



**PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS  
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS  
HOLLY J. MITCHELL  
LINDSEY P. HORVATH  
JANICE HAHN  
KATHRYN BARGER

**Correspondence Received**

The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:				
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Comments	
12.		<b>Favor</b>	allison schallert	
			Briani A Mobley	
			BRUCE C SMITH JR	As a former Foster Youth who's benefitted from Transitional Housing back in 2000, I fully support this agenda. Transitional Housing literally saved my life. A longer stay would have been a great help, but I'm forever grateful for the opportunity. I am now a 22+ year County employee with an amazing family. Thank you for your support for Foster Youth. My next goal is to pay it forward. Please reach out if you're in need of a lived experience volunteer.  Thank you, Bruce
			Daniel Heimpel	My firm, Good River Partners, is squarely focused on ending the foster care to homelessness pipeline.  This motion is a needed step towards ensuring that all the County's Transition-Aged Foster Youth have a fair shot at securing the safe and stable housing that they need to thrive. Drawing down federal vouchers, and coordinating with philanthropy are key to achieving this.  I stand ready to support the Board and County agencies in this task.  Thank you, Daniel Heimpel, Managing Director, Good River Partners.



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The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:				
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
12.		<b>Favor</b>	Dexter OConnell	<p>Safe Place for Youth is incredibly pleased to be in support of Item 12, "Housing Supports for Foster Youth."</p> <p>As an organization dedicated to the alleviation of youth homelessness, SPY has seen the need for FYI Vouchers countywide. We have been extremely pleased to be able to collaborate with DCFS' Robert Castaneda (and formerly with Gail Winston), who is doing incredible work in standing up this programming in partnership with more than half of the Housing Authorities in LA County. We also appreciate the staff of SD3, the team working on this at LACDA, and the team doing ICMS at DHS, all of whom have helped us to understand the process for FYI Vouchering and to work with Public Housing Authorities countywide to institute the vouchers.</p> <p>This motion will provide the structural support to back up the excellent work which has already been done, and make this program work for the long-term for multiple Public Housing Authorities, while inscribing it into process in a way that makes it more permanent, and something that young people and the organizations which support them can really count on.</p> <p>We deeply appreciate the dedication to FYI-eligible young people that the Board has shown, and we are excited to continue to work to help house former foster youth. Please vote yes on this motion.</p>
			helen eigenberg	yes please!
			Jeanette Mann	



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The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:				
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
12.		<b>Favor</b>	Jennifer Pokempner	<p>July 8, 2024</p> <p>Dear Board of Supervisors,</p> <p>Youth Law Center (YLC) submits written comments in SUPPORT of the Housing Supports for Foster Youth Motion, Item 12. The actions listed in this motion are critical to the effective implementation of the Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Voucher program and will result in many young people having housing stability upon leaving foster care.</p> <p>The FYI initiative provides housing choice vouchers for transition-aged youth who are leaving, or have left, foster care and are, or are at risk of, experiencing homelessness. The FYI initiative was made permanent through the passage of the Fostering Stable Opportunities Act, which was sponsored by Mayor Bass when she was in Congress. These vouchers, which last up to five years, are a critical investment in young people leaving foster care. The development of these vouchers began as an initiative by HUD in 2019 and built on the success of Family Unification Program Vouchers (FUP). In March of this year, Congress showed its confidence and support of the program by appropriating \$25 million additional dollars for non-competitive FYI vouchers.</p> <p>Based on the work we are doing in coalition with organizations in LA, we have learned there is great unmet need for FYI vouchers in LA County. Each year approximately 1,100 youth age out of foster care in LA County. Unfortunately, it remains true that many youth exiting foster care and extended foster care are at high risk for housing instability. While many individuals and entities are working on this issue, the actions listed in the motion are critical because they aim to address some of the remaining barriers to success: the need to recruit and retain landlords who will take FYI vouchers, the need to streamline the process for referral and tracking the progress of referrals, and the the need for coordination between the agencies and service providers supporting young people. The motion is narrowly tailored to help us overcome these barriers and can result in more young people being housed with FYI vouchers</p> <p>With the young people of Los Angeles in mind and the many stakeholders available to collaborate with the Board of Supervisors in executing this Motion, we ask that you support Item 12.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Jenny Pokempner &amp; Christopher Middleton, Youth Law Center</p>
			Karen A Eyres	
			Marilyn Wells	

