



# Los Angeles THP-Plus Programs Triple Capacity in 2009

Los Angeles County, home to one out of three emancipating foster youth in California, has made great strides in creating housing and supportive services to meet their needs. Since January 1st, the county has added eleven new providers and increased its maximum capacity from 52 to 162.

As of April 30th, 128 former foster youth were receiving affordable housing and supportive services through the Los Angeles THP-Plus program. Eighty-eight percent of participants are former dependents of the child welfare system, and 12 percent have a probation history. Los Angeles providers were selected through a Request for Statement of Qualifications

process and offer a range of housing options, including single and scattered-site apartments and single family homes. St. Anne’s, one of the county’s original THP-Plus providers, serves young mothers and their children exclusively.

According to Bedrae Davis, who manages the THP-Plus contracts in Los Angeles County, “Los Angeles County has nearly tripled its capacity in four months, and the program continues to grow. I recently received a call from a new participant, and he couldn’t believe how beautiful his new home is. In the coming year, we look forward to expanding services to San Fernando Valley and to the southern part of the county.”

To learn more about THP-Plus programs in Los Angeles County, contact Bedrae Davis at [DavisB@dcfs.lacounty.gov](mailto:DavisB@dcfs.lacounty.gov). For a complete list of THP-Plus providers, visit [www.thpplus.org](http://www.thpplus.org).

## “HUD FUNDING” CONTINUED FROM INTERIOR LEFT

According to Amy Lemley, Policy Director of the John Burton Foundation, getting involved in the local planning process is essential. “The first step is locating the local government agency that will be issuing a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) this summer” said Lemley. “Be a part of that NOFA development by making the case that transition-age youth are an important population to be targeted.”

If you have questions, or would like more information about how to access HPRP funding, the John Burton Foundation and the California Coalition for Youth hosted a web seminar on June 10th. Speakers included representatives from the National Alliance to End Homelessness, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Corporation for Supportive Housing. A copy of the presentation and supporting materials are available at <http://www.calyouth.org/advocacy-and-public-policy/advocacy-initiatives/homeless-youth/hprp/>

## “BUDGET UPDATE” CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

for Child Welfare Services. Counties would be responsible for prioritizing the use of remaining funds to “protect the health and safety of children and their families, and appropriately address federal outcome requirements.” Information on the May Revise can be found at [www.dof.ca.gov](http://www.dof.ca.gov).

On May 26th, following the overwhelming defeat of Propositions 1A through 1D in the May 19th special election, the Schwarzenegger administration proposed \$5.6 billion in spending cuts in addition to those outlined in the May Revise. These proposals include eliminating the CalWORKs welfare-to-work program and eliminating the Healthy Families insurance program. The list of additional spending cuts can be found by emailing [Michele@johnburtonfoundation.org](mailto:Michele@johnburtonfoundation.org).

In an effort to address the state’s fiscal crisis, the budget process has been accelerated. The budget is being considered by the Budget Conference Committee, comprised of five members of the Senate and five members of the Assembly. The Conference Committee will consider proposals from the Governor’s Office, the Legislative Analyst’s Office, and information received during the public comment period.

The Conference Committee hosted a hearing on May 27th to receive public comments on the social services budget, including child welfare programs. The John Burton Foundation provided testimony opposing cuts to child welfare programs and in support of preserving THP-Plus as a state-only program. The Conference Committee will continue to meet throughout June before submitting the budget to both houses for a vote. They aim to have a budget finalized by the start of Fiscal Year 2009-10 on July 1st.

Although there are no plans for additional public comment hearings, you can communicate your opposition to any THP-Plus cuts by writing a letter or scheduling a meeting with Committee members. To submit a letter to the Conference Committee on the Budget opposing cuts to THP-Plus, please visit [www.thpplus.org](http://www.thpplus.org). Under “What’s New,” we have posted a sample letter and a committee roster.

The John Burton Foundation will continue to send out budget information as soon as it becomes available. For additional information, please contact Michele Byrnes at [Michele@johnburtonfoundation.org](mailto:Michele@johnburtonfoundation.org) or (415) 693-1323.



Welcome to **THP-Plus News**, a quarterly newsletter of the THP-Plus Statewide Implementation Project. The Project is a partnership between the John Burton Foundation, the California Department of Social Services, and the Corporation for Supportive Housing. Our goal is to expand access to THP-Plus, California’s only housing program for former foster youth. THP-Plus provides former foster youth with affordable housing and a rich array of supportive services, including job training, educational advocacy, mentoring, and case management.

