

I am over 18 and am having trouble with housing for various reasons. Where can I go?

For homeless shelters, looking for any resource or help: Call #211 or visit www.youthlinkmn.org.



The Washington County Housing Coordinator is Tina O'Malley, 651-430-6529. There is also a great internet site at www.housinglink.org.

The following are a few of the youth apartment programs in the twin cities metro area:

- **Home Free:** 651-251-5046. This is an efficiency apartment building in Stillwater. It has subsidized rent and support for homeless or eminently homeless youth who have a disability.
- **Booth Brown Foyer:** 651-251-3502. 1470 Como Ave. W., St. Paul, MN 55108. They have subsidized efficiency apartments and help with obtaining employment, education, health care, and transitioning to independence.
- **St. Barnabas Apartments:** 612-341-3148. 906 7th St. S., Minneapolis (at Carew Drive by HCMC). Efficiency apartments with subsidized rent and support services.
- **Seventh Landing:** 651-291-3842. / **Lindquist Apartments:** 612-289-1672. Efficiency apartments for young adults who are homeless or eminently homeless. For more information visit: www.rsedn.nonprofitoffice.com.
- **Project OffStreets and The Youth Housing Program:** 612-874-1936. They work with homeless youth to find housing and self-sufficiency, and have showers, laundry, clothing, and medical care. Call Youth Link at 612-252-1200 or visit the website at: www.youthlinkmn.org.
- **Job Corp:** There is a St. Paul Program with free room and board and you get paid and medical /dental care while you get vocational training, job placement, clothing, and spending money for performance bonuses and cash upon completion. Call 651-642-1133 or go to the website at www.humphreyjcc.org or the national site of www.jobcorpschicago.com.

(3-14-11)

HELP FOR YOUTH/YOUNG ADULTS IN "OUT OF HOME" CARE PREPARE FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY

A Youth Guide to SELF/Chafee Funds, Services, & Other Resources



Washington County
SELF Coordinator - Jodi Hilber
651-275-7258
Adolescent Independent
Living Skills Program
2011-2012

Introduction

SELF/Chafee is a program which recognizes the need for special help for youth ages 14-21. It helps provide the funding that will promote independent living for youth who are likely to age out of care at 18-21, or whose custody was transferred to a nonparent after 16 and state wards. The services are directed toward learning skills to transition to adult, such as transportation, education, employment, and housing. Research has demonstrated that youth who have experienced out-of-home placements are at high risk of homelessness.

Homeless youth had high rates of previous out-of-home placements

- 64% of homeless youth had experienced a placement in a foster home, group home, detention facility, or treatment center. The proportions were 61% among youth minors and 65% among young adults.
- 37% of youth had lived in a foster home (34% of youth minors and 37% of young adults).
- Nearly one-fifth (18%) had lived in a facility for persons with emotional, behavioral, or mental health problems (20% of youth and 18% of young adults).
- 1 in 4 had lived in a group home (25% overall; 19% of youth minors and 26% of young adults).
- Over 1 in 3 (37%) had been held more than a week in a corrections facility (36% of youth and 37% of young adults).
- 1 in 4 (28%) had run away from a placement (26% of youth and 28% of young adults).
- 12% of homeless young adults, ages 18-21, had to leave a foster home or other placement because they were too old to stay there.
- In the 12 months prior to the study, 17% of youth left some type of social service placement. This includes 5% who had recently left a foster home or group home.

This is from the most recent summary of a study through Wilder; you can see this study at www.wilder.org.

The SELF/Chafee program also:

- Allows youth in out-of-home care to save up to \$10,000 before they would have to contribute to their foster care cost. This allows youth to save for college, an apartment, or other needs critical to successful independence.
 - Those youth who are in foster care (excludes youth in care under Corrections) on their 18th birthday may ask the County to continue foster care benefit up to age 21, (this could cover a dorm or other suitable housing) your worker should provide you written notice of this benefit at age 17½. To receive this benefit you must meet at least one of the following:
 - completing high school, working on a GED,
 - enrolled in a post-secondary or vocational education program,
 - participating in a program or activity designed to promote or remove barriers to employment.
 - employed at least 80 hours/month
- OR
- Incapable of any of the above activities due to a medical condition, which incapacity is supported by regularly updated information in the youth's case plan.

If you leave foster care after you turn 18 and find that you cannot support yourself and wish to request to reenter care you may do so, if you can actively engage in one of the above conditions and your county has funds available.

