



YOUTH CONNECTIONS PROGRAM

Increasing relational permanency one connection at a time!

The Youth Connections Program (YCP) is a youth-driven, youth-led program for older foster youth who would like to have permanent connections with caring adults. The program best serves foster youth 16 and older who have no identified supports and express that they no longer wish to be adopted. Exceptions to these criteria will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

The YCP Specialist partners with the youth and his or her family case manager, and other key partners to locate an appropriate adult who can become an essential connection.

The YCP Specialist will review the case file and interview the youth to identify potential connections

Once a supportive adult has been identified, the YCP Specialist makes recommendations on how the youth and adult can build a strong relationship and develops a connection plan.

There are many kinds of help a caring, committed adult can offer a youth, including:

- A place to stay in emergencies.
- Assistance with managing money.
- Someone to talk to about problems.
- Help with health issues.
- Help finding housing, schooling, work.
- A place to do laundry.
- Advocacy, motivation, mentoring.
- Occasional transportation.
- A link to community resources.
- Help managing a household.
- Emergency cash.
- Help with clothes, meals.
- A home for the holidays.
- Spiritual support.
- Safety and personal security.
- Use of a computer or phone.
- Help with paperwork, complex forms, legal documents.
- Recreational activities.
- Help with relationships.

One caring adult can improve outcomes for youth and young adults!