

COVID-19 & THP-NMD

HOW THE PANDEMIC IS AFFECTING 18 TO 21 YEAR OLD FOSTER YOUTH IN THP-NMD

BACKGROUND

California created the Transitional Housing Placement for Non-Minor Dependents (THP-NMD) in 2010, when foster care was extended to age 21. THP-NMD is operated by 60 state-licensed social service agencies, which lease rental units and provide them to foster youth together with intensive supportive services. As of January 1, 2020, there were 2,097 youth placed in THP-NMD. Of this total, 15% are placed by a county juvenile probation agency.

CURRENT SURVEY

The week of April 20, 2020, John Burton Advocates for Youth surveyed the 60 licensed THP-NMD providers. As of April 27, 2020, 34 responded (57%). Together, these 34 organizations serve 1,728 youth (82% of total). Providers were asked if any youth in their program have experienced the following effects as a result of COVID-19.

HEALTH



- 2% served youth that tested positive for COVID-19
- 21% served youth that have been required to be quarantined as a result of possible exposure to COVID-19

FINANCIAL SECURITY



- 77% served youth that have been laid off
- 76% served youth that have had work hours severely cut
- 50% served youth that have a week or less of money available
- 40% served youth that indicated they are in a financial crisis

EDUCATION



- 74% served youth that stopped participating in classes at school, either K to 12 or college
- 65% served youth that expressed a need for education support, including a laptop, tutoring or internet

MENTAL HEALTH



- 83% served youth that experienced depression, anxiety or another mental health condition
- 45% served youth that increased their level of drug or alcohol use
- 48% served youth that lost contact with supportive adults

SAFETY



- 17% served youth that experienced domestic violence
- 12% served youth that experienced sexual exploitation

40%

of THP-NMD providers have experienced an increase in their wait list due to COVID-19.

45%

of THP-NMD providers have provided housing to youth that were made homeless or housing insecure due to COVID-19.

53%

of THP-NMD providers report a 50% or greater increase in youth-specific crises due to COVID-19.

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HOW THP-NMD PROVIDERS ARE RESPONDING

We have been hosting **video chats** every week with our clients just to check in with them. We call or text them almost everyday. We have made "**supply packages**" for them every two weeks with essential items.

We are doing **daily check-ins** with our participants by phone/text and working on helping them get their **basic needs** met in terms of food, cleaning **supplies and essentials**.

We have pulled together as a team to gather necessary items and **meals** and make weekly deliveries to those who request. We have also provided tips and **activities** in the delivery packages so they remain creative and have some things to take their minds off [the crisis].

We have experienced an increased amount of **referrals** for youth who are in need of housing and youth whose finances have been impacted due to layoffs or the inability to obtain employment.

We have teamed up with a community **mental health provider** and have made services available by phone or zoom.

Having an adult or **support person** to talk to is very helpful. Also providing **activities** or discussions that are not COVID-related helps take their mind off of the situation.

23%

of THP-NMD participants receive services for mental health, substance abuse, or educational/learning, physical or developmental disabilities.

8%

of female THP-NMD participants are custodial parents at entrance to the program. This figure increases to 25% at exit from the program.

24%

of THP-NMD participants experienced homelessness prior to entering the program. Ten percent entered directly from an emergency shelter, homelessness, or other unstable housing.