Extended Foster Care (EFC) Housing Opportunities

What to know before you decide:

- All of these programs are meant to provide a bridge to something more sustainable. Some programs can help with emergencies, and others require longer-term planning.
- Knowing your eligibility and options as early as possible can be really helpful; think about your pathway from 18 through 29; what makes the most sense to sign up for, and when.
- Working with your EFC caseworker, and your connections, and their connections, can get you the information you need.

 Some programs have requirements, such as those with Public Housing Authorities (PHAs), that can cost you penalties or jeopardize your eligibility; knowing the rules and communicating changes in your status (EFC, employment, etc.), as required, will save you headaches and make the programs run more smoothly.

Questions?

Email dcyf.housing@dcyf.wa.gov

Program	Provider	Benefits	Ages/Requirements	Connection to Extended Foster Care (EFC)
Independent Youth Housing (IYHP)	OHY Contracted Agencies (https://deptofcommerce.app.box.com/s/o27hkoudakwlau2ldfw2dzl5y4x8arla)	Case management and rental assistance, with rental assistance being paid directly to landlords. Assistance with associated costs (deposits, fees, utilities if included in rent, etc.) No time limit on services, within the age requirements.	Must be between 18th and 25th birthday; must have been a dependent of Washington state (at some point prior to age 18); must meet income requirements; and includes a priority for those in care for at least one year.	Young adults receiving payments under EFC can also be served by IYHP at the same time. Supervised Independent Living (SIL) placement payments count as income. May participate in a savings plan if exceeding income requirements.
Young Adult Housing Program (YAHP)	OHY Contracted Agencies (https://deptofcommerce.box.com/s/ o27hkoudakwlau2ldfw2dzl5y4x8arla)	Case management and rental assistance, with rental assistance being paid directly to landlords. Assistance with associated costs (deposits, fees, utilities if included in rent, etc.). No time limit on services, within the age requirements.	Must be between 18th and 25th birthday; must be at-risk of homelessness; and must meet income requirements.	Young adults receiving payments under EFC can also be served by YAHP at the same time. SIL placement payments count as income. May participate in a savings plan if exceeding income requirements.



Program	Provider	Benefits	Ages/Requirements	Connection to Extended Foster Care (EFC)
Foster Care Housing Program (Youth FUP and FYI)	Check with your EFC case worker or Regional Housing Liaison.	Provides between 36 and 60 months of rental assistance; offers voluntary supportive services, which can include basic life skills, tenant rights and responsibilities, property owner liaison, and employment and educational counseling.	A young person must be 18 years old to be issued a voucher. And the young person can be no more than 24 years old at the time of voucher issuance and at the time of HAP contract execution (approximately when the lease is signed). Must have been in care between 16th and 18th birthdays; must be at risk of homelessness.	Young people can receive financial assistance from both EFC and FYI, but only for 180 days, and then EFC dependency must be dismissed and payments stopped.
Rapid Rehousing- Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (RRH YHDP)	OHY Contracted Agencies (https://deptofcommerce.box.com/s/ o27hkoudakwlau2ldfw2dzl5y4x8arla)	Case management and rental assistance	Must be between 18th and 25th birthday; must be homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness, or fleeing violence with focus on those fleeing violence, with mental illness and/or actively abusing/using substances.	
Independent Living Services (ILS)	Independent Living Provider List (https://dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/ILProviderContactList.pdf)	Case management – at least monthly meetings with the young adult – individualized focus and goals.	Starts at age 15 – up to the 23rd birthday. Must have had an open dependency with DCYF with an out-of-home placement for at least 30 days between the 15th and 18th birthday.	Like EFC, ILS is voluntary. Young adults can, and are encouraged, to be in EFC and IL at the same time.

Funds to Support Housing

EFC Supervised Independent Living (SIL) Housing Support Funds:

For those enrolled in EFC, and moving into an EFC SIL placement, funds are available to assist with the move, including first and last rent (if required), deposits, and basic household items (no computers, phones, tablets, etc.). Those in EFC can request EFC SIL Housing Support Funds for multiple moves with a total limit of \$3,500 up to age 21. The point of contact to request the funds is the primary caseworker, and the EFC Regional Leads review requests and approve the funds. A lease is required, as well as a budget showing that the move is sustainable and an itemized list for all requested items/expenses.

Youth Diversion Infrastructure Project (YDIP) and Homeless Prevention Diversion Fund (HPDF):

Flexible funding sources available in some counties.* These funds are available to prevent homelessness. Diversion helps individuals quickly secure permanent or temporary housing outside of the homeless Coordinated Entry system through creative brainstorming that identifies solutions to meet young people's unique needs. Pairing creative conversations about housing with a flexible funding source allows service providers to divert clients from the homelessness system or prevent homelessness altogether.

*HPDF is available in Jefferson, Clallam, Skagit, Whatcom, Thurston, Pierce, Yakima, Walla Walla, Spokane, and Clark Counties. YDIP is available in Pierce, Yakima, Walla Walla, Spokane, Clark and King Counties.