

Supporting the Housing Needs of Former Foster Youth on Campus

Presented by

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Guiding Questions:

How can housing needs be addressed amidst budget cuts?

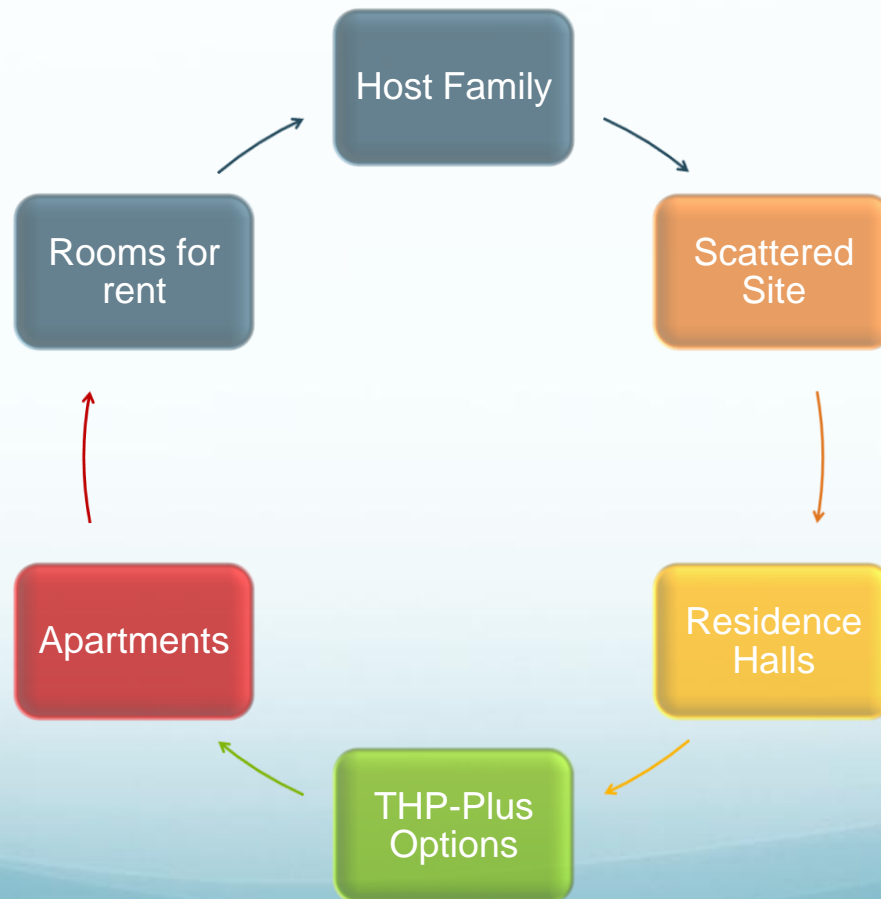
How can community colleges collaborate with Universities to create housing opportunities..

How can participants link youth to THP programs in their own areas?

A Student Perspective

What are some creative ways to get around common housing barriers for former foster youth

Housing Options for Emancipated Foster Youth in College



What are the pros and cons for living on campus financially?

Pros

- Convenience –proximity to classes
- All in one rent payment: Utilities, amenities, food costs, and rent
- Responsible for individual rent only, if roommate leaves, another is assigned
- Disbursement arranged directly to Housing from Financial Aid. Always able to have “a roof over your head and food”.
- Flexibility with deadlines if Financial Aid doesn't come in on time (ie Chafee does not arrive at first day of class)
- For 1st year students transitioning to college the adjustment to paying bills and budgeting is challenging, so having this taken care of eases the burden.

Cons

- High density
- Restrictive to campus eateries
- Not much choice in replacement
- Less freedom of managing your own money.
- Can fall through the cracks, if not monitored carefully, and fee deferrals are not in place.
- For those who have been managing their own money, this can be frustrating to not have the choice.

