

Safe Place for Youth (SPY) provides a caring connection and access to critical resources for young people, ages 12-25, experiencing or at-risk of homelessness. In 2018, 1,346 individuals received support through our continuum of care that provides a holistic approach to addressing the unique needs of homeless transition-aged youth. SPY's programs prioritize trauma-informed care, harm reduction, and positive youth development strategies in a safe, non-judgmental environment.



Street Outreach

Five days a week, SPY's outreach team connects with youth who are experiencing homelessness on the Westside of Los Angeles. We build meaningful relationships and trust, while providing street based engagement and survival resources. Outreach staff and trained volunteers provide snacks, hygiene packs, socks, as well as linkages to emergency shelter, mental health and medical care, and other on-site services at SPY's Drop-In Center.



Drop-In Services

Five days a week, young people can access our continuum of services in a safe, welcoming space. SPY's Drop-In Center is located on Lincoln Blvd. in Venice Beach, and helps youth meet basic survival needs of meals, showers and clothing; improve physical and emotional wellbeing; and develop meaningful relationships with peers, staff and the community.



Case Management

Our team of case managers works with youth to develop individualized plans that address short and long term goals towards stability. This includes connections to available housing, applying for identification documents and/or health benefits, receiving parent and prenatal care, family reunification, and connections to drug rehabilitation, mental health services and employment support.



Education & Employment

The Education & Employment Program (E&E) provides youth experiencing and/or at-risk of experiencing homelessness with the tools and resources necessary for meeting their educational and professional goals. This includes job readiness prep, workforce development opportunities, a youth internship program, and pathways to college enrollment or vocational training, and a Community Garden Program.



Health & Wellness

In partnership with Venice Family Clinic, comprehensive health clinics, information and referrals are provided onsite at SPY. Dental care, HIV testing, harm reduction interventions, health education workshops, and Medi-Cal sign ups are also offered. Additionally, in collaboration with LA County Department of Mental Health and the Exceptional Children's Foundation, mental health support is provided to youth through counseling, crisis intervention and relationship and trust building.



Housing

As the Youth Coordinated Entry System (YCES) Regional lead for all of West LA, SPY works closely with agencies throughout the county to ensure that young people have equitable access to developmentally appropriate housing resources, including shelter, transitional housing, Rapid Rehousing, Permanent Supportive Housing, and supported connection to a young person's natural support system. In 2019, SPY launched our transitional housing program, Roots to Grow, in partnership with Venice Community Housing (VCH). The Roots to Grow program provides housing for 20 rotating youth across two sites (Mar Vista and Westwood) between the ages of 18-24 experiencing homelessness, for periods of up to 36 months.



Healing Arts

The Healing Arts Program provides members with a nurturing environment for creative expression. Music groups, writing workshops, open studio, yoga, mindfulness, and experiential learning field trips are all a part of this program. Every April, SPY youth artists create and produce an art show and music showcase. This is part of our growing Social Enterprise Program in which 70% of all art sales go directly to the artist and 30% returns to the Healing Arts Program. You can invest in our youth art by visiting: www.colorofhopecollective.