

Runaway and Homeless Youth Training & Technical Assistance Center

Tip Sheet: MGH Collaboration with Head Start

MGHs Working in Collaboration with Head Start

Maternity group homes provide a number of services to meet the short- and long-term needs of pregnant and parenting youth. MGH grantees are required to teach young people parenting skills as well as child development, family budgeting, health and nutrition, and other skills to promote their long-term economic independence and ensure the well-being of their children.

Program Requirements

MGH grantees are required to provide youth and their children the following services, either directly or by referral:

- Safe, stable living accommodations

- Basic life-skill building, including consumer education and instruction in budgeting, using credit, housekeeping, menu planning, food preparation, and parenting skills

- Interpersonal skill building, including enhancing young people's abilities to establish positive relationships with peers and adults, make decisions, and manage stress

- Educational opportunities, such as GED preparation, postsecondary training, or vocational education

- Assistance in job preparation and attainment, such as career counseling and job placement

- Education, information, and counseling to prevent, treat, and reduce substance abuse

- Mental health care, including individual and group counseling

- Physical health care, including routine physicals, health assessments, and emergency treatment

- Child-safe transitional and independent living accommodations

- Education in parenting, child discipline, and safety as well as direct supervision of parenting and related domestic skills

- Mental, physical, and reproductive health care, including individual and family counseling of parent and child

- Resources to help youth identify reliable and affordable child care

- Lessons in money management and use of credit

- Services to promote parents' educational advancement

- Facilitation of parent involvement in local schools and other child education programs



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(p) 888.290.7233

(w) rhyttac.net

(e) info@rhyttac.net

(fb) /rhyttac

(tw) @rhyttac

NSPN

2429 Crittenden Drive
Louisville, KY 40217

(w) nspnetwork.org

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Runaway and Homeless
Youth Training & Technical
Assistance Center

Operated by:



Runaway and Homeless Youth Training & Technical Assistance Center



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(fb) /nspnetwork
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Head Start and Early Head Start Programs

Head Start is a national program that provides comprehensive developmental services for low-income preschool children ages 3 to 5 and social services for their families. Head Start programs promote school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children by providing educational, health, nutritional, social and other services to enrolled children and families. They engage parents in their children's learning and help them to make progress toward their educational, literacy and employment goals. Significant emphasis is placed on the involvement of parents in the administration of local Head Start programs, and in developing family and community partnerships.

The Early Head Start program assists low-income families with infants and toddlers, including children with disabilities, and pregnant women. Participants receive the same comprehensive child development education, health, nutrition, and mental health services as Head Start families.

To Qualify for Head Start

Children from birth to 5 years from families with income below the poverty line are eligible for Head Start (preschool-age children) and Early Head Start services (birth to 3 years and pregnant women). Children from families receiving public assistance are also eligible for Head Start and Early Head Start services regardless of family income. Foster children are also eligible for Head Start and Early Head Start regardless of their foster family's income.

Length of Services for Head Start

Head Start: 3 to 5 years
Early Head Start: zero to 3 years

Additional Resources

The National Clearinghouse on Families and Youth has multiple resources relating to providing services to pregnant and parenting youth and their children. This resource can be accessed at: <http://ncfy.acf.hhs.gov/search/site/pregnant%20and%20parenting%20youth>

To locate a Head Start Program near you: The Head Start Program Directory provides a list of current Head Start grantees: http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/hslc_grantee_directory

For more information or to request technical assistance on MGH Collaboration with Head Start:

Call: (888) 290-7233
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