



Meryl's Safe Haven's Transitional Youth Empowerment Program

About the Program

The Meryl's Safe Haven Transitional Youth Empowerment Program aims to provide foster youth between the ages of 18-24 who are experiencing homelessness or on the verge of becoming homeless shelter and resources to transition into housing independence and self-sustainability. Our program is developed to take a holistic approach in addressing barriers to permanent and safe housing while reducing the likelihood of chronic homelessness.

During their time with MSH, program staff will support youth in defining self-sustainability, identify short-term and long-term goals, pursue opportunities of career and/or education, create a foundation of financial stability through savings, then transition into permanent housing. Because all journeys are different, there is no staff with work with youth to create a timeline the aligns with their goals.

The assistance may end at any time if a youth does not comply with services including group reflection and/or investing in themselves through their savings or engages in substance abuse.

The following are the **minimum eligibility requirements** for a youth to be considered for the Meryl's Safe Haven Transitional Youth Empowerment Program:

- Between the ages of 18 – 24 years old
- Is currently (or can prove they were) in state custody through the Department of Children and Families (DCF) as a fostered youth
- Homeless *OR* at high-risk of becoming homeless
- Sober – complete abstinence from drugs, alcohol, and other addictive substances
- Pass a background check clear of violent offenses, weapon charges, and/or sexual offenses

Good candidates for this program:

- Are motivated
- Looking to receive support and open to change
- Interested in living on their own and creating a savings plan



Referral Form

Date referred: _____

Youth's Name: _____

Youth's Gender _____

Youth's Pronouns: _____

Youth's DOB _____

Youth's Current Age _____

Primary Language Spoken: _____

Youth's Ethnicity _____

Provide best form of contact phone and/or email: _____

Current living situation: _____

Is the youth currently in school or working? _____

If yes, where?: _____

Referring worker/agency: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Is there a guardian or adult aware of the referral whom we should be in contact with?: _____

If yes, please provide their name and contact information: _____

Are there any immediate concerns?:

To your knowledge, does this youth take medication? If so, if accepted into the program, would they need support with their medication?:

To your awareness, have they been placed in a similar setting before? If so, were there any behavioral concerns?:

The completion of this referral does not guarantee a youth will be accepted and placed into the program. The completion of this form provides Meryl's Safe Haven the opportunity to be aware of and contact the referred or referrer to schedule an intake. Additionally, in the event space is not available MSH staff will make great effort to make connection with youth or the referrer to provide other resources when possible until there is program space available.

If a youth moves into the intake process, contact will be made to schedule time with MSH staff and discuss necessary documentation.

Referrals can be emailed or returned to:

Meryl's Safe Haven
P.O. Box 20363
Worcester, MA 01602
info@merylssafehaven.com