



SOLID FOUNDATIONS DC:
Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness

District of Columbia Interagency
Council on Homelessness
Issued: May 2017



District of Columbia Interagency Council on Homelessness



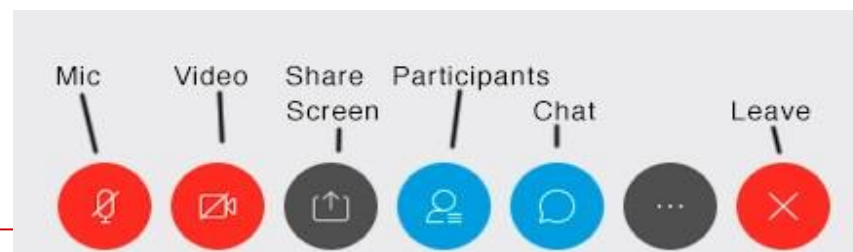
***Youth Committee
August 27, 2020***



Welcome to today's meeting; we will begin shortly. In the meantime, please review the reminders below.

WebEx Meeting Participation Reminders

- ❑ Please use only one source of audio – your computer's audio or by calling in with your phone. If you use both, you will get an echo.
- ❑ Your line will be muted via WebEx upon entry; please keep it on mute unless you are presenting or called on for a question or comment.
 - ✓ Note that if you are using your phone for audio, there will be two mute functions – WebEx and your phone. Both must be unmuted for participants to hear you. (We will unmute the WebEx line, but you must unmute your phone.)
- ❑ Please find the “Participants” list by clicking on the Participants button below. Locate your name in that list. If it appears as a number, right-click and rename it as yourself. Everyone is welcome to participate, but you must identify yourself.



Meeting Agenda



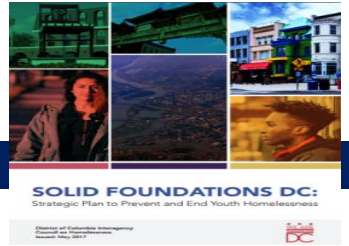
SOLID FOUNDATIONS DC:
Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness

Division of Community Development
Council on Homelessness
Issued: May 2017



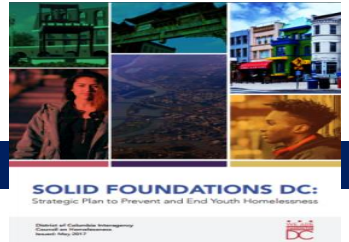
- I. Welcome & Introductions
- II. **YAB & YHDP Fellow Updates**
- III. DCPS Updates
- IV. Youth System Transitional Housing Overview
 - I. Sasha Bruce ILP
 - II. Wanda Alston House
 - III. Casa Ruby 1
- V. Agency and Partner Updates
- VI. Conclusion

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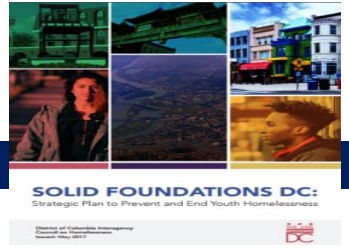
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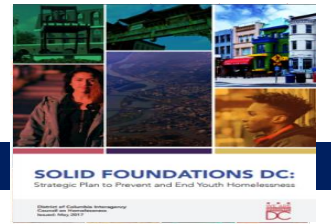


- I. Welcome & Introductions
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Transitional Housing Overview



- ❖ **Goal for the Remainder of the Year:** Review Program Models and Data to identify strengths and continue system improvements
- ❖ **Transitional Housing:** Time limited housing and services in a project-based facility or an independent unit while the youth is working on education or employment goals
 - Extremely important housing resource in the Youth System with over 230 Transitional Housing units funded in DC



The Independent Living Program provides temporary housing for homeless youth. At a given time, we serve 12 youth. However, over the past year, we have supported 22 youth. The age range is 18 to 24. Even though the definitive reason is homelessness, several intervening variables are presented, such as substance abuse, domestic violence, mental health issues, family conflict, educational and behavioral challenges, and a lack of independent living skills. Therefore the program's primary goal is to assist youth in:

- ❖ finding stable housing,
- ❖ obtaining and maintaining employment
- ❖ getting a high school diploma/GED or participate in post-secondary education or vocational skills.
- ❖ reuniting with their families
- ❖ gaining self-sufficiency skills.
- ❖ Stabilizing mental health, substance abuse and other issues

➤ **Location**

The program is located at 1312 East Capitol Street NE Washington, DC 20002. It is in Ward 6 and in the Capitol Hill vicinity.

