

FYI WEEKLY BRIEFING

PREPARING YOUTH FOR HOUSING SUCCESS

MAY 25, 2021

NOON – 1:30 PM EST

** this webinar is being recorded

Today's Guests

Jamole Callahan

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ACTION Ohio & NCHCW
Columbus, OH

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Chicago, IL

Ruth White

Co-Founder and Executive Director
NCHCW
College Park, MD

TODAY'S AGENDA

- Introduction & Welcome
- Overview of FYI
- Discussion of Housing & Independent Living Resources
- The Illinois Department of Children and Families' Approach to Youth Housing Success
- Questions**

**Questions are welcome throughout the event. Just drop them in the chat box.



WE ARE INFINITELY GRATEFUL TO HUD'S REGIONAL AND HQ STAFF FOR IMPLEMENTING FYI SO QUICKLY!

- You can vote for the HUD FYI Team for a “Peoples Choice Award” here: <https://servicetoamericamedals.org/peoples-choice-award/>



ABOUT ▾ HONOREES VOTE DONATE

MICHELLE DANIELS, CHARLES D. ELDRIDGE, RYAN E. JONES and the Office of Public and Indian Housing Foster Youth to Independence team

2021 FINALIST
MANAGEMENT EXCELLENCE

Created an innovative program offering housing assistance and social services to young people aging out of foster care to prevent them from becoming homeless and to provide an opportunity for self-sufficiency.



