



Transitioning from Foster Care to Adulthood

Unlocking Resources for Success

October 23, 2025



JOHN BURTON
Advocates
for Youth

AGENDA

1) Housing

- Eligible Placements for Non-Minor Dependents
- Housing Resources for Former Foster & Out-of-Home Probation Youth
- Discussion

2) Post-Secondary Education

- College & career exploration
- Postsecondary planning
- Campus support

3) Filing Taxes

- California Foster Youth Tax Credit
- Free resources for tax filing support
- Discussion



HOUSING

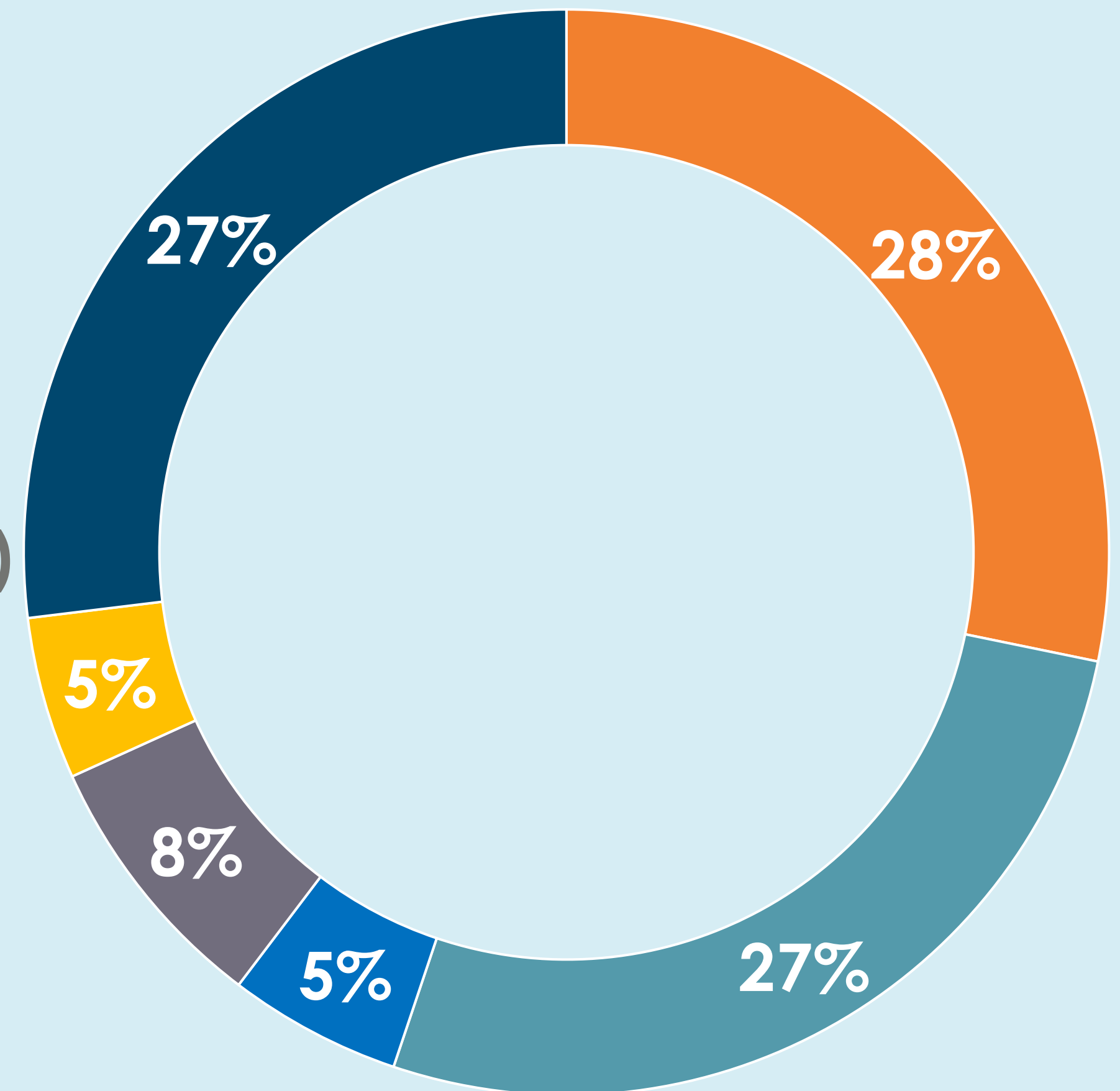
RESOURCES FOR NON-MINOR
DEPENDENTS & THOSE EXITING
EXTENDED FOSTER CARE



ELIGIBLE PLACEMENTS FOR NON-MINOR DEPENDENTS

- **SILP (Supervised Independent Living Placement)**
- **THP-NMD (Transitional Housing Placement for NMDs)**
- **Family Setting (Foster, RF, NREFM, Relative, etc.)**
- **STRTP (Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Placement)**
- **"Runaway"**
- **Other**

Percentage of
Probation-Supervised NMDs



SUPERVISED INDEPENDENT LIVING PLACEMENT (SILP)

Youth live on their own or with a supportive adult. SILPs are the most independent and least supportive placement (unless youth opt to live with a supportive adult).

ELIGIBLE HOUSING OPTIONS



- Room rental
- Apartment/house
- College/university housing (not subject to health & safety inspection)
- Tribal SILP
- Job Corps / AmeriCorps / CA Conservation Corps
- Adult residential treatment facility
- Sober living arrangement
- Single Room Occupancy (SRO) hotel
- With bio parent (previously not allowed)

SILP ELIGIBILITY AND PROCESS



READINESS ASSESSMENT

NMDs have to be deemed ready for a SILP through use of a SILP Readiness Assessment Tool.



HEALTH & SAFETY INSPECTION

If determined SILP-ready, NMD finds a place to live which is then approved by social worker or probation officer.



MONTHLY SILP PAYMENT

If the NMD has appropriate money management skills, they can receive their foster care payment directly (\$1,258/month in FY25).

UPCOMING CHANGES

The monthly SILP rate will be \$2,288 starting July 1, 2027 (new Permanent Foster Care Rate Structure)



SILP PRACTICE TIPS

READINESS ASSESSMENT

Many counties use a standardized assessment tool.

- California Department of Social Services provides a standardized tool developed specifically for assessing SILP readiness.
- Readiness Assessment Tool: [SOC 157C](#)
- See [All County Information Notice I-42-17](#)

SHARED LIVING AGREEMENT

Shared Living Agreements for NMDs in shared housing with a supportive adult are a best practice.

- Not a state requirement but may be required in some counties.
- Documents written understanding between the supportive adult and NMD on expectations and conditions for shared daily living.
- State guidance on topics to include in agreement: [All County Letter 11-77](#)

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PLACEMENT FOR NON-MINOR DEPENDENTS (THP-NMD)

Youth live in rent-free housing leased or owned by a provider that offers **supportive services**. Modeled after the THP-Plus program.

SERVICES PROVIDED

- Counseling and case management
- 24-hour crisis intervention and support
- Educational advocacy and support
- Job readiness training and support
- Allowance adequate to purchase food and other necessities (varies by provider)
- Life skills training
- Assistance finding affordable housing upon exit



THP-NMD PRACTICE TIPS

FIND A PROGRAM

Nearly all counties have THP-NMD, but there are waitlists in some counties.

