



# **THP-Plus Foster Care ACL 11-53: County Plans and Letters of Intent**

**August 31, 2011  
Presented by the  
John Burton Foundation**

# Webinar Technical Details



- Call-in phone number for live audio: (805) 309-0022
- Access code: 119-992-926
- To submit live questions, click on the “Questions” arrow on your screen, type your question, and click “Send.”
- A recording of the presentation and slides will be posted at [www.thpplus.org](http://www.thpplus.org)

# Participants



- Amy Lemley, John Burton Foundation (moderator)
- Lynette Stueve, CDSS
- Theresa Thurmond, CDSS
- Debbie Raucher, John Burton Foundation
- Angie Schwartz, Alliance for Children's Rights

# Introduction



- New placement type – THP-Plus Foster Care
- Existing THP-Plus program will continue to exist
- First ACL (ACL 11-53) addressing this new placement type has been issued
- Focus of today's webinar

# Thank you!



- 4 stakeholder meetings
  - 2 in Northern CA
  - 2 in Southern CA
- On-line surveys
- Regional meetings
- Conference calls
- Focus Area Team meeting

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# Lynette Stueve & Theresa Thurmond

Department of  
**SOCIAL SERVICES**

**CDSS**  


# Purpose of this Presentation

- ▶ To provide information about the LOI/County Plan
- ▶ Discuss the reasons why the Department is asking for the information
- ▶ What is new and what has changed
- ▶ Provide the regulations that cover what is requested in the County Plan.
- ▶ Describe the effects of AB 12, Statutes of 2010, on the LOI/County Plan process

# Regulation Requirements of ACL 11-53

- ▶ THPP/THP-Plus optional - county plan required for participation
- ▶ THP-Plus FC Program required of all counties.
- ▶ AB 12 requires counties to provide a plan for THP-Plus FC.
- ▶ County Plan/LOI due to CDSS by October 1, 2011
- ▶ Covers period of January 1, 2012 – June 30, 2012

# AB 12 Changes to the LOI/ County Plan Process

- ▶ Inclusion of non-minor dependents (NMD)
- ▶ Variety of placement options for NMDs including THP-Plus FC.
- ▶ THP-Plus and THP-Plus-FC rates in process.
- ▶ Same THPP rate methodology.

# Letter of Intent

1. Combined Form to include THPP/THP-Plus/THP-Plus-FC
2. LOI used by CDSS to gather fiscal and program information from counties.
3. General information regarding all programs include:
  - Program and fiscal contacts
  - Estimated number of eligible youth per program
  - Implementation date
  - Estimated need

Attachment A LETTER OF INTENT  
 (County Name) County is expressing the intent to implement Transitional Housing Programs including: Transitional Housing Placement Program (THPP), Transitional Housing Program (THP)-Plus, and/or THP-Plus Foster Care (THP-Plus-FC) in Fiscal Year (FY) XXXX-XXXX. Provided below is a summary of the anticipated number of placements, and other pertinent information for all programs. The numbers provided are based on the most current information available, and any changes will be reported to The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) within 60 days.

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Maximum County rate paid to providers which is 75 percent of average group home expenditures			THPP # of placements to be provided	THP-Plus Total: (30 percent of Allocated Placements)	THP-Plus-FC # of placements to be provided Total: (70 percent of Allocated Placements)
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Sincerely,

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
 Director  
 (Name of Social Services Agency)

June 27, 2011

# LETTER OF INTENT (con'd)

4. THPP LOI information same as past years
5. Provide THPP maximum rate up to 75% of county's average group home expenditures. A lower rate can also be negotiated.
6. THP-Plus and THP-Plus-FC linked by an appropriation by the Legislature.
7. AB12 requires 30% of the total combined allocation be used for THP-Plus
8. Estimate the number of beds requested for THP-Plus and THP-Plus FC based on the 70/30 split in placements outlined in AB 12 (more info. in County Plan process).

