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 or already 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.