

**JOHN  
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FOR CHILDREN  
WITHOUT HOMES

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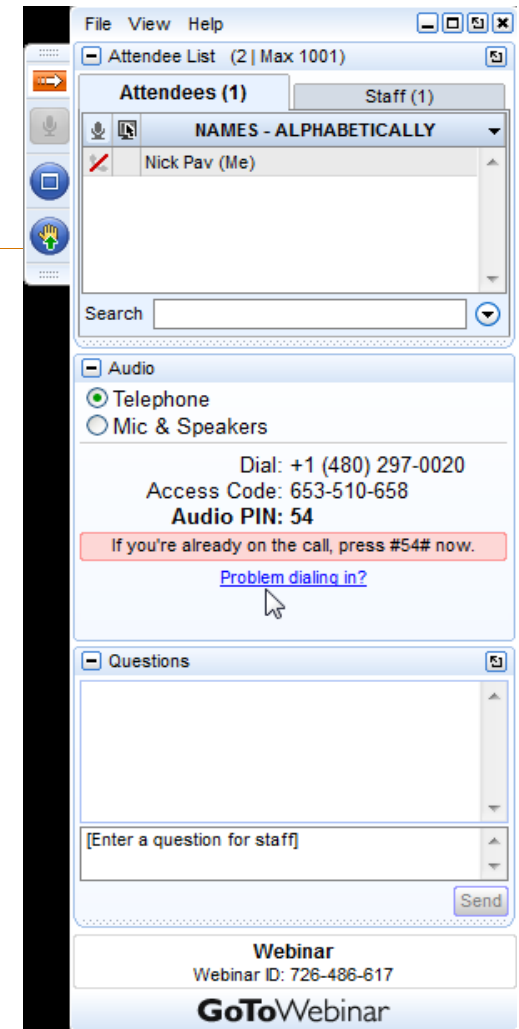
## WEB SEMINAR:

2015-16 THP-PLUS & THP+FC  
ANNUAL REPORT &  
LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP

October 26, 2016

# Information to Participate

- Call-in information
  - Phone number: (562) 247-8321
  - Access code: 872-646-197
- To submit live questions, click on the “Questions” panel, type your question, and click “send”
- Presentation materials and audio will be posted at [www.thpplus.org](http://www.thpplus.org)



# Agenda

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## 2015-16 THP-Plus & THP+FC Annual Report

- Findings
- Practice & Policy Recommendations

## Legislative Wrap-Up

- Bills that became laws
- Bills vetoed by Governor

## Question & Answer

# Fiscal Year 2015-16 THP-Plus & THP+FC Annual Report

*Highlights the achievements and challenges of the programs in helping youth in the foster care and juvenile probation systems make a safe, supported transition to adulthood, and provides practice and policy recommendations for the future.*



## THP-Plus & THP-Plus Foster Care

ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16

Providing Affordable Housing and Supportive Services to Youth Transitioning from California's Foster Care and Juvenile Probation Systems



A report from the THP-Plus Statewide Implementation Project published by the John Burton Foundation

# California's Transitional Housing Programs for Non-minor Current & Former Foster & Probation Youth

These programs provide **affordable housing** and **supportive services** in semi-supervised independent living settings.

## Transitional Housing Placement Plus "THP-Plus" Program

- Former foster youth age 18-24
- Can access for up to 24 months
- CWS Realignment funds, formerly state funded program
- Est. 2001, implemented 2005

## THP-Plus Foster Care ("THP+FC")

- Current foster youth age 18-21 ("non-minor dependents")
- Title IV-E reimbursable foster care placement
- Modeled after THP-Plus program
- Est. 2012 with implementation of Extended Foster Care (AB12)

# Report Methodology

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Survey of non-profit organizations and agencies that operated a THP-Plus program or held a THP+FC license during FY 2015-16

Input from county administrators in counties with THP-Plus programs and THP+FC placements

Data from:

- the THP-Plus and THP+FC Participant Tracking Systems
- the California Child Welfare Indicators Project

Additional information from:

- the April 2016 Child Welfare Services & Adult Protective Services Realignment Report
- the California Youth Transitions to Adulthood "CalYOUTH" Study

Individual interviews with providers and young adults profiled in report

# Numbers Overview: Fiscal Year 2015-16

THP-Plus	THP+FC
Bed capacity as of 6/30/16: <b>1,361</b>	Number of youth in THP+FC placement on 6/30/16: <b>1,737</b>
Total youth served: <b>1,695</b>	Total youth served: <b>3,048</b>
Programs located in <b>48</b> different counties	Programs located in <b>48</b> counties
<b>52</b> organizations are THP-Plus providers (some in multiple counties)	<b>58</b> organizations are THP+FC providers (some in multiple counties)
<i>To date has served over 18,000 former foster &amp; probation youth</i>	<i>To date has served over 7,000 non-minor dependents</i>

# Findings: THP-Plus

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Providing Affordable Housing & Supportive Services to Former Foster and Probation Youth Age 18 to 24

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	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
<b>Male</b>	42%	44%	44%	40%
<b>Female</b>	58%	56%	56%	60%
<b>Age 18 to 20</b>	52%	35%	18%	15%
<b>Age 21 to 24</b>	48%	65%	82%	85%
<b>LGBTQ</b>	8%	9%	11%	9%
<b>Black</b>	34%	32%	38%	32%
<b>White</b>	27%	24%	28%	28%
<b>Native American</b>	3%	2%	1%	2%
<b>Asian or Pacific Islander</b>	2%	1%	1%	1%
<b>Multi-Racial or Other</b>	34%	41%	32%	36%
<b>Hispanic Ethnicity</b>	38%	42%	40%	42%
<b>ILP Eligible Probation Ward as a Minor</b>	15%	11%	11%	9%

## THP-Plus Characteristics at Entrance to the Program



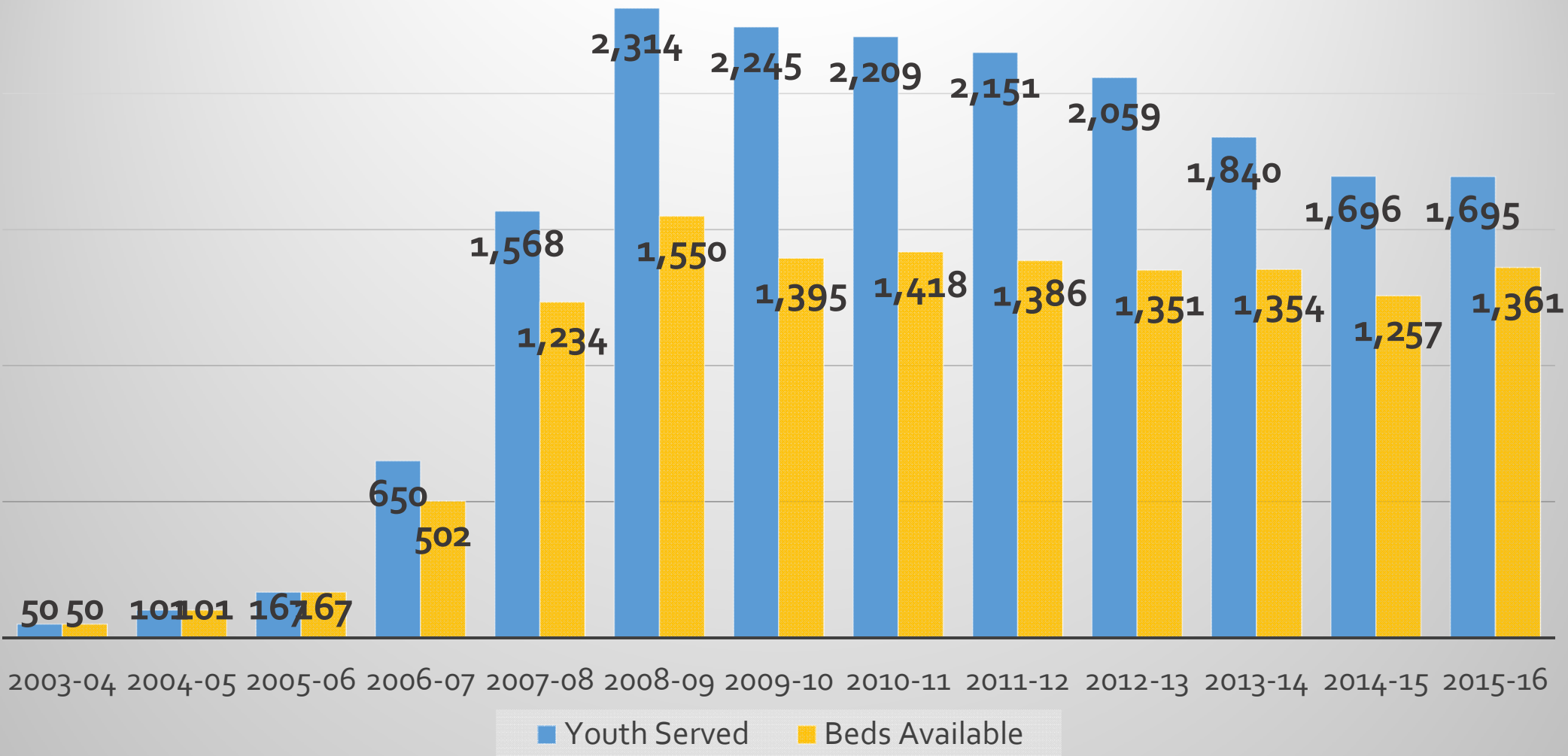
The demographics of THP-Plus participants remain largely consistent, with a slight drop in the percentage of probation youth.

