**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.

[Click here to return to Section 23 Table of Contents.](#)