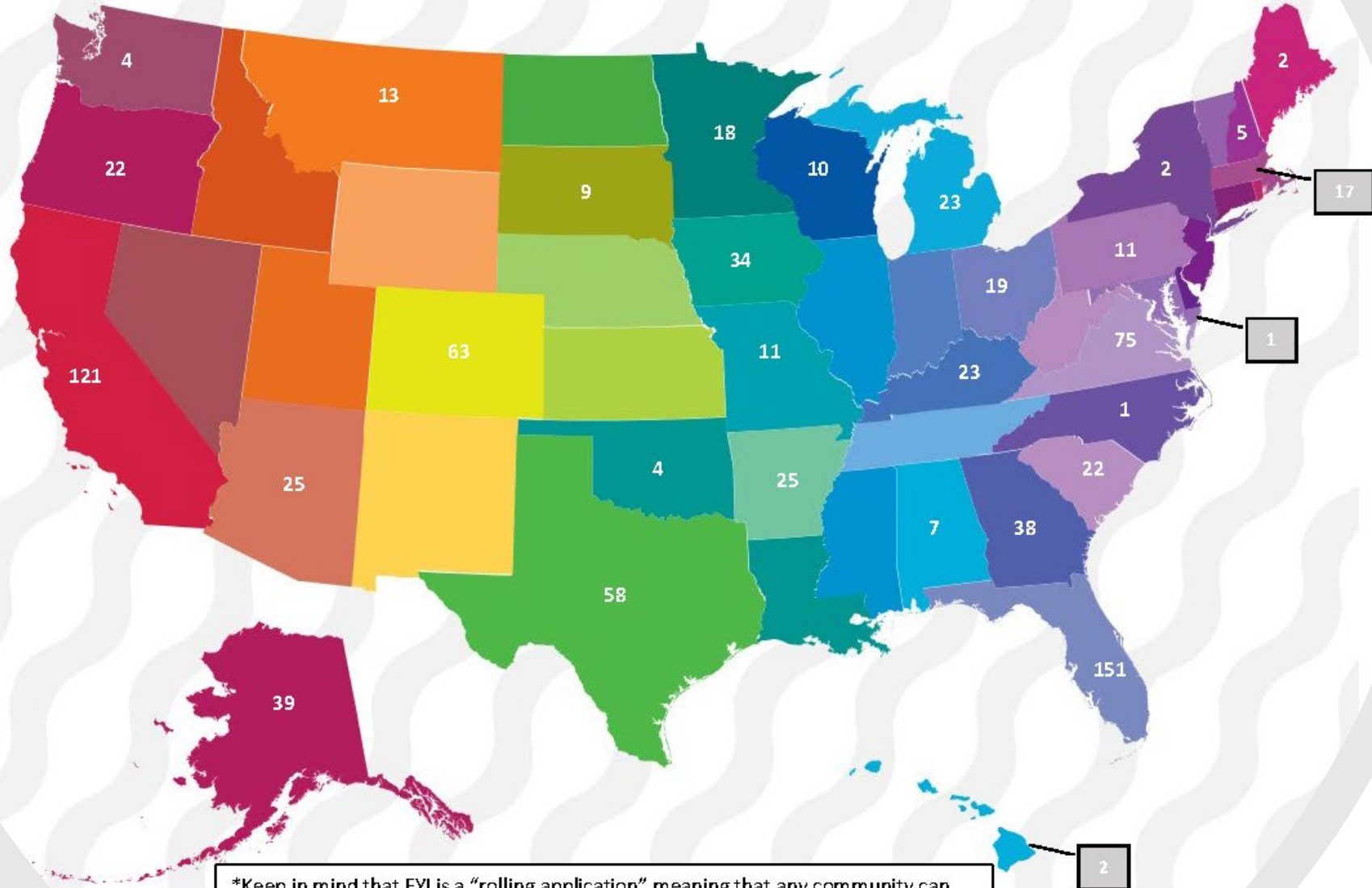


WHAT IS THE FOSTER YOUTH TO INDEPENDENCE INITIATIVE?

- A synchronized distribution method for HUD's Family Unification Program for youth.
- Allows public child welfare agencies (PCWA) to order three-year Housing Choice Vouchers for youth that are timed properly with their independent living plan.
- FYI vouchers are predictable and allow youth and the professionals working with them to be planful and have a sense of the future.
- FYI makes vouchers available to youth who are aging out of foster care and at risk of homelessness or youth who aged out of foster care and are homeless or at risk. Youth must be between the ages of 18 – 24*.
- Requires that PCWAs form a partnership agreement with a public housing agency (PHA).
- Requires that PCWAs identify an entity within the community that can assure youth have access to supportive services designed to move youth to increasing independence if they need such services for the duration of the housing assistance.
- FYI is (or can be) available everywhere in the US.

FYI Requests

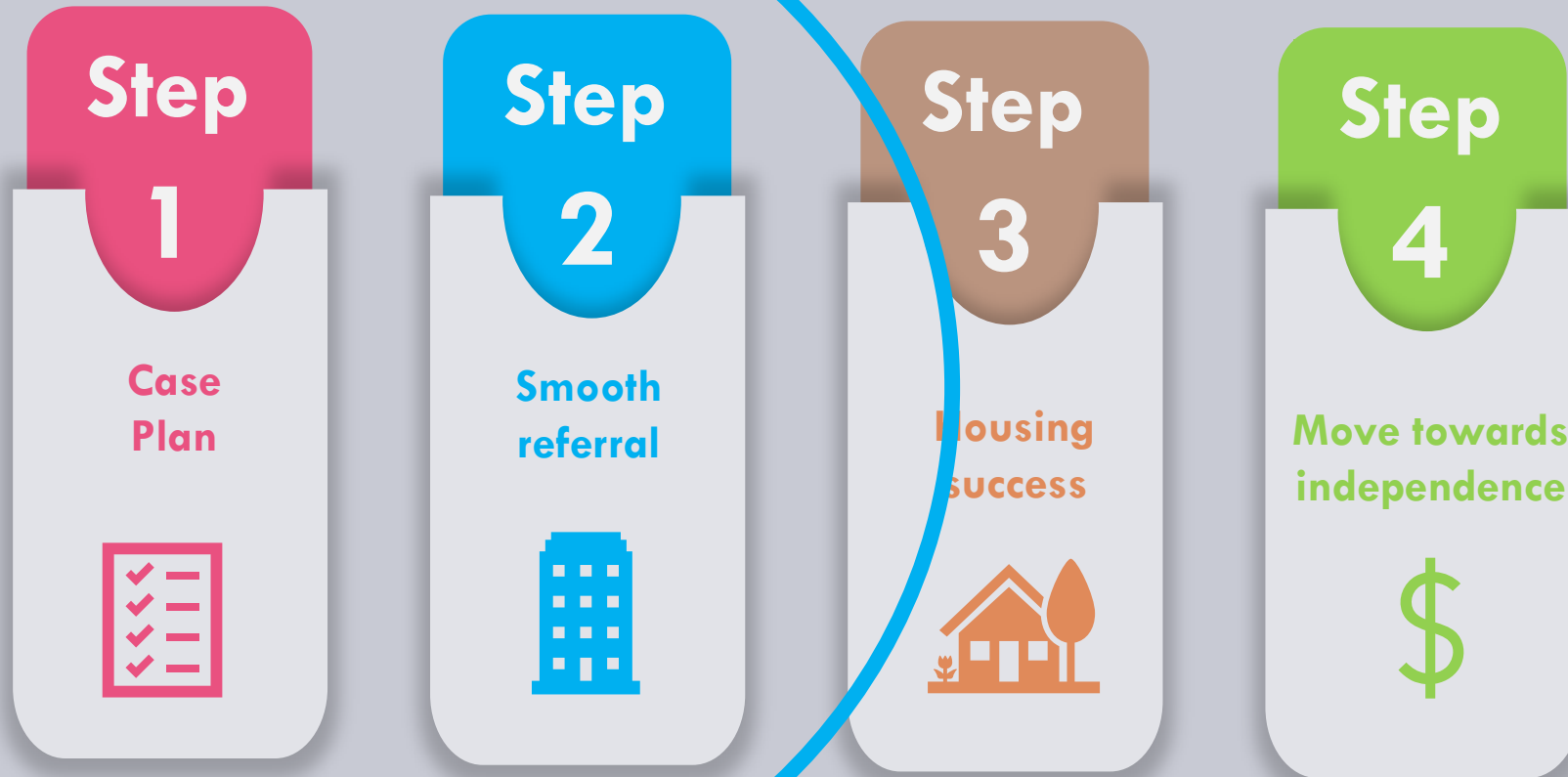
(as of November 2020)



