



FOSTER YOUTH TO INDEPENDENCE INITIATIVE (FYI)

Nearly 18,000 foster children reach adulthood alone each year, without returning home or being adopted. A quarter of these youth will experience homelessness – and their homelessness is entirely predictable. In 2019, foster youth, led by ACTION Ohio, worked with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to synchronize HUD’s Family Unification Program (FUP) with child welfare transition planning to eliminate homelessness. This program is called the Foster Youth to Independence Initiative or “FYI.”

How does FYI work?

FYI taps HUD’s Tenant Protection Account to extend HUD’s Family Unification Program (FUP) to over 1,900 [PHAs in the US that do not administer FUP vouchers](#). FYI provides 36 months of rental assistance “on demand” for youth in private apartments timed with emancipation from foster care.

How do communities access FYI?

FYI requires a local-level partnership between public child welfare agencies (PCWAs) and Public Housing Authorities (PHAs). Before a community can begin accessing FYI vouchers from HUD, local partners must sign a letter of agreement or an MOU indicating that youth will have access to Chafee-like services the PCWA or

a more appropriate community partner while they participate in FYI. PHAs can apply for up to 25 vouchers each year.

Who is eligible?

Current or former foster youth ages 18-24 who are homeless or at risk of homelessness are eligible for FYI.

How do we get started?

First, understand the housing needs all foster youth in your community. Second, your PCWA and PHA must develop an understanding of each agency’s work. Third, formalize the partnership through a letter of agreement or an MOU. Identify youth and begin making referrals

[Learn More at www.nchcw.org](http://www.nchcw.org)

How do youth access FYI?

1. Ask about FYI/FUP in your transition plan meetings.
2. Learn as much as you can in your independent living classes about how to locate apartments and be a good renter.
3. Provide this Fact Sheet and other materials to your worker.
4. If you get stuck, email info@nchcw.org and we’ll walk you and your worker through the process.

Tools for FYI Partners

[HUD’s FYI Notice](#)

[HUD’s FYI Site](#)

[Cumulative List of FYI Awards](#)

[List of eligible PHAs](#)

[Sample letter of agreement](#)

[News coverage on FYI](#)