

A background photograph of a man with a beard and mustache, wearing a blue shirt, holding a set of keys in his right hand. He is looking down at the keys with a slight smile. The background is a warm, out-of-focus indoor setting.

Exploring the Potential of Public Housing Agencies

August 5, 2024

Welcome!

We'll Begin Shortly

You are muted to ensure sound quality.

This call is being recorded and will be mailed to registrants and available online within one week.

Share comments or ask questions at any time by raising your hand to be unmuted or typing into the chat

We encourage people to unmute but ask everyone to be respectful (one voice/one mic)

Camera optional

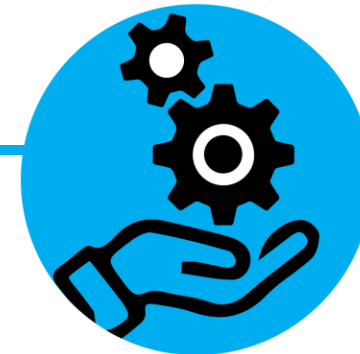
How We Are Building **Thriving** **Communities**

Guided by our **2023-2027 Strategic Plan**, CSH focuses on building equitable and thriving communities with universal access to **housing** and **services**, and opportunities to achieve **economic security**.

FOCUS AREAS



HOUSING



SERVICES



**ECONOMIC
SECURITY**

One Roof

One Roof is a national initiative bringing together housing and child welfare partners to strengthen families and youth.

[Home | One Roof \(1rooffamilies.org\)](https://1rooffamilies.org)



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2024 Family & Young Adults Peer Learning Series on Housing Vouchers

Series of moderated discussions among peers that support child welfare and housing agencies to maximize access to and utilization of housing vouchers

Primary Goals include:

- Advance equitable and thriving outcomes for families and young adults
- Support family preservation, reunification and young adult transitions

When: First Monday of February, April, June, August, October & December at
10 am PT / 12 noon CT / 1 pm ET



Today's Objectives: Exploring the Potential of Public Housing Agencies

Share information on PHAs, how jurisdictions are cultivating and maintaining PHA partnerships to access and fully utilize family and youth housing vouchers.

Provide time for participants to share common or unique barriers and success experiences in PHA partnerships

Share information on possible solutions or tools

Today

Welcome and Introductions

Spotlight: Child welfare agencies and public housing authorities working together

Breakout Rooms

Large Group

Next Steps & Close

Poll

What sector are you representing?

- Child Welfare (public child welfare agency, legal/judicial, etc.)
- Housing (public housing agency, developer, etc.)
- Supportive Services Provider
- Researcher & Policy
- Education (K-12, College, University)
- Homeless Response System
- Family Resource Center
- Other



Family **Unification** Program (FUP) & Foster **Youth** to Independence (FYI)

Special purpose Housing Choice Voucher programs administered by a Public Housing Authority (PHA), in partnership with Public Child Welfare Agency (PCWA).

FUP - Families is designed to serve:

Non-time limited rental assistance for **Families** for whom the lack of adequate housing is a primary factor in:

- The imminent placement of the family's child or children in out-of-home care, - OR -
- The delay in the discharge of the child or children to the family from out-of-home care.



FUP - Youth & FYI are designed to serve:

Time limited* rental assistance for **Youth/young adults** ages 18 to 24 who:

- Left foster care at age 16 or older, or will leave foster care within 90 days, and
- Is currently or at risk of experiencing homelessness.

**limited to 36 months, with potential extensions up to 60 months when certain criteria are met*

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Partnership Roles

Codified by MOU / Partner Agreements

Public Housing Agencies

- Funding applicant / awardee
- Program requirements and standards
- Accept referrals certified eligible by PCWA
- Voucher issuance, administration, utilization and reporting
- Partnership liaison, meetings, cross-training
- Provide/secure required and optional services/supports

Public Child Welfare Agencies

- Partner with PHA in administering FUP/FYI developing goals/standards
- Implement system to identify, prioritize and refer eligible family/youth on caseload
- Identify anticipated need for vouchers
- Refer prioritized family/youth to PHA when notified of available vouchers
- Partnership liaison, meetings, cross-training
- Provide/secure required assistance and optional services/supports

FUP and FYI Funding

- HUD awards allocations of new family/youth housing vouchers to PHAs with PCWA partnerships through FUP and FYI competitive Notices of Funding Opportunities.
- FYI non-competitive - allows PHAs with PCWA partnerships to request vouchers on demand/rolling basis as FUP eligible youth are identified.
- Housing vouchers include a rental subsidy that is provided to a landlord by the PHA.
 - The family/youth enters a lease for an approved housing unit.
 - The PHA enters into an agreement with landlord, calculates the portion of rent paid on behalf of the family/youth (based on income, household size, etc.)



