

Supporting Youth Transitioning Out of Foster Care

New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA)
New York City Administration for Children's Services (ACS)
November 2010



The NYC Administration for Children's Services (ACS)

- Established as a free-standing children's services agency in 1996
- Responsible for
 - Preventive Services
 - Child Protection
 - Foster Care
 - Child Care and Head Start

At a Glance: New York City's Child Welfare System

- 60,000 child abuse and neglect reports investigated in 2008
- 15,800 children in foster care
- 30,000 children receiving preventive services
- 110,000 children receiving child care/Head Start services

Preventive and Foster Care Services are Privatized

- 34 non-profit **foster care** agencies provide a continuum of family-based and congregate care for children and youth.
- 75 non-profit **preventive service** agencies provide a continuum of neighborhood based preventive services.

Overview of NYCHA

MISSION:

Provide decent and affordable housing in a safe and secure living environment for low and moderate-income residents throughout the five boroughs. To fulfill this mission, NYCHA must preserve its aging housing stock through timely maintenance and modernization of its developments.

NYCHA also administers a citywide Section 8 Leased Housing Program in rental apartments. Simultaneously, we work to enhance the quality of life at NYCHA by offering our residents opportunities to participate in a multitude of community, educational and recreational programs, as well as job readiness and training initiatives.

Social Services Department: To Administer social programs through case management, crisis response and preventive services to enhance the quality of life of NYCHA residents and help maintain viable communities in a safe and secure environment.

Overview of NYCHA

- 334 Developments in New York City
- 178, 407 Apartments
- 135, 491 Applicants on conventional housing waiting list; 125, 403 Section 8.
- 175, 475 Families Residing in public housing
- 403, 665 Authorized Residents
- In 2009 turnover rate was 3.21 %
- In 2009 the vacancy rate for occupancy was.049%

Overview of NYCHA

Priority Code	Description
Need Based 0	City Referred (ACS, HASA, HHC)
Need Based 1	Victim of Domestic Violence
Need Based 2	Intimidated Witness
Need Based 3	Displaced Applicant: NYC HPD
Need Based 4-9	Extremely Overcrowded, displaced, hate crimes, 50% Income on rent
Working Families 1, 2, 3	Priority Based on % of Gross Family Income on rent

Overview of NYCHA

- **Type of Services**

- **Community Operations:** Community and Senior centers which serve as local hubs for educational enhancement and support, recreational activities and cultural programs.

- 105 Community Centers

- 70 NYCHA Operated

- 35 Community Operated

- 125 Senior Centers

- 38 NYCHA Operated

- 87 Dept for the Aging Operated

Overview of NYCHA

- **Type of Services**

- **Resident Employment Services:** assist residents of the Authority who are under-employed, unemployed, or recipients of public assistance, in becoming economically self sufficient through the provision of job placement, training, business development, supportive service and educational opportunities. This includes career counseling services, referrals to ESL/GED classes, construction training programs, construction and apprenticeship opportunities and pre-apprenticeship training.
- **Resident Employment Program/Section 3:** Provides residents an opportunity to obtain temporary employment with construction companies obtaining federal assistance. Includes, carpentry, electrician, painting, plumbing, mason/bricklayer employment. 30% of new hires for each contract must be public housing resident or low income persons in the community

Overview of NYCHA

- **Type of Services**

- **Social Services Department Program**

- **Outreach Program:**

- **Supportive Outreach Services/Clinical Unit: Assist residents improve their level of functioning, develop coping and problem solving skills. Includes assistance with mental health needs, family crisis, child abuse/neglect, traumatic incidents, and domestic violence.**

- **For 2009, 6,319 Referrals were received**

- **Domestic Violence Program:**

- **The Emergency Transfer Program offers residents experiencing domestic violence, intimidated victims and intimidated witnesses and sexual assault victims, an opportunity to confidentially relocate to another development.**

- **For 2009, 1,976 Emergency Transfer Request were received**

- **For 2009, 4,644 New Domestic Incident Reports were generated**

Senior Programs:

Senior Resident Advisor/Service Coordinator programs provide supportive services to elderly (ages 62 and over), and non-elderly disabled residents, assisting them to maintain independent living and preventing premature institutionalization. Includes Floor captain/buddy system

Elderly Safe at Home program provides comprehensive crime prevention services and crime victim assistance to combat crime perpetrated against elderly and non-elderly disabled residents in the South Bronx. Includes monitoring of the health, safety & well-being of residents is also ongoing.

Senior Companion program Funded by the Corporation for National Service; twenty Senior Companions assigned through the Henry Street Settlement, provide friendly home visits companionship, and escort to frail and socially isolated residents in Queens, Manhattan, Staten Island and the Bronx.

In 2009, the average monthly number of residents serviced through Senior programs was 2, 697.

Youth Transitioning Out of Care

- **800 youth leave foster care each year and transition to adulthood.**
 1. Many are poorly prepared for independent living
 2. A large percent leave their placements without a job or high school diploma and make living arrangements with relatives after leaving their placements
 3. Many are leaving group care and residential treatment centers
 4. Informal living arrangements made after leaving care are likely to be unstable.

