

Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Updates & Partnering Opportunities
Webinar 1.27.2021_FAQs

- 1. If we previously applied to the FYI program (Dec 2020) & were advised that funds weren't available at that time, do we need to re-apply to the "new" FYI program?**

Funding is still available for the FYI program

- 2. Per the notice the PCWA must certify that the youth are eligible before the referral can be sent to HUD. However, it also states that the PHA must check to see if the referral is on the current waitlist and if not then add them pending HCV eligibility. My question is are we supposed to require HCV eligibility documents (proof of DOB, SS#, ROIs, etc) before we can submit the referral to HUD or can we move forward with the referral and then determine HCV eligibility?**

PCWA is not required to provide the PHA HCV eligibility documents. The PCWA is responsible for certifying that the youth has prior qualifying foster care involvement. Once the PCWA sends the PHA the referral certifying the eligible youth, the PHA determines the HCV eligibility. However, HUD encourages PHAs to provide training to their PCWA partner on HCV eligibility so that only eligible youth are being referred. The PCWA may also help the youth assemble required documentation to expedite the process.

- 3. For our typical HCV participants, we run EIV at 90 days and again at their annual reexam. This requires an ROI/consent, are we to verify income through EIV for FYI vouchers?**

The process used to determine eligibility for regular HCVs is the same process used for FYI vouchers.

- 4. After entry into the program, does FYI mirror HCV for the 36 months of assistance?**

Yes. After voucher issuance, the FYI voucher holder is treated the same as any other voucher holder on the PHA's program.

- 5. The notice appears to say that this program will allow youth the opportunity to get on the HA's waiting list. But they could be waiting on the list for years. But other parts of the notice make it appear as if assistance with these vouchers is immediately available to the youth who are referred. Which is it?**

HUD does not expect a youth to be on an extensive waiting list for FYI vouchers unless demand exceeds the number of vouchers available to the PHA. A youth will not be on the waiting list for years because FYI vouchers are available on demand and funding is available. The reason the youth are placed on the waiting list is to ensure other youths on the waiting list, who are already ahead of the new youth, and are eligible for the FYI vouchers, receive assistance before the new youth.

- 6. Must you complete a briefing as you do with HCV?**

Yes. A "Voucher Briefing" is required before the individual receives the voucher.

- 7. Are youth who exited foster care through adoption before age 18 eligible if they are now age 18 and experiencing homelessness?**

The youth should be referred to the PCWA to confirm prior foster care involvement and if eligible, be referred to a local PHA.

8. Can a youth receiving a living stipend through a state extension of foster care program be housed with the FYI Voucher?

Supplementing title IV-E foster care with the housing assistance under the FUP is not a permitted use of this resource.

9. We have an 18-year-old who just got Married. Are they eligible as a couple?

The FYI voucher holder is treated the same as any other voucher holder on the PHA's program. For example, if the PHA would allow a family member to be added after voucher issuance, and the individual was otherwise eligible for assistance, the PHA could permit the individual to be added as a household member following the PHA's Administrative Plan.

10. If a youth is in their own apartment, but is leaving foster care, is that considered at risk of homelessness if they are losing the foster care funds?

At Risk of Becoming Homeless means the population who: (i) Has an annual income below 30 percent of median family income for the area, as determined by HUD (ii) 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 paragraph (1) of the "Homeless" definition at 24 CFR 576.2; and (iii) Meets one of the following conditions: (A) Has moved because of economic reasons two or more times during the 60 days immediately preceding the application for homelessness prevention assistance; (B) Is living in the home of another because of economic hardship; (C) Has been notified in writing that their right to occupy their current housing or living situation will be terminated within 21 days of the date of application for assistance; (D) Lives in a hotel or motel and the cost of the hotel or motel stay is not paid by charitable organizations or by federal, State, or local government programs for low-income individuals; (E) Lives in a single-room occupancy or efficiency apartment unit in which there reside more than two persons, or lives in a larger housing unit in which there reside more than 1.5 people per room, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau; (F) Is exiting a publicly funded institution, or system of care (such as a health-care facility, a mental health facility, foster care or other youth facility, or correction program or institution); or (G) Otherwise lives in housing that has characteristics associated with instability and an increased risk of homelessness, as identified in the recipient's approved consolidated plan;

11. Where is this material available to read over after the webinar?

The material will be available on the FYI webpage at the following link:
https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/hcv/fyi

12. What is HUD doing to speed up the process?

The funding process is intended to result in issuance of an amended ACC to the PHA to administer the FYI voucher(s) within 60 business days. In some instances, the award of FYI funds will not be provided in time to assist a youth that is currently homeless or will become homeless before the award of the FYI voucher is completed. As an eligible use of the PHA's administrative fee reserves, the PHA may use these funds to expedite lease up.

13. What is the definition of Supportive Services? Can a youth refuse the services? Does the commitment have to be the entire 3 years? Asking because our case managers are only able to work with youth up to age 23.

Support services are centered around basic life skills training, housing counseling, landlord support, employment and training and education and career advancement as the terms are defined in the notice. An FYI participant may decline the services. An FYI participant that declines the services continue to be eligible for rental assistance. Yes, the rental assistance and Supportive services must be offered for 36 months/ 3 years. This is where partnerships with state, local, faith-based organizations, philanthropic, and the CoC, or a CoC recipient it designates may be leveraged where the case manager is not able to work with the youth beyond 23 years of age. For example, the WIOA Youth program with the Department of Labor can be another option.

For more FAQs on the FYI Program please access the following link:

https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/PIH/documents/FYI_FAQs%20Version%209-23-2020_PDF.pdf