SUPERVISED INDEPENDENT LIVING
PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Program Offices: 57 E. Armat St. - Philadelphia, PA 19144 (215) 842-4800

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President/CEO: Jonathan Solomons
Director: Staci Boyd

Mission Statement of Tabor Children’s Services Inc.
Tabor Children’s Services is committed to providing culturally-competent, cost-effective quality services that ensure the safety of children, youth, adults, and families; enhance the development of children and youth; secure the children’s right to permanent families; foster the integrity of the family; and promote the mental health and improved functioning of children and adults seeking stability and independence.

Keeping children safe...Strengthening families...Promoting independence

Mission Statement of Supervised Independent Living Program
We are committed to supporting positive youth development by facilitating youth skill enhancement to promote successful independent living.

The program is committed to serving youth who are approaching the age of emancipation from dependent or delinquent placement and need support and services to ensure their success upon discharge. This program will give them an opportunity to develop and apply competency-based skills that will allow a more successful transition out of the dependency or delinquency system. Our goal is to ensure that adolescents successfully obtain needed skills to reach their highest potential and achieve independence.

Once services end, successful program participants have an established residence including paid first and last month’s rent, security deposit and furnishings appropriate to their needs. Each will be expected to have completed or be approaching completion of an educational program of their choice and have full or part-time employment. They will have experience maintaining an apartment, accessing community resources, negotiating utilities, budgeting, nutritious food preparation and positive interpersonal relationships. For program participants who violate any portion of the program contract, intervention with contractor support, consequences or even termination of services can occur.
I. Population Served:

Youth who are adjudicated dependent or delinquent to the county and meet the eligibility requirements for independent living services. Youth must be approaching 18 years of age, participate in life skills training and be committed to obtaining further education with the intent to become self-sufficient.

II. Length of Program:

Length of service in the supervised independent living (SIL) program is dependent upon the following factors:
(1) the client’s compliance with referring agency program requirements;
(2) the purchasing agency’s willingness to continue to provide support to the client; and
(3) the client’s desire to remain in the program.
All youth will be discharged at age 21 unless a special contractual arrangement is made with the purchasing agency.

III. Criteria for Participation:

A. Applicants must be adjudicated dependent or delinquent by the county and referred by the purchasing agency to be considered for admission. The referring agency must provide a dependency review order which adjudicates the child to their custody along with complete and appropriate referral documentation, including a Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment.

B. Applicants may be referred prior to their 18th birthday, but will not be admitted to the program until they have reached the age of 17 1/2 years old.

C. Applicants must be enrolled and participating in an approved educational program with a demonstrated record of attendance and success, or be enrolled in an educational program beginning within three (3) months of program acceptance.

D. Applicants must have demonstrated a level of social and emotional maturity, as assessed by the care giver or youth representative and social workers to live independently, and as demonstrated in their school attendance and progress.

E. Applicants must have part-time employment or be capable and willing to obtain part-time employment prior to admission or within the first three (3) months of program participation.

F. Applicants must adhere to the program’s behavior code as detailed in the client contract.

G. Applicants must include a copy of their health history including immunizations and drug screen with their application or will be requested to submit to testing at the SIL interview.

H. Tabor’s SIL program is not appropriate for youth who: have a known drug and alcohol addiction; have significant to severe mental health diagnosis; are known to be violent; are destructive to themself, others or property; are facing pending charges which may lead to incarceration; are failing school; or have an extensive history of non-compliance.
IV. Application Process:

The referral unit of the referring agency will call or fax a request for services to Tabor’s intake department. An application packet will be considered ready for processing when the following completed documents have been received from the purchasing representative:

✓ recent physical examination, including drug screen
✓ most recent psychological evaluation/mental health assessment
✓ proof of enrollment in an approved educational program
✓ most recent report card/transcript
✓ birth certificate of applicant (and child when applicable)
✓ name/address/telephone number of support persons
✓ medical card of applicant (and children when applicable)
✓ social summary including family history
  CANS Assessment
✓ Family Service Plan with dependency review order - service plan developed for the family and the court order giving the County Office of Children, Youth and Families (CYF) physical custody of the youth.
✓ criminal history report with identified probation officer
✓ probation supervision plan and court order

The SIL supervisor and social workers will meet with the applicant, his/her CYF social worker/probation officer or care giver to introduce the youth to Tabor’s SIL staff, provide a tour of a SIL residence, give an overview of Tabor’s SIL program and answer questions. This interview allows the SIL staff to assess the applicant’s readiness and willingness to participate in the program as well as the youth to assess the program.

All youth accepted into the SIL program are given a list of expectations regarding their conduct, employment, and education participation. These expectations are participation requirements and non-compliance with any expectation can be cause for discharge from the SIL program.

