

FUP & FYI WEEKLY FORUM

PREPARING, SELECTING, & REFERRING HOUSEHOLDS

MAY 7, 2020

1:00 – 2:15 PM EST

** this webinar is being recorded



Today's Presenters

Jamole Callahan

Director of Training and Development
ACTION Ohio & NCHCW

Anne Ventimiglia

Program Director, Supportive Housing for Families
The Connection, Inc.

Betsy Cronin,

Director of Early Childhood & Family Housing Policy
NCHCW

Mark J. Kroner

Author & Consultant
Housing Options for Independent Living

Ruth White

Executive Director
NCHCW

TODAY'S AGENDA

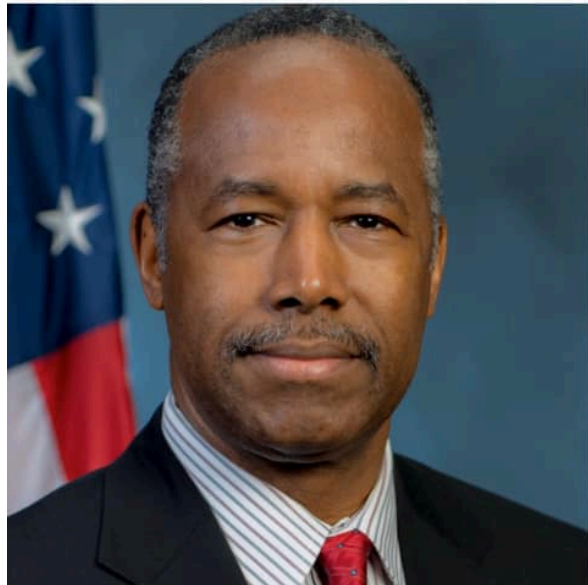
- Introduction & Welcome (1:00)
- Overview of FUP & FYI (1:05)
- Preparing Families (1:10)
- Preparing Youth (1:30)
- Questions (1:50)

