



# Family Unification Program Vouchers

Special Purpose Vouchers as part of HUD's Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program



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# Family Unification Program Vouchers

Purpose

Population

Part of HUD's Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program

Partnerships

Pass it on!



# Purpose

HUD established the Family Unification Program to provide housing stability to help families stay together that otherwise could not due to a lack of stable housing being a primary factor in family preservation or reunification and to provide housing stability to youth aging out of foster care.



# Population: Two Eligible Groups

- ❖ Families with Children: Families for whom the lack of adequate housing is a primary factor in 1 of the following situations:
  - The imminent placement of the family's child or children in out-of-home care, or
  - The delay in the discharge of the child or children to the family from out-of-home care.
  - There is no time limitation on FUP family vouchers.
- ❖ Youth Aging Out of Foster Care: Youth ages 18-24 who have left foster care, or will leave foster care within 90 days, in accordance with a transition plan described in section 475(5)(H) of the Social Security Act who:
  - Are homeless or were at risk of becoming homeless at age 16 or older
  - The time limitation on FUP youth vouchers is 36 months.



# Part of Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program

## ❖ Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Eligibility:

- A family or individual must not have an income (earned, unearned, or combined) of more than 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI) for the jurisdiction in which they are being issued a voucher
- The head of household or individual can only be a part-time or full-time student if they meet 1 of the following requirements:
  - At least 24 years old
  - A veteran
  - Married
  - Have a dependent child
  - Have a disability
  - Is a graduate or professional student
  - Is a youth aging out of foster care
- The head of household or individual must be a citizen or have specific non-citizen designations such as refugee
- All adult members of the household must meet the criminal background requirements of the Public Housing Authority (PHA) that is issuing the voucher



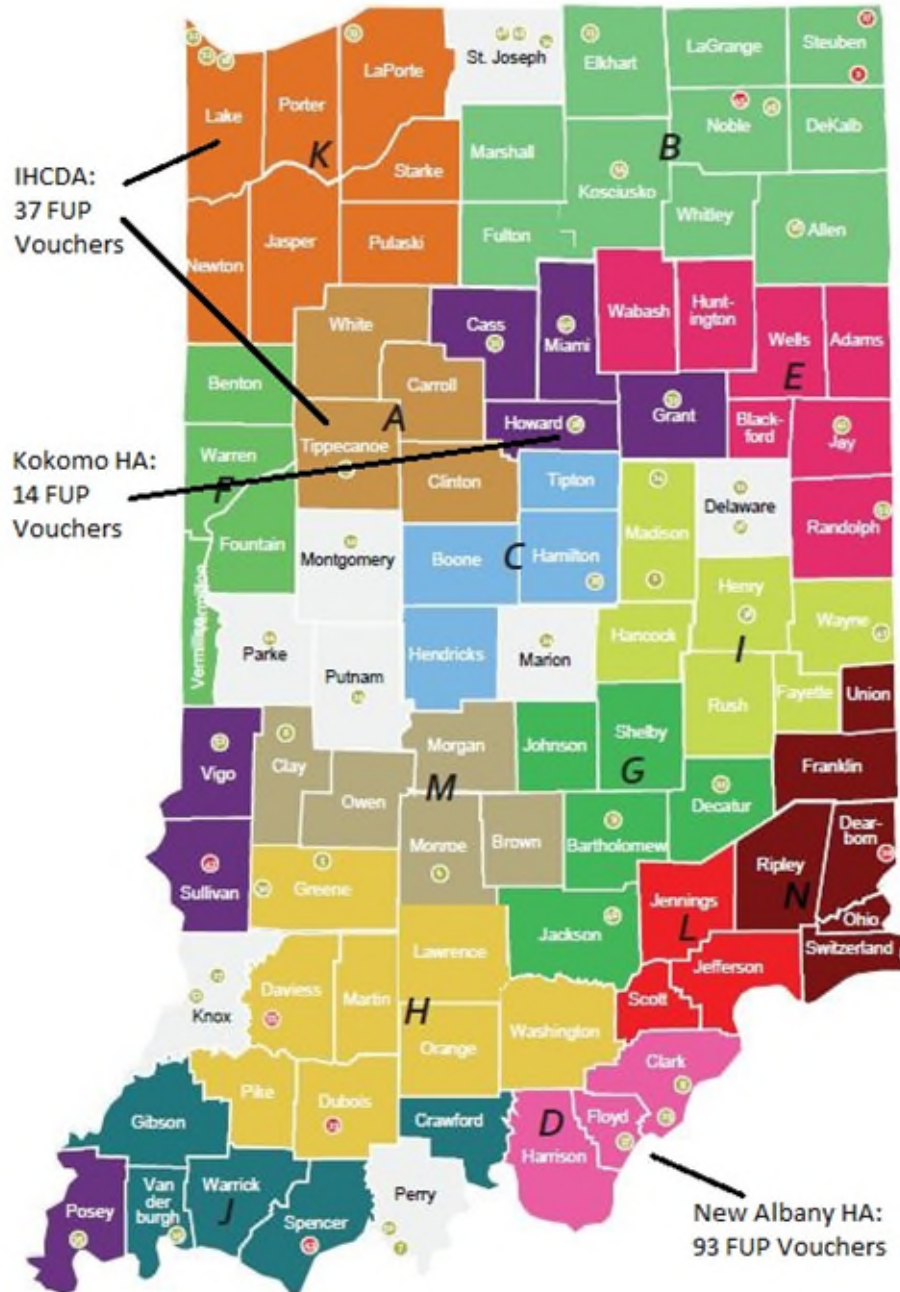
# Part of Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program