Advantages that are not financial

- **Educational engagement, both in the classroom and out.**
- **Student Involvement in leadership opportunities, student organizations, developing friendships.**
- **Access and use of supportive services on campus. Residential students utilize services more than commuter services.**
- **Research has shown that students who live on campus are more inclined to connect with the university after they graduate.**
- **Supportive peer advisors and residential staff professionals who provide activities, connections to resources, and crisis support in each residence hall.**
- **Students in the traditional age group 18-22 yrs. find this the best place to start their higher education journey.**
- **Some colleges have year round housing at reasonable rates.**
- **One-on-one case management by ILP and THP-Plus Case Manager**

Disadvantages that are not financial

- **Students not comfortable with living in a high density environment struggle with finding quiet time to study**
- **Not all colleges have year round housing, and those that do depending on the living option (ie. Dormitory) make students' move during breaks.**
- **Students living on campus are limited in what they can prepare for meals when the dining commons close during break.**



Guiding Questions:

How can community colleges collaborate with Universities to create housing opportunities..

Community College Links to University Housing

- Most Campus Housing programs at CSU's and UCs are governed by Education Code
- Very few Community Colleges have housing available
- In times of low occupancy, Housing operations have made arrangements with local community colleges to provide Athletes, and International student housing at universities.
- Housing programs like to keep above 95% occupancy to keep the rent low and economical

Navigating State Bureaucracies

- **California Code of Regulations (CCR)**
 - s 42002. Assignment of Priority
 - Students of a campus shall have first priority
 - With the exception to special programs by the campus president
 - s 42003. Special Group Arrangements
 - University housing facilities may be made available to individuals and groups by the campus president or designee

Guiding Questions:

How can participants link youth to THP programs in their own areas?

