

SECTION 23L

L. APPLYING FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

If a young person does not have a regular paycheck when they move into NYCHA or supportive housing, they need to apply for public assistance.

TIP! *There may be some exceptions to this, however - some supportive housing residences allow young people enrolled in school/ vocational program to only pay a certain amount.*

Youth who are aging out of care are eligible to apply for Public Assistance through the Special Projects Center.

Youth in any borough are eligible for this location on 109 East 16th Street, 12th floor, NY, NY.

The staff at this HRA location are more knowledgeable about aging out of foster care, the wait time is significantly lower, and the experience is overall less stressful for the young person.

The youth can select a morning or afternoon appointment but will be assigned the specific time.

The Coach or Case Planner should always accompany a young person to obtain public assistance.

It is a very stressful office and can be overwhelming for the young person. The Coach can be there to provide emotional support, model appropriate self-advocacy, and assist in ensuring all needed documents and information are presented.

Coaches should also note the dates for follow up appointments and remind youth of these dates prior to the assigned day. *If a youth misses any of the follow up appointments, the case will be declined and the whole process must begin again.* This can cause an unnecessary delay in securing income, which could lead to the youth accruing arrears immediately after securing an apartment.



Once a youth is out of care for approximately six months, they are no longer eligible to utilize the Special Projects Center. For a young person whose case has closed and needs help re-applying, they must access their local assigned office. Coaches should be sure to verify the correct office prior to meeting a youth. HRA staff will not be able to assist youth who are not zoned for their specific office.

Each agency should apply to become Provider Portal Partners with HRA. This allows for clients to voluntarily opt to share the case information with the Coach or Housing Specialist. Coaches can access upcoming appointments, receive case alerts, assist clients with recertifying without visiting a HRA office, requesting budget letters or fair fares cards, and many other features.

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