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CHAPTER 30-800 SERVICE PROGRAM NO. 8: PROTECTIVE SERVICES FOR ADULTS

Repealed by CDSS Manual Letter No. SS-01-01, effective October 19, 2001
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CHAPTER 30-900 SERVICE PROGRAM NO. 9: TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PLACEMENT PROGRAM

30-900 GENERAL

.1 Services provided under this program shall be directed to the achievement of goals I, II, III, and IV designated in MPP Section 30-001.21.


30-901 SPECIAL DEFINITIONS

(a) (1) “Agency” means the licensee or the county-certified Transitional Housing Placement Program (THPP) provider.

(2) “Agency Amount” means that portion of the THPP rate the agency may retain for the proper and efficient administration of the Transitional Housing Placement Program.

(b) (1) “Budget” means the itemized list of expenses that describes the use of the rate amount for THPP participants and/or THP-Plus tenants.

(c) (1) “County Certificate of Approval” means the document issued by the county that indicates approval and authorization of an agency’s THPP plan.

(d) (1) “Department-Approved County THPP Plan” means a county THPP plan that is submitted by the county to, and approved by, the Department.

(e) Reserved

(f) (1) “Facility” means all components of the THPP facility including administrative functions and the operation of the THPP unit.

(g) Reserved

(h) Reserved

(i) Reserved

(j) Reserved
(k) Reserved

(l) (1) “Licensee” means the entity licensed by Community Care Licensing that has the authority and responsibility for the operation of the THPP facility for dependent foster/probation children pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 11403.2(a)(1).

(m) Reserved

(n) Reserved

(o) Reserved

(p) Reserved

(q) Reserved

(r) (1) “Rental Amount” means the monthly cost of procuring a THPP unit.

(s) (1) “Social Work Administrative Costs” means those non-federally allowable expenses attributable to the duties of social workers employed by licensees to provide services to THPP participants.

(2) “Supportive Transition Emancipation Program (STEP)/Transitional Housing Program-Plus (THP-Plus) Transitional Independent Living Plan (TILP)” means the form STEP 8 (Rev. 7/02) designed by the Department upon which the tenant describes his/her current level of functioning, emancipation goals, and skills needed to facilitate a successful transition to adulthood.

(t) (1) “Tenant” means a young adult who is a former foster/probation youth and who is participating in a THP-Plus pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 11403.2(a)(2).

(2) “Transitional Housing Placement Program (THPP)” means a community care facility licensed by the Department and includes all components of the program that provides supervised housing and supportive services for eligible dependent foster/probation youth as specified in Welfare and Institutions Code Section 11403.2(a)(1).

(3) “Transitional Housing Placement Program (THPP) Participant” means a dependent foster/probation youth placed in a THPP unit as specified in Welfare and Institutions Code Section 11403.2(a)(1); and may also be referred to in these regulations as “participant.”
(4) “Transitional Housing Placement Program (THPP) Unit” means the residence where the participant or tenant resides; and may also be referred to in these regulations as “unit.”

(5) “Transitional Housing Program-Plus (THP-Plus)” means a transitional housing placement program not licensed by the Department, but, certified by counties to provide housing and supportive services, as needed, to THP-Plus tenants pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 11403.2(a)(2).

(6) “THP-Plus Agency” means a county-certified agency that provides transitional housing for young adults who are emancipated foster/probation youth to age 21 pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 11403.2(a)(2).

(u) Reserved

(v) Reserved

(w) Reserved

(x) Reserved

(y) (1) “Youth Allowance” means that portion of the rate paid by the provider to each foster/probation youth participating in the THPP pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 11403.2(a)(1).

(z) Reserved

30-902 TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PLACEMENT PROGRAM (THPP) PURPOSE

.1 The purpose of the Transitional Housing Placement Program (THPP) is to provide independent living opportunities for eligible participants to practice life skills in a safe environment to ease the transition from dependence to self-sufficiency through supervised housing and supportive services.


