



Mendocino County
Department of Social Services
Healthy People, Healthy Communities
Bekkie F. Emery, Director
Memorandum



Division: Family & Children's Services

Contract Info: Acceptance of Allocations for Transitional Housing Program (THP) Round Five and Housing Navigation and Maintenance Program (HNMP) Round Two.

Amount: \$174,791 (THP: \$123,210; HNMP: \$51,581)

Meeting Date: January 23, 2024

History: Since 2020, the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors has approved acceptance of the prior rounds of THP and HNMP allocations, which are to be used for young adults ages 18 to 24 years of age, inclusive, with priority given to young adults who were previously in the child welfare or juvenile probation systems. THP funds must be used to identify and assist with housing services, secure and maintain housing, improve coordination of services and linkages to community resources within the child welfare system and the Homeless Continuum of Care, and provide engagement in outreach and targeting to serve those with the most severe need. HNMP funds must be used for housing navigator(s) who act as a housing specialist to assist young adults with securing and maintaining housing, provide housing case management which includes essential services in emergency supports to foster youth, prevent young adults from becoming homeless, and improve coordination of services and linkages to key resources across the community including those from within the child welfare system and the local Continuum of Care.

Funding: The California Budget Act of 2023 provided state general funds from the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to County Child Welfare Services departments to continue to support the expansion of the Transitional Housing Program (THP) and continue the Housing Navigation and Maintenance Program (HNMP). In 2011, THP allocations from the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) for counties to serve former foster youth were realigned to counties and this funding from HCD is to supplement and expand the THP program and may also be used to serve young adults who were not previously in the child welfare or juvenile probation systems. Prior to the Housing Navigation funding, there were no other funds allocated to Child Welfare Services for housing navigation services for young adults. Funding for both the THP and HNMP programs is available for approximately two years from the effective date of the fully executed Standard Agreement, which is sent to the County following the Board of Supervisors' approval of submission of the allocation acceptance applications.

Numbers served in THP and HNMP:

Transitional Housing Program: In FY 2022-2023, five young adults were served, and the program had an average of two young adults in the program each month. As of November 2023, six young adults have been served in FY 2023-2024 and the program has had an average of four young adults in the program per month. Redwood Community Services is the contractor providing the THP services.

Housing Navigation and Maintenance Program: This program had a slow start and was initially unused through a contract with Redwood Community Services. Since January 2023, the program has been in-house in the Social Services' Front Door for Families program. In 2023, Front Door for Families staff assisted 21 young adults between ages 18 to 24, although using a funding source with an earlier expiration. Front Door for Families will begin using the HNMP allocations as of January 1, 2024.