

Out-of-Home Placement Options to Prepare Probation-Involved Youth for Independence

- **Transitional Housing Placement Program (THPP)**
- **Transitional Housing Placement-Plus Foster Care (THP+FC)**
- **Transitional Housing Program-Plus (THP-Plus)**
- **Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP)**

While [probation-involved youth in out-of-home placements](#) are eligible for all of the same foster care placements as dependency-involved foster youth,¹ a number of these placements may be particularly well suited for older youth who would benefit from increased—but supervised—*independence*. Foster care benefits ([AFDC-FC](#)) fund all of the supervised independent living settings described below, *except* for the Transitional Housing Program-Plus (THP-Plus).

Transitional Housing Placement Program (THPP) – For Foster Youth Ages 16-18

The Transitional Housing Placement Program (THPP) is a community-based housing placement option for youth in foster care between ages 16-18, including probation-supervised youth on out-of-home placement orders. THPP helps prepare youth for their transition to independence from foster care by providing a safe living space as they learn and achieve self-sufficiency. THPP housing frequently looks like a single site dorm or scattered site apartments across a geographic area, and generally has licensed staff living on site. Participants receive support from program staff, probation officers, and other county workers for education and employment needs, and to reach the goals listed in their Transitional Independent Living Plans (TILP).

The 2017 AFDC-FC rate for THPP is a baseline of \$4,074 per month.

Transitional Housing Placement-Plus Foster Care (THP+FC) – For Extended Foster Care Youth Ages 18-21

Transitional Housing Placement-Plus Foster Care (THP+FC) was created when California opted into [extended foster care](#) in 2012. Non-minor dependents (NMD) ages 18-21 are eligible for placement in THP+FC. This includes 602 NMDs (who are still on probation) and 450 NMDs (who are no longer on probation). THP+FC placements may be host family, single site, or scattered site models.

In a THP+FC placement, a non-minor dependent lives independently but receives supervision and support from the transitional housing provider based on a Transitional Independent Living Plan (TILP) and the provider's own plan and protocols. THP+FC placements are flexible and come with varying levels of support and structure. Some THP+FC providers offer limited assistance in finding apartments and ongoing case management while passing along a larger subsidy directly to the youth. Other providers may include intensive supervision, mental health support, and psychotropic medication management while some may have programs that include employment readiness and

academic support. Consequently, some THP+FC providers may be appropriate for certain youth but not others.

There are three types of THP+FC placements. One type is with a host family that has been selected and screened by the provider. Another setting is a single site where the non-minor dependent lives in an apartment building or single family home rented by the provider with one or more adult staff on site or on call at all times. The third placement setting is a remote (or scattered) site where single units are rented by the provider and the non-minor dependent lives independently with regular supervision. Benefits for THP+FC participants in all three settings include case management, supervision, and supportive services to assist them in meeting their education and employment goals, improving life skills, and building financial literacy.

THP+FC providers receive AFDC-FC to fund the placement and may pass on part of those funds as an allowance to youth living in their THP+FC placements. Different programs pass along varying amounts to the youth. If the youth is living independently, the allowance must be “sufficient to purchase food and other necessities.”² However, no other guidance is currently given by the state other than to require that the amount of the allowance should be in the provider’s operating plan. Programs may also provide a savings account (i.e., put aside some money for the youth in a savings account that is given to him or her upon exit of the program), but they are not required to do so. If they do, their operating plan must include written guidelines for how the savings plan works.

THP+FC is an option for probation youth to live in an independent yet supported foster care placement. Recent findings show that THP+FC participants increased their utilization of public benefits such as [SSI](#) and WIC, compared to their peers who are eligible for these benefits but unable to access them.³ THP+FC can also be a way to provide a high level of care through wrapping youth in [Medi-Cal EPSDT](#) mental health services and other supports while avoiding congregate care. As a foster care placement, THP+FC is funded through AFDC-FC benefits.

