

Foster Youth to Independence Housing Vouchers in California: The Role of Landlords

1. What is Foster Youth to Independence Housing Voucher Program?

The Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Program provides a type of housing choice voucher for young people who are leaving or have left foster care. These vouchers were developed to improve housing security for youth aging out of foster care and are an excellent resource for our communities to support young people who face unique barriers to housing security when they leave foster care.

These vouchers can be requested by Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) when they collaborate with local child welfare agencies to support young people. The PHA will provide the voucher and the child welfare agency provides or arranges for support services for the young person to help the young adult as they continue to meet their goals. These types of vouchers last for three years, but can be extended for two additional years if the young adult is participating in the [Family Self Sufficiency Program](#) (FSS).

2. Who is eligible for FYI vouchers?

Young adults who are under age 25 and were in foster care are eligible for the FYI program. Stable housing is crucial for young people to achieve independence and to successfully transition into adulthood. Without stable housing, young adults face significant challenges to meet their education and employment goals. In particular, young people aging out of foster care face many barriers to securing safe and affordable housing, including a lack of family support. The FYI program can be a lifeline and critical stepping stone for these young adults as they work towards independence and move from foster care into the adult world.

3. How does the FYI program benefit landlords?

Landlords who take housing choice vouchers, including FYI vouchers, can expect to get consistent rent. They will get their rent no matter whether the young adult experiences changes like those related to employment. Young adults in the FYI program will also have access to community supports and services. Your county PHA or homeless prevention agencies may also provide financial and other incentives to landlords who take Housing Choice Vouchers, including FYI.

4. How can landlords help young people secure stable housing with FYI vouchers?

By accepting FYI vouchers and renting to young adults leaving foster care, landlords can make a critical difference in the lives of young people who may not have the family and other support that many young people rely on as they begin adulthood. You can become an ally for young adults leaving foster care by partnering with your local child welfare agency, Independent Living Program, and community based agencies so that they know you will take FYI vouchers and so that you have the support of those who work with young adults leaving foster care. There are many partners who want to work with you and make your participation in the FYI program as easy as possible. You can find more about the FYI program [here](#).