HOUSING NAVIGATION EXPANSION:
Improving Housing Voucher Programs for Former Foster Youth

October 12, 2022
To submit questions, click on the Q & A icon on the control panel. The Q & A window will appear, allowing you to ask questions to the host and panelists.* 

Webinar materials and recording will be posted at https://jbay.org/resources/ and sent out to all registrants following the live presentation.
AGENDA

1. Welcome, Introduction, & Overview
2. About the Housing Navigation & Maintenance Program (HNMP)
3. Policy Changes & Expansion of HNMP
4. Using HNMP to Assist Former Foster Youth with Housing Vouchers
5. Process for Accepting HNMP Funding
6. Announcing 2023 Community of Practice
7. Q & A
Simone Tureck Lee
Director of Housing & Health
John Burton Advocates for Youth

Jason Blair
Manager | Program Design & Implementation, Homelessness
California Department of Housing & Community Development

Andy Lomeli
Project Manager
John Burton Advocates for Youth
OVERVIEW: POLICY CHANGES & BUDGET EXPANSION

The “Housing Navigators Program” is now named the “Housing Navigation & Maintenance Program.”

HNMP can now serve youth who are ages 18 to 24 inclusive instead of 18-21.

The priority population served by HNMP has expanded to also include former foster youth.

The budget for HNMP has increased from $5 million to $13.7 million annually.

This was achieved through a 2022 budget proposal championed by Assemblymember Phil Ting.
ABOUT
THE HOUSING NAVIGATION & MAINTENANCE PROGRAM
Mission: Provides leadership, policies, and programs to preserve and expand safe and affordable housing opportunities and promote strong communities for all Californians.

- Grants and funding
- Mobile home registration
- Building standards
- Planning and community development
- Policy and research

Administrative agency for California’s Building Code. Regulatory body for Housing Elements and State Housing Policy Lead.

Lead State Agency for Housing Recovery Support function under California Disaster Recovery Framework.
Established in 2019 by the California State Legislature as the “Housing Navigators Program.”

Original intent was to assist older foster youth with identifying housing.

Was originally a one-time allocation; was made an annual allocation in 2021.
OVERVIEW OF HOUSING NAVIGATION & MAINTENANCE PROGRAM (HNMP)

• Eligible Population
  • Ages 18 to 24, inclusive (have not yet turned 25)
  • Priority population is current and former foster youth

• What the Program Provides
  • Funding for county child welfare agencies to provide housing navigators to help young adults secure and maintain housing
  • Counties may offer housing navigation directly or contract out

• How the Program is Funded & Administered
  • Administered by the California Department of Housing and Community Development to county child welfare agencies
  • $13.7 million annually, allocated based on each county’s proportion of California’s foster youth ages 18, 19, & 20 (non-minor dependents)
  • All but 3 counties have historically qualified for an allocation
46 Round 1 Contracts

$4.9 Million Awarded in Round 1

$3.9 Million Disbursed

804 Participants Served with Program Funds

643 Served were in State Foster Care System

318 Participants Employed or Part of Employment Program

273 Enrolled in School/Educational Program
POLICY CHANGES & EXPANSION OF THE HOUSING NAVIGATION & MAINTENANCE PROGRAM
Housing navigation has been expanded to former foster youth up until turning 25.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Change</th>
<th>Prior to 7/1/22</th>
<th>Effective 7/1/22</th>
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<tr>
<td>Age range</td>
<td>Age 18 through 21, inclusive (up until turning 22)</td>
<td>Age 18 through 24, inclusive (up until turning 25)</td>
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<td>Priority population</td>
<td>Current foster youth</td>
<td>Current and former foster youth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program name</td>
<td>Housing Navigators Program</td>
<td>Housing Navigation &amp; Maintenance Program</td>
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<td>Annual budget</td>
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This policy change took place July 1, 2022 because it was included in a budget trailer bill.
The policy changes were included in Senate Bill 187 (human services trailer bill):


The funding increase was included in Senate Bills 154 and 179 (budget bills).

