



Potential Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Questions

1. Why is HUD targeting former foster youth?

Young persons with foster care involvement experience homelessness at a much higher rate than other young people. Statistics show as much as 25 – 30% of former foster youth will experience homelessness. These same young people face a number of barriers to accessing housing assistance. This is unacceptable. FYI provides an opportunity for UD to invest in community-driven efforts to assist these young people achieve self-sufficiency.

2. Why is HUD excluding PHAs that already administer FUP?

For PHAs that already administer FUP, HUD would encourage the PHAs to look at how they are meeting the needs of FUP-eligible youth now. Where need exceeds supply of FUP vouchers, HUD would encourage these communities to explore federal, state, and philanthropic opportunities to provide housing and service supports. This includes applying for CoC funds and submitting an application under the next FUP NOFA.

3. Are PHAs that currently do not have an allocation of FUP vouchers, but did in previous years, eligible for FYI?

A PHA that previously administered the FUP, but no longer has a baseline of FUP vouchers is eligible to apply. The notice provides a link to the list of PHAs that are ineligible to participate.

4. When will HUD announce the availability of the next FUP NOFA?

HUD's 2019 Appropriations included \$20 million for new incremental FUP vouchers. HUD anticipates announcing the next FUP NOFA in August 2019.

5. How many vouchers will be made available?

HUD has not set a cap on the number of vouchers that will be provided under this initiative. HUD will monitor the demand for TPVs for all categories of actions funded out of the TPV account. As needed, HUD may issue guidance that describes how it will manage available TPV resources, including prioritizing the circumstances or conditions warranting TPV issuance. Such guidance may place constraints on FYI TPVs provided under this notice, which may affect the timing of when such vouchers may be made available, limiting the number of FYI TPVs provided under this notice in a given fiscal year, or temporarily suspending making FYI TPVs available for this purpose until TPV resources are determined to be sufficient to meet the demand for TPV actions.

6. Did HUD request new funding for this initiative or for FUP?

HUD did not request new funding. HUD is using existing funds under the TPV account for FYI. HUD's 2019 Appropriations included \$20 million for new incremental FUP vouchers. HUD has not asked for additional funding.

7. Will HUD be providing training on the notice?

HUD will be holding a webinar to walk through the requirements of the notice, as well as discuss leveraging partnerships and prioritizing this resource. The FYI webpage will include responses

to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). Questions that have not been answered by these resources may be directed to FYITPV@hud.gov.

8. If a community has youth that can benefit from FYI, how do they access this resource?

The local PHA and PCWA, or other similar organization, must formalize a partnership where the PHA will provide the tenant-based assistance and the PCWA will provide the support services. Once this partnership is formalized, the PCWA would contact the PHA with basic information regarding the youth in need of housing assistance. The PHA would then request a FYI TPV for that specific youth.

9. What is the role of state and local organizations engaged in youth homelessness?

HUD encourages state and local organizations to contact their local PHA and PCWA to see if FYI TPV is something they are considering for their service area.

10. How quickly will vouchers become available?

PHAs may apply for TPVs under the notice as soon as the eligibility requirements have been met. As described in the notice, HUD will process applications on a rolling basis. Application volume will impact the ability to timely award vouchers.

11. Can youth in the HCV program be transferred to a FYI TPV voucher?

No. FYI TPV funding would not be used appropriately if a regular HCV youth is transferred to a FUP voucher. In this particular situation, these youth are not homeless or at-risk of homelessness because their housing need has already been met through the existing HCV program.

12. What happens to the status of a FUP-eligible youth if that youth gives birth after she has leased up under a FYI TPV?

The youth is still eligible for the full 36 months of assistance.

13. In order to qualify, does a youth have to have lived only in foster care or would any residential placement by the PCWA qualify them for the FUP voucher?

Under the federal definition of foster care, placement can include, but is not limited to, “placements in foster family homes, foster homes of relatives, group homes, emergency shelters, residential facilities, child care institutions, and pre-adoptive homes.” (See 45 CFR 1355.20.)

14. Are youth being discharged from an institution eligible for a FYI TPV?

The definition of at risk of homelessness includes, among others, a person that is exiting a publicly funded institution, or system of care, such as a health-care facility, a mental health facility, foster care or other youth facility, or correction program or institution. (See 24 CFR 576.2) The youth must also:

- Have an annual income below 30 percent of median family income for the area, as determined by HUD; and
- Not have sufficient resources or support networks, e.g., family, friends, faith-based or other social networks, immediately available to prevent them from moving to an emergency shelter or another place described in paragraph (1) of the “homeless” definition at 24 CFR 576.2.

- If the youth meets all of the above, and all other requirements are met, the youth is eligible to receive a FYI TPV.

15. At which point must a youth be no more than 24 years old?

A youth must be no more than 24 years old at the time of PCWA certification as FUP-eligible and also at the time of HAP contract execution. Timing of the referral is particularly important in this case. For example, a PCWA may be planning to refer a youth that is still 24 years old at the time of referral but is close to turning 25 years old. Although the youth meets the age requirement at the time of referral, there could be a strong likelihood that, at the time of HAP contract execution, the youth may no longer meet the age requirement. The PHA and PCWA will have to ensure that the youth does not reach the age requirement limit before the effective date of the HAP contract or the youth will no longer be eligible for a FYI TPV.

