

BUILD *futures*

MISSION

Build Futures' mission is to enable homeless youth ages 18 to 24 to develop a skill-set to become independent, contributing members of our community by connecting them with stable housing, wraparound services and mentorship.

Build Futures assists youth as they move from surviving on the streets to a future free from homelessness and poverty. Our goal is to end homelessness among youth in Orange County addressing an urgent community need and an underserved population.

PROGRAM

The Build Futures' innovative, collaborative program of intervention uses existing non-profit organizations, community services, faith based organizations, educational institutions and volunteers to provide housing and services to meet a gap in the service continuum. Key stakeholders will include nonprofits focusing on housing, employment, academics/education, medical, mental health service and basic needs.

Build Futures will act as an overall case management umbrella complimenting, enhancing and extending the work of these agencies. A unique part of the program focuses on assisting youth to develop the critical skills they need to obtain, maintain, and succeed in the work place and in academic and vocational training programs. Our approach addresses the more extensive needs of this population and considers the developmental challenges they face.

While evidence based outcomes vary by youth, the first outcome is always stable and safe housing, other outcomes will include completion of High School or GED, driver's license, birth certificate, social security card, medical insurance, stable job and job skills, FAFSA/financial aid help, continuing education with the goal of completing college or job skill training and reliable transportation.



NEED

In Orange County, 70% to 90% of the homeless population has no housing available to them. Build Futures is specifically focusing on the most underserved segment of the homeless population; youth ages 18 to 24 in Orange County. Documented statistics include:

- 22,000 documented homeless youth in Orange County public schools K-12, has doubled in four years
- 211 received over 400 calls or 15 a day in February 2010 from youth ages 12 to 24 for housing assistance
- Unemployment among 16 to 24 year olds has exploded to 42.6% as of April 2010 – this may be the hardest hit segment of the population during this recession

A commitment to youth this age is a commitment to prevention. If left on the streets, these youth become the chronically homeless, criminals, welfare mothers, prostitutes, drug addicts, alcoholics and gang members. With this model the whole community benefits.