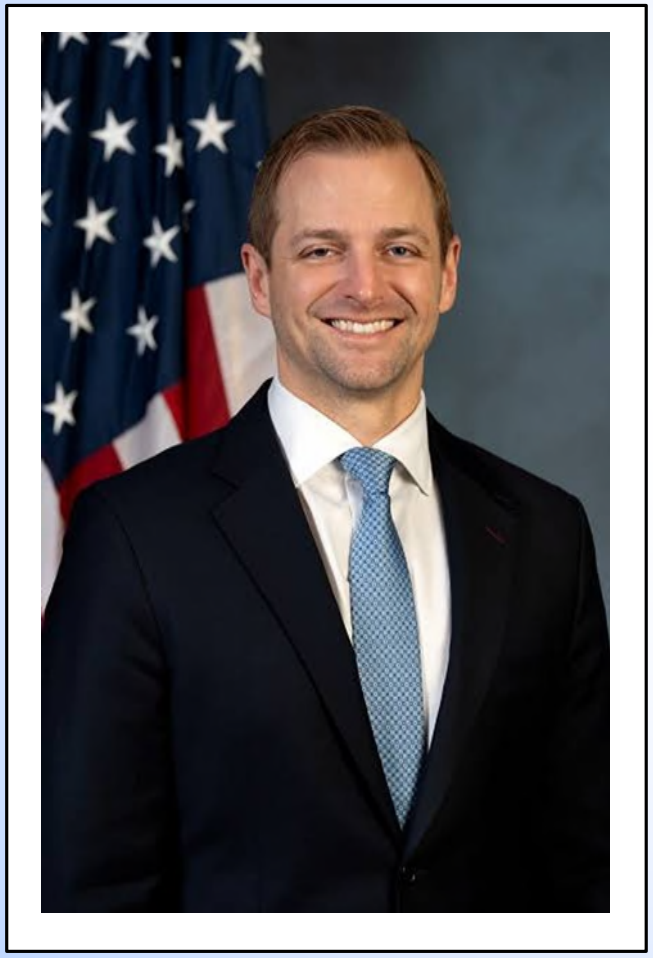
The Melania Trump Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Initiative Notice PIH 2026-19

August 26, 2026

Opening Remarks



Benjamin Hobbs

Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing

Presenters

Celia Carpentier
Senior Housing Program Specialist
Housing Voucher Management and Operations Division

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Housing Program Specialist
Housing Voucher Management and Operations Division

Housekeeping Items

- This webinar is being recorded.
- Audience members are muted.
- Use the Q&A feature to ask a question of the panelists.
- Q&A session will be at the end of the presentation.

Agenda

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    - Definition of At-Risk of Becoming Homeless
  - How is FYI Administered?
  - Status of FYI Initiative

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  - Key Changes of Notice PIH 2026-19
  - Applicability of Notice PIH 2025-08

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- Summary and Next Steps
- Q&A Session

Overview of The Melania Trump FYI Initiative

Overview of FYI

FYI Background



In 2019, HUD established the FYI initiative as a direct result of the advocacy of foster care alumni to prevent and address homelessness and housing instability for young people after exiting foster care.

Approximately **20,000** young people age-out of foster care each year, and nearly **25 percent** of youth report experiencing homelessness after leaving.

Change: In 2026, Congress designated the program **"The Melania Trump Foster Youth to Independence Initiative"** to recognize the First Lady's leadership in ensuring that foster youth have the tools they need to achieve self-sufficiency.

Overview of FYI

What is FYI?

- FYI is administered by public housing agencies (PHAs) that have entered into a partnership agreement with a public child welfare agency (PCWA).
- FYI provides eligible young people with rental assistance through the **Housing Choice Voucher Program** and leverages locally provided supportive services to help them develop essential life skills and achieve self-sufficiency.



Rental assistance is provided for 36 months, which can be extended for up to an additional 24 months if the youth meets certain requirements.



Supportive services must be made available to the youth for a period of 36 months.



Overview of FYI

FYI Rental Assistance

FYI provides 36 months of rental assistance.

Extension of FYI Assistance: Youth receive an extension of their FYI assistance for up to an additional 24 months if they:

1. Participate in HUD's Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program;

2. If the youth is unable to enroll in an FSS program, the youth engaged in education, workforce development, or employment activities for at least 9 months out of the 12-month period preceding the extension; or

3. Meet one of the following **statutory exceptions**:
   - Responsible for the care of a dependent child under the age of 6 or for the care of an incapacitated person;
   - Regularly and actively participating in a drug addiction or alcohol treatment and rehabilitation program; or
   - Due to a documented medical condition, is incapable of meeting the requirement to participate in FSS (item #1 above) or engage in education, workforce development, or employment activities (item #2 above), as applicable.

Overview of FYI
FYI Supportive Services

Basic life skills information/counseling

- Information/counseling on money management, use of credit, housekeeping, proper nutrition/meal preparation, and access to health care.

Housing counseling

- Counseling on compliance with lease and HCV requirements, including assistance/referrals for security deposits, utility hook-up fees, and utility deposits.

Landlord support services

- Providing such assurances to owners of rental property as are reasonable and necessary to assist an eligible youth to rent a unit with a FYI voucher.

Job preparation and attainment counseling

- Counseling on where to look/how to apply, dress, grooming, and relationships with supervisory personnel, etc.

Education and career advancement counseling

- Counseling regarding attainment of general equivalency diploma (GED); attendance/financing of education at a technical school, trade school or college; including successful work ethic and attitude models.

Overview of FYI

Who is eligible for FYI?



A young person who:

1. Is at least 18 years and not more than 24 years of age (*have not reached their 25th birthday*).
2. Left foster care, or will leave foster care within 180 days, in accordance with a transition plan described in section 475(5)(H) of the Social Security Act; and

> **Change:** The referral timeframe changed from 90 days to 180 days prior to leaving foster care.

3. Is homeless or is at risk of becoming homeless at age 16 or older.

> **Change:** There is a revised definition of "at risk of becoming homeless" that changes the income requirements from 30% to 50% AMI.

Additionally, the young person must meet the eligibility requirements of the HCV program.

Overview of FYI

Change: Referral Timeframe

Previous Requirement

- A youth can be referred for an FYI voucher up to 90 days prior to transitioning out of foster care.



Current Requirement

- A youth can be referred for an FYI voucher up to 180 days prior to transitioning out of foster care.
- This change took effect with the publication of Notice PIH 2025-08 on April 9, 2025.

Overview of FYI

Change: Definition of "At Risk of Becoming Homeless"

Previous Definition

- Used definition at 24 CFR 576.2:
  - Has an annual income below 30 percent of median family income for the area, as determined by HUD.
  - Does not have sufficient resources or support networks, *e.g.*, family, friends, faith-based or other social networks, immediately available to prevent them from moving to an emergency shelter or another place described in the "homeless" definition.
  - Meets one of the additional conditions.

Updated Definition

- Definition established in Notice PIH 2026-19
  - An individual or family who has an annual income below 50 percent of median family income for the area, as determined by HUD.
  - Meets one of the additional conditions set forth in the notice.

Overview of FYI

How is FYI Administered?

