

SB 612 Mandated Changes to Laws Governing THPP and THP+FC Programs

Name Change for both the Transitional Housing Placement Program (THPP which is for 16-17 year olds) and for Transitional Housing Placement Plus Foster Care (THP+FC which is for 18-21 year olds):

- THPP will become: “Transitional Housing Placement Program for Minor Foster Children.”
- THP+FC will become: “Transitional Housing Placement Program for Nonminor Dependents (NMDs).”
- THP-Plus, the program for emancipated foster youth, retains its same name.

(DSS requested the program name changes to clearly differentiate regulations intended for minors from those intended for NMDs. Although there are no acronyms specified in the bill – it is an educated guess that THPP will now be “THP for Minors” and THP+FC will now be “THP for NMDs.”)

New leasing laws:

- Transitional housing placement providers will now be expressly permitted to “co-sign a lease agreement” with a NMD (but not with a minor) and will be expressly forbidden from allowing a minor or NMD to “solely sign a rental or lease agreement.”

A FFA Certified or Approved Resource Family Home can also be a Host Family Home:

- A FFA Certified or Approved Resource Family home will be allowed to be concurrently both a FFA Certified/Approved Resource Family Home and a certified Host Family, if both the RFA certification/approval and the Host Family certification are from the same private, nonprofit organization. (i.e., the FFA and the THP NMD program are licensed programs of the same organization.)

Both minor and NMD participants may share a bedroom with nonparticipants:

- Foster youth participants in both programs for the THP for Minors and THP for NMDs will be allowed to share a bedroom with a provider-approved nonparticipant roommate on a case-by-case basis, provided any adult nonparticipant has a criminal record clearance or exemption.

This may be appropriate in the case of a co-parenting couple when only one parent is a program participant. SB 612 also inserts the option of “any other person as specified by the department” as a roommate or sharing a bedroom in order to provide CDSS the flexibility to update regulations or guidance documents should new scenarios arise in the future.

(“Nonparticipant” includes THP-Plus participants.)

The 1:12 case manager to client ratio will now include an option for a team approach:

- SB 612 changes the “not to exceed 1:12 case manager to client ratio” requirement to a more flexible requirement that the program “maintain a program staffing ratio for nonminor dependents of case manager to participant not to exceed a shared average caseload of 1 to 12 with a designated lead case manager assigned to each youth.”

This will allow for a THP for NMDs provider to utilize a team-based approach with multiple case managers (who have different areas of expertise in housing, education, employment, job training,

etc.) to team in providing support to the nonminor dependent as long as there is one lead case manager.

Hypothetically, this would mean that a housing specialist case manager could carry a caseload of 48 NMDs, an employment specialist case manager could carry a caseload of 48, etc. as long as there was a lead case manager that the youth could always rely on to be the main contact and the average team caseload did not exceed 1:12. Details are being worked out.

(The case manager to client ratio not to exceed 1:12 will not change for the THP for Minors program.)

Minimum of a Bachelor's Degree is the new requirement for THP for NMD Case Managers. Exceptions are no longer required:

- Case Managers in THP for NMD programs are no longer required to have a Master's degree and providers no longer need to request an exception to hire at the Bachelor's degree level.
- Case Managers in THP for NMD programs need a related Bachelor's Degree as specified **or** an unrelated Bachelor's degree plus experience. Here are the new requirements:
 - A case manager for a Transitional Housing Placement program for NMDs shall meet **either** of the following requirements:
 - A minimum of a baccalaureate degree in any of the following areas:
 - (A) *Marriage, family, and child counseling.*
 - (B) *Child psychology.*
 - (C) *Child development.*
 - (D) *Counseling psychology.*
 - (E) *Social psychology.*
 - (F) *Clinical psychology.*
 - (G) *Educational psychology.*
 - (H) *Education, with emphasis on counseling.*
 - (I) *Social work or social welfare.*
 - (J) *An area that includes the counseling or psychotherapy content required for licensure as a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor, as specified in Sections 4999.32 and 4999.33 of the Business and Professions Code (NEW degree added)*
 - (K) *A subject area that is functionally equivalent to those listed in subparagraphs (A) to (J), inclusive, as set forth by the department*

OR

- A minimum of a baccalaureate degree in an area **not specified** and a minimum of two years' experience in a public or private child welfare social services setting, or specific experience working with transition age youth who are 16 to 24 years of age, inclusive.
- Case Managers in THP for Minors programs continue to need a Master's Degree.

Minimum of a Master's Degree plus Experience for Program Managers in THP for NMD:

- Program Managers in THP for NMDs programs need a Master's Degree or higher in the approved subject areas listed above plus two years' experience as also described above.

Additional information for BOTH Program Managers and Case Managers educational and experience requirements:

- Staff hired prior to January 1, 2018 are not required to meet new requirements in SB 612 and are grandfathered in.
- There will be an exception process for “equivalent education and experience” as determined by CCL.
- All granted exceptions remain active.
- The provider shall maintain documentation of the completed education and experience requirements in the personnel file.

Minor changes to the definitions of the three types of transitional housing units:

- Single Site will now be called “Staffed Site.”
- Host Family will retain the name “Host Family” and Remote Site will retain the name “Remote Site.”

(All three of the types of housing will now include “owned, rented or leased.” The word “rented” was added to the list in SB 612.)

Information

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