



Host Homes Program Overview

oneROOF Youth Services has expanded to include Host Homes is a homelessness prevention and diversion strategy for youth ages 16 to 25 in Waterloo Region. This program collaborates with local households to help address the complex issue of homelessness, while supporting youth to meet their full potential. Youth are thus diverted from couch surfing, being on the streets, or accessing emergency shelters.

Youth who participate in this program are those who would most benefit from living semi-independently, where they have access to a bed, shower, laundry and support with meals. Host Home families offer more than a bed, they offer new helpful connections in your community, while you continue to receive support to find permanent stable housing.

Host Homes will provide youth with:

- Short-term Room and Board for an anticipated 30-60 days.
- A safe, private and clean room to sleep in.
- A grab-and-go breakfast and a nutritious dinner.
- Social inclusion and exposure to models of healthy relationships

Youth participating in the program will:

- Be ready to make healthy, meaningful choices and maintain positive changes.
- Participate in weekly (minimum) case management meetings.
- Work on goals relating to finding stable housing. Other goals may include education and employment.
- Be committed to maintaining a safe and respectful atmosphere.
- Be responsible for their own lunches, clothing and hygiene supplies.
- Fund their stay with the Host Home Provider. (i.e. \$90 weekly).

Host Homes Staff will provide:

- Training and ongoing support to Host Home Providers and participants.
- On-call support and referrals to community resources.
- Case management to participating youth.
- Access to clothing and hygiene supplies as needed.
- Transportation for youth in certain circumstances. (i.e. before a bus pass is acquired.)



Host Homes FAQ for Community Partners

What makes a youth eligible for this program?

Youth entering the program must fall between the ages of 16-25. They will participate in an intake process, which includes the Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (SPDAT), and the Youth Assessment Prioritization (YAP) tool. These tools consider behavior and lifestyle to ensure that a youth's needs can be adequately met within the structure of the Host Homes Program. An example of a youth who would participate in this program would have a SPDAT score of under 35, (low acuity/low risk) would define housing as a goal, and would not have a history of violent behavior or be actively using illicit substances.

How will a youth be matched with a Host?

The Matching Process occurs in three major stages: Selection, Meeting and Confirmation. The Selection stage occurs after a youth has passed through the intake process. At this point, staff review available Host Homes and the youth makes a selection that best fits their needs. At this stage, staff contact the selected Host Home, and a meeting is arranged. Staff facilitate a meeting for the youth and Host Home Provider(s) to get acquainted, and to review the contract. If both parties agree there is a match, the stay is then confirmed, and a move-in date is decided.

Note: For those youth attending school, staff will attempt to place the youth close to their school based on availability of the Host Homes. Support may be required from community partners/existing caseworkers to assist with transportation to and from school if the youth is placed in a Host Home that is not in close proximity to the school they attend.

What supports are available for youth?

Host Home staff work with youth during their stay, providing light to medium case management. Youth will develop their goals and plans - things they want to accomplish while taking part in the program. While searching for housing alternatives, staff will work with youth to develop life skills, educational or vocational options, budgeting and connect with community resources.

Staff will also be available to youth for continued support with the Host Home Providers. Youth will have access to weekly food hampers, hygiene products and other items available at oneROOF Youth Services.

For more information about our Host Homes Program, please contact the Host Homes team by email at hhinfo@oneroof.org, or by phone at (519) 742-2788, extension 7.