

FAQ – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



What is The RAFT?

The Raft is a not-for-profit charitable organization, providing services to at-risk youth and communities in the Niagara Region.

What is the RAFT's Mission?

The RAFT contributes to the welfare of the Niagara Community by helping at risk youth become independent and self-sufficient. By strengthening emotional and social well being and acting as a referral source, the RAFT reconnects youth to our community. We believe that working together, one step at a time, we can make a difference.

What is YOUTH RECONNECT?

This service is designed to help *youth without secure housing* in the Niagara Region access services and support within their own community. By helping youth to remain in their home community they give back both socially and economically. In the past, housing support services were not available in many communities and at risk youth often found themselves forced to leave their community to secure housing.

Who is the target population?

At-risk youth who are:

- o Without stable family, peer or community supports;
- o Experiencing difficulty accessing current community support services;
- o At risk of homelessness;
- o In danger of dropping out of school.

Who delivers this program?

Outreach Staff assist at risk youth in securing housing and developing a social support network in their home communities. Staff work with local community service providers and the youth to coordinate access and ensure services are available when and where they are needed.

Where is the program offered?

Youth Reconnect is provided in Fort Erie ~ Port Colborne, St. Catharines, Welland and West Niagara ~ Grimsby.

What does the Youth Reconnect Worker do?

- o Coordinates access to services to ensure basic individual needs of youth are met
- o Links individual youth to appropriate services locally and regionally
- o Supports youth in transitional housing
- o Participates in the Youth Without Secure Housing Program



YOUTH RECONNECT

What if the youth cannot afford rent?

Niagara Regional Housing offers a rent subsidy to youth in their home communities to help youth pay market rent. To qualify for the program, the youth must remain in school. This program can be accessed via the Youth Reconnect Worker.

What is the role of the Youth Without Secure Housing Committee?

The Youth Without Secure Housing Committee is a Regional Committee comprised of service providers from across Niagara. The committee coordinates the youth reconnection services across the Region and is committed to ensuring that youth have the right to access safe and appropriate housing and support services in their own community.

How does the referral process work?

Direct referrals are accepted from individuals, parents, social service agencies, the judicial system, community service providers, schools, and the police. To access services, call 905-984-4365. Intake can be accessed Monday to Friday from 9:00am to 5:00 pm.

How is this program funded?

This program is funded by the Regional Municipality of Niagara.

How do I obtain additional information about The RAFT?

For more information on The RAFT please visit their Web site at: www.theraft.ca.

For more information on how you can help please visit us at www.therafthelps.ca

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