



Expectant & Parenting Youth Supportive Housing

Bidder's Conference

January 11, 2016

Department of Children and Families (DCF)

Created in July of 2006, DCF was the First Cabinet-level Department devoted *exclusively* to serving and safeguarding children and families.

Mission

In partnership with New Jersey's communities, DCF will ensure the safety, well-being, and success of New Jersey's children and families.

Vision

To ensure a better today and an even greater tomorrow for every individual we serve.

Department of Children and Families

August 2010-present

Office of
Adolescent
Services
(OAS)

Division of
Child
Protection
and
Permanency
(CP&P)
Formerly
DYFS

Division of
Children's
System of
Care
(CSOC)
Formerly
DCBHS

Division of
Family and
Community
Partnerships
(FCP)
Formerly DPCP

Division on
Women
(DOW)

To improve the coordination of policy, practice, and programming for adolescents and young adults being served throughout DCF.

Office of Adolescent Services

The mission of the DCF Office of Adolescent Services (OAS) is to support adolescents in their transition to adulthood to achieve economic self-sufficiency, interdependence, and engage in healthy lifestyles.



Office of Adolescent Services

Ensuring that services provided through the Department of Children and Families are coordinated, effective, meet best practice standards, are youth driven, and adapt to the needs of families and communities,



Youth At-Risk Homelessness (YARH) Federal Project

QuickCents Federal Project

Youth Advisory Boards and Speaker's Bureau

Housing and Street Outreach Programs

Permanency and Mentoring Programs

Youth Employment and Career Technical Assistance

NJ Foster Care Scholars, Education Stability, and Academic Support

Human Trafficking Training and Resources

Life Skills and Aftercare Services

Wraparound (aka Chafee) Funding

Outreach to At Risk Youth (OTARY) Programs

Summer (Housing) Internship Program (SHIP)/(SIP)

LGBTQI Resources and Technical Assistance

Expectant and Parenting Youth Resources and Technical Assistance

Office of Adolescent Services

Developing linkages with other service providers in order to create a more equitable and seamless service system, and

DCF Cross System Partnerships-*Education/Health/Behavioral Health/Services for Developmentally Disabled Youth/Substance Abuse

***LGBTQI Committee**

***Department of Labor and Workforce Development/SETC**

***Juvenile Justice Commission/Juvenile Justice Systems Improvement (JJSI)**

***Localized Committees, Boards, and Advocacy Groups:**

CIACC

FAFS

CASA

ACNJ

CPAC

Aging-Out Groups

NJ-ACYF

NYPB

***Governor's Homelessness Working Group**

***Non-DCF Contracted Programs-housing programs, mentoring, programming, etc.**



Office of Adolescent Services

Providing leadership and policy development in the field of adolescent services.

***Child Protection and Permanency Policy**
Unpacking The Adolescent Policy Project



***Task Force on Helping Youth Thrive in Placement (HYTIP)**

***LGBTQI Safe Space Liaison Program and Training**

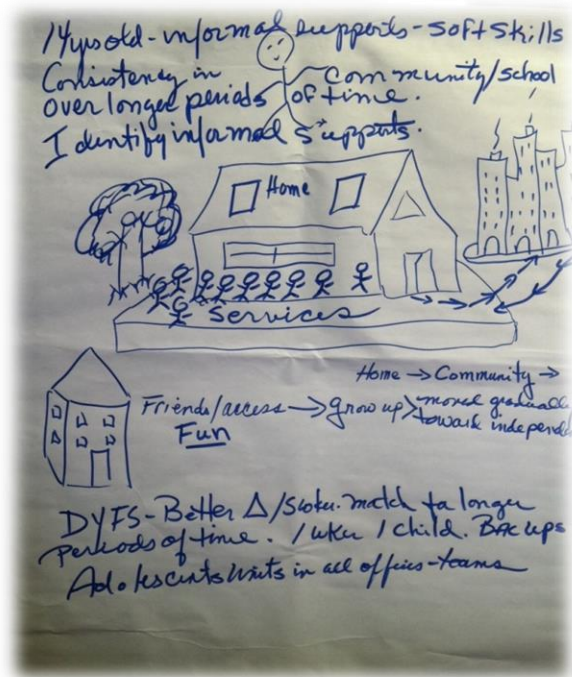
***Case Practice Issues and Technical Support**

***Adolescent Training, Practice Forums, and Certificate Program**

***Reviewing data to understand needs and trends**

OAS Strategic Plan Domains

- Housing
- Education and Employment
- Physical and Mental Health
- General Transition Support
- Youth Engagement
- Permanence and Familial Support
- Criminal Justice/Legal Services
- General/Cross Systems



OAS Strategic Plan Domains

• Housing

eligible youth.