			The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:	
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
12.		Favor	Shona Ganguly	
			Simone Tureck Lee	John Burton Advocates for Youth advocates on behalf of young people in and leaving foster care at the state level, as well as in LA County specifically. We ask that you support Agenda Item 12, Housing Supports for Foster Youth. Every year large numbers of young people are leaving foster care to homelessness in LA County. The Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Housing Voucher Program provides housing vouchers to young people at risk of homelessness or who are homeless and who are or have left foster care. This program requires collaboration between the county child welfare agency, public housing authorities, service providers and landlords. Given the collaboration required, accountability and clear planning is often challenging and the program is underutilized nationwide. This is a real missed opportunity - FYI is one of the most effective strategies to preventing homelessness among youth leaving foster care. This Motion will help LA County overcome barriers so that more young people can receive vouchers and get housed. We hope you will support this agenda item so that we can ensure that young people leaving foster care have stable housing.
			Taylor I Dudley	
		<b>Item Total</b>	<b>13</b>	
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>13</b>	

Esteemed Members of the Board:

Safe Place for Youth is incredibly pleased to be in support of Item 12, "Housing Supports for Foster Youth."

As an organization dedicated to the alleviation of youth homelessness, SPY has seen the need for FYI Vouchers countywide. We have been extremely pleased to be able to collaborate with DCFS' Robert Castaneda (and formerly with Gail Winston), who is doing incredible work in standing up this programming in partnership with more than half of the Housing Authorities in LA County. We also appreciate the staff of SD3, the team working on this at LACDA, and the team doing ICMS at DHS, all of whom have helped us to understand the process for FYI Vouchering and to work with Public Housing Authorities countywide to institute the vouchers.

This motion will provide the structural support to back up the excellent work which has already been done, and make this program work for the long-term for multiple Public Housing Authorities, while inscribing it into process in a way that makes it more permanent, and something that young people and the organizations which support them can really count on.

We deeply appreciate the dedication to FYI-eligible young people that the Board has shown, and we are excited to continue to work to help house former foster youth. Please vote yes on this motion.

Thanks,  
Dexter O'Connell  
Director of Youth Policy and Advocacy  
Safe Place for Youth



July 8, 2024

The Honorable Board of Supervisors County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Subject: Housing Supports for Foster Youth (Item 12)

Dear Supervisors:

I am writing on behalf of All Saints Church Foster Care Project in support of Housing Supports for Foster Youth (Item 12).

The Foster Care Project is a faith-based organization: a ministry of All Saints Church in Pasadena that recruits volunteers and provides resources for thirty-seven agencies serving foster, homeless, and justice-involved children and youth. Although our programs for in-person volunteers is slowly resuming after having been on hold during the pandemic, prior to 2020 we annually recruited more than 140 volunteers to serve as mentors, tutors, coach-monitors, special friends, or personal shoppers for more than 1,000 young people. Through our Birthday Club and Angel Tree Christmas Program with DCFS, we provided gifts to another 1,000. Our family reunification program, Family Connect, served as a model for the County. We had seven donated family visitation sites, and contracts with six part-time consultants.

For the past twenty years the Foster Care Project has worked very closely with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCS), primarily with the Pasadena Office. Several mentors have worked with Transition Age Youth (TAY,) social workers in the Pasadena DCFS office, other faith-based organizations, and local community colleges; they are well aware that, as indicated in the Board motion, that around 50% of youth leaving foster care may experience homelessness or housing instability. We are also familiar with the challenges youth face in accessing the limited number of Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Initiative and Family Unification Program (FUP) vouchers; in completing the labor intensive Public Housing Authority's application process, in and identifying property owners who will accept the vouchers. We are also aware of the fears of becoming homeless that haunt many high school and college aged students.

We commend the authors of the motion for envisioning an administrative structure which will not only coordinate the work of county departments and agencies serving TAY youth but will also identify financial support for these programs, improve training for DFS and probation staff, support the development of life skills relevant to housing stability, prioritize housing for parenting youth, and engage the philanthropic community. We urge you to support Housing Supports for Foster Youth (Item 12).

