

Transitional Housing Placement Program for Current Foster/Probation (THPP)

The THPP is a transitional housing placement opportunity for foster and probation youth aged 16-18 who are currently in the child welfare system. The goal of the program is to provide a safe living environment so that youth can practice skills necessary to live on their own upon leaving the foster care support system. Counties electing to participate in the program provide supervised transitional living housing and support services. Participants may live alone, with departmental approval, or with roommates in apartments and single-family dwellings with regular support provided by THPP agency staff, county social workers and ILP coordinators. Support services include regular visits to participants' residences, educational guidance, employment counseling and assistance in reaching emancipation goals outlined in participants' Transitional Independent Living Plan (TILP), the case plan emancipation readiness document. Counties must have an approved plan to implement the State THPP.

County THPP Implementation Procedure

Counties' requirements:

- Pre-approve all providers prior to submission of the proposal to the California Department of Social

Services (CDSS). This information must be included in the proposed plan. Upon review and approval of the proposal by the Independent Living Program Policy Unit. The county may begin the review and certification of agency plans.

- Send or e-mail a letter of intent to CDSS.
- Submit rate information to CDSS.
- Develop and submit a plan to CDSS which meets the requirements of Welfare and Institutions Code Sections 16522 through 16522.6. Regulations regarding THPP can be found at www.childsworld.ca.gov or www.dss.cahwnet.gov.
- Receive a plan-approval letter from CDSS.
- Complete CCL Licensing Requirements.

THPP Rate

Pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 11403(a)(2), the rate for THP-Plus shall not exceed 75 percent of the average RCL payment the county pays to group homes for foster youth 16 to 18 years old, contingent upon the following conditions:

- Funding shall be subject to the sharing rations specified in Welfare and Institutions Code Section 15200.
- The State portion of the rate shall be subject to the availability of the

Transitional Housing for Foster Youth Fund.

- If the Transitional Housing for Foster Youth Fund is depleted, the county shall pay the State share of the rate.

Funding for THPP Services, Room and Board

The State will fund 100 percent of the nonfederal portion of the rate through the Transitional Housing for Foster Youth Fund. The 60 percent county match of the nonfederal portion has been eliminated.

THPP Eligibility

- THPP eligible youth are young adults who have not yet emancipated from foster/probation care; are 16 through 18 years old, and are pursuing the county-approved goals they have developed in the TILP.
- Participation in THPP is subject to: county participation in the State approved program, the availability of safe and affordable housing, and the availability of program providers.
- The maximum time for THPP participation is 24 cumulative months.

Transitional Independent Living Plan (TILP)

Each participant in THPP will utilize a TILP which describes the educational/vocational, or other goals related to self-sufficiency, mutually agreed upon by the youth and the county welfare, probation department, or independent living coordinator. The youth must be participating in the activities identified in the TILP. The TILP shall be updated every six months. Participants are responsible for informing the county whenever changes occur that affect payment of aid, including changes in address, living circumstances, and educational, career and training programs.

THPP Program Models

- Programs licensed under CDSS regulations shall be designed to provide a safe and adequate residence and allow participants a maximum amount of independence and self-sufficiency.
- Acceptable residential units include apartments, single family dwellings, condominiums, college dormitories, and host family models.
- Publicly supervised or privately operated shelters, or other living situations, including those with friends, family members, and others that provide temporary accommodation, are not acceptable.
- Public or private places not ordinarily used as a regular sleeping area are not acceptable, and may not be

utilized by a THPP provider as accommodations for emancipated foster youth.

THPP Agency Certification Standards

Providers of THPP will apply for a CDSS license. Providers will submit a THPP program plan to counties, and to CDSS, for approval. THPP agencies' program plan must, at a minimum, ensure that:

- The program will only serve eligible youth;
- The program will not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, sexual orientation, or disability, and that youth who were wards of the court, and youth receiving psychotropic medications shall be eligible for consideration in the program and shall not be automatically excluded due to these factors (Welfare and Institutions Code Section 16522.1(a)(1));
- The agency will, with the assistance of a county designee, assist each youth in the completion of the goals and activities described in the CDSS THPP TILP form;
- The program plan includes a description of the program, and how it will ensure that participants live semi-independently and accomplish the goals described in their TILP;

- Services for THPP participants are not discontinued without due process;
- THPP participants have the right to be free from arbitrary or capricious rules, the right to understand all rules in writing and in appropriate languages and formats, the right to appeal any loss of benefits or services before they are suspended (unless imminent physical harm to someone would result), and the right to a grievance procedure;
- THPP participants' right to confidentiality is respected. This right applies to dissemination, storage, retrieval and acquisition or identifiable information. The agency will not release information about a participant's receipt of services without a written release from the participant;
- THPP participants' right to privacy is respected. Information will be requested of participants only when the information is specifically necessary for the provision of services. THPP participants will not be required to supply personal information as a condition of obtaining services without written documentation verifying the necessity of the information;
- The agency will comply with California landlord/tenant law (Civil Code Section 1940, et seq.) and/or the Transitional Housing Misconduct

Act (Health and Safety Code Section 50580, et seq.);

- The program plan includes a description of the THPP participation application process and selection criteria;
- The TILP is updated at least every 6 months and as needed to reflect necessary changes for youth in care;
- THPP participants will be allowed the greatest amount of freedom possible in order to prepare them for self-sufficiency;
- Criminal background checks will be required for all agency employees;
- The THPP program is clearly distinguishable from those that should be licensed as an Adult Residential Care facility under Health and Safety Code Sections 1502(a)(1) or 1503.5(a);
- Applicable provisions of Welfare and Institutions Code Section 16522.1 regarding THPP requirements are incorporated into the plan;
- Programs will comply with applicable Federal, State, and local housing laws and fire clearance requirements;
- The housing provided to participants has reasonable access to schools, employment-appropriate supportive services, shopping, and medical care;
- No more than two THPP participants share a bedroom;

- THPP participants are given a choice regarding what services to access, and the location of the services (on-site or off-site), as long as the goals of the THPP TILP are being met;
- When funds are retained by the provider on behalf of the tenant, the provider shall ensure that these funds are deposited in an interest bearing savings account in any bank or savings and loan institution whose deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation. The principal and interest shall be distributed to the tenant when he/she leaves the program, or earlier if permitted by the THP-Plus program guidelines. For a full description of all regulations for the CDSS' Transitional Housing Placement Program, please refer to:
www.dss.cahwnet.gov/ord/ILP-TILP-T_1500.htm.

For additional information regarding the housing needs of foster youth, you may refer to "The Report on the Housing Needs of Emancipated Foster Youth" which may be found on the Department's website under the heading "Children and Family Services, Foster Care Reports." AB 2972 (Chapter 1074, Statutes of 2002), AB 1354 (Chapter 46, Statutes of 2002), AB 1119

(Chapter 639, Statutes of 2002), and AB 427 (Chapter 125, Statutes of 2001). For additional information or regulations, please go to www.dss.cahwnet.gov.



**TRANSITIONAL HOUSING
PLACEMENT PROGRAM FOR
CURRENT
FOSTER/PROBATION YOUTH**

THPP

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT
OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

**CHILDREN AND FAMILY
SERVICES DIVISION**

**CHILD AND YOUTH
PERMANENCY BRANCH**

**INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM
POLICY UNIT**

For further information, please contact
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