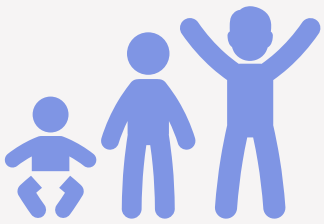
Housing for Youths Aging Out of Foster Care



Aging Out of Foster Care and Housing

People who spent time in the Foster Care system are more likely to become homeless than the average person, and this is especially true for those who spent long stretches in Foster Care or were in Foster Care as teenagers. A study of 19-23 year olds in the Detroit area who had exited the Foster Care system in the past 3-5 years found that...

over

40%

of participants had experienced housing problems since exiting Foster Care

over

20%

of participants had experienced chronic homelessness since leaving the Foster Care system

Youths who age out of the Foster Care system often have poor outcomes as they lack the resources and networks they need to support themselves. Every year in the US, around 20,000 youths age out of the Foster Care system. Foster Care does not necessarily end when a person in the system turns 18. In Michigan, youths can choose to remain in the Foster Care system from ages 18-21 and continue to receive supportive services + financial benefits. Research conducted in Illinois suggests that allowing youths to remain in Foster Care for a longer period of time leads to better life outcomes, and that includes housing. Certain populations face worse outcomes...

Nationwide, LGBTQ youths are

4x

more likely to be kicked out or run away from their placements

In the Detroit area, a study found that

78%

of the people who aged out of Foster Care system were black

hand

WHAT YOUTHS TRANSITIONING OUT OF FOSTER CARE SHOULD THINK ABOUT WHEN PLANNING

Do you know where you will live after you leave foster care? Do you know of any youths leaving the system that don't have a housing plan yet? Here are some things to consider...

Living with Foster Family, Relatives, or Friends



Is there someone in your life who you would feel comfortable moving in with or continuing to live with? If so, have you talked to this person about their ability to house you? Make sure to be clear about what your intentions are and any expectations they may have of you.

Rental Housing



If you are looking to pursue your own housing after exiting foster care, here are some things to think about:

- What factors are most important to the you? Proximity to work/school? Access to transit?
- Available public and private housing units in your location(s) of interest, as well as their costs of rent
- Housing expenses, including move-in costs, security deposit, first-last month's rent, application fees, furniture, gas/electric, internet, etc.
- Consider who could act as a cosigner

College/University Housing

Do you want to go to college? If so, your housing options could include student dorms, on-campus housing, and off-campus housing. Many colleges offer supplemental scholarships and direct funds specifically for students with a foster care history.



Programs and Funding for Youths Transitioning Out of Foster Care

Holy Cross Services

Holy Cross Family Services provides services (extended foster care benefits, case management, tuition/financial support, etc.) to youths transitioning out of the Foster Care system through the Youth Adult Voluntary Foster Care Program for 18-21 year olds who were formerly in Foster Care. To find out more, visit them at https://holycrossservices.org/family-based-care-and-youth-transition/ or contact their Detroit line at 313-579-4003

HolyCrossServices

Covenant House

Covenant House provides services to youths (age 18-24) experiencing homelessness, including shelter, educational assistance, vocational assistance, and more. Services are available to anyone who meets the age criteria and follows their basic rules. To find out more, visit them at https://covenanthousemi.org/detroit-programs/ or call their Detroit location at 313-463-2000

Covenant House Michigan

Wayne State CHAMPS Program

The CHAMPS Program at Wayne State University is for WSU undergraduate students ages 18 to 23 who spent time in Foster Care after the age of 14. The program helps those who meet these criteria secure housing, and additionally helps with their education, finances, health, etc. To find out more about the program, visit https://champs.wayne.edu/about or contact them at 377-577-0063

Wayne County Community College SMART Program

The SMART Program at WCCC aims to empower students aged 18-22 who experienced Foster Care after their 14th birthday. The program assists students through first month's rent and amenities assistance, educational and academic support, health services, and more. To find out more about the program, visit https://www.wcccd.edu/dept/ce_Smart_program.html or contact them at 313-496-2801

WCCCD THE SMART PROGRAM

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Youth in Transition Funding

Youth in Transition (YIT) Funding is available to youths who were in Foster Care on or after their 14th birthday. YIT funds can be used for first month's rent and start up goods, as well as other areas of life (transportation, education, medica, etc). A youth with a closed case must apply for closed case services (YIT) in the current county of residence through their local MDHSS office.

To find out more about the funding, visit https://www.michigan.gov/fyit/finances/youth-in-transition

Sources/More Info

LGBTQ Youth with a history of Foster Care: https://www.thetrevorproject.org/research-briefs/lgbtq-youth-with-a-history-of-foster-care-2/

Pathways to and From Homelessness and Associated Psychosocial Outcomes Among Adolescents Leaving the Foster Care System: https://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/full/10.2105/AJPH.2008.142547

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services: https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs

Youth in Transition (Aging Out): https://www.aecf.org/topics/youth-in-transition