*Keep in mind that FYI is a "rolling application" meaning that any community can request an FYI voucher when needed. We will update this map regularly.



The FYI/FUP process

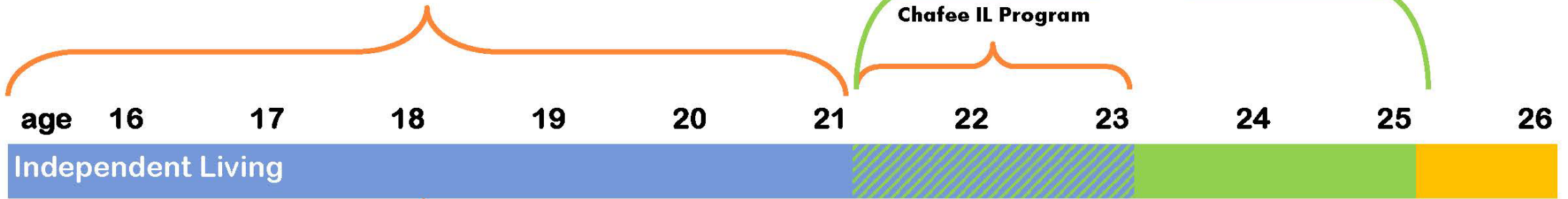


Each partners' role will can and should be sorted out in the MOU or letter of agreement. Even though youth aren't listed in these documents – remember that they have the most responsibility here and should be encouraged to lead.

Closing the Gaps Through Which Youth Fall Into Homelessness and Human Trafficking

Funding source for housing options for youth under the age of 21 should be drawn from state and federal child welfare funds. HUD funding must not supplant funds available for foster care placements.

Funding Source is Housing Choice Voucher



- Foster Care
- Kinship Care
- Host Homes
- Group Home
- Homelessness
- RHYA TLP
- Other RHYA
- Dual Juvenile Justice

In VPA states, Title IV-E can be used to extend foster care placements including rental assistance in private apartments, ongoing case management, and savings accounts. Per ACYF guidance, youth must work or go to school 80 hours per month to remain eligible.

Chafee Independent Living Assistance can be used to support case management, job training, transportation assistance, emergency cash assistance for youth until the age of 23 per the Family First Act. Chafee does not have a work requirement. ETVs were extended to 26 per FFPSA as well.

For a youth transitioning to HCV, this funding can also be used for first month's rent, security deposit, furniture, moving costs, and landlord recruitment.

HCV for youth drawn from FUP or TPV, Title IV-E self sufficiency efforts are maintained. Chafee IL services continue through age 23 to assure youth's momentum towards self-sufficiency. All youth interested in FSS are offered spots when available at the PHA. Young people in non-FSS jurisdictions are connected to local CAP agency.

