



Care Enterprise, LLC

Solutions to Complex Problems

What is a Group Home for At-Risk Youth?

By Sharman G. Lawson

Group homes for at-risk teens and young adults have many names. They may be called therapeutic group homes, personal care homes, residential care centers and child caring institutions. Whatever a state chose to call the facility, the residence is there to house children, teens and young adults.

Programs: There are different types of programs operated in group homes. The program individuals come from the state's foster care system, transitioning or have aged out of the foster care system. Usually the programs that are run and operated in the homes are for at-risk or maximum oversight youth. The youth may have emotional, behavioral, sexual, mental, violent tendencies and even teen pregnancy challenges. All of the programs must be licensed through the state to operate.

Staff: Group homes are usually in a home-like setting designed to provide 24/7 shelter, three daily meals, snacks, therapy, activities, personal care assistance (if applicable), medication assistance, and aid with any activities for daily living, if applicable. The staff ideally are guides to help youth and young adults with life skills. The goal is to mentor the youth and equip them with tools to one day live independent with confidence. Life skills training includes cooking, cleaning, personal finances, career advice, tutoring, grooming, social skills, education guidance, interpersonal communication and other areas that will help the individuals become productive citizens.

Homes: Group homes include foster children, transitional living programs (TLP), independent living programs (ILP) and maternity living programs (MLP) for teen girls. In many states licensed group homes are for individuals from ages 12 to 24. Transitional living home ages can range from ages 14 to 17, depending on the state. Independent living homes usually have young adults with ages ranging from 18 to 24, depending on the state.

Rates: The reimbursement rates each state pays for program services and support for individuals in residence are different. There are usually a couple of ways to get paid as a licensed group home provider. First, payment is usually given from the state based on the individual's level of care, oversight and supervision. Those pay rates vary in each state. In many states, the second way to get paid, depending on the state, is room and board. Most of the individuals get social security payments, so part of the individual's social security check is used for rent to live in the group home. Most times the individuals receive part of the social security check as a monthly allowance. The monthly allowance for individuals is determined by each state.

In the care home industry the more you know the better. Whether your state certify, license or issue a permit for a group home to operate, now you are more informed in moving forward.

Sharman G. Lawson is the President of Care Enterprise, LLC. Care Enterprise license residential group homes and non-medical home care agencies in the U.S. Also, provide private home care provider agencies (PHCP) license training in Georgia. Her previous experience includes owning a care home consulting and training firm sold in 2017. Additionally, she has owned a licensed personal care home for the elderly, a host home for the mentally challenged and developmentally disabled, and a licensed childcare center. Sharman Lawson is also the author of the e-book *12 Steps to Eliminate Debt Forever!* Visit Care Enterprise, LLC website at www.careenterprisellc.com.

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Care Enterprise, LLC · Phone: 770-966-5236
· www.careenterprisellc.com