

annual report 2010-11



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for children without homes

transitional housing placement plus program (thp-plus)

THP-Plus provides safe, affordable housing and supportive services to youth formerly in the foster care and juvenile probation systems in California. Following is a summary of THP-Plus in Fiscal Year 2010-11.



participant profile: nai saecho

Nai Saecho and her five siblings struggled for bare necessities in their poverty-stricken neighborhood. At a young age, Nai was placed in foster care. But like many of the 4,500 youth leaving the California system, when Nai emancipated, she struggled all over again to meet those same basic needs. Today, at age 24, Nai refers to the THP-Plus program she entered in Merced as a rescue.

"With THP-Plus's help I was able to have a sense of security, knowing I had a place to live and not having to worry about housing and food among many other stressors. I really appreciate many things that others may take for granted, such as housing, furniture, consistently having food in my refrigerator and knowing I have a home to go to," Nai said.

The support of THP-Plus helped Nai to make great strides: in two years she transferred from Merced Community College to CSU Stanislaus, got a job as a County Foster Youth Assistance Worker, and received her license as a pharmacy technician. Still, Nai humbly attributes a portion of her success to the caring staff at Merced's THP-Plus program. "They really want us to succeed and become independent adults," she explained.

In fact, it was because of her experience in Merced that she became a strong advocate for her siblings to enter THP-Plus when they also emancipated from the foster care system. Three of Nai's sisters have been in the program and two are still there. As their older sister, she has always pushed them to do well in school and has given them the advice she wished she would have received when she left foster care, such as the importance of attending college, looking for scholarships, and applying to THP-Plus.

Next, she hopes to graduate with her degree in Criminal Justice, and apply to the Pharmacy program at the University of the Pacific.

"I am really glad I got to be a part of THP-Plus, and am especially grateful that it is still a part of my life ... Even though I have exited the program, the staff members are still checking up on me to make sure that I am doing well."

Eventually, Nai would like to work with teenage foster youth because she understands the great need for homes for teens, and because she wants to give back to the community that she says has given so much to her.

thp-plus by the numbers

2,209 Youth Served between
July 1, 2010 and
June 30, 2011

1,418 Housing Capacity as of
June 30, 2011

25% Single-Site
Housing Model

62% Scattered-Site
Housing Model

13% Host-Family
Housing Model

Average Monthly Cost Per Participant ...

\$2,729 in Single-Site
Housing Model

\$2,307 in Scattered-Site
Housing Model

\$2,012 in Host-Family
Housing Model

51 Participating Counties

60 THP-Plus Service
Providers

3.6 Average Number of Years
as a Service Provider



"I came in to THP-Plus when I didn't have anything. Now I have a job, I have money in the bank, and I'm not stressed anymore about the most basic things"

--THP-Plus participant, Santa Clara County



fall 2011

Dear THP-Plus Partners,

On behalf of the John Burton Foundation for Children Without Homes, the California Department of Social Services, and the Corporation for Supportive Housing, we are pleased to share the Transitional Housing Placement Plus (THP-Plus) Program Annual Report for Fiscal Year (FY) 2010-11. Since its inception in 2001, THP-Plus has aided youth exiting the foster care and juvenile probation systems in their transition to adulthood. This report highlights the achievements of THP-Plus over the last year, while acknowledging the challenges the program has faced and exciting changes for the future.

In 2010-11, this state-funded program provided former foster youth and youth exiting juvenile probation with housing and comprehensive supportive services, including: educational assistance, counseling, and employment and mental health support. Like many in California, these youth face increasing challenges in finding stable employment and safe, affordable housing. Fortunately, despite significant budget cuts in FY 2009-10, THP-Plus providers, youth, and community supporters rallied to sustain funding at \$35.4 million for FY 2010-11, ensuring the continuation of this much-needed safety net. During the last fiscal year, 51 of California's 58 counties implemented THP-Plus programs providing affordable housing and supportive services to 2,209 youth, ages 18 to 24.

In an effort to sustain and enhance the success of THP-Plus programs, the THP-Plus Statewide Implementation Project has also continued to provide technical assistance, training, policy advocacy, and evaluation. A key component of the Project is the THP-Plus Participant Tracking System, which collects comprehensive data on the progress youth make during their time in the program. An early review of this year's data shows signs of youth exiting THP-Plus making gains in education, employment, and earnings, despite the economic uncertainties and challenges surrounding them.

