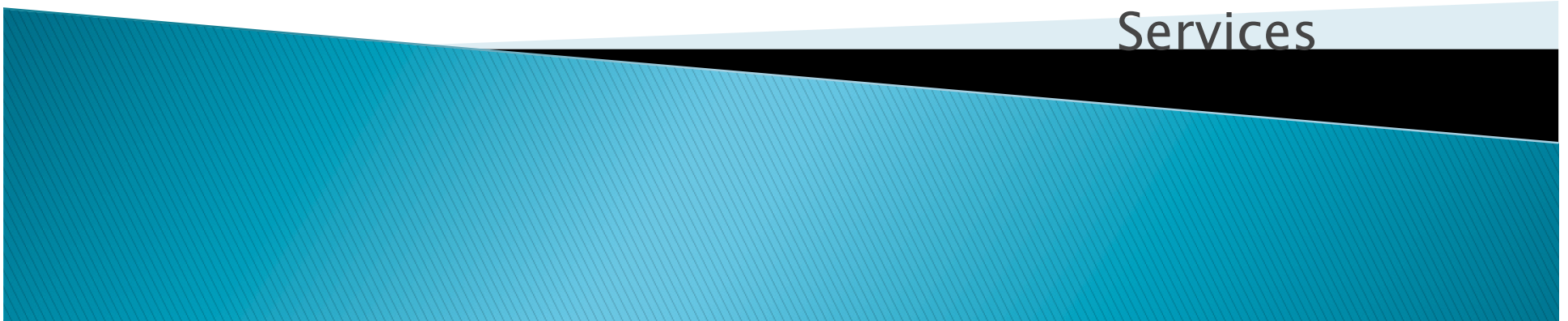


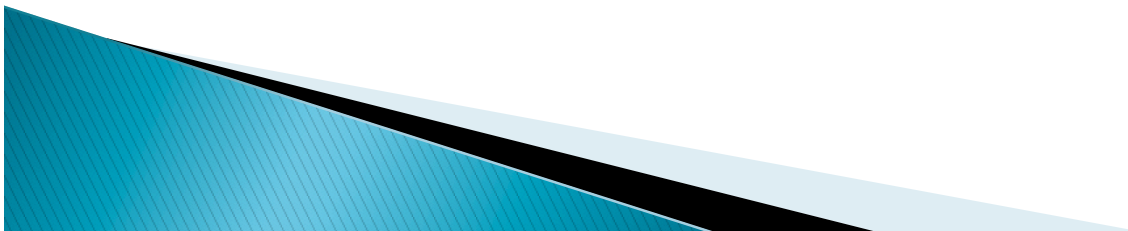
Youth Housing Assistance Program Getting to 21

John Cheney Egan
Department of Children and Family
Services



DCFS Housing Programs

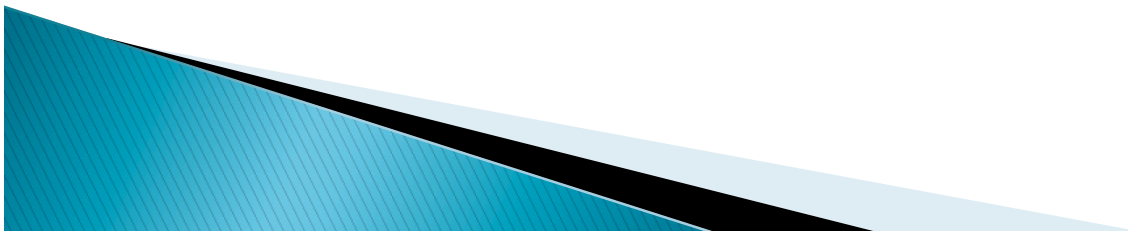
- ▶ Independent Living Programs
- ▶ Transitional Living Programs
- ▶ Group Homes
- ▶ Referrals to CILA
- ▶ Youth Housing Assistance Programs