- Identify a program using this [roster](#).
- Consider programs in neighboring counties if your county is not an option or not ideal for the youth you're working with.

HELP YOUTH APPLY & STABILIZE

Providers are usually renting from a landlord; NMD must be matched with a roommate and abide by the lease.

- Help provide a “whole picture” of the youth, beyond what is stated in their paperwork.
- Highlight strengths but also be transparent about needs and challenges.
- Prepare youth for interview.
- Be willing to be part of the ongoing support plan.
- Build a relationship with the providers in your community.

SHORT-TERM RESIDENTIAL THERAPEUTIC PROGRAMS (STRTP)

Highest level of supervision and support. NMDs generally transition out of STRTPs by age 19.



TREATMENT FACILITIES

Residential facilities specializing in intensive care and supervision of children and youth.



SHORT-TERM

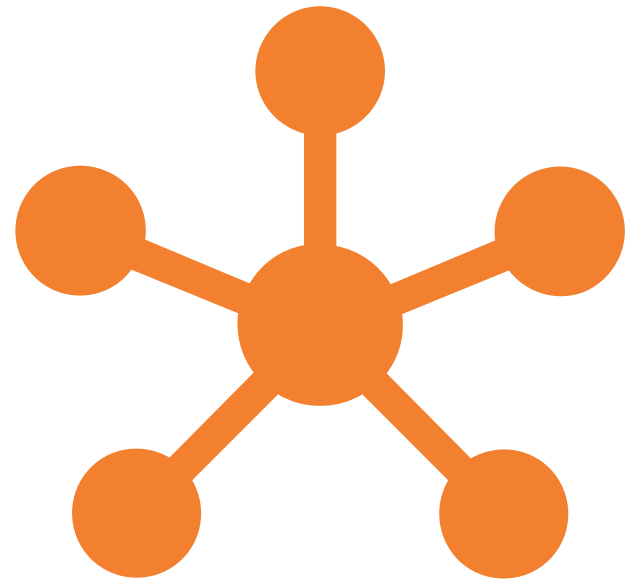
Intended to be short-term and intensive with the goal of preparing youth to step down to a less restrictive setting.



HIGH ELIGIBILITY THRESHOLD

Youth must meet medical necessity criteria for Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health Services or exhibit behavioral or treatment needs that can only be met by an STRTP

FAMILY-BASED SETTINGS



SEVERAL TYPES

“Resource Families” - Foster Family Agency (FFA) home, county foster home, relative home, Non-Related Extended Family Member (NREFM).



PRIORITIZED SETTING

Big shift at state and federal level to prioritize family settings.



RATE REFORM

Forthcoming new foster care rate structure will provide add'l funding and support for family settings.

NEW EMERGENCY PLACEMENT: TRANSITIONAL LIVING SETTING (TLS)



Eligible settings:
hotels, motels and
other short-term
living situations

- Counties have significant discretion
- Not subject to health & safety inspections

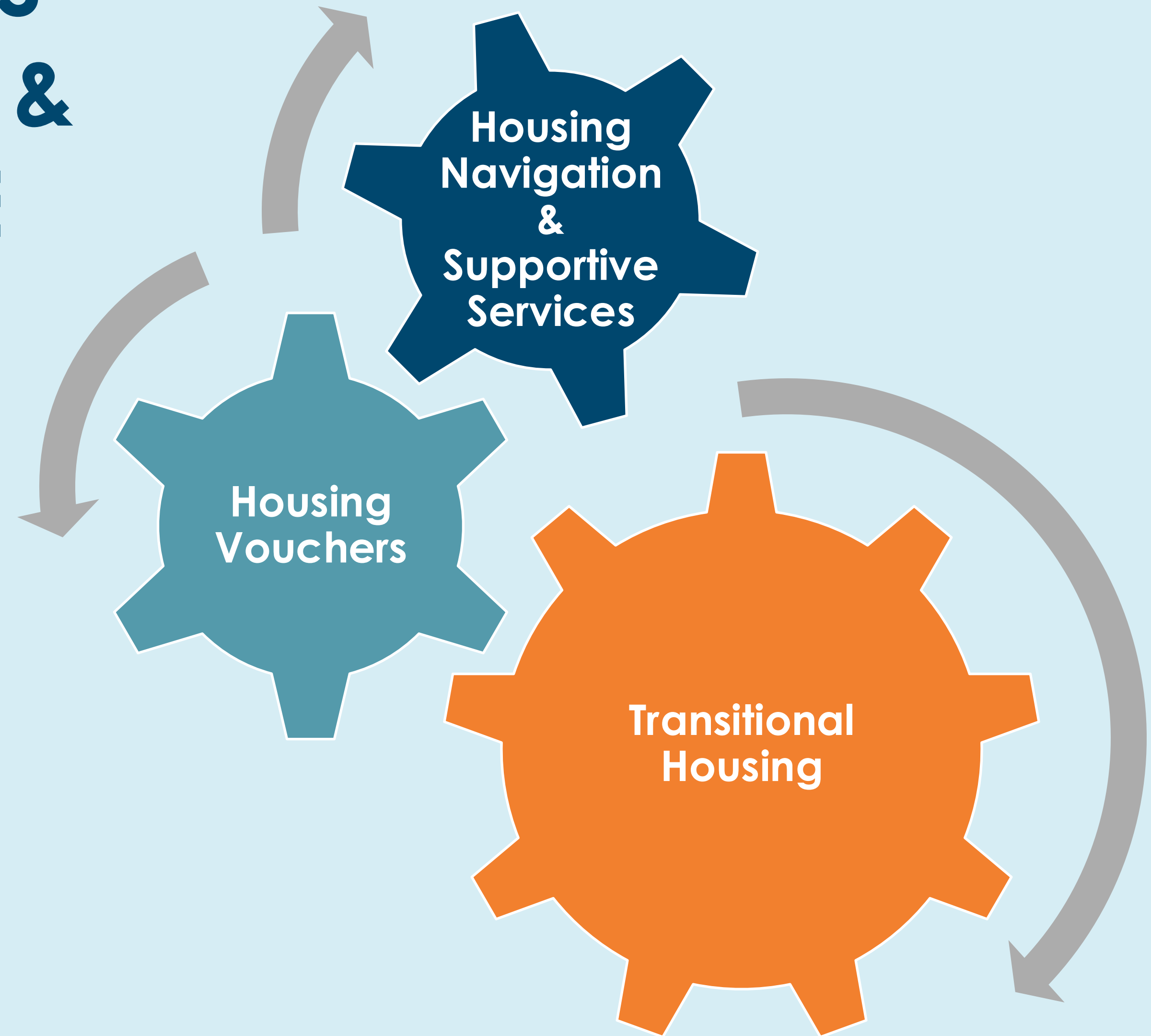
Ineligible settings:
youth
homelessness
prevention
centers or
homeless shelters

SEE ALL COUNTY LETTER 21-95

PLACEMENT RESOURCES FOR PARENTING NMDs

- **Infant supplement: \$900 supplemental monthly payment** for foster youth and out-of-home care probation youth whose child(ren) reside with them.
- **Expectant Parent Payment: \$900 supplemental monthly payment** for pregnant foster youth and out-of-home care probation youth for the three months leading up to the due date.
- **Parenting Support Plan: \$200 supplemental monthly payment** for NMDs in SILPs who create a Parenting Support Plan with a responsible adult mentor approved by the county.
- **THP-NMD Housing Supplement:** Supplements the THP-NMD rate paid to providers on behalf of youth placed in their programs, based on the cost of housing in each county according to HUD's Fair Market Rent. Provides a higher supplement amount for serving parenting youth, **allowing for larger, non-shared housing accommodations.** *(Does not provide direct \$\$ to youth).*

HOUSING RESOURCES FOR FORMER FOSTER & OUT-OF-HOME CARE PROBATION YOUTH



TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM-PLUS (THP-PLUS)

Youth live in deeply subsidized or rent-free housing leased or owned by a provider that offers supportive services. Provides the same supportive services as THP-NMD.