PHA-PCWA Partnership: FYI is administered by public housing agencies (PHAs) that have entered into a partnership agreement with a public child welfare agency (PCWA).

Partnership Agreement: The partnership agreement must be in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or Letters of Intent (LOI) between the parties.

Roles and Responsibilities:

PHA:

- Accepts referrals of FYI-eligible youth from the partnering PCWA
- Administers waiting list
- Determines whether the youth meets HCV eligibility requirements
- Issues and administers the FYI voucher

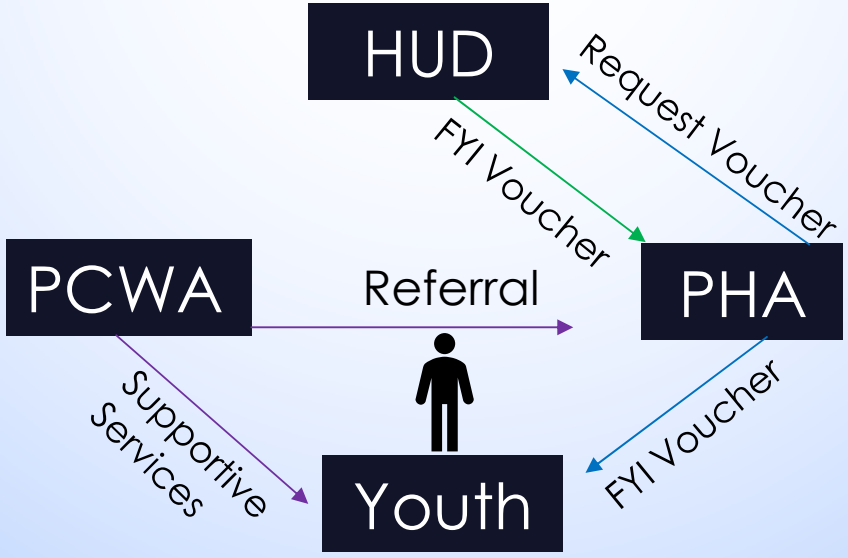


PCWA:

- Identifies FYI-eligible youth
- Refers youth to the PHA with a written certification that the youth is FYI-eligible
- Prioritizes referrals based on the level of need and appropriateness of the intervention
- Provides or secures supportive services for 36 months.

Overview of FYI
How is FYI Administered?

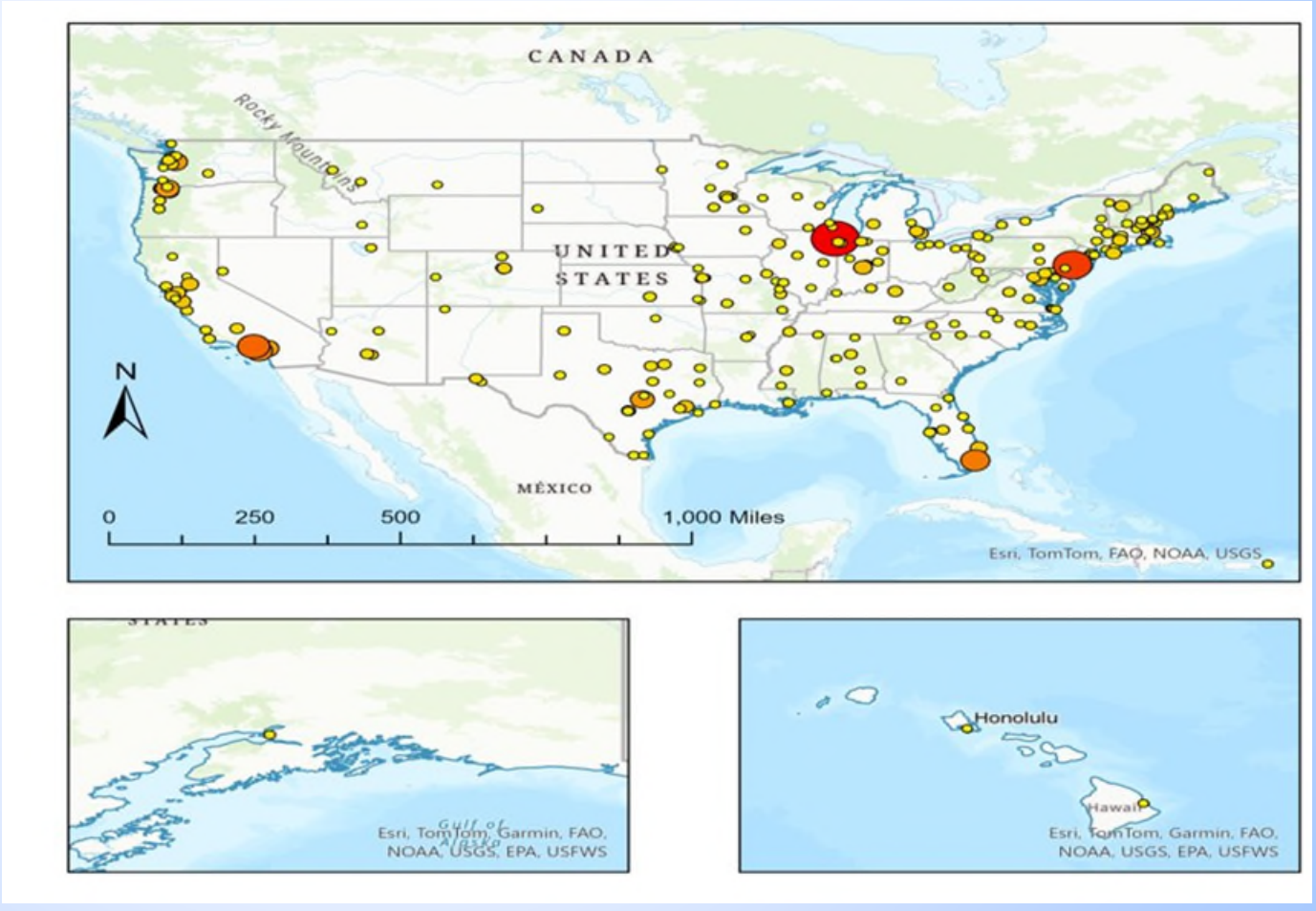
- Once a PHA has entered into a partnership agreement with a PCWA, it can begin requesting FYI vouchers from HUD on behalf of eligible youth.
- FYI vouchers are allocated to PHAs on an on-demand, rolling basis meaning that PHAs can request FYI vouchers that are timed with a young person's exit from foster care to help provide a smooth transition from foster care to adulthood and prevent homelessness.
- Vouchers remain at the PHA to be reissued to another eligible youth referred to the PHA.



Overview of FYI

Status of the FYI Initiative

A total of **372** PHAs currently administer **8,006** FYI Vouchers in **48** States and U.S. Virgin Islands.



Notice PIH 2026-19

Notice PIH 2026-19

On July 27, 2026, HUD published Notice PIH 2026-19.

This notice:

- Supersedes the previous FYI notice (Notice PIH 2023-04) and includes several change from the previous notice.
- Establishes the requirements for the FYI program related to PHA eligibility, partnership agreements, PHA and PCWA roles and responsibilities, youth eligibility, and supportive services.
- Sets forth the process for PHAs to request and receive new FYI vouchers.

