

Fact Sheet:

The Take Wing Transitional Living Program is a voluntary, 18-month program for homeless youth, young adults, and young families. Take Wing provides an environment that is safe, community-oriented, and cooperative.

The Take Wing program provides youth between the ages of 16 and 24 (the youth must be emancipated if he/she is sixteen or seventeen years of age) with low-income housing, training in independent living skills, the support of weekly case management, and opportunities to achieve set goals. Take Wing is designed to foster independence and maturity and empower youth to make the transition to successful independent living.

Apartment Living

- The semi-furnished apartments are located in Point Loma (near the Sports Arena)
- Rent: All youth pay thirty percent of their monthly income in rent
- Deposit: All youth pay a \$300.00 move-in deposit (money is returned when the youth leaves Take Wing, as long as there is no damage to the unit and all bills are paid)
- Youth are responsible for SDG&E, phone, food, etc.
- Residential Advisor lives in the apartment complex and is on call during weeknights/weekends.

TLP Applicant Profile

- Applicants must be homeless or potentially homeless at the time of application.
- Youth must have a secured source of income (employment, TANF, SSI, etc). Those who receive “unearned income,” may be enrolled in school full-time. All others must be employed. Youth who do not receive “unearned income” may qualify by either working 30 hours per week OR working twenty hours per week and being enrolled in a minimum of 6 academic credits at a vocational training program, community college, or university.
- Youth must remain current with rent, SDG&E and any other bills.
- Youth must have the desire and ability to live independently without twenty-four hour staff supervision.
- Youth must be committed to the vision and ideals of the Take Wing community
- Youth must be willing to identify needs and work on them with assistance.
- Youth needs to resolve all legal issues and ensure that there are no pending court hearings, warrants, probation, or parole.
- Youth must not be currently diagnosed with a serious mental illness
- Youth must not be currently abusing any substances

Supportive Services

- Case Managers meet with individual Service Partners on a weekly basis to assist with life plans, career exploration, obtaining Medi-Cal, budgeting, etc.
- Monthly Independent Living Skills meeting (topics include job seeking tips, cooking/nutrition, conflict resolution, healthy relationships, HIV/AIDS/STI awareness, drug and alcohol awareness, etc.) takes place on the second Thursday evening of each month
- Parenting support group on the third Thursday evening of each month
- All youth participate in five hours of community service each month. All community service activities are coordinated by Take Wing and youth must participate in the set activity for credit.
- The Take Wing Community Meeting takes place on the last Thursday evening of each month. Service Partners belong to committees that contribute to community development. Each youth will be given the choice of joining either the fundraising/entrepreneurial committee or the newsletter committee.
- Opportunity for participation in the CYD Board (Community Youth Development Board) in which youth serve on a board that gives feedback to Take Wing staff and helps to plan events for the Take Wing community members.

Apartment Rules

- Property and people must be respected at all times
- Music, television, voices, etc. should be kept to a level that does not disturb others
- Curfew: The curfew is strictly enforced for visitors. No visitors can be on the Take Wing premises (this includes the parking lots) during curfew. The hours of curfew are 11:00 p.m. to 9:00 from Sunday to Thursday nights, and 12:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. on Friday and Saturday nights. Although the curfew is strictly enforced for visitors, Take Wing Service Partners may come and go as they choose.
- No drugs or alcohol are permitted on the premises, and Take Wing reserves the right to conduct random drug tests.
- No weapons or violence of any kind will be permitted
- No pets will be allowed

TLP Application Process

- Youth attends TLP information meeting which is held every first and third Wednesday from 3-4 p.m. in the SDYS Board Room (3255 Wing St. San Diego, CA 92110).
- Youth completes written application & written referral from an adult professional in social services
- Youth attends a series of interviews with Take Wing staff
- Youth completes an income verification form and returns all necessary paperwork

For answers to any additional questions that are not addressed here, please contact the Take Wing Transitional Living Program Info Line by calling (619) 221-8600 and choosing 3 then 5 or contact Martin Moreno at extension 254.