National Foster Care Month 2020

Foster Care as a Support to Families,
Not a Substitute for Parents

www.childwelfare.gov/fostercaremonth





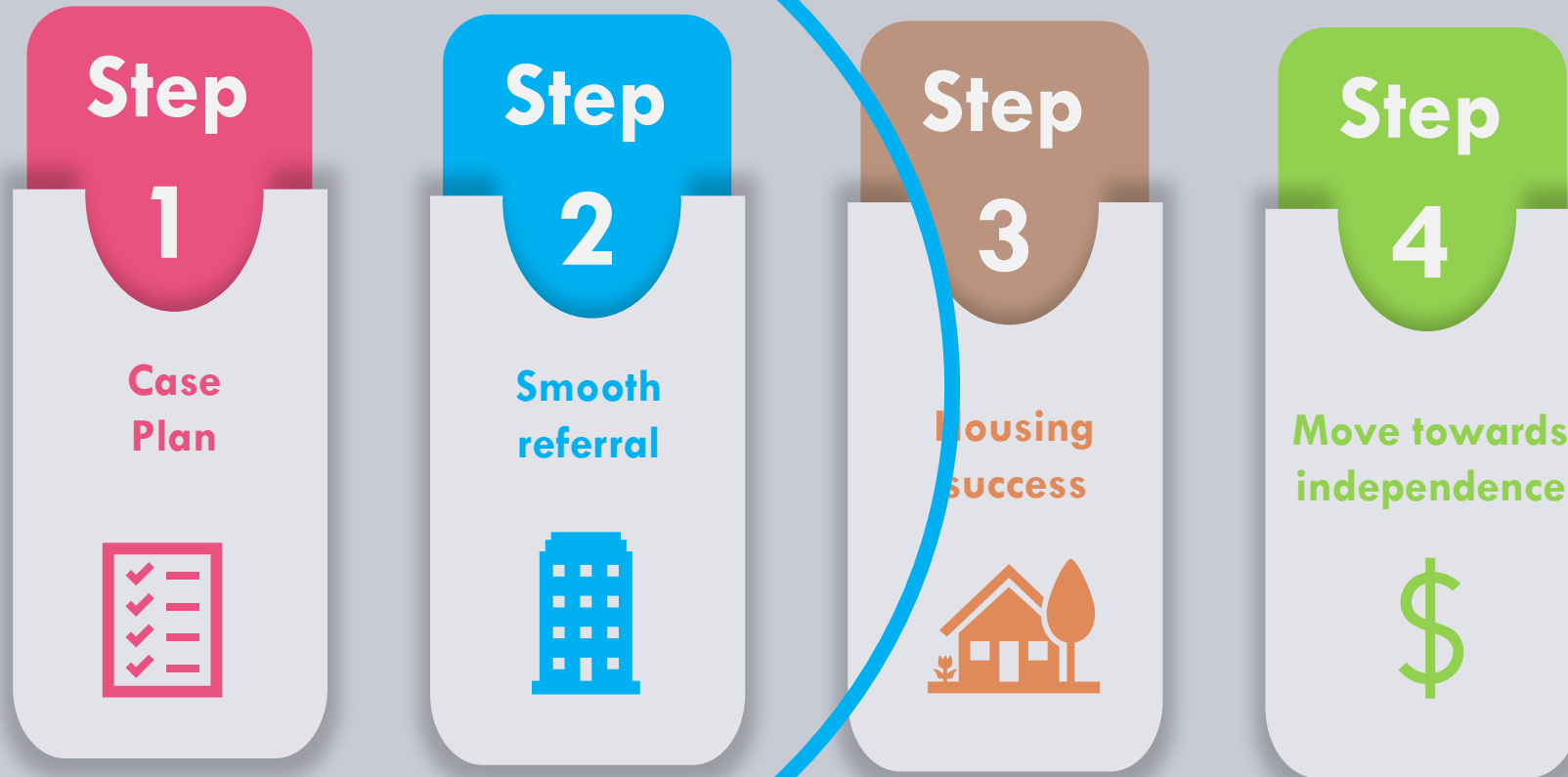
WELCOME
&
THANK YOU

What is the difference between FUP and FYI?

| | FUP | | FYI (estb. 2019) |
|---------------|--|--|--|
| | FUP Families (estb. 1990) | FUP Youth (estb. 2000) | |
| Purpose | Family Preservation/Reunification | Ease the transition to adulthood & independence | Ease the transition to adulthood & independence |
| Eligible HH | Families for whom housing is a primary risk for separation or barrier to reunification | Youth 18-25* who are homeless or at risk of homelessness | Youth 18-25* who are homeless or at risk of homelessness |
| Time limit | No limit if family is income eligible | 36 months | 36 months |
| Services | Recommended for a year (post placement in housing), FSS encouraged. | Chafee-like IL 36 months, FSS encouraged | Chafee-like IL 36 months |
| Eligible PHA | ACC | ACC | ACC, does not administer FUP |
| Distribution | Competitive NOFA | Competitive NOFA | Non-Competitive (“on demand”) |
| Notice length | 47 Pages (link) | 47 Pages | 10 Pages (link) |

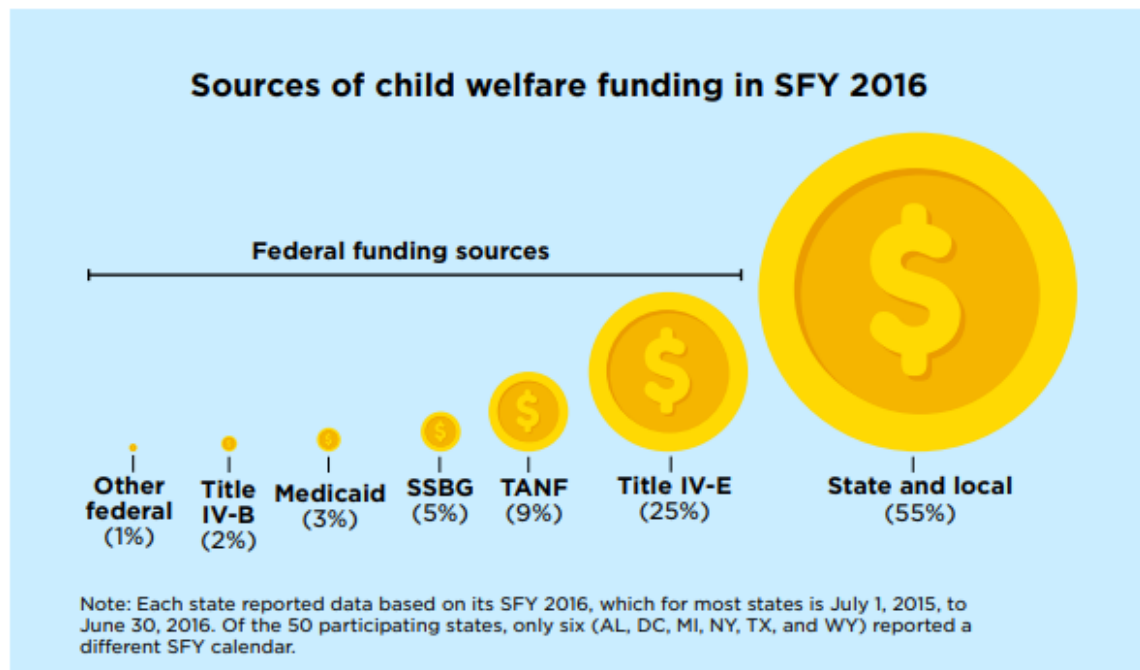
* Extended to 26 temporarily due to COVID-19 via <https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/PIH/documents/PIH2020-05.pdf>

