



JOHN BURTON
Advocates
for Youth

January 23, 2025

Project 3,500:

How Two State Programs
Expanded Housing for Former
Foster Youth in California



Agenda

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Project 3,500
3. Background:
 - a. THP-Plus and FYI/FUP Vouchers
 - b. State Funding for Housing Support for Transition-Aged Former Foster Youth
4. Findings
5. Policy & Practice Recommendations
6. Q & A

PRESENTERS



Simone Tureck Lee

Director of Housing & Economic Mobility



Debbie Raucher

Interim Executive Director

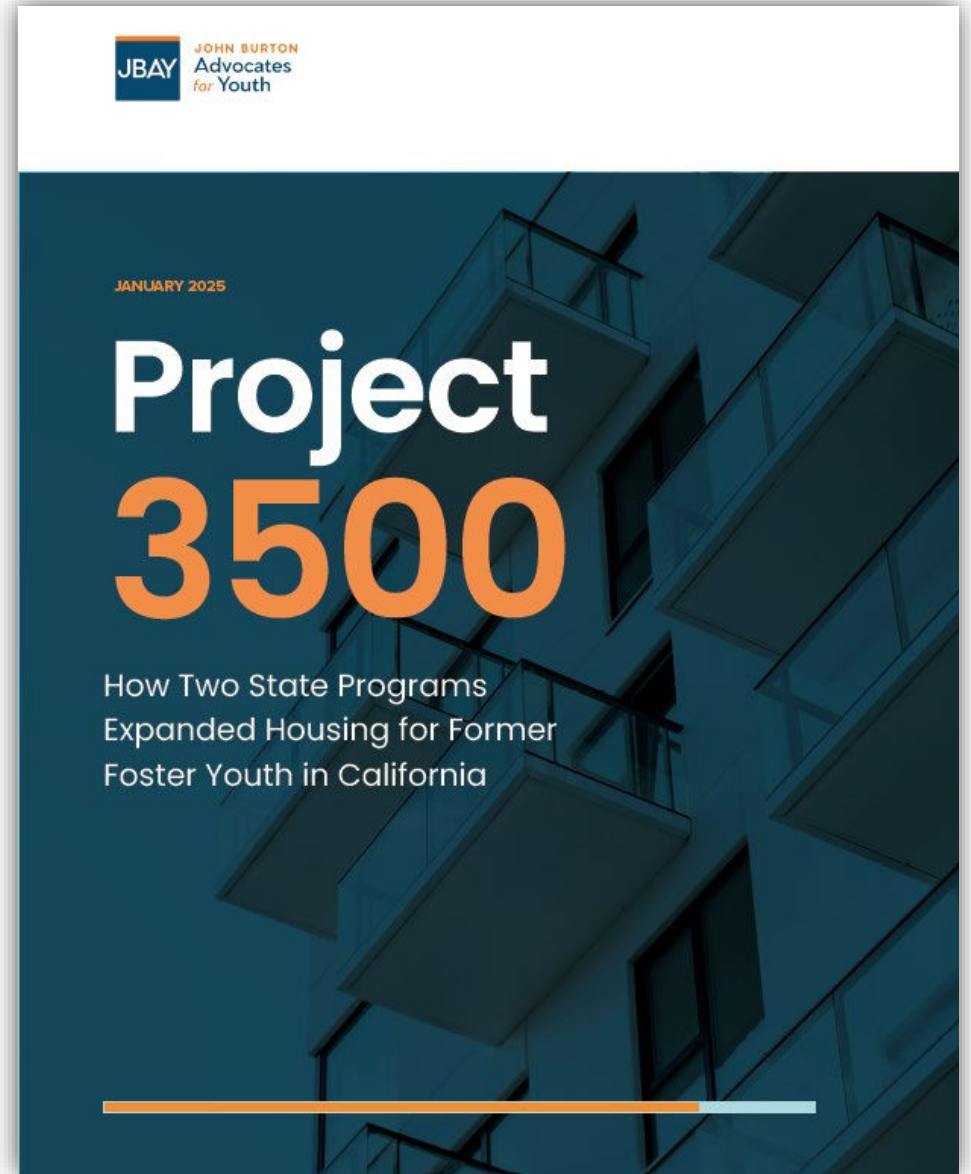


PUBLICATION

Project 3,500: How Two State Programs Expanded Housing for Former Foster Youth in California

Available at:

<https://jbay.org/resources/2024-thp-fyi>



REPORT METHODOLOGY

Survey of County Child Welfare Agencies

- Administered September – October 2024
- Distributed to 51 counties who met at least one condition:
 - Have an active THP-Plus program;
 - Have a partnership with at least one Public Housing Authority to administer FYI and/or FUP vouchers; or
 - Have accepted state funding made available through the Transitional Housing Program and/or the Housing Navigation and Maintenance Program
- 78% response rate
- Requested supplemental information from transitional housing providers for counties that did not respond to survey, or referred us to their provider(s)

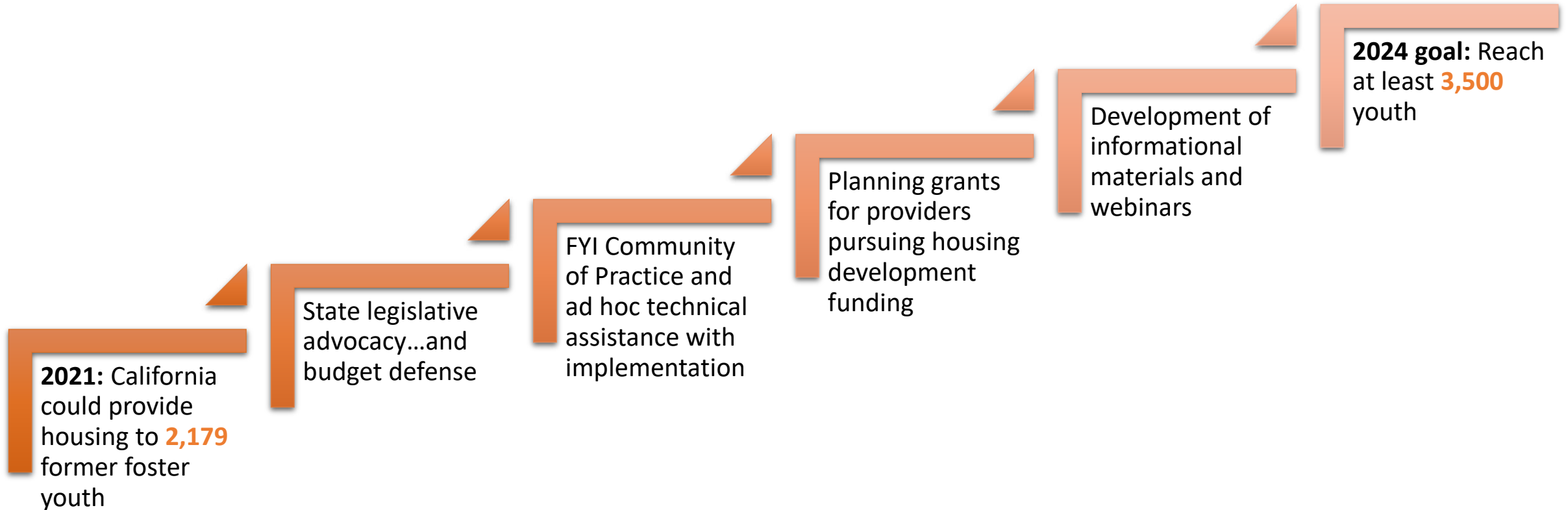
Select Interviews with County Representatives and Providers

- 8 county representatives and 6 providers
- Provided supplemental qualitative information regarding successes and challenges



PROJECT 3,500

In 2021, JBAY set a goal to increase housing for former foster youth 2,179 → 3,500



Thank you to the funders of JBAY's housing work who each supported this work in their region:

Walter S. Johnson Foundation, Carrie Estelle Doheny Foundation, Cedars Sinai, Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, Hummingbird Fund, Tipping Point

A background image showing four diverse young adults (three women and one man) smiling and looking at a yellow folder held by one of the women. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The text "Background on THP-Plus and FYI /FUP Vouchers" is written in white, bold, sans-serif font across the center of the image.

