Young Adult Housing Program

The Young Adult Housing Program is a comprehensive program for young adults and families in Thurston County, Washington State, ages 18-24, who are homeless, living in unsafe situations, exiting an institution or have been in the state foster care system. Our role is to provide safe and stable housing for young adults and families who are facing challenges, along with support, advocacy and guidance in helping them achieve their goals.

How does a youth get started?
Fill out an eligibility form, which can be printed off below following link to webpage, or picked up at the 3rd floor reception desk at CYS.
Return completed eligibility form to CYS, as soon as possible, so eligibility can be determined.
Check your mail or email for your eligibility letter within two weeks.
If you are eligible, you will receive an invitation to the next housing orientation, which begins your admissions process.

Program Goals
- Self-sufficiency through increased financial responsibility
- Completion of basic education if needed
- Increased self-esteem and permanent connections
- Developed independent living skills
- Exit successfully to permanent housing

This is a support program which makes it possible for participants to work on their goals, complete their education, and find employment. Program participants, when working, are required to pay thirty percent of their monthly income for rent. Half of that amount is saved and reimbursed to the participant when they successfully completes and graduates from the program. We also provide ongoing work-shops and service learning opportunities in an effort to support continuing education and community involvement.

Many Foster Youth who have aged out or signed themselves out have transitioned into YAH.
Craig’s Corner: Community
Craig Smith, Clinical Coordinator

Life in today’s world can be very dissatisfying. When faced with dissatisfaction one of the strongest sources of resiliency is community. Our youth everyday overcome adversity the likes of which most of us would have difficulty imagining. And we know community works for them at home, in school, or anywhere else. They feel safer and more connected when their environment feels like a community. But it’s not just for the youth. I believe life is a little easier for all of us when we feel connected. I’m personally thankful to work at a place where community is central to the mission.

I have a question for everyone, and I hope you’ll give a moment’s thought to it:

What does community mean to you?

FIRST Program
Marisha McDowell, Recruitment & Retention Specialist

Licensed foster parents may experience an investigation when someone makes an allegation against them. The Department of Children Youth and Family (DCYF) has a responsibility to look into these concerns. The Division of Licensed Resources DLR/CPS (Child Protective Services) staff investigates allegations about child abuse and neglect. Either DLR/CPS staff or a licensor investigates allegations about licensing violations.

Most investigations do not result in a “finding” of abuse or neglect against a foster parent. However, these investigations can be a stressful time for you or your family.

The Purpose of FIRST is to provide neutral third party advice and support to foster parents including information on:

- Policies, procedures, WAC requirements governing investigation of allegations of child abuse and neglect or licensing violations by foster parents
- The process used by DCYF to investigate allegations, including expected timelines for the investigation
- Other factors or issues that foster parents can expect during the course of an investigation. As a licensed foster parent, you have the right to:
  - Have another adult present during your interview
  - Refuse to be interviewed
  - Send a written response regarding the allegations
  - Know the outcome of the

DLR/CPS investigation
- Appeal founded allegations

WHAT WE DO
To speak to a FIRST staff, call (866) 393-6186. They can:

- Respond to your request for assistance within 12 hours.
- Explain the investigation process, including time frames
- Explain the differences between a DLR/CPS investigation and a licensing complaint
- Assist you in communicating your thoughts and concerns to agency staff
- Talk to you about how you are feeling and lend a supportive ear
- Meet with you in person or by phone at your request and provide you with ongoing support throughout the investigation.
**16-24 Meetings**

Marisha McDowell, Recruitment & Retention Specialist

**WHAT IS 1624**

Engrossed Substitute House Bill (ESHB) 1624 was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on April 20, 2007. This bill requires regional and statewide quarterly meetings between Department Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF), foster parents, and the Foster Parent Association of Washington State (FPAWS).

