



Program Operational Plan

Mission

To Support young adults impacted by the foster care system by providing safe, stable, and affordable housing, as well as education and support services, as they transition into independent living.

Oversight

- Twin Falls Optimist Foundation, Inc.
 - Oversight of the Twin Falls Optimist Youth House Board
 - On the Lease of the Building
- Board of Directors
 - Direct Oversight of the Twin Falls Optimist Youth House
 - Committees:
 - Youth Services
 - Fundraising
 - Building Maintenance
 - Regulatory & Compliance
- Program Director
 - Oversees Day to Day operation of the house
 - Initially assume some Case Manager Duties
 - Supported by a Group of Subject Matter Experts from the Community
- Case Manager(s)
 - Help Youth establish goals and develop a plan to achieve these goals, monitors progress towards goal attainment, and makes referrals to community based agencies and resources
- Resident Assistants
 - On-Site Supervision
- Mentors/Volunteers
 - Provide long-term relationship with a caring adult

Community Support

- Cross Sector Collaboration: Develop and maintain working relationships with Community Programs, Agencies and other public systems (schools, workforce development, public housing) working with youth aging out of the Foster Care System or are in need of independent living skills, life skills, and housing
- Blended Funding Streams: Develop and maintain working relationships with community businesses, civic organizations, and foundations for financial support

Youth Assessment:

- Develop screening criteria for incoming youth
- Develop individualized assessments and transitional plans tailored to the needs of each youth with regard to acquiring life skills and independent living
- Develop services and outcomes tracking software
- Develop Customer Satisfaction and Exit Surveys

Training Programs (On and Off Site, Classroom and Hands-On):

Life Skills

- Maintaining a home
- Accessing transportation
- Understanding legal rights and responsibilities
- Community resources
- Financial Literacy
 - Budgeting
 - Banking - Checking/Savings Accounts
 - Establishing Credit
 - Money Management
- Employment placement
- Health care needs
- Decision making and problem solving
- Developing healthy and meaningful relationships
- Cultural awareness
- Room and board
- Housing assistance
- Cultural, emotional, or material support
- Goal setting
- Cultural and personal identity information
- Supportive relationships and community connections
- Physical and mental health
- “Real world” environments/situations
- Education
 - Tutoring
 - GED Application
 - College Application
 - Financial Aid Application

- Training Programs
- Employment
 - Job Readiness
 - Resume Writing
 - Interviewing Skills
 - Filling out an Application
 - Dress for Success
 - What Makes a Successful Employee, e.g. Being on Time
- Monthly Skills workshops
- Career exploration
- Interpersonal Skills
- Cooking
- Shopping
- Time Management
- Health/Nutrition/Personal Hygiene
- Conflict Resolution

Independent Living Skills

- Assistance with job service
- Employment placement
- Required clothing for employment
- Education and training programs
- Health care and counseling
- Preventative health
- Social skills development
- Personal safety
- Finding & Maintaining Housing
 - Transitioning to Independent Living
 - Rights and Responsibilities as a Tenant
 - Financial Requirements of Renting (First/Last and Co-Signers)

House Rules:

- Develop and continually review rules associated with daily living in the house
- Sign Rental Lease with conditions of living on the house (part of Transitional Plan)
 - Curfew

- Guests
- Alcohol/Drugs
- Noise
- Rent Requirement - Escalating as circumstances warrant
- Attend School/Training and/or be employed
- Attend House Meetings
- Plan Performance Incentives (gift cards, etc.)
- Contribute to Savings Account
- Meet regularly with Case Manager
- Participate in Clean-up of the house
- Give back to or be involved in the Community
- Participate in Individual and/or Group Counseling

In-House Community Building:

- Weekly/Monthly Home Meetings
- Social Events
- Recreational Activities

Miscellaneous Services/Programs:

- Transportation
- Education
- Health Care - Medical, Dental, Vision
- After-Care following transitioning to independent living

References:

- https://www.huduser.gov/portal/publications/pdf/HousingFosterCare_LiteratureReview_0412_v2.pdf