A Student Perspective

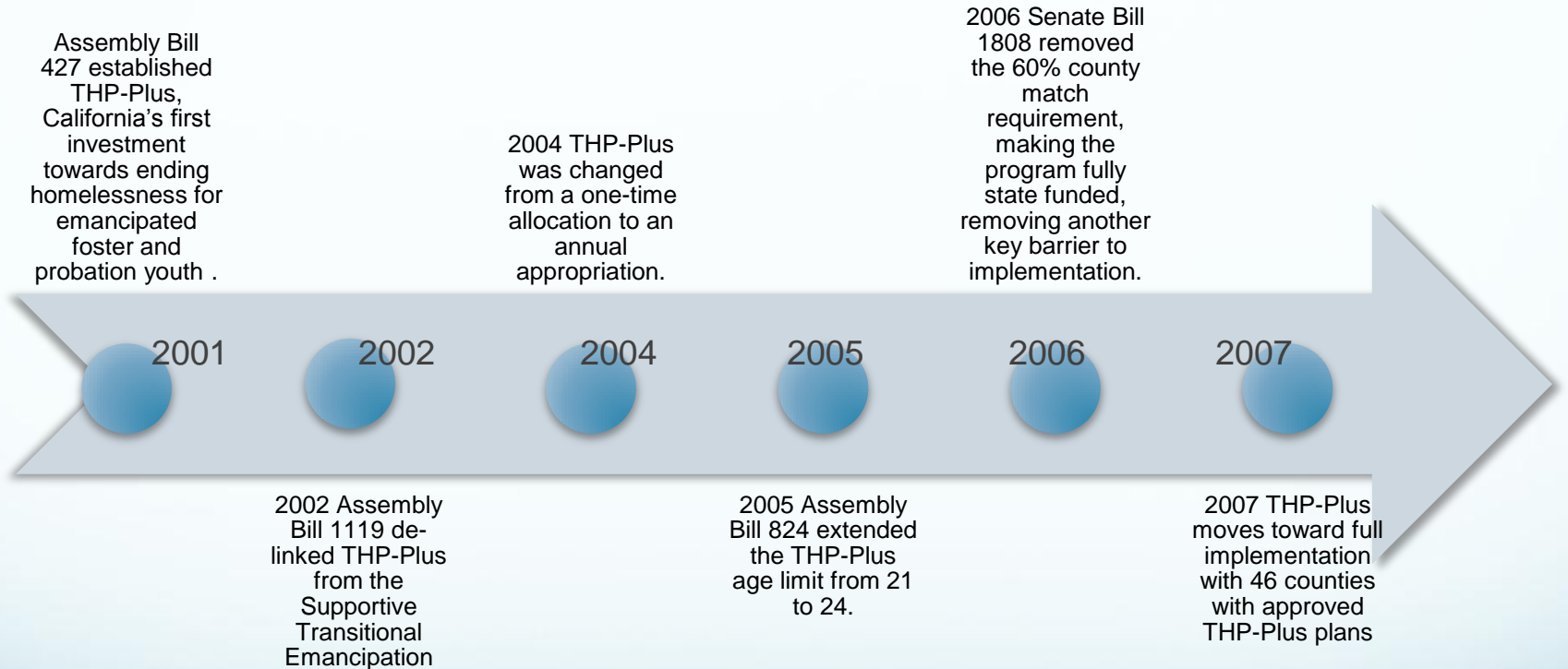
National and CA Statistics

- Nationally, 25,000 youth aged out of foster care in 2005, up 41% since 1998-
Source: US Department of Health and Human Services, AFCARS data
- In CA each year over 4,500 youth age out of foster care at the age of 18; many without a place to live, high school diploma and job
- 42% of foster children are between ages of 13 and 21
- THP-Plus was designed to address the growing needs of emancipated foster care youth who were homeless, unemployed and incarcerated
- Annual budget for THP-Plus fiscal year 09-10 \$40.8 million, recently reduced by 16.9 a 42% reduction.
- THP-Plus allocation serves up to 1, 400 former foster youth with supportive services in 46 Counties.
- In Santa Clara County, 150 youth emancipate from foster care annually. Santa Clara has been awarded 96 THP-Plus slots.

What is the Transitional Housing Placement-Plus program?

The THP-Plus program provides affordable housing and comprehensive supportive services for up to 24 cumulative months to help former foster care and probation youth ages 18 to 24 make a successful transition from the child welfare and probation systems to independent living . The program is administered and regulated by CDSS, which distributes THP-Plus funds to the county child welfare agency .

