

## Youth Law Center Housing Resources (2020-present)

*This resource provides an overview of housing options for current and former foster youth in California, and an index of all housing-related resources and trainings by the Youth Law Center from 2020 through 2022.*

Homelessness and housing/placement instability for current foster youth, youth in extended foster care and former foster youth, are critical issues facing transition-aged youth (TAY) (ages 16-25) in California. Despite broad protections and housing/placement entitlements for youth, many youth are involuntarily exited from transitional housing before reaching the maximum age or duration of participation.<sup>1</sup> Many of the stated reasons for involuntary exits—interpersonal conflict, behavior-related violations of program rules, failure to meet program requirements, etc.—can be addressed through trauma-informed programming and individualized service delivery, rather than through involuntary exits. Youth Law Center’s (YLC’s) work, in partnership with direct service attorneys, is directed towards creating solutions to maintain housing for youth.

The information provided in this resource and the referenced materials do not constitute legal advice. All content is for general informational purposes only. We make every attempt to update these resources regularly; however, it's possible that some information provided here and in the referenced materials may be out of date. This resource was last updated in December 2022. For any questions related to this resource, please contact [info@ylc.org](mailto:info@ylc.org).

### Housing Resources for Current and Former Foster Youth

Program Name	Basic Program Overview and Eligibility	YLC Resources	Resource Descriptions
<b>Transitional Housing Placement Program for Minors (THP-M)</b>	<b>Program Overview:</b> THP-M is a transitional housing program that provides housing and supportive services to minor foster youth. THP-M agencies are licensed as children’s residential facilities	<a href="#">Fact Sheet: Transitional Housing Placement Program for Minors (THP-M)</a>	This fact sheet provides an overview of the THP-M program, including licensing requirements, funding for placement, requirements to remove a youth from the program, and strategies advocates can

<sup>1</sup> When we use the term involuntary exit, we mean any exit that is not initiated by the youth from either the transitional housing program or the housing unit.

	<p>by the Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) of the California Department of Social Services (CDSS).</p> <p><b>Ages:</b> 16-18</p> <p><b>Duration:</b> No maximum duration so long as age requirements are met.</p> <p><b>Status of Foster Care Case:</b> CASE OPEN - Must have an order for foster care placement under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court as a dependent or ward, including minors under transition jurisdiction.</p>		<p>pursue if the youth is experiencing difficulties with the THP-M provider or the youth believes that their rights have been violated.</p>
<p><b>Transitional Housing Placement Program for Non-Minor Dependents (THP-NMD)</b></p>	<p><b>Program Overview:</b> THP-NMD is a transitional housing program that provides housing and supportive services to nonminor dependent foster youth. THP-NMD agencies are licensed as children’s residential facilities by the Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) of the California Department of Social Services (CDSS).</p> <p><b>Ages:</b> 18-21</p> <p><b>Duration:</b> No maximum duration so long as age requirements are met.</p>	<p><a href="#">Fact Sheet: Transitional Housing Placement Program for Non-Minor Dependents (THP-NMD)</a></p> <p><a href="#">THP-NMD: An Advocacy Guide to Preventing Involuntary Exits</a></p>	<p>This fact sheet provides an overview of the THP-NMD program including licensing requirements, funding for placement, requirements to remove a youth from the program or housing, and strategies advocates can pursue if the youth is experiencing difficulties with the THP-NMD program or housing or the youth believes that their rights have been violated.</p> <p>The purpose of this advocacy guide is to point youth and their advocates to legal information and strategies to help stabilize housing and prevent involuntary</p>

	<p><b>Status of Foster Care Case:</b> CASE OPEN - Must be under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court as a non-minor dependent (NMD) or ward, including NMDs under transition jurisdiction, or under the placement and care authority of the county placing agency pursuant to a Voluntary Reentry Agreement.</p>		<p>exits from THP-NMD.</p>
<p><b>Transitional Housing Program-Plus (THP-Plus)</b></p>	<p><b>Program Overview:</b> THP-Plus is a transitional housing program that provides housing and supportive services to former foster youth. Note: THP-Plus programs are not licensed by the state. Instead, they are certified by counties.</p> <p><b>Eligibility Ages:</b> 18-25  <b>Suggested Ages:</b><sup>2</sup> 21-24</p> <p><b>Duration:</b> 36 months maximum [or until 25th birthday, whichever happens first].</p> <p><b>Status of Foster Care Case:</b> CASE CLOSED - Must have exited from the foster care system, including foster care through juvenile probation, on or after 18th birthday.</p>	<p><a href="#">Fact Sheet: Transitional Housing Program-Plus (THP-Plus)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Policy Alert: THP-Plus Program Expansion: A Resource for Current and Former Foster Youth in California</a></p>	<p>This fact sheet provides an overview of the THP-Plus program, including county certification requirements, requirements to remove a youth from the program and housing, and strategies advocates can pursue if the youth is experiencing difficulties with the THP-Plus provider or facing an exit from the program or housing.</p> <p>This resource for current and former foster youth provides an overview of the THP-Plus program and discusses the new program changes (as of July 1, 2022) that allow youth to remain in the program up until age 25 (instead of 24) and for 36 months total (instead of 24).</p>

<sup>2</sup> These suggested ages are based on how a youth may maximize their time using housing options available to current and former foster youth in California. However, each case requires an individual assessment. Please contact us for TA at [info@ylc.org](mailto:info@ylc.org) if you need help working through the nuances of a particular case.

