
HOW NEW FUNDING AND LOCAL FLEXIBILITY CAN PROTECT FORMER FOSTER YOUTH DURING THE PANDEMIC



**JOHN
BURTON**
Advocates for Youth

**August 27, 2020
9:30 to 10:30 a.m.**

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM-PLUS (THP-PLUS) ELIGIBILITY

Former foster & out-of-home probation youth, age 18-24;
98% are 21-24

Youth can access for up to 24 months

Exited out-of-home care on or after 18th birthday

Working toward goals on TILP

27 counties offer the SB 1252 THP-Plus extension:
youth in school can participate for up to 36 months and/or up to age 25, whichever comes sooner.

STATE BUDGET AUTHORIZED COUNTIES TO ALLOW YOUTH TO REMAIN IN THP-PLUS UNTIL JUNE 30, 2021

(C) A county may, at its option, extend the services provided under subparagraph (A) to former foster youth participating in the Transitional Housing Program-Plus as of July 1, 2020, without regard to their age or length of time they have received services, until June 30, 2021. (Cal.Welf. & Inst. Code § 11403.2(a)(2)(C))

Timeline for this THP-Plus extension runs simultaneously with the mandatory extension of the extended foster care program that was included in the FY 2020-21 state budget.

EXAMPLES OF HOW TO APPLY COVID-19 THP-PLUS EXTENSION

SB 1252 Counties

- Youth who turns age 26
- Youth who reaches their 37th month in the program

SB 1252 Counties

Imperial
Kings
Lake
Los Angeles
Mariposa
Mendocino
Merced
Napa

Nevada
Orange
Placer
Plumas
Riverside
Sacramento
San Bernardino

San Diego
San Francisco
San Joaquin
San Luis Obispo
San Mateo
Santa Barbara
Santa Clara

Santa Cruz
Solano
Tulare
Ventura
Yolo
Yuba

Non-SB 1252 Counties

- Youth who turns age 25
- Youth who reaches their 25th month in the program

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE COVID-19 THP-PLUS EXTENSION

Went into effect
July 1, 2020

All County
Information Notice
is under
development

CDSS not requiring
counties to “opt-in”

Policy is not
accompanied by
additional funding

For additional guidance: TAYPolicy@dss.ca.gov

\$8 M FOR TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM—OVERVIEW

\$8 million annually for county child welfare agencies to help young adults age 18-25 secure and maintain housing, with priority given to young adults formerly in the state's foster care or probation systems.

- Originally AB 995 (Ting) in 2019; included in SB 80 Budget Bill (2019)
- Funding administered by California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD)
- Funding allocated to child welfare agencies.
- \$8M in available in 19-20, \$8 million in 20-21; \$4 M in 2021-22

THP ALLOCATION AMOUNTS, TOTAL: \$8 MILLION

All counties
accepted
Round I
funding
except for
those in
RED

Counties	Allocation
Alameda	\$498,400
Alpine	\$0
Amador	\$5,600
Butte	\$41,600
Calaveras	\$10,400
Colusa	\$800
Contra Costa	\$113,600
Del Norte	\$1,600
El Dorado	\$32,000
Fresno	\$116,000
Glenn	\$4,800
Humboldt	\$32,800
Imperial	\$41,600
Inyo	\$800
Kern	\$163,200
Kings	\$40,000
Lake	\$12,800
Lassen	\$6,400
Los Angeles	\$2,699,200

Counties	Allocation
Madera	\$16,000
Marin	\$39,200
Mariposa	\$4,800
Mendocino	\$24,000
Merced	\$54,400
Modoc	\$800
Mono	\$800
Monterey	\$145,600
Napa	\$26,400
Nevada	\$8,000
Orange	\$208,000
Placer	\$47,200
Plumas	\$800
Riverside	\$257,600
Sacramento	\$298,400
San Benito	\$20,000
San Bernardino	\$297,600
San Diego	\$480,000
San Francisco	\$459,200

Counties	Allocation
San Joaquin	\$145,600
San Luis Obispo	\$98,400
San Mateo	\$51,200
Santa Barbara	\$75,200
Santa Clara	\$705,600
Santa Cruz	\$146,400
Shasta	\$35,200
Sierra	\$0
Siskiyou	\$7,200
Solano	\$92,000
Sonoma	\$168,800
Stanislaus	\$73,600
Sutter	\$8,000
Tehama	\$12,800
Trinity	\$4,000
Tulare	\$44,000
Tuolumne	\$6,400
Ventura	\$64,000
Yolo	\$37,600
Yuba	\$13,600

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING: ELIGIBLE USES

Funds shall be used to help young adults who are 18 to 25 years of age secure and maintain housing. Use of funds may include, but are not limited to:

- 1) Identify and assist housing services for this population in your community;
- 2) Assist this population to secure and maintain housing (with priority given to those in the state's foster care or probation system);
- 3) Improve coordination of services and linkages to community resources within the child welfare system and the Homeless Continuum of Care; and
- 4) Provide engagement in outreach and targeting to serve those with the most severe needs.

THE PROGRAM HAS MODEST REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Transitional Housing Program:

- 1) How many people were served?
- 2) What were the funds used for?
- 3) How many people served were in foster care?
- 4) How many people served were in probation system?