Background on THP-Plus and FYI /FUP Vouchers

Transitional Housing Program-Plus (THP-Plus)

Eligible Population

- Ages 18 up to 24, inclusive (have not yet turned 25)
- In foster care or out-of-home probation placement on or after 18th birthday
- Working toward goals in Transitional Independent Living Plan (TILP)

What the Program Provides

- Affordable housing and supportive services for up to 36 months
- Housing provided in three models statewide:
 - Scattered Site (majority of programs use this model)
 - Single Site
 - Host Family

How the Program is Funded & Administered

- Included in Governor Brown's 2011 Realignment of Child Welfare Services—has been
- county-funded since 2011
- Each county receives a specified annual allocation from the statewide \$34.9 million THP-Plus budget
- Most counties administer THP-Plus by contracting with nonprofit organizations; few
- smaller counties operate THP-Plus directly

FYI/FUP Vouchers

Eligible Population

- Ages 18 up to 24, inclusive (have not yet turned 25 at time of eligibility determination and execution of the Housing Assistance Payment contract).
- Has exited foster care or will exit within 90 days.
- Is/was homeless or at risk of homelessness at age 16 or later.

What the Program Provides

- Up to 36 months of housing assistance via a Housing Choice Voucher, coupled with supportive services.
- Can be extended an additional 24 months for a total of 5 years through participation in the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program or via participation conditions.

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 verifies eligibility and provides or secures supportive services.
- Two processes for PHAs to access vouchers from HUD: competitively and non-competitively

FYI was Designed to Prevent Youth from Leaving Foster Care into Homelessness through its Unique Request Process

COMPETITIVELY (FYI & FUP)

through a NOFO process,
usually once a year.

May apply for a minimum of 3
and maximum of 75. Awarded
based on size of PHA's overall
voucher program and identified
need of eligible youth.

Two processes
for PHAs to
access FYI/FUP
vouchers from
HUD

NON-COMPETITIVELY (FYI)

through an “on-demand”
process where vouchers are
requested on a rolling basis
as youth are identified.

May request in batches as little as
1 or as large as 25. Each PHA can
request up to 50 in a fiscal year.

The background of the slide is a photograph of the California State Capitol building in Sacramento. The building is a large, white, neoclassical structure with a prominent dome. Several tall palm trees are in the foreground, partially obscuring the building. The sky is blue with some light clouds. A semi-transparent blue rectangle is overlaid on the image, containing the title text.

State Funding for Housing Support for Transition- Aged Former Foster Youth

TAY Programs Administered by the California Department of Housing & Community Development (HCD)

\$33.3 million

**Transitional
Housing
Program**

\$13.7 million

**Housing Navigation
& Maintenance
Program (HNMP)**

\$9 million

**THP-Plus Housing
Supplement
Program (THP+SUP)**

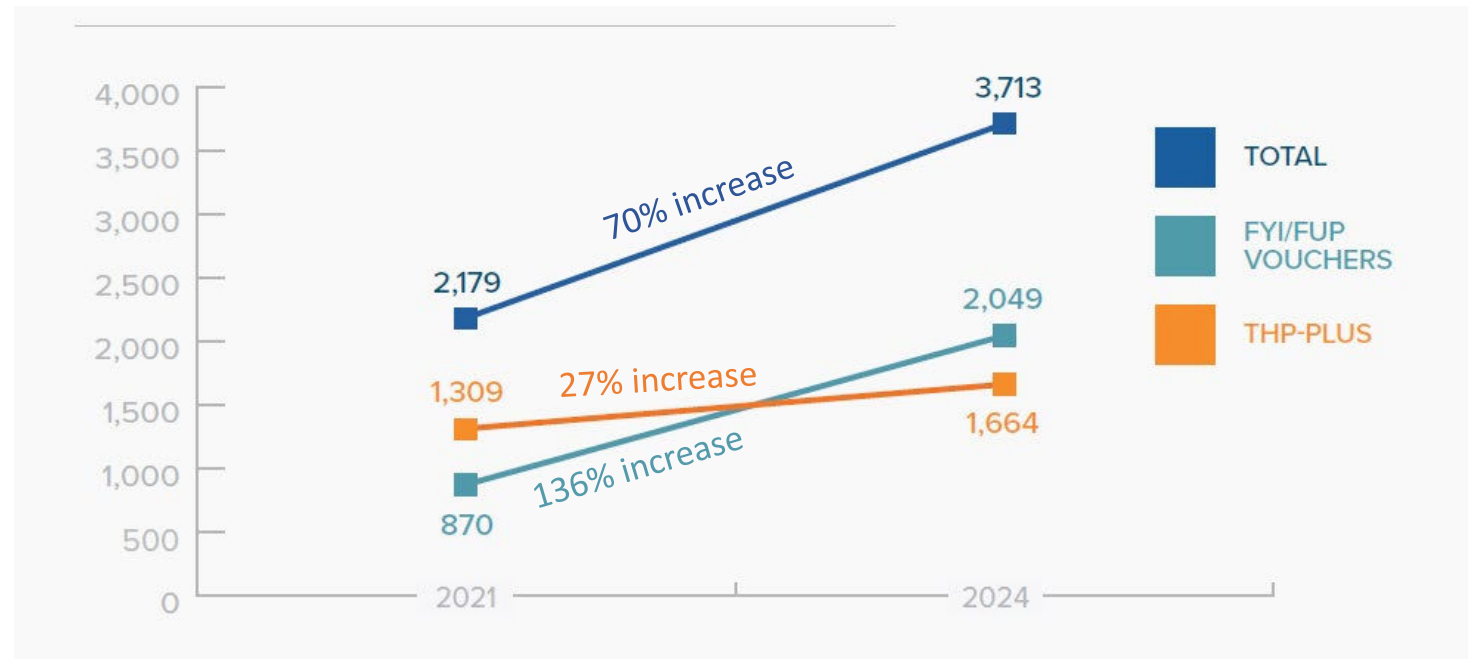
A group of diverse professionals in a meeting. In the foreground, a man with dark skin and short hair is looking towards a whiteboard. Behind him, a woman with blonde hair is also looking in the same direction. To the right, another man is writing on the whiteboard with a red marker. The whiteboard is covered with various colored sticky notes. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people in the room.