California THP Plus Timeline

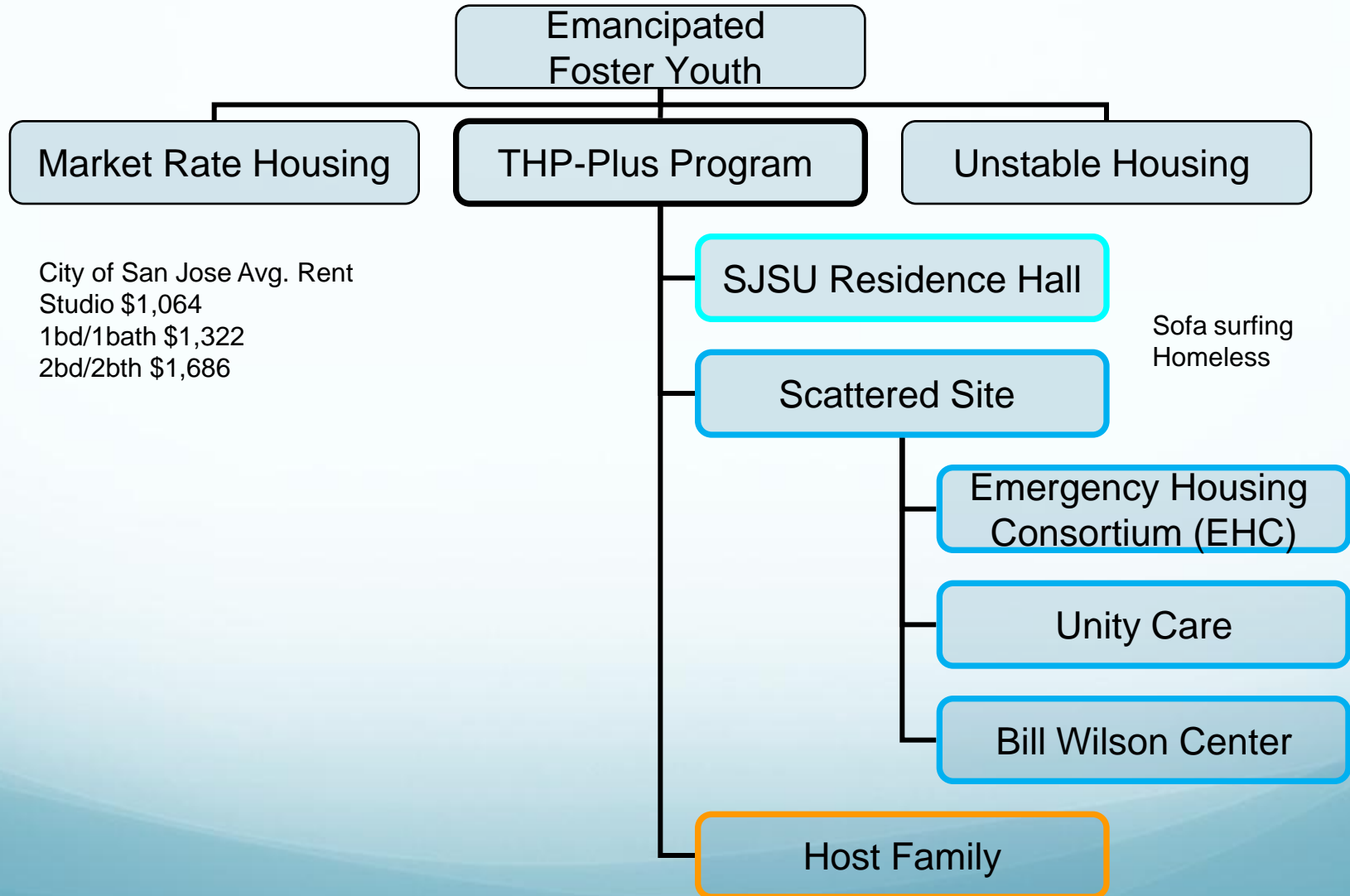


Santa Clara County/San Jose State Model

In 2007, an opportunity to offer housing on campus to former foster youth participating in the College Pathways Program, helped to launch the current program.



SJSU Housing Pathways



Developing a Collaborative Housing Program

- Case Management
- Transitional Housing Liaison
- Expectations for On-campus living



- Establishing housing contract
- Move in logistics, room basics
- Obtaining ID card, meal plan
- Access to university services



- Consistent communication w/UHS & administrators
- Dissemination of information to DFCS



- Ongoing development of ILP skills
- Judicial cases
- Communication protocol



Hurdles encountered with the THP Plus Program at San Jose State

- University officials do not like to enter into MOUs
- University housing staff must set the stage for coordination with a variety of offices:
 - This may be campus computing, Bursars/cashiers Admissions, Dining Services, Associated Students.
 - The youth need University ID's (for ID and meal service), ability to access cashiering systems, partake (via additional payment) in transit programs, intramural sports, utilize other student services.

Solutions to Overcoming Hurdles

- A calendar of important dates for both agencies so that they know upcoming dates and expectations
- Hold an orientation meeting with students receiving THPPlus to go over the rules and procedures with Housing and DFCS staff
- Develop agreements with Bursar's office and county to invoke 3rd party billing procedure
- Be aware of the impact of the THPplus on cost of attendance

Screening for “Best Fit” for On-campus Living

- Motivated to attend school
- Ready & willing to make commitment
- Understand what is involved in living on campus
- Encouraged to participating in ILP Services
- Maintaining regular contact w/on campus support programs



Best Practices & Lessons Learned

- Not appropriate for all youth
- Communicate, Communicate
Communicate.....
- Expect age appropriate behavior
- Expect inappropriate behavior.....
and plan for it

One Student's Perspective

- Discovering THP Plus through ILP
- Benefits of participation
- Challenges
- Recommendations



Mario Keener, Psychology Major

Guiding Questions:

What are some creative ways to get around common housing barriers for former foster youth

A starting list....

- Non Profit Organizational Agreements
- Cooperative housing agreements
- Host Family
- What are implications of AB 1393?
- Other ideas??

Reference Materials

“Effective Practices in THPPlus: providing affordable housing and supportive services to youth formerly in the foster care and juvenile probation systems”. Publication of the John Burton Foundation, 2008.

Interview with Kristy Wilce, Assistant Director for Administrative Operations, University Housing Services, San Jose State University. 2009.

Memorandum of Understanding between University Housing Services of San Jose State and Santa Clara County Department of Family and Children Services, 2008-2009 agreement.

“Affordable Housing Options for Former Foster Youth in College”, presentation from Supporting the Financial Needs of Former Foster Youth Training, August 11, 2006 by Connie Hernandez Robbins.

“Creative Collaborations Providing Housing for Emancipated Foster Youth on Higher Education Campuses”, presentation at Creating a Blueprint Conference 2007”, Kahlila Liverpool, Kristy Wilce, Liza Giron Espinoza, Kendra Ligon.

It's My Life: Housing , A Guide for Transition Services from Casey Family published in 2005