



TO: Gina Stafford, DuPage County
 FROM: Mike Bertrand, CEO
 CC: Valerie Tawrel, Director of Housing

 DATE: July 23, 2025
 RE: CSBG Funding Request

360 Youth Services (360YS) is grateful for the opportunity to submit this proposal for Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funding in support of our Youth Educational and Vocational Development program, which provides critical services to young people experiencing homelessness in DuPage County.

360YS is the only housing provider in DuPage County specifically serving youth ages 18-24 across all genders, gender identities and sexual orientations. We currently operate 38 transitional housing beds, 12 community-based rapid rehousing beds and 17 hotel-based emergency shelter beds tailored for youth. Additionally, we operate Cornerstone Group Home, a licensed residential facility serving DCFS youth-in-care ages 13-17. All housing programs are located within DuPage County.

In addition to offering safe, inclusive and youth-centered housing, 360YS delivers a full continuum of client-focused support. Services are grounded in trauma-informed care, harm-reduction principles and client-led, person-centered engagement. Youth receive intensive case management, residential counseling and life skills development tailored to their individual goals. We also provide financial literacy education and credit counseling in partnership with HOME DuPage, along with a savings match program of up to \$500. Educational and vocational support services are also offered, as detailed below:

Youth Educational and Vocational Development:

360YS recognizes that preparing youth to obtain and sustain living-wage employment is a critical step toward long-term self-sufficiency and stable housing. Many of the young people we serve have experienced significant trauma and are developing foundational life and employment skills for the first time. As a result, they require a higher level of individualized support than the typical job seeker.

The organization's Educational and Vocational Development Program (EVDP) is specifically designed to meet the unique needs of youth experiencing homelessness. Services include job readiness training, employment placement support, resume development, interview preparation and vocational counseling, including guidance in navigating workplace challenges. The program also provides advocacy and coordination with educators and employers, tutoring and academic support, access to internet, computers and essential technology, as well as clothing and transportation assistance. Youth are also connected to mainstream resources as needed.

All services are delivered through a trauma-informed, client-centered approach and are grounded in the principles of Positive Youth Development—empowering youth to make healthy, goal-

oriented decisions and build skills that support lasting independence.

Increased Needs and Challenges Due to COVID-19

Although the height of the COVID-19 pandemic has passed, its long-term effects continue to reverberate in the lives of DuPage County's young people. Those from low-income households face a complex and interconnected set of challenges that significantly hinder their ability to achieve stability and self-sufficiency. Youth served by 360YS continue to face lingering challenges in education, employment, transportation, mental health and financial stability—factors that are critical to achieving long-term housing and economic independence.

The 2024 DuPage County Community Needs Assessment (CNA) identifies employment and income-related barriers within the top three most significant challenges facing low-income residents, with 45.8% of respondents noting the need for fulltime jobs, job training and application support.

These issues are compounded by limited transportation options—a problem highlighted in every focus group and by 72.9% of providers. Many areas in DuPage County lack reliable public transit, making it difficult for residents to access work, school and essential services. Nearly 10% of renter-occupied households in DuPage County lack a motor vehicle and public transportation was described in the CNA as limited and inconsistent. In response, 360YS uses CSBG funding to provide supervised rideshare transportation for youth traveling to school or work when other options—bus, staff transport, or bicycle—are unavailable.

Digital access gaps further exacerbate youth stability challenges, including limited availability of computers, internet access and digital literacy—particularly for job searching, resume writing and online applications.

Educational barriers are also prevalent, with 49.8% of respondents expressing needs related to adult education. Many are seeking vocational training, GED completion and assistance affording college—critical pathways to breaking the cycle of poverty.

Among 360YS clients, these challenges are compounded by trauma histories and lack of familial support, making sustained employment and educational advancement more difficult to achieve without intensive services.

In response, 360YS provides individualized educational and vocational support to youth experiencing homelessness. Through an ongoing partnership with the College of DuPage, youth working toward a high school diploma or GED receive tailored academic assistance to help them reach their goals. More than 75% of clients have already obtained their high school diploma or GED. In FY25, one client in 360YS' Transitional Housing program earned their high school diploma and another is on track to graduate or complete their GED in the coming months.

