

Non-Minor Dependent (NMD) Housing Resources Toolkit: Frequently Asked Questions

The following questions were submitted during the 9/15/26 NMD Housing Resources Toolkit virtual workshop, hosted by the Chief Probation Officers of California Foundation, and answered by John Burton Advocates for Youth. The housing resources toolkit can be found at <https://jbay.org/resources/nmd-housing-toolkit-pos/>.

1 What's the difference between a THP-NMD host family and a SILP?

A Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP) is the most flexible placement option available to Non-Minor Dependents (NMDs). While the SILP is intended to be the most independent of placement options, some youth in SILPs reside with a supportive adult. This "supported SILP" may look similar to a host family in the Transitional Housing Placement for Non-Minor Dependents (THP-NMD), but there are distinct differences:

- Youth in SILPs may receive their monthly foster care payment directly (\$1,348 in FY27), if approved by their probation officer. Youth in THP-NMD host families receive a monthly allowance, which varies in amount across providers, but is generally less than the monthly SILP foster care payment.
- Youth in SILPs are responsible for identifying their own housing (e.g., apartment, room rental, room with supportive adult, etc.). Youth in a THP-NMD host family are placed by a THP-NMD provider with a host family.
- In a SILP, there is no third-party service provider responsible for offering supportive services or ongoing support. In a THP-NMD host family, the THP-NMD provider offers supportive services for the duration of their placement. This includes case management and counseling, crisis intervention, support with education and employment, independent living skill development, and referral to or direct behavioral health services.

2 Is there more information regarding what the mentor would be live scanned under to complete the background process for a SILP Parenting Support Plan (PSP)?

To establish a Parenting Support Plan (PSP) for youth in a Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP), the adult mentor must be at least 21 years of age, undergo a criminal records check as described in [Health & Safety Code Section 1522](#), and undergo a Child Abuse Central Index (CACI) check as described in [Penal Code Section 11170](#). CDSS All County Letter 15-67 indicates that a negative result from the criminal records or CACI check, while not desirable, does not mean the adult mentor will automatically be excluded from being a viable candidate; it is another factor to be considered.

Relevant Resource Link: California Department of Social Services: CDSS All County Letter 15-67 (2015).
(<https://www.cdss.ca.gov/lettersnotices/entres/getinfo/acl/2015/15-67.pdf>)

3 Is the SILP Readiness Assessment required?

Yes, to be placed in a Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP), youth must be deemed ready for a SILP through the use of a SILP Readiness Assessment Tool. While no specific tool is required, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) provides a standardized recommended assessment tool, Form SOC 157C.

CDSS ACIN I-42-17 indicates that the SILP readiness assessment tool should be completed when an NMD:

- Requests to live in a SILP for the first time;
- Has been living in a supported SILP but may presently be ready for a more independent SILP;
- Requests a new SILP and their circumstances have changed or;
- Was not deemed ready for a SILP in the past but has since accomplished Transitional Independent Living Program (TILP) goals designed to assist the NMD with SILP readiness.

Relevant Resource Link: California Department of Social Services: All County Information Notice I-42-17 (2017).
(https://www.cdss.ca.gov/Portals/9/ACIN/2017/I-42_17.pdf?ver=2019-06-14-152445-080)

4 Can you give examples of what is listed under "other" in the placement data in the toolkit?

The placement data in the toolkit are derived from the [California Child Welfare Indicators Project \(CCWIP\)](#), which aggregates data from the [Child Welfare Services/Case Management System](#). The placement data in the toolkit collapsed three categories from CCWIP into one labeled "other" in the toolkit: 1) Those on trial home visits (very small number); 2) Those entered as "non-foster care," which, according to CCWIP occurs when the youth has had one or more placements in the same episode (very small number); and 3) Those included in the "other" category in CCWIP. For more information about what CCWIP's "other" category consists of, visit this [page](#) on the CCWIP website.

5 I was told that a motel was not an option for the Transitional Living Setting. Is this correct?

No, this is incorrect. Motels and hotels *are* permitted under the Transitional Living Setting (TLS). The TLS is a temporary placement option established in California for NMDs entering, re-entering, or transitioning between placements. A TLS cannot be a Youth Homelessness Prevention Center (youth shelter), homeless shelter, or detention facility. Details on TLS usage can be found in All County Letter 21-95.

Relevant Resource Link: California Department of Social Services: All County Letter 21-95 (2021).
(<https://www.cdss.ca.gov/Portals/9/Additional-Resources/Letters-and-Notices/ACLs/2021/21-95.pdf?ver=2021-08-18-163613-730>)

6 Does the THP-NMD provider have the authority to keep some of the infant supplement for savings?

Only if the NMD and the provider have entered into a Shared Agreement, allowing the provider to hold an amount of the infant supplement to be used for specified needs of the infant or child. This is explained in more detail in All County Letter 17-93, which also provides a Shared Agreement Template.

Relevant Resource Link: California Department of Social Services: All County Letter 17-93 (2017). (<https://www.cdss.ca.gov/Portals/9/ACL/2017/17-93.pdf?ver=2019-06-26-141001-863>)

7 How often is the provider roster available on the JBAY website updated?

JBAY maintains statewide rosters of state licensed THP-NMD providers and county-contracted THP-Plus providers. JBAY updates the rosters at least annually, and on a rolling basis as updated information is provided by individual providers or county contacts.

Relevant Resource Links: JBAY THP-NMD Provider Roster (<https://jbay.org/resources/thp-nmd-provider-roster/>); JBAY THP-Plus Provider Roster (<https://jbay.org/resources/thp-plus-provider-roster/>)

8 What are some of the best practices for a SILP when the agreements are no longer being met, such as refusing to pay rent/bills that were previously agreed upon?

