



## Host Homes FAQs

1. **Is there insurance coverage / protection for the host families through The Coffee Oasis?**

Yes. Coverage will be a combination of the Host Family's own home insurance and the basic liability insurance from the Coffee Oasis. We can provide a copy of The Coffee Oasis liability insurance if you are interested to see what it covers.

2. **What training is there for families who have little to no knowledge or experience about drug use, alcoholism, street culture, mental health illnesses, etc.?**

Host Families will receive the same basic trainings that Coffee Oasis staff and volunteers do. These trainings cover topics such as Behavioral Management, Mandatory Reporting, and Trauma and Domestic Violence. A full list is in the Host Family Application. Oasis staff will also be available to share personal insight and experiences that would be helpful to the Host Families.

3. **What is the length of stay for a youth in our home?**

The predetermined length of stay will be from 6 months to 1 year, with evaluations along the way.

4. **Is there a probationary period for us to see if it works out?**

A big change like this will take some settling in, for both the Host Family and the youth! Our hope is that through a thorough matching process, the youth will be a good fit for the home. There will be site visit to the Host Home, a Housing agreement created and signed by both the Host Family and youth, and preliminary meetings of the youth and Host Family facilitated by the Housing Manager. If the living situation is really not working there is opportunity to reevaluate. However, we also encourage Host Families to leave a period of time for adjustment and grace for the youth.

5. **Will there be an opportunity for interested families to meet one-on-one with families who have hosted before, to ask questions and hear about their experience?**

Absolutely. If you want to talk with someone who has hosted a youth before, you can

contact Julianne Haag, the Housing Manager, to be put in touch with someone!

**6. Will there be any financial help for families to cover food, clothing, transportation, etc.?**

Our hope is gain more funding to offer financial stipends to Host Families. However at this time The Coffee Oasis is unable to do so. But many of the youth's needs (bus passes, clothing, hygiene items, etc.) can be provided at the Oasis Centers from their resource closets!

**7. Has Host Homes been done before in other places?**

It has! Host Homes is a tried and true program across the USA, including Washington State. In the last 5 years, Host Homes programs have been launched and successfully supported in Shelton, Whidbey Island, Tacoma, and Newport. They were all community-based responses to the gaps in housing available for homeless youth in the Host Families' communities.

**8. Is Host Homes like foster care?**

There are several significant differences between foster care and Host Homes. The biggest is choice. Children don't choose to be in foster care; the State mandates it. But in Host Homes the youth is choosing a family to share a home with and the Host Family is choosing to welcome in the youth. This choice makes a big impact in the relationship between Host Family and Youth!

Another difference is that foster care ends at age 18 but Host Homes can continue to offer care and support to youth past that age. This is significant. Nationally, 1 in 4 youth experience homelessness after they age out of foster care. Host Homes helps bridge the gap from adolescence to young adulthood and supports youth as they are learning to be independent.

Finally, Host Homes is not involved in the legal system like foster care is. This means Host Families will not be affected by legal custody battles, family visits, and other legal issues that foster care deals with.