And finally, the report provides a brief highlight of the much anticipated September 30, 2010 signing of Assembly Bill 12, the California Fostering Connections to Success Act. With this legislation, youth who might have otherwise "aged out" of the foster care system at age 18 now have the option to remain in the foster care system to age 21, and receive the same common-sense assistance provided to children from intact families. Effective January 1, 2012, the bill allows eligible 18 year olds in foster care to remain in foster care up to age 19. Starting January 1, 2013, foster youth can remain in foster care up to age 20, and starting January 1, 2014, up to age 21, contingent upon budget appropriation by the state legislature. We are excited about the expanded opportunities for support this will bring to youth in the future.

We would like to acknowledge the commitment of the THP-Plus community: nonprofit providers, county administrators, and the young adult participants. We look forward to working towards a day when every youth in California makes a safe, supported transition from the foster care and juvenile probation systems.

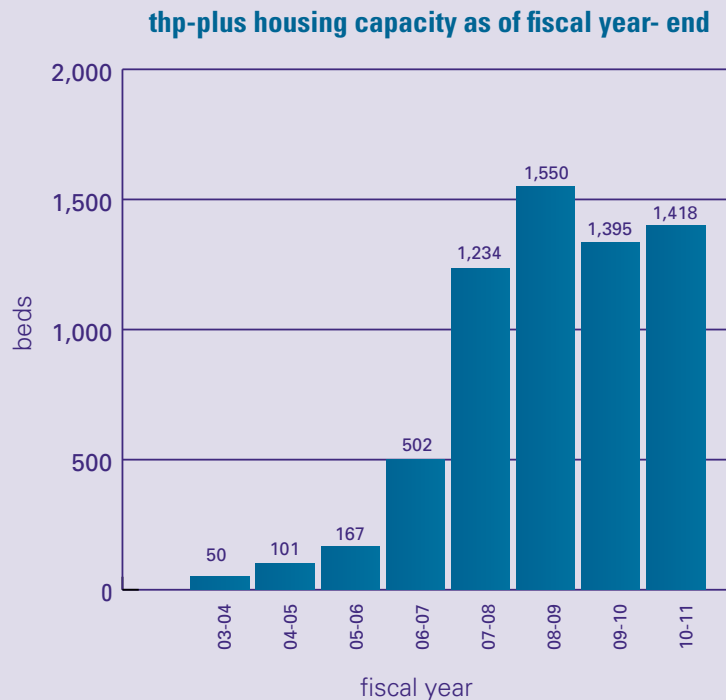
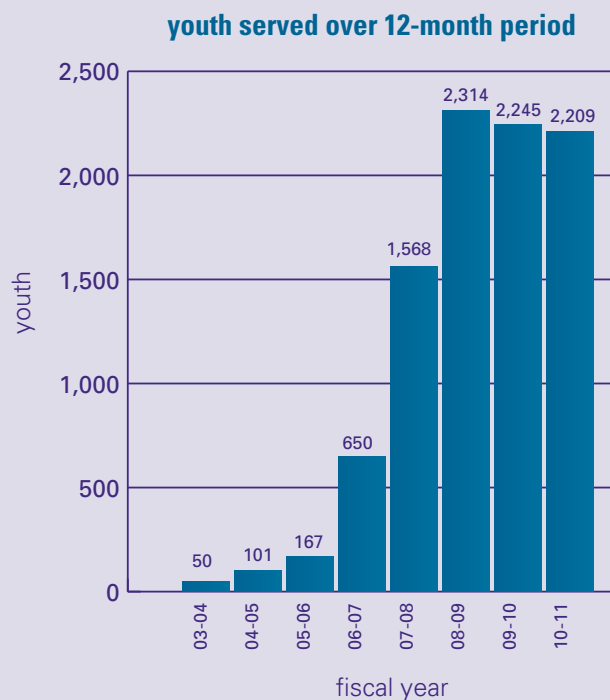
Senator John Burton (retired)
Chair, John Burton Foundation

Will Lightbourne, Director
California Department of
Social Services

Jonathan Hunter,
Western Region Managing Director
Corporation for Supportive Housing

