ARE YOU IN FOSTER CARE AND READY TO LIVE ON YOUR OWN?

YOU MAY QUALIFY FOR A HOUSING SUBSIDY TO PAY A PORTION OF YOUR RENT!!!
Can I qualify if I am in school?

Yes, but you must have another source of income, such as a work-study position, a stable part-time job, or Social Security Insurance.

How much is the subsidy?

The subsidy provides up to $300 a month, which is paid directly to your landlord. Also, there is a one-time grant of up to $1800 to pay for a finder’s or broker’s fee, security deposit, moving expenses, or other one-time expenses.

Is there a limit on the amount of money I can receive?

Yes. A person can receive up to $10,800 over a three-year period under the subsidy. If you receive the one-time grant for moving expenses, this amount will be deducted from the total amount you can receive until your 21st birthday.

How do I apply?

Step #1: Tell your Case Planner you are interested in receiving the Housing Subsidy. The Case Planner will need to fill out certain documentation and will need to verify that you have a source of income. If you are employed, you will need to have 8 pay stubs (if weekly pay) or 4 pay stubs (if bi-monthly pay). If you are unable to produce these pay stubs, then a letter from your employer listing your salary and deductions for the last 8 weeks will satisfy this requirement. If you are receiving a type of public assistance, then you need a copy of an award letter. Your Case Planner will then send the completed forms to a Foster Care Case Manager for review and approval of eligibility.

Step #2: If your application is approved, your Case Planner must provide you with information on how to find suitable housing. You will receive a copy of a Notice to Landlord of Monthly Subsidy that you must show a landlord before renting an apartment. You have the option of searching for an apartment on your own or being referred to another agency that can assist you. The NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) has a hotline that lists affordable housing apartments ready to be rented. Call (212) 863-5610 (English) or (212) 863-5620 (Spanish).
**Step #3:** After you find an apartment the Case Planner must visit it with you and complete certain documentation.

**Step #4:** You and/or your case planner must obtain certain information from your landlord and broker (if one is used).

**Step #5:** Your Case Planner submits a Housing Subsidy Package with all documentation to Housing Subsidy Unit.

**Step #6:** You are ready to move into your own apartment!!

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**Do I have to do anything else after I begin receiving the subsidy?**

Yes. You must be recertified every six months, which means that your Case Planner will have to verify that you are still eligible for the subsidy.

**Can I have a roommate?**

Yes. You may want to consider having a roommate in order to reduce overall rent and share other household expenses.

**What if I am turned down or don’t receive a response within 30 days after my case planner submits my application?**

If you are turned down or haven’t received a response within 30 days after completing Step #1, you are entitled to a State Fair Hearing. It is best for you to have a legal representative at the hearing. You or preferably your legal representative should call (212) 417-6550 to set a time for your hearing.

If you have further questions on the Housing Subsidy or any other legal questions, contact: **The Door’s Legal Services Center** at (212) 941-9090, ext. 3280.