



HopeWell's Supports for Youth

HopeWell's My Next Step Program

Offered through DCF's Youth Support & Stabilization — Transition-Age Youth service model

We provide young people **ages 16-22+** who are aging out of the foster care system with educational, employment, financial, daily living, and mental/behavioral health support as they launch into adulthood.

My Next Step takes a youth-centered, strengths-based approach to meeting each person's unique needs. Youth Advocates and Education & Employment Specialists focus on the following areas to promote stability, holistic well-being, and interpersonal success:

- ✓ Expanding access to higher education, employment, and careers
- ✓ Promoting educational opportunities and achievement
- ✓ Boosting workforce readiness and financial empowerment
- ✓ Enhancing relationships, positive self-identity, and life skills
- ✓ Strengthening emotional and psychological well-being

Our team of Youth Advocates and Education & Employment Specialists have extensive experience working with LGBTQ+ young people and those who are pregnant or parenting.

My Next Step is part of a **continuum of services** HopeWell offers to transition-age youth to help them prepare for independence. For youth who may need extra support before being ready for an independent living program, it can be a perfect stepping stone to HopeWell's My First Place™ program, a *Young Adult Supported Living* service model. Youth participating in My First Place™ live with roommates in scattered-site apartments as they work toward independence and pursue their goals.

HopeWell's RISE Program

Offered through DCF's Youth Support & Stabilization — Educational & Vocational service model

We provide children in **grades K-3** who are currently in or recently experienced foster care with **personalized, one-on-one literacy tutoring** so they can become strong readers and lifelong learners. RISE also supports caregivers to understand their child's academic progress and advocate for their unique educational needs.

HopeWell's RISE program:

- ✓ **Increases Access** — Too often, education programs inadvertently exclude children experiencing foster care. RISE is home-based, so it moves with students, even if they change foster care placements or schools.
- ✓ **Provides High-Impact Tutoring** — RISE tutors engage with students in one-on-one sessions, using research-backed curriculum to cover key building blocks of early literacy.
- ✓ **Takes a Holistic Approach** — RISE tutors embed social-emotional supports into lessons and use activity-based learning to incorporate each child's interests so they're motivated to learn.
- ✓ **Supports Caregivers** — We work to ensure all caregivers in a child's life are equipped with the knowledge and tools necessary to advocate for their child's educational needs and to support learning at home and at school.
- ✓ **Builds Bridges** — Our RISE team coordinates services and promotes information-sharing among families, schools, DCF, and other service providers.
- * When appropriate, and with permission from DCF, RISE works with all caregivers involved in a child's life, including those who don't have custody or aren't involved with DCF.

REFERRAL INFORMATION



SUPPORTS FOR YOUTH

Make a Referral



HopeWell runs a 24/7 statewide on-call system for emergencies and emergency referrals.

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Educational, employment, financial, daily living, and mental/behavioral health support for youth ages 16-22+ who are aging out of foster care

DCF WESTERN REGION:

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DCF NORTHERN, SOUTHERN, & BOSTON REGIONS:

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* We do not currently offer this service in DCF's central region.

HopeWell's RISE Program

Offered through DCF's Youth Support & Stabilization — Educational & Vocational service model

Personalized one-on-one literacy tutoring and education support for children in grades K-3 who are involved in the foster care system

DCF BOSTON REGION:

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Why partner with HopeWell?

Learn more about HopeWell's range of services and expertise by visiting hopewellinc.org/referrals

