

Date of Hearing: April 14, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Alex Lee, Chair

AB 2162 (Bryan) – As Introduced February 18, 2026

SUBJECT: Housing: county funding allocations: nonminor dependents and young adults

SUMMARY: Revises the data that county child welfare agencies (counties) are required to report to the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) as part of the Transitional Housing Program (THP) and the Housing Navigation and Maintenance Program (HNMP), which fall under the umbrella of the Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Program. Expands the ages of those served in the HNMP to 28 years of age and enumerates the eligible uses of funding. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Revises the data that counties, if they accept any distribution of money for THP, are required to annually report to HCD to include:
 - a) The number of young adults served and how many are formerly in the state’s foster care or probation system;
 - b) The number of young adults who were homeless when they began receiving assistance;
 - c) The number of young adults who received assistance and obtained temporary housing; and,
 - d) The number of young adults who received assistance and obtained permanent housing.
- 2) Defines “homeless” for the purpose of THP and HNMP to have the same meaning as defined in the Code of Federal Regulations.
- 3) Expands the eligibility for the HNMP from 24 to 28 years of age.
- 4) Clarifies that, in addition to former foster youth and nonminor dependents (NMDs) who are currently given priority in the HNMP, young adults formerly in the state’s probation system are also to be given priority.
- 5) Revises the data that counties, if they accept any distribution of money for the HNMP, are required to annually report to HCD to include:
 - a) The number of young adults served and how many are either NMDs or young adults formerly in the state’s foster care or probation system;
 - b) The number of young adults who were homeless when they began receiving HNMP assistance funding;
 - c) The number of young adults who received HNMP assistance funding and obtained temporary housing;
 - d) The number of young adults who received HNMP assistance funding and obtained permanent housing;

- e) The housing authority with which the county has a memorandum of understanding or letter of intent to provide housing vouchers funded by the federal Foster Youth to Independence Initiative or federal Family Unification Program (FYI/FUP) or pursuant to the federal Housing Choice Voucher program. Requires the county, if the county does not partner with a housing authority to provide the FYI/FUP housing vouchers, to state the reason why it does not partner with a housing authority to provide those housing vouchers; and,
 - f) The number of housing vouchers that have been issued to young adults in the county that are funded by the FYI/FUP Housing Choice Voucher program. Specifies “issued” means the voucher has been assigned to a specific person, whether that person is searching for housing or has entered into a lease, and whether the voucher is new or recycled.
- 6) Requires HCD on an annual basis, to make publicly available the information provided by counties pursuant to e) and f) above.
 - 7) Defines “housing authority” to mean a housing authority created pursuant to the Housing Authorities Law.
 - 8) Defines “young adult formerly in the state’s foster care or probation system” to mean a young adult who previously met the definition of a child or NMD, as defined in existing federal and state law.
 - 9) Enumerates the eligible uses of the funding allocated to counties for the HNMP to include, but not be limited to:
 - a) Assisting young adults with identifying and applying for housing, including housing that qualifies as a supervised independent living placement;
 - b) Assisting young adults with applying for a federal housing choice voucher and identifying housing with the housing choice voucher;
 - c) Providing young adults with financial assistance to help cover the cost of housing application fees, security deposit, first month’s rent, utility set-up, and other move-in costs;
 - d) Providing landlord incentives; and,
 - e) Providing young adults with supportive services that help them maintain stable housing, including education and employment support, financial literacy and planning, case management, and counseling.
 - 10) Makes technical amendments.

EXISTING LAW:

State law:

- 1) Establishes THP and requires HCD, subject to an appropriation, to allocate funding to counties to help young adults who are 18 to 24 years of age, inclusive, to secure and maintain

housing, with priority given to young adults formerly in the state's foster care or probation systems. Requires HCD to consult with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), the Department of Finance, and the County Welfare Directors Association of California to develop an allocation schedule for purposes of distributing funds allocated to counties. (Health and Safety Code [HSC] § 50807(a)(b))

- 2) Requires a county, if it accepts any distribution of THP money, to report the following data to HCD on an annual basis:
 - a) The number of homeless youth served;
 - b) The number of former foster youth served;
 - c) The number of homeless youth who exited homelessness into temporary housing; and,
 - d) The number of homeless youth who exited homelessness into permanent housing. (HSC § 50807(c))
- 3) Establishes the HNMP to require HCD, subject to an appropriation, to allocate funding to counties to provide housing navigators to help young adults who are 18 to 24 years of age, inclusive, secure and maintain housing. Requires counties that receive an allocation to give priority to young adults currently or formerly in the foster care system. (HSC § 50811)
- 4) Defines a "supervised independent living placement" as an independent supervised setting in which the NMD is living independently, pursuant to federal law. (Welfare and Institutions Code § 11400(w))

Federal law:

- 5) Authorizes the Housing and Urban Development (HUD)'s FYI/FUP to provide Housing Choice Vouchers to eligible former foster youth 18 through 24 years of age. FUP provides vouchers to families at risk of separation due to housing as well as youth aging out of foster care while the FYI voucher is limited to youth aging out of foster care. (42 United States Code § 1437f(x))
- 6) Establishes the Fostering Stable Housing Opportunities (FSHO) Act which authorizes youth who begin using their voucher may extend assistance for up to 24 additional months for a potential total of five years of federally subsidized housing. (Public Law 116-260)
- 7) Defines "homeless" for purposes of HUD through four specific categories that include individuals or families lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; those who are at imminent risk of homelessness; unaccompanied youth or families with children who are defined as homeless under other federal acts, and unaccompanied youth or families with children who are defined as homeless under other federal acts and individuals or families fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, who have no other residence and lack resources to obtain permanent housing. (Section 578.3 of Title 24 of the Code of Federal Regulations)

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown, this bill has not been analyzed by a fiscal committee.

COMMENTS: This analysis only discusses policy issues germane to the Assembly Committee on Human Services.

Background: *Federal Foster Youth to Independence Initiative and Federal Family Unification Program Vouchers.* HUD administers two housing voucher programs for former foster youth and probation-supervised youth, provided they were previously placed in foster care and meet age and housing instability criteria. The FUP was established in 1992 to serve families and expanded to youth aging out of foster care in 2000, while the FYI initiative was launched in 2019 to exclusively serve former foster youth. Both operate as Housing Choice Vouchers (Section 8) for former foster youth 18 to 24 years of age. Current foster youth can be referred for and issued a FYI/FUP voucher if they meet specified “imminent leaver” criteria, such as being within 90 days of leaving foster care. Under these programs, the youth pays approximately 30% of their monthly income toward rent, and the local Public Housing Authority covers the balance directly, addressing the affordability barrier that drives most housing instability for this population. Both programs require the county to provide or arrange for supportive services throughout the voucher period. Under HUD, a youth must be no more than 24 years of age at the time they are certified as FYI-eligible, but once the voucher is issued, the youth may continue to use it for up to 36 months regardless of age. There is no upper age cap on using an active voucher, only on when it can be requested.

The Transitional Age Youth Program under HCD encompasses three programs to prevent homelessness and secure and maintain housing for young adults between 18 and 24 years of age, with priority given to those currently or formerly in the foster care or probation systems. Through the HNMP, the THP, and the Transitional Housing Plus Housing Supplement Program (THP-SUP), eligible counties receive funding to support child welfare services agencies and housing navigation and maintenance to help house young adults. Counties are encouraged to coordinate with the local Continuum of Care (CoC) to foster communication and collaboration between agencies and departments. A CoC is defined generally as a regional or local planning body responsible for coordinating a wide range of public and private partners to prevent and end homelessness within a specific geographic area. HCD defines a CoC as the group organized to carry out the responsibilities prescribed in the federal CoC Program Interim Rule. This includes establishing a Coordinated Entry System (CES) to prioritize services for the most vulnerable populations.

The THP also provides state funding to counties for the purpose of housing stability to help adults between 18 and 24 years of age secure and maintain housing, with priority given to those formerly in foster care or probation. The THP allocation distribution is based on each county’s percentage of the total statewide number of youth between 17 and 21 years of age in foster care and homeless unaccompanied youth between 18 and 24 years of age, using CDSS data from the Child Welfare Services/Case Management System. The THP is designed to work together with HNMP and THP-SUP and to reduce administrative burden. HCD combines all three programs into a single TAY application and standard agreement for counties. Under the TAY Program umbrella, the THP is the primary source of flexible housing assistance funds while the other two programs provide specified personnel and geographic support. The THP provides direct assistance payments and funds for the actual costs prescribed by navigators such as rent subsidies, security deposits, and utility payments.

The HNMP was established in statute as part of the 2019 Budget Act and funds housing navigators embedded in county child welfare agencies to help transition-age foster youth locate

and maintain housing. Under existing law, the HNMP currently serves young adults 18 to 24 years of age, inclusive, with priority given to current and former foster youth, which can include those who were formerly in the state's probation system. The program funds social worker training on housing resources including housing choice vouchers such as FYI/FUP and the local CES. The current HNMP appropriation is \$13.7 million statewide, distributed to counties based on their share of the state's 17-to-21-year-old population who are currently or were formerly in the foster care or probation system.

This bill would extend the upper age limit of the HNMP from 24 to 28 years of age to accommodate youth who still have a housing voucher and need assistance. Finding a landlord who accepts these vouchers is often the biggest barrier for youth, and HNMP offers specialists who help youth search for apartments, assist in gathering vital identification documents, or address credit and rental history issues that might prevent a youth from being approved. Youth can receive rental assistance from their FYI/FUP voucher for up to five years. For youth who receive their voucher at 24 years of age, which is the age cap for initiating assistance, they can keep their voucher through 28 years of age. However, the HNMP, which counties use to fund their services for these young people, may only be used to serve youth through 24 years of age. Counties, therefore, lack the resources to offer essential services to voucher holders beyond 24 years of age and are prevented from adequately supporting these former foster youth in their pursuit of education, employment, and other self-sufficiency-related goals. *This bill* would align the age requirements in HNMP with the maximum age a youth would be using their voucher.

