

## 2024 SURVEY OF COUNTY CHILD WELFARE AGENCIES

On the Impact of the Proposed Elimination  
of the Housing Navigation & Maintenance  
Program in the State Budget

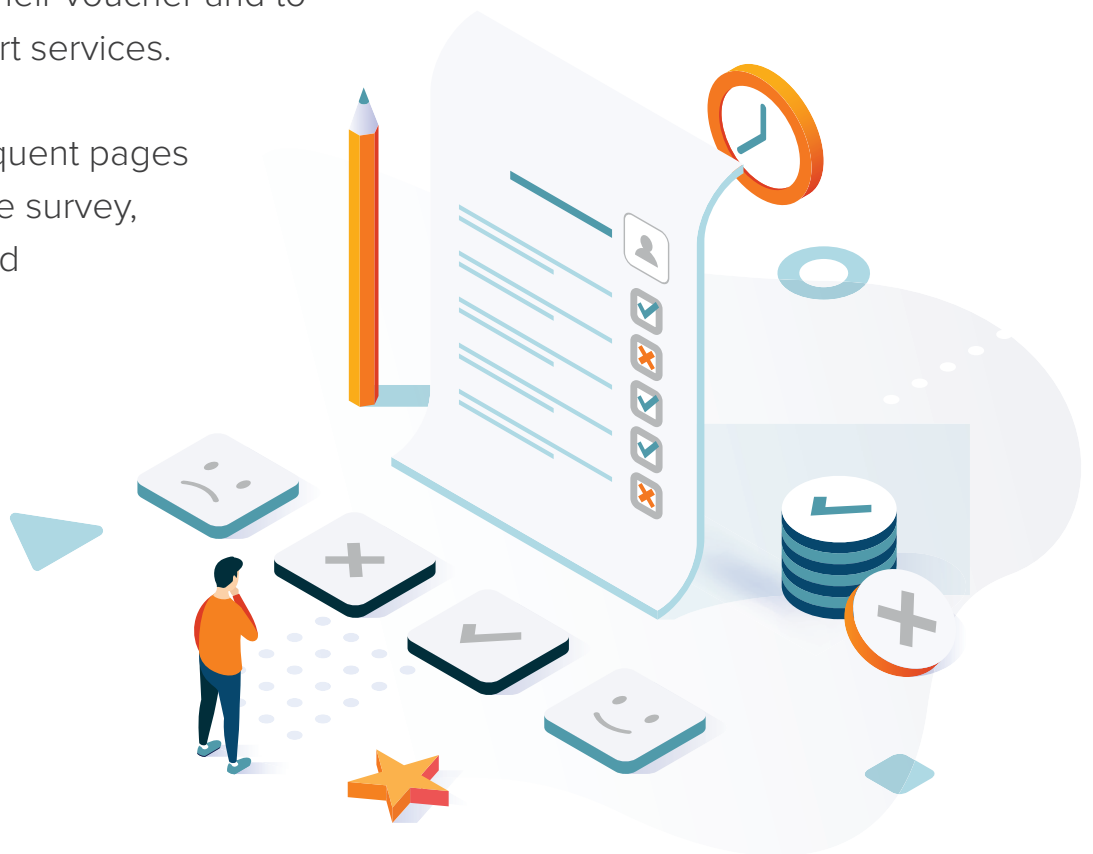


# Background

In February 2024, John Burton Advocates for Youth (JBAY) conducted a survey of the 35 California county child welfare agencies that partner with their local Public Housing Authority to provide special population Housing Choice Vouchers to former foster youth, known as Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) vouchers or Family Unification Program (FUP) vouchers. A total of 15 county representatives responded to the survey. **This is 51% of the counties that utilize FYI or FUP vouchers and represent 65% of youth who have an FYI or FUP voucher statewide.**

The purpose of the survey was to determine the potential impact of the proposed elimination of the Housing Navigation and Maintenance Program (HNMP) in the 2024-25 California State Budget. Counties commonly use this funding to assist youth with identifying and securing housing with their voucher and to provide ongoing support services.

Provided on the subsequent pages are the findings from the survey, followed by open-ended comments provided by county representatives.

