

BOSTON YOUTH HOUSING RESOURCES

Who is served:

18 to 24 year olds (16 and older if emancipated); unaccompanied (without parent or guardian); in Boston or recently fled Boston due to violence (domestic or targeted gang violence); experiencing homelessness or housing instability

Immediate youth shelter options:

Bridge Over Troubled Waters, Boston
47 West St, Boston, MA 02111
Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
bridge@bridgeotw.org; 617-423-9575

Liberty Village, Boston
Referrals are required for this program
LibertyVillage@thehome.org;
857-308-3255

Y2Y, Cambridge
1 Church St. Cambridge MA 02138
(617) 864-0795; info@y2ynetwork.org
More information [here](#)

DV temporary motel room through Casa Myrna, various locations
Call Safelink at (877) 785-2020

Other non-youth specific shelter options are also available, find a full list [here](#).

Youth Peer Housing Navigation:

Justice Resource Institute's Youth Housing and Peer Navigation Program assists young adults with housing services, such as:

- Coaching
- Assessing housing options
- Referring young adults to housing
- Helping young adults complete housing applications
- Assisting young adults in applying for and obtaining financial assistance

You can refer young adults [here](#) or by typing bit.ly/youthhousingnavigation.

If they are enrolled in a BPS school, you can refer them [here](#) or by typing bit.ly/youthharbors.

Young adults can also self-refer using the same referral forms.

Youth Flex Funds:

The Boston Youth Flex Fund assists young adults in Boston who are unstably housed with a small, one-time payment to move to a stable housing destination as quickly as possible. The fund may help young adults be used for flexible housing destinations, such as permanent stays with friends or family.

Application can be found [here](#) or by typing bit.ly/bostonyouthflex. Applications must be completed by a case manager (no self-referrals).

For questions, email YFF@homestart.org.

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Housing Opportunities:

Rapid rehousing is a short and medium-term tenant-based rental assistance that helps people find a place to live, covers some move in costs and a portion of rent, and assists in getting access to other supports, like employment, school, or health care. It is offered

without preconditions. People contribute towards their rent with the goal to keep their housing after the program ends without ongoing financial assistance.

Permanent supportive housing is ongoing rental assistance that helps young adults with a documented disabling condition find a place to live, covers some move in costs and a portion of ongoing rent, and provides access to employment, school, or health care. It is offered without preconditions. People pay approximately 30 percent of their gross income towards rent and a subsidy is paid to the landlord for the remainder of the rent.

To be eligible for rapid rehousing or permanent supportive housing youth and young adults must be experiencing **literal homelessness** or be **fleeing violence** (i.e., it does not include young adults who are couchsurfing/doubled up).

Literal homelessness is sleeping in a shelter, outside, or place not meant for human habitation (e.g., car), or hotel/motel paid by the government or charity.

Fleeing violence applies to a young person, including pregnant and parenting youth, fleeing or attempting to flee their housing or the place they are staying because of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life threatening conditions related to violence that has taken place in the house or has made them afraid to return to the house, including:

- Trading sex for housing;
- Trafficking;
- Physical abuse;
- Emotional abuse, such as threats, intimidation, and exposure to trauma;
- Family conflict that has caused a youth to feel physically or emotionally unsafe and unable to stay in their current living situation;
- Financial abuse, such as controlling a youth's income or stealing a youth's identity in order to use their credit;
- Violence (or perceived threat of violence) because of the youth's sexual orientation or gender identity;
- Active drug/illegal substance use in the youth's current housing;
- Gang or neighborhood violence that is being directed to a youth in their home; OR
- Other illegal activity in the household that is putting a youth or a youth's child at risk
- Additionally, the young person must have no safe, alternative housing, resources or support networks to maintain or obtain permanent housing.

The peer housing navigators or shelter providers can make referrals to these programs.

If you have any questions about these resources, contact Bia Moreira at beatriz.moreira@boston.gov