- HCD will release increased HNMP allocations in the coming weeks.

For more information, view this implementation fact sheet:

- https://jbay.org/resources/2022-fact-sheet-hnmp/
These changes were made to align HNMP eligibility with FUP and FYI vouchers.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) administers two Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) programs (commonly known as “Section 8”) for youth transitioning out of foster care or who have already transitioned out.

**FAMILY UNIFICATION PROGRAM (FUP)**
- Began as a federal effort to better address housing needs of child welfare-involved families by providing housing vouchers.
- Expanded to include transition-age former foster youth.

**FOSTER YOUTH TO INDEPENDENCE (FYI)**
- Both provide HCVs to Public Housing Authorities in partnership with Public Child Welfare Agencies which provide supportive services.
- Specifically serves transition-age former foster youth.
- Vouchers available through competitive NOFA and on an “on-demand” basis.
USING THE HOUSING NAVIGATION & MAINTENANCE PROGRAM TO SERVE FORMER FOSTER YOUTH WITH HOUSING VOUCHERS
OVERVIEW: FAMILY UNIFICATION PROGRAM (FUP) & FOSTER YOUTH TO INDEPENDENCE (FYI) VOUCHERS

- Eligible Population
  - Ages 18 up to 24, inclusive (have not yet turned 25 at time of voucher issuance).
  - Left foster care at age 16 or older or will leave foster care within 90 days.
  - Are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

- What the Program Provides
  - Up to 36 months of housing assistance via a Housing Choice Voucher, coupled with supportive services.
  - FUP = services last 18 months; FYI = services last 36 months.

- How the Program is Funded & Administered
  - Administered by HUD to Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) in partnership with Public Child Welfare Agencies.
  - PHA provides the voucher; child welfare refers eligible youth to the PHA and provides supportive services.
  - FUP vouchers are awarded competitively through a NOFA process.
  - FYI vouchers are awarded both competitively and through a non-competitive process where vouchers can be requested “on demand” by PHAs on a rolling basis as eligible youth are identified.
More than 4,000 youth “age out” of foster care each year in California

As of 7/1/21, there were approx. 870 FUP and FYI vouchers in California

- 632 FUP vouchers
- 238 FYI vouchers

CALIFORNIA IS UNDERUTILIZING ON-DEMAND FYI VOUCHERS
AS OF 7/1/21, HALF OF CA’S HOUSING AUTHORITIES & 60% OF COUNTIES HAD FUP/FYI VOUCHERS

50 (52%) California Public Housing Authorities had FUP and/or FYI vouchers.

35 (60%) California counties partnered with Public Housing Authorities administering vouchers.

- 35 were only administering FUP
- 9 were only administering FYI
- 6 were administering both

- 20 were only partnering on FUP
- 4 were only partnering on FYI
- 11 were partnering on both
In 2021, JBAY surveyed and interviewed county child welfare agencies and found that the number one obstacle to accessing FYI vouchers was **lack of designated funding** for the required services:

- Some county administrators reported **not requesting vouchers at all** or accessing **fewer vouchers** than they need simply because they know they do not have the funding for services.

- Those interviewed also stated that as a result of no designated funding, their **services are less robust**, and **youth require more support** to ensure their voucher results in stable housing.
WHAT SERVICES DOES HUD REQUIRE CHILD WELFARE AGENCIES TO OFFER YOUTH WITH VOUCHERS?

- **Basic life skills**
  - Information/counseling on money management, use of credit, housekeeping, proper nutrition/meal preparation; and access to health care (e.g., doctors, medication, and mental and behavioral health services);

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

- **Providing such assurances to owners of rental property** as are reasonable and necessary to assist eligible youth to rent a unit with a voucher;

- **Job preparation and attainment counseling** (where to look/how to apply, dress, grooming, and relationships with supervisory personnel, etc.); and

- **Educational and career advancement counseling** regarding attainment of GED; attendance/financing of post-secondary education; including successful work ethic and attitude models.
HOW ARE COUNTIES CURRENTLY SERVING YOUTH WITH VOUCHERS?