Findings: Statewide Capacity & Need

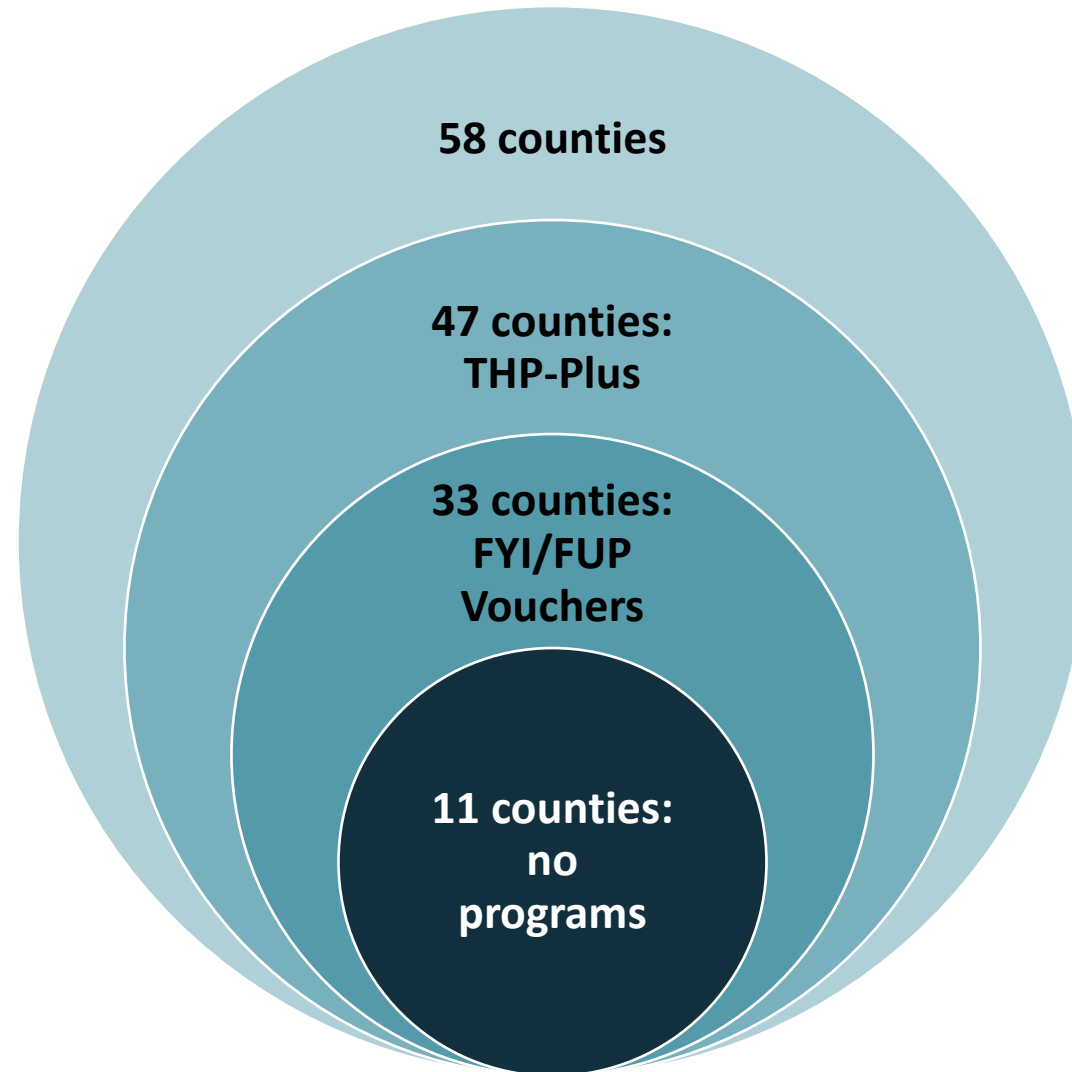
Statewide increase in housing capacity for former foster youth: 70% over three years

California has increased its supportive housing capacity for former foster youth by **70%** between **2021** and **2024**, from serving **2,179** youth at a point in time, to **3,713** youth.

Growth in Number of Housing Slots & Housing Vouchers



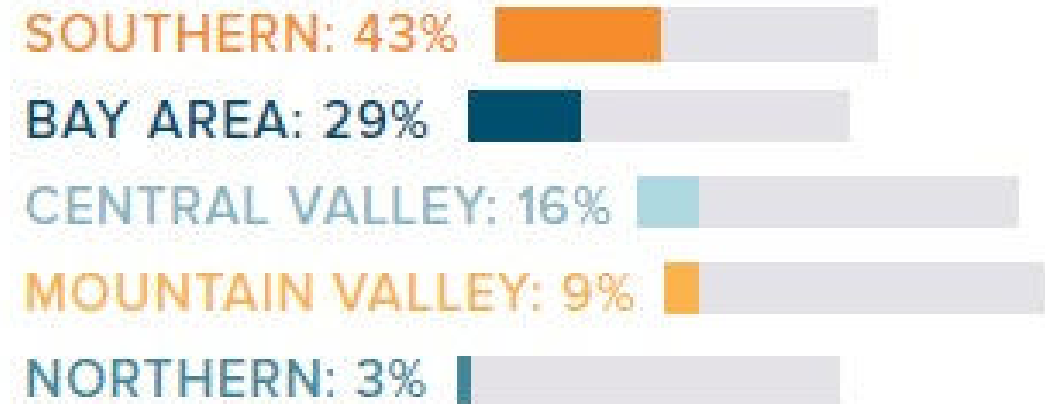
California counties that have supportive housing for former foster youth: 81%



The Southern California region has the greatest share of supportive housing capacity in the state

