

EVA's INITIATIVES
**YOUth Belong
Housing Program**

What is Youth Belong?

- YOUth Belong is a program that provides rental accommodation for Black youth and young adults living in Toronto.
- YOUth Belong is funded by the City of Toronto.
- The program is a partnership between the City of Toronto and the African Canadian Community Centre (ACCC).
- Youth and young adults who are currently experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness can apply for the program.
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How



- Scattered site homes- For rental accommodation.
- 28 Community bursaries
- Youth and their families can access:

 - Rent Subsidy up to \$800/monthly to assist with housing costs *with supports up to 1 year (Lease & ID required)*
 - Culturally relevant wrap around supports

- Step 1: Application is available at www.evas.ca
- Step 2: Submit completed application to intake@evas.ca
- Step 3: Someone from our Intake Team will follow up on your application to book an intake assessment meeting

Why Black youth?

- As an organization founded by a Black woman, Eva Smith, Eva's is uniquely placed to support the needs of Black youth.
- Black youth experience systemic barriers when attempting to find stable housing in the city of Toronto
 - Overrepresented in homeless shelters and transitional homes
 - Face higher rates of housing insecurity and barriers to accessing long term housing as a legacy of colonialism and anti-Black racism
 - Experience difficulty accessing services (healthcare, education, employment etc.)

What is the eligibility criteria?

- Youth must be between the ages of 16 to 24 years old
- Youth must identify as Black (African descent or origin, African Black Caribbean, African-Canadian, Canadians of African descent)
- Youth must be homeless, at risk of being homeless, or precariously housed
- Youth must be committed to making changes in their lives and working toward interdependence which includes:
 - Having secured income from employment and/or social services (e.g. Ontario Works, Ontario Disability Support Program, Children's Aid Society)
 - Having goals related to employment, career and/or education
 - Demonstrating life skills such as: healthy relationships with family and friends, self-care, cooking, housekeeping, and financial literacy
 - Demonstrating goals to stay mentally and physically healthy
 - Working on developing support system including supports from community, family members, and friends
 - Having goals on next step(s) for housing

What makes YOUth Belong Different from existing Eva's programing...

- YOUth Belong anchors Black youth in their cultural identity by providing connections with culturally relevant community partners. These organizations, work to support Black young people in their ability to successfully navigate the complex systems that they encounter, including, education, criminal justice, healthcare and child welfare.

Step 4: A decision will be provided within 7-14 days after the initial meeting

Step 5: Once accepted your name is then placed on our waiting list (please note you may receive a move-in offer with acceptance should a bed be available and there are no current applicants on the waitlist) and for community bursary program applicants a Follow-up Support Worker will be assigned within 7-14 days of acceptance