Notice PIH 2026-19

FYI Funding

Notice PIH 2026-19 announces the availability of a total of $38.2 million in new incremental voucher assistance.

The 2026 Act provides **$25 million** to be awarded on a noncompetitive basis.	Approximately **$13.2 million** of carryover funds (from the 2025 Act) is also available:

If additional funding is made available for this purpose in further appropriation acts, HUD may continue to make awards under this notice rather than issue a new notice.

Key Changes in Notice PIH 2026-19

Updates to Notice PIH 2023-04

- Renames program to "The Melania Trump Foster Youth to Independence Initiative" (the "FYI "acronym used to refer the program remains the same).
- Encourages PHAs to proactively amend their administrative plans to facilitate requesting FYI vouchers.
- Revises the definition of "at risk of becoming homeless" for the purpose of determining eligibility.
- Removes the utilization threshold submission requirement.
- Removes the cap on the number of FYI vouchers that a PHA can request.
- Clarifies the process by which PHAs may voluntarily return FYI non-competitive vouchers no longer needed.
- Describes how HUD will reallocate (recaptured and voluntarily returned) unutilized FYI non-competitive voucher assistance.
- Informs of future guidance on HUD-initiated recapture of unutilized FYI non-competitive vouchers.
- Clarifies the applicability of the mandatory and optional waivers, and alternative requirements established in Notice PIH 2025-08.
- Amends the process by which PHAs may apply for new incremental voucher assistance.

Key Changes

Change: In 2026, Congress designated the program **"The Melania Trump Foster Youth to Independence Initiative"** to recognize the First Lady's leadership in ensuring that foster youth have the tools they need to achieve self-sufficiency.

Change: The notice has been updated to **encourage PHAs to proactively enter into a partnership agreement with a PCWA** (**via** a Memorandum of Understanding **(MOU)** or a letter of intent **(LOI)**) and make corresponding updates to its administrative plan.

Key Changes

Definition of "At Risk of Becoming Homeless"

Previous Definition

- Used definition at 24 CFR 576.2:
  - Has an **annual income below 30 percent of median family income for the area**, as determined by HUD.
  - **Does not have sufficient resources or support networks**, *e.g.*, family, friends, faith-based or other social networks, **immediately available to prevent them from moving to an emergency shelter or another place** described in the "homeless" definition.
  - Meets one of the additional conditions.

Updated Definition

- Definition established in Notice PIH 2026-19
  - An individual or family who has an **annual income below 50 percent of median family income for the area, as determined by HUD**.
  - Meets one of the additional conditions set forth in the notice.

Key Changes

Utilization threshold submission requirement

Old Requirement

- PHAs with a combined FYI and/or FUP size of **no more than 10 vouchers,** meet the utilization requirement if they had **at least 50 percent FYI/FUP utilization rate**.
- PHAs with a combined FYI and/or FUP size of **11 or more**, meet the utilization requirement if they had **at least 90 percent FYI/FUP utilization rate.**
- PHAs were **limited to additional 25 FYI vouchers if they met the 90 percent utilization rate of existing vouchers**.

Current Policy

- **Removes the utilization threshold submission requirement for the award of new vouchers** to PHAs that currently administer FYI and/or Family Unification Program (FUP) vouchers.
- **HUD generally expects PHAs to utilize their existing FYI and/or FUP vouchers** to serve eligible youth **before requesting new FYI vouchers**. If a PHA requests new vouchers despite having low FYI and FUP utilization and existing leasing capacity, **HUD may require additional justification**.

Key Changes

Cap on the number of FYI vouchers PHAs can request

Prior Policy

- PHAs were limited to an **initial maximum award of 25** FYI non-competitive vouchers in a federal fiscal year (October 1 through September 30).
- PHAs were not awarded more than **50 FYI non-competitive vouchers in a federal fiscal year**.

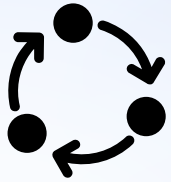
Current Policy

- **Removes the cap** on the number of FYI vouchers that a PHA can request, subject to availability of funding.

Reminder that upon turnover PHAs must continue to use the FYI voucher to serve another eligible youth.

Key Changes

Recapture and Reallocation



Voluntary Recapture

- If a **PHA determines that it no longer needs some or all of its** FYI noncompetitive **vouchers**, the PHA **may request** those vouchers and any associated funding be **recaptured and returned back to HUD**.
- The **PHA may make this request at any time** by emailing FYI@hud.gov , FMC_Funding_Team@hud.gov, and the PHA's respective FMC Financial Analyst.

HUD-Initiated Recapture

- The 2026 Act provides that **HUD will review PHAs' utilization of FYI noncompetitive vouchers** allocated through this notice or through previous FYI noncompetitive notices **and recapture unutilized voucher assistance that is no longer needed**.
- HUD will implement these provisions through guidance at a later date.

HUD will reallocate any recaptured amounts through the FYI Noncompetitive Process.

F Y I

Applicability of Notice PIH 2025-08

Statutory and Regulatory Waivers for Family Unification Program (FUP) and ***Foster Youth to Independence (FYI)*** *Vouchers*

Prior Policy

- Timing of Referral of Youth Leaving Foster Care **90 Days**
- Initial Search Term **60 Days**
- Extensions of Term
  - **PHA may grant one or more extensions**
- Residency Preference
  - **Youth were subject to any applicable residency preference**
- Waiting List
  - HCV regulations requirement to maintain **one waiting list and one system of preferences**

Current Policy

- Timing of Referral of Youth Leaving Foster Care **180 Days**
- Initial Search Term **120 Days**
- Extensions of Term
  - **PHA must grant 90-day extension**
- Residency Preference
  - **PHAs cannot apply a residency preference to FUP or FYI applicants**
- Waiting List
  - PHA may establish a waiting list **separate from their HCV waiting list** for FUP and FYI vouchers.
  - PHAs may establish **separate preferences for FUP and FYI vouchers applicants**

Process for Requesting FYI Vouchers

Process for Requesting FYI Vouchers

PCWA certifies that a young person meets FYI eligibility requirements and sends the referral to the PHA

→

PHA Determines Young Person Eligible for HCV Program

→

PHA Requests Voucher from HUD

DocuSign Version of the FYI Form

Prior Practice

- FYI Form



The PHA's Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Application Request Form

Please complete this form and submit your agency's request for FYI vouchers. ***Only PHAs may request these vouchers.***

When you submit this form, it will not automatically collect your details like name and email address unless you provide it yourself.

* Required

Identity of PHA and Third Party Partners

Please include details of the PHA, the PCWA and other partnering entities working to assist the FYI youth.