Objective 3: Increase housing for Young Mothers and Fathers.

- Identify best practice through researching effective housing models for young parents and young parents with multiple children.
- Expand housing programs.

• General Transition Support

- Young Parents
 - Identify statewide community resources and service gaps for young parents.
 - Provide training and practice guidance resources to DCF staff to improve engagement and service linkage regarding young mothers and fathers involved in DCF programs.
 - Collaborate with DPCP to ensure that fatherhood programs are accessible and meet the needs of young fathers.

YOUTH THRIVE™

PROTECTIVE & PROMOTIVE FACTORS FOR HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT AND WELL-BEING

INCREASE PROTECTIVE & PROMOTIVE FACTORS

- Personal resilience
- Social connections
- Knowledge of youth development
- Concrete supports in time of need
- Social, emotional, behavioral, intellectual and moral competence in youth

REDUCE RISK FACTORS

- Psychological stressors
- Inadequate or negative relationships with family members, adults outside youth's family and peers
- Insufficient or inadequate opportunities for positive growth and development
- Unsafe, unstable, inequitable environments

DYNAMIC OUTCOMES HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT & WELL-BEING FOR YOUTH

- Hopeful, optimistic, compassionate, curious, resilient identity
- Supportive family and social networks
- Ability to form and sustain caring, committed relationships
- Success in school and workplace
- Service to community or society

Request for Proposals (RFP)

Expectant & Parenting Youth Supportive Housing *Background and Overview*

- **Program Vision:** Expectant/parenting youth and their children will live a safe, stable and healthy lifestyle that includes healthy development for both the parent and child, a strong parent-child bond and the youth having the necessary resources and skills to adequately provide for themselves and their child(ren).

Background

Teenage pregnancy, especially for youth in foster care, is a major social and reproductive issue in the United States.

Supporting Data:

- A teenage girl in foster care is 2.5 times more likely to become pregnant by age 19 than her adolescent peers not in foster care.
- Approximately 50% of 21 year old males transitioning out of foster care reported getting a partner pregnant compared to 19% of their non-foster care peers.
- Teen mothers are twice as likely to be reported for neglect or abuse compared to parents just a few years older.
- Children of teen parents are twice as likely to be placed in the child welfare system

Background

➤ *Expectant and Parenting Youth in Foster Care Have Complicated Needs*

➤ Unresolved trauma

➤ Lack stable and secure family reports

➤ Less likely to complete high school

➤ More likely to experience difficulty obtaining employment and finding stable housing upon their exit from care.

NJ Teen Birth Rates 2007-2011

• Cumberland	33.5
• Salem	20.5
• Passaic	18.7
• Camden	18.6
• Hudson	18.2
• Atlantic	17.7
• Essex	17.7
• Cape May	15.0

Program Overview

- DCF service funding and DCA provided housing vouchers will be used to support long term, stable housing and voluntary supportive services for CP&P involved (or recently involved) youth who are expecting or parenting.
- Youth must be between 18 age 20 prior to entering the program.
- One award will be granted in each region, with a grant of 5 Section-8 project-based housing vouchers and \$110,000 in service funding in each region. A total of 3 programs will be awarded (15 housing vouchers and \$330,000 in service funding).
- Trauma-informed, evidence-supported services must be integral components of the model.