# Although THP-Plus bed capacity has increased, annual number of youth served remains unchanged.

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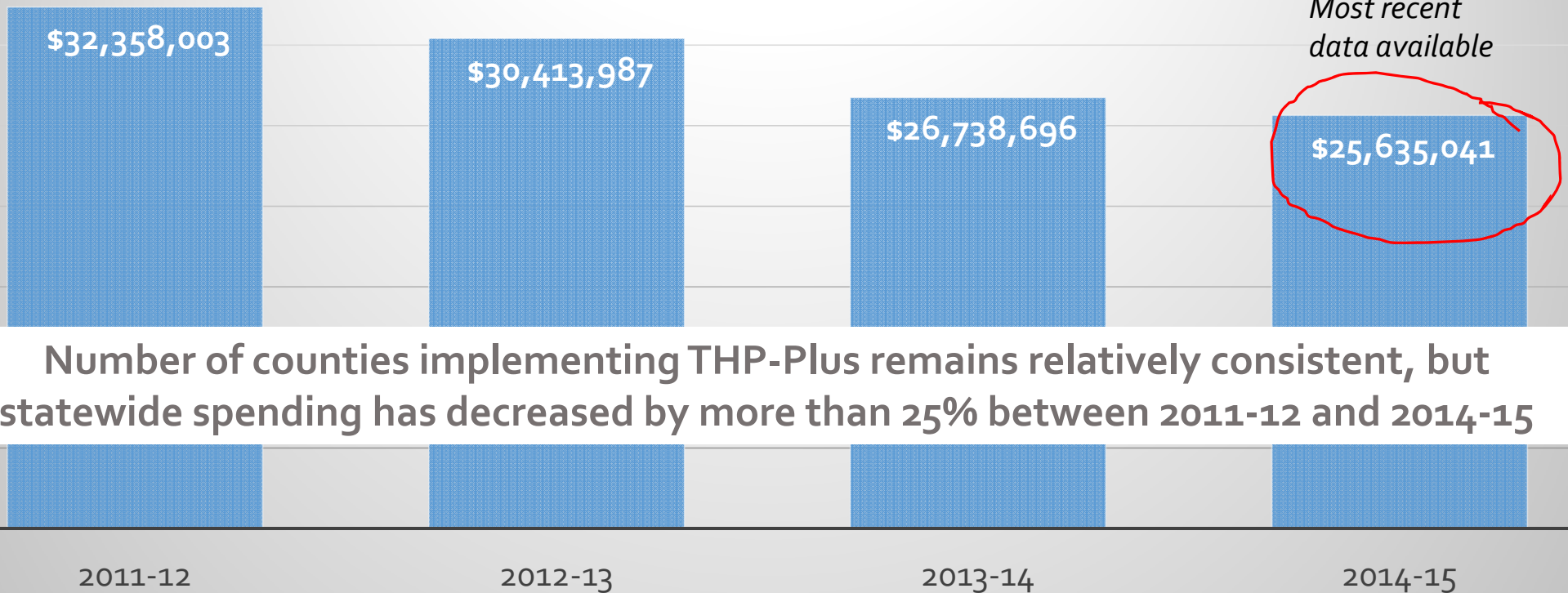


## THP-Plus Youth Served and Housing Capacity Historical Data



# Spending on THP-Plus continues to decrease.

## THP-Plus Expenditures by Year: **Currently \$6.7 Million Underspent**



Number of counties implementing THP-Plus remains relatively consistent, but statewide spending has decreased by more than 25% between 2011-12 and 2014-15

# Why are THP-Plus expenditures continuing to decrease?

- Most 18, 19 and 20 year-olds are opting to participate in Extended Foster Care, so they are not accessing THP-Plus.

Since the extension of foster care, THP-Plus serves an increasing number of 21-24 year-olds, a population that is more challenging to “reach” via outreach, however a population that tends to have more dire needs.

Age	2010-11	2015-16
18, 19, 20	73%	15%
21, 22, 23	27%	85%

- Realignment gave counties more discretion as to how they spend their funding.
  - *However there are requirements in place to protect THP-Plus.*

# Despite being underspent at the state level, many eligible homeless youth cannot access THP-Plus.

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## THP-Plus providers report:

### Waiting lists

**~Some counties do not have enough THP-Plus housing to meet the demand.**

- 27 providers (51%) reported having a waiting list as of the fiscal year-end across half (24) of the counties with THP-Plus programs.

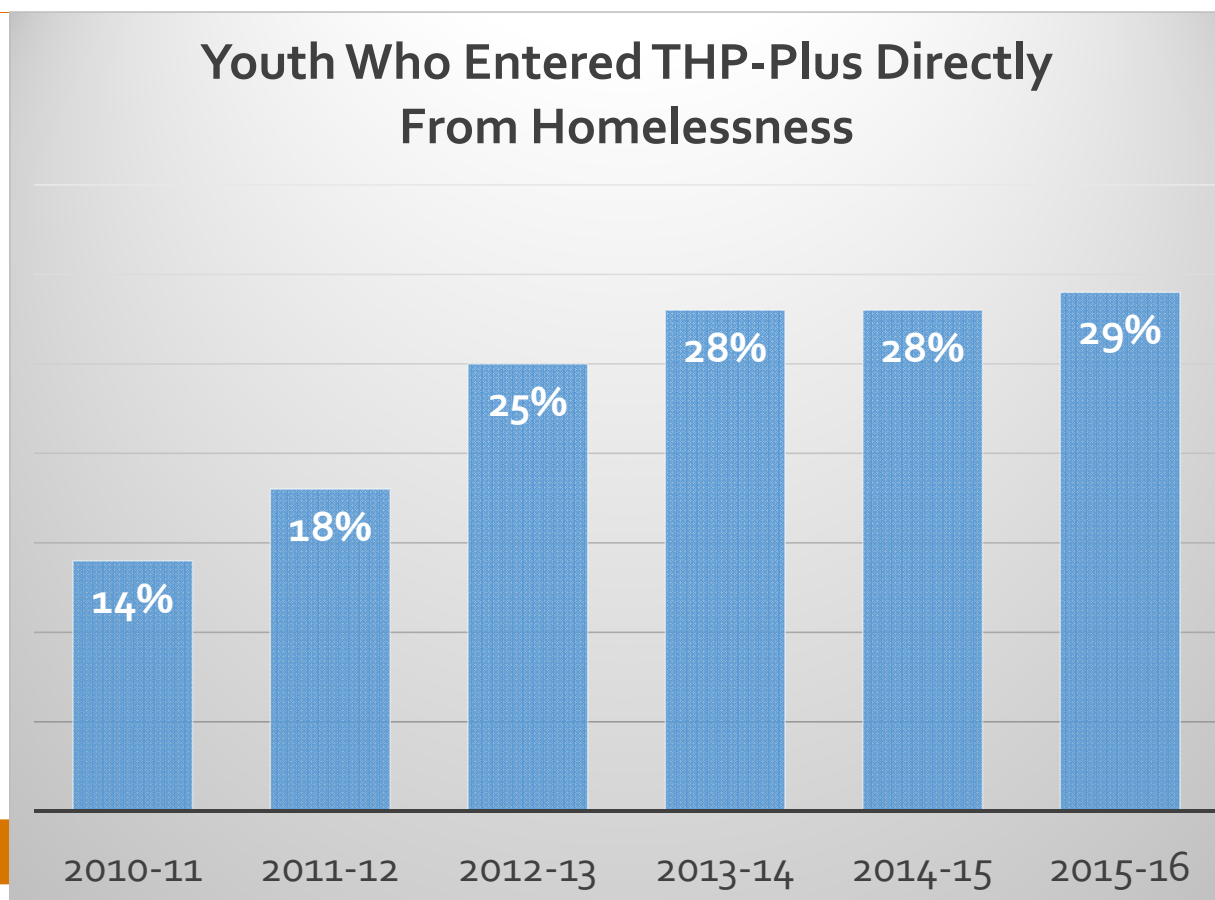
### Eligibility issues

**~Youth must have been in foster care on or after their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday to be eligible for THP-Plus.**

- 24 (46%) providers reported that collectively, 117 youth were denied admission to their program who had exited foster care after age 16, but prior to age 18.