1. What is the PHA's Code (this should be just five characters-e.g. PH123)? *

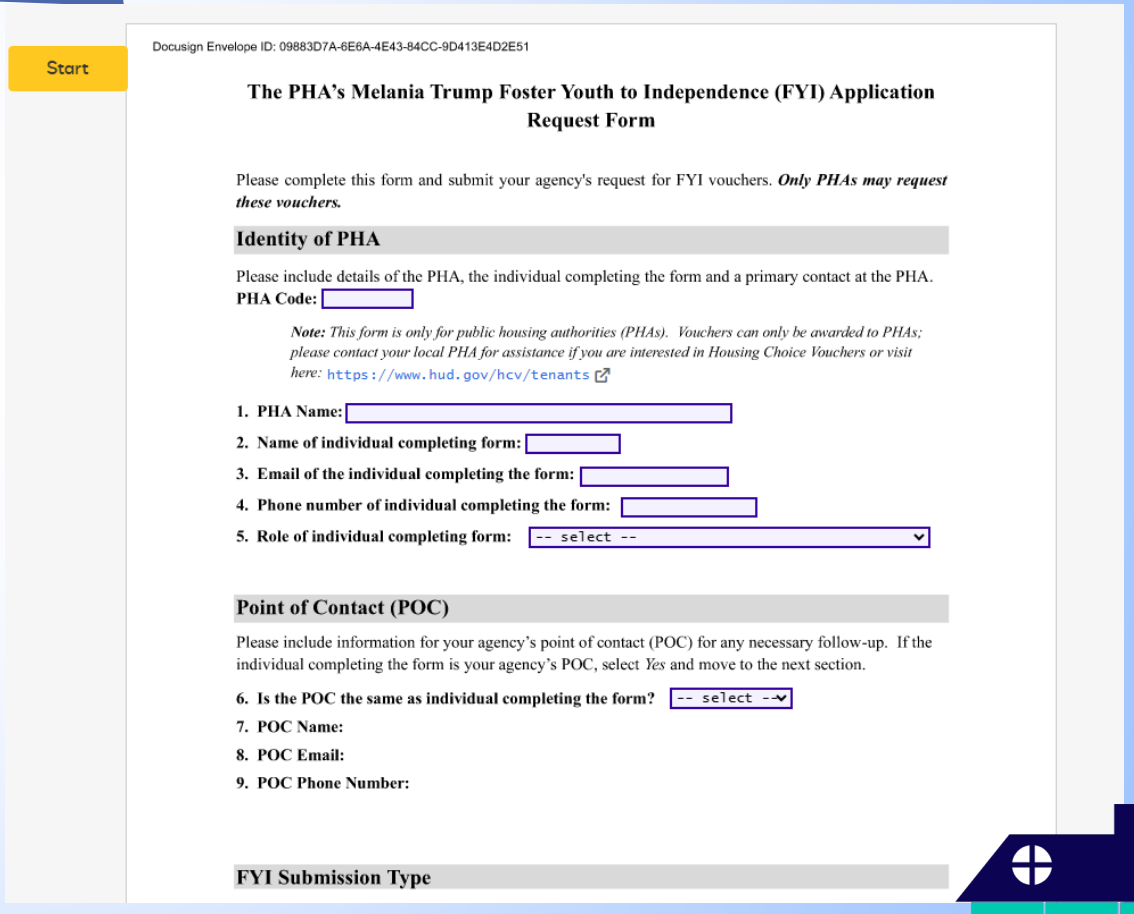
This form is only for public housing authorities (PHAs). Vouchers can only be awarded to PHAs; please contact your local PHA for assistance if you are interested in Housing Choice Vouchers or visit here: https://resources.hud.gov/

Again, only PHAs should populate this form.

Enter your answer

Current Policy

- DocuSign Version of FYI Form



Start

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The PHA's Melania Trump Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Application Request Form

Please complete this form and submit your agency's request for FYI vouchers. ***Only PHAs may request these vouchers.***

Identity of PHA

Please include details of the PHA, the individual completing the form and a primary contact at the PHA.

PHA Code:

Note: *This form is only for public housing authorities (PHAs). Vouchers can only be awarded to PHAs; please contact your local PHA for assistance if you are interested in Housing Choice Vouchers or visit here:* https://www.hud.gov/hcv/tenants

1. **PHA Name:**
2. **Name of individual completing form:**
3. **Email of the individual completing the form:**
4. **Phone number of individual completing the form:**
5. **Role of individual completing form:** -- select --

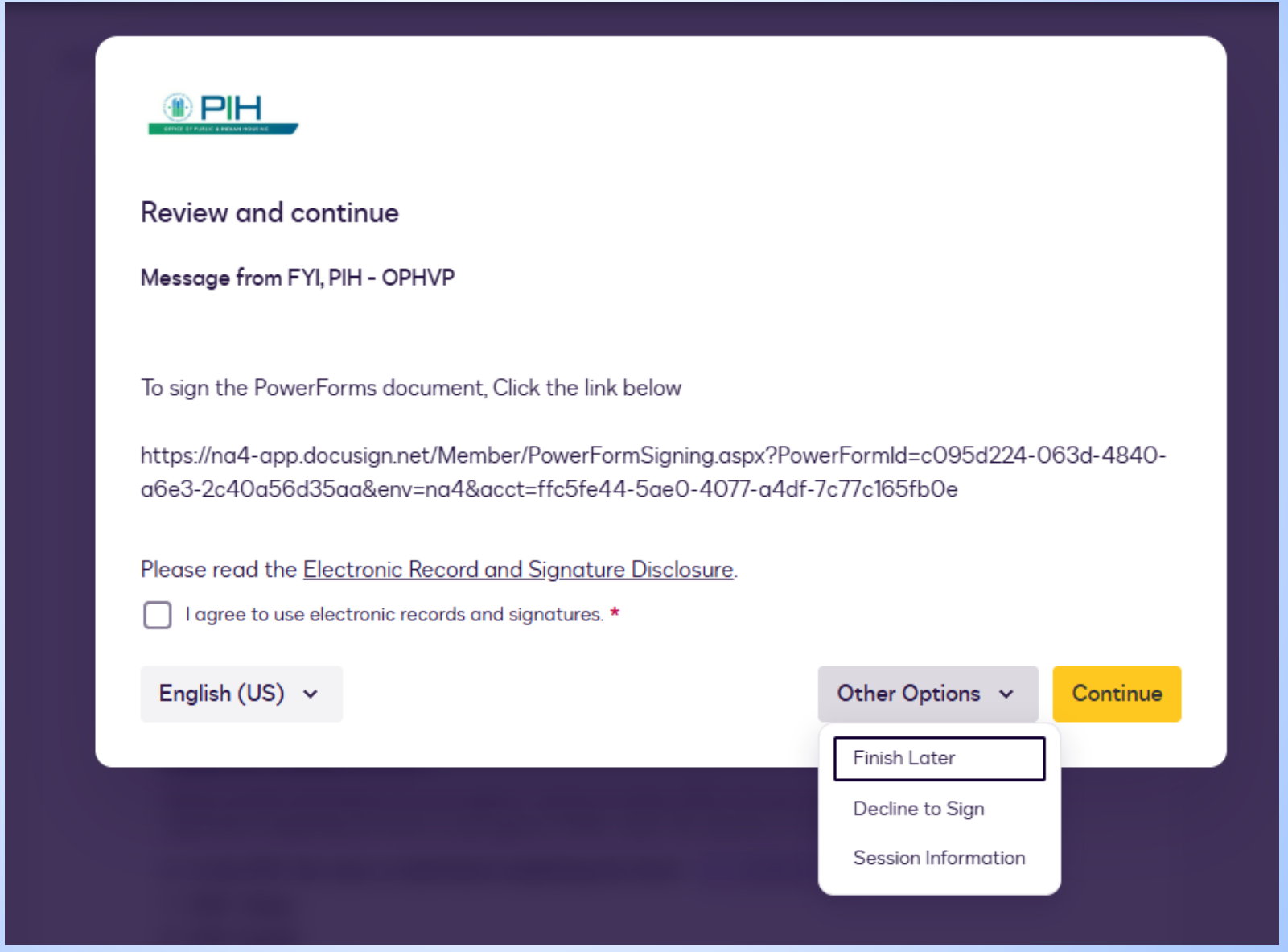
Point of Contact (POC)

Please include information for your agency's point of contact (POC) for any necessary follow-up. If the individual completing the form is your agency's POC, select *Yes* and move to the next section.