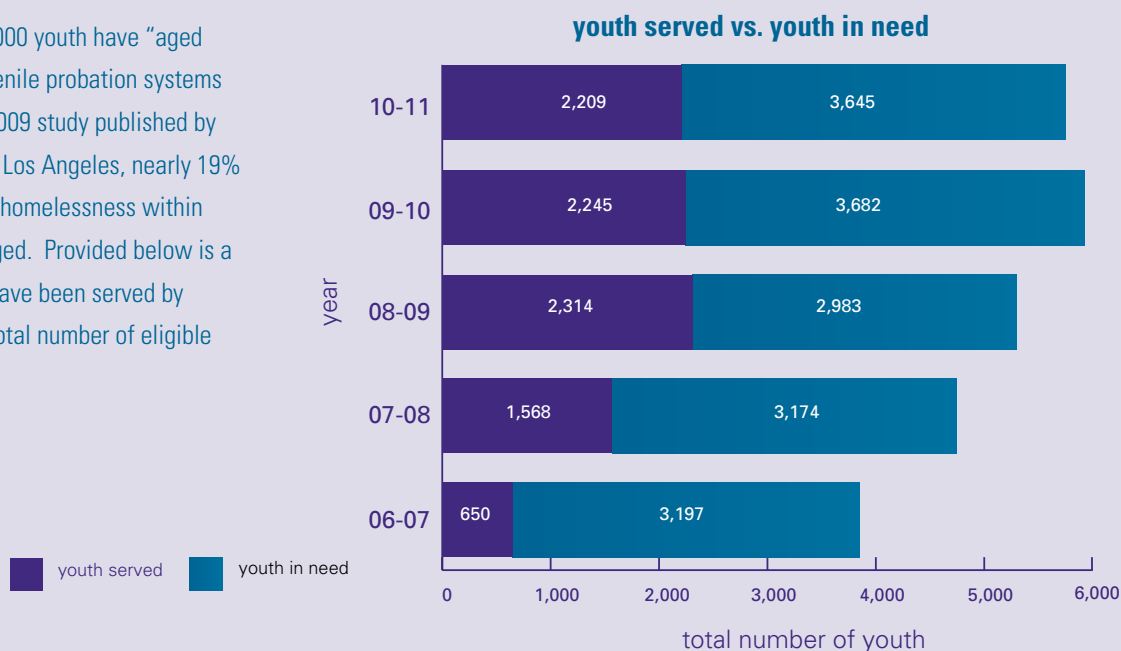
how many youth did thp-plus serve in 2010-11?

After experiencing a \$5.1 million reduction to the annual budget from \$40.8 million to \$35.7 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2009-10, funding for THP-Plus remained largely unchanged in FY 2010-11, decreasing only slightly to \$35.4 million. With this funding, 2,209 youth were assisted by THP-Plus over the 12 month period, a less than 2% decrease from the 2,245 youth served in FY 2009-10. The moment-in-time housing capacity of THP-Plus increased slightly in FY 2010-11 from 1,385 to 1,418.



how many eligible youth are still homeless?

In the past five years, over 30,000 youth have “aged out” of the foster care and juvenile probation systems in California. According to a 2009 study published by the Urban Institute on youth in Los Angeles, nearly 19% of these youth will experience homelessness within 12 months after being discharged. Provided below is a summary of how many youth have been served by THP-Plus as compared to the total number of eligible youth who are likely homeless.





"The THP-Plus program symbolizes strength for me. With the program's support, I have been able to overcome my struggles. I have learned how to adapt."

-THP-Plus participant, Santa Clara County

are youth in thp-plus making progress?



Each year, the John Burton Foundation conducts a statewide analysis of youth who participated in California's THP-Plus program. Provided below are key findings for 1,401 youth in THP-Plus programs during the first three quarters of FY 2010-11. Also featured is an analysis of 631 youth who exited the program during the first three quarters of FY 2010-11. The full analysis will appear in a Policy Brief, to be published in October 2011, and will be made available on the THP-Plus website at www.thplus.org.

