



THP-NMD & THP-Plus Annual Report 2018-19

OCTOBER 2019

Providing Affordable Housing and Supportive
Services to Youth Transitioning from California's
Foster Care and Juvenile Probation Systems



**JOHN
BURTON**
Advocates for Youth

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
REPORT METHODOLOGY	5
FINDINGS	6
Demographics & Number of Youth Served	
THP-NMD	
THP-Plus	
THP-NMD & THP-Plus Rates	
Housing Entrance & Exit	
Waiting Lists	
Housing Models	
Living Settings at Entrance & Exit	
Program Duration	
Voluntary & Involuntary Exits	
Education, Employment & Income	
High School Completion	
Post-Secondary Education	
Employment Status	
Hourly Wage	
Filing Taxes	
Health & Well-Being	
Health Insurance	
Services for Special Needs	
Parenting Youth	
Experience of Homelessness	
Receipt of Public Benefits	
YOUTH PARTICIPANT PROFILE	28
SPECIAL FEATURE: THE TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PLACEMENT FOR MINORS (THP-M)	35
POLICY & PRACTICE IMPLICATIONS	37
APPENDIX A: THP-PLUS RATES BY COUNTY	48
APPENDIX B: WAITING LIST SIZE FOR THP-NMD & THP-PLUS BY COUNTY	49

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On behalf of John Burton Advocates for Youth, we are pleased to share the 2018-19 Annual Report for the Transitional Housing Placement for Non-minor Dependents (THP-NMD) and the Transitional Housing Placement Plus (THP-Plus) Program. This report highlights the achievements and challenges of the programs in helping youth in the foster care and juvenile probation systems make a safe, supported transition to adulthood and provides practice and policy recommendations.

Statewide, 2,023 youth participating in extended foster care were placed in THP-NMD as of July 1, 2019, a figure that has more than doubled since 2014. The THP-Plus program's statewide moment-in-time housing capacity was 1,252 as of June 30, 2019, and over Fiscal Year 2018-19 the program served a total of 1,739 youth. Together, these programs are serving more than 3,200 youth on any given day, and more than 4,000 youth over the course of one year.

Fortunately, youth in California who have grown up in foster care or out-of-home probation have the opportunity to participate in a robust extended foster care program until age 21, in addition to a statewide supportive housing program up until age 24, or 25 in some counties. However, there is still considerable work to be accomplished to improve the experiences and opportunities of youth as they transition into independent adulthood. The purpose of this report is to ensure that this potential is fully realized. The report includes a number of findings that suggest there are areas where California can build and strengthen its practice and policy. These include:

- Both the THP-NMD and THP-Plus programs are inaccessible to many youth. The number of youth waiting for THP-NMD has increased 64 percent since the previous fiscal year, with 341 youth on waiting lists statewide as of June 30, 2019. In THP-Plus there were a total of 636 youth on waiting lists, a 53 percent increase since the previous fiscal year.
- The growth in the cost of housing in some counties has quickly outpaced the growth of the statewide THP-NMD rate and the average THP-Plus rate. Over the last six years, the THP-NMD rate has increased 19 percent and the average THP-Plus rate has increased 12 percent, while the cost of renting a two-bedroom apartment has increased by 64 percent statewide.
- While the vast majority of youth had completed high school by time of exit from either program, they generally did not make progress in post-secondary education.
- Although many youth are employed, their incomes remain low. Most youth, however, are not accessing critical resources for which they are eligible, such as CalFresh benefits and the Earned Income Tax Credit.

THP-NMD & THP-PLUS ANNUAL REPORT

- Many youth become parents while in THP-NMD and THP-Plus programs; a total of 681 children were residing with a parent participating in one of these programs as of June 30, 2019. However, neither the statewide THP-NMD rate, nor the THP-Plus rate in 46 out of 47 counties provide any additional funding to account for the increased cost of serving parenting youth.
- Homelessness remains a significant problem for youth entering both programs: nearly one in four youth experienced homelessness while in foster care prior to entering THP-NMD, and more than one in three youth experienced homelessness between leaving foster care and entering THP-Plus.

We invite you to read about the findings described above, discuss them with your community and identify ways that you can address these and other issues identified in the report.

This year's report also includes a special feature about the state's Transitional Housing Program for Minors (THP-M), and how upcoming changes in federal funding will impact that program.

REPORT METHODOLOGY

Information for the 2018-19 THP-NMD and THP-Plus Annual Report was drawn from a number of different sources. John Burton Advocates for Youth conducted a survey of all nonprofit organizations or county agencies that operated a state licensed THP-NMD and/or county approved THP-Plus program during Fiscal Year (FY) 2018-19. There was a 98 percent response rate among THP-NMD providers and a 99 percent response rate among THP-Plus providers. Additional information was solicited from county child welfare agencies.

Data was also drawn from the Participant Tracking Systems for each of the two programs, which are online databases that collect demographic and outcome data about youth participating in the programs, entered on a quarterly basis and at the time of program entry and exit by nonprofit providers that elect to use the voluntary system. The information included in the report was provided by analyzing data from two different cohorts of youth participants. First, reports were run that included youth who exited a THP-NMD program and youth who exited a THP-Plus program over FY 2018-19. These reports included 937 THP-NMD participants and 627 THP-Plus participants. Second, reports were run that included all youth who entered a THP-NMD program and all youth who entered a THP-Plus program over FY 2018-19. These reports included 926 THP-NMD participants and 595 THP-Plus participants. Data on 51 percent of THP-NMD participants and 56 percent of THP-Plus participants statewide are captured in the Participant Tracking Systems.

Additional information about THP-NMD placements was drawn from the California Child Welfare Indicators Project, which provides customizable information on California's entire child welfare system.¹ This year's report also includes information about the Transitional Housing Placement for Minors (THP-M), which was gathered via an online survey from 12 of the state's 13 licensed and operational THP-M providers. Finally, an individual interview was conducted with a young adult participating in THP-Plus whose story was featured in the report.

¹ California Child Welfare Indicators Project. http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/

FINDINGS: DEMOGRAPHICS & NUMBER OF YOUTH SERVED

Transitional Housing Placement for Non-Minor Dependents (THP-NMD)

The Transitional Housing Placement for Non-minor Dependents (THP-NMD), formerly called “THP-Plus Foster Care” is in its seventh year of implementation.² It is a placement option modeled after the THP-Plus program, created in 2010 by the California Fostering Connections to Success Act (Assembly Bill 12) and first implemented in 2012.³ THP-NMD provides housing and supportive services to Non-Minor Dependents (NMDs) ages 18 up to 21 and is a Title IV-E-reimbursable foster care placement where youth are provided court oversight and child welfare supervision. Following is an overview of the number of youth served through THP-NMD and the demographic profile of youth placed in THP-NMD as of July 1, 2019.

After five years of consistent growth, the number of youth in THP-NMD has leveled-off.

As illustrated in Figure 1, as of July 1, 2019, a total of 2,023 NMDs were placed in THP-NMD by 46 counties, with housing located in 49 counties. A total of 59 out of 70 licensed providers were actively operating a THP-NMD program. As shown in Figure 2, this is fairly consistent with FY 2017-18 when 1,942 NMDs were placed in THP-NMD by 51 counties, with housing located in 50 counties operated by 59 providers. Extended foster care was implemented on a phased-in basis, starting in 2012. As shown in Figure 2, since 2014 when extended foster care became fully implemented to age 21, the number of NMDs placed in THP-NMD has more than doubled from 993 to 2,023.

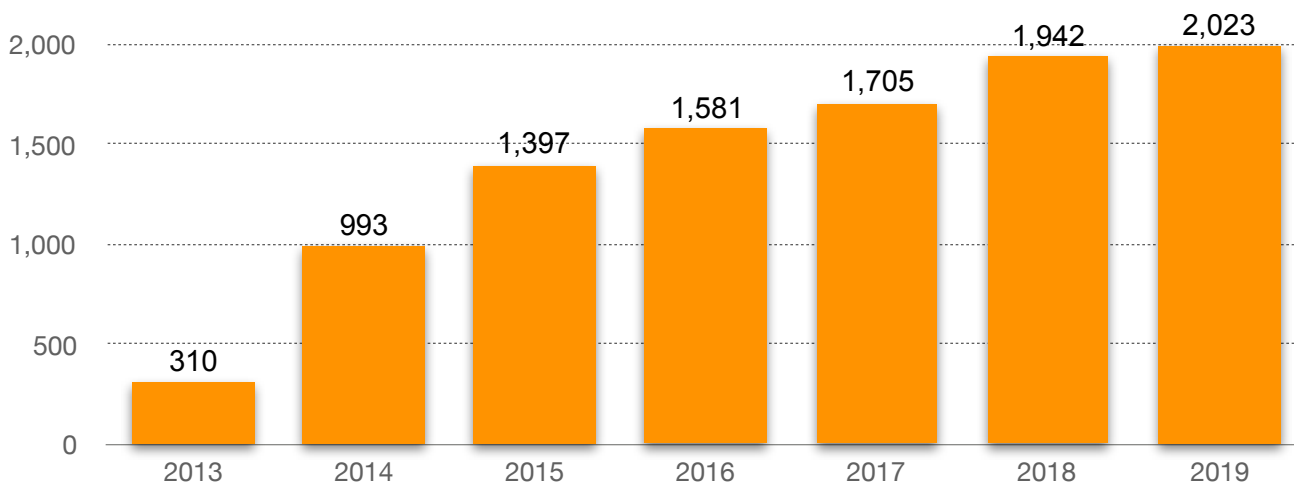
² Senate Bill 612 (Mitchell) was signed into law October 12, 2017, took effect January 1, 2018, and among other provisions, changed the placement name to Transitional Housing Placement for Non-Minor Dependents.

³ Assembly Bill 12 (Beall, Bass) was signed into law September 30, 2010, extending foster care to age 21 through phased-in implementation beginning January 1, 2012.

Figure 1: THP-NMD at a Glance⁴

	2017-18	2018-19
Number of NMDs Placed in THP-NMD as of July 1st	1,942	2,023
Number of Licensed THP-NMD Providers	68	70
Number of Licensed THP-NMD Providers Operating the Program	59	59
Number of Counties that Placed Youth in THP-NMD as of July 1st	51	46
Number of Counties with THP-NMD Housing Located within County	50	49

Figure 2: Number of Non-Minor Dependents Placed in THP-NMD as of July 1st⁵



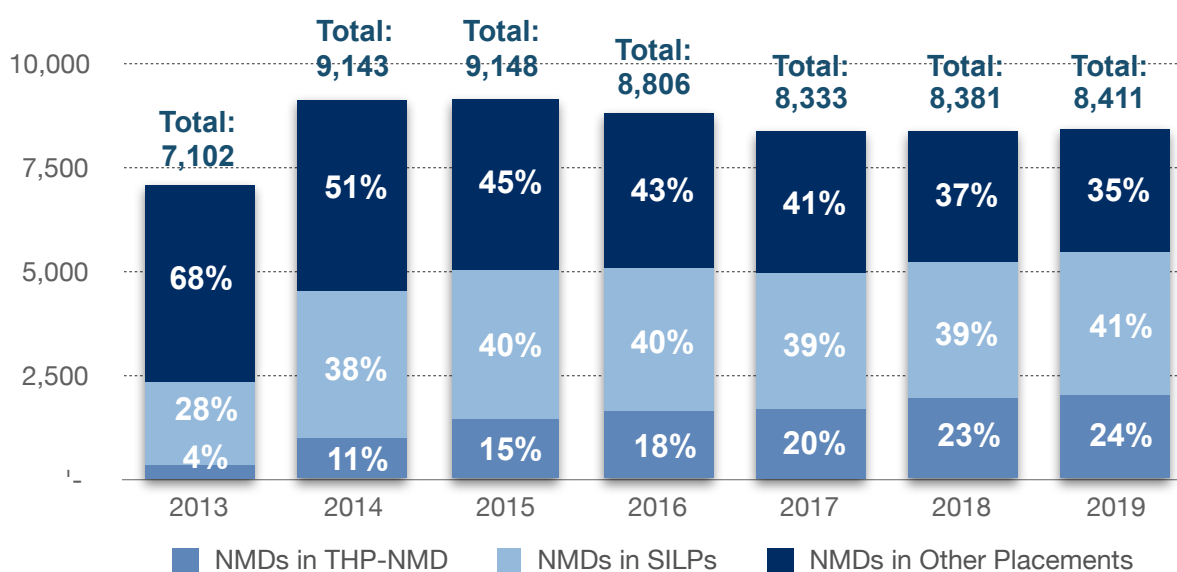
⁴ This data was retrieved from three sources: The California Child Welfare Indicators Project (http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/); the California Department of Social Services' THP-NMD rates list (<https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/Foster-Care/Foster-Care-Audits-and-Rates/Foster-Care-Rate-Setting>); and an online survey administered by John Burton Advocates for Youth to all THP-NMD providers in July 2019.

⁵ Data was retrieved from the California Child Welfare Indicators Project (http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/) using point-in-time data on July 1 of each corresponding year.

Nearly one in four non-minor dependents are placed in THP-NMD.

Nearly one in four (24%) NMDs were placed in THP-NMD as of July 1, 2019. The single-most prevalent placement for NMDs continues to be the Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP), following by THP-NMD, then several “other” foster care placements, which include foster homes, relative caregiver or non-related extended family member homes, guardianships, and group homes. Since 2014 when extended foster care was fully implemented, the proportion of NMDs placed in THP-NMD has increased from 11 percent to 24 percent. (Figure 3)

Figure 3: Proportion of Non-Minor Dependents (NMDs) Placed in THP-NMD, SILPs & Other Placements as of July 1st ⁶



⁶ Data was retrieved from the California Child Welfare Indicators Project (http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/) using point-in-time data on July 1 of each corresponding year.

