



**Youth At-Risk of Homeless (YARH) Federal Project
Implementing the Connecting YOUth Intervention in New Jersey**

The New Jersey Department of Children and Families (DCF), Office of Adolescent Services (OAS) is a federal grantee of the Youth At-Risk of Homelessness implementation funding to pilot and evaluate a comprehensive intervention package called Connecting YOUth. Connecting YOUth seeks to address and prevent homelessness with and for youth in foster care ages 14-21. The Connecting YOUth intervention will pilot in Burlington, Mercer, and Union Counties and will focus on CP&P involved youth and intends to promote permanency, housing stability, social connections, education/employment success, well-being and self-sufficiency.

DCF was awarded Phase I federal planning grant funding from 2013-2015 to complete a comprehensive data analysis and a needs assessment. Through these efforts and findings DCF is now restructuring and enhancing services and supports with and for youth in care.

Through these funding announcements Connecting YOUth will pilot 3 intervention components in 3 pilot counties, in total 9 new contracts will be awarded. These three intervention components will focus on radical permanency, group based life skills, educational champions, “near peer” and professional mentors, supportive housing, and a statewide youth housing learning collaborative.

Please refer to the table below that further clarifies the plan for these awards:

	<u>Component 1</u> Connect to Home and Connect to Well-Being	<u>Component 2</u> Connect to Achievement	<u>Component 3</u> Connect to Home
Pilot County- Burlington	Contract Award 1	Contract Award 2	Contract Award 3
Pilot County- Mercer	Contract Award 4	Contract Award 5	Contract Award 6
Pilot County- Union	Contract Award 7	Contract Award 8	Contract Award 9

DCF and the Connecting YOUth project will also seek to create and facilitate a County Based Implementation Committee in each of the pilot counties. The awarded programs will be required to participate in these committees.