The Take Wing Program

A Transitional Living Community
For Homeless Teens in San Diego

Frequently Asked Questions:

What is “Take Wing”?

Take Wing is a cooperative community of homeless youth, teenage mothers and fathers, and their children. Participants live in individual apartments within a five-building complex on Wing Street in the Pt. Loma area of San Diego.

What is San Diego Youth & Community Services?

San Diego Youth & Community Services (SDYCS) is the sponsoring agency for the Take Wing Transitional Living program. SDYCS is a private, non-profit and nationally recognized charitable organization that provides a wide range of social services to homeless, abused and runaway youth in San Diego County. Take Wing is one of eleven major youth programs provided by SDYCS.

What is the focus of Take Wing?

Take Wing focuses on teaching youth with few social living skills to become independent and productive members of society in a community setting. It is a learning laboratory in cooperative and independent living. Using a five-phase approach, participants learn skills such as apartment living, career development, financial management, healthy choices, and strengthening families. Each phase builds on the previous one, helping the youth to feel a sense of progress and accomplishment. Homeless youth participate for up to 18 months, during which time they go to school, work, use no alcohol or drugs, and pay minimal rent and utilities.

What services does Take Wing provide?

Take Wing provides youth aged 16-24 with low-income housing, independent living skills training, parenting classes, community service opportunities, recreational activities and monthly community meetings. Participants develop a life plan, and learn how to make positive life changes individually and as a community.

How long has Take Wing been in operation?

The Take Wing Community formally opened in 1994. Each year Take Wing programs are evaluated, then continued, modified or discontinued. As a true learning organization, only the most successful approaches continue.

How do youth come to Take Wing?

Take Wing is available to young people from throughout San Diego County who have been homeless or are potentially homeless. Individuals are referred to Take Wing by schools, public and private community organizations, and individuals and families who have benefited from SDYCS programs.



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How many people does Take Wing serve?

At any given time, Take Wing provides residency for 35-40 young people plus their children. Because of the 18-month rotation, a total of 50-60 youth plus their infants and toddlers are served annually.

How many staff and volunteers serve in the Take Wing program?

Take Wing benefits from a multi-ethnic team of five professional staff, and 2-5 volunteers. All work together to provide the needed skills and opportunities to operate each piece of the program, including case management, tutoring, mentoring, facility renovation, employment guidance, etc.

How is SDYCS governed?

SDYCS is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors and Trustees comprised of volunteer community leaders, both adult and youth. The Executive Director / CEO administers overall agency operations, the Take Wing Center Director oversees day-to-day operations, and Team Leaders provide on-going contact and leadership for program participants.

What is Take Wing's budget?

Take Wing and the associated Independent Living Skills program operates on a budget of approximately \$500,000 annually. An ongoing donor development effort seeks private funding. SDYCS is a tax-exempt corporation under Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3).

How is Take Wing funded?

The program is funded through private contributions from individuals, foundations and corporations, along with federal, state and private dollars for specific aspects of Take Wing operations.

What percentage of Take Wing funding goes to direct services?

We are proud that of every dollar in the Take Wing budget, fully 86% is used in direct services to youth participants. Take Wing operates effectively due to a significant level of charitable funding, in-kind donations, and volunteer support from the community. Take Wing also thrives because of the skills of trained staff and management, and because of the organization's commitment to provide quality services to help San Diego youth in a particularly cost-effective way.

How can I support Take Wing?

Involvement of individuals, foundations and corporations in the San Diego community is critical to the continued success of Take Wing. Community involvement of many types is welcome. You may become a Take Wing volunteer by contacting SDYCS Volunteer Services at 221-8600, ext. 271. Financial donations can be made by mail to the **SDYCS Gifts Receiving Office, 3255 Wing Street, San Diego, CA 92110**. Your donation is tax deductible.

Additional questions?

Call the Take Wing Transitional Living program office at (619) 221-8610, ext. 252.