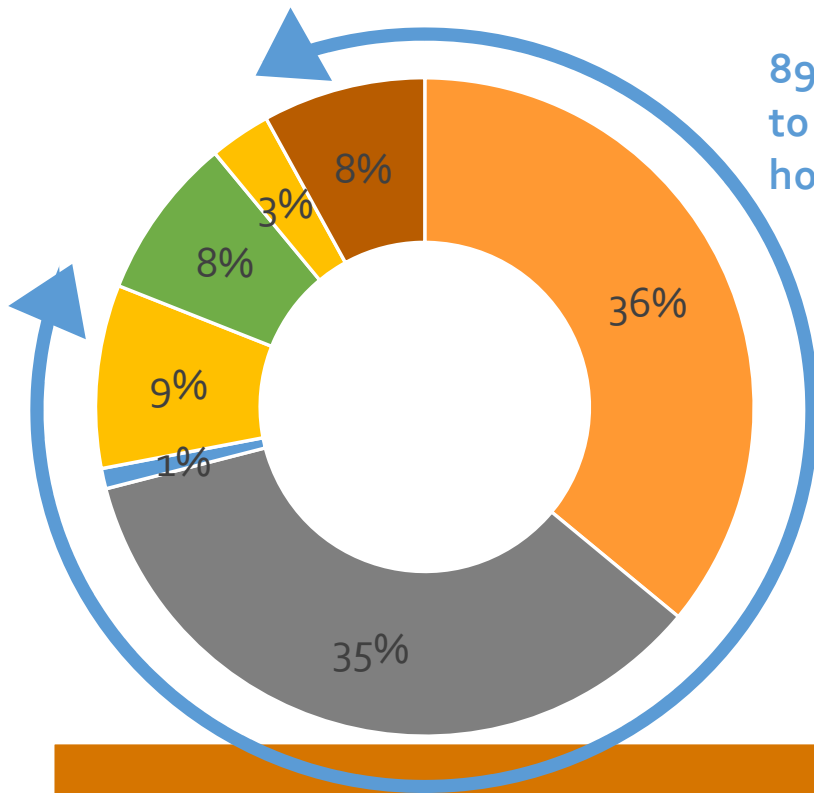
## For the third straight year, more than 1 in 4 youth entered THP-Plus directly from homelessness.

- **29%** of youth entered THP-Plus directly from homelessness, up just slightly from the 2 previous years.
- **46%** of youth who entered a THP-Plus program over FY2015-16 had experienced homelessness between foster care and THP-Plus.



# Nearly 9 out of 10 youth exited THP-Plus to stable housing.

## Housing at Exit from THP-Plus FY 2015-16



- Renting own/shared housing (paying rent)
- Living with relative/other person in stable housing (free rent)
- College dorm
- Other supportive transitional housing program
- Emergency shelter, homeless, or other unstable
- Incarcerated
- Other



# Findings: THP+FC

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Providing Affordable Housing & Supportive Services to Foster and Probation Youth Participating in Extended Foster Care (Age 18 to 21)

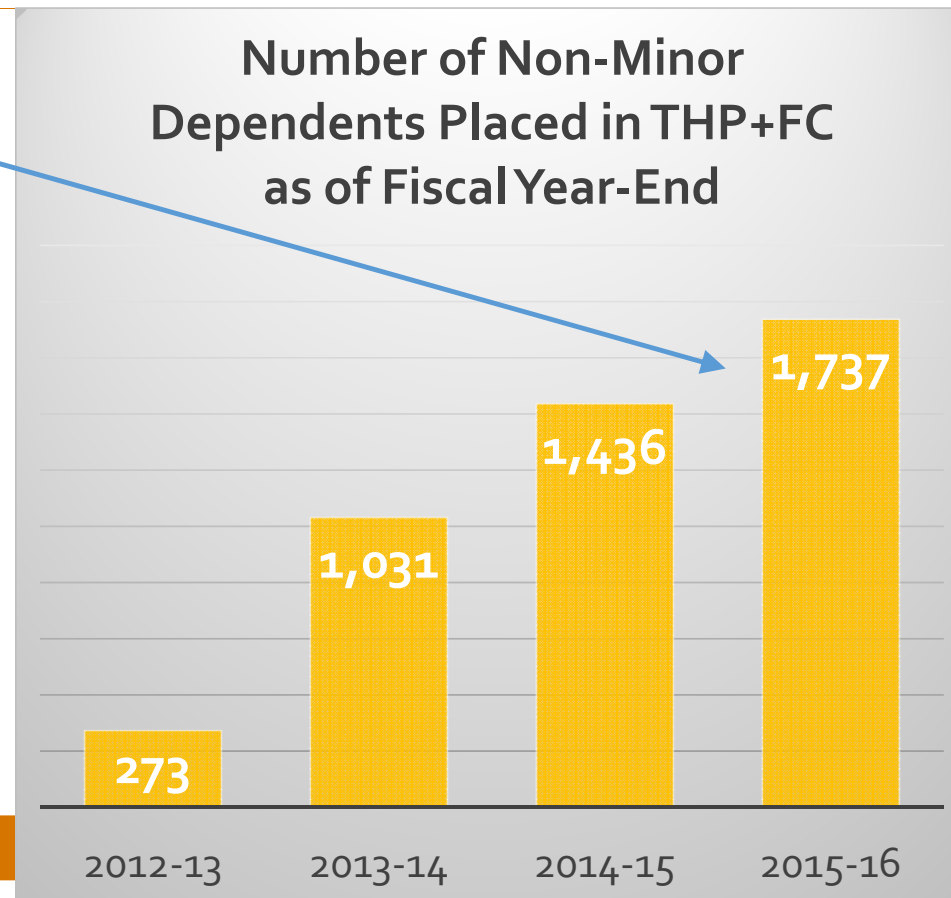
## THP+FC Characteristics as of April 1<sup>st</sup>

	2013	2014	2015	2016
Male	40%	39%	42%	42%
Female	60%	61%	58%	58%
Black	32%	38%	38%	36%
White	29%	25%	24%	23%
Latino	35%	33%	34%	36%
Asian/Pacific Islander	3%	3%	3%	3%
Native American	1%	1%	1%	1%
Supervised by Juvenile Probation	13%	14%	17%	18%

The demographics of THP+FC participants remain largely consistent, with a slight increase in the number of probation youth.

# THP+FC continues to grow, in the number of youth served and service providers.

- Number of NMDs placed in THP+FC increased 19% from year prior.
- Number of youth served increased 26% from 2,410 in FY15 to 3,048 in FY16.
- Growth came from an increase in THP+FC providers and some existing providers increasing the number of youth they serve.



# Youth also experience homelessness prior to entering THP+FC.

- 23% youth who entered THP+FC had experienced homelessness prior to entering.
- 6% entered THP+FC directly from homelessness.

Youth are experiencing homelessness while in Extended Foster Care

*Consistent with findings from CalYOUTH Study – 13.6% of 19 year-olds in foster care had been homeless since age 17*

When asked about this issue, counties and providers reported that foster youth sometimes experience homelessness due to a lack of suitable placement options for older youth with risk factors such as mental illness, involvement with the criminal justice system and victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

