FYI EMERGED FROM THE FSHO COALITION

- **The Fostering Stable Housing Opportunities (FSHO) Coalition, led by ACTION Ohio, includes more than 55,000 foster care alumni and allies. The Coalition works in partnership with the National Center for Housing & Child Welfare, foster youth champions on the Hill such as Reps. Turner and Bass, and Dr. Ben Carson and his team at HUD to combine existing federal programs to eliminate the gaps through which foster youth fall into homelessness. We've been meeting regularly since 2013 to identify and eliminate synchronization flaws between systems.**

FYI emerged from HUD leadership and staff interacting directly with youth and taking their policy proposal for FSHO seriously. FYI is a giant step forward towards ending youth homelessness, written by youth.

SECRETARY CARSON EXPANDED FYI THIS WEEK

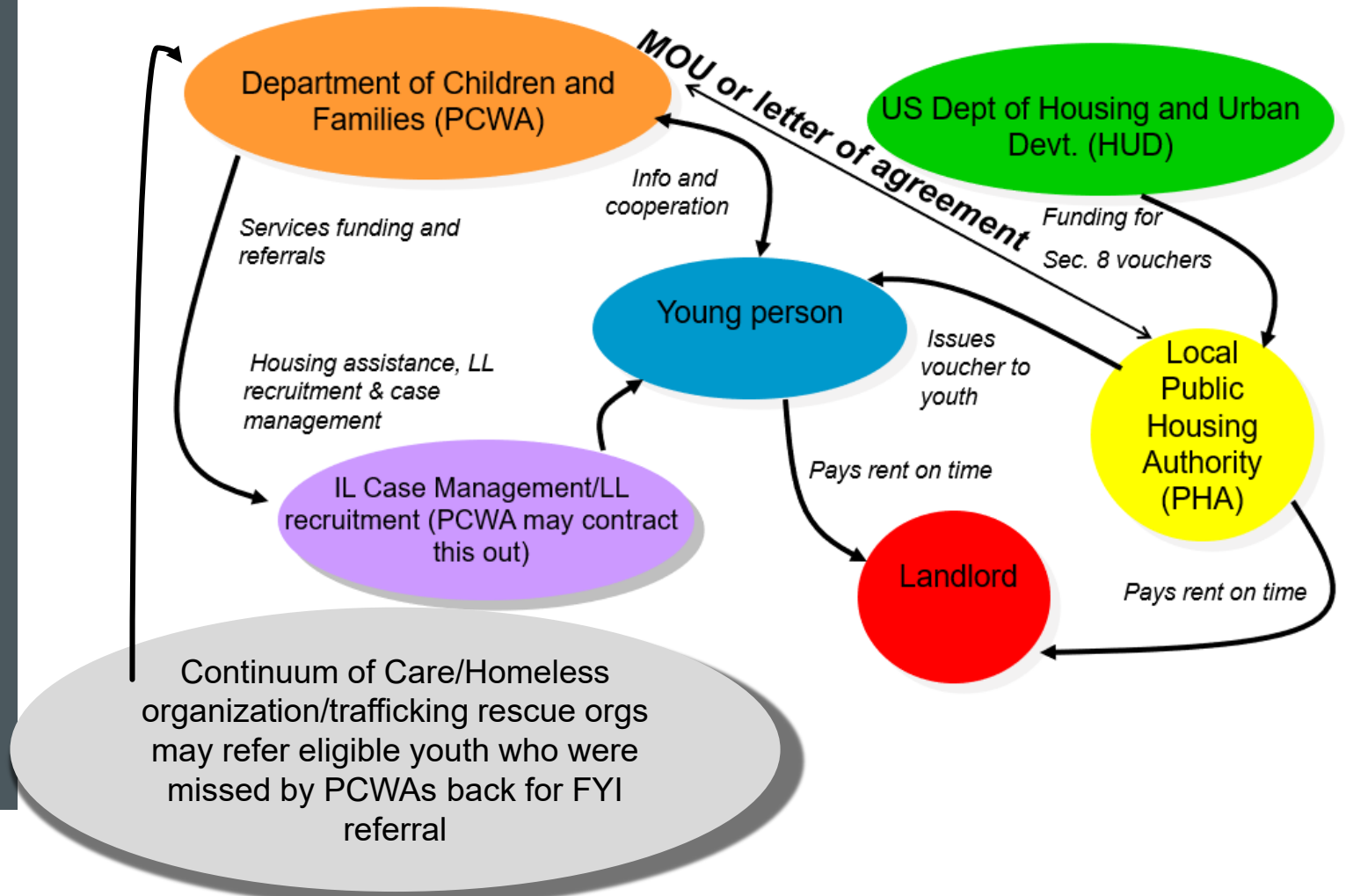
- Per HUD Notice PIH 2020-28 issued on October 6, 2020, HUD made some important changes to FYI:
  - Expanded FYI to all PHAs that administer Housing Choice Vouchers
  - Increased the limit on vouchers per PHA from 25 – 50
  - Provided some instruction/clarification that services can be offered by a variety of partners including private organizations and faith-based providers

FYI CAN BE AN IMPORTANT TOOL FOR COMBATTING HOMELESSNESS AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- Research Indicates that foster care is a feeder system but can be a protective factor as well – when done properly
- Many victims are never identified, therefore, once youth are identified we must do everything we can to help
- My fellow foster youth determined that services must be universal, predictable, and synchronized
- FYI does this exceedingly well
- FYI is not only a recipe for reduced trafficking, it is a blueprint for how other services should be provided
- Having access to services in an on-demand, FYI like manner will vastly improve the ability of Law Enforcement to respond – it will also, overtime, reduce exposure to trafficking.

