Expansion of Housing for Youth Formerly in Foster Care

When young people exit foster care, it can be challenging to find resources and housing opportunities. And when there are resources, they are often limited in number. Transitional Housing Program Plus (THP-Plus) is one such program, but it has expanded in recent years at the direction of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and the hard work of the Department of Children and Family Services. THP-Plus has been a critical housing program for youth ages 18 to 25 years old who were formerly in foster care.

Governor Newsom and the California Legislature, with the partnership of John Burton Advocates for Youth, have invested significantly in this program over the last several years. On January 14, 2022, the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) issued an Allocation Acceptance, under the THP-Plus Housing Supplemental Program, for $9.2 million authorized by item 2240-102-0001 of Section 2.00 of the Budget Act 2021 (AB164) (Chapter 84 of the Statutes of 2021) and Chapter 11.9 (commencing with Health and Safety Code 50820) as part 2 of Division 31 of the Health and Safety Code (AB153), of the Health and Safety Code. Pursuant to Section 50820 of the Health and Safety Code, HCD shall allocate and distribute funds to up to 11 counties. A county shall be eligible to receive funding pursuant to this section if the fair market rent, as defended in paragraph (4) of subdivision (i) of Section 11403.3 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, for a two-bedroom apartment in the county is one of the 11 most expensive in the state during 2020-2021 Federal fiscal year, which makes Los Angeles County eligible.
The THP-Plus Supplemental Program allocation will be shared among participating counties to increase the monthly rates paid to THP-Plus providers in counties with high rental costs to ensure adequate funding is available to cover the cost of rent as well as comprehensive supportive services. Currently, DCFS pays a monthly THP-Plus rate of $2,200 per youth. The THP-Plus Housing Supplement Program will enable DCFS to increase the monthly rate to at least $2,882 per youth, which will improve providers’ abilities to secure safe, quality housing units for the youth participating in their program, as well as offer services critical to assisting youth with educational, employment, mental health, and independent living goals. Through this program, DCFS can also establish a parenting rate with this funding specific to expectant and parenting youth formerly in foster care. This is a critical opportunity and Los Angeles County should leverage it to support youth previously in foster care.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that in order to participate in the State of California Transitional Housing Plus (THP-Plus) Housing Supplemental Program funding allocation, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors:

1) Approve the attached resolution authorizing DCFS to participate in the THP-Plus Housing Supplemental Program and accept the funding allocation.

2) Instruct the Acting Director of DCFS, or designee, to accept the funding for the THP-Plus Housing Supplemental Program for Los Angeles County by submitting the approved resolution by the Board of Supervisors.

3) Delegate authority to the Acting Director of DCFS, or designee, in consultation with County Counsel, to execute amendments to THP-Plus contracts to increase the Maximum Contract Sum to distribute the new funding allocation to accommodate an increase in units of service, and to update THP-Plus contracts for necessary programmatic changes. Execution of amendments is contingent upon: a) County Counsel approval is obtained prior to execution of such amendments, and b) DCFS will notify the Board and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in writing within 10 business days of such amendment.
4) Direct the Acting Director, or designee, following receipt of funding if granted, to implement the THP-Plus Housing Supplemental Program with a specific rate for expectant and parenting youth.

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