

The Link: An Assessment of Youth Homelessness Prevention

A Project funded by the Homelessness Knowledge Development, Homelessness Partnering Strategy, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada

Project Team & Partners

The Principal Researcher for this study is Dr. Deborah Rutman. Co-Principal Researchers are Carol Hubberstey and Sharon Hume. Project partners: Aunt Leah's Place Society and the School of Social Work, University of Victoria.

Project purpose

The purpose of this project is to identify promising approaches and practices that support youth/young adults who have 'aged' out of foster care, particularly in relation to preventing or reducing homelessness amongst this particularly vulnerable population of Canadian youth.

Project Background and Overview

Aunt Leah's Link program former youth from care to successfully transition out of government care and live independently. The program is for young people ages 19 to 25, and provides support in a variety of areas including help with housing, job searches, education planning, goal-setting, applying for income assistance, and linking youth to needed community services. Short-term emergency housing is also available, as well as access to food, clothing and other supplies if needed.

This evaluation project aims to find out what difference this type of support makes for young people transitioning to independence in order to better understand what makes a positive difference to young adults during this transition period.

Project Methodology

The study proposes to track two groups of approximately 20 youth each – thus a total of approximately 40 youth – over an 18 month period, comparing outcomes for youth who participate in *The Link*, with outcomes for those who do not receive this kind of post-care support. The project will compare the experiences of youth in the *Link* program with those of youth who have chosen not to use this support program.

This study will also provide opportunities for youth to voice their perspective on what it's like to live on their own after being in care.

Project timeframe

September 2012 – March, 2014

For more information, please contact:

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