ELIGIBILITY

- Ages 18-24 inclusive (98% are 21-24)
- Exited foster care or court-ordered out-of-home placement on or after 18th bday
- Working toward goals in Transitional Independent Living Plan (TILP)
- Can participate in program for up to 36 months total or until youth turns 25; whichever comes first



THP-PLUS PRACTICE TIPS

FIND A PROGRAM

47 counties have THP-Plus, but there are waitlists in some counties.

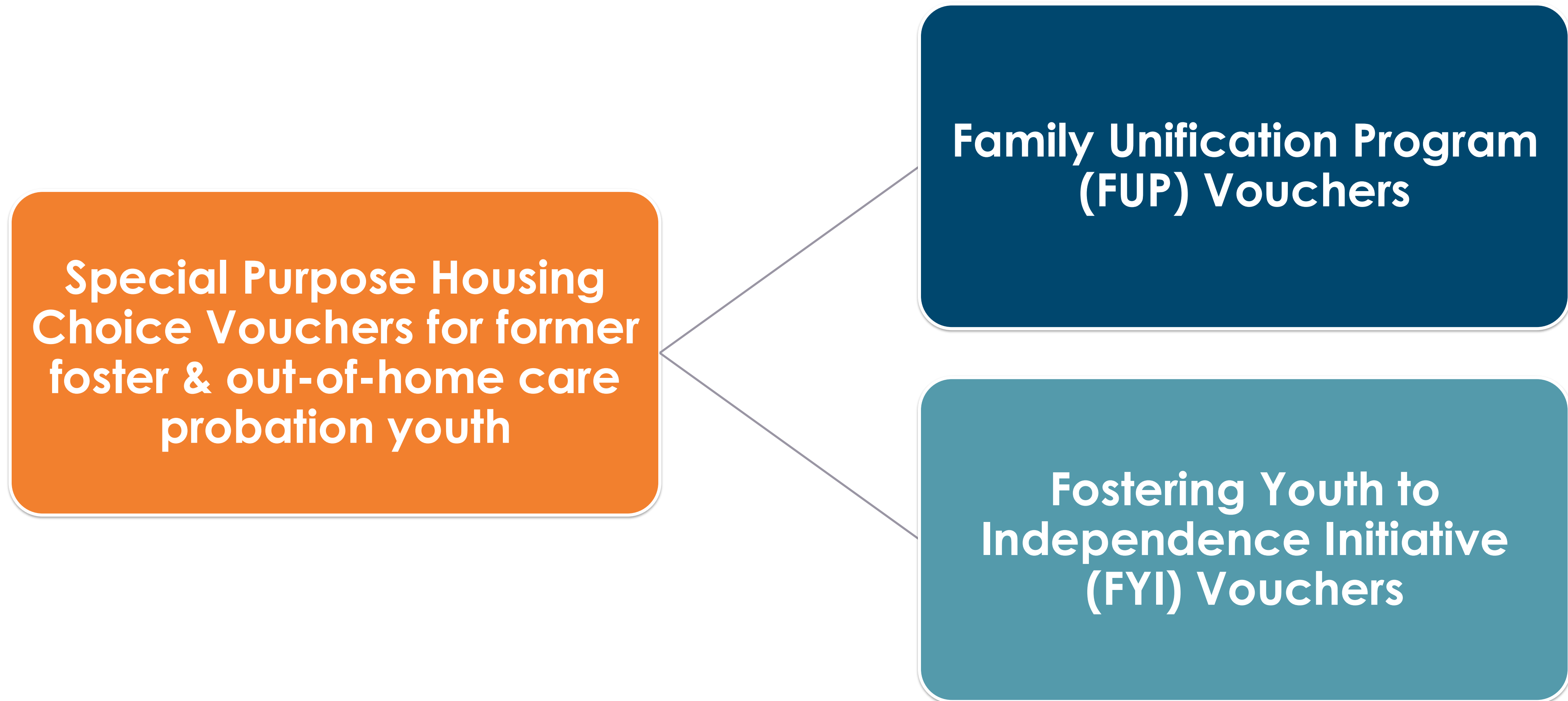
- Identify a program using this [roster](#).
- Consider programs in neighboring counties if your county is not an option or not ideal for the youth you're working with.

HELP YOUTH APPLY & STABILIZE

Providers are usually renting from a landlord; youth must be matched with a roommate and abide by the lease.

- Help provide a “whole picture” of the youth, beyond what is stated in their paperwork.
- Highlight strengths but also be transparent about needs and challenges.
- Prepare youth for interview.
- Be willing to be part of the ongoing support plan.
- Build a relationship with the providers in your community.