# Findings About Both Programs: THP-Plus & THP+FC

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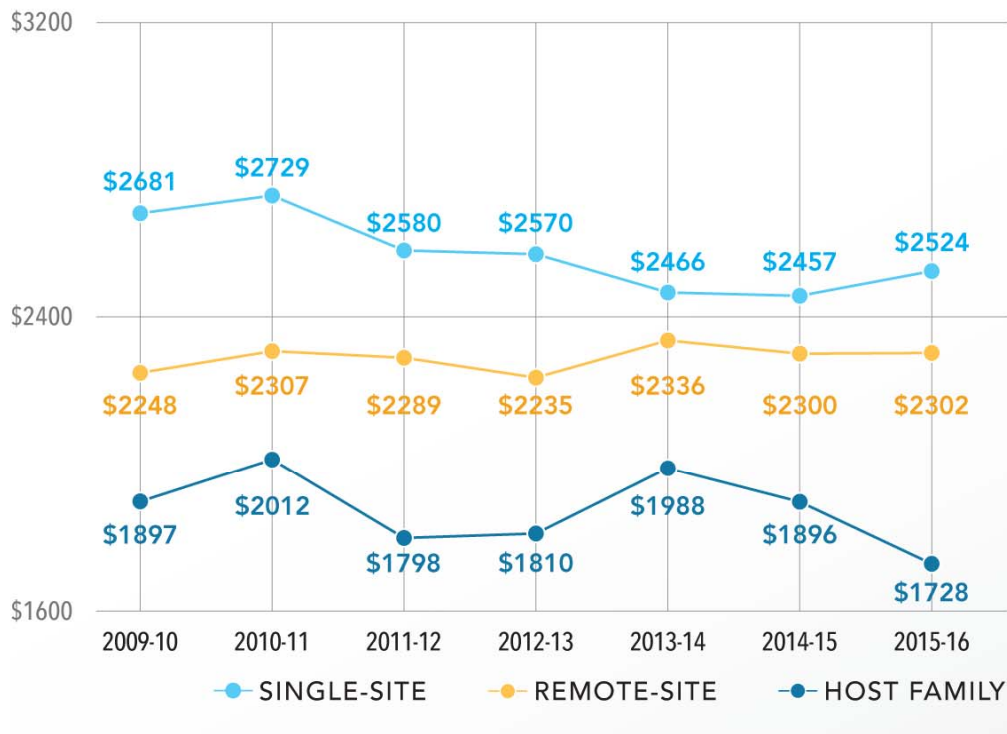
The divide continues to widen between THP-Plus rates and THP+FC rates, with THP+FC rates being significantly higher.

Housing Model	Average THP-Plus Rate (per youth per month)	Statewide THP+FC Rate (per youth per month)	Difference in Rate
Single Site	\$2,524	\$3,007	\$483
Scattered / Remote Site	\$2,302	\$3,007	\$705
Host Family	\$1,728	\$2,393	\$665

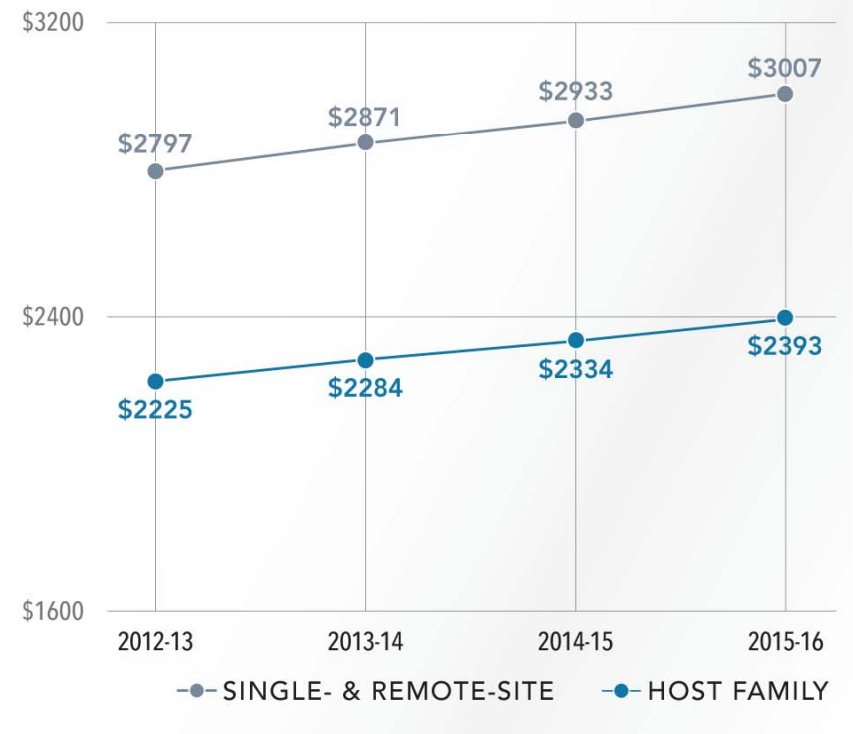
THP+FC rates are adjusted annually according to the California Necessities Index to account for increases in the cost of living.

