



Runaway and Homeless Youth Training & Technical Assistance Center

Transitional Living Program (TLP)

Opening Remarks

Kimberly Waller,
Associate Commissioner of the Family and Youth Services Bureau

Introductions

- Introduce yourself in the chat
 - Name
 - Organization Name

Regions

Region 1: VT, NH, ME, MA, RI, CT

Region 2: NY, NJ, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands

Region 3: PA, WV, VA, MD, DC, DE

Region 4: GA, AL, SC, NC, KY, TN, MS, FL

Region 5: MN, IL, WI, OH, IN, MI

Region 6: NM, TX, OK, AR, LA

Region 7: MO, IA, NE, KS

Region 8: MT, ND, SD, WY, CO, UT

Region 9: CA, NV, AZ, HI, AS, Mariana, Micronesia, Guam, Palau, Marshall I

Region 10: AK, WA, OR ID



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Housekeeping Items

- Please ensure your microphones are muted throughout the presentation
- Questions will be answered in the chat throughout the training
- After the training, participants will receive a Q&A document with all questions and answers provided

Agenda

- Purpose
- Objectives
- Important TLP Definitions
- Program Vision & Goal
- Legislative Authority and Program Purpose
- Project Requirements
- Performance Standards and Reporting
- Administrative and National Requirements

Purpose

The goal of the RHY Program Specific Training Series is to provide an opportunity to dive deeper into program specific requirements for each of FYSB's four program areas. These trainings will provide an overview of key program elements, highlight best practices, and identify where to find additional information and resources to support effective implementation of your program.

Objectives

1. Understand and discuss key program specific requirements for each RHY program
2. Learn strategies to improve and enhance outcomes of their RHY grant(s)
3. Learn strategies for effectively serving the youth in your programs
4. Develop and strengthen partnerships with colleagues in the RHY field

Important TLP Definitions

Important TLP Related Definitions

RUNAWAY YOUTH: An individual who is less than 18 years of age and who absents himself or herself from home or a place of legal residence without the permission of a parent or legal guardian. (Section 387(4) of the RHY Act, 34 U.S.C. § 11279(4))

HOMELESS YOUTH: An individual – 21 years of age or less – who cannot live safely with a parent, guardian, or relative, and who has no other safe alternative living arrangement. (45 CFR 1351.1)

STREET YOUTH: An individual who is a runaway youth or an indefinitely or intermittently a homeless youth who spends a significant amount of time on the street or in other areas that increase the risk to such youth for sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, prostitution, or drug and/or alcohol abuse. For the purposes of this definition, youth means an individual who is age 21 or less. (45 CFR 1351.1)



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Important TLP Related Definitions

SHELTER: A fully licensed homeless shelter, such as group homes, including maternity group homes, host family homes, and supervised apartments. (For purposes of this announcement.)

STABLE HOUSING: A safe and reliable place to call home. Stable housing fulfills a critical and basic need for homeless youth. It is essential to enable functioning across a range of life activities. (45 CFR § 1351.1)

HOST FAMILY HOME: A family or single adult home or domicile that provides shelter to homeless youth. (45 CFR § 1351.1)



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Important TLP Related Definitions

CASE MANAGEMENT: Identifying and assessing the needs of the client and, as appropriate, arranging, coordinating, monitoring, evaluating, and advocating for a package of services to meet the specific needs of the client. (45 CFR § 1351.1)

TREATMENT PLAN: A written plan of action based on the assessment of client needs and strengths and engagement in joint problem solving with the client that identifies problems, sets goals, and describes a strategy for achieving those goals. To the extent possible, the plan should incorporate the use of trauma-informed, evidence-based, or evidence-informed interventions. As appropriate, the service and treatment plans should address both physical and mental safety issues. (45 CFR § 1351.1)



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Important TLP Related Definitions

EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES: Replicates practices that have been evaluated using rigorous evaluation design such as randomized controlled or high-quality quasi-experimental trials and that have demonstrated positive impacts for youth, families, and communities.

EVIDENCE-INFORMED PRACTICES: Brings together the best available research, professional expertise, and input from youth and families to identify and deliver services that have the promise to achieve positive outcomes for youth, families, and communities.

Important TLP Related Definitions

OUTREACH: Finding runaway, homeless, and street youth, or youth at risk of becoming runaway or homeless, who might not use services due to lack of awareness or active avoidance, providing information to them about services and benefits, and encouraging the use of appropriate services. (45 CFR 1351.1)

GATEWAY SERVICES: Services to provide food, drink, clothing, and hygiene-related items to meet basic needs and develop trust between a youth and youth outreach worker.



