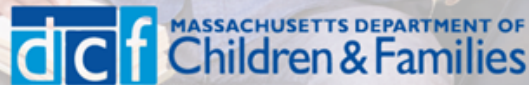


## The Adolescent & Young Adult Services Unit...

Provides supportive services to youth in DCF placement to assist them with transitioning to adulthood, life skill development & permanency attainment.



**MASSACHUSETTS  
DEPARTMENT  
OF CHILDREN  
& FAMILIES**

Adolescent & Young  
Adult Services Unit

## **PAYA – Preparing Adolescents for Young Adulthood**

Life skills curriculum designed to assist youth in building concrete skills and relationships to support health and well-being in adulthood. PAYA is based on a premise that all youth need at least one connection to a permanent, caring adult along with life skills to be successful. DCF staff, foster parents, and contract providers assist youth in locating, building, and maintaining relationships with caring adults and aid them in learning about money management, personal care, job seeking, parenting, healthy relationships, housing, and other essential skills through community based real-life experiences. PAYA certification training is available through the Department to address policy, strategies, and ways to incentivize youth.

### **Emerging Futures Program**

Works with community partners to help youth gain employment experience through supported paid internships and volunteer opportunities. Staff assist youth in identifying career interests and internship placements that will provide career-building experiences.

### **Life Skills Support Program**

Provides funds for youth ages 14-22 in placement to support positive youth development, such as bus passes, high school fees, athletic uniforms, sports fees, senior expenses, etc.

### **Adolescent Outreach Program**

Provides intensive individualized life skills assessment, training, and transition support to youth and young adults from foster care to prepare them to live healthy and connected lives while pursuing their goals in young adulthood.

## **THE WAVE**

DCF youth newsletter written by and for agency youth. It includes articles, poems, artwork, and resource information. Youth share their experiences, observations, suggestions, challenges and achievements with others who may benefit. THE WAVE is also an effective means of informing youth of the many youth-sponsored activities in which they can participate (i.e. peer support groups, higher education fairs, employment and mentoring programs).

### **Joint Youth Advisory Committee**

Provides a platform for DCF youth to voice their ideas / recommendations to the administration on issues facing youth served by the agency. There are five Regional Advisory Boards; representatives from each region sit on the Central Office Advisory Board, representing their peers from across the state.

### **Discharge Support Program**

Provides financial and outreach support to youth discharging from DCF placement at or after age 18, including funding toward first and last month's rent, security deposit, initial utilities charges, as well as support with budgeting, home management, and employment.

### **Housing Support**

Provides housing resources and information to youth and young adults who have experienced foster care after the age of 16. Works with community partners and foster youth transitioning from DCF care providing support while accessing safe and stable housing, employment, and other necessary life skills to successfully transition to adulthood.

## **Contact Us**

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