

Older Youth Pandemic Relief



Leveraging Housing Assistance: Chafee, Emergency Rental Assistance and Beyond

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Summary of the Law and Implementation Updates
3. Housing Options for Youth and Young Adults
4. Q&A

Summary of Provisions

- Extended Services (Moratorium)
- Re-Entry, including an obligation to notify and develop a public awareness campaign
- Chafee
 - Increase of \$400 million w/\$50 million in ETV
 - Eligibility through age 26
 - Lift 30% cap on room and board (“housing”)
- Education & Training Vouchers (ETV)
 - Increased max award from \$5000-\$12,000
 - Waive the enrollment requirement
 - Waive the requirement to make satisfactory academic progress (SAP)
 - Youth are eligible even if they attend at less than full time status
 - ETV can fund costs outside of the Cost of Attendance (COA)

Updates on Implementation

- March 9, 2021: Children's Bureau Program Instruction
- Jan 15, 2021: Children's Bureau Information Memorandum

Housing Options for Youth



**Today's webinar will
provide an overview of
the following funding
sources**

- Covid-19 Chafee Supplemental (Various housing supports)
 - HUD's Foster Youth to Independence Initiative (Housing Choice Vouchers)
 - US Dept. of Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP 1 & ERAP 2)
 - US Dept. of Housing & Urban Development CARES Act funding (homeless assistance)
 - US Dept. of Housing & Urban Development Emergency Housing Voucher Program (EHV)
 - A discussion of how these streams interact and how to access them
-

Covid-19 Chafee Supplemental



Like all Chafee funds, supplemental funds* can be used for a variety of housing costs including but not limited to:

- Utility connection fees
- First month's rent and security deposit
- Furniture
- Rental assistance
- Rental arrears
- Eviction prevention
- Other

*The 30% cap on room and board expenditures has been lifted

FYI Initiative

HUD's Foster Youth to Independence Initiative is a youth-written distribution mechanism for HUD's Housing Choice Voucher Program, specifically, HUD's child welfare housing program the Family Unification Program. FYI allows PHAs to order HCVs in increments as small as one-at-a-time perfectly timed with when a young person needs their own apartment with a year-long lease.



FYI/FUP Overview

- **Purpose:** Ease the transition to adulthood & independence
- **Eligibility:** Youth 18-25* who are homeless or at risk of homelessness after age 16, including parenting youth
- **Duration:** 36 months
- **Services:** Chafee-like list of services for duration of voucher
- **PHA Eligibility:** Has an Annual Contributions Contract (ACC)
- **Distribution:** Non-Competitive (“on demand”), do not sunset but can be reallocated – youth only. Has a “waiting list” provision.
- **Where are the rules:** The Notice describing FYI is brief at just 12 Pages ([link](#))

IL coordinator (or POC) and young person file FUP paperwork with PHA POC about 3- 6 months prior to leaving care

PHA requests FYI voucher(s) from HUD (HUD-52515)

HUD

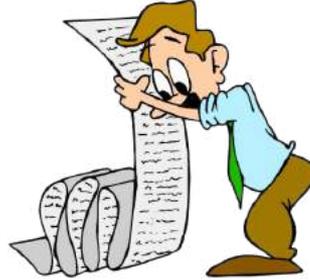


HUD dispenses the funds "on demand" (ACC)

The Public Housing Authority



PHA Waiting List



The PHA administers FYI to landlord and youth



*FSHO is conducted without further disadvantaging waiting list households

PCWA assists with landlord recruitment and positive youth development services for the duration of the voucher (36 months)

The Public Child Welfare Agency Independent Living Coordinator



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Federal Emergency Rental Assistance Program

The Biden-Harris Administration, through the American Rescue Plan Act, have provided states **more than \$50 billion dollars to help renters impacted by COVID avoid eviction.**

The Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) can be used to help renters pay **back rent, future rent, utilities, and moving expenses.**





ERA Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Eligible?

In order to be eligible, an individual must:

- Be renting, or moving into a rental
- Have qualified for unemployment benefits or has experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs, or experienced a financial hardship due directly or indirectly to the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Demonstrates a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability
- Have a household income at or below 80 percent of the area median income.

What can ERA be used for?

Federal law allows funds to cover:

- Up to 12 months of back rent (*can not predate March 13, when the pandemic began*)
- 3 months of future rent (*households can re-apply to receive additional rent payment, cannot exceed 12 months*).
- Late utility payments
- Relocation expenses (*may include moving expenses, rental security deposits, application or screening fees*)
- Reasonable accrued late fees (*if not included in rental or utility arrears*)
- Internet service provided to the rental unit

***Eligibility requirements and use of funds may vary depending on state and local programs*



ERA Frequently Asked Questions

Where do I apply?

