- Head-of-Household signs a 5-year Contract of Participation (CoP) (+2 year extension for good cause)
 - *Individual Training and Services Plan (ITSP) for each member of the family*
 - *Interim goals moving towards self-sufficiency*
 - *Final goals must include*
 - “suitable employment”
 - Cash Welfare free for 12 months
- Program Coordinating Committee (PCC)
 - *Full spectrum of service providers in the area*

Future of FSS

- First Authorized in 1990... Re-authorized in 2018
- New Regulations coming soon
- Increase in funding from \$80m to \$105m in FY21 appropriations mark-ups
- Expansion to Multi-Family (PBRA)
- Evaluation underway

HUD ONLINE TOOLS

- “FSS coordinators are **outward-facing** as well as participant-focused. They must be able to assess the landscape of the services available in the community, identify overlaps and gaps, convene partners, and understand systems and program designs of FSS and other partner agencies.”



FSS Program Online Training

This self-directed training provides a comprehensive overview of how to administer an effective FSS program. The training covers all aspects of the FSS program, from helping participants set goals and develop Individual Training and Services Plans to helping participants increase their earnings and build assets and financial capability. Video clips featuring FSS practitioners and HUD staff provide real-world context and examples of the guidelines and promising practices described in the training. Viewers can test their knowledge at the end of each module by taking short quizzes on what they have learned. The training takes approximately 8 to 10 hours to complete.

This training product is best viewed in Chrome, Firefox, Opera, and Safari. It does not support IE 10 or older IE browsers.

[Access the Training](#)



Administering an Effective FSS Program: A Guidebook Based on Evidence and Promising Practices

This guidebook complements the online training by providing in-depth information about all aspects of the FSS program. Drawing on evidence about "what works" and the experience of FSS practitioners, the guidebook provides more detail on the topics covered by the online training as well as other tools and resources to help readers develop and administer a successful FSS program.

What is “Section 8” and
how do I find it?



What is “Section 8”

- The **housing choice voucher program** is the federal government's major program for assisting very low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market.
- A **housing subsidy is paid to the landlord** directly by the PHA on behalf of the participating family. The family then pays the difference between the actual rent charged by the landlord and the amount subsidized by the program. Under certain circumstances, if authorized by the PHA, a family may use its voucher to purchase a modest home.
- The PHA calculates the maximum amount of housing assistance allowable. The maximum housing assistance is generally the lesser of the payment standard minus 30% of the family's monthly adjusted income or the gross rent for the unit minus 30% of monthly adjusted income. **Therefore, generally a household will pay 30% of their income and the PHA pays the rest.**



How does the money exchange hands?


Everyone -- tenant, landlord and PHA -- has obligations and responsibilities under the voucher program.

- HUD and the PHA agree to an “annual contributions contract” based on the per unit cost in a neighborhood – and HUD dispenses the federal funds to the PHA
- The housing unit selected by the family must meet an acceptable level of health and safety before the PHA can approve the unit. If so, the landlord and the PHA sign a **housing assistance payments (HAP)** contract that runs for the same term as the lease.
- The tenant (voucher holder) and the landlord sign a year long lease. The tenant pays their “Total Tenant Payment” directly to the landlord.



Where are the vouchers and the PHAs?

- HUD has offers tools to help the general public locate PHAs and understand the number and type of vouchers available
- Visit the [Housing Choice Voucher Dashboard](#) to view vouchers at all PHAs (except “Moving to Work” agencies).


**PIH**
OFFICE OF PUBLIC & INDIAN HOUSING

HCV - Special Purpose Vouchers

Current Special Purpose Voucher Utilization as of **December 2020**. Special Purpose Vouchers are included in the ACC of a Public Housing Authority with the exception of Mainstream.

Select a State:

CA

Clear All Filters:


Data is current as of December 2020.

Mainstream Vouchers

| PHA Name | PHA Code | MS Total Effective Awards | MS Total Leased | MS % Leasing |
|--|----------|---------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Housing Authority of the City & County of Sf | CA001 | 129 | 92 | 71.32% |
| Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles | CA002 | 103 | 27 | 26.21% |
| Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles | CA004 | 191 | 120 | 62.83% |
| Housing Authority City of Fresno | CA006 | 85 | 57 | 67.06% |
| County of Sacramento Housing Authority | CA007 | 116 | 93 | 80.17% |
| Housing Authority of the County of Kern | CA008 | 39 | 20 | 51.28% |
| County of Contra Costa Housing Authority | CA011 | 72 | 49 | 68.06% |
| Housing Authority of the County of Santa Barbara | CA021 | 87 | 59 | 67.82% |
| County of Merced Housing Authority | CA023 | 26 | 0 | 0.00% |
| County of San Joaquin Housing Auth. | CA024 | 58 | 51 | 87.93% |
| County of Stanislaus Housing Auth. | CA026 | 39 | 0 | 0.00% |
| Total | | 3,592 | 2,213 | 61.61% |

Family Unification Program Vouchers (FUP)

| PHA Name | PHA Code | FUP Total Effective Awards | FUP Total Leased | FUP % Leasing |
|--|----------|----------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Housing Authority of the City & County of Sf | CA001 | 130 | 118 | 90.77% |
| Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles | CA002 | 385 | 269 | 69.87% |
| Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles | CA004 | 331 | 240 | 72.51% |
| Housing Authority City of Fresno | CA006 | 194 | 181 | 93.30% |
| County of Sacramento Housing Authority | CA007 | 36 | 1 | 2.78% |
| Housing Authority of the County of Kern | CA008 | 100 | 83 | 83.00% |
| County of Contra Costa Housing Authority | CA011 | 18 | 9 | 50.00% |
| Housing Authority of the County of Santa Barbara | CA021 | 92 | 79 | 85.87% |
| County of Merced Housing Authority | CA023 | 28 | 19 | 67.86% |
| County of San Joaquin Housing Auth. | CA024 | 74 | 67 | 90.54% |
| County of Stanislaus Housing Auth. | CA026 | 217 | 189 | 87.10% |
| Total | | 3,555 | 2,618 | 73.64% |





The Future of FYI (FUP + FSS = FSHO)

FOSTERING STABLE HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES ACT – PASSED IN DECEMBER 2020

- Capitalizes on the predictable nature of youth homelessness
- Addresses an obvious synchronization problem with resources allocation in general, and FUP specifically.
- Elements of the law:
 - Directs PHAs to issue 36-month FUP vouchers “On Demand” for the purpose of serving eligible youth timed with their emancipation from care.
 - PHAs are directed to select a self-sufficiency option which they will help the youth meet; FSS for example is an option.
 - Young people who elect to participate in a self-sufficiency program may extend their voucher for an additional two years (for a total of five years).



QUESTIONS

THANK YOU

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



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