# Comparing Rates Over Time

Average Monthly THP-Plus Rate per Youth



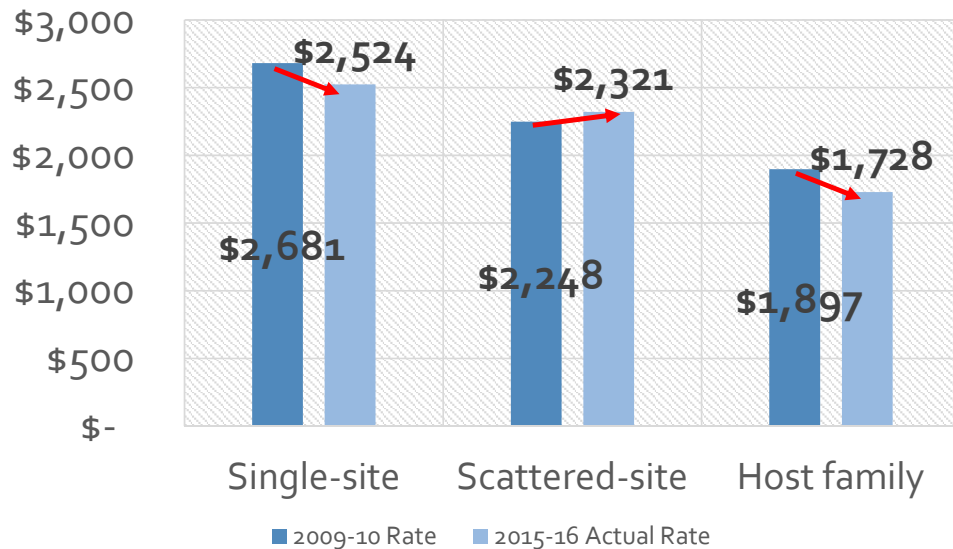
Statewide THP+FC Rate per Youth



# What would the average THP-Plus rate be, adjusted for inflation for the past 6 years?

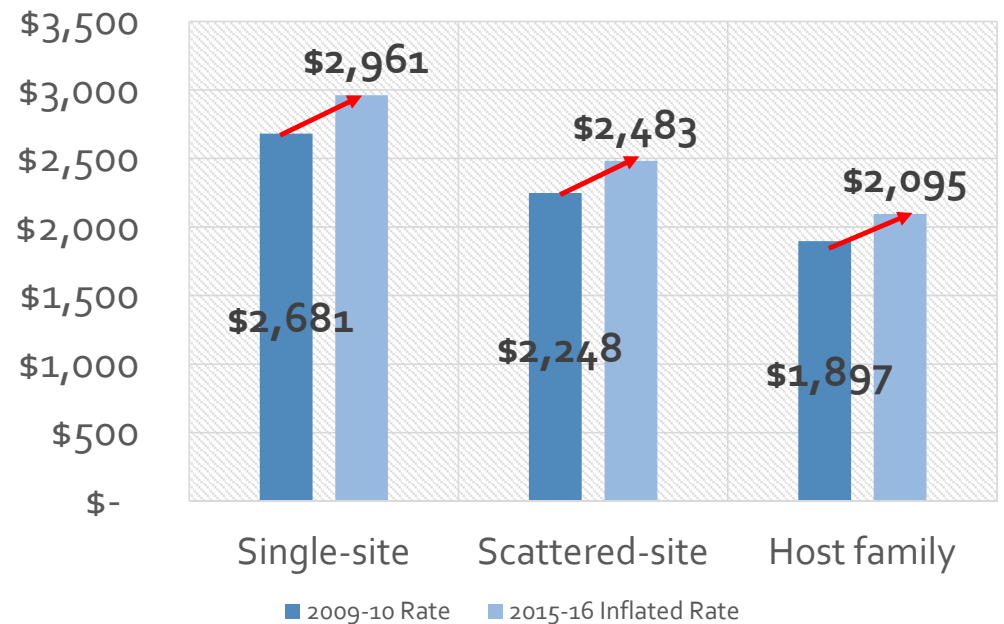
## WHERE WE ARE NOW

Comparing Rates:  
2009-10 to 2015-16, Actual Rates



## WHERE WE WOULD BE

Comparing Rates:  
2009-10 to 2015-16, with Inflation

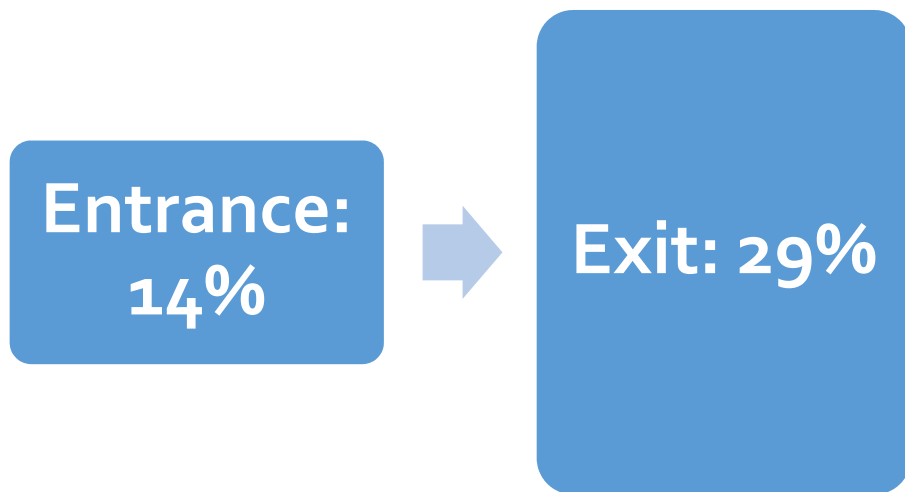




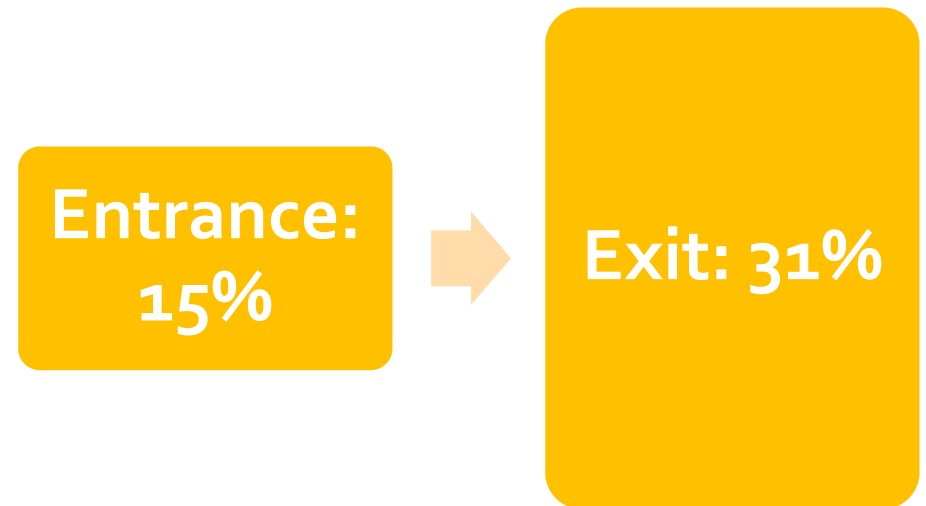
A high proportion of youth in both programs entered as custodial parents, and many more had children while in the program.

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THP-Plus

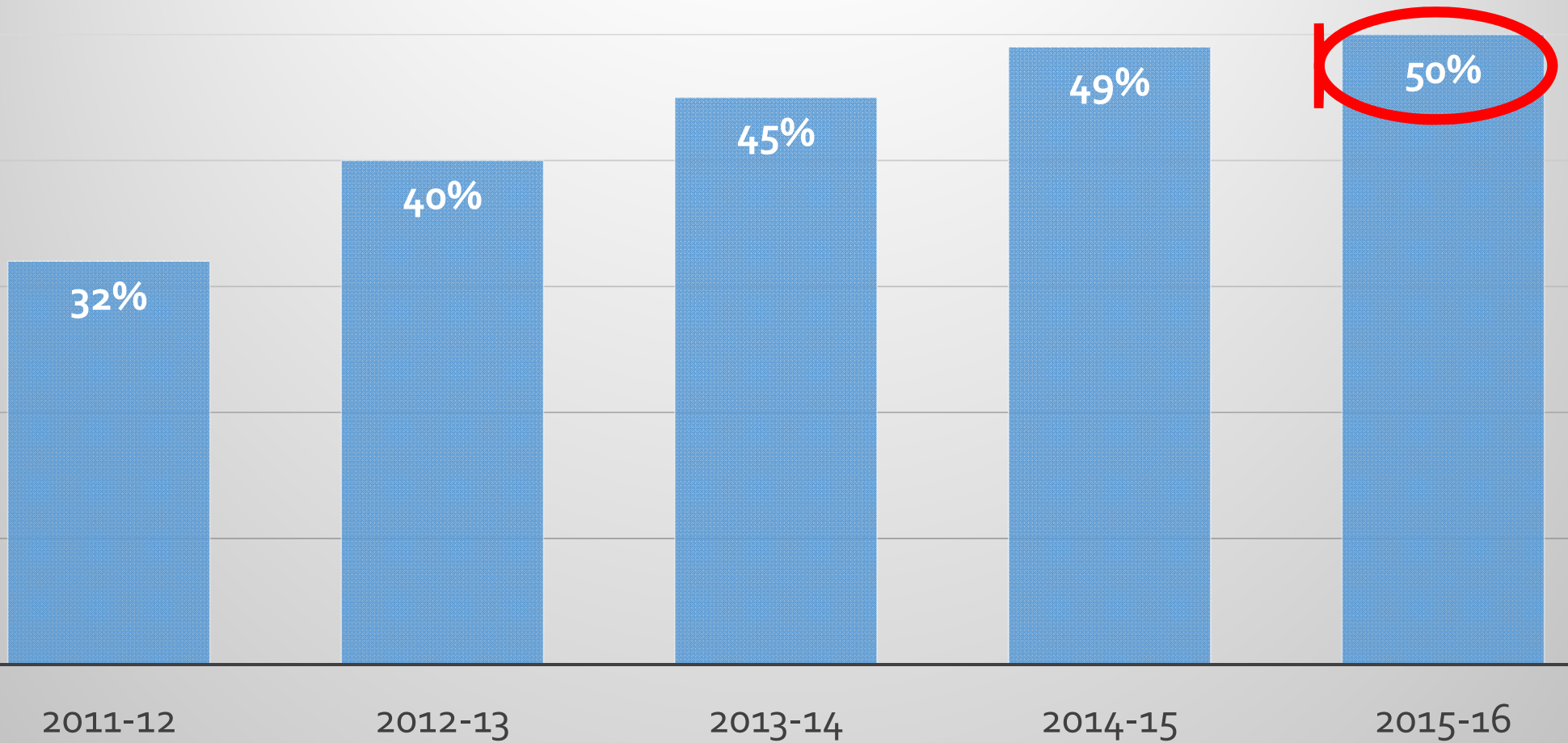


THP+FC



From entrance to exit, the rate of custodial parents *more than doubles*

## Custodial Mothers in THP-Plus



# Findings about income, employment & utilization of public benefits:

## THP-Plus participants made gains in income and employment:

- 37% employed at entrance; 45% employed at exit
- 19% increase in their monthly income from entry to exit, from \$840 to \$1,002

## THP+FC participants just made gains in income:

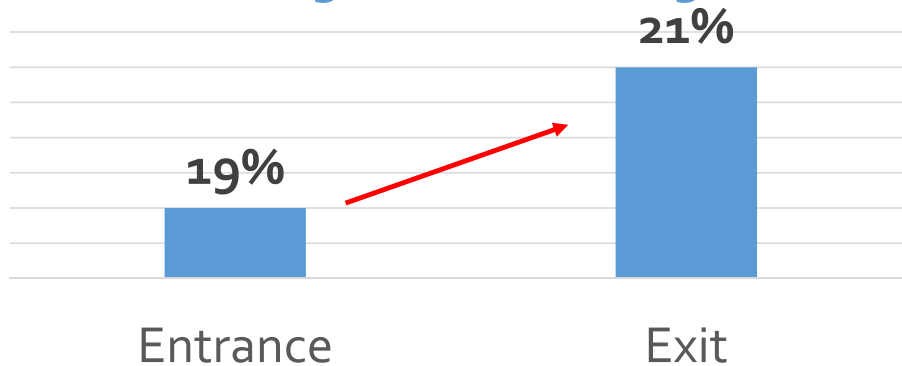
- Employment rate remained unchanged at 29%
- 31% increase in monthly income from entry to exit, from \$907 to \$1,189

## THP-Plus & THP+FC participants increased utilization of public benefits (SSI, WIC, CalWORKs):

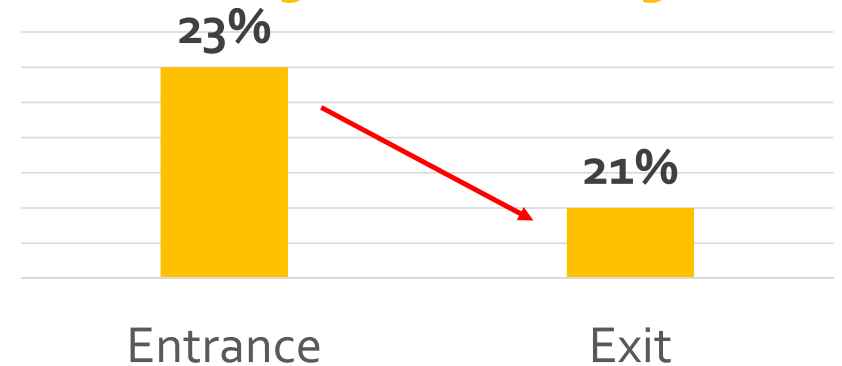
- THP-Plus participants – from 38% at entrance to 54% at exit
- THP+FC participants – from 17% at entrance to 42% at exit

# THP-Plus and THP+FC participants are not making the transition from high school to college and are experiencing high rates of college drop-out.