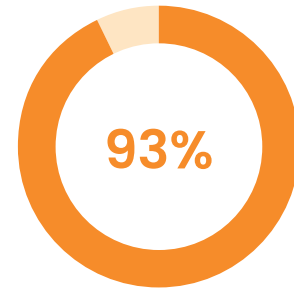




# Survey Findings

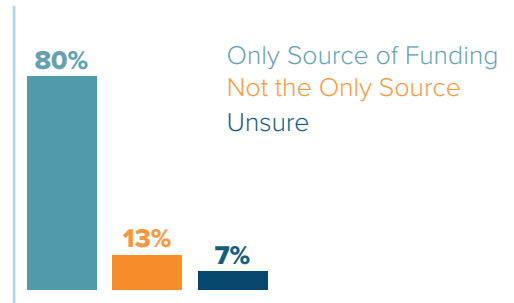
## Nearly all counties use HNMP to fund supportive services for youth with an FYI or FUP voucher.

County representatives were asked about their utilization of HNMP to fund supportive services for youth with an FYI or FUP voucher. All but one respondent (93%) indicated that they use HNMP for this purpose.



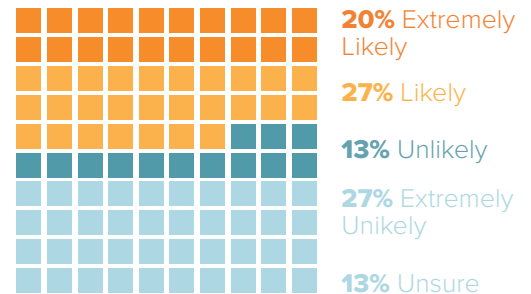
## For 80% of counties, HNMP is their only source of funding to provide housing navigation and supportive services to youth with FYI/FUP vouchers.

County representatives were asked if HNMP is their county's only source of funding to provide housing navigation and services to youth with FYI/FUP vouchers. A total of 80% stated it was their only source of funding for this purpose; a total of 13% stated it was not and 7% were unsure.



## Approximately half of counties would stop requesting additional FYI or FUP vouchers if HNMP were eliminated.

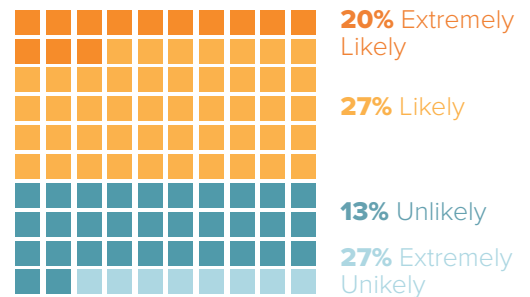
County representatives were asked about the likelihood that they would stop requesting additional FYI/FUP vouchers if HNMP were eliminated. A total of 20% stated it was extremely likely they would stop requesting vouchers, 27% stated it was likely, 13% stated that it was unlikely, 27% stated it was extremely unlikely, and 13% were unsure.





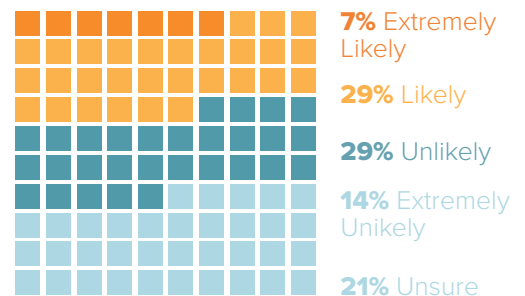
## A total of 60% counties would likely stop providing housing navigation services to youth who have FYI/FUP vouchers if HNMP was eliminated.

County representatives were asked about the likelihood that they would stop providing housing navigation and supportive services to youth who currently have FYI/FUP vouchers if HNMP was eliminated. A total of 13% stated that was extremely likely, 47% stated it was likely, 33% stated that it was unlikely, and 7% stated that it was extremely unlikely.



