

A background image of a man with a beard and short dark hair, wearing a blue shirt. He is holding a set of keys in his right hand, which is raised towards the camera. The keys are silver and have several keys attached. The man's face is slightly out of focus, but he is looking towards the camera with a slight smile.

Family & Youth Housing Vouchers Peer Learning Series:

Successful Multisector Partnerships for FUP/FYI Implementation

February 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.

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



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2024 Family & Youth Housing Vouchers Peer Learning Series

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

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

First Monday of the month at 10 am PST / 12 noon CST / 1 pm EST

- **February, April, June, August, October & December**



Today's Objectives

Spotlight successful cross-sector partnerships and implementation of family and youth housing voucher programs

Discuss challenges, successes & changes impacting the utilization of family and youth housing vouchers

Advance work at the intersection of housing and child welfare



CSH Team

Andrew Johnson Strategy & External Affairs, Family & Youth Systems Transformation

Leah Lindstrom Rhea Upper Midwest

Theresa Tanoury Pacific Northwest

Rashaunda Lanier-Jackson Mid-Atlantic



Laura Yopez Strategy & External Affairs

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Today

Welcome

Vouchers & Partnerships

Examples

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, Colleges University)
- ☐ Homeless Service Provider
- ☐ Family Resource Center
- ☐ Other



Poll

Which is the most significant challenge your organization faces with issuing FUP and/or FYI vouchers in your community?

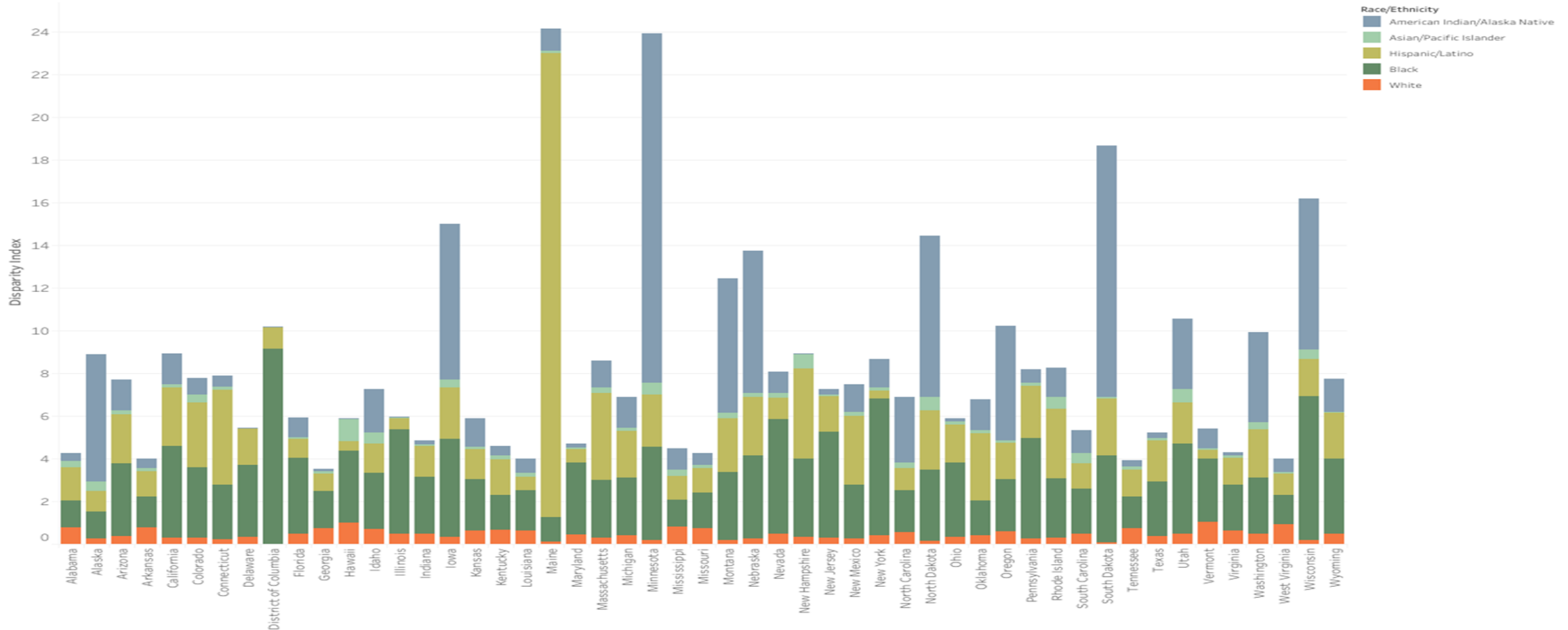
- ☐ Supportive Services Funding
- ☐ Establishing & Maintaining Agreements and Partnerships
- ☐ Lack of FUP and/or FYI Knowledge
- ☐ Landlord Engagement and Retention
- ☐ Navigating the HUD Application Process
- ☐ Strengthening Referrals from Child Welfare and Coordinated Entry Process
- ☐ Other



Housing and Child Welfare Disparities

Racial Disparities and Disproportionality Index - Equity gaps for youth facing both child welfare involved transition aged youth

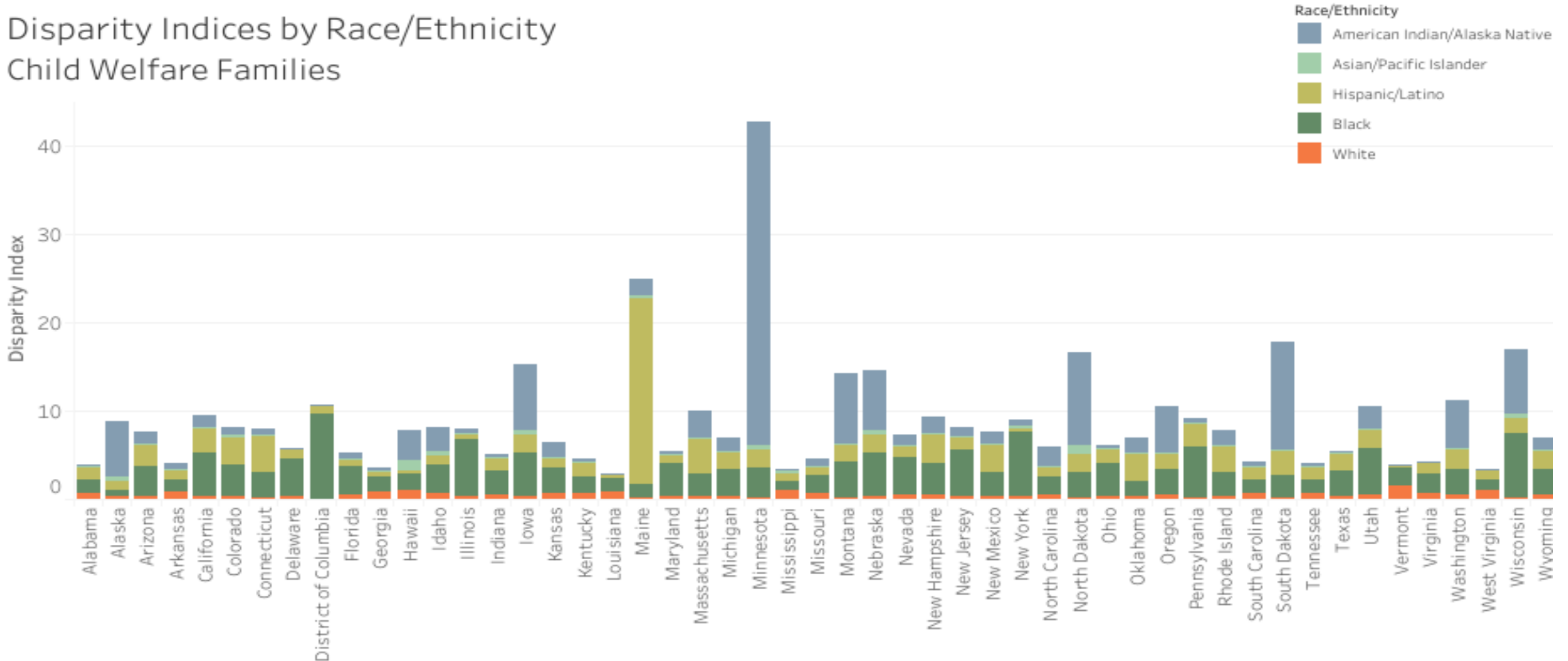
Disparity Indices by Race/Ethnicity
Child Welfare TAY