The FYI/FUP process



As you move along this process, each partners' role will ebb and flow, this can and should be sorted out in the MOU or letter of agreement. For example, for obvious reasons, PCWAs will handle the majority of steps one and two planning.

State and local sources fund the majority of child welfare activities.



Child welfare funding can be used flexibly to provide services to build families.

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth, and Families, Children's Bureau. (2018). *Child maltreatment 2016*. Washington, DC. Available from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2016.pdf>.

Executive Office of the President of the United States, Office of Management and Budget. (2019). *Fiscal Year 2020 Historical Tables: Budget of the U.S. Government* (page 25). Washington, DC. Available at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/hist-fy2020.pdf>.

Other Federal Sources Can Also be Flexible

A variety of federal funding sources support child welfare activities.³

Title IV-E⁴ of the Social Security Act can be used for foster care, adoption, guardianship, transition supports for eligible children, and child welfare workforce training.

The Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) is a source of flexible funding that can be used to promote self-sufficiency, prevent or remedy child maltreatment, reduce inappropriate use of institutional care, and more

Title IV-B of the Social Security Act can be used for the prevention of maltreatment, family preservation, family reunification, services for foster and adopted children, training for child welfare professionals, and adoption promotion activities.

Medicaid covers health-related services for millions of low-income individuals.⁵

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) is a source of flexible funding that can be used to support child welfare activities.

States may use other **federal funding streams** to fund child welfare activities, such as the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, the Adoption Opportunities Program, Supplemental Security Income, and more.

SELECTING AND
PREPARING
FAMILIES FOR
HOUSING
SUCCESS

ANNEVENTIMIGLIA

BETSY CRONIN

The Connection Supportive Housing for Families and The Department of Children and Families

Intensive Case Management and Subsidized
Housing for Families Engaged in the Child Welfare System



The Connection

- In 1997, the CT Alcohol and Drug Policy and Council identified a need for home-based services for parenting women in recovery.
- The Connection responded to an RFP with a proposed model of supportive housing for families involved in the child welfare system.
- In 1998, DCF awarded the contract to The Connection.
- HUD awarded Section 8 Family Unification Program vouchers dedicated to SHF.

