



## Transitional Housing & Life Skills Program

### *Program Description*

YAP Adult Services' Transitional Housing & Life Skills Program is designed to safely and cost-effectively support individuals and families in transitional housing secure permanent housing. The program also focuses on addressing life skill, education, employment and health needs so that participants are better positioned to support themselves after discharge from the program.

### *Program Elements*

The Transitional Housing & Life Skills Program addresses challenges presented by homelessness in a comprehensive and holistic manner. Highlights include the following:

- **Timely referral and assessment**, including working with the Division of Parole for the participants returning to the community after a term in prison;
- Employing a **wraparound system of care planning**, including strengths/asset based assessment, individualized service planning and support team development;
- **24/7 crisis intervention and safety planning**;
- **Case management services**, with a focus on locating permanent housing and preparing program participants for a successful transition into permanent housing;
- **Advocate/Life Coach support** to assist residents in addressing priority service needs
  - **Supporting job finding activities:** Step-by-step instructions for finding, obtaining, and keeping a job will be discussed at length
  - **Attitudes for Success:** Staff will work individually with the resident on behavior and attitudes that form barriers to success
  - **Making Links to Meaningful Education:** Staff will work with residents on learning how to research educational alternatives including those options in and out of a traditional school setting
  - **Community Attachments:** Some of the residents may be interested in “giving-back” or “paying forward.” In those situations, YAP will use a contribution-based assessment tool to identify community organizations with which the resident may want to become involved
  - **Building healthy relationships:** Many of the residents will be struggling with trust and abandonment issues. YAP staff will be trained to see beyond the surface behaviors to the underlying need and to work with the residents on establishing healthy relationships;
- **Bi-weekly group sessions** that focus on areas such as life skills, anger management, employability and job skills, delivered by case management staff, outside specialty providers, and the participants themselves;
- **A community collaborative** of churches, local and state police, state Division of Parole, substance abuse and mental health treatment providers, housing providers, home health care and job coaches working together to address service needs and maximize the strengths of the program participants including returning offenders; and
- **Flexible funding** to address emergent individualized needs of the residents. Wraparound ancillary funds will be used to meet the individual service needs of the residents [Access to these funds are based on a pay back or pay forward principle which encourages the program participant to use their skills and talents to assist others].