# General County Plan Requirements

- ▶ All three programs addressed in one County Plan.
- ▶ New County Plan required this year.
- ▶ All programs: program monitoring and participant appeal processes
- ▶ Program admission requirements for both THPP/THP-Plus and placement selection process for THP-Plus-FC
- ▶ Health and Safety Code 1559.110 – 1559.115 outlines the providers certification standards for THPP/THP-Plus and Title 22, Division 6, Chapter 7 for THPP licensure.

# General County Plan Requirements (Cont'd)

- ▶ Counties can utilize providers located in other counties.
- ▶ Counties have the discretion to develop MOUs, interagency agreements, or contracts. No contracting requirement.
- ▶ Counties can still opt in or out of THPP/THP-Plus.

# General County Plan Requirements (Cont'd)

- ▶ Options for counties who cannot participate in THP-Plus
- ▶ Opting out: County plan kept on file.
- ▶ All counties must participate in THP-Plus FC and have a County Plan.
- ▶ Minimum approval standards for THP-Plus-FC are listed in Health and Safety Code Section 1502.7 and W&I Code Section 11403.2 (c). New Approval and Certification Standards are being developed.

# General County Plan Requirements (Cont'd)

- ▶ Outline how county will provide 70% THP-Plus FC and 30% THP-Plus
- ▶ Method to move funds between the two programs as placement needs arise.
- ▶ Reaching the 70/30 split
- ▶ Goal: No vacancies

# Continuum of Care, NMD's

- ▶ Continuum of care for NMDs.
- ▶ Variety of placement options with goal of permanency.
- ▶ Provide placements to NMD, as appropriate, with step-down supervision.
- ▶ Goal: NMD will be able to live independently or with a permanent connection.

# Monitoring

- ▶ Counties required to monitor grievances. Provide the names or units responsible for monitoring in county plan.
- ▶ THPP youth may not be subject to the California Landlord/Tenant Laws and the Transitional Housing Misconduct Act if AB 212 is passed.
- ▶ Role of State Foster Care Ombudsman's Office.
- ▶ Role of ILP Policy Unit.

# Monitoring (Cont'd)

- ▶ Counties contacted regarding complaints
- ▶ Response process
- ▶ Notification process
- ▶ For THP-Plus-FC, the monitoring process will be the same as other Foster Care placements.

# Reporting Requirements

- ▶ Counties required to provide information as requested by the CDSS. Includes data and narrative information.
- ▶ ILP Annual Narrative Report is one example
- ▶ When THP-Plus-FC is implemented, additional information will be requested for that program.
- ▶ Data may also be required to inform the Legislature, the Department of Finance or the Governor's Office.

# Appeals Processes

- ▶ Must outline grievance process in county plan.
- ▶ Participants must be given an appeals process prior to the loss of benefits or services.
- ▶ Appeal process for THP-Plus FC will be the same as the process for any other foster care placement.

# For More Information

- ▶ Contact the ILP Policy Unit for questions related to the ACL at: [ILPPolicy@dss.ca.gov](mailto:ILPPolicy@dss.ca.gov).

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# Debbie Raucher



John Burton Foundation  
for Children Without Homes



# Best Practices for Completing LOI



- Identify key questions that will impact planning process
- Engage many stakeholders including internal county staff (fiscal, program and placement, ILSP), THP-Plus providers, child attorneys, youth, etc.
- Build “buy-in” across stakeholders
- Utilize a robust data analysis process to determine estimates of eligibility and need for THP-Plus and THP-Plus Foster Care

# Determining Eligibility Numbers: THP-Plus

- Determine total 18-24 who have “aged out” of foster care in your county or will age out before Jan 1, 2012 using the UC Berkeley CSSR database
- Apply the most credible estimate of the number of youth who will likely experience homelessness. Estimate can be developed based on information collected by your county or available research.
- JBF uses the figure of 19%, based on a study conducted by the Urban Institute in Los Angeles

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Sincerely,

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
 Director  
 (Name of Social Services Agency)

June 27, 2011

# Determining Eligibility: THP-Plus FC

- Eligibility number should include all those who will be eligible for AB12
- Determine the number of youth who will turn 18 between Jan 1, 2012 and June 30, 2012
- Also include those subject to the “completion” rule who will be in care as of Jan 1, 2012.

