



**Department of Human Services
Family Services Administration
Youth Services Division**

**Project Reconnect
for
Youth Service Providers**

Date: 7/23/19

Project Reconnect for Youth Providers

❖ What is Project Reconnect:

- A shelter diversion and Rapid Exit Program for unaccompanied individuals (18 years +) experiencing *homelessness*.
- The program offers **direct resources** (financial resources) as well as **indirect supports** (case coordination/referral for services not provided by Project Connect).
- **Note:** Youth Homelessness: *We understand that youth homeless may look like couch surfing, shelter stays and residing in places not meant for habitation.*

Program Goals & Objectives:

Ensure that homeless is “rare, brief and non-recurring” by:

- a) Reuniting youth with natural supports (Friends, family, role models or key players as identified by youth).
- b) Assisting youth secure a new residence by lowering barriers upfront barriers.
- c) Working with youth to return to their residence , if they were previously renting or had other permanent living arrangements.

Project Reconnect for Youth Providers

Eligibility:

- ❑ Unaccompanied youth between 18 and 24 years of age
- ❑ Youth experiencing homelessness or are at risk of becoming homelessness in DC

❖ Who are we targeting?

- Youth who are new to our system (Shelters, Drop-in Centers, Street outreach teams)
- Youth who are at risk of leaving the CoC and returning to homelessness
- Youth who are experiencing homelessness and report being engaged with their family or other positive supports.
- Youth experiencing homelessness and have resources to rent a unit individually or with others.

- ❖ **Note: Youth can be reunited with family/ natural supports if is safe to do so.**

Diversion Resources:

Resources Available:

- ❑ **Support to Host Households:** Grocery Assistance, and Utility Assistance
- ❑ **New Lease Support :** Rental Application Fees, First month's rent , Security Deposit, Holding fees
- ❑ **Arrears Payments:** Payment of back rent or other legal debt affecting housing stability.
- ❑ **Moving Costs:** local and out of state.
- ❑ **Non-local Transportation Assistance:** Bus, train, air ticket when host, and/ youth can prove sustainability out of state. * ***Will only provide one (1) way tickets.***
- ❑ **Local Transportation:** SmarTrip, Automobile Repairs, Gas Assistance, Rideshare Services. Service can only be provided if this need is directly related to housing and employment.

- ❑ **Connect youth to other appropriate resources as needed.**

Documentation & Agreements:

Note: Before funds can be dispersed, a *Diversion Specialist* will work with youth, family or host and landlords to ensure the following:

- ✓ Placement of youth in a household does not jeopardize family/host's living situation.
- ❖ Diversion Agreements are signed by all parties indicating the type of service to be provided as well as the duration and amount to be dispersed.
- ❖ All parties understand that if youth is no longer residing in the household, all financial supports will cease.
- ❖ All parties understand that utility payments, back rent, security deposit, arrears, traveling expenses, etc., will be paid directly to the company providing the service.
- ❖ All parties understand that as part of the diversion planning, supporting documentation such as leases, utility bills, IDs, etc., will be required.

**** All parties including youth must affirm that they feel emotionally and physically safe to reside in the same household.**

Project Reconnect for Youth Providers

Referral Information:

Referral Process:

Email Youth HOPE at : fsa.hope@dc.gov

You may also email: Kassein.Greene@dc.gov and CC: michelle.maringe@dc.gov

Phone: Kassein: 202 655 8923 Michelle: 202 322 0946

When you email, the referral, be sure to include:

1. Description of service youth is being referred
2. Provide Case Manager/ Outreach Staff contact Info,
3. Youth Contact Info and HMIS Number

For Providers already trained in Project Reconnect:

- Continue scheduling appointments using Acuity Scheduling
- Also enter youth into Project Reconnect in HMIS.

Q & A and Comments