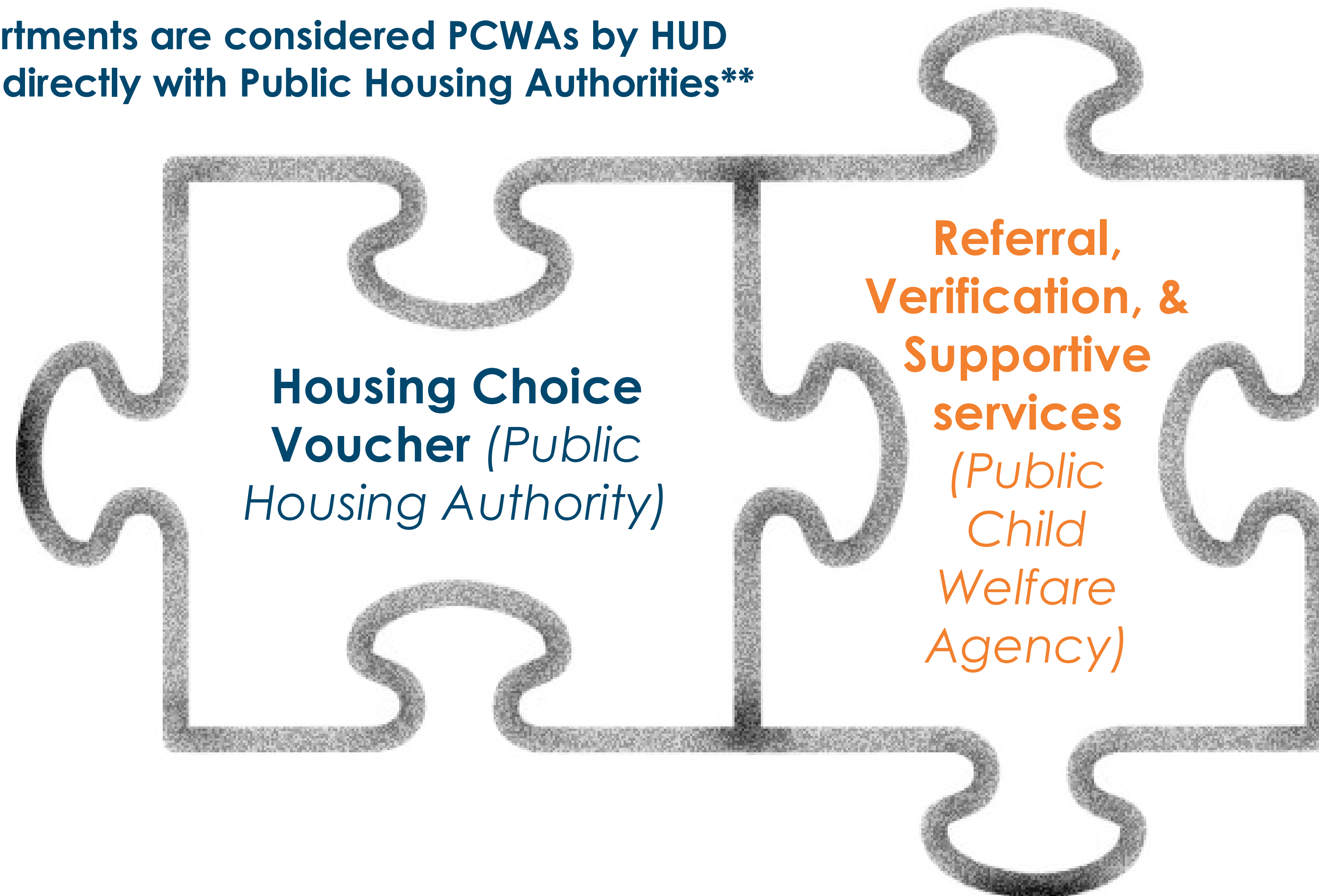
FEDERAL HOUSING VOUCHERS



FYI/FUP VOUCHER ADMINISTRATION

The U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) administers FYI/FUP vouchers to Public Housing Authorities which must partner with a Public Child Welfare Agency (PCWA).

****Probation Departments are considered PCWAs by HUD
and may partner directly with Public Housing Authorities****



WHAT FYI/FUP VOUCHERS PROVIDE

Up to 36 months of housing assistance via a Housing Choice Voucher provided by the Public Housing Authority

- Voucher can be extended an additional 24 months for a total of 5 years through participation in the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program or via participation conditions.

Coupled with supportive services provided or secured by the Public Child Welfare Agency.

- Assistance with applying for the voucher and housing navigation to lease up
- Ongoing supportive services

FYI/FUP ELIGIBILITY





FYI/FUP VOUCHER PRACTICE TIPS

FIND VOUCHERS

33 counties have FYI/FUP vouchers, but there are waitlists in some counties.

- Find out if your county has vouchers using this [roster](#).
- Youth must rent with their voucher in the jurisdiction of the housing authority, the unit must pass inspection and qualify for payment standards, and the lease must be in the youth's name.

HELP YOUTH ACCESS AN ON-DEMAND FYI VOUCHER

FYI vouchers can be requested on a rolling basis, non-competitive basis.

- FYI vouchers can be requested in batches as small as 1 or as big as 25.
- PCWA refers to housing authority; housing authority submits request to HUD; voucher provided within 60 days.
- Ensure youth is receiving adequate support to secure a rental unit before deadline.

DISCUSSION

What challenges do you observe youth experiencing in accessing housing support or staying stably housed?

What are promising practices for supporting youth in maintaining their housing?

EDUCATION

RESOURCES FOR NON-MINOR
DEPENDENTS & THOSE EXITING
EXTENDED FOSTER CARE



POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION PATHWAYS

Any formal education
after high school



CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) PATHWAYS

California
Community
College (CCC)
Career
Education

Adult Education
Career
Technical
Programs

Jobs Corps

Apprenticeships

CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE)

- Can be shorter programs (ex: 12 – 18 months)
- High-quality, career-focused programs leading to good-paying jobs
- Financial aid is available
- Many are offered at community colleges, which foster youth can often attend for free

Example

Earn a Plumbing Technology certificate at L.A. Trade Tech College and make \$60,000!



WARNING!

Proprietary or For-Profit (Private) Vocational Schools

- Use extreme caution before enrolling and ensure the school is accredited
- Cost significantly more than similar community college programs
- High rates of student debt
- Poor job outcomes



ADULT EDUCATION



Available through many K-12 districts and community colleges

Things to Consider:

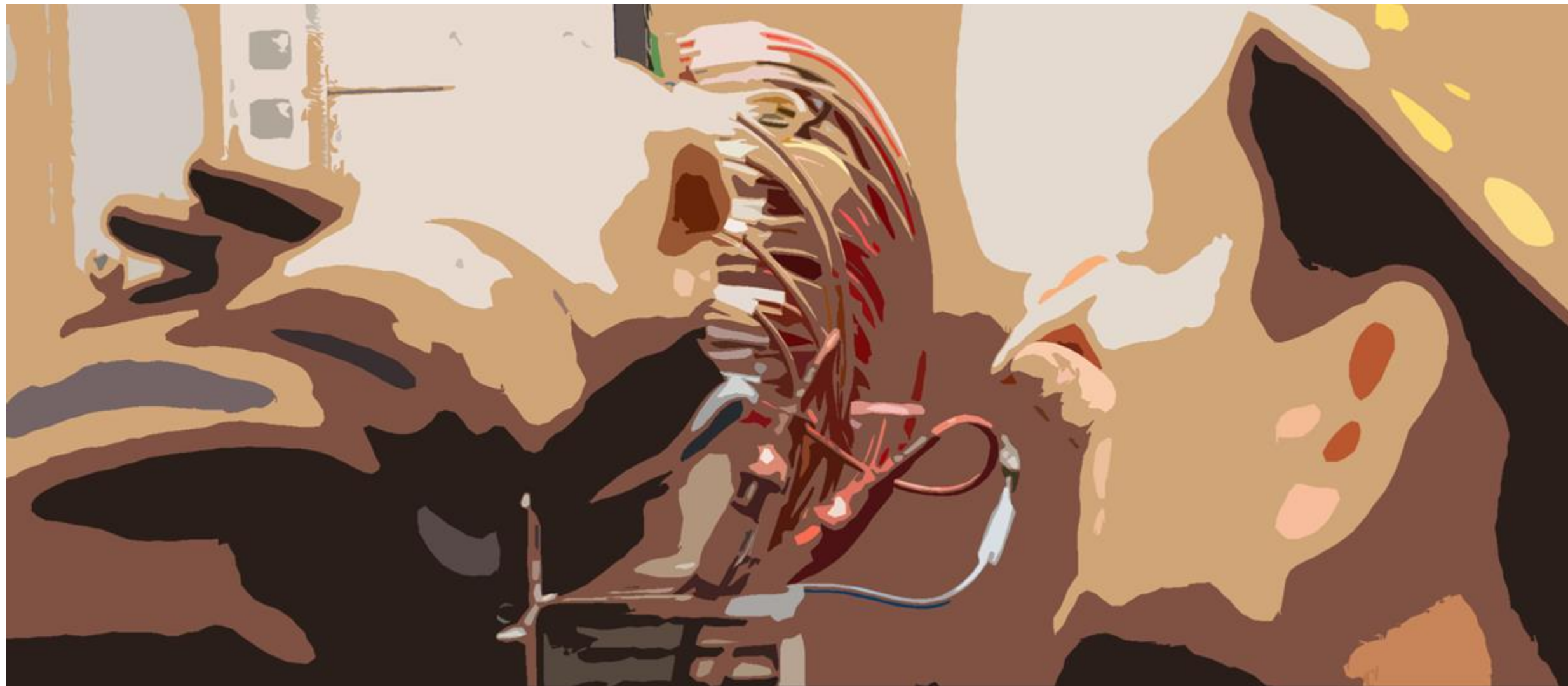
- Is it accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges?
- Does it include access to financial aid?

