



TRANSFORMING TRANSITIONS

Philly Homes 4 Youth

Organizational Operating Principles



Commitment to Youth Centered Practice

- Our service and engagement model should be low barrier and high support. (It should be easy for youth and young adults to access services and extremely difficult to be cut off from services. We should encourage youth and young adults to have high expectations for themselves and support them to reach those expectations.)
- Our services must be age-appropriate, trauma informed, non-discriminatory, responsive to the needs and goals of all youth and young adults and affirming of their identities including LGBTQIA+ youth and young adults, parenting youth and young adults of all genders, youth and young adults of color and other youth and young adults with unique or special challenges. Service providers must be adequately and routinely trained so they can empathetically engage youth and young adults in these types of high quality diverse services.
- Youth and young adults should be meaningfully and actively involved in our work. This means that they must be leaders of their own service and transition planning and involved in how we as providers and advocates craft and deliver services and do policy advocacy throughout all stages of the process.



Commitment to Life-Long Thriving For All Youth We Serve

- Due to the significant role we have played in their lives we have a collective and special responsibility to youth and young adults with current or former system involvement and must work continually to improve their chances at adult success and housing stability.
- Planning for the transition to adulthood must begin at least at 14 and should become progressively more concrete and outcome-focused as a youth ages. It should be personalized and youth centered and should include providing youth and young adults with concrete life skills and other resources needed to ensure future housing stability.
- All stakeholders working with youth and young adults have a role to play in supporting youth centered transition planning, making sure that the planning including benchmarks of success occurs and working with youth or young adults and other stakeholders to identify solutions if benchmarks are not being achieved.
- Services and policies should reflect that our commitment to youth and young adults is larger than exclusively meeting their current needs, that we value them and that we are invested in their well-being and future success.



Commitment to Continually Improving Services

- Youth and young adults deserve to have permanent connections to caring adults, consistent support systems and stable housing, and be supported in acquiring the skills needed to pursue their education, maintain gainful self-sustaining employment and achieve all dimensions of wellness including physical and mental wellness. We are committed to working together in our own roles and collectively to promote policies and practice that result in all youth and young adults leaving our city systems achieving these goals and eliminating youth homelessness.

- Services should be integrated across systems – that is, youth and young adults should be supported with services that blend the available resources to meet complex needs in a coherent fashion and we are committed to continually collaborating to ensure that occurs.
- Youth and young adults deserve to be served by professionals who are well-trained, held accountable and rewarded for providing high quality services and supervised by experienced professionals who can support them to professionally develop. We are committed to creating a work environment that fosters growth and excellence in professionals who serve older youth.



Philly Homes for Youth Coalition
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