

Lydia Place in Partnership with the Bellingham Housing Authority

Lydia Place has been an experienced provider of transitional housing and homeless support services since 1989. It has been a partner, providing support services to homeless residents of the Bellingham Housing Authority's properties since 2001. Lydia Place staff will provide case management, life skills training, and advocacy on-site to the families living in the BHA homeless units. These services will be delivered "in home" or at the multi-purpose community building located at each new facility. Additional services not provided by Lydia Place will be addressed through existing referral agreements with local agencies.

Lydia Place will maintain an intensive case management system to determine and deliver individual client support services. Based on each situation, staff will work with the families to create a program of classes and referrals that will serve each family's different needs. These programs are then monitored through weekly meetings with a Case Manager. Case management and most classes are provided on-site for the convenience of the families. Any off-site programming will be easily accessible by public transportation. The programs available for adults include classes on securing and maintaining permanent housing, parenting, income and budgeting, nutrition, communication, domestic violence awareness, and problem solving. Lydia Place case managers will also provide advocacy and support such as job skills assessment, interviewing, childcare, legal needs and transportation.

The Lydia Place supportive services are directed toward helping the families make the transition from homelessness to self-sufficiency for housing and to greater emotional, psychological health. The stable, quality housing will provide much needed time to sort through and address the issues that led to homelessness. There will be an emphasis on planning and goal setting to give the participants a clear path to a healthier lifestyle. If drug or alcohol or domestic violence counseling is needed, the participants will be directed to local agencies that provide these services on a sliding scale.

Educational needs will be assessed with the Case Manager and plans made to achieve GED's, learn English as a second language, and attend college or technical schools to achieve the level of education the participant needs to achieve his or her goals. Employment services will help the participants prepare for and obtain appropriate jobs. In cases where legal issues are a barrier to self-sufficiency, the participant will be assisted in obtaining free or low-cost legal aid to resolve them. All of these efforts will assist the family in over-coming barriers to achieving self-sufficiency.