

Los Angeles County Housing Resources for Youth & Young Adults with Experience in Foster Care and Probation

Housing Resources: At-a-Glance

Safe, stable housing is essential for young people to grow into independence, heal from trauma, secure education and employment, and launch a thriving future. Youth and young adults who have experienced foster care or out-of-home probation have a number of housing supports available to them through the child welfare system and its contracted providers, and may also seek services through community based organizations or the homelessness response system, which utilizes a coordinated entry system to match and refer people to services to prevent and address homelessness.

Professionals working with youth and young adults should research the following housing options to confirm availability and eligibility for each individual young person. [More information about these housing resources can be found on the following pages.](#)



Current Foster & Probation Youth

For young adults 18, 19, or 20 years old with an open child welfare and/or juvenile justice case (also known as Extended Foster Care or AB12).



Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP)



Transitional Housing Placement - NMD (THP-NMD)



Resource Homes

Short-term Residential Treatment Program (STRTP)

Regional Center Placement

Transitional Living Setting



Former Foster & Probation Youth

For young adults 18-24 (not yet turned 25) years old who have a closed child welfare and/or juvenile justice case.



Transitional Housing Program Plus (THP-Plus)



Independent Living Program Transitional Housing Program (ILP -THP)

Available to former foster youth ages 18-20



Foster Youth to Independence Initiative (FYI) and Family Unification Program (FUP) Vouchers



Community Resources

Available to current & former foster & probation youth.



Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority Coordinated Entry System (LAHSA CES)



Community Based Organizations

Non-profit housing & supportive services



FURS & Foster Youth Ombudsperson

Reach out for additional support

Housing Available Through Child Welfare (DCFS) and Probation

CURRENT FOSTER & PROBATION YOUTH



Listed below are all of the foster care placements available to non-minor dependents (young adults who are 18-, 19-, or 20-years-old with an open child welfare and/or a juvenile justice case), also known as Extended Foster Care or AB 12. Once youth turn 21, they exit the foster care system and are no longer eligible to be in a foster care placement. For all of these housing options, youth and service providers can contact the young person's DCFS social worker, Probation officer or their ILP coordinator.



Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP): Young adults find and live in their own place, which most commonly is a room rental, an apartment or house (with or without roommates), living with parents or relatives, or college/university housing/dorms. Although less common, Job Corps/AmeriCorps/California Conservation Corps, adult residential treatment facilities, sober living arrangements, and Single Room Occupancy (SRO) hotels are also eligible SILP settings. Young people will receive a monthly stipend intended to cover living expenses, although it is generally not enough to cover all expenses. Youth must pass a readiness assessment before being placed in a SILP, which indicates they are ready for this level of independent living. SILP placements must pass a health and safety inspection conducted by a DCFS social worker or Probation officer but are not subject to state licensing requirements.



Transitional Housing Placement for Non-minor Dependents (THP-NMD): Most commonly, young adults placed in THP-NMD reside in a "remote site" housing model, which is usually an apartment in the community, leased or owned by a state licensed THP-NMD provider and subleased to the youth.* All youth in THP-NMD are offered case management services, including required life skills programming, and a monthly stipend, which varies in amount across THP-NMD providers. The provider covers the cost of the housing/rent. Youth complete an online application available at ilponline.org (under the "Housing" tab) with the support of their social worker or probation officer. Contact thpp@dcfs.lacounty.gov for more information. For a statewide roster of THP-NMD providers, visit jbay.org/resources/thp-nmd-provider-roster.



Resource Homes: Some resource (foster) homes are available to young adults; these placements are limited. Resource homes can be relatives or non-related extended family members, Foster Family Agency (FFA) homes, or county foster homes.

Short-Term Residential Treatment Program (STRTP): STRTP settings are state licensed intensive, residential placements for young people with mental health needs or specialized needs, like parenting youth. STRTPs are the most restrictive option and designed for short-term intervention and are not a common placement for young adults in foster care. Youth generally transition out of STRTPs by their 19th birthday.

Regional Center Placement: Young adults with qualifying developmental disabilities may be eligible for Regional Center services, which may include placement in a supportive residential setting.

Transitional Living Setting (TLS): The TLS is a newer placement option intended to formalize the use of emergency or short-term settings. It may include hotel/motel stays and other short-term living arrangements which in LA may be pod shares or short-term rentals. The TLS is not subject to approval requirements like SILPs are, and are not subject to state licensing requirements. A TLS may not include a youth homelessness prevention center (youth shelter) or homeless shelter.

* There are three housing models for THP-NMD. Most common are the remote site model where providers lease single apartments in various locations through the community. Other models include the single/staff site model, in which an entire apartment building or complex is owned or leased by the THP provider, and the host family model, where the youth lives with a caring, supportive adult who provides room and board. Single site and host family models are not common in Los Angeles.

