OVERVIEW

SOME SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROVIDERS GET ACCESS TO SECTION 8 VOUCHERS FOR RESIDENTS SO THEY CAN TRANSITION OUT BY/BEFORE AGE 26.

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. NYCHA Section 8 is administered by New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA).

ELIGIBILITY

☑️ In possession of a Section 8 Portable Voucher
☑️ Credit score of 500+ often required
☑️ Stable employment is often required by individual/private landlord (Not required by the Section 8 program)
☑️ Paystubs from most recent 4 weeks of employment

POINTS TO CONSIDER

BENEFITS

- Can locate apartment in various neighborhoods, not limited to ‘projects’
- May be able to secure a one bedroom instead of a studio
- There is no age limit

CONS/CONSIDERATIONS:

- Apartments must pass inspection so are often better maintained than NYCHA units
- Section 8 program can be transferred to other states after participating in the program for one year
- Must pay 30% of gross income, which is closer to 50% of their take-home pay, and often will also be responsible for a percentage of utilities cost (this will vary by apartment)
- Rent must be paid in full by the first of the month (NYCHA can make payments in installments as long as the rent is paid by the end of the month).

TIPS FOR SECURING AN APARTMENT USING A SECTION 8 VOUCHER:

☑️ Good credit is crucial for securing a Section 8 apartment.
   Once a youth is 18 years old, the coach should be running a credit check with the youth to assess for any credit issues and to work on increasing the credit score.

☑️ Coaches (and/or Housing Specialists) can build relationships with brokers who are willing to assist youth aging out of foster care.

☑️ Coaches can search the Street Easy app or website with the young person for "No Fee" (no broker fee) apartments

☑️ Security deposit will often be needed to begin the Section 8 process