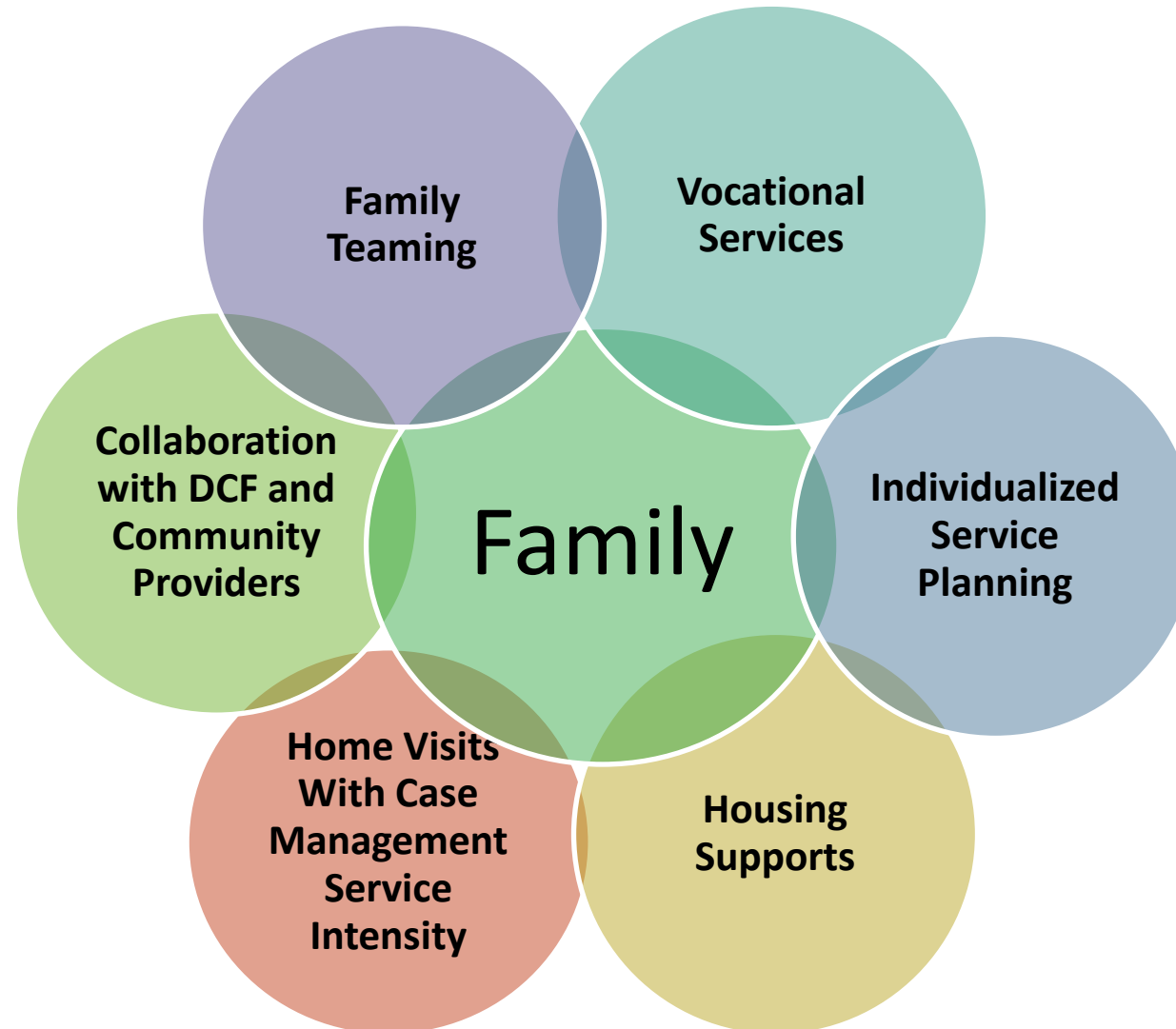
- In 2001, DCF elected to expand its referral base to include all families for which housing was a barrier to reunification or preservation.
- As a result, SHF evolved from a program designed exclusively for women in recovery to its current status which includes all families.

- Supportive Housing for Families is a child welfare family reunification and preservation program.
- Over the past 20 years, SHF has served thousands of families.
- Through the provision of intensive case management and subsidized housing, more than 8,000 children have been reunified and preserved with their families.

