



## Adoption Rhode Island Youth and Young Adult Services

### What We Do

The **Youth and Young Adult Services (YYAS)** department serves older youth and young adults ages 16+ to achieve and sustain successful adulthood. YYAS is designed to support young people in building and re-establishing safe and meaningful family and community connections, reaching educational and career goals, supporting wellness, and improving readiness for healthy adulthood. We work with current and former foster youth, juvenile justice-involved youth, young adults at-risk of homelessness, and other young people impacted by early childhood diversity.

### How We Do It

- Our **Teen Focus Permanency Specialists** help identify supportive family members and connections, while also helping youth and young adults to clarify their life story
- Our **Teen Focus Educational Specialists** work to ensure high school/GED completion, explore post-secondary educational or vocational options, and equip youth with life skills for a successful future
- Our **Making KINnections** program helps young adults facing or experiencing homelessness to re-establish relationships with former connections
- At **Copley Chambers**, our staff and community partners provide permanency, vocational, educational, and housing services to young adults who have experienced foster care in a 26-unit apartment building
- Our **Youth Development Services (YDS) Permanency Specialist** is contracted through Communities for People and works closely with DCYF's IMPACT Mentor program to help youth find permanent and sustainable relationships in their lives



### Our Qualifications

Adoption Rhode Island is experienced working with older youth, relating to concerns and needs and having hands-on interaction in preparation for life after foster care.

We deliver individualized services and best practices with a commitment to honoring identity, diversity, belonging, lived experience, and youth voice.

### Our Results

When compared to national data for this population, **Teen Focus** demonstrates a significant difference in key areas of young people's lives that will help improve their long-term outcomes.

- 82% of youth exited the program with meaningful family or family-like connections
- 73% of youth exited the program with a minimum of a completed high school diploma or GED. An additional 18% were still enrolled and engaged in completing their high school diploma or GED
- 55% of the eligible youth (those with diploma/GED) were involved in some form of post-secondary education or activity
- 74% of youth were employed while participating in the program
- 89% of youth had stable housing when they exited the program

### Testimonial



"Youth were exiting care to homelessness, they didn't have family or life connection and they didn't have a high school diploma. We wanted more youth and young adults to leave care with someone who cares about them and will support their goals while avoiding homelessness."

Darlene Allen, CEO & Executive Director



### For More Information

Alex DeRita, Youth & Young Adult Services Program Manager  
aderita@adoptionri.org; 401-865-6000, Ext 326

