

## **PROGRAM SUMMARY**

Each Learner has a Resource Consultant (RC) who works for the VISION Home and Community Program (HCP). Resource Consultants are VISION HCP staff members who work directly with Learners and families and who serve as liaisons between the Learner and the VISION HCP. Each RC forms a written agreement with each Learner and family. The RC meets weekly or monthly for about an hour to check-in with the Learner and parents. A longer quarterly meeting with the Learner and his family is held to reflect on the Learner's work and Learning Plan. The RC serves as an advocate for the Learner and parents. This includes being available and maintaining rapport, opening doors of possibility, networking, listening, providing resources and consulting. The RC, parent or another trusted adult meets with the Learner weekly for the specific purpose of checking in and working continually towards a deeper and more meaningful relationship with the Learner. This person is aware of the Learner on many levels and helps to find and provide necessary support. He or she is active in the development and revisiting of Learning Plans, Learner Schedules, portfolios, Learning Updates, Learning Plan Reflections, basic skill-level assessments and funding decisions. The RC also serves as an active liaison to Educators working with the Learner.

The Learner, RC, and parents develop a Learning Plan which shows what the Learner is doing now, how he wants to grow and how he is going to get there. The plan includes a Learner Schedule of activities and subjects that have been discussed and agreed upon by all parties. Each Learner has access to up to \$2000 to use to further his education according to the Learning Plan that is on file in the VISION HCP office. The money is used to support the Learning Plan, therefore, the Learner.

Each subject on the Learner Schedule will have an Educator's name by it. The Educator is a parent or a person from the community who is serving as a teacher, tutor, advisor or consultant to the Learner. Educators are supported in their roles by the RC and the VISION HCP staff.

Each Learner documents his learning in a continually maintained portfolio or other collection of work. The Learner chooses things that reflect work that he considers meaningful, significant or special. During the quarterly meetings, the Learner, RC, and parent discuss what kind of learning has occurred, how the Learner's schedule is working out, and to look through the Learner's work. Based on these quarterly family check-ins and the input of the Educators, the RC facilitates an update for each item on the schedule. The Learning Update needs to include a brief description of what happened in the topic area, what was learned, any significant new plans for the future and how the Educator was involved in the process. The Learning Plan is revisited often and can be changed if the Learner, parent, and RC have a discussion about potential changes and determine that the change is in the best interest of the Learner.

VISION HCP Learners can receive a VISION HCP Credit Diploma, a VISION HCP Community Diploma, a GED, or transfer to another program. VISION HCP builds the diploma around the Learner rather than the other way around. The goal is for a Learner to graduate from the VISION HCP with knowledge of himself, the qualities of character and the skills and support to successfully begin the next step of his life. The VISION HCP Credit Diploma recognizes a variety of types of learning and ways of demonstrating knowledge. Credit toward this diploma can be obtained from testing, classes, challenges or world experience.

To graduate, each Learner needs the following:

- a. 24 credits demonstrated in the portfolio
- b. A public presentation or exhibit
- c. Demonstration of self-knowledge
- d. Demonstration of the means, skills and clarity to embark on the next step after VISION
- e. Proficiency in benchmark standards in reading, writing, and math
- f. Agreement from the Learner's Resource Consultant and four adults other than the Learner's parents that the above criteria were met

The VISION HCP Community Diploma is based around nine qualities: Endurance, Excellence, Communication, Wisdom, Sustainability, Inspiration, Courage, Truth, and Service. To receive this diploma the Learner must assemble a five-person graduation committee. The committee offers support and guidance to the student along his path. Members of the committee have the power to recommend that a diploma be granted when they are in full consensus that the student is ready and qualified and has completed the following required components:

- a. Demonstration of a strong foundation for each of the Core Qualities and components.
- b. A public presentation or exhibit
- c. Demonstration of self-knowledge
- d. Documentation of skills and accomplishments in a portfolio and on a transcript
- e. Demonstration of the means, skills and clarity to embark on his or her next step after VISION

This program is based on the integrity of all who participate in it. This includes the Learners, RCs, Educators and the Learners' families. Building and maintaining strong relationships is a very important factor in this program. The relationships in the program extend into the community when the Learners work with Educators from the population and network to provide diverse learning environments. The most important relationships for Learners are often those involving family and parents, and the program encourages parental involvement that will support and encourage the Learner throughout life. Anyone can strive for his or her dreams with a strong support system in place.