



TARRANT COUNTY

Wayne Pollard
Director

Housing Assistance Office
2100 Circle Drive - Suite 200
Fort Worth, Texas 76119

Telephone: 817- 531-7640
Fax: 817- 212-3055
TDD/TTY: 888- 444-2122
housing.tarrantcounty.com

Foster Youth Initiative (FYI)

Youth Eligibility Requirements:

- Has attained at least 18 years and not more than 24 years of age
- Left foster care, or will leave foster care within 90 days
- Homeless or risk of becoming homeless at 16 or older
- Use Voucher for 36 Months. They can get two (2) additional years if they join the Family Self-Sufficient Program (FSS)

Referrals are made through the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS)

SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED TO FYI PARTICIPANTS:

1. DFPS, their contractor or a third-party source will provide supportive services to youth with basic life skills information, counseling on money management, use of credit, housekeeping, proper nutrition/meal preparation, and access to healthcare (e.g., doctors, medication, and mental and behavioral health services), will be provided through Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) assessments, classes, and experiential learning opportunities.

Specific components of the classes include:

Health and Safety, Housing and Transportation, Job Readiness, Financial Management, Life Decisions/Responsibilities, and Personal/Social Relationships.

2. Counseling on compliance with rental lease requirements and with HCV program participant requirements will be provided through case management services within DFPS, the local contractor, or third-party source for case management.
3. DFPS, their contractor, or a third-party source will provide supportive services to youth throughout the rental application and lease-up process and will provide and coordinate follow-up supportive services for 36 months. Per the contract, a case manager will make face-to-face contact with each participating FYI-eligible youth served through an active Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) case every three months.
4. DFPS, their contractor, or third-party source will provide assistance/referrals with security deposits and utility deposits, in addition to DFPS staff providing transitional living allowance funds to eligible youth.

5. DFPS, their contractor, or third-party source will provide such assurances to owners of rental properties as are reasonable and necessary to assist a FYI-eligible youth to rent a unit with a FYI voucher.
6. Job preparation and attainment counseling (where to look/how to apply, dress, grooming, relationships with supervisory personnel, etc.) are provided through a variety of sources.
7. Educational and career advancement, counseling regarding attainment of general equivalency diploma (GED); assist with obtaining finances for education at a technical school, trade school or college; including successful work ethic and attitude models. Seek tuition and fee waivers for technical school, trade school, or college will be provided by DFPS PAL staff to youth that meet eligibility requirements such as aging out of foster care. Additional career advancement and counseling services are provided through case management with DFPS or their contractor, as well as partnerships with Texas Workforce.

All of the above services will be provided for a period of 36 months to FYI eligible youth receiving rental assistance through the use of a FYI voucher.