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Important TLP Related Definitions

AFTERCARE: Additional services provided beyond the period of residential stay that offer continuity and supportive follow-up to youth served by the program. (45 CFR § 1351.1)

SAFE AND APPROPRIATE EXITS ARE NOT EXITS: (1) To the street; (2) To a locked correctional institute or detention center if the youth became involved in activities that lead to this exit after entering the program;(3) To another residential program if the youth's transition to the other residential program is inconsistent with the youth's needs; or(4) To an unknown or unspecified other living situation. (45 CFR § 1351.1)



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Important TLP Related Definitions

PERMANENT CONNECTIONS: Ongoing attachments to families or adult role models, communities, schools, and other positive social networks which support young people's ability to access new ideas and opportunities that support thriving, and they provide a social safety net

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING: The development of key competencies, attitudes, and behaviors that equip a young person experiencing homelessness to avoid unhealthy risks and to succeed across multiple domains of daily life, including school, work, relationships, and community. (45 CFR § 1351.1)



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Program Vision & Goal

TLP Program Vision & Goal

Goal: The primary goal of the TLP is to help runaway and homeless youth establish sustainable living and well-being for themselves and, if applicable, their dependent child(ren) and to promote economic independence and stability through supportive services.

Vision: Successfully transition youth experiencing homelessness into adulthood through the promotion of self-sufficient living and the prevention of long-term dependency on social services.

Legislative Authority & Program Purpose

Legislative Authority & Program Purpose

Congress created TLP for older homeless youth as part of the 1988 Amendments to the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974. Services offered through the TLP are designed to help young people who are homeless make a successful transition to self-sufficient living.

Project Requirements

Project Requirements

1. Safe, Stable, and Appropriate Shelter
2. Comprehensive Youth-Centered Services Model
3. Sustainability Plan

Safe, Stable and Appropriate Shelter

Safe, Stable and Appropriate Shelter

Length of Stay

TLP Projects must provide safe and stable housing throughout a continuous period not to exceed 540 days, or in exceptional circumstances 635 days.

Shelter Capacity

TLP facilities will have the capacity to accommodate a minimum of 4 and not more than 20 individuals (excluding staff).

Safe, Stable and Appropriate Shelter

Supervision

TLP Projects must provide direct on-site supervision at each facility that is not a family host home.

TLP facilities must have a staff-to-youth ratio that is sufficient to ensure all homeless youth receive adequate supervision and services.

Safe, Stable and Appropriate Shelter

Access/Linkage to Emergency Shelter

TLP Projects will have an agreement and/or linkage with a youth emergency shelter in circumstances when there are no current TLP openings.

Safe, Stable and Appropriate Shelter

Staff Training

TLP staff will be trained to interact with youth victims of trafficking or other similar traumatic experiences.

Safe, Stable and Appropriate Shelter

Youth Engagement in Education and Employment

TLP Projects will ensure youth are engaged in educational advancement, job attainment skills, or work activities while in the program.

Spotlight: Youth Engagement in Education and Employment Activities

Mountain Home - Supportive Employment Program for Youth (Montana)



- Moms meet with an Employment & Education Coordinator w/in 3mos; attend weekly team meetings; discuss challenges & solutions re: work & recovery
- A Dartmouth evidence-based approach using strengths to empower people to live healthy, productive lives through employment & education; 8 core principles inc. zero exclusion eligibility
- Ongoing work w/ community business owners; hiring needs & long-lasting relationships (116 contacts oct-dec 2021)
- Critical to person's self-worth increases their feelings of empowerment and sustainability for a healthy future for them and their child

Safe, Stable and Appropriate Shelter

Safe and Appropriate Exits

Each TLP Project must ensure youth have safe and appropriate exits when leaving the program.

Spotlight: Safe and Appropriate Exits



connections
FOR THE HOMELESS

Connections for the Homeless - Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (Evanston, IL)

- The Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County was awarded a two-year Youth Homeless Demonstration Program (YHDP) grant in the amount of \$6,078,027 to create and implement a plan to end homelessness for unaccompanied youth under 25 years old, including launching new projects to help us reach this goal.
- All young people experiencing homelessness will have immediate and equitable access to everything they need to thrive in their housing, education, employment, wellbeing, and positive connections.
- YHDP funding was awarded to several partnering agencies including Connections for the Homeless for the implementation of this demonstration project.