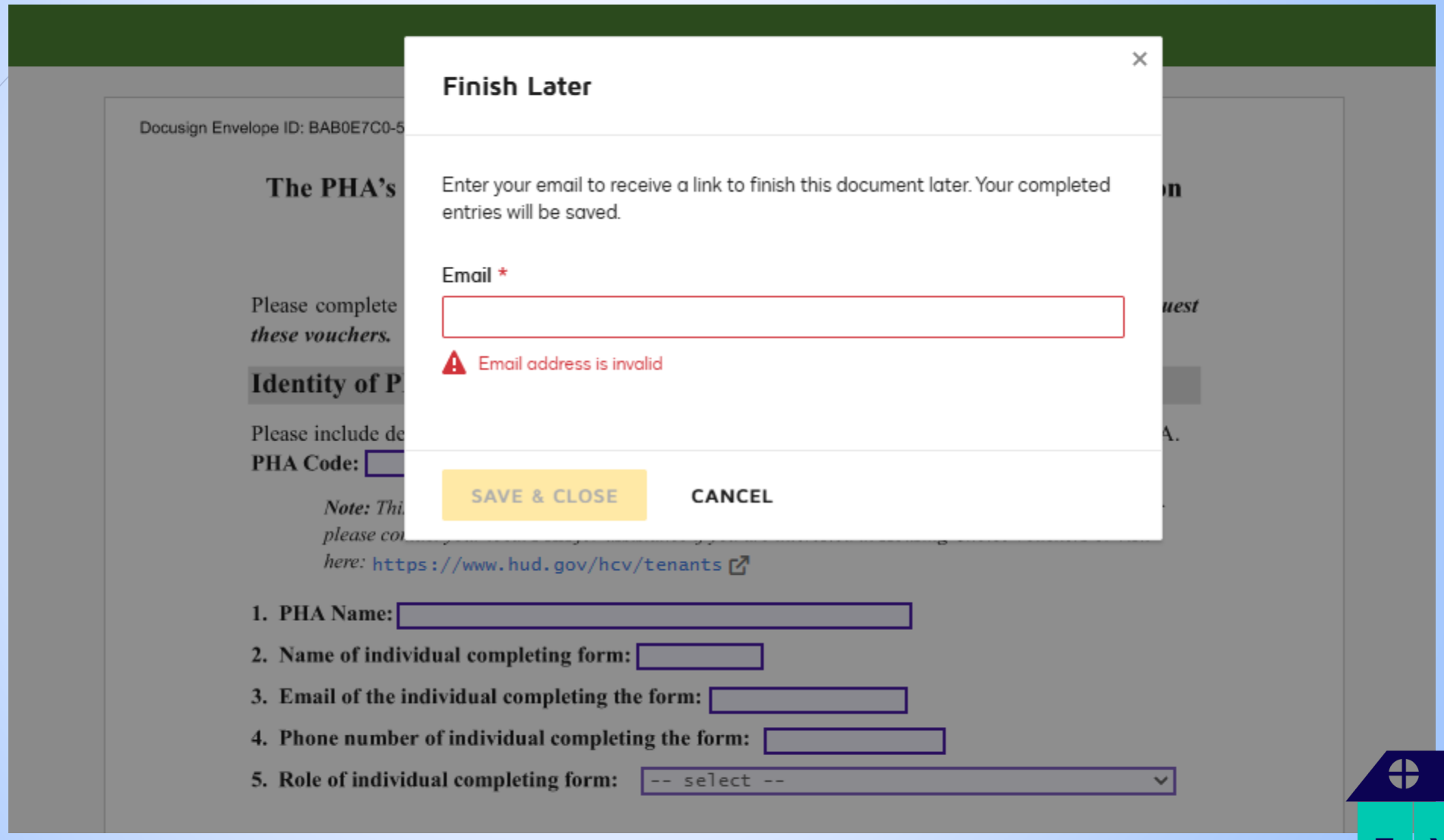
6. **Is the POC the same as individual completing the form?** -- select --
7. **POC Name:**
8. **POC Email:**
9. **POC Phone Number:**

FYI Submission Type

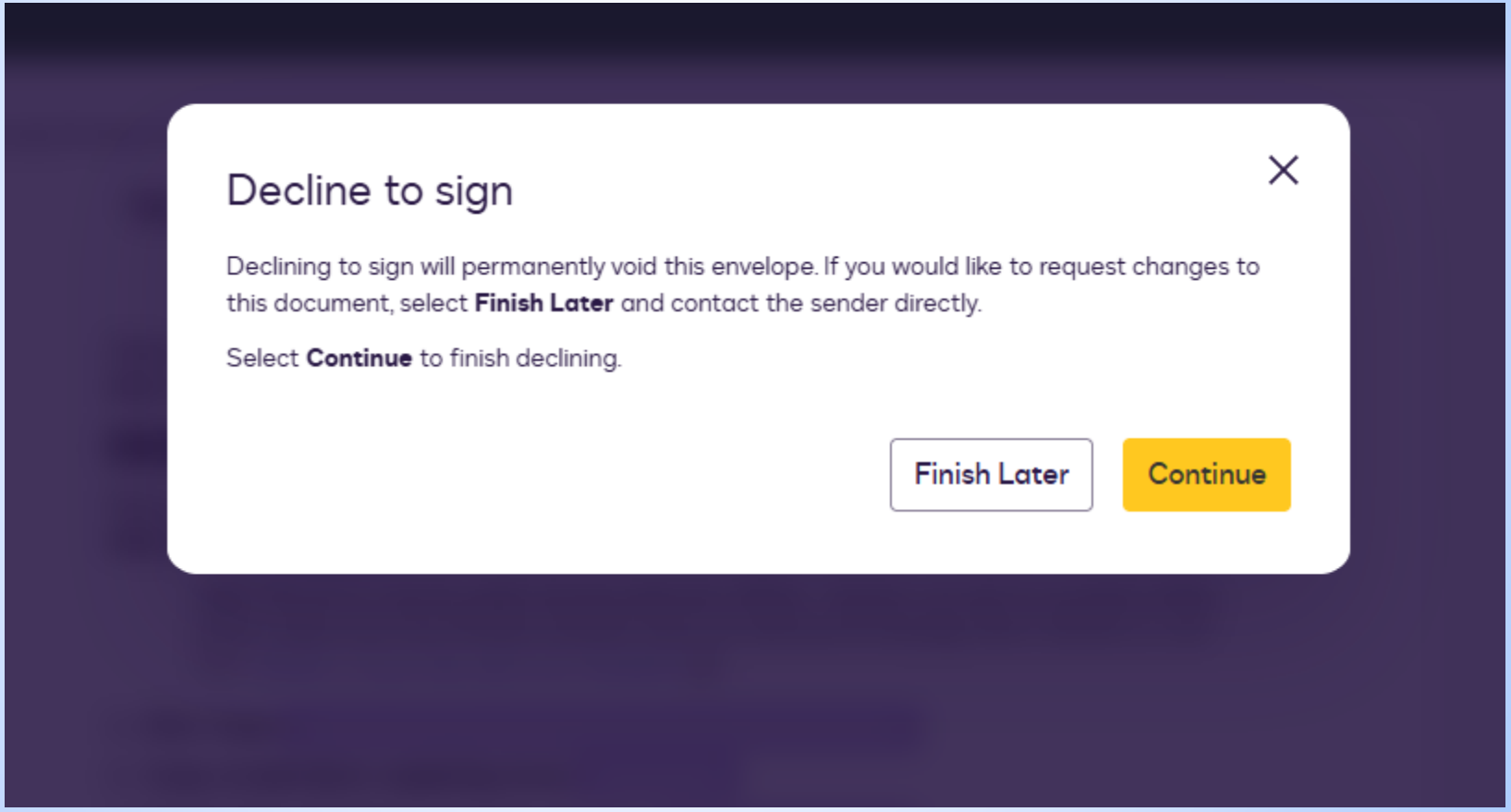
DocuSign Version of the FYI Form (cont'd)



