



## Next Step Fact Sheet

- What:** Next Step is an Agency Operating Boarding Home for female youth ages 14 to 21. Our program focuses on using the Trauma Informed Care Model to embrace the needs of our youth and deliver services that are based on trust, safety, choice, empowerment, and collaboration.
- Where:** 1030 Ellicott Street #11, Buffalo, NY 14209
- When:** Homespace opened for business in 1994. It is a fully owned and operated component of Homespace Corporation. Next Step was opened in September 2018.
- Why:** Next Step was created in response to an unmet need to provide more intense independent living skills to youth stepping down from residential care/higher levels of care. This program allows for safety, structure and support prior to foster youth moving into a supervised independent living program.
- Facilities:** An Agency Operating Boarding Home which has 4 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. The home can support up to 6 youth at a time. The home also has a living room, kitchen and study space for youth. The home is staffed 24/7 to ensure the care and safety of each resident. The location is close to transportation, shopping, and educational/training sites.
- Programs & Services** On-site services include: case management, independent living skills, support groups, educational seminars, and recreational programs. Referrals can be made to the following services: counseling, education, employment, health, housing, legal assistance and job-training.
- Family Assessment and Service Plans are developed to help each youth acquire the skills necessary to prepare each youth to either reunite with their family of origin or attain their independence. Our youth are required to continue their education and/or vocational programming. Those residents who need services not offered by Next Step are referred to other agencies for appropriate intervention.
- Eligibility:** Female youth, 14 to 21 years of age, who are in foster care. Referrals are generated by Erie County Department of Social Services and other Counties. Residents must be willing to live and work with a goal-oriented approach to independent living and permanency.
- Staff:** Kim Morris, Executive Director of Homespace Corporation oversees a team of professionals who provide supportive services. The team consists of a Director of Youth Services, Director of Program Operations, Direct Care Worker Supervisor, Clinical Supervisor, Case Planner, Independent Living Trainer, and Direct Care Workers who provide 24-hour supervision.
- Additional Information** A description of Homespace Corporation's facilities, services and administration, as well as a complete list of requirements for residence at Next Step, Second Chance Home and Homespace SILP are available at [www.homespacecorp.org](http://www.homespacecorp.org).
- Contact:** Phone: 716-881-4600 Fax: 716-881-4604

### CORE VALUES:

**FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY RESPONSIBILITY SECURITY RESILIENCY**