

It's A Great Time to Implement Your Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Program

Important Updates for the FYI Program

The Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Program provides a time-limited Housing Choice Voucher for young people who are leaving or have left foster care and can be a critical part of an excellent transition plan to provide housing stability and security. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has issued a series of exciting [policies](#) that make access to FYI vouchers easier for Public Housing Authorities and recent state laws make more funding available to county child welfare agencies for the services that are to be provided to those receiving vouchers. **These changes provide more opportunities to launch and expand FYI (or FUP for youth) programs.**

FYI Vouchers are Easier to Access than Ever Before

- Almost all Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) are eligible for FYI vouchers if they already administer Housing Choice Vouchers.
- PHAs can administer both Family Unification Program (FUP) Vouchers *and* FYI Vouchers.
- PHAs may request as little as one voucher at a time or as large as 25, to be responsive to the needs of counties and young people.

There are More FYI Non-Competitive Vouchers Available Than in Previous Years

- Competitive FYI vouchers are issued to PHA after they respond to a Notice of Funding Opportunity. All PHAs that administer Housing Choice Vouchers can draw down non-competitive FYI vouchers. Non-competitive FYI vouchers are FYI vouchers PHAs can request directly from HUD at any point during the fiscal year.
- PHAs can request up to 50 non-competitive FYI vouchers per fiscal year, with a maximum of 25 vouchers per request. (The opportunity exists for each PHA).
- October 1st is the beginning of the federal fiscal year. PHAs are eligible to request as many as 25 non-competitive FYI vouchers at that time with an option to ask for another 25 during the fiscal year.
- PHAs can request FYI vouchers even if they are not yet meeting the 90% utilization rate. New HUD [guidance](#) provides PHA the opportunity to request additional vouchers and submit a narrative to explain the efforts that are being made to support young people in leasing up (getting into a unit).