30-903 PERSONS SERVED BY TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PLACEMENT PROGRAM (THPP)

.1 Participants of THPP are those eligible children 16 to 18 years of age (except as provided in Welfare and Institutions Code Section 11403) who are eligible for AFDC-Foster Care benefits and who meet the requirements of Welfare and Institutions Code Section 16522.2(a).


30-904 TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PLACEMENT PROGRAM (THPP) RATES

.1 Pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 11403.3(a)(1), a county whose THPP plan has been approved by the Department prior to June 30, 2001 is approved to receive the base rate approved as of that date. If a county did not have an approved THPP plan as of June 30, 2001, the base rate per participant will be $2,100 per month. A county may elect to pay an additional amount according to the following:

.11 The additional amount shall not cause the total rate to exceed 75 percent of the average AFDC-FC payment the county pays to group homes for foster youth 16 to 18 years of age.

.12 Funding of the additional amount shall be subject to the sharing ratios as specified in Welfare and Institutions Code Section 15200(c).

.13 The state portion of the additional amount shall be subject to the availability of the Transitional Housing for Foster Youth Fund.

.14 If the Transitional Housing for Foster Youth Fund is depleted, the county shall pay the state share of the additional amount.
.2 The county may pay the agency a rate less than the rate approved by the Department.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 10553 and 10554, Welfare and Institutions Code. Reference: Sections 11403.3(a)(1) and (b), Welfare and Institutions Code.

30-905 TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PLACEMENT PROGRAM (THPP) LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

.1 All THPP agencies that have the authority and responsibility for the operation of the THPP facility for dependent foster/probation children pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 1559.110(a) shall be licensed by the Department’s Community Care Licensing Division.


30-906 TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PLACEMENT PROGRAM (THPP) COUNTY PLANS

.1 Counties that intend to certify THPP agencies shall:

.11 Provide CDSS with the information required to set a rate pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 11410.

.12 Develop and submit a plan to CDSS which meets the requirements of Welfare and Institutions Code Sections 16522-16522.6 including, but not limited to, the following information:

(A) Projected caseload;

(B) Modes of service delivery the county intends to use;

(C) Estimated per-participant monthly budget which will not exceed the approved county rate;

(D) A plan for providing reports including statistical, budgetary, occupancy and Transitional Independent Living Plan (TILP) data to the Department;

(E) A plan for providing oversight, evaluation, and monitoring of the programs the county certifies pursuant to Section 30-910 (Reporting Requirements);
(F) Assurances that the program serves only eligible children 16 to 18 years of age (except as provided in Welfare and Institutions Code Section 11403) who are eligible for AFDC-Foster Care benefits and who meet the requirements of Welfare and Institutions Code Section 16522.2;

HANDBOOK BEGINS HERE

(1) Welfare and Institutions Code Section 16522.2 states:

“Persons may participate in the supervised transitional housing placement programs only with the permission of both the independent living program of the county in which the program is located and the county department of social services or the county probation department that has custody of that person.”

HANDBOOK ENDS HERE

(G) Assurances that the program will not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, sexual orientation, or disability; and that youths who are wards of the court under Welfare and Institutions Code Section 602 and/or receiving psychotropic medications shall be eligible for consideration in the program and shall not be automatically excluded due to these factors;

(H) Assurances that the county Independent Living Program (ILP) coordinator shall participate in the screening of THPP candidates and assist the licensee in the supervision of the participants;

(I) Assurances that the housing utilized by the program is served by public transportation to enable participants’ reasonable access to schools, employment, appropriate supportive services, shopping and medical care;

(J) A description of how services and assistance will be provided to enable participants to meet their TILP emancipation goals pursuant to Section 31-236;

(K) A description of the county’s standards for certification of agency programs that, at a minimum, includes the certification standards described in Section 30-911; and

(L) A description of the participant application process.

