



CDSS

WILL LIGHTBOURNE
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • www.cdss.ca.gov



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

- State Law Change
- Federal Law or Regulation Change
- Court Order
- Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- Initiated by CDSS

May 27, 2015

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-40-15

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
 ALL COUNTY WELFARE FISCAL OFFICERS
 ALL CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS
 ALL INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM MANAGERS
 ALL INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM COORDINATORS
 ALL COUNTY TRANSITIONAL HOUSING COORDINATORS

SUBJECT: TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM-PLUS OPTION TO
 EXTEND ELIGIBILITY TO AGE 25 AND FOR UP TO 36 MONTHS

REFERENCE: SENATE BILL (SB) 1252 (CHAPTER 774, STATUTES OF 2014),
 SB 1020 (CHAPTER 40, STATUTES OF 2012); WELFARE AND
 INSTITUTIONS CODE (WIC) SECTION 11403.2; GOVERNMENT
 CODE SECTION 30026.5(f); ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) 11-61,
 ATTACHMENT A

The purpose of this All County Information Notice letter is to inform counties of the recent changes to the age and time limits for the Transitional Housing Program-Plus (THP-Plus) program. This letter also provides information on certain requirements for counties reducing the level of THP-Plus services provided, as described in Government Code section 30026.5(f).

Background

Currently, the THP-Plus program provides transitional housing and supportive services for eligible youth who exited foster care at age 18 or older. The THP-Plus program provides a safe living environment while helping youth to develop life skills for successful independent living. These services are available until the youth's 24th birthday and for up to 24 cumulative months.

The SB 1252 (Chapter 774, Statutes of 2014) amends WIC section 11403.2 to allow each county, at its option, to extend THP-Plus services to former foster youth up to, but not including, age 25 and for up to 36 cumulative months. If a county elects to

implement this provision, it is applicable to all youth in the program. It cannot be applied on a case-by-case basis. For counties that do not choose to extend services, THP-Plus is still available to former foster youth up to, but not including, age 24 and for up to 24 cumulative months.

In order for an individual to receive THP-Plus services beyond 24 months or past his/her 24th birthday in a county of residence that has chosen to extend THP-Plus services, he/she must either be completing secondary education, or an equivalent program, or be enrolled in an institution that provides postsecondary education, in addition to meeting the eligibility and participation requirements for THP-Plus (i.e., exited foster care on or after 18th birthday and has entered into and is actively pursuing goals of a Transitional Independent Living Plan). For example, a 21-year-old who has already received THP-Plus services for 24 months may receive services for an additional 12 months if enrolled in college. Note that postsecondary education includes vocational education; however, the vocational institution must be accredited. For more information on secondary and postsecondary education, please see Attachment (A) of ACL 11-61 (<http://www.cdss.ca.gov/lettersnotices/entres/getinfo/acl/2011/11-61.pdf>).

Counties that intend to extend THP-Plus services should notify the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) by emailing the Independent Living Program (ILP) Policy Unit at ILPPolicy@dss.ca.gov. A county that has elected to extend its THP-Plus program but later elects to opt-out of this provision should email the ILP Policy Unit as well. Additionally, counties that extend THP-Plus services should notify providers in their county, as the contracts with these providers may have to be amended. Finally, providers should notify child welfare and probation departments of their intent and share such information with community partners and affected youth.

Counties that intend to reduce the level of THP-Plus services provided must be aware of certain requirements. If a county intends to eliminate or reduce the level of its THP-Plus program by ten percent in any one year or by a cumulative 25 percent over the previous three years, the decision must be affirmed in open session by a vote of its local Board of Supervisors pursuant to Government Code section 30026.5(f), as adopted in SB 1020 (Chapter 40, Statutes of 2012). See Government Code section 30026.5(f) below.

Government Code Section 30026.5(f)

Any decision of a county or a city and county to eliminate or significantly reduce the levels or types of optional or discretionary behavioral health services, adult protective services, or child welfare services pursuant to Sections 11403.1 and 11403.2 of, Chapter 2.3 (commencing with Section 16135) of Part 4 of Division 9 of, Sections 16508.2 and 16508.3 of, Article 4 (commencing with Section 16522) of Chapter 5 of Part 4 of Division 9 of, Article 2 (commencing with Section 16525.10) of Chapter 5.3 of

Part 4 of Division 9 of, and Section 16605 of, the Welfare and Institutions Code and Section 10609.3 of the Welfare and Institutions Code that the county or city and county is or has previously funded, in whole or in part, from allocations received from the Support Services Account of the Local Revenue Fund 2011 may, as a condition of the county or city and county receiving funding, only be made in open session, as an action item, at a duly noticed meeting of the board of supervisors. For the purpose of this subdivision, "significant reduction" shall include a 10-percent reduction in funding in any one year or a cumulative 25-percent reduction over the previous three years.

For additional information, please contact the ILP Policy Unit at ILPPolicy@dss.ca.gov or (916) 657-1858.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

KAREN B. GUNDERSON, Chief
Child and Youth Permanency Branch
Children and Family Services Division