

Community Homes

Carson Valley Children's Aid (CVCA)

developed the **Community Homes** model in 1998 to meet the needs of youth, between the ages of 14 and 20, who have the potential to thrive in the community yet present behavior problems that are too difficult to manage in a traditional foster home. Community Homes are licensed treatment foster homes. A live-in Professional Parent nurtures and supports youth in homes operated and maintained by CVCA. Community Homes are located throughout Philadelphia and Montgomery counties. Up to four youths may reside in each home. Youths attend neighborhood schools and participate in social and recreational activities in the community.

Referral Criteria

Community Homes are designed for youth who have had multiple placements as well as for youth who have been in congregate care and are now capable of functioning in a less restrictive environment. Youths may continue to require behavioral health services and must be willing to continue to participate in supportive services. Youths must also be able to navigate the community independently using public transportation. Youth currently being placed for truancy will be thoroughly assessed to determine if placement in Community Homes is appropriate - youth must be able to travel to and from school independently.

Exclusionary Criteria

Community Homes is not designed for children, who are active fire setters, substance users, currently psychotic, or unable to complete activities of daily living independently or have a chronic or severe medical condition.



Intended Outcomes

Community Homes is designed to assist youth with gaining social, emotional and life skills needed to live successfully in the community. Community Homes also assists aging out youth with transitioning from out of home care. CVCA collaborates with each youth's natural support network and referring agency to assist the youth:

- Establish a permanent connection;
- Progress in an educational or vocational setting;
- Obtain employment; and
- Secure a safe place to live when leaving out of home care.

Staffing and Services

Professional Parent

The Professional Parent is responsible for the daily operations of the Community Home and the general well-being of the children residing in the home. The Professional Parent provides therapeutic teaching, counseling and positive reinforcement which promote the development of pro-social skills.

Parent Supervisor

In addition to supervising Professional Parents, the Parent Supervisor manages all aspects of a youth's care. The Parent supervisor provides each youth with individual counseling and assists youth with connecting with supports in the community. The Parent Supervisor serves as a liaison with referral sources, the courts and children's biological families.

Life Skills Coordinator

The Life Skills Coordinators are responsible for the development and implementation of the individual and group life skills activities. Life Skills Coordinators plan and facilitates "Life Prep University" (LPU) which is designed to support youth in their efforts to live independently. Skill development sessions related to career readiness, money management, daily living, self-care, decision making, healthy relationships, and housing are provided up to four days a week at CVCA's Allegheny West center. LPU also includes community service and volunteer/internship opportunities with local businesses and organizations.

Mission

Carson Valley Children's Aid is dedicated to delivering services to children, youth and families that ensure their safety, build on their strengths, honor their differences and empower them to achieve their goals for success in life.

Vision

For children, youth and families to realize their potential and thrive.

Guiding Principles

Optimism	Unity
Inclusiveness	Trust
Compassion	Accountability



To make a referral, please call
215.225.2649 ext. 140 or 108

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