

APPLYING TO & OBTAINING SUPPORTIVE HOUSING: NYC 15



NYC 15 IS AN INITIATIVE TO PROVIDE 15,000 UNITS OF PERMANENT, SUPPORTIVE HOUSING OVER 15 YEARS. As a result, there are new scatter-site and congregate housing opportunities for youth aging out of foster care.



UNDER NYC 15:

A young person aging out of care can qualify for single adult housing OR housing for parenting youth (a larger apartment).

The young person **DOES NOT** have to leave this housing at age 26.

The support services are voluntary, although, the funding for this this program is very robust and includes a comprehensive range of supports.

RENT

There is no proof of income requirement for supportive housing upon application.

PAYING RENT/ACCEPTABLE FORMS OF INCOME:

RENT is based on 30% of gross income (before taxes) and is re-evaluated annually. *(After taxes, this is closer to 50% of income!)*

SSI and **Public Assistance** are acceptable means of paying rent.

ELIGIBLE INCOME SOURCES

The eligible income sources depend on the residence, so it is important to know this upfront!

Residences that use tax credits are not legally able to have full-time students as tenants and require a formal source of income (paychecks or public assistance).

Therefore, young people in college would need to go part-time and do work/study or have a paid internship/job.

Some residences only charge \$50/month or \$215 for full-time students.

Students can use grants and/or scholarship funds as a source of income in these residences *(if they have additional funds outside of tuition cost coverage)*.

Youth who do not have additional scholarship funds apply for **HRA benefits** to cover rent costs while in school.

HRA allows for students enrolled in an Associate or Bachelor degree program to receive benefits.

- Some students may not have enough hours to fully exempt them from the HRA work requirement. *HRA will count each hour of class, as well as one hour per credit for homework.*
- Recipients may be required to either attend the Back to Work program or gain part time work to remain eligible. Coaches should assist the young person in getting work study, which is easier to manage with their course load.
- *Note: HRA cannot count scholarship money as overall income when making eligibility determinations.*

ELIGIBILITY

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR NYC 15 SUPPORTIVE HOUSING, THE FOSTER YOUTH MUST QUALIFY FOR BOTH CRITERIA BELOW.

To clarify, a young person aging out of foster care does NOT have to have diagnosed mental health issues or a history of substance abuse. **However, they must have a clear need for supportive housing, not just affordable housing.**

CLINICAL CRITERIA:

Must meet **at least one** qualifying criteria in both categories.

At least one (1) marked behavioral or functional impairment:

- Difficulty with self-care of activities in daily living
- Difficulty with social functioning/maintaining interpersonal relationships
- Difficulties with basic responsibilities at home, school, work

AND at least one (1) of the following criteria:

- History of multisystem involvement as shown by contact with more than one agency within the last 2 years (ACS, DOC, DOCCS, RTF, RTC, DYCD etc.)
- No high school diploma or TASC
- Less than 6 months of employment in the last 24 months
- History of trauma/victimization

HOMELESS CRITERIA:

Must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Having left foster care in the last 24 months
- History of foster care at least one year past 16th birthday
- DHA homelessness history (90 nonconsecutive days in past year)
- Unsheltered youth (90 nonconsecutive days in past year)

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN? WHO CAN APPLY?

Many young people aging out of foster care will meet the above clinical criteria.

As long as agency staff can **very clearly outline** how/why they meet these criteria in the **Psychosocial Summary**, the young person can apply.

The Psychosocial Summary must also be consistent with the application (see Critical Steps on Page 4).

If the young person has overcome their difficulties/trauma to the point where they have healthy day-to-day functioning, positive adult relationships, the ability to show up to work/school and make progress, but just needs housing, mentorship/coaching, and assistance with independent living skills (things all young people need), they will not be eligible for NYC 15.

⚠️ They need to show a need for supportive housing, not just affordable housing.

QUICK APPLICATION OVERVIEW

APPLICATION DOCUMENTS INCLUDE:

HRA 2010e Application

Application will cover: Demographic information, Current housing/homelessness history, Clinical/medical information including any diagnoses, medications, hospitalizations, and restrictions on ADLs

Psychosocial Summary*

Psychiatric Evaluation*

*Must be completed within 6 months prior to application submission.

Applications with Psychosocial Summaries/Psychiatric Evaluations completed more than 6 months before application submission will be rejected.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Designated agency representatives must complete the **HRA 2010e Supportive Housing Application** online via the **PACT** (Placement Assistance and Client Tracking) **System**

Note: Only designated agency representatives and approved users can access this system.

