

Good morning,

Please see below for information and resources related to your work with older youth.

- National Wellness Month
https://www.calm.com/blog/national-wellness-month?utm_source=Survive+%26+Thrive+Advocacy+Center+Distribution+List&utm_campaign=cc0e7d80c3-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2025_04_02_05_00_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-72267a8d96-190731823&mc_cid=cc0e7d80c3&mc_eid=d08bb1c662.
- Act 1: Resources and Webinars
https://www.act1edinstability.org/professional-development-and-resources/?utm_campaign=CSC%20Professional%20Opportunities%20Update&utm_medium=email&hsenc=p2ANqtz-8LSRLaorgdrRNNfu6MA8tyKTRT64TKHJyl5foEjtpGjT4Y0hrmtj4kfsoVbZtAJ3GiwFikP_vhW3zjmav8hLB0vB00Ww&_hs_mi=433779231&utm_content=433779231&utm_source=hs_email#professionaldevelopment
- New Guidance Released for Foster Youth to Independence Vouchers
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Resources
- Supporting Students with Special Circumstances Through the Financial Aid Process (webinar)
- CWRC Being Well Podcasts <https://www.pacwrc.pitt.edu/podcasts.htm>

New Guidance Released for Foster Youth to Independence Vouchers:



Was this email forwarded to you? Stay up to date on youth homelessness by [signing up for our listserv](#).

New Guidance Released for Foster Youth to Independence Vouchers

On July 27, 2026, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released a [new notice](#) for the Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) voucher program. The notice releases **\$38.2 million** in noncompetitive funding available for Public Housing Agencies (PHA) to request FYI vouchers. It also makes several key updates to FYI eligibility and acquisition, including:

- Removing the cap on the number of FYI vouchers a PHA can request.
- Removing the utilization threshold requirement that was necessary for a PHA to reach before requesting new FYI vouchers.
- Expanding youth eligibility by updating the definition of “at risk of becoming homeless” to mean the youth meets one of the following criteria:
- The youth/family has an annual income below 50 percent of the area’s median family income and meets one of the listed conditions ([page 7](#)).

- The youth meets the definition of homelessness used by the [Runaway and Homeless Youth Act](#), the [Head Start Act](#), the [Violence Against Women Act](#), the [Food and Nutrition Act](#), or the [Child Nutrition Act](#).
- The youth meets the [McKinney-Vento education](#) definition of homelessness, and if their parents or guardians live with them, then the parents or guardians also meet the definition.
- This new eligibility so far only applies to this notice for \$38.2 million in noncompetitive funding.

August Webinar Series on FYI Vouchers

The National Center for Housing & Child Welfare, the Youth Law Center, and ACTION Ohio are hosting a five-part webinar series that will provide detailed information about obtaining and successfully utilizing FYI vouchers.

Webinar 4: HUD's Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program as a Platform for Economic Empowerment

- **Date:** August 24, 2026
- **Time:** 7:00 - 8:30 AM HST | 10:00 - 11:30 AM PST | 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM MST | 12:00 - 1:30 PM CST | 1:00 - 2:30 PM EST
- **Topic:** Leveraging the FSS Program for Young People
- **Registration:** [LINK](#)

Webinar 5: The Future of FYI

- **Date:** August 31, 2026
- **Time:** 7:00 - 8:30 AM HST | 10:00 - 11:30 AM PST | 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM MST | 12:00 - 1:30 PM CST | 1:00 - 2:30 PM EST
- **Topic:** The Future of FYI
- **Registration:** [LINK](#)

There is currently a new wave of legislative initiatives affecting Foster Youth. [Learn more in a past blog post here.](#)

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Resources:

Warning Signs of Suicide Risk in Young People

Recognizing the signs of suicide risk in young people can save lives. Learn the warning signs and if you notice any in yourself or others, it's important to take them seriously.



988 for Substance Use Support

Motivators, Barriers, and Likelihood of Contacting 988 for Substance Use Support: Implications for Marketing, Promotion, and Practice

This article explores why people may or may not contact 988 for substance use concerns and how likely they are to use the service. The findings can help inform efforts to raise awareness and increase use of 988 support.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Resource List

NORC Adolescent SBIRT Resources

NORC at the University of Chicago's Adolescent SBIRT Initiative provides numerous tools, resources, and services.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Here are other great resources for schools, parents/caregivers, and youth serving professionals:

SAMHSA Parent and Caregiver Resources

Fact sheets and brochures for parents and caregivers to help them have conversations with youth about substance use.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Recognizing Suicide Risk in Your Child

Free, downloadable brochure on how to recognize warning signs and suicide risk.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Parentguidance.org

Education and support for parents to help support a child's mental health.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Model School District Policy on Suicide Prevention

Policy guidance document created through a collaboration between American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), The Trevor Project, American School Counselor Association, and National Association of School Psychologists to provide suicide prevention guidance to schools.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Up-To-Me

This anti-stigma tool features a free facilitator's guide and student workbook designed for students with mental health challenges to help them make choices about whether and how to share their story.

