

STUDIO BLUE YOUTH SERVICES

Residential Program

FAQ'S

- **What is the age range for your program?**
 - 15-18 years old.
- **Do I have to have been trafficked to admit to your program?**
 - No, youth at risk of being trafficked or vulnerable to exploitation can admit to our program.
- **Do I have to live at your residence to receive counselling?**
 - No, The Women's Centre offers a range of outreach counselling services for anyone needing support.
- **How long can I stay at the residence?**
 - There is no timeframe as each youth has a unique set of circumstances and some may need to stay longer before they are ready to live on their own. The program is made to be between 9-12 months in length.
- **What does the Studio Blue residence offer?**
 - Safety, a supportive living environment, nutritious meals and snacks, transportation to/from school and medical appointments, counselling staff on-shift 24/7. We are committed to ensuring all youth have weather and age-appropriate clothing, and have access to medical, dental, and other services. Groups are mandatory and there is a weekly house meeting for all residents to discuss any issues arising in the residence. We work on life-skills, resume building, cooking, etc. during their stay.
- **Can I call myself to receive services or does someone else have to refer me?**
 - You can call and self-refer to our program at any time.
- **Does it cost money to stay there?**
 - We are a fee-for-service program. Our rent will be discussed with you prior to intake. If you do not have an income, you will not be expected to pay until that is set up with you and we will help you to secure an income.
- **What if I need money while I am staying there?**
 - Most everything you need will be supplied (personal needs items, transportation, snacks). We even have passes available for some recreational activities like the YMCA, etc.

- Depending on your circumstances, there are some options available. You may qualify for Ontario Works or ODSP and we will help to support through this process, or you may find you are ready and able to find a job.
- **Can I have my pet with me?**
 - Unfortunately, pets are not allowed at the residence.
- **Can my friends and family visit me while I live at the residence?**
 - As we need to have respect for the confidentiality of other people living in the residence, you will be encouraged to visit with your friends outside of the residence. Family can visit but they will be limited to the counselling room. Any person that you have identified as being abusive, will not be allowed on the property.
- **Can I have my cellphone/laptop/tablet with me while I am living at the residence?**
 - You are able to keep your personal device while living at the residence. We consider your safety and the safety of other youth in the residence with respect to phone and social media use. Devices are only limited if a safety or confidentiality issue arises.
- **Will I have to share a room?**
 - When the residence has more than 7 people, you *may* have to share a room. We know this can be difficult, but staff will help you and your roommate to share your space as well as personal space and time. The bathrooms are shared amongst all residents.
- **Will I have to do chores?**
 - Yes, all the residents have the responsibility to help keep the residence clean and tidy. Each resident is required to sign up for specific chores throughout the week. In addition, you will be required to keep your bedroom space clean and tidy and work together with other residents in keeping the bathrooms clean.
- **Will I be allowed to take overnights?**
 - If you are connected with your family and wish to spend a night with them, that will can be allowed, as long as your parent/guardian has verified this with staff.
 - Spending the night at a friends' can be considered, but we will need to have to have the permission of your parent/guardian as well as knowing details of where you will be and with whom you will be with.
- **Where will I end up going when I am ready to move on from the Program?**
 - It is our hope that you have worked with staff on an exit plan. This may include returning to family, moving to a foster home, or getting your own apartment. Through your work with staff, you will have the opportunity to

learn many life skills that will help you to live on your own (such as cooking skills, budgeting, cleaning, etc.).

- **What happens if I break a rule?**
 - Staff will discuss this with you in private, giving you an opportunity to discuss the matter and have a say in what consequences you should have for your actions.

- **I smoke cigarettes and marijuana. Can I smoke these on the property?**
 - It is illegal for anyone under the age of 19 to have and purchase cigarettes. Therefore, cigarettes are not permitted inside the house.
 - Marijuana is not permitted in the house
 - Clients are provided a outside lockbox to store certain belongings that are not permitted inside.
 - Please note that staff can connect youth with addiction services if the youth expresses their desire to pursue.

- **I have medication – will I be allowed to keep this in my room?**
 - All residents will have a locked box that is kept in the office. Staff will dispense your medication at the appropriate time. The only medication that residents will be allowed to keep with them would be things like puffers, nitroglycerin, epi-pen, or other life-safe necessities that you would normally carry with you.