Section 10 (15) of this bill requires DCYF to:

* Consult with foster parents, including members of the FPAWS, at least quarterly on regional and statewide levels.
* Receive information and comments regarding how DCYF is performing the duties and meeting the obligations.

Here are the new 16-24 meeting dates. Each Regional meeting will begin at 9:00 with a caucus for the caregivers, and DCYF staff will join the meetings at 10:00.

The call-in information will always be: 712/775-7464 with an access code: 258052#

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<th>STATEWIDE MEETINGS:</th>
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<th>REGIONAL MEETINGS:</th>
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<td>June 18, 2019 in Yakima</td>
<td>September 17, 2019 in Vancouver</td>
<td>May 14, 2019 in Vancouver</td>
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<td>September 17, 2019 in Vancouver</td>
<td>November 12, 2019 in Tumwater</td>
<td>August 13, 2019 in Centralia</td>
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<td>December 10, 2019 in Seatac</td>
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**Foster Care to Success College Scholarship**

Veneza Tena, SETuP Case Manager

Many foster youth are very resilient; by surviving day-to-day and placement to-placement they become strong, self-reliant and determined. If given the same opportunities and supports as other young people, they can achieve great success.

According to the most recent research, less than 10 percent of foster youth graduate from college. With support from Foster Care to Success, their success rate rises dramatically: 65 percent of scholars graduate within five years, a percentage higher than that of the overall U.S. population.

Applications are submitted online at: www.fc2success.org

- **APPLICATION DATES**
  January 1-March 31

- **AWARDS**
  $2,500-$5,000 based on a combination of need and merit

- **RENEWABLE**
  Up to five years if the student remains compliant with program requirements

- **ELIGIBILITY** *Applicants must:*
  Have been in public or private foster care for the 12 consecutive months leading up to and including their 18th birthday; OR have been adopted or placed into legal guardianship after their 16th birthday; OR have been orphaned for at least one year at the time of their 18th birthday and not subsequently adopted

  ◦ Be under the age of 25 on March 31 of the year in which they apply if they have not previously received scholarship funding from Foster Care to Success

  ◦ Have been in foster care or orphaned while living in the United States. U.S. citizenship is not required.

  ◦ Have been accepted into or expect to be accepted into an accredited, Pell-eligible college or other postsecondary school

**NOTE:** This is an undergraduate scholarship only.
Upcoming CYS Trainings

**APRIL**

Apr. 14, Kelso  
*As they Grow: The Drug Impacted Child*

Apr. 18, Shelton  
*Emotion Coaching*

Apr. 23, 24, Pt. Angeles  
*Verbal De-escalation*

Apr. 27, 28, 29  
*Parenting the Positive Discipline Way*

**MAY**

May 14, Shelton  
*So you have a NEW placement... Now what?*

May 15, Centralia  
*Fostering Children and Youth Through Transition: Grief and Loss, Helping Children through their feelings*

May 18, Bremerton  
*Post Traumatic Stress Disorder*

May 19, Pt. Orchard  
*Caregiving for Children with Sexual Behavior Concerns*

**To Browse More Classes and To Sign Up:**  

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**CYS Foster Families...**

Open the door to their homes, providing a safe, stable, nurturing home for growth.

**CYS Foster Youth...**

Walk through the door, into the home; vulnerable and have suffered multiple traumas. Most times not trusting, but looking for change.

**CYS Case Managers...**

Hold the door; to facilitate safety and growth, and to improve children’s lives leading to successful adulthood.

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**IMPORTANT NUMBERS:**

**Police Dispatch:** 911; Get Intake Number for CYS Case Manager

**National Center for Missing and Exploited Children:** 800.843.5678

**After Hour CYS On-Call Case Manager:** 360.280.9516

*Remember to always reference your youth’s safety plan!*

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**NEXT ROUNDTABLE EVENT:**

**MAY 30th, 11am @ CYS!**

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Community Youth Services supports youth and families in achieving their needs for health, safety, security, and community.