

Introducing the Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Housing Voucher Program

Overview:

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Portland Housing Authority (PHA) have collaborated with youth service providers to create the Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) program. FYI provides housing vouchers to eligible youth that last for up-to 3 years and are administered by the PHA. Participants also choose from an array of services from a service provider of their choice to increase their housing stability.

Eligibility:

- Youth between 18 and 24 years old, and
- Have left foster care, or will leave foster care within 90 days, and were in foster care at the age of 16 and older, and
- are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

To determine initial eligibility please send referrals to Chelsea Monzel at: cmonzel@porthouse.org

Once Portland Housing Authority has verified the above eligibility with DHHS, FYI staff will assist the participants and work towards housing. Youth must still meet minimum voucher eligibility with PHA.

**For any questions about additional voucher eligibility please email Chelsea Monzel or Meghan Condry at
PHA: cmonzel@porthouse.org mcndry@porthouse.org**

Once Enrolled:

PHA staff will assist FYI participants in connecting with a service provider(s) they meet eligibility for.

Types of Services Provided:

- **basic life skills training**
- **housing counseling**
- **landlord support services**
- **employment and training**
- **education and career advancement services**

Following successful program completion youth may be eligible for traditional HCV's if they are available. FYI participants will pay 30% of their income for rent, or \$50/month, whichever is greater.

Service Providers:



Youth Workforce Solutions helps youth between the ages of 16 and 24 to realize their potential, create education plans, find and keep employment, make successful transitions to self-sufficiency, and more.

207-775-5891 | www.workforcesolutionsme.org



Through the Joe Kreisler Teen Shelter and Teen Center drop-in, Preble Street Teen Services operates 24/7, 365 days a year to provide warmth and safety, nutritious meals, clothing, crisis intervention, case management, and overnight shelter to homeless and runaway youth ages 12-20.

207-775-0026 | preblestreet.org



EmPOWERme is a Portland Housing Authority Resident Service Program that addresses individual needs that residents face by providing resources and supports for barriers such as job skills, financial self-sufficiency, and more.

207-221-8068 | www.porthouse.org/217/emPOWERme



**PORTLAND HOUSING AUTHORITY
MAINE**