16. What documentation is the PHA required to have in their file regarding the eligibility determination made by the PCWA? Is the referral sufficient or do we need to have the full documentation that demonstrates their eligibility?

The PHA is not required to maintain full documentation that demonstrates youth's eligibility. In order to maintain an audit trail the, PHA should keep the referral or certification from the PCWA.

17. Do PCWAs have an obligation to inform PHAs of a referral's criminal history?

HUD policies and regulations do not and cannot impose an obligation on PCWAs to provide information regarding an applicant's criminal history to the PHA. However, it is in the best interest of the PHA and the PCWA for this information to be made known during the referral process, subject to any privacy laws, since an applicant's criminal history, such as a prior conviction for drug-related criminal activity, could make the applicant ineligible for assistance under PHA policy. PCWAs often know the details and circumstances surrounding an applicant's criminal activity including, among others, whether the applicant is participating in or has successfully completed a supervised drug or alcohol rehabilitation program. Such details are helpful to the PHA in determining an applicant's eligibility and may result in the applicant being determined eligible under PHA policy.

18. May PHAs collaborate with more than one PCWA?

Yes, PHAs may collaborate with more than one PCWA. This may be especially useful for state-level PHAs, where there are multiple PCWAs serving different parts of the PHA's jurisdiction. PHAs considering this option must have a partnership agreement with each PCWA to administer FYI TPVs.

19. May referrals come from agencies other than the PCWA?

Referrals can come from other organizations in the community who work with the population, including organizations that the PCWA has contracted with to handle a specific department or division, and through a Continuum of Care's (CoC's) coordinated entry system. In cases where a referral comes from another organization in the community, the PCWA must certify that the youth meets the eligibility requirements under the notice, unless the PCWA has vested another organization with this authority.

Portability

20. Can PHAs restrict portability for youths for the first year or for the full 36 months of assistance?

No. Portability of a participant is handled in the same way as regular Housing Choice Vouchers (HCVs), so a PHA may not restrict or deny portability for a FYI TPV participant for reasons other than those specified in HCV program regulations (such as restrictions on nonresident applicants under 24 CFR 982.353(c)).

21. Does a participant that wants to move with continued assistance have to move to a jurisdiction that administers FYI TPVs?

No. A participant does not have to move to a jurisdiction that administers FUP or FYI TPVs.

22. If the receiving PHA has a FUP program, may the youth move to the jurisdiction?

Yes. A participant is not prohibited from moving to a jurisdiction that administer FUP.

23. Can a PHA absorb a FYI TPV youth into its regular HCV program?

Yes. There is nothing that precludes a PHA from absorbing a youth into its regular HCV program if it has vouchers available to do so. If the receiving PHA absorbs the youth into its regular HCV program, that youth becomes a regular HCV participant with none of the limitations of a FYI TPV. In the case of absorption, a FYI TPV would sunset.

24. If a FYI TPV participant ports to another jurisdiction under a billing arrangement, which PHA has the responsibility of terminating the assistance once the 36-month limit expires?

The initial and receiving PHA must work together to initiate termination of assistance upon expiration of the 36-month limit.

Voucher Time Limit:

25. Does the 36-month assistance limitation mean 36 months of paid HAP or 36 months on the program?

If no subsidy (HAP) is being paid on behalf of the youth, that period of time does not count under the 36-month limitation.

26. Is it permissible to reissue a FYI TPV for another 36 months to a youth whose voucher has reached the 36-month limit?

No. It is not permissible to reissue another FYI TPV to the same youth upon expiration of their 36 months of FUP assistance.

27. Can a youth be issued a regular HCV upon expiration of the 36-month limit?

Yes. However, the youth would have to be selected from the HCV waiting list for a regular HCV. To facilitate this process, PHAs may choose to create a preference in their regular HCV

program for persons whose FYI assistance is expiring and will have a lack of adequate housing as a result of their termination from the program, or other similar category.

28. Can the 36-month time limit on a FYI voucher be waived?

No. The 36-month time limit is a statutory requirement under Section 8(x) of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937 and cannot be waived. However, PHAs may work collaboratively with PCWAs in developing a transitional plan to help prepare youths for the eventual expiration of their 36 months of FUP assistance. PHAs also have the option of using a preference.

Terminations:

29. Under what circumstances can a PHA terminate a FYI TPV?

Termination of a FYI TPV is handled in the same way as with any HCV; therefore termination of a FYI TPV must be consistent with HCV regulations at 24 CFR Part 982, Subpart L. Given the statutory time limit, a PHA must terminate the youth's voucher once the 36-month limit on assistance has expired.

Funding:

30. Are administrative fees available for administration of FYI TPVs?

Yes. Administrative fees are paid based on the number of units under lease.

Shared Housing

31. May FYI TPVs be used in shared housing situations?

A youth assisted with a FYI TPV may share a unit with other persons assisted under the HCV program, or with other unassisted persons. For example, two FYI TPV participants may decide to seek out a 2-br unit as a result of tight market conditions for 0-BR and 1-BR units. Such a unit consists of both common space shared by the occupants of the unit and separate private spaces for each assisted family.