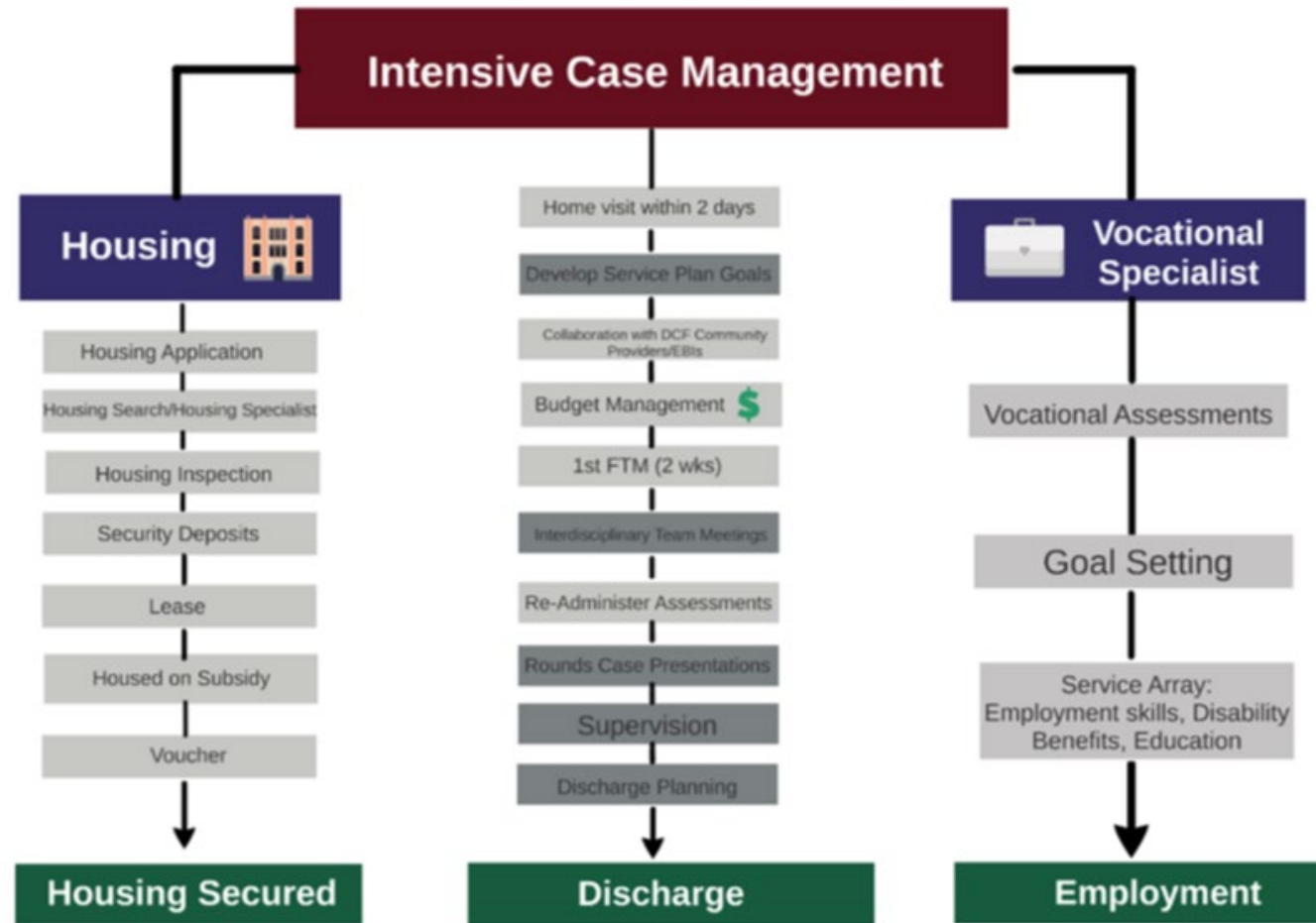
- 18 years or older
- Homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless
- Meet income eligibility guidelines
- Must be referred by a DCF Social Worker from On-going Services

SHF provides intensive case management services resulting in:

- Families being safely and stably housed
- Children in foster care reunifying with their family
- Children remaining with their families
- Families increasing their ability to become self-sufficient
- Improved overall family well-being



Core Components



- In 2012, the Department of Children and Families was awarded a competitive five-year, \$5 million dollar grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- Building on the strong history of SHF's demonstrated evidence of favorable outcomes, this project allowed SHF to conduct a randomized control trial, comparing child welfare-involved families who received services in the SHF program to "business as usual" with DCF.
- Strikingly, over a two-year period of follow up:
 - 91% of the children in the SHF program were successfully preserved with their families compared to only 60% of the children with DCF "business as usual"
 - Of the children in foster care, 30% in the SHF program were reunified versus only 9% of the children with DCF "business as usual".

