

The logo for 'Voices Youth Programs' features the word 'Voices' in a stylized font. The 'V' is orange, and the 'oices' are blue. A thin orange line arches over the 'oices' part. Below 'Voices' is a horizontal blue line, and underneath that is the text 'YOUTH PROGRAMS' in orange, all-caps, sans-serif font.

YOUTH PROGRAMS



Foster Youth Housing

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Introductions!



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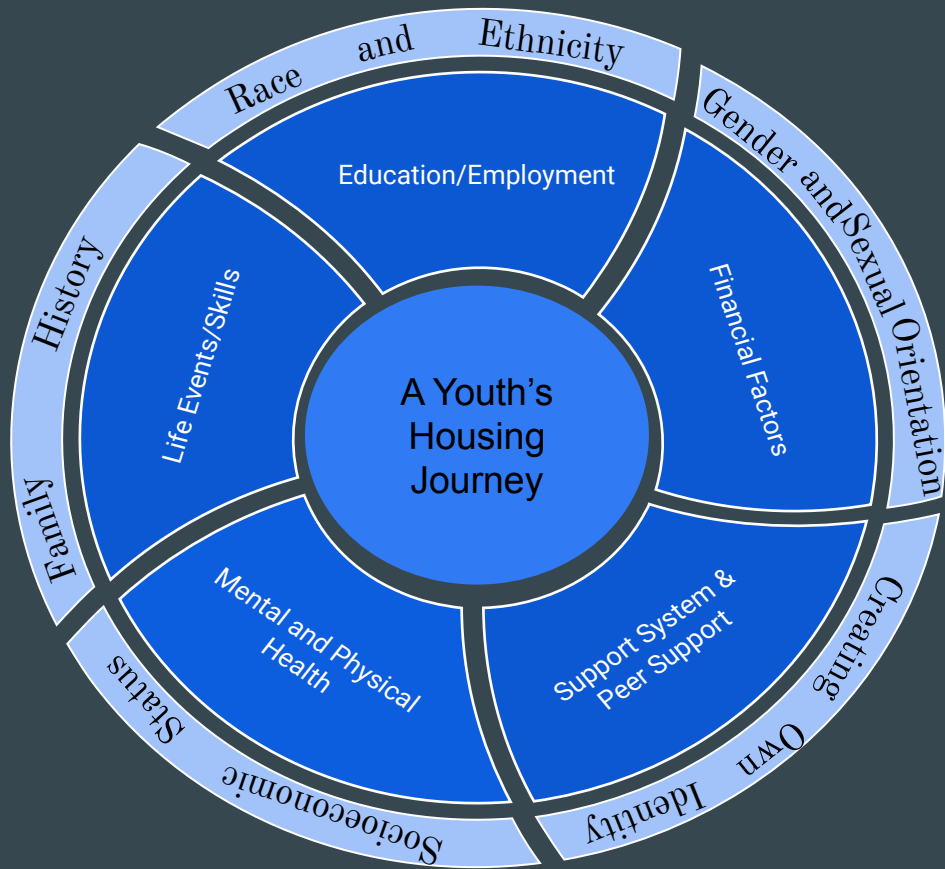
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Supporting the whole youth



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.