Housing and Child Welfare Disparities

Racial Disparities and Disproportionality Index - Equity gap for families facing both child welfare involvement and housing instability

Disparity Indices by Race/Ethnicity
Child Welfare Families

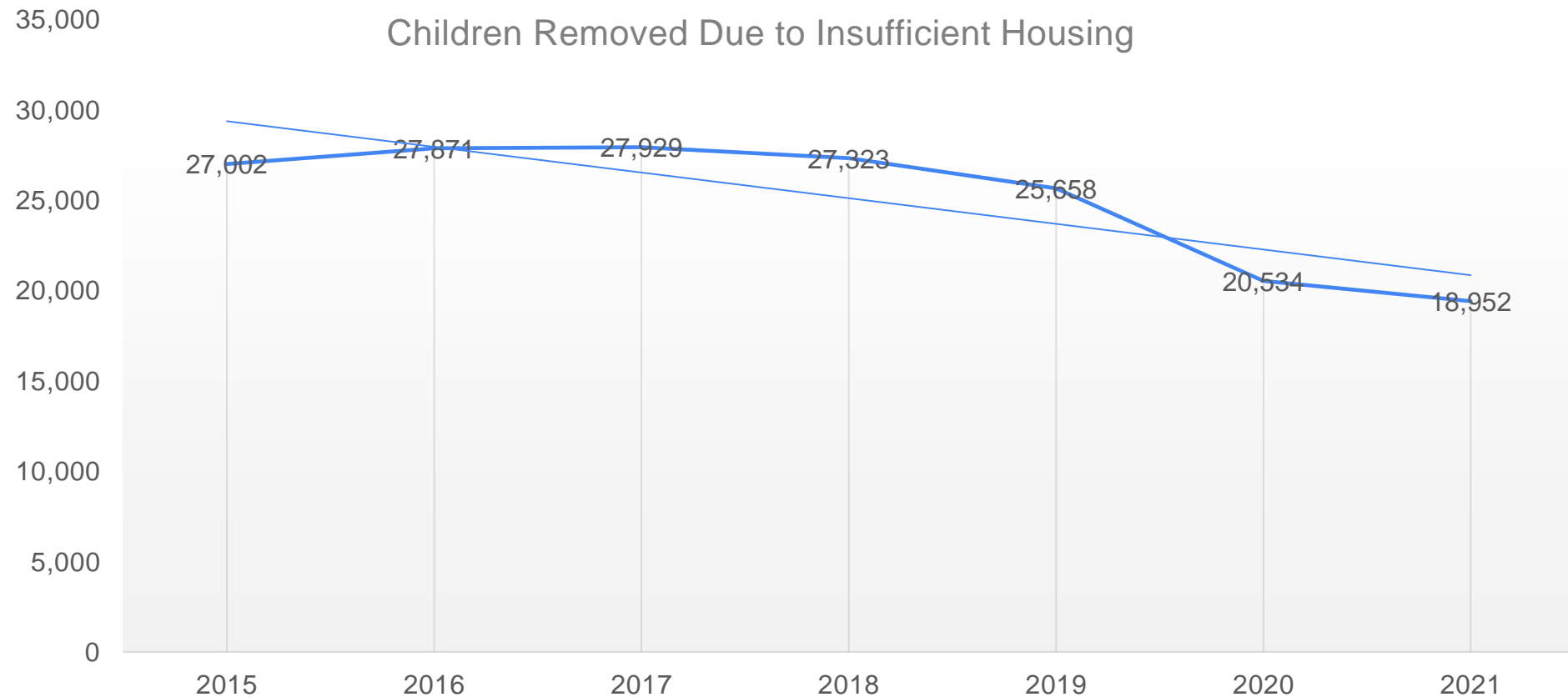


Racial Disparities and Disproportionality Index (RDDI) data, CSH www.csh.org/data

csh.org

Child Welfare Data on Housing

Housing Instability is a factor/characteristic for children entering out of home placement.



Overview: Family **Unification** Program and Foster Youth to **Independence** Housing Vouchers



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Family **Unification** Program

Special purpose Housing Choice Voucher program administered by a Public Housing Authority (PHA), in partnership with Public Child Welfare Agency (PCWA) and Continuum of Care (CoC).

FUP is designed to serve:

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.

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.



Foster **Youth** to Independence

Special purpose Housing Choice Voucher program administered by a Public Housing Authority (PHA), in partnership with Public Child Welfare Agency (PCWA) and other entities such as Continuum of Care (CoC).