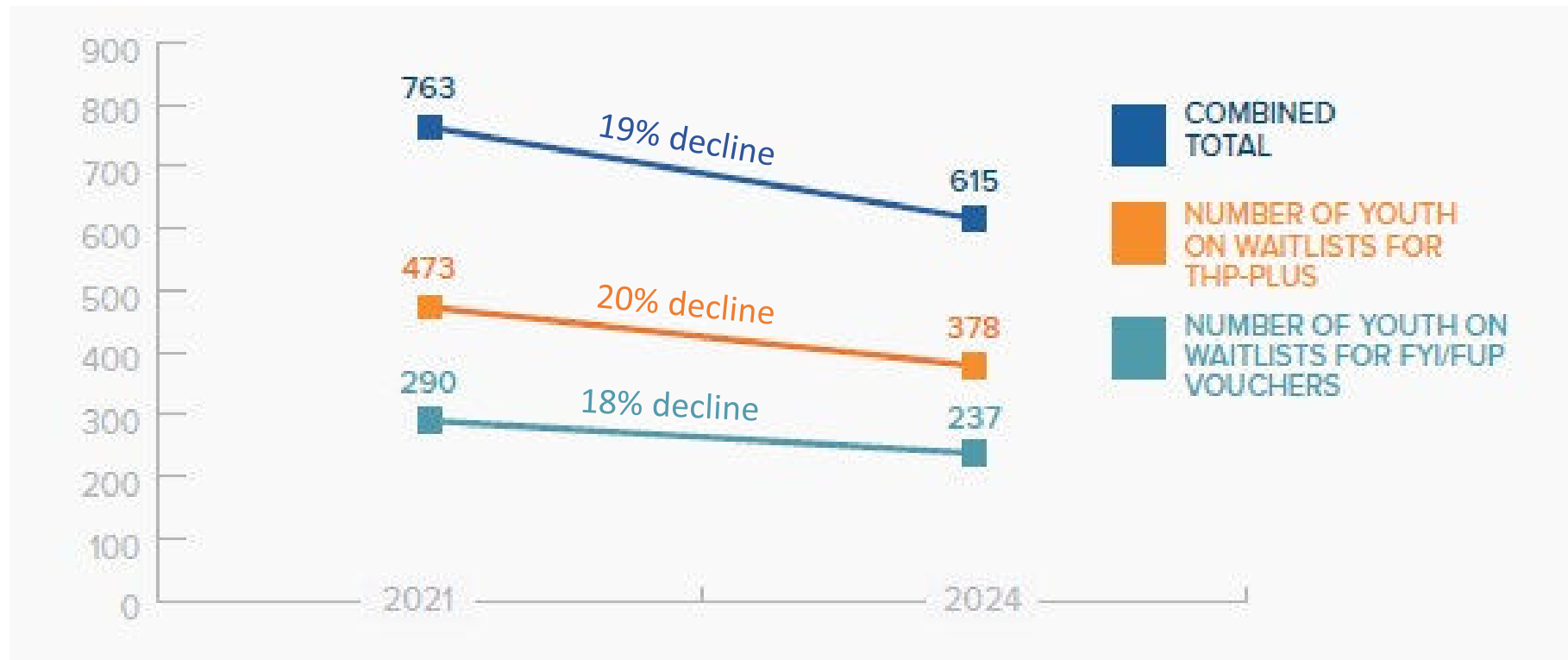


Proportion of California's Supportive Housing Capacity by Region



A total of 615 youth are on waitlists for THP-Plus or an FYI/FUP voucher

Reduction in Number of Youth on Waitlists for THP-Plus & FYI/FUP Vouchers Between 2021 & 2024



California can currently house 38% of former foster youth who did not reach permanency as minors



- In 2024, there were an estimated **9,871** young adults aged 21-24 who exited care in California at age 18 or older
- California can currently house **3,713** of these youth in THP-Plus or with a FYI/FUP voucher
- An additional **6,518** housing slots are needed to provide for this population

A group of diverse professionals in a meeting. In the foreground, a man with dark skin and short hair is looking towards a whiteboard. Behind him, a woman with blonde hair is also looking in the same direction. To the right, another man is writing on the whiteboard with a red marker. The whiteboard is covered with various colorful sticky notes. The background is slightly blurred, showing more people and office equipment.

Findings: THP-Plus

The average monthly rate per youth for THP-Plus providers increased across all three housing models

- **Single Site:**
24% increase
- **Scattered Site:**
29% increase
- **Host Family:**
65% increase

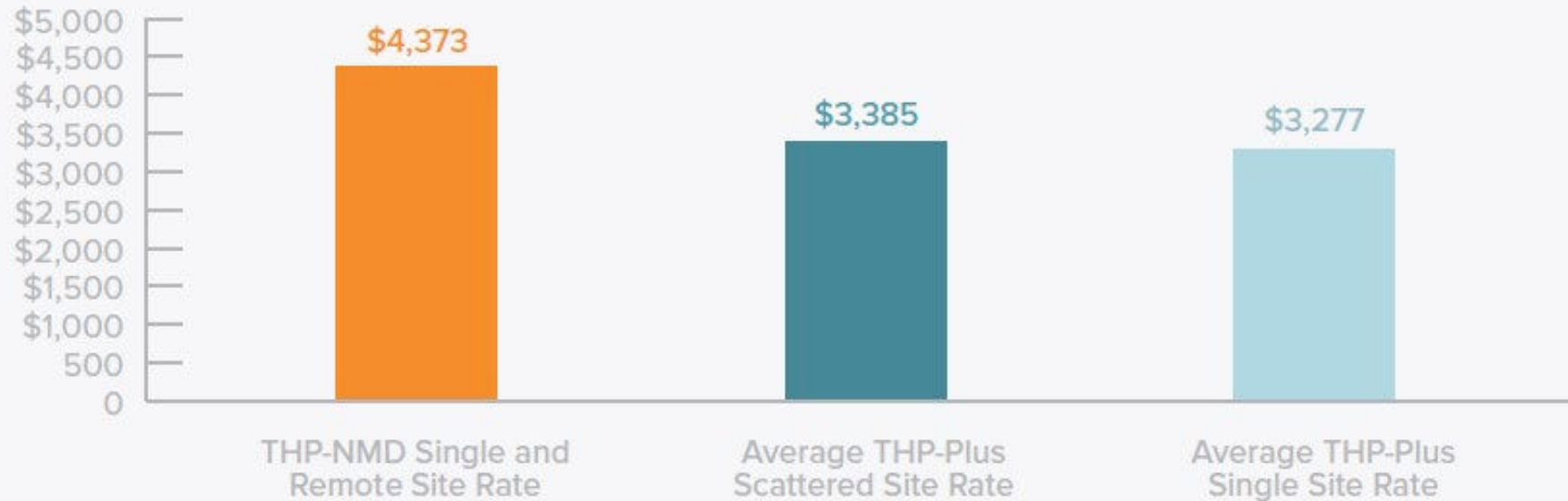
Before 2021, the average rate for the most common housing model—scattered site, had grown only four percent in the prior ten years.

Increase in Average Monthly THP-Plus Rate Paid Per Youth between 2021-22 & 2023-2024)



The average THP-Plus rate still trails far behind the foster care rate paid for the Transitional Housing Placement for Non-Minor Dependents (THP-NMD)

**Difference between Monthly Rates Per Youth:
Statewide THP-NMD Foster Care Rate & Average THP-Plus Rate (2023-24)**



High rental costs and competitive housing markets challenge the THP-Plus program



Region	FMR Increase 2021-2024
Bay Area	24%
Central Valley	35%
Mountain Valley	34%
Northern	31%
Southern	37%



Between 2021 and 2024, 17 counties experienced a **more than 40% increase** in Fair Market Rent.

The Bay Area region had the highest average monthly THP-Plus rate per youth

Monthly THP-Plus Rate Per Youth for Single and Scattered Site Housing Models in 2023-24



Seven counties reported offering a higher monthly THP-Plus rate for pregnant and parenting youth

Region	Counties with Pregnant/Parenting Rate
Bay Area	5
Central Valley	0
Mountain Valley	1
Northern	0
Southern	1

Average pregnant/parenting rate: \$4,230



A group of people in a meeting, with one person writing on a whiteboard. The image is overlaid with a dark blue semi-transparent rectangle containing the title text.

