

Reno Housing Authority NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release — August 16, 2021



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RHA Granted Specialized Housing Vouchers for Current and Former Foster Youth

RENO, Nev. — The Reno Housing Authority is investing in local, cross-system collaborative efforts to prevent and end youth homelessness through two initiatives, the Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) initiative and shallow subsidies.

This month, through partnerships with Eddy House and Washoe County Human Services, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has granted RHA 15 FYI housing vouchers. These vouchers are specifically for youth ages 18-24 who have left foster care or will leave foster care and find themselves facing homelessness if assistance is not provided.

“We recognize that youth who have been part of the foster program are not normally given priority in typical HUD preference criteria,” said Amy Jones, executive director of RHA, “so the FYI and shallow subsidy programs allow us to meet a critical need for young people who need a little extra help.”

The shallow subsidy program has allowed RHA, as a HUD-designated Moving To Work Demonstration organization, the ability to provide assistance to Eddy House worth more than \$45,000 in the past several months to house local homeless youth. It equates to \$10 per bed, per night. The subsidy began in autumn 2020 and funding is expected to continue through federal fiscal year 2028.

“The shallow subsidies provided to Eddy House are an important support in our work to assist homeless youth. We are excited about the potential of RHA’s new voucher program which will bring additional resources into our community and help formerly foster youth find stable housing as they continue their path to self-sufficiency,” said Maureen McKissick the director of development at Eddy House.

The FYI vouchers can provide assistance for up to three years and as clients become more self sufficient and no longer need the assistance, can be transferred to other youth in need.

“Our staff worked tirelessly to get these FYI vouchers and help the most people possible in the Truckee Meadows,” Jones said. “Through ongoing case management with Washoe County Human Services and Eddy

(more)

Predominantly federally funded, the Reno Housing Authority provides affordable housing for qualifying residents of Reno, Sparks and Washoe County. We provide a place to call home for more than 4,000 families through Housing Choice Vouchers, public housing and affordable market-rate properties. We've helped people afford to live in northern Nevada for 75 years.



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House, it's just one more way RHA is part of the solution to the housing crisis in our region."

Community cooperation makes a difference for these specialized programs.

"Adding the FYI vouchers to the list of available supports for foster youth, who are transitioning to adulthood, is the next big step in providing stability to some of our most vulnerable young people in Washoe County," Washoe County Human Services Agency Coordinator Shannon McCoy said. "We value and appreciate the partnership with RHA and Eddy House to make this a reality for this population."

As part of HUD stipulations, individuals and families receiving an FYI voucher are required to participate in case management with their referral agency, and will receive assistance finding an available housing unit and learning valuable life skills.

These vouchers continue the multi-layered approach by the RHA and other regional agencies to alleviate homelessness. Individuals wishing to apply for these FYI vouchers should contact either Washoe County Human Services or Eddy House.

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