**TARGET AUDIENCE**

This program is for youth who are 10 to 18 years old and are deemed to be at risk.

**SUMMARY**

Boys Town Family Home Program, a community-and faith-based program, is designed to decrease academic and behavioral problems in youth by placing them in a safe, residential setting and by using the Teaching Family Model (TFM) approach to care. The program’s objective is to reunite youth with their families.

**EVIDENCE**

Two internal, quasi-experimental studies evaluating the effectiveness of the program have been conducted. In one study in which the program was compared to treatment-as-usual, results demonstrated that program youth reported greater improvements in academic performance and relationship-focused outcomes, such as feeling more satisfied in their relationships with the adults caring for them and feeling less isolated from family and friends. These effects were maintained in youth for over a year after leaving the program. In the other study in which the program was compared to treatment foster care, results demonstrated that program youth were more likely to be favorably discharged and returned home at the end treatment, and they were less likely to experience another placement 6 months after leaving treatment. The results of these studies should be interpreted with caution as both had issues with sample representativeness, attrition, and measurement.

**COMPONENTS**

A married couple and a family-teacher assistant provide oversight in a home setting with six to eight youth. The living environment is designed to mirror a typical family home environment, including chores and family leisure time. Children attend an on-campus Boys Town school. The program follows a five-step model that includes the following:

1. Instill life skills in children and families.
2. Assist with relationship building and communication skills.
3. Teach decision-making skills that foster a sense of empowerment for participants.
4. Provide a family-centered, accepting environment for each child to grow.
5. Support each child's spiritual growth and the family's spiritual growth.

**PREVIOUS USE**

Founded in 1917 by Father Edward J. Flanagan, Boys Town was first implemented in Omaha, Nebraska, as Father Flanagan's Home for Boys. Boys Town has expanded to include the Boys Town National Research Hospital and the Boys Town National Hotline, and this organization serves over 2 million youth each year. Based in Omaha, Nebraska, Boys Town also has 12 regional program sites across the United States.
Boys Town Family Home Program

TRAINING
Each group home is run by a married family-teaching couple, and a family-teaching assistant. These individuals must be at least 21 years old and should possess at least a high-school diploma, with some additional college experience desired. Every family-teaching couple and assistant are required to attend a 2-week, paid training workshop in Omaha, Nebraska. For more information, please contact the Boys Town Family Program using details in the Contact section.

CONSIDERATIONS
Considerations for implementing this program include recruiting and retaining suitable family-teaching couples and assistants who have a high degree of responsibility and dedication, securing buy-in from youth and their parents, and obtaining space to run the program consistent with creating a family-home environment.

The Clearinghouse can help address these considerations. Please call 1-877-382-9185 or email Clearinghouse@psu.edu

IMPLEMENTATION
If you are interested in implementing the Boys Town Family Home Program, the Clearinghouse is interested in helping you! Please call 1-877-382-9185 or email Clearinghouse@psu.edu

The Boys Town Family group homes provide 24-hour, 7-days-a-week care to youth while they are in treatment. The average stay for a participant is 12 to 18 months.

For information about program implementation costs, please contact the developer using details in the Contact section.

EVALUATION PLAN
To move the Boys Town Family Home Program to the Promising category on the Clearinghouse Continuum of Evidence, at least one well-designed evaluation should be performed that addresses the limitations noted in the Evidence section and demonstrates positive effects lasting at least one year from the beginning of the program or at least six months from program completion.

The Clearinghouse can help you develop an evaluation plan to ensure the program components are meeting your goals. Please call 1-877-382-9185 or email Clearinghouse@psu.edu

CONTACT
Contact the Clearinghouse with any questions regarding this program.
Phone: 1-877-382-9185 Email: Clearinghouse@psu.edu
You may also contact Robert Pick by mail 13603 Flanagan Boulevard, Boys Town, NE 68010, phone 402-498-3357, email Bob.Pick@boystown.org or visit https://www.boystown.org/Pages/default.aspx

SOURCE
https://www.boystown.org/Pages/default.aspx and https://www.crimesolutions.gov/ProgramDetails.aspx?id=384