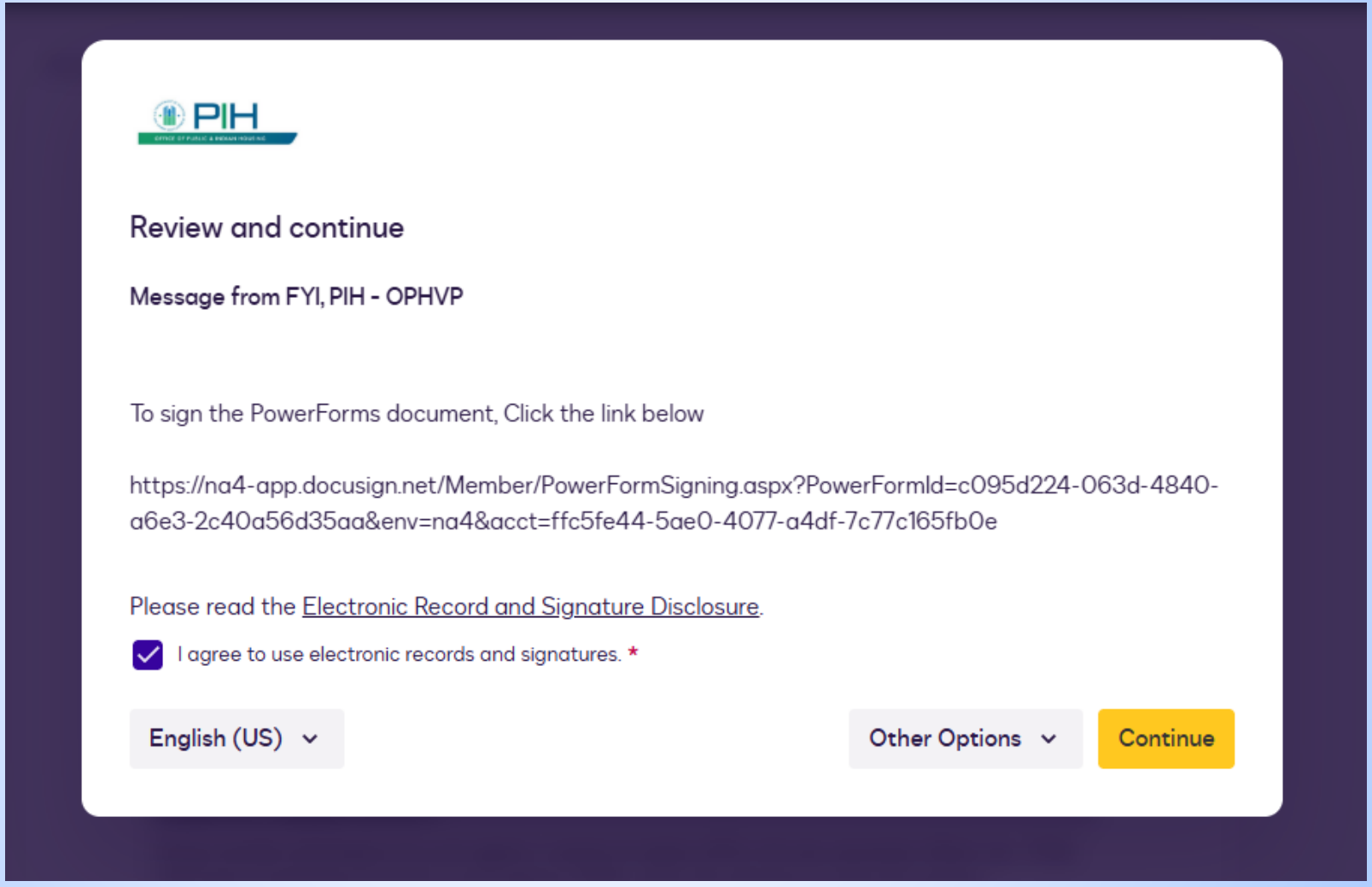
DocuSign Version of the FYI Form (cont'd)



DocuSign Version of the FYI Form (cont'd)