JOB CORPS: jobcorps.gov/students

- FREE program administered by the US Department of Labor
- Helps eligible young people ages 16-24:
 - Complete their high school education,
 - Train for meaningful careers,
 - Receive FREEE dorm-style housing, and
 - Provide transitional support services



APPRENTICESHIPS



Visit the California directory:

www.dir.ca.gov/das/

- Offer earn and learn job training
- Programs often 3-5 years
- **Average income is \$50,000.**
- Most require a high school diploma or GED, and some require an exam.



HELPFUL TIP

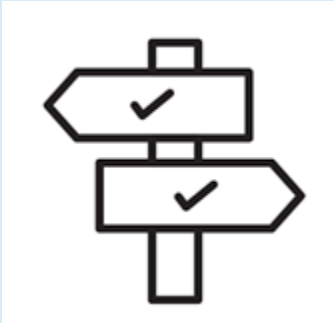
**Encourage direct college
enrollment from high
school**



EDUCATIONAL PLANNING IN HIGH SCHOOL



A-G courses



Dual enrollment



College visits



Academic enrichment programs



Build career awareness through
extracurriculars and summer employment

EDUCATIONAL PLANNING MILESTONES:

GRADE 12

- ☐ Take or retake the SAT or ACT & get a fee waiver (if applicable)
- ☐ Narrow down list of majors and potential colleges to apply to
- ☐ Apply to college and self-identify as a foster youth when asked
- ☐ Apply for financial aid
- ☐ Connect with campus-based support programs and other resources
- ☐ Prepare for the transition into Extended Foster Care and explore housing options near your top school choices

EDUCATIONAL PLANNING MILESTONES:

High School Completion Options

High School Diploma

High School Equivalency
Certificates
(i.e. GED/HiSET)

Graduation Exemptions
for Foster Youth

High School Certificate
of Completion

EDUCATIONAL PLANNING MILESTONES:

Credit Recovery Options to Earn a High School Diploma

- Summer School
- Adult School
- Continuation School
- Remaining in High School a 5th Year
- Review transcripts for partial credits if changing schools.
- Graduation Exemptions for Foster Youth (AB 167/216)

EDUCATIONAL PLANNING MILESTONES:

Graduation Exemptions for Foster Youth (AB 167/216)

Exempts foster youth who transfer schools any time after completing their second year of high school from local graduation requirements if they would not be able to reasonably meet these additional local requirements.

Students receive the same graduation diploma, but do not fulfill the “A-G” requirements.

For more information about K-12 Rights of Foster Youth, visit the California Foster Youth Education Task Force website under Resources at:

cfyettf.org/publications.html

3 STEPS FOR STUDENTS TO MAXIMIZE FINANCIAL AID

1.

Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) [fafsa.gov] or CA Dream Act Application (CADAA) [dream.csac.ca.gov] by the March 2nd priority deadline (or September 2nd if attending community college)

2.

Complete the Chafee Grant application at chafee.csac.ca.gov to receive up to an additional \$5,000 per year if dependent/ward of the court at least one day between the ages of 16-18.

3.

Create a WebGrants Account at mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov after the FAFSA or CADAA is processed to manage state financial aid, including the Chafee Grant, and check for errors

NEW! California Kids Investment & Development Savings Program (CalKIDS)

A statewide initiative that automatically offers a college scholarship for eligible children in California

Two types of CalKIDS college scholarship accounts:



At Birth Accounts

- \$25 initial deposit for all children born in California between July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023
- \$100 initial deposit for all children born in California after July 1, 2023



School-Age Accounts

- \$500 for eligible low-income students
- Additional \$500 for foster youth
- Additional \$500 for homeless youth

EXPANDED ELIGIBILITY:

School Age CalKIDS Scholarship Accounts

Academic Year	Grade	Identified On: (Census Day)
2021 - 2022	1 - 12	October 6, 2021
2022 - 2023	1	October 5, 2022
2023 - 2024	1	October 4, 2023
NEW: 2024-2025	1 - 12 (foster youth only through 27/28)* 1 (low-income & homeless) <i>ACCOUNTS WILL BE CREATED BY THE END OF 2025</i>	October 2, 2024

***Any foster youth who did not receive the low-income payment will also be awarded that additional \$500**

HELP YOUTH CLAIM THEIR SCHOLARSHIP AT: CALKIDS.ORG

What they'll need:

1. Statewide Student Identifier (SSID) or unique CalKIDS code found on the letter sent by mail
2. Student's date of birth
3. Name of the county where the student was enrolled on Fall Academic Census Day



Dear parent or legal guardian of <child name>,
Congratulations! The State of California has established a CalKIDS account for your child and funded it with up to \$1,500.

CalKIDS wants to help families prepare for college, trade school or career programs, so it's giving all eligible youth up to \$1,500 in a CalKIDS account.* It's free money that can grow over time and make a big difference when paying for future education expenses like tuition, books, computers and fees.

What you need to know:

Eligible students get up to \$1,500 in a CalKIDS college savings account.

- \$500 for students with low or moderate family income
- \$500 bonus for students who are foster children
- \$500 bonus for students who are unhoused



Claim your child's account today.
It is free and easy. It costs you nothing. It only takes a few minutes.



Just visit our website at CalKIDS.org.
Use this code to help you get started: <12334566789>.
(Do not share this code with anyone. It is only for <John Doe>.)

You can stop there, or if you want to save your own money for your child's education, you can open an account with ScholarShare 529, California's official college savings plan.



Already have a ScholarShare 529 account for your child?
Link it to your child's CalKIDS account through our website so you can see their college savings in one place.

Visit CalKIDS.org to learn more, sign up for a free online webinar, or opt out of the program.
Get started today to start building a bright future for your child.



Enter the following information:

1. County where the student attended school (based on the chart below),
2. Their birthdate,
3. Their 10-digit Statewide Student Identifier (SSID) OR the unique registration code on the letter you may have received.

ACADEMIC YEAR	GRADE	ON THIS DATE
2021 - 2022	1 - 12	October 6, 2021
2022 - 2023	1	October 5, 2022
2023 - 2024	1	October 4, 2023
2024 - 2025	1	October 2, 2024

County * 

<None> 

Participant birthdate (mm/dd/yyyy) *

mm/dd/yyyy 

Newborn / Young Child's LRN or Student SSID or Unique Code * 

[Return to login](#) [Claim](#)

IDENTIFY A POSTSECONDARY SUPPORT PERSON



- Senate Bill (SB) 12 requires social workers and probation officers to identify a postsecondary support person to assist youth ages 16 or older with their college and financial aid applications.
- This person(s) must be documented in the case plan (see ACL No. 18-104)
- Per AB 153, the court must determine if this has occurred.
- Revisit this conversation ongoing.



