

# DCYF Resource Guide

## Direct Referrals

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# **Direct Referrals**

# **Child-Specific Recruitment Program**

## **Adoption Rhode Island**

**Description:**

Child-Specific Recruitment programming focuses on recruiting, matching, and supporting prospective adoptive families for children registered with the program, utilizing various recruitment and preparation tools. Staff in this program also provide technical assistance and training in permanency best practices, policies, and procedures, which can be done during co-locations at DCYF regional offices and/or by appointment.

Upon registration, each youth is assigned an Adoption & Permanency Specialist, who works with the youth's team to create an individualized recruitment plan, based on the youth's background and needs. Recruitment tools utilized in this program can include Tuesday's Child, photo listing on the ARI website, National website photo listing on Adopt Us Kids, The Heart Gallery, recruitment and matching events, videos of youth, and posts on social media platforms.

To refer a youth to this program, FSU must complete the Adoption Profile Registration (#054) for DCYF-internal processing.

**Best fit criteria:**

Youth ages 0-21 for whom a TPR has been filed or adjudicated are eligible for program participation.

**Exclusionary Criteria:**

Youth for whom adoption is not the primary, nor secondary case plan goal and a TPR has not been filed.

## **Child-Specific Outreach & Monitoring Adoption Rhode Island**

**Description:**

The Child-Specific Outreach & Monitoring efforts at Adoption RI engage foster families who have formally committed to adoption of children currently placed to inform families of formal and informal supports offered by ARI, both pre- and post-adoption/guardianship finalization. Efforts also ensure timeliness to permanency, with staff providing technical support to FSU, as needed, including guidance in preparing Pre-Adoptive Reports to families. This support can be done during co-locations at DCYF regional offices and/or by appointment.

To refer a youth to this program, FSU must complete the Adoption Profile Registration (#054) for DCYF-internal processing.

**Best fit criteria:**

Youth ages 0-21 for whom a TPR has been filed or adjudicated and Resource Families, who have formally committed to permanency through legal adoption or guardianship are eligible for program participation.

**Exclusionary Criteria:**

Youth for whom a TPR has not been filed or adjudicated and is in a foster home that has not committed to permanency through legal adoption or guardianship.

# **Extreme Family Finding (EFF) Program**

## **Adoption Rhode Island**

### **Description:**

Extreme Family Finding (EFF) is an innovative and promising model that pairs an experienced adoption specialist with a private investigator to identify extended family members for children and youth in foster care. This model allows for application of other child-specific recruitment tactics.

Upon registration, the EFF Recruiter and Investigator implement the EFF model which includes creation and expansion of the family genogram and focus on preparing youth for adoption, including their mental health and educational needs. The model also includes application of all forms of permanency recruitment efforts that can result in both legal and relational permanency, including social media outlets, a diligent search conducted by the private investigator to help identify relative/kin, including use of various national search engines and databases, and face-to-face meetings with identified members of the family to secure additional knowledge of potential family and/or extended family members. Weekly meetings between the child's professional team members and recruitment staff occur over the course of 12-20 weeks.

To refer a youth to this program, FSU must complete the Adoption Profile Registration (#054) for DCYF-internal processing.

### **Best fit criteria:**

Youth ages 10-21 for whom a TPR has been filed or adjudicated and one or more of the following are present are eligible for program participation: primary permanency goal is adoption, is part of a sibling group, has documented elevated medical, behavioral, and/or mental health needs, is legally free for adoption for six months or have an affidavit to utilize public recruitment, and does not already have an identified family able to provide permanency.

### **Exclusionary Criteria:**

Cases where the aforementioned Best Fit Criteria is not met.

# Preserving Families Program

## Adoption Rhode Island

### **Description:**

Preserving Families is a state-wide program that is based on the principles of the evidenced based Attachment, Regulation and Competency (ARC) and Trauma Focused CBT (TF-CBT) Models. Staff are also trained in a variety of other evidence-based treatment and promising practices (Collaborative Problem Solving, 3-5-7, EMDR, etc.) that address the core clinical issues related to adoption, mental health, permanency and well-being. This family-centered program, which includes multiple points of contact each week through individual, family, and group interventions, works with each family member to develop a treatment plan that is carefully tailored to meet the specific needs of the child and family.

Referrals can be made directly to the program by emailing [cfs@adoptionri.org](mailto:cfs@adoptionri.org) or calling Adoption RI at 865-6000.