The majority (62%) of counties provide services to youth with FUP/FYI vouchers through contract.
Three-quarters (75%) of counties that contract out for services provided to youth with vouchers are paying for those services.
PROCESS FOR ACCEPTING HNMP FUNDING FROM THE CA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
WHAT TO EXPECT

• Email Invitation is sent out to eligible counties to accept an allocation for current round of funding.

• Email includes the required documents needed to accept an award.

• Email sent out to current Authorized representatives and program county contacts.
HNMP DOCUMENT PACKAGE

- Acceptance Form
- GovTIN
- Board Resolution
- Returning these documents by established due date confirms a county’s interest in accepting funding award
## ACCEPTANCE FORM

### Housing Navigation and Maintenance Program (HNMP) Allocation Acceptance Round 1

**County Allocation**
(select Applicant County in row 7 below)

Pursuant to item 2240-193-0001 of Section 2.00 of the Budget Act of 2022 (Chapter 43 of the Statutes of 2022) and Chapter 11.8 (commencing with Section 50811) of Part 2 of Division 31 of the Health and Safety Code (HSC), the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) shall allocate funding to counties for the support of housing navigators to help young adults 18 years and up to 24 years of age, inclusive, secure and maintain housing, with priority given to young adults currently or formerly in the foster care system.

### Allocation Applicant

**Allocation Applicant in a County**

Pursuant to Section 50811 of the HSC, HCD consulted with the Department of Social Services, the Department of Finance, and the County Welfare Directors Association to establish the formula allocation for the purpose of distributing these funds to counties. The formula allocation is based on each county’s percentage of the total statewide number of young adults aged 18 through 24 years of age, inclusive, currently or formerly in the foster care system. The allocation excludes Alpine, Madera, and Sierra counties because their calculation did not demonstrate a need for young adults aged 18 through 24 years of age, inclusive. The housing navigation and maintenance program for a county that accepts an allocation of money pursuant to this section shall provide training to its child welfare agency social workers and probation officers who serve minor dependents.

The training shall address an overview of the housing resources available through the local coordinated entry system, homeless continuum of care, and county public agencies, including, but not limited to, housing navigation, permanent affordable housing, THP-Plus, and housing choice vouchers. The training shall also address how to access and receive a referral to existing housing resources, the social worker’s and probation officer’s role in identifying unstable housing situations for youth, and referring youth to housing assistance programs.

### Applicant County

**Legal name of Applicant as stated on resolution:**

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**Federal Tax ID Number (FEIN):**

### Administrative Fiscal Representative

**Legal Name:**

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**File Name:**

- App. Resolution
- Reference sample resolution document

### Use of Funds

The HNMP program funds housing navigators for counties. The role of a housing navigator is to act as a housing specialist to assist young adults with their pursuits of locating available housing and overcoming barriers to locating housing. Housing navigation and maintenance activities may include, but are not limited to:

1. Assist young adults aged 18-24 years of age, inclusive, secure and maintain housing (with priority access given to young adults in the state’s foster care system);
2. Provide housing case management which include essential services in emergency supports to foster youth;
3. Prevent young adults from becoming homeless; and
4. Improve coordination of services and linkages to key resources across the community including those from within the child welfare system and the local Continuum of Care.

**File Name:**

- App TIN
- Reference Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) document

**Attached to email:**

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# ACCEPTANCE FORM

## Housing Navigation and Maintenance Program (HNMP) Allocation Acceptance Round 1

### County Allocation (select Applicant County in row 7 below):

Pursuant to item 2240-10-03-001 of Section 2.00 of the Budget Act of 2022 (Chapter 43 of the Statutes of 2022) and Chapter 11.8 (commencing with Section 50811) of Part 2 of Division 31 of the Health and Safety Code (HSC), the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) shall allocate funding to counties for the support of housing navigators to help young adults 18 years and up to 24 years of age, inclusive, secure and maintain housing, with priority given to young adults currently or formerly in the foster care system.

