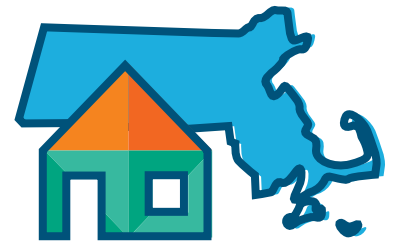


Massachusetts is leaving money on the table that could prevent youth homelessness

Support Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Vouchers



Naomi Parker, More Than Words
781-314-9329
nparker@mtwyouth.org

THE PROBLEM

Our youth are made homeless by their transition out of the state child welfare system.

Too often, youth leave foster care only to become homeless because they lack the familial support and resources to navigate the transition into adulthood, as well as the stability to pursue their education and work goals.

~700 youth
age out of foster
care each year in
Massachusetts

40%+
experience some
form of homelessness
shortly after aging out¹



This system-failure is both predictable and preventable. In fact, FYI vouchers are a proven, low-cost solution.

FYI vouchers are an existing federal resource for youth aging out of foster care.



30% of income

Youth pay 30% of their income toward rent. The voucher covers the rest.



3-5 years

The voucher is time-limited to help youth during their transition into adulthood. It provides support during a time when young people are making choices and investments about school and work that shape their long-term earning power.



Open market

Youth can use the voucher anywhere, not only in public housing. This means FYI vouchers don't take resources from other housing programs and don't displace anyone.

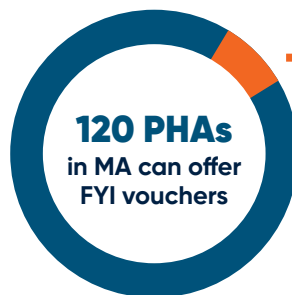


Massachusetts barely uses this vital resource.

We can do better.

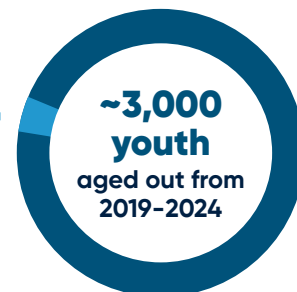
Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) have no cap on how many FYI vouchers they can request per year. There are **more than enough** for every young person aging out of foster care in Massachusetts!

As of January 2026, **Massachusetts ranks #37 nationally** among all states for FYI voucher use.² Florida and many other states administer far more FYI vouchers, helping many more youth.



Only 9 of these PHAs
administer FYI vouchers
as of January 2026³

Only 116 youth
accessed a voucher
during this time period



FYI vouchers help young people in a tough fiscal reality.



Leverage stable federal funding.

In a volatile economy where many other housing programs have been cut or frozen, FYI vouchers remain fully funded and active. They have robust bipartisan support.



Protect existing investments.

Every year, the state invests hundreds of millions of dollars into the well-being of youth in foster care via DCF*. FYI vouchers build on this commitment and protect that investment.



Save money by focusing on prevention.

FYI vouchers are designed to prevent homelessness. The program is low-cost to the state and considerably cheaper than funding shelters.



Bring new money into the rental market.

FYI vouchers bring new dollars to spend on rent locally.

*The Department of Children and Families

How you can help youth access FYI vouchers:

1

Contact your local PHA.

If your city's PHA doesn't currently administer FYI vouchers, ask them to change their administrative plan to support these vouchers.

2

Educate landlords.

Help them understand:

- * Youth with FYI vouchers have support and are good tenants.
- * FYI vouchers are guaranteed rent.

