

Weathering the Storm: Employment Strategies that Work

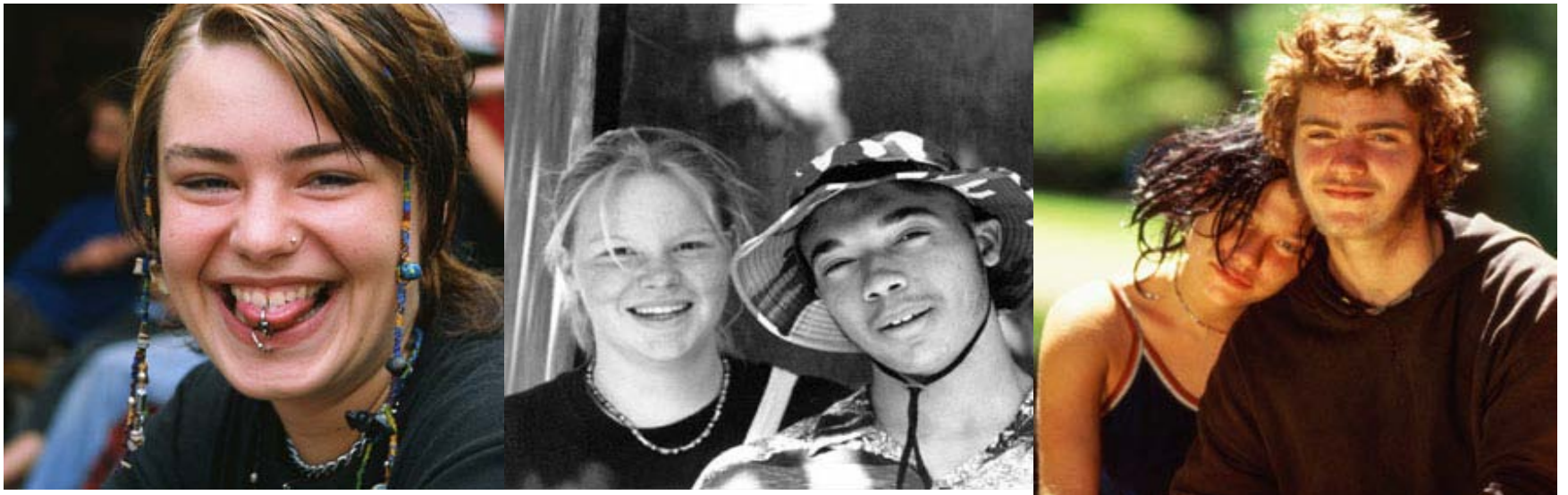
National Conference on Ending Family and Youth Homelessness
February 9-10, 2012