Spotlight: Safe and Appropriate Exits



connections
FOR THE HOMELESS

Connections for the Homeless - Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (Evanston, IL) Continued

- Connections for the Homeless has launched and implemented several Transitional Housing units and Rapid Re-Housing units for TAY experiencing homelessness. In addition to stable and consistent housing, participants receive case management services that includes but is not limited to employment, school, physical health, mental health, life skills development, etc. to name a few of the services received.
- Part of Connections safe and appropriate exit strategy is to discuss and assess and process with the participants best next steps regarding stable and consistent housing that's more accommodating to their personal growth as time goes on and their life overall supporting participants and their choices as well as presenting all options available to them.

Comprehensive Youth-Centered Services Model

Comprehensive Youth-Centered Services Model

Social and Emotional Well-being and Trauma Informed Care

TLP programs utilize a trauma-informed approach, which involves understanding and responding to the symptoms of chronic, interpersonal trauma and traumatic stress, as well as the behavioral and mental health consequences of trauma and prevention of re-traumatization.

Spotlight: Social Emotional Well-being

Milestone TLP - Mind Matters Curriculum (Salt Lake City, UT)



- Dibble Institute – Mind Matters Curriculum
- The groups are run in the young adults’ homes or in a conference room. (The program has 4 homes)
- Groups meet twice per month on Sundays as this is the date most young adults can attend.
- The purpose is to help the young adults learn new skills, process their thoughts and feelings, and to build insight.

Comprehensive Youth-Centered Services Model

Service Coordination Plan

TLP programs must have a suitable referral plan based on an assessment of youth needs to ensure appropriate system of care services are accessible.

Comprehensive Youth-Centered Services Model

Positive Youth Development (PYD)

TLP programs utilize a PYD framework that includes healthy messages, safe and structured places, adult role models, skill development, and opportunities to serve others.

Spotlight: Positive Youth Development (PYD)

The Night Ministry - Youth 4 Truth Group (Chicago, IL)



- Youth leadership development program for 18–24-year-olds
- Empowers young people to build life, job and advocacy skills through a 10-week cohort of mutual goals and accountability
- Elevates youth voice within TNM programs to impact program policies and operations
- Facilitates work on personal, professional and community goals/actions/projects both within TNM and external organizations, including participation at agency events and even presentations at RHYTTAC conferences and community press conferences
- Learnings: having dedicated staff time is essential to success; compensating youth for their time and activities, especially when benefiting the agency or a partner organization; recognize that impact will build over time

Comprehensive Youth-Centered Services Model

Outreach Plan

TLP programs will actively develop a plan to find runaway, homeless, street youth, or youth at-risk of becoming runaway or homeless.

Comprehensive Youth-Centered Services Model

Public Outreach and Awareness

TLP programs develop a plan to inform the community about TLP through social media; public service announcements; collaboration with other youth and family serving organizations; the National Runaway Safeline; culturally specific community-based organizations; sexual violence organizations; anti-trafficking agencies; law enforcement; health care providers; legal services; and other stakeholders.



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Comprehensive Youth-Centered Services Model

Gateway Services

When necessary and appropriate to facilitate the delivery of required TLP shelter and services, TLP programs must provide food, drink, clothing, and personal safety information (e.g., national youth hotlines local hotlines).



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Comprehensive Youth-Centered Services Model

Screening and Assessment

TLP programs will implement standardized methods to assess eligibility and the services required to meet the immediate needs of the client.

Comprehensive Youth-Centered Services Model

Case Management

TLP programs will identify and assess the needs of the youth and, as appropriate, arrange, coordinate, monitor, evaluate, and advocate for a package of services to meet the specific needs of the youth.

Comprehensive Youth-Centered Services Model

Individualized Service or Treatment Plan

TLP programs will develop with every youth receiving services, a written service or treatment plan based on the person's goals that include evidence-informed strategies to assist with the trajectory of achieving sustainable living.

Comprehensive Youth-Centered Services Model

Record Keeping and Case Management

TLP programs will create a separate file for the young person's infant or child. At a minimum, information contained in the file should include records of well-care visits, and sensory and developmental screenings and assessments.



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Comprehensive Youth-Centered Services Model

Transition Planning

TLP programs will provide every youth a written transitional living plan that meets their level of need for a safe and stable living environment after program exit.



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Comprehensive Youth-Centered Services Model

Aftercare Plan

Each TLP program must ensure youth have safe and appropriate exits when leaving the program. Projects will develop and implement an aftercare plan, covering at least 3 months, to stay in contact with youth who leave the program in order to ensure their ongoing safety and access to services.

