

# My Path Forward

## Independent Living Arrangement

My Path Forward Independent Living Arrangement is a collaboration of the [Children's Home Society of Virginia](#), a licensed child-placing agency, and the [Better Housing Coalition](#), a Richmond-based nonprofit community development organization.

This initiative is designed to empower at-risk youth aging out of foster care, provide them with critical social supports, and assist them as they develop into responsible, productive adults and engaged members of our communities. *Space is extremely limited at this time.*

My Path Forward includes housing with a roommate on campus at one of BHC's rental communities. In addition, each youth will be assessed at the outset for their most critical needs, and both program staff and partners will provide pathways to essentials such as education, transportation, employment, counseling or life coaching, and life skills training.

**Requirements:** Each program participant must be capable of living independently in a community of apartments with a roommate. Each program participant must also be capable of becoming fully independent and self-supporting after 1-2 years in the program. Other necessary skills include: the capacity to be engaged in their education and/or career training, to work and maintain part- or full-time employment, to learn and grow, to participate fully in group activities and fun, to participate in counseling and mental health services, to observe all program rules and policies, and to comply with the youth-driven life, career, and education plans created with their case manager.

**Referrals:** We accept referrals from organizations serving young people in or who have aged out of foster care, and from young people who have aged out of foster care.

## My Path Forward Eligibility Requirements

**To be considered for The Possibilities Project, each applicant must:**

1. Have aged out of foster care;
2. Be 18-21 years old and be participating in fostering futures;
3. Demonstrate the capacity to live independently while in the program;
4. Demonstrate the capacity to become fully independent and self-supporting after 1-2 years in the program.
5. Not be pregnant or be the custodial parent of a child;
6. Have no criminal convictions reflecting acts of violence, or any other conduct or activity which establishes a pattern of violence that poses a direct threat to the health and safety of other residents; Have no criminal convictions or a pattern of behavior reflecting a pattern of crimes against property ;
7. Have no significant mental health challenges that require 24 hour a day supervision and redirection.

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## Independent Living Arrangement

### Referring Worker Pre-Screening

1. Will youth be at least 18 upon requested admission? ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**
2. Does youth require around the clock supervision due to mental health and/or behavioral issues? ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**
3. Is this youth on prescribed medication(s)? ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**
4. If so, can the youth manage and dispense their own medication? ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**
5. Does the youth have any criminal charges involving violence against people or property? ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**
6. Does this youth have problems cohabitating with and getting along with peers? ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**
7. Is this youth pregnant, or have custody of a minor? ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**
8. Does the risk struggle with substance abuse issues? ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

# My Path Forward Referral Form

## YOUTH INFORMATION

**Youth Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security #: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Transgender Preferred gender pronoun: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Language: \_\_\_\_\_ Speaks English? ☐ Yes ☐ No

**Is the youth currently in school (high school, college, or vocational training)?** ☐ Yes ☐ No

(Former) High School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ GPA \_\_\_\_\_

College/Vocational School: \_\_\_\_\_ # Courses Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree Program: \_\_\_\_\_ GPA \_\_\_\_\_

**Is the youth currently employed?** ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes:

Employer Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Hours per week: \_\_\_\_\_ (We will not contact his/her employer without the youth's permission).

**Present Living Situation:** ☐ Foster Parent/s ☐ Group Home ☐ Biological Family ☐ Couchsurfing

☐ Living with a friend ☐ Homeless ☐ On his/her own ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION

**Last/current DSS agency providing service to the applicant:** \_\_\_\_\_

Start & end date of out-of-home placement \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
(start date) (dismissal date)

**Youth Transition Plan** (if possible, please attach): ☐ Yes, I have attached his/her transition plan

## CASE WORKER INFORMATION

**Name of Current Social Worker:** \_\_\_\_\_

County/Agency: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Names of Past Social Worker(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

County/Counties/Agencies: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Email(s): \_\_\_\_\_

## REFERRAL INFORMATION

**Person making referral:** \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Relationship to youth:** ☐ Attorney ☐ Caregiver ☐ Mental Health Professional

☐ School Staff ☐ Case Worker ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Reason for Referral:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Services Requested:** ☐ Housing ☐ Employment search ☐ Employment skills ☐ Counseling

☐ Finishing High School/GED ☐ Workshops ☐ Post-secondary education support

☐ Permanency Services ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Social Worker/reference signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please email or fax the completed form to the attention of**

Diehdre Gregory, Permanency and Independent Living Director

Email: [Diehdre@chsva.org](mailto:Diehdre@chsva.org) Fax: 804.353.7451

Children's Home Society of Virginia | 4200 Fitzhugh Avenue, Richmond, VA 23230

**Questions?** Call 804.353.0191 x336

# My Path Forward Youth Application Form

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## YOUTH INFORMATION

**Your Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security #: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Transgender Preferred gender pronoun: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Language: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Can Speak English

**Are you currently in school (either high school, college, or vocational training)?** ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes: High School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ GPA \_\_\_\_\_

College: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Courses Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree Program: \_\_\_\_\_

**Are you currently employed?** ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes: Employer Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Hours per week: \_\_\_\_\_

*(We will not contact your employer without your permission.)*

**Do you have a driver's license?** ☐ Yes ☐ No **If not, do you have a learner's permit?** ☐ Yes ☐ No

**Do you have a car?** ☐ Yes ☐ No

**Present Living Situation:** ☐ Foster Parent/s ☐ Group Home ☐ Biological Family ☐ Couchsurfing

☐ Living with a friend ☐ Homeless ☐ On his/her own ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

When would you be available to move in to your apartment? \_\_\_\_\_

**Tell us a little about yourself. And, what are your dreams? Goals? Talents? Skills?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(Continued on the back.)*

[illegible]

**Tell us why you want to be a part of My Path Forward.**

[illegible]

## Authorization for Release and Exchange of Information

To: DSS -

All case files and evaluations, including psych evaluations

Unless revoked in writing, this authorization shall be valid for **one (1) year** from the date of signature. In addition, a copy of this authorization may be used in place of and with the same force and effect as the original.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

MPF: 06/10/20