

2021-22 State Budget: Housing Investments for Transitioning Foster Youth

The 2021-22 California state budget includes ongoing funding, championed by Assemblymember Phil Ting for three programs helping current and former foster youth achieve stable housing, and one-time funding for training for social workers and probation officers. Information about these investments is included in the Public Social Services budget trailer bill, AB 153.

\$9M Annual Funding for THP-Plus Housing Supplement

\$9 million in ongoing funding was included in the 2021-22 budget to establish the THP-Plus Housing Supplement Program, effective July 1, 2021. The Transitional Housing Program-Plus (THP-Plus) is a county-administered program that provides up to 24 months of affordable housing and supportive services to former foster and probation youth, age 18-24. The THP-Plus Housing Supplement Program, administered by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), increases the rates paid to THP-Plus providers in counties with high rental costs. To be eligible for a THP-Plus Housing Supplement, a county must:

- Be one of the [11 counties](#) with the highest rent in the state according to 2020-21 Fair Market Rent;
- Expend their entire realigned THP-Plus [allocation](#);
- Pay a monthly rate to THP-Plus providers that is no less than \$2,882 per youth or the rate paid to their contracted providers on July 1, 2021, whichever is greater; and
- Maintain the THP-Plus bed capacity that the county contracted for as of July 1, 2021.

The amount of a county's THP-Plus Housing Supplement will equal the difference between their realigned THP-Plus allocation and the amount required to maintain their THP-Plus bed capacity at a monthly rate of \$2,882 per youth. Counties with a THP-Plus realignment allocation sufficient to serve their bed capacity at a rate of \$2,882 will not be eligible for a THP-Plus Housing Supplement.

\$8M Annual Funding for Transitional Housing Program

\$8 million in ongoing funding was included in the 2021-22 budget to make the Transitional Housing Program (THP) permanent. THP is administered by HCD to county child welfare agencies to help young adults who are age 18 through 24 secure and maintain housing, with priority

given to former foster and probation youth. THP is flexible funding that counties can use to meet local youth housing needs, including expanding their existing transitional housing budgets. This program was previously funded but set to suspend in 2021. This suspension has been removed, providing annual funding, effective 7/1/21.

\$5M Annual Funding for Housing Navigators Program

\$5 million in ongoing funding was included in the 2021-22 budget to make the Housing Navigators Program (HNP) permanent. HNP is administered by HCD to county child welfare agencies to provide housing navigators to help young adults ages 18 through 21 secure housing, with priority given to foster youth. HNP is flexible funding that counties can use to meet local youth housing navigation needs, including assisting youth in Supervised Independent Living Placements with identifying and securing housing and covering the cost of security deposits and other move-in costs. This program was previously funded with a one-time allocation in 2018-19, and will now be funded annually, effective 7/1/21.

Training for Social Workers and Probation Officers

For counties that accept their HNP allocation, the local Housing Navigators Program is charged with providing training for county social workers and probation officers who serve nonminor dependents. The training will include housing resources available through the local coordinated entry system/homeless Continuum of Care and county public agencies, how to access and refer to existing housing resources, and the social worker's and probation officer's role in identifying unstable housing situations for youth and making referrals. This policy was funded with a one-time \$200,000 appropriation in the 2021-22 budget.