



Lessons from the Field

By Kelsey Chesnut, Megan Shoji, and Morgan Woods, Mathematica

Colorado Team:

Lanae Davis, Center for Policy Research; Denise McHugh, Spark Community Foundation; and Trevor Williams, Colorado Department of Human Services

New Jersey Team:

Luther Owens, Kelli Puryear, and Jessica Trombetta, New Jersey Department of Children and Families

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Using Housing Vouchers to Support Youth with Child Welfare Experience at Risk of Homelessness

The Children's Bureau, within the Administration for Children and Families (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services), is funding a multi-phase grant program to build the evidence base on what works to prevent homelessness among youth and young adults who have been involved in the child welfare system. This program is called Youth At-Risk of Homelessness (YARH). YARH focuses on three populations: (1) adolescents who enter foster care from ages 14 to 17, (2) young adults aging out of foster care, and (3) homeless youth and young adults up to age 21 with foster care histories.

Eighteen organizations received funding for the first phase (YARH-1), a two-year planning grant (2013–2015). Grantees used the planning period to conduct data analyses to help them understand their local population and develop a comprehensive service model to improve youth outcomes related to housing, education and training, social well-being, and permanent connections. Six of those organizations received funding to refine and test their comprehensive service models during the second phase (YARH-2), a four-year initial implementation grant (2015-2019). During the third phase (YARH-3), Mathematica will continue to support the YARH-2 grantees (also known as sites) in building and disseminating evidence related to their comprehensive service model (2019-2024). In addition, Mathematica will design and implement a federally-led evaluation of at least one intervention implemented by a site.

This brief is part of a series that shares strategies used by organizations that serve youth and young adults who have been involved in the child welfare system and are at risk of homelessness. Collecting and sharing these lessons with organizations that have similar missions is one step in developing evidence on how to meet the needs of this population.

For more information on YARH, please see <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/opre/project/building-capacity-evaluate-interventions-youth/young-adults-child-welfare-involvement>.

This brief shares the insights of two YARH grantees on how youth-serving organizations can use housing vouchers to support youth and young adults who have been involved in the child welfare system and are at risk of homelessness. The brief is based on lessons learned by the Colorado Department of Human Services and the New Jersey Department of Children and Families, who used housing vouchers in their comprehensive service models during YARH-2 to help young people access and stay in housing. The experience of the two grantees highlights the importance of actively helping youth get and keep their vouchers and stay housed; cultivating relationships between youth, landlords (or property managers), and child welfare workers; and building buy-in from landlords. The two grantees share strategies for leveraging opportunities to shift the field toward prioritizing youth for vouchers based on level of need and establishing cross-systems partnerships to better serve youth.

In Colorado, the Department of Local Affairs/Division of Housing (DOH) allocated **20 Homeless Solutions Program State Housing Vouchers (SHVs)** for the Colorado team to use in its YARH comprehensive service model, known as **Pathways to Success (Pathways)**. SHVs provide non-time-limited help with rent and access to supportive services for people with extremely low incomes who have a qualifying condition or special need, have a history of homelessness, are frequent consumers of public services, and need long-term supports to stay housed. DOH oversees administration of SHVs by local contractors (community mental health centers for the Pathways SHVs). See [Appendix A](#) for details.

In New Jersey, the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) allocated **40 Section 8 housing choice vouchers** for the New Jersey team to use in its YARH comprehensive service model, known as **Connect to Home**. Section 8 housing choice vouchers provide non-time-limited help with rent and access to safe, quality housing in the private rental market for families and adults ages 18 and older with low and very low incomes. DCA, the statewide housing authority, administers Section 8 housing choice vouchers. Connect to Home provider agencies, which are local nonprofit organizations contracted by the New Jersey team, support youth participating in Connect to Home with obtaining housing vouchers. See [Appendix A](#) for details.

What should organizations know about supporting youth before they sign a lease?

Recommended activities to help youth get vouchers and prepare for tenancy

Both grantees provide case management and guidance designed to empower youth throughout the process of applying for a voucher and searching for housing. During this period, which lasts 60–120 days in Colorado and New Jersey, youth are actively homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness. They might need help with a pressing housing issue or a specialized need (for example, one arising as a consequence of domestic or interpersonal violence, mental health crises, human trafficking, or sexual exploitation). The grantees emphasize that youth will likely need help understanding the voucher application process and requirements. In both states, the housing authorities hold tenant briefings to inform potential applicants about voucher requirements, key deadlines and milestones, and landlords' expectations. Pathways and Connect to Home staff¹ accompany youth to these briefings to help them understand important details about the complex requirements. Staff also review written guidelines and requirements with youth, because the documents are often long and difficult to understand. Staff usually accompany youth to scope out prospective apartments. Finally, staff help youth understand expectations that might be new to a first-time tenant, like the importance of paying rent on time, and discuss potential challenges like dealing with a romantic partner who asks to move in.

