

# **Adoption Rhode Island's**

# **Making KINnections program**

## **Program Description**

Adoption Rhode Island's *Making KINnections* program is an innovative family search and engagement program for youth and young adults, who are experiencing homelessness and housing instability. The goal of the program is to identify, search for, and establish connections and re-connections with family members, kin, and other natural supports, such as previous teachers, coaches, and other community leaders, with the hope of identifying temporary or long- term housing with identified resources.

#### The Model

This youth-led work is accomplished by highly-skilled staff, who are trained in the Extreme Family Finding™ model, which pairs an experienced recruitment social worker with a private investigator to identify extended family members and positive connections for children, youth, and young adults. As prospective connections are identified, Adoption Rhode Island staff work directly with young adults and connections to help building positive, supportive relationships.

## **Funding & Referral Process**

This programming is funded by the the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP). Referrals can be made via the Coordinated Entry System (CES). Participation is voluntary and youth-driven.

# For Additional Information

For additional information about the *Making KINnections* program, please contact Marcie Baker-Hinds at 401-865-6000, ext. 326 or by email at <a href="mailto:mbakerhinds@adoptionri.org">mbakerhinds@adoptionri.org</a>.

