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Youth Homelessness and Rapid Re-Housing Programs in Rhode Island

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**YOUTH HOMELESSNESS
AND RAPID RE-HOUSING
IN RHODE ISLAND**

ORAL TESTIMONIES

**Collected from Youth with Lived Experience
and Service Care Providers**

Interview Breakdown

CHRIS, 22

Chris previously lived in the Rapid Re-Housing program through Foster Forward for 1 year.

PAIGE, 24

At the time of the interview, Paige was living in the Rapid Re-Housing program for 7 months through Foster Forward.

CAITLIN
DIVVER

Diver is the Director of Evaluation & Quality Improvement at Foster Forward.

STUMP
EVANS

Evans is the Youth Services Manager at Community Care Alliance.

“

Before I got into Rapid Re-Housing, I didn't really have much in my life ... I was eating out of trash cans... but through the Rapid Re-Housing, you know, that changed my whole life around.

CHRIS, 22 YEARS OLD

“

There should be affordable housing. You shouldn't be discriminated and people shouldn't have to move out to everywhere they don't want to just to try to find somewhere to live.

PAIGE, 24 YEARS OLD

“

I managed to learn how to pay my bills, learned how to be a grownup...I learned how to take care of myself and provide for me. Rapid Re-Housing really helped me with being mature, you know, growing up, being a man. Now what I'm working on is getting my own place.

CHRIS, 22 YEARS OLD

“

To other people, Rapid Re-Housing might not be something big, but it's going to be big for people that have come from nothing. I'm sure they definitely would be grateful for that.

PAIGE, 24 YEARS OLD

“

I like the staff at Foster Forward because they just, they always want you to strive for more... they don't force it on you and that's what kids need. We don't need forcing, you know, we need that, that little push.

CHRIS 22 YEARS OLD

“

Pretty much all of the young people [who] end up becoming homeless are victims of their circumstances... the only way to stop those things from happening is actually supporting our families in our communities and having people have enough money to feed and care for their children and raise them and maintain relationships with them. And if that is not a thing, then I think we'll continue to see disconnected youth who don't have anywhere else to go and just need a lot of support and care.

CAITLIN DIVVER,
STAFF FOSTER FORWARD

“

How do we expect someone who has lived in poverty their whole life... and has experienced racism their whole life, to then turn around and be able to just turn it on and afford housing? We've got to change the way we see property... In Rhode Island we don't have affordable housing for middle income folks. We do not have affordable housing for anyone.

STUMP EVANS,
STAFF COMMUNITY CARE ALLIANCE