

On-Site Services and Programming Provided:

- Individualized and Strength-Based Programming, which may include Dialectical Behavioral Therapy, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, and Solution-Focused work
- Medication monitoring
- Daily and independent living skills instruction
- Trauma Informed Care
- Family Support Services
- Parenting Curriculum and supports
- Socialization opportunities
- Health services
- Skill building sessions

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 vision care within the Niagara County area
- Job and/or volunteer opportunities
- Recreational, cultural, and/or spiritual activities
- Extracurricular School Activities (sports, drama, clubs, etc.)

“New Beginnings”

The name **Aurora** means “new beginnings” and we want to let youth know that we strive to provide a new start; a journey that will lead them in a positive direction.

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

Aurora House staff use several tools to help families progress on their journey. We believe in **collaboration**, meaning that everyone is involved in the planning process and in providing support for youth and their family as they progress through the recovery process.



Aurora House Children and Youth Community Residence

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www.communitymissions.org

Visit our website for a virtual tour!

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

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.

It is a co-ed, 24-hour supervised residence housing a maximum of eight youth, ages 12-18. Treatment periods are estimated to be from six to nine months.

Youth attend school, work, volunteer and recreational activities, and appointments within the local community.

Referrals and Admissions

Referrals 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 on the agency website or by contacting the Aurora House Program Manager.

Completed packets should be given or mailed to the Program Manager. Referrals will be reviewed for admission criteria and presented to the Aurora House Intake Committee, who determines eligibility for the Program.

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

Once a youth has 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 program.

Aurora House Objectives:

- To provide each youth with assistance in managing and understanding their behaviors, coping with crisis, and improving their daily living skills and self esteem.
- To assure linkages to appropriate mental health, education, medical, and dental services.
- To utilize a **strength-based** approach, encouraging youth to participate in extra curricular, recreational, spiritual, work, or volunteer activities based on their individual talents and interests.
- To utilize a **trauma-informed** approach where the impact of trauma is understood to ensure that services promote healing.
- To ensure that youth and families receive comprehensive care that is **culturally and linguistically appropriate**, considering factors including, but not limited to: race, gender, age, sexual orientation, and spirituality.
- To provide **youth-guided** care where youth are given decision-making roles in policies and procedures, and are encouraged to express desires for their daily lives, recovery, and care.
- To provide **family-driven** care, encouraging families to have a primary decision-making role in their children's lives, and to advocate for their best possible care.
- To assist each youth to work toward the most appropriate discharge option.

Discharge Planning

Discharge planning for Aurora House youth begins the day of admittance. It is our goal for youth to return to their parent or guardian.

Families and youth are encouraged to involve many external supports in their service planning; the support system outside of Aurora House 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 other supports family and youth may require to be successful.

Staff will continue to follow-up with families for six months post-discharge.

Service Payment

Aurora House receives payment through sources including Social Security Supplemental Income, Medicaid, Adoption Subsidies, and Social Security Disability. Private pay arrangements are also a possibility.

For financial information, please contact the Aurora House Program Manager.

Additional CMI Supports

- ◆ Family Support Program
- ◆ Crisis/Emergency Housing
- ◆ Food Pantry and Community Kitchen
- ◆ Clothes Closet
- ◆ Furniture & Appliance Help (if available)