Reports due annually for the 3 years following the distribution of funding

HOW CAN NEW FUNDING EXPAND THP-PLUS?

Implement COVID THP-Plus extension

Increase bed capacity

Expand eligibility to youth were in foster care at age 16

Increase monthly rate per youth to address higher housing costs and/or enhance services

Establish a parenting rate to account for higher cost of housing and services

For counties with smaller allocations,

- increase youth stipend, add financial incentive for students (i.e. deeper rental subsidy), enhance housing navigation services for youth transitioning out of program and other program enhancements within budget

TIMELINE FOR DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

March 31, 2020:

Deadline for Round 1 allocation acceptance form, TIN form and board resolution

July 2020:

HCD issued Round 1 funding to county child welfare agencies

July 27, 2020:

HCD announced Round 2 funding

Nov. 12, 2020:

Deadline for Round 2 allocation acceptance form, TIN form and board resolutions

February 2021:

Estimated disbursement of Round 2 allocation

**HCD directly emailed all forms to the Child Welfare Director of each county*

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS NEW FUNDING

General program questions can be sent to THP@hcd.ca.gov

HCD set up this webpage for the THP:
<https://www.hcd.ca.gov/grants-funding/active-funding/thp.shtml>

JBAY implementation page:
<https://www.jbaforyouth.org/sb-80-implementation/>

IMMEDIATE NEXT STEPS: FIND THIS MONEY LOCALLY!

County Personnel:

- **Ensure key personnel are aware of the deadline**—did they miss HCD’s email?
- **Contact your Board of Supervisors** and get this resolution on next agenda.
 - *Round 2 requires new board resolution!*
- **Get your documents in by November 12**
- Respond to a JBAY survey about THP.

Providers:

- **Notify your county contacts** about this funding application deadline—is this on their radar?
- **Discuss with county contacts** how your county’s allocation can be utilized.
 - (i.e. expand capacity, enrich program supports, etc.)

NEXT STEPS FOR FY 21-22 BUDGET: PROTECT THIS FUNDING!

THP funding is currently scheduled to end December 31, 2021

Effect of pandemic will be long-lasting for transition-age youth

Sustaining this funding in the 21-22 budget will be critical, yet difficult

Best strategy is to show the important role it is playing in protecting youth!

Please join coalition to protect this funding!

<https://forms.gle/JYBVLYuMyfGyQWgL7>

UPDATED RESOURCE



Seven Strategies Counties Can Implement to Ensure Housing Stability and Maximize Participation in Transitional Housing Program-Plus (THP-Plus) During COVID-19

The Transitional Housing Program-Plus (THP-Plus) program provides transitional housing and supportive services for former foster youth who exited foster care after age 18, a population that is particularly vulnerable during a crisis. Youth who are facing exit from THP-Plus programs during the current public health crisis and subsequent economic recession are at increased risk of homelessness because of the scarcity of other housing resources and transitional planning supports. Any period of homelessness or housing instability will compromise their health and the health of others, and will frustrate public health efforts to control the spread of COVID-19.

In recognition of these risks, California's Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21 state budget included a provision authorizing counties to extend the THP-Plus program until June 30, 2021 for all participants, regardless of their age or the amount of time they have spent in the program. Counties can utilize this option along with a number of other strategies to assist youth in retaining stability during the current crisis.

The following seven strategies consist of both immediate and longer-term actions that counties can take to prevent youth participants from exiting the THP-Plus program at risk of homelessness, with depleted job opportunities, and without a safe place to shelter in place and practice social distancing. These strategies are intended to assist counties in their efforts to:

- **Maintain** youth in THP-Plus housing, avoiding exits whenever possible and creatively braiding funding streams to help youth stay put beyond their scheduled exit date.
- Quickly **expand** county housing options for transition age youth so that youth in THP-Plus can seamlessly transition to another supportive housing setting and so that THP-Plus-eligible youth have newly available housing options.
- **Communicate** a clear, county-wide strategy for ensuring stability in transitional housing to reduce uncertainty and anxiety among youth who, absent a county plan, would be scheduled to exit their programs without a safe transition plan.

1) **Extend THP-Plus services to all former foster youth participating in THP-Plus as of July 1, 2020, without regard to their age or length of time they have received services until June 30, 2021.**

Assembly Bill (AB) 79, signed by Governor Newsom on June 29, 2020, is a budget trailer bill that made temporary changes to the THP-Plus eligibility rules, authorizing counties to extend THP-Plus services to youth participants without regard to their age or length of time they have received services, until June 30, 2021.¹ This new provision was a direct response to the COVID-19 crisis, and it is the most immediate step counties should take to protect former foster youth and assist them in retaining their housing and transition planning services during the public health crisis.

If a county elects to implement this provision, it is applicable to all youth in the program, including youth who were already receiving THP-Plus services on July 1, 2020, and any youth

¹ Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code § 11403.2(a)(2)(C).



<https://www.jbaforyouth.org/6-steps/>

www.jbay.org

QUESTION & ANSWER

ENTER YOUR QUESTION INTO THE QUESTIONS BOX AND HIT “SEND”

For future questions, contact Simone Tureck Lee: simone@jbay.org