 <p>Department of Children & Family Services <i>Building a Stronger Louisiana</i></p>	Division/Section	Child Welfare
	Chapter No./Name	6 – Foster Care (FC)
	Part No./Name	13 – Independent Living Skills and Young Adult Programs
	Section No./Name	Independent Living Skills and Young Adult Programs
	Document No./Name	6-1302 Housing for Transitioning Youth
	Effective Date	January 1, 2015

I. STATEMENT OF POLICY


The Louisiana Housing Corporation (LHC) and the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) have formed a collaboration aimed *** toward **** improving *** a youth's **** transition to adulthood *** from **** foster care by providing options for housing and related assistance. Provisions under this agreement ******* allow LHC and ******* DCFS to provide services to support youth in meeting their basic daily needs ******* to ensure a successful transition to independence *******.

The *** LHC **** manages different types of housing services which include:

- Permanent Supportive Housing -The Louisiana Permanent Supportive Housing model combines deeply affordable rental housing with voluntary, flexible and individualized community-based services to assist people with the most severe and complex disabilities to live successfully in the community. Permanent Supportive Housing is like Section 8 and the housing units are located within regular rental complexes. Priority placement is provided to individuals with disabilities, particularly those with Medicaid waivers and personal care attendants.
- Section 8- The Section 8 Program was authorized by Congress in 1974 and developed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to provide rental subsidies for eligible tenant families (including single persons) residing in newly constructed, rehabilitated, and existing rental and cooperative apartment projects. There are two types of Section 8 assistance provided by HUD in which a tenant's portion of the rent is based on 30% of their income.
 - The first type of Section 8 assistance is "project-based" in which the subsidy is committed by HUD for the assisted units of a particular property for a contractually determined period.
 - The *** second **** type of assistance is "tenant-based" in which the subsidy is committed by HUD on an individual tenant basis and monitored by local Housing Authorities.
- Tenant Based Rental Assistance. This is a monthly rental payment which can be provided for eligible individuals in any rental property they choose within housing quality standards. The amount they can receive is based on a formula and not necessarily the full cost of rent. This program also covers security and utility deposits. Deposits may be covered as part of the funding. They do not have to have an income to qualify.

II. PROCEDURES

*** Youth who age out of foster care shall be provided information by their case manager regarding the DCFS/LHC program and how to access the DCFS Youth Link website at www.dcfslouisiana.gov/youthlink ****

 <p>Department of Children & Family Services <i>Building a Stronger Louisiana</i></p>	Division/Section	Child Welfare
	Chapter No./Name	6 – Foster Care (FC)
	Part No./Name	13 – Independent Living Skills and Young Adult Programs
	Section No./Name	Independent Living Skills and Young Adult Programs
	Document No./Name	6-1302 Housing for Transitioning Youth
	Effective Date	January 1, 2015

A. DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY

An eligible youth must meet both of the following criteria:

- Be at least 17 ½ and less than 21 years of age;
- Be legally in the custody of DCFS, within six months of achieving the age of majority and case closure, **or** have aged out of DCFS custody.


Priority will be given to youth who *** will soon age ** out *of foster care **** prior to processing requests for assistance from youth who *** exited foster care **** more than 6 months *** earlier. ****

If a youth meets the criteria for a housing referral, the ***case manager **** should consult with *** their ** ***** supervisor and designated regional ******* housing liaison at least 6 months prior to the child reaching the age of 18. This discussion should be held in conjunction with ******* case planning *** meetings **** and must include the *** youth. **** Topics of discussion in determining if housing assistance is an option for the youth should include:

- The youth's YTP (Youth Transition Plan);
- whether or not the youth possesses the daily living skills needed *** to maintain **** his/her own household or has *** identified **** supports *** (e.g. **** Personal Care Attendant through the Medicaid Waiver, ***) **** capable of supporting the youth's daily care and maintenance of the household on the youth's behalf;
- *** maturity level of the youth; ****
- money management skills or a designated legally responsible party for managing the youth's finances;
- time management;
- household maintenance/repairs;
- transportation; *** and, ****
- personal safety and safe living environment etc.

B. REFERRAL

If a youth is determined to be a good candidate for housing assistance, it is the responsibility of the *** FC case manager **** to ensure the submission of *** the Louisiana Housing Corporation Transitioning Youth Program Application **** within 3 business days of the determination. *** The DCFS/LHC Zero Income Affidavit must be completed and submitted along with the application for those youth who have no income. The forms are **** submitted to the regional housing designee for review and final submittal to state office designee for approval. *** Once the application is received, the State Office designee will notify the regional housing designee of the application status. ** *****

 <p>Department of Children & Family Services <i>Building a Stronger Louisiana</i></p>	Division/Section	Child Welfare
	Chapter No./Name	6 – Foster Care (FC)
	Part No./Name	13 – Independent Living Skills and Young Adult Programs
	Section No./Name	Independent Living Skills and Young Adult Programs
	Document No./Name	6-1302 Housing for Transitioning Youth
	Effective Date	January 1, 2015

III. FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS

* DCFS CW Form, DCFS/LHC Zero Income Affidavit
 DCFS CW Form, [Louisiana Housing Corporation Transitioning Youth Program Application](#) **

IV. REFERENCES

[Chapter 6. Appendix H. DCFS and LHC MOU](#)

dcfs.fostercare@la.gov

* www.dcfslouisiana.gov/youthlink **