[LEARN MORE](#)

The Steve Fund

Website provides resources for educators and parents to support the mental health of students of color.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Upcoming Webinar

Supporting Youth Through Vaping Cessation: A Shift in Mindset

August 27th, 2026 | 12:00–1:00 PM CT

Youth vaping is a complex health issue that requires a deeper understanding of nicotine dependence, adolescent brain development, and the factors that make quitting difficult. This session will explore current trends in youth vaping, the impact of nicotine on young people, and the importance of shifting toward supportive, restorative approaches. Participants will gain a better understanding of how recognizing vaping as an issue of nicotine dependence can inform more effective responses, including connecting youth with appropriate resources and supports.

REGISTER

If you have not yet registered for the Supporting the Whole Child series, you may do so [here](#).

Supporting Students with Special Circumstances Through the Financial Aid Process



[View in browser](#)



Youth Development Initiatives

Ensuring students stay engaged, supported, and on track to succeed.

Register for our upcoming session!

Supporting Students with Special Circumstances Through the Financial Aid Process

September 10, 10AM-11:00AM | Virtual

Navigating the financial aid process can be especially challenging for students facing unique circumstances. This webinar will provide an overview of the financial aid application process, available sources of financial aid, and key considerations for supporting students from special populations, including:

- Refugee and migrant students
- Students experiencing homelessness
- Students in foster care
- Expectant and parenting students

Participants will gain practical information to help students better understand and navigate the financial aid process and access available resources and support.

The presentation will conclude with a Q&A session, providing an opportunity for participants to ask questions and learn more from PHEAA.

[Register for "Supporting Students with Special Circumstances."](#)

Meet Our Presenter



Evelyn Disla-Hernandez

Higher Education
Access Partner
Pennsylvania Higher
Education Assistance
Agency (PHEAA)

Evelyn Disla-Hernández, MS, currently serves as a Higher Education Access Partner for Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) for Carbon, Lehigh, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, and Pike counties. She has over 28 years of experience in financial aid from a variety of Higher Education Institutions. She is an enthusiastic supporter and particularly sensitive to the needs of those who are marginalized and underrepresented and considers providing information that facilitates accessibility and affordability to education one of her passions. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family and friends and reading.

[Please use this link to share this email](#) with friends and on social media.

The **Youth Development Initiatives** at the Center for Schools and Communities (CSC) help schools and organizations ensure that students facing the greatest barriers stay engaged, supported, and on track to succeed.

These initiatives support statewide programs administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). CSC Youth Development Initiatives, in partnership with PDE, carries out key activities that advance the goals of these programs through training and professional development, technical assistance and coaching, and the development and sharing of resources for schools, organizations, and professionals serving students and families across Pennsylvania.

Learn more by visiting the statewide program sites:

- [Assisting Students Experiencing Education Instability](#)
- [Education Leading to Employment and Career Training \(ELECT\)](#)
- [Educational Stability for Children and Youth in Foster Care](#)
- [Pennsylvania Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness \(ECYEH\)](#)
- [Pennsylvania Migrant Education Program \(MEP\)](#)
- [Pennsylvania Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program \(21st CCLC\)](#)
- [Pennsylvania Statewide Afterschool/Youth Development Network \(PSAYDN\)](#)
- [Pennsylvania Refugee Education Program \(REP\)](#)

Disclaimer: Training sessions are created by individual providers. The opinions presented herein do not necessarily represent the official stance or policies of the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), and no official endorsement by the PDE should be inferred.

Sign up for updates on the issues you care about.

Center for Schools and Communities, division of Central Susquehanna Intermediate
Unit
275 Grandview Avenue, Suite 200
Camp Hill, PA 17011
www.centerforschoolsandcommunities.org
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Being Well Podcast Episodes Available

Give our latest episodes of the Being Well Podcast a listen! This series is a collaboration between the CWRC and the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC.

- **Kids with Complex Care Needs** – https://www.pacwrc.pitt.edu/podcast_being-well_13.htm
 - Dr. Jennifer Wolford and Dr. Matthew Valente, both of UPMC's Children's Hospital discuss kids with complex care needs – how the medical world defines complex care cases, and more importantly, how having complex medical needs can impact the child and the family. Medical professionals (and social service providers) play key roles in the lives of these families.
- **Illicit Drug Ingestions** – https://www.pacwrc.pitt.edu/podcast_being-well_12.htm
 - Dr. Jennifer Wolford, DO and Dr. Maria Antonucci, MD discuss illicit drug ingestions, specifically what happens when a child accidentally ingests a drug and what medical personnel will likely do next. They also discuss prevention tips.
- **Vaccine Basics** – https://www.pacwrc.pitt.edu/podcast_being-well_11.htm
 - Dr. Jennifer Wolford, DO and Dr. Hannah Sahud, MD, both pediatricians at the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh's Child Advocacy Center, discuss vaccine basics - what they are and how they work. They also dispel some lingering myths around vaccines.

Check out our other podcasts here: <https://www.pacwrc.pitt.edu/podcasts.htm>

Have a great weekend.

Thanks,