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# Acceptance Form

**Housing Navigation and Maintenance Program (HNMP) Allocation Acceptance Round 1**

**County Allocation (select Applicant County in row 7 below):**

Pursuant to Item 2240-103-0001 of Section 2.00 of the Budget Act of 2022 (Chapter 45 of the Statutes of 2022) and Chapter 118 (commencing with Section 50811) of Part 2 of Division 31 of the Health and Safety Code (HSC), the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) shall allocate funding to counties for the support of housing navigators to help young adults 18 years and up to 24 years of age, inclusive, secure and maintain housing, with priority given to young adults currently or formerly in the foster care system.

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**Use of Funds**

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**ACCEPTANCE FORM**

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<tr>
<th>Housing Navigation and Maintenance Program (HNMP) Allocation Acceptance Form</th>
<th>Rev. 10/14/22</th>
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ACCEPTANCE FORM

# Housing Navigation and Maintenance Program (HNMP) Allocation Acceptance Round 1

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**Use of Funds**
Sample Transitional Housing Program (THP) Round 4 and Housing Navigation and Maintenance Program (HNMP) Round 1 Joint Allocation Acceptance Resolution for Counties

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COUNTY OF _______ [Insert Name of County], STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF: ROUND 4 TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM AND ROUND 1 OF THE HOUSING NAVIGATION AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

RESOLUTION NUMBER _______ [Insert Resolution Number]

THIS RESOLUTION AUTHORIZES AN APPLICATION FOR, AND ACCEPTANCE OF, THE COUNTY ALLOCATION AWARD UNDER ROUND 4 OF THE TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM AND ROUND 1 OF THE HOUSING NAVIGATION AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the State of California, Department of Housing and Community Development ("Department") issued an allocation acceptance form, dated October 14, 2022 under Round 4 of the Transitional Housing Program ("THP"), authorized by item 2240-102-0001 of section 2.00 of the Budget Act of 2022 (Chapter 249 of the Statutes of 2022) and Chapter 11.7 (commencing with Section 50807) of part 2 of Division 31 of the Health and Safety Code (the "THP Allocation Acceptance Form").

WHEREAS, the State of California, Department of Housing and Community Development ("Department") issued an Allocation Acceptance form, dated October 14, 2022 under Round 1 of the Housing Navigation and Maintenance Program ("HNMP") authorized by item 2240-103-0001 of Section 2.00 of the Budget Act of 2022 (Chapter 43 of the Statutes of 2022) and Chapter 11.8 (commencing with Section 50811) of Part 2 of Division 31 of the Health and Safety Code (the "HNMP Allocation Acceptance Form").

The THP Allocation Acceptance Form and the HNMP Allocation Acceptance Form are collectively referred to as the "Allocation Acceptance Forms".

WHEREAS, the Allocation Acceptance Forms relate to the availability of the funds under the THP and HNMP Programs, and

WHEREAS, the County of _______ [Insert Name Of County] ("County") may be listed as an eligible applicant in THP Allocation Acceptance Form, dated XXXX XX, XXXX and the County may also be listed as an eligible applicant in the HNMP Allocation Acceptance Form dated [fill in date].
Sample Transitional Housing Program (THP) Round 4 and Housing Navigation and Maintenance Program (HNMP) Round 1 Joint Allocation Acceptance Resolution for Counties

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COUNTY OF _______ [Insert Name of County], STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF: ROUND 4 TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM AND ROUND 1 OF THE HOUSING NAVIGATION AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

RESOLUTION NUMBER: _______ [Insert Resolution Number]

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WHEREAS, the State of California, Department of Housing and Community Development ("Department") issued an Allocation Acceptance form, dated October 14, 2022 under Round 1 of the Housing Navigation and Maintenance Program ("HNMP") authorized by item 2240-103-0001 of Section 2.00 of the Budget Act of 2022 (Chapter 43 of the Statutes of 2022) and Chapter 11.8 (commencing with Section 50611) of Part 2 of Division 31 of the Health and Safety Code (the "HNMP Allocation Acceptance Form");

The THP Allocation Acceptance Form and the HNMP Allocation Acceptance Form are collectively referred to as the "Allocation Acceptance Forms".
SECTION 1. That County is hereby authorized and directed to apply for and accept County’s allocation award, as detailed in the THP Allocation Acceptance Form, in the amount of $_________ detailed and authorized in the THP Allocation Acceptance Form and applicable state law at the time this resolution is executed and authorized.