THP-NMD participants continue to be more likely to be female and increasingly Latino, with 14 percent supervised by Juvenile Probation.

As illustrated in Figure 4, as of July 1, 2019, the demographics of THP-NMD participants are relatively consistent with the year prior, with participants more likely to be female (57%) than male (43%), and Latino participants being the most predominant ethnic/racial group (42%). Since 2013, there has been a consistent decrease in the number of White participants (31% to 20%) and a consistent increase in the number of Latino participants (29% to 42%). Fourteen percent of participants are supervised by the juvenile probation system.

Figure 4: THP-NMD Participant Characteristics as of July 1st 7

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Male	43%	42%	42%	42%	43%	44%	43%
Female	57%	58%	58%	58%	57%	56%	57%
Black	33%	37%	37%	35%	35%	35%	35%
White	31%	27%	23%	25%	24%	22%	20%
Latino	29%	33%	35%	37%	38%	39%	42%
Asian/ Pacific Islander	3%	3%	3%	3%	2%	2%	3%
Native American	3%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%
Supervised by Juvenile Probation	12%	17%	18%	19%	18%	17%	14%

7 Data was retrieved from the California Child Welfare Indicators Project (http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/) using point-in-time data on July 1 of each corresponding year.

Transitional Housing Placement-Plus (THP-Plus)

The Transitional Housing Placement Plus (THP-Plus) Program was created by the California State Legislature in 2001 in response to the alarming rate of homelessness among former foster youth. The program provides safe, affordable housing and supportive services to former foster and out-of-home probation youth, ages 18 to 24 for up to 24 months. In counties that have opted into the THP-Plus extension established by Senate Bill 1252, youth enrolled in school can access THP-Plus for up to 36 months and up to age 25. Following is an overview of the number of youth served by THP-Plus and the demographic profile of youth participating in THP-Plus over FY 2018-19.

The total number of youth served by THP-Plus and the statewide housing capacity remained relatively consistent with the previous fiscal year.

As shown in Figures 5 and 6, a total of 1,739 youth were served by THP-Plus between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019, and the moment-in-time housing capacity was 1,252, relatively consistent with the previous fiscal year, with only a slight reduction. The housing capacity is the total number of housing slots that counties contract with their non-profit service providers to operate, or in some cases that counties operate themselves. It is the maximum number of youth that can be served across the state at a moment in time, if all beds are filled.

Over FY 2018-19 there were 55 THP-Plus providers operating 77 programs across 47 counties, fairly consistent with the year prior when there were 54 providers operating 75 programs across 47 counties. The total number of youth served over the fiscal year will always vary, depending on how long youth access the program and ultimately cycle out. The slight (18 bed) reduction in housing capacity was partially a result of small, mostly one- to two-bed reductions across a handful of counties, in addition to one county, Butte, which reduced their capacity by 50 percent.

THP-Plus is close to being at full service capacity.

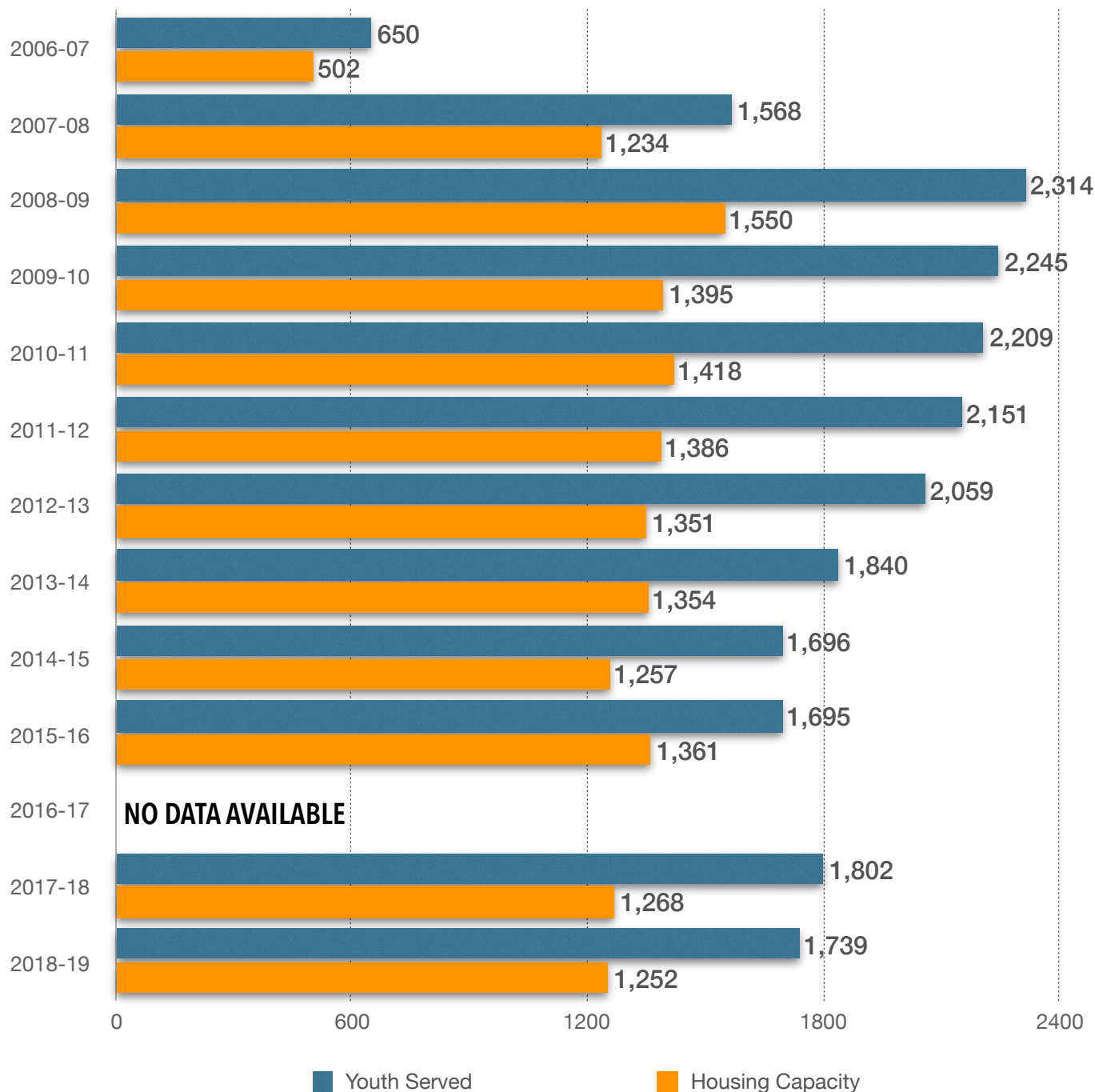
In addition to collecting data on the total bed capacity, THP-Plus providers were asked to report the number of youth in the program as of June 30, 2019. Statewide, 96 percent of the THP-Plus housing capacity was occupied, with 1,196 of the 1,252 housing slots filled. As discussed later in this report, housing demand varies greatly across counties as indicated by the variations in waiting list size. (Figure 5)

Figure 5: THP-Plus at a Glance ⁸

	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19
Number of Youth Served in THP-Plus	1,802	1,739
THP-Plus Moment-in-Time Housing Capacity	1,268	1,252
Number of Youth in THP-Plus as of June 30th	<i>Data unavailable</i>	1,196
Number of Organizations Providing THP-Plus	54	55
Number of THP-Plus Programs	75	77
Number of Counties with THP-Plus Programs	47	47

⁸ Data was retrieved from an online survey administered by John Burton Advocates for Youth to all THP-Plus providers in July 2019.

Figure 6: Total Served & Housing Capacity in THP-Plus Over Fiscal Year⁹



⁹ Data was retrieved from an online survey administered by John Burton Advocates for Youth to all THP-Plus providers annually in July. Due to data corrections submitted subsequent to the release of the FY 2017-18 THP-NMD & THP-Plus Annual Report, figures for 2017-18 may differ from those included in the original report.

More than half (55%) of the counties in California with THP-Plus programs provide the third-year THP-Plus extension as of June 30, 2019.

As of June 30, 2019, twenty-six counties were providing the third-year THP-Plus extension made available by Senate Bill 1252 (Torres).¹⁰ One additional county that had previously opted in, Lake County, has since stopped offering THP-Plus. Youth in THP-Plus programs in counties that have opted into the extension can remain in the program for an additional 12 months and up to age 25 if they are enrolled in school. As of June 30, 2019 these 26 counties accounted for 71 percent of the statewide THP-Plus housing capacity. The number of counties implementing the extension remained unchanged between FY 2017-18 and FY 2018-19, however one additional county, Orange, opted in as of July 1, 2019, bringing the current number to 27 for FY 2019-20, as of the writing of this report.

Almost all youth participating in THP-Plus are 21 to 24, a significant change from before the implementation of extended foster care.

Just two percent of youth who entered a THP-Plus program over FY 2018-19 were between the ages of 18 and 20, while 98 percent were between the ages of 21 and 24. This decrease in the younger subset of youth follows a consistent trend since extended foster care implementation began in 2012 when the majority (67%) of youth in THP-Plus were age 18 to 20.

Like THP-NMD, THP-Plus participants are more likely to be female (59%) than male (39%). Participation among youth previously supervised by the juvenile probation system has decreased from 15 percent in FY 2011-12 to seven percent in FY 2018-19, although remains relatively unchanged from the previous fiscal year (6%). (Figure 7)

¹⁰ Senate Bill 1252 (Torres), Chapter 774 (2014). Counties that had opted into the THP-Plus extension as of FY 2018-19 are: Imperial, Kings, 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 and Yuba.

Figure 7: THP-Plus Participant Characteristics at Entrance to the Program¹¹

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Male	42%	42%	44%	44%	40%	44%	36%	39%
Female	58%	58%	56%	56%	60%	56%	64%	59%
Other								1%
Age 18-20	67%	52%	35%	18%	15%	13%	7%	2%
Age 21-24	33%	48%	65%	82%	85%	87%	93%	98%
LGBTQ	7%	8%	9%	11%	9%	10%	9%	12%
Black	33%	34%	32%	38%	32%	32%	33%	35%
White	29%	27%	24%	28%	28%	22%	27%	25%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	2%	3%	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%	1%
Asian, Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%
Multi-Racial or Other	35%	34%	41%	32%	36%	44%	37%	37%
Hispanic Ethnicity	39%	38%	42%	40%	42%	46%	45%	42%
Formerly Juvenile Probation-Supervised	15%	15%	11%	11%	9%	6%	6%	7%

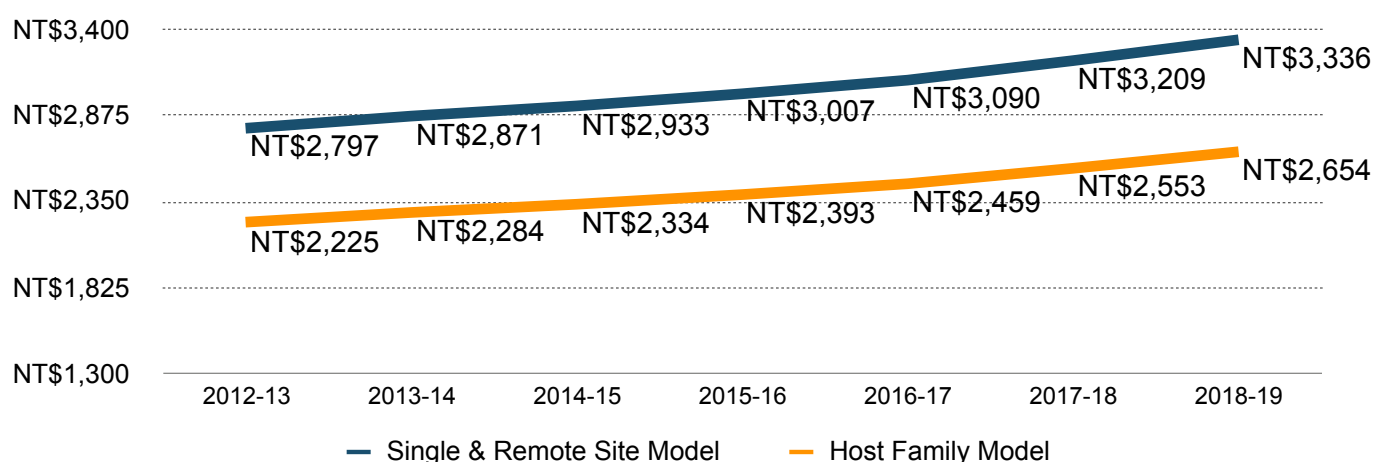
¹¹ Data was retrieved from the THP-Plus Participant Tracking System by running a report for youth who entered THP-Plus over FY 2018-19.

FINDINGS: THP-NMD AND THP-PLUS RATES

The statewide THP-NMD rate increased by four percent, as required by statute.

Effective July 1, 2018, the rate for THP-NMD was \$3,336 for the single and remote site models and \$2,654 for the host family model, as shown in Figure 8. This is a four percent increase from the FY 2017-18 rates of \$2,309 for the single and remote sites and \$2,553 for the host family model. Being a statewide foster care rate, the THP-NMD rate receives an annual cost-of-living increase based on the California Necessities Index (CNI).

