



North Carolina Department of Public Safety

Division of Juvenile Justice- Juvenile Community Programs Section

Roy Cooper, Governor
Eddie M. Buffaloe Jr., Secretary

William L. Lassiter, Chief Deputy Secretary
Cindy Porterfield, Director

October 21, 2022

Ms. J.J. Greeson, Administrative Assistant III
County Manager's Office
Guilford County Government
301 West Market Street
Greensboro, NC 27401

Dear Ms. Greeson:

Thank you for your willingness to assist us with our request to engage with you and the Guilford County Board of Commissioners to seek approval for the Division to engage contractually with Youth Focus to provide a Transitional Living Program for youth ages 18-21. This program is specifically designed to address our homeless juvenile population as they transition into adulthood with the goal of ensuring that program participants develop the skills to become self-sustaining productive citizens.

We are grateful for this opportunity to present the following attachments so as to provide pertinent information to the county regarding the program. We wish to utilize NCALLIES as our disbursement mechanism for this program, much as we do with JCPC funded programs. However, our office will be monitoring all expenditures of the program for reimbursement and payment via NCALLIES monthly disbursements. We request the county's assistance as a pass through for monthly payments to the Youth Focus.

Please find the following page of information regarding the HEARTH Transitional Living Program's purpose, scope of work, program location, amount of award and contract terms. Also, please find attached the Intensive Intervention Services Program Agreement for the HEARTH program in addition to an addendum to the Guilford County Funding Plan. Should you need additional information, please feel free to contact me. Thank you again for your assistance. We look forward to providing this much needed service to this targeted population of youth.

Sincerely,

Cindy Porterfield, Director
Juvenile Community Programs

Cc: Brittany Schott, State Contracts Administrator
Ronald Tillman, Piedmont Area Manager
Sherri Hill, Piedmont Area Consultant

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Telephone: (919) 733-3388

Attachment: HEARTH Transitional Living Program

Purpose and Background:

Each year, over 1 million youth will have some involvement with law enforcement or the justice system. Nearly 400,000 will be on their own and homeless for some period. Although the data on the overlap between these populations is limited, we know that it is significant. Sustained housing, compared to being homeless for a year, is associated with a 52% reduction in criminal offending, a 54% reduction in being a victim of crime, and a 40% reduction of time spent in police custody. Sustained housing participants' use of short-term crisis accommodations is markedly reduced by as much as 99% . The Department of Public Safety, Division of Juvenile Justice, Community Programs Section has identified sustained housing as a critical gap in services for our homeless juvenile population. The Community Programs section has identified the need to support homeless youth as they enter transitional periods, particularly during their emerging adulthood years. The focus of the project is to ensure the development of sustainable skills to transition our homeless youth into productive, independent adults.

Scope of Work

The Youth Focus HEARTH Transitional Living Program will to serve a youth population ages 18 to 21 who are homeless and who, because of their specialized needs, require additional assistance to allow them to achieve independence.

The HEARTH Transitional Living Program is designed to accept referrals statewide. All participants in the program must be at least 18 years of age. The program will not serve those who have dependent children. Referrals for the program may originate from Juvenile Court Services, however, referrals are not required to come directly from court counselor. Referrals may be self, non-profit, or another referral base. However, referred youth must have had juvenile justice involvement before their 18th birthday or under juvenile justice jurisdiction at the time of referral. Due to the location of the program, participants must be willing to live in High Point to be admitted into the program.

During the stay in the program, all participant living expenses are covered by the program to allow focus on accomplishing goals that will ensure future success. Each individual sets goals specific to his/her situation to transition from the program to stable housing. These goals could include, but are not limited to, the following:

- obtaining a high school diploma and/or college degree
- vocational training to gain and maintain employment
- develop permanent connections with caring adults
- improve social-emotional well-being

During the stay in the program, individuals gain life skills such as conflict resolution, money management, meal planning and preparation, and individual goal setting. The HEARTH Transitional

Living Program residential services are provided in a supervised apartment for participants for up to 540 days. The transitional housing model is implemented in leased apartments within an identified community. This program is designed to be similar to dormitory-style housing with clustered apartments leased by Youth Focus. Apartments may be single occupant units as well as apartments whereby two occupants share a two-bedroom apartment. One apartment in the cluster serves as the staff office and a common gathering space for program participants.

Facility Location

The HEARTH Transitional Living Program's physical address is 251 Northpointe Ave. High Point, NC. This is convenient to downtown High Point and close to Hwy 74 and Business I-85.

Amount of Award:

DPS award of \$198,300

Contract Term:

The Contract shall have an initial term of three (3) months, beginning on April 1, 2022 through June 30, 2022 startup expenses. (Executed RFQ on March 29, 2022)

The Contract shall have an additional term of one (1) year, beginning on July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 via **NCALLIES, Intensive Intervention Services Program Agreement**.