.2 County THPP plans shall be reviewed by the Department and be approved based upon the criteria set forth in Section 30-906.12 et seq. Upon receipt of the Department’s letter of approval, the county may review and certify agency plans.

30-907 TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PLACEMENT PROGRAM (THPP) SERVICE DELIVERY METHODS

.1 The three modes of program service delivery are those that allow participants to live:

.11 In an apartment, single-family dwelling, or condominium with an adult employee of the provider.

.12 In an apartment, single-family dwelling, or condominium rented or leased by the provider located in a building in which one or more adult employees of the provider reside and provide supervision, and

.13 Independently in an apartment, single-family dwelling, or condominium rented or leased by a provider, if the Department provides approval and the participants are supervised by the agency’s employees.

.2 These three modes include the “host site family” and “remote site” models as described in the California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 22, Sections 86001(h)(3) and (r)(1).

HANDBOOK BEGINS HERE

.21 CCR Title 22 Sections 86001(h)(3) and (r)(1) state:

“(h)(3) “Host Family” is a variant of the remote site model and means a living situation where the THPP participant resides in a single housing unit with one or more adults approved by the THPP.”

“(r)(1) “Remote Site Model” means a single housing unit where the participant lives independently and where licensee staff do not live in the same building as the participant.”

HANDBOOK ENDS HERE

30-908 PERMISSION NECESSARY FOR TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PLACEMENT PROGRAM (THPP) PARTICIPATION

.1 The county department of social services or the county probation department that has custody of the child and the ILP coordinator in the county in which the child is placed must approve the child’s placement into THPP.

.2 Review of a child’s TILP for appropriateness of the THPP placement is necessary prior to approval of the child’s placement.


30-909 TRANSITIONAL INDEPENDENT LIVING PLANS (TILPs) FOR TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PLACEMENT PROGRAM (THPP) PARTICIPANTS

.1 Transitional Independent Living Plans (TILP) for participants shall meet the requirements of Section 31-236.


30-910 TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PLACEMENT PROGRAM (THPP) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

.1 Counties shall prepare an annual report in the format required by the Department including, but not limited to, expenditures, occupancy, and participant data. Upon request, counties shall also supply information, in addition to that in the annual report, to the Department as needed.

30-911 TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PLACEMENT PROGRAM (THPP) 30-911

CERTIFICATION STANDARDS

.1 Each THPP agency’s program plan shall, at a minimum, include the following:

(a) Assurances that the program will only serve eligible participants as defined in Section 30-903.1;

(b) Assurances that the program will not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, sexual orientation, or disability and that youth who were wards of the court as described in Welfare and Institutions Code Section 602 and youth receiving psychotropic medications shall be eligible for consideration in the program and shall not be automatically excluded due to these factors.

(c) Admission criteria for participants, including:

(1) Age,

(2) Previous placement history,

(3) Delinquency history,

(4) Medical problems,

(5) History of drug/alcohol abuse,

(6) Level of education,

(7) Mental health history, and

(8) Work experience;

(d) Assurances that each child admitted into the program has an appropriately updated TILP;

(e) A description of the agency’s THPP with an explanation of how it will assist participants to accomplish the goals described in their TILP;

(f) Assurances that each participant actively participates in the county ILP program;

(g) Assurances that the agency employment policies include strict criteria regarding an employee’s:

(1) Age,

(2) Drug/alcohol history,
(3) Experience working with this age group,

(4) Criminal background checks, and

(5) A training program to educate employees about characteristics of persons in this age group placed in long-term care settings, and designed to ensure these employees can adequately supervise and counsel participants and provide them with training in independent living skills;

(h) A detailed plan for:

(1) Monitoring the placement of persons under the agency’s care,

(2) Evaluating the participant’s progress in the program, and

(3) Reporting to the ILP and to the county agency with jurisdiction;

(i) Assurances that participants will be allowed the greatest amount of freedom possible and appropriate for their level of functioning in order to prepare them for self-sufficiency;

