

Adolescent Program

New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services - Division for Children, Youth and Families

What is the Adolescent Program?

The Adolescent Program is a program that works to ensure that current and former DCYF and Division for Juvenile Justice Services (DJJS) youth obtain the preparation, resources and positive youth development they need to establish connections with caring adults and become healthy, self sufficient and successful adults.

How does the program work to achieve this?

Adolescent Child Protective Service Workers with specialized training lead, educate and collaborate with youth, colleagues and the community to ensure best practice for adolescents.

- **Adult Living Preparation Process**-Planning and support for the youth's post care housing, education, employment and well being needs.
- **NH TRAILS (Teen Responsibility and Independent Living Skills)**-A curriculum for foster parents, residential staff and other caregivers to teach youth what they will need to know as adults.
- **DCYF Youth Advisory Board**-An opportunity for in care youth to find their voice and advocate for positive change.
- **DCYF Teen Conference**- A day for youth in care to come together to network, learn about resources and get inspired about the future.
- **Aftercare Services**-Partnering with former youth in care to make it possible for them to go to college, get career training and pursue other related goals.

How many youth ages 16-18 are currently in DCYF out of home care?

At any one time, 240-300 youth between ages 16-18 are in DCYF out of home care.

Are youth involved in community activities? Within the past year youth in DCYF and DJJS out of home care have:

- Coordinated a food drive
- Participated in the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) walk-a-thon
- Participated in the Alliance for Community Supports/ Granite State Federation of Families- Care NH Leadership Series
- Assisted in the planning and running of the annual DCYF Teen Conference
- Participated in a legislative process to pursue tuition waivers for youth in care to attend college

How many young adults who leave DCYF care are involved in DCYF Aftercare Services?

Approximately 60-80 youth participate in DCYF Aftercare Services each year.

What are the young adults in Aftercare doing?

- College
- Career training programs
- Employed or receiving on the job training
- Completing a high school or GED program

How can you help?

- Become a caring adult in a youth's life
- Become a mentor
- Become a respite provider
- Assist a youth with transportation
- Assist a youth with housing (youth in college often need a place to stay during the summer)
- Assist a youth in obtaining and maintaining employment
- Provide simple things like
 - A place to do their laundry
 - Support in a time of crisis
 - A place to store their belongings
 - A home for the holidays
 - Inclusion in social circles and community activities

If you would like more information about how you can make a difference in the life of a youth in care contact the DCYF Adolescent Worker in your area.

Adolescent Workers

Berlin	752-7800
Claremont	542-9544
Concord	271-6202
Conway	447-3841
Keene	357-3510
Laconia	524-4485
Littleton	444-6786
Manchester	668-2330
Nashua	883-7726
Portsmouth	433-8326
Rochester	332-9120
Salem	893-9763

Adolescent Program Specialist

271-4706