Both grantees recommend using strategies to empower youth to drive decisions such as what neighborhood(s) or type of unit(s) to focus on. What youth want and what is realistic to expect could be two different things. For example, it would not be realistic for youth to find a place to live in a neighborhood with no affordable housing. Both grantees work with youth to help them understand their options while allowing them to make their own decisions, because this helps youth feel invested in the process and learn about balancing factors when making decisions. For example, if a homeless youth wants to move to a neighborhood where housing will be unavailable for several months, staff might tell them about areas where housing is immediately available and go over the trade-offs of different options. The ultimate decision will be made by the youth, and the process helps them develop problem-solving skills. Staff build understanding of local rental markets and tend to know which landlords and property managers are "youth friendly," and they can share this knowledge to inform housing decisions.

¹ "Staff" is used to represent staff from Pathways, including Navigators and Supervisors, and staff from Connect to Home, including Case Managers, Peer Advocates, and Supervisors.

Youth-serving organizations can consider opportunities to advocate for youth at the system level.

- Colorado recommends reviewing [voucher eligibility requirements](#) and considering whether there are any that could negatively affect youth if their status was disclosed. For example, Colorado SHVs were originally designed to serve adults exiting state mental health and corrections institutions and required disclosure of a disability. Child welfare staff and youth expressed concern that disclosing a disability on a government form could negatively impact youths' employment opportunities. Colorado successfully advocated to change the word "disability" to "qualifying condition" when used with youth formerly in foster care.
- New Jersey recommends reviewing [voucher rules and regulations](#) and considering whether there are any that need to be adapted for a youth population. For example, New Jersey partnered with the state housing authority to effectively serve young adults involved with the child welfare system. They agreed that the housing authority would use a tailored approach to meet the specific needs of this population, such as allowing youth in the program to end their lease early via a mutual agreement if the arrangement was not working out.

Opportunities to shift the field: Considerations for prioritizing youth

An organization can help child welfare and housing professionals see vouchers as a tool to help those most in need.

Both YARH grantees prioritize youth at the greatest risk of becoming homeless for their housing vouchers. The New Jersey team first prioritizes applicants based on their current housing status and risk of homelessness, using U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development guidelines,² then prioritizes applicants at high risk of intermittent or chronic homelessness in adulthood, based on administrative data on each youth's foster care, mental health, incarceration, substance abuse, and parenting history (see [Appendix B](#) for details). The Colorado team prioritizes youth at high risk of chronic homelessness using its Pathways Screening tool ([Appendix C](#)). These youth have the greatest housing need and tend to have access to fewer system and informal resources to address or mitigate homelessness.

Organizations could prioritize giving vouchers to youth who not only have the greatest need, but who are also reasonably set up with the resources and skills they need to keep the voucher. For example, Colorado prioritizes at-risk youth with adequate support networks and the long-term management skills they need to keep the voucher and stay housed even after they graduate from Pathways and transition to more limited case management services. Colorado uses a referral form ([Appendix D](#)) to consider these factors before submitting a youth's voucher application. New Jersey opted to prioritize youth who traditionally have not been well served by existing systems due to their higher needs, such as youth without access to strong social networks and resources. In deciding how to prioritize youth for vouchers, organizations should consider their available program resources to ensure that staff can provide the necessary support to effectively meet the needs of youth.

What should organizations know about helping youth keep their vouchers and housing?

Recommended activities to help youth keep vouchers and stay housed

Youth-serving organizations should cultivate relationships with youth and with landlords. Based on their experiences, the grantees recommend meeting with youth regularly and building trusting relationships with them. A strong relational foundation enables staff to effectively help youth build skills, and frequent contact helps staff keep track of any issues that arise and makes it easier for them to mediate with landlords. For example, Pathways Navigators and Connect to Home staff meet with youth weekly to assess their needs and build tenancy skills, such as helping them set up utilities. Staff should also develop their own intermediary relationships with landlords and ask to be included in communications with the youth. Connect to Home providers and Pathways Navigators encourage landlords to reach out to them directly on issues that arise with youth. In New Jersey, some service providers establish memoranda of understanding with landlords to formalize how often they communicate with each other and to ensure they share information.