V. Commitment of the Program:

The program is committed to serving youth who are approaching the age of emancipation and need additional support to ensure their success upon discharge from their placement setting. While individuals get to observe life skills, typically they do not have the opportunity to practice them independently. This program gives the participants an opportunity to apply learned life skills, and learn new skills that will set the stage for a more successful transition out of the dependency or delinquency system. To this end the program will provide personal growth and development counseling, service coordination, referral services and support to all youth accepted for services.

A. Life Skills and Youth Development:
Within the first (30) thirty days of placement, every six (6) months thereafter and at the time of discharge, participants will complete the Ansell-Casey Life Skills Assessment (ACLSA) to determine key areas of strength and areas of development where the youth may need additional training. In both group and individual settings, Tabor social workers address with youth the continued acquisition of life skills that will lead to financial self-sufficiency and preparation for adulthood. Participants will learn life skills in the following areas: educational, vocational and career planning; work life, including job ethics and study habits; decision-making, goal planning use of leisure time and self-reliance; social relationships, including communication, negotiation, and conflict resolution; use of mental health resources, housing, and other community resources; budgeting, financial planning, banking and money management; responsibilities of living as an adult, including household maintenance, food purchase, preparation, and storage, and clothing purchase and care; and self care, including nutrition, exercise, safe education and family planning.

Housing assistance will be provided by the participant’s social worker and will include: locating a residence and using rental agents; negotiating and signing a lease; communicating with a landlord; knowing tenants’ rights and responsibilities; learning about and connecting with housing advocacy groups within the community; and preventing actions that may lead to an eviction. Housing options, locating and choosing affordable housing. Participants will also be encouraged to connect with and attend meetings related to housing issues. With help from their social worker, youth will identify and locate an affordable apartment in a neighborhood in which they would like to live. The apartment chosen will be in keeping with their ability to pay the monthly rent based on their income.

Consideration must be given to the youth’s ability to maintain the rental fee post program discharge. Once an apartment has been identified the assigned social worker will accompany the participant to the management company and assist them in lease negotiations to ensure their rights are not violated and that they understand the document that is being signed.

Upon move-in participants will be given the following household items to set up housekeeping:

- ✓ full size bed, dresser, dining table with chairs and sofa
- ✓ cooking utensils, pots, pans, plates, cups and flatware
- ✓ sheets, towels and bedding cleaning supplies
- ✓ gift cards to obtain a one month supply of food
- ✓ monthly transpass to access public transportation

**B. Education:**

All participants will be required to attend and complete an approved, goal-directed educational program including high school, college/university, vocational or technical training, or a GED preparatory course, depending on the most appropriate setting to meet the participant’s needs. An educational plan will be developed for each participant and, to the extent possible, Tabor social workers will communicate regularly with school personnel to ensure coordination of service goals, objectives, and delivery.

Participants must maintain an appropriate level of participation and attendance in their chosen program. A copy of reports showing satisfactory progress within the
course of study are required to be provided to the SIL social worker routinely and included in reports to the county. For programs that issue grade reports, a grade that is identified as failing by the program’s standards (D’s and F’s) will require correction and improvement. Improvement must be noted in the subsequent grade period if failing grades are received. Assistance will be provided to access tutorial services. Participants who consistently receive a failing grade will receive counseling regarding their options. Those who become non-compliant or consistently fail risk being discharged from Tabor’s program and the county, due to inability to receive a continued board extension after age 18. The assigned social worker will provide supplemental educational counseling and assist the participant in enrolling in a program that will meet their educational needs and career goals if they are not enrolled at the time of admission and at any time during program participation.

C. Employment:
All participants will be expected to work part-time as a necessary supplement to their stipend check. This will enable them to have enough money to meet their personal needs and allow them a sense of independence. The assigned social worker will provide job readiness/job placement and career counseling services to help youth attain the skills necessary to obtain and maintain employment. Participants who are not employed upon entering the program will be given three (3) months to obtain employment using the resources provided by the social worker, the Achieving Independence Center (AIC) or other support agencies as appropriate.

Tabor social workers will teach participants money management skills including: basic banking such as opening an account and making deposits and withdrawals; developing and adhering to a budget; knowing the importance of saving money; using basic bookkeeping skills; balancing a checkbook; paying bills on time; learning how to prevent financial problems and understanding the implications of everyday decisions; and learning where to seek appropriate money management and consumer advice.