Figure 8: Statewide THP-NMD Rate per Youth per Month ¹²



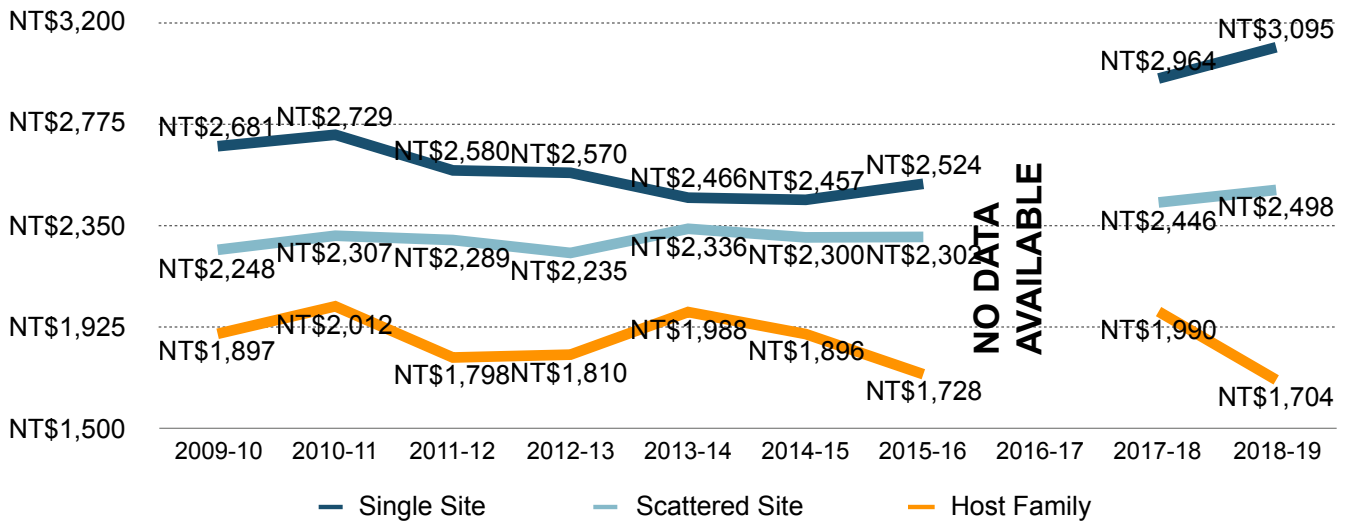
The average monthly rate paid per youth by counties to THP-Plus providers for the single site housing model has increased, while the rate for scattered site has remained relatively unchanged; the rate for host family has decreased.

Figure 9 shows the average THP-Plus rate that counties pay providers per youth per month to operate a THP-Plus program, or in the case of the five counties that operate their programs directly, the monthly cost per youth per month. The average rate for the single site housing model has increased to \$3,095 in FY 2018-19 from \$2,964 in the previous fiscal year. The average rate for the scattered site housing model has remained relatively consistent at \$2,498, compared to \$2,446 in the previous fiscal year. The average rate for the host family model has decreased to \$1,704 from

¹² Data was retrieved from the California Department of Social Services' All County Letters on California Necessities Index Increases for each fiscal year (<https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/Letters-Regulations/Letters-and-Notices/All-County-Letters>)

\$1,990 in the previous fiscal year. The decrease in the average rate for the host family model is not due to individual rate decreases among counties, but instead to a decrease in use of the host family model in some counties with traditionally higher rates.

Figure 9: THP-Plus Average Rates Per Youth Per Month ¹³



THP-Plus rates continue to vary considerably across the state.

There continues to be variability in the rates paid across counties. Single site rates range from a high of \$4,005 in Orange County to \$1,819 in Tuolumne County. Scattered site rates range from \$3,841 in Napa County to \$1,045 in Nevada County. Host family rates range from \$3,146 in San Mateo County to \$500 in Ventura County. One county, Santa Clara, continues to offer a higher rate for custodial parents. For FY 2018-19 Santa Clara County's standard monthly rate per youth was \$2,400 and provided a parenting rate of \$2,800. *For a list of THP-Plus rates by county, see Appendix A.*

Over the last six years, the THP-NMD rate has increased by 19 percent and the average THP-Plus rate has increased by 12 percent for the remote/scattered site model.

Since FY 2012-13, the THP-NMD rate for the remote site model has grown 19 percent, based on annual CNI increases applied to foster care rates. The average THP-Plus rate for the scattered site model has grown 12 percent. Unlike THP-NMD rates, THP-Plus rates are set at the county level and

¹³ Data was retrieved from an online survey administered by John Burton Advocates for Youth to all THP-Plus providers annually in July. Due to data corrections submitted subsequent to the release of the FY 2017-18 THP-NMD & THP-Plus Annual Report, figures for 2017-18 may differ from those included in the original report.

are not required to be adjusted annually to account for increases in cost of living. Survey respondents stressed the concern that the cost of housing has outpaced the growth in the rate for both programs.

THP-NMD providers utilize various strategies to operate the program despite the rate not covering the cost of providing the program in certain areas.

THP-NMD providers were asked how they continue to operate given the rapid escalation in housing costs. As shown in Figure 10, sixty-four percent (38) of THP-NMD providers reported utilizing at least one of the following strategies to manage cost and be able to continue to operate the program: 1) privately fundraise; 2) offset cost using other contractual resources; 3) reduce the level of supportive services provided to youth in the program; 2) limit the number of higher-needs youth (with higher service and housing costs) in the program; and/or 3) rent housing in areas that are lower cost. The balance of providers (36%) reported not utilizing one of the named strategies.

Figure 10: Strategies Utilized by THP-NMD Providers to Manage Cost ¹⁴

Strategies to Manage or Offset Cost	% of Providers that Report Utilizing these Strategies
Privately fundraise	27%
Offset cost using other contractual resources	27%
Reduce the level of supportive services	19%
Limit the number of higher-needs youth	27%
Rent housing in areas that are lower-cost	25%
At least one of the above strategies	64%

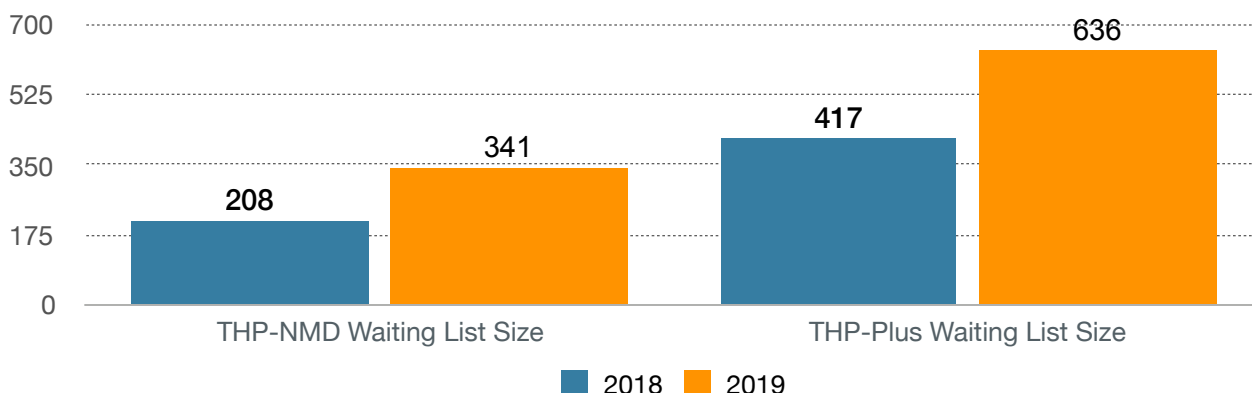
¹⁴ Data was retrieved from an online survey administered by John Burton Advocates for Youth to all THP-NMD providers in July 2019.

FINDINGS: HOUSING ENTRANCE & EXIT

The number of youth waiting for THP-NMD increased 64 percent and the number waiting for THP-Plus increased 53 percent since the previous fiscal year.

As shown in Figure 11, THP-NMD providers reported that a total of 341 youth were on waiting lists for their program as of June 30, 2019. This is a 64 percent increase from the previous fiscal year when there were 208 youth on waiting lists. THP-Plus providers reported even greater waiting lists totaling in 636 youth as of June 2019. This is a 53 percent increase from the previous fiscal year when there were 417 youth on waiting lists. Alameda, Los Angeles and San Diego Counties had the longest waiting lists for both THP-NMD and THP-Plus. *For a list of waiting list numbers for both programs by county, see Appendix B.*

Figure 11: Number of Youth on Waiting Lists for THP-NMD and THP-Plus as of June 30th 15



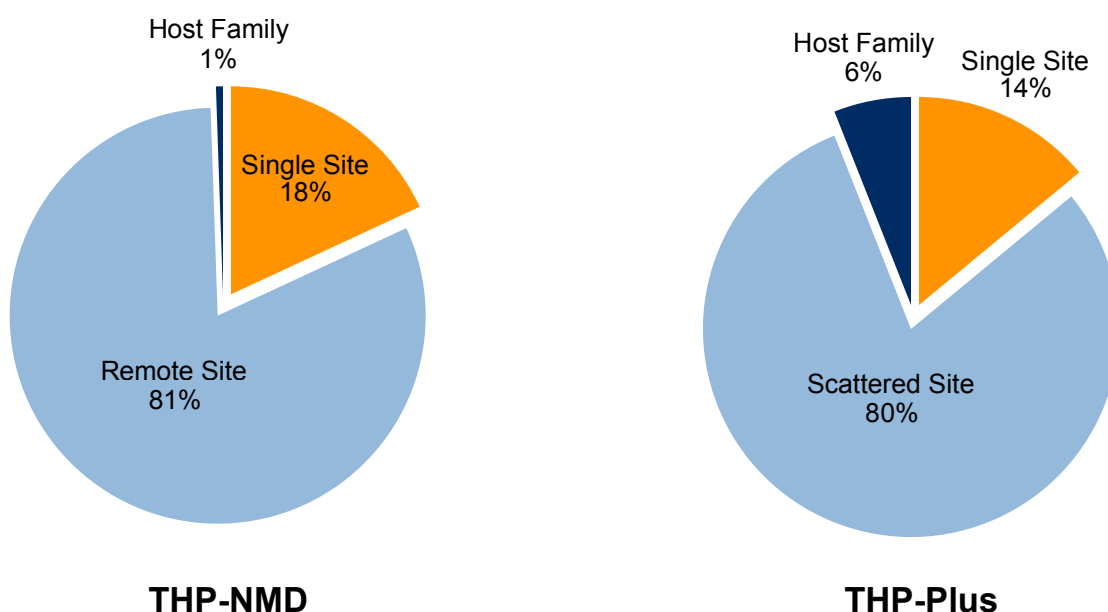
The remote/scattered site model is the most prevalent housing model in both THP-NMD and THP-Plus.

As illustrated in Figure 12, of youth who entered the program over FY 2018-19, the housing model known as remote site in THP-NMD and scattered site in THP-Plus accounted for at least eight out of ten housing slots in THP-NMD (81%) and THP-Plus (80%). The second-most common housing model was the single site model, which accounted for 18 percent of THP-NMD housing slots and 14

¹⁵ Data was retrieved from online surveys administered by John Burton Advocates for Youth to all THP-NMD and THP-Plus providers in July 2018 and July 2019.

percent of THP-Plus housing slots. The host family model accounts for just one percent of THP-NMD housing slots and six percent of THP-Plus housing slots, statewide.¹⁶

Figure 12: Capacity by Housing Model, FY 2018-19 ¹⁷



In THP-NMD, youth were most likely to exit to a living setting where they are not paying rent. In THP-Plus, youth were most likely to exit to a living setting where they are paying rent.

As shown in Figure 13, of youth who exited a THP-NMD program over FY 2018-19, the single-most common living setting they transitioned to was living with a relative or other person in stable housing, not paying rent (26%). In THP-Plus, over half (52%) of the youth exited to a living setting where they were renting their own or shared housing, paying rent.

¹⁶ The THP-Plus and THP-NMD programs consist of three types of housing models with only slight differences between the two programs. The “single site model” refers to one apartment building or complex, owned or leased by the THP-Plus or THP-NMD provider, where all of the program participants live. In the THP-NMD program, the single site requires on-site staffing; in THP-Plus it does not. The “scattered site model” in THP-Plus, referred to as the “remote site model” in THP-NMD, refers to leasing apartments in various locations throughout the community, often in small clusters. Finally, the “host family model” refers to an arrangement where caring, supportive adult(s) host the youth in their home, providing room and board.

¹⁷ Data on THP-NMD capacity by housing model was retrieved from the THP-Plus Participant Tracking System by running an entrance report for youth who entered THP-Plus over FY 2018-19. Data on THP-Plus capacity by housing model was retrieved from an online survey administered by John Burton Advocates for Youth to all THP-Plus providers in July 2019. The figures reported on are the percentages of the statewide housing capacity that each housing model accounts for.

Over FY 2018-19, THP-NMD did not have the effect of reducing homelessness, however THP-Plus did.

As illustrated in Figure 13, in THP-NMD, the percentage of youth experiencing homelessness or housing instability was essentially unchanged from entry to exit. Eight percent of youth entered THP-NMD from an emergency shelter, homelessness or other unstable housing (street, car, couch-surfing, etc.), and upon exit, nine percent of youth exited to this setting.

Youth in THP-Plus had the opposite experience: 15 percent of youth entered the program from an emergency shelter, homelessness or other unstable housing (street, car, couch-surfing, etc.). Upon exit from the program, this figure decreased; six percent exited to this setting over FY 2018-19.

