Each year in Philadelphia, an estimated 3,000 children prepare to leave the child welfare system. Studies have shown that without support, a significant portion of youth transitioning from care experience homelessness, victimization, unemployment and dependency on various types of public assistance.

To help this population make a successful transition to adulthood, DHS established the Achieving Independence Center (AIC), which aims to ensure that youth leaving care have an opportunity to develop independent living skills, build a network of social supports, and find safe, affordable housing and stable employment before they turn 21. The AIC is a collaborative one-stop Center that provides access to a full range of independent living services to meet each youth's individual transition needs.

As a one-stop shop, the AIC operates Monday – Thursday from 9:00 AM – 7 PM and 9:00 AM – 5 PM on Fridays. Youth access the Center from noon – 7 PM Monday – Thursday and noon – 5 PM on Fridays. During the summer months, the Center opens and closes one hour earlier Monday – Thursday. A variety of agencies provide individual and group-based services to youth in the areas of goal planning, counseling, wellness, education, employment, life skills, healthy relationships, creative expression, entrepreneurship and housing. Transportation assistance is provided to youth participating at AIC.

Valley Youth House, as the lead agency operating the AIC on behalf of the Department of Human Services, is seeking an agency to provide food preparation, nutrition, and culinary education, and exposure to culinary careers at the Achieving Independence Center (AIC). The population targeted for education and prevention services are 14-20 year-old youth who are currently or were adjudicated dependent on or after their 14th birthday. These services will consist of education and cooking workshops, individual sessions, consultation with participants and the staff members at AIC. An agency is desired with extensive youth-focused professional experience addressing all aspects with basic cooking instruction, kitchen safety and skills, and connection to culinary careers.

The goals for program participants will include the following:

- Instruction and skill growth on nutrition, food preparation
- Increase youth knowledge on kitchen skills/safety and kitchen cleaning skills
- Increase youth knowledge about culinary careers
- To provide a nonjudgmental environment to ask questions and develop youth confidence when planning, cooking, and sharing food
- To support individuals in budgeting, shopping, and meal planning

Proposals must be limited to ten pages, including the budget.

Interested applicants may apply by sending an application to rfp@valleyyouthhouse.org by June 1, 2018.
Name of Agency:
Agency Street Address:
Executive Director Name:
Executive Director Email Address:
Executive Director Telephone Number:
Does Agency have 501(c)(3) designation?
Years agency has been in operation:
Key Program Contact:
Key Contact Telephone Number:

1. Overview of Agency & Mission

2. Past history of implementing culinary and nutrition services to youth and young adults ages 14-20.

3. Explain the agency’s approach to working with teens and young adults.

4. Describe how workshops and group instruction will be implemented to increase youth knowledge and culinary skills.

5. Describe how youth will be supported in developing skills in the classroom kitchen that translate to “home”.

6. Explain the outputs and outcomes for participants, and methods for tracking the identified outcomes.

7. How does your organization recognize youth success and knowledge gain?

8. Describe the agency’s experience working in a collaborative setting with multiple partnering agencies.

9. Proposed program budget: Must not exceed $90,000.