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# Determining Estimated Need: THP-Plus

## Approach #1

- Begin with eligibility numbers
- Subtract the number who are currently in THP-Plus or who have completed the program
- Estimate the percentage who are likely to access program

## Approach #2

- Estimate need based on current experience with existing THP-Plus waiting list

*Reminder – need is “wish list” and not based on current allocation*

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# Determining Estimated Need: THP-Plus FC

- Begin with eligibility numbers and determine how many may need a THP-FC placement
- Considerations:
  - Current placements types (Relative/NREFM, FFH, FFA, GH, THPP and Guardian).
  - Special needs (eligibility for SSI, regional center clients, parenting youth, etc.)
  - Participant preference

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# Challenges in Estimating Need



- Unknown if turnover rates in THP-Plus FC program will mirror those in THP-Plus or be different
- Unknown how many youth will prefer THP Plus-FC since other placement options will be available under foster care
- Make sure to create a contingency plan that reevaluates actual need compared to projections at least quarterly so that beds can be reallocated between programs as needed to meet actual demand

# Determining Timeline to Reach 70/30 Split



- Determine current tenure of those in THP-Plus placements and estimated date of exit.
- Honor commitments to youth currently in THP-Plus. Youth should not be asked to exit the program early.
- Determine appropriate balance between making slots that become available to THP-Plus FC youth and continuing to make housing available to those on THP-Plus waiting list.
- Take into consideration estimated turnover and model demand
- Be realistic regarding timeline – it is likely to take 2-3 years or more to reach 70/30 split



# Questions to Consider

- Should there be a waiting list for THP Plus-FC?
- Who puts youth on a waiting list? How does the list get managed, how are decisions made about selection from the list?
- What priority should a youth NOT in foster care, but age 18-20, receive for THP Plus?
- What mix of models to use, considering there are other foster care placement options? Will demand for Host Home decrease due to the availability of FFAs and FFHs through AB12?
- How will local county programs/THP Plus-FC providers now work together in support of the Child Welfare System goal: ***permanency*** for youth?



# General Considerations

- Changes to THPP with AB212
- Estimates of eligibility and need should be realistic.
- Do not underestimate based on limitations in previous year's allocations.
- JBF staff are available to provide technical assistance to counties regarding completing LOI

# Fair Housing/THMA



- County plan must describe compliance with landlord/tenant law and/or the Transitional Housing Misconduct Act
- May change with AB212 for THPP but still relevant for THP-Plus Foster Care and THP-Plus
- Eviction protocols may vary by jurisdiction
- Tenant/Landlord law Resources
  - <http://www.dca.ca.gov/publications/landlordbook/evictions.shtml>
  - <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/other/landtenqa-land.htm>
- THMA allows for an expedited process in cases of misconduct or abuse for participants who have been in program for less than 6 months
  - [www.lsnrc.net/housing/transitional/transitional.pdf](http://www.lsnrc.net/housing/transitional/transitional.pdf)

# Considerations Regarding 70/30 Split



- AB12 mandates that 30% of combined allocation be set aside for THP Plus and this language is being strengthened in AB212
- In movement to 70/30 split, goal is to leave no beds unfilled. Counties are not required to cease admissions to THP-Plus during this transition.
- Counties should be realistic regarding the timeline to achieve the 70/30 split taking into consideration local need.

# Resources



## [www.thpplus.org](http://www.thpplus.org)

- Presentation with audio
- All County Letter
- Word version of the LOI & county plan
- Estimated youth demand by county (available by end of week)
- Information about upcoming training opportunities
  - Survey about technical assistance preferences

## Technical assistance & training

- Contact Debbie or Amy for individual assistance OR
- Participate in “virtual workshops” on 9/7 & 9/13



## Questions or comments?

Enter questions on your screen now by clicking the “Questions”, typing your question, and clicking “Send.”

The presentation and audio recording will be posted at [www.thpplus.org](http://www.thpplus.org)

Or direct later questions or comments to:

Debbie Raucher, John Burton Foundation  
(510) 593-8382  
[debbie@johnburtonfoundation.org](mailto:debbie@johnburtonfoundation.org)