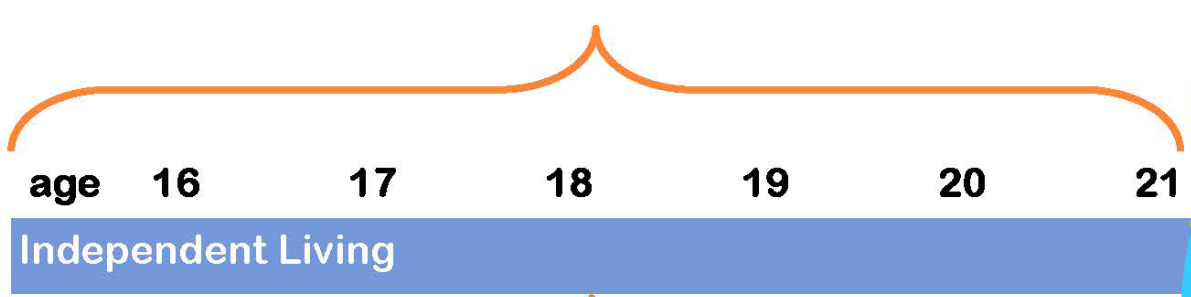


SELECTING &
PREPARING YOUTH
TO BE GOOD
RENTERS:

CHILD WELFARE
TOOLS FOR
INDEPENDENT
LIVING

Funding source for housing options for youth under the age of 21 should be drawn from state and federal child welfare funds. HUD funding must not supplant funds available for foster care placements.

Funding Source is H



- Foster Care
- Kinship Care
- Host Homes
- Group Home
- Homelessness
- RHYA TLP
- Other RHYA
- Dual Juvenile Justice

In VPA states, Title IV-E can be used to extend foster care placements including rental assistance in private apartments, ongoing case management, and savings accounts. Per ACYF guidance, youth must work or go to school 80 hours per month to remain eligible.

Chafee Independent Living Assistance can be used to support independent living, job training, transportation assistance, emergency cash assistance, and other services for youth until the age of 23 per the Family First Act. Chafee does not have a work requirement. ETVs were extended to 26 per FFPSA as well.

For a youth transitioning to HCV, this funding can also be used for first month's rent, security deposit, furniture, moving costs, and landlord recruitment.

For youth, we are going to focus on what can be done prior to age 21. Prior to age 18 transition planning is required by law and this plan must include housing.

Mark is going to discuss how youth move bi-directionally along this continuum and never into homelessness. Then, the referral can be made to FYI or FUP when youth are ready to sign a lease and be successful partners with their landlords.

services
the young person and the public system have had, at this point, potentially as many as ten years to plan for the transi-

Numerous tools are available to assess progress to IL

×

**Dreams can be a reality...
if you have a plan.**

Are you a service provider? [Create a free account](#)

Casey Life Skills is a free practice tool and framework for working with youth in foster care. It assesses independent living skills and provides results instantly. [Learn more about Casey Life Skills.](#)

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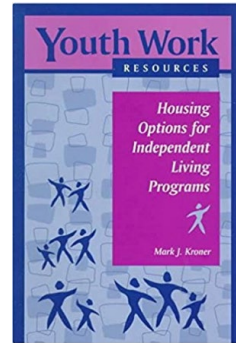
Casey Family Programs

What is the Casey Life Skills Assessment (CLSA)?

The CLSA is:

- A free, online youth-centered tool that assesses life skills youth need for their well-being, confidence and safety as they navigate high school, postsecondary education, employment and other life milestones.
- A measure of youth confidence in their future and their permanent connections to caring adults.
- Designed to be as free as possible from gender, ethnic and cultural biases.
- **Appropriate for all youth ages 14 to 21** regardless of living circumstances (i.e., in foster care, with bio-parents, in group homes or other places).
- Comprehensive with 113 assessment items categorized within eight areas for skills, knowledge and awareness. Youth can complete one area at a time or finish the whole assessment in approximately 30-40 minutes.

A RICH HISTORY OF INDEPENDENT LIVING TOOLS AND TRAINING



*The child welfare field, and particularly social work, has been perfecting the approach to independent living services for over 30 years. The pre-eminent author on these tools with respect to housing stability is **Mark J. Kroner**.*



Planning for successful transition to adulthood is required by federal law

- The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-351) (FCSA) **requires CW** to create a youth directed plan 90 days prior to discharge.
- This plan **MUST** include housing.

States *Can*
Receive IV-E
Reimbursement
for SIL and
other Age-
Appropriate
Placements for
Youth 18-21

Fostering Connections added

“a supervised setting in which the individual is living independently” as a reimbursable setting for youth 18-21. 42 U.S.C.A. 672 (c).

As states implement the older youth provisions of Fostering Connections, they will need to expand their capacity to provide SIL settings while youth are still in care.