TRANSITIONAL INDEPENDENT LIVING PLAN (TILP)

- Leverage the TILP to assist youth in achieving their college and career goals.
- Youth who led their TILP planning **were more likely to complete college** than were youth who said they were not aware of their TILP planning or uninvolved.

REVISED TRANSITIONAL INDEPENDENT LIVING PLAN (TILP) RELEASED JANUARY 2023

California Health & Human Services Agency

California Department of Social Services

TRANSITIONAL INDEPENDENT LIVING PLAN & AGREEMENT

Youth: Success Adams Date of Birth: 01/14/2003 Age: 19 Ethnicity: Native American
Address: 21840 S. Stay In My Lane, Dr., Waterpark, IL 90000
Phone Number: (310) 777-9311 Text OK?: ☒ Email Address: successful1@gmail.com

Instructions To Youth: The purpose of this agreement is to capture the goals you are agreeing to achieve over the next 6 months. It is a good organizing tool to help you stay focused and keep track of your progress toward accomplishing each goal. Your Social Worker/Probation Officer and caregiver will also have copies of this agreement and will help you achieve your goals.

Instructions to Caregiver: You are agreeing to assist the youth in the development of their ILP goals and to support the youth in completing the activities.

Instructions to Social Worker/Probation Officer: You are agreeing to assist the youth and the caregiver in completing this form, and develop Planned Services that will assist the youth in meeting their goals. Document the Planned Services and Delivered Services in CWS/CMS. Probation officers: use manual documentation procedures.

Service goals and activities to be addressed in the plan:

Goals are individualized based on your assessment and may include examples such as:

- develop a life-long connection to a supportive adult
- graduate from high school
- obtain a part-time job
- invest savings from part-time job
- develop community connections
- obtain a scholarship to attend college
- develop competency in the life skill of _____

Activities are individualized to help meet a specific goal. Example – if high school graduation is a goal, the youth directed activity might be to attend classes regularly with no tardies for the next 6 months. For youth participating in ILP services, activities are reportable as ILP Delivered Services in CWS/CMS. The social worker shall select from one or more of the following ILP Service Types that an individualized completed activity fits in:

- Received ILP Needs Assessment
- ILP Mentoring
- ILP Education
- ILP Education Post Secondary
- ILP Education Financial Assistance
- ILP Career/Job Guidance
- ILP Employment/Vocational Training
- ILP Money Management
- ILP Consumer Skills
- ILP Health Care
- ILP Room and Board Financial Assistance
- ILP Transitional Housing, THP, THP Plus
- ILP Home Management
- ILP Time Management
- ILP Parenting Skills
- ILP Interpersonal/Social Skills
- ILP Financial Assistance Other
- ILP Transportation
- ILP Other (Stipends/Incentives)

- ☒ I understand that if I am employed as part of this plan, my earned income will be disregarded, as the purpose of my employment is to gain knowledge of needed work skills, habits and responsibilities to maintain employment. (WIC 11008.15)
- ☒ I understand that withdrawal of the savings shall require the written approval of my probation officer or social worker and shall be directly related to the goal of emancipation. I understand that if I am a Nonminor Dependent (NMD), written approval is not required for withdrawals (WIC 11155.5)
- ☒ I understand that I will receive assistance to obtain my personal documents and information about financial aid for postsecondary education/training. (WIC 18001.9)
- ☒ I understand that if I am 16 years or older and interested in college, my social worker/probation officer must assist me to identify a postsecondary education support person(s) to help me apply for college, including career and technical education, and financial aid. (WIC 18501.1)

California Health & Human Services Agency

California Department of Social Services

Youth: Success Adams Date of Birth: 01/13/2003 Age: 19
Case Worker Name: CSW On Top Of It All Case Worker Phone: (213) 867-5309
Case Worker Email Address: ontopofitall@dcfs.lacounty.gov
TILP 6-month timeline: 02/08/2023 to 08/08/2023
Date Independent Living Needs Assessment completed: 02/08/2023
☒ Based on the assessment of my level of functioning, the following transitional goals and activities meet my current needs.
☒ I will participate in Independent Living Program (ILP) services to help meet my goals.

Goal	Activity	Responsible Parties	Planned Completion Date	Progress Date
Goal #1: Education/Post-secondary education	Enroll in school, attend classes as scheduled and complete assignments timely, and pass all classes with a C or better. Request tutoring when needed; utilize support systems on campus such as	Youth CSW CASA	08/08/2023	☐ Met Goal Date: ☐ Satisfactory Progress. ☐ Needs more time/assistance. ☐ Goal needs modification.
Goal #2: Employment	Prepare resume, apply for jobs, practice interviewing skills, enroll in job readiness program, Bridge-To-Work, Youth At Work	Youth CSW ILP	08/08/2023	☐ Met Goal Date: ☐ Satisfactory Progress. ☐ Needs more time/assistance. ☐ Goal needs modification.
Goal #3: Participate in/Request ILP Services	Request tuition, ITSP services, books, supplies, interview clothing, work clothing, dorm/apartment start-up, inclement weather clothing, computer, printer, school fees, diploma incentive	Youth CSW CASA ILP	08/08/2023	☐ Met Goal Date: ☐ Satisfactory Progress. ☐ Needs more time/assistance. ☐ Goal needs modification.
Goal #4: Follow placement rules Maintain annual medical/dental exams mental health	Follow set rules of placement. Have a physical and dental exam as recommended by your physician. Seek and participate in mental health services and take medication (s) as prescribed	Youth	08/08/2023	☐ Met Goal Date: ☐ Satisfactory Progress. ☐ Needs more time/assistance. ☐ Goal needs modification.

Comments:

N/A

California Health & Human Services Agency

California Department of Social Services

Youth: Success Adams Date of Birth: 01/13/2003 Age: 19
Case Worker Name: CSW On Top Of It All Case Worker Phone: (213) 867-5309
Case Worker Email Address: ontopofitall@dcfs.lacounty.gov

Education Rights Holder (Name): Success Adams Relationship to Youth: Self/Youth
Telephone Number: (310) 777-9311 Email Address: successful1@gmail.com

Tribal Representative (if applicable) (Name): Tallulah Bravebird
Relationship to Youth: Tribal Chief Telephone Number: (234) 567-8910
Email Address: tbravebird.tribalchief@na.org

Postsecondary Education Support Person (at least one person must be listed, if applicable):
Name: Shannon Smith Relationship to Youth: CASA
Will assist with (check all that apply): ☒ college applications ☒ financial aid applications
Telephone Number: (213) 987-0123 Email Address: smiths@casa.org

Name: _____ Relationship to Youth: _____
Will assist with (check all that apply): ☐ college applications ☐ financial aid applications
Telephone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

This Agreement will be updated on: 08/09/2023 Update #: 4

Signing this agreement means we will all work to complete the steps necessary to help the youth reach their goals.

