Family Unification Program (FUP) &
Foster Youth Initiative (FYI)
Vouchers
Improving Outcomes
Good Morning

In the chat box type

➤ Your name

➤ The agency you work for

➤ Something you are enjoying about spring.

For Example

• Activity
• something about plants or
• a strategy to cope with COVID 19.
Speakers

• Michele Smith
• Leah Lindstrom
  Rhea
• Debbie Wold
• Nicole Randall
• Lisa Hohenstein
Today’s Agenda

- FUP Overview
- St. Louis Park, Dakota County
- FYI Overview
- Bemidji HRA
Family Unification Program Overview

• **Program Applicant and Administration**
  – Public Housing Authorities (PHA) currently administering Housing Choice Vouchers

• **Program Partners**
  – PHA, in partnership with Public Child Welfare Agency (PCWA) and Continuum of Care (CoC)

• **Target Population**
  – **Families** for whom the lack of adequate housing is a primary factor in:
    • The imminent placement of the family’s child or children in out-of-home care, or
    • The delay in the discharge of the child or children to the family from out-of-home care.

  – **Youth** ages 18 through 24 years who:
    • Left foster care at age 16 or older, or will leave foster care within 90 days, and is homeless or is at risk of becoming homeless
    • Same population for FYI
Inadequate housing is a precipitating factor in at least 10% of foster care cases.

Unstable housing conditions increase children’s exposure to violence, neglect and social isolate.

Casey Family Programs
Families Experiencing Homelessness in Minnesota

**HUD**

January 2019 Point In Time Count 7,977 people

- Family households 1,028
- Unaccompanied young adults (18-24) 685

**Public School 2017-2018**

Homeless students in MN 16,698

- Doubled-up 11,265
- Shelters 3,750

https://www.usich.gov/homelessness-statistics/mn/
Family Unification Program Overview

• FUP for families authorized by Congress
  1990

• FUP for youth authorized by Congress
  2000

• Housing Opportunities Modernization Act (HOTMA)

• Authorized extension of FUP youth vouchers to 36 months

• Expanded eligibility for youth at risk of homelessness within 90 days of foster care exit

• Authorized project based voucher option
  2016
# 2019 FUP NOFA

## Program Goals
- Increase coordination between PHA, PCWA, and CoC
- Leverage data to strategically allocate and use resources
- Increase supportive services for families and youth
- Strengthen connections to the HUD Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) or similar programs

## FUP Utilization
- 90% or higher FUP utilization, or
- 12 month action plan

## Required Signed Attachments
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
- Statement of Need
- Rating Factors Certification
FUP NOFA - Statement of Need

PHA with PCWA and CoC data + Unmet Need for FUP vouchers = Number of FUP eligible Families

Number of FUP eligible Youth = Request for vouchers needed over 12 months
FUP NOFA - MOU

PHA, PCWA, and CoC

Newly executed MOU required

Clear/detailed descriptions of roles, responsibilities, services, and commitments

Designated staff from each partner

MOU collaborative partner meetings
To qualify for 2019 FUP NOFA rating factor points, a Rating Factor Certification signed by PHA must be submitted.

- Housing Search Assistance in Low Poverty Areas
  - neighborhood tours, unit viewings, landlord intros
- Financial Assistance
  - moving costs, security deposits, utility startup/arrears
- Previous Coordination – PHA, PCWA, CoC
- Post-Move Counseling
- Case Management for FUP Families
- FSS or other Self-Sufficiency Programs
- Supportive Services for FUP Youth to 36 Months
Building Blocks of Successful Implementation

FUP and Supportive Housing

Housing

Supportive Services
Spotlight on FUP in MN
Working with Partners

• PHA, PCWA and CoC collaboration
  – Engage leadership to assess joint priorities, interest and collective capacity
  – Operationalize with key staff and liaisons from across partner agencies

• Educate partners
  – Avoid sector specific jargon and acronyms
  – Provide foundational information about goals, mandates, and programs
  – Assume positive intent, as all face resource and capacity limitations
  – Honor the sector specific expertise that each partner brings to the table

• Explore data sharing capacity
  – To develop statement of need
  – For longer term coordination, monitoring and evaluation

• Jointly develop identification, referral and prioritization strategy

• Broaden and formalize public agency and community provider partnerships
  – Create additional MOUs with Community Partners or include in FUP MOU
  – Engage and build a cross-sector network for the long term
Federal Agency Resources

HUD:
• FUP webpage - NOFA, Webinar video/slides, and FAQ
  https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/hcv/family

HHS – Administration for Children & Families (ACF), Children’s Bureau:
• Building Partnerships to Support Stable Housing for Child Welfare-Involved Families and Youth
  https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/bulletins_housing.pdf
• Information Memo - Family and Youth Homelessness

United States Interagency Council on Homelessness:
• Ending Youth Homelessness
  https://www.usich.gov/goals/youth/
• Ending Family Homelessness
  https://www.usich.gov/goals/families/

Add FUP webpage to bookmarks!
Resources

www.csh.org

www.1rooffamilies.org
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