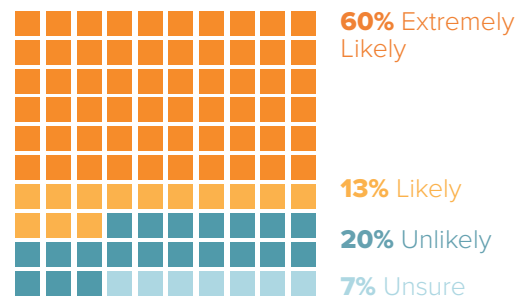
## One in three counties would return FYI/FUP vouchers that have been awarded but not utilized, if HNMP was eliminated.

County representatives were asked about the likelihood that they would return FYI/FUP vouchers that have been awarded if HNMP was eliminated. A total of 7% stated that was extremely likely, 29% stated it was likely, 29% stated that it was unlikely, 14% stated it was extremely unlikely, and 21% were unsure.



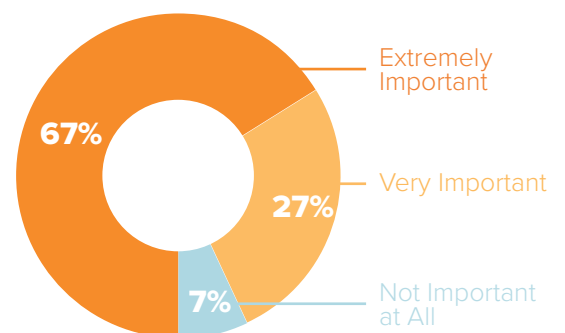
## The elimination of HNMP would have a negative impact in 80% of counties.

County representatives were asked to indicate if the elimination of HNMP would have a negative impact. A total of 60% stated that was extremely likely it would have a negative impact, 13% stated it would likely have a negative impact, 20% stated it was unlikely to have a negative impact, and 7% were unsure.



## HNMP is considered important to prevent homelessness among youth exiting foster care in nearly all counties.

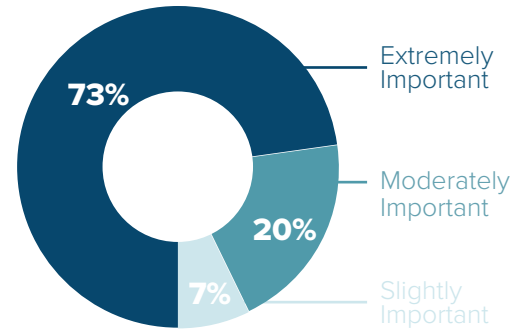
County representatives were asked how important HNMP is in preventing homelessness among youth leaving or having left foster care. A total of 67% stated that was extremely important, 27% stated it was very important, and 7% indicated it was not important at all.





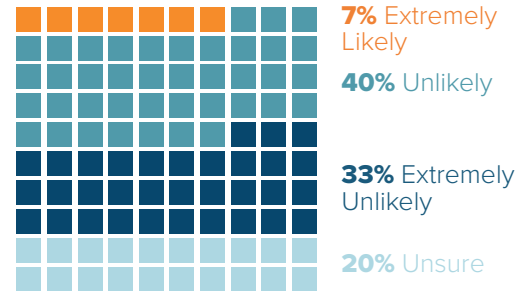
## HNMP is considered an important part of implementing or expanding counties' FYI/FUP programs.

County representatives were asked how important HNMP has been to implement or expand their FYI/FUP program. A total of 73% stated that was extremely important, 20% stated it was moderately important, and 7% indicated it was slightly important.



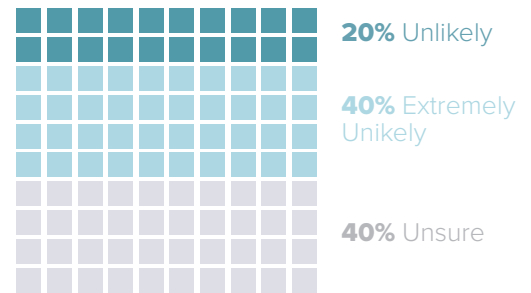
## Most counties would not request that youth surrender their FYI/FUP voucher because there is no funding for required support.

