READY BY 21

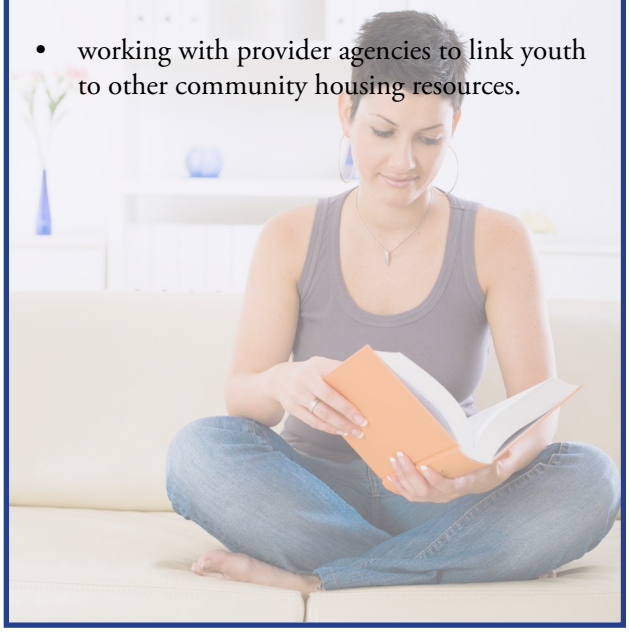
Stable Housing

There are several key factors that contribute to helping youth to be on target and Ready by 21 to become strong, contributing members of society. The Department of Human Resources is focusing on five of those factors: **Safe and Stable Housing**, **Education, Financial Stability, Health Care** and linkages to **Mentors**.

Proposed Stategies:

The DHR and the local Departments of Social Services intend to redouble their efforts to ensure that each young person leaving foster care has safe and stable housing, by:

- continuing our work with local housing authorities to provide youth in need of housing with public housing and Section 8;
- collaborating with the local Department of Housing and Urban Development field office to explore opportunities for targeted vouchers (i.e. Family Unification, special populations);
- exploring a carve out within the statewide homeless services programs to provide housing/rental subsidies; and
- working with provider agencies to link youth to other community housing resources.



Goal: Youth will reside in stable living situations

Youth who age out of foster care are at-risk of becoming homeless. Nationally, up to 50% of former foster youth become homeless within the first 18 months of emancipation.

Measurable Outcomes:

- A baseline measurement of the use of DHR funded shelters by former foster youth will be established over the next year, and the % of discharged youth who use these shelters within three years of discharge will decrease
- A baseline measurement of the % of youth receiving vouchers/subsidies toward permanent housing will be established over the next year, and the % of discharged youth in subsidized housing will increase

Outcomes of former foster youth in their early twenties compared to the general population of young adults

Outcome	Former Foster Youth	All Young Adults
Not enough money to pay rent	29%	7%
Evicted	9%	0.7%

Source:Midwest Study; a. Northwest Study.