(j) Assurances that the housing is served by public transportation to enable the participant’s reasonable access to schools, employment, appropriate supportive services, shopping, and medical care;

(k) Assurances that the agency shall collaborate with counties, social workers/probation officers, ILP coordinators, Student Aid Commission, Employment Development Department (EDD) One-Stop Career Centers, Workforce Investment Act (WIA) services and programs, and other agencies and programs to provide support and services to enable the participants to complete the goals outlined on the TILP;

(l) Assurances that every participant is enrolled with an EDD federal WIA/EDD Regional One-Stop Career Center;

(m) A twenty-four hour emergency number provided to each participant;

(n) A description of how each participant’s progress will be evaluated.
(o) A description of efforts that will be made to track participants for at least two years after leaving the program;

(p) A description of efforts that will be made to link participants with mentors;

(q) A description of policies regarding:

1. Education requirements,
2. Visitors,
3. Savings requirements,
4. Personal safety,
5. Emergencies,
6. Medical problems,
7. Disciplinary measures,
8. Child care,
9. Pregnancy,
10. Curfew,
11. Budgeting,
12. Dating,
13. Housekeeping,
14. Decorating,
15. Use of utilities/phone,
(16) Care of furnishings,

(17) Transportation and vehicles,

(18) Unauthorized purchases,

(19) Work expectations,

(20) Lending/borrowing money,

(21) Grounds for termination that may include, but shall not be limited to, illegal activities or harboring runaways,

(22) Disposition of furnishings when participants exit the program, and

(23) Incorporation of applicable provisions of Welfare and Institutions Code Section 16522.1; and

(24) Incorporation of the provisions of Welfare and Institutions Code Section 16001.9 to ensure THPP agency plan descriptions of policies include the following rights:

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(a) It is the policy of the State that all children in foster care shall have the following rights:

(1) To live in a safe, healthy, and comfortable home where he or she is treated with respect.

(2) To be free from physical, sexual, emotional, or other abuse, or corporal punishment.

(3) To receive adequate and healthy food, adequate clothing, and, for youth in group homes, an allowance.

(4) To receive medical, dental, vision, and mental health services.

(5) To be free of the administration of medication or chemical substances, unless authorized by a physician.

(6) To contact family members, unless prohibited by court order and social workers, attorneys, foster youth advocates and supporters, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), and probation officers.
(7) To visit and contact brothers and sisters, unless prohibited by court order.

(8) To contact the Community Care Licensing Division of the State Department of Social Services or the State Foster Care Ombudsperson regarding violations of rights, to speak to representatives of these offices confidentially, and to be free from threats or punishment for making complaints.

(9) To make and receive confidential telephone calls and send and receive unopened mail, unless prohibited by court order.

(10) To attend religious services and activities of his or her choice.

(11) To maintain an emancipation bank account and manage personal income, consistent with the child’s age and developmental level, unless prohibited by the case plan.

(12) To not be locked in any room, building, or facility premises, unless placed in a community treatment facility.

(13) To attend school and participate in extracurricular, cultural, and personal enrichment activities, consistent with the child’s age and developmental level.

(14) To work and develop job skills at an age-appropriate level that is consistent with state law.

(15) To have social contacts with people outside of the foster care system, such as teachers, church members, mentors, and friends.

(16) To attend Independent Living Program classes and activities if he or she meets age requirements.

(17) To attend court hearings and speak to the judge.

(18) To have storage space for private use.
(19) To review his or her own case plan if he or she is over 12 years of age and to receive information about his or her out-of-home placement and case plan, including being told of changes to the plan.

(20) To be free from unreasonable searches of personal belongings.

(21) To confidentiality of all juvenile court records consistent with existing law.

(22) To have fair and equal access to all available services, placement, care, treatment, and benefits, and to not be subjected to discrimination or harassment on the basis of actual or perceived race, ethnic group identification, ancestry, national origin, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, mental or physical disability, or HIV status.

