



# Host Family Housing Program

The Homeless Youth Connection (HYC) Host Family Housing program was established to address the housing needs of unaccompanied youth, or youth on their own. Many youth impacted by homelessness do what they have to do in order to survive—sleeping in cars, bartering sex for shelter, couch surfing from one friend’s house to another, or residing with abusive family members who threaten to kick them out. The HYC Host Family Housing program helps to prevent these potentially negative life experiences. When the worry about basic needs is removed, homeless youth can thrive, graduate and succeed.



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*Are you able to open your home and your heart to a youth impacted by homelessness?*

HYC Host Families provide a supportive and caring home, creating a bridge between dependence and independence for a youth experiencing homelessness. According to the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY), the Host Family model is the most effective method for addressing housing for homeless youth. There is an almost 100% high school graduation rate for youth participating in this type of program.

## How does the program work?

HYC connects unaccompanied youth with caring adults from their own communities who are willing to provide safe housing and support. The host family provides food and shelter, while HYC delivers case management services. The Host Family Housing program is voluntary for both the youth and the host family. Both the family and the youth review and complete applications and agreements to participate in the program. If the youth is under the age of 18, the youth's parent or legal guardian must also consent.

HYC recruits, screens and trains hosts, then provides ongoing support—including financial—for the host family while the youth resides with them.

## REQUIREMENTS TO BECOME A HOST FAMILY:

- Must be at least 25 years of age
- Can be married or single; with or without children
- Have renters/homeowners/automobile insurance
- Have a space for a youth in their home
- Be willing to provide a caring and supportive home until the youth graduates
- Complete an application packet, including three references and authorization for fingerprinting and background checks
- Attend a Host Family training

*While we make every effort to meet the highest standards for care and safety, this is a volunteer, community-engagement model.*



**For more information, or to get involved with HYC's Host Family Housing program, please contact us at 623-374-3747 or email [info@hycaz.org](mailto:info@hycaz.org)**