D. Health and Behavioral Health:
Each youth is connected to a health care facility and has an assigned primary care physician who completes their assessment and health care form provided by the agency. SIL participants are encouraged to take an active role in their health care and when possible, are involved in selecting their health care provider. All youth are taught how to locate, select and access emergency and routine health care services, including scheduling appointments for themselves. Age-appropriate health education, including pregnancy prevention, is provided during peer group meetings and individual sessions with the social worker. The SIL program utilizes the services of agencies such as Planned Parenthood to provide HIV/AIDS/STD education/prevention and family planning counseling. The program also utilizes online services and other health educators to provide information on good physical and mental health and how to access needed services.

Education and counseling regarding sexuality, healthy attitudes toward sex and sexuality, and taking responsibility for one’s own sexual behavior will be provided to all SIL participants. The following will be addressed: physiological information;
personal hygiene; communication skills; personal, family and cultural values; long-
term and permanent friendships, relationships with a family, self-respect and its
relationship to sexual behaviors; understanding sexual orientation; prevention of
sexually transmitted diseases; pregnancy prevention; pregnancy options; and
information on the recognition, prevention, and impact of sexual abuse and other
sexual victimization.
Youth will have access to counseling and/or mental health services when deemed
necessary and appropriate. All new participants will be referred to Tabor’s
outpatient mental health clinic or a resource of their choice in order to determine if
additional services are needed. If therapy is recommended, social workers will
encourage youth to follow through with appointments and support them in any
way necessary. If medication is prescribed, participants will be informed of all
possible risks, benefits and alternatives, and informed consent will be obtained.

E. Financial Support and Allowance:
Each participant will receive a stipend from Tabor to be used for maintaining their
apartment, paying utilities and purchasing necessities. Social workers assist each
client with a monthly budget plan and participants will be encouraged to save a
portion of their income in a savings account or join Tabor’s savings program. Social
workers will collect payment receipts from youth to ensure that utilities are being
paid on time.
Participants who are enrolled in an educational program and have provided
documentation to the social worker will receive a monthly transpass. If participants
own cars and have no need for a transpass, they will receive a small transportation
stipend for assistance with gas.

F. Clothing, Accessories and Personal Appearances:
At admission, the assigned social worker will conduct an inventory of the
participant’s clothing and possessions to ensure an adequate amount of seasonally-
appropriate attire. Using the budget plan created with the social worker, each
youth will be responsible for purchasing clothing when necessary and ensuring that
it is appropriately cared for. Social workers will oversee participants’ spending and
purchases by collecting receipts for clothing and necessities.

G. Social, Cultural and Recreational Activities:
Youth are encouraged to expand their educational and cultural horizons by
participating in activities that are diverse and spiritually enhancing. Monthly group
meetings are used to inform youth about culturally diverse activities that are
available in the community and social workers assist youth in locating them.

H. Referrals:
Many services that the participants need may not be provided directly by Tabor.
Therefore, the assigned social worker will coordinate services to ensure continuity
of care and that youth receive the necessary services for success during and after
their participation in the program. If they have not yet been referred, all youth will
be referred to the Achieving Independence Center (AIC). Participants will be
supported in their choices, provided options for services, and encouraged and
assisted in advocating for their rights to services in all areas.
Supervised Independent Living Program

Program Services:

1. Apartment set-up  first and last month’s rent, security deposit, furnishings (bed, mattress, linens, towels, blanket/comforter, dresser, sofa, kitchen table and chairs, pots and pans, dishes, flatware, glasses, cleaning supplies) and groceries

2. Financial subsidy  rent paid, cash stipend, food vouchers, monthly transpass, disaster support, budgeting, banking

3. Case management  in-home social services; informational, skill-building and issue resolution group meetings; modeling; advocacy; monitoring; referral and intervention services; includes all topics addressed in program description; 24 hour on-call services for emergencies

4. Counseling  individual in-home counseling regarding all aspects of independent living and progress made on service plan; group counseling at SIL meetings monthly; out-patient counseling and psychiatric referrals

Program Requirements:

1. Compliance with all stipulations and expectations included in the program participant contract and other program documents.

2. Compliance with all mandates and conditions set forth by the probation department.

3. Enrollment and participation in an educational program of choice with passing grades.

4. Cooperative scheduling and maintenance of weekly home visits with assigned social worker.

5. Participation in all SIL group meetings as scheduled.

6. Provision of grocery, utility and other receipts equaling amount of support.

Rights of youth participants: Program participants are entitled to the following:
1. Social work staff who respond to youth concerns and collateral contacts within 24 hours and in emergencies within one hour.

2. Full range of supportive case management services, advocacy and referral services.

3. Participation in joint service planning that will address the youth’s priorities as well as skill development needs.

4. Choice of education program and housing location.

**Requirements of youth participants are detailed in the SIL Contract.**

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