- Private apt
- LIHTC
- Permanent Supportive Housing
- Roommate
- Other subsidy
- Adult Services

** the young person and the public system have had, at this point, potentially as many as ten years to plan for the transi-

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HOUSING FOR YOUTH AGING OUT OF FOSTER CARE

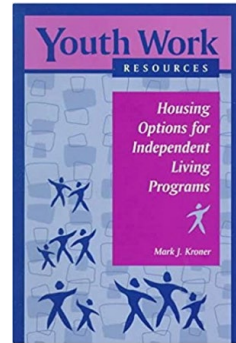
A REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE AND PROGRAM TYPOLOGY



Link:

file:///C:/Users/ruthw/Downloads/HousingFosterCare_LiteratureReview.pdf

A RICH HISTORY OF INDEPENDENT LIVING TOOLS AND TRAINING



*The child welfare field, and particularly social work, has been perfecting the approach to independent living services for over 30 years. The pre-eminent author of these tools with respect to housing stability is **Mark J. Kroner**.*

IDCIFS 

Helping Youth Transition to Adulthood

Family Unification Program (FUP)

- Provides Housing Choice Voucher
- DCFS Involved families living in inadequate housing
- Youth who are aging out, or have aged out, of DCFS care and are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless
- Refer more than 300 clients per year.



FUP in Illinois

- Green indicates that the housing authority accepts youth to their FUP
- Red indicates that the housing authority does not accept youth to their FUP

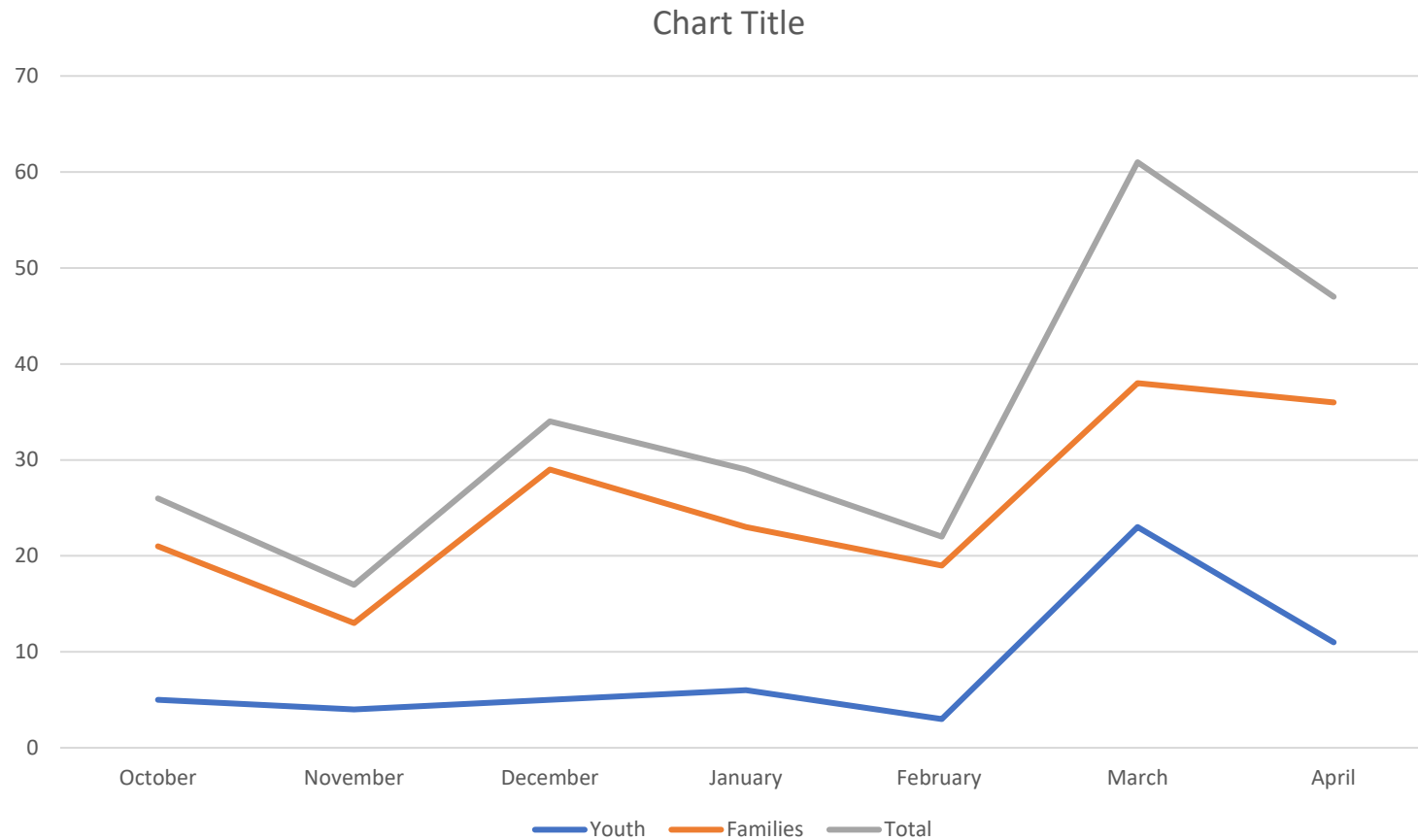
FUP Vouchers, Illinois					
Housing Authority	Youth	HUD BL	2018	2020 Total	
Chicago	Yes	600	78	73	751
Cook County	Yes	100	89		189
Danville	No	16			16
DuPage County	Yes	105			105
Joliet	Yes	49			49
Kankakee County	No	26			26
Lake County	Yes	240	49		289
Madison County.	Yes	2	19		21
North Chicago	No	5			5
Rock Island	Yes	25			25
Rockford	Yes	0		36	36
Springfield	Yes	62			62
St. Clair County (ESLHA)	No	95			95
Waukegan	No	33			33
Williamson County	Yes	24			24
Winnebago County	Yes	11		40	51
Total		1393	235	149	1777