Success Adams 02/08/2023
Youth's Signature Date

Required if under age 18
Caregiver's Signature Date

OnTopOfItAll 02/08/2023
Social Worker/Probation Officer Signature Date

Tammy Waters 02/09/2023
Supervisor of Social Worker/Probation Officer Signature Date

Voter Registration Info:
Secretary of State Voter Registration

Copies to: Youth
Caregiver
Case File
ILP

www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration
Secretary of State Voter Information Contact
www.sos.ca.gov/elections/contact/email-elections-division

Secretary of State Voter Hotline
(800) 345-VOTE(8683)

BENEFITS FOR FOSTER YOUTH

Application fee waiver at up to 4 CSUs and 4 UCs.

Priority housing at CSUs and UCs.

Priority Registration at CSUs, UCs and CA Community Colleges.
Start early, deadlines vary!

Most foster youth, due to their income, qualify for FREE tuition at the UCs, CSUs and CA Community Colleges.

Did you know that most foster youth attending community college can receive approximately \$30,753 in grants if attending full-time (12 + units)?

GENERAL CAMPUS RESOURCES & SUPPORTS

**EOP and
EOPS**

CARE

**Counseling
and
psychological
services**

**Student
Disability
Services**

**Basic Needs
Centers**

Tutoring

**Cultural
Programming
and Student
Clubs**

**Rising
Scholars**

**Dream
Center**

**College
Promise**

**Foster Youth
Campus
Support
Programs**

FOSTER YOUTH CAMPUS-BASED SUPPORT PROGRAMS

NextUp

- Available at all California community colleges.
- Must be in foster care on or after their 13th birthday, and under the age of 26
- Provides services above and beyond, such as grants, academic counseling, tutoring, community events and more!

Foster youth campus support programs

- Found at all CSUs and UCs, students can participate if they have been in foster care at ANY time.
- Often go by Guardian Scholars, but names vary across campuses.
- Many, but not all, community colleges also offer these programs to students who don't meet NextUp eligibility.
- Found at some private colleges too.

RESOURCES FROM JBAY

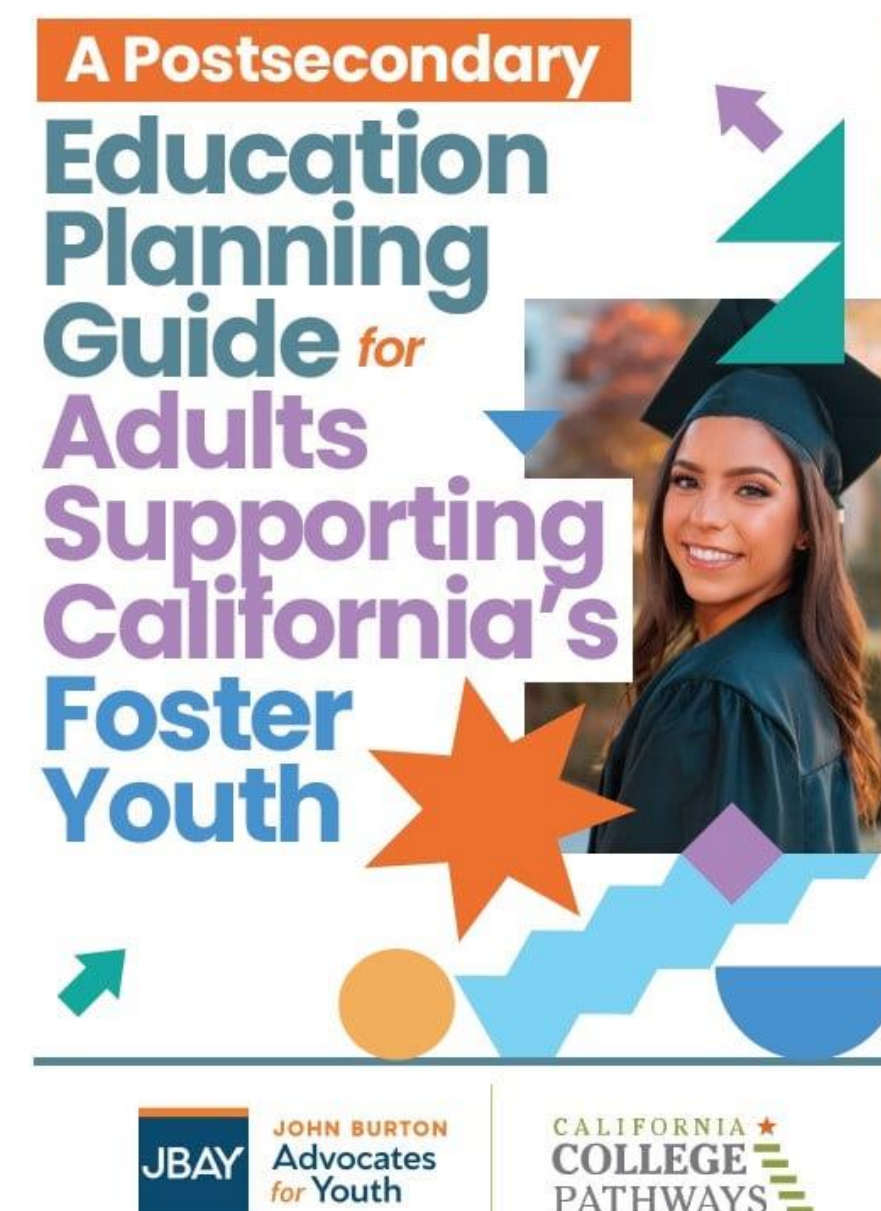
Best practices for SB 12
implementation

[DOWNLOAD](#)



