

Policy Alert: THP-Plus Program Expansion

A Resource for Current and Former Foster Youth in California

What is the THP-Plus Program?

The Transitional Housing Program-Plus (THP-Plus) is a transitional housing program that provides housing and supportive services to former foster youth who are 18 to 25 years-old, including youth who were placed in foster care by the juvenile justice court.¹

Who is eligible for THP-Plus?

Youth are eligible for THP-Plus if they emancipated out of foster care (whether supervised by child welfare or juvenile probation) on or after their 18th birthdays. Most counties have limited spaces available in THP-Plus (see below). Counties may choose to include former foster youth who currently live in the county, but who emancipated from a different county. However, counties may also choose to prioritize youth who emancipated in their county for the limited spots in THP-Plus. To participate in THP-Plus, youth must be working on county-approved independent living goals, for example, school attendance, employment, job training programs, etc. There are no financial requirements.

How long can a former foster youth participate in THP-Plus?

THP-Plus participants can stay in the THP-Plus program for a maximum of **36 months total** (adding up all the months of participation, even if a youth came in and out of THP-Plus or switched between THP-Plus providers), and the maximum age to participate is **25 years-old**. Note: if a youth reaches the age of 25 before 36 months of participation, they cannot stay in the program beyond the age of 25. Young people who are concerned about remaining housed should contact a legal aid attorney (visit www.lawhelpca.org).

How has the program changed?

Starting July 1, 2022, the THP-Plus program has a new upper age limit and maximum time allowance, so youth get **an extra year of eligibility**. Before July 1st, counties had the option to let youth stay in the program up until the age of 25 (instead of 24) and up to 36 months total (instead of 24 months total) if the youth was a student. Now, the age and program-length extensions are **mandatory, meaning that every county that provides THP-Plus has to allow youth to remain in**

¹ Note: a youth can be placed in foster care through the child welfare system (dependency court) or through the juvenile justice system (delinquency court). Youth who were placed in foster care by the delinquency court do not have to be dually involved or dual status with the dependency court to qualify for THP-Plus. To qualify for THP-Plus, what matters is that the youth was placed in foster care by either court, and the youth emancipated out of foster care on or after their 18th birthday. This issue is complicated, and important, so reach out to YLC at info@ylc.org with any questions.

the program for a total of 36 months or until age 25 and the youth does not have to be a student to qualify.

Can I get back in THP-Plus now if I previously aged-out at 24 or I used my 24 months?

Yes! As long as you're under 25 years-old and haven't been in the program for 36-months total, you're eligible to access THP-Plus again! You can contact your prior social worker or juvenile probation officer, ILP coordinator (statewide list available [here](#)), or your prior THP-Plus program to find out more about getting reconnected to THP-Plus. You can find a roster of all THP-Plus Programs in California [here](#).

What if the THP-Plus programs in my county are full?

THP-Plus is a popular program and there are generally more youth interested in participating than there are spots in the program. Many THP-Plus programs have waitlists and THP-Plus programs are unlikely to provide immediate housing in many cases. There are other housing options available to former foster youth besides THP-Plus, including FYI and FUP vouchers (see Youth Law Center's resource for current and former foster youth about FYI and FUP [here](#)), so contact a legal aid attorney, your prior social worker or juvenile probation officer, or ILP coordinator to find out more about housing options that may be available to you.