



Home Grown

A Humboldt County
Host Home Program

Host Application Packet

Thank you for your interest in Home Grown's Host Homes Program! By participating in this program you have a hand in ending youth homelessness by addressing affordable housing disparities, siloed community resources, and the absence of safe and affirming spaces for our youth.

Host Homes are an innovative, grassroots approach to addressing the affordable housing crisis that is causing unnecessary homelessness for our community members. By pairing Transition-Aged Youth (18-24) with community members who have underutilized spaces in their homes, youth not only obtain access to short-term shelter but are also able to build meaningful connections to caring adults in their community. While staying in host homes, youth are able to engage in the long-term housing search safely and more successfully, and save any income earned while being hosted.

Host Home programs have been used successfully in the UK for the last **thirty years** to provide short-term shelter to youth experiencing homelessness. In the last decade, similar programs have been launched across the United States, with communities tailoring their programs to their specific demographic needs.

This program will focus on matching 10 youth for stays of 3-12 months, and will include youth pursuing housing, academic, and employment goals. The following are the values that guide Home Grown's Host Homes Program:

- We believe in trauma-informed, harm reduction and healing strategies that affirm youths' strengths and their own agency.
- We believe in leading through example and fostering shared leadership.
- We understand that all youth will sometimes make choices we don't agree with, and we acknowledge the youth's right to make those choices for themselves.
- We seek to recognize and challenge systems of power that perpetuate barriers and injustice in young people's lives (such as racism and classism), and we are aware that not all youth get the same results through the same hard work under these systems.
- We recognize and respect intersectionality of identities. We want youth and community to bring their whole selves to this experience.
- We believe in supporting youth regardless of their racial or ethnic identity, religious affiliations, or lack thereof, gender identity or sexual orientation.



Home Grown

A Humboldt County
Host Home Program

- We acknowledge that youth's sexual and gender identity may change throughout their adolescence; a youth who identifies as straight or a specific gender when they are referred into the program may begin to question their sexual orientation or gender identity at any time.
- We understand that choices youth make about sexual activity or other behaviors might be different from those we might wish or expect for our own children and we do not fill a parental role for the youth in the program.
- We believe that youth benefit from living with adult allies who are aware of the inherent power dynamics of the host home model and strive to minimize misuse of power.
- We aspire towards collective liberation.

As Home Grown's Executive Director, I am committed to ensuring that these values are put into practice through the development and implementation of the Host Homes Program. I am also committed to providing ongoing support to you and the youth throughout the entirety of your participation in the program. My hope is that this program will serve as a rewarding and empowering experience both for you and for our youth!

Once again, thank you for your generosity and commitment to supporting our youth. Without you, the Host Homes Program would not be possible.

Respectfully,

Joann Taijala
She/Her/Hers
Founder & Executive Director
Home Grown Host Homes
info@homegrownhosthomes.org
(707) 502-2228



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Host Home Program

Application & Matching Process

1. Complete Host Homes Application (below)
2. Complete a background check
3. Complete an interview with the Host Home Case Manager to include the following:
 - Anticipating difficult situations and your response
 - Motivation for hosting a youth
 - Previous experience with youth
 - How hosting a youth might shift family dynamics
4. Complete a home-inspection with center staff to ensure that all required amenities for program (ie: safe living environment, private space, kitchen for cooking, easy bathroom access) are available, and if not, discussing barriers of obtaining them and creating an action plan.
5. Attend Home Grown's Host Home Training Sessions
6. Create a profile to share with potential youth, including any pictures or videos that will give youth a sense of your family values, interests, and passions
7. Youth will choose the host homes they are interested in and the Host Home Case Manager will contact potential hosts to see if the host is interested in the match.
8. Host Home Case Manager will facilitate an in-person meetings between the youth and potential host. Matches will be mutual; either the youth or the host has the option to not continue with the match after meeting.
 - In Host Homes where there are multiple household members, the Host Home Case Manager will work to ensure that all household members are present at the in-person meeting between Host and Youth.
9. Once a match is made, the Host Home Case Manager will facilitate the creation of a contract between the Host and Youth that outlines guidelines that each person agrees to follow while in relationship with one another.
10. The first three weeks of the Host-Youth pairing will serve as a transition period in which both parties will have the opportunity to adjust to their new situation and explore the match. At the end of this three weeks, the Host Home Case Manager will have a formal check in with the Host and the Youth to ensure that it still feels like a good fit and there is mutual desire to continue the relationship.