		<p><a href="#"><u>Preventing Involuntary Exits from THP-Plus: An Advocacy Guide</u></a></p> <p><a href="#"><u>Ensuring Stability and Success for Youth Tenants in THP-Plus</u></a></p> <p><a href="#"><u>Seven Strategies Counties Can Implement to Ensure Housing Stability and Maximize Participation in THP-Plus During COVID-19 (August 2020)</u></a><sup>3</sup></p>	<p>This advocacy guide summarizes the legal protections that young adults have--both as former foster youth and as tenants--to remain in THP-Plus and stay housed. The guide also contains advocacy checklists, practice scenarios, and links to other relevant resources.</p> <p>Co-created with Bay Area Legal Aid, this resource is meant to help civil legal advocates initiate capacity-building conversations about transition planning with THP-Plus providers and the county agencies that oversee them.</p> <p>Co-authored by John Burton Advocates for Youth (JBAY) and Bay Area Legal Aid, this resource contains seven strategies that provide both immediate and longer-term actions that counties can take to prevent youth participants from exiting the THP-Plus program at risk of homelessness, with depleted job opportunities, and without a safe place to shelter in place and practice social distancing.</p>
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<sup>3</sup> We have included YLC’s COVID-19-related resources in this resource guide since many of the recommendations continue to be applicable to youth, despite many COVID-19 program flexibilities having expired.

		<p><a href="#">Six Immediate Steps for THP-Plus Stability (May 2020)</a></p>	<p>Co-authored by JBAY and Bay Area Legal Aid, this resource describes funding streams and promising strategies that counties should utilize in administering their THP-Plus programs during the current state of emergency and for a reasonable time afterward.</p>
<p><b>Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Vouchers and Family Unification Program (FUP) Vouchers</b></p>	<p><b>Program Overview:</b> FYI and FUP are types of Housing Choice Vouchers (HCVs) available to Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) that work in partnership with Public Child Welfare Agencies (PCWAs) for young people who are leaving or have left foster care.</p> <p><b>Eligibility Ages:</b> 18-25<sup>4</sup></p> <p><b>Suggested Ages:</b> 24-27 (or 29 under the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program)<sup>5</sup></p> <p><b>Duration:</b> 36 months maximum, but could be extended 2 years through the FSS program.</p> <p><b>Status of Foster Care Case:</b> CASE CLOSED - Must have left foster care, or will leave foster care within 90 days, in accordance with a transition plan AND be homeless or</p>	<p><a href="#">FYI and FUP for Youth Overview Fact Sheet</a></p> <p><a href="#">FYI/FUP Template Letters</a></p> <p><a href="#">An Overview of FYI/FUP Vouchers: A Resource for Current and Former Foster Youth in California</a></p>	<p>This advocate-facing fact sheet provides an overview about FYI and FUP vouchers.</p> <p>The tools included with this packet can be used as one strategy among many to help your clients access affordable housing. Please note that these strategies aim to increase your county’s use of FUP and FYI vouchers and likely will not result in immediate housing for your clients.</p> <p>This resource provides an overview of FYI and FUP for young people who are leaving or have left foster care.</p>

<sup>4</sup> A youth must be <25 years-old at the time of Public Child Welfare Agency (PCWA) certification as FYI/FUP-eligible and also at the time of Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) contract execution. However, so long as the youth meets these criteria, the youth can use the voucher beyond the age of 25.

<sup>5</sup> See *supra* footnote 2.

	at risk of becoming homeless at age 16 or older.		
<b>THP-NMD, THP-Plus and FYI/FUP</b>	<b>See individual program eligibility above</b>	<a href="#">Maximizing Housing Entitlements for Current and Former Foster Youth</a>	This advocate resource shows how a youth may maximize their time using housing options available to current and former foster youth in California.

**Housing-Related Trainings and Workshops from Youth Law Center’s Transition-Aged Youth (TAY) Civil Legal Practice Exchange**

The [TAY Practice Exchange](#) is a practice support network for civil legal advocates across California that convenes regularly to share resources, exchange technical assistance, develop referral pathways, and identify recurring issues related to the civil legal needs of transition-age young people. We provide monthly training and workshops, bi-monthly office hours, a listserv, and a dedicated resource library. Contact Marisa Lopez-Scott, Staff Attorney, at [mlopez@ylc.org](mailto:mlopez@ylc.org) for more information or to join.