### INSIDE:

- HUD Funding Available
- Data from the Tracking System
- THP-Plus Institute
- Focus on Los Angeles

To submit a question to a practitioner or to comment on the newsletter, e-mail [nicole@johnburtonfoundation.org](mailto:nicole@johnburtonfoundation.org)

This is a publication of the John Burton Foundation for Children Without Homes—a non-profit organization based in San Francisco, California dedicated to improving the quality of life for California’s homeless children and developing policy solutions to prevent homelessness.

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# Expanding Housing Options for Youth In Transition

## California Budget Update: Drastic Cuts to Child Welfare Proposed

The California state budget deficit has grown to a projected \$24.3 billion, and Governor Schwarzenegger’s administration is proposing a number of drastic cuts to social services to help close the gap. The Legislative Analyst’s Office (LAO) has proposed a series of alternative budget recommendations, including adding a 30 percent county share of cost to THP-Plus. Throughout the month of June, these proposals will be considered by a Budget Conference Committee convened by the state legislature.

The Governor’s office released a summary of the May Revision to the 2009-10 budget on May 14th. This summary included a ten percent cut to group home, foster family agency, and specialized care and clothing allowance rates and a ten percent cut in General Fund revenue to counties

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## AB 12 as a Two-Year Bill: Where Do We Go From Here?

AB 12, the California Fostering Connections to Success Act, was introduced into the California State Assembly on December 1, 2008 by Assembly Member Jim Beall and Assembly Speaker Karen Bass. The bi-partisan bill is co-authored by 42 members of the Assembly, including 21 Democrats and 11 Republicans. In late May, AB 12 was made into a two-year bill. As such, it will be held in the Appropriations Committee until the second year of the legislative session, which begins in January 2010.

AB 12 would accomplish two objectives. First, it would increase the upper age until which a youth could receive the support of the foster care system from age 18 to age 21. According to research conducted by Professor Mark Courtney at the University of Washington, continuing assistance to foster youth past age 18 increases the likelihood of their success in certain domains, notably education. Professor Courtney’s five-year longitudinal study, known as the Midwest Study, found that youth who remained in foster care beyond 18 were 200% more likely to be working towards completion of a high school diploma, 300% more likely to be enrolled in college, 65% less likely to have been incarcerated and over 54% less likely to have been arrested.

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## HUD Issues \$1.5 Billion for Homelessness Prevention: Get Involved to Ensure Funds Assist Transition-Age Youth

Congress has designated \$1.5 billion for the creation of the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) for communities to provide financial assistance and services to either prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless or help those who are experiencing homelessness to be quickly re-housed and stabilized. HPRP is focused on housing for homeless and at-risk households. It will provide temporary financial assistance and housing relocation and stabilization services to individuals and families who are homeless or would be homeless but for this assistance.

According to Heather Dearing, Executive Director of the California Coalition for Youth, HPRP is an important opportunity for organizations serving homeless youth in California. “We know from the research, and from practice in the field, that transition-age youth have a multiple factors that place them at a higher risk for homelessness,” said Dearing. “Targeting HPRP funding to prevent transition-age youth from becoming homeless is an important strategy for youth-serving organizations in California.”

California has been awarded a total of \$188 million in HPRP funding. Of this total, \$144 million will be distributed by “entitled jurisdictions” and \$44 million will be distributed by the State of California’s Department of Housing and Community Development. An entitled jurisdiction is the principal city of a Metropolitan Statistical Area, another metropolitan city with a population of at least 50,000 or an urban county with a population of at least 200,000 (excluding the population of entitled cities). Jurisdictions that do not meet this definition may apply to receive funds from the State Department of Housing and Community Development or an entitled jurisdiction.



According to guidance issued by HUD in March, HPRP funding may be used for four activities. The first activity is financial assistance, which may include rental assistance, security deposits, utility deposits, utility payments, moving cost assistance and motel and hotel vouchers. The second allowable use for HPRP funding includes housing relocation and stabilization services, which includes case management, outreach and engagement, housing search and placement, legal services and credit repair. The final two categories include administration and evaluation.

The distribution of HPRP funding will occur over the summer. Entitled jurisdictions and states were required to submit their “substantial plan amendments” on May 18th, which included a general description of how they intend to use HPRP funds. HUD will review the plans by July 2nd and all agreements with sub-grantees must be signed by September 30th. Sub-grantees may include community-based organizations. HPRP funding must be spent within three years and is not renewable.