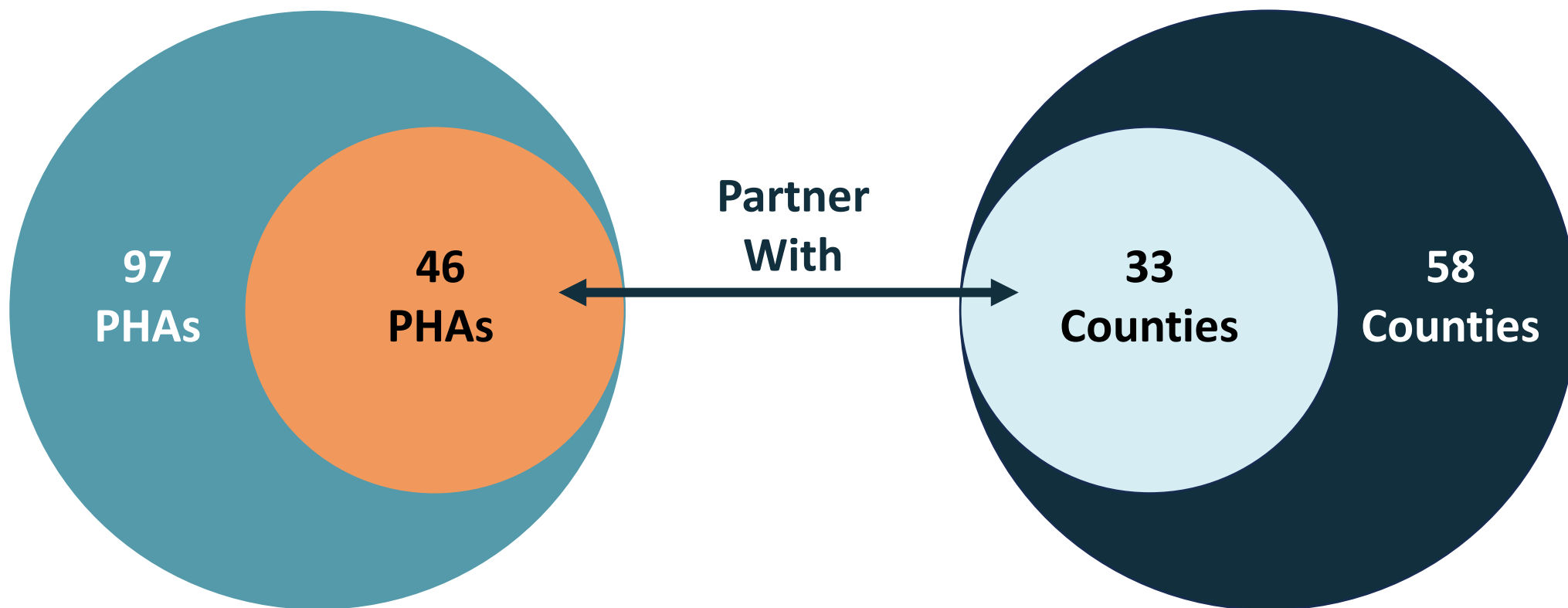
Findings: FYI/FUP Vouchers

Federal funds for FYI/FUP vouchers have more than doubled since 2021

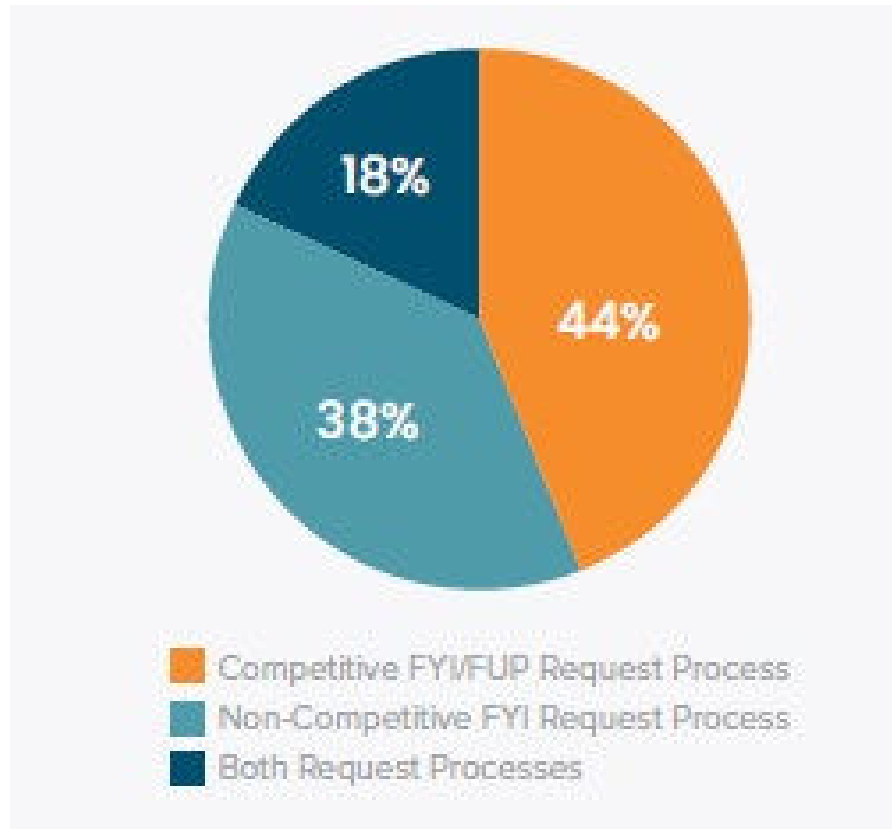
Increase in Federal Funding Awarded to Public Housing Authorities for FYI/FUP Vouchers in California

YEAR	REPORTED NUMBER OF FYI/FUP VOUCHERS	APPROXIMATE FEDERAL FUNDING LEVERAGED
2021	870	\$14.1 Million
2024	2,049	\$33.3 Million

Nearly half of California's Public Housing Authorities administer FYI and/or FUP vouchers

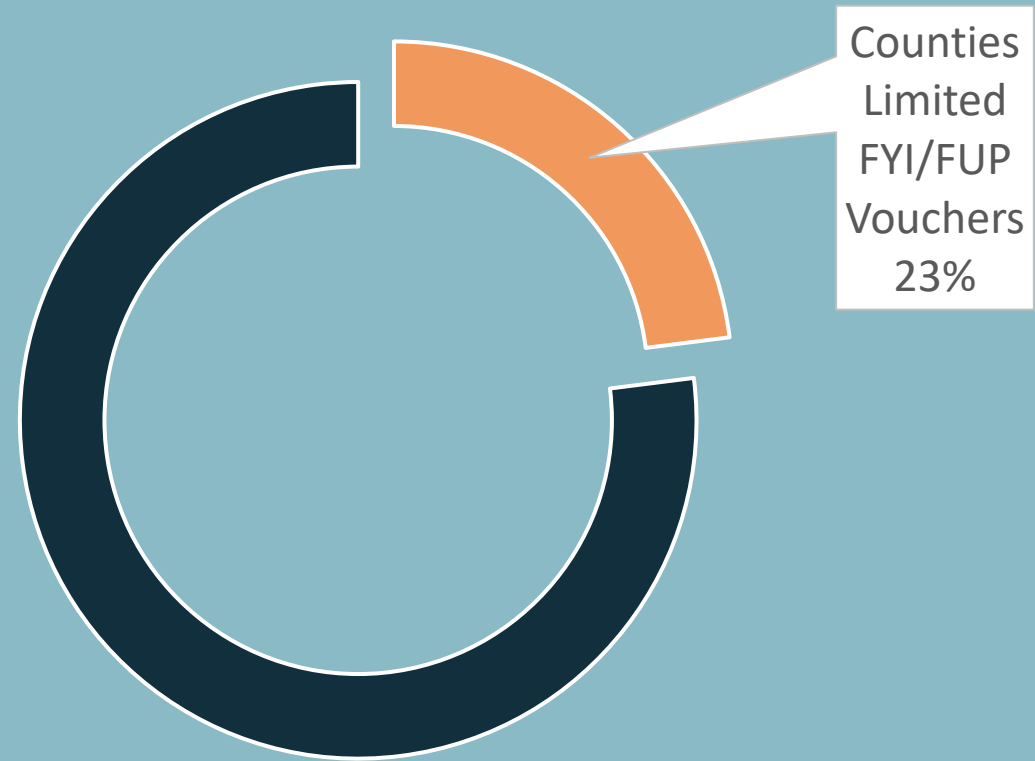


More than half of California's partnering Public Housing Authorities provide "on-demand" FYI vouchers