### **Best fit criteria:**

Children and families impacted by foster care and adoption, including families brought together through kinship, domestic, and international adoption and guardianship arrangements, are eligible for programming. Families at-risk of disrupting adoptions are encouraged to participate.

### **Exclusionary Criteria:**

Given the delicate needs of families impacted by adoption, families and/or staff interested in the Preserving Families are encouraged to contact the program directly to discuss referrals needs, individualized to the family, to determine eligibility/ineligibility.

## **Kinship Support Group Adoption Rhode Island**

**Description:** Monthly support groups are offered to relative and kin caregivers. Groups are open to any kin family, including those providing care through formal DCYF foster placement, kinship adoption, and kinship guardianship. These groups are co-facilitated by leaders with kinship caretaking experience and/or expertise in adoption, foster care and resources available to families.

**Best Fit Criteria:** Although all kin families are eligible, the best fit includes families who are considering guardianship or adoption and are interested in additional support and education about process, services and supports.

**Exclusionary Criteria:** Families providing non-kinship care



# Wendy's Wonderful Kids (WWK) Program

## Adoption Rhode Island

### **Description:**

Wendy's Wonderful Kids (WWK) is a signature program of the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption that is the only evidence-based model of child-focused recruitment in the country, proven to be up to three times more effective to identify adoptive homes for youth meeting criteria noted below. Upon receipt of youth registration, a WWK recruiter is assigned and will create an individualized recruitment plan upon conducting:

- An exhaustive care record review & Seneca search
- Diligent search for family & connections
- Assessment of adoption readiness
- Adoption preparation (non-clinical)
- Network building to form new connections with youth

To refer a youth to this program, FSU must complete the Adoption Profile Registration (#054) for DCYF-internal processing.

### **Best fit criteria:**

The program is specifically designed for youth who have waited the longest, experienced previous unsuccessful recruitment efforts, including teenagers, siblings, and youth who present with special healthcare needs, including medical, cognitive, and/or behavioral, and/or do not already have an identified family able to provide permanency.

### **Exclusionary Criteria:**

Cases where the aforementioned Best Fit Criteria is not met.

# Teen Focus Program

## Adoption Rhode Island

**Description:**

Teen Focus is a permanency and education-focused program, designed to support older youth in building and re-establishing safe and meaningful connections, reaching educational goals of graduation/GED attainment and advancement, and improving their readiness for healthy transition into adulthood.

Permanency Specialists utilize multiple family search & engagement tools, as well as recruitment strategies to identify support family members and community supports, with goals of both legal and relational permanency. Educational Specialists work with youth to ensure high school/GED completion, explore post-secondary educational/vocational options, and equip youth with life skills for safe and healthy living.

Referrals can be made directly by emailing the *TF Referral Form* to the program at [tfs@adoptionri.org](mailto:tfs@adoptionri.org) or calling Adoption RI at 865-6000.

**Best fit criteria:**

Youth ages 16+ with the permanency goal of APPLA, including youth in FSU and VEC, are eligible for the program.

**Exclusionary Criteria:**

Youth who do not have a primary or secondary goal of APPLA.

# Homebuilders

## Bethany Christian Services of Southern New England

### **Description:**

- Primary Focus – Intensive home-based services to prevent first-time out-of-home care placement when it is imminent, get kids back home from placement (home within 7 days of start of Homebuilders), and reduce re-referrals of abuse and neglect. Implementation of the model strengthens families through careful assessment, teaching of skills and overcoming barriers to success
- An evidence-based model that follows tested standards and includes quality improvement in its basic design
- The program serves children/youth ages 0-17 and their caregiver(s)
- 24/7 Availability - Therapists are available to families 24/7.
- Referrals are made from the DCYF Central Referral Unit (CRU)
- Staffing Qualifications – Supervisor (Licensed Master’s Level with home-based services experience), Therapists (Bachelor’s or Master’s Level with home-based services experience). 2 Cases per therapist, each for 4-6 weeks.
- Caregiver must be available for an intake session within 24 hours of referral.
- Therapist meet with the family at least 3-5 times a week (40 hours of face to face direct service), when services are most needed and most effective
- Services are typically provided by therapist for 4-6 weeks; families have access to limited post intervention contract.
- Service plans are developed with the family and updated as needed
- All visits occur, in the caregiver’s home and community
- Comprehensive reports are provided as needed for court and the ICPC process
- North Carolina Family Assessment Scale (NCFAS) is used to at beginning of services to measure aspects of family functioning and child safety, and to shape case goals. A service plan is developed within 7 days after first face to face contact. A transitional NCFAS is also used at closure for evaluation
- Able to serve English and Spanish speaking families
- Serving the entire state of Rhode Island

