

September 26, 2024 | Lancaster County Housing & Redevelopment Authorities
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Lancaster County Housing Authority, in partnership with Lancaster City Housing Authority, Lancaster County Children and Youth, and Lancaster County Homelessness Coalition have launched the Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Voucher Program.

Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Vouchers will provide rental assistance to youth who have left foster care, or will leave foster care within 90 days, and are homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless at age 16 or older.

The FYI program is designed to provide targeted rental assistance to youth ages 18 through 24, for 36 months; youth who meet certain criteria are eligible for an additional 24 months, allowing the voucher holder to receive rental assistance for a total of five years.

Youth will be offered and connected to services to support their journey to self-sufficiency through community-based organizations. The available services include information and counseling on basic life skills, mental and behavioral health services, money management, job preparation, and educational counseling. Supportive housing services include landlord outreach, pre- and post-move counseling, and lease compliance.

To be eligible applicants must meet **all** of the following criteria:

- Have attained at least 18 years of age and not more than 24 years of age (have not reached their 25th birthday).
- Have left foster care, or will leave foster care within 90 days, in accordance with the transition plan described in section 475(5)(H) of the Social Security Act; and CFR 578.3 and 24 CFR.2, at age 16 years or older.
- Must be homeless or at-risk of homelessness at age 16 or older.

Advocates, and providers who work with young adults who meet the criteria can make referrals to Children and Youth Social Service Agency. The contact is Tyeshia Brooks who can be reached at **(717) 299-7925**. Vouchers are being made available for youth in Lancaster City and County.

Media Contact: press@lchra.com

Statements:

Audrey Steinmetz, Director – Lancaster County Housing Authority

“Everyone deserves a place to call home. Receiving a Foster Youth to Independence voucher is just the beginning. We are excited for the opportunity to collaborate with Lancaster County and Lancaster City partnering agencies to provide youth with the ongoing supportive services and resources they may need beyond securing safe, stable, affordable housing.”

Barbara Ellis Wilson, Executive Director – Lancaster City Housing Authority

“This initiative aims to address the needs of a demographic that is often overlooked. This innovative collaboration will offer both housing assistance and supportive systems to help individuals transitioning out of the foster care system in our county establish a solid foundation for their future.”

Lisa A. Greener, Executive Director – Community Basics, Inc.

“Community Basics is very excited to have FYI vouchers available in Lancaster County. The FYI vouchers will provide rental assistance and stability for homeless young adults in set-aside apartments at Bausman Place. FYI vouchers will give young adults the opportunity to get started in life and become contributing members of our community. Everyone deserves to live in a place they are proud to call home.”

Joshua G. Parsons, Ray D’Agostino, and Alice Yoder – Lancaster County Commissioners

“We look forward to the partnership of Lancaster County Children and Youth and the Lancaster County Housing & Redevelopment Authority, and the benefits the Foster Youth to Independence Program will bring to address youth homelessness in Lancaster County. The program will not only provide housing for individuals leaving the foster care system, but its services will aid them in seeking sustainable employment, building life skills and improving financial literacy to kickstart their independence.”