



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

## Host Home Program Frequently Asked Questions

### WHAT IS A HOST HOME PROVIDER?

Host are volunteers from the community who want to make a difference in the life of a young person. Host families offer a room in their home that provides safe, short-term, and supportive housing to a young person who is homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless.

### WHAT ARE THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE?

Participants in the program are expected to:

- Be between 18-24
- Be homeless or at risk of homelessness
- Live within King County
- Not be enrolled in any Youth Housing Connection (YHC) housing program
- Be willing to work with a case manager for the full time participating in the program
- Have goals around housing, employment, education or other stabilizing goals and actively working toward achieving

### WHO CAN BE A HOST HOME PROVIDER?

The Y strives to match young people with host families that fit within their cultural orientation and individual lifestyle. Host families may be single, married or partnered and represent a wide-range of ethnicities, religions, sexual identities, cultures, etc. One common trait that all host families have is their passion, commitment and dedication in making a positive difference in the lives of young people.

Host families must be 21 years of age or older, have a spare bedroom or private space within their home, pass a background and reference check, have homeowner or renters insurance and live within King County. Host families are also asked to complete a home inspection and training program.

### WHAT ARE HOST HOME PROVIDER'S RESPONSIBILITIES?

- Provide temporary stable housing with supportive services so youth can focus on housing, employment, education and/or other stabilizing goals
- Provide a safe, nurturing and welcoming environment for trust and friendship to develop between the young person and your family
- Create agreements with the young person and hold them accountable to those agreements
- The opportunity to participate in your family's daily life and events, make them feel a part of the family with the same privileges and obligations

#### YOUNG ADULT SERVICES ACCELERATOR YMCA

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- Provide support, guidance and encouragement as the young person works on their goal(s) around housing, education, employment and becoming self-sufficient
- Provide a private bedroom with a bed and meals
- Maintain close contact with the Host Home Program Director and address problems and concerns (difficulty adapting to family, behavior etc) as they occur
- Encourage involvement in community life by introducing the young person to family members, neighbors, friends, and local community groups

### **WHAT WILL THE YOUNG PERSON DO DURING THE DAY?**

Most young people who live with a host family will have a job, be enrolled in an employment training program, school or other activities during the day. However, some may be looking for employment or educational opportunities and may need to stay home during the day. All young people in the program will have goals they are working toward in order to transition out of homelessness and become stable. The Y works with the young person and the host to ensure that the needs, preferences and choices of the individual who comes to stay with you can be supported by your schedule.

### **WHO DO I CALL IF I NEED HELP?**

*As a host family, you're never alone!* The program director is available to provide support in the rare case that issues arise. The program director is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day success of the matching process and will visit with the young person and host family regularly.

### **HOW LONG IS THE COMMITMENT TO HAVE THE PERSON LIVE WITH ME?**

Our goal, through the matching process is to ensure that you and the person who comes to stay with you is a good fit and will be able to live together comfortably. We ask that support be provided for up to six months while they work with a case manager and service providers toward stability.

### **ARE HOST FAMILIES PAID?**

No. However, the YMCA may be able to offer a monthly stipend of \$300.00.

### **CAN YOUNG PEOPLE IDENTIFY A PERSON THEY WANT TO STAY WITH?**

Yes. This is a program driven by young people. If a young person has identified someone in the community to live with and need support in securing that connection please contact the program director.

### **HOW DO I BECOME A HOST HOME PROVIDER?**

Contact Scott Schubert at (206) 749-7545 or [sschubert@seattleyymca.org](mailto:sschubert@seattleyymca.org)