



## What is the Foster Youth Independence Initiative ?

FYI is a joint effort between the Housing Authority of Washington County (HAWC), the Child Welfare Division of the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS), and the Washington County Continuum of Care (CoC).

The program provides youth that qualify under the Family Unification Program (FUP) with Tenant Protection Vouchers (TPV) and supportive services in cooperation with HUD. These 36 to 60-month\* rental assistance vouchers can be requested from HUD by HAWC when qualifying youth are referred through the Child Welfare division of DHS.

Qualifying youth must meet the following criteria:

- Certified by DHS to be between the ages of 18-24
- Who have left or will leave foster care within 90 days under Social Security Act 475(5)(H)
- Homeless or at risk of becoming homeless at age 16-24

For youth awarded the FYI- vouchers, DHS is committed to provide supportive services for up to 36 months utilizing the Child Welfare Independent Living Program (ILP) as the main source of these services, as well as other services within the department which may include local community providers.

*For details of supportive services to be provided to participating FYI youth, see flip side of this flyer .*

**HUD's purpose in providing these FYI vouchers is to create a cross-system collaboration to prevent and end homelessness among youth with current or prior history of child welfare involvement. The success of this effort requires that community partners coordinate effectively to identify, target, and connect eligible youth at risk of or experiencing homelessness to housing and related supports. HUD is offering up to 25 FYI vouchers per fiscal year to eligible youth referred through the DHS Child Welfare Division.**

**For specific questions regarding FYI eligibility or referral, please contact DHS or HAWC representatives provide on flip side of this flyer.**

**\* FYI vouchers can be extended to 60 months when FYI participants enroll in our Family Self-sufficiency (FSS) Program. See FSS Flyer for details**

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*Equal Housing Opportunity*



## Supportive Services

**All eligible youth under the FYI program are able to receive special resources and services in addition to their monthly rental assistance in order to help them make the transition to self-sufficiency. To get the most out of this program, we encourage you to take advantage of these special supportive services**

### Services provided to eligible FYI youth:

1. Basic life skills information and building upon social skills, counseling on money management / budgeting / balancing checkbook, use of credit and opening a bank account, housekeeping, proper nutrition / meal preparation, grocery shopping, and access to healthcare and health insurance \*
2. Counseling on compliance with rental lease requirements and with Housing Choice Voucher rental assistance requirements, including assistance / referrals for assistance on security deposits, utility hook up fees and utility deposits
3. Providing assurances to owners of rental property as are reasonable and necessary to assist eligible youth to rent a unit with a voucher, including providing references to owners, and offering landlords guarantees for any youth who complete Rent Well tenant education classes
4. Job preparation and attainment counseling along with resume development and interview preparation
5. Educational and career advancement counseling regarding attainment of GED, attendance / financing of education at a technical school, trade school or college. Services may include grants to assist with the cost of education, as well as assistance applying for grants, financial assistance and scholarships

**All services are available to eligible youth for 36 months from the time your rental assistance begins. Enrolling in our FSS program can provide an additional 24 months of assistance plus special incentives and coaching. See our FSS flyer for more details.**

**Contact your DHS caseworker or Housing FYI coach to apply**

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