

Chapter 21

FOSTER YOUTH TO INDEPENDENCE

The US Department of Housing and Urban Development Notice PIH 2020-28 titled Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Initiative details the requirements for eligible participants. Throughout this document, these vouchers are referred to as FYI vouchers. Youth must be at least 18 years and not more than 24 years of age and/or is homeless or is at risk of becoming homeless at age 16 or older.

HARC will partner with the Public Child Welfare Agencies (PCWA) to identify youth who are eligible for the Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) initiative. The agreement will define Family Unification Program (FUP) eligible youth, list supportive services to be provided, HARC's responsibilities including accepting youth who have been certified by the PCWA, and if the youth are eligible for the Housing Choice Voucher program. The agreement shall address the PCWA's responsibilities and those of the CoC's.

1. Voucher Increments

These vouchers are governed by the rules set forth in [Public & Indian Housing Notice PIH 2020-28](#), October 6, 2020 and Housing Choice Voucher Program regulations at 24 CFR 982.

1.A Administration

HARC will administer FYI vouchers under the same rules as the Housing Choice Voucher program except as described in the sections below. In general,

1. FYI vouchers are issued to HARC referrals only.
2. These vouchers are limited to a period 36 individual months of subsidy.
3. FYI vouchers will have its own monthly budget report as these vouchers have a separate funding stream. These vouchers are in addition to each office's regular voucher allocation.
4. FYI families may transfer to another voucher area by following HARC's current policy in the Family Moves exhibit.
5. FYI vouchers are eligible for portability out of the state/county of Racine, WI by following HARC's current policy in the Family Portability exhibit.
6. These vouchers are reported to HUD. This means staff is required to follow EIV procedures.

1.B Youth Eligibility

A young person eligible to receive a FYI voucher under the notice must meet **ALL** the following requirements:

1. Has attained at least 18 years and not more than 24 years of age;
2. 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
3. Is homeless or is at risk of becoming homeless as these terms are defined at 24 CFR 578.3 and 24 CFR 576.2, at age 16 or older.

A young person who meets the above requirements and is pregnant and parenting is also eligible. 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.

1.C Information Request

Families interested in the FYI Voucher Program, must be referred through the Public Child Welfare Agencies (PCWA's).

1.D Waiting Lists

HARC may reopen the waiting list to accept an FYI eligible youth without opening the waitlist for other applicants. These families may apply for other open HARC rental assistance programs while participating in the FYI Voucher program. All applicants for HARC voucher programs are placed on waiting lists in accordance with HARC policies and eligibility requirements at the time of application.

2. Applicant Screening

FYI Voucher applicants are subject to the same criteria as other voucher families. Applicant families that are ineligible will receive the Ineligibility Notice along with the Applicant Informal Review. HARC will copy the service provider point of contact with the Ineligibility Notice so they may assist the family.

3. Annual Examinations

All FYI families will be subject to regular (annual) income and asset examinations. Families are not required to maintain supportive services in order to remain eligible for FYI continuing assistance.

3.B Inspection Requirements

FYI vouchers will follow the HQS inspection requirements as set forth in Chapter 8.

4. Moves and Ports

Families are eligible:

- To move their FYI Voucher to any HARC community with a voucher program.
- To port their FYI Voucher to any housing authority that administers a FYI voucher program. HARC will administer portability under standard HUD regulations.

5. Definitions

5.A Homeless (24 CFR 578.3) means:

(a) An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:

(i) An individual or family with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground;

(ii) An individual or family living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, State, or local government programs for low-income individuals); or

(iii) An individual who is exiting an institution where he or she resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution;

(b) An individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence, provided that:

(i) The primary nighttime residence will be lost within 14 days of the date of application for homeless assistance;

(ii) No subsequent residence has been identified; and

(iii) The individual or family lacks the resources or support networks, e.g., family, friends, faith-based or other social networks, needed to obtain other permanent housing;

(c) Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age, or families with children and youth, who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition, but who:

(i) Are defined as homeless under section 387 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5732a), section 637 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9832), section 41403 of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14043e-2), section 330(h) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b(h)), section 3 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012), section 17(b) Public Housing Division Page 5 of 7 01/01/2020 Housing Choice Voucher Administrative Plan Exhibit 11-10 FYI Voucher Program of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786(b)), or section 725 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a);

(ii) Have not had a lease, ownership interest, or occupancy agreement in permanent housing at any time during the 60 days immediately preceding the date of application for homeless assistance;

(iii) Have experienced persistent instability as measured by two moves or more during the 60-day period immediately preceding the date of applying for homeless assistance; and

(iv) Can be expected to continue in such status for an extended period of time because of chronic disabilities; chronic physical health or mental health conditions; substance addiction; histories of domestic violence or childhood abuse (including neglect); the presence of a child or youth with a disability; or two or more barriers to employment, which include the lack of a high school degree or General Education Development (GED), illiteracy, low English proficiency, a history of incarceration or detention for criminal activity, and a history of unstable employment; or

(d) Any individual or family who:

(i) Is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or a family member, including a child, that has either taken place within the individual's or family's primary nighttime residence or has made the individual or family afraid to return to their primary nighttime residence;

(ii) Has no other residence; and

(iii) Lacks the resources or support networks, e.g., family, friends, and faith based or other social networks, to obtain other permanent housing.

