



Better Housing  
COALITION

# My Path Forward

Empowering Youth for Independence  
Independent Living Arrangement



**WINNER VAGHC** 2016 Virginia Governor's Housing Conference  
BEST HOUSING PROGRAM or SERVICE

## Our Collaboration

My Path Forward is a collaboration between two Richmond-based nonprofits:

### Children's Home Society of Virginia

A full-service adoption agency, committed to building lifelong relationships for Virginia's at-risk youth and transforming our community so that all young people are able to thrive.

### Better Housing Coalition

A community development organization, founded in 1988, focused on changing lives and transforming communities through high-quality, affordable housing.

## Our Program

Building brighter futures for youth aging out of foster care. In partnership with The Better Housing Coalition, CHS is serving youth who are preparing to transition from foster care to independence. Our best-practice program model reaches a population that needs us—vulnerable young people who were released from foster care after they turned 18 and face dire outcomes without support and guidance. Virginia has one of the highest rates of youth aging out of foster care in the country.

Our evidenced-based, youth-driven programming provides housing and a variety of trauma-informed wrap-around supports to youth including intensive case management, job readiness training, access to education, financial literacy and life skills coaching.

Due to its success and strong outcomes, we used our original program model as the foundation for our My Path Forward—ILA. While our goal is that young adults complete MPF-ILA with the ability to live independently, we recognize the need for affordable housing and continued supportive services after age 21. My Path Forward continues to uniquely extend housing and services to youth until age 25 through its original program.

## My Path Forward— Independent Living Arrangement

[www.chsva.org/my-path-forward/ila](http://www.chsva.org/my-path-forward/ila)

### Information

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### Better Housing Coalition

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