



Dear Faith Leader,

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Center for Faith, in coordination with the Office of Public and Indian Housing (PIH), is writing to inform you of the Melania Trump Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) program and how faith-based organizations such as yours can become involved to help youth transitioning out of foster care.

As you may know, the FYI initiative was launched in 2019 and allows public housing agencies (PHAs) to request and obtain Housing Choice Vouchers (HCVs) for eligible youth for up to 36 months. FYI provides rental assistance for participants to afford safe housing by paying a portion of the rent based on the participant's income. This rental assistance may be extended for up to an additional 24 months if the youth meet certain conditions, such as participating in HUD's Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program or going to school or working. PHAs also partner with Public Child Welfare Agencies (PCWAs) to provide supportive services for 36 months.

Since the program's inception, over \$100 million has been awarded and more than 8,500 FYI vouchers have assisted individual youth. Today, 364 PHAs in 48 States and the U.S. Virgin Islands administer FYI vouchers, with HUD's goal being to expand the initiative into additional jurisdictions and states. These numbers reflect both the promise of the program and the opportunity to strengthen its impact through collaboration.

Faith-based organizations are a vital component of this framework, and we invite you to partner with us to strengthen awareness and effective use of this wonderful program. If your organization owns housing or knows landlords who are inspired by their faith, you can help support youth by leasing active units through your local PHA, which pays owners and landlords directly the amount of rent covered by the FYI voucher and handles all inspections. Faith-based organizations can also support foster youth by partnering with PHAs to offer the program's required supportive services such as basic life skills information/counseling, job preparation, educational and career support, compliance counseling, landlord assurances, and other services to help youth maintain stable housing and work toward self-sufficiency. If your organization is interested in helping youth participating in the FYI program, we encourage you to reach out to PHAs in your area that administer the FYI program. [HUD's FYI webpage](#) contains a list of PHAs currently participating in the FYI program. You can access the following link to locate your local PHA: <https://resources.hud.gov/>.

Thank you for your commitment to bettering communities and supporting the most vulnerable. HUD looks forward to working with you as we fight youth homelessness and ensure that as many young adults as possible can take advantage of this wonderful program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'SM', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Shayam Menon
Director
Center for Faith
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban
Development

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Benjamin Hobbs', written in a cursive style.

Benjamin R. Hobbs
Assistant Secretary
Office of Public and Indian Housing
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban
Development