



**IHYC**

A YSS ORGANIZATION

**PSEERP**

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION  
RETENTION PROGRAM

Learn.  
Achieve.  
Succeed.





IHYC and United Way of Central Iowa have partnered to offer the **Post-Secondary Education Retention Program (PSERP)**, an initiative that assists young adults (ages 18-25) in successfully completing their post-secondary education goals. This includes a two year associates degree, four year bachelor's degree, or certificate of completion from a trade program.

## To help ensure participant success, **PSERP** offers five key components:

1. Case management to address the unique needs of each participant
2. A financial incentive (monthly stipend) for attending classes, completing assignments, and maintaining a budget
3. Mentors and/or tutors to provide individual support in the participant's field of interest
4. Financial planning and coaching
5. Job searching assistance



## Those who are eligible

The Post-Secondary Education Retention Program is a community-based approach designed to provide support to youth who are working to overcome adversity.

Individuals eligible for PSERP include those who:

- Are 18-25 years old
- Have obtained a high school diploma or GED
- Have never before attended college and/or are the first in their family to attend college
- Are classified within a low income bracket, are currently experiencing homelessness or are at risk of being homeless
- Are open and willing to receive guidance and academic support for a commitment of two years or more

## How to apply

Youth interested in participating in PSERP are required to submit an application, provide two letters of support and answer two essay questions. Qualified applicants are contacted for an interview, at which time a copy of school transcripts or proof of GED completion is required.

Applications are available at [www.iowahomelessyouth.org](http://www.iowahomelessyouth.org) or 612 Locust Street Des Moines, Iowa 50309.

For more information, contact Naomi Ramsay at 515-249-7115 or [nramsay@yss.org](mailto:nramsay@yss.org)



At Iowa Homeless Youth Centers (IHYC), our mission is to eliminate homelessness among children, youth and young mothers in Polk County. We believe, with support and assistance, homeless individuals and families can live independently and attain self-sufficiency.

An important part of this work is to advocate for the youth we serve – young women and men, ages 16-21, and parenting and pregnant mothers, ages 16-25, and their children. We help these youth focus on education, employment, safe housing, life skills and positive community engagement.

**For more information about IHYC, visit [www.iowahomelessyouth.org](http://www.iowahomelessyouth.org).**



IOWA HOMELESS YOUTH CENTERS



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#YOUTHSTANDINGSTRONG



Iowa Homeless Youth Centers is a United Way funded agency.

Iowa Homeless Youth Centers is a community based organization of YSS, Inc.