To receive SELF funded services, youth must meet the following criteria:

- Youth age 14 and older who are on a social services or corrections caseload, in a county/tribal approved out-of-home placement, and likely to remain in placement until age 18 or older
- Developmentally disabled youth capable of living independently in the community after aging out of county/tribal approved out-of-home placement
- Youth who leave out-of-home placement after age 16 for adoption, kinship care, or legal guardianship up to age 21
- Youth ages 18-21 who have aged out of county/tribal approved out-of-home placement
- Youth ages 18-21 who are in extended out-of-home placement

These funds are renewed each year, are limited, are used on a first come basis, and cannot go to the next year.

We do not give cash. A bill or paid receipt is required and must be submitted to the county SELF coordinator through the social worker, probation officer, children’s mental health case manager, or adult mental health case manager.

Youth must do a SELF Independent Living Assessment and Plan with worker and be working toward goals on the plan.



OK, so I think I qualify for SELF Funds. How do I access SELF Funds?

Contact your county social worker, probation officer, or mental health case manager. Ask them to do a SELF Assessment/ Plan with you and discuss how you would like to use potential funds to help attain self-sufficiency.

Suggestions

- **No clothing** unless it is a uniform for work or the cost of the cap and gown for graduation.
- We **do not** issue funds to families to pay for vacations, give cash, or buy cars.
- We reserve the right to decline a request if we determine it is not appropriate, the youth displays irresponsible or non-compliant behavior, or the funds run out.

Acceptable Use of Funds

Ages 14-18

Typical uses are for individual or group Independent Living Skills classes and services, driver’s education, license fees, photo ID’s, bicycles, bus cards to get jobs and training, work uniforms or equipment, car expenses for work, ACT/SAT test for preparation classes, and college or vocational applications.



Ages 18-21

Typical uses are for transportation costs that support this plan, driver’s training, education and employment supports, and costs of items to furnish an apartment or dorm room. Youth who have aged out of foster care may be eligible for some help with room and board for a limited time. Youth may request foster care benefits to continue to pay for dorm or housing while in post-secondary.

Youth Conference

For youth in care or in the system who are 16-20 years of age, the Department of Human Services and LSS puts on an annual three-day conference for youth in Duluth at the University of Minnesota. This is a fun and action-packed conference. The chaperone ratio is one to-five same sex youth. The web site is www.tlt-mn-org. The county typically has the youth working with the ILD first because they chaperone



and want to know the youth is going. The cost is typically covered by SELF/Chafee if the youth is eligible.

Individual Coaching and Classes

Independent Living Skills classes are available to youth at HSI. (Independent Living Skills classes run one night a week in fall/winter/spring and day classes over the summer.) Youth are eligible for an Independent Living Skills specialist to work with them on a one-to-one basis. The youth’s worker should make the referral to HSI or an agency closer to the youth’s residence.

An online Independent Living Skills Assessment tool and links to skills training is available online at: www.caseylifeskills.org.

Educational/Vocational Funds (ETV)

Federal funds are available to youth who have experienced out-of-home placement. Federal funds for post-secondary education are available to current and former foster care youth. Each year, the Minnesota Department of Human Services will award Education and Training Vouchers (ETVs) to as many as 200 motivated youth.



Eligibility

Youth are eligible to apply for an ETV if they:

- Are under age 21 at the time of the application deadline (July 1st), and
- Are accepted into an accredited post-secondary school program (universities, colleges, community colleges, vocational, technical or trade schools), and
- In foster care on or after their 16th birthday, and continue to be in foster care up to or beyond their 18th birthday, or
- Adopted from foster care after their 16th birthday, or
- In foster care on or after their 16th birthday

when a relative/kin accepted a transfer of permanent legal and physical custody through a juvenile court order, or

- Are or were under state guardianship on their 18th birthday (also known as “state wards”)
- Youth must apply for an ETV each year they need financial assistance. They can continue to apply if they meet all of the following:
 - Received an ETV prior to their 21st birthday and have not reached their 23rd birthday
 - Are enrolled in an accredited post-secondary program
 - Are making progress in their school program and maintaining a grade point average of 2.0 or better.

Detailed information about the Education and Training Voucher program and an application form are available online at www.dhs.state.mn.us. Click on Children, Adolescent Services, Education/ Training Vouchers. For more information, contact the Minnesota Department of Human Services at 651-431-4663 or email DHS.ETVcoordinator@state.mn.us.

Other related websites for youth to contact: www.fosterclub.com.

Employment

Most counties have Workforce Centers that have services and funds to help youth find employment and get needed vocational training to obtain employment. They have job placements and summer youth employment programs for youth 14-21 who are economically disadvantaged and or at risk. Call the Workforce Center Youth Employment Counselor at 651-275-8650. The state site is www.mnwfc.org; the Washington County site is www.mnwfc.org/washingtoncounty, www.treetrust.org/our-programs/youth-conservation-corps/index.html.

