

PERSPECTIVE

Young people who are homeless (ages 13 - 24) make up approximately 20% of the homeless population in Canada (Gaetz et al., 2014). Over the course of the year there are between 35,000 - 40,000 young people who experience homelessness, and on any given night between 6,000 - 7,000.

These youth are at significantly higher risk of experiencing harms, exploitation/trafficking, gang recruitment, and involvement with police and justice systems. As youth become more entrenched, co-occurring risk-factors may escalate (i.e. ongoing poverty, substance use, mental and physical health issues) and significantly impact their likelihood of sustainable tenancy.

GAP aims to mitigate youths experiences of systemized trauma by establishing culturally competent Indigenous Youth Supports in Brandon, MB.

... supporting youths footsteps toward the future ...

CONNECT WITH GAP



Reception 204-571-6530
admin@bfcgap.ca

Coordinator
Lisa Noctor 204-761-0385
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Case Management Team
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@GAP Youth Outreach



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G A P
GAKINA ABINOOJIIYAG PROGRAM

SERVICE PROVIDER INFORMATION PACKAGE

**BRANDON FRIENDSHIP CENTRE
YOUTH HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION
SUPPORT FOR AGES 16 - 26**

**REFERRAL BASED CONNECTIONS
FOR VOLUNTARY YOUTH SUPPORTS**

*PLEASE REACH OUT BEFORE DIRECTING
YOUTH TO OUR FACILITIES - STAFF MAY
NOT BE AVAILABLE / PROGRAM MAY BE
AT CASE LOAD CAPACITY (WAIT LIST)*

ABOUT US

GAP is a community based early intervention and prevention program for young people and their families who may need support transitioning to independent living, and youth who may be at risk of homelessness or within their first year of homelessness.

The goal is to keep youth connected to their families, communities, and schools; strengthening connections to natural supports and ultimately reducing risk of homelessness.

GAP aims to support young people in achieving their unique goals in a safe and planned way by helping youth rediscover strengths that already exist with them and encouraging harm reduction strategies toward peaceful living and sustainable tenancy.

We provide one-on-one mentorship, service navigation & coordination, advocacy support, life skills learning, family conciliation & community integration support, as well as housing resource assistance.

Please note: GAP does not operate housing - rather GAP can help youth prepare to enter the housing rental market and support access to community-based housing programs.



REFERRALS

Care givers and service providers are invited to reach out to our team with referrals for youth ages 16 - 26.

To connect youth, please complete the referral form attached and email to admin@bfcgap.ca.

If you prefer to speak to someone about a referral before completing a form, please email our Coordinator to schedule: coordinator@bfcgap.ca

It is important to note that we are a small team providing intensive support/case management services. We have a limited capacity, so youth may be waitlisted. In the meantime, we hope we can recommend other resources and share info about how to connect with different supports.

HOUSING CRISIS

See attached list of local resources.

It can be very helpful for Service Providers to assist youth in accessing these resources. Please support them to inquire and it's best if supports can attend with youth for intake and/or first entry to shelter spaces.

HOW CAN WE HELP?

Proof of Identity

We can help youth obtain proof of identity documents such as Health Cards, Birth Certificates, Photo ID Treaty & Social Insurance Numbers

Culture & Life Skills

GAP connected youth have access to client programming: weekly community-based beading & pow wow, indigenous craft supplies, on-site chore & meal programs + volunteer opportunities

Case Management

We are here to provide support and guidance to youth, and to advocate on their behalf as needed. We will help to complete forms, prepare for meetings, and understand system processes. We can help youth access local resources such as food hampers, housing programs, income assistance and rent affordability top-ups, mental health and addictions services, and more.