Selected Counties

- **Southern Region**

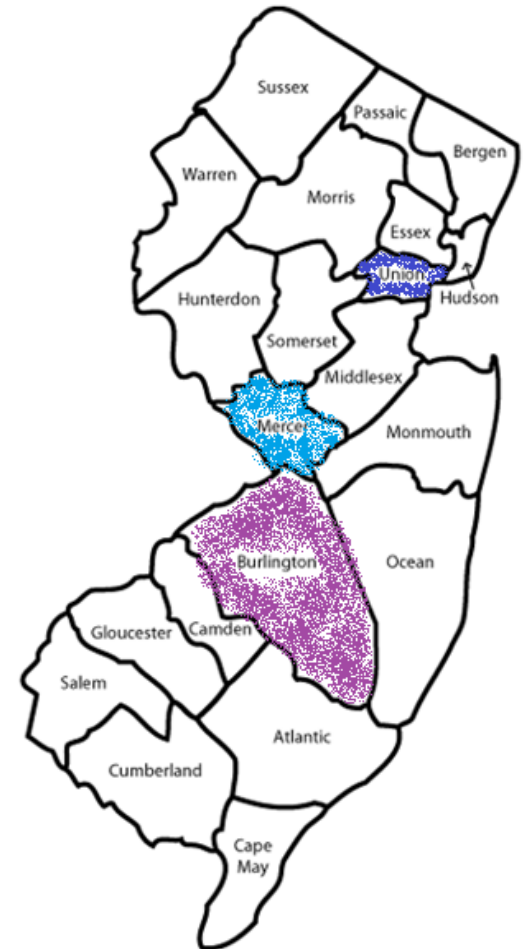
- Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester & Salem Counties

- **Central Region**

- Hunterdon, Somerset, Middlesex, Monmouth & Ocean Counties

- **Northern Region**

- Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris, Passaic, Sussex & Warren Counties



**Please note that due to other housing initiatives, these programs cannot be located in Burlington, Mercer, and Union Counties.*

Program Principles

1. Youth driven (support individual choice)
2. Trauma informed
3. Youth Thrive framework lens
4. Developmentally & Culturally Informed
5. Easy Access to Services
6. Local communities know their youth best
7. Housing First

Youth Identification

- **Referrals will be generated from the CP&P Local Offices in conjunction with OAS**
- **The Local Offices will work in partnership with the awarded program**
- **Indicators of need:**
 - 18 to 20 years of age at intake
 - Current CP&P open case/involvement (or recent involvement on case by case basis)
 - Expectant and Parenting Young Adults that are homeless or at-risk of homelessness.

Housing First Principles (edit)

- **Consumer-driven and client-centered**
- **Flexible in response to individual service preferences**
- **Supportive Services are voluntary**
- **Practice and Policies to prevent lease violations and evictions**

Housing Model

- **Safe and affordable**
- **Young adults hold the lease/sublease**
- **Tenure in housing is not contingent upon participation in service**
- **Consumers must contribute 30% of their adjusted gross income towards rent**
- **Housing vouchers will be administered by DCA**

Housing Model (continued)

- **Must have concrete plan to access 5 affordable housing units for a 15 year period in your proposed county(ies)**
- **Must be able to demonstrate that the housing units can be secured and ready for lease/sublease within 30 days following an award.**

Case Management and Supportive Services

- Address developmental, financial and overall well-being needs of parents and development of the child
- Focus on strengthening of parent-child relationship/bond
- Assist with housing identification, application, move-in, and furnishing
- Ensure young adults maintain stability and maximize tenure in housing through ongoing housing support services such as:
 - Life skills training
 - Financial literacy training
 - Preventing lease violations
 - Active communication and mediation of conflicts with landlord

Case Management and Supportive Services

- Promote education, career planning and well-being with parents.
- Navigate, facilitate access to, and advocate for needed services and supports such as:
 - Access to early childhood programming
 - Home visitation
 - Child care assistance programs
 - Head Start
- Coordinate services and systems at a local level for families with multiple challenges
- Develop and/or enhance partnerships with CP&P, community agencies, and local services systems

Impact/Outcomes

- Awarded program expected to monitor and report on housing stability, child well-being, caregiver well-being, family functioning, and achievement of selected goals.
- **Outcome to be measured include:**
 - Increased graduation rate of parents from HS with diploma or completion of GED
 - Employment & Education status of parents
 - Increased access/participation in children's early childhood services
 - Structured child/parent bonding, activities/opportunities
 - Increase in parenting education

Funding Information

- **\$110,000 in annualized funding for services/case management**
- **5 Section 8 Project-Based Housing Vouchers**

RFP Submission

Deadline for receipt of proposals:

**February 26, 2016
by 12:00 PM**

Questions



Additional Information

More information on Expectant and Parenting Youth in foster care can be found on the

Center for the Study of Social Policy's website at: <http://www.cssp.org/reform/child-welfare/expectant-parenting-youth-in-foster-care>