

The HOME for Foster Youth Act

The [HOME for Foster Youth Act](#), introduced by Representative Zach Nunn, is a federal bill designed to prevent homelessness by streamlining access to housing vouchers for young people aging out of the foster care system.

The overall goal of this legislation is to provide greater support and assistance to foster youth, enabling them to secure stable housing as they transition into adulthood, ultimately empowering them to lead more independent lives.

- Nearly 1 in 4 foster youth experience homelessness within four years of aging out of care.
- Bureaucratic delays and strict prerequisite rules often block stable housing access during critical transition years.

Overview

- **Sponsor:** Rep. Zach Nunn (and bipartisan co-sponsors)
- **Core Goal:** Remove red tape in the Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) housing voucher program.
- **Cost Factor:** Does not create new federal spending or expand eligibility limits.

Key Reforms

- **Extended Window:** Expands the voucher application window from 90 days up to 180 days before a youth exits care.
- **Removed Barriers:** Eliminates the requirement that a young person must already be literally homeless or at risk of homelessness before qualifying.
- **Income Calculation Clarity:** Clarifies that Education and Training Vouchers (ETVs) do not count as income when calculating FYI eligibility. This aims to ensure that support for education does not hinder access to housing resources.
- **Interagency Coordination:** Improves administrative alignment between the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).
 - The bill emphasizes the need for improved coordination between the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and the Secretary of Health and Human Services.
 - They are tasked with modernizing and enhancing access to housing assistance and supportive services specifically for current and former foster youth.
- **Guidance and Notices Update:** The bill mandates that the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development must update all guidance, notices, and related materials to reflect the changes made by the proposed amendments. This ensures that all stakeholders are informed about the new eligibility requirements and can implement the changes effectively.