- **Steady employment:** Despite a challenging economy, THP-Plus participants remained steady in the area of employment. Between entrance and exit, roughly 2 in 5 THP-Plus participants were able to maintain part- or full-time employment.
- **Increased earnings:** Between entry and exit, THP-Plus participants experienced a 62% increase in earnings, from just \$646 per month at entrance to \$1,043 per month at exit. Additionally, the percentage of youth with no income dropped considerably from 25% to 17%.
- **Safe, stable housing:** 95% of youth who exited THP-Plus moved into safe, stable housing, with just 5% of participants exiting into homelessness, an emergency shelter, or other unstable housing.

education and employment outcomes	entrance	exit
earned a high school diploma	63%	68%
attending a two- or four-year college	29%	33%
employed (part- or full-time)	41%	44%
average monthly earnings	\$646	\$1,043
average hourly earnings	\$9.48	\$10.04
zero income	25%	17%

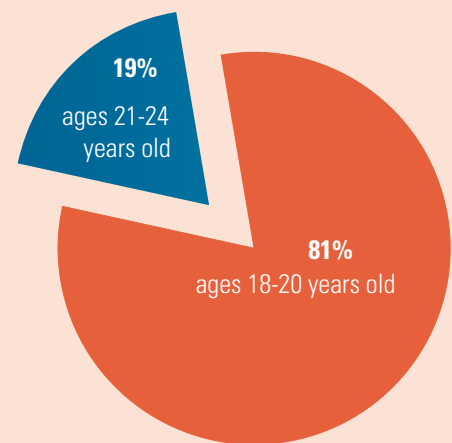
housing upon exit from thp-plus	2009-10	2010-11
living with relative or others with free rent	34%	32%
renting own or shared housing	42%	51%
emergency shelter, homeless, or other unstable housing	3%	5%
supportive housing program	9%	5%
other type of housing	11%	8%

who does thp-plus assist?

Participant demographics remained largely unchanged between FY 2009-10 to fy 2010-11, as outlined below.

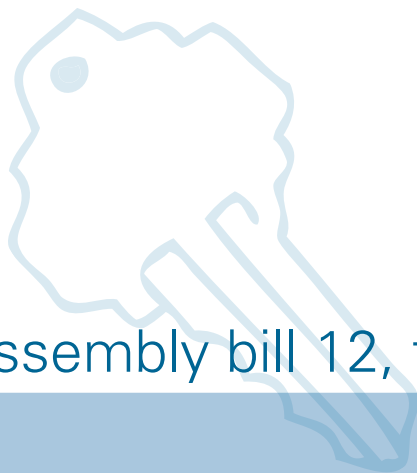
participant characteristics	2009-10	2010-11
Male	39%	39%
Female	61%	61%
Age 18 to 20	82%	81%
Age 21 to 24	18%	19%
Self-identified lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender	8%	8%
Black	41%	39%
White non-Hispanic	21%	19%
Hispanic	21%	23%
Native American, Asian, Pacific Islander, Multi-racial, or Other	18%	25%
Custodial parent	13%	15%
Experienced homelessness before entering THP-Plus	34%	34%
ILP-eligible probation ward as a minor	16%	16%

housing immediately prior to thp-plus	2009-10	2010-11
Foster care placement	33%	32%
Living with relative or others with free rent	23%	24%
Renting own or shared housing	16%	14%
Emergency shelter, homeless, or other unstable housing	16%	16%
Supportive housing program	5%	8%
Other type of housing	8%	6%