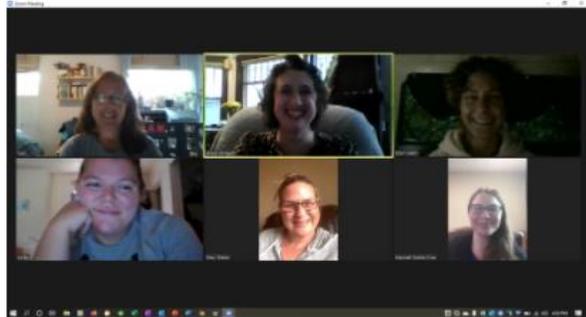


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Spotlight: Aftercare Planning

Mountain Home - Open Table



- Open to any adult/mom enrolled in Mental Health Services at MH
- For one year, 6-8 volunteers meet weekly as a group for at least an hour to support moms advance life goals
- Support through challenges; tangible & intangible
- Need: TI staff to help volunteers navigate

Spotlight: Aftercare Planning (cont.)

Mountain Home – Friends of the Children



- Founded on research showing that the single most important factor in overcoming childhood adversity is a long-term, nurturing relationship with a consistent and caring adult.
- Children 6 years and older who are facing systemic obstacles or who have lived through trauma;
- Each child is assigned a “friend” for 12 years;
- Friends are paid, full-time employees of FOTC;
- Friends work with 8-10 children, spending 3-4 hours per week with each child



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Poll Question:

What is the most effective method of communication for youth in aftercare?

Chat Question:

What makes that method the most effective?

Sustainability Plan

Sustainability Plan

Diversification, accountability, and collaboration

RHY grant recipients plan for sustainability at the beginning of the project and revisit and revise throughout the life of the grant. Plans must include the following:

- Sustainability through diversification of funding to continue services in the event of a loss of FYSB funding, as well as plans to address staff retention and staff turnover;
- Accountability in meeting FYSB's four core outcome areas and performance standards; and
- Collaboration through building meaningful partnerships with other service agencies, youth with lived experience of homelessness, as well as other experts on runaway and homeless youth in the community.



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TLP Performance Standards

Performance Standards

The RHY Rule establishes RHY Program Performance Standards as measures of successful outcomes for youth. The Performance Standards are used to monitor project performance in achieving the purposes of the RHY Act.

Projects collect and report on data via the Runaway and Homeless Youth - Homeless Management Information System (RHY-HMIS) and the Performance Progress Report (PPR).



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Performance Standards

- 1. Social and Emotional Well-being:** Youth will be connected to a trauma-informed system of care providers to assist and promote positive physical health, substance abuse treatment, mental health, personal safety (e.g., identify potential trafficking situations), and reduce sexual risk behaviors they may face.
- 2. Permanent connections:** Youth will experience positive ongoing attachments to families, communities, schools, and other social networks.
- 3. Education or Employment:** Youth will connect to school or vocational training programs, improve interviewing and job attainment skills, and obtain and maintain employment.
- 4. Stable housing:** Youth will transition to safe and stable housing that appropriately matches their level of need after leaving a TLP to include moving in with family, when appropriate; or other permanent supportive housing, residential treatment center, or substance abuse treatment facility.



Performance Standards

Social-Emotional Well-being

Standard: Grantees will enhance outcomes for youth in the core area of social and emotional well-being.

Measure: The average composite score of general health, mental health, and dental health status will be lower at exit from a TLP than at entry.

Performance Standards

Permanent Connections

Standard: Grantees will enhance outcomes for youth in the core area of permanent connections.

Measure: Grantees will report the percentage of youth upon exiting the TLP who report that there at least one adult in their life, other than RHY program staff, to whom they can go for advice or emotional support.

Performance Standards

Education or Employment

Standard: Grantees will enhance outcomes for youth in the core area of education or employment.

Measure: 66% of youth leaving a TLP will be attending school or have graduated from high school or obtained a GED.

Measure: 75% of youth leaving a TLP will be employed or looking for work.

Performance Standards

Stable Housing

Standard: Grantees will enhance outcomes for youth in the core area of stable housing.

Measure: 90% of youth leaving a TLP will exit to a safe and stable destination.

Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Serving Youth Who Run Away From Foster Care or Correctional Institution

Pursuant to 45 CFR § 1351.23(e) and (f), projects must develop and implement a plan for addressing youth who have run away from foster care placement or correctional institutions, in accordance with federal, state, or local laws or regulations that apply to these situations. Projects must also take steps to ensure that youth who are or should be under the legal jurisdiction of the juvenile justice or child welfare systems obtain and receive services from those systems until such time as they are released from the jurisdiction of those systems.

Additionally, TLP programs are required to increase their capacity to identify and provide services and/or service referrals to trafficked youth by participating in professional training and adding human trafficking elements into existing screening and assessment tools. TLP programs are encouraged to enhance their human trafficking prevention and intervention efforts to minimize these incidents among vulnerable youth and effectively identify trafficked youth.