### THP-Plus Participants Enrolled in College or Earned Degree



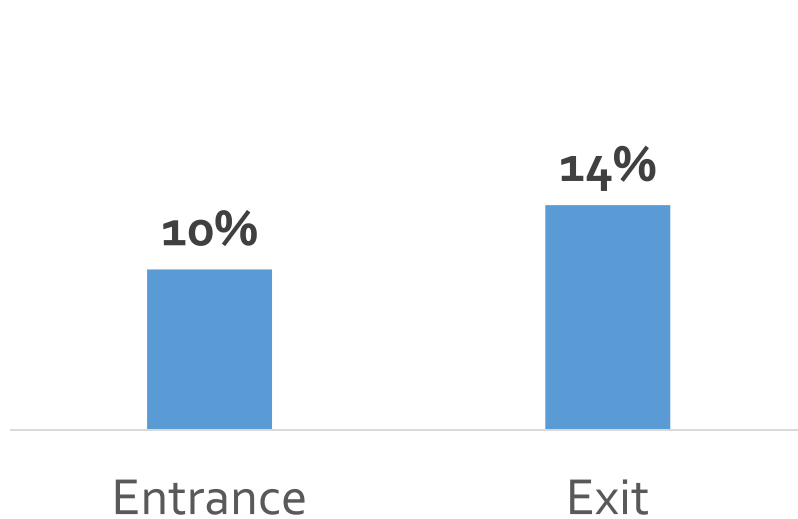
### THP+FC Participants Enrolled in College or Earned Degree



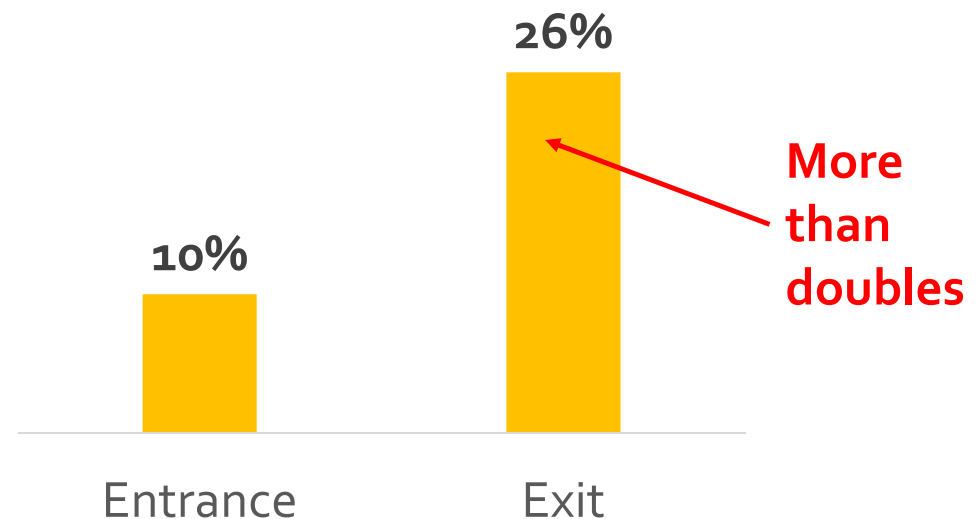
**Note:** At entrance to the program, 77% of THP-Plus participants and 74% of THP+FC participants had graduated from high school or earned a GED

# Looking Closer at the College Dis-enrollment Rate

THP-Plus Participants  
Who Had Dis-enrolled



THP+FC Participants  
Who Had Dis-enrolled



# Providers report serious challenges associated with the state's affordable housing crisis.

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Challenges  
securing  
rental units

Loss of rental  
units

Waiting lists

40% THP+FC providers indicated they lost rental units as a result of evictions, displacements, landlord disputes, or rent increases. This occurred across 53% of the counties where THP+FC is located.

27 providers (51%) reported having a waiting list as of the fiscal year-end across half (24) of the counties with THP-Plus programs.

# Policy & Practice Implications for **THP-Plus** & **THP+FC**

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# Counties and providers must work together to ensure THP-Plus funding is fully utilized.

## County Level

- **Increase bed capacity** where there is demand
- **Increase THP-Plus rate** to address affordable housing crisis or provide a deeper level of services
- **Develop tiered rate** structure to cover higher costs associated with serving certain populations (i.e. parenting youth)
- **Serve “out-of-county” youth**
- **Opt into SB 1252**

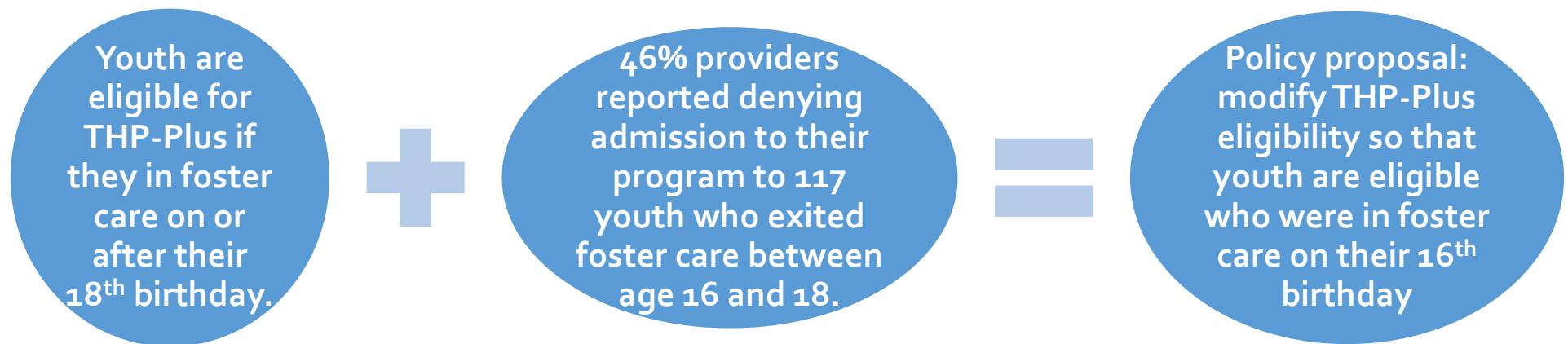
## Provider Level

- **Bolster outreach methods** to reach older youth who may have more dire service needs
- **Need for new THP-Plus providers** in some counties
- **Need for THP-Plus providers that tailor services** for parenting youth, youth with disabilities, youth with mental health challenges, and other youth with more complex needs



# THP-Plus eligibility should be revisited to serve additional populations in need

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## *Who are these youth?*

Youth who have achieved the *legal definition* of permanence (reunified, adopted or entered guardianship), however are no longer being provided financial or moral support from their parent/guardian, and are facing homelessness.

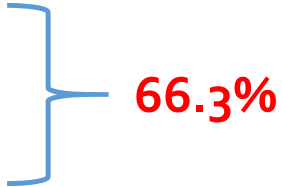
# Current and former foster youth require sexual health education and pregnancy prevention services.

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Data tells us there is a strong need for pregnancy prevention efforts.