### **Best Fit Criteria:**

- Less intensive services have been exhausted or are not appropriate.
- Maintaining the child in the home is not just a temporary plan. The child is not on a waiting list or pending entry into group care, psychiatric care, or a juvenile justice institution.
- The caregiver has been informed of the risk of placement.
- The caregiver(s) will be available for an intake session within 24 hours of referral.
- The program intensity has been fully described to the family prior to the referral (40 hours of direct service over 4-6 weeks), AND at least one caregiver in the home is available to participate.
- The presenting problems may include child abuse, neglect, family conflict, juvenile delinquency, and child or parental developmental disabilities and/or mental health problems.

### **Exclusionary Criteria:**

- Families who refuse the HOMEBUILDERS program.
- The physical abuse is considered life-threatening, necessitating the child(ren) be immediately placed to ensure safety (for ex, the parent threatens homicide of the child).
- Both parents are found incoherent all of the time due to substance abuse.
- Family members, including parents, fear being murdered by the drug community and move constantly to avoid harm.
- A parent wants the child(ren) to be placed and refuses to consider services that might enable the child(ren) to remain in the home.
- There is no sexual abuse referral we would routinely refuse. Our worker will continually monitor to ensure the child’s safety and notify DCYF if it appears that HOMEBUILDERS can’t ensure safety of the child(ren).
- There are consistent threats to hurt any worker who works with the family or visits the home.

- A worker determines parents or children require hospitalization because of severe life-threatening uncontrollable behavior.
- Mental illness and related factors prevent parents from meeting minimal needs of the children and there is NO potential for support from extended family members or other resources. (Keep in mind that HOMEBUILDERS has the ability to develop stabilizing community support. Therefore, if there is ANY potential, this instance may qualify as an appropriate referral).
- The child has a life-threatening illness, and the parent does not have the intellectual capacity to learn to provide necessary health care and no homemaker, public health nurse, or family member is available to provide the care.

# Family & Youth Support Partner Services /Peer Recovery Coaching Parent Support Network of Rhode Island

## Parent Support Network Overview

Parent Support network of Rhode Island (PSN) is a statewide family and peer run organization who are dedicated to working with children, youth, families, and individuals at risk for or who have emotional behavioral, and mental health challenges and who interact with and receive services from healthcare, behavioral health, housing, human services, early childhood, education, employment/vocational, child welfare, juvenile justice, adult correction, etc. PSN is the RI Chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America. We are committed to raising public awareness and conducting public health education; providing direct family and youth support services and parent peer recovery coaching for opioid addiction and other substance use or mental health challenges; we collaborate, partner, and advocate to promote policy and practice change within behavioral health, health equity and wellbeing of all Rhode Islanders.

Family Partners and Peer Recovery Specialists are parents, family members, and individuals with lived experience accessing services and supports across the child and family service systems and/or caring for a child or adolescent with behavioral health needs. Peer Recovery Specialists bring the additional lived experience of being in recovery from mental health and /or substance use. Based on these lived experiences and formal training are good at engagement, building trust, and sharing our own success in accessing and receiving services for their own children and family. Family/Parent Partner and Peer Recovery services are evidence based and recognized by the California Evidence Based Clearing House for Child Welfare and by the Center for Medicaid Services (CMS). Family/Parent Partners and Peer Recovery utilize evidence-based approaches, interventions, and strategies in our delivery.

## Family & Youth Support Partner Services

PSN offers a menu of Family and Youth Support Partner services statewide to support children and youth at risk for or who have serious emotional disturbance (SED) and/or child welfare involvement and their families; and young adults who have a DSM V diagnosis and are involved individual care planning. SED is defined as birth to 18 with DSM V diagnosis, multi-agency needs (behavioral health, special education, child welfare, juvenile justice, etc.), and are at risk of out of home placement. PSN is committed to working with families and youth to prevent or intervene as early as possible with the family, youth, and young adults to reduce need for hospitalization, out of home or residential placement, and increase access to home and community-based treatment and services for positive behavioral health and well-being outcomes for the child, family, and young adults.