Fostering Youth to Independence (FYI)



- Already approved
 - Champaign County
 - Peoria
 - Chicago non-competitive
- Application submitted
 - CHA competitive
- Application in process
 - Cook County
 - Jackson County
 - Mt. Vernon

FUP/FYI Referrals



- October through April, 57 of the 236 FUP/FYI referrals (just under 25%) were youth referrals.
- This doesn't include the 25 referrals made to CHA which HUD approved in May.

Subsidy Is Not Enough



- Subsidy is often a necessary but not a sufficient component to success.
- Supportive services are also needed.

Three Components of a Successful Program

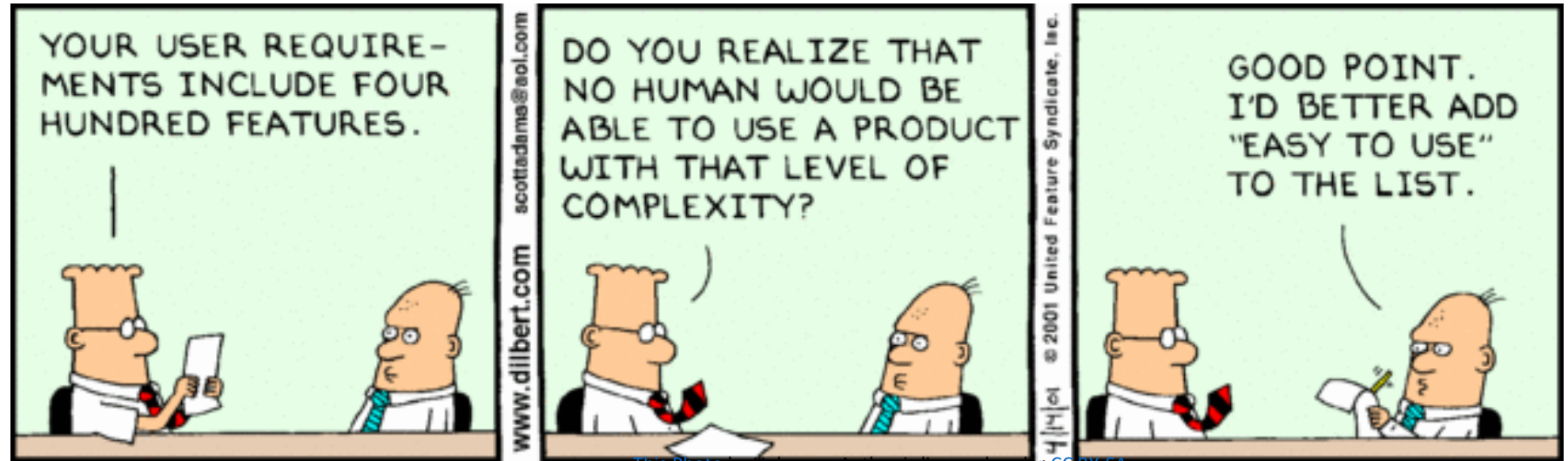
- FYI or FUP Subsidy
- Cash Assistance
- Housing Advocacy



