



Youth
Services™

TO: Gina Stafford, DuPage County
FROM: Scot Thurman, C.E.O
CC: Valerie Tawrel, Director of Housing

DATE: August 3rd, 2023
Re: CSBG Funding Request

Dear Gina,

Thank you for the opportunity to apply for CSBG funding to continue our Youth Educational and Vocational Development program serving young people who are experiencing homelessness.

360 Youth Services is the only housing provider in DuPage County serving youth 18-24 of all genders, gender identities and sexual orientations. We operate 38 beds of transitional housing, 8 beds of community-based rapid rehousing, and have received funding to continue the emergency shelter for an additional year from for a minimum of 15 beds. We also operate Cornerstone Shelter – a group home for youth-in-care with DCFS ages 13-18. All of our housing programs are based in DuPage County. Beyond safe and all-inclusive youth-specific shelter, we provide client centered support services including intensive case management, residential counseling, the “Seven Challenges” evidence-based substance abuse curriculum, life skills groups, financial literacy training.

Our partnership with HOME DuPage is proving to be a huge success with 80% of clients to date have completed two core classes on topics such as budgeting and credit score education.

Youth Educational and Vocational Development: We believe that being prepared to obtain *and sustain* a living-wage job is the primary pathway for youth to become self-sufficient and subsequently stably housed. Overarching, homeless youth are recovering from trauma and many are learning skills for the very first time. As a result, they require a great deal more support than other job seekers. Our Educational and Vocational Development program has been successful in tailoring needs to meet the unique needs of this population. Services include job preparation and placement, resume preparation, vocational counseling (including navigating challenges at a current job), and advocacy on behalf of youth with educators and employers, tutoring, internet access and computing equipment, clothing and transportation assistance, and linkages to mainstream resources. All services are trauma-informed, client centered and grounded in positive youth development, which empowers young people to make choices about their own lives.

Continuing Needs and Challenges in a post Covid 19 environment

During COVID-19, we saw a lot of young people lose their jobs, have their vocational programs stalled, and otherwise negatively impact all life aspects. While moving forward into 2024, a post Covid is still presenting unprecedented challenges in increased mental health needs that impacts both education and employment. The Education and Employment program has continued to

provide client based services to this changed landscape by making adaptations to provide virtual job search sessions / job boards, and by providing laptops and tablets for attending peer support / career orientation programs via virtual means to tap into the community's resources. For our youth who are still working on their G.E.D/ (HSE) , we will continue to partner with College of DuPage, to meet the needs of each individual. Thus far in the CSBG funding cycle, two youth are in their final portions of class preparation to achieve this milestone. Transportation continues to be a barrier for accessing services. Via C.S.B.G funding, 360 YS is able to provide supervised ride share transportation to youth to work and school when no other means of transport are available such as bus, staff transport or bicycle.

Homelessness has also increased per the most recent P.I.T. Count for DuPage County. New requests for youth and adult shelter continue to increase with wait lists holding an average of 30 Youth (18-24), and exceeding 300 for shelter as reported by our closest shelter partner in the DuPage area. As previously stated, we are grateful to have received funding for FY '24 to continue the emergency shelter program. *While this trend continues of increased need, 360 YS continues to cross train our Housing Staff to attempt to lessen staff burnout, and to allow for adequate time off to retain a robust team. A new Education and Employment Coordinator for this program was hired last September, and has proved to be an asset to the housing team and clients of 360YS. Only by utilizing the critical C.S.B.G. funding are able to continue to provide this essential supportive service.*

Expected Outcomes for the Grant Period (January 1, 2024-December 31, 2024)

We propose to maintain the outcome of 60 youth served for the coming year.

Services	Outcomes
Coaching-Job Search	Unemployed youth will obtain employment to gain skills or income. Employed youth will retain employment for 6 mos to demonstrate a more robust and sustainable job history. TARGET: Serve 60 with 30 successful
Other Post-Secondary Support	Individuals will demonstrate progress in obtaining a high school diploma and/or made progress in an equivalency certificate or progress to a post-secondary degree. Progress reported and assessed in 360 Youth Matrix tool to report in measurable objectives with a time constraint. TARGET: Assess 60 : 30 successful in demonstrated progress
Financial Literacy	All clients will participate on HOME DuPage education services to create an individually pertinent service plan to increase efficacy in budgeting, credit score improvement and informed consumer spending. TARGET: Serve 60. Assess and report via 360 YS Matrix assessment tool at 30 day intervals. Work in Partnership to tailor education and services with regular communication between our community partner.
Life Skills	Individuals who demonstrated improved mental and behavioral health and well-being via community partners for mental health support. TARGET: Assess 60 with 30 successful, evidenced by assessment

	in 360 YS Matrix tool with improved ability assessment at regular intervals moving from vulnerability towards self-sufficiency.
Transportation Services	Individuals provided linkage to transportation services for car repair if applicable. Provide ride share only when no other means are available to support employment in early weeks of hire, or education transport when no other means are available. TARGET: Serve 30 with 21 successful
Housing – Using community partners and other 360 YS funding streams.	Youth experiencing homelessness who obtained 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.

Our Coordinator will celebrate her one-year work anniversary on September 8th, 2023.

This position will continue to coordinate the employment and educational support for youth across the emergency shelter and transitional housing programs.

2. Fees: \$1000 is requested to partially cover fees associated with skills assessment, vocational matching and GED testing. Our costs have risen as we serve more youth who are entering our housing programs without secondary degrees. The remainder will be self-funded.

- Supplies and Materials:** \$3,000 is requested to partially cover the cost of basic clothing and materials to prepare youth for employment and school. We hope to obtain additional support through in-kind donations.
- Client Equipment:** 360 clients are using existing equipment for to access the internet for educational and vocational purposes, as well as utilize existing funding.
- Client Transportation:** \$5,000 is requested for client travel to work, school and vocational training opportunities. Our request last year was for the same amount. While transportation costs have increased significantly, we will continue to use these our existing funds only when no other means of transportation are available.

The total amount requested - \$55,242. Understanding that funding may be limited, our priority is that the hire of our Educational and Vocational Coordinator will use community resources to the best advantage in addition to using the agency's other funding for a most efficient outcome. We utilize 360 Youth Services Self Sufficiently Matrix to maximize these outcomes using measurable objectives, community partnerships for a most cost efficient, yet impactful outcome to serve the communities most vulnerable youth.

Best regards,

Signature on File

Scot Thurman
Executive Director
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