



Public Benefits Available to Parents in Child Protection

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Poverty and Child Protection

- ▶ Poverty factors into the majority of CPS cases
 - ▶ Poverty itself is often mistaken for neglect
 - ▶ “Addressing the Underlying issue of poverty in child-neglect cases,” American Bar Association 2017,
 - ▶ “Need Evidence that Child Welfare Sees Poverty as Neglect? Step One: Look,” Chronicle of Social Change 2016
 - ▶ “The Crime of Parenting While Poor,” The New Republic 2019




Poverty and Child Protection

- ▶ Many impoverished families receive some sort of public benefit, such as SNAP, MA, MFIP, General Assistance, Section 8
- ▶ At the same time, many of the public benefits families receive move with the kids or cease altogether when they are removed from the home



Poverty and Child Protection

- ▶ Families can lose:
 - ▶ Housing
 - ▶ MFIP
 - ▶ MA
 - ▶when their children are removed.
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Poverty and Child Protection

- ▶ MFIP can be affected if the child is out of the home for more than six months
- ▶ MA for child will go with the child
- ▶ SNAP can be reduced
- ▶ WIC can also be affected

- ▶ While not a public benefit, child support will also be diverted or “re-routed” to the foster placement.



What public benefits ARE available to parents with CHIPS cases



FUP: Family Unification Program

- ▶ The Section 8 Family Unification Program (FUP) helps families at risk of being separated due to lack of housing. It also helps families who have had children placed out of the home and are in active CPS cases.
- ▶ It also helps former foster youth ages 18 – 21. The program is funded by the federal government and administered by local [public housing authorities](#) (PHAs).
- ▶ If you qualify, you will get help paying for rent in any privately owned housing that will accept FUP as payment. That means you will end up spending 30% – 40% of your [income](#) on your housing and the government will pay the rest.



Who Can Get a FUP Voucher?

- ▶ **Families who are at risk of being separated because of their housing situation:** This means the family's lack of adequate housing could:
 - ▶ Lead to the family's children being placed in out-of-home care, or
 - ▶ Delay the discharge of children to the family from out-of-home care.



Who Can Get a FUP Voucher?

Youth ages 18 –21 who left foster care after they turned 16 and do not have adequate housing

- ▶ An additional benefit is that youth also get help with things like:
 - ▶ Money management skills
 - ▶ Job preparation
 - ▶ Educational counseling, and
 - ▶ Proper nutrition and meal preparation



Who Can Get a FUP voucher?

A family or young person might need help from the Family Unification Program when they are:

- ▶ Living in housing that is
 - ▶ Substandard, which means it does not meet health and safety codes, or
 - ▶ Dilapidated, which means it is run-down.
- ▶ Homeless
- ▶ In danger of losing their home very soon
- ▶ Forced to leave their home because of domestic violence
- ▶ Living in an overcrowded unit
- ▶ Living in housing not accessible for a young person who left foster care or for a family's disabled child or children

MUST ALSO QUALIFY FOR SECTION 8



Emergency Assistance (EA)

- ▶ Can be used for deposits and first, last month's rent, utility shut-offs, house repairs that affect health and safety
- ▶ (See handout)



Assistance from CPS/County DHS

- ▶ **Food assistance** from the county in the form of Cub, Target gift cards (depending on your county and what is available there)
- ▶ **Transportation assistance** from the county in the form of bus cards and/or gas cards

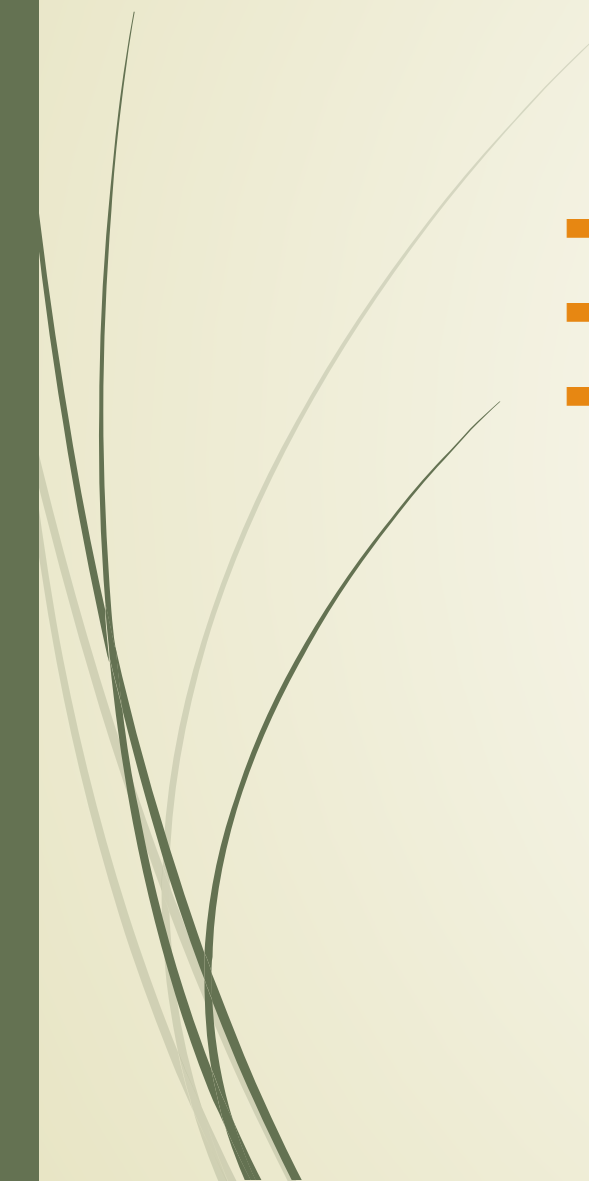



Community Resources

- ▶ Culturally appropriate:
 - ▶ CD treatment
 - ▶ Parenting assistance
 - ▶ DV advocacy and support



Furniture Assistance

- ▶ The Bridging agency
 - ▶ What is it?
 - ▶ Who can it help?
- 




Bridging partner agencies can be found in the following counties:

- ▶ Hennepin
- ▶ Ramsey
- ▶ Scott
- ▶ Washington
- ▶ Dakota
- ▶ Anoka
- ▶ Blue Earth
- ▶ Stearns
- ▶ Sherburne
- ▶ Dodge



More help for families can be found at:

- ▶ United Way/211
 - ▶ Fact sheets at Lawhelpmn.org
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Questions?