² U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). "Determining Homeless Status of Youth." Available at <https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Determining-Homeless-Status-of-Youth.pdf>. Washington, DC: HUD, October 2015.

Landlords typically have few incentives to work with high-risk youth in places where there is growing demand for housing and limited supply, because they consider it risky. Organizations can offer landlords and youth support to mitigate the risk. Staff can encourage landlords to lease to youth with vouchers by offering monetary support, such as discretionary dollars held in escrow for emergencies, and providing 24-hour access to staff in case of emergencies. Staff in both Colorado and New Jersey explain to landlords that they will educate youth about good tenancy and mediate any issues that arise. They also prepare landlords to understand that youth and young adults, like all tenants, might make missteps, and that these actions often are a normal part of their developmental process. For example, staff might discuss with landlords tenant behaviors such as throwing loud parties or letting significant others or family move in. Pathways and Connect to Home staff also work with youth to build their life and tenancy skills through guided practice and coaching in daily life situations, such as helping them plan finances or showing them how to clean their apartments.

Both grantees are working with populations of youth who need substantial support to remain stably housed, and they recognize their staff need to be prepared to not only support good tenancy, but also to work with youth and landlords to prevent eviction as youth learn about good tenancy. Staff coach landlords on how to engage youth constructively and will often work with landlords to address issues and mitigate consequences that could jeopardize a young person's ability to remain stably housed over the long term. For example, staff work closely with both youth and landlords to prevent eviction, which can negatively affect youth over time because it may appear in a background check and must be reported on rental applications in both states.

Opportunities to shift the field: Considerations for how to effectively work with youth and other systems

Organizations can fill gaps and build capacity in new areas by fostering strong cross-system partnerships. Colorado and New Jersey identified system-level issues that youth-serving organizations must navigate to implement a voucher program for youth. Issues like affordable housing and competitive real estate markets are particularly challenging because they are outside the expertise of most youth-serving organizations. Both grantees found that understanding tenancy laws is critical to helping youth stay housed, and they partner with organizations that give free legal advice to young people who need it. These partnerships build staff's knowledge, which improves their ability to effectively mediate issues with landlords. New Jersey also partners with a nonprofit organization to deliver supportive housing training to staff and uses mandatory monthly training workshops to create opportunities for providers to collaborate and deepen their understanding of key issues.

Both grantees established partnerships with housing systems agencies. For example, Colorado partnered with the Department of Local Affairs/Division of Housing to establish a shared tracking system and monthly housing technical assistance calls for DOH and Pathways program staff to identify and troubleshoot issues and help youth keep their vouchers. Because housing programs are not typically designed for youth or with youth in mind, both New Jersey and Colorado partnered with public housing authorities to negotiate programmatic flexibility to meet the needs of youth.

The youth-serving organization must advocate for continued or expanded access to state housing vouchers to maintain its voucher program. New Jersey sought evidence of positive outcomes, such as stable employment or educational gains, to justify continuing voucher allocations, but these long-term outcomes can take a long time to emerge for high-risk youth. Colorado recommends advocating for vouchers using a cost-savings argument based on available administrative data, while collecting data on long-term outcomes. For example, Colorado compared the cost of a voucher for one year to the cost of common outcomes for youth experiencing homelessness, including one month of incarceration, a two-day hospital stay under Medicaid, or (for those who are parents) one month of child welfare placement if their children must go into custody. Both grantees have used this type of comparison to argue that investing in housing and supportive services for young people at high risk of homelessness is less expensive for the state than the burden on social systems might be if those young people remained homeless. In both Colorado and New Jersey, this analysis has prompted meaningful conversations among stakeholders about the value of services for youth and an interest in investigating long-term outcomes for youth who receive the vouchers.