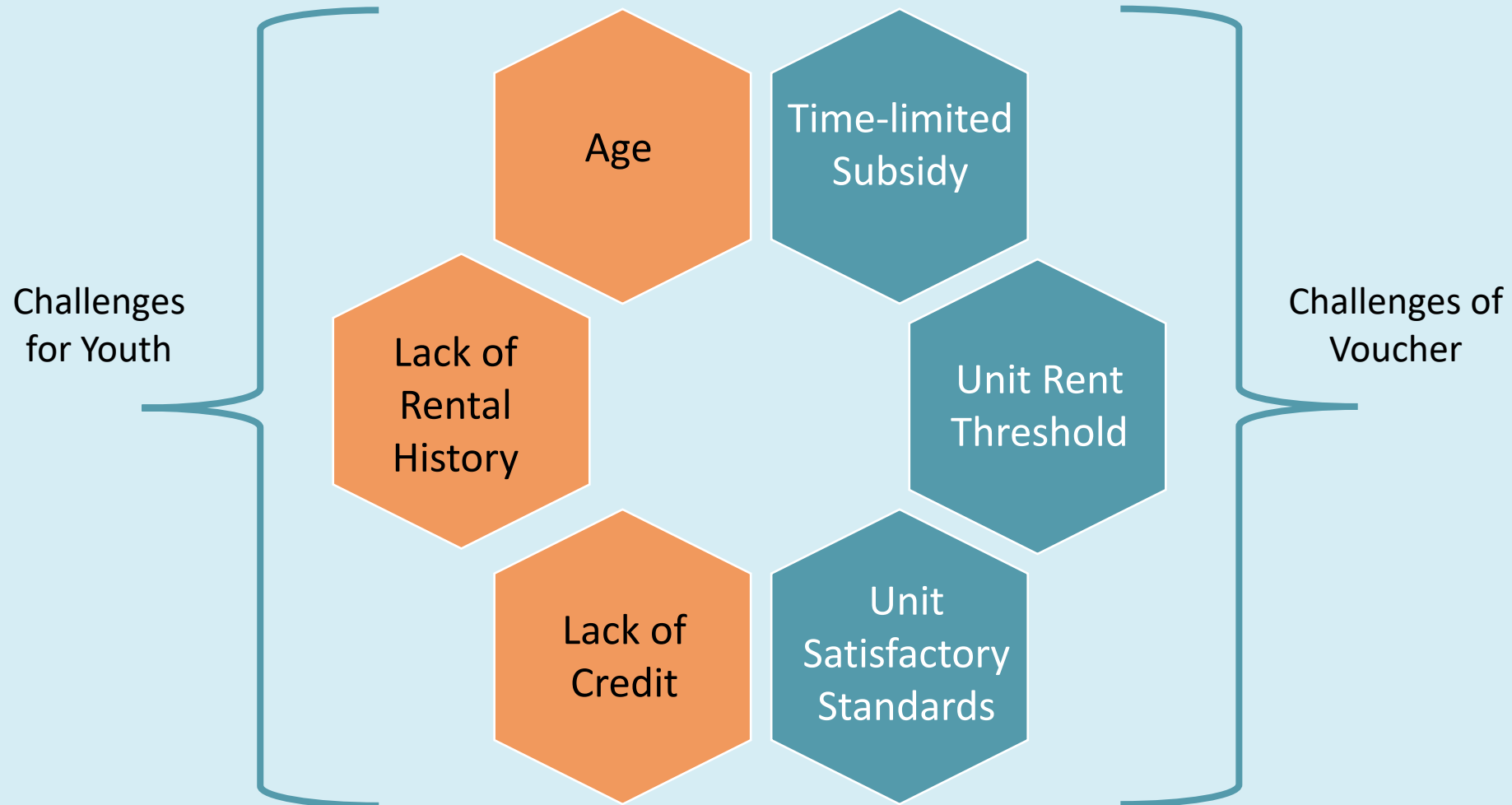


Percent of Public Housing Authorities that Utilize the Competitive and Non-Competitive Voucher Request Processes

Nearly one-quarter of counties have limited the number of FYI/FUP vouchers provided in partnership with their PHA(s), due to insufficient service provision capacity



Identifying and securing housing has challenged FYI/FUP voucher utilization

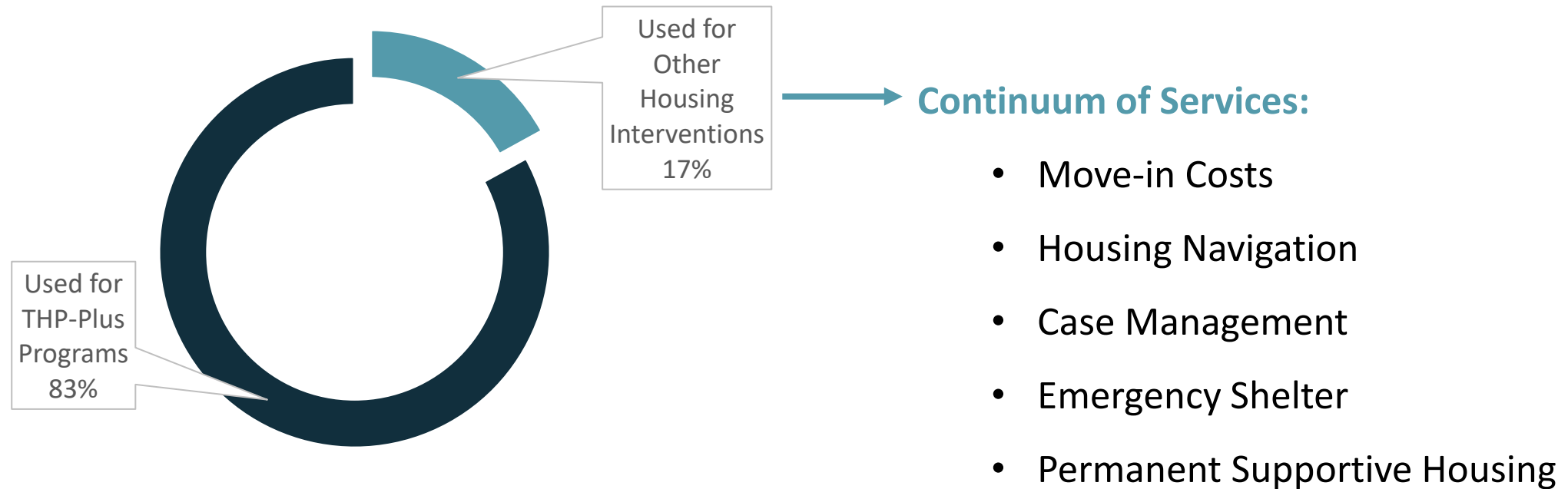


A group of diverse professionals in a meeting. In the foreground, a man with dark hair and glasses is writing on a whiteboard with a red marker. To his left, a woman with blonde hair is looking at a tablet. In the background, another man is visible. The whiteboard is covered with colorful sticky notes. The entire scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent dark blue rectangle containing white text.

