

## On-Site Services and Programming Provided:

- Individualized and Strength-Based Programming
- Medication Monitoring
- Daily and Independent Living Skills Instruction
- Counseling
- Family Support Services
- Socialization Opportunities
- Health Services
- Skill Building Sessions
- Trauma Informed Care
- Individualized Treatment Planning
- Educational Support and Tutoring
- Therapy Dogs International Program

## “New Beginnings”

The name **Aurora** means “new beginnings” and we want to let youth know that we believe in a new beginning for them and their family. This is a new start; a journey of sorts that we hope will lead youth in a positive direction.

We are sure that youth have many types of feelings, and those are important to us. Coming to a new place can sometimes make one anxious or scared. Youth and families may be angry or sad about these changes. We want to know how we can help, so we want to be sure you let us know what you are feeling or what you may need.

Aurora House staff will use several tools to help families make movement on their journey. We believe in “**collaboration**” which is a big word that very simply means involving everyone in the planning process and supports for youth and their family.

## Aurora House Children and Youth Community Residence

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Lockport, NY 14094

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[www.communitymissions.org](http://www.communitymissions.org)

**Visit our website for a virtual tour!**

**Operated by:** Community Missions, Inc.  
1570 Buffalo Ave.  
Niagara Falls, NY 14303  
(716) 285-3403

**Certified and Licensed by:**  
New York State Office of Mental Health

## Off-Site Services and Programming Provided:

- Educational Services through the Lockport School District
- Vocational Training with Niagara Orleans BOCES
- Outpatient Therapy and Psychiatry with local clinic services
- Medical, Dental and Eye care within the Niagara County area
- Job or Volunteer Opportunities
- Recreational Activities
- Cultural and Spiritual Activities
- Extracurricular School Activities (Sports, Drama, Dance, Clubs, etc.)



## What is Aurora House?

Aurora House is a Community Residence treatment program for children and adolescents with mental health diagnoses and SED (Severely Emotionally Disturbed) Classification. Aurora House is a co-ed, 24-hour supervised facility that houses a maximum of 8 adolescents, ages 12-17. The treatment period is estimated to be from 6 months to one year. Youth attend school, work, volunteer, activities, and appointments within the local community.

## Referrals and Admissions

Referrals to Aurora House can be made by the Department of Social Services, Residential Treatment Facilities, State or Private Psychiatric Hospitals, SPOA, families, and/or other service providers.

Referral packets can be obtained by accessing the agency website or contacting the Aurora House Clinical Coordinator.

Completed referral packets should be returned to the Aurora House Clinical Coordinator. The referral will be reviewed for admission criteria and presented to the Aurora House Intake Committee.

The Intake Committee will review the referral information and determine eligibility for the Aurora House Program.

Intake Committee decisions are then communicated to the referring party and next steps discussed. Pre-placements visits are required prior to admission.

Once a youth has successfully completed pre-placement visits an admission date can be set. A parent and/or legal guardian must be present for the youth's admission to the Aurora House Program.

## Aurora House Objectives

To provide a safe, therapeutic environment for youth in residence that provides a strength-based approach to all service planning, with the youth and families as full partners in the recovery process.

To ensure trauma-sensitive and culturally competent service planning to meet each families needs.

To assure linkages to appropriate mental health, education, medical, and dental services.

To provide each youth with assistance in managing and understanding their behaviors, dealing with crisis in their lives and improving their daily living skills.

To assist each resident to work toward the most appropriate discharge option for them.

To assist each youth in improving coping skills, calming choices, self-esteem, and the ability to be successful in the community.

## Service Payment

Aurora House receives payment for services through a variety of sources including Social Security Supplemental Income, Medicaid, Adoption Subsidies, and Social Security Disability Income.

Contact the Aurora House Program Manager or Clinical Coordinator for discussion on applying for Medicaid and Social Security, and other payment or financial information.

## Discharge Planning

Discharge planning for Aurora House youth begins the day the youth is admitted to program. It is the goal of Aurora House for all youth to return home to their parent or guardian.

Families and youth are encouraged to involve as many external supports in their service planning as possible because it is the support system outside of Aurora House that makes a discharge home a successful transition.

Prior to returning home, necessary referrals will be made to each family's community for in-home case management services, educational placement, outpatient therapy and psychiatry services, and any additional supports the family and youth may require to be successful.

Community Missions' Family Liaison will continue to follow-up with families for 6 months post- discharge.

## Additional CMI Supports

- **Family Support Program**
- **Crisis/Emergency Housing**
- **Food Pantry/Distribution**
- **Clothes Closet**