

SECTION 23H

H. OBTAINING SECTION 8 – PERMANENT HOUSING

NYCHA Section 8 is administered by NYCHA and provides **Section 8 vouchers** to youth ages eighteen and older who are transitioning out of foster care.

A **Section 8 voucher** allows a young person to rent a market-rate apartment (for 30% of their gross income) anywhere that has a private landlord who accepts Section 8 vouchers. **In general, this pathway is not recommended for youth aging out of care unless they have very stable employment and good credit, which is not often the case.**

Vouchers for foster youth aging out are also limited and there is a waiting list. Some supportive housing providers also get access to Section 8 vouchers for residents so they can transition out by/before age 26.

GOALS & STEPS

The **Required Steps** for the “[Apply to Section 8 Housing while in foster care](#)” Goal include:

- ☐ Contact ACS with required information to add youth to waitlist

Potential Steps include:

- ☐ Inform youth of long waitlist for Section 8 and the pros/cons of the program
- ☐ If youth is approaching 24 years old, inform ACS of urgency of case

See [Appendix I9 Applying Directly to Section 8 from Foster Care](#) for details about Applying to and Obtaining Section 8 Housing.

GOALS & STEPS

The steps for the “[Obtain Section 8 Housing straight from foster care](#)” Goal:

Required Steps include:

- ☐ Ensure youth has stable employment and good credit before trying to obtain housing
- ☐ Run youth's credit score
- ☐ Once called for voucher, immediately assist youth in locating an apartment (no fee apartments or connect to broker)
- ☐ Discuss with youth and agency staff how the one-month security deposit will be paid to landlord
- ☐ Once a signed lease is secured, submit to ACS Housing staff
- ☐ Provide social-emotional support to young person during the transition process – check in on them

Potential Steps include:

- ☐ Outreach to brokers to find those with section 8 apartments available for viewing
- ☐ If needed, work with youth to build positive credit
- ☐ Counsel youth during this trying and difficult process
- ☐ If a broker was used, apply to the \$1,800 ACS grant and ACS discharge grant to cover the broker fee
- ☐ If a broker was used, discuss with youth and agency how furniture and home goods will be provided for
- ☐ Assist youth with moving in - setting up the home, unpacking home goods, etc.

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