Figure 13: Living Settings of Youth Who Exited THP-NMD and THP-Plus During FY 2018-19 ¹⁸

Housing Type	THP-NMD		THP-Plus	
	Youth Entered from this Living Setting	Youth Exited to this Living Setting	Youth Entered from this Living Setting	Youth Exited to this Living Setting
A THP-Plus Program	1%	16%	4%	2%
A THP-NMD Program	5%	8%	14%	1%
Supervised Independent Living Placement	11%	9%	0%	0%
Foster care placement other than THP-NMD or SILP	45%	2%	4%	0%
Other supportive transitional housing program	1%	4%	6%	5%
Renting own / shared housing (paying rent)	3%	17%	32%	52%
Living with relative / other person in stable housing (free rent)	20%	26%	18%	24%
Emergency shelter, homeless, or other unstable housing (street, car, couch-surfing, etc.)	8%	9%	15%	6%
Incarcerated	1%	3%	1%	2%
College dorm	1%	0%	1%	1%
Other	2%	6%	5%	7%

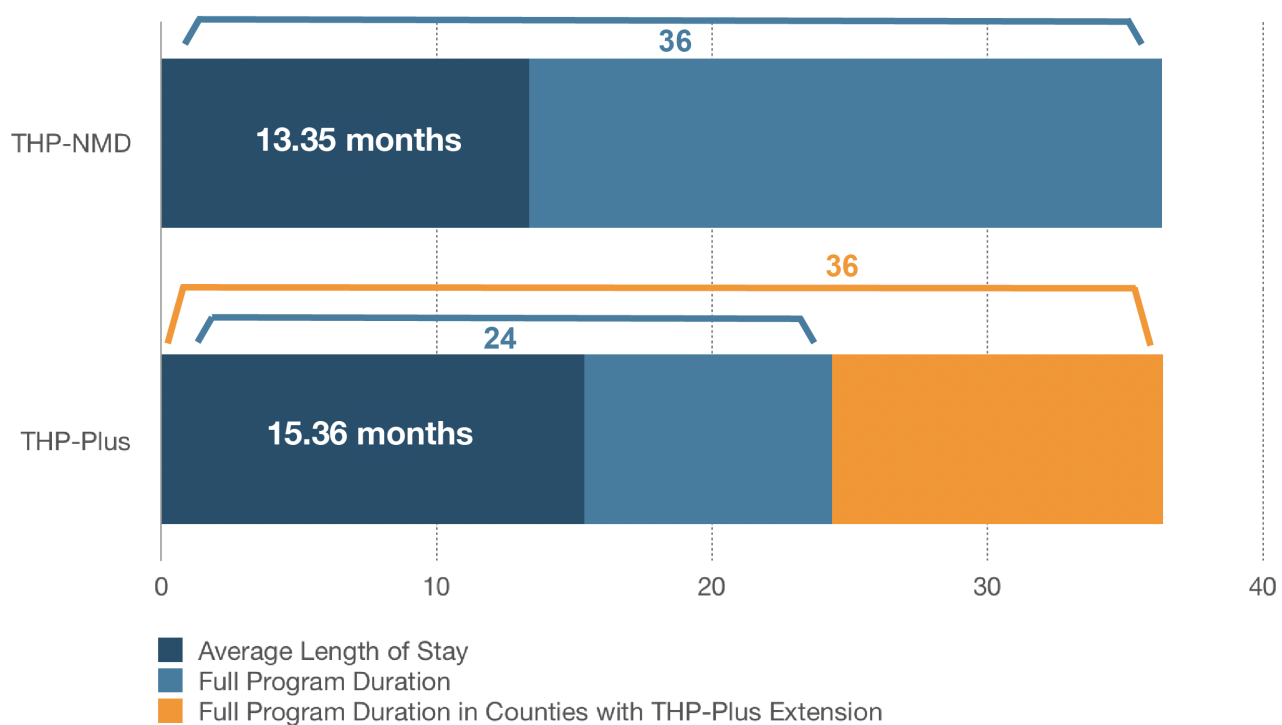
¹⁸ Data was retrieved from the THP-NMD and THP-Plus Participant Tracking Systems by running reports for youth who exited THP-NMD or THP-Plus over FY 2018-19.

In both programs, the average length of stay is far shorter than the amount of time youth may access the programs.

Figure 14 shows the average length of stay for youth in the THP-NMD and THP-Plus program, compared to the full amount of time youth may access the programs. Of youth who exited a THP-NMD program during FY 2018-19, the average length of stay was 13.35 months. For THP-Plus, the average length of stay was 15.36 months. These figures are relatively unchanged from the year prior when the average length of stay was 12.24 and 15.63 months for THP-NMD and THP-Plus, respectively.

Figure 14: Average Length of Stay vs. Full Program Duration

Youth Who Exited THP-NMD & THP-Plus Over FY 2018-19 ¹⁹

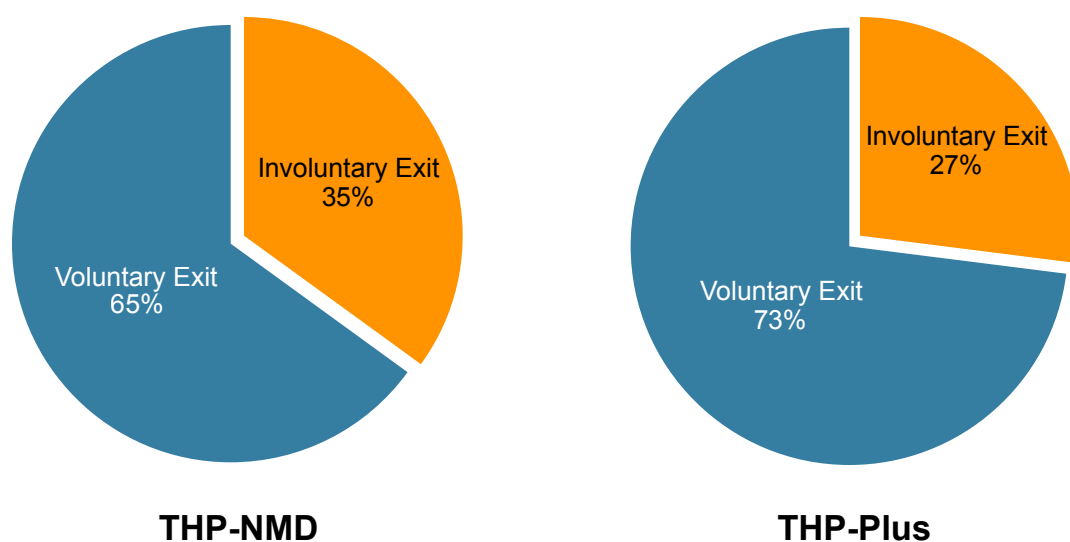


¹⁹ Data was retrieved from the THP-NMD and THP-Plus Participant Tracking Systems by running reports for youth who exited THP-NMD or THP-Plus over FY 2018-19.

More than one in three youth in THP-NMD and more than one in four youth in THP-Plus exited the program on an involuntary basis.

As illustrated in Figure 15, of youth who exited a THP-NMD program over FY 2018-19, more than one in three (35%) exited the program on an involuntary basis. Of youth who exited a THP-Plus program over FY 2018-19, more than one in four (27%) exited the program on an involuntary basis. These rates of involuntary exit are relatively unchanged from the year prior with only a slight increase in THP-NMD from 32% in FY 2017-18. An involuntary exit is an exit based on program non-compliance. Involuntary exits can take the form of legal evictions, however the vast majority do not. Over FY 2018-19, just two percent of involuntary exits in THP-NMD resulted in legal evictions, and seven percent in THP-Plus.

Figure 15: Voluntary & Involuntary Youth Exits from THP-NMD & THP-Plus During FY 2018-19 ²⁰



²⁰ Data was retrieved from the THP-NMD and THP-Plus Participant Tracking Systems by running reports for youth who exited THP-NMD or THP-Plus over FY 2018-19.

FINDINGS: EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT & INCOME

The vast majority of youth in both programs entered having already completed high school.

As shown in Figure 16, seventy percent of youth had completed high school or received their General Education Diploma (GED) or High School Completion Equivalency Certificate when they entered THP-NMD. In THP-Plus, this figure is higher, with 86 percent of participants having entered the program having completed high school.

The percentage of youth who have completed high school increases between entrance to and exit from the program, particularly for youth in THP-NMD.

Also illustrated in Figure 16, at exit from both programs, the percentage of youth with a high school diploma, GED, equivalent credential or higher increased, more significantly in THP-NMD, from 70 to 79 percent, and slightly in THP-Plus, from 86 to 88 percent.

Figure 16: High School Completion Rates

Youth Who Exited THP-NMD & THP-Plus Over FY 2018-19 ²¹

Educational Status	THP-NMD		THP-Plus	
	Entrance	Exit	Entrance	Exit
Youth has not earned their high school diploma, GED or high school equivalent or higher	30%	21%	14%	12%
Youth has earned their high school diploma, GED or high school equivalent or higher	70%	79%	86%	88%

²¹ Data was retrieved from the THP-NMD and THP-Plus Participant Tracking Systems by running reports for youth who exited THP-NMD or THP-Plus over FY 2018-19.

In both THP-NMD and THP-Plus, youth did not make collective progress in post-secondary education during their time in the program.

Of youth who exited a program over FY 2018-19, overall, there was not progress in the area of post-secondary education. At entrance to THP-NMD, 22 percent of youth were attending community college and two percent were attending a four-year college or university, which is a total of 24 percent enrolled in post-secondary education. At exit from THP-NMD, 23 percent are enrolled in post-secondary education or have achieved a degree, license or certificate: 21 percent of youth were attending community college; one percent of youth had received their associates degree, certificate or license from a community college; and one percent was attending a four-year college or university.

At entrance to THP-Plus, 19 percent were attending community college; two percent had received their associates degree, certificate or license from a community college; five percent were attending a four-year college or university; and one percent had received a bachelor's degree; which is a total of 27 percent enrolled in post-secondary education or having had achieved a degree, certificate or license. At exit from THP-Plus, 26 percent are enrolled in post-secondary education or have achieved a degree; license or certificate: 18 percent of youth were attending community college; two percent of youth had received their associates degree, certificate or license from a community college; three percent were attending a four-year college or university; and three percent had achieved their bachelor's degree. (Figure 17)

Figure 17: Post-Secondary Education Attendance and Completion Rates

Youth Who Exited THP-NMD & THP-Plus Over FY 2018-19 ²²

Educational Status	THP-NMD		THP-Plus	
	Entrance	Exit	Entrance	Exit
Attending two-year community college	22%	21%	19%	18%
Received AA/AS, certificate or license from two-year community college	0%	1%	2%	2%
Attending four-year college/university	2%	1%	5%	3%
Received BA/BS	0%	0%	1%	3%

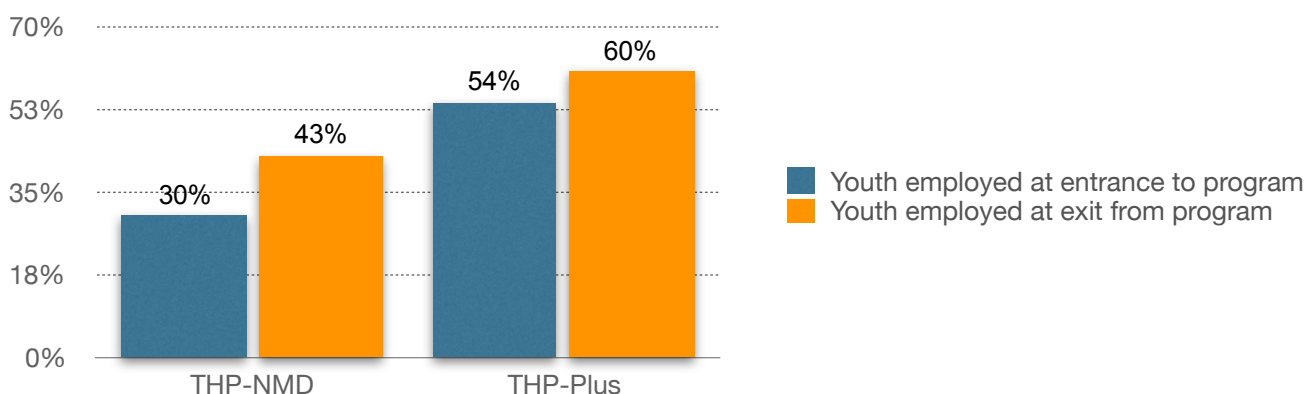
²² Data was retrieved from the THP-NMD and THP-Plus Participant Tracking Systems by running reports for youth who exited THP-NMD or THP-Plus over FY 2018-19.

In both THP-NMD and THP-Plus, employment continues to be an area where youth make progress during their time in the program.

As shown in Figure 18, youth who exited a THP-NMD program over FY 2018-19 experienced an increase in their rate of employment, from 30 percent at entrance to 43 percent at exit. Youth who exited a THP-Plus program over FY 2018-19 experienced an increase in their rate of employment, from 54 percent at entrance to 60 percent at exit. The percentage of employed youth who were working full-time also increased in both programs between entrance and exit: in THP-NMD from 25 to 36 percent, and in THP-Plus from 43 to 56 percent.

Figure 18: Employment Rates at Entrance and Exit

Youth Who Exited THP-NMD & THP-Plus Over FY 2018-19 ²³



More than half of the custodial parents in THP-Plus and nearly four out of ten of the custodial parents in THP-NMD were employed upon exit from the program.

Of youth who were custodial parents that exited THP-NMD over FY 2018-19, nearly four out of ten (39%) were employed upon exit from the program. In THP-Plus, more than half (56%) of the custodial parents were employed upon exit from the program.²⁴

Employed youth experienced a nine percent increase in hourly wage during their time in the program, however are still earning just above the state's minimum wage at exit.

Of youth who exited THP-NMD and THP-Plus in FY 2018-19, the average hourly wage of those who were working increased nine percent between entrance and exit—from \$11.78 to \$12.82 in THP-

²³ Data was retrieved from the THP-NMD and THP-Plus Participant Tracking Systems by running reports for youth who exited THP-NMD or THP-Plus over FY 2018-19.

²⁴ Ibid.

NMD (\$1.04 increase), and from \$12.46 to \$13.62 in THP-Plus (\$1.16 increase). These wages are just above California's state minimum wage of \$12.00 per hour in 2019.