Cordially yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeanette Mann".

Jeanette Mann  
All Saints Church Foster Care Project  
Chair, Public Policy Committee

**STEERING  
COMMITTEE**

Gail Bardin

Alex Ballantyne

Connie Chung

Jody Gunn

Gale Howland

Rosemary Hyde

Margaret Henry

Ann Jopling

Jeanette Mann

Kim Miles

Isabel Ramirez

Anne Riffenburgh

Judi-anne Simmons

Melanie Williams

**CONSULTANTS**

Erie del Rosario

Jadie Delgado

**GRAPHIC ARTIST**

Joe Kelly

**STAFF**

Jane Stockly



July 8, 2024

Dear Board of Supervisors,

Youth Law Center (YLC) submits written comments in **SUPPORT** of the **Housing Supports for Foster Youth Motion, Item 12**. The actions listed in this motion are critical to the effective implementation of the Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Voucher program and will result in many young people having housing stability upon leaving foster care.

The FYI initiative provides housing choice vouchers for transition-aged youth who are leaving, or have left, foster care and are, or are at risk of, experiencing homelessness. The FYI initiative was made permanent through the passage of the Fostering Stable Opportunities Act, which was sponsored by Mayor Bass when she was in Congress. These vouchers, which last up to five years, are a critical investment in young people leaving foster care. The development of these vouchers began as an initiative by HUD in 2019 and built on the success of Family Unification Program Vouchers (FUP). In March of this year, Congress showed its confidence and support of the program by appropriating \$25 million additional dollars for non-competitive FYI vouchers.

Based on the work we are doing in coalition with organizations in LA, we have learned there is great unmet need for FYI vouchers in LA County. Each year approximately 1,100 youth age out of foster care in LA County. Unfortunately, it remains true that many youth exiting foster care and extended foster care are at high risk for housing instability. While many individuals and entities are working on this issue, the actions listed in the motion are critical because they aim to address some of the remaining barriers to success: the need to recruit and retain landlords who will take FYI vouchers, the need to streamline the process for referral and tracking the progress of referrals, and the the need for coordination between the agencies and service providers supporting young people. The motion is narrowly tailored to help us overcome these barriers and can result in more young people being housed with FYI vouchers

With the young people of Los Angeles in mind and the many stakeholders available to collaborate with the Board of Supervisors in executing this Motion, we ask that you support Item 12.

Sincerely,

*Jenny Pokempner & Christopher Middleton, Youth Law Center*



July 9, 2024

Dear Madam Chair Horvath & Honorable Supervisors Solis, Mitchell, Hahn & Barger,

We write as staff employed at UCLA, speaking on our own behalf, in reference to Item 12, authored by Supervisor Barger and co-authored by Chair Horvath.

As your honorable Board is aware, the FYI housing choice vouchers are currently underutilized across Los Angeles County and within the City of Los Angeles. As of November 2023, the Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA) managed 139 FYI vouchers with a 44.60% utilization rate, while the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) currently manages zero FYI vouchers.

In addition to underutilization, a UCLA Pritzker Center research study has also shown that even for young people who have a voucher, geographical limitations and lack of support to locate and lease apartments make using the voucher difficult, if not impossible. Moreover, the FYI process is characterized by delays and uncertainty, according to both young adults and case managers interviewed in our study. These challenges are compounded by other obstacles frequently experienced by foster youth, including discrimination based on race, gender or sexual orientation, limited familial support and minimal financial security.

The authors of the motion propose solutions that systemically address these challenges. We applaud this effort and thank Supervisor Barger and Chair Horvath for their targeted efforts to improve housing stability for youth impacted by foster care. Accordingly, we urge a unanimous vote of support for Item 12.

Please contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

Taylor I. Dudley, JD  
Executive Director\*  
[dudley@gseis.ucla.edu](mailto:dudley@gseis.ucla.edu)

Brenda A. Tully, PhD  
Research Director\*  
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*\*Titles above are listed for identification purposes only and do not represent the views of the university.*