Key takeaways

To help youth get the vouchers and prepare for tenancy:

- Accompany youth to voucher and tenancy briefings and have follow up-discussions with them on voucher eligibility requirements, the application and approval process, and requirements for keeping the voucher
- Empower youth to make their own decisions during the housing search process by giving them information about options but emphasizing the primacy of their own voice and choice
- Help youth understand their leases, and plan for potential issues that will arise if they have trouble following the rules of the lease
- Review voucher eligibility requirements, rules, and regulations and consider whether any need to be adapted for a youth population

To help youth keep the vouchers and stay housed:

- Cultivate relationships with youth and landlords
- Educate landlords about what to expect when working with youth, including behaviors that are a normal part of development in adolescence and early adulthood
- Build life and tenancy skills through guided practice and coaching on daily life situations
- Mediate between landlords and youth if issues arise, and advocate for youth to keep their vouchers and to avoid evictions and other outcomes that can jeopardize their long-term housing stability
- Foster strong cross-system partnerships and coordination to address system-level issues outside the organization's areas of expertise

To learn more about the YARH grantees, including the work they completed in Phase I, please visit: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/opre/research/project/building-capacity-to-evaluate-interventions-for-youth-with-child-welfare-involvement-at-risk-of-homelessness>.

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For more information about this project, please contact M.C. Bradley at cbradley@mathematica-mpr.com or Mary Mueggenborg at mary.mueggenborg@acf.hhs.gov.

Appendix A. Grantee housing voucher profiles

Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS)

CDHS has 20 State Housing Vouchers for the Pathways program. The State Housing Vouchers provide help with rent and access to supportive services for people with extremely low incomes who have a qualifying condition or special need, have a history of homelessness, are frequent consumers of public services, and need long-term supports and services to stay in housing.

Voucher Information



- **Type:** Homeless Solutions Program State Housing Voucher (SHV)
- **Length of time:** Not limited
- **Funding source:** State
- **Who administers the voucher?** The Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Division of Housing (DOH) oversees administration of SHVs along with the local contracted entity, typically a community mental health center or local housing authority. For youth served by Pathways to Success (Pathways), SHVs are currently administered by their local community mental health center.

How CDHS Obtained Vouchers

CDHS advocated for access to SHVs because housing is one of the greatest needs of Pathways youth who have exited care. In response, DOH allocated 20 SHVs to CDHS to use through Pathways.

Eligibility Requirements

DOH requirements: SHVs were designed for adults exiting the State's Department of Corrections and Mental Health Institutes. DOH expanded SHV eligibility to those exiting public systems of care, including foster care and the juvenile justice system.

Pathways requirements: To be eligible for a Pathways SHV, youth must be in the Pathways program and have a qualifying condition (formerly called a disability) and be homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless.

CDHS requirements: Pathways Navigators must submit a form to Pathways Project Management justifying the youth's need for the voucher and demonstrating how the youth will be able to successfully maintain housing.^a Once approved, the Navigator and youth submit an SHV application to DOH.

Prioritized Youth

CDHS prioritizes youth who are at **high risk of chronic homelessness**, according to the Pathways screening tool.

- **Youth who are currently in foster care and not imminently aging out of the system are not eligible** for an SHV. Pathways instead helps the youth's child welfare agency pursue other options.^b
- **Among youth most at risk of chronic homelessness, CDHS prioritizes youth with adequate support networks and the long-term management skills** needed to keep the voucher and stay housed.

Youth Support

Navigators meet with youth weekly during Pathways to develop the skills and knowledge youth need to successfully stay in housing.

After they leave Pathways, youth are advised to contact their Housing Coordinator and their Navigator when challenges or housing issues arise. Navigators will then work with the youth to resolve the situation by engaging the partners and parties involved.

To support youth to maintain their SHV and housing:

- **Supportive services and comprehensive case management** are critical.
- It is vital that youth have **at least one supportive adult** they can rely on in emergencies and other critical times.

Leadership Involvement

A strong partnership between CDHS and DOH has been central to the expansion of SHVs.

Addressing lessons learned required leadership buy-in:

- **Changing the term “disability” to “qualifying condition.”** Both youth and child welfare staff objected to the use of the term “disability” because of its potential impact on employment opportunities.
- **Setting up a shared tracking system** between Pathways and DOH to make sure SHVs are being fully utilized.
- **Convening monthly housing technical assistance calls** between DOH and Pathways Navigators and Supervisors.
- **Engaging Rocky Mountain Children’s Law Center** to advise youth facing potential legal issues, such as eviction.

Endnotes

^aFor youth who require intensive case management services to stay housed, Pathways Navigators make a referral to a community mental health center to get them on the waitlist.

^bPathways’ SHVs do not go through DOH Coordinated Entry at this time. Pathways youth not using SHVs can access other housing vouchers and resources through Coordinated Entry, such as Family Unification Program (FUP) vouchers and other tenant-based and project-based permanent supportive vouchers.