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Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Governance and Fiscal Controls

Organizations must have in place governance structure, fiscal control, and accountability procedures.

Staffing plan

Organizations must staff and supervise the project to ensure the effective implementation of the project plans.

Staff Safety

Organizations must have safety protocols for workers.

Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Grantee Publication Disclaimer Requirements

Grantees are advised when issuing statements, press releases, publications, requests for proposals, bid solicitations, and other documents—such as tool-kits, resource guides, websites, and presentations (hereafter “statements”)—describing projects or programs funded in whole or in part with HHS federal funds, the recipient must clearly state the following:

- the percentage and dollar amount of the total costs of the program or project funded with federal money; and
- the percentage and dollar amount of the total costs of the project or program funded by non-governmental sources.

Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Background checks

All RHY grant recipients must conduct background checks on all employees, contractors, volunteers, and consultants who have regular and unsupervised private contact with youth served by the organization, and on all adults who reside in or operate host homes, beginning on October 1, 2017.

Required background checks include state or tribal criminal history records, including fingerprint checks; sex offender registry check; and any other checks required by state law; and to the extent the project is able to, the plan should include Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) criminal history records, including fingerprint checks and child abuse and neglect registry checks.



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Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Emergency preparedness plan

All projects must conduct routine preventative maintenance of facilities as well as have preparedness, response, and recovery plans in place in the event of natural disasters.

Licensing requirement

Projects ensure all shelters are licensed and any shelter to which the project regularly refers clients to have evidence of current licensure, in states or localities with licensure requirements.

Failure to adhere to licensing requirements outlined in 45 CFR 1351.23(h) may result in disallowance of federal funds.



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Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Training plan

All paid staff and volunteers must be trained on the ***Core Competencies of Youth Workers*** necessary to carry out the objectives and activities of the project.

Training topics must include, but are not limited to, PYD, trauma-informed care, evidence-informed practices and approaches, street outreach intervention, combatting human trafficking and sexual exploitation, harm reduction, assessment and case management, worker safety, understanding the diversity and culture of life on the street, safe and ethical practices, and community resources for well-being and self-sufficiency.



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Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Technical assistance, monitoring, and short-term training

All RHY grant recipients must participate in technical assistance, monitoring, and short-term training as recommended by federal staff to ensure quality programming and implementation to allow flexibility in which techniques will be used.

Training and technical assistance is free through Runaway and Homeless Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center (RHYTTAC).



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Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Confidentiality

No records containing the identity of individual youth, including, but not limited to, lists of names, addresses, photographs, or records of evaluation of individuals served by a RHY project, may be disclosed or transferred to any individual or to any public or private agency, except for the purpose of research, evaluation, and statistical analysis.

These records are allowed to be based on individual data, but only if such data are de-identified in ways that preclude disclosing information on identifiable individuals. Youth served by a RHY project shall have the right to review their records to correct a record or file a statement of disagreement and to be apprised of the individuals who have reviewed their records.



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Breakout Groups

You will be randomly assigned to a breakout room.
Please accept when prompted to join the discussion.

Groups 1-3: Partnerships & Service Coordination

Groups 4-6: Aftercare

Groups 7-9: Data Management and Four Core Outcomes

Groups 1-3: Breakout Question

How has your organization built authentic/meaningful collaborations with community-based partners to build, support, enhance and create service coordination and housing options for youth? How do you successfully facilitate warm hand-offs with those partners?



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Groups 4-6: Breakout Question

What innovative strategies has your organization employed to prepare youth for aftercare once the youth exits your program? How does your organization maintain those connections with the youth?

Groups 7-9: Breakout Question

How does your organization collect data on the four core outcomes? How does your organization ensure data quality?

Breakout Groups

Groups 1-3: Partnerships & Service Coordination

Groups 4-6: Aftercare

Groups 7-9: Four Core Outcomes

Closing Remarks

Dr. Sanzanna Dean,
Runaway and Homeless Youth Division Director

Evaluation and Upcoming Events

Please complete the evaluation for this event. Select *Webinar or Virtual Training*, then select "*Transitional Living Program: RHY Program Specific Training Series, March 15, 2022*" from the dropdown menu.

- <https://tinyurl.com/sc9dbcjw>

2022 Runaway and Homeless Youth Program Specific Training Series :

- Street Outreach Program : Thursday, March 17 from 1 PM - 4 PM
- Basic Center Program: Tuesday, March 22 from 1 PM - 4 PM
- Maternity Group Home: Thursday, March 24 from 1 PM - 4 PM
- [Register Here >>](#)



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