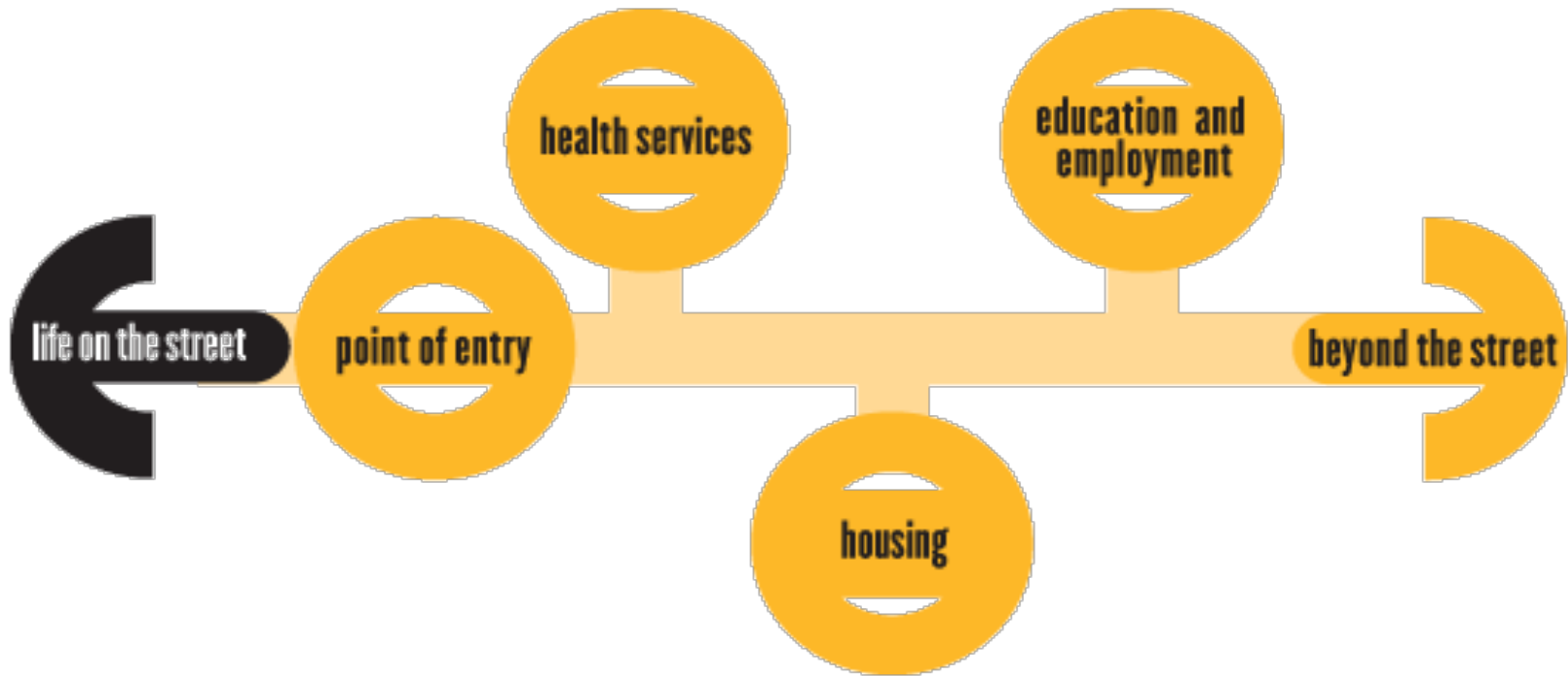
YOUTH SERVICES

Larkin Street Mission Statement

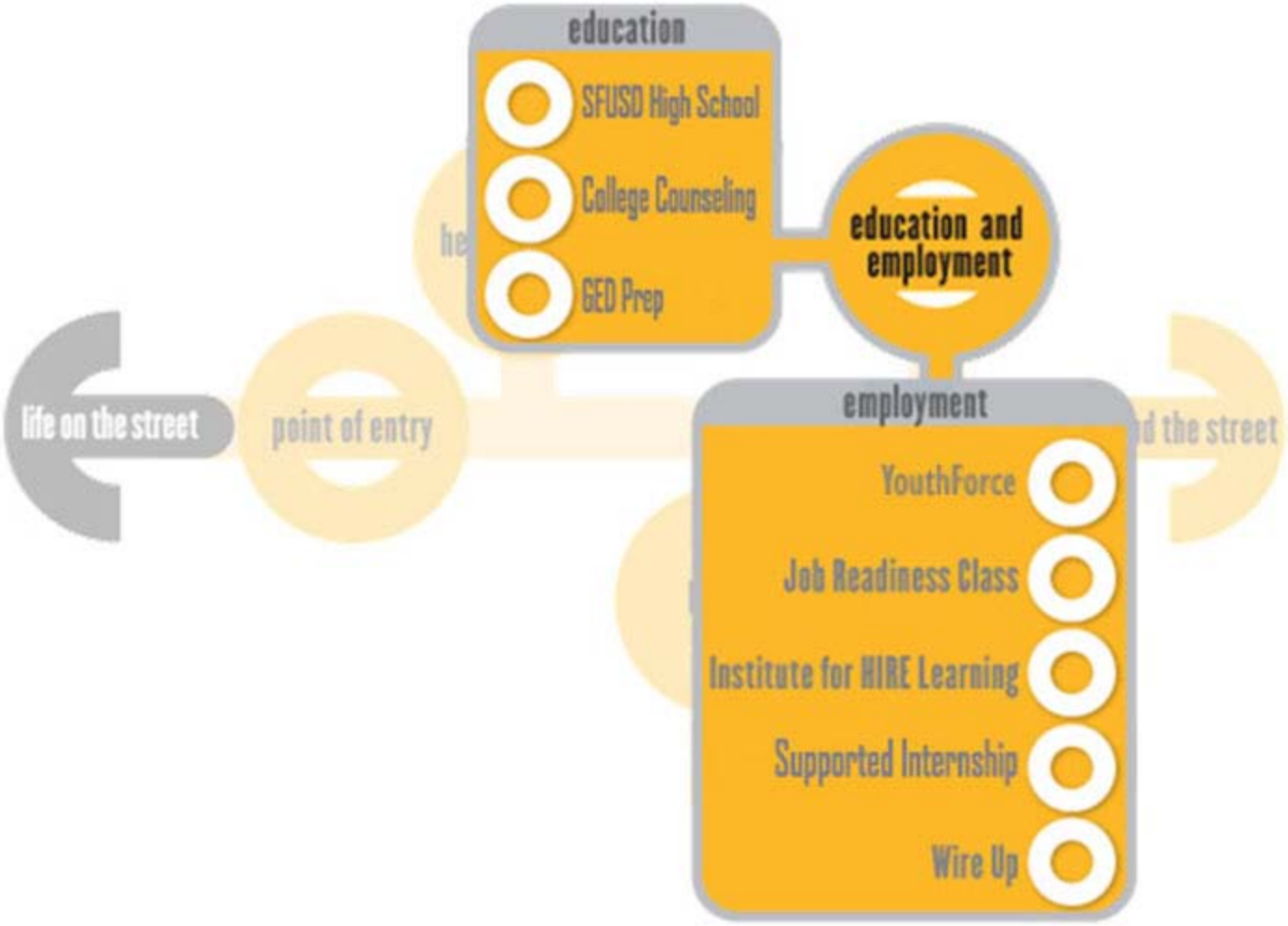
The mission of Larkin Street Youth Services is to create a continuum of services that inspires youth to move beyond the street. We will nurture potential, promote dignity, and support bold steps by all.



Continuum of Care



Support Services



Hire Up Program Philosophy

- Services free to youth age 24 and under.
- Success has different meanings for each youth.
- Education and employment services - part of a continuum.
- Using Harm Reduction when moving youth toward employment.

Youth Force

- Immediate paid work for homeless youth
- Cross program collaboration
- Youth Expectations: “Youth Force is a test run”
 - ♦ Uniforms
 - ♦ Wages
 - ♦ Realistic Consequences
 - ♦ Experience for Resumes
 - ♦ Staff serve as Job References
- Projects include:
 - ♦ Trash pickups
 - ♦ Graffiti clean-up
 - ♦ Pressure washing
 - ♦ Landscaping
 - ♦ Light Janitorial duties



Job Readiness Class (JRC)

- Monday – Friday from 9-12
- Clients paid \$200 over 4 weeks
- Class curriculum covers employment skills, life skills and working towards career goals



Institute for Hire Learning

- Internship program
 - ♦ 3 months, 20 hr./wk.
- Can help subsidize vocational/certificate programs.
- Range of opportunities.
- Collaborative partners.

Internal Internships

- Peer facilitated program orientation groups.
- Various type of opportunities within agency.
- Youth hosted and planned groups.
- Youth Advisory Board internships.

Building Strong Collaborations

- Training employers on how to work with homeless and disconnected youth.
- Inviting employers to conduct employment workshops with the youth.
- Having youth perform volunteer hours at employer work sites.

Integrating Job Readiness and Post-Secondary

- Linking employment and education programming.
- Including education groups in job readiness training.
- Conducting college readiness courses.
- Attending tutoring sessions or college readiness classes as part of the Internships.

Harm Reduction Strategies

- Meeting a young person where they are.
- Conducting assessments with Motivational Interviewing.
- Working with youth to identify employment goals.
- Creating an employment work plan for each youth that meets their needs and skill set.

Contact Information

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