



FIRST PLACE OVERVIEW

First Place is a 2 year program for youth who have come out of the foster care system. The program is designed to take you from being dependent on other people to being independent.

If you are accepted into the program you will:

- Sign a lease for your own 1 bedroom furnished apartment
- Work and/or go to school to work toward your career goals
- Develop a budget and learn to live by it
- Have the support of program staff and a First Place mentor to help reach your goals
- Pay a graduated rent scale, including putting utilities in your own name in year 2.

Upon successful completion of the program after 2 years you will have:

- *\$2400 available toward first and last month rent (\$1800 program fees) and security deposit (\$600) at your next apartment (besides your own savings)*
- *Furnishings you can take with you (bed, couch, table, dishes, pans)*
- *Rental history and utility payments to help build your rental and credit history to be eligible to rent a new apartment*
- *A budget that supports paying a rent payment and being self sufficient*

Rent and Program Fees:

Phase 1	RENT*	PROGRAM FEE**
Month 1-4	\$300	\$50
Month 5-8	\$350	\$50
Month 9-12	\$450	\$50

Phase 2	RENT*	PROGRAM FEE**
Month 13-16	\$525 + utilities	\$75
Month 17-20	\$600 + utilities	\$100
Month 21-24	\$675 + utilities	\$125

* \$25 from each month's rent is applied toward security deposit

** Program fees will be set aside with the intention of using them to pay for your next **approved apartment**, at Kids Belong's discretion.



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Phase 1 Requirements (Year 1)

- You will live in an apartment owned by Kids Belong and the lease is contingent on agreeing to and keeping the terms of the resident program
- Kids Belong will pay all utilities during phase 1, but if utility usage is excessive the program director may take steps to limit excessive use and/or pass the excess costs on to resident

Check Ins

- You will have a mentor helping you during your time in First Place. You will be expected to check in with your mentor weekly
 - A minimum of at least 1 meeting per month should be in person
- You will also have a monthly check in with the program director
 - We will use this as a budget meetings we will review income and expenses, bank balance and spending
 - We will never have access to banking passwords or account numbers
 - For the first 2 months check in and budget meetings may be more frequent, as frequent as weekly at director's discretion

Curfew

- You will be expected to be at home at night by curfew unless prior permission is given
- In order to set you up for success at work and/or school, you should be home by 11:00 on weeknights, 12:00 on weekends.
- For the first Month of the program curfew will be 10:00 on weeknights and 11:00 on weekends
- If you need to be out later for work or other reason, you will need to give notice to program director
- If you need to be gone from the property overnight for work or any other reason, you should give notice to the program director
- Curfew may be adjusted earlier or later by the program director if necessary

Work/School Requirements.

- You are Resident is expected to work and/or school full time (32 hours), or combination full time with part time of each
- You will work with the program director to create a plan based around individual goals regarding school and/or work. This plan will become the Work/School Agreement for resident's time in First Place
 - The work/school agreement can be modified at any time through a meeting with program director



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- Youth in the DHHS Independent Living Program must work a minimum of 80 hours per month, or as required by DHHS.
- DHHS Youth must also cooperate with their treatment plan
- Resident should also apply for DHHS benefits

Paychecks must be deposited into a bank account

Mental Health and Medication

- You will need to comply with any prescribed medication and/or mental health treatment
- Medication and mental health participation can be discussed at monthly director check ins
- You will be responsible for medication refills and safe storage

Property Use and Care

- Take care of the apartment and property, keep it in good working order and reasonably clean
- Program staff may have access to the apartment at any time to make sure the above is being followed
- Anything that is broken in the apartment (ie faucets, appliances, windows, doors, etc) must be reported to program staff right away.
- No pets in the apartment.
- No candles or open flames
- No smoking or vaping in the apartment
- Be respectful neighbor to all surrounding neighbors, on property and next door
- Quiet hours 11pm to 7am
- No large group gatherings will be allowed which disturb neighbors, either within First Place property or neighbors on adjacent properties.
- No guests may be in the apartment for the first 1 month.
- No more than 2 guests at a time in the apartment after first month
- No guests during quiet hours. (*That means no overnight guests*)
- You are responsible for anything your guests bring onto the property with them. No drugs or alcohol may be brought onto the property
- Violation of the above may result in suspension of guest allowance or termination of program

Drug Use and Alcohol

- No drug use of any kind is permitted
- No drugs or alcohol may be brought onto the property
- Program director reserves the right to require drug testing if drug use is suspected



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Phase 2 Requirements (Year 2)

Upon completion of Phase 1, resident may begin Phase 2

- The property, drug use, mental health policies from phase 1 will still apply with the following updates and/or changes

Utilities

- You will put gas and electric utilities into your name and will be responsible for paying those bills directly

Check Ins

- Mentor check ins will continue at a minimum of twice per month
- More than twice is preferred, but not required
- At least 1 in person meeting is also preferred, but not required
- You will continue monthly check ins with program director to review budget and progress

Completion Of Program Benefits

- If you complete the program or terminate the lease in good standing, then you may request that all or part of program fees paid may be applied toward their next apartment, to be paid directly to their next landlord.
 - The determination of whether to pay this amount and to whom it will be paid is at the sole discretion of Kids Belong and its directors.
- When you complete the full 2 years of the First Place Program in good standing, then you are also entitled to:
 - Keep and take the following furnishings with them: Bed and bedding, Couch, Table and Chairs.
 - Keep and take kitchen housewares such as pots, pans, silverware, dishes, towels

All the above descriptions are a reference only in order to give you a fuller understanding of what is involved in both the First Place program and Lease. The full program agreement and lease are available upon request.