

REGIONS is a residential treatment program model established July 1, 2018, as required by Connecticut Public Act 18-31, that provides a rehabilitative and therapeutic environment in a small, home-like setting, close to home for adolescents ages 12 -18 adjudicated by the Superior Court for Juvenile Matters and ordered to a period of *Juvenile Probation Supervision with Residential Placement*.

- REGIONS is not a detention center, prison, or correctional facility. Adolescents aged 15 -17 who commit the most serious crimes in Connecticut are transferred to the adult criminal court for processing and are housed by the Department of Correction.
- REGIONS is designed to treat adolescents adjudicated in juvenile court with significant behavioral problems, mental health diagnoses, and substance use issues by addressing the root causes of behavioral issues through trauma-informed care, evidence-based individual, group, and family therapy, counseling, psychiatric medication as necessary, education, vocational training, restorative practices, and positive youth development activities to develop life skills, maximize individual strengths, and support positive leadership development. REGIONS prioritizes healing and skill building for a youth to tolerate stress without responding with harmful behaviors, regulate their emotions, and improve their interpersonal effectiveness.
- REGIONS program goals are to reduce recidivism through behavioral change, increase youth well-being, and facilitate a successful transition back to the youth's community. Individualized treatment and re-entry plans are developed and implemented to reduce risk through targeted interventions and are responsive to individualized needs and learning styles.
- REGIONS is a safe, hardware secure, and structured treatment environment. The living environment looks like a college dorm and is designed to invite camaraderie, and support community building within the program.
- A structured, trauma-informed, and rehabilitative schedule ensures that all program activities and services provide the youth with a predictable and therapeutic experience. In addition to education, medical services, and therapy, vocational training and opportunities are provided as well as numerous recreation and enrichment activities.
- Vocational services include interest inventories, resume writing, and soft skill development, and opportunities to achieve industry-recognized credentials (IRCs) relevant to construction (OSHA), food industry (ServSafe), retail industry, healthcare (First Aid/CPR/AED), babysitting, culinary arts, barbering, gardening, flagger, truck driving, fork lift operating, commercial painting (houses, buildings, automotive), woodworking and CNC machinery, automotive, music and video production, and cosmetology to name some.

- On-site job skill development and internship opportunities such as store management, librarian, banker, gym manager, fitness instructor, maintenance assistant, payroll coordinator, and journalist.
- Recreation includes numerous large muscle and passive activities such as basketball, pickle ball, volleyball, wiffle ball, ping pong, cornhole, gaming, puzzles, coloring, and reading.
- Enrichment activities include drawing, painting, pottery, ceramics, beading, design projects, dance and fitness, martial arts, drumming, mindfulness, yoga, and other safe activities that are fun, explore interests, and build emotional regulation skills.

A property for a REGIONS program needs to have enough space to meet all program requirements which include but are not limited to living space and passive recreation areas, classrooms, hands-on vocational training space, office space, indoor and secure outdoor recreation space, parking for staff and visitors, privacy, and potential area community and business partners.

A property for a REGIONS program was identified through a property search process conducted by DAS on behalf of the Judicial Branch. Thirty-nine properties were considered over several years, including all the properties on the state surplus list and other properties considered through an internet search using Loopnet.com. The criteria used includes property for sale, not lease, and of an office, industrial, or special type with enough square footage (ranging from 25k to 40k sq.ft.) under \$3M. Also desired was a property of at least 4 acres to provide enough parking for staff and visitors, outdoor recreation, privacy, and green space.

The property at 303 Merrow Road, Tolland was identified through the Loopnet.com search. The property offers 33,778 square feet for approximately \$2.8M with 15 acres setback from the road providing privacy and green space. The building is ready for renovation without needing indoor or outdoor environmental remediation. The facility can easily and cost-effectively be built out to REGIONS hardware security and treatment program specifications. The facility is also near a major highway allowing for easy access for staff, contractors, and visitors. In addition, the property is located east of the Connecticut river allowing many youth to receive treatment closer to home than Hamden. The property is also close to a university allowing for enrichment and academic opportunities for both REGIONS clients and university students and faculty.