Other clients are pursuing workforce credentials through local partnerships, including CDL and HVAC certifications via WorkNet DuPage. Several youth have also completed Forklift Certification through the Kane County Sheriff's Office and obtained PERC certification to pursue careers in private security. Additional clients are exploring training through WorkNet DuPage's CNA and Phlebotomy programs. A number of youth have also applied to the Goodwill CEJA program, which prepares participants for careers in sustainable energy solutions such as solar panel installation.

Mental and behavioral health also emerged as a major concern in the 2024 CNA, especially among youth. Access to mental health treatment, as well as the impacts of stress and trauma,

were consistently cited by stakeholders and community members as top barriers to success. In response, 360YS integrates trauma-informed, person-centered practices across its programs and provides onsite individualized counseling to help youth navigate mental health challenges that can affect their educational, vocational and long-term stability outcomes.

Additionally, the CNA cited financial instability and lack of financial literacy as pressing concerns for low-income residents. To address this, 360YS partners with HOME DuPage to deliver financial literacy workshops, credit education and money management training. These resources help youth develop essential life skills and prepare for long-term self-sufficiency.

Moreover, homelessness in DuPage County remains a significant challenge. According to the 2024 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count, there were 480 individuals experiencing homelessness—a modest decrease from 525 the previous year. However, the number of chronically homeless individuals more than doubled, rising from 41 in 2023 to 100 in 2024, reflecting longer stays in shelters or unsheltered situations. The number of homeless youth also increased, from 71 to 74, including 63 unaccompanied youth and 11 parenting youth. Demand for youth shelter continues to outpace capacity, with 360YS maintaining a waitlist of 20 or more youth ages 18-24 at any given time. In response, the organization expanded its Youth Emergency Shelter to 17 beds to help meet this urgent and growing need.

This growing demand has led to an increase in calls and referrals involving youth with complex needs. To ensure a coordinated and responsive approach, 360YS implemented cross-training across all three housing programs and further integrated the existing Education and Vocational Coordinator role—originally funded under THP—into Emergency Shelter and Rapid Rehousing services. Supported through CSBG, this position plays a critical role in helping youth overcome systemic barriers to education and employment, providing consistent support across the housing continuum.

With critical CSBG support, 360YS remains steadfast in its mission to serve DuPage County's most vulnerable youth—helping them achieve educational success, economic stability, and long-term housing through trauma-informed, developmentally appropriate care.

Expected Outcomes for the Grant Period (January 1, 2025-December 31, 2025)

360YS proposes to serve 30 youth through its Educational and Vocational Development Program during CY25.

Services	Outcomes
Coaching-Job Search	Unemployed youth will obtain employment to gain skills or income. Employed youth will retain employment for 6 months to demonstrate a more robust and sustainable job history. TARGET: Serve 30 youth with 50% success benchmark.
Other Post-Secondary Support	Individuals will demonstrate progress in obtaining a high school diploma or equivalency certificate and/or progress to a post-secondary degree. Progress will be reported and assessed using the 360YS Matrix tool to document measurable objectives with a time constraint. TARGET: Assess 30 youth with 50% success benchmark.

Financial Literacy	All clients will participate in HOME DuPage education services to create an Individualized Service Plan to increase efficacy in budgeting, credit score improvement and informed consumer spending. TARGET: Serve 30 youth; Assess and report via 360YS Matrix assessment tool at 30-day intervals; Work in partnership with HOME DuPage to tailor education and services.
Life Skills	Individuals will demonstrate improved mental and behavioral health and wellbeing via community partners for mental health support. TARGET: Assess 30 youth with 50% success benchmark, evidenced by assessment in 360YS Matrix tool with improved ability assessment at regular intervals moving from vulnerability toward self-sufficiency.
Transportation Services	Individuals will be provided with linkage to transportation services for car repair as needed. Youth will be provided with rideshares only when no other means of transport are available to support employment in early weeks of hire, or education transport when no other means are available. TARGET: Serve 15 youth with 9 successful youth outcomes.
Housing - Using community partners and other 360YS funding streams	Youth experiencing homelessness will obtain safe temporary shelter. TARGET: 80% of clients who leave the program will exit to safe, stable housing via Housing Choice Vouchers, Rapid Rehousing or via self-resolving outcomes.