*Chapin Hall's CalYOUTH Study:*

At age 19, those young women who had been pregnant since their last interview at 17 were asked if they wanted to become pregnant:

- **33.8% definitely no**
  - **3.7% probably no**
  - **28.8% neither wanted nor didn't**
  - 7.5% probably yes
  - 26.1% definitely yes
- 
- 66.3%

**There is no dedicated funding to support a statewide plan to address soaring rates of pregnancy among foster youth.**

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→ **ACL 16-82** just released, clarifying requirements of counties and caregivers

→ **ACL 16-88** just released, outlining state plan for preventing unplanned pregnancy among foster youth

# What would state funding support?

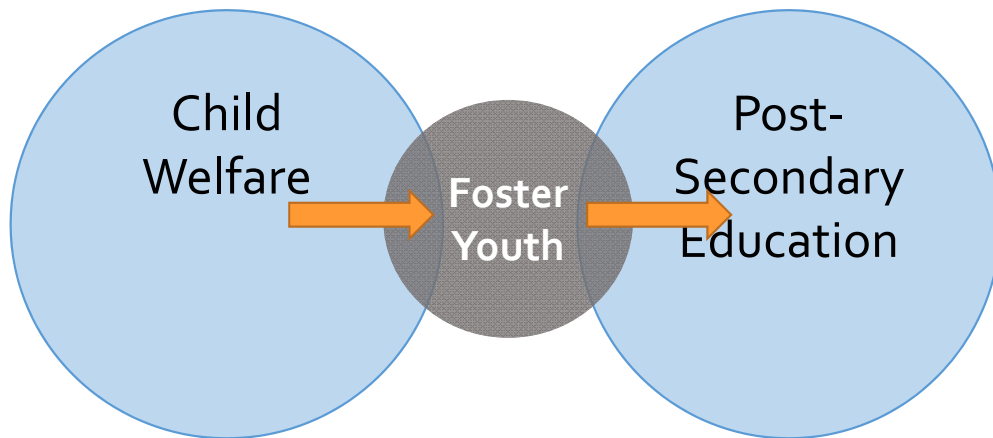
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- **TRAINING** for social workers, probation officers, caregivers and providers on **how and when to address topics** of sexual health and pregnancy prevention with foster youth, and on the **reproductive rights** of youth in foster care.
- **PROTOCOL** that ensures youth have access to medically-accurate, age appropriate **education** on topics of sexual development, reproductive health, relationships and pregnancy prevention; and access to age appropriate sexual and reproductive health **services and screening**.

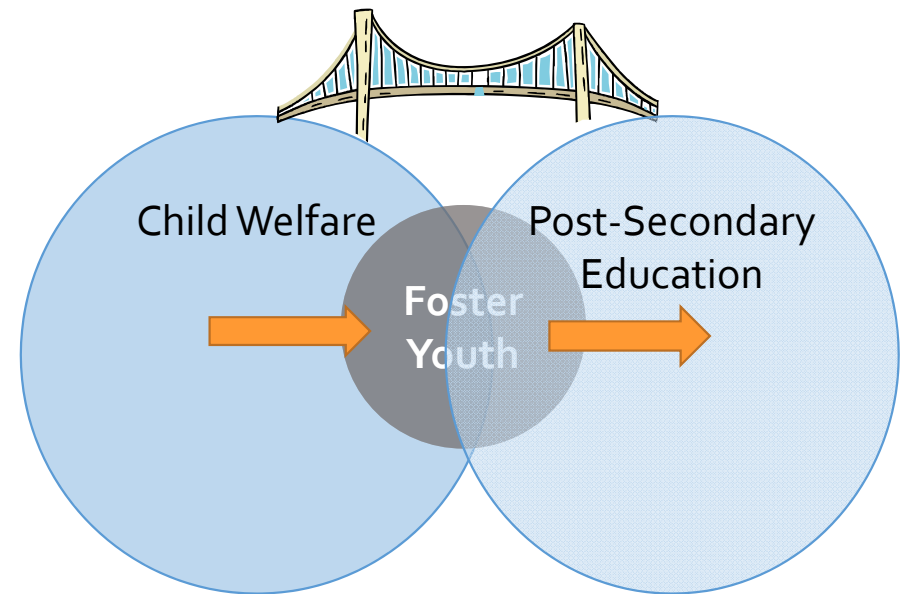
# California must take advantage of this opportunity to improve post-secondary educational outcomes for current and former foster youth.

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Prior to the extension of foster care to age 21



NOW



# Additional efforts are required at the state and local level to improve post-secondary education outcomes of current and former foster youth.

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## These may include:

- Required screening for financial aid eligibility for foster youth
- Eliminating/addressing administrative barriers to financial aid, such as the verification process
- Expansion of the CAFYES program to additional community college districts
- Adjusting the statewide THP+FC rate and counties increasing the THP-Plus rate so that it allows for providers to hire an education specialist
- Better educating counties and providers about post-secondary education
- Better connecting providers and youth to local resources to support youth with their education, such as tutoring and campus support programs

# The impact of the affordable housing crisis calls for creativity and innovative programming.

Strategies to address impact on youth while in program:

- Local level:
  - Raise the THP-Plus rate
  - Consider utilizing the host family model
  - Engage landlords with an informational campaign about foster youth and THP+FC/Plus programs
- State level:
  - Develop regional THP+FC rates

Strategies to ensure youth are exiting programs as well-positioned as possible to navigate high cost of living

- Increased support for youth obtaining college certifications and degrees
- Connections to:
  - long-term employment opportunities
  - public benefits
  - permanent, affordable housing, particularly for youth with disabilities and parenting youth

# Homelessness among youth in foster care must be addressed.

Possible practice and policy solutions include:

- Addressing the funding conflict between counties & DOF, which is causing some counties to think EFC is not fully funded
- Issuing licensing regulations for THP+FC
- Developing a tiered THP+FC rate to accommodate higher-needs youth
- Standardizing the SILP Readiness Assessment
- Addressing administrative barriers to approving SILPs when appropriate

- Since 2012, THP+FC placement has grown, however it still only accounts for 16.7% of NMD placements.
- The Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP) is the single most prominent placement among NMDs at 38.6%.



# Legislative Wrap-Up

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WHICH BILLS BECAME LAWS?

# AB 1001: Child abuse reporting, foster family agencies

Bill Author	Assembly Member Brian Maienschein
Sponsor Organizations	Children's Advocacy Institute
Issue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Obstacles to enforcing existing law which requires mandated reporters to report suspected child abuse or neglect even if the mandated reporter's supervisor disagrees.</li><li>• Need for more protections for mandated reporters at Foster Family Agencies (FFAs).</li></ul>
Solution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Expand the definition of mandated reporter to include a board member of a public or private organization whose duties require direct contact and supervision of children, including a FFA.</li><li>• Require CDSS to develop a notice regarding the reporting of complaints and require the posting of that notice in all FFAs.</li><li>• Require the description of policies, procedures, or practices that violate mandated reporting laws be included in CCL orientations attended by FFA CEOs, board members or administrators.</li></ul>

# AB 1067: Foster children rights

Bill Author	Assembly Member Mike Gipson
Sponsor Organizations	California Youth Connection
Issue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Existing law establishes a list of rights of foster children but provides no provision for how or when these rights should be updated.</li><li>• Foster youth are often not aware of their rights and/or do not understand them.</li></ul>
Solution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Require CDSS to convene a working group regarding foster youth rights, composed of CWDA and foster children advocacy groups in order to educate foster youth, foster care providers and others.</li><li>• Require the working group to make recommendations to the Legislature by 1/1/18 for revising the rights, and develop standardized information regarding the revised rights by 7/1/18.</li><li>• Require social workers and probation officers to inform providers and child and family teams of foster youth rights, provide a written copy of the rights to the child, and document this in the case plan (every 6 months).</li></ul>

# AB 1299: Medi-Cal specialty mental health services for out-of-county foster youth

Bill Author	Assembly Member Sebastian Ridley-Thomas
Sponsor Organizations	California Alliance of Child and Family Services
Issue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Foster youth placed out-of-county often have the greatest mental health needs and the least access to services.</li></ul>
Solution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Shift responsibility for providing or arranging for specialty mental health services under Medi-Cal from the county where a foster youth entered care to the county where the child resides.</li><li>• Allow for exceptions to the transfer of responsibility in order to assure continuity of care or improve child welfare outcomes.</li><li>• Ensure that Medi-Cal funding will follow the child so that any net change in costs to each county will be reimbursed through the regular Realignment process.</li></ul>

# AB 1688: Out-of-county placement of foster children, notice

Bill Author	Assembly Member Freddie Rodriguez
Sponsor Organizations	Children's Law Center
Issue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Existing law prohibits a social worker, when he or she must place a dependent child outside the county, from making the placement until he or she has served written notice on the parent or guardian at least 14 days prior to the placement. It does not require notice to be provided to the child's attorney.</li><li>• Existing law authorizes the parent or guardian to object to the placement, but does not authorize the youth to object to the placement.</li></ul>
Solution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Require that the notice also be served on the child's attorney and, if the child is 10 years of age or older, on the child.</li><li>• Authorize the child to object to the placement.</li></ul>