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Host Home Program

Minimum Expectations for Volunteer Hosts

1. Host has an extra bedroom or private space in their home and access to a shared or private bathroom
2. Host provides Youth with food and access to a kitchen in which to prepare meals
3. Host has verifiable homeowners/renters insurance
4. Host lives in Humboldt County
5. Host commits to hosting youth for 3-12 months
6. Host passes a background check
7. Host completes an application, interview, and home visit assessment
8. Host attends the host home training sessions
9. Host completes monthly home visits with the Host Home Case Manager
10. Host commits to attending monthly Host Support Group Meeting
11. Host commits to providing a welcoming, safe, affirming, non-judgmental environment, and to support the self-determined goals of the youth

Minimum Expectations for Youth

1. Youth is between 18-24 years old
2. Youth is interested in short-term, in-home housing
3. Youth actively engages in Host Home onboarding procedures, including interview and training
4. Youth is interested in seeking employment or educational opportunities
5. Youth participates in matching process with center staff
6. Youth completes weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly home visits with Host Home Case Manager
7. Youth engages in weekly case-management with Host Home Case Manager
8. Youth engages in monthly Host Youth Support Group Meetings facilitated by the Host Home Case Manager
9. Youth commits to conducting themselves respectfully and thoughtfully, and to communicating openly and often with Host and center staff



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Host Home Program

Basic Information

All of the information provided in this application will remain confidential and will be used strictly by Home Grown's staff to assist in the host-youth matching process.

Date of Application: _____

Applicant

Preferred Name:	
Legal Name (if different):	
Pronouns:	
Birth Date (mm/dd/yy):	

What are your Intersectional Identities: (share as you feel comfortable to disclose: racial, ethnic, ability, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, romantic attraction, religion, etc.)

Co-applicant (if applicable)

Preferred Name:	
Legal Name (if different):	
Pronouns:	
Birth Date (mm/dd/yy):	

What are your Intersectional Identities: (share as you feel comfortable to disclose: racial, ethnic, ability, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, romantic attraction, religion, etc.)



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Host Home Program

Basic Information

1. Other adults/children living in your home

Name/Pronouns:	Relationship:	Date of Birth:

2. Do you have any pets living with you? Yes No

If yes, please specify: _____

3. Contact Information

Cell Phone:	
Home Phone:	
Email Address:	

What is the best way to contact you? Cell Phone Home Phone Email

Between what hours can we contact you: _____

4. How much notice do you need for a youth to move in: _____



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Host Home Program

Housing Information

1. Current Address: (street number and name, city, state, and zip)

2. Housing Type: (check all that apply) Owned Rented

Single-Family Home Multi-Unit Mobile Home Apartment Condo

3. How long have you lived at your current address: _____

4. Are you planning to move within the next year? Yes No

5. List all states (and foreign countries) where you've lived in the past 10 years:

6. Do you have homeowner's/renter's insurance? Yes No

If yes, what is the carrier and policy #: _____

7. Do you have an extra bedroom/private space for a youth? Yes No

If yes, is the bedroom/private space furnished? Yes No



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Host Home Program

References

Please provide three references who **know you** and **can speak to your character**. If applying with a co-applicant, please choose references who **know both of you** and **can speak to how you function as a family**.

- Your first reference should have known you (and co-applicant) for **at least 5 years**.
- Your other references should have known you (and co-applicant) for **at least 1 year**.

Known 5+ years	Name/Pronouns:	
	Relationship (e.g. friend, mentor, family member):	
	Years Known:	
	Phone Number:	
	Email Address:	

Known 1+ years	Name/Pronouns:	
	Relationship (e.g. friend, mentor, family member):	
	Years Known:	
	Phone Number:	
	Email Address:	

Known 1+ years	Name/Pronouns:	
	Relationship (e.g. friend, mentor, family member):	
	Years Known:	
	Phone Number:	
	Email Address:	

A staff member will contact all three of your references during the application process.



Individual Questions

This section contains questions that are to be answered individually. There are two copies: one for the applicant, and one for the co-applicant. If you are not applying with a co-applicant, you can ignore the second copy. Thank you!

