DCFS
Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

Youth Housing Assistance Program
Family Unification Program
Fostering Youth to Independence

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Youth in Care Living Arrangements



- Unauthorized versus authorized living arrangements (friends, family, partners, self)
- Placement Alternative Contract
- Transitional Living
- Independent Living

Youth Resources

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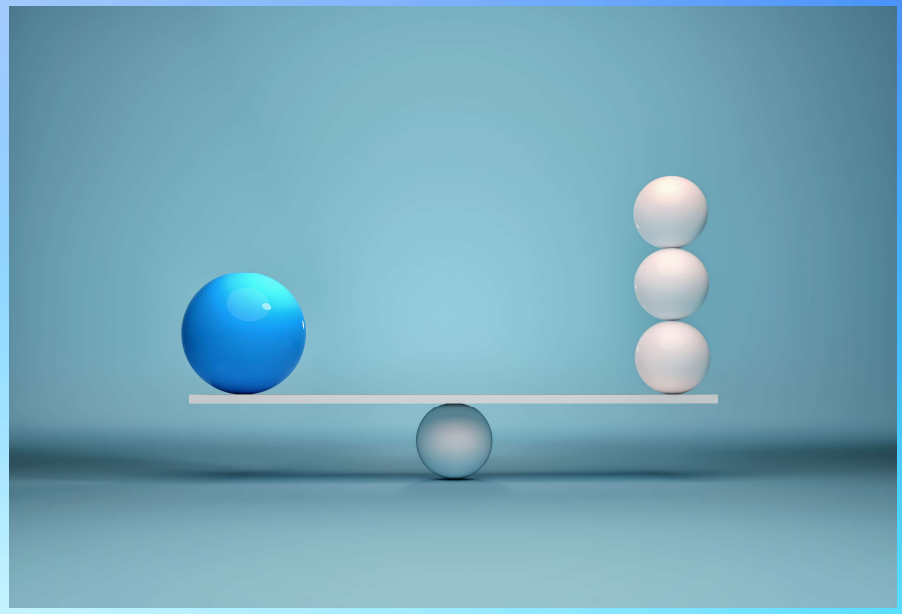
- Education and Training Voucher
  - Youth in care, aged out of care, adoption or guardianship age 16 or older
- Tuition and Fee Waiver
  - Youth in care, aged out of care, adopted or guardianship
- Countdown to 21 (C21)
  - Ages 19, 20.3, 20.6, 20.9
  - Transitional planning
- Youth in College
  - Ages 16-21; youth in care only
- Employment Incentive Program
  - Ages 17-21; youth in care only
- Teen Parenting Service Network
- DCFS Scholarship
  - Youth in care, aged out of care, adopted or in guardianship

Youth Housing Assistance Program (YHAP)

- Youth Housing Advocacy
  - 17.5 to 21 in care or up to 21 if case closed early
  - Services extended with voucher
  - Adopted or SGH age 14 or later
- Cash Assistance
  - 17.5 to 21 in care or up to 23 if pursuing FUP/FYI
  - Adopted or SGH age 16 or later
- Housing Subsidy
  - DCFS case closed early
  - Partial stipend until age 21

Youth Housing Advocacy

- Educate youth
- Budget Counseling
- Locate and apply for housing
- Advocate with property managers
- Locate potential employment opportunities
- Apply for public benefits
- Assist with FUP/FYI application



Youth Cash Assistance

- All cash assistance requests require a budget
- Most requests require an invoice
- Checks are only made out to vendors or agencies

- Security deposit
- First month's rent
- Rent arrears
- Utility start-up
- Utility arrears
- Beds
- Dressers
- Dining room table w/ 4 chairs OR desk w/ chair
- Household items
- Transportation

FUP and FYI Overview



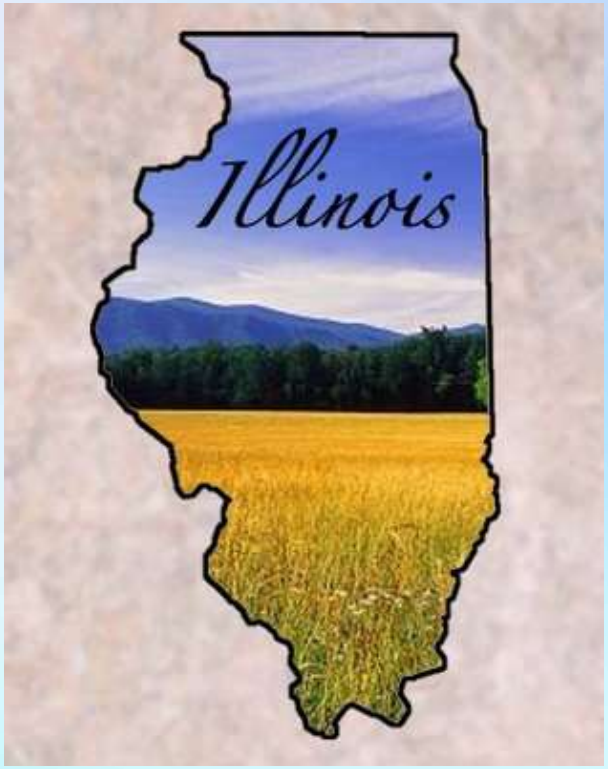
- Three year housing choice voucher programs
  - Can be extended to five years total
- Provides subsidy so youth can afford market rate housing (30% of income)
- Youth who are aging out, or have aged out, of DCFS care and are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless (must be housed before 25th birthday)