- **Statewide Warmline (401-467-6855):** Family & Youth Support Partners offer telephone and individual telehealth zoom sessions with our PSN warmline services weekdays 9 am to 5 pm, with the ability to schedule follow up call and zoom services nights and weekends as needed. Any Family or young adult across the state can contact to the warm line for emotional support, information, and referral as they are seeking help to care for their child and family or self; and to learn about how to get involved; and participate in our workshops, meetings, and events.
- **Individualized Service Assistance:** Family & Youth Support Partners work with the families and youth adults to schedule virtual zoom or in person meetings with their providers pending releases; and identify key needs for accessing and navigating services and assist them with taking the steps, completing applications, and providing warm transfers to providers to ensure the families and youth are connected to service programs. Partners attend in person or virtual appointments at the family and young adult request such as medical; early childhood; school-individualized educational planning meetings or 504; treatment and care planning; hospital discharge; and family court appearances. We

accompany families and youth in person or virtually to their interdisciplinary teams and wraparound team meetings as requested by the family.

- **Support Groups:** PSN offers ongoing weekly virtual support groups for families in English and Spanish. Families can receive ongoing peer support with other family members who are raising children and youth with behavioral health challenges. PSN has weekly virtual father support group meetings every Wednesday night. We offer a virtual weekly youth support group for adolescents ages 13 to 18 years old. These groups are open and inclusive. We are working towards getting small in-person groups up and running this summer based on safe COVID social distancing. Please see our schedule for support groups on our website at [www.psnri.org](http://www.psnri.org)
- **Nurturing Parenting Classes:** Family & Youth Support Partners utilize the evidence based Nurturing Parenting curriculum by delivering ongoing 12 session classes and individualized sessions. Nurturing Parenting is a family-centered trauma informed curriculum designed to build nurturing parenting skills as an alternative to abusive and neglecting parenting and child -rearing practices. We foster positive parenting skills with nurturing behaviors, promote healthy physical and social development, and teach appropriate role and developmental expectations. We conduct pre and post assessments with families who participate and provide court letters. These classes are open to all RI families in need on a first come first serve basis and we usually run concurrent classes reduce wait lists.
- **Ongoing Family & Youth Workshops:** Family & Youth Support Partners offer ongoing workshops to build knowledge and skills for empowerment, self-efficacy, caring for yourself, child, and family; how to navigate and access behavioral health and the child service delivery systems; rights and laws; youth transition to adulthood; etc.

### **Regional Circle of Parents**

PSN is working in partnership with the regional FCCPs, Healthy Families America Program, and other community based partners working with families/parents to create regional parent leadership groups who will hold ongoing support peer to peer support meetings; bring in guest speakers and workshops, and promote and build family/parent leadership to participate in local and state policy and advisory boards to provide input on service delivery needs and approaches to meet their child and family needs. Currently all staff and partners are receiving training to start up and facilitate groups around the state within the FCCP regions. More information will be available on our website at [www.psnri.org](http://www.psnri.org)

### **Peer Recovery Coaching Services**

PSN provides peer-based recovery support services (PBRSS) specialized to working with transition age youth, young adults and parents who are struggling with opioid addiction, substance use and/or mental health challenges.

- **RAPID Response -Formal DCYF Referrals:** PSN receives direct referrals from Investigative and child protective service workers for a peer recovery specialist to connect with the young adult or parent to meet their immediate treatment needs within 24 hours. This includes detox, screens, and treatment and recovery services necessary for caring for self and their children and family.
- **Healing Mothers and Babies:** PSN receives direct referrals for working with pregnant women and new partners who are struggling with opioid addiction, substance use and co-occurring mental health challenges. Peer Recovery Specialists work with the pregnant women to move from illicit substances to medication assisted treatment, screens, OBGYN visits, housing, and other recovery services and preparation for parenting. Peer Recovery Specialists participate in birth process and support parents with infants born with neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) and connect parents with early childhood services and parents with ongoing treatment and recovery services.
- **Recovery Community Centers:** PSN has walk in recovery community centers in Newport, Middletown, and Westerly that offer an array of peer recovery services and supports including

ongoing mutual aid meetings, sober social events, wellness activities and intensive one to one peer service support.

