

# PROGRAM SPONSORSHIP



## **ABOUT STEP2**

Studies show that pregnant and parenting women are far less likely to seek treatment for substance use disorders than their male counterparts because of the many barriers that exist for them. STEP2 was founded in 1986 on the principle that pregnant and parenting women should not have to choose between being a parent and receiving substance use disorder treatment.

When women's specific needs are addressed from the outset, improved treatment engagement, retention and outcomes are the result. Since its inception, STEP2 has provided gender-specific treatment, transitional housing and comprehensive wraparound services to over 4,300 women and their families.

The STEP2 campus includes a 20-bed residential facility, 25 transitional housing cottages and a 13,000 square foot family counseling center, where we serve approximately 200 families per year. Our residential treatment program engages women in traumainformed group and individual therapy for up to 30 hours each week, while also providing wraparound services including case management, medical care referrals and coordination, childcare assistance, parenting education, transportation assistance, domestic violence advocacy and education, and on-site mental health assessment, therapy and medication assistance.

Upon completion of the residential treatment program (approximately 90 days), a woman and her children are able to move into one of our transitional housing cottages while she continues her engagement in the comprehensive services listed above at the intensive outpatient and/or outpatient treatment levels. Additionally, women in our transitional housing program will receive assistance in obtaining quality childcare, will find suitable and gainful employment through our workforce development program, and will learn the necessary tools to connect with healthy community resources.

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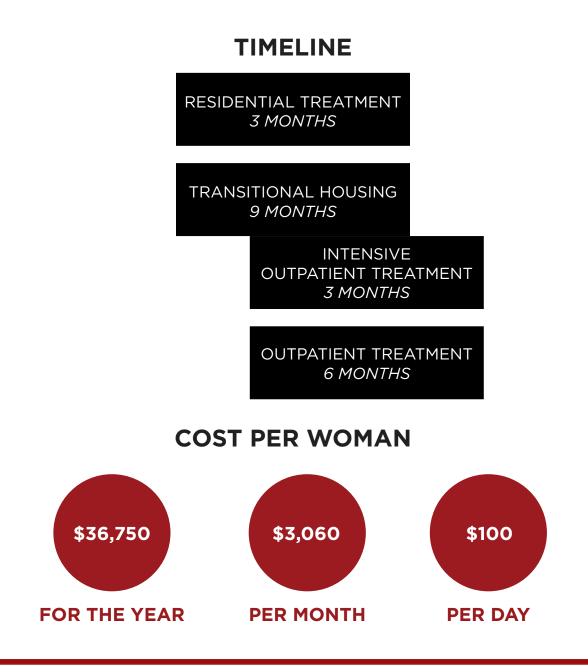
# **RECOVERY SPONSOR**

Women and their children live on the STEP2 campus, on average, for one year.

In addition to treatment services, STEP2 helps the women in the program find suitable employment, reunify with children, and access quality childcare.

When a woman is ready to leave STEP2, she is clean and sober, gainfully employed, and she has learned life skills that will allow her to break free from patterns and environments that perpetuated addiction to create and maintain a better life for herself and her children.

The timeline for STEP2's recovery program is outlined below.



### **TRANSITIONAL HOUSING SPONSOR**

Once a client has successfully completed residential treatment, she is eligible for STEP2's Transitional Housing Program. STEP2's Transitional Housing (the Lighthouse Campus) has 25 cottages ranging from one, two and three bedrooms.

A woman and her children move into a fully furnished home (furnished entirely by community donations) and upon successful completion of treatment, she will take all of the furnishings with her when she moves to her next home.

Children can live with their moms in the cottages and STEP2 partners with courts, CPS and other agencies to support moms in reunifying with their minor children.

Clients will pay rent (1st month is free, 2nd month is ½ rent and 3rd month and beyond is full rent) and are encouraged to stay for a year but are not limited to only a year. STEP2 is able to provide positive rental history references for clients who are financially compliant.

In addition to subsidizing the rent for the women who move into these cottages, STEP2 also is responsible for all maintenance and upkeep expenses.



# MENTAL HEALTH SPONSOR

In the past three years, the number of clients who enter treatment at STEP2 with cooccurring substance use disorder and mental health disorder has steadily increased to average over 70% of women served, or approximately 7 out of every 10 women who enter treatment. Many women with untreated and undiagnosed mental health disorders lack the ability to engage in the intensive substance use disorder treatment programming at STEP2, as well as the ability to maintain and regulate emotions while living with 19 other women in a communal environment. With the steady increase of co-occurring disorders, it has followed that the average number of days spent in treatment decreases.

The decreasing length of treatment average informed us that we have not been meeting the needs of our population, and we decided to address the correlating barrier -- mental health.

STEP2's Mental Health Program operates on the STEP2 campus, while collaborating with other STEP2 programs such as Trauma/Domestic Violence Counseling, Substance Use Disorder Counseling, the Transitional Living Housing Team, the Project Re-unification Team (re-unification of women and their children) and the Community Resources Team to ensure continuity of care while in treatment, as well as while transitioning back into the community.