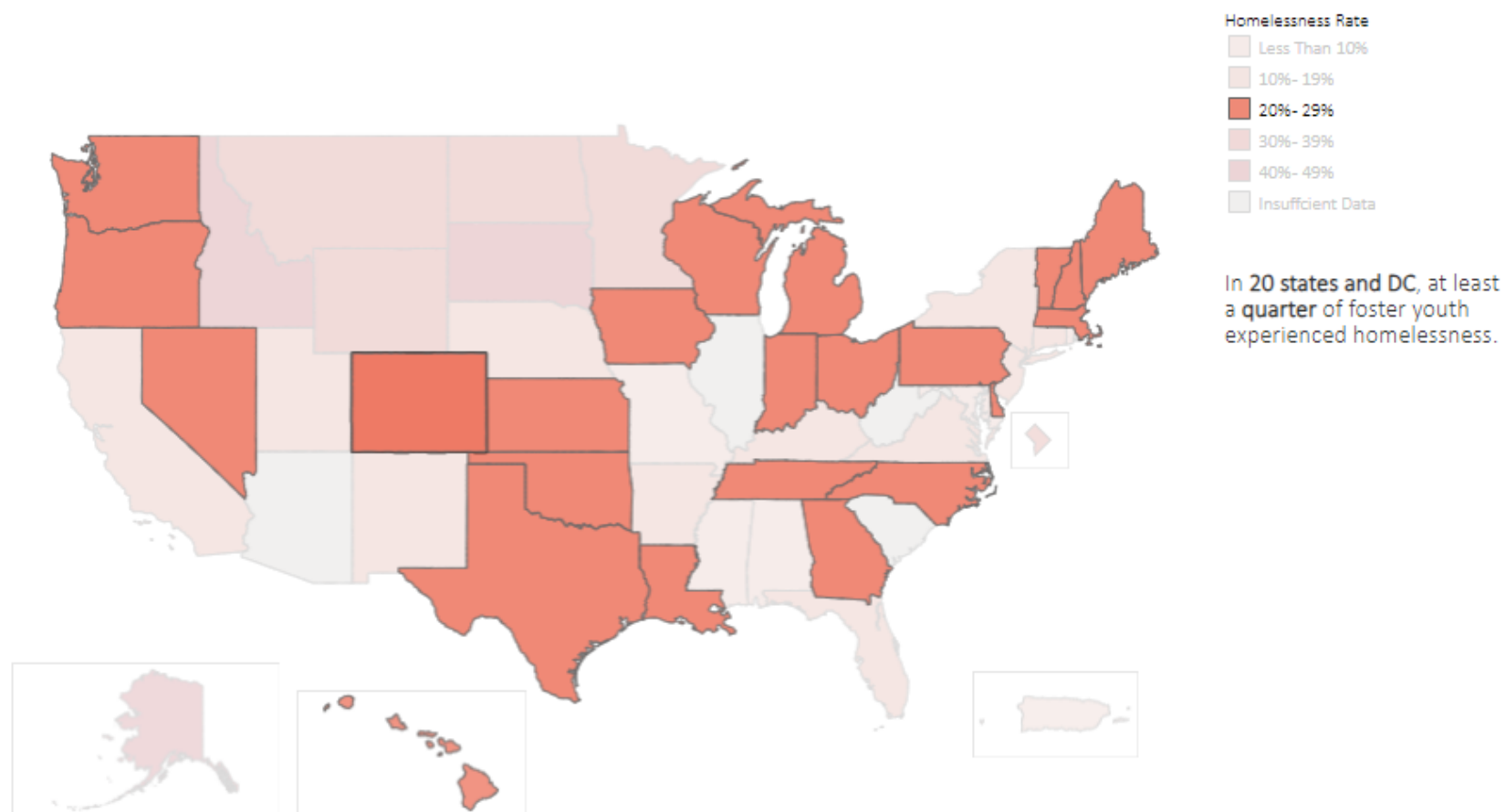
FYI is designed to serve youth/young adults ages 18-24 who:

- ☐ 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.



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](#).



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 families and youth on caseload
- ☐ Identify anticipated need for vouchers
- ☐ Refer prioritized families and/or youth to PHA when notified of available vouchers
- ☐ Partnership liaison, meetings, cross-training
- ☐ Provide/secure required assistance and optional services/supports

Provides rental assistance to youth with child welfare involvement ages 18-24.	Family Unification Program (FUP)	Foster Youth to Independence (FYI)
Requires MOU between Public Child Welfare Agencies (PCWA) and Public Housing Authority (PHA)	Yes	Yes
Rental assistance housing voucher for up to 36-months.	Yes	Yes
Rental assistance housing voucher may be extended up to an additional 24 months.	Yes	Yes
PHA's can request vouchers on a rolling basis.	No	Yes; under certain circumstances.



[Image](#) by jcomp on Freepik

Services and Supports

Required and encouraged family/youth services and supports for FUP and FYI partners to provide directly or through broader partners.



Assist families/youth to:

- Locate housing
- Work with landlords to secure appropriate housing units
- Access housing in low-poverty census tracts

Provide:

- Housing counseling on subsequent moves
- Landlord/tenant mediation
- Financial resources to facilitate voucher utilization and move-in
- Case management and needs assessments
- Provide and/or refer to needed services and supports
- Targeted enrollment in Family Self-Sufficiency or similar program

FUP and FYI Funding

- HUD awards allocations of new housing vouchers through FUP and FYI competitive Notices of Funding Opportunities or NOFOs, most recent spring 2023 (FY 2022 FUP NOFO).
- 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.)





Spotlight on Examples

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What's Stopping California From Maximizing Federal Housing Assistance For Youth

