

Preventive Housing Subsidy Desk Aid

See 20-OCFS-ADM-16-R2.

The Preventive Housing Subsidy is intended to stabilize housing situations and prevent foster care placements, expedite reunification, and help youth aging out of foster care. The subsidy may only be provided as a mandated preventive service to families who meet the eligibility criteria defined within New York State Regulations.

Maximum Allowable Expenditures	Eligible Services	POS Code
Up to \$725 per month Up to \$4,350 as a “one shot” for arrears payments Total payments for each family up to \$26,100 for a maximum period of 36 months For many other benefit programs, housing subsidy is not considered income or a resource, so it is unlikely to impact eligibility for other benefits.	Rent	27
	Arrears (rent or mortgage)	2A
	Security deposits	2B
	Broker’s or finder’s fees	2B
	Household moving expenses	2B
	Exterminator fees	2B
	Essential repairs of conditions (rental or client-owned property), which create substantial health or safety risk	2B
	Other assistance necessary to obtain adequate housing	2B

Housing Subsidy Eligibility

Who Can Receive the Subsidy?	Eligibility Criteria
Families with children at risk of foster care placement	Inadequate housing makes it difficult or impossible for parents or caretakers to meet the basic needs of the family, which, along with a service need, other than inadequate housing, places the child at imminent risk for placement in foster care.
Families with children in foster care	Inadequate housing is the primary factor preventing the discharge of a child from foster care and returning home. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Child must be discharged within two months of the provision of housing services.
Youth with a goal of Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA) with a permanency resource	Inadequate housing is preventing a youth from being discharged. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Youth must be discharged within two months of the provision of housing services. ➤ Housing subsidy may continue while youth is on trial discharge until age 21.
Youth over the age of 18 at risk of reentering foster care	The youth has requested to reenter foster care, and housing services are necessary to prevent the youth from reentering. The youth has at least one service need other than inadequate housing.

Casework Contacts

Housing subsidy is the ONLY service provided	Housing subsidy is NOT the only service provided
At least one in-home casework contact in the following circumstances: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ within the first six months of provision of housing services, ➤ at each reassessment of subsidy, and ➤ 60 days prior to termination of housing services. 	Regular preventive service casework contact requirements apply. (At least 12 contacts within each six-month period of services.)

Such contacts must consist of efforts to locate other sources of permanent housing for the family and/or other sources of housing assistance that would enable the family to remain in the housing unit for which housing services were obtained.

Family Assessment and Services Plan (FASP) Documentation

The determination to provide the preventive housing subsidy, a description of the family’s housing situation, and if applicable, a description of the home the youth or family will move into, or if none has been located, the type that will be needed.

The preventive housing subsidy is authorized for six months and must be reassessed at each FASP. The provision of housing services beyond the initial six-month eligibility period (up to a maximum of 36 months) will be considered mandated only if termination of the housing services would result in the family's inability to maintain or secure adequate housing.