SECTION 2. That County hereby affirms that if THP funds remain available for allocation after the deadline for submitting a signed Allocation Acceptance Form, and if the County is eligible for an additional allocation from the remaining funds for the THP program, the County is hereby authorized and directed to accept this additional allocation of funds (“Additional THP Allocation”) up to the amount authorized by Department but not to exceed $_________. [we recommend inserting DOUBLE the amount from the Allocation Acceptance Form]

SECTION 3. That County is hereby authorized and directed to apply for and accept County’s allocation award in the amount of $_________ as detailed in the HNMP Allocation Acceptance Form and applicable state law at the time this resolution is executed and authorized.

SECTION 4. That County hereby affirms that if HNMP funds remain available for allocation after the deadline for submitting a signed Allocation Acceptance Form, and if the County is eligible for an additional allocation from the remaining funds for the HNMP program, the County is hereby authorized and directed to accept this additional allocation of funds (“Additional HNMP Allocation”) up to the amount authorized by Department but not to exceed $_________. [we recommend inserting DOUBLE the amount from the Allocation Acceptance Form]
SECTION 5. That __________ [Insert Title of Authorized County Official – ONLY TITLE NOT NAME - in conformity with the instruction below. Inclusion of name can cause an undue delay if there's an administrative change], or his or her designee, is hereby authorized and directed to act on behalf of County in connection with the THP Allocation Award and any Additional THP Allocation, and to enter into, execute, and deliver any and all documents required or deemed necessary or appropriate to participate in the THP Program, including but not limited to a Standard Agreement, be awarded the THP Allocation Award, and any additional THP Allocation, and any amendments to such documents (collectively, the “THP Allocation Award Documents”).
The principal purpose of the information provided is to establish the unique identification of the government entity.

Instructions: You may submit one form for the principal government agency and all subsidiaries sharing the same TIN. Subsidiaries with a different TIN must submit a separate form. Forms marked with an asterisk (*) are required. Blank or blank fields will result in help information. Please print the form to sign and mail it to: Submitter. You may email the form to: submitter@fiscal.ca.gov, or fax it to: (916) 564-3360, or mail it to the address above.

Principal Government Agency Name*

Parent To Address (Street or PO Box)*

City*

State* Zip Code*

Government Type:

☐ City ☐ County

☐ Special District ☐ Federal

☐ Other (Specify) ☐ Employer Identification Number (FEIN*)

List other subsidiary Departments, Divisions or Units under your principal agency’s jurisdiction who share the same FEIN and receive payment from the State of California:

Dept/Division/Unit Name Complete Address

Dept/Division/Unit Name Complete Address

Dept/Division/Unit Name Complete Address

Dept/Division/Unit Name Complete Address

Contact Person*

Title

Phone Number* E-mail Address

Signature*
The principal purpose of the information provided is to establish the unique identification of the government entity.

**Instructions:** You may submit one form for the principal government agency and all subsidiaries sharing the same TIN. Subsidiaries with a different TIN must submit a separate form. Fields marked with an asterisk (*) are required. Hover over fields to view help information. Please print the form to sign prior to submittal. You may email the form to: vendors@fiscal.ca.gov, or fax it to (916) 576-5200, or mail it to the address above.

**Principal Government Agency Name***

**Remit-To Address (Street or PO Box)**

**City***  State*  Zip Code*+4
The principal purpose of the information provided is to establish the unique identification of the government entity.