For youth working full-time (35-40 hours/week), at exit from the program, these hourly wages equate to gross annual incomes of \$23,397-\$26,739 in THP-NMD and \$24,857-\$28,407 in THP-Plus. For youth working at least ten hours per week part-time (10-34 hours/week), at exit from the program, these wages equate to gross annual incomes of \$6,685-\$22,728 in THP-NMD and \$7,102-\$24,146 in THP-Plus. (Figure 19)

Figure 19: Number of Hours Worked Per Week & Average Gross Annual Earnings of Employed Youth at Exit from THP-NMD & THP-Plus Over FY 2018-19 ²⁵

	THP-NMD		THP-Plus	
	% of Employed Youth Working these Hours	Average Annual Earnings	% of Employed Youth Working these Hours	Average Annual Earnings
Working full-time (35-40 hours/week)	36%	\$23,397-\$26,739	56%	\$24,857-\$28,407
Working part-time (10-34 hours/week)	56%	\$6,685-\$22,728	40%	\$7,102-\$24,146
Working part-time (1-9 hours/week)	8%	\$668-\$6,016	3%	\$710-\$6,392

Youths' monthly income from all sources grew by at least one quarter in both programs between entrance and exit.

In addition to examining hourly wages for youth who were employed, data was also retrieved on the monthly income of all youth, whether employed or not. This income measure includes earned wages, educational financial aid, child support, financial assistance from family or friends, and the direct stipend provided to the youth by the THP-NMD or THP-Plus provider.

As illustrated in Figure 20, youth who exited a THP-NMD program over FY 2018-19 experienced a 28 percent increase, on average, in their monthly income from entrance to exit, from \$930 to \$1,187. Youth who exited a THP-Plus program over FY 2018-19 experienced a 26 percent increase, on average, in their monthly income from entrance to exit, from \$1,046 to \$1,445 per month.²⁶ While this

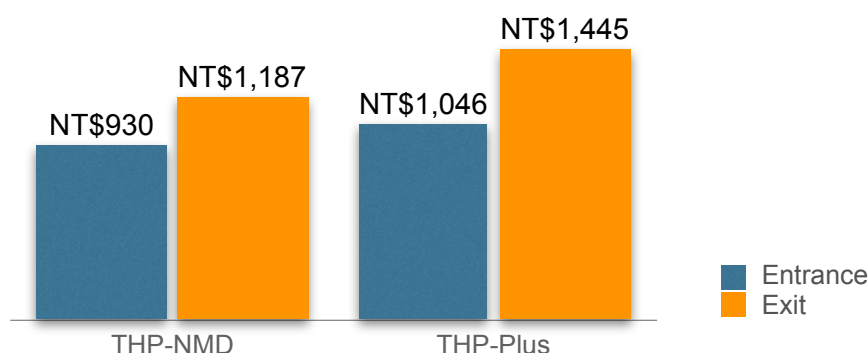
²⁵ Data was retrieved from the THP-NMD and THP-Plus Participant Tracking Systems by running reports for youth who exited THP-NMD or THP-Plus over FY 2018-19.

²⁶ Ibid.

growth in income is positive, it is important to remember that upon exit from these programs, youth will no longer be receiving a monthly stipend from a THP-NMD or THP-Plus provider, and so they will experience a change in income.

Figure 20: Increase in Total Monthly Income from All Sources between Entrance and Exit

Youth Who Exited THP-NMD & THP-Plus Over FY 2018-19 ²⁷



Less than four in ten youth are estimated to have filed 2018 taxes.

THP-NMD and THP-Plus providers were asked how many of the youth they served over FY 2018-19 filed their 2018 taxes. The vast majority—90 percent of survey respondents that worked for a THP-NMD program and 86 percent of survey respondents that worked for a THP-Plus program—were unaware of the number of youth in their program that filed taxes, but provided an estimate. Collectively, 39 percent of youth in THP-NMD and THP-Plus were estimated to have filed 2018 taxes.

There is limited awareness about the California Earned Income Tax Credit and transition-age youth eligibility among THP-NMD and THP-Plus providers and the youth they serve.

THP-NMD and THP-Plus providers were asked about their familiarity with the California Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC) which was expanded starting in 2018 to include California residents age 18 years and older regardless of whether they have children. Previously, a person had to be 25-64 years of age to qualify for the CalEITC, unless they had children. A total of 45 percent of survey respondents that worked for THP-NMD programs and 43 percent of survey respondents that worked for THP-Plus programs reported that they were not familiar with the CalEITC. Providers were unaware if the youth that filed taxes in their program received the CalEITC but provided an estimate. Collectively, seven percent of youth in THP-NMD and THP-Plus were estimated to have received the CalEITC when filing their 2018 taxes.

²⁷ Data was retrieved from the THP-NMD and THP-Plus Participant Tracking Systems by running reports for youth who exited THP-NMD or THP-Plus over FY 2018-19.

Youth Participant Profile

Since Angela was a young girl, her teachers at school instilled in her a desire to go to college. Despite entering the foster care system at age 16 when she and her siblings' lives were uprooted to attend new schools and live with an aunt whom they had never met, Angela was determined to attend college and earn a post-secondary degree.

Today, Angela is 21 years old and attending Mt. San Antonio College in Walnut, part of greater Los Angeles. LA is one of California's regions feeling the squeeze of the housing crisis with skyrocketing rent and increasing numbers of people experiencing homelessness. In the most recent 2019 Point-in-Time Count, LA reported a 12% increase in homelessness generally, and an increase twice the size (24%) for homeless youth specifically.



Angela, who recently entered a THP-Plus program run by David & Margaret Youth & Family Services in La Verne, waited six months on the waiting list before an opening became available. LA has just 81 THP-Plus slots, a fraction of what is needed to address homelessness and housing instability among former foster youth in the county. When the THP-Plus budget was included in Governor Brown's 2011 Realignment, counties' realigned THP-Plus allocations were set at the amount they expended on the program the year prior, absent the prospect of future state investment. Counties have the option to invest their Realignment growth funds on THP-Plus, however often opt to spend these funds elsewhere. LA County's THP-Plus allocation of \$2.1 million accounts for just six percent of the state's \$34.9 million realigned THP-Plus budget, while they are home to nearly one-third (31%) of transition-age foster youth in the state.

Prior to entering THP-Plus, Angela's options were limited. She struggled to balance part-time work, college classes, paying the rent for her apartment, and was soon to be a new mother. She was relieved when she found that she was eligible for the THP-Plus program, but quickly became discouraged. Many programs were full or were taking a limited number of or no parenting youth because the higher costs associated with providing housing and supportive services to parenting youth are not typically covered by the monthly THP-Plus rate paid by counties to housing providers. Angela's aunt, who was still caring for her two younger siblings, agreed to allow Angela to move in temporarily.

When David & Margaret notified Angela that she had made it off the waiting list, she moved in and excelled. Angela's social worker at David & Margaret has watched her grow to be a great mother and describes her as "responsible and communicative about she and her baby's needs, and an advocate for her family."

Today, Angela is on track to transfer to a four-year university in 2021 with the goal of getting a bachelor's degree in child development and being a teacher. "Because of David & Margaret, I am able to go to school and focus on my studies and not feel pressured to work full-time" says Angela. Mt. San Antonio College has also provided critical support, offering childcare at the development center.

Angela, thinking about her younger brother who is now 18, hopes for a day when the THP-Plus program in LA will expand so that other former foster youth in need of housing are able to benefit from the program. The good news is that Angela's hopes may soon come to fruition. In the 2019-20 state budget, \$8 million was included with the intent of providing counties the opportunity to further fund their THP-Plus programs. If this funding is allocated based on need, according to the size of each county's transition-age foster youth population, LA County's allocation will likely at least double in size and will provide the opportunity to both expand their number of beds and increase the rate they pay providers to operate the program.

FINDINGS: HEALTH & WELL-BEING

Almost all youth in THP-Plus were enrolled in health insurance upon exit from the program.

Of youth who exited a THP-Plus program over FY 2018-19, almost all youth (99%) reported being enrolled in health insurance upon exit from the program.²⁸ The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act provides former foster youth free health insurance until the age of 26.²⁹ In California, youth under age 26 are eligible for Medi-Cal benefits if they were in foster care in any state at age 18 or older. The coverage includes medical care, vision exams, substance abuse treatment, mental health services and counseling, and dental care. All youth participating in THP-Plus are eligible for extended Medi-Cal, and all youth participating in THP-NMD are automatically covered by Medi-Cal because they are dependents of the child welfare or juvenile probation systems.

More than one in five youth in THP-NMD and nearly one in five youth in THP-Plus were receiving services for mental, physical, learning or developmental disabilities at exit from the program.

Of youth who exited a program over FY 2018-19, twenty-three percent in THP-NMD and 19 percent in THP-Plus were receiving services for mental health, substance abuse, or educational/learning, physical or developmental disabilities at exit from the program.³⁰

The proportion of young women who are custodial parents more than tripled between entrance and exit in THP-NMD and increased 38 percent in THP-Plus.

As noted in Figure 21, of young women who exited a THP-NMD program during FY 2018-19, the proportion who were custodial mothers increased from eight percent at entrance to 25 percent at exit. In THP-Plus, the proportion of custodial mothers increased from 29 percent at entrance to 40 percent at exit.

This effect is less significant when the experiences of both women and men are considered. Of all youth who exited a THP-NMD program over the FY 2018-19, the proportion who were custodial parents increased from five percent at entrance to 16 percent upon exit from the program. Of all

28 Data was retrieved from the THP-Plus Participant Tracking System by running a report for youth who exited THP-Plus over FY 2018-19.

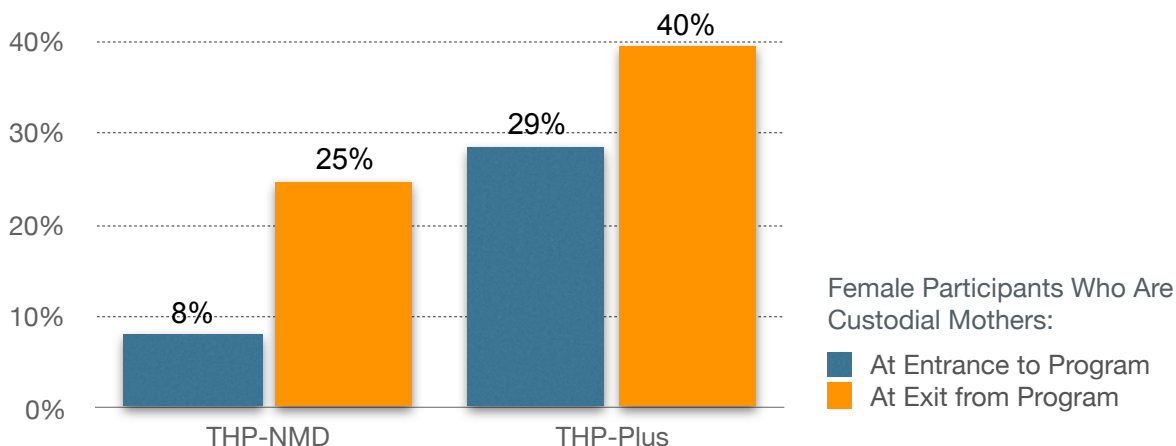
29 H.R. 3590, 111th Cong. (2010)

30 Data was retrieved from the THP-NMD and THP-Plus Participant Tracking Systems by running reports for youth who exited THP-NMD or THP-Plus over FY 2018-19.

youth who exited a THP-Plus program in FY 2018-19, eighteen percent were custodial parents upon entrance to the program and upon exit, this figure increased to 27 percent.

Figure 21: Percentage of Female Participants Who Were Custodial Mothers

Youth Who Exited THP-NMD & THP-Plus Over FY 2018-19 ³¹



In THP-NMD and THP-Plus, a total of 681 children lived with a parent participating in the program.

In addition to measuring the number of youth in THP-NMD and THP-Plus that were custodial parents, providers were also asked how many collective children the parents in their program had residing with them. Together, 681 children lived with a parent participating in THP-NMD or THP-Plus as of June 30, 2019.

THP-NMD providers reported that as of June 30, 2019, there were 290 children residing with a parent participating in the program. THP-Plus providers reported that as of June 30, 2019, there were 380 children residing with a parent participating in the program. In THP-Plus, at least 70 percent of custodial parents had one child, and approximately 30 percent had more than one child.

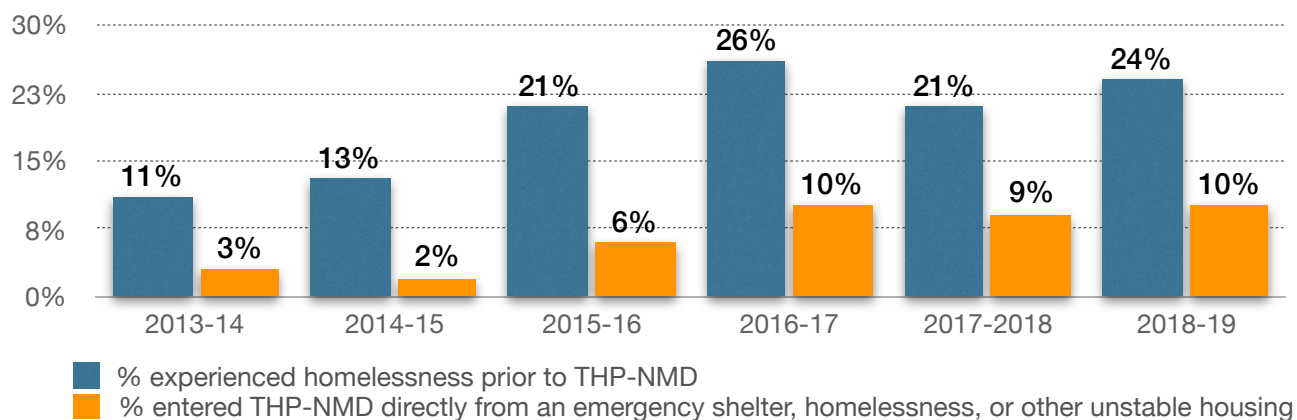
Nearly one in four youth experienced homelessness while in foster care, prior to entering THP-NMD.

