

FAMILIES TOGETHER
TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM

YWCA *Families Together* provides affordable transitional housing and on-site support services for families experiencing housing instability or homelessness. *Families Together is not an emergency shelter.* Participation in the housing program can vary from a few months to a maximum of eighteen months. **Families Together is an income-based program (see criteria on back).**

Families Together Staff seek to create a safe, nurturing environment in which each family is encouraged to meet their needs constructively and take responsibility to gain greater self-reliance.

The goals of the program include permanent housing upon exiting the program, adequate income and savings to sustain housing, strengthened family systems and improved sense of self-worth.

Program services include:

- Affordable housing at below-market rates; **(monthly rent is set at 30% of gross household income)**
- An assessment by a trained clinician to determine possible needs for mental health and/or substance use treatment, and recommendations for accessing these services. *Participants are required to continue any recommended outside treatment until it is complete*
- Support in the development of housing, career, financial, health, and personal goals that are reviewed at scheduled appointments with the FT Manager *every 1-2 weeks*
- Free educational and self-improvement workshops provided for adults on conflict resolution, self-esteem, parenting skills, stress management, health and fitness, money management, job search skills and creative arts
- On-site Youth Learning Center providing after-school and summer programs for children K-5
- Use of on-site fitness center, including a swimming pool, exercise classes and fitness equipment.
- Opportunity to graduate with an Inlivan Section 8 Choice Voucher upon completion of 1 year in the program and meeting eligibility criteria (provided at intake appointment)

The admission process for Families Together is as follows:

- FT Manager notifies referring agencies of upcoming vacancies and requests referrals.
- Intake interviews are scheduled *upon receipt of a completed referral packet from a referring worker.* FT does not take self-referrals. **Intake interviews are for adult household members only, unless YWCA staff suggest otherwise.**
- **Intakes are scheduled with adults in the household only (no childcare is available on site). Intakes entail an orientation (where the heads of household learn about the program) and a comprehensive clinical assessment (CCA) with a staff clinician. All adult household members must complete the full intake.**
- The head(s) of household and referring worker will be contacted once the intake and CCAs are complete and the FT team has met to determine if the program is a good fit for the family's level of need.
- If the family is accepted and chooses to participate, the FT Manager will schedule the move-in once a unit is vacated and ready. Staff work to minimize the time between intake and move-in, however unit vacate dates are not always firm. The FT manager will communicate with the family/referring worker throughout the process.

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ELIGIBILITY:

Please ensure each family meets the below criteria before completing your referral:

Families Together offers 3 and 4 bedroom units only. There are no 2 bedroom units in this program. Families must be in compliance with the Inlivan family composition guidelines below:

- For 3-bedroom units: Families must consist of at least 3 members with at least one minor child (17 or younger)
- For 4-bedroom units: Families must consist of at least 4 members with at least one minor child (17 or younger)
- One separate bedroom *must* be allocated to the Head of Household and domestic partner/spouse
- Persons of the opposite sex (other than spouses/partners) will be allocated separate bedrooms
- Children 5 years and under may be in the same bedroom, regardless of sex/gender.
- Children of the same sex, with an age difference of 8 full years must be allocated a separate bedroom.
- Two person max per room.
- If there are not enough bedrooms to accommodate the family composition based on these guidelines, the family would not qualify for the program.

This means not all three person families will qualify. For example, a single parent with two same sex children over 6 years old, but under 8 years apart would only be eligible for a 2 bedroom, which is not offered through this program.

- All adults in the household must have a verifiable source of income sufficient to meet financial obligations (see income criteria below)
- Families must have the motivation and ability to make positive changes, as determined through assessment
- There must be a fit between the family's needs for growth and the level of supportive services offered and families must be able to function in a minimally supervised supportive housing situation without intensive or frequent monitoring
- If family members are not biologically related, they must have lived together for at least one year prior to applying to this program

Income eligibility:

Go to the column with the number of members applying to Families Together:							
2026 Income Limits		3 person family	4 person family	5 person family	6 person family	7 person family	8 person family
Gross household income must be at least this number:	20% AMI	\$21,180	\$23,520	\$25,420	\$27,300	\$29,180	\$31,060
	30% AMI	\$31,770	\$35,280	\$38,130	\$40,950	\$43,770	\$46,590
Gross household income cannot be over this number:	50% AMI	\$52,950	\$58,800	\$63,550	\$68,250	\$72,950	\$77,650

Families must earn a minimum of \$1,687.00/month (gross) for 3 BR, \$1,873.00/month for 4BR.

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Program Quick Facts

Housing:

Families Together consists of ten, two-story housing units: seven units with 3-bedrooms and three units with 4-bedrooms. There is one on-site resource center accessible to families at scheduled times and an on-site laundry room (1.75 per wash load, 1.75 per dry load).

Each unit is fully furnished and has the following:

- 2 full bathrooms (bath/shower, sink and toilet)
- First floor dining room, living room, and kitchen with stove/oven, microwave, refrigerator, sink, garbage disposal and dishwasher
- Complimentary Wi-Fi
- HVAC system

New families are provided with *new* welcome package items including: towel sets for each member, cookware, dinnerware, silverware, and bedding. Families may keep these items when they move-out.

Televisions are not provided in the housing units but families may provide their own.

There is no on-site storage and families must utilize the furniture provided in each unit. Damage to YWCA property including furniture and fixtures in the units may result in forfeiture of security deposit.

Families Together Fees:

Pro-rated First Month's Rent (calculated based on family income)

Security Deposit \$250 (refundable)

Fitness Center Fee* \$25 (non-refundable)

**Family fitness memberships cover all household members participating in Families Together. Children must be at least 13 years of age to use the facility without parental supervision.*

Each monthly rental fee is calculated by YWCA Partner Agency, Inlivan (formerly Charlotte Housing Authority) based on household income. Rental fees are paid by check or money order to YWCA Families Together and cover rent, utilities, and the supportive services of the program.

First month rent, security deposit and fitness center fee are due at lease signing.

Policies:

For the safety of participants and staff, visitors (anyone not participating in the Families Together program) are not allowed in the housing units.

There is no on-site visitation allowed, including in the parking lots.

All YWCA Facilities are Alcohol, Illegal Drugs and Smoke Free.

Alcohol, illegal drugs, and smoking/vaping are prohibited in all YWCA Facilities. Failure to abide by this policy will result in immediate termination from the Families Together program.

Children must be 12 years of age or older to be left alone in the housing unit without supervision from an older sibling or head of household. Failure to abide by this policy could result in termination from the Families Together program.