



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES
Maryland's Social Services Agency



PRESS RELEASE

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HUD Housing Vouchers provide Safety Net for Youth Aging Out of Foster Care

LANDOVER, MD---- The Housing Authority of Prince George's County and the Prince George's County Department of Social Services will partner to distribute additional housing vouchers to help combat homelessness among youth and families in the County. On August 6th, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded \$20 million in new vouchers to states through the Family Unification Program (FUP). As a result of the joint application, The Housing Authority of Prince George's County will receive \$789,487 to support FUP. The goal of the program is to provide affordable housing for youth leaving care and to assist in reuniting children with their parents. "In this region, finding and maintaining affordable housing presents a huge barrier for so many families," said Howard Burnett, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Health and Human Services for Prince George's County. "This partnership allows the County to invest in strengthening our communities by keeping families together."

Annually 29,000 youth "age out" or reach the age and service limits of their state's child welfare system without family connections either through adoption or being reunited to parents or extended family. "Research estimates that 25% - 50% of young adults aging out of foster care have difficulty finding affordable housing and end up homeless," said Gloria L. Brown, Director of Prince George's County Department of Social Services. "We are committed to developing support for the children in our care. Whether it's through enhanced educational opportunities, connecting children with extended family or strengthening our community relationships to increase resources; these additional vouchers are invaluable to the youth we serve."

Section 8 vouchers provided through FUP aid in preventing homelessness which oftentimes results in families separating and children entering foster care. The child welfare system depends on the FUP to expand access to housing for youth leaving foster care. These additional vouchers are specifically targeted for foster youth aging out of care.

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