



Background

Na-Me-Res (Native Men's Residence) is committed to supporting the efforts of its clients as they work toward a life away from homelessness. Recognizing Aboriginal people are disproportionately represented in the homeless community, Na-Me-Res renewed our commitment to ensure our services are culture-based. In 2007, Na-Me-Res introduced the Credit Program as one of our programs and services under client care services.

Credit Program

The Credit Program is an innovative program introduced to our client care services/case management plan for the residents of our Men's Shelter—home to 63 clients, Outreach Support Services—clients fluctuate as their current home is the streets and we striving to get them off the streets into permanent housing; and at Sagatay (A New Beginning) transitional housing facility—home to 22 Aboriginal men and male youth.

The participant is required to complete a maximum of 70 hours of work placement in the areas of maintenance; administration; kitchen or outreach services. At the end of the clients placement a total of 840 credits would be earned. The credits earned through this program can be used to **stabilize our clients housing situations**. Other uses of earned credits—applied to purchase of furnishings as they move from the shelter to their own housing accommodations; other uses—credits can be used to purchase clothing, food, electronic devices such as a computer of their own, etc.

Client participation in a work placement, including the use of their earned credits form part of each clients case management plan. A good case management plan identifies the number of credits a client needs to stabilize their housing situation-therefore not all clients require a full 840 credits. This approach provides us with the capacity to assist a greater number of clients overall.

The goals of the Credit Program are to:

- develop and enhance self-esteem in the clients
- assist the clients in working towards a better lifestyle
- develop a sense of self-worth in each individual
- develop work ethics
- develop time management
- promote a healthier lifestyle for each client as he/she will be focusing towards a positive reward at the end of their participation in the program
- replaces the urge of returning to drugs or alcohol

More Information

Please call 416-651-6750, Ext. 2224. If you wish to donate towards our Credit Program visit our website at www.namerres.org and download our donation form.