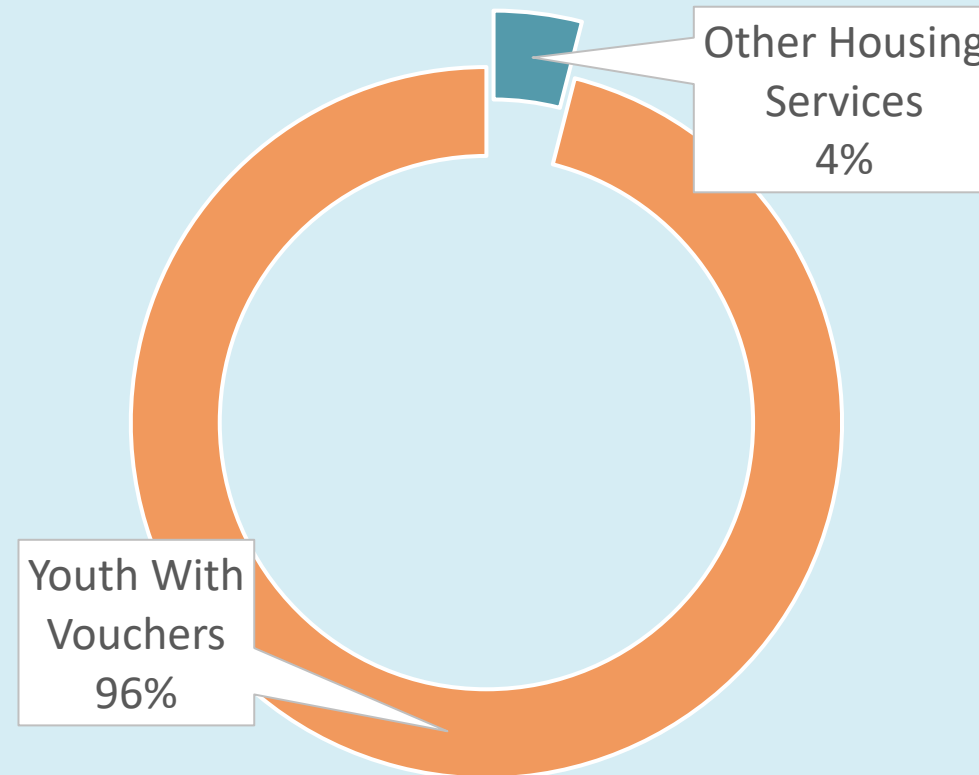
Findings:

State Funding for Housing Support for Transition-Age Former Foster Youth

Transitional Housing Program funds are primarily being used to supplement THP-Plus programs

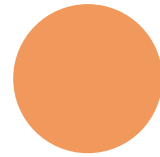


Nearly all counties with FYI/FUP vouchers use HNMP to serve FYI/FUP voucher recipients



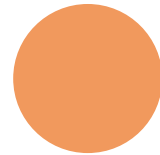
Funding does not meet the need for FYI/FUP voucher service provision

67% of respondent counties “piece together” funding from **three or more** sources to serve youth with FYI/FUP vouchers



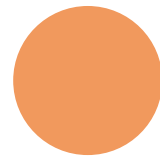
CalAIM

In initial stages of implementation; can fund select services



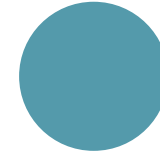
County Behavioral Health

Undergoing reforms due to Proposition 1; access varies



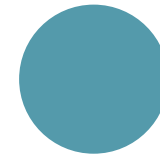
Other Community Case Management

Dependent upon other funding sources; entirely variable



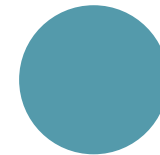
Transitional Housing Program

Limited funding source, most often needed for THP-Plus programs



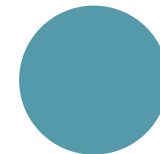
Independent Living Program

Drastically underfunded; rarely used for housing (30% cap)



HHAP

One-time funding (no guarantee of ongoing appropriations); often prioritized for other purposes



YHDP

Only available in select communities; often prioritized for other purposes

The proposed elimination of HNMP in the 2024-25 state budget resulted in service disruption


- Without the capability to provide housing navigation and supportive services to youth with FYI/FUP vouchers, counties are unable to fulfill HUD's required service mandate, and to assist youth with securing housing with their voucher.
- Some county representatives reported that the proposed elimination of HNMP resulted in pausing the release of FYI/FUP vouchers, reducing or suspending services, or scaling back expansion plans underway.



Fluctuations in funding allocation levels for the Transitional Housing Program and HNMP present challenges to program operations

- Both the Transitional Housing Program and HNMP are formula-funded, based on data that shifts from year to year.
- County representatives report that this shift in allocation amounts makes operating an ongoing program challenging.
- Significant increases or decreases impact the number of youth that can be served, staffing capacity, and local contracts.



The background of the slide features a low-angle shot of the California State Capitol dome, which is a large, ornate, white structure with a prominent dome and columns. To the left, the California state flag is visible, showing a red star, a grizzly bear, and the words 'CALIFORNIA REPUBLIC'. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent dark blue rectangle. The title 'Recommendations: State Government' is written in large, white, sans-serif font across the center of this rectangle.

Recommendations: State Government

1. Increase the state's investment in housing programs to provide housing support for all youth exiting extended foster care



6,165 housing slots and/or housing vouchers to fully address need.

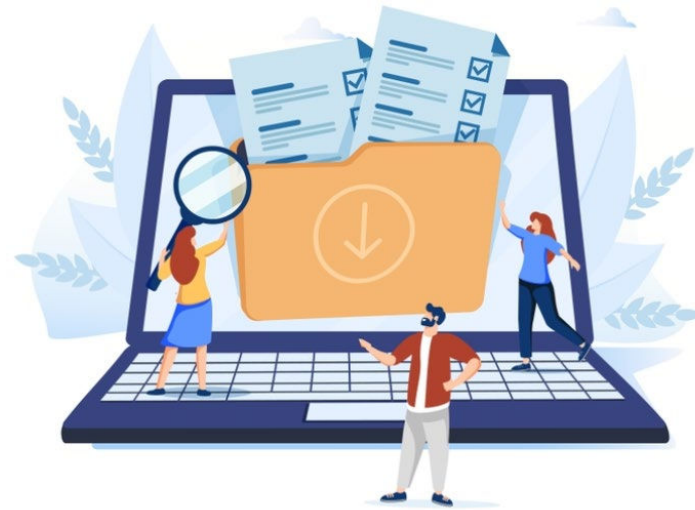
2. Ensure the preservation of Transition-Age Youth (TAY) housing programs

Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD)

- Housing Navigation and Maintenance Program (HNMP)
- The Transitional Housing Program
- THP-Plus Housing Supplement Program

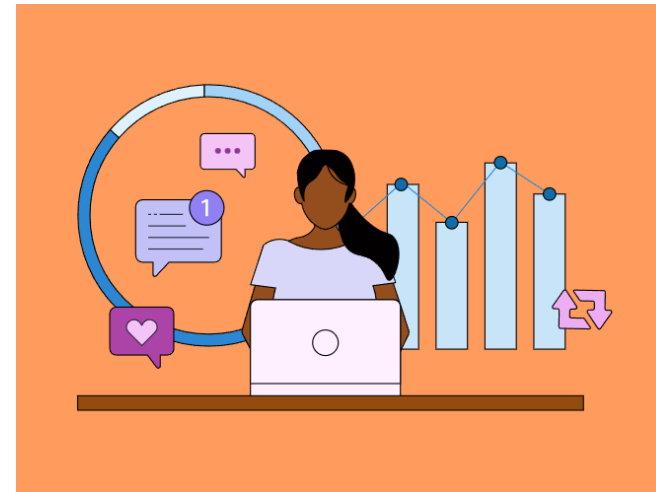
3. Establish a requirement that county child welfare agencies collect and report annual data on the utilization of FYI/FUP vouchers for former foster youth

To assess the state's progress in expanding housing resources for former foster youth, regular publicly available information is necessary.