A Statewide Analysis of Housing Choice
Vouchers for Former Foster Youth

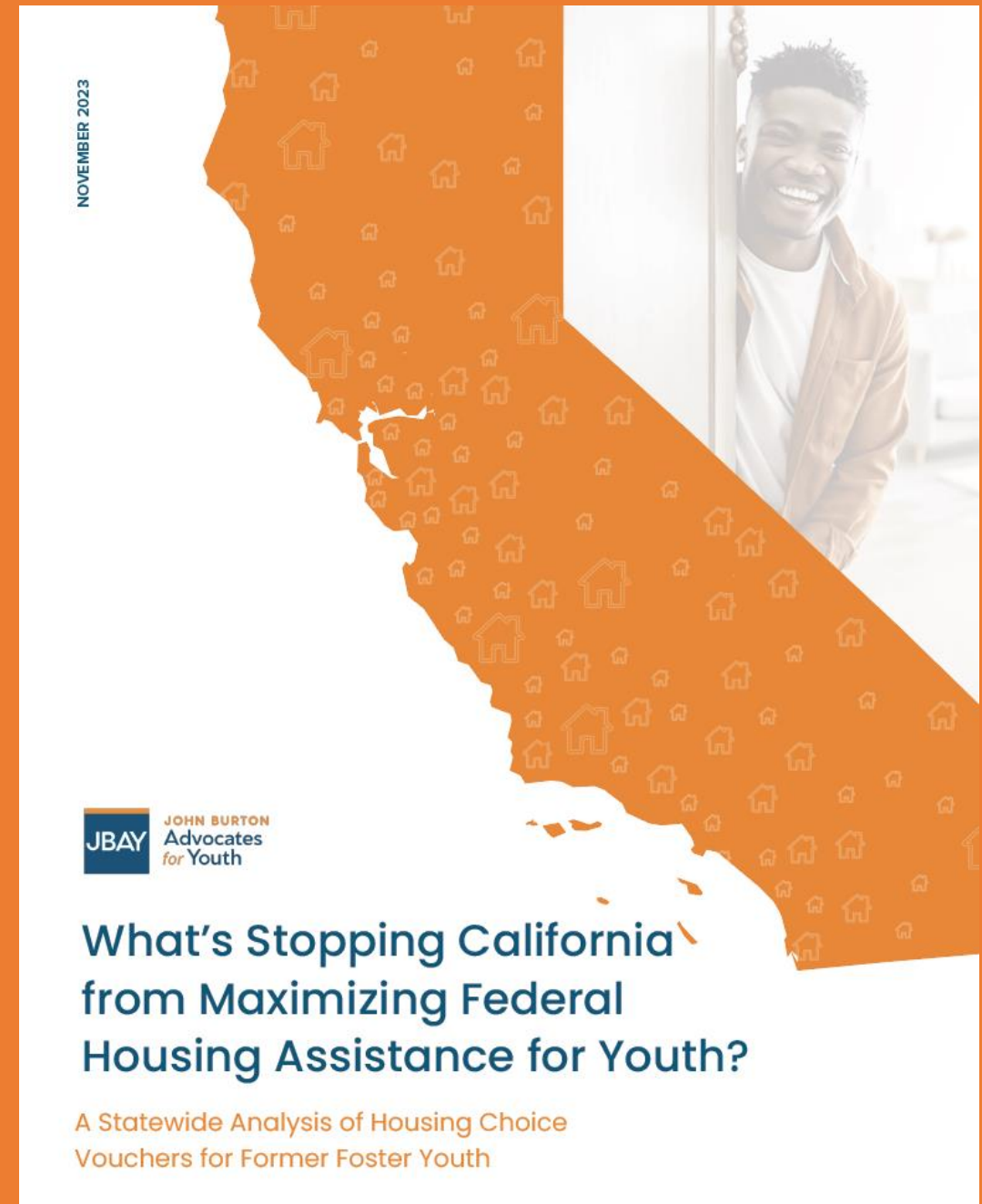


NEW REPORT

What's Stopping California from Maximizing Federal Housing Assistance for Youth?

A Statewide Analysis of Housing Choice Vouchers for Former Foster Youth

Available at <https://jbay.org/resources/2023-fyi-report>



Youth Leaving California's Foster Care System Face a Harsh Housing Reality

51,485 youth in foster care in California

7,904 youth are non-minor dependents (18-20 years old)

10,451 unaccompanied homeless youth in California

29% of nation's homeless youth population

Half of the nation's most **expensive cities** for apartments are in California

Young adults leave foster care with **little to no income, rental history, or credit; and without support of a willing co-signer**

Recent State & Federal Policy Developments

PROBLEM

No designated funding for county child welfare agencies to provide or secure supportive services



SOLUTION

State established an ongoing \$8.7 million in designated funding for services through augmentation of the Housing Navigation & Maintenance Program
(2022-23 state budget)

PROBLEM

PHAs had to reach 90% utilization rate for existing FYI/FUP vouchers to request more vouchers



SOLUTION

Federal policy change allowing exceptions to this rule
(PIH 2023-24)

PROBLEM

Youth often need more than 3 years of housing support



SOLUTION

Federal policy change requiring PHAs to inform youth of the availability of a 2-year extension to FYI/FUP
(FSHO Act of 2020)

Report Methodology

Statewide survey of county child welfare agencies

- July-October 2023
- 37 of California's 58 counties responded representing 85% of state's non-minor dependent population and possess 93% of state's FYI/FUP vouchers
- Just 4 counties that offer FYI/FUP vouchers did not respond; JBAY gathered their voucher numbers to ensure complete statewide count

FYI/FUP Community of Practice

- Held in partnership with National Center for Housing and Child Welfare (NCHCW), national FYI expert
- Launched in February 2023
- 15 counties participating

Interviews with additional county child welfare and Public Housing Authority representatives

2023-2024 FYI/FUP Community of Practice

15 Counties

- County child welfare agencies
- Public Housing Authorities
- Service providers (*if applicable*)
- Homeless Continuums of Care (*if applicable*)

1. Alameda
2. Butte
3. Contra Costa
4. Los Angeles
5. Marin

6. Nevada
7. Orange
8. Sacramento
9. San Francisco
10. San Joaquin

11. San Mateo
12. Santa Clara
13. Santa Cruz
14. Sonoma
15. Stanislaus

Monthly Virtual Sessions

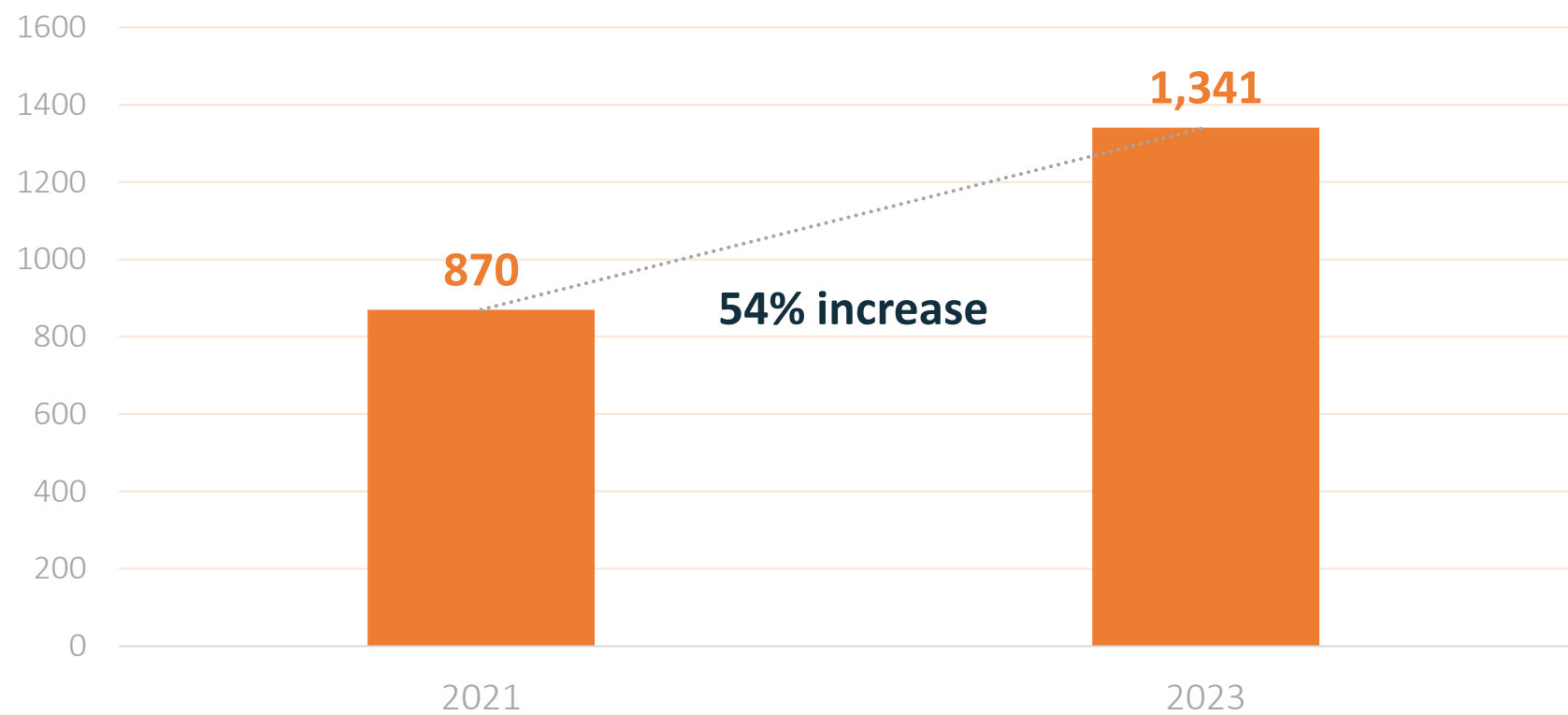
- **Group peer learning sessions on alternating topics** →
- Individual technical assistance calls to work toward goals set at start of initiative

