

ASSEMBLY THIRD READING  
AB 2162 (Bryan)  
As Introduced February 18, 2026  
Majority vote

## SUMMARY

Revises the data that county child welfare agencies are required to report to the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) as part of the Transitional Housing Program (THP) and the Housing Navigation and Maintenance Program (HNMP), which fall under the umbrella of the Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Program. Expands the ages of those served in the HNMP to 28 years of age and enumerates the eligible uses of funding.

### Major Provisions

*HNMP:*

- 1) Replaces "former foster youth" with "young adult formerly in the state's foster care or probation system."
- 2) Adds the following definitions to the HNMP:
  - a) "Homeless" has the same meaning as defined in Part 578.3 of Title 24 of the Code of Federal Regulations;
  - b) "Housing authority" means a housing authority created pursuant to the Housing Authorities Law;
  - c) "Nonminor dependent" has the same meaning as defined in subdivision Welfare and Institutions Code 11400; and
  - d) "Young adult formerly in the state's foster care or probation system" has the same meaning as defined Health and Safety Code Section (HSC) 50807.
- 3) Expands the age range a young adult formerly in the state's foster care or probation system can receive funding from HNMP from 18 to 24 years old to 18 to 28 years old.
- 4) 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.
- 5) Specifies the eligible uses of HNMP funding to include, but not be limited to the following:
  - a) Assisting young adults with identifying and applying for housing, including housing that qualifies as a supervised independent living placement, as specified;
  - b) Assisting young adults with applying for a federal housing choice voucher and identifying housing with the housing choice voucher;
  - c) Providing young adults with financial assistance to help cover the cost of housing application fees, security deposit, first month's rent, utility set-up, and other move-in costs;

- d) Providing landlord incentives; and
  - e) 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.
- 6) Requires a child welfare agency that accepts funds from HNMP to report the following to HCD annually:
- a) A copy of the memorandum of understanding or letter of intent the child county welfare agency has with the housing authority to provide housing vouchers funded by the federal Family Unification Program (FUP) or the federal Foster Youth to Independence Initiative (FYI);
  - b) Provides that if the county child welfare agency does not partner with a housing authority to provide FUP or FYI vouchers, the child welfare agency shall state the reason why it does not partner with a housing authority to provide those housing vouchers; and
  - c) The number of housing vouchers that have been issued to young adults in the county that are 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.
- 7) Requires HCD to make the information collected in 6) a) and b) above publicly available, annually.

*THP:*

- 1) Replaces "former foster youth" with "young adult formerly in the state's foster care or probation system."
- 2) Adds a definition of "homeless" consistent with Federal law.

## COMMENTS

*THP:* THP provides funding to county child welfare agencies to assist young adults ages 18 to 24 in securing and maintaining housing. This funding was established to expand on local transitional housing programs (called "THP-Plus"). The THP-Plus model provides up to 36 months of subsidized (or free) housing and supportive services to former foster and out-of-home probation youth ages 18 to 24. Young adults formerly in the state's foster care or probation systems get priority funding. County child welfare agencies that accept THP funding are required to report the following to HCD annually: 1) the number of homeless youth served; 2) the number of former foster youth served; and, 3) the number of homeless youth who exited homelessness either into temporary or permanent housing. THP funding is very flexible, and counties that accept it are able to use it to expand existing programs or establish new programs based on local housing and service needs; however, the funding must be used to assist young adults with securing and maintaining housing. Funding can be used to help youth secure and maintain housing (with priority given to those formerly in the state's foster care or probation system); improving coordination of services and linkages to community resources within the child welfare

system and the homeless continuums of care; and outreach and targeting to serve those with the most-severe need. THP receives an annual \$33.3 million in funding.

*HNMP:* HMNP provides housing navigation and maintenance services to youth ages 18 through 24. County child welfare agencies receive funding from HCD 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. HNMP can be used to provide housing case management, including essential services in emergency supports to foster youth; to prevent young adults from becoming homeless; and to improve the coordination of services and linkages to key resources across the community including, those from within the child welfare system and the local Continuum of Care. HNMP receives an annual \$13.7 million in the budget.

