

## AB 2162 (Bryan): Preventing Homelessness Among Former Foster Youth by Maximizing Federal Housing Assistance

[Assembly Bill \(AB\) 2162](#), authored by Assemblymember Isaac Bryan (D-Culver City), was signed into law by Governor Newsom on September 27, 2026. The bill prevents and reduces homelessness among former foster youth in California by making targeted improvements to the Housing Navigation and Maintenance Program, which funds housing navigation and services that help former foster youth with federal Housing Choice Vouchers identify and secure stable housing.

### WHAT IS THE HOUSING NAVIGATION AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAM?

The Housing Navigation and Maintenance Program (HNMP) is a \$13.7 million program administered by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to county child welfare agencies to provide housing navigation and services to assist youth, ages 18-24 with securing and maintaining housing, with priority given to current and former foster youth.

### WHAT ARE FYI/FUP VOUCHERS?

The U.S. Department of Housing Urban Development (HUD) administers Special Purpose Housing Choice Voucher for former foster youth through the Family Unification Program (FUP) and the Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Initiative. FYI/FUP vouchers provide 36 months of rental assistance administered by a Public Housing Authority. The voucher extends for an additional two years (for a total of five) for youth participating in the Family Self-Sufficiency Program or meeting education or employment participation conditions. The rental assistance administered by the Public Housing Authority is coupled with supportive services provided or secured by the county child welfare agency.

### HOW DOES HNMP ASSIST IN LEVERAGING THIS FEDERAL FUNDING?

Counties most often use HNMP to fund the supportive services they are required to provide to youth with FYI/FUP vouchers. Since the expansion of HNMP in 2022 for the purpose of funding these services, the number of FYI/FUP vouchers in California has increased by 136%, from 870 in 2021 to 2,049 in 2024. This \$13.7 million state investment helps California communities access more than \$33 million in federal housing assistance for former foster youth.

### WHAT SERVICES ARE FUNDED BY HNMP?

County child welfare agencies often contract with nonprofit services providers to offer young people

housing navigation, assistance with transitory/moving costs, and ongoing support with education, employment, and independent living skills. Smaller counties sometimes provide these services or financial support directly.

### WHAT MAIN ISSUES DID AB 2162 ADDRESS?

AB 2162 addressed two main challenges:

- **Misaligned Age Eligibility:** While youth can keep their FYI/FUP vouchers for 3 to 5 years if they sign a Housing Assistance Payment contract before turning 25, counties previously lacked HNMP funding to support them past age 25.
- **Lack of Transparency:** HUD's public reporting does not separate youth vouchers from family vouchers, obscuring local program participation. This data gap left youth and local advocates unaware of available housing resources and prevented state policymakers from tracking which local agencies were utilizing federal funds before tapping state resources.

### WHAT CHANGES DOES AB 2162 MAKE?

AB 2162 has three main provisions:

- Aligns Age Eligibility:** Raises upper age limit of HNMP from 24 to 28 to better align with the full duration of federal FYI/FUP vouchers.
- Improves Transparency:** Requires county child welfare agencies receiving HNMP to report annually on the number of housing authorities they partner with and how many FYI/FUP vouchers are in circulation in their county. HCD is required to make this data publicly available.
- Better Defines HNMP in Statute:** Establishes a statutory connection between HNMP and FYI/FUP vouchers. In times of state budget scarcity, state policy-makers will be aware that HNMP draws down federal housing assistance for former foster youth.

AB 2162 makes additional minor changes to statute to improve consistency in descriptions of eligibility, definitions, and reporting.