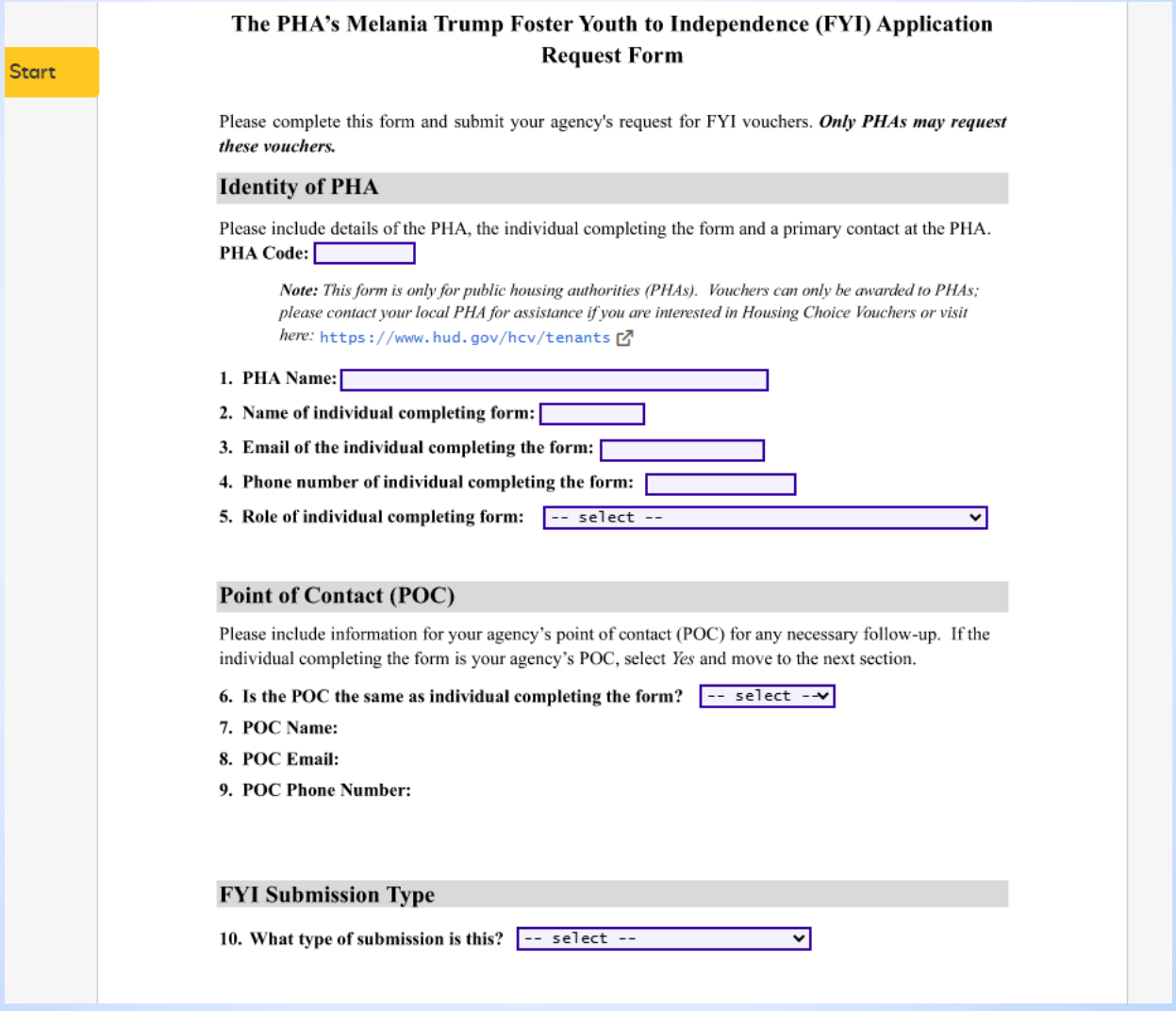


DocuSign Version of the FYI Form (cont'd)



PHAs must select the *I agree to use electronic records and signatures* to proceed.

DocuSign Version of the FYI Form (cont'd)



Start

The PHA's Melania Trump Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Application Request Form

Please complete this form and submit your agency's request for FYI vouchers. ***Only PHAs may request these vouchers.***

Identity of PHA

Please include details of the PHA, the individual completing the form and a primary contact at the PHA.

PHA Code:

Note: This form is only for public housing authorities (PHAs). Vouchers can only be awarded to PHAs; please contact your local PHA for assistance if you are interested in Housing Choice Vouchers or visit here: https://www.hud.gov/hcv/tenants

1. **PHA Name:**
2. **Name of individual completing form:**
3. **Email of the individual completing the form:**
4. **Phone number of individual completing the form:**
5. **Role of individual completing form:** -- select --

Point of Contact (POC)

Please include information for your agency's point of contact (POC) for any necessary follow-up. If the individual completing the form is your agency's POC, select *Yes* and move to the next section.

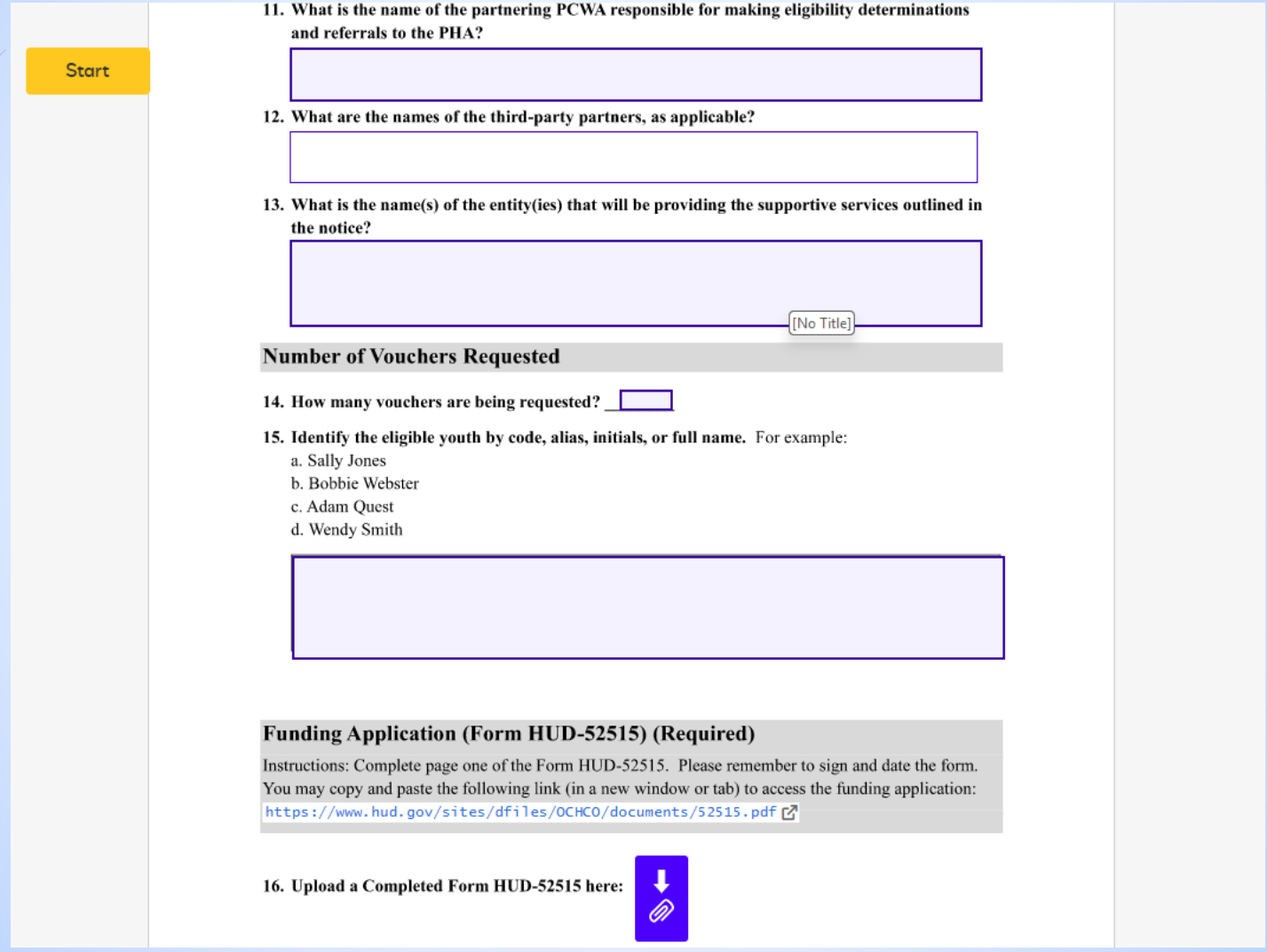
6. **Is the POC the same as individual completing the form?** -- select --
7. **POC Name:**
8. **POC Email:**
9. **POC Phone Number:**