Each state or county has their own application. **A chart with links to existing state programs is available [here](#).**

Can I apply on behalf of my client?

Because rules may vary between programs, **we encourage you to clarify with your local program if you can apply on behalf of your client.**

What do I need to apply?

Documentation requirements may differ between programs depending on state and local decisions. **At a minimum, please ensure you have proof of income, proof of owed rent or utilities (including a ledger explaining how much is owed each month), and proof of tenancy (such as a signed lease).**

All payments for housing-related expenses must be supported by documentary evidence such as a bill, invoice, or evidence of payment to the provider of the service.

Be sure to read the documentation requirements completely, as incomplete applications may be denied.

CARES Act funding for HUD housing

In October 2020, Communities received \$12 billion in funding for HUD programs for the following programs. To date less than 20 percent of this funding has been expended.

- \$4 billion for Emergency Solutions Grants for homelessness assistance
- \$5 billion in Community Development Block Grants (flexible with an expansive definition of homelessness)
- \$1.25 billion for the Housing Choice Voucher program
- \$1 billion for project-based rental assistance
- \$685 million for public housing
- \$300 million for tribal nations
- \$65 million for Housing for Persons with AIDS
- \$15 million for Section 811 Housing for Persons with

HUD CARES Act funding (homeless assistance)

This funding is almost entirely delivered through local Continuums of Care or CoCs. The access points for this funding is also referred to as “Coordinated Entry” or “CE.”

- Emergency Solutions Grants
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

ESG

\$4 billion in
Emergency
Solutions Grants

- Intended to help prevent an outbreak among sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness and very low-income households (earning less than 50% of Area Median Income) who are at risk of homelessness.
- Funds can also be used for eviction prevention assistance, including rapid rehousing, housing counseling, and rental deposit assistance will mitigate the adverse impacts of the pandemic.
- Also available for temporary emergency shelters, waiving federal habitability and environmental review standards. Funds may also be used to cover staff costs, training, and hazard pay.

CDBG

Roughly \$5 billion for emergency Covid-19 CDBG relief funding has been distributed to communities.

- CDBG funds can be used to provide emergency rental assistance or address the needs of people experiencing homelessness, among other things. This is a very flexible,

HUD Emergency Housing Voucher Program (EHV)



Just announced on May 5: American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding has been dispensed across the U.S. to provide a total of 70,000 housing choice vouchers to local **Public Housing Authorities (PHAs)** in order to assist individuals and families who are:

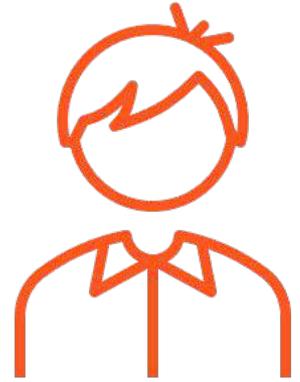
- Homeless,
 - At risk of homelessness,
 - Fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking, or
 - Were recently homeless or have a high risk of housing instability.
-

EHVs how will they be distributed?

Read the Notice [Here](#)

- The funding has already been dispensed.
- Conversations are starting now about how to prioritize households for assistance.
- CoCs or other partner agencies can refer directly to the PHA, but this must be pre-approved by the community.
- HUD is hosting webinars to explain the 60 page notice. You can view the webinar list [here](#).

Vignettes/Personas



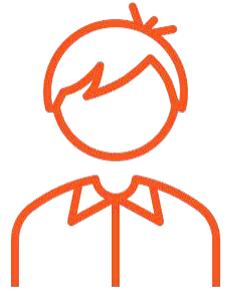
- Steve is 20 and about to age out of foster care. He found an apartment he likes but will need help paying rent as he transitions to adulthood. He is interested in signing a year-long lease. How can his worker help?

Vignettes/Personas Continued



- Jolynn is a 25-year-old former foster youth who has avoided eviction only because of the eviction moratorium. She was let go from her job due to the pandemic and exhausted her small savings account back in March. She owes \$1150 in back rent. How can you help?

Vignettes/Personas Continued



- Paul is a 29-year-old alumnus of care who owes three months of partial back rent (\$800). Usually, he makes pretty good money and is at 40% of Area Median Income. Because he's only getting part time work at his previously full-time job due to the pandemic. He & his landlord agree that he's going to need rental assistance for about four more months, when his place of employment goes back to full capacity. How can you help?



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Q&A



What's
Next?

- **Save the Date: 5/19 @ 4:00p ET:** Spotlight on Implementation in Indiana
- Access and share the Implementation tools and resources at: **fosterclub.org/oypr**