Of youth who entered THP-NMD over FY 2018-19, twenty-four percent had experienced homelessness prior to entering THP-NMD, a slight increase from 21 percent in the previous fiscal year. Over FY 2018-19, ten percent of youth entered THP-NMD directly from an emergency shelter, homelessness or other unstable housing, relatively consistent with the previous fiscal year (9%). (Figure 22)

³¹ Data was retrieved from the THP-NMD and THP-Plus Participant Tracking Systems by running reports for youth who exited THP-NMD or THP-Plus over FY 2018-19.

Figure 22: Experience of Homelessness

Youth Who Entered THP-NMD During Fiscal Year ³²



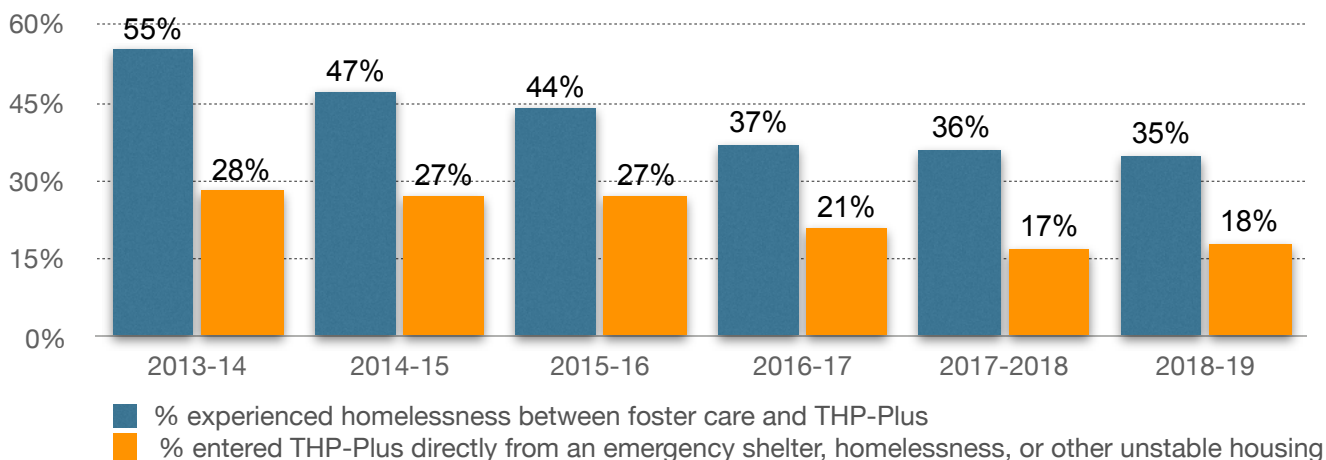
More than one in three youth experienced homelessness prior to entering THP-Plus. This has decreased over the last five years yet remains significant.

Since FY 2013-14, the rate of homelessness among youth prior to entering THP-Plus has decreased from a high of 55 percent. Of youth who exited a THP-Plus program over FY 2018-19, more than one in three (35%) youth had experienced homelessness between leaving foster care and entering THP-Plus. The rate of youth entering THP-Plus directly from an emergency shelter, homelessness or other unstable housing has also decreased over the last five years, from 28 percent in FY 2013-14 to 18 percent in FY 2018-19. (Figure 23)

³² Data was retrieved from the THP-NMD and THP-Plus Participant Tracking Systems by running reports for youth who exited THP-NMD or THP-Plus over the fiscal year.

Figure 23: Experience of Homelessness

Youth Who Entered THP-Plus During Fiscal Year³³



At least one in four youth were accessing public benefits at exit from both programs.

At exit from THP-NMD over FY 2018-19, twenty-five percent of participants were accessing Supplemental Security Income or Social Security Disability Income (SSI/SSDI); General Assistance; CalFresh; California Work Opportunities and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs); the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC); and/or subsidized childcare. At exit from THP-Plus, 29 percent of youth were accessing at least one form of public benefits.

The majority of youth in THP-NMD and THP-Plus were eligible for CalFresh benefits at entrance to and exit from the program.

Of youth who exited a THP-NMD and THP-Plus over FY 2018-19, the majority were eligible for CalFresh benefits both at entrance to and exit from the program. CalFresh is California's food stamp program, known federally as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Eligibility for CalFresh is calculated based on household composition; earned and unearned gross and net income, which in California are set at 200 percent and 130 percent of the Federal Poverty Level, respectively; assets; the amount of rent and utility expenses; and student status. Figure 24 shows the percentage of youth in THP-NMD and THP-Plus, broken out by those who were and were not custodial parents, who were eligible for CalFresh at entrance to and exit from the program.

³³ Data was retrieved from the THP-NMD and THP-Plus Participant Tracking Systems by running reports for youth who exited THP-NMD or THP-Plus over the fiscal year.

Of youth without custodial children, at least 94 percent in THP-NMD had monthly incomes under the maximum gross income threshold of \$2,024 for a household of one in FY 2018-19, and the maximum net income threshold of \$1,012 for a household of one in FY 2018-19, at entrance to the program. At exit, at least 68 percent of youth in THP-NMD without custodial children had monthly incomes under the maximum gross and net income thresholds.

Of youth who were custodial parents, at least 81 percent in THP-NMD had monthly incomes under the maximum gross income threshold of \$2,744 for a household of two, and the maximum net income threshold of \$1,372 for a household of two, at entrance to the program. At exit, at least 72 percent of custodial parents in THP-NMD had monthly incomes under the maximum gross and net income thresholds.^{34, 35}

Of youth without custodial children, at least 65 percent in THP-Plus had monthly incomes under the maximum gross and net income thresholds for a household of one at entrance to the program. At exit, at least 50 percent of youth in THP-Plus without custodial children had monthly incomes under the maximum gross and net income thresholds.

Of youth who were custodial parents, at least 78 percent in THP-Plus had monthly incomes under the maximum gross and net income thresholds for a household of two at entrance to the program. At exit, at least 67 percent of custodial parents in THP-Plus had monthly incomes under the maximum gross and net income thresholds.³⁶

34 Net income is determined by applying eligible deductions to gross income. It is likely that more youth were eligible for CalFresh, but because it is unknown which deductions (i.e. Earned Income Deduction, Standard Utility Allowance, Limited Utility Allowance, Dependent Care Deduction, etc.) they were eligible for outside of the Standard Deduction, this is the only deduction that was applied to their income for the purposes of determining eligibility. Additionally, certain income reported in the Participant Tracking System is excluded when determining CalFresh eligibility such as educational grants and scholarships. For these reasons, the percentages of youth actually eligible for CalFresh are likely higher than the figures included in this report.

35 Student status does not impact CalFresh eligibility for youth in THP-NMD because they are participating in extended foster care, which makes them exempt from the CalFresh eligibility restriction on college students.

36 While youth in THP-Plus are not in extended foster care making them categorically exempt from the CalFresh eligibility restriction on college students, the majority fall under an alternate exemption criterion such as receiving certain types of educational financial aid, being approved for work study, participating in a campus support program, having a dependent child, working a minimum of 20 hours per week, and other criteria.

Figure 24: CalFresh Eligibility at Entrance & Exit

 Youth Who Exited THP-NMD & THP-Plus Over FY 2018-19 ³⁷

	THP-NMD		THP-Plus	
	Eligible at Entrance	Eligible at Exit	Eligible at Entrance	Eligible at Exit
Youth without custodial children	94%	68%	65%	50%
Youth with custodial children	81%	72%	78%	67%

At exit from the program, less than one in five youth were receiving CalFresh benefits in THP-NMD and less than one in four youth in THP-Plus.

At exit from the program over FY 2018-19, nineteen percent of youth in THP-NMD were receiving CalFresh benefits, and 23 percent in THP-Plus were receiving CalFresh upon exit.

³⁷ Data was retrieved from the THP-NMD and THP-Plus Participant Tracking Systems by running reports for youth who exited THP-NMD or THP-Plus over FY 2018-19.

SPECIAL FEATURE: THE TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PLACEMENT FOR MINORS (THP-M)

In addition to the two transitional housing programs for non-minors, California also has a Transitional Housing Placement for Minors (THP-M). THP-M falls under the same licensing category as THP-NMD and like THP-NMD, THP-M provides housing and supportive services and is a Title IV-E-reimbursable foster care placement where youth are provided court oversight and child welfare supervision. Unlike THP-NMD, THP-M is a placement for minors, ages 16 and 17.

THP-M was established in 2001 along with THP-Plus with the enactment of AB 427 (Hertzberg).³⁸ Being a placement for minors, THP-M only offers the single site/staffed housing model, where all youth in the program reside in one apartment building, complex or home, and a staff member resides on site.

Important Upcoming Changes to THP-M

With the passage of the Federal Family First Prevention and Services Act (FFPSA), THP-M will undergo significant changes when California mandatorily opts into the law by October 1,

2021.³⁹ FFPSA, among other objectives, aims to curtail the use of congregate care for children and instead place a new emphasis on family-based settings. FFPSA further limits placements considered congregate care settings for minors, even beyond standards set by California's recent state-initiated Continuum of Care Reform.

As of the date California opts into the federal law, THP-M will no longer be eligible for federal Title IV-E funding, with the exception of two special populations: pregnant and parenting youth and youth at risk of commercial sexual exploitation. (These limitations will not impact THP-NMD because it does not serve minors).

Findings from a Statewide Survey

In anticipation of these changes and to inform a proactive planning process, JBAY conducted research, administered a survey of THP-M providers, and gathered information from counties to understand providers' and counties' current experience with THP-M and with placing and serving these two special populations. Following are the findings from the statewide survey:

Since its inception, THP-M has remained a small program, serving just 93 youth statewide as of July 1, 2019.⁴⁰ The placement is operated by 13 of the state's 14 licensed providers, all of whom also operate THP-NMD and/or THP-Plus programs. THP-M housing is dispersed across 17 counties, although a total of 25 counties place youth in THP-M, some of which utilize programs located in neighboring counties.

³⁸ Assembly Bill 427 (Hertzberg), Chapter 125 (2001)

³⁹ H.R. 253, 115th Cong. (2017)

⁴⁰ Data was retrieved from the California Child Welfare Indicators Project (http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/) using point-in-time data on July 1, 2019.

The THP-M rate is set at the county level, although the rate methodology is set in state statute. The THP-M foster care rate is set at the county level, based on a rate structure set in statute that is “75 percent of the average foster care expenditures for foster youth 16 to 18 years of age, inclusive, in group home care in the county in which the program operates.”⁴¹ Like THP-Plus, THP-M rates vary greatly, with the lowest rate being \$2,100 in El Dorado County, and the highest rate being \$4,819 in Santa Clara County. The average rate across counties was \$3,459 per youth per month in 2018-19.⁴²

One in ten youth in THP-M are custodial parents, with nearly all providers accepting parenting youth into their programs. Ten percent of the youth placed in THP-M are custodial parents. All but one of the state’s current THP-M providers report that they serve parenting youth.

THP-M providers report utilizing a range of strategies and practices to meet the needs of parenting youth. Three of the state’s current providers reported utilizing a program model specific to parenting youth, and other providers reported utilizing a range of strategies and practices to meet the special needs of this population. These strategies include linkages to services and benefits including WIC, First 5, and Parent-Child Interaction Therapy; coordinating participation in a range of parenting groups and parenting classes; special budgeting support that takes children’s needs into account;

enrollment in a high school with a comprehensive parenting component attached; providing more spacious housing accommodations; and increasing staff hours dedicated to working with this population.

One in five youth in THP-M have histories of commercial sexual exploitation (CSE), with nearly all providers accepting CSE victims and survivors into their programs. Twenty percent of the youth placed in THP-M have histories of CSE. All but two of the state’s current THP-M providers report that they serve youth with histories of CSE.

THP-M providers report utilizing a range of strategies and practices to meet the needs of CSE victims and survivors. Three of the state’s current providers reported utilizing a program model specific to CSE youth, and other providers reported utilizing a range of strategies and practices to meet the special needs of this population. These strategies include providing staff training on CSE and Trauma-Informed Care; utilizing case plans that incorporate CSE harm reduction principles and safety planning; provider participation in CSE collaborative meetings with county partners; accessing an augmented rate provided by the county to offer additional services and supports; partnering with specialized service providers in the community for this population; and legal assistance through monthly workshops on rights, understanding the legal system, obtaining restraining orders, etc.

⁴¹ California Welfare & Institutions Code Section 11403.3(a)(1)(A)

⁴² The average rate was calculated using an unweighted methodology.

POLICY AND PRACTICE IMPLICATIONS

Access to Housing and Supportive Placements

- **The state should allocate the \$8 million intended for THP-Plus immediately, without requiring counties to apply.**

As noted in the report, a full 636 youth are on a waiting list for THP-Plus, a 53 percent increase from the previous fiscal year. Therefore, it is essential to allocate available resources immediately. This includes \$8 million that was included in the FY 2019-20 state budget, with intent to provide funding to county child welfare agencies for their THP-Plus programs.⁴³ This funding should be provided immediately to the 47 counties with THP-Plus programs using a formula-driven allocation process that does not require counties to submit an application. The allocation should be based on need as defined by each county's number of transition-age foster youth.

- **The state should establish a rate supplement for THP-NMD to account for the rising cost of housing.**

The statewide THP-NMD rate is not keeping pace with the rising cost of housing. Since the THP-NMD rate was established in 2012, the cost of renting a two-bedroom apartment has increased 64 percent statewide.⁴⁴ The statewide THP-NMD rate on the other hand, has increased by just 24 percent since 2012. For THP-NMD providers in high-cost areas, the failure of the rate to keep pace with the cost of housing has translated into a diminished lack of purchasing power in the housing market. Some THP-NMD providers report utilizing strategies to manage cost in order to be able to continue to operate the placement, however some of these strategies restrict access to the most vulnerable populations and result in a less supportive placement overall.

