

## **Wolverine Human Services Young Adult Voluntary Foster Care (YAVFC)**

### **Program Statement**

The Young Adult Voluntary Foster Care Program (YAVFC) is designed to meet the needs of youth from the ages of 18-20 years old with an open foster care case or youth who exited foster care at/or after 18 years of age. The youth can remain in the program until age 21. The program is designed to support the youth in their transition to independence and adulthood. The youth, case manager, other professionals, and any individual identified as significant to the youth function as a team. The team will focus on the individual goals of the youth to meet their needs. The YAVFC program offers services to both males and female clients. The program seeks to serve youth deemed capable of independent functioning in a community environment, but who lack age appropriate skills and resources for self-sufficiency. The goal of the WHS YAVFC program is to teach clients life living skills that will aid them in becoming self sufficient, while they make their transition into adulthood.

### **Referral and Admission**

Referrals are received from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), or from private agencies with the approval of DHHS. Upon receiving a pre-placement referral packet, an interview will be scheduled. The youth will also be required to complete an application form and questionnaire. During the interview the youth is given a copy of the program policy and expectations. Upon receipt of the program policy, the youth will sign a contract agreeing to abide by the program policy and expectations outlining participation in employment, educational and medical areas. If the youth appears appropriate for the program, placement will occur.

### **Types of Living Arrangements Approved.**

There is no specific living type that is required. The living arrangement may be a single apartment, a shared apartment or home, or a rented room in a foster home. Youth may continue living in a licensed foster home, a child care institution, supervised independent living, or approved independent living arrangement until age 21. The living arrangement must be safe, secure, and meet the youth's need for personal space. All youth will have their living arrangement assessed for safety by the assigned case manager prior to occupancy. Clearances must be obtained for all household members over the age of 18. Youth cannot reside in the same home as their biological parent.

### **Eligibility Requirements**

Youth eligible for the program are adolescents and young adults, age 18-20 who have demonstrated maturity in self-care and personal judgment and have the ability to function independently physically, emotionally and intellectually.

Youth must meet one of the following conditions:

- Completing high school or a program leading to a general equivalency diploma (GED)
- Attending part-time or full time in a college, university, vocational program, or trade school.
- Employed at least 80 hours per month.
- Participating at least 80 hours per month in a program that promotes employment (such as Job Corps, Michigan Works!, or another employment skill-building program).
- Having a documented medical condition which renders them incapable of participating in any of the above educational or employment activities

### **Services Provided**

Each youth will be assessed in the following essential areas: education, employment/training skills, money management and budgeting, use of public transportation system, use of community resources, preventative health services, daily living skills, food management, housekeeping, personal appearance and hygiene, emergency and safety skills, interpersonal social skills, legal issues, housing, and the youth's need for supervision.

Based on the assessment, the case manager will assist the youth in locating community resources to address critical identified areas, promote the success of the independent living situation and prepare the youth for functional independence.

### **Means of Financial Support**

Youth that are participating in the voluntary foster care program will be eligible for an independent living stipend. The case manager will work with the youth to develop a budget that will ensure the youth has adequate financial support to meet his/her housing, clothing, food, and miscellaneous needs.

### **Supervision**

All youth will have a minimum of monthly face to face contact with their assigned case manager in the youth's place of residence to ensure the living arrangement remains safe and suitable. Additionally, all youth will be provided with an emergency telephone number to contact the agency on a 24 hour, 7 day a week basis.

### **Educational and Vocational Requirements**

All youth must be:

- Completing high school or a program leading to a general equivalency diploma (GED)
- Attending part-time or full time in a college, university, vocational program, or trade school.
- Employed at least 80 hours per month.
- Participating at least 80 hours per month in a program that promotes employment (such as Job Corps, Michigan Works!, or another employment skill-building program).
- Having a documented medical condition which renders them incapable of participating in any of

the above educational or employment activities

### **Medical and Dental Care**

Youth will be eligible for Medicaid to cover their medical and dental needs. The case manager will work with the youth to ensure that the youth learns how to identify appropriate medical and dental care providers, how to arrange appointments for routine medical and dental examinations and that the youth understand how to access medical and dental care on an emergency basis. All youth will be required to obtain yearly physical examinations and dental exams every six months.

### **Basic Behavioral Expectations**

The youth must continue to follow through in the commitment agreed to in the Youth/Agency Contract, in following household rules or their placement, and must continue to pursue achieving the treatment goals determined by the treatment team. It is expected that all youth will remain free of criminal conduct or association, as well as free from substance abuse.

### **Basis for Termination**

If a youth is not following the YAVFC agreement and/or the Youth/Agency Contract, or is otherwise choosing not to comply with the independent living agreement, following appropriate intervention by the case manager, a FTM will be scheduled. If the youth does not make a satisfactory commitment to the following agreement, the youth will be terminated from the program.

The youth has the option to voluntarily end services. If the youth insists on case closure prior to the age of 21, despite workers concern about the ability to manage on his/her own and make a successful transition toward independence, the worker must document those concerns in the closing summary case plan. The youth's signature is required on the closing summary as acknowledgement that he/she participated in evaluation of the above factors he/she is still requesting closure despite the worker's advice. Community referrals such as adult foster care should be considered if the case manager is concerned about the youth's overall safety.