# AB 1849: Securing health insurance during transition to independence for foster youth

<b>Bill Author</b>	Assembly Member Mike Gipson
<b>Sponsor Organizations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Children Now</li><li>• Youth Law Center</li></ul>
<b>Issue</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Youth aging out of foster care have disproportionately high rates of physical and behavioral health issues. It is essential that these youth have ongoing health coverage and are given information about their automatic Medi-Cal eligibility until age 26.</li><li>• Several sections of state law contain outdated instructions, causing youth to be incorrectly dropped from coverage others have left care without receiving information about their ongoing Medi-Cal eligibility and without a copy of their Medi-Cal benefits identification card.</li></ul>
<b>Solution</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Require for purposes of the 90-day transition plan, information provided regarding health insurance options to include verification that the youth or nonminor is enrolled in Medi-Cal, and a description of steps that have been/will be taken by the social worker/probation officer to ensure transition to the Medi-Cal program upon case closure.</li><li>• Revise the list of information, services and documents that are required to be provided to the nonminor to include, among other things, a Medi-Cal Benefits Identification Card and continued and uninterrupted enrollment in Medi-Cal for eligible nonminors up to 26 years of age.</li></ul>

# AB 1911: Dual status minors

<b>Bill Author</b>	Assembly Member Susan Eggman
<b>Sponsor Organizations</b>	Children's Advocacy Institute
<b>Issue</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dual status youth have greater challenges to overcome to become responsible adults, and have significantly poorer outcomes than both non-systems involved youth and youth involved with only one of those systems.</li><li>• Over the years, various legislation and pilot projects have attempted to address the needs of these youth, but there has yet to be a comprehensive statewide approach.</li></ul>
<b>Solution</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Require the Judicial Council to convene a committee comprised of stakeholders involved in serving the needs of dependents or wards of the juvenile court.</li><li>• Require the committee to develop and report to the Legislature by 1/1/18, its recommendations to facilitate and enhance comprehensive data and outcome tracking for dual status youth.</li></ul>

# AB 2506: Establishing minimum standards for Chafee-eligible institutions

<b>Bill Author</b>	Assembly Member Tony Thurmond
<b>Sponsor Organizations</b>	John Burton Foundation
<b>Issue</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Young adults who attend some private, for-profit institutions end up accruing significant debt, with no guarantee of a job upon graduation. It is important that foster youth maximize how they use their financial aid and that they are protected from these underperforming schools.</li></ul>
<b>Solution</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Establish restrictions so that a Chafee grant award can only be awarded to a student attending a qualifying institution that is eligible for participating in the Cal Grant Program: For 2016-17, institutions with more than 40% of students borrowing federal student loans must have more than a 20% graduation rate and no higher than a 10% cohort default rate.</li></ul>



# AB 2656: High school equivalency tests, fee waivers for foster youth

<b>Bill Author</b>	Assembly Member Patrick O'Donnell
<b>Sponsor Organizations</b>	
<b>Issue</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Current and former foster youth face issues and circumstances that make graduating high school challenging.</li><li>• The California High School Proficiency Exam and high school equivalency tests are two alternate paths to post-secondary education, however the fees for these exams create a barrier for current and former foster youth.</li></ul>
<b>Solution</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prohibit the Department of Education from charging the high school proficiency test fee and the scoring contractor or testing center from charging the fee associated with the high school equivalency test and certificate to a foster youth who is under 25 years of age.</li><li>• Require the Superintendent of Public Instruction to incorporate data on high school proficiency or equivalency test examinees who are foster youth into the two reports they are required to submit with data on homeless youth to the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature.</li></ul>

# AB 2813: Juvenile offenders, dual-status minors

<b>Bill Author</b>	Assembly Member Richard Bloom
<b>Sponsor Organizations</b>	Youth Law Center
<b>Issue</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Foster youth do not have the same statutory protection that other children in our state have and are often needlessly arrested and detained in juvenile halls.</li><li>• Existing law requires minors to be released to their parent or guardian unless they are a public safety risk or flight risk and requires that the court's decision to detain a minor not be based on their status as a foster youth; however that same statutory protection does not exist for the probation officer's decision to detain a foster youth.</li></ul>
<b>Solution</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Extend the statutory provision to probation officers that would require that a probation officer's decision to detain a foster youth not be based on their status as a dependent of the court.</li></ul>

# SB 906: Public post-secondary education, priority enrollment systems

<b>Bill Author</b>	Senator Jim Beall
<b>Sponsor Organizations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• John Burton Foundation</li><li>• California Community College Chancellors Office</li><li>• Faculty Association of California Community Colleges</li><li>• San Jose City College</li></ul>
<b>Issue</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Existing law extends registration priority to foster youth and EOPS and DSPS students at community colleges, but is set to sunset 1/1/17.</li><li>• The existing definition of foster youth is too narrow, and leaves out youth in need. It should be aligned with other programs for foster youth on college campuses (i.e. Chafee).</li></ul>
<b>Solution</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Remove the sunset clause that would have eliminated priority registration on 1/1/17.</li><li>• Revise definition of foster youth: open dependency case/out-of-home placement on or after 16<sup>th</sup> birthday; up to age 25.</li></ul>

# SB 1060: Postadoption contact, siblings of dependent children or wards

<b>Bill Author</b>	Senator Mark Leno
<b>Sponsor Organizations</b>	California Youth Connection
<b>Issue</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Healthy relationships with an adopted youth's biological siblings are critical to the success of the adoption being permanent.</li><li>• Despite the protections already in place meant to encourage and strengthen sibling connections, there is a decline of urgency as a child approaches the adoption process.</li><li>• This gap in the system is reflective of both poor communication and a lack of coordinated services for the adoptee and where many sibling relationships are served.</li></ul>
<b>Solution</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Require the county placing agency to convene a meeting with the child, sibling(s) of the child, prospective adoptive parent(s) and a facilitator for the purpose of deciding whether to voluntarily execute a postadoption sibling contact agreement.</li><li>• Authorize the child to petition the court for an order requiring the county placing agency to convene a meeting to decide whether to voluntarily execute a postadoption sibling contact agreement.</li></ul>

# SB 1174: Monitoring psychotropic medication prescription to foster children

<b>Bill Author</b>	Senator Mike McGuire
<b>Sponsor Organizations</b>	National Center for Youth Law
<b>Issue</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Foster youth are over-prescribed psychotropic medication.</li><li>• While each state is required to oversee and monitor the use of psych meds with foster youth, there are currently no requirements to identify those who are over prescribing medication to foster children.</li></ul>
<b>Solution</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Enable the Medical Board of California to confidentially collect and analyze data, and when warranted, conduct investigations of physicians who frequently prescribe over the recognized safety parameters for children.</li></ul>

# SB 1291: Data on Medi-Cal-eligible foster youth

<b>Bill Author</b>	Senator Jim Beall
<b>Sponsor Organizations</b>	National Center for Youth Law
<b>Issue</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The vast majority of California's foster children and youth do not receive safe, quality mental health services despite a well-documented need. At the same time, foster youth are over-prescribed psychotropic medication.</li><li>• Current state guidelines indicate other treatments must have been tried prior to the use of psychotropic medication, however it is common for foster children to be quickly referred for medication without providing other supports to help address underlying mental and behavioral health needs.</li></ul>
<b>Solution</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Require county mental health plans to create a subsection for foster youth and include an annual foster care mental health plan detailing the service array - from prevention to crisis services - available to these children and youth.</li><li>• Enable the state and county to track access, quality and outcomes specific to foster children.</li></ul>

# SB 1336: Dependent children, placement with relatives

<b>Bill Author</b>	Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson
<b>Sponsor Organizations</b>	Children's Advocacy Institute
<b>Issue</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In order to ensure relatives are considered as placement options when children are removed from their home, existing law requires a social worker to locate and notify relatives within 30 days.</li><li>• Unfortunately, this does not always occur, and practice varies. Dependency court judges apply different levels of scrutiny when determining whether the social worker exercised "due diligence" in searching for relatives.</li></ul>
<b>Solution</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide clear guidance regarding what is considered "due diligence" in the identification and recruitment of relatives.</li><li>• Require courts to find that the child welfare agencies exercised this due diligence.</li></ul>

# Bills Vetoed

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**AB 741 (Williams):**  
Short-term residential  
treatment centers as  
children's crisis  
residential centers

**AB 885 (Lopez):**  
Removing barriers for  
re-entry for non-minor  
former dependents

AB 1838 (Ting): Infant  
supplement for  
parenting foster youth

**SB 253 (Monning):**  
Court authorization of  
psychotropic  
medications in foster  
care



# Question & Answer

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