



## Independent Living Program

Bellefaire JCB's Independent Living Program teaches independent living skills and provides individualized counseling and other services for youth ages 17 through 20 to help them transition to self-sufficient, productive members of the community. Participants select their own apartments, which are located throughout Cuyahoga County. All rent is paid by the agency until discharge. In addition, clients receive a weekly check and bus pass, as well as counseling on money management to ensure all other bills are paid.

Many individuals in the program are at risk for homelessness or have been homeless in the past, but by increasing protective factors and decreasing risk, the program helps them maintain housing and prevents reliance on social services.

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**For more information or to make a referral, please call 216.320.8502 or 800.879.2522, or you can email [intake@bellefairejcb.org](mailto:intake@bellefairejcb.org).**

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### PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Upon admission, youth are assessed by a social worker and a service plan is developed. The plan may include individual case management, mental health services, and alcohol and drug treatment. In return, youth are required to:

- Attend school or vocational program regularly
- Maintain a job to supplement their income
- Live within an established budget
- Remain drug and alcohol free

Through individual instruction, information packets and group lessons, youth learn about a wide variety of topics essential to becoming independent adults, including:

- Finding and leasing a safe, affordable apartment
- Personal safety
- Health and nutrition
- Job preparedness
- Income tax instruction
- Effective communication and social skills

Staff also help youth identify adults who can provide them with support and connections in the community, such as family members, former foster parents, teachers or adult friends. These adults are an integral part of the service plan and help ensure the youth's success.

In addition, participants receive services through a treatment team led by a Bellefaire case manager. This team meets regularly to review progress and may include biological family members, foster family members, therapists, teachers and mentors. The case manager also meets weekly with the youth to discuss current issues and provide hands-on instruction in life skills. Throughout the program, the case manager maintains regular contact with referring agencies.

## Admission Criteria

Youth must be able to:

- Function in a work or educational setting
- Demonstrate that they are not a danger to themselves or others
- Live in an apartment with case management support