



Assembly Bill 1314: Transitional Housing

SUMMARY

Assembly Bill (AB) 1314 ensures that all youth eligible for transitional housing have the best chance of receiving placement by requiring counties to create contracts that ensure the maximum flexibilities and minimize barriers to youth placement.

BACKGROUND

California law authorizes the Department of Social Services (CDSS) to license Transitional Housing Placement Programs (THPPs), which provide housing and services to former foster youth. These programs offer housing, case management, and supportive services to help these young adults gain the skills necessary for a successful transition to independent living.

Extended Foster Care (AB12) was signed into law in 2010 and took effect on January 1, 2012. This law allows eligible youth in the foster care and probation systems to remain in care until the age of 21. It also enables them to leave foster care and return for support if needed, up until they turn 21.

Recently, the number of foster youth re-entering care and requiring housing support has been rising rapidly. In California, the number of 18- to 20-year-olds re-entering care increased by 105% between 2022 and 2024. In Los Angeles County specifically, this increase was even higher at 132% during the same period. As housing costs continue to rise, fewer young people can afford to live independently at these ages. Therefore, innovative solutions are necessary to ensure that adequate resources are available for those in need and to prevent further escalation of the homelessness crisis.

PROBLEM

Nineteen counties collaborate with THPP providers, adhering to CDSS licensing requirements. However,

other counties impose restrictive contracts that limit housing opportunities for vulnerable youth. These contracts can demand that each individual have their own room or restrict the sharing of bathrooms, which complicates the situation for young people who may need more flexible living arrangements.

Further, county contracts can hinder youth transfer across county lines, even if slots are available, limiting access to necessary resources. In contrast, state licensing allows up to two individuals to share a room and efficiently serves transition-age youth across county lines within 2 hours.

Additionally, some contracts require unnecessary social worker inspections of housing units, delaying youth access to housing for weeks and incurring extra costs for providers. Research shows that 31-46% of young people who have experienced foster care become homeless by age 26, highlighting the urgent need to address the housing crisis and its long-term effects on this vulnerable population.

SOLUTION

AB 1314 aims to eliminate barriers to housing and resources during critical times of need by mandating all counties to not create contracts that include unreasonable barriers for foster youth placement and mandating they are designed to provide maximum flexibility to meet the needs of both minors and non-minor dependents.

SUPPORT

California Alliance of Child and Family Services
(Co-sponsor)

Good River Partners (co-sponsor)

ASPIRANET

Association of Community Human Service Agencies

California Democratic Party

California Youth Connection

Casa De Amparo
California Alliance of Caregivers
Casa Pacifica Centers for Children and Families
California Tribal Families Coalition
First Place for Youth
Florence Crittenton Services of Orange County, INC.
Helpline Youth Counseling
Hillsides Pasadena
John Burton Advocates for Youth
Mary's Path
Olive's Crest
Sycamores
Olive Crest
Trinity Youth Services
Youth Law Center