➤ **Setting**

➤ The site is an apartment-style setting. Residents may have to share an apartment, but each resident has their room. It contains eight apartments; four of the eight units have double occupancy. This site is wheelchair accessible, with a ramp at the back of the building to facilitate individuals who need a reasonable accommodation.

➤ **Contact Information**

➤ Mercedes Daley-Palmer, email: mdaley@sashabruce.org, office # 202-675-9375 ext. 187

- ❖ The CM and client must fill out the SBY Intake form upon arrival if time permits or the next business day.
- ❖ If it is too late to do the intake that day, make sure to schedule a time for the intake appointment the next business day.
- ❖ Release of Information forms should be completed for each school, agency, organization, doctor/s or individual who client indicates during the intake that they are engaged with for services. Be sure that the releases are completely filled out, signed, initialed and witnessed.
- ❖ Case manager should review SBY confidentiality form and HMIS confidentiality forms with the client.
- ❖ Make copies of client's important documents (birth certificates, social security card, picture IDs, and TB and shot results) if they have them.
- ❖ Give client the Individual Case Plan which includes their goals; personal property inventory form; contracts, client to complete.

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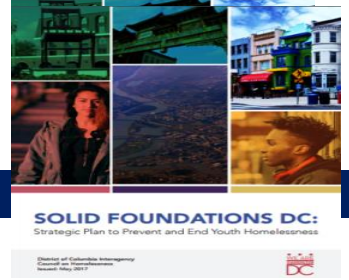
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➤ Mercedes Daley-Palmer, email: mdaley@sashabruce.org, office # 202-675-9375 ext. 187

SBY – Independent Living Program (ILP)



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- Contact Information –Mercedes Daley-Palmer, email: mdaley@sashabruce.org, office # 202-675-9375 ext. 187
- Rules and Expectations (provide a copy of your Program Rules)

Intake Process

- Once the client is matched, they are contacted to participate in the intake process:
- Meeting with staff needed for record keeping and statistics. Statistical data is collected and entered in the HMIS system that is required by The Community Partnership.
- ❖ In addition to this initial information-gathering Intake session, the case manager will review the rules and regulations of the facility, review the Reasonable Accommodation brochure.
 - ✓ TB Test Required Prior to Entry or After
 - ✓ Curfews
 - ✓ Visitation Policy
 - ✓ Anything else you would like to include
- Staffing (ratios, 24 hour, security)
- Resources provided (food, laundry, transportation, cell phone, wifi, etc)
- Case management – how do you do case management? How often? Incentives?

Staffing

The program is staffed 24 hours.

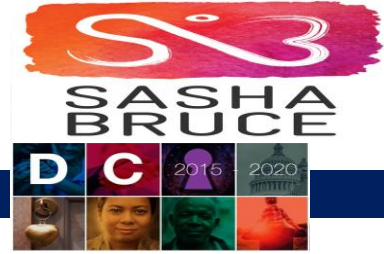
One Program Manager

two full-time Case Manager, 1-6 clients

two full time and 2 part-time Residential Counselors

four relief /occasional workers

Case Management



❖ Case Management Plans

Within the first 1 week of entry to the program the CM should have a joint meeting with the client. The plan will be focused on key areas:

- **Housing** - Finding and Maintaining affordable, permanent, safe housing
 - ❖ (Example of areas to work on: housing search and applications; credit, legal issues, life skills; safety issues, etc.)
- **Income** - Increase and Maintain income
 - ❖ (Example of areas to work on: employment; education; vocational training; transportation; benefits; etc.)
- **Self Sufficiency**
 - ❖ Increase Self Sufficiency Skills
(Example of areas to work on: budgeting; mental health; substance abuse; parenting; children's education; children's activities; health care; life skills; food; family relations; community involvement; spiritual needs/interests; etc.)
- ❖ A case management plan is developed every month or revised with the youth to address needs, goals, strengths, and challenges to obtaining more stable housing and employment.
- ❖ General assessment: SPDAT and Biopsychosocial Assessments as part of the case management services. Case management is schedule weekly or biweekly, depending on the client's need.

Curfew and Visitation



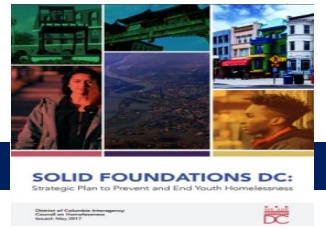
Curfew

- Upon entry your curfew is 9pm for thirty days; thereafter Sunday to Thursday curfew is 11pm and 1am Friday and Saturday.
- If residents plan to be away from your apartment for 24 hours or longer, they are required to request permission from program staff in advance of your absence. Permission will not be unreasonably withheld.
- If an unexpected emergency arises that requires residents to be away from your apartment for 24 hours or longer, they must notify program staff of absence as soon as possible.

Visitation

- Visitation days for guests in your apartment are as follows: Sundays – Thursdays from 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm; Fridays & Saturdays from 11:00 am – 10:00 pm.
- There are to be **no overnight guests**.
- Residents can visit each other during designated hours.
- Social workers, case managers, residential advisors, therapists, counselors, attorneys and other professionals are not considered visitors.

Resources



- ❖ **Food-** Upon entry all residents are given food whether they have food stamps or an income. They are then referred for benefits (SNAP). Until they receive the benefits, they are provided with food and we also refer them to bread for the city and Martha's table.

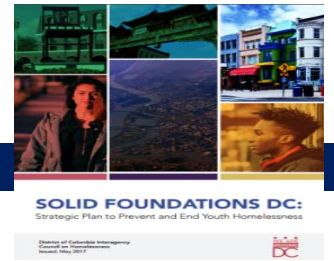
Transportation: Residents are provided with Tokens

Laundry – Onsite, they are provided with laundry detergent upon entry or until they can afford own laundry detergent

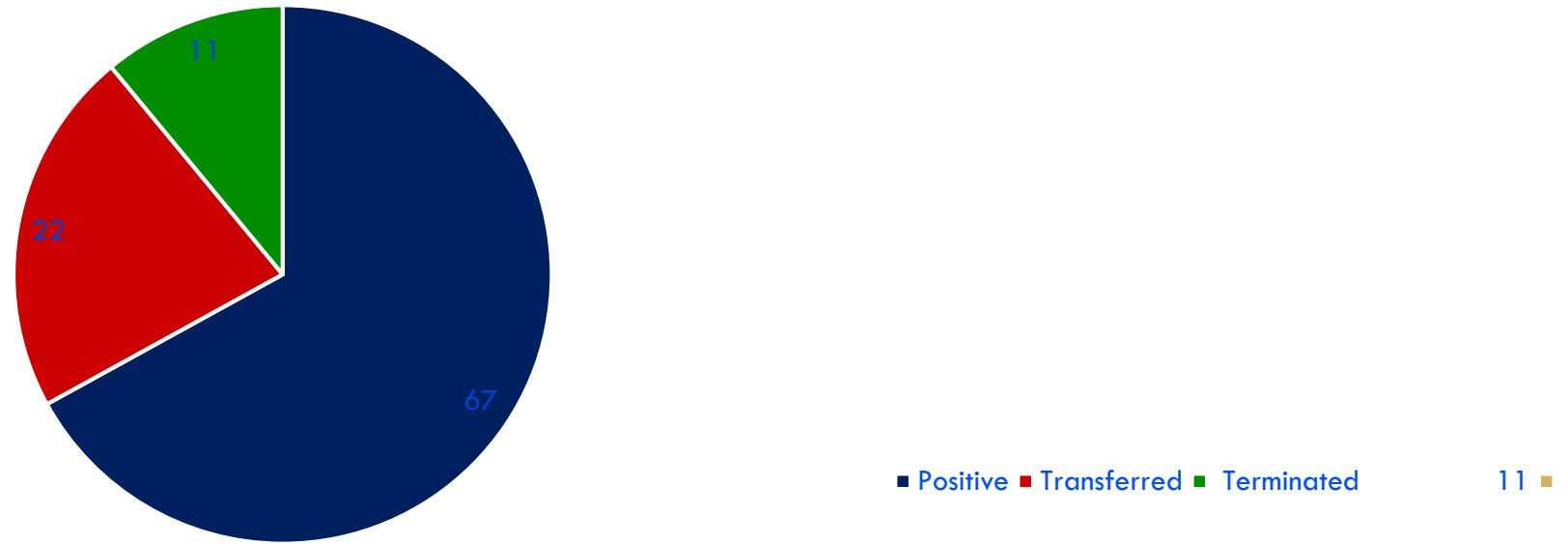
Telephone Services: If they do not have cellphone, we assist them with applying for the “Obama”. Also, there is a phone in the facility for clients’ use.

