

# What Are Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Saying About Housing?



## Emergency Housing

### What would make you want to recommend this to a family member or a friend?

- **Clean** facility
- Hot meals/ **quality** food
- Multiple showers
- **Qualified** counselors & case managers with experience in the work
- Hygiene products
- Blankets, bath towels, wash rags
- Reputation for being a safe & **neutral** place
- Community center with TV and **computers**
- Staff designated to help with **transition plans**
- Community/bulletin board (jobs/ housing/ education/healthcare/ **UP TO DATE referrals**)
- Storage space
- Secure lockers
- **Security**/surveillance (camera and enough staff)
- **Staff** that care about clients

### What services or support would you need?

- **LGBTQQ** Friendly
- **Food** & laundry
- Provide **bus fare**
- **Mentors** (Big Bro/Big Sis)
- **Case managers** to help transition into services
- **One stop** card
- **Job assistance** (job search, resume writing, cover letter writing, interview skills, providing professional clothing)
- **Youth friendly** clothes and accessories (Ex: belts, scarves, hats, gloves, underwear, bras, etc)
- Individual, family and group **therapy**
- **Education** assistance
- **Parenting** classes
- **Referrals** to community based programs
- **Inspirational** and **motivational** talks for the clients

### What would make it feel like this service is for you?

- Good **word-of-mouth** from prior clients
- **Experienced case managers** that can provide one-on-one support and aren't managing caseloads beyond their capacity
- **Similar youth** making it
- **Motivation** from peers—Peer Leaders
- **Proven results**
- **Bilingual** (Spanish/English)
- **Disabled friendly** (elevator/ramps)
- **Culturally relevant and competent**
- **LGBTQQ** friendly
- **Fast** sign in/check in/assessment
- **More staff**
- **Good inventory** so hygiene products are always available
- **Healthy and good food**
- Maintain tracking system (E.g. more **coordination** between shelters)

### What is the Transitional Age Youth Initiative (TAY SF)?

The Transitional Age Youth Initiative (TAY SF), the outgrowth of Mayor Newsom's Transitional Youth Task Force, is based in the belief that all young people can successfully transition into adulthood when given the proper support and opportunities in housing, employment, health and education.

### Who Are TAY (Transitional Age Youth)?

Transitional Age Youth are young people who are between the ages of 16 and 24 and are transitioning from public systems including foster care, juvenile justice & adult probation &/or are young parents, immigrants, have dropped out of high school, are homeless or have disabilities. TAY are the most disconnected & vulnerable youth & young adults in the City.

### Who are TAY-SF Young Adult Advocates?

The TAY SF young adult advocates are 16-24 year olds who are working in the community as service providers &/or as advocates. These youth and young adults have grown up in San Francisco and have either experienced these systems or are currently working with the disconnected TAY population. These meetings are a space for **gathering information, sharing information and resources & creating policy recommendations** for the City/County of San Francisco to better serve this population.

## Transitional Housing

### What would make you want to recommend this to a family member or a friend?

- **Only for 16 to 24** year olds
- **Affordable daycare**
- **Food/pantry** connections
- **Furnished** already
- **Recreation** like swimming pool and basketball hoop
- Connected/contracted with **one agency** to be better coordinated but has up to date information on other resources and referrals.
- **Laundry** room with washer and dryer
- Has a **community service** component incorporated it into it's programming. (co-op style sign up sheets for everyone living in the unit to give back to the community & builds community as well)
- **Transition-focused**—are actively moving a young person along from the spectrum of housing types/opportunities so that the youth won't get stuck there.
- Can **help with security deposit** as part of transition plan

