



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

For Immediate Release

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Plainfield YMCA Announces New Program for Area Youth

The Plainfield YMCA is pleased to announce an innovative program to provide housing for youth aging-out of the foster care system. Youth transitioning out of the foster care system are at a higher risk for unemployment, poor educational outcomes, health issues, early parenthood and long-term dependency on public assistance, often resulting in increased rates of incarceration, and homelessness. This new program will provide safe transitional housing along with intensive support services, enabling participants to successfully transition to independence and adulthood.

The project involves the renovation of the top two floors of the existing campus currently located at 518 Watchung Avenue in Plainfield and will create 30 affordable individual efficiency units designed specifically for youth between the ages of 18-24 years.

Key features of the program:

Each efficiency apartment will have a private kitchen and bathroom with Energy Star appliances. Modern amenities such as 24 hour security, private elevator access, secured entry, multipurpose rooms, a resident lounge, instructional kitchen, common laundry facilities, office space for property management and support service functions, on-site parking, updated site lighting, and attractive landscaping are to be included. Energy-saving measures and green features will also be incorporated in the project's design to foster a healthy living environment and lower project operating costs. Renovation and construction will be performed by Eastern Pacific Construction of Vineland, NJ.

Aged-out youth will be required to meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Aged-out youth must be on a track to advance their career through current employment or enrollment in school or job training program.
- All program residents will be required to pay rent for the units. Through project-based rental subsidies residents will not have to pay more than 30% of their household income. Residents will have access to case management and a comprehensive package of support services. Access to support services will be provided to residents free of charge by the Plainfield YMCA and other community service providers.

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The Plainfield YMCA is the sponsor, developer and property manager for the project. Construction and permanent funding for the project have been secured through state funds and will be supplemented by a Declaration of Intent for 4% housing tax credits. The Plainfield YMCA has secured site control and is in the process of finalizing all necessary municipal and funding approvals. Construction is estimated to begin Fall 2015 with a targeted opening of April 2016.

About The Plainfield YMCA:

The Plainfield YMCA is a community-based, 501 (c) (3) nonprofit which has been providing housing and services to the community for over 138 years. The Plainfield YMCA, located at 518 Watchung Ave, Plainfield NJ has been operating in the City of Plainfield and surrounding towns since 1877 and serves the community with several youth oriented and emergency shelter programs. It is the largest non-profit in Plainfield impacting more than 2,000 youth, teens and families by providing a variety of high quality programs focused on youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.

For additional information on the Plainfield YMCA please visit our website at www.plainfielddy.org or contact Ravenell Williams at (908)756-6060.

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