

## **Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Program Checklist**

The following items must be considered prior to completing an application and referring a client to the Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Housing Voucher Program.

**Note:** This is a process that takes time. There are waitlists. For youths in foster care, it is suggested that a housing plan be completed 6 months prior to turning 18. It is also suggested that they apply for support from this program up to 90 days prior to turning 18. A voucher cannot be issued until the youths attains 18. Applicants already out of foster care can apply any time. Staff working with youths in foster care should contact the administrator of this program to discuss a possible referral, determine eligibility, understand the specific process and timeline. DFPS must verify foster care involvement.

### **Eligibility**

- Current or former foster care youth who are at least 18 years and not more than 24 years of age;
- Left foster care, or will leave foster care within 90 days, in accordance with a transition plan described in section 475(5)(H) of the Social Security; and
- Is homeless or is at risk of becoming homeless at age.
- There will be income verification.
- There will be a criminal background check.
- The applicant must be able to pay a portion of the rent to be determined by the public housing authority.
- The voucher is good for 36 months.

Other considerations:

- Does the FYI program exist in the desired location?
- At least one member of a family must be a U.S. Citizen.

### **Application**

- Have you completed the application and reviewed for completeness and accuracy?
- Have you discussed the application process with Public Housing Authority or designated agency?

### **Supporting Documents (Attach)**

- Copy of Birth Certificate
- Copy of Social Security Card
- Copy of Valid Photo ID
- Verification of Income or Zero Income or SSI

- Verification of Disability

### **Additional items**

- What is the plan if there are delays or a waitlist?
- How will other expenses and incidentals be paid for?
- Can Youth take advantage of additional funds TLA/Aftercare to help with deposits and fees?
- Can you get furniture and other move in items?
- What is the plan if FYI voucher expires? Can they be placed on regular Housing Choice Voucher program or 811 Housing Program?
- If this voucher doesn't exist in desired location, explore traditional housing choice vouchers (section 8) or emergency vouchers possibly offered by the public housing authority.

**Note: This information is subject to change without notice. Please contact the administrator of this program for the most up to date information regarding the program and comprehensive eligibility details.**