Get Goal'd: Services Provided to Transition Youth out of Care

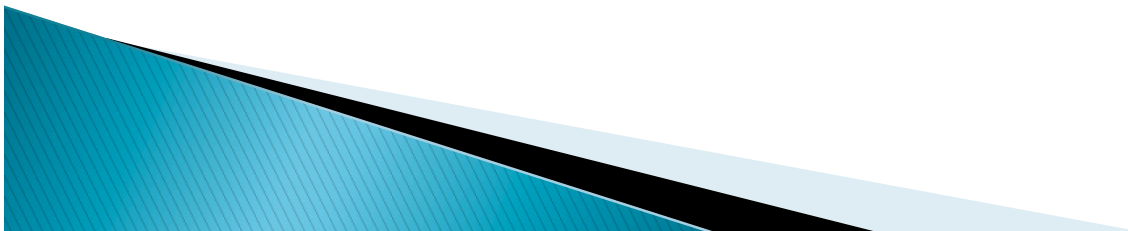
- ▶ Employment Incentive Program
- ▶ Parenting Adolescents Support Services
- ▶ Life Skills

<http://www.youthincare.illinois.gov/Default.shtml>



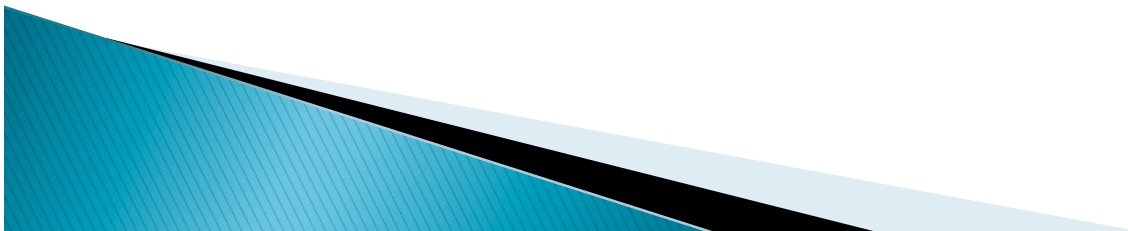
Assisting Youth in Higher Education

- ▶ Community College Assistance
- ▶ Education Advisors
- ▶ Youth in Scholarship
- ▶ Youth in College
- ▶ Education and Training Vouchers



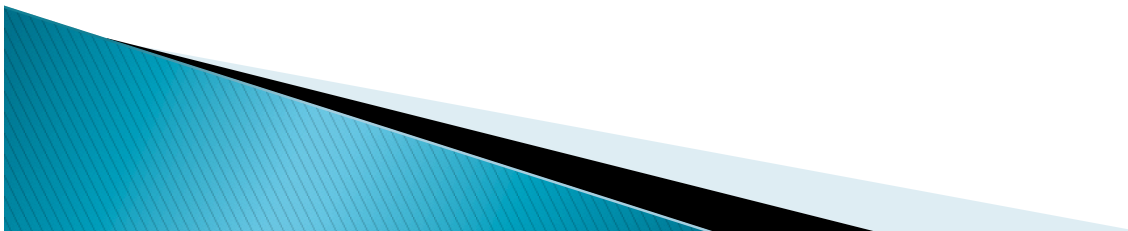
Overview of the Youth Housing Assistance Program

Assist youth who are aging out of, or have aged out of, the child welfare system obtain and remain in stable housing.