Middletown/Newport-401-324-5861

Westerly-401-598-6400

### **Family & Youth Support Partner/Peer Recovery Specialist Experience**

- Each family is assigned a Family/Parent Partner who is a parent/family caregiver who has lived experience either raising a child or youth with serious behavioral (mental health and substance use) challenges and/or experience with child welfare and other service system involvement. Peer Recovery Specialist will also be assigned for parents with mental health and/or substance use challenges themselves.
- Family/Parent Partners and Peer Recovery Specialists are required to have a high school diploma/GED and be certified or actively working on Dual Certified Peer Recovery Specialist -Community Health Care Worker Federal Registered Apprenticeship program s certificates with the RI Certification Board.
- Family/Parent Partners and Peer Recovery Specialists receive individual and/or group clinical supervision weekly by our Clinical Director, with MA, CAGS, LMHC, LCDP credentials. Daily supervision by an experienced non-clinical peer specialist supervisor with over 20 years of peer service delivery.

### **Service Details**

- Peer Recovery Specialists provide rapid response to meet the needs of young adults and parents seeking immediate support and assistance with access treatment and recovery services and support for opioid addiction, substance use and mental health challenges we respond and connect face to face with individuals within 24 hours of referral.
- Family & Youth Support Partners work to accommodate families and young adults statewide and at times will need a two week notice to engage family or youth to learn about service needs and prepare to attend meetings with families and/or youth.
- Family & Youth Partners work to provide brief and individualized support and assistance and assist with making referrals to intensive child and family and peer recovery programs within PSN and to other agency partners such as First connections, Healthy Families America, Family Care Community Partnership (FCCP), etc.
- Family & Youth Support Partner and Peer Recovery Specialist duration of services can be very brief to remaining active as a member involved with our organization for years. We work to meet families where they are at and support them in identifying their immediate service needs and continue assist them in developing and implementing their own care plans.
- The Initial care plan is developed based on immediate need request during first contact with family or young adult; families and youth are engaged to participate in strengths needs intake and assessment process to learn to develop and implement their own plan of care. Family & Youth Support partners identify how to assist parents with implementing their own care plans. PSN can provide families with electronic written care plan and can work with parents to track their progress too.
- Family & Youth Support Partner and Peer Recovery services occur in the home, community, treatment centers, early care, schools, and other agency settings. Family & Youth Support Partners can transport or arrange for transportation for families and youth to participate.
- Parent Partners and Peer Recovery Specialists are available to serve across the statewide, weekdays 9 - 5 pm, scheduled nights and weekends.
- PSN will provide gas cards and/or taxis to support families and youth to accessing their treatment or participation in our services, groups, workshops, and event when it is cost effective and promotes self-efficacy.

- Because Family & Youth Support Partner and Peer Recovery Services are non-clinical, we are first responders; we work with the family to have crisis and safety plans in place as to which clinical provider is identified as 24/7 clinical response.
- Current Family & Youth Support Partner staff and Peer Recovery Specialists speak English, Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, and utilize interpretation.
- Upon referral, initial contact with family is made within two (2) business days. Initial face to face or virtual meetings with the parents/family/caregiver occurs within 5 business days of referral.
- Referrals can be statewide can be self-referral, and agencies can refer on behalf of families and youth with electronic release and referral form.

**Best fit criteria:**

- Family & Youth Support Partner services should be highly encouraged and voluntary.
- Families & Youth who are hard to engage, build trust and positive communication; need ongoing peer support, education, mentoring and advocacy; positive parent and child interaction and healthy development.
- Families who have children and youth with serious emotional disturbance, have multi-agency needs, and are transitioning from out of home placement to home.
- Families and young adults who are in recovery for mental health, substance use and/or other chronic health needs or who are incarcerated at RI Adult Corrections and working on re-entry and reunification.
- Youth and Young Adults working on successful transition to adulthood and in need of life skills.

**Exclusionary Criteria:**

- Families and youth who after numerous attempts refuse to engage with Family & Youth Support Partner or Peer Recovery Specialist services.

**Making Referrals or More Information:**

Parents can self-refer, or we receive Department direct referrals with release to Parent Support Network for Family and Youth Partner services by contacting PSN at 401-467-6855.

To learn more about our new Circle of Parents initiative and all our support groups and ongoing parent workshops visit our website at [www.psnri.org](http://www.psnri.org)



# Youth Development Services (YDS)

## Communities for People Inc.

### Description:

- The Youth Development Services Program provides youth with support and helps youth develop their life skills. The services that are provided include development assessments, financial literacy education, matched savings accounts, mentor connections, career/work readiness services, youth advisory group participation and more.
- Communities for People partners with East Bay Community Action Program, Community Care Alliance, Comprehensive Community Action Program, Tri County, The Key Program, Tides Family Services and Adoption Rhode Island to provide the below services as well as outreach and wrap around family supports.
- All staff are trained in evidence-based, trauma-informed practices, including Motivational Interviewing and the Positive Youth Development Framework.

