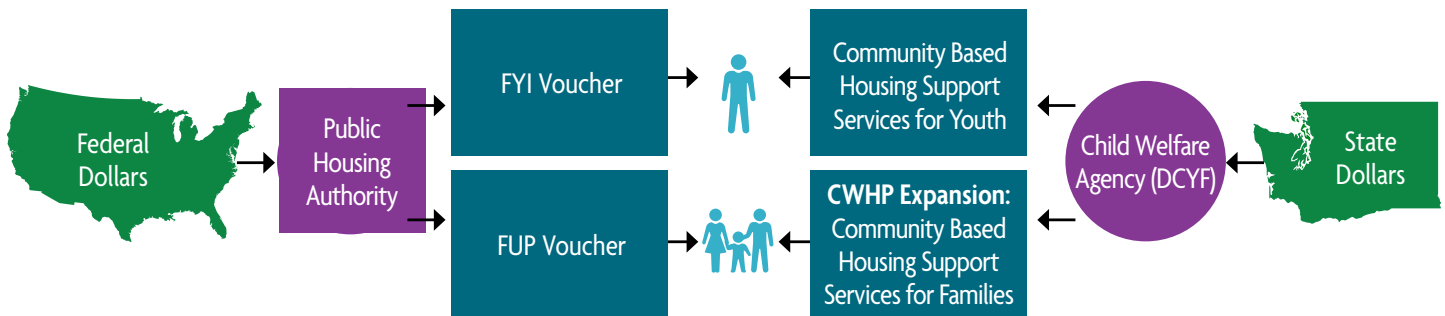


DCYF Housing Access and Supports

2023-25 Decision Package

The Housing Access and Supports Decision Package provides community-based supportive housing services for young people exiting foster care, juvenile rehabilitation (JR) and for families involved in child welfare. This funding will leverage additional federal funding and housing units for DCYF clients.



THE DECISION PACKAGE INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING COMPONENTS:

- CHILD WELFARE HOUSING PROGRAM (CWHP) EXPANSION** – expands CWHP statewide and adds funding to serve families needing housing support for either prevention or reunification. Funding through CWHP enables DCYF to contract for the provision of support services to meet the requirement for families accessing FUP vouchers and to flexibly meet the needs of families for whom federal vouchers are not available. Funding also positions PHAs to leverage additional FUP vouchers.

\$8.4M per biennium

 - Funding includes DCYF staff to coordinate and collaborate with housing authorities, county governments, landlords, civil legal aid, and local housing non-profits
- HOUSING SUPPORT FOR YOUTH EXITING FOSTER CARE** – enables young people to access FYI vouchers.

\$2.4M per biennium

- HOUSING SUPPORT FOR YOUTH EXITING JR** – ensures safe and stable transitions and promotes equity in access to resources for young people exiting foster care and JR.

\$1M per biennium

Visit the following website to read a DCYF housing success story:
dcyf.wa.gov/news/foster-youth-independence-program-sees-early-success-kitsap-county

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Safely reduce the number/rate of children in out-of-home care
- Create successful transitions to adulthood for youth and young adults in our care

TOTAL COST
 23-25 BIENNIUM: \$11.8M

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT:

- ✓ Recent RDA data shows approximately 20% of youth exiting foster care or the juvenile justice system experience homelessness within a year after exit. The state committed to addressing this issue through HB 6560, yet more funding is needed to meet the goal.
- ✓ National data indicates roughly 30% of child welfare cases could be avoided or shortened if housing supports were provided to the family, potentially leading to savings in foster care costs for the state.
- ✓ In order for Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) to access federal vouchers for child welfare involved youth and families, child welfare agencies such as the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) are required to provide or arrange for supportive housing services for DCYF clients who are accessing vouchers, namely the Family Unification Program (FUP) voucher or the Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) voucher. This partnership is secured through a formal MOU with PHAs, DCYF, and community-based service providers.
- ✓ We anticipate this DP will enable the state to fully leverage roughly \$23M annually in federally-funded vouchers.

- ✓ This Decision Package will allow DCYF to partner effectively with the state public housing authorities to leverage housing funding to prevent or shorten a child's need for foster care.
- ✓ With those state resources, DCYF will be able to avoid trauma and cost of preventable foster care placements and provide its clients with the support they need to become successfully and sustainably housed, including:
 - Regional housing capacity
 - Relationships with property owners and developers
 - Landlord development and retention
 - Individual case management and support services
 - Navigation and housing location assistance
 - Financial resources for housing (deposits, fees, housing stabilization, etc.)
 - Connections and referrals to other community-based services that are necessary for housing stability (behavioral health services, education, employment, etc.)

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DCYF PUBLICATION GC_0030 (01-2023)