Youth Formerly in the State's Probation System and the Transitional Housing Program and Housing Navigation and Maintenance Program. Existing THP law states that youth formerly in foster care or formerly on probation are given priority when HCD allocates funding to counties, while current HNMP law states that only current and former foster youth are a priority population. However, in practice, probation youth are already included as a priority population for HNMP. Probation youth are integrated into HNMP through three other mechanisms within existing law as well as HCD guidelines: 1) through mandatory training of probation officers who serve NMDs, 2) HCD's funding formula that includes the statewide number of youth both in foster care and probation, and 3) HCD's TAY Program guidelines, which govern how the HNMP and the THP are administered together, that state those currently or formerly in the probation system are included in the priority population. *This bill* would clarify that, along with NMDs and former foster youth, young adults formerly in the state's probation system would be given priority in the HNMP program.

Existing Data Requirements. HUD's database for Housing Choice Vouchers tracks FYI/FUP vouchers; however, it places vouchers for youth into the same category as family vouchers, making data on youth vouchers inaccessible. California does not currently track county or housing authority participation of these federal vouchers. To date, the only source of information about statewide voucher participation has come from a survey administered twice by John Burton Advocates for Youth, an independent nonprofit and sponsor of this bill. As a result, the state has no information about which communities are relying on state and locally funded housing resources for former foster youth before accessing federal funding, and local stakeholders, including youth, have limited information about whether this resource is available in their community.

This bill would revise the annual reporting requirements for counties receiving THP and HNMP funding by tracking the program's success in moving TAY from homelessness into stable

housing and would require counties to provide youth demographics and entry status, housing outcomes and FYI/FUP coordination.

Author’s Statement: According to the Author, “In California, about 3,000 young people annually make their final exit from care without the support of a family. Young adults can receive rental assistance through FYI/FUP federal housing vouchers for up to five years. Youth who receive their federal housing voucher at age 24 may keep their voucher and use it at any time through age 28. However, our state’s HNMP services currently stop assisting young adults at age 24. Leaving these young adults without county resources that provide critical support to them beyond the age of 24, including help pursuing education, employment, and other self-sufficiency goals. [This bill] seeks to close this gap by expanding the upper age limit for HNMP-funded services from 24 to 28, adding two additional questions to the existing reporting form for counties that accept HNMP funding, and ensuring that HCD makes this information publicly available.”

Equity Implications: The provisions of *this bill* would extend the upper age limit for HNMP eligibility from 24 to 28 years of age, enabling the program to provide supportive housing services to former foster youth who hold active FYI/FUP vouchers throughout the full duration of their federal rental assistance, and to reach youth who age into housing instability in the years immediately following the current program cutoff. The structural misalignment between California’s HNMP age ceiling and the federal FYI/FUP voucher timeline, including FSHO extensions, leaves youth holding active federal housing subsidies without the state-funded navigators the child welfare agency is federally obligated to provide. This misalignment creates a gap that is a missed opportunity to maximize the impact of federal dollars already flowing into California counties. Extending HNMP eligibility to 28 years of age is consistent with California’s broader commitment to eliminating foster youth homelessness.

Double referral: This bill was previously heard in the Assembly Committee on Housing and Community Development on March 25, 2026, and was approved on 12-0 vote.

Arguments in Support: The Bill Wilson Center states, “For a population at disproportionate risk of homelessness and without the support of a permanent family as they transition to adulthood, [this bill] makes common sense improvements that help California’s communities maximize federal funding to meet the housing needs of youth formerly in foster care.”

Arguments in Opposition: None on file.

RELATED AND PRIOR LEGISLATION:

AB 1615 (Ting) of 2022, would have expanded housing navigation services and participation in the Transitional Housing Program-Plus (THP-Plus) to youth who have not yet reached their 25th birthday and would have lengthened the duration of THP-Plus from 24 to 36 months. *AB 1615 was held in the Senate Appropriations Committee after the bill’s provisions were adopted in the budget trailer bill.*

SB 187 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review), Chapter 50, Statutes of 2022, changed the name of the Housing Navigators Program to the HNMP; expanded the program’s budget from \$5 million (one-time) to \$13.7 million (ongoing); and, expanded the eligible age range from 18 to 21 years of age to 18 to 24 years of age, and revised the priority population from current foster youth to both current and former foster youth.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

John Burton Advocates for Youth (Sponsor)
Alliance for Children's Rights
Association of Community Human Service Agencies
Bill Wilson Center
California Alliance of Caregivers
Casa Pacifica Centers for Children and Families
City of Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board
GLIDE
Greater Sacramento Urban League
Hillsides Pasadena
New Alternatives
Safe Place for Youth
United to End Homelessness

Opposition

None on file.

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