Myth

PCWA must send referrals for all FUP/FYI eligible youth/families to PHA at the time they are identified.

Myth

For youth still in foster care/extended foster care, preparation for potential FUP/FYI referral cannot begin with a young person until 90 days of foster care exit.



Response

PCWA has 30 days to refer a youth or family once notified by PHA of an available voucher.

Promising practice is for PCWA to identify housing needs ongoing and refer eligible youth or families only at time of available voucher to avoid PHA waiting list delays and vouchers not having full intended impact.

Response

PCWA cannot submit referral to PHA for FUP/FYI until 90 days from foster care exit per the transition plan, however housing planning, gathering required documentation can begin long before so that, if necessary, a referral can be made at the 90 days.

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Myth

For FUP/FYI households that include minor children and may become involved with PCWA as a family.

When children are temporarily absent from a household while placed in foster care, a PHA can/should:

Require the PCWA to verify the timeframe for when reunification will occur, and

- Reduce voucher size for households if reunification does not occur within specific PHA determined timeframe

Response

PHA should not set time limits for:

- How long a child(ren) temporarily placed in foster care can be absent from a household before reducing housing unit size/family composition
- By when family reunification must occur

PCWA should:

- Determine/certify that a family meets child welfare and housing instability circumstances for FUP eligibility
- PCWA may confirm for PHA that reunification remains a child welfare case goal

The temporary absence of a child(ren) from the home due to placement in foster care shall not be considered in determining family composition and family size. 42 U.S.C. 1437a

Myth

PCWA cannot refer families to FUP unless housing is the main factor that will lead the child welfare agency to separate a family, or until housing is the only remaining challenge impeding reunification for a family

Response

Per HUD, referrals should be made for priority families as soon as they are identified and child welfare agencies should not wait to complete other aspects of family case plans before referring to FUP