FUP In Illinois

- **Four housing authorities do not accept youth for FUP**
  - **Kankakee County**
  - **North Chicago**
  - **St. Clair County**
  - **Vermilion County**

Housing Authority
Housing Authority of Champaign County
Chicago Housing Authority
Housing Authority of Cook County
DuPage Housing Authority
Housing Authority of Joliet
Kankakee County Housing Authority
Housing Authority of Lake County
Madison County Housing Authority
North Chicago Housing Authority
Peoria Housing Authority
Rock Island Housing Authority
Rockford Housing Authority
Springfield Housing Authority
St. Clair County Housing Authority
Vermillion County Housing Authority (Danville)
Waukegan Housing Authority
Williamson County Housing Authority
Winnebago County Housing Authority

FYI in Illinois



Housing Authorities with FYI in Illinois

- Champaign County
- Chicago
- Cook County
- DuPage
- Joliet
- Mt. Vernon
- Oak Park
- Peoria
- Winnebago County

Pregnant or Parenting

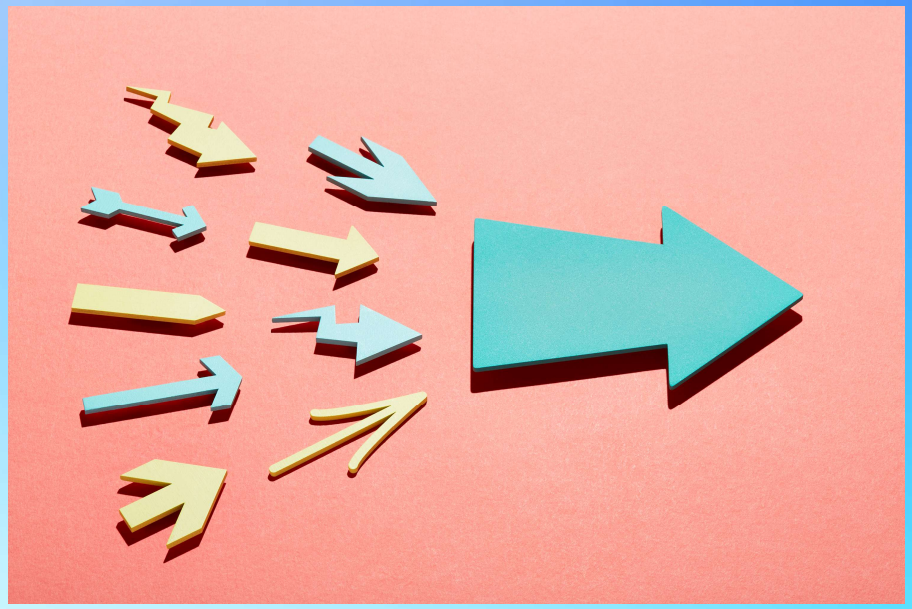
- HUD two heartbeats per room

- Voucher bedroom amount
  - Pregnant voucher participants may get a voucher for one less bedroom than needed until recertification



FUP & FYI Process

- Intake application and vital documents
  - ID, birth certificate, social security card, and proof of income/benefits
- Briefing
- Locate unit and landlord
- Submit Request for Tenancy Approval (RTA)
- Rent determination
- Inspection
- HAP Contract
- Sign lease and move in



YHAP Follow-Up Services



- FUP/FYI youth receive YHAP services for a total of 3 years
  - Typically, 2.5 years from initial YHAP referral and alumni center for last 6 months
- Conduct home visits
- Contact the youth monthly
- Contact the property manager
- Navigate crises

Family Advocacy/Alumni Centers



Advocacy Hotline (866) 459-6884

- Available to foster care alumni under age 30
  - Copies of important documents
  - Help obtain state ID or driver's license
  - Transportation when starting a job or training program
  - Community-based services
  - Help with housing referrals and applications

DCFS

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