



# AVENUES FOR YOUNG FAMILIES

## HANNA'S STORY

When Hanna's family lost their home, she moved out to not be a financial burden on her parents. As a teenager she was moving around a lot, couch-hopping at friends' houses. Because of her homelessness, Hanna struggled to regularly attend school, and eventually stopped going at all. When Hanna became pregnant, she had no idea what she would do.

Hanna came to Avenues for Youth after being referred by an outreach worker. Like many expecting mothers at Avenues, Hanna wasn't able to secure housing in a young families program due to lack of availability. When she gave birth to her daughter, Hanna moved back into a shelter.

Young Families addresses the needs of homeless young families by providing subsidized housing and intensive supports. This program helps young families stay together, become self-sufficient, and achieve their personal goals.

## ABOUT THE YOUNG FAMILIES PROGRAM

Young Families, a program of Avenues for Youth, provides housing and intensive support services for homeless youth ages 18-24 and their children in apartments throughout the community. Young families (with one or two parents, and up to two children) are referred into the program through Hennepin County Coordination Entry Program. **The goal of this program is for families to move into stable, independent living.**

Rent subsidies are based upon family need, and can range from three to 12 months of support. Families will also receive intensive services, including assistance in finding childcare, employment, education and specialized training.

## ABOUT AVENUES FOR YOUTH

Avenues for Youth partners with youth experiencing homelessness to achieve their dreams. Avenues supports over 300 youth every year, including young families, with emergency shelter, transitional living and wrap-around services.



For more information, contact the Young Families Program Manager, Karesia Coley  
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## AVENUES FOR YOUNG FAMILIES

**Young Families is dedicated to providing supportive services for both participating landlords and young families.**

### **SUPPORT FOR LANDLORDS**

We consider participating landlords to be partners in a three-way relationship—young parents, landlords and Avenues.

Rent subsidies, both in amount and time provided, will be based on the needs of each young family. Landlords will not be involved in setting subsidies, but will be informed in advance of changes.

**Landlords participating in the Young Families Program can expect:**

- **Direct payment of rent subsidies**
- **Updates by program manager on changes in rent subsidy and program services**
- **Updates on legislative laws regarding subsidies**
- **Support by program manager to mediate landlord-tenant issues**
- **Invitations to community building events and opportunities to provide feedback on the program**

### **SUPPORT FOR YOUNG FAMILIES**

Young families participating in the program will receive a variety of supports to move towards independent living and accomplishing their personal goals. Young families will work with the program manager on a weekly basis.

**Young families will receive the following support:**

- **Subsidy based on need, for up to one year**
- **On-going support from Family Engagement and Support Specialists with weekly meetings**
- **On-going support from program manager, with weekly check-in meetings**
- **Family events and support groups coordinated by the Avenues For Young Families Team**



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