

A History of Service

FAMILY SERVICES OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

is a comprehensive human service agency that provides a wide variety of programs, services and activities for children, families, and adults living in the western Pennsylvania region. Since 1885, Family Services has remained committed to its mission...

Empower people to reach their full potential.

Our services are developed in accordance with national service organizations, the Alliance for Children and Families, and the National Council for Community Behavioral Health and are accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Services for Families and Children. Certification by the Council on Accreditation means that Family Services meets the highest national standards for professional performance in human services.

Personnel policies, procedures, and practices are designed and implemented to prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, religious creed, disability, ancestry, national origin, age, sex, or sexual orientation.



**For more information about all of our programs
and services, call toll-free: 1-888-222-4200**

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**FAMILY SERVICES OF
WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA**

Fairweather Lodge



Building a strong foundation of interdependence together

A community living arrangement designed specifically for persons with mental illness who wish to live independently and be productive members of their own business within the community.





What is a Fairweather Lodge?

The Fairweather Lodge is a community living arrangement designed specifically for persons with mental illness who wish to live independently and be productive members of their own business within the community. Persons who may benefit from lodge living are those who want to live independently and work but may lack the finances, resources, support and skills to do so on their own. Lodge members come together as housemates to grow and support each other. Through shared responsibility, accountability, work and mutual respect, you can build a strong foundation in which to have safe affordable housing, find and keep employment, develop friendships, and have support as you progress in your recovery.

As a lodge member you will share in the day to day operations and responsibilities of managing a home and business together. You will participate in the development of the “house rules”, managing activities and work practices. All members are expected to share in home and work responsibilities.

Fairweather Lodges are managed by the members with assistance provided by the Lodge Coordination Specialist as needed and in emergencies. The Lodge Coordination Specialist serves as a consultant, educator and teacher of the Principles of Fairweather Lodge living.

Benefits of Fairweather Lodge Living

- Provides safe and affordable place to live in which to pursue your recovery.
- Increases self-worth and confidence.
- Provides a supportive group-living environment in which to live, work, grow and learn from each other.
- Enhances your employability and increases length of employment by your involvement and continued participation in the Lodge’s day to day business.
- All members have a “stake” in and share in the decision making processes for their lodge.
- Promotes team-work among members to create a community of strong support within the lodge.
- Offers support and guidance at home and on the job as members live and work together.
- Serves to decrease hospitalizations and promote recovery through the creation of a family lifestyle of daily support.

Lodge Principles

- Lodge members are empowered through engagement in meaningful work and activity.
- Lodge members increase sense of self-worth and develop a personal stake in the lodge success.
- Lodge members develop ownership of their living environment and the rules they live by.
- Interdependency and autonomy equal healthy living and creates a community of strong support within the lodge.
- Lodge members communicate respectfully to one another and are expected to participate in group governance.



Eligibility for Fairweather Lodge Program

- Applicants are to be at least 18 years of age, have a mental health diagnosis, have a driver’s license or in the process of obtaining one, and understand that they will participate fully in the services required of Lodge members.
- Applicants should be physically able and willing to share in household responsibilities and interested in teamwork for the success of their lodge.
- Applicants should be relatively stable on their medications and willing to continue taking them as prescribed by their doctor.
- Applicants should be drug free or in a recovery program with at least six months of demonstrated sobriety.
- Applicants should be able to function reasonably well even with symptoms, if present, and willing to participate in group discussions, decision making, task/work training and performance.
- Applicant should be interested in pursuing and able to participate in work activities or business opportunities.

For Further Information

Brad Scherf—Lodge Coordination Specialist
Cell: 412-977-2366

Wendy Drapcho—Coordinator
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Point of Entry for Services
1-888-222-4200