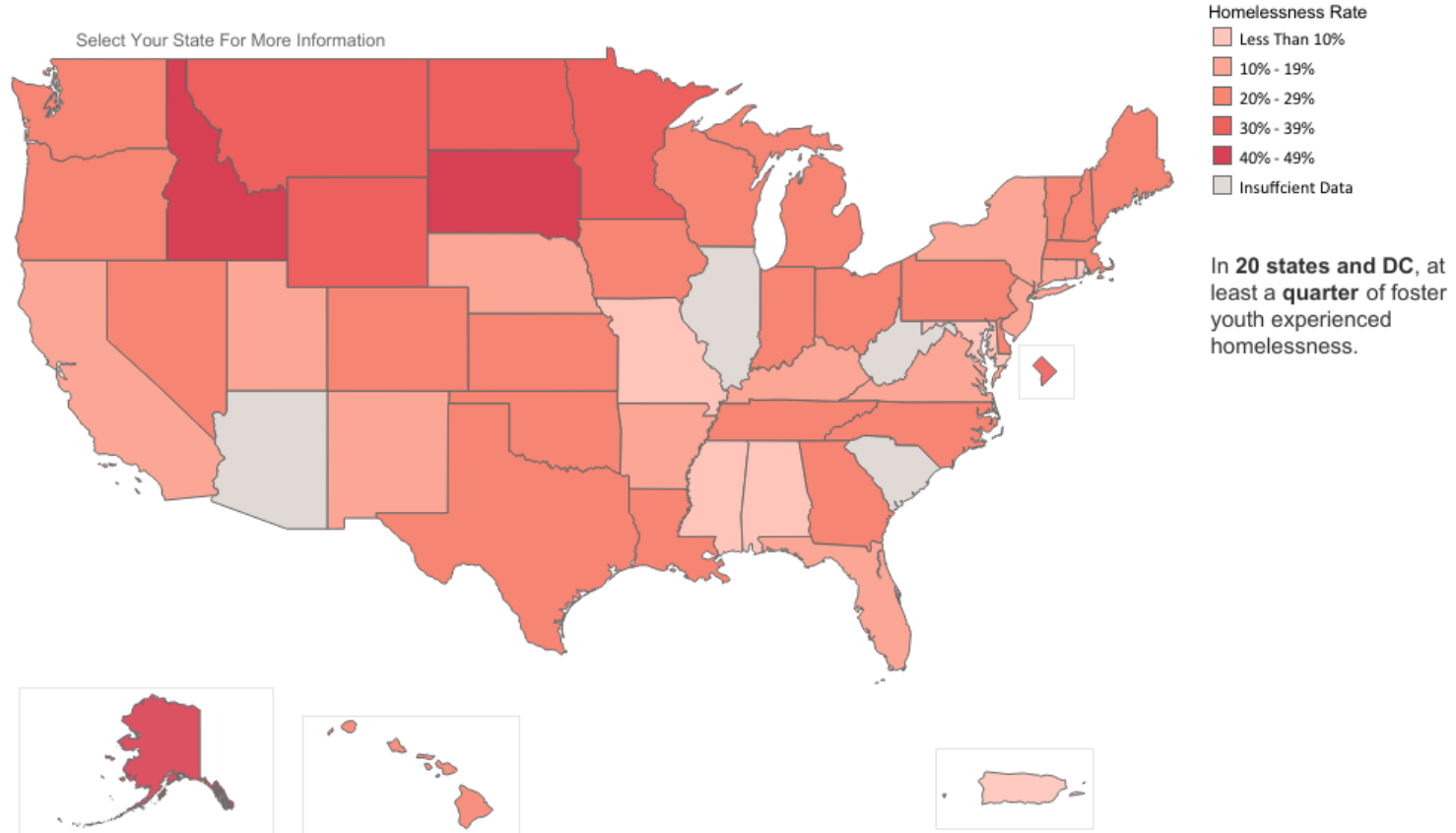
CSH Learning Series

Malik Rivers, LMSW

Project Associate, NAEH

Data Shows Strong Need for Housing Support for Youth Transitioning from Foster Care

Share of foster youth aged 19 experiencing homelessness over the past two years



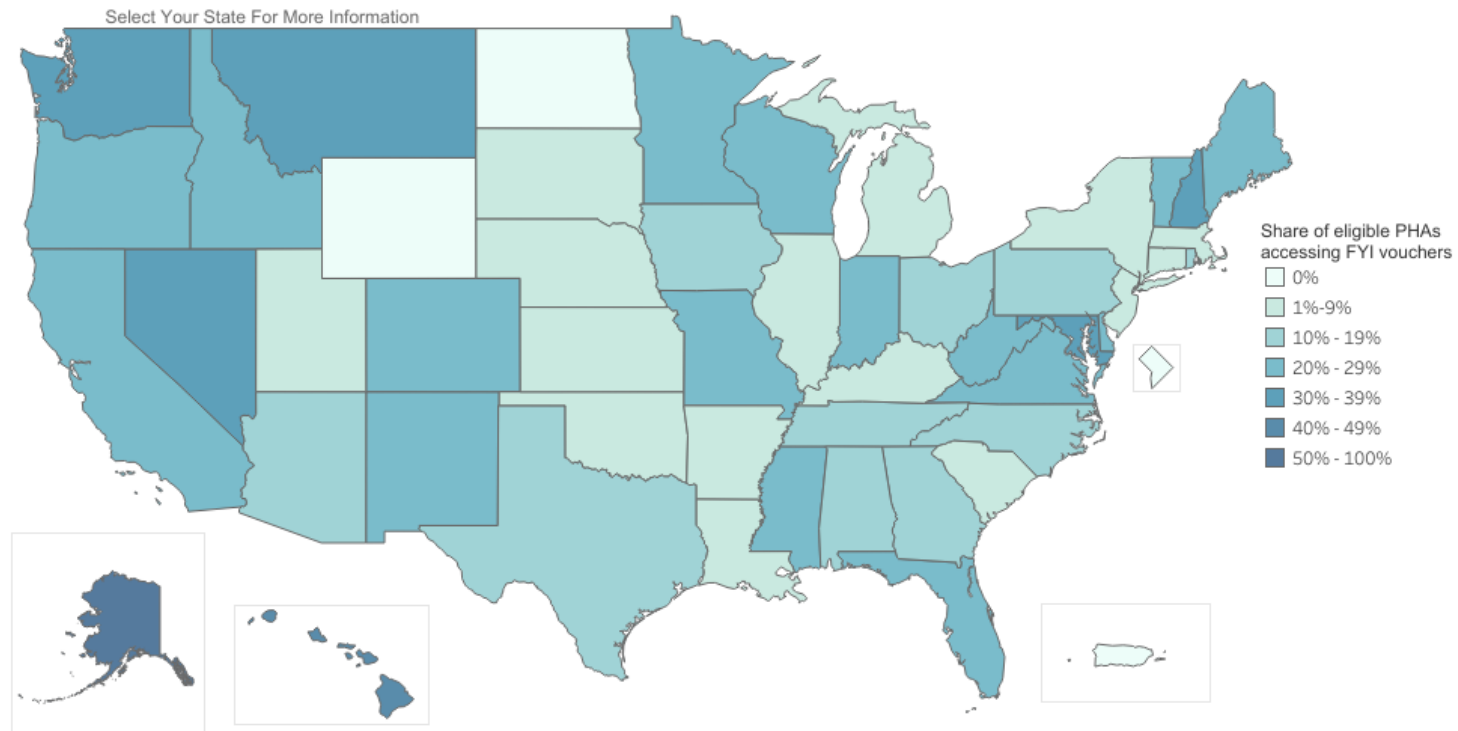
Source: The National Alliance to End Homelessness analyzed data from the National Youth & Transitions Database State Data Snapshots 2018-2022 Cohort, 2022 Data Snapshots, [Youth Outcomes Data](#).

Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Voucher Program Highlights

- Aging out of foster care poses a significant risk of homelessness for youth.
- Extended foster care programs can provide protection against homelessness while youth remain in the program.
- The Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) voucher program offers **housing vouchers** to at-risk or homeless youth who are/were in foster care.
- **Public housing agencies partnered with child welfare agencies** can apply for FYI vouchers, which can be used for up to **five years**.
- HUD occasionally releases funding opportunities for FYI vouchers, but public housing agencies can also receive up to **50 vouchers yearly through a noncompetitive process**.
- Smaller communities with partnerships between public housing and child welfare agencies can **apply for vouchers on an as-needed basis**, providing opportunities for youth in need.

Few Public Housing Agencies Are Accessing Much Needed Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Housing Support for Former Foster Youth

Share of eligible PHAs accessing FYI vouchers



Source: The National Alliance to End Homelessness relied on publicly available data for this analysis. PHAs administering Housing Choice Vouchers in each state were identified through the Housing Choice Voucher Database. Only PHAs that reported leased Housing Choice Vouchers in their jurisdictions were included in this analysis. PHAs accessing FYI vouchers on behalf of youth as of August 31, 2023 can be found on the U.S. Department of Housing and Development (HUD) website: [FYI Program Effective Awards 8.31.23](#). The Alliance also included PHAs that received FYI awards announced in a September 2023 HUD [press release](#).

Note: Not all PHAs are eligible to administer FYI vouchers. Additional PHAs may be administering Family Unification Program (FUP) vouchers for former foster youth or dedicating other housing resources for youth that are not reflected here.



Examples and Insights

Minneapolis Public Housing Authority
Brandon Crow, Director of Housing Choice Vouchers
Michele Reid, Manager of HCV – Special Allocations
mphaonline.org

Council of Large Public Housing Authorities (CLPHA)
Abra Lyons-Warren, Director of Cross Sector Initiatives
clpha.org

csh.org

Questions & Answers



Breakout Rooms

[csh.org](https://www.csh.org)

Small Group Discussions

Introduce yourselves: Name, pronouns, location, agency and role at agency

Topics for breakouts:

1. Voucher access and navigation assistance
2. Challenging histories/backgrounds
3. Partnerships with PHAs

Regroup and Share Out

What themes and highlights were discussed in your small group?

Were there any innovative strategies shared in your small group?



October Peer Learning Session

Mark your calendars!

October 7 @ 10-11:30 AM PT/ 1-2:30 PM ET



Resources

- ❑ [Housing Vouchers for Youth Exiting Foster Care | CSH](#)
- ❑ [Child Welfare Family Housing Vouchers | CSH](#)
- ❑ [Family Unification Vouchers | HUD](#)
- ❑ [Foster Youth to Independence | HUD](#)
- ❑ [Housing and Child Welfare Resource Hub | One Roof](#)
- ❑ [Foster Youth to Independence Voucher Program | NAEH](#)
- ❑ [Housing Is Initiative | CLPHA](#)
- ❑ [Background Screenings FAQ | CSH](#)
- ❑ [Source of Income Protections | HUD](#)
- ❑ [How State Leaders Can Take Action to Keep Families Together and Support Youth Transitions | CSH](#)

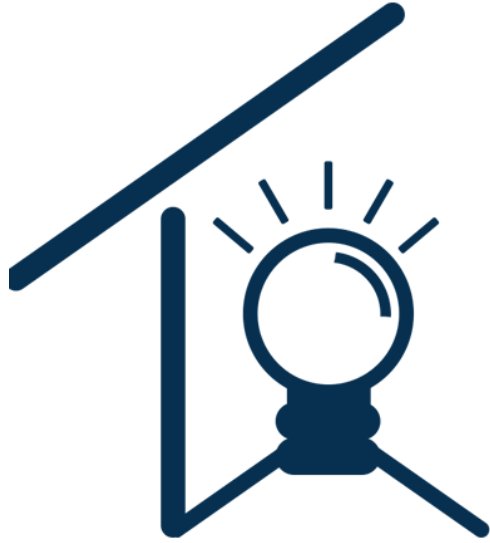


2 Questions Before You Go

How was today?

**What topics for future peer
learning sessions?**





CSH SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

SUMMIT 2025

*Meeting the Moment:
Navigating Challenges, Creating Opportunities*

Call for
Proposals is
Now Open!

Chicago, IL

April 23-25, 2025

#CSHSummit25

Thank you!

Email questions and follow-up requests to 1Roof@csh.org

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