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## 2009 THP-Plus Institute to be Held July 28th in Los Angeles

The THP-Plus Statewide Implementation Project is pleased to announce the third annual THP-Plus Institute: Delivering Essential Services in a Challenging Time, which will be held on Tuesday, July 28th in Los Angeles.

In addition to dynamic plenary sessions, the Institute features a series of practice and policy workshops delivered by professional trainers and experienced practitioners. The Institute provides an important opportunity to update THP-Plus providers and county representatives on the California state budget and pending legislation. Workshop topics include Innovative Employment Services in THP-Plus Programs; Intimate Partner Violence in Supportive Housing Programs; and AB 12 in the context of THP-Plus. For additional information and a summary of workshops, please visit [www.thpplus.org](http://www.thpplus.org).



## Early Data Available: 39% of Participants Previously Homeless

The THP-Plus Statewide Implementation Project has spearheaded a statewide THP-Plus data collection effort, and the momentum continues to build. As of mid-May, more than 80 providers in 37 counties are collecting a standard set of data on more than 1,000 THP-Plus participants, representing 90 percent of the statewide THP-Plus caseload.

According to Michele Byrnes, Project Manager of the THP-Plus Statewide Implementation Project, “We are very pleased that the majority of counties and providers are participating in the statewide data collection effort. We now have a better understanding of who is being served by THP-Plus, and how the program is meeting the needs of former foster youth.”

A preliminary analysis was conducted on data collected through the THP-Plus Participant Tracking System and the California Connected by 25 Initiative’s ETO database. The John Burton Foundation will be releasing a statewide analysis of the THP-Plus participant data this summer.

### Highlights of Preliminary Findings

Based on data on more than 1,000 active participants collected through the statewide data collection effort, the preliminary findings include:

- 39% of participants had experienced homelessness between the time they left foster care and entered THP-Plus
- Nearly one out of five participants (19%) were homeless immediately prior to entering THP-Plus
- 65% of THP-Plus participants are female and 12% are custodial parents at program entrance
- 30% of participants came to THP-Plus directly from foster care
- The scattered site model is the most common THP-Plus housing type; two-thirds of participants live in scattered site apartments, compared to 29% who live in single site and 5% who participate in the host family model

### “AB 12” CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

According to Chantel Johnson, Legislative Coordinator for the California Youth Connection, these improved outcomes are essential. “Foster youth often emancipate from the system without the skills necessary to survive on their own,” said Johnson. “The devastating statistics we know too well of our foster youth no longer have to be true and AB 12 is their chance.”

The second objective of AB 12 is to implement a federal subsidized guardianship program for relative caregivers. California has been a national leader in this regard, establishing the Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program in 2000. Since then, over 15,000 children and youth have exited California’s foster care system to a higher level of stability and permanency in subsidized guardianships with relatives. To date, Kin-GAP has been financed by the state general fund and California counties. With AB 12, California would elect to participate in a newly established federal subsidized guardianship assistance program. By doing so California’s program would benefit from an ongoing federal share of cost, saving California \$39 million in FY 2010-11 and \$70 million in FY 2011-2012, according to the California Legislative Analyst’s office.

AB 12 passed out of the Assembly Human Services Com-

mittee on May 14th with a vote of 5 to 0. It was heard in the Assembly Appropriations Committee on May 20th and placed onto the suspense because it has a fiscal impact. On May 28th, AB 12 was made into a two-year bill. This means that it will remain in the Appropriations Committee until the second year of the two-year legislative session, which begins in January 2010, and change the proposed implementation date of the bill from October 1, 2010 to October 2011.

According to Amy Lemley, Policy Director at the John Burton Foundation, this development was expected. “The budget challenges faced by the legislature are tremendous, making it a difficult time for a new program, even one as important as AB 12, to move forward,” said Lemley. “The good news is that making AB 12 a two-year bill provides additional time to collect input, finalize the bill language and to build support.”

The group of bill sponsors is organizing several public education events about AB 12 for this autumn, including a policy briefing at the State Capitol and a web seminar, to provide detailed information about the bill’s provisions.

To learn more about AB 12 or to get involved in its passage, visit [www.cafosteringconnections.org](http://www.cafosteringconnections.org) or contact Amy Lemley at [amy@johnburtonfoundation.org](mailto:amy@johnburtonfoundation.org) or at 415-693-1322.