Wifi/Internet: The facility is equipped with WIFI and residents have access to computers.

Client who exit

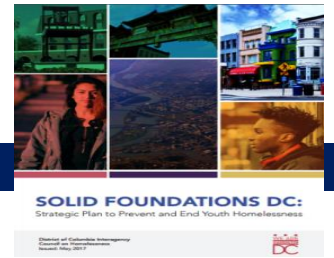


Outcomes



- Of the nine youth who exited the program six, 67% went to a permanent situation, one, 11% was an internal transfer, and two, 22% were terminated.

Outcomes



➤ Key Data Points:

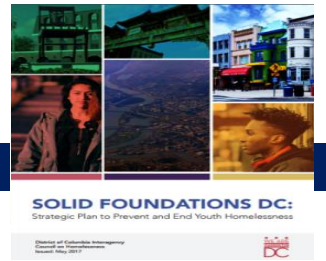
For the past year, Average Length of Stay

Leavers : 338 Days Stayers: 202 days

How many youth in your program have a completed DHS intake form?

If you are referring to the TAY-SPDAT all residents because that is how they are matched to the program

Documentation



- ✓ Do you document case plans in HMIS? And if so, what type of case plan are you completing? Comprehensive? Housing Focused?
 - ❖ All interactions with clients are documented in the Homeless Management Information Software(HMIS).
 - ❖ The goals are comprehensive not limited to housing, mental health, employment, education, employment, inter and intrapersonal relationships, financial stability

- ✓ What percentage of your youth have a mental health diagnosis? Do you feel that your services are enough for the need you are seeing in your population? If no, what do you need?
- ✓ **14%** have documented mental health diagnosis but based on presenting issues, behavioral challenges and biopsychosocial assessments done 100% of some form of trauma or mental health issue.

- ✓ We need additional support with mental health services.

- ❖ **Independent Living has collaborations with other community agencies that have helped facilitate referring clients for services. These collaborations include but are not limited to the following:**
 - ❖ Paving the Way for Mental Health Services
 - Job Corp to provide education and vocational training for youth
 - DOES provide job readiness skills and Summer Youth Employment for our residents
 - Deloitte provided their expertise with Career Development.
 - Strive DC: provided males with clothing and other accessories for interviews.
 - Dress for Success: provided clothing for females.
 - Volunteering:
 - Wider Circle
 - SOME
 - Capital Area Food Bank
 - Academy of Hope - accepts referrals for clients who need assistance with literacy skills.
 - Bread for the City for Food
 - Martha's Table

- ❖ We are continually looking for new relationships and collaborations that can provide services to the residents of Independent Living Program.

