

Date of Hearing: April 29, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 2162 (Bryan) – As Introduced February 18, 2026

Policy Committee:	Housing and Community Development	Vote:	12 - 0
	Human Services		7 - 0

Urgency: No State Mandated Local Program: No Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill increases the upper age limit from 24 to 28 years of age for a young adult formerly in the foster care or probation systems to qualify for services under the Housing Navigation and Maintenance Program (HNMP). This bill also revises the data county child welfare agencies must report to the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) as part of the HNMP and the Transitional Housing Programs (THP).

Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Increases the maximum age at which a young adult formerly in the state’s foster care or probation system may receive funding from HNMP from 24 years of age to 28 years of age.
- 2) Requires counties that receive funding from HNMP to prioritize nonminor dependents in addition to youth adults formerly in the state’s foster care or probation system.
- 3) Specifies the eligible uses of HNMP funding, consistent with current regulations and practice, including, among other uses, assisting young adults with identifying and applying for housing, including Housing Choice Vouchers, and providing young adults with supportive services that help them maintain stable housing, including education and employment support, financial literacy and planning, case management, and counseling.
- 4) Requires a child welfare agency that accepts funds from HNMP to annually report additional data to HCD, including:
 - a) The housing authority with which the county has a memorandum of understanding or letter of intent to provide housing vouchers funded by the federal Family Unification Program (FUP) or the federal Foster Youth to Independence Initiative (FYI). If the county has no agreement to provide those vouchers, it must state the reason.
 - b) The number of housing vouchers issued to young adults in the county funded by the federal FUP or FYI programs. Provides that “issued” means the voucher has been assigned to a specific person, whether that person is searching for housing or has entered into a lease, and whether the voucher is new or recycled.
- 5) Requires HCD to annually make the information in item 4, above, publicly available.

FISCAL EFFECT:

- 1) General Fund cost pressures of an unknown amount to provide HNMP services to young adults up to age 28 who have Housing Choice Vouchers and otherwise would have exited the HNMP program at age 24. These costs are potentially significant but will depend on the number of young adults served and the amount of assistance provided. Data indicates approximately 2,000 youth per month statewide aged 18 to 24 years use a foster youth housing choice voucher. Because these vouchers must be secured by age 24 and may be used for only three to five years, the age expansion provided in this bill would affect only a small portion of these youth and only if they required additional services.

Since 2022, HCD has received an annual budget appropriation of \$13.7 million for the HNMP program. HCD allocates this funding to counties per existing law based on each county's proportionate share of the state's foster youth population aged 18 to 21. This bill does not change the state's funding allocation methodology but rather provides counties added flexibility within their existing budget allocation.

- 2) HCD estimates minor and absorbable administrative costs. HCD anticipates a slight increase in its workload to incorporate the changes in the bill, including creating updated reporting forms and producing an annual public report, providing technical assistance to awarded county child welfare agencies, and updating program materials. HCD believes this workload can be managed with existing resources.

The Legislative Analyst's Office recently warned of General Fund structural deficits of around \$35 billion per year in the 2027-28 fiscal year and ongoing.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose.** This bill is sponsored by the John Burton Foundation. According to the author:

Young adults can receive rental assistance through FYI/FUP federal housing vouchers for up to five years. Youth who receive their federal housing voucher at age 24 may keep their voucher and use it any time through age 28. However, our state's HNMP services currently stop assisting young adults at age 24, leaving these young adults without county resources that provide critical support to them beyond the age of 24, including help pursuing education, employment, and other self-sufficiency goals. [This bill] seeks to close this gap by expanding the upper age limit for HNMP-funded services from 24 to 28.

- 2) **Background. *Federal Youth Housing Vouchers:*** The federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) administers two housing voucher programs for former foster youth and probation-supervised youth, the Foster Youth to Independence Initiative (FYI) and the Family Unification Program (FUP). Both operate as Housing Choice Vouchers (Section 8) for former foster youth 18 to 24 years of age and both programs require the county to provide or arrange for supportive services throughout the voucher period.

County housing authorities administer the FYI and FUP vouchers and rely on county child welfare agencies to refer youth, verify eligibility, and provide supportive services. HNMP funds the supportive services required by the federal government to utilize the vouchers.

The Transitional Age Youth Program under HCD encompasses three programs to prevent homelessness and secure and maintain housing for young adults between 18 and 24 years of age, with priority given to those currently or formerly in the foster care or probation systems. Among these programs, the HMNP provides housing navigation and maintenance services to youth ages 18 through 24. Upon appropriation in the annual Budget Act, HCD allocates funding to county child welfare agencies to support housing navigators to assist young adults in securing and maintaining housing. Young adults currently in the foster care and probation systems are prioritized for funding.

Youth may receive rental assistance from their FYI or FUP voucher for up to five years. Youth who receive their voucher at age 24, the age cap for initiating assistance, may keep their voucher through age 28. However, the upper age limit for receiving HNMP services is age 24.

This bill extends the upper age limit of the HNMP from 24 to 28 years of age to accommodate youth who still have a housing voucher and need assistance.

Reporting Requirements: Existing law requires county child welfare agencies that accept THP or HNMP funding to annually report to HCD demographic and outcome data on the numbers of youth they serve. However, the state does not track county housing authority participation in federal FYI and FUP vouchers. HUD's database tracks FYI and FUP vouchers but does not distinguish youth vouchers from family vouchers.

This bill revises the annual reporting requirements for counties receiving THP and HNMP to include tracking county child welfare agency partnerships with housing authorities to participate in FYI and FUP vouchers; the number of FYI and FUP vouchers requested; and, if no partnership exists to administer these vouchers, the reason why.

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