CROSS-SYSTEM PARTNERSHIP AND REFERRAL PLAN

FYI Agency Partnership (based on FUP)



Recommended sequencing of housing funding sources for youth transition planning

Funding source for housing options for youth under the age of 21 should be drawn from state and federal child welfare funds. HUD funding must not supplant funds available for foster care placements.

Funding Source is Housing Choice Voucher

Chafee IL Program

age 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

Independent Living

Foster Care
Kinship Care
Group Home
Homelessness
RHYA TLP
Other RHYA
Dual JJ

In VPA states, Title IV-E can be used to extend foster care placements including rental assistance in private apartments, ongoing case management, and savings accounts. Per ACYF guidance, youth must work or go to school 80 hours per month to remain eligible.

HCV for youth drawn from FUP or TPV, Title IV-E self sufficiency efforts are maintained. Chafee IL services continue through age 23 to assure youth's momentum towards self-sufficiency. All youth interested in FSS are offered spots when available at the PHA. Young people in non-FSS jurisdictions are connected to local CAP agency.

Chafee Independent Living Assistance can be used to support case management, job training, transportation assistance, emergency cash assistance for youth until the age of 23 per the Family First Act. Chafee does not have a work requirement. ETVs were extended to 26 per FFPSA as well.

For a youth transitioning to HCV, this funding can also be used for first month's rent, security deposit, furniture, moving costs, and landlord recruitment.

- Private apt
- LIHTC
- Permanent Supportive Housing
- Roommate
- Other subsidy
- Adult Services

** the young person and the public system have at this point, are given nearly ten years to plan for the transition.

National Center for Housing & Child Welfare, 2019

FYI (by design) simply requires services that are funded via the Chafee Independent Living Program. Any community such as WIOA, a Community Action Agency, or a faith-based organization can offer these services

Chafee Services

A description of Chafee from the U.S. Children's Bureau

- The John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP) offers assistance to help current and former foster care youths achieve self-sufficiency. Grants are offered to States and Tribes who submit a plan to assist youth in a wide variety of areas designed to support a successful transition to adulthood. Activities and programs include, but are not limited to, help with education, employment, financial management, housing, emotional support and assured connections to caring adults for older youth in foster care. The program is intended to serve youth who are likely to remain in foster care until age 18, youth who, after attaining 16 years of age, have left foster care for kinship guardianship or adoption, and young adults ages 18-21 who have "aged out" of the foster care system.
- The Educational and Training Vouchers Program (ETV) for Youths Aging out of Foster Care was added to the CFCIP in 2002. ETV provides resources specifically to meet the education and training needs of youth aging out of foster care. In addition to the existing authorization of $140 million for the CFCIP program, the law authorizes $60 million for payments to States and Tribes for post secondary educational and training vouchers for youth likely to experience difficulty as they transition to adulthood after the age of 18. This program makes available vouchers of up to $5,000 per year per youth for post secondary education and training for eligible youth.

FYI Services

From HUD's FYI (and original FUP) Notice

- Basic life skills information/counseling on money management, use of credit, housekeeping, proper nutrition/meal preparation; and access to health care (e.g., doctors, medication, and mental and behavioral health services).
- Counseling on compliance with rental lease requirements and with HCV program participant requirements, including assistance/referrals for assistance on security deposits, utility hook-up fees, and utility deposits.
- Providing such assurances to owners of rental property as are reasonable and necessary to assist a FUP-eligible youth to rent a unit with a voucher.
- Job preparation and attainment counseling (where to look/how to apply, dress, grooming, and relationships with supervisory personnel, etc.).
- Educational and career advancement counseling regarding attainment of general equivalency diploma (GED); attendance/financing of education at a technical school, trade school or college; including successful work ethic and attitude models.

Which young people are eligible? (FYI does not change FUP eligibility)

- Has attained at least 18 years and not more than 24 years of age (note: HUD interprets age differently than HHS, thus a person is 24 UNTIL their 25th
- Left foster care, or will leave foster care within 90 days, in accordance with a transition plan described in section 475(5)(H) of the Social Security Act at age; and
- Is homeless or is at risk of becoming homeless at age 16 or older

Note: pregnant and/or parenting youth are eligible to receive assistance under this notice assuming they otherwise meet eligibility requirements. Also youth who have been adopted but struggle with homelessness are eligible.

REFERENCES AND REPORTS

- CRS Report on Youth Aging Out (Fernandes-Alcantara, 2012): https://www.everycrsreport.com/files/20121001_RL34499_532a92a5697f6ffb573c4005dc2a6927b1019036.pdf
- ACTION Ohio youth site: www.fosteractionohio.org
- HUD's FYI Notice: https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/PIH/documents/PIH-2019-20.pdf
- HUD's FUP-FSS Notice: https://www.hud.gov/sites/documents/PIH2016-01.PDF
- HUD PD&R FUP Report (Dworsky et al, 2016) https://www.huduser.gov/portal/publications/Supportive_housing_for_youth.pdf
- NCHCW testimony on The Fostering Stable Housing Opportunities Act: https://docs.house.gov/meetings/BA/BA04/20180417/108193/HHRG-115-BA04-Wstate-WhiteR-20180417.pdf
- ACF Overview of the Chafee Act: https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/resource/chafee-foster-care-program
- Roman, N. & Wolfe, P. (1995). *Web of Failure.* National Alliance to End Homelessness: Washington, DC.