key findings from demographic analysis

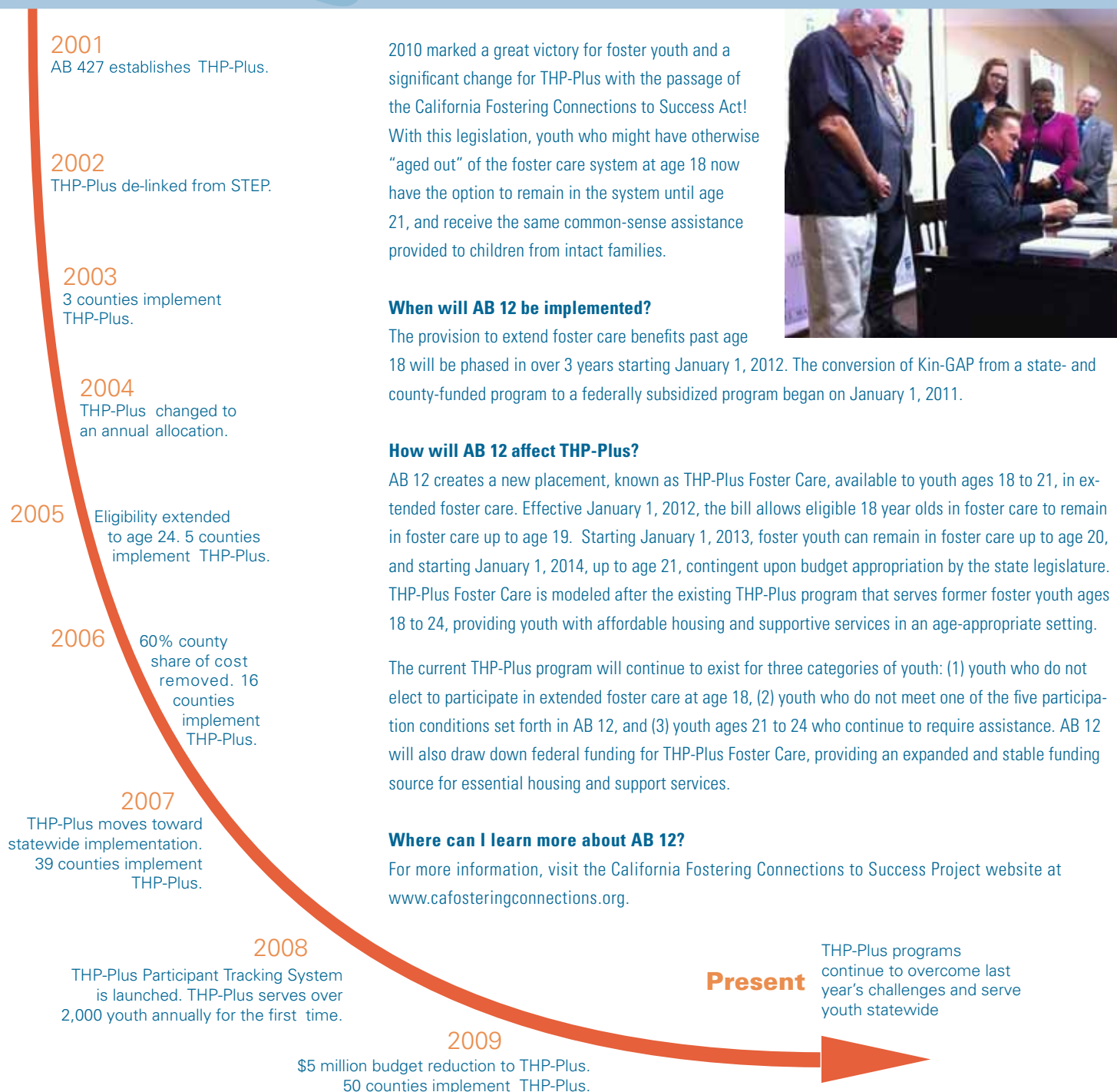
- **Homelessness Persists:** Youth in THP-Plus continue to experience homelessness at high rates, with approximately 1 in 3 youth experiencing homelessness prior to entering THP-Plus and 16% entering the program directly from homelessness.
- **Older Youth in THP-Plus:** As in previous years, nearly 1 in 5 participants are over age 21.
- **Parenting Youth:** THP-Plus continues to be a vital resource for parenting youth, with 15% of youth in the program being custodial parents, a slight increase from the prior fiscal year.



"This program has given me stability, independent living skills, and has helped me save money. It also provides a positive environment and time for me to plan my future."

-THP-Plus participant, Los Angeles County

assembly bill 12, taking thp-plus to the next level





acknowledgements

The THP-Plus Statewide Implementation Project is a collaboration between the John Burton Foundation for Children Without Homes, the California Department of Social Services, and the Corporation for Supportive Housing. For more information about the THP-Plus Statewide Implementation Project, please contact one of the following representatives:

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- Vicki Garcia, Marketing à la Carte
- Cori Kesler, Kesler Communications

Research Fellow Sara Kimberlin conducted the analysis of participant data from the THP-Plus Participant Tracking System. The complete data analysis can be found in the 2011 Policy Brief, available on the THP-Plus website: www.thpplus.org.

Graduate Student Intern Jennifer Smith conducted participant interviews and administered THP-Plus provider and county surveys.

A special thanks to the THP-Plus county administrators and program providers for taking the time to contribute information to this report, and to the THP-Plus participants for sharing their stories.