

## PROJECT SUMMARY

# Implementation Grants to Develop A Model Intervention for Youth/Young Adults With Child Welfare Involvement At-Risk of Homelessness (YARH 2)



## PROJECT TITLE

## Watch Me Rise

**GRANTEE**

Lighthouse Youth and Family Services (LYFS)

**GEOGRAPHIC AREA(S) SERVED**

Hamilton County, OH

**POPULATION APPLICABILITY**

Youth who were homeless and had child welfare histories

**GRANT PERIOD ENDING**

September 30, 2020\*

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**LEARN MORE**

For more information on YARH 2 or to learn about other Children's Bureau discretionary grants, please visit [Child Welfare Information Gateway](#).

## Project Description

Watch Me Rise (WMR) was based in Hamilton County, OH, (which includes Cincinnati) and aimed to prevent recurring homelessness among young adults with a child welfare history. WMR served young adults experiencing homelessness who (1) entered the Lighthouse Sheakley Center for Youth as a shelter resident or day program participant or (2) were referred by the county child welfare aftercare program due to homelessness. The WMR intervention was a new, youth-centered form of care coordination not previously present in the local service array.

## Intervention

Lighthouse adapted the evidence-based High Fidelity Wraparound (Wraparound) process for the WMR comprehensive service model, which assisted in coordinating care and connecting youth to existing community resources (e.g., housing support, mental health care, trauma treatment). To do this, WMR utilized the defining principles and four phases of Wraparound to help homeless young adults with a child welfare history achieve the following:

- Identify their own goals and needs
- Develop a team of formal and natural supports to help youth achieve their goals, find and maintain stable housing, and prevent future homelessness

WMR put the youth at the center of their care and used a team-based approach to help them achieve their goals. The WMR team was comprised of natural supports drawn from the youth's own networks of interpersonal relationships and formal supports drawn from the youth's service providers. Although WMR team members were considered the primary source of long-term support to the youth during and after the program, WMR intervention staff were essential for building these supportive connections and guiding the youth through the Wraparound process. A WMR facilitator and youth support advocate worked directly with each youth and their WMR team throughout each phase of the program.

\*Project services will end after grant funding ends.