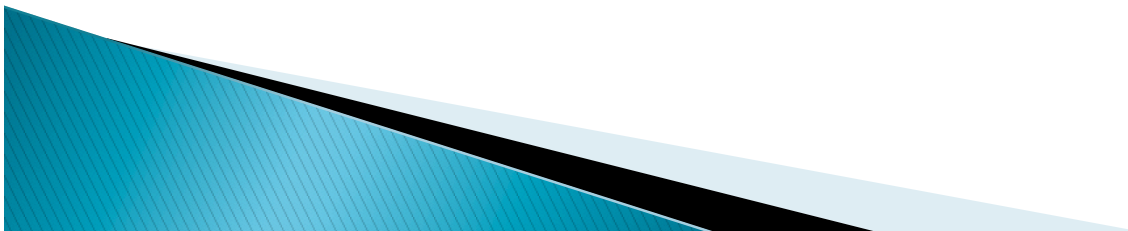
Youth Housing Assistance Program Services

- ▶ Youth Housing Advocacy Program (YHAP)
- ▶ Youth Cash Assistance Program (YCAP)
- ▶ Youth Partial Housing Subsidy



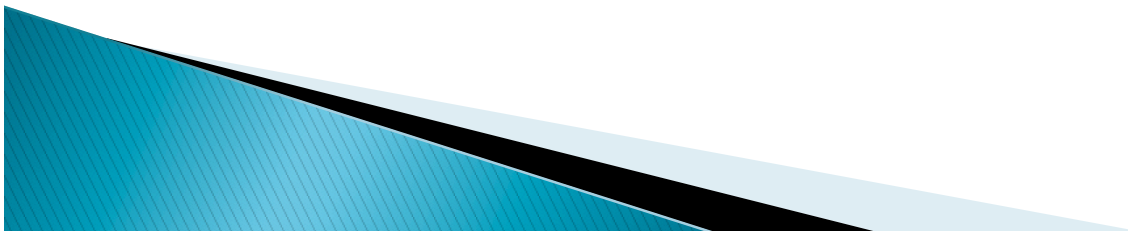
Youth Housing Advocacy Program (HAP)

- ▶ Develop relationships with landlords.
- ▶ Provide apartment listings.
- ▶ Provide budget and tenant counseling.
- ▶ Advocate with housing providers.
- ▶ Provide linkages to community services.
- ▶ Provide follow-up services.



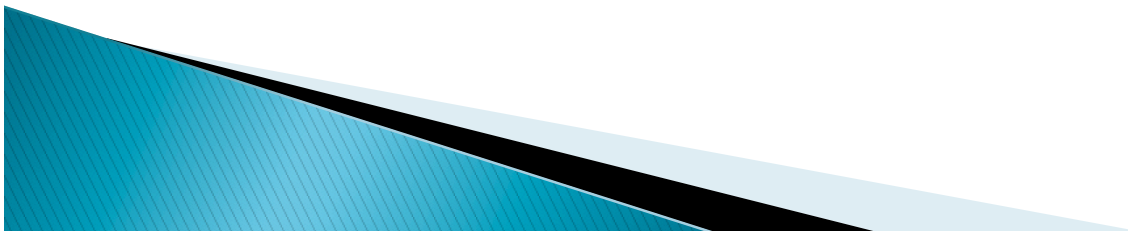
YHAP Eligibility

- ▶ Be at least 17 ½ and less than 21 years of age; and
- ▶ Were in DCFS care after their 14th birthday.
- ▶ If still in DCFS care, are within 6 months of aging out of DCFS care.



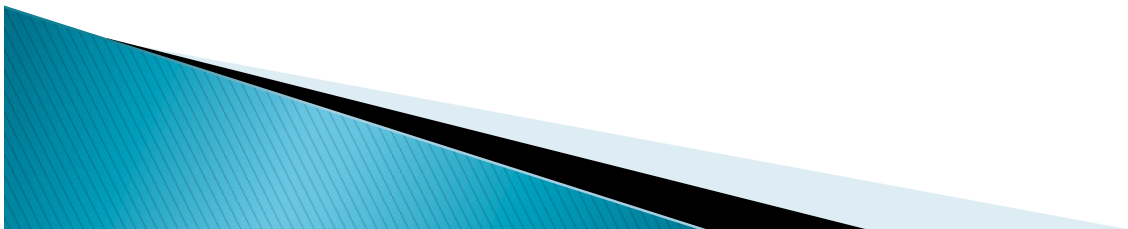
Youth Cash Assistance Program (YCAP)

- ▶ Housing costs, such as security deposit
- ▶ Rent or Utility Arrears
- ▶ Necessary Furniture
- ▶ Other items needed to stabilize housing.