If you're referring to a SILP with a supportive adult or mentor, a best practice is to call a Child and Family Team (CFT) meeting to revisit and/or revise the Shared Living Agreement and help mediate any challenges between the NMD and their adult supporter/mentor. Guidance on topics to include and how to use a Shared Living Agreement can be found in All County Letter 11-77.

Relevant Resource Link: California Department of Social Services: All County Letter 11-77 (2011). <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/lettersnotices/entres/getinfo/acl/2011/11-77.pdf>

9 Will the funding for THP-Plus ever be expanded? We only have 1 THP-Plus in our county and there is always a waitlist.

THP-Plus funding was realigned to counties in 2011, meaning any increase in THP-Plus after that date would be a county option. Counties may choose to increase their investment in THP-Plus using Realignment growth funds or other county funding. State investments such as the Transitional Housing Program (administered by the California Department of Housing and Community Development) have provided state funding to increase local THP-Plus capacity. Any increase at the state level would require a state budget proposal and subsequent appropriation.

10 What form is utilized to initiate funding for a Transitional Living Setting (TLS) such as a motel, who does the funding go to (the NMD?), is there a time limit, and is there a cap on the monthly funding?

TLS is designed as a temporary short-term setting for youth entering, re-entering, or transitioning between EFC placements. State law does not establish a uniform foster care rate for TLS, meaning monthly rates must be negotiated directly at the county level. There is very sparse state guidance on this placement. This guidance is provided in All County Letter 21-95.

Relevant Resource Link: California Department of Social Services: All County Letter 21-95 (2021). (<https://www.cdss.ca.gov/Portals/9/Additional-Resources/Letters-and-Notices/ACLs/2021/21-95.pdf?ver=2021-08-18-163613-730>)

11 Does permanent supportive housing also end at age 25?

No, Permanent Supportive Housing is long-term (not time-limited) housing paired with intensive services for individuals with disabilities. Unlike age-capped youth programs like THP-Plus (ages 18–24) or FYI/FUP vouchers (ages 18–24 at contract execution), Permanent Supportive Housing has no overall age exit limit. Similar to Permanent Supportive Housing, Permanent Affordable Housing also has no overall time limit.

12 How much is the FYI voucher exactly?

The Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) voucher is a federal Special Purpose Housing Choice Voucher. Housing Choice Vouchers do not have a single fixed cash value. They typically cover the difference between 30% of a household's adjusted monthly income and the actual approved rent/utilities of a rental unit, up to a local maximum limit called the payment standard. Payment standards are set based on the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Fair Market Rent. Fair Market Rent amounts can be found at <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/fmr.html>.

Relevant Resource Link: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development: Housing Choice Voucher Program Guidebook. (<https://www.hud.gov/helping-americans/housing-choice-vouchers-guidebook>)

13 For the purposes of engaging in an MOU with a Public Housing Authority to administer FYI vouchers, you say we are considered child welfare agencies. However, when I tried to utilize a Bringing Families Home (BFH) program, they stated they couldn't help us because we weren't children's services. How would I approach letting them know that although we are Probation, we would still fall under their umbrella for services?

Bringing Families Home (BFH) specifically targets families involved in open child welfare/Child Protective Services (CPS) cases. To refer a probation-supervised young person, they must meet the core eligibility criteria: having an open CPS case on their child(ren) where lack of housing is the obstacle to preventing child removal or achieving reunification. Some counties relax eligibility criteria regarding CPS status, so probation officers should consult directly with their local county child welfare agency.

14 For the additional parenting support, does this start during pregnancy or only once the baby is born?

If you are referring to the additional monthly \$200 Parenting Support Plan payment for parenting NMDs in Supervised Independent Living Placements (SILPs), the payments start once the child is born. The Expectant Parent Payment (EPP), however, begins three months prior to the youth's due date (in the 7th month of pregnancy), and the Infant Supplement begins at birth. Both the EPP and the Infant Supplement share the same base monthly amount and receive annual California Necessities Index (CNI) rate updates.

15 Can fathers in foster care receive the additional parenting support?

Expectant Parent Payments are provided to *pregnant* foster youth only, therefore foster youth who are fathers are not eligible. However, foster youth who are custodial fathers can receive the Infant Supplement and the additional \$200 Parenting Support Plan payment.

16 For the FYI Voucher, can the NMD pick the county they want to reside in, or will they only receive a voucher from their county of residence?

FYI vouchers are administered through local Public Housing Authorities (PHAs), whose jurisdiction is either a city or a county. While recipients must use their voucher within the issuing PHA's jurisdiction, they do not need to live in that jurisdiction when they apply. This means young people can apply for FYI vouchers through PHAs in counties other than where they currently reside. The exception is that after one year of using the voucher, tenants may "port" their voucher to another PHA's jurisdiction, if both PHAs agree.

Relevant Resource Links: JBAY Public Housing Authorities Roster (<https://jbay.org/resources/pha-ca/>); JBAY FYI Voucher Contacts Roster (<https://jbay.org/resources/fyi-roster/>)

17 Is it acceptable if an NMD uses participation condition #3 for long periods of time?

Statute does not specify a strict time limit on participation condition #3 ("Participating in a program or activity designed to remove barriers to employment"). The legislative intent of condition #3 is to bridge periods where there are gaps in employment or school enrollment.

18 So, if an NMD is visibly not making efforts to find employment or enroll and remain enrolled in school, is that judgment left up to the probation officer with documentation of course?

Yes, evaluation of ongoing progress toward the goals set out in the youth's Transitional Independent Living Plan (TILP) is managed by the probation officer. Temporary non-participation in one criterion does not automatically make an NMD ineligible as long as they continue working toward their TILP goals.