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- Life Skills
- Housing Counseling
- Assurances to Property owners
- Job preparation and attainment
- Education and career advancement

HUD Required Services



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Youth Housing Assistance Program (YHAP)

- Funded by Chafee
- Illinois received extension to provide services until 23 years of age
- Housing Advocacy (300 youth referrals per year)
- Cash Assistance (200 youth served per year)
- Housing Subsidy



Other Funding Sources



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- State funded Alumni Centers
- Prevention funding for parenting youth over the age of 23
- Continuum of Care for non-parenting youth over the age of 23.

HAP Services

- Educate youth
- Develop apartment listings
- Assist with FYI application
- Locate and apply for housing
- Advocate with property managers
- Help apply for entitlements and services



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Cash Assistance

- Up to \$2,000 per year
- Up to \$4,000 lifetime
- Move-in Cost (e.g., security deposit, moving costs)
- Furniture and household items
- Arrears
- Funded by Chafee



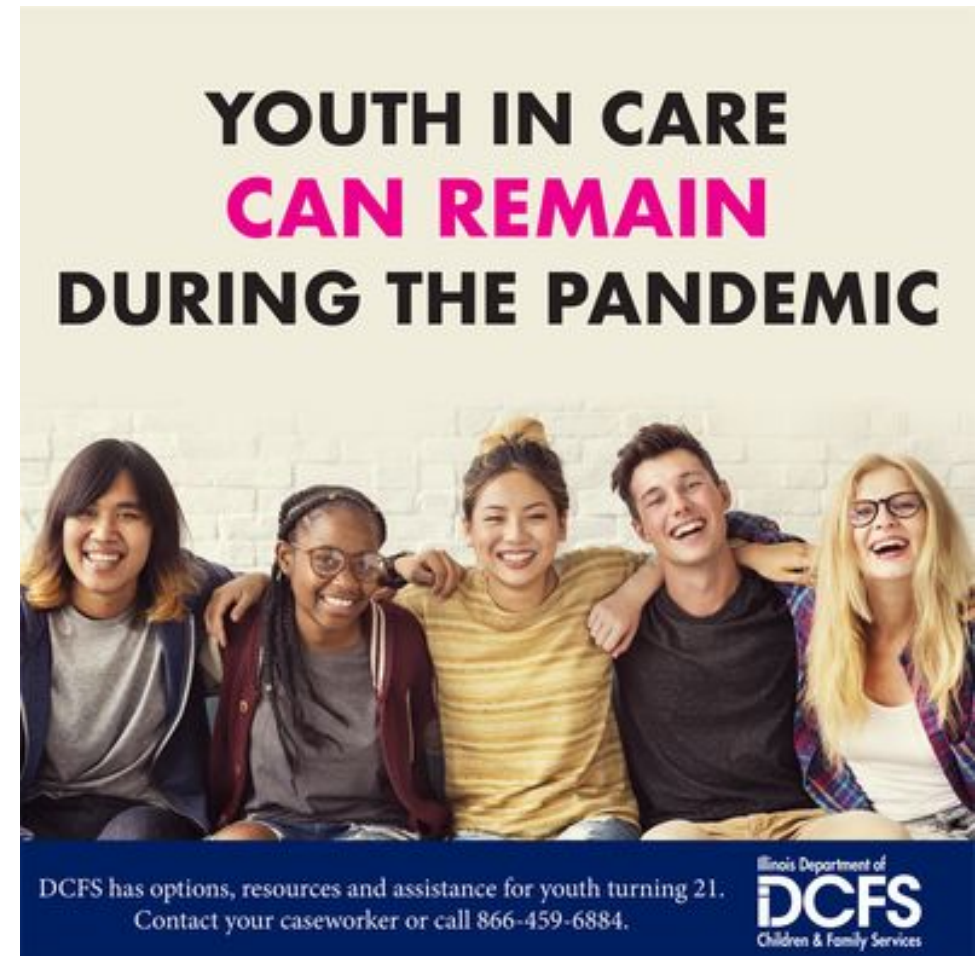
Follow-Up Service

- Conduct home visits
- Contact the family monthly
- Contact the property manager
- Deal with crises



Pandemic Response

- Allow youth to remain in care until 9/30/21
- Allow youth who are 21 to return to care to get RAC
- 115 youth referred for Re-Entry Alternative Contract; 86 approved in March and April
- Allow youth who aged out and are not yet 27 to received YHAP
- YHAP normally receives 25 referrals per month but we referred 100 in March and 65 in April.



