



TACOMA HOUSING AUTHORITY

RESOLUTION 2022-01-26 (4)

Date: January 26, 2022
To: THA Board of Commissioners
From: April Black
Executive Director
Re: Revising THA's Administrative Plan: Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Program

This resolution would authorize Tacoma Housing Authority (THA) to update its Administrative Plan to administer the Foster Youth to Independence Voucher Program (FYI).

Background

The Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) initiative makes Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) assistance available to Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) in partnership with Public Child Welfare Agencies (PCWAs). Through this targeted allocation, Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is investing in local, cross-system collaborative efforts to prevent and end homelessness among youth with a current or prior history of child welfare involvement. To date, Tacoma Housing Authority (THA) received seventy-five (75) FYIs.

Proposed Revisions

THA will create a chapter in the Administrative Plan that complies with Notice PIH 2020-28: Foster Youth to Independence Initiative. THA will also include FYI throughout the Plan as applicable.

Recommendation

Authorize THA's Executive Director to make program changes to administer the FYI program as outlined in resolution 2021-01-26 (4). This would create a new chapter (21) in THA's Administrative Plan and make changes throughout the Plan to reflect FYI as applicable.



TACOMA HOUSING AUTHORITY

RESOLUTION 2021-01-26 (4)

(Revising THA's Administrative Plan: Foster Youth to Independence Program)

WHEREAS, the Administrative Plan relates to the administration of THA's voucher programs and is required by HUD; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Administrative Plan is to establish policies for carrying out programs in a manner consistent with HUD requirements and local goals and objectives contained in THA's Moving to Work plan; and

WHEREAS, THA was awarded 75 Foster Youth to Independence Vouchers (FYI); and

WHEREAS, THA must update its Administrative Plan to administer the FYI program;

WHEREAS, Changes to the Administrative Plan must be approved by THA Board of Commissioners; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of the City Of Tacoma, Washington, that:

THA's Executive Director is authorized to revise THA's Administrative Plan adding the following chapter for the administration of the FYI program:

CHAPTER 21 – FOSTER YOUTH TO INDEPENDENCE (FYI)

INTRODUCTION

This document is meant to guide staff in administering the Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) program. The Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) initiative makes Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) assistance available to Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) in partnership with Public Child Welfare Agencies (PCWAs). Through this targeted allocation, HUD is investing in local, cross-system collaborative efforts to prevent and end homelessness among youth with a current or prior history of child welfare involvement. The success of this effort requires that community partners coordinate effectively to identify, target, and connect eligible youth at-risk of or experiencing homelessness to housing and related supports. This notice calls for PHAs, PCWAs, and continuums of care (CoCs) to work together to determine the most appropriate intervention for each young person. Under FYI, PHAs provide housing assistance on behalf of:

- youth at least 18 years and not more than 24 years of age (have not reached their 25th birthday) who left foster care; or
- will leave foster care within 90 days, in accordance with a transition plan described in Section 475(5)(H) of the Social Security Act; and
- are homeless or are at risk of becoming homeless at age 16 or older.

As required by statute, an FYI voucher issued to such a youth may only be used to provide housing assistance for the youth for a maximum of 36 months.

In addition to providing up to 36 months of rental assistance, youth must be provided supportive services to assist the young person on their path to self-sufficiency.

All applicable nondiscrimination and equal opportunity requirements apply to the FYI program, including requirements that the PHA grant reasonable accommodations to persons with disabilities, effectively communicate with persons with disabilities, and ensure meaningful access for persons with limited English proficiency (LEP).

This chapter describes HUD regulations and THA policies for administering FYI's. The policies outlined in this chapter are organized into four sections, as follows:

Part I: Funding

Part II: Partnership Agreement

Part III: Waiting List Management

Part IV: Family Eligibility

Except as addressed by this chapter and as required under federal statute and HUD requirements, the general requirements of the HCV program apply to FYI's.

PART I: FUNDING

I.A. FUNDING OVERVIEW

HUD made available \$20 million under the Foster Youth to Independence Competitive NOFA (FR-6400-N-41), announced on January 19, 2021. Administrative fees and funding for the costs of administering FYIs and other eligible expenses defined in Notice 2020-28.

PART II: PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

II.A. WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES (DCYF), PIERCE COUNTY ALLIANCE (PCA), COMPREHENSIVE LIFE RESOURCES (CLR), & TACOMA/LAKEWOOD/PIERCE COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE (CoC)

The PHA must enter into a partnership agreement with a PCWA. This partnership must assist the PHA in using assistance under this notice.

THA Policy

THA entered into an MOU with *Washington State Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF), Pierce County Alliance (PCA), Comprehensive Life Resources (CLR) and Tacoma/Lakewood/Pierce County Continuum of Care (CoC)*.

II.B. REFERRALS

DCYF Agency Referrals

The primary responsibility of DCYF under the MOU with the PHA is to make direct referrals of qualifying individuals and families to the PHA. DCYF must provide supporting documentation to the PHA of the referring agency's verification that the family meets the initial eligibility criteria for FYI assistance.

THA Policy

DCYF in partnership with PCA and CLR will establish and implement a system to identify FYI-eligible youth and provide written certification to THA the youth qualify as a FYI-eligible youth based upon the criteria established in Section 8(x) of the United States Housing Act of 1937, and the Foster Youth to Independence Competitive Program Notice of funding Availability.

PART III: WAITING LIST MANAGEMENT

III. A. HCV WAITING LIST

The PHA, upon receipt of a referral(s) from the DCYF, PCA or CLR of an eligible youth, must compare the name(s) with youth already on the PHA's HCV waiting list. Any youth on the PHA's HCV waiting list that matches with the DCYF, PCA or CLR referral must be assisted in order of their position on the waiting list in accordance with PHA admission policies. Any youth certified by DCYF, PCA or CLR as eligible and not on the HCV waiting list must be placed on the waiting list (pending HCV eligibility determination). If the PHA has a closed HCV waiting

list, it must reopen the waiting list and place on the waiting list an FYI applicant youth who is not currently on the PHA's HCV waiting list. The PHA may reopen the waiting list to accept an FYI eligible youth without opening the waiting list for other applicants. The requirements at 24 CFR 982.206 for giving public notice when opening and closing the waiting list apply.

THA Policy

The PHA will ensure effective communication with persons with disabilities, including those with vision, hearing, and other communication-related disabilities in accordance with Chapter 2. The PHA will also take reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access for persons with limited English proficiency (LEP) in accordance with Chapter 2.

PART IV: FAMILY ELIGIBILITY

IV.A. OVERVIEW

DCYF, PCA or CLR determines whether the individual or family the eligibility criteria described in Notice PIH 2021-26 and then refers the family to the PHA. The PHA determines that the family meets other eligibility criteria for the HCV program.

IV.B. REFERRING AGENCY DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY

In order to be eligible for an FYI voucher, an individual or family must meet eligibility criteria:

- Has attained at least 18 years and not more than 24 years of age;
- Left foster care, or will leave foster care within 90 days, in accordance with a transition plan described in section 475(5)(H) of the Social Security Act; and
- Is homeless or is at risk of becoming homeless at age 16 or older.

Eligibility is not limited to single persons. PHAs may not exclude pregnant or parenting youth from service, because excluding families with children would violate the Fair Housing Act. Thus, any pregnant or parenting youth who otherwise meets the definition of youth must be served by the grantee.

Approved: January 26, 2022



Stanley Rumbaugh, Chair