### What services or support would you need?

- Centralized main office to get info/**resources**/utilities help (e.g. PG&E)
- **Education support** (i.e. diploma programs/ referrals; tutors; **career planning informing education plan/FAFSA**; book voucher assistance)
- **Employment support** i.e. clothes for interviews; Resume writing; training on interviewing skills; internships – to work in city departments
- Help with **debt**
- Provide **safe, legal** activities: movie nights, basketball team
- **On site guidance** counselors/ mentors
- **Etiquette**: how to talk to people professionally (ex: proper grammar, social classes)
- **Life skill trainings** used to build accountability (once a month meeting that they must attend)
- **Financial literacy**
- **Substance abuse** and **mental health services**
- **Parenting** classes
- Help with **background checks** & obtaining social security cards

### What would make it feel like this service is for you?

- **Youthful staff and adult allies**—you can feel that they care about youth-- Having young people work there or someone who's been through it can ease the communication barriers.
- Staff are **willing to help** and are there for you
- Regular staff **evaluations**
- Staff receive **youth competency training**
- Programming and services are **culturally competent**
- On-site **library**
- Community **computer** room
- **Resource room**—one spot to get information about jobs/ scholarships/ opportunities
- Prominent **music and art** programming—seen in murals, digital stories, and open mic
- An **art wall**
- Auditorium/**community** room
- Community **garden**
- **Pet friendly** space

### What are the general barriers to housing that TAY face?

Many youth and young adults that we interviewed stated these to being the major barriers they face in obtaining stable housing:

- Discrimination (age, sexual orientation, race and class)
- Location of housing is often unsafe
- Educational goals not respected (often, landlords want young people to work full time)
- Children and lack of family style housing
- Language barriers
- Incredibly long waitlists
- Transition planning not always the main priority in programming
- City workers and service providers have huge caseloads and there isn't enough capacity to provide well rounded services
- Requirements often too stringent and unrealistic
- Very low vacancy in San Francisco
- Housing specifically for young mothers

## Mixed & Supportive Housing

### What would make you want to recommend this to a family member or a friend?

- **Stability**
- **Affordable** and there are **different levels** of assistance ready for **independence**
- Supports **financial stability** and financial literacy workshops
- **Safe living conditions** and an improved environment
- Able to **save money**
- **Mixed** in with above market rate **housing**

### What services or support would you need?

- **Resource center**
- **Child care**
- **Fresh food**
- Close to or a **recreation** center in house
- **Pet friendly**
- Offers bulletin board with opportunities to get **life skills** education
- Close to **public transportation**, or maybe shuttle service to designated drop off points around city.
- Parking, free **laundry**, vending machines (hygiene, snacks and drinks)
- **Sound-proof** units
- Pest control
- Provide **jobs to tenants** rather than outsource (i.e. janitorial positions, maintenance)

### What would make it feel like this service is for you?

- **Sense of community...** by having young people interact with one another through game nights movie nights ect. ,
- **Comfortable and safe....** “ a place that feels like home”, a place that makes you proud, independence, open to new possibilities...“it would make me feel like someone cares”
- **Affordable physical and mental health services.**

### What are solutions offered to us by transitional age youth?

All youth and young adults that we interviewed stressed the importance of having housing be transportation accessible as well as have clean and safe facilities without asbestos or lead walls.

- Waiting Center where people can go check their waitlist status
- More programs/targeted outreach for those who are stuck in the middle i.e. couch surfers
- More leaders/speakers and agencies getting the word out about programs in CBOs and schools
- Free legal assistance
- Utilizing abandoned buildings to make more housing for transitional age youth
- More regulations for landlords and their conduct towards their tenants
- When youth turn 18 and have been on government assistance for more than 10 years, a transitional program is in place to help them off.
- 24 hour drop-in center
- Shelters shouldn't feel like prisons

### This information was gathered from the following:

- ✓ December 2009 Young Adult Advocate Meeting (18 youth and young adult service providers)
- ✓ Street outreach conducted in the Fillmore and Western Addition throughout December, 2009 with over 25 youth and young adults
- ✓ Housing training & focus group conducted at New American Media on January 20, 2010 with 8 youth & young adult interns

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Check out our website: [www.taysf.org](http://www.taysf.org) for resources & more information

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