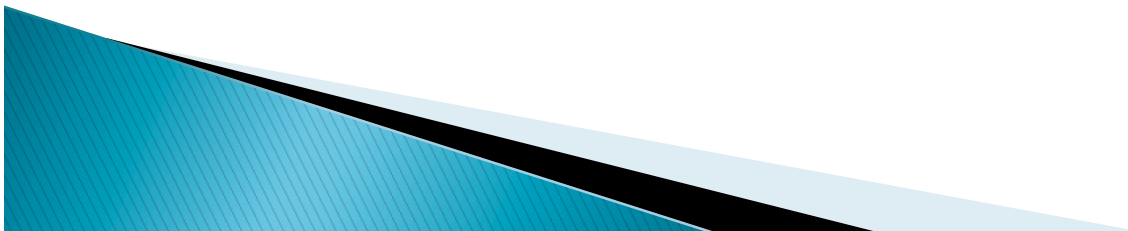
YCAP Limits

- ▶ Up to \$800 (\$1,200 for pregnant, parenting or disabled youth) while the case is open.
- ▶ Up to \$2,000 per year (including the amount provided while the case was open) for cases that are closed
- ▶ Provide up to \$4,000 for the life of the case (between the ages of 18 and 21).



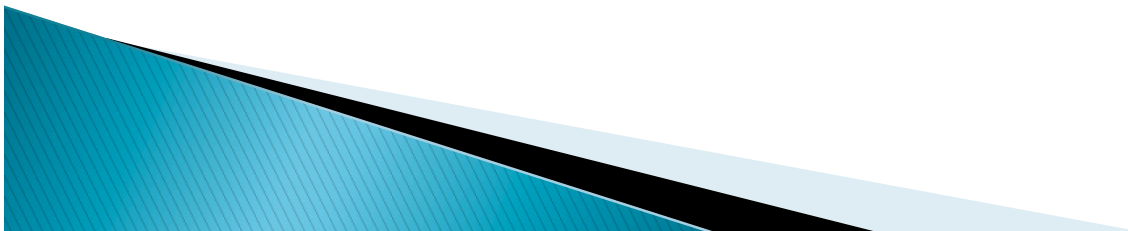
YCAP Eligibility

- ▶ Be at least 18 and less than 21 years of age;
- ▶ Aged out of DCFS custody or will age out of DCFS custody within 6 months or were adopted after their 16th birthday.
- ▶ Demonstrate that with any subsidy and all other income they will be able to cover all remaining living expenses (e.g. housing, utilities, clothing, food); and



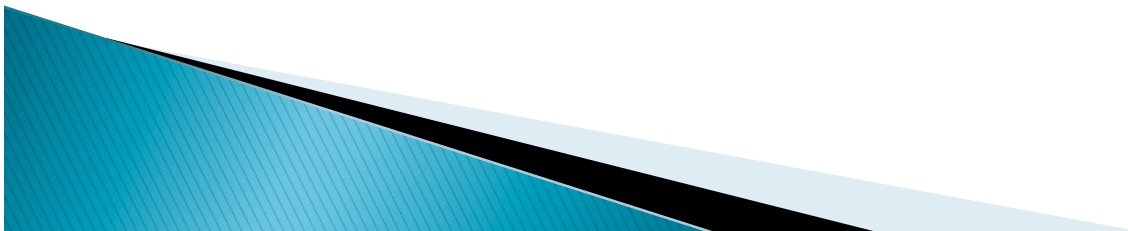
Youth Partial Housing Subsidy

- ▶ Provides a partial housing subsidy directly to the landlord
- ▶ Up to \$250 per month for up to 12 months
- ▶ Youth first pays 30% of their income on housing first.