CY2025 DuPage County CSBG Grant Fund Application

Proposed Budget for January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025

Category	Description	Estimated Program Cost	Existing Funding	Estimated Unfunded	Requested
					Under CSBG
Personnel	Fulltime Educational and Vocational Coordinator: Salary + 22% Fringe	\$60,925	-	\$60,925	\$60,925
Fees	Fees associated with skills assessment, vocational matching and GED testing	\$3,000	\$2,500	\$500	\$500
Supplies & Materials	Educational & office Supplies and job-specific work clothing	\$6,000	\$5,500	\$500	\$500
Client Equipment	Tablets, laptops and temporary cell phones for educational/vocational use	\$2,500	\$2,500	-	-

Client Transportation	Bus and train passes, bikes, mileage, etc. for work and education	\$5,000	\$4,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Total		\$77,425	\$14,500	\$62,925	\$62,925
Administration Cost	15% de minimis		\$2,246		\$6,293
TOTAL		\$77,425	\$14,500	\$62,925	\$69,218

Budget Justification

1. **Employment/Educational Coordinator:** **\$60,925 is requested** for salary and benefits support. This individual holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Management, is bilingual in English and Spanish and brings valuable experience in career development. This individual plays a key role in coordinating educational and employment support for youth across all three of 360YS's housing programs, helping clients build pathways to long-term stability and success.
2. **Fees:** **\$500 is requested** to partially cover fees associated with skills assessment, vocational matching and GED testing. The organization's costs have increased as it serves more youth who are entering its housing programs without secondary degrees. The remainder will be self-funded.
3. **Supplies and Materials:** **\$500 is requested** to partially cover the cost of basic clothing and materials to prepare youth for employment and school. 360YS anticipates obtaining additional support through in-kind donations.
4. **Client Equipment:** **\$0 is requested**— 360YS clients are using existing equipment to access the Internet for educational and vocational purposes.
5. **Client Transportation:** **\$1,000 is requested** for client travel to work, school and vocational training opportunities. While transportation costs have increased significantly, the organization will continue to use existing funds only when no other means of transportation are available.
6. **Administration Cost:** **\$6,293 is requested** for administrative costs associated with the program at the 15% de minimis election.

The total amount requested is \$69,218.

Recognizing that available funding may be limited, 360YS prioritizes sustainability and strategic resource use. The Educational and Vocational Coordinator will focus on leveraging existing organizational funding, in-kind community resources and strategic partnerships to address the unique and complex needs of youth experiencing homelessness. Through a client-centered approach, the position supports youth on their journey toward housing stability by facilitating educational advancement, workforce development, income generation and increased life skills. 360YS is committed to achieving proposed outcomes through the use of its Self-Sufficiency Matrix, which guides measurable progress and ensures cost-effective, data-informed service delivery to some of DuPage County's most vulnerable residents.

Best regards,

Mike Bertrand
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SELF-SUFFICIENCY MATRIX 360 Youth Services