Counties were asked about the likelihood that their county would request that youth surrender their FYI/FUP voucher because there is no funding to provide required supportive services. A total of 7% stated this was extremely likely, 40% stated this was unlikely, 33% stated this was extremely unlikely, and 20% were unsure.

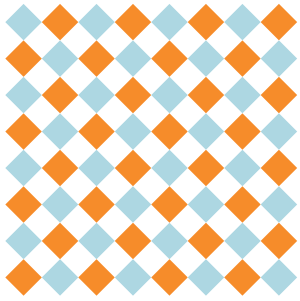


## Most county child welfare agencies would continue to partner with their local Public Housing Authorities despite the elimination of HNMP.

County representatives were asked about the likelihood that they would discontinue the partnership with their local Public Housing Authority to implement the FYI/FUP program. A total of 20% stated it was unlikely, 40% stated it was extremely unlikely they would discontinue partnerships, and 40% stated they were unsure.

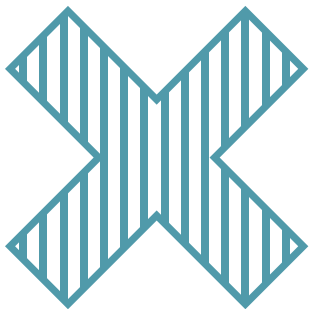


# Comments From Counties Implementing the Housing Navigation & Maintenance Program



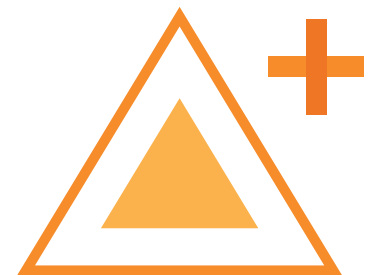
“More than **half of the vouchers** we have issued were issued because of the support the youth receive through our HNMP Program. **Without this program these youth would have a very difficult time navigating this process and ultimately being housed.**”

“While we would likely continue to partner with our housing authority to issue these vouchers **we would find little success in housing youth and meeting our utilization rates** to access FUP Vouchers and additional much needed FYI.”

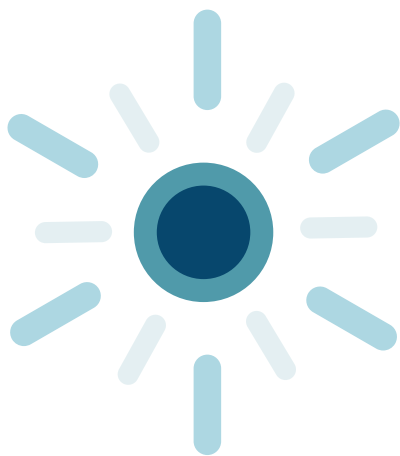
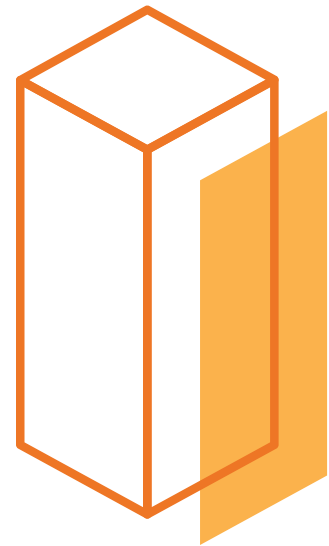


“The loss of the HNMP **would significantly impact our county’s ability to assist youth with searching for and applying for housing**, overcoming barriers to become housed, maintain housing, navigate challenges with landlords, etc.”

“Our housing navigator is critical to the success of our voucher program. In a county where housing availability is low and pricing is high, **it’s imperative that we have qualified staff to help support our youth through the process of finding and securing housing.**”



“Previously, our county partners paused requests for FYI vouchers given our inability to provide the required supportive services. Our initial HNP allocation was not enough to support a staff position to perform the supportive services. With the expansion of the HNMP, we are now finally able to recruit a navigator and to begin to outreach and identify eligible participants.”



“The elimination of this funding puts us right back in our original position of underutilizing FYI vouchers and prioritizing only potential participants with existing case management support from our already stretched community-based providers. Subsequently the HNMP is not only important to expanding the FYI program, it’s essential.”