BRIDGE2HOME Host Homes FAQs

1. How are host homes different from foster care?
   1a. Is there financial assistance for the volunteer Host?

Host homes are a prevention and diversion from entering the foster care system or youth exiting the foster care system. Foster care youth are already system and court involved. Host Homes connect youth who are experiencing homelessness or housing instability with volunteer homes in the community so that they will not have to enter the court system.

Bridge2Home provides a monthly stipend to help provide for basic needs for the Youth.

2. What does it mean to have youth choice?

Youth choice is about acknowledging the fact that young people deserve to have the freedom over their own lives and choices. Youth choice means giving youth the power to choose the host they like most. Ultimately, we want young people to be their own voice of change and growth. Host Homes encourage youth voice and choice and are voluntary.

3. What are the protections and oversights to provide the best Host/Youth match?

The application process for Hosts is a multi-stage process that first involves a formal background check. Hosts complete paperwork on their background, their views, their beliefs, their household rules, etc. Youth choice is central to the host home program as well. Youth will be given the opportunity to meet their potential Host(s) to have input in the final decision on whether or not it’s a match for them and vice versa. The program will maintain close contact with Hosts in addition to intensive case management with youth to navigate any conflict and to ensure that host homes are a supported and encouraging home.

4. What are the expectations and rules of becoming a Host/Youth match?

Hosts set their own house rules and expectations. Therefore, these will look different for every host home. Both Hosts and the Youth will meet together (with the case manager/Host coordinator) to walk through their rules/expectations and develop a Host/Youth agreement together. Youth will also have expectations for what makes them feel safe at home and those are equally as important as the hosts are.

How is Bridge2Home handling COVID-19?

Referrals and applications for Youth who would benefit from the program are being taken and processed virtually and when necessary to have an in-person interview, PPE safety precautions and social distancing are used.

Host applications are always welcomed and encouraged to meet the need of applications. Information on how to obtain an application can be found at https://www.valleyouthhouse.org/programs/transitional-housing/bridge2home-host-homes/

The application process can begin by having the packet mailed. Any questions will be answered via the phone, text or emails. Potential match interviews can be setup practicing safe social distancing or by a virtual meeting.