



# FOSTER YOUTH TO INDEPENDENCE

## NOTICE EXPLANATION

Foster Youth to Independence FYI ([Notice PIH 2020-28](#)) allows for Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) to request housing choice vouchers (HCVs) to serve youth under the age of 25 with a history of child welfare involvement (see specific youth eligibility criteria below), for up to 36 months, with Foster Youth to Independence (FYI vouchers). For more information see the [FYI homepage](#) which includes a Frequently Asked Questions document. Send unanswered questions to: [FYI@hud.gov](mailto:FYI@hud.gov).

The initiative aims to help communities across the country:

1. Address gaps in the availability of FUP for youth across the country.
2. Contribute to the federal goal of preventing and ending youth homelessness outlined in [Home Together: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness](#).
3. Set youth on a path to self-sufficiency by providing a suite of supportive services for the duration of a youth's 36 months of assistance on the program.

### Public Housing Authority (PHA) Eligibility & Requirements

In order for a PHA to be eligible to request FYI-TPV it must meet all of the following:

- Currently administering the HCV program.
- Either does not currently administer FUP vouchers OR has a FUP utilization of 90 percent or greater.
- Partnership with a public child welfare agency (PCWA).
- Accept FUP-eligible youth referral.
- Determine HCV eligibility.
- Update administrative plan.

### Youth Eligibility

A young person eligible to receive a FYI voucher under the notice must meet **ALL** of the following requirements:

1. Has attained at least 18 years and not more than 24 years of age;
2. Left foster care, or will leave foster care within 90 days, in accordance with a transition plan described in section 475(5)(H) of the Social Security Act; and
3. Is homeless or is at risk of becoming homeless at age 16 or older.

A young person who meets the above requirements and is pregnant and parenting is also eligible.

## REQUIRED PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT TO ADMINISTER FYI

PHAs requesting FYI voucher assistance from HUD must enter into a partnership agreement with a public child welfare agency (PCWA). HUD also strongly encourages involvement of State, local, philanthropic, faith-based organizations, Continuum of Care (CoC), or designated CoC recipient. At minimum this agreement must:

1. Be in the form of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or letters of intent between the parties;
2. Outline the definition of FYI eligible youth. HUD strongly encourages a prioritization policy for this limited resource;
3. Outline the supportive services provided based on requirements, including which entity will provide the supportive services; and
4. Describe the PHA, PCWA and (if applicable) third-party responsibilities.

## SUPPORTIVE SERVICE REQUIREMENTS

### Requirements for administering supportive services

- PCWA is required to provide or secure supportive services for participating youth
- Services must be provided for a period of 36 months
- Notice describes the required services; additional services may be provided
- HUD encourages full participation in self-sufficiency services for the participating youth.

### Required types of supportive services

- Basic life skills training
- Housing counseling
- Landlord support services
- Employment and training
- Education and career advancement services

## ROLE OF PARTNERS

Public Child Welfare Agency (PCWA)	Public Housing Authority (PHA)	Third-party responsibilities
Identify eligible youth within agency's caseload. Verify eligibility of youth identified by the PHA and third-party partners.	Accepts referrals from PCWA	Assist in identifying youth with a child welfare history and housing need, and connecting the youth to the PCWA.
Develop a system of prioritization for referral to the PHA based on the youth's level of need and the appropriateness of the intervention.	Verify eligibility for HCV and place youth on the HCV waiting list if they are not already on the list.	Work with the PCWA and PHA to match eligible youth to services.
Provide a written certification to the PHA verifying eligible child welfare history.	Request FYI vouchers from HUD.	
Provide or secure 36 months of supportive services.	Update administrative plan.	
	Administer FYI vouchers for eligible youth for up to 36 month.	
	Continue to use FYI voucher for eligible youth upon turnover	

## PROCESS FOR REQUESTING FYI-TPV FROM HUD

1. Before requesting FYI vouchers from HUD, a local public housing authority and a local public child welfare agency must enter into a partnership agreement as described on the bottom of the previous page.
2. Once the agreement is in place, the public child welfare agency must send a referral to the PHA with a written certification of their eligible child welfare history.
3. The public housing authority must verify the youth's eligibility for an HCV and compare the name(s) with youth already on the PHA's HCV waiting list. Any youth on the PHA's HCV waiting list that matches with the PCWA's referral must be assisted in order of their position on the waiting list in accordance with PHA admission policies.
4. The PHA must send a request to HUD via email to FYI@hud.gov. For a full explanation of the email request see section 14 of the notice.
5. Upon receipt of the email request from the PHA, HUD will conduct an eligibility determination.
6. Eligible applications will result in issuance of amended Annual Contributions Contract (ACC) to the PHA to administer the FYI vouchers.