- **Feb. 2023**
In-Person Kick-Off
- **Apr. 2023**
Building & Maintaining Partnerships & Requesting Vouchers from HUD

- **Jun. 2023**
Identifying & Preparing Eligible Youth
- **Aug. 2023** Offering, Funding, & Finding Support Services

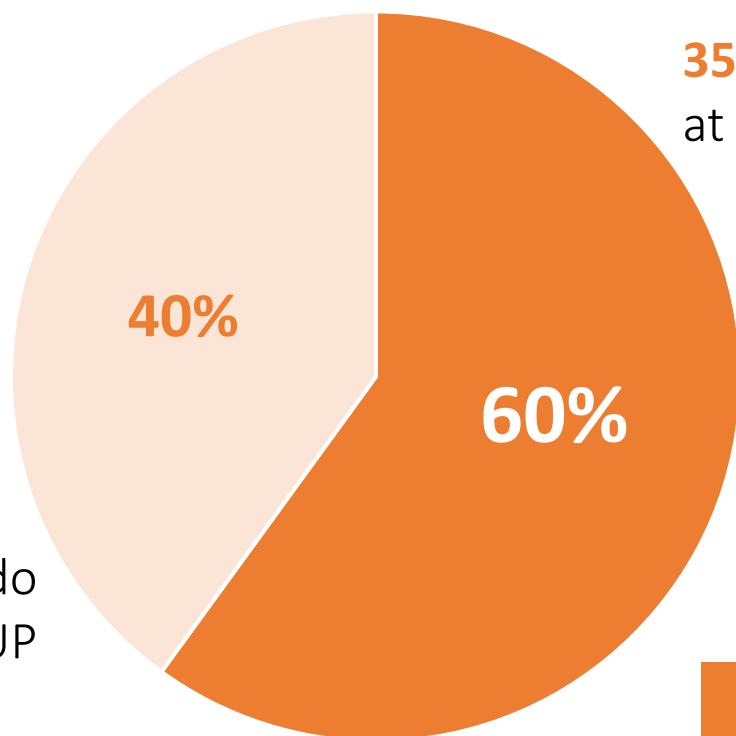
- **Oct. 2023** Landlord Recruitment & Incentives
- **Feb. 2024**
Voucher Extension/Family Self-Sufficiency Program

Since 2021, the number of FYI/FUP vouchers in California has increased 54%, from 870 to 1,341.



Report appendix lists vouchers by county as of October 1, 2023

A total of 35 county child welfare agencies (60%) partner with at least one Public Housing Authority (PHA) to administer FYI/FUP vouchers to youth.



35 counties have a partnership with at least 1 PHA to administer FYI/FUP

86% partner with 1 PHA

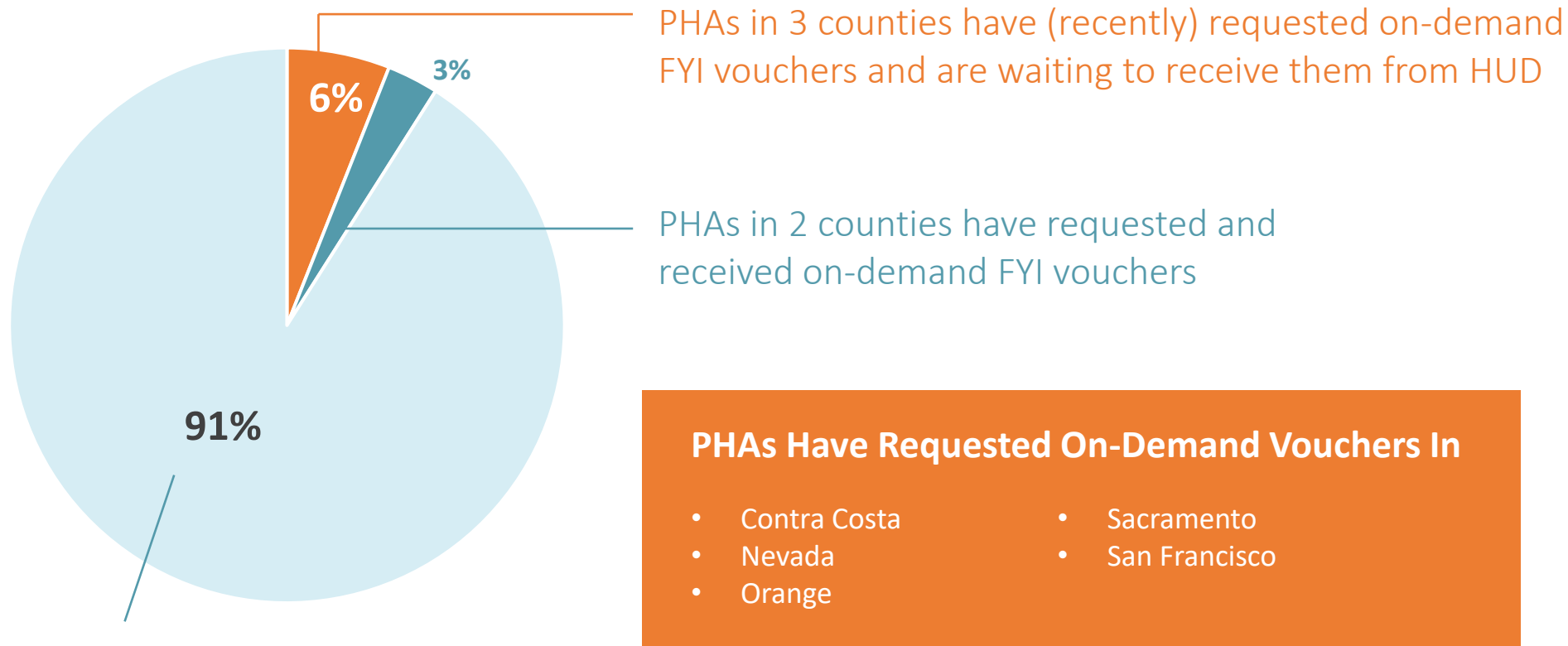
11% partner with 2 PHAs

3% (LA Co.) partners with 3 PHAs

23 counties do not have FYI/FUP

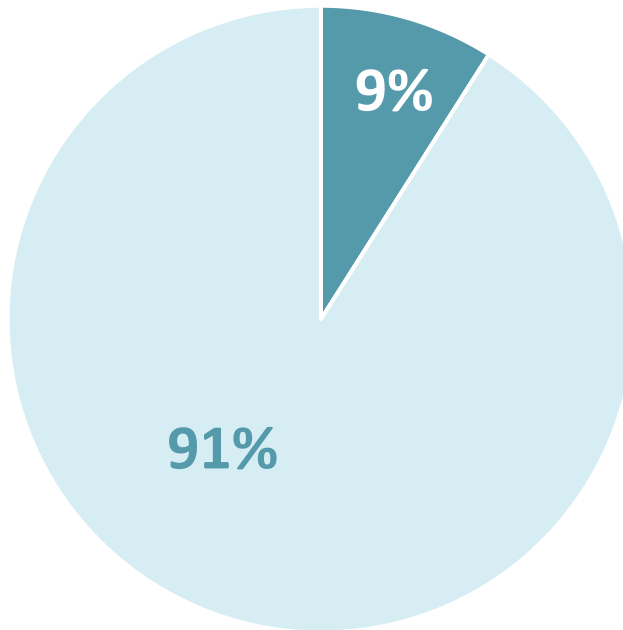
A total of 42 PHAs in California (43%) administer FYI/FUP.