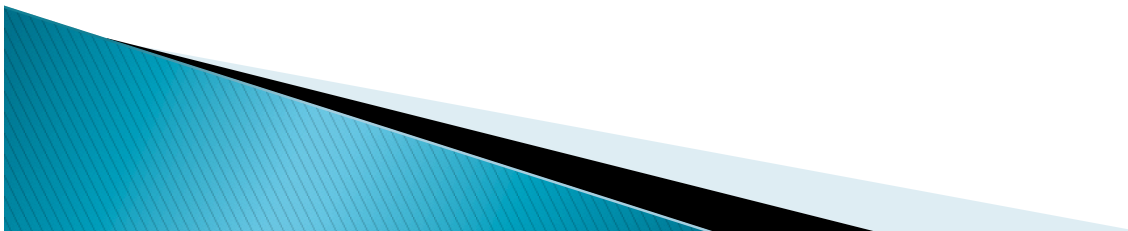
Youth Partial Housing Subsidy Eligibility

- ▶ Be at least 18 and less than 21 years of age;
- ▶ Aged out of DCFS care or were adopted after their 16th birthday;
- ▶ Demonstrate that with any subsidy and all other income they will be able to cover living expenses; and
- ▶ Pay more than 30% of their income on housing.



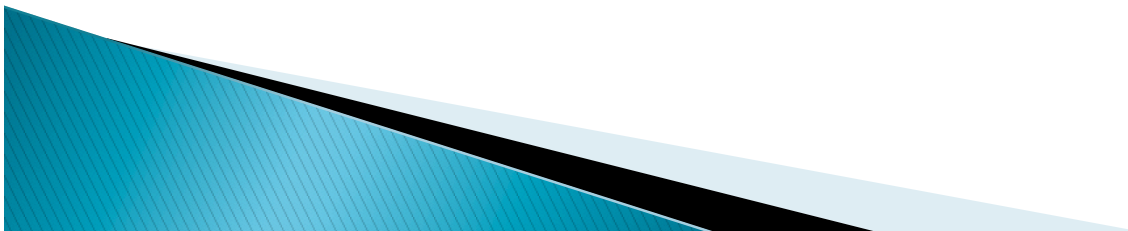
Family Unification Program

- ▶ Provides a housing choice voucher to families and youth under 21 years of age
- ▶ DCFS refers the family or youth to FUP
- ▶ Chicago, Danville, Rock Island and Springfield Housing Authority provide assistance when vouchers are available



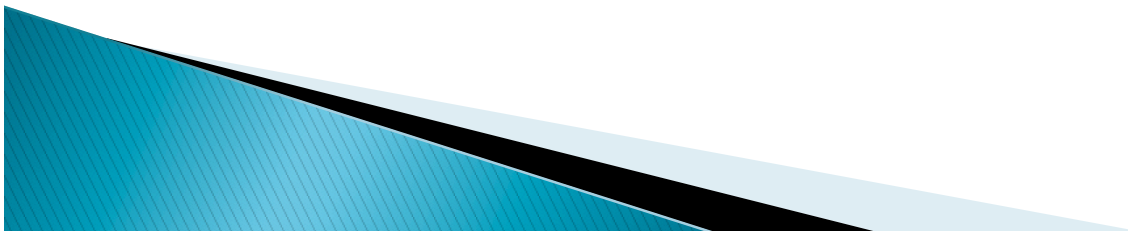
Returning to DCFS Care

Youth who aged out of DCFS care and are under 21 years of age are eligible to return to care by calling 866-459-6884.



Health Care

- ▶ Youth in DCFS care receive a medical card through Medicaid
- ▶ Starting January 1, 2014, youth who aged out of care are categorically eligible to receive subsidized health care until they are 26 years of age.



Youth Housing Assistance Program

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