To ensure the quality of services for youth in THP-NMD remains at the level intended and to maintain the availability of this critical placement, the state should establish a county housing supplement based on the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Fair Market

⁴³ Senate Bill 80 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, human services omnibus), Chapter 27 (2019).

⁴⁴ Zillow: median rent price of a two-bedroom apartment as of June 2012 compared to June 2019. <https://www.zillow.com/research/data/>

Rent (FMR) system, with each eligible county's supplement amount based on their FMR for that fiscal year.⁴⁵

- **The state should establish a rate supplement for special populations with higher service and accommodations needs in THP-NMD.**

For youth who exited THP-NMD over FY 2018-19, THP-NMD did not have the effect of reducing homelessness. Eight percent of youth entered THP-NMD from unstable housing or homelessness, and nine percent exited THP-NMD to unstable housing or homelessness. Additionally, more than one in three youth (35%) in THP-NMD are discharged from the program on an involuntary basis. Providers report that this is due in part to the fact that a higher level of services and accommodations are required for some youth, and that the existing THP-NMD rate does not cover the cost of serving these special populations. To ensure that THP-NMD can meet the needs of these youth, the state should establish a THP-NMD rate supplement for youth with higher service and accommodation needs.

- **The state and counties should take advantage of current opportunities to bring THP-Plus rates to a minimum standard.**

As with the statewide THP-NMD rate, the average THP-Plus rate has not kept pace with the rising cost of housing. The scattered site model, which accounts for 80 percent of the state's THP-Plus housing capacity has grown just 12 percent since FY 2012-13. As described previously, the cost of renting a two-bedroom apartment has increased by 64 percent statewide. The state is required to issue a new rate methodology and schedule for THP-Plus by December 31, 2019.⁴⁶ The state should use this opportunity to set a minimum rate amount that is high enough to ensure quality of services, with flexibility provided to counties to set the totality of their rate based on the local cost of housing.

Counties may consider utilizing a portion of the \$8 million in state funding being allocated to child welfare agencies to fund their THP-Plus programs to increase their THP-Plus rate. Counties should look to HUD's FMR for guidance about setting an appropriate minimum rental subsidy within their rate and consult with their THP-Plus providers about the true cost of operating the program, including higher costs associated with serving special populations. Additionally, counties should establish an annual cost-of-living increase for their THP-Plus rates, which could be based on the California Necessities Index used to set annual increases for foster care rates.

⁴⁵ Fair Market Rent (FMR) is the system developed by HUD to determine the allowable rent level for individuals who participate in their Housing Choice Voucher program. FMRs are set at a 40% median and include the cost of housing and utilities, apart from phone, cable, and internet. Each year, HUD calculates the FMR for 530 metropolitan areas and 2,045 nonmetropolitan county areas, including all 58 counties in California. FMRs are released at the start of each new fiscal year.

⁴⁶ California Welfare and Institutions Code § 11403.3(h)

- **Counties and providers must work together to improve discharge procedures to prevent entrance into homelessness, particularly in THP-NMD.**

As noted previously, for youth who exited THP-NMD over FY 2018-19, the program did not have the effect of reducing homelessness, and more than one in three youth (35%) in THP-NMD were discharged from the program on an involuntary basis. Counties and providers must work together to reduce unsuccessful exits where youth are involuntarily discharged, and/or are exiting into unstable situations or homelessness. Counties and providers should ensure they are not imposing requirements upon youth that are above and beyond the participation conditions of extended foster care, therefore setting a higher threshold for youth placed in THP-NMD, a placement that is intended to be tailored for youth who are not yet prepared for a SILP.

Additionally, at the state level, the Community Care Licensing regulations that govern THP-NMD are currently being amended. It is important that these new regulations include improved discharge procedures.

- **Counties and providers must work together to expand THP-NMD.**

The number of youth on waiting lists for THP-NMD increased by a full 64 percent between June 30, 2018 and June 30, 2019, from 208 to 341 youth. Considering that THP-NMD is a foster care placement, it is unclear why there are not enough THP-NMD placements in some counties. In order to ensure there are enough THP-NMD placements available for youth who cannot reside safely in a SILP, or who feel they need a more supportive placement, counties and providers must work together at the local level to determine whether accessibility of THP-NMD is a result of challenges related to the housing market, provider capacity, county policy or other reasons.

- **THP-Plus providers should apply for state funding made available to address youth homelessness through the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAPP).**

While the rate of homelessness among former foster youth entering THP-Plus has decreased over the last five years, it remains significant—over FY 2018-19 more than one in three youth experienced homelessness between leaving foster care and entering a THP-Plus program. In the FY 2019-20 state budget, \$650 million of one-time funding was included to address homelessness in California, with at least eight percent (\$52 million) dedicated to addressing youth homelessness, allocated to the state's 44 local homeless Continuums of Care, 58 counties and 13 largest cities. One of the eight eligible uses of funding is Rapid Rehousing, a model similar to the transitional housing model utilized by THP-Plus providers. THP-Plus providers should engage with the local administrators of this funding to understand the

timeline and application process for its distribution, which will commence in 2020 with all funds required to be spent by local jurisdictions by the end of 2023.

- **The Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council should ensure addressing homelessness among former foster youth is included in California's Strategic Action Plan to Address Homelessness.**

Data on both THP-NMD and THP-Plus demonstrate that homelessness is a serious issue for both current and former foster youth. The Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council (HCFC) within the California Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency is developing a Strategic Action Plan to Address Homelessness to identify state strategies to stop the growth in homelessness, shelter the unsheltered, and significantly reduce the overall numbers of homeless individuals and families in California. The HCFC should ensure that the issue of youth homelessness is a prominent part of this plan, and that strategies to address homelessness among current and former foster youth are included.

Access to and Support with Post-Secondary Education and Training

- **California should fully implement the SB 12 provision requiring counties to identify a specific individual to assist foster youth with college and financial aid applications.**

The data included in this report show that 70 percent of youth have completed high school by the time they enter THP-NMD, yet just 24 percent are enrolled in post-secondary education. This points to the need for better preparation for post-secondary education. This includes early exposure to post-secondary education, academic support, ensuring youth are enrolled in college preparatory classes in high school and that they are supported in applying for financial aid.

Senate Bill 12 (Beall), which took effect January 1, 2018, included a provision that starting at age 16, caseworkers—which includes both social workers and probation officers—must identify and list an individual in the youth's case plan to help them complete applications for post-secondary education, including financial aid. Counties should ensure they are fully implementing this provision of SB 12 and utilize resources to assist them in doing so.⁴⁷

⁴⁷ The SB 12 Social Worker Toolkit is available on the JBAY website at: <https://www.jbayforyouth.org/sb12-socialworker-toolkit/>

- **County Offices of Education should implement the California Foster Youth FAFSA Challenge as a permanent program.**

Another approach to ensuring foster youth are prepared for college is to implement the California Foster Youth FAFSA Challenge as an ongoing program. The FAFSA Challenge is a statewide campaign to increase the number of foster youth who are prepared for success as they matriculate from high school to college by ensuring that foster youth are accessing financial aid. The FAFSA Challenge is led by county-based Foster Youth Services Coordinating Programs (FYSCPs), in collaboration with local partners. John Burton Advocates for Youth provides technical assistance, promotional materials and resources to participating counties to support them in increasing their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) completion rate among high school seniors in foster care. Data is tracked through Webgrants, the online portal through which schools and districts submit Grade Point Average Information for Cal Grant consideration. Counties should continue to utilize this system once the FAFSA Challenges concludes, to ensure foster youth seniors are completing the FAFSA.

- **State regulations must emphasize and specify how licensed THP-NMD providers will assist youth in achieving their post-secondary education goals.**

While support with post-secondary education is a required supportive service in THP-NMD, the type and intensity of the support are not specified in the Community Care Licensing Regulations governing the placement. These regulations not only govern the placement at the state level, but often inform the expectations set at the county level between the child welfare agency and the THP-NMD provider. The THP-NMD regulations are currently in the process of being amended and re-issued. Given the limited progress youth make toward post-secondary education during their time in THP-NMD, this is an important opportunity for the state to communicate that post-secondary education outcomes should be prioritized for NMDs. Services that should be included in the regulations include support with applying for and enrolling in post-secondary education, financial aid, accessing tutoring and other academic support, planning for transportation and supplies, connecting with on-campus supports and resources, and minimizing students' work obligations.

- **Counties should utilize Cal-PASS Plus to understand how many of their youth are going on to post-secondary education.**

Improving the post-secondary education outcomes of foster youth requires the ability to learn from data. While the THP-NMD Participant Tracking System offers data on post-secondary education outcomes of foster youth participating in the placement, as a state we are lacking data on the post-secondary education outcomes of foster youth overall. In 2015, Assembly Bill 854 (Weber) was enacted, requiring the County Office of Education FYSCPs to provide

educational outcome data to the Superintendent.⁴⁸ Cal-PASS Plus has developed a tool that would allow districts or county offices of education and the California Department of Education to access this data, however it is not being widely utilized. Counties should utilize Cal-PASS Plus to understand how many of their youth are enrolling in post-secondary education.

- **Counties should implement training curricula for providers and caregivers to ensure they are equipped with the information required to support youth with post-secondary education.**

Youth overall, are not making progress in post-secondary education during their time in THP-NMD and THP-Plus. Given the significant challenges that foster youth face as a result of previous school instability, trauma and a range of other obstacles, they need extra support to pursue post-secondary education. Counties should implement training curricula for both their Resource Families and their non-profit placement providers to improve their capacity to assist youth with their post-secondary education goals.

For example, Los Angeles County has adopted mandatory training on post-secondary education for their Resource Families. Three of the required eight hours of training for Resource Families must be on post-secondary education if they have a youth placed with them who is between 12 and 19 years old. The curriculum utilized, “Turning Dreams into Degrees: A Training to Empower California’s Caregivers to Support Foster Youth to Enroll and Succeed in College” was developed by John Burton Advocates for Youth and UNITE-LA with support from LA County’s Foster and Kinship Care Education Program, and is available for adoption statewide.⁴⁹

Prevention of Unintended Pregnancy and Improvement of Reproductive and Sexual Health

- **Counties should fully implement Senate Bill 89, the California Foster Youth Sexual Health Education Act.**

Many youth became first-time parents while participating in THP-NMD over FY 2018-19—the percentage of custodial mothers more than tripled between entrance and exit, from eight to 25 percent. Findings from Chapin Hall’s CalYOUTH Study on extended foster care in California revealed that more than two-thirds of young women becoming pregnant in foster

⁴⁸ Assembly Bill 854 (Weber), Chapter 781 (2015)

⁴⁹ The LA County version of “Dreams to Degrees” is available here: <https://www.jbaforyouth.org/la-caregiver-higher-ed-training/>. The statewide version of the curriculum is available here: <http://www.jbaforyouth.org/caregiver-higher-ed-training/>

care do not describe their pregnancies as desired.⁵⁰ In 2017, the California Foster Youth Sexual Health Education Act (Senate Bill 89) took effect, requiring comprehensive sexual health education for youth in foster care and new training requirements for foster caregivers, social workers and probation officers, judges, and administrators of Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs).⁵¹

Many counties are still in the process of implementing the provisions of this bill and have yet to establish policies that ensure compliance. Counties should take action to fully implement the provisions of SB 89 which aim to improve foster youth access to sexual health education, inform youth of their rights and remove barriers, and implement training that lends to a more informed and capable workforce and caregiver community working with foster youth.

- **California should expand the SB 89 provision that ensures foster youth receive comprehensive sexual health education in middle and high school, to include NMDs that have already completed high school.**

One of the provisions of SB 89 is a requirement that, for all foster youth, age ten or older who are enrolled in middle school or high school, child welfare workers verify that the youth has received comprehensive sexual health education that meets the requirements of the California Healthy Youth Act, once in middle school and once in high school.⁵² For youth who have not met this requirement, SB 89 requires the worker to document in the case plan how the child welfare agency will ensure that the youth receives the instruction at least once before completing middle school and once before completing high school.

While this provision reaches NMDs who are still enrolled in high school, once they complete high school this provision no longer applies to them. Considering that a significant number of youth are becoming parents between the ages of 18 and 21—the percentage of youth who are custodial parents more than triples between entrance to and exit from THP-NMD—this mandate should be expanded to include NMDs regardless of their school enrollment status.

- **California should expand the SB 89 training mandate to include THP-NMD providers.**

Another provision of SB 89 is new training requirements for foster caregivers, social workers and probation officers, judges, and administrators of STRTPs on topics including the rights of foster youth related to sexual and reproductive health care information and services, the

50 Courtney, M. E., Okpych, N. J., Charles, P., Mikell, D., Stevenson, B., Park, K., Kindle, B., Harty, J., & Feng, H. (2016). *Findings from the California Youth Transitions to Adulthood Study (CalYOUTH): Conditions of foster youth at age 19*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago (p. 143).

51 Senate Bill 89 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review), Chapter 24 (2017).

52 Assembly Bill 329, California Healthy Youth Act (Weber), Chapter 398 (2016)

duties and responsibilities of case workers and caregivers, guidance about how to engage and talk with youth about healthy sexual development and reproductive and sexual health in a manner that is medically accurate, and information about current contraception methods and how to select and provide appropriate referrals and resources. Again, considering that a significant number of youth are becoming parents during their time in THP-NMD, this training mandate should be expanded to include THP-NMD providers.

- **THP-Plus providers should incorporate comprehensive sexual health education into their program.**

The percentage of young women who are custodial mothers increases from 29 percent at entrance to THP-Plus to 40 percent at exit from the program. THP-Plus providers should develop partnerships with local providers of sexual health education, such as the California Personal Responsibility Education Program or Planned Parenthood to host regular workshops on this topic and ensure the youth in their programs have access to this critical information and to services.

