



EMPOWER TRANSITIONAL LIVING PROGRAM FACT SHEET

- WHAT:** The EMPOWER Transitional Living Program is a comprehensive, success development program for young adults, providing an opportunity and tools to break the cycle of poverty and violence in their lives, get on their feet and secure employment and/or education.
- WHO:** The EMPOWER Program serves 18-26 year-olds who are homeless or on the verge of homelessness with an emphasis on youth who have aged-out of the foster care system. Referrals are made through Child Protective Services (CPS), community referral services and self-referral.
- HOW:** The EMPOWER Program provides a combination of affordable (or subsidized) short-term transitional housing, basic needs, case management, and independent living training for referred young adults who are working and/or obtaining higher education or training. On a month to month basis for participant's living in independent apartments, rent payments may be subsidized. (See FAQ's on back.)
- WHERE:** Young adult participants temporarily may live in one of two "agency owned" homes in Mesa or in apartments across the Valley. Independent Living Skills, support, and case management are provided at convenient locations for the residents.
- WHY:** Over 600 youth will turn 18 this year in Arizona's foster care system. Without support these young people face homelessness and poverty. Homeless youth are the fastest growing segment of the homeless population in Maricopa County.
- WHEN:** Since 1996, A&A Cottages has provided high-risk girls with housing and services. A&A Cottages merged with *A New Leaf* in June 2010.
- CONTACT:** (480) 733-3075

A New Leaf: Helping Families... Changing Lives through Homeless and Domestic Violence Shelters, Youth and Community Programs.

Employment Opportunities: Human Resources (480) 464-7466, apply online.

Call (480) 969-4024 for reasonable accommodation on information, services and employment.

Hearing impaired call TDD (800) 367-8939.

www.TurnaNewLeaf.org

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How many people per year does Empower serve?

Over 100 young adults, ages 18-25, per year are helped to obtain housing and support services through the EMPOWER Program.

2. a) How long are participants able to stay at the two “agency owned” EMPOWER houses if they are working and attending higher education or training?

All participants are asked to sign a 6 month agreement (while paying an affordable rent)... and with program compliance and adequate funding in place, they can stay for up to 2 years.

b) How long are participants able to be assisted with case-management and subsidized rents when they live in independent apartments and are working and attending higher education or training?

These young adults sign six month leases for their apartments; subsidized rents typically range from one to three months with case management and independent living skills services ranging up to two years. All participants’ assistance is determined month-to-month depending on program compliance and adequate funding.

3. How are participants referred to EMPOWER?

Most participants seek out help from EMPOWER on an individual basis. Others are referred from caseworkers, Community Information and Referral, churches, and community partners.

4. How can I help?

The EMPOWER Program is in need of financial support to assist these young adults moving into their own apartments. Volunteer mentors are also needed to provide support, tutoring, and encouragement to the participants.