

Foster Youth to Independence Initiative Voucher Request



Housing & Community
Services/Wichita Housing
Authority

July 14, 2020



Background



- The Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program provides rent subsidies for low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled.
- The HCV Program is administered by the Wichita Housing Authority (WHA) through the Housing & Community Services Department for Sedgwick, Butler, and Harvey Counties.
- The HCV Program is funded and regulated by the Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD).



Background



- In 2019 HUD developed the Tenant Protection Voucher – Foster Youth to Independence (TPV-FYI) Initiative
- TPV-FYI provides voucher subsidy for youth 18-24 with a current or prior history of child welfare involvement who are homeless or at risk for homelessness
- Requires collaboration with the public child welfare agency and the Continuum of Care through a Memorandum of Understanding
- Vouchers are effective for no more than 36 months



Background



- Eligible PHAs must not currently administer Family Unification Vouchers
- PHA can request up to 25 vouchers per fiscal year
- Voucher requests must be by name for specific eligible youth identified by the public child welfare agency & the CoC
- TPV-FYI vouchers sunset when no longer used by the identified youth
- Supportive services must be available for youth referred



Analysis



- Foster Youth Collaborative MOU
 - Housing & Community Services Department
 - Department of Children & Families
 - Impact ICT Continuum of Care
 - Workforce Alliance
- Prioritization will take place through the CoC Coordinated Entry Committee
- Supportive Services will be provided by DCF, CoC agency, or Workforce Alliance as appropriate to the individual youth's needs



Financial Considerations



- There is no impact to the General Fund
- WHA will receive additional housing assistance funding and administrative fees for the additional vouchers



Recommendation



- It is recommended that the City Council authorize the Wichita Housing Authority to request up to 25 Tenant Protection Vouchers under the Foster Youth to Independence Program.



