Foster Youth Housing

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Introductions!

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Supporting the whole youth

A Youth’s Housing Journey

- Life Events/Skills
- Mental and Physical Health
- Support System & Peer Support
- Financial Factors
- Race and Ethnicity
- Gender and Sexual Orientation
- Socioeconomic Status
- Identity

Youth Success
- Identifying and Advocating for themselves
- Asking for Support
- Mental and Physical Health Needs
- Youth Basic Needs
What Does The Housing Experience Look Like For Foster Youth?

Lack of Preparation
- Money Management
- Knowledge of credit score
- Job security
- Household items
- Basic necessities

Lack of Knowledge
- What does safe housing look like?
- Housing applications
- Look for housing
- Maintaining housing

Lack of Guidance and Support
- Not having support systems
- Lack of people to go to
- Lack of knowledge of next possible steps.

Youth Homelessness and Housing Instability

The lack of support, knowledge, and ability to be prepared a high amount of current/former foster youth end up homeless, couch surfing, in unstable and/or unsafe housing situations.
Housing Obstacles and Insecurities

- Low/No credit scores
  - Lack of knowledge of how to raise/fix credit score
- Low/no income
  - Leads to not qualifying for housing
- Lack of housing program resources available
- Lack of resources to aid with move in costs
- Independent living skills
- Overall disconnection from the community they are in and the services/programs
- Safe spaces for youth to talk about housing obstacles and insecurities
Filling The Gaps

- Guidance from Social Workers/Case Workers
- Liveable wages
- Rental assistance
- Housing deposit assistance
- Financial assistance
- Support furnishing/Supplying their homes
- Independent Living Skills
- Low income housing
- Support identifying and building credit score
- Open individualized support services
Feelings as a Youth:

Many youth who are struggling to find stable housing begin to experience a lot of:

- Mental health issues like depression, anxiety, etc.
- Youth also feel very hopeless.
- Youth begin to shut down/isolate when they feel that nothing is going right for them in the housing search.
- So much more that is not discussed.

Feelings as a Provider:

As a provider, I often find myself feeling:

- Frustrated at the lack of affordable housing and resources/programs or our foster youth.
- Worried about youth who do not feel ready to live independently but are being forced to do so without being given any tools or skills by their previous caregivers.
- Empathy for each youth going through housing instabilities.
- Wishing there was a magic fix to housing.
Recommendations

- Social workers/case managers work closely with youth on building independent living skills.
  - For example: building credit scores, money management, keeping vital documents in a safe place, personal hygiene, home cleanliness and more. I also think it is very important to teach youth to utilize all of the resources available to them.
- Creating more housing resources and opportunities for foster youth.
- Aiding youth in breaking down barriers to housing insecurities by creating program to uplift housing services.