**Instructions:** You may submit one form for the principal government agency and all subsidiaries sharing the same TIN. Subsidiaries with a different TIN must submit a separate form. Fields marked with an asterisk (*) are required. Hover over fields to view help information. Please print the form to sign prior to submittal. You may email the form to vendors@fiscal.ca.gov, or fax it to (916) 575-5200, or mail it to the address above.

**Principal Government Agency Name:**

**Remit-To Address (Street or PO Box):**

**City:**

**State:**

**Zip Code:**

**Government Type:**

- City
- County
- Special District
- Federal

Street or PO Box - Can include the Department name here where the funds will be remitted to.
GOV TIN

State of California
Financial Information System for California (FISCal)
GOVERNMENT AGENCY TAXPAYER ID FORM
2000 Evergreen Street, Suite 215
Sacramento, CA 95815
www.fiscal.ca.gov
1-855-347-2250

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Principal Government Agency Name*

Remit-To Address (Street or PO Box)*

City* State * Zip Code*+4

Government Type: □ City □ County Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN)*
□ Special District □ Federal
□ Other (Specify)
List other subsidiary Departments, Divisions or Units under your principal agency's jurisdiction who share the same FEIN and receives payment from the State of California.

Dept/Division/Unit Name
Complete Address
Dept/Division/Unit Name
Complete Address
Dept/Division/Unit Name
Complete Address
Dept/Division/Unit Name
Complete Address
Contact Person*
Title
Phone number* E-mail address
Signature* Date

Print, date and sign.
ANTICIPATED 2022-23 TIMELINE

- **October** - County Invitation to Accept funding allocation
- **November** - Acceptance form, GovTIN and resolution anticipated due date
- **January** - Award announcements and Standard agreement processing
FOLLOW HCD ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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Follow us on Twitter: @California_HCD

Follow us on LinkedIn: /company/californiahcd
ANNOUNCING THE 2023
CALIFORNIA FYI COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE
JBAY IS LAUNCHING A ONE-YEAR COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

• For county child welfare agencies and public housing authorities
• Will promote best practices for effectively administering FYI & FUP vouchers for transitioning & former foster youth
• Launches February 2023
• JBAY is recruiting participants starting now
## BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING IN THE COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Training &amp; Discussion</th>
<th>Bimonthly group Zoom sessions on FYI/FUP topics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peer Learning</td>
<td>Access to a community of child welfare agencies &amp; housing authorities administering FYI/FUP vouchers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical Assistance</td>
<td>Access to federal FYI content experts and individualized assistance with developing and implementing goals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation of New State Funding</td>
<td>Assistance with accessing and implementing expanded Housing Navigation &amp; Maintenance Program funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy &amp; Practice Resources</td>
<td>Access to informational and policy and practice materials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved Housing Resources for Youth</td>
<td>Make local improvements (i.e. increasing the number of on-demand FYI vouchers or improving housing navigation and services)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WHAT WE’LL ASK OF PARTICIPANTS IN THE COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

COMMIT
- Commit to a goal of improving and/or expanding your community’s housing vouchers for former foster youth

DESIGNATE
- Designate a consistent point person to participate in the Community of Practice

ASSESS
- Take a self-assessment on behalf of your county or housing authority related to the administration of FYI/FUP vouchers

PARTICIPATE
- Regularly attend:
  - 1.5-hour bi-monthly virtual sessions with fellow participants
  - 1-hour bi-monthly virtual calls to work toward individual goals

SHARE
- Share challenges and successes with the Community of Practice
COUNTY CHILD WELFARE AGENCY & PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITIES:
WE HOPE YOU JOIN US!

• Learn more from this one-pager: https://jbay.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/FYI-Community-of-Practice-One-Pager.pdf

• To indicate your interest in participating or to learn more, complete this form by 11/15/22: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FYI-2023

• For questions or to set up an informational call, contact Andy Lomeli at andy@jbay.org.
QUESTION & ANSWER
SUBMIT QUESTIONS VIA THE QUESTIONS BOX

FOR FUTURE QUESTIONS:
simone@jbay.org / jason.blair@hcd.ca.gov / andy@jbay.org