Personal Information

1. Tell us about your passions, interests, and/or hobbies:

2. How would you characterize your comfort level with people of any race, ethnicity, or social class? (circle one of the numbers below)

Not at all comfortable 1 2 3 4 5 Completely comfortable

3. How easy is it for you to talk about issues of race, ethnicity, and social class and privilege? (circle one of the numbers below)

Not at all easy 1 2 3 4 5 Very easy

4. How would you characterize your comfort level with your sexual orientation and gender identity? (circle one of the numbers below)

Not at all comfortable 1 2 3 4 5 Completely comfortable

5. How easy is it for you to talk about sexual orientation and gender identity issues? (circle one of the numbers below)

Not at all easy 1 2 3 4 5 Very easy

Applicant



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Host Home Program

Personal Information

6. Are you currently licensed as a foster parent? (not a requirement for the Home Grown Host Home program) Yes No

If yes, with what county/agency? _____

7. Do you have a California Driver's License? Yes No

If yes, with is your Driver's License number? _____

If yes, who is your auto insurance provider? _____

8. What languages do you speak? _____

9. Do you smoke? Yes No

If yes, do you smoke indoors? Yes No

10. Do you drink alcohol? Often Occasionally Rarely Never

Do you have any concerns about your drinking? Yes No

If yes, please explain your concerns:

11. Do you use any other substances? Yes No

Do you have any concerns about your substance use? Yes No

If yes, please explain your concerns:

Applicant



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A Humboldt County
Host Home Program

Criminal Record

1. Have you ever been arrested by a law enforcement officer? Yes No

2. Have you ever been charged with an offense, even if it was later dismissed? Yes No

3. Have you ever been convicted of any offense? Yes No

4. Have you ever been charged with or convicted of an offense against a youth/minor? Yes No

5. Have you ever abused, neglected, or molested any child? Yes No

6. If you checked yes for any of the above, please explain the circumstances and provide dates:

Applicant

Employment Information

1. Are you currently employed? Yes No

If no, what is your source of income: _____



Employment Information

2. Please provide your employment history for the past 5 years, starting with your most recent job first: (additional space provided at the end of the application)

Job Title:	
Employer:	
Employer Phone:	
Location (city/state):	
Period Employed:	

Job Title:	
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Period Employed:	

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Home Grown

A Humboldt County
Host Home Program

Interest in Being a Host

1. Are you interested in serving as a Full-Time Host (3-12 months) or as a Respite Host (2-14 days)? Full-Time Host Respite Host Open to Both

2. How many youth are you able to host at one time? _____

3. Are you willing to host a youth with a pet? Yes No

If yes, are there any restrictions around the type of pet the youth has?

4. Are you willing to host a parenting youth? Yes No

5. Are you willing to host two youths who are in a relationship and want to live together? Yes No

6. Please share why you are interested in hosting a young person experiencing homelessness in your home:

Applicant



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A Humboldt County
Host Home Program

Interest in Being a Host

7. Please describe all physical and/or mental health problems or concerns in your family that could affect someone living in your home:

8. Please describe any challenges you are concerned about in your role as a Host:

9. Please describe the age, gender, and other characteristics of a youth you would wish to host:

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A Humboldt County
Host Home Program

Interest in Being a Host

10. Please describe the characteristics of a youth you would not wish to host:

11. Please write about your strengths, skills and any other relevant information that you would like to share:

Applicant

Certification

I hereby certify that the facts contained in my application to the Home Grown Host Home Program are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant Name: _____

Applicant Signature: _____

Date: _____

~ Please make sure to complete the final page of the application ~



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Host Home Program

Letter to Youth Participants

Please write a letter to talking about yourself, your family, some of your life experiences, strengths, etc. Write it with a young person (age 18-24) in mind as the reader. The purpose of this letter is for youth participants who are looking for a host to get to know you a bit, find out why you want to be a host, and decide if you might be someone they would like to live with. In addition, this letter will help Home Grown get a better sense of you as a potential host. Be as creative as you would like to be!

Applicant



Home Grown

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Host Home Program

Additional Space

If you ran out of space to answer any of the questions, you can use this space to finish.

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Home Grown

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Host Home Program

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Host Home Program

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