**YOUTH IN CARE
CAN REMAIN
DURING THE PANDEMIC**

DCFS has options, resources and assistance for youth turning 21.
Contact your caseworker or call 866-459-6884.

Illinois Department of
DCFS
Children & Family Services



Thank you

John Cheney Egan

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312-328-2269



What is “Section 8” and
how do I find it?



What is “Section 8”

- The **housing choice voucher program** is the federal government's major program for assisting very low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market.
- A **housing subsidy is paid to the landlord** directly by the PHA on behalf of the participating family. The family then pays the difference between the actual rent charged by the landlord and the amount subsidized by the program. Under certain circumstances, if authorized by the PHA, a family may use its voucher to purchase a modest home.
- The PHA calculates the maximum amount of housing assistance allowable. The maximum housing assistance is generally the lesser of the payment standard minus 30% of the family's monthly adjusted income or the gross rent for the unit minus 30% of monthly adjusted income. **Therefore, generally a household will pay 30% of their income and the PHA pays the rest.**

How does the money exchange hands?

Everyone -- tenant, landlord and PHA -- has obligations and responsibilities under the voucher program.

- HUD and the PHA agree to an “annual contributions contract” based on the per unit cost in a neighborhood – and HUD dispenses the federal funds to the PHA
- The housing unit selected by the family must meet an acceptable level of health and safety before the PHA can approve the unit. If so, the landlord and the PHA sign a **housing assistance payments (HAP)** contract that runs for the same term as the lease.
- The tenant (voucher holder) and the landlord sign a year long lease. The tenant pays their “Total Tenant Payment” directly to the landlord.

Where are the vouchers and the PHAs?

- HUD has offers tools to help the general public locate PHAs and understand the number and type of vouchers available
- Visit the [Housing Choice Voucher Dashboard](#) to view vouchers at all PHAs (except “Moving to Work” agencies).



HCV - Special Purpose Vouchers

Current Special Purpose Voucher Utilization as of **August 2020**. Special Purpose Vouchers are included in the ACC of a Public Housing Authority with the exception of Mainstream.

Select a State:

Clear All Filters:



Data is current as of August 2020.

Mainstream Vouchers

PHA Name	PHA Code	MS Total Effective Awards	MS Total Leased	MS % Leasing
Housing Authority of the Birmingham District	AL001	103	70	67.96%
Mobile Housing Board	AL002	198	89	44.95%
The Housing Authority of the City of Huntsville	AL047	65	0	0.00%
Sheffield Housing Authority	AL068	30	28	93.33%
Jefferson County Housing Authority	AL086	50	37	74.00%
Walker County Housing Authority	AL129	175	95	54.29%
The Housing Authority of the City of Fort Smi	AR003	84	39	46.43%
Housing Authority of the City of Little Rock	AR004	156	97	62.18%
Housing Authority of the City of Conway	AR006	39	37	94.87%

Family Unification Program Vouchers (FUP)

PHA Name	PHA Code	FUP Total Effective Awards	FUP Total Leased	FUP % Leasing
Mobile Housing Board	AL002	32	33	103.13%
Jefferson County Housing Authority	AL086	71	68	95.77%
Housing Authority of the City of Pine Bluff	AR017	25	9	36.00%
Hope Housing Authority	AR068	49	5	10.20%
Jonesboro Urban Renewal HA	AR131	45	42	93.33%
City of Phoenix Housing Department	AZ001	189	134	70.90%
Housing And Community Development Tucson	AZ004	100	68	68.00%
City of Mesa Housing Authority	AZ005	28	27	96.43%
Housing Authority of Maricopa County	AZ009	29	7	24.14%



Questions

Upcoming Weekly FYI Briefings

June 1, 2021 Noon EST

Independent Living Services and Landlord
Recruitment

([register](#))

June 8, 2021 Noon EST

FSHO: A Pathway to Economic Success

([register](#))

Open Forum Fridays at 3:00 pm (EST)

visit www.nchcw.org to learn more