2017 THP+FC Rates

THP+FC Placement Type	Rate
Single Site Housing	\$3,209
Remote or Scattered Site Housing	\$3,209
Host Family Model	\$2,553

A good network of THPP and THP+FC providers in a county can help with a seamless transition from transitional housing for a minor with some independence (THPP) to THP+FC with increased independence. Currently, THP+FC is available in 48 of 58 counties. Counties without THP+FC are small, rural counties with small numbers of foster youth.⁴

Transitional Housing Program- Plus (THP-Plus)– For Former Foster Youth Ages 18-25

Transitional Housing Placement Plus (THP-Plus) Program is a subsidized transitional housing program for former foster youth ages 18-25 (excluding youth in extended foster care), including probation supervised youth who were subject to an out-of-home placement order on or after age 18. Created in 2001 as California’s first housing program designed for former foster youth, THP-Plus provides safe, affordable housing and age appropriate supportive services for former foster youth whose court jurisdiction has ended.

THP-Plus is time-limited. Eligible youth can utilize THP-Plus housing up to 24 cumulative months and until the age of 24. In 2014, SB 1252 created a county option for THP-Plus to be extended to 36 cumulative months and up to the age of 25.⁵ If a county opts in to the extension, it must include all youth who are eligible (i.e., the extension cannot be granted on a case-by-case basis if the youth is otherwise eligible). To be eligible for the extension, youth must be completing secondary education or an equivalent program or be enrolled in an institution that provides post-secondary education.

Neither state AFDC-FC nor [federal Title IV-E](#) funds are available for THP-Plus because youth residing in THP-Plus are no longer in foster care. Instead, THP-Plus is funded through a state funding stream that was realigned to the counties in 2011.

Summary of Transitional Housing Programs

THPP	THP+FC	THP-Plus
Current child welfare or probation supervision	Probation or child welfare supervision	No child welfare or probation supervision
Ages 16-18	Ages 18-21	Ages 18-24 (or 25 at county option)
Must participate in ILSP	Must meet Extended Foster Care participation conditions	No Extended Foster Care participation conditions but must be working toward independent living goals
Remain under dependency, delinquency, or transition jurisdiction as a foster youth	Remain under dependency, delinquency, or transition jurisdiction in Extended Foster Care	Dependency or delinquency foster case must be dismissed
Title IV-E dollars may be available	Title IV-E dollars may be available	Title IV-E dollars <u>not</u> available
No maximum time	No maximum time	Up to 24 months (or 36 at county option)

Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP) – For Extended Foster Care Youth Ages 18-21

Created in 2012 as part of California’s implementation of extended foster care, the Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP) is a foster care placement that supports a range of living situations, usually selected by the youth. 602 and 450 NMDs ages 18-21 are eligible for SILPs. Non-minor dependents are responsible for finding their own SILP, subject to approval by their child welfare worker or probation officer. County approval is a condition of receiving funding for the SILP. Appropriate SILPs are very flexible and can include an apartment with a friend or sibling, a room at grandma’s house, supportive housing programs, college dorms, single room occupancy hotels, adult treatment facilities, and more. While the youth is looking for a SILP, he or she must be offered a place to live in the interim. For example, a youth may live in a THP+FC placement for several months while finding an appropriate room to rent as a SILP.

There is a two-step process to approve a SILP. First, the probation agency needs to complete a readiness assessment to determine the youth’s ability to live in that particular SILP. The readiness assessment is contextual. This means that a youth may be found ready to live in a SILP in a supportive setting (e.g., grandma’s house or an adult treatment facility) but not ready to live in other types of SILPs (e.g., living on their own). The second step in the process is determining whether the proposed SILP meets health and safety standards. College dorms are considered to automatically meet health and safety standards and consequently do not need to be separately approved.⁶ This health and safety review is not meant to certify or license the placement, so, for example, fingerprinting of other adults living in the home is not required.