FYI Submission Type

10. **What type of submission is this?** -- select --

Page 1 of 3

DocuSign Version of the FYI Form (cont'd)



Start

11. What is the name of the partnering PCWA responsible for making eligibility determinations and referrals to the PHA?

12. What are the names of the third-party partners, as applicable?

13. What is the name(s) of the entity(ies) that will be providing the supportive services outlined in the notice?

[No Title]

Number of Vouchers Requested

14. How many vouchers are being requested? _____

15. Identify the eligible youth by code, alias, initials, or full name. For example:
    a. Sally Jones
    b. Bobbie Webster
    c. Adam Quest
    d. Wendy Smith

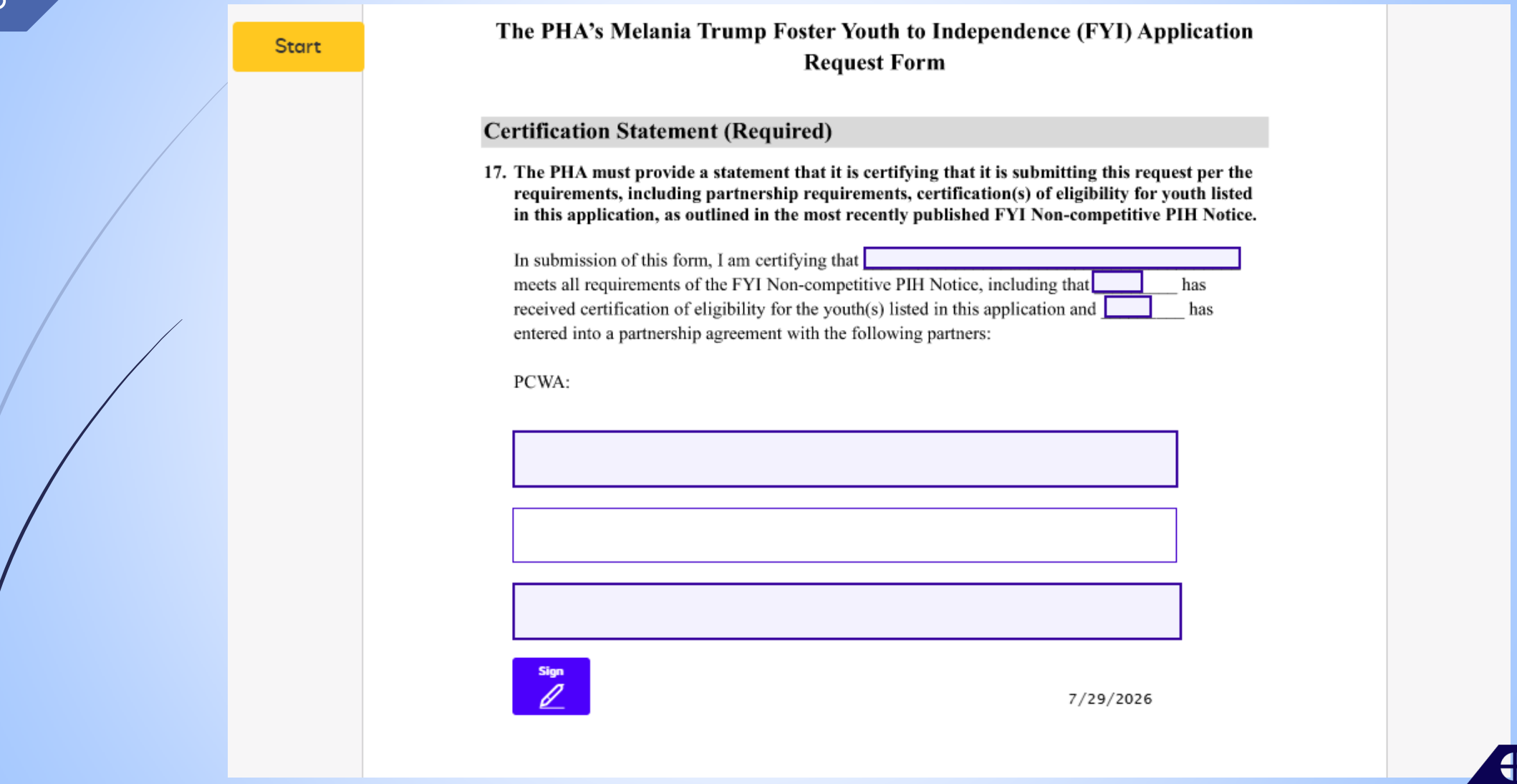
Funding Application (Form HUD-52515) (Required)

Instructions: Complete page one of the Form HUD-52515. Please remember to sign and date the form. You may copy and paste the following link (in a new window or tab) to access the funding application: https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/OCHCO/documents/52515.pdf

16. Upload a Completed Form HUD-52515 here:

Page 2 of 3

DocuSign Version of the FYI Form (cont'd)



Start

The PHA's Melania Trump Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Application Request Form

Certification Statement (Required)

17. The PHA must provide a statement that it is certifying that it is submitting this request per the requirements, including partnership requirements, certification(s) of eligibility for youth listed in this application, as outlined in the most recently published FYI Non-competitive PIH Notice.

In submission of this form, I am certifying that _____ meets all requirements of the FYI Non-competitive PIH Notice, including that _____ has received certification of eligibility for the youth(s) listed in this application and _____ has entered into a partnership agreement with the following partners:

PCWA:

Sign

7/29/2026

Processing of Applications

What Happens After PHA Submits Request(s)?

(Amended ACC within 60 Business Days)

- **Eligibility Review**
  (see Section XIV.A. of Notice)
- **Eligibility Determination**
  (see Sections VI.B. and XIV.B. of Notice)
- **Funding Process**
- **PHA Issues Youth FYI Voucher**





Summary and Next Steps

- **HUD encourages communities to work together to:**
- **Expand access to FYI so that all eligible youth who need an FYI voucher are able to receive one.**
  - For PHAs without a current FYI program, connect with your local PCWA to determine whether there is a need for FYI in your community.
  - For PHAs with an existing FYI partnership agreement, work with your partnering PCWA to assess the need for FYI vouchers, including whether unutilized FYI vouchers can be made available to eligible youth and whether additional FYI vouchers should be requested from HUD.
- **Leverage resources to provide youth with the supportive services that they need to maintain stable housing and achieve self-sufficiency.**
  - Youth-serving organizations and other community organizations are encouraged to reach out to their local PHAs and PCWAs to determine how they can promote FYI by helping identify eligible youth in the community and providing supportive services.

Resources

Notice PIH 2026-19:

- https://www.hud.gov/sites/default/files/PIH/documents/PIH-2026-19.pdf

FYI Webpage:

- https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/hcv/fyi

DocuSign Version of the FYI Form:

- https://na4.docusign.net/Member/PowerFormSigning.aspx?PowerFormId=c095d224-063d-4840-a6e3-2c40a56d35aa&env=na4&acct=ffc5fe44-5ae0-4077-a4df-7c77c165fb0e&v=2

Notice PIH 2025-08:

- https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/OCHCO/documents/PIH_2025-08.pdf



Questions

FYI@hud.gov