“(b) Nothing in this section shall be interpreted to require a foster care provider to take any action that would impair the health and safety of children in out-of-home placement.”

The budget form designed by the Department indicating the rate approved by the county that shall be equal to or lower than the rate approved for the county by the Department. It shall include the following six categories:

(1) Administrative salaries and overhead;

(2) Direct care staff;

(3) Social worker;

(4) Social work supervision;

(5) Administration attributable to social worker; and

(6) A youth allowance that includes, but is not limited to:
   (A) Telephone,
   (B) Rent,
30-911 TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PLACEMENT PROGRAM (THPP) 30-911
CERTIFICATION STANDARDS (Continued)

(C) Food,

(D) Clothing,

(E) Transportation cost,

(F) Miscellaneous expenses, and

(G) Utilities;

(s) Any participant funds retained by the provider on behalf of the participant shall be deposited in an interest bearing savings account in any bank or savings and loan institution whose deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation. The principal and interest shall be distributed to the participant when he/she leaves the program or earlier if permitted by the THP program guidelines.


30-912 TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM-PLUS (THP)-PLUS 30-912
PROGRAM PURPOSE

.1 The purpose of the Transitional Housing Program (THP)-Plus is to assist emancipated youths as they move from dependency to self-sufficiency by providing youths with housing and supportive services.

30-913 PERSONS SERVED BY THE TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM (THP)-PLUS

.1 Transitional Housing Program-Plus tenants are young adults who are former foster/probation youth who have emancipated from a county that has elected to participate in THP-Plus. THP-Plus tenants shall be at least 18 years of age and not yet 21 years of age, and shall be pursuing county-approved goals utilizing the Department developed STEP/THP-Plus TILP. A county may also elect to include former foster/probation youth who reside in the county, but who emancipated from a different county.

.2 Tenants may remain in THP-Plus for a maximum of twenty-four cumulative months.


30-914 TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM (THP)-PLUS RATES

.1 Pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 11403(a)(2), the per tenant monthly rate may not exceed 70 percent of the average AFDC-FC payment the county pays to group homes for foster youth 16 to 18 years of age, contingent upon the following conditions:

.11 Funding shall be subject to the sharing ratios specified in Welfare and Institutions Code Section 15200.

.12 The state portion of the rate shall be subject to the availability of the Transitional Housing for Foster Youth Fund.

.13 If the Transitional Housing for Foster Youth Fund is depleted, unless other arrangements have been made with the agency, the county shall pay the state share of the rate in addition to the county share.


30-915 TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM (THP)-PLUS COUNTY PLANS

.1 Prior to implementing a THP-Plus plan, the county shall:

.11 Provide CDSS with the information required to set the rate pursuant to Section 11-410.2.

.12 Develop and submit a plan to CDSS which meets the requirements of Welfare and Institutions Code Sections 16522 through 16522.6 including, but not limited to, the information specified below:
30-915 TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM (THP)-PLUS COUNTY PLANS
(Continued)

.121 Projected caseload;

.122 Modes of service delivery the county intends to use;

.123 Estimated per-participant monthly budget which shall not exceed the approved county rate;

.124 A plan for providing reports, including statistical, budgetary, occupancy, and TILP data to CDSS;

.125 A plan for providing oversight, evaluation, and monitoring of the programs the county certifies pursuant to MPP Section 30-919;

.126 A description of the county’s standards for certification of THP-Plus agency programs that, at a minimum, includes the certification standards described in MPP Section 30-920.

.13 Ensure that each THP-Plus tenant has a STEP/THP-Plus TILP mutually agreed upon, reviewed and updated by the tenant and the county designee and other appropriate individuals at least annually or more often as needed to reflect necessary changes.


30-916 TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM (THP)-PLUS SERVICE DELIVERY METHODS

.1 Programs certified under these regulations shall be designed to provide a safe and adequate residence and allow participants a maximum amount of independence and self-sufficiency.