Note: Supportive services and comprehensive case management include working with the landlord, DOH and/or its contracted entity; contacting Rocky Mountain Children’s Law Center (if needed); requesting intensive case management from the community mental health center; and (if needed) re-enrolling youth in Pathways (after leaving the program).

New Jersey Department of Children & Families (DCF)

DCF has 40 Housing Choice Vouchers for the Connect to Home intervention. Housing Choice Vouchers are available to help families and adults ages 18 or older with low or very low incomes pay their rent and afford safe, quality housing.

Voucher Information



- **Type:** Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers
- **Length of time:** Not limited
 - The Connect to Home goal is to assist and prepare youth to move on or graduate by age 26.
- **Funding source:** State
- **Who administers the voucher?** The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA), a statewide housing authority, administers the Housing Choice Vouchers. For Connect to Home, local nonprofit organizations contracted by DCF support youth participating in Connect to Home with obtaining the Housing Choice Vouchers.

How DCF Obtained Vouchers

DCF discussed with DCA the importance of investing in housing for young adults with experience in foster care who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. In response, DCA allocated 100 Housing Choice Vouchers to DCF, and 40 vouchers were used specifically for Connect to Home.

Eligibility Requirements

DCA requirements: Housing Choice Voucher applicants must demonstrate income eligibility, complete background checks, and be a U.S. citizen or an eligible noncitizen.

DCF requirements: To be eligible for a Housing Choice Voucher through Connect to Home, youth had to be between the ages of 18 to 21 at the time of application and have a history of foster care involvement, but they did not have to have an open case with the child welfare system.

Prioritized Youth

DCF used an early warning system to prioritize program applicants with characteristics that are correlated with homelessness in adulthood, based on:

- Youth's **experience in foster care**, including the number of placements, who they were placed with, duration of placement, and whether they had been prescribed psychotropic medication.
- Whether youth have **high needs**, defined as (1) current or recent mental health diagnoses, (2) current or recent secure-care or juvenile detention custody, (3) current or recent substance use challenges, and/or (4) expectant parents or parenting.

Youth Support

Helping youth maintain safe, quality housing is essential to Connect to Home.

- DCF understood that most Connect to Home participants would be living in their own apartment for the first time, and **has been able to anticipate challenges** by having provider staff work closely with youth to build their tenancy and life skills, and to mediate any issues that arise with landlords.
- Youth may need support to manage experiences such as eviction or relocation to remain stably housed. DCF and DCA are committed to allowing Connect to Home providers to help youth to maintain their housing despite these challenges.

Leadership Involvement

- **DCF and DCA formed a partnership** that includes weekly meetings to problem-solve how to help program participants navigate any challenges that arise.

Note: DCF has disseminated 44 similar vouchers across several other programs in New Jersey. In Union County, DCF has 20 vouchers it pairs with supportive services through a program similar to Connect to Home to house “high needs” youth currently in the child welfare system. DCF also has 24 vouchers it pairs with supportive services exclusively for expectant and parenting youth who are aging out of the child welfare system and are homeless or at-risk of homelessness.

Appendix B. New Jersey Connect to Home's Early Warning System for assessing risk of homelessness



New Jersey prioritizes youth who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to receive housing vouchers through Connect to Home. In partnership with Child Trends, New Jersey identified characteristics that are associated with a higher risk of homelessness as an adult (as indicated by involvement in New Jersey’s adult homeless system), based on analysis of administrative data from the New Jersey Department of Children and Families and Homeless Management Information System records on individuals with foster care histories.

New Jersey developed an Early Warning System during YARH-1. The Early Warning System reflects 10 risk factors and 3 protective factors that were identified through analyses of the state administrative data.

Risk factors for adult homelessness:

- Has had five or more foster care placement settings
- Was ever discharged from foster care due to age or independent living
- Has had an unstable foster care placement pattern
- Reason for removal by child welfare was parental absence or abandonment
- Was ever prescribed psychotropic medication
- Has complex behavioral health care need
- Has ever faced legal challenges or been involved with the juvenile justice system
- Was ever pregnant or parenting
- Last foster care placement was with a non-relative
- Has ever had a child welfare case goal other than permanency

Protective factors for adult homelessness:

- Early foster care placement pattern was stable
- Was ever placed with a relative in foster care
- Has had fewer than three foster care placement settings

New Jersey uses administrative data to calculate each young person's risk of adult homelessness by adding one point for each of the 10 risk factors and subtracting one point for each of three protective factors, with possible scores ranging from -3 to 10. Higher scores indicate higher risk of homelessness in adulthood. New Jersey uses this Early Warning System to identify young people with child welfare histories, who are at risk of facing challenges into adulthood, so that the Department of Children and Families can intervene early with Connect to Home and other programs.