Federal Guidance on SIL

Joe Bock of the Children’s Bureau listened directly to input from providers and included a flexible and expansive list of options for youth and young adults in foster care.

States have “the discretion to develop a range of supervised independent living settings which can be reasonably interpreted as consistent with the law, including whether or not such settings need to be licensed and any safety protocols that may be needed.”

Examples of
SIL Provided
by ACF (all
of which are
described in
the book)

host homes,

college dormitories,

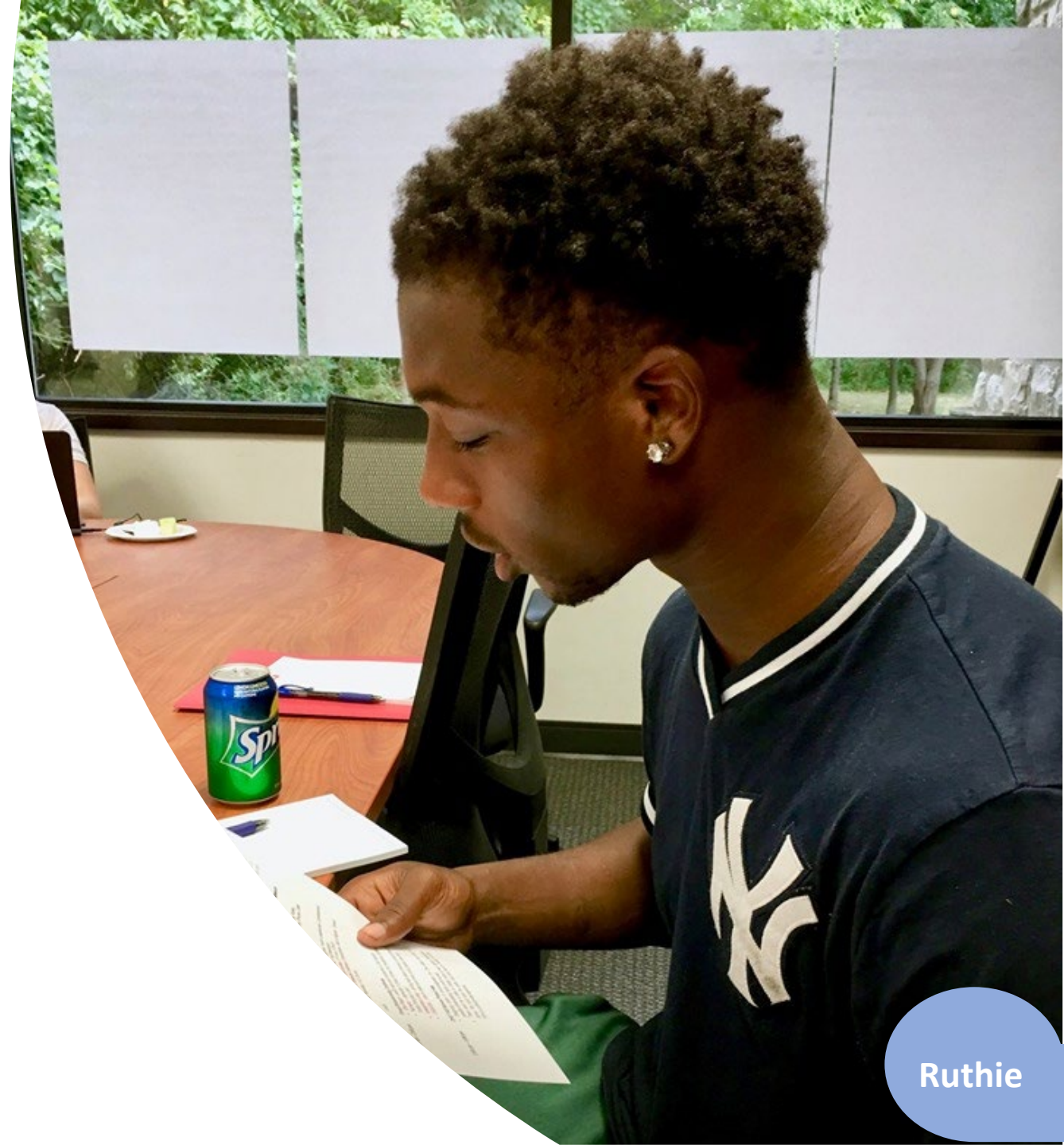
shared housing,

semi-supervised apartments,

supervised apartments

Identifying youth for FYI

- All along the way, IL coordinators, staff, trusted adults, and the young people themselves are planning for a successful transition.
- Some states have a variety of affordable supervised living options for youth, and thus, have sophisticated methods for identifying youth for various options.
- Perhaps the most robust process (and options) exist in California, largely due to the advocacy of the California Youth Connection & The John Burton Advocates for Youth.