Eligibility Requirements for Public Housing

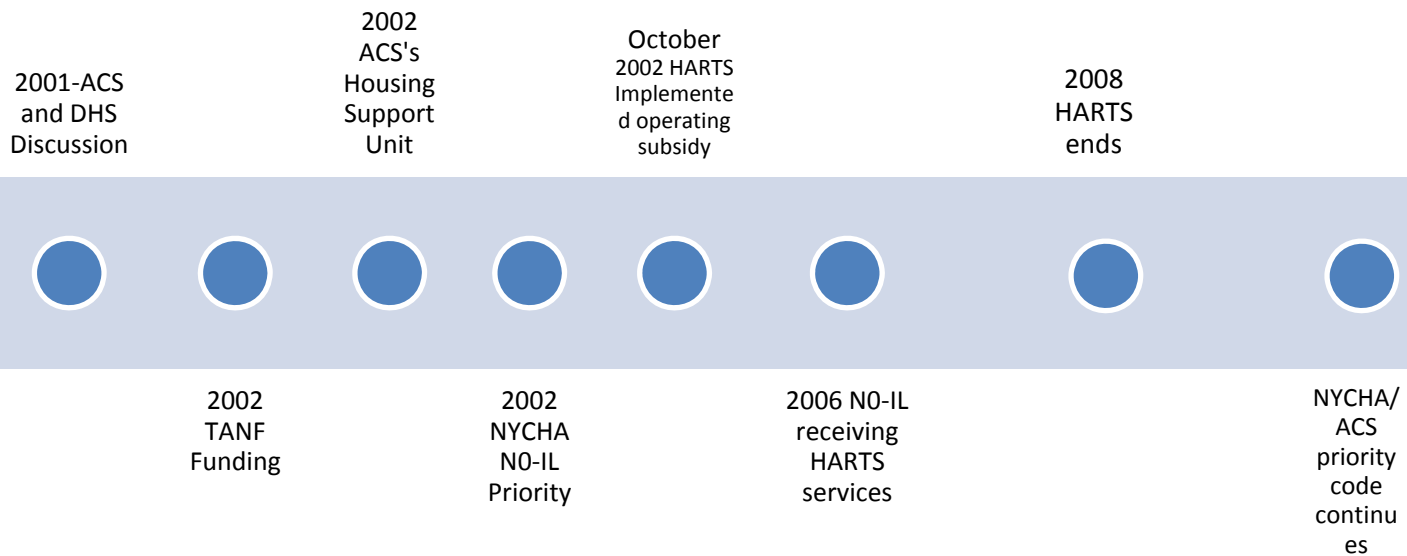
- What are the eligibility requirements: Income Limits

Persons in Family	Income Limits
1 Person	\$ 43,000
2 Person	\$ 49,150
3 Person	\$ 55,300
4 Person	\$ 61,450
5 Person	\$ 66,350
6 Person	\$ 71,300
7 Person	\$ 76,200
8 Person	\$ 81,100
9 Person	\$ 86,000
10 Person	\$ 90,950

Eligibility Requirements for Public Housing

- Family: A single person or blood/custody/marriage/adoption/guardianship /partner relationship
- Criminal Background Check
- Referral from the Administration for Children's Services for the Independent Living priority code.

Historical Partnership Timeline



NYCHA HARTS Program Model

- Development of the program
 - Holistic Approach
- From 2006 – 2008 280 Youth aging out of foster care agency relocated into NYCHA and were referred to the HARTS program
- Overall, 85 % of residents accepted services

NYCHA HARTS Program Model

- Types of Services Provided
 - Tenancy related assistance
 - Referrals for child care
 - Referrals to GED/Education programs
 - Job training/Employment services
 - Budgeting/Credit Counseling services
 - Life Skills Enhancement Workshops
 - Entitlement/Medical Insurance assistance

NYCHA HARTS Program Model

- Goals and Objectives
 - Bridge to Independent Living
 - Attainment of highest level of Self Sufficiency
 - Improved Quality of Life
 - Prevent future homelessness

ACS Housing Support Unit

- ACS
 - Identification of Need
 - Youth Empowerment Program (financial literacy)
 - Partnership with Local Initiatives Support Corporations (LISC)
 - Responsible for determination of eligibility
 - Ongoing support and placement

Continuous Partnership/Opportunities



Supportive Housing Network

Family Unification Program

NY NY III

CLOTH

LISC

Corporation of Supportive Housing

U.S Department of Health and Human Services.

HHC Partnership

ACS Lessons Learned

- Enhanced supportive services are necessary to begin in foster care and continue in NYCHA placement
- Connection to community partnership is imperative
- Information Sharing leads to success

NYCHA Lessons Learned

- Importance of Inter-agency collaboration
- Early Intervention is key
- Partnership between the housing provider and child welfare agency can secure a streamlined process which can prevent young people from falling through the cracks
- Targeted support services in conjunction with stable permanent housing is an essential bridge to self sufficiency (employment readiness, education, life skills building)

For Additional Information

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Thank You! Questions/Comments