Housing Available Through Child Welfare (DCFS) and Probation

FORMER FOSTER & PROBATION YOUTH



Listed below are housing options available for young adults 18-24 (not yet turned 25) years old who have a closed child welfare and/or juvenile justice case. For all of these housing options, youth and service providers can contact the young person's DCFS social worker, Probation officer or their ILP coordinator if the youth is currently in foster care and planning to exit care. If the young adult has already exited care, please refer to the individual contacts below.



Transitional Housing Program-Plus (THP-Plus): THP-Plus is available to youth ages 18-24 who exited foster care at or after age 18 and have a closed case. Similar to THP-NMD, the vast majority of youth participating in THP-Plus reside in "scattered site" housing (called remote site in THP-NMD), where youth are provided an apartment in the community, leased or owned by a county-contracted THP-Plus provider and subleased to the youth.* The THP-Plus provider either covers or deeply subsidizes the cost of the housing/rent. All youth in THP-Plus are offered case management services, including required life skills programming, and a monthly stipend, which varies in amount across THP-Plus providers. LA's THP-Plus programs require participation in life skills training sessions. Young people can participate in THP-Plus for up to 36 cumulative months or until they reach age 25, whichever comes first. An online application is available at ilponline.org (Under the "Housing" tab) or contact thp-plus-closedcases@dcfs.lacounty.gov. For a statewide roster of THP-Plus providers, visit jbay.org/resources/thp-plus-provider-roster.



Independent Living Program Transitional Housing Program (ILP THP): Young adults ages 18-20 (not yet turned 21) live in a shared apartment and participate in case management and life-skills programming. Young adults can live in this setting for up to 36 months or to their 21st birthday, whichever comes first. To be eligible, young adults must have been in a foster care placement or relative legal guardianship (KinGap) between the ages of 16-18 and must close their DCFS/Probation case prior to entering this housing program. An online application and roster of contact info for providers (Under the "Housing" tab) is available at ilponline.org/Housing/ILPTHP.



Foster Youth to Independence Initiative (FYI) and Family Unification Program (FUP) Vouchers: FYI & FUP vouchers are available to youth between 18-24 (have not turned 25), and who have left the foster care system/out-of-home probation or will exit within 90 days. This program provides youth with up to 36 months of housing assistance via a federal Housing Choice Voucher administered by a local Public Housing Authority, coupled with supportive services provided or secured by DCFS. These supportive services include housing navigation as well as ongoing services once in housing, such as basic life skills counseling, education, and job support. Youth may extend their FYI/FUP voucher for an additional 24 months (on top of the initial 36 months, for a total of five years of support) if youth participate in the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program offered by the Public Housing Authority, or meet education and employment participation requirements. To refer youth to an FYI/FUP voucher, contact Robert Castaneda at castara@dcfs.lacounty.gov. For a statewide roster of FYI/FUP voucher points-of-contact, visit jbay.org/resources/fyi-roster.

Extended Foster Care & Re-Entry

Young people may leave Extended Foster Care and later choose to re-enter the program up to age 21. To re-enter, young people must have had a foster care placement order on their 18th birthday and agree to participate in the education and/or employment activities required for Extended Foster Care.

If a young adult is between the ages of 18 - 21 would like to re-enter foster care, they can call the Los Angeles Child Abuse Hotline (1-800-540-4000) or reach out to their ILP Coordinator: ilponline.org/ContactILP.

* There are three housing models for THP-Plus. Most common are the remote site model where providers lease single apartments in various locations through the community. Other models include the single site model, in which an entire apartment building or complex is owned or leased by the THP provider, and the host family model, where the youth lives with a caring, supportive adult who provides room and board. Single site and host family models are not common in Los Angeles.

Resources Available Through the Community

Additional housing options are available in the community to both current and former foster youth. Program eligibility and availability will vary by resource and geographic area. Youth who are currently in foster care should exhaust all housing options within DCFS/Probation prior to exploring resources in the community.



Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) Coordinated Entry System (CES)



LAHSA is LA County's homelessness Continuum of Care, which administers all federal funding for homelessness. Most homelessness funding is administered through federally-required "**coordinated entry systems**." LA uniquely has a youth-specific coordinated entry system (CES).

Young people ages 16-24, adults, and families experiencing homelessness or housing instability can receive services through LAHSA including housing navigation, case management support, and placement in short- or long-term housing environments. Young people ages 16-24, adults, and families experiencing homelessness or housing instability can receive services through LAHSA including housing navigation, case management support, and placement in short or long-term housing environments. Young people experiencing homelessness can access services through any of the CES access centers (lahsa.org/documents?id=2760-ces-access-center-directory.pdf) or by calling 211, visiting lahsa.org/get-help, or by contacting a LAHSA Campus Peer Navigator at lahsa.org/documents?id=5246-campus-peer-navigators-cpn-student-flyer.pdf

Professionals supporting current and former foster youth may also be able to access **LAHSA Problem Solving Funds** to help uncover and fund short-term housing solutions for their clients. For more information on how to be trained on this resource, you can sign up at cta.lahsa.org/learn/courses/106/problem-solving-for-key-partners-non-hmis-users or contact LAHSA's Problem-Solving Department at problem-solving@lahsa.org.