PHAs in 9% of counties have requested at least one on-demand voucher, and PHAs in 3% of counties have received a voucher through the on-demand process.



PHAs in 53 counties have never requested an on-demand FYI voucher

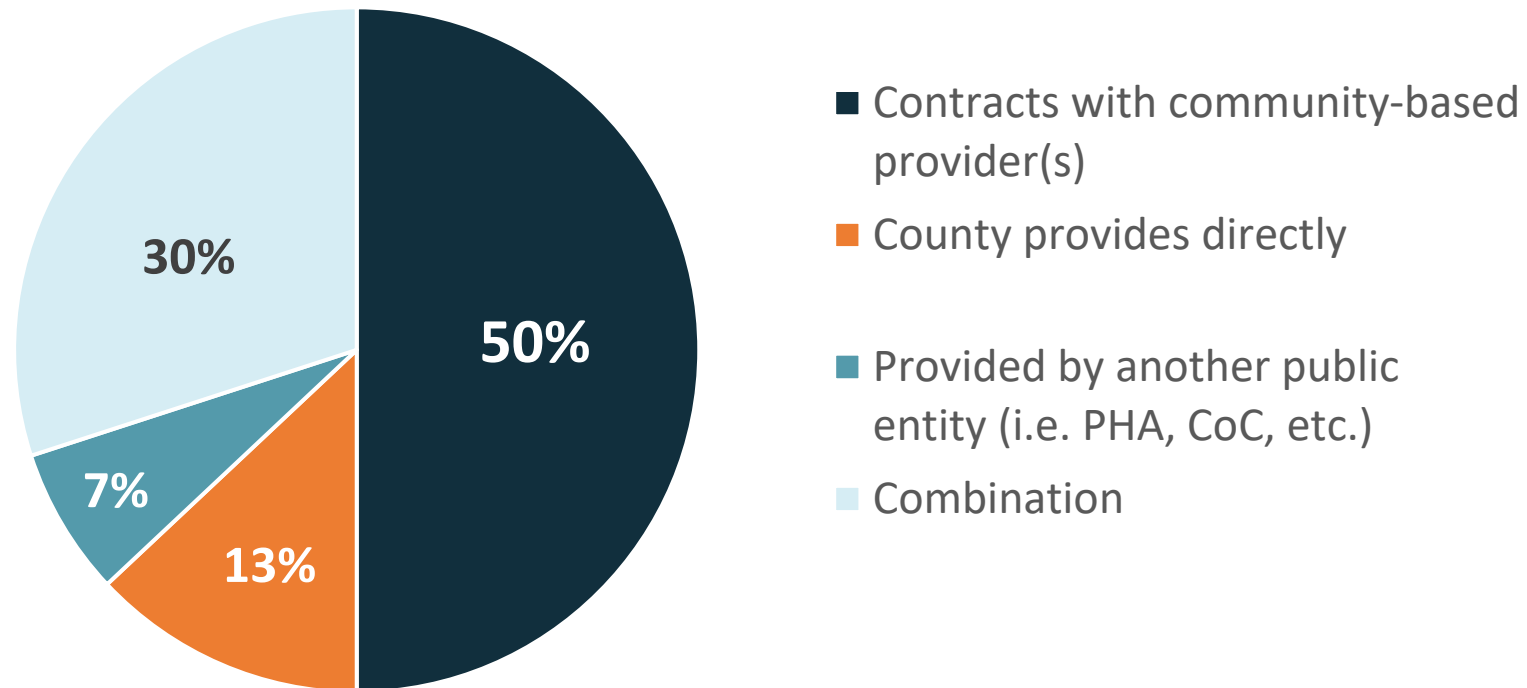
Three county child welfare agencies that offer FYI/FUP vouchers (9%) conduct landlord recruitment and provide landlord incentives.



- Conducts landlord recruitment or secures living units for youth with FYI/FUP vouchers
- Does not conduct landlord recruitment or secure living units for youth with FYI/FUP vouchers

Counties provide FYI/FUP services through a variety of arrangements; contracts with community-based providers are the most common.

How County Provides Supportive Services



Representatives from roughly two-thirds (65%) of county child welfare agencies that offer FYI/FUP vouchers were unaware of the opportunity to extend the vouchers from 3 to 5 years.

2022 amendments to the federal FSHO Act require Public Housing Authorities to offer youth with FYI/FUP vouchers the opportunity to extend their vouchers for an additional two years by:

Participating in the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program, or

Fulfilling participation conditions if they do not offer FSS or it is impacted.

Family Self-Sufficiency Program (FSS):

