



Details Regarding FUP, FYI and FSHO

<p>Family Unification Program</p> <p>(FUP)</p> <p><i>Available competitively</i></p> <p><i>Time-limited for youth</i></p> <p><i>Not synchronized with emancipation</i></p>	<p>The <i>Family Unification Program (FUP)</i> is a program under which Housing Choice Vouchers (HCVs) are provided to two different populations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a.) Families who are at risk of losing custody of their children due to lack of adequate housing. <i>There is no time-limit on family vouchers.</i> b.) Former foster youth between ages 18-24, who left foster care at age 16 or older, and who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. <i>Youth vouchers have a 36-month limit.</i> <p>Historically, these vouchers have been made available in a competitive manner, which means that they are only administered by certain public housing authorities throughout the nation. The timing of when these vouchers arrived didn't often match the timing of youth need, which created a <i>synchronicity problem.</i></p>
<p>Foster Youth to Independence</p> <p>(FYI)</p> <p><i>Available nationally</i></p> <p><i>Synchronized with emancipation</i></p> <p><i>Requires partnership</i></p>	<p>In 2019, current and former foster youth traveled to DC and met with HUD leadership to seek to <i>synchronize FUP with the date that a young person leaves state custody.</i> HUD responded by developing the FYI initiative.</p> <p><i>Foster Youth to Independence (FYI)</i> makes it possible for Public Housing Authorities to provide <i>an "on-demand" FUP voucher</i> that is timed with a young person's emancipation from foster care. The goal is to prevent or end homelessness among young adults under age 25, with a history of foster care.</p> <p>The program requires a local partnership between the PCWA (public child welfare agency) and the PHA (public housing authority). First, they need to meet, establish a point of contact, and sign an MOU or letter of agreement. After that, they need to stay in contact and nurture the program.</p>

Fostering Stable Housing Opportunities Act

(FSHO)

Builds on FYI by making the provisions of FYI into federal law

Available nationally

Adds two additional years of support

Requires partnership

The *Fostering Stable Housing Opportunities Act* is youth-driven in every sense, because the only reason it exists is that Ohio foster care youth and alumni volunteered their time, fundraised locally, and traveled to D.C. annually, from 2013-2020, with the goal of ending the Foster Care to Homeless Pipeline.

Representative Michael Turner created the “Fostering Stable Housing Opportunities Act” as a direct result of meeting with Ohio foster care youth and alumni. Ohio foster youth wrote a national petition to support FSHO, and the petition received over 55,000 signatures.

This bill requires public housing agencies (PHAs) that administer housing choice voucher programs to, in coordination with the Department of Housing and Urban Development, extend tenant-based assistance for youth aging out of foster care under specified circumstances.

Under previous federal law, **public housing assistance was limited to 3 years (36 months)** for former foster youth between ages 18-24 who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

The bill requires PHAs to extend housing assistance for **two additional years (24 additional months)**, making the overall housing assistance last for up to five years total.

To be eligible for this extension, youth are required to fit into one of these categories:

- a.) Employed
- b.) Enrolled in a workforce development program
- c.) Pursuing post-secondary education, high school diploma or equivalent
- d.) Participating in a family self-sufficiency program (FSS)

Young adults who are parents, have a dependent under age 6, are participating in an additional recovery program or who are unable to comply due to a medical condition are exempt from this requirement.

The program requires a local partnership between the PCWA (public child welfare agency) and the PHA (public housing authority). First, they need to meet, establish a point of contact, and sign an MOU or letter of agreement. Then they need to stay in contact and nurture the program.