

Why Host Homes?

1. What are host home programs?

Host homes are one option to serve homeless youth. In the host home model, local families are recruited and trained to provide temporary homes to youth or families in crisis. The goal of this model, particularly for youth under the age of 18, is to help families receive support to stabilize youth so they may have a safe and normal childhood.

2. Do host home programs cost the state any money?

No. These programs operate exclusively on private funding.

3. Are host home programs an alternative to foster care?

No. Host homes are an additional tool to serve homeless youth. These youth are not dependent and may not meet the statutory definition of abuse or neglect to enter into the foster care system.

4. Do host home programs let Child Protective Services (CPS) off the hook?

No. If youth are abused and neglected, then host homes will call CPS, and CPS has a statutory obligation to screen in the youth. If CPS fails to do so, host home programs may file a complaint with the Office of the Family & Children's Ombuds. A host home program will help ensure that youth who are not served by CPS will not fall through the cracks.

5. Are host home programs an alternative to CHINS petitions?

No. When it is in their best interest, youth should file CHINS petitions. It is also important to recognize that CHINS petitions are not successful without placement options.

6. Will host homes take away from Hope and CRC beds?

No. Host home programs are another option on the continuum of options available to help homeless youth and may be especially valuable in areas that do not have youth shelters, drop-in centers or Hope or CRC beds.

7. What is the typical length of stay?

It depends. Some of these arrangements only last a couple of days and others for over a year. Host home programs promote permanency and many youth find lasting connections with their host homes.

8. Should CPS oversee host home programs?

No. The CPS licenses and monitors foster homes. Host homes should not be licensed as foster homes or receive payment as foster homes. However, DLR may shut down any program that does not meet the proposed statute.

Promising Outcomes

Promotes Permanency



Ryan's House for Youth

100% transfer into permanent housing situations

Olive Crest

99% reunified with biological family

Encourages Education



Statewide

Homeless 46.1% graduation rate
Foster Care 41.5% graduation rate

Ryan's House for Youth

99% graduation rate

Mason County HOST

97% graduated high school
87% post graduate education
100% employed

Contact

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