About Us

Casa Ruby is the only LGBTQ bilingual and multiracial organization in the Washington DC metropolitan area that provides social services and programs to the most vulnerable in the city and surrounding areas. We provide 24-hour crisis intervention trauma informed care.

Casa Ruby 1



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Division of Children & Family Services
Issued May 2017

- ❖ Program Overview
- ❖ 10 Beds
- ❖ 3 Bedrooms – Bunk Beds

- ❖ Ward 1 – North West DC
- ❖ 1216 Kennedy Street NW

Casa Ruby 1

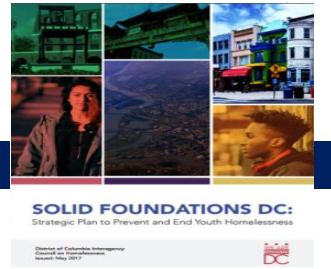


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Council on Homelessness
Issued May 2017

➤ Rules and Expectations

- ✓ Intake Process
- ✓ TB Test Required Prior to Entry or After
- ✓ Curfews
- ✓ Visitation Policy

Casa Ruby 1



Point of Contact:

- ❖ *Rikki Nathanson*, Director of Housing Programs – Mobile: (240)550-4982; Bus.: (202) 355-5155; Email: rnathanson@casaruby.org
- ❖ *Tanika Williams*, House Manager – Mobile: (301) 404-9847; Bus.: (919) 344-4291; Email; twilliams@casaruby.org
- ❖ *QueenPattie McKinney*, Intake Specialist – Mobile: (202)-352-8300 (w) 202-355-5155 (email) QMcKinney@casaruby.org

Casa Ruby 1



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- ❖ Staffing
- ❖ House Manager (Lead Monitor)
- ❖ 5 monitors – on 24 hrs/ 3 shifts

- ❖ Security
- ❖ 24 hour surveillance camera system
- ❖ Fully alarmed

Casa Ruby 1



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Office of Columbia Management
Council of Foundations
March 2017



- ❖ Resources
- ❖ Food
- ❖ Laundry



Casa Ruby 1



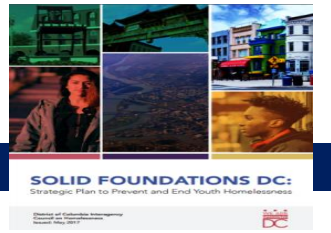
SOLID FOUNDATIONS DC:
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Division of Children's Intervention
Special Services Administration
November 2017



- ❖ Case Management
- ❖ See attached

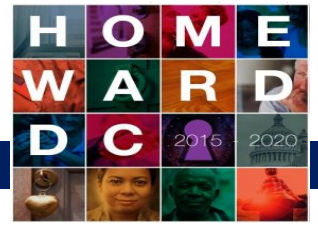
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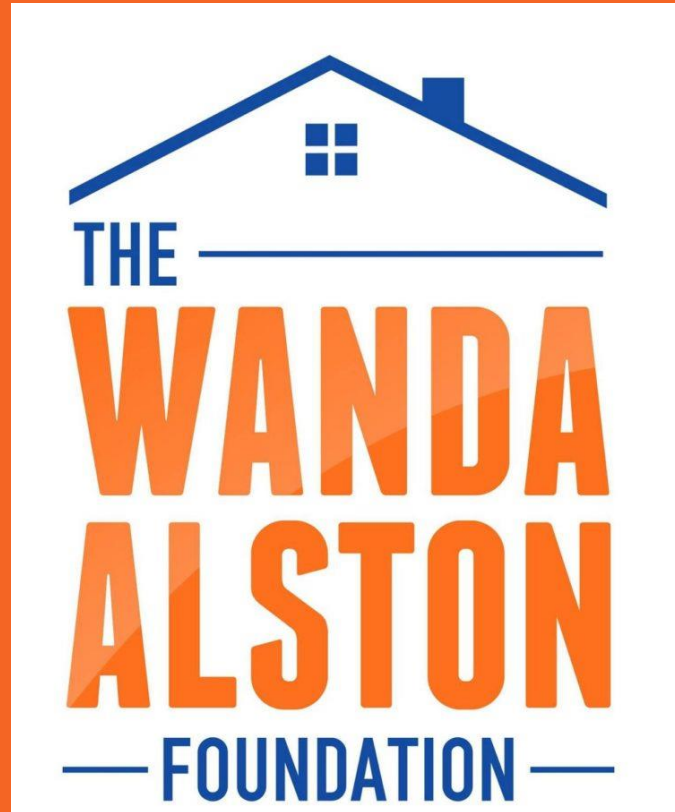
➤ Key Data Points:

- ✓ Average Length of Stay – 9 months
- ✓ What percentage of youth successfully complete the program vs. do not successfully complete the program? – No clients have successfully completed the program
 - They have voluntarily left the program
- ✓ Terminations has your program had over the last year? – 5 Terminations
- ✓ Completed DHS intake forms - All youth that enter the program must complete the CR1 housing intake forms, complete with handbook, DHS rules and regulations.
- ✓ Case plans in HMIS? - Comprehensive

Casa Ruby 1



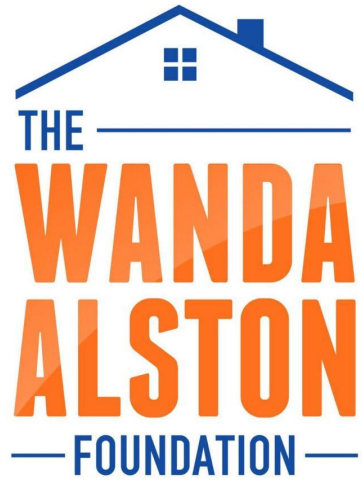
- ❖ Mental Health Diagnosis
- ❖ To be discussed



Wanda Alston House

Mission and Guiding Principals

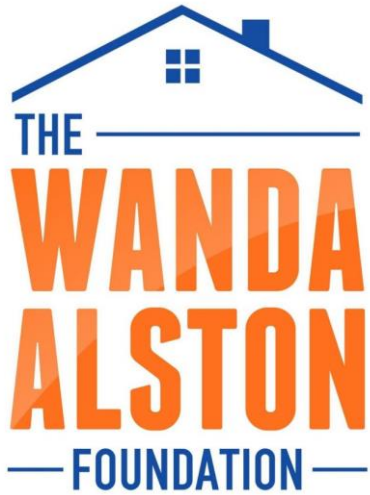
- We are dedicated to ensuring that LGBTQ youth have access to services that improve their overall quality of life. This is achieved through our advocacy and programming.
 - We are committed to the humane and dignified treatment of all LGBTQ homeless youth, including creating a safe and supportive environment.
 - We are committed to the health and well-being of our youth, our staff, and our community.
 - We are committed to the promotion of independent living/self-sufficiency of our youth.
 - We are committed to developing successful programs and services that meet the needs of our LGBTQ youth.
-



Program Overview - House 1

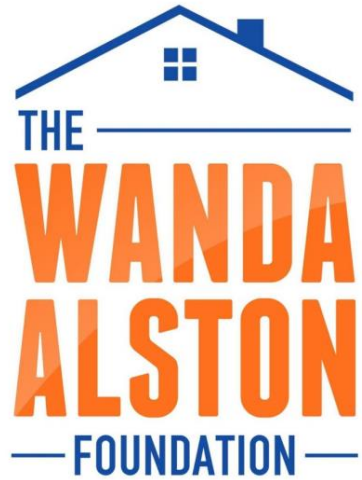
The Wanda Alston Foundation (WAF) was the first LGBTQ transitional housing program in Washington, DC. Since 2008, we have been dedicated to offering 18 months of pre-independent shelter, case management, life skills training, connections to medical, and mental health care, job, and school support to LGBTQ youth who are experiencing homelessness.

For nearly thirteen years, our facility has been located in Ward 7.



