



John Burton Advocates for Youth improves the quality of life for youth in California who have been in foster care or homeless by advocating for better laws, training communities to strengthen local practices and conducting research to inform policy solutions.

**[John Burton Advocates for Youth](#)**

235 Montgomery Street, Suite 1142  
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**Upcoming Events**

10/20/2020: Webinar - **[State of Crisis: Dismantling Student Homelessness in California](#)**

10/21/20: Webinar- **[Completing the FAFSA: A How-To for Adult Supporters of Homeless Youth](#)**

10/21/20: Webinar - **[Changes to Laws and Policies to Support](#)**

**Guidance Released on THP-Plus Extension & EFC Participation Condition Flexibility**

The California Department of Social Services has released an **[All County Letter](#)** (ACL) providing guidance to counties for implementing three provisions included in the FY 2020-21 state budget intended to provide continued support to non-minor dependents (NMDs) and former foster youth during the COVID-19 pandemic.

First, counties are authorized to extend the Transitional Housing Program-Plus (THP-Plus) to former foster youth participating in THP-Plus as of July 1, 2020 without regard to age or length of time restrictions until June 30, 2021. If a county opts to extend THP-Plus, it must be available to all former foster youth participating in the program in that county.

Second, the ACL instructs counties to continue assistance for NMDs who cannot meet any of the **[participation conditions](#)** of EFC due to COVID-19 impacts through June 30, 2021, or until federal **[Stafford Act flexibilities](#)** terminate, whichever is sooner.

Third, counties are authorized to complete Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP) inspections through remote methods, and for the 2020-21 Fiscal Year, allows a county to temporarily approve the SILP pending submission of required forms by the NMD, based on verbal or electronic agreement that the forms will be submitted.

The mandatory extension of extended foster care (EFC) for youth turning 21 between April 17, 2020 and June 30, 2021, funded with \$32 million in the state budget, will be addressed in a separate All County Letter.

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**Upcoming Webinar to Detail New Policies to Support Children & Families Amid the Pandemic**

With the deadline for Governor Gavin Newsom to sign or veto new legislation now passed, advocates are working to determine the numerous policy changes aimed at ensuring children and families have access to critical supports, services, and benefits as the pandemic wears on.

The **[Alliance for Children's Rights](#)** will be hosting a **[webinar](#)** this Wednesday, October 21 to review a multitude of new policy changes, including those to monthly social worker visits, family visitation, court hearings, and foster care funding, supports and services. The webinar will also highlight existing resources to assist families in accessing housing, health care, food assistance, unemployment insurance, sick leave, and other sources of financial assistance. To learn more or register for the webinar, click **[here](#)**.

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**Register for JBAY's Webinar on Best Practices for College Basic Needs Centers**

On Thursday, October 29 from 1:00 – 2:30 PM, John Burton Advocates for Youth, in partnership with representatives from the California Community College Chancellor's Office, Imperial Valley College, and Long Beach City College, will host a **[webinar](#)** on the

## [Families Impacted by COVID-](#)

### [19: What's New?](#)

10/22/20: Webinar -

### [Understanding the Intersection Between Substance Abuse and Child Maltreatment](#)

10/29/20: Webinar - [Equity Made](#)

### [Real: Promising Strategies for Addressing College Student Basic Needs](#)

11/5/20: Webinar - [2019-20 THP-](#)

### [NMD & THP-Plus Annual Report: COVID-19, Program Access, Youth Outcomes & More](#)

11/10/20: Virtual Conference -

### [3rd Annual Pathways from Youth Incarceration to Higher Education Conference](#)



significance of basic needs centers as a tool for promoting higher education equity.

The webinar will debut JBAY's forthcoming publication, [Equity Made Real: Promising Strategies for Addressing College Student Basic Needs](#), highlighting successful interventions and strategies, as well as challenges, especially in light of COVID-19. The webinar will also present operational and policy recommendations to support truly equitable access for all learners. Please register [here](#).