DOMAIN	1	2	3	4	5
Income	No income or family support	Inadequate income and/ or inappropriate Spending. Lacks support /case management.	Meets basic needs with subsidy; - budget adherence with C.M (200% of FPG) – participates in HOME DuPage financial literacy classes.	Can meet basic needs and manage debt without assistance.	Income is sufficient, well managed; has discretionary income and is able to save.
Employment	No job and/or demonstrated job history.	Temporary, part-time or seasonal pay, no benefits Assessed for job preparation programs / eligibility. Resume completed.	Employed full time; inadequate reserves. few or no benefits. Has adequate clothing for work, footwear.	Employed full time with adequate pay - cash reserves verified. – stable employment for 6 mos.	Maintains permanent employment with adequate income and benefits – self reported post discharge.
Housing	“Literally Homeless” as defined by HUD or imminent risk of homelessness : documentation provided.	In transitional housing via 360 YS THP: current rent is paid at 100% Has time constraint of 18-24mos, before discharge. Unable to sustain independently.	Continues as program participant. Improved but limited ability to self-sustain FMR	Demonstrates ability to self-sustain housing independently with minimal fiscal support.	Reports safe, adequate, unsubsidized housing upon discharge from THP
Food & Clothing	No food or means to prepare it. Relies to a significant degree on sources of free food. (pantries) Lacks sufficient clothing for elements – footwear.	Has means to prepare meals as THP resident Main stream benefits recipient has received adequate clothing via community resources or agency funding.	Can meet basic food/ clothing needs with case management / budgeting/ nutritional education resources.	Can meet basic food needs without assistance, or with minimal assistance.	Can choose to purchase groceries / shop for wardrobe, and plan meals independently.
Education	Literacy problems and/or no high school diploma/GED are serious barriers to employment.	Enrolled in literacy and/or GED program OR high school – (via McKinney Vento liaison) alternative school Has IEP if applicable	Has GED- tutoring / HS Diploma or on course for pending completion Identifying higher education programs : FAFSA application assistance	Identified higher learning institution /trade program Assisted by ed /voc coordinator in application w/ Worknet employment program.	Reports ongoing progression or completion in desired skilled trade program or higher education program post THP discharge
Legal	Current outstanding tickets or warrants. License suspended.	Current charges/trial pending, noncompliance with probation/parole.	Fully compliant with probation/parole terms. Assisted with expungement if applicable. License reinstatement in process.	Has successfully completed probation/parole within past 12 months, no new charges filed. Has a reinstated license.	No active criminal justice involvement post discharge from THP

Health Care Physical SUD/Mental	No medical coverage with immediate need. – may need prescription medication. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical. • Mental Health • S.U.D 	No medical coverage and great difficulty accessing medical care when needed no monetary resources for self-pay. Must utilize ER only for life threatening circumstances as non-insured patient.	Has received assistance to apply for Main Stream benefits (Medicaid) if applicable May need assistance navigating PCP / MH providers and appointment making – prescription assistance	Medicaid services obtained, or covered by employer based insurance Needs minimal assistance with making appointments. PCP established MH / SUD provider linkage provided if applicable. Peer support resources identified. (NAMI DuPage) AA/NA – Alanon	Covered by affordable, adequate health insurance either via personal employment or Medicaid. Self-sufficient in making appointments – routine follow up.
Life Skills	Unable to meet basic needs such as hygiene, food, activities of daily living. <i>REFER to Community resources for appropriate care not met in THP Programming. If due to disability – DuPage Health Department – SOAR case management.- SSDI</i>	Can meet a few but not all needs of daily living without assistance. <i>May need to refer out to Community resources for appropriate supportive services if due to disability.</i>	Can meet most but not all daily living needs without Assistance, including case management and education on cleaning, food prep, and self-care.	Able to meet all basic needs of daily living with minimal assistance – THP apartment is cleaned upon weekly unit checks. Minimal support needed for food purchase and prep.	Able to provide beyond basic needs of daily living upon discharge from THP.
Mobility	No access to transportation, public or private; may have car that is inoperable. Lacks means to access public transport / ride share.	Transportation is available, unaffordable; may have car but no insurance, license Needs 100% support for ride share costs (UBER or bus pass) and education on utilization of public transport. Receives transportation via case manager / agency vehicle if urgent – has been offered bicycle via agency donation. .	Transportation (ride share/bus) is available and can be afforded via self-sufficient means for work only. Has been provided assistance with obtaining license if needed. Budget help for down payment and/or repairs on vehicle and/or linkage with community resources for car donation/repairs) ex. Loaves & Fishes	Preferred mode of transportation regularly used for both work or leisure purposes – if applicable, has made progress on down payment or linkage with community resources via case management.	Personal transportation has been identified and secured – self reports insurance and licensed without difficulty post discharge.

Bench Marks - Time Line:

Assessment: Scale 1-5 : Within 30 days of admit

Reassess: Scale 1-5 – report at recertification for CSBG – Assess at discharge from THP.