Improved Support for Parenting Youth

- **THP-NMD and THP-Plus providers should create partnerships with Nurse Family Partnership and Adolescent Family Life Program.**

Together, parenting youth in THP-NMD and THP-Plus had 681 children residing with them in the program as of June 30, 2019. It is critical that THP-NMD and THP-Plus providers are accessing community supports available for these young parents and their children. Providers should establish partnership with programs such as Nurse Family Partnership, which focuses on supporting first-time mothers, and the Adolescent Family Life Program, which focuses on supporting young mothers.

- **Counties should utilize the \$8 million in state funding directed to THP-Plus to establish a parenting rate.**

With four in ten young women exiting the THP-Plus program as custodial parents, it's critical that providers are equipped with the resources necessary to serve parenting youth. Providers report that the cost of serving parenting youth and their children are considerably higher than non-parenting youth as a result of increased staffing costs, additional services, additional household supplies and larger housing accommodations.

Currently, just one county—Santa Clara—provides a parenting rate to cover the increased cost of serving parenting youth in THP-Plus. Santa Clara County’s standard THP-Plus rate is \$2,400 per youth per month, but for parenting youth it is set at \$2,800. This enables Santa Clara County’s providers to offer the higher level of service necessary to adequately meet the needs of parenting youth and their children, such as providing more intensive case management that focuses on the needs of the family versus just the parent, monthly parenting groups, and covering the higher costs of housing and supplies related to the child. Counties should consider utilizing a portion of the \$8 million in state funding being allocated to child welfare agencies to fund their THP-Plus programs for the purpose of establishing a parenting rate.

- **California should reform the infant supplement to enable providers to utilize a portion on housing accommodations, supplies required to be provided for parenting youth, and on special services for parenting youth.**

An alternate option to a parenting rate, would be reform the infant supplement at the state level. On July 1, 2016, the infant supplement for parenting foster youth was increased from \$411 to \$900 per month per child. Although part of the legislative intent of increasing the amount of the infant supplement was to ensure THP-NMD providers were resourced enough to provide a higher level of services and accommodations to parenting youth, when the increase was implemented, a policy later accompanied it that limited the use of the funding by THP-NMD providers.⁵³ Costs considered “administrative” including staffing, case management and services were determined by the state to be an ineligible use of the infant supplement. In many cases, the entire \$900 is provided to the youth, although the provider is still purchasing the bulk of the items that the infant supplement is intended to cover. This limits providers’ abilities to increase case management and services for parenting youth and their children, a practice that providers report is critical to the success of the young parent.

In order to allow the infant supplement to cover costs associated with providing a deeper level of service to parenting youth and their children, such as increased staff to client ratios and specialized services, the state should consider reforming its policies on use of the infant supplement.

- **The Transitional Housing Placement for Minors (THP-M) should be retooled to ensure that by 2021, it is a well-resourced placement for parenting minors.**

As described in this year’s Special Feature, with the passage of the Federal Family First Prevention Services Act, beginning October 1, 2021, THP-M will no longer be eligible for federal Title IV-E funding, with the exception of two special populations: pregnant and

⁵³ California Department of Social Services. All County Letter 17-93 (2017).

parenting youth and youth at risk of commercial sexual exploitation. THP-M should be retooled based on existing promising practices used by selective providers serving parenting minors, to ensure that by 2021 the placement is a resource for parenting minors who do not desire to live in a family-based setting, or for whom a family-based setting is unavailable. The state should consider this retooling of the program as it develops a new rate schedule and methodology for the placement, which is required to be complete by December 31, 2019.⁵⁴

Access to Public Benefits and Tax Credits

- **Transitional housing providers and others assisting current and former foster youth at age 18 and older, should provide assistance with filing taxes and educate youth about the California Earned Income Tax Credit and its recent expansion.**

The data included in this report show that a sizable percentage of youth in both programs were employed upon exit: 43 percent of youth in THP-NMD and 60 percent of youth in THP-Plus. It was also found that despite working, youth had low annual incomes: In THP-NMD, the majority of employed youth were working part-time (10-34 hours/week) at exit from the program, earning on average between \$6,685 to \$22,728 per year. In THP-Plus, the majority of employed youth were working full-time (35-40 hours/week) at exit from the program, earning on average between \$24,856 to \$28,407 per year. Lastly, it found there was a sizable population of custodial mothers in both programs, of which 39 percent were working at exit from THP-NMD, and 56 percent were working at exit from THP-Plus.

Together these findings indicate that there are many youth in THP-NMD and THP-Plus who are eligible for the California Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC), which provided a credit of up to \$232 for nonparents and \$1,554 for custodial parents with one child for the 2018 tax year. Despite its potential value to current and former foster youth, the report also found that a minority of youth are estimated to have filed taxes in 2018 (39%) and just seven percent of youth are estimated to have received the CalEITC. THP-NMD and THP-Plus providers and others assisting this population should provide assistance with filing taxes and educate youth about the CalEITC's recent expansion benefiting transition-age youth.⁵⁵

54 California Welfare and Institutions Code § 11403.3(h)

55 The CalEITC was expanded starting in 2018 to include California residents age 18 years and older regardless of whether they have children. Previously, a person had to be 25-64 years of age to qualify for the CalEITC, unless they had children. To be eligible for the CalEITC, a person has to have an annual earned income of at least \$1, and not exceed maximum income thresholds. The CalEITC was further expanded in the 2019-20 state budget, which among other changes, added an additional \$1,000 credit for individuals with dependent children on top of the standard credit.

- **Counties should establish policies that ensure foster youth receive assistance with applying for CalFresh when they turn 18, and at regular intervals thereafter.**

The data included in this report indicate that just 19 percent of youth in THP-NMD were receiving CalFresh benefits at exit from the program, despite a high level of eligibility: at least 68 percent of non-parents and at least 78 percent of parenting youth were eligible for CalFresh at exit. The case is similar for THP-Plus: at least 50 percent of non-parents and at least 67 percent of parents were eligible for CalFresh at exit from the program, however just 23 percent of youth were receiving CalFresh at exit.

Together, this indicates that increasing access to CalFresh is an area for considerable improvement in both programs. In addition to changes made by individual providers, counties can play an important role. Los Angeles County, for example, requires child welfare workers to assist youth with applying for CalFresh as part of their 90-day transition planning conference. This includes assisting youth with the application, setting up an appointment for the youth with an eligibility worker, assisting the youth with following up on the status of their CalFresh application while it is pending and to understand and address any Notices of Action the youth receives regarding their application.⁵⁶

⁵⁶ For Your Information (FYI) Issue 19-24 (August 8, 2019). https://pubftp.dcfslacounty.gov/Policy/FYI/2019/005448_FYI_19-24_CalFresh_Application_for_Youth_Exiting_Foster_Care_and_NMDs.pdf

APPENDIX A: REPORTED THP-PLUS RATES BY COUNTY

County	Reported THP-Plus Rate Per Youth Per Month (Scattered Site)
Alameda	NT\$2,500
Butte	NT\$1,857
Contra Costa	NT\$2,500
Del Norte	NT\$3,130
El Dorado	NT\$2,493
Fresno	NT\$2,443
Glenn	NT\$3,580
Humboldt	NT\$3,297
Imperial	NT\$2,879
Kern	NT\$1,326
Kings	NT\$2,374
Lassen	NT\$2,847
Los Angeles	NT\$2,200
Madera	NT\$2,500
Marin	NT\$3,400
Mariposa	NT\$2,097
Mendocino	NT\$2,800
Merced	NT\$2,127
Napa	NT\$3,841
Nevada	NT\$1,045
Orange	NT\$3,090
Placer	NT\$2,725
Plumas	NT\$2,434
Riverside	NT\$2,200
Sacramento	NT\$2,981
San Bernardino	NT\$2,716
San Diego	NT\$2,816
San Francisco	NT\$2,604
San Joaquin	NT\$2,491
San Mateo	NT\$3,146
Santa Clara	\$2,400 (standard) \$2,800 (parenting youth)
Santa Cruz	NT\$3,028
Solano	NT\$3,339
Sonoma	NT\$2,686
Stanislaus	NT\$2,530
Sutter	NT\$2,500
Tehama	NT\$3,020
Trinity	NT\$3,106
Tulare	NT\$2,174
Yolo	NT\$1,375
Yuba	NT\$2,948

County	Reported THP-Plus Rate Per Youth Per Month (Host Family)
Alameda	NT\$1,665
Monterey	NT\$2,950
Riverside	NT\$2,200
San Francisco	NT\$2,022
San Mateo	NT\$3,146
Stanislaus	NT\$2,000
Ventura	NT\$500

County	Reported THP-Plus Rate Per Youth Per Month (Single Site)
Alameda	NT\$2,625
Contra Costa	NT\$2,450
Los Angeles	NT\$2,200
Monterey	NT\$2,950
Orange	NT\$4,005
Plumas	NT\$2,434
Sacramento	NT\$2,981
San Diego	NT\$2,816
San Francisco	NT\$2,604
San Luis Obispo	NT\$3,639
San Mateo	NT\$2,882
Santa Barbara	NT\$3,333
Trinity	NT\$3,202
Tuolumne	NT\$1,819

APPENDIX B: WAITING LIST SIZE FOR THP-NMD & THP-PLUS BY COUNTY AS OF JUNE 30, 2019

Counties marked “N/A” do not have the program located in their county.

County	THP-NMD Number of Youth on Waiting List as of 6/30/19	THP-Plus Number of Youth on Waiting List as of 6/30/19	County Cont.	THP-NMD cont.	THP-Plus cont.
Alameda	52	69	Placer	1	11
Butte	2	21	Plumas	1	0
Contra Costa	4	8	Riverside	6	18
Del Norte	0	0	Sacramento	23	17
El Dorado	3	0	San Bernardino	31	5
Fresno	19	37	San Diego	60	177
Glenn	0	0	San Francisco	14	9
Humboldt	10	7	San Joaquin	7	20
Imperial	0	5	San Luis Obispo	0	0
Inyo	0	0	San Mateo	0	5
Kern	0	15	Santa Barbara	1	1
Kings	0	0	Santa Clara	5	0
Lake	0	N/A	Santa Cruz	5	8
Lassen	0	0	Shasta	1	N/A
Los Angeles	64	110	Siskiyou	0	N/A
Madera	3	0	Solano	2	2
Marin	0	5	Sonoma	5	43
Mariposa	0	0	Stanislaus	2	7
Mendocino	0	0	Sutter	0	0
Merced	5	0	Tehama	0	7
Monterey	0	0	Trinity	0	0
Napa	0	0	Tulare	0	2
Nevada	1	4	Tuolumne	0	0
Orange	1	0	Ventura	13	0
			Yolo	0	15
			Total	341	636

THP+FC & THP-PLUS HISTORY

2001	AB 427 establishes THP-Plus.
2002	THP-Plus is de-linked from STEP.
2003	3 counties implement THP-Plus.
2004	THP-Plus changed to an annual allocation.
2005	Eligibility extended to age 24, and 5 counties implement THP-Plus.
2006	60% county share of cost removed, and 16 counties implement THP-Plus.
2007	39 counties implement THP-Plus.
2008	THP-Plus Participant Tracking System is launched.
2009	50 counties implement THP-Plus, and it serves over 2,000 youth for the first time ever over FY 2008-09. \$5 million budget reduction to THP-Plus for FY 2009-10.
2010	THP-Plus budget reduced slightly to \$34.9 million for FY 2010-11.
2011	51 counties implement THP-Plus during FY 2010-11. THP-Plus changes to a county-funded program under the Governor's 2011 Realignment of Child Welfare Services.
2012	Extended Foster Care is implemented. THP+FC licensing and rate structure is established. THP-Plus is still over 2,000 youth annually in 50 counties.
2013	THP+FC serves its first 305 youth over FY 2012-13, with 273 youth in the program as of 7/1/13. Some counties begin to make THP-Plus capacity reductions and the number of youth served annually drops to just above 2,000.
2014	THP+FC continues to grow with 1,031 youth in the program as of 7/1/14, while THP-Plus is on the decline. SB 1252 passes, allowing youth enrolled in school to participate in THP-Plus for 36 months and up to age 25, at counties' option.
2015	THP+FC serves over 2,400 youth over FY 2014-15, with 1,436 youth in the program as of 7/1/15. THP-Plus continues on a decline, serving 1,696 youth. The THP+FC Participant Tracking System is launched.
2016	19 counties implement the THP-Plus extension established by SB 1252. THP+FC serves over 3,000 youth over FY 2015-16, while the number of youth served by THP-Plus remains stagnant.
2017	21 counties implement the THP-Plus extension. The moment-in-time number of youth placed in THP+FC reaches 1,661 as of April 1, 2017.
2018	27 counties implement the THP-Plus extension. The moment-in-time number of youth placed in THP+FC reaches 1,916 as of July 1, 2018. THP+FC undergoes a statutory name change to "THP-NMD" as of January 1, 2018.
2019	2,023 youth are placed in THP-NMD as of July 1, 2019, and the FY 2018-19 THP-Plus housing capacity is 1,252 statewide. \$8 million is made available in the 2019-20 state budget, intended to fund the THP-Plus program.

This report was developed by John Burton Advocates for Youth. The author was Simone Tureck Lee, and graphic designer was Eunice Kwon. We would like to thank all of the THP-NMD and THP-Plus providers who enter data into the Participant Tracking Systems and who submitted information via our online survey which allows for statewide analysis on the outcomes of the programs. A special thank you to David and Margaret Youth and Family Services and the youth participant in their program for sharing her story.

John Burton Advocates for Youth
235 Montgomery Street, Suite 1142
San Francisco, CA 94104
(415) 348-0011
www.jbaforyouth.org
info@jbay.org

For more information about the contents of this report, please contact:
Simone Tureck Lee,
Director of Housing and Health
simone@jbay.org
(415) 693-1323