



Foster Care Village FAQs

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Program is operated by Elon Homes of North Carolina (Elon Homes) on the campus of Johnson C. Smith University, in Charlotte, North Carolina. Elon Homes Foster Care Village offers dormitory style housing and is designed to motivate young adult males and females who are “aging out” of traditional foster care placements to make positive decisions that will lead to independent, productive and responsible lives.

ELIGIBILITY

Young adult males and females who are older than 17 ½ years old but not yet reached 21 years of age while in foster care or DSS custody **and** who are eligible for a North Carolina DSS Voluntary Placement Agreement (VPA) are eligible for this program. A VPA requires that the youth is engaged in one or more of the following activities:

- Enrolled in school, G.E.D. or high school equivalency program
- Enrolled in post-secondary education
- Working at least 80 hours per month
- Participating in a program or activity designed to promote or remove barriers to employment

FUNDING AND VPA PAYMENTS

- Elon is paid a standard state board rate as a licensed residential facility.
- Young adults 18-21 have their \$634 VPA stipend allocated from this board payment.
- Young adults 18-21 are charged \$50/week for room and board from their stipend.
- Young adults are able to earn the remaining VPA funds by completing required program goals. They are encouraged to put a percentage into their savings account.

PROGRAM BENEFITS

- Dorm-style housing located on a college campus
- Live independently with continued guidance, resources and supports.
- Manage your own time and schedule to include going to school, work and social activities.
- 24 Hour Support staff available to address your fears and concerns about the transition to independence process.
- Develop a village of supportive adults and establish new friendships

- Easy access to public transportation
- It's a voluntary placement option
- Learn life skill of paying \$50 a week for room and board, and budgeting.
- Support and guidance in setting up banking and checking accounts

ADMISSION PROCESS

- The young adult's Independent Living Social Worker will complete the Village referral form, submit the most recent clinical assessment and schedule a tour for the applicant.
- Applicants will interview with staff during the tour and receive information on program requirements.
- Applicants must show interest in working with the program and maintaining program requirements.
- Elon Homes staffing team will decide if placement is appropriate for the youth.
- The Village does not accept emergency placements, eligible candidates must apply for admission and complete the interview and referral process.
- For admissions or to schedule a tour, please contact:
[704-369-2511](tel:704-369-2511) or admissions@elonhomes.org

COMMITMENT FROM YOUTH IN PROGRAM

Eligible candidates should be self- motivated and show initiative toward completing goals moving toward independence. They must also be willing to:

- Actively participate with Village staff in case planning meetings to discuss goals.
- Attend bi-monthly house meetings for all residents and staff
- Participate in voluntary community service events
- Follow program expectations

SERVICES AND PROGRAM BENEFITS

- Program uses an evidence- based model for transitional living known as Transition to Independence Process (TIP)
- Housing in safe and affordable dormitory while making the transition to adulthood
- Daily living skills taught and reinforced
- Money management training and guest speakers
- Health & Safety
- Educational & Employment resources
- Career Development
- Personal/Social Relationships
- Decision making
- Mentoring program for youth with interest in mentoring relationship
- Spiritual life opportunities
- Sexual education and information