Youth between the ages of 16-24 can download the free **Win App** to find resources and take a quiz to understand eligibility for housing programs: ocalwin.org/find-help/win-app-online/.

Community Based Organizations



There are also community based organizations that offer housing and supportive services to foster youth and former foster youth in Los Angeles. There are also some housing programs that are specific to college students. Each organization will have their own eligibility requirements, application process, and programming. To find local programs, youth can connect to their DCFS social worker, ILP coordinator, LAHSA housing navigator, or contact 211 if they have exited care.

Family Urgent Response System (FURS)



FURS is a free hotline available to current and former foster youth and their caregivers that provides immediate, trauma-informed support. Youth and adult supporters can call the hotline and speak to a trained counselor or peer or request in-person services through a mobile response team. FURS can help with a wide range of needs, including needs related to placement stability such as mediating conflict with caregivers. FURS is available 24/7/365 at cal-furs.org/ and (833) 939-3877.

Foster Youth Ombudsperson

The Foster Care Ombudsperson investigates and resolves complaints about foster youth rights, care, placement, and services. The Office of the Ombudsperson can also provide former foster youth in California with Dependency Letters (also called Verification Letters or Ward of the Court Letters) if needed for housing or other services. The Ombudsperson is available at fosteryouthhelp.ca.gov/.

Definitions

Extended Foster Care (EFC or AB12): California's Extended Foster Care (EFC) program allows young adults in the child welfare and probation systems to remain in foster care until age 21 and receive case management support from a county social worker/probation officer. To remain eligible for EFC, young people must be working or in school at least part time, participate in programs to reduce barriers to employment, or be unable to participate in work/school due to medical needs. Extended Foster Care is often referred to as "AB 12", which was the legislation that extended foster care to age 21 in California.

Homeless: Definitions of homelessness may vary depending on the agency you are working with. In most cases, being homeless means that an individual lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence or they are imminently at risk of losing their primary nighttime residence.

Host Family Model: A housing arrangement available in THP-Plus or THP-NMD where caring, supportive adult(s) host the youth in their home, providing room and board.

Housing Choice Voucher: Housing choice vouchers are a federal program that provides participants with a rental subsidy. Participants with a housing choice voucher must find their own housing and a landlord who agrees to rent under this program. Housing choice vouchers are often referred to as "Section 8" vouchers.

Housing Navigation: Housing navigators help individuals search for and identify housing options and assist in the rental application process. This process will identify barriers and housing needs and navigators may help with securing funding for move-in costs.

Independent Living Program (ILP): A voluntary program within the child welfare agency and probation department that offers financial assistance and services to support self-sufficiency for eligible foster youth 16-20 years of age. Young people are ILP eligible if they meet one of the following criteria: 1) they were/are in a foster care placement at any time from age 16 - 18; 2) they were/are under a legal guardianship with a relative (Kin-GAP) and received/are receiving Kin-GAP services between the ages of 16 to 18 years of age; or 3) they were/are in a Dependency Court granted non-related legal guardianship that was granted on or after their 8th birthday.

Juvenile Justice Case: Young people who have been accused of violating a law may have a case in the juvenile justice court and be supervised by juvenile probation. Juvenile justice is sometimes referred to as "delinquency" or "youth justice" cases. Juvenile justice is a separate legal process from the child welfare system, although some youth may be considered "dual status" or "crossover" and be involved in both the juvenile justice and child welfare systems.

Kinship Guardian Assistance Payment (Kin-GAP): Kin-GAP is a type of placement that means a young person is in a legal guardianship with a relative. Legal guardianship is a legal assignment by a court order naming a person other than the biological parents the legal party over medical and educational decisions and other decisions related to a child's wellbeing.

Nonminor Dependent (NMD): NMD refers to a young adult aged 18-20 (not yet turned 21) who is in extended foster care.

Out-of-Home Placement: Out-of-home placement refers to a placement where a child is not living with their biological parents. This may include foster care, placement with relatives, or residential care. Out-of-home placement can be ordered in both child welfare and juvenile justice cases.

Remote Site Model: A housing model in which a THP-NMD provider leases apartments in various locations throughout the community, often in small clusters.

Scattered Site Model: A housing model in which a THP-Plus provider leases apartments in various locations throughout the community, often in small clusters.

Single Site Model: One apartment building or complex, owned or leased by the THP-Plus or THP-NMD provider, where all of the program participants live. The THP-NMD Single Site Model may also be referred to as a Staff Site Model, as the THP-NMD model involves staff of the provider organization residing on site.