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## Report Finds COVID-19 Impacted Educational Attainment of 56% of Transitioning Foster Youth

[The Field Center](#) at University of Pennsylvania has released a new [report](#) related to the experiences of youth in and aging out of foster care during the Coronavirus pandemic. Researchers conducted an online survey of 281 youth between the ages of 18 and 23 asking how COVID-19 affected them. Questions covered housing, food insecurity, education, employment, finances, health, mental health and personal connections during the COVID-19 crisis. More than half (56%) of those surveyed report COVID-19 is having a major impact on their education progress or attainment; 38% experienced a major impact on their living situation; less than half (44%) report being financially stable for the next month or longer; half (50%) report either being laid off, no longer having reliable gig work or that their hours/income have been severely cut because of COVID-19; and over half (56%) report being food insecure.

The full report details previous studies related to foster youth outcomes in these domains as well as the impact of disasters on children and families and vulnerabilities for older youth in and aging out of foster care. Researchers also detail the administrative actions taken during the COVID-19 crisis by child welfare and public health agencies impacting youth in and aging out of care. The results of the study reveal gaps in the current social safety net and service structures and the toll of the disaster on this population. The report concludes with practice and policy recommendations to improve the safety, health, and well-being of this population during times of disaster and hardship.

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## A Housing Authority Can Now Administer Both FUP & FYI for Former Foster Youth

On October 6, 2020 the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development issued a [notice](#) expanding [Foster Youth to Independence](#) (FYI) vouchers to reach more youth aging out of foster care. Previously Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) that administered [Family Unification Program](#) (FUP) vouchers were ineligible to apply for FYI vouchers. This guidance lifts that restriction allowing any PHA that administers Housing Choice Vouchers—which is most PHAs—to also apply for and administer FYI vouchers.

Both FUP and FYI couple a Housing Choice Voucher provided by the PHA with supportive services provided by the public child welfare agency. FUP provides up to 36 months of subsidized housing and 18 months of supportive services, and FYI lasts 36 months. Youth eligible for FUP and FYI are 18 through 24 years of age, have left foster care or will leave foster care within 90 days at age 16 or older, and are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Currently PHAs have the option through [waivers](#) to extend the age that a youth can be referred to both FUP and FYI up to the twenty-

sixth birthday to December 31, 2020; avoid terminating assistance for youth who reach the 36 month time limit of FUP between now and December 31, 2020; and extend the referral period before a youth ages out of foster care from 90 to 120 days. [Click here](#) for a list of PHAs administering FUP and [here](#) for a list of PHAs awarded FYI vouchers in FY 2019-20.

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## **New Report Finds Higher Rates of Arrest and Conviction Among Black Youth**

Chapin Hall has issued a [policy brief](#) on the level of justice system involvement among youth in California's extended foster care program. This included analyzing the level justice system involvement prior to age 17 and then between ages 17 and 21.

According to the report, 44% of youth had any type of justice system involvement prior to their age-17 interview, which included being arrested (40.1%), incarcerated (25.6%) or convicted (22.0%). Between aged 17 and 21, rates of each form of justice system involvement reduced across each of the three measured categories.

The report analyzed outcomes by gender and race to determine if certain categories of youth were more likely to experience justice system involvement. It found that Black females (30.9%) were more likely than twice as likely than white females (30.8% vs. 12.0%) to have been arrested. It also found that Black males reported higher rates of conviction at older ages compared to Hispanic males. To read the full report, follow this [LINK](#).

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## **Join Our Team: JBAY is Hiring a Project Associate**

JBAY is hiring a Project Associate to focus on our issue areas of education, housing and health. This position will be based in San Francisco and will provide support for the training, advocacy and administrative functions of the organization. This includes supporting advocacy, technical assistance & training, the Burton Book Fund administration, fundraising and communications. Find the full job description [here](#).

Applicants should send a resume and cover letter with salary requirements to [info@jbay.org](mailto:info@jbay.org). Please put your name and PROJECT ASSOCIATE in the subject line of the email. Inquiries that do not include salary requirements will not be considered. Please call 415-348-0011 with any questions.