

Strategic Plan NEPA Youth Shelter

The mission of the NEPA Youth Shelter is to provide quality emergency shelter and related services to unaccompanied youth ages 14 through high school graduation from all counties in NEPA. The shelter will provide essentials such as food, clothing and bathrooms, as well as educational support, counseling, family reunification and/or preparation for independent living. With a focus on social justice and advocacy, the Shelter will be welcoming to youth from all backgrounds and especially affirming to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) youth, as this population constitutes a high percentage of homeless youth in our area.

1. Rapid Rehousing Project

The purpose of the program is to offer single people, ages 18-21, short term rental and utility assistance to youth who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The goal is to transition to a stable living environment where the youth can learn independence, self sufficiency and other skills needed for housing sustention.

-Develop a tentative budget and to grow reliable funding by deepening relationships with supporters and partners -Provide Case Management Services- support long term self sufficiency and implement life skills curriculum.

-Foster relationships with Landlords locally to increase our ability to find housing. -Better identify youth at risk and immediately assist by establishing a relationship with school districts.

-Increase awareness and promote public policy that positively impacts youth experiencing homelessness or housing instability.

-Increase access to Medical, Dental, Behavioral Services by extending an invitation to Scranton Primary and United Neighborhood Centers of NEPA.

- build a solid infrastructure to the existing program by defining policies, procedures, job descriptions, staffing patterns and documentation modeled after HUD guidelines. - identify collaborating RRH programs (CIC, VYH, UNC, Catherine McCauley,etc) and be able to position NEPA Youth Shelter as the leader of Youth RRH.

2. Acquire a Space For Emergency Shelter For Young Adults Ages 18-21

--Gather information on how other emergency shelters navigate laws /budgets/ approval

-- Develop a tentative budget for acquiring an emergency shelter. Include costs of purchase, renovations, cost of staffing and programs.

-- Investigate other possibilities besides running a shelter,

-Educate ourselves on legal requirements to implement this project by Hiring a lawyer to navigate the rules and regulations.

-Look into staffing, training and the necessary requirements to implement this project. Budget is KEY to this project. Fundraising is second to budget. Fundraising is contingent upon Budget.

-Decide what we want the program to look like, limitations, length of stay, services offered and circumstances that would prevent our services. Consideration for individual needs of teens should be included.

3. Provide Skill Development Opportunities for Youth in our RRH program as well as our after school drop in program

Life skills coach is required for this position

-Provide Pathways to Employability

-Assist teens in learning skills for living: opening a bank account and savings account.
Learning about taxes and budgeting

-Create opportunities for youth to engage in education through informal learning activities, skill development and formal education.

-Foster an environment for them to self advocate

-Utilize Youth Peer Mentors to support youth programs

4. Improve Collaboration with Community Partners Whose Values Align With Ours to Help Fulfill Our Mission.

-form a Coalition of Community with local organizations, businesses, government, nonprofits, Scranton Primary and United Neighborhood Centers of NEPA to help individuals access medical, dental, behavioral and immigration services if needed.

-improving education opportunities for all staff, volunteers and board members regarding issues involving the youth we serve.

5. Succession Plan- Please see Succession Plan Document.

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