



Senator Holly J. Mitchell

SB 612 - Transitional Housing Placement Plus Foster Care (THP+FC)

ISSUE

Transitional Housing Placement Plus Foster Care (THP+FC) is subject to Community Care Licensing (CCL) Regulations, Title 22. In 2012, the Department of Social Services (DSS) created temporary regulations called "Transitional Housing Placement Program for Nonminor Dependents Interim Licensing Standards" that have never been officially adopted as permanent regulations. In order to have the program operational in time, DSS CCL created the Interim Licensing Standards by building upon the Transitional Housing Placement Program (THPP) regulations for minors 16-17 years of age. Adapting a housing and services program that serves minors to also serve legal adults created restrictions that continue to confuse non-minor dependents, THP+FC providers, CCL program analysts and DSS policy staff.

DSS acknowledges that minor and non-minor dependents (NMDs) have different needs. In fact, Health and Safety Code 1559.110 requires that the Department "shall adopt regulations that are age-appropriate and recognize that non-minor dependents should be subject to fewer restrictions than those who are (minor) foster children" and the two populations should have "separate rules to allow for NMDs to have the greatest amount of freedom possible in order to prepare them for their transition to adulthood."

THIS BILL

SB 612 codifies the spirit of the law as intended in AB 12 (2010, Beall/Bass); ensuring the State's ability to adequately parent these transitional youth. From co-signing apartment rental agreements to simply figuring out the local public transportation system, SB 612 will support foster youth as they transition into adulthood by helping them keep and maintain a support network of their peers and family, providing them more of the

essential resources they need, and facilitating steps towards self-reliance and independence.

Specifically, this bill will codify elements of the THP+FC program to clarify and update regulations to reflect best practices obtained over the past five years of the THP+FC program:

- Clarifies educational requirements of the case managers of THP+FC.
- Clarifies that a non-minor dependent may co-sign a lease with the provider nonprofit agency allowing the youth to establish a positive rental history.
- Clarifies that participants may share a bedroom with an approved roommate who has a Department of Justice and CCL background clearance. This may be appropriate in the case of a co-parenting couple when only one parent is a program participant.
- Clarifies that a home can be approved as both a Resource Family Home and certified as a THP+FC host family if both the approval and the certification are from the same private, nonprofit organization. An example of this would be a Resource Family who cares for a sibling set, one of whom is a non-minor dependent who wishes to remain in THP+FC and wants to continue to live with siblings.
- Updates the staff ratio of 1 to 12 to include an option of a shared caseload ratio with a lead case manager for nonminor dependents. This allows for a team based approach such as having Education and Employment Specialists.
- Renames the programs in statute to Transitional Housing Placement program for nonminor dependents and Transitional Housing Placement program for minors to distinguish clearly between the two populations.

BACKGROUND

THP+FC is a licensed placement for NMDs ages 18-21. AB 12 (Beall/Bass) gives foster youth beyond age 18 the option to remain in care until age 21. Included as one of the new placement options was the THP+FC program that provides housing and comprehensive supportive services to NMDs. Instead of leaving foster care at age 18 with all of their belongings in a bag, foster youth can now count on support to age 21 to experience independence with a safety net.

According to the THP+FC Annual Report by the John Burton Foundation, THP+FC served 3,048 youth in 2015-16. One of the crucial goals of THP+FC is to alleviate the chronic homelessness among former foster youth. In the 15-16 fiscal year, 6% of youth entered the program directly from homelessness or unstable housing. Additionally, 23% of the youth had experienced homelessness at some point prior to entry. The THP+FC program has successfully been ensuring that foster youth age 18-21 are not living on the streets but have housing and services such as budgeting, career development, positive parenting, academic and mental health supports.

SUPPORT

California Alliance of Child and Family Services, (Sponsor)
Aspiranet
Bill Wilson Center
California Coalition for Youth
Children's Advocacy Institute
David & Margaret Youth and Family Services
Family Care Network, Inc.
First Place for Youth
French Finch Youth Center
John Burton Advocates for Youth
Mile High Group Homes
Parents by Choice
Uplift Family Services
The Village Family Services
The Alliance for Boys and Men of Color
TLC Child and Family Services
Walden Family Services

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Jorge Barajas, Legislative Aide
Office of Senator Holly J. Mitchell
(916) 651-4030
Jorge.Barajas@sen.ca.gov