

Aura Host Homes

Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Project Description: Aura provides safe, inclusive housing for youth that are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, two spirit, or other sexual minority. Housing is offered through community host homes partnered with the Calgary Boys and Girls Club

Distinguishing Features: This program offers specialized support for LGBTQ youth that face discrimination and safety concerns within the traditional housing support services.

Population Served: LGBTQ youth

Website: www.boysandgirlsclubsofcalgary.ca/programs/youth-housing-and-shelters/youth-housing

News story: globalnews.ca/news/2051937/homeless-lgbtq-youth-find-new-homes-in-calgary/

SUMMARY

Aura is a program that aims to meet the needs of LGBTQ youth experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness. As these youth are a particularly vulnerable population, they often face challenges utilizing shelters or other transitional housing services.

Aura provides long term housing by placing LGBTQ youth in host homes within the community. The youth receive individual support from approved host parents, and ongoing resources and assistance from Aura support workers. The program works to provide a safe space for individuals to transition into adulthood and independent living.

The host home project had 100% occupancy in 2016 and 2017, with 10 youth remaining consistently housed in supportive homes.

Host Home Providers

Aura host home providers work alongside program staff and play a key role in supporting vulnerable youth. Host home providers help youth reconnect to the community, develop positive relationships, and learn the life skills necessary for independent living.

Aura offers a rent supplement based on living space available and provides ongoing training and support for the hosts. A 1-year minimum commitment is required in order to ensure stable, long-term housing for youth in the program.

Host Home Provider Qualifications:

- ✚ A passion for supporting LGBTQ2S+ youth experiencing homelessness
- ✚ Current First Aid/CPR certification
- ✚ A criminal background check with vulnerable sector
- ✚ A Child Welfare Intervention Check
- ✚ ASIST and NVCi certification training [provided by the agency]

Host Home Details:

www.boysandgirlsclubsofcalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Aura-Host-Home-Poster.pdf

Boys & Girls Club of Calgary

The Boys & Girls Club of Calgary is a community based, charitable organization that supports the needs of children, youth, and their families. Established in 1939, they now offer over 35 programs throughout the city. Supporting over 11,000 kids annually, the Boys & Girls club aims to help youth develop the confidence, knowledge, and life skills they need to become healthy, successful members of the community.

www.boysandgirlsclubsofcalgary.ca

CONNECTED ORGANIZATIONS

LGBTQ2S Toolkit

Online resources for LGBTQ individuals experiencing homelessness in Canada.

The goal of this toolkit is to help shelters and other organizations provide safe spaces for sexual minorities and advocate for the needs of LGBTQ youth experiencing, or at risk, of homelessness.

lgbtq2stoolkit.learningcommunity.ca

You can help
**END HOMELESSNESS
FOR LGBTQ2S+ YOUTH**



BECOME A HOST HOME PROVIDER

AURA

Aura provides LGBTQ2S+ youth between the ages of 14-24, who are currently or at risk of experiencing homelessness, with a home and support.

Youth can be housed in a supportive community-based "host home" or in a house living with other program youth and a supportive roommate. Through Aura, they are offered somewhere to live, build community, and discover themselves while working towards their goals

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A HOST HOME?

- Aura Host Home providers will provide youth with a safe place where their sexual orientation and gender identity is respected and celebrated.
- Build natural relationships with the youth that will foster independence, confidence and growth
- They will work alongside program staff to strengthen youth relationships with natural supports, connect to community, and to help end their experience of homelessness.
- Host Home providers will receive ongoing training and support from the Program Coordinator.
- Host Home providers will receive a rent supplement that is based on the living space available for the youth.
- We ask for a minimum of 1 year commitment.

*" Having Jordan in our lives has filled a hole that we didn't know was there."
- Mike and Christy*

QUALIFICATIONS

- Passion for supporting LGBTQ2S+ youth experiencing homelessness
- Current First Aid/CPR certification is required
- Criminal check with vulnerable sector and Child Welfare Intervention Check
- Attend ASIST and NVCi training provided by the agency

To apply, please submit your intent to aura@bgcc.ab.ca for consideration. No phone calls please; only qualified candidates will be contacted.

BOYSANDGIRLSCLUBSOFCALGARY.CA



**Boys & Girls Clubs
of Calgary**