

2022-23 State Budget:

Expansion of Transitional Housing for Former Foster Youth

The 2022-23 California state budget includes \$25.3 million in ongoing funding, championed by Assemblymember Phil Ting for the expansion of transitional housing for former foster and out-of-home probation youth. Information about this investment is included in the Human Services budget trailer bill, [SB 187](#) and budget bill, [SB 154](#). The policy changes described below take effect July 1, 2022. The funding will roll out over the course of the 2022-23 fiscal year.

CHANGES TO THP-PLUS AGE LIMIT & PROGRAM LENGTH

The Transitional Housing Program-Plus (THP-Plus) is a realigned, county-administered program that provides housing and supportive services to former foster and out-of-home probation youth.

How has the upper age limit and maximum program duration changed for THP-Plus?

SB 187 changed the THP-Plus upper age limit and maximum program duration so that youth can now access THP-Plus for an additional year. The eligible age range was previously 18 up until turning 24, and the maximum program duration was 24 months. Now, eligible youth are age 18 through 24, inclusive (up until turning 25-years-old), and the maximum program duration is 36 months.

What do these changes mean for the optional THP-Plus extension for youth in school?

The optional THP-Plus extension for youth in school is no longer in effect. Prior to the passage of SB 187, counties had the option of extending THP-Plus for an additional year for youth enrolled in school. As of July 1, 2022 the optional THP-Plus extension has been eliminated; now all youth in THP-Plus can access the program up until turning 25 and for up to 36 months, regardless of the county in which they reside and whether or not they are students.

Will lengthening THP-Plus decrease turnover in the program and lead to longer waiting lists?

No, the inflow of youth into the program should not be impacted because counties will receive funding to increase the number of THP-Plus slots they provide. The lengthening of THP-Plus was accompanied by a \$10.3 million augmentation to the Transitional Housing Program budget to cover the cost of extending THP-Plus an additional year. *(See the second question in the righthand column for more information).*

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM EXPANSION

The Transitional Housing Program (THP) is administered by the California Department of Housing & Community Development (HCD) to county child welfare agencies to help young adults who are age 18 through 24, inclusive, secure and maintain housing, with priority given to former foster and probation youth. Counties can use THP funding to expand their THP-Plus programs.

How much funding is included in the state budget for the Transitional Housing Program?

A total of \$25.3 million in ongoing funding is included in the 2022-23 state budget to augment the Transitional Housing Program. This investment will increase the annual THP budget from \$8 million to \$33.3 million. Of this total, \$10.3 million is intended to fund the additional year of THP-Plus established by SB 187, and \$15 million is intended to expand the number of youth served.

What is the purpose of the \$10.3 million increase to the Transitional Housing Program's annual budget?

In order to ensure that with the lengthening of THP-Plus there is no decrease in the number of youth who are able to enter THP-Plus annually, \$10.3 million was included in the 2022-23 state budget to enable counties to expand their housing slots by at least 25% (327 slots statewide). This is the approximate capacity increase necessary to maintain current inflow rates.

What is the purpose of the \$15 million increase to the Transitional Housing Program budget?

The \$15 million annual investment is for sheer capacity expansion. It enables counties to increase their transitional housing capacity by 473 housing slots. This is the statewide number of youth who were on a waiting list for THP-Plus as of June 30, 2021. When combined with the capacity increase described above, a total of 800 new youth will be served at a moment-in-time.