

Facts about California's New Investment in Reducing Homelessness Among Former Foster Youth (Senate Bill 80)

On June 27, 2018, Governor Newsom signed Senate Bill 80, the budget trailer bill that provides \$8 million annually to reduce homelessness among California's former foster youth. Provided below is an explanation of its provisions and answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the new law.

SB 80 Provisions

- 1. Level and Frequency of Funding**

SB 80 directs the California Department of Housing and Community Development to allocate \$8 million annually to county child welfare agencies.
- 2. Purpose of Funding**

SB 80 requires the newly available funding to be used to help young adults between the ages of 18 years and up to 24 years old secure and maintain housing.
- 3. Priority Population**

SB 80 requires that priority for the funding be given to young adults formerly in the state's foster care or probation systems.
- 4. Allowable Uses**

SB 80 does not specify allowable uses for the funding. Instead, the language is broad and directs funding to be used to help young adults between the ages of 18 years and up to 24 years secure and maintain housing.
- 5. Allocation of Funding**

SB 80 specifies that the Department of Housing and Community Development will consult with the Department of Social Services, the Department of Finance, and the County Welfare Directors Association to develop an allocation schedule.
- 6. Duration of Funding**

This is an annual appropriation. SB 80 states that this funding will be suspended if projected expenditures for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 fiscal years exceed projected revenues. If that is determined, the \$8 million allocation will end effective December 31, 2021. If that is not the case, the funding will continue. The May Revision to be released on May 14, 2021 will determine this.
- 7. Legislative Intent**

SB 80 states that it is the intent of the Legislature to consider alternative solutions to restore the \$8 million state investment if the suspension takes effect.

FAQs RE SB 80

- 1. Is the funding going to THP-Plus?**

Yes, the original budget proposal was to expand THP-Plus by \$8 million. The approach included in SB 80 makes much-needed additional funding available and distributed through the California Department of Housing and Community Development to child welfare agencies.
- 2. When will the new funding be available?**

SB 80 goes into effect July 1, 2019 and directs the Department of Housing and Community Development to allocate funding to county child welfare agencies. There is not a deadline for funds to be allocated to counties. JBAY will advocate for this to occur as quickly as possible, with the goal of September 1, 2019.
- 3. How will counties and THP-Plus providers access this newly available funding?**

County agencies will determine a process to distribute the funding and THP-Plus providers will apply to their county agency for funding.
- 4. What was the rationale for the suspension language and were other proposals subject to it?**

There is concern that an economic downturn will reduce state revenues. Given this, the language included in SB 80 provides an option to suspend new appropriations. This language was included in several other proposals that were approved for new, ongoing funding.
- 5. The original proposal was to expand eligibility to foster youth who exited prior to 18 but after turning 16. Where does that stand?**

The funding included in SB 80 is for young adults age 18-24 years old, with priority given to foster and probation expansion youth. The SB 80 eligibility criteria is broader than that of THP-Plus and the former proposed eligibility modification. This will enable the THP-Plus program to assist youth who were in foster care and require housing assistance, but may not meet the narrow eligibility of the program, which requires youth to have been in foster care on their 18th birthday.