### • 8 Components of YDS

#### ○ Life Skills Assessment

- The Youth Outreach Worker will meet with the identified youth at their home, or in a community space in order to complete the Casey Life Skills Assessment. The assessment is then used to identify the primary needs of the youth and results are passed on to one of the partnering CAP agencies.

#### ○ Financial Literacy Education and Work Readiness

- Youth receive financial literacy and work readiness through our partnered CAP agencies CCAP, CCA, EBCAP, and Tri County. The education taught in trainings conducted by the CAP agencies provide youth with long term financial skills as well as necessary skills for obtaining and maintain employment.

#### ○ Impact! Mentor Program

- YDS staff recruit, train and provide ongoing support to mentors matched to a youth. A mentor will work with youth to identify and establish authentic life-long connections.

#### ○ Teen Grant

- The Teen Grant Program is designed to provide funding for youth for services or activities that promote normalization, increase self-esteem, and facilitate their growth towards independence. Youth will complete a Teen Grant application and a committee composed of members from DCYF, Communities for People YDS program, and a youth representative from SPEAK will review the applications. Only grants applications that have met the established criteria will be approved and submitted for disbursement of funds. There is a maximum award of \$300.00 within a twelve- month period.

#### ○ CCA

- Division X Chaffee funds supporting rental assistance until September 2022 and case management upon youths request.

#### ○ VEC

- C4P is the designated liason for the VEC academic and Career Development Program. C4P provides youth with a vocational assessment and has a conversation about results. Based on the youth's assessment, they will refer them to either a Youth WIOA Provider or CCRI. C4P will participate in the intake meeting with the youth so that there is a "hot handoff."

#### ○ The Youth Advisory Board: SPEAK

- The goal of SPEAK is to give proactive and motivated youth a chance to express their feedback regarding policies with in DCYF, practices within placements and raise money for various initiatives related to the Foster Care System.
- Although staff will sit in on each SPEAK meeting, the youth will determine the direction and goals of the group.
- Leaders on the board are trained by Foster Club of America and become certified facilitators. They have also received training from Rhode Island's Young Voices advocacy Board.

- Youth are given many opportunities to advocate in their state and even help facilitate YDS mentoring trainings.

- **The Double Up! Match Savings Program**

- Youth has the ability to receive a match up to \$1,000 a year of what youth has responsibly saved in their savings account. The matched money can be used to purchase a vehicle, laptop, physical wellness memberships/classes, a phone, work related equipment, and furniture for housing etc.
  - In order for a youth to be eligible for this program, they must have completed a Casey Life Skills Assessment, has completed a financial literacy training/course offered by one of the CAP agencies and have a savings account through a reputable bank.
- Youth must complete a Life Skills Assessment in order to access programs (with the exception of SPEAK).
  - Clients served are adolescents and young adults aged 16-21 (16-24 for SPEAK) who have resided in the Foster Care System a minimum of 1 day on or after their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday.
  - Language(s) spoken: English and Spanish.
  - Referrals are generated through DCYF and the Rhode Island's Children Information System (RICHIST).

**Best fit criteria:**

- Youth must be 16-21 (24 for SPEAK) years of age.
- Youth must have been in the foster care system for at least 1 day on or after their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday

**Exclusionary Criteria:**

- Youth who have not been in foster care after their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- Youth who are younger than 16 or older than 21 (24 for SPEAK).

# **LGBTQ+ youth Health and Wellness Program**

## **Youth Pride, Inc.**

### **Description:**

- Peer-to-peer support groups facilitated by staff
- Case management & mental health support services, including referrals to outside organizations/agencies
- Self-advocacy, and other health and wellness activities
- Professional Development offerings to those working with LGBTQ+ youth
- Members of various department and community level committees
- Actively outreach to schools, educators, and afterschool time, mental health, and medical providers across Rhode Island.
- Basic Needs Pantry provides youth with toiletries, school supplies, and groceries free of charge
- Clothes Closet provides youth with gender-affirming and seasonally appropriate clothes free of charge

### **Best fit criteria:**

- LGBTQ+, Rhode Island Youth ages 5 through 23, who are or need DCYF involvement.
- Partners and Providers who work with these youth.

### **Exclusionary Criteria:**

- Youth below the age of 5 or above the age of 23
- Youth outside service area