While the Early Warning System was initially helpful to identify youth with higher needs and at greater risk of homelessness in adulthood, not all youth with high risk scores were served in Connect to Home, and qualitative information gathered through the referral process provided additional and necessary context for more fully understanding a youth's needs.

Appendix C. Colorado screening tool³

³ Questions adapted from the Corporation for Supportive Housing's "The TAY Triage Tool: A Tool to Identify Homeless Transition Age Youth Most in Need of Permanent Supportive Housing," the Vera Institute's "Trafficking Victim Identification Tool," research on the Fostering Healthy Futures program, and an analysis of state administrative data.



Pathways to Success Embedded Screening Assessment (Homelessness Pilot)

Purpose of the Assessment: Colorado’s adapted assessment tool is used to identify youth currently or previously in foster care who are most at-risk of homelessness.

Homelessness is defined as living in a place that is not permanent, predictable or consistent or moving from place to place and/or relying on the kindness of others for a place to stay or couch surfing.

The youth of interest are youth who enter foster care between the ages of 14-17, youth transitioning out of foster care ages 17-21, and youth age 12 to 21 who are homeless and have a past foster care experience.

Have you ever been in foster care, currently or in the past?

- Yes ...Continue with screening assessment**
 No ...Stop, no screening assessment needed

		Check each box that applies ↓	Youth Refused
1.	Have you ever become homeless because you ran away from your family home, group home, a foster home or placement?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.	Have you ever become homeless because there was violence at home between family members?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	Have you ever become homeless because you had differences in religious beliefs with parents, guardians or caregivers?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.	Have you ever been pregnant or got someone else pregnant?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.	Have you used marijuana? If yes, how old were you when you first tried marijuana? (age: _____)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.	Before your 18th birthday did you spend any time in jail or detention?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.	Have you ever used an overnight shelter, or got housing assistance like public housing or a housing voucher?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8.	Has your mother ever spent time in jail or prison?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9.	Was your mother ever in foster care?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10.	Have you ever engaged in a sexual act for something of value, such as money, food, housing, gifts or favors?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Enter Total Number of Items Checked			

Youth is (circle one): 1- Youth who enter foster care between the ages of 14-17 2- Youth age 17-21 transitioning out of foster care 3- Youth age 12 to 21 who are homeless and have a past foster care experience Youth First and Last Name: _____ Youth Date of Birth: ___/___/___	Youth Gender Identity: Woman Man Genderqueer (non-binary) Trans woman (male to female) Trans man (female to male) Other (Describe: _____)
Referring organization:	Date:
Referring Caseworker/Chafee-worker/Community-worker/Client Manager (circle one) Name:	Phone: E-mail:
Pathways Coordinator’s Name: Phone: E-mail:	Circle one: 1-Assessment completed 2-Youth decline

Appendix D. Colorado voucher referral form

1. Demographic Information

- Name:
 - Age:
 - Gender:
 - Pathways Population #:
2. Where does the youth currently reside?
 3. What county does the youth want to reside in with a voucher?
 4. Is the youth currently in the custody of the Department of Human Services?
 5. What is the rationale for why the young person needs a non-time limited State Housing Voucher? (Please also discuss other housing options that have been explored (e.g., ILA, FUP voucher, Job Corps) and the reason(s) why they are not appropriate for this youth.)
 6. Does the youth have diagnosis or recent evaluation or other documentation related to their disability? Will the Navigator's Supervisor or another qualified professional sign the Verification of Disability? If so, who?
 7. Can the youth successfully live in the community and not in an on-site supervised setting? (Please explain why)
 8. Does the youth have at least one permanent connection that the youth can reach out to in times of crisis or an emergency for help? If not, what is the plan to help the youth to identify and secure at least one permanent connection?
 9. Will the youth accept receiving case management by another entity (e.g., community mental health center)?
 10. What other supportive services does the youth need in order to be able to live in the community successfully? How will these services be provided or arranged for and who will do that?
 11. How many risk factors were identified on the Pathways screen? Re-administer the screen or use collateral information (e.g., case worker, case notes, Trails info, etc.) if additional risk factors have been identified since the screen was administered at intake.

Project Director/Manager: _____ Date: _____