Mark's Key Points

1. Permanency is not always permanent! Relational permanency does not always mean a place to stay.
2. American youth/young adults are not being taught the basics of adult living. Foster youth don't have the same time frame to be ready as their peers.
3. Most of us learn best through experience and trial and error. A combination of classes, individual counseling and direct experience worked best from my perspective.
4. Independent living training without housing experience is like driver's training without a car.
5. The whole child welfare system needs to be involved in self-sufficiency preparation; foster parents, group home staff, CASAs, GALs, Juvenile Court judges and staff, youth workers, etc.
6. My 25 year of doing life skills training focused on; Time-management, money management, healthy habits, Relationship skills, maintaining a place to stay and controlling emotions.
7. Strategies include; foster parent training, using former clients as trainers, completion of workbooks, videos, games, outdoor adventures, simulated cities, self-sufficiency skills retreats.

WHAT DOES THE REFERRAL PROCESS LOOK LIKE?

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES FAMILY UNIFICATION PROGRAM REFERRAL FORM

[CLICK HERE TO SELECT A HOUSING AUTHORITY](#) | 

(Henceforth referred as “housing authority”)

Referral Type: Family Youth CYCIS ID: _____

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD (HoH) INFORMATION

Head of Household Printed Name _____
Date of Birth _____
Social Security Number _____
Gender

I understand that if DCFS refers me to the Family Unification Program (FUP), this form will be submitted to the housing authority for the purpose of referral to FUP. I also understand that my signature provides explicit consent to allow DCFS’ contracted agency and the housing authority to view my date of birth, Social Security number and other personally identifying information. My signature also allows DCFS, their contracted service agencies and the housing authority discuss services provided to me and other household members.

Head of Household Signature

Date

FAMILY UNIFICATION PROGRAM (FUP) REFERRAL FORM

Directions to Reduce Common Mistakes

PAGE ONE

[Click Here to Select Housing Authority](#)

When you click on this statement, a drop-down box of all the housing authorities that have ever had a Family Unification Program will appear. Choose the desired housing authority. Most housing authorities listed are not currently accepting referrals. Email the [DCFS FUP Liaison](#) for information of the housing authorities currently accepting referrals for FUP. You will find the email address in your Outlook Directory while in your Illinois.gov email.

Head of Household Information

List only one adult (the person you think should have control of the voucher) and provide requested information, including their social security number. The head of household must read the statement above their signature and sign their name below the statement.

Other Adults in the Household

List only the adults who will move with the head of household to the new unit and provide requested information. All *other* adults must read the statement above the head of household’s signature and sign their name in the appropriate spot. Include their information (including their social security number). If there are more than two other adults who will live with the head of household, complete a second copy of the first page with the appropriate housing authority’s name listed at the top of the page.

Address

1. If they are homeless, list the address they stayed last night.
2. If their mailing address is different than their address, list their mailing address as well.

HOW (AND WHY) DO YOU FORECAST NEED AND TRACK VOUCHERS?

| Family Unification Program | | | | | | | Client Log | | | |
|----------------------------|-------|-------------|-----------|-----|------------|----------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| # | Close | Client Name | Client ID | F/Y | Caseworker | CW Phone | Date Client Signed | Date PCWA Referred | Date PHA interview | Date Voucher Issued |
| 1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 18 | | | | | | | | | | |

Questions?

"These children are not
someone else's responsibility.
They are our responsibility."

— THOMAS



Recorded & Upcoming Webinars

April 23

Overview & Getting started ([watch](#))

April 30

Partnership & Landlord Recruitment ([watch](#))

May 7

Preparing, Selecting, & Referring Households (link available later today)

May 14

Services and Economic Success ([register](#))

Open Forum Fridays Live on Facebook at 3:00 pm (EST)

visit www.nchcw.org to learn more