When a county child welfare agency accepts HNMP funding, they are required to provide training to their social workers and probation officers that provides an overview of the housing resources available through the local coordinated entry system, homeless continuum of care, and other county public agencies, such as housing navigation, permanent affordable housing, THP-Plus, and housing choice vouchers. The training must also address how to access and receive a referral to existing housing resources, the social worker's and probation officer's role in identifying unstable housing situations for youth, and referring youth to housing assistance programs. On an annual basis, county child welfare agencies that accept HNMP funding are required to provide a report to HCD regarding: the number of homeless youth served; the number of foster children served; the number of homeless youth who exited homelessness into temporary housing; and the number of homeless youth who exited homelessness into permanent housing. The John Burton Foundation, the sponsor of this bill, provided data through June 2024 that HCD collected about the THP and HNMP. The data showed that 10,560 participants had been served, 2,500 were homeless at the time of program entry, 8,610 had been in foster care and 406 reported being incarcerated prior to the program.

*Federal Youth Housing Vouchers:* The federal government makes special purpose housing choice vouchers available for former foster youth through the FYI and FUP. 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. Prior to the creation of HNMP, FYI and FUP vouchers were underutilized because counties lacked funding to provide the services which are both required by HUD and necessary for youth to identify and secure housing with their voucher. According to the sponsor, since HNMP was expanded to include supportive services, California's vouchers have increased by a full 136% from 870 vouchers in 202 to over 2,000 in 2024. The FYI and FUP vouchers are the only youth-focused housing program that assists young adults beyond age 24. Youth can receive rental assistance from their FYI/FUP voucher for up to five years. For youth who receive their voucher at age 24, the age cap for initiating assistance, they can keep their voucher through age 28. However, the upper age limit of HNMP is 24. Counties therefore lack the resources to offer essential services to voucher holders beyond age 24, including supporting the pursuit of education, employment, and other self-sufficiency-related goals. This bill would allow a county to use HNMP to serve young people who are formerly foster youth up to 28 years of age.

*Reporting Requirements:* As a condition of receiving HNMP grant funding, county child welfare agencies are required to report demographic and outcome data on the youth they serve with the funds. This bill would expand on these reporting elements to include whether the county child

welfare agency partners with housing authorities to participate in FYI and FUP vouchers; the number of FYI and FUP vouchers they have requested from their housing authority; and, if no partnership exists to administer these vouchers, the reason why. HCD would be required to post the above information publicly to strengthen accountability for maximizing federal funding and increase access to vouchers by producing awareness of voucher capacity statewide.

### **According to the Author**

"In California, about 3,000 young people annually make their final exit from care without the support of a family. 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 at 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, adding two additional questions to the existing reporting form for counties that accept HNMP funding, and ensuring that HCD makes this information publicly available."

### **Arguments in Support**

According to the sponsor, the John Burton Foundation, "AB 2162 would make targeted improvements to the Housing Navigation and Maintenance Program (HNMP), administered by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to county child welfare agencies. Many counties use HNMP to fund housing navigation and supportive services for former foster youth who receive federal Housing Choice Vouchers through the Foster Youth to Independence Initiative and Family Unification Program (FYI/FUP). FYI/FUP is administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to Public Housing Authorities, which partner with county child welfare agencies."

### **Arguments in Opposition**

None on file.

## **FISCAL COMMENTS**

According to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations:

- 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.

## VOTES

### **ASM HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: 12-0-0**

**YES:** Haney, Patterson, Ávila Farías, Caloza, Garcia, Kalra, Lee, Quirk-Silva, Ta, Tangipa, Wicks, Wilson

### **ASM HUMAN SERVICES: 7-0-0**

**YES:** Lee, Castillo, Calderon, Elhawary, Jackson, Solache, Tangipa

### **ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 15-0-0**

**YES:** Wicks, Hoover, Aguiar-Curry, Calderon, Caloza, Dixon, Fong, Mark González, Krell, Pacheco, Pellerin, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Ta, Tangipa

## UPDATED

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