4. Provide state guidance to county child welfare agencies and Public Housing Authorities, encouraging participation in FYI/FUP and adoption of associated best practices

- **Strategies** for establishing the necessary partnerships to participate in FYI/FUP
- **Best practices** for ensuring the success of these programs



5. Stabilize funding allocations provided to county child welfare agencies for Transitional Housing Program and HNMP

Limit changes to a designated percentage each year or alter the programs' funding formulas so they are based on less variable data



6. Consider strategies to mitigate the impact of inflation on ongoing programs that are funded at a fixed level

Future funding for the Transitional Housing Program or similar programs should account for the continuous rise in housing costs across the state.



7. Establish funding for capital development for both interim and permanent housing for youth

Project Homekey:

- 8% set-aside of funds for youth
- 40 projects with 929 units for youth





Recommendations: County Child Welfare Agencies

8. Counties with large foster care populations should leverage Master Rental Subsidy Agreements to secure rental units for youth with FYI/FUP vouchers



Increases availability of rental units



Reduces time to lease execution

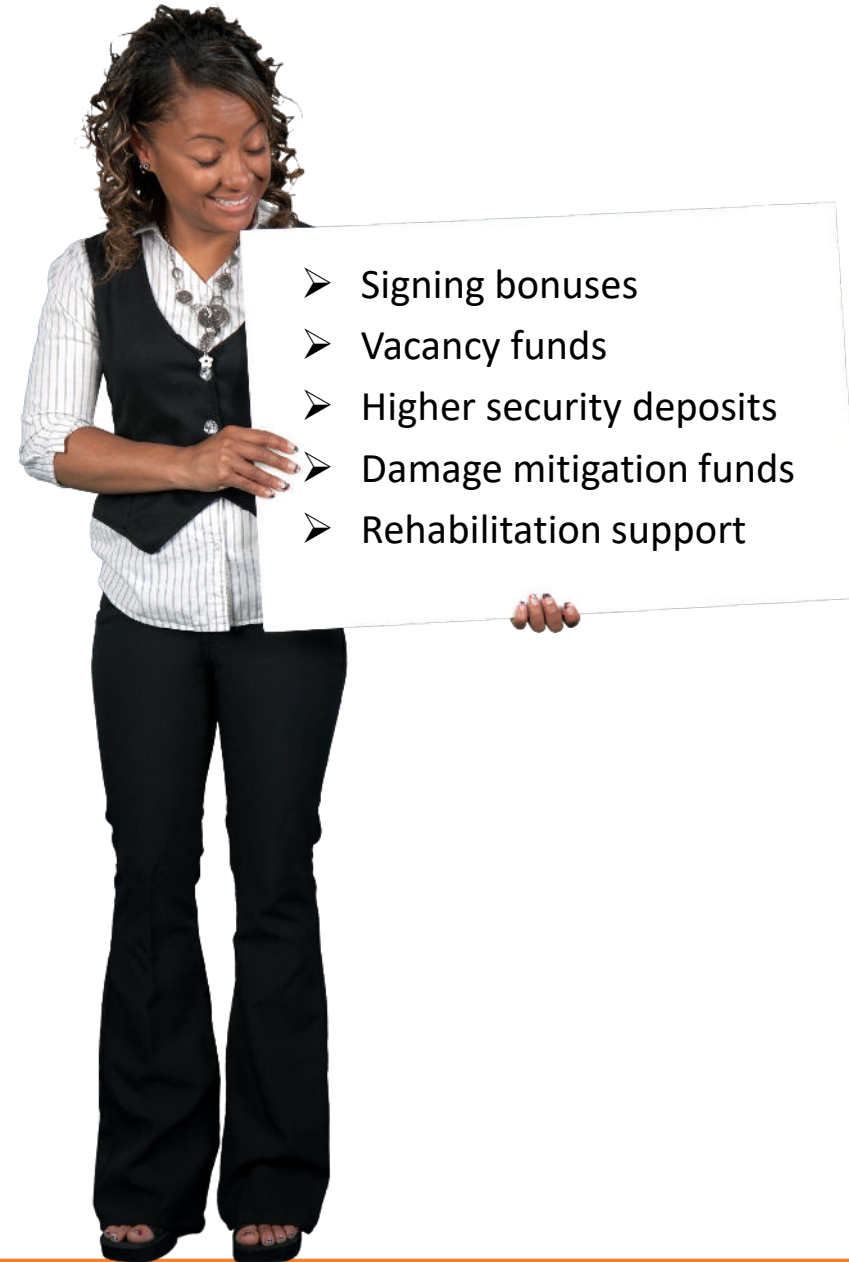


Especially effective in larger communities

9. Establish regional transitional housing programs to meet the needs of youth in small, rural counties

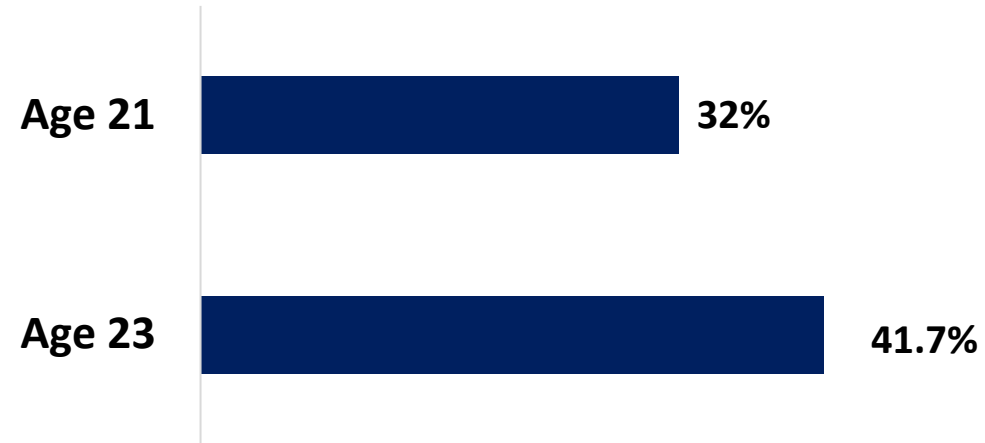


10. Incorporate landlord incentives into the budget for any service provider contracts related to scattered site transitional housing or housing navigation for youth with FYI/FUP vouchers.



11. Provide a higher monthly THP-Plus rate for pregnant and parenting youth

Former Foster Youth: Parents of Young Children



12. Use Medi-Cal to fund supportive services for youth with FYI/FUP vouchers.

Housing
navigation

Housing
tenancy and
sustaining
services

Security
deposits

Question & Answer



Please submit questions via the questions box.

For future questions contact

Simone Tureck Lee at simone@jbay.org or
Valerie Lynne Kane at valerie@jbay.org