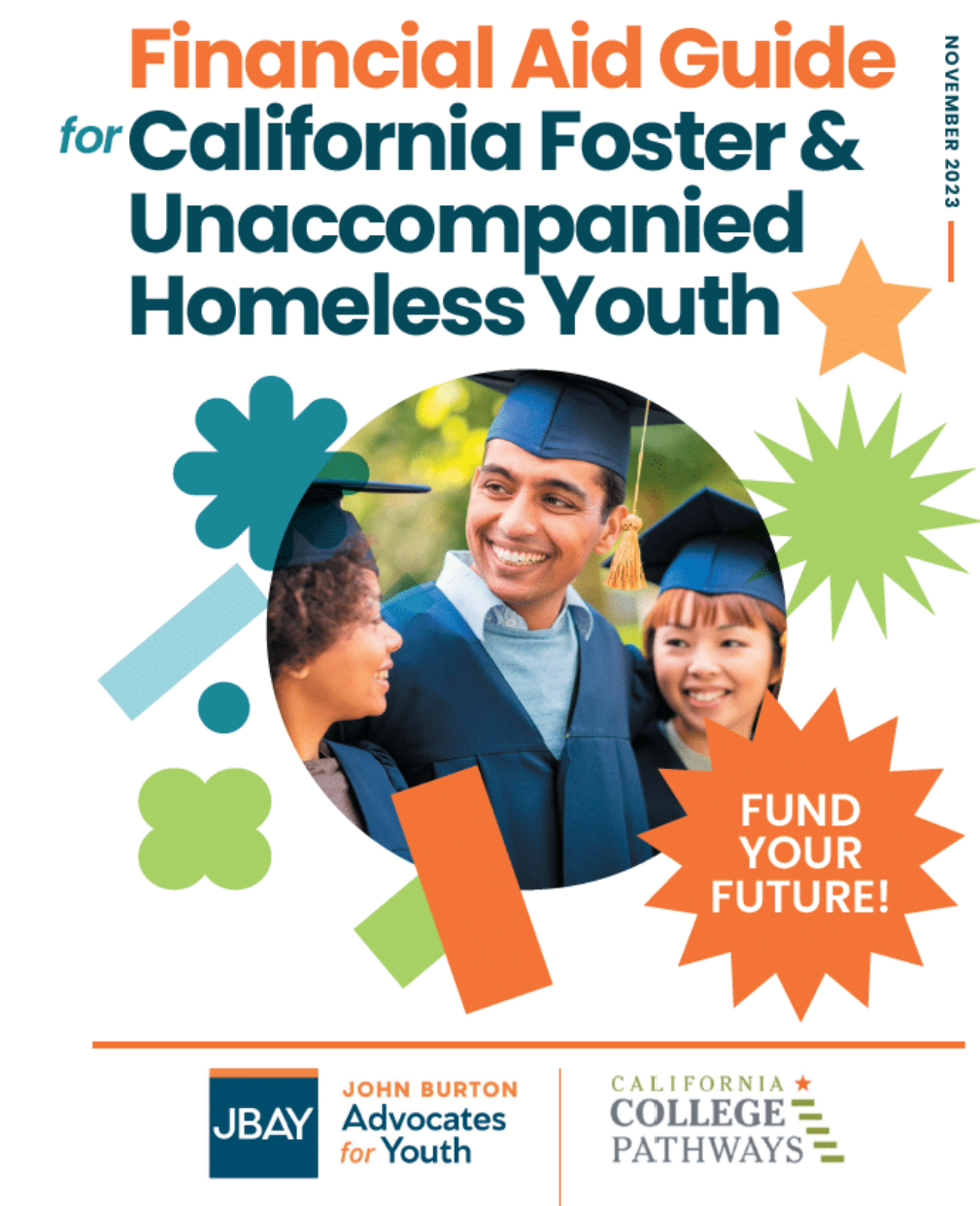
Planning resources for
youth

[DOWNLOAD](#)



Financial Aid
Guide

[DOWNLOAD](#)



www.cacollegepathways.org

← → ↻ https://cacollegepathways.org

CALIFORNIA COLLEGE PATHWAYS

College Planning Financial Aid Campus Support Programs Resources About Find Support

Search the site

In today's economy, education is the key to financial well-being and personal success.

FIND SUPPORT

FINANCIAL AID: CHECK OUT THE FINANCIAL AID GUIDE FOR CALIFORNIA FOSTER YOUTH READ MORE

Equip WITH ESSENTIAL RESOURCES

Enroll IN COLLEGE OR TRAINING PROGRAM

Earn A DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE

Embark ON A CAREER

DISCOVER RESOURCES

Privacy Policy

DISCUSSION

What stops the youth you work with from pursuing postsecondary education?

What is at least one thing that you will do in the next 30 days to support the educational goals of the youth you work with?

FILING TAXES

RESOURCES FOR NON-MINOR
DEPENDENTS & THOSE EXITING
EXTENDED FOSTER CARE





THE CALIFORNIA FOSTER YOUTH TAX CREDIT (FYTC)

provides a refundable (cash back) tax credit to current and former foster youth who file their state taxes.

In 2025, the credit is \$1,154.

History

- Championed by former State Controller Betty Yee, Governor Gavin Newsom and Senator Anna Caballero, in partnership with JBAY.
- First became available in 2023—first and only tax credit in the nation for current / former foster youth.

Eligibility

- ✓ Between age 18-25 on last day of tax year
- ✓ Was in foster care on or after 13th bday
- ✓ Eligible for CA Earned Income Tax Credit (earned \$1-31,950 in tax year, lived in CA at least half of tax year, has SSN or ITIN)



WHY SHOULD NMDs FILE TAXES?

In 2025, current & former foster youth ages 18-25 who filed received an average of:

- ✓ **\$1,857 cash back** for single filers
- ✓ **\$4,008 cash back** for parenting filers!

Just 5% owed taxes.



Cash Money!



Tax filing is how you access state or federal relief



Establishes income for public benefits; tax refunds aren't counted against eligibility



Important independent living skill—eventually we all have to do it!



Uncovers identity theft

HOW CAN I HELP?



Conduct
outreach



Educate
youth



Help youth
prepare to
file



Help youth
make an
appointment
at a local
VITA site

OR



Help youth
self-file



FYTC & TAX RESOURCES



\$1,154 Tax Credit for Current & Former Foster Youth

File your taxes to claim the **\$1,154 California Foster Youth Tax Credit!**

Claiming the Foster Youth Tax Credit:

- ✓ **File Your CA State Return**
Check "Yes" on the Foster Youth Tax Credit boxes stating that you qualify.
- ✓ **Foster Care**
You were in foster care on or after your 13th birthday.
- ✓ **Age**
You were 18-25 years old on December 31, 2024.
- ✓ **Income**
You earned between \$1-\$31,950 from any work in 2024.
- ✓ **Identification**
You have a Social Security Number or Individual Tax Identification Number.
- ✓ **Residence**
You lived in California more than half of 2024.

 **FREE** filing support available. Scan or [click](#) to learn more.

 <https://jbay.org/resources/fytc/>



• OUTREACH

- Disseminate flyer
 - [Download flyer](#)
- Post on social media
 - [Social Media Toolkit](#)
- Display poster
 - [Order from Franchise Tax Board](#)

• PREPARATION

- Host Taxes 101 workshop
 - [PPT & Trainers Guide](#)
- Help youth gather documents
 - [Tax Prep Checklist](#)

• TAX FILING

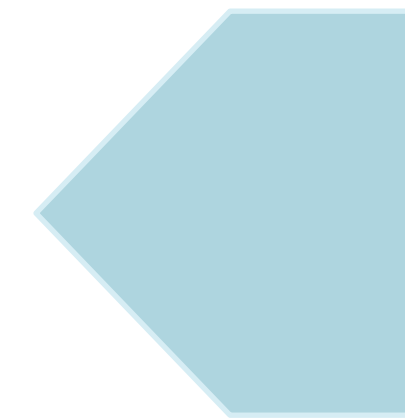
- Help youth get 1:1 assistance from a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site
 - [VITA roster](#)
- Help youth self-file
 - [Self-filing guide](#)

All materials are updated annually prior to tax season; landing page URLs remain the same

NEW COUNTY OUTREACH MANDATE

Senate Bill 624 (Caballero) was signed into law on October 1, to take effect January 1, 2026. SB 624 requires:

- **County child welfare agencies** and **probation departments** to **mail annual notices** to **non-minor dependents** notifying them of their potential eligibility for the FYTC and how access free tax filing resources.
- The **California Department of Social Services** to **issue guidance** to **county child welfare agencies** and **probation departments** on best practices for FYTC outreach and tax filing assistance.



Mailing must occur between Nov-Jan. First mailing will occur 2026-27.



Guidance issued at least bi-annually with first notice going out by July 30, 2026.

DISCUSSION

How can you ensure every nonminor dependent you work with is informed about the Foster Youth Tax Credit and free filing resources?

What type of resources or information would be helpful to probation officers toward this end?

THANK YOU

JBAY.ORG

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