.11 Acceptable residential units include apartments, single family dwellings, condominiums, college dormitories, and host family models.

.12 Publicly supervised or privately operated shelters, or other living situations including those with friends, family members and others that provide temporary accommodation are not acceptable.

.13 Public or private places not ordinarily used as a regular sleeping area, are not acceptable.
.14 Group homes and other types of licensed residential facilities may not be utilized by a THP-Plus provider as accommodations for emancipated foster youth.

.2 Counties shall ensure that THP-Plus agencies shall collaborate with counties, social workers/probation officers, ILP coordinators, Student Aid Commission, EDD One-Stop Career Centers, local Workforce Investment Act (WIA) services and programs, and other agencies and programs to provide support and services to enable the tenants to complete the goals outlined on the STEP/THP-Plus TILP.


30-917 TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM (THP)-PLUS TENANT RESPONSIBILITIES

.1 Tenants shall actively pursue the goals of their TILPs as a condition of participation. Also, they must inform the county when changes need to be made on the TILPs that affect payment of aid, including changes in address, living circumstances, education, career, and training programs.


30-918 SUPPORTIVE TRANSITION EMMANCIATION PROGRAM TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM (STEP/THP)-PLUS LIVING PLANS

.1 Every tenant shall develop and pursue goals described in a STEP/THP-Plus TILP. This document shall describe a tenant’s current level of functioning and contains the educational/vocational or other goals related to self-sufficiency mutually agreed upon by the tenant and the county designee.

.11 The activities and services described in the STEP/THP-Plus TILP shall be designed to achieve the following goals as needed:

(a) Education (literacy, high school diploma/GED, college, and vocational training),

(b) Completion of application for college, vocational training program, or other educational or employment program,
(c) Gainful employment (career exploration, work readiness skills, employment experience, and job placement and retention),

(d) Receipt of information regarding various employment and training services provided through social workers/probation officers, Independent Living Coordinators, Student Aid Commission, Employment Development Department (EDD) One-Stop Career Centers, local Workforce Investment Act (WIA) services and programs, and other agencies to provide support and services to enable the participants to complete the goals outlined on the TILP and registered at an EDD One-Stop Career Center,

(e) Development of daily living skills (including household management, budget and financial management skills, knowledge of landlord/tenant issues, self-advocacy skills, credit issues, transitional housing placement program experience, knowledge of how to obtain vital records),

(f) Knowledge of preventive health activities (including substance abuse prevention, smoking avoidance, nutrition education, pregnancy prevention),

(g) Acquisition of safe and affordable housing,

(h) Development of a mentoring relationship with a responsible adult,

(i) Personal responsibility skills,

(j) Receipt of important documents, including, but not limited to:

(1) Certified birth certificate;

(2) Social security card;

(3) Identification card and/or driver’s license;

(4) Proof of citizenship or residency status;

(5) Death certificate of parent(s) (if applicable);

(6) Proof of county dependency status for education aid applications, school records, immunization records, medical records, and Health and Education Passport.
(k) Mental health counseling,

(l) Completion of the application for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJ) pursuant to the 8 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) Section 204.11 or other naturalization process for undocumented aliens,

(m) A driver’s license,

(n) A work permit,

(o) A bank account,

(p) Names, phone numbers and addresses of relatives,

(q) Completed re-application for Medi-Cal,

(r) Information and completed applications for sources of financial support such as emancipation stipends, SSI, TANF, STEP, THP-Plus, scholarships and grants,

(s) Referral to appropriate county adult social services agencies, as needed.

(t) Information and referral to appropriate legal aid offices, pro bono legal services, other low-cost legal service programs, as needed.

(u) Written information concerning the child’s dependency case, including:

(1) Information about the child’s family history and the child’s placement history;

(2) The names, phone numbers and addresses of siblings and other relatives;

(3) The procedures for inspecting the documents described in Welfare and Institutions Code Section 827, and

(4) Information and assistance for completing applications to seal juvenile records pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 781, as needed.