<b>Training Title, Presenter(s), and Date</b>	<b>Training Materials (if any) and Video Recording</b>
<b>Preventing Involuntary Exits from THP-Plus</b> (Youth Law Center, Public Counsel, and Bay Area Legal Aid) <b>(December 15, 2020)</b>	<b>Training Materials:</b> PowerPoint not available <b>Video Recording:</b> <a href="https://youtu.be/ehoUhUa7HM">https://youtu.be/ehoUhUa7HM</a>
<b>Landlord-Tenant Basics for TAY Advocates</b> (Legal Services of Northern California) <b>(January 7, 2021)</b>	<b>Training Materials:</b> <a href="https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/15IFPR3XOIq_lktFK9HSEVR5PijY1S85Y?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/15IFPR3XOIq_lktFK9HSEVR5PijY1S85Y?usp=sharing</a> <b>Video Recording:</b> <a href="https://youtu.be/bQe5GSsnjLo">https://youtu.be/bQe5GSsnjLo</a>
<b>Housing for Current and Former Foster Youth in California</b> (John Burton Advocates for Youth) <b>(March 31, 2021)</b>	<b>Training Materials:</b> <a href="https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1kMiZtX1Uw1JVz_HTyz4TyIlfG">https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1kMiZtX1Uw1JVz_HTyz4TyIlfG</a>

	<p><a href="#">8HOy_Yy?usp=sharing</a></p> <p><b>Video Recording:</b> <a href="https://youtu.be/4Pgj1O-xPIs">https://youtu.be/4Pgj1O-xPIs</a></p>
<p><b>COVID-19 Eviction Moratorium</b> (Law Foundation of Silicon Valley) (August 18, 2021)</p>	<p><b>Training Materials:</b>  <a href="https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1hvPW6AX55Dmhqf42SoXmF4QFIMnsrFKe?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1hvPW6AX55Dmhqf42SoXmF4QFIMnsrFKe?usp=sharing</a></p> <p><b>Video Recording:</b> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gsgctCgko2M">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gsgctCgko2M</a></p>
<p><b>Housing Legal Rights of Survivors</b> (Family Violence Appellate Project) (February 3, 2022)</p>	<p><b>Training Materials:</b>  <a href="https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1BWLunjQUUBS4Pey_j40TOMQEjXwalsb?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1BWLunjQUUBS4Pey_j40TOMQEjXwalsb?usp=sharing</a></p> <p><b>Video Recording:</b>  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ikww9FchBGc&amp;list=PLKw8vJa_uS_U6o8RZtSuBU_sISDDNIQ7vv&amp;index=17">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ikww9FchBGc&amp;list=PLKw8vJa_uS_U6o8RZtSuBU_sISDDNIQ7vv&amp;index=17</a></p>
<p><b>Housing Rights for TAY with Disabilities</b> (Disability Rights California) (March 16, 2022)</p>	<p><b>Training Materials:</b>  <a href="https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Go99y75aPO02SjbtWNOtkQUapeWTITGM?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Go99y75aPO02SjbtWNOtkQUapeWTITGM?usp=sharing</a></p> <p><b>Video Recording:</b>  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r6E2VMoj4UY&amp;list=PLKw8vJa_uS_U6o8RZtSuBU_sISDDNIQ7vv&amp;index=19">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r6E2VMoj4UY&amp;list=PLKw8vJa_uS_U6o8RZtSuBU_sISDDNIQ7vv&amp;index=19</a></p>
<p><b>New Housing Opportunities: FYI and FUP for TAY</b> (National Center for Housing and Child Welfare and Youth Law Center) (May 18, 2022)</p>	<p><b>Training Materials:</b>  <a href="https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1qW79zT7_mBUgeAr13yH1N7Px89kfk4YM?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1qW79zT7_mBUgeAr13yH1N7Px89kfk4YM?usp=sharing</a></p> <p><b>Video Recording:</b> <a href="https://youtu.be/ElT9jcyGkN0">https://youtu.be/ElT9jcyGkN0</a></p>

### **About Youth Law Center**

YLC is a nonprofit legal advocacy organization that has worked for four decades to transform foster care and juvenile justice systems across the nation so every child and youth can thrive. YLC's advocacy aims to ensure children and youth are not only protected from harm and dangerous conditions in systems but also receive the support, opportunities, and love they need to grow up healthy and happy. We pursue these goals through child-focused, research-informed advocacy strategies including litigation, policy reform, media advocacy, collaborative system-change projects, training and advice, and public education.

### **Additional Resources**

Youth Law Center Resource Library: <https://www.ylc.org/resource-library/>

Youth Law Center Outreach and Contact Information: <https://www.ylc.org/resource/outreach-handout-for-qlsps/>