5.B At Risk of Becoming Homeless (24 CFR 576.2)

(a) An individual or family who:

(i) Has an annual income below 30 percent of median family income for the area, as determined by HUD;

(ii) Does 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 in this section; and

(iii) Meets one of the following conditions:

(A) Has moved because of economic reasons two or more times during the 60 days immediately preceding the application for homelessness prevention assistance;

(B) Is living in the home of another because of economic hardship; Public Housing Division Page 6 of 7 01/01/2020 Housing Choice Voucher Administrative Plan Exhibit 11-10 FYI Voucher Program

(C) Has been notified in writing that their right to occupy their current housing or living situation will be terminated within 21 days after the date of application for assistance;

(D) Lives in a hotel or motel and the cost of the hotel or motel stay is not paid by charitable organizations or by Federal, State, or local government programs for low-income individuals;

(E) Lives in a single-room occupancy or efficiency apartment unit in which there reside more than two persons or lives in a larger housing unit in which there reside more than 1.5 persons reside per room, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau;

(F) 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); or

(G) Otherwise lives in housing that has characteristics associated with instability and an increased risk of homelessness, as identified in the recipient's approved consolidated plan;

(b) A child or youth who does not qualify as "homeless" under this section, but qualifies as "homeless" under section 387(3) of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5732a(3)), section 637(11) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9832(11)), section 41403(6) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14043e-2(6)), section 330(h)(5)(A) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b(h)(5)(A)), section 3(m) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012(m)), or section 17(b)(15) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786(b)(15)); or

(c) A child or youth who does not qualify as "homeless" under this section, but qualifies as "homeless" under section 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a(2)), and the parent(s) or guardian(s) of that child or youth if living with her or him.

5.C Required Supportive Services

The services listed in (A) through (E) below must be provided for a period of 36 months to FUP-eligible youth receiving rental assistance through this notice. A FUP-eligible youth cannot be required to participate in these services as condition of receipt of the voucher.

A. Basic life skills information/counseling on money management, use of credit, housekeeping, proper nutrition/meal preparation; and access to health care (e.g., doctors, medication, and mental and behavioral health services).

B. Counseling on compliance with rental lease requirements and with HCV program participant requirements, including assistance/referrals for assistance on security deposits, utility hook-up fees, and utility deposits.

C. Providing such assurances to owners of rental property as are reasonable and necessary to assist a FUP-eligible youth to rent a unit with a voucher.

D. Job preparation and attainment counseling (where to look/how to apply, dress, grooming, and relationships with supervisory personnel, etc.).

E. Educational and career advancement counseling regarding attainment of general equivalency diploma (GED); attendance/financing of education at a technical school, trade school or college; including successful work ethic and attitude models.

VI-D. VI-ID. MANDATORY TERMINATION OF ASSISTANCE

HUD requires the PHA to terminate assistance in the following circumstances.

Eviction [24 CFR 982.552(b)(2), 24 CFR 5.2005(c)(1)]

The PHA must terminate assistance whenever a family is evicted from a unit assisted under the HCV program for a serious or repeated violation of the lease. As discussed further in section 12-II.E, incidents of actual or threatened domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking may not be construed as serious or repeated violations of the lease by the victim or threatened victim of such violence or stalking.

PHA Policy

A family will be considered evicted if the family moves after a legal eviction order has been issued, whether or not physical enforcement of the order was necessary.

If a family moves after the owner has given the family an eviction notice for serious or repeated lease violations but before a legal eviction order has been issued, termination of assistance is not mandatory. In such cases the PHA will determine whether the family has committed serious or repeated violations of the lease based on available evidence and may terminate assistance or take any of the alternative measures described in section 12-II.C. In making its decision, the PHA will consider the factors described in sections 12-II.D and 12-II.E. Upon consideration of such factors, the PHA may, on a case-by-case basis, choose not to terminate assistance.

Serious and repeated lease violations will include, but not be limited to, nonpayment of rent, disturbance of neighbors, destruction of property, or living or housekeeping habits that

cause damage to the unit or premises and criminal activity. Generally, the criterion to be used will be whether or not the reason for the eviction was the fault of the tenant or guests.