Strategy A4 | PREVENT HOMELESSNESS

Discharges From Foster Care & Juvenile Probation

POPULATION IMPACT

ALL  |  FAMILIES  |  ✓ TAY  |  SINGLE ADULT  |  VETERAN  |  CHRONICALLY HOMELESS ADULT

RECOMMENDATION

Direct the Departments of Children and Family Services and Probation, in conjunction with the LA Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), to develop a plan to strengthen the County’s Foster Care and Juvenile Probation System Discharge Policies. The strengthened policy should include at least the nine items set forth in the Description of this strategy.

DESCRIPTION

In addition to the plan strengthening the County’s current discharge policies for foster care and juvenile probation clients, it will serve to address gaps identified through the implementation of AB12, CA Fostering Connections to Success Act, particularly as AB 12 outcome data becomes available. One of the key changes made by AB 12 was extending the age that youth can remain in foster care to age 21. Youth are eligible for extended foster care if they are in out-of-home placement in the child welfare or juvenile probation system on their 18th birthday. The intent of extended foster care is to provide additional time that youth can utilize resources in order to increase positive outcomes that support long-term self-sufficiency and prevent homelessness.

Depending on the age of the youth, Probation takes specific steps to connect youth with resources that support long-term self-sufficiency and prevent homelessness by using the appropriate housing and services available.

At a minimum, the “strengthened” policy should incorporate the following components:

- Convene transition planning meetings six months before discharge as opposed to the current 90 days before discharge, which does not allow sufficient time to identify and prepare the TAY for housing.
- Offer wrap-around support services to families when youth exit back to a family member’s home. Families need support when youth are coming from out-of-home placement.
- Ensure that community college or vocational training, at minimum, is part of the education component of the transition plan.

LEAD AGENCIES

Children and Family Services
Probation

COLLABORATING DEPARTMENTS/AGENCIES

Community and Senior Services
Community Development Commission
Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles County Office of Education
Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority
Mental Health
Public Library
Public Social Services
• Link youth to supports that promote career pathways, e.g., the YouthSource system or programs funded through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA).

• Improve utilization of assessments for determining placement into the Supervised Independent Living Program (SILP) in order to determine if the SILP is an appropriate placement for the TAY and to provide broader access to the SILP. SILP placements can consist of shared housing with a friend or roommate in an apartment or other suitable setting, separate apartment rental, college dorm settings, or single room occupancy hotels.

• Systematically collect data regarding youth exit destinations.

• Increase housing capacity and housing/services options for non-minor dependents, including HUD’s Family Unification Program (FUP) for youth at least 18 years old and under 22 years old who left foster care at age 16 or older and lack adequate housing. FUP vouchers can provide a youth up to 18 months of housing assistance, subject to program eligibility criteria established by HUD.

• As needed, ensure access to public benefits.

• Seek to extend data tracking of youth beyond discharge from the foster care or juvenile probation system (as part of the implementation of Strategy E9).

POPULATION(S) TARGETED & OTHER CATEGORIZATIONS

TAY and non-minor dependents

POTENTIAL PERFORMANCE METRICS

◆ Number of transition plans completed six months before discharge
◆ Increased enrollment into community college and vocational training
◆ Increased number of TAY being connected to YouthSource and WIOA
◆ Increased use of assessments for the purpose of proper placement
◆ Increase data entry on youth exit destinations
◆ Decrease in the number of TAY who leave a family placement without going to appropriate alternative housing
◆ Decrease in the number of homeless foster and Probation youth
◆ Increase in the number of former foster and probation youth in subsidized housing or transitional housing

FUNDING

Much of the plan could be accomplished at no additional cost; however, County General Funds and Title IV-E waiver funds could be considered to the extent that additional funding proves necessary.