.2 Counties shall review and update the STEP/THP-Plus TILP at least annually or more often as needed to reflect necessary changes.

30-919 TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM (THP)-PLUS REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

.1 Counties shall prepare an annual report on the format required by the Department including, but not limited to, expenditures, occupancy, and STEP/THP-Plus TILP data. Upon request, counties shall also supply information, in addition to that in the annual report, to the Department as needed.

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30-920 TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM (THP)-PLUS CERTIFICATION STANDARDS

.1 Each THP-Plus agency’s program plan shall, at a minimum, ensure that:

(a) The program will only serve eligible tenants as defined in MPP Section 30-900.13.

(b) The program shall not discriminate on the basis of race, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or disability (Welfare and Institutions Code Section 16522.1(a)(1)) and that youth who were wards of the court as described in Welfare and Institutions Code Section 602 and youth receiving psychotropic medications shall be eligible for consideration in the program and shall not be automatically excluded due to these factors.

(c) The agency shall, with the assistance of a county designee, assist each tenant to complete the STEP/THP-Plus TILP form designed by the Department.

(d) The program describes how it will assist tenants to live independently and to accomplish the goals described in their STEP/THP-Plus TILP.

(e) The STEP/THP-Plus TILP is reviewed and updated at least annually by the tenant, the county designee, and other appropriate individuals and as needed to reflect necessary changes.

(f) Tenants shall be allowed the greatest amount of freedom possible in order to prepare them for self-sufficiency.

(g) The housing has reasonable transportation access to schools, employment appropriate supportive services, shopping and medical care.

(h) All agencies shall provide employees training and ensure that all agency employees are trained and capable of working with former foster youth.

(i) Criminal record clearances shall be required for all agency employees.

(j) Programs shall comply with applicable federal, state, and local housing laws and fire clearance requirements.

(k) No more than two tenants share a bedroom.

(l) Tenants have the right to be free from arbitrary or capricious rules; the right to understand all rules in writing and in appropriate languages and formats, the right to appeal any loss of benefits or services before they are suspended (unless imminent physical harm to someone would result); and the right to a grievance procedure.
(m) Tenants’ right to confidentiality is respected. This right applies to the dissemination, storage, retrieval and acquisition of identifiable information. The agency shall not release information about a tenant’s receipt of services without a written release from the tenant.

(n) Tenants’ right to privacy is respected. Information shall be requested from the tenant only when the information is specifically necessary for the provision of services. Tenants shall not be required to supply information as a condition of obtaining services without written documentation verifying the necessity of the information.

(o) The functions of property management and service provider shall not be blended. The program plan shall clearly define the roles and responsibilities of each part of the organization.

(p) The agency shall comply with California landlord-tenant law (Civil Code Section 1940, et seq.) and/or the Transitional Housing Misconduct Act (Health and Safety Code Section 50580, et seq.).

(q) If medical services are needed by tenants, these services shall be provided by a medical professional or an appropriately licensed (or otherwise legally operating - e.g. county) clinic or adult day health center that may offer services off-site or through a home visit program, including services which are made available on a regularly scheduled basis on-site.

(r) Tenants are given a choice regarding what services to access and the location of the services (on-site or offsite), as long as the goals of the STEP/THP-Plus TILP are being met.

(s) The THP-Plus program is clearly distinguishable from those that are required to be licensed as an Adult Residential Care facility under Health and Safety Code Section 1502(a)(1) or Health and Safety Code Section 1503.5(a).

(t) Applicable provisions of Welfare and Institutions Code Section 16522.1 are incorporated.

(u) A description of the tenant application process and the selection criteria are included.
(v) Any tenant funds retained by the provider on behalf of the tenant shall be deposited in an interest bearing savings account in any bank or savings and loan institution whose deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation. The principal and interest shall be distributed to the tenant when he/she leaves the program, or earlier, if permitted by the THP-Plus program guidelines.

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