ELIGIBILITY:

EXAMPLES OF YOUNG PEOPLE WHO DO NOT HAVE DIAGNOSED MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES BUT STILL MEET THE CRITERIA

EXAMPLE 1

A young person who has struggled to show up to school and engage and has no high school degree/equivalency.

The psychosocial summary should be very clear about:

- Why the young person has not gotten a degree or attended school regularly (what were the specific barriers/challenges?)
- What has been done about it
- Why that wasn't that successful
- Why supportive housing is needed

The psychosocial summary could explain:

The young person has an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) and entered 9th grade a few grade levels behind. Instead of continuing to fail/flounder, the young person turned to the streets and became disconnected.

The agency attempted to re-enroll them and get tutoring supports, but young person did not return any of the outreach.

The psychosocial summary should clearly outline the areas where the young person needs assistance (trusting adults, punctuality, reconnection to smaller, more supportive high school setting/program, etc.), and how a supportive housing setting is critical.

EXAMPLE 2

A young person who has a high school degree but has difficulty persisting in a job (or post-secondary setting) and building healthy relationships due to a history of trauma.

The psychosocial summary should be very clear about:

- Why they are not persisting in work/school
- What has been done about it
- The nature of their trauma *and* why/how it is getting in the way of their successful functioning

The psychosocial summary could outline:

How the young person has not been able to maintain a job/ stay in college due to difficulties with job persistence due to depression/trauma and maintaining relationships with bosses/professors.

Specifically, every few months the young person fell into a period of depression (feeling low/dark, unable to get out of bed) and would not show up at school/college for a few days at a time. The agency tried to get them into therapy, but the young person refused. Additionally, the young person had difficulty with social functioning at work/college; they lashed out at their boss/professors/colleagues if they were triggered. Their unprocessed trauma also causes this young person to get into altercations on the streets.



NYC 15: POINTS TO CONSIDER

BENEFITS

- Permanent housing. Youth do not have to leave at age 26
- Very robust staffing and supports
- Units come furnished
- Available units for parenting youth
- More options for young people to live in a neighborhood where they feel safe and comfortable
- The supportive housing residences are often in much better physical condition than NYCHA apartments
- It is much less likely a young person will get evicted for accruing rental arrears as compared to NYCHA

CONS/CONSIDERATIONS:

- Youth have to meet eligibility requirements
See Page 2 for more eligibility requirements
- Will not receive the full \$1,800 ACS grant, limited to \$645 in rent deposit and furniture allowance

APPLYING

The application process, timeline, and required documents follow the [NY/NY 3 Process](#).

HRA will screen the application for both NY/NY 3 and NYC 15 eligibility.

See [Appendix 15. Applying to and Obtaining Supportive Housing: NY/NY 3](#)

CRITICAL POINTS TO FOLLOW TO SECURE NYC 15 HOUSING

☑ **The psychosocial should clearly discuss why/how the young person meets the clinical criteria and why the young person needs supportive housing (versus just affordable housing). Specific examples and details should be provided.**

- Agency staff tend to write the psychosocial from a strength-based perspective.
- While it is fine to discuss a young person's potential, to be accepted into NYC 15 supportive housing the application needs to make a clear case as to why/how the young person is struggling, what has been done to address it to date, what the result has been, and why they young person still needs housing.
See examples on Page 3.

☑ **The information provided in the psychosocial MUST be consistent with the information provided in the application.**

- For example, if the psychosocial says the young person has difficulty showing up to school and appointments and needs to be in a supportive setting, and the application says that the young person shows up on time, the application will not be approved. (Additional input may be requested, or it may be rejected.)

☑ **The Coach must accompany the young person to the interview.**

- This is critical because if a young person does not have the proper documentation or does not show up, they will be rejected and may have to wait years before another slot opens.
- Even if the young person typically shows up on time, it is important for the Coach to accompany them in case they struggle with directions, forget a document, etc.

☑ **The Coach should help the young person prepare for the interview by doing a few practice interviews, going over what to say, potential questions, etc.**

Helpful tips for interview prep:

- Encourage the young person to stay calm during the interview
- Make sure what they say is consistent with what was said in the application
- Encourage the young person to show motivation and to explain in their own words how they want to take advantage of the supports provided