For probation youth facing a gap in placement (e.g. due to exit or dismissal from a previous placement), SILPs can be used creatively and temporarily as emergency placements with friends or relatives. Additionally, for youth who need drug treatment or residential mental health services, SILPs can include stays in adult treatment centers as long as the stay is voluntarily and court jurisdiction continues.⁷ Additionally, in 2017, the California Department of Social Services clarified that a SILP placement can be in the home of a parent.⁸

A SILP placement is eligible for AFDC-FC funding. Youth in SILPs can receive the foster care payment directly or the supervising agency can select another payee. Timing of the SILP payments can be tricky for youth who wish to rent an apartment on their own. Like all AFDC-FC payments, SILP payments are issued the month after the month in which the foster care placement occurs (i.e., January SILP payment is issued in February). Consequently, a youth will need to have money saved or an understanding landlord (e.g., grandma) to make a SILP placement financially work. Some counties allocate discretionary county funds to cover first and last months’ rent and a security deposit for youth in SILP placements.

When a youth moves from one SILP to another, the county has ten days to approve the placement to ensure continuity of payment.⁹ The placement is not federally reimbursable

until the new SILP is fully approved.¹⁰ This means that county dollars may need to be used pending approval of the new SILP. Ideally, the new SILP would be approved before the youth moves.

The AFDC-FC rate for SILPs is the basic rate, which in 2017 was \$923. Youth in SILPs are not eligible for the specialized care increment or the dual agency rate. However, [parenting youth](#) in SILPs are eligible for both the infant supplement (which in 2017 was \$900) and an additional \$200 if they develop a Parenting Support Plan with a caring adult.

More Information

Transitional Housing Resource Page

<http://thplus.org/thp-plus-foster-care-thpfc/>

CDSS THPP Fact Sheet

http://www.childsworld.ca.gov/res/pdf/THPP_FactSheet.pdf

CDSS Transitional Housing Programs Page

<http://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/Foster-Care/Transitional-Housing-Programs>

CDSS THP-Plus Fact Sheet

<http://www.childsworld.ca.gov/res/pdf/THPlusFactSheet.pdf>

THP-Plus 2015-16 Report

<http://thplus.org/wp2/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/2015-16-THP-Plus-THPFC-Annual-Report.pdf>

¹ Including resource families, STRTPs, and FFA homes.

² Welf. & Inst. Code § 16522.1.

³ John Burton Foundation, *THP-Plus & THP-Plus Foster Care Annual Report 2015-2016*, at 15, available at <http://thplus.org/wp2/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/2015-16-THP-Plus-THPFC-Annual-Report.pdf>

⁴ Counties that do not have THP+FC include Alpine, Inyo, Modoc, San Benito and Trinity. *Id.* at 11.

⁵ California Department of Social Services, All-County Information Notice No. I-40-15: Transitional Housing Program-Plus Option to Extend Eligibility to Age 25 and for Up to 36 Months (May 27, 2015), available at http://www.cdss.ca.gov/lettersnotices/EntRes/getinfo/acin/2015/I-40_15.pdf.

⁶ California Department of Social Services, All-County Letter No. 11-77: Extension of Foster Care Beyond Age 18: Part Two (Placement) (Nov. 18, 2011), at 7, available at <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/lettersnotices/entres/getinfo/acl/2011/11-77.pdf>.

⁷ Additional guidance from CDSS can be found at http://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/BTB_23_3C_7.pdf.

⁸ California Department of Social Services, All-County Letter No. 17-83: Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP) – Residing with a Parent (Sept. 5, 2017), available at <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/portals/9/acl/2017/17-83.pdf?ver=2017-09-07-111228-323>.

⁹ All-County Letter No. 11-77, *supra* note 6.

¹⁰ California Department of Social Services, All-County Information Notice No. I-29-13: Extended Foster Care (EFC) Update (June 6, 2013), at 8, http://www.cdss.ca.gov/lettersnotices/EntRes/getinfo/acin/2013/I-29_13.pdf.