## ❖ Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Benefits:

- HCV participants pay up to 40% of their income on rent and utilities combined, and the voucher pays for the rest.
- HCV participants can utilize their housing subsidy at any location where a property owner is willing to accept the voucher for payment.
- Any owner that receives tax credits for its development must accept the HCV.
  - You can search by geographic area for tax credit properties and other federally subsidized housing by using the HUD Resource Locator tool at <https://resources.hud.gov/>.
- HCV participants can continue to utilize their voucher assistance as long as they are income eligible and comply with program requirements.
  - FUP Youth vouchers have a 36-month expiration. All other HCVs do not.
- Some Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) offer additional benefits for voucher holders such as homeownership vouchers and Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) programs (which help families and individuals save money for specific investments such as a car or education/training).



# Partnerships





# Pass it on!

- ❖ For all FUP partnerships, make FUP referrals to the Family Case Manager assigned to the specific referred family or youth.
  
- ❖ You may also directly contact the DCS gatekeepers for your region as needed:
  - ❖ IHADA: Tippecanoe and Lake Counties
    - ❖ Lake County: Jacqueline Sims, [jacquelyn.sims@dcs.in.gov](mailto:jacquelyn.sims@dcs.in.gov)
    - ❖ Tippecanoe County: Joyce Fasani, [joyce.fasani@dcs.in.gov](mailto:joyce.fasani@dcs.in.gov)
  
  - ❖ Kokomo HA: Howard County
    - ❖ Howard County: Aubrey (Meghan) Smith, [aubrey.smith@dcs.in.gov](mailto:aubrey.smith@dcs.in.gov)
  
  - ❖ New Albany HA: Floyd County
    - ❖ Floyd County: Brittany Webster, [brittany.webster@dcs.in.gov](mailto:brittany.webster@dcs.in.gov)



# How to Help More Families & Youth

- ❖ HUD has created an additional program to provide housing stability to youth aging out of foster care, the Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Initiative.
- ❖ Eligibility for FYI Vouchers is the same as the eligibility for FUP Youth Vouchers.
- ❖ The difference is that FYI Vouchers are awarded to PHAs on a non-competitive basis, until HUD's funding runs out for that award cycle, *if there is an eligible youth referred to the PHA by DCS and if the PHA has utilized enough of its FUP vouchers to qualify (assuming a prior FUP award was made to the PHA).*



# How to Help More Families & Youth

The below PHAs have an FYI program, and referrals for FYI vouchers can be made to the DCS family case manager assigned to that youth:

Public Housing Authority (PHA)	Number of FYI Vouchers
East Chicago HA	22
Elkhart HA	4
Evansville HA	1
Fort Wayne HA	25
Gary HA	16
Indianapolis Housing Agency	26
Jeffersonville HA	2
Lafayette HA	1
Muncie HA	8
Noblesville HA	5
South Bend HA	16



# Resources

- ❖ For more information on FUP Vouchers for families and youth, visit:  
[https://www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/public\\_indian\\_housing/programs/hcv/family](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/hcv/family)
- ❖ For more information on FYI Vouchers for youth, visit:  
[https://www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/public\\_indian\\_housing/programs/hcv/fyi](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/hcv/fyi)





## Questions and Answers

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