

SECTION 23A & 23B

A. AGING OUT OF FOSTER CARE

Young people in foster care in NYC who do not achieve permanency by age 21 “age out” of the system.

Permanency, defined in legal terms, is **being reunited** with the young person’s birth family, **being adopted** by a foster parent, or **achieving Legal Custody/ Guardianship**.

The overall goal is to ensure that the young person is part of a safe, stable, loving family and has a broad network of supportive adults. There are many other ways a young person can achieve long-term, *relational permanency*, including a moral adoption or a Permanency Pact. However, unless the young person has a legal arrangement (adoption or Legal Custody/Guardianship), the young person will “age out” and leave foster care with an APPLA goal (Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement with a permanency resource).

When the young person has an APPLA goal, they are eligible for various forms of affordable housing in NYC (see [Fair Futures Program Manual Section 23C](#) for more information). As it is illegal to allow a young person to be discharged from foster care without achieving permanency or a “stable living arrangement,” young people can stay in the foster care systems past age 21 if they do not obtain housing by then.

A **stable living arrangement** is defined as: a living arrangement reasonably expected to be the young adult’s home for at least 12 months following discharge from care. A “stable living arrangement” cannot be a shelter or other temporary housing (such as a hotel or other living arrangement with 10 or more unrelated persons).

If an agency does not have a permanent housing option identified for a young adult nearing or over their 21st birthday, regardless of the extent to which the agency or young adult has made efforts to secure housing, a **Continuation of Care and Support (CCS21+) request** must be submitted to ACS for consideration and review.

B. ROLE OF THE COACH VS. CASE MANAGER VS. HOUSING SPECIALIST

OVERVIEW

While Coaches can help facilitate permanency in a number of ways (e.g., helping the young person regain trust in adults), the roles/responsibilities associated with permanency are in the domain of the Case Planner. Case Planners will also help with the housing application process if the agency does not have a Housing Specialist.

The role of the Coach is to help oversee the housing application process by ensuring that all applications for all forms of housing are submitted as early as possible (ideally by 19 years old, if the young person has an APPLA goal), and assisting the appropriate agency staff, if needed.

Once the young person has housing, it is the role of the Coach to help them transition into the apartment, help them maintain stable housing, build independent living skills, and transition to into permanent housing (if applicable).

ROLE OF THE CASE PLANNER

One of the primary roles of the Case Planner is to help young people achieve permanency. *Some agencies may also have Family Finders and/or Wendy’s Wonderful Specialists who aid in the family finding process.*

If a young person has not achieved permanency and there are no plans in the works, a young person’s goal (on paper) becomes **APPLA**. Some young people may also voluntarily choose to have an APPLA goal and age out of foster care.

When a young person has an APPLA goal, the Case Planner’s role is to help the young person obtain housing/a stable living arrangement. Agencies that have Housing Specialists assist young people with the housing application process.

ROLE OF THE HOUSING SPECIALIST



The Housing Specialist helps young people with an APPLA goal submit applications to all forms of housing.



Once submitted, they help them access housing by following up on the application status, navigating any administrative issues that arise, and keeping in touch with the Coach and Case Planner.

For young people who have housing and are ready to transition into more permanent housing by/before age 26, the Housing Specialist can work with the Coach to assist these young people with the process.

If there is no Housing Specialist (as this role may be phased in over time), then the Case Planner (or Coach) would assist with the housing application process.

Overall, a Housing Specialist:

- Works with young people who are aging out to submit all forms of housing applications, as early as possible
- Checks in on young people's application status; follows up with NYCHA and supportive housing residences, when needed
- Helps young people transition into permanent housing, when applicable, by helping them obtain Section 8 and other housing vouchers, apply to the NYC affordable housing lottery, etc.
- Liaises with the Case Planner and Coach, as needed

ROLE OF THE COACH



Coaches will stick with young people until age 26, regardless of their permanency status, as all young people need assistance with their academic and career goals and more positive adult relationships in their lives.

In the Fair Futures model, once a young person has an APPLA+ goal, the Coach's role is to liaise with the Case Planner and Housing Specialist (and ACS, when needed) to ensure that the young person accesses stable, affordable housing. Regardless of who helps the young person fill out applications, the Coach will ensure that the process is moving along and that the young person attends their housing appointments.

During the application process and up until the time of discharge from foster care, the Coach serves as oversight and checks off a young person's progress completing "[Housing & Independent Living](#)" Goals. (See [Appendix E Goals & Steps Guide and Worksheets](#) and [Fair Futures Program Manual Section 230](#))

Once a young person ages out and moves into their new home, they will no longer have a Case Planner; it then becomes the full role of the Coach to help them maintain stable housing and build independent living skills.

Overall, Coaches help young people navigate the difficult transition to independent living.

The Coach:

- Coordinates with a Housing Specialist (and/or Case Planner, if the agency does not have a Housing Specialist) to ensure that all young people's housing applications are submitted as early as possible (by age 19 if their goal is to age out);
- Accompanies the young person to visit supportive housing residences, when needed;
- Helps young people move in and obtain furniture;
- Helps young people obtain public assistance, if/when needed;
- Helps young people maintain their housing by providing independent living and life skills supports such as budgeting, obtaining a bank account, and advocating with landlords, if needed.