

Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Voucher

2023-24 COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

For County Child Welfare Agencies & Public Housing Authorities in California

> BACKGROUND & OPPORTUNITY

With federal funding available for the Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Voucher program, California has the potential to provide a housing voucher "on-demand" to youth preparing to transition out of foster care, or who have already transitioned out. John Burton Advocates for Youth (JBAY) and the National Center for Housing and Child Welfare are launching a one-year Community of Practice for county child welfare agencies and public housing authorities to promote best practices for effectively administering FYI and Family Unification Program (FUP) Vouchers for former foster youth, and to ensure that California takes full advantage of this important federal resource.

> BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING IN THE COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

- **Training & Discussion:** Bimonthly group sessions held via Zoom on pertinent FYI/FUP topics including building partnerships, referral processes, housing navigation, and more.
- **Peer Learning:** Access to a community of child welfare agencies and public housing authorities administering FYI/FUP vouchers.
- **Technical Assistance:** Access to federal FYI content experts and individualized assistance with developing and implementing goals according to local needs.
- **Implementation of New State Funding:** Assistance with accessing and implementing new funding available to counties for housing navigation and services for youth with vouchers ($13.7 million Housing Navigation & Maintenance Program).
- **Policy & Practice Resources:** Access to informational and policy and practice materials.
- **Improved Housing Resources for Youth:** Make local improvements such as increasing the number of on-demand FYI vouchers or improving the housing navigation and services provided to youth with vouchers.

> WHAT WE'LL ASK OF YOU

- **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 to help gauge needs/interests and goal-setting.
- **PARTICIPATE:**
  - Regularly attend 1.5-hour bi-monthly virtual sessions with fellow Community of Practice participants, beginning with a virtual launch event in February 2023.
  - Regularly attend 1-hour bi-monthly individualized technical assistance calls to work toward goals set by participants at the start of the Community of Practice.
- **SHARE:** Share challenges and successes with the Community of Practice.

WE HOPE THAT YOU JOIN US!

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

Questions or want to set up an informational call? Contact Andy Lomeli at andy@jbay.org