Program Overview - House 1

- We offer congregate living/shared living arrangements with a combination of single and double rooms for up to 8 youth.
 - Our living space such as living room, dining room, kitchen is a common area/shared space.
 - We have 24-hour staffing, which includes House Monitors, Operations Director, and Case Managers.
 - We provide three meals per day, clothing, and toiletries.
 - Our facility has a washer/dryer, a computer lab, and access to the internet/wifi.
 - We support our youth with staying in school or returning to school, including financial support.
 - We offer fare cards, or LYFT/Uber rides as needed for school, appointments, and employment to help our youth reach independent living.
-



House 1

Rules and Expectations

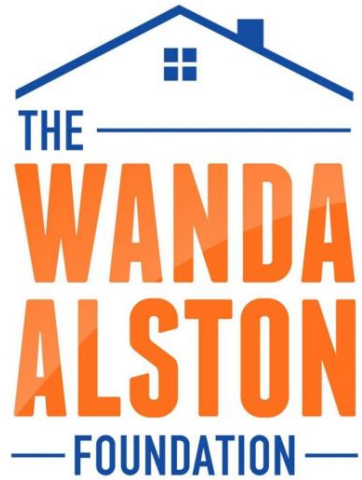
Our program rules aim to provide guidelines for appropriate and acceptable behavior and expectations by and to our residents to help them be the most successful in the program. We work to ensure that our policies and procedures are clear, transparent, and consistently administered for our residents to feel regarded and respected.

- When we are matched with a youth, we encourage the youth to visit our facility, meet staff, and other residents.
 - During our intake, we discuss our program rules, complete intake paperwork, and start the process for developing individual service plans.
 - Youth are required to be employed or in school.
 - Curfews can vary from resident to resident.
 - Visitation is allowed at certain hours and only in common areas within our facility.
-

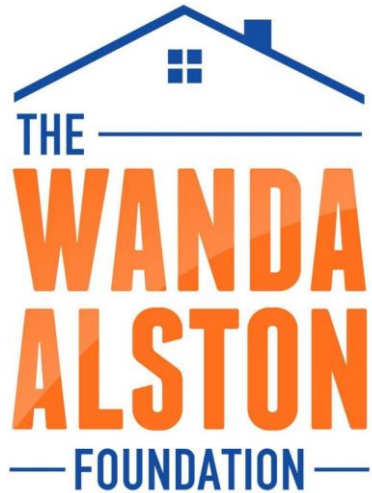
House 1

Case Management

All of our youth are required to participate in Case Management.



- Our case manager helps and links our residents to permanent housing resources; mental health, behavioral health, medical services; connections to GED, College, and vocational institutes; weekly supervised groups; counseling; and connections to LGBTQ resources, programs, and community.
 - Goals Include PSH (Permanent Supportive Housing), RRH (Rapid Rehousing), Employment-Income, Group Sessions, therapy sessions, education surrounding substance, and alcohol misuse.
 - Our Clinical Supervisor assists with assessing mental health and behavioral health needs, provide therapy to residents that have acute episodes, leads a weekly clinical group for the youth, and trains and supports staff development.
-



Our Data - House 1

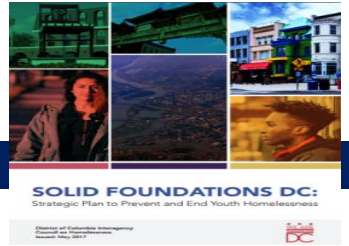
In the past year:

- The average length of stay was 1 year
- 50% of youth successfully completed the program.
- All of our youth complete a DHS Intake Form
- Our case plans are documented and tracked in HMIS.
- 100% of youth matched to WAF have a mental health diagnosis.
We have terminated 4 residents.

Overall:

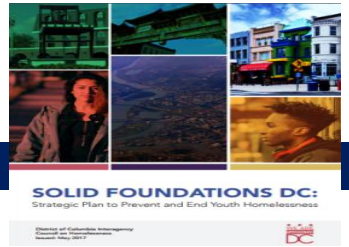
- 70% of youth successfully complete the program, while 30% do not.
-

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