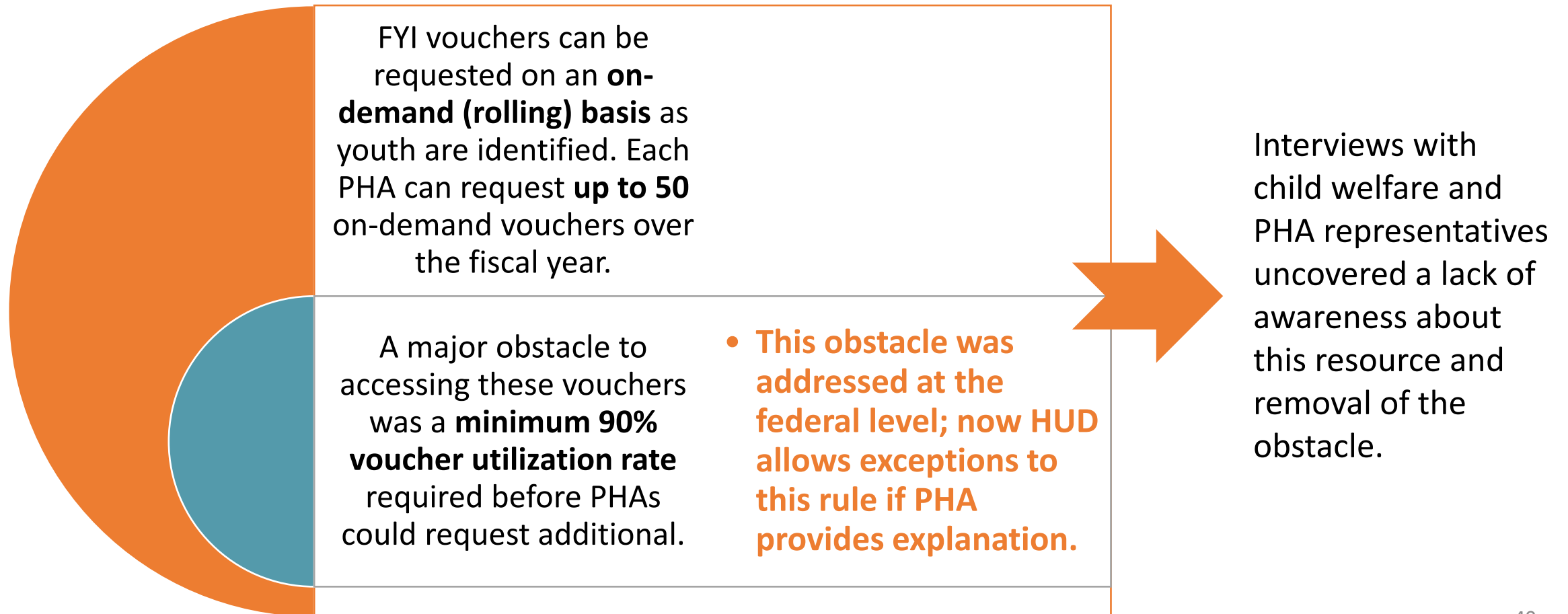
- Must execute **FSS Action Plan**
- Voucher holder must be **employed**;
- Provides and/or coordinates **services**; and
- Establishes an **interest-bearing escrow account** where increases in voucher holder's rent from increased earned income result in a credit to the escrow account which they receive at exit.

Participation Conditions:

- Education;
- Workforce development;
- Employment; or
- Exceptions (*i.e. has child under 6, cares for incapacitated person, in drug/alcohol treatment, documented medical condition*)

****There is a lack of awareness about this extension opportunity among child welfare agencies****

Many county child welfare and PHA representatives remain unaware of the on-demand voucher request mechanism and recent policy changes that simplify the request process.



County child welfare representatives report that despite the establishment of specified funding for FYI/FUP services, insufficient allocation amounts are a limiting factor in requesting additional FYI/FUP vouchers.

Housing Navigation and Maintenance Program (HNMP) was **expanded by \$8.7 million in 2022** to provide designated funding to county child welfare agencies for the provision of housing navigation and supportive services for youth with FYI/FUP vouchers.

Since 2022, the **number of vouchers has increased 54%**, due in part to this expansion of services funding.

Requesting add'l vouchers without add'l services funding **compromises provision of quality services and ability for youth to successfully lease up.**

Escalating housing costs and a scarcity of landlords renting to voucher holders have intensified the challenges of utilizing FYI/FUP vouchers.



Housing ***affordability*** was cited as one of the most significant barriers youth confront when attempting to secure housing.



Housing Choice Voucher holders are often ***competing with one another*** to secure housing from willing landlords.

- Youth are often not the most competitive tenants (limited tenancy history, young age, time-limited voucher) when compared to families or older adults.

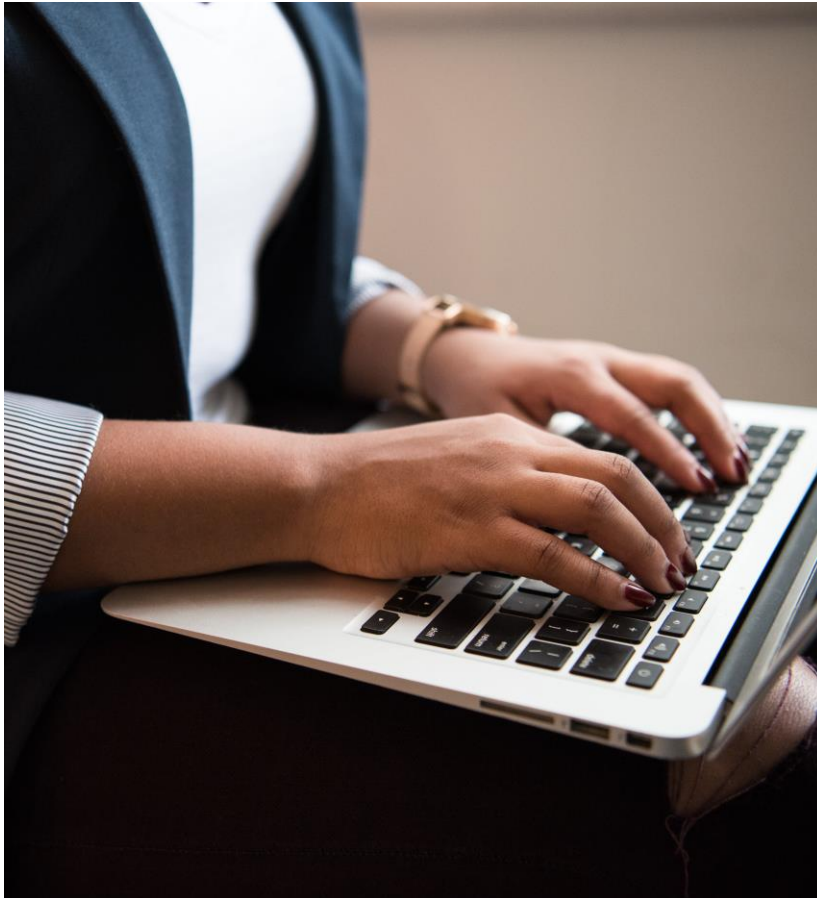
Landlord engagement is an integral part of voucher utilization and a core competence of PHAs.

- Many PHAs have strong, extensive relationships with landlords and expertise in how to recruit them.
- PHAs report landlord engagement programs are critical to achieving a high voucher utilization rate, a key metric measured by HUD.

COMMON LANDLORD INCENTIVES

- Signing bonus for property owners
- Modified tenancy requirements to address low or no credit or a lack of tenant history
- Risk mitigation fund that covers damages and lost rent that exceeds security deposit
- Small repair fund to help a unit pass Housing Quality Standards inspection
- Holding fees to reserve a unit during the application and inspection period or for yet-to-be-determined tenant

Maximize use of the on-demand FYI process, allowing for the administration of 50 vouchers per Public Housing Authority (PHA) annually.



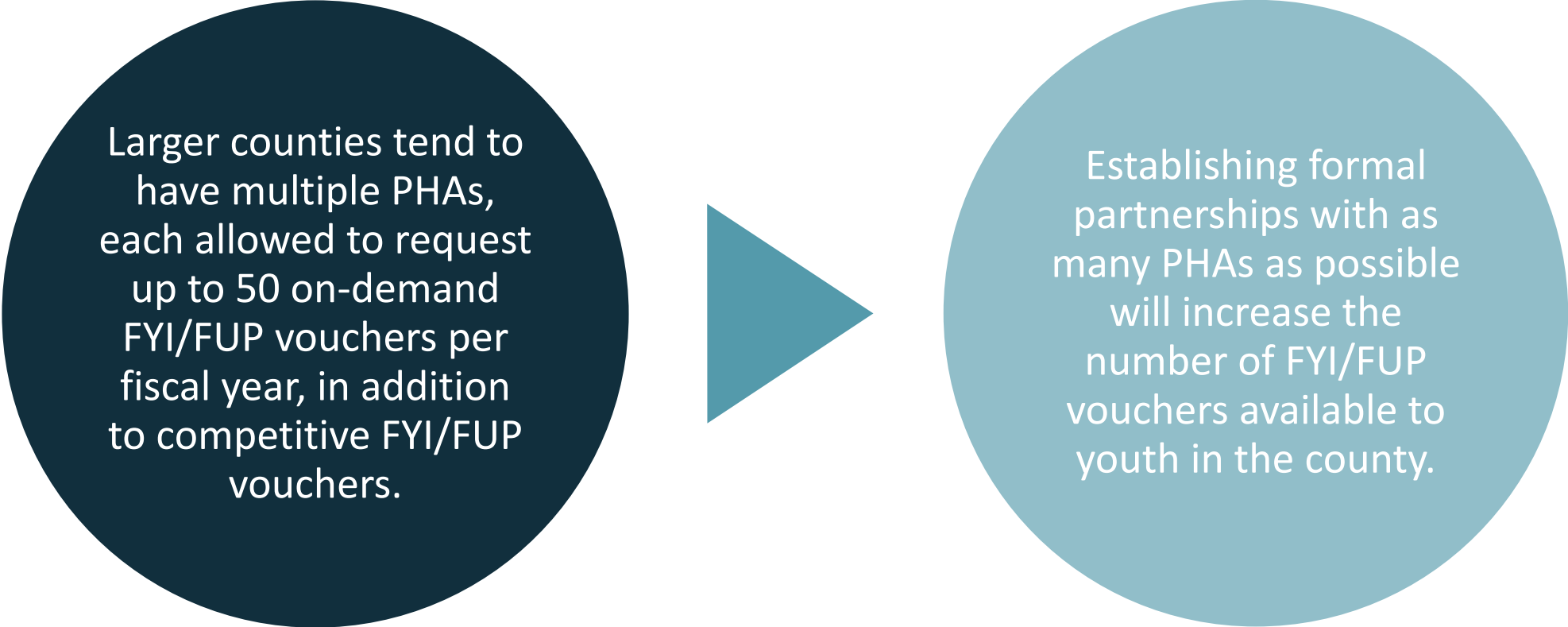
- The non-competitive, on-demand mechanism for requesting FYI/FUP vouchers enables each PHA to request **up to 50 FYI/FUP vouchers annually**, on top of the competitive FYI/FUP vouchers they apply for.
- Awareness about on-demand vouchers is scarce. **Only 9% of counties across the state have utilized the on-demand process.**
- The on-demand nature of FYI/FUP vouchers makes them a **unique and critical tool** for social workers and probation officers.
- **Increased awareness and utilization is necessary.**

Refer every youth to FYI/FUP as part of the 90-day transition plan, in counties that offer the program.

- California requires a **90-day transition plan** for nonminor dependents exiting foster care.
- FYI/FUP vouchers are authorized to be provided to youth who are 90 days from leaving foster care for this very purpose—**to make them available during transition planning.**
- Particularly useful in counties with **waiting lists** for transitional housing.



Develop partnerships with multiple PHAs in larger counties to maximize the number of vouchers available to youth.



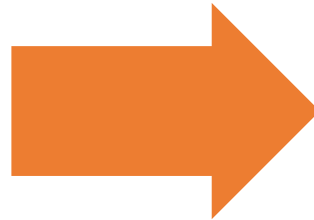
Larger counties tend to have multiple PHAs, each allowed to request up to 50 on-demand FYI/FUP vouchers per fiscal year, in addition to competitive FYI/FUP vouchers.

Establishing formal partnerships with as many PHAs as possible will increase the number of FYI/FUP vouchers available to youth in the county.

Ensure child welfare partners and other relevant stakeholders are aware that youth must be offered the opportunity to extend their FYI/FUP voucher to 5 years.

Federal FSHO Act requires PHAs to inform youth of the provisions that **allow them to extend the life of their FYI/FUP voucher from 3 years to 5 years** through participation in FSS or by fulfilling participation conditions.

Well over half **(65%) of respondents** from county child welfare **were unaware** of the requirement that youth be offered the extension.



Knowledge of this opportunity among all relevant agencies can help bridge communication with youth, facilitating this extension, which could prove invaluable in providing youth the opportunity to be better prepared to transition into permanent housing.

Ensure equal access to FYI/FUP vouchers for youth exiting the juvenile probation system.

- Youth who have an out-of-home placement order from the juvenile probation system **are eligible** for FYI/FUP vouchers.
- Many juvenile probation systems are **not aware of this eligibility** and **lack formal relationships** with their local PHA.



- Youth from the probation system can be served either:
 - Via referrals through existing partnerships with child welfare, or
 - By establishing independent referral processes between probation and local PHA(s).
- **County probation departments must be educated about FYI/FUP and encouraged to pursue partnerships with PHAs.**

Issue state policy guidance to county child welfare agencies to inform them about FYI/FUP and request that they implement it.

Although FYI/FUP is a federal program adopted at the discretion of local agencies, there are ways the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) could play a helpful role in promoting access to FYI/FUP vouchers.

Some strategies to consider

- Disseminating information about FYI/FUP to county child welfare agencies.
- Requesting information from every county child welfare agency about the status of FYI/FUP in their county and providing a rationale if no PHA partnership is in place.
- Issuing practice guidance for counties to submit a request for an FYI/FUP voucher for all youth who are not entering a transitioning housing program, as part of the youth's 90-day transition plan.



FOR FUTURE QUESTIONS:
andy@jbay.org

Breakout Rooms

Small Group Discussions

- Introduce Yourself and start to Make Connections
 - Name, pronouns, location, agency and role at agency
-
1. Share a partnership practice or an approach you have found helpful when it comes to FUP and FYI vouchers.
 2. Share a lesson learned about communication across and between multi-sector partnerships that have helped you or your agency.
 3. What strategies are working to receive referrals from Child Welfare agencies of eligible families and youth?
 4. What are some ways that services are combined with housing vouchers and offered to families and youth?

In the Chat

What is one action step you want to take towards strengthening a housing vouchers partnership?



April Peer Learning Session

April 1st @ 10-11:30 AM PT/ 1-2:30 PM ET

Topic and registration instructions will be sent next week



Resources & Connections

- ❑ [Housing Vouchers for Youth Exiting Foster Care | CSH](#)
- ❑ [Child Welfare Family Housing Voucher Briefs | CSH](#)
- ❑ [Family Unification Vouchers | HUD](#)
- ❑ [Foster Youth to Independence | HUD](#)
- ❑ [Housing and Child Welfare Resource Hub | One Roof](#)



2 Question Evaluation

How was today?

What topics for future peer learning
sessions?



Thank you!

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

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