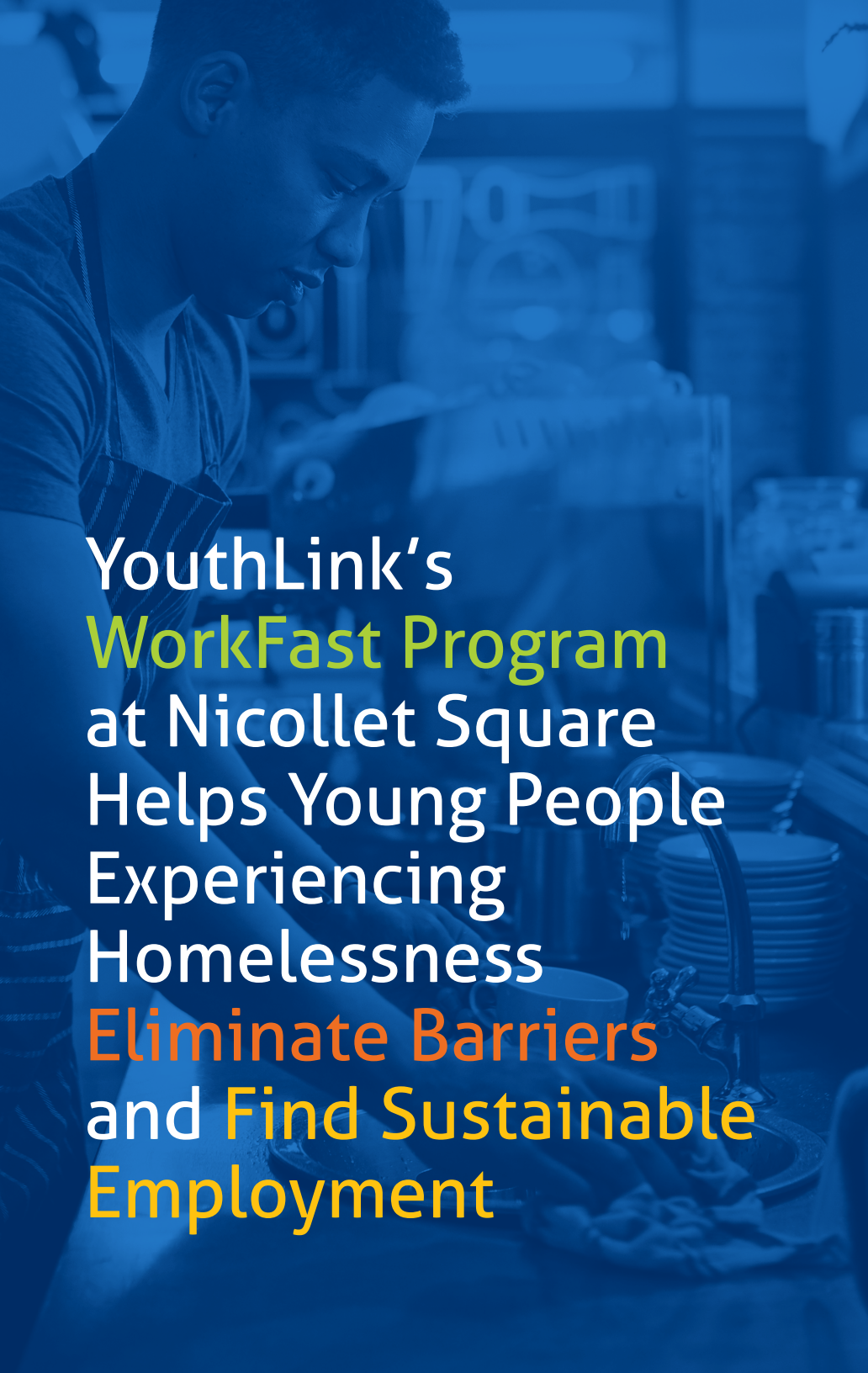




YOUTHLINK

WORKFAST PROGRAM

AT NICOLLET SQUARE



YouthLink's
WorkFast Program
at Nicollet Square
Helps Young People
Experiencing
Homelessness
Eliminate Barriers
and **Find Sustainable**
Employment

An estimated
13,300
Minnesota
youth on their own
experience
homelessness
over the course
of a year.*



Even this is a conservative estimate, as youth experiencing homelessness are often difficult to track due to their transient lifestyle: they may couch hop, stay in different shelters, sleep on public transportation, or stay in a park or encampment. A major barrier to a more stable life for these young people is finding sustainable employment (employment lasting six months or more). It's difficult to provide an address, phone number, and references—the basic information required on most job applications—when that information changes so quickly for them.

The WorkFast Program

YouthLink's WorkFast Program at Nicollet Square works to alleviate not only the barriers to stable permanent housing but also hurdles associated with finding and keeping sustainable employment. A subsidized internship program for young people ages 16–24 experiencing homelessness, WorkFast helps these youth obtain employment after becoming residents at Nicollet Square, our 42-unit permanent supportive housing building in south Minneapolis.

**2018 Minnesota Homeless Study: Wilder Research*

A win-win

Businesses and agencies are provided an opportunity to augment their workforce as well as provide real life training for our Nicollet Square residents. Young interns gain important work skills and experience, setting them up for a more stable life.

Successful and sustainable employment is crucial to breaking the cycle of homelessness for the young people in our community.



How it works

Nicollet Square residents complete a pre-employment packet, update their resumé, and work with a YouthLink Workforce and Career Coach to explore jobs or careers they are interested in pursuing.

After completing orientation, potential interns will explore options for internships which may include—but aren't limited to—retail, food service, trade skills, and administrative work. Once an area of interest has been chosen, the resident works to develop interview, interpersonal, and public interaction skills, as well as any additional skills specific to the position.

Most internships run approximately three months, although they may last longer depending on the needs of the employer and the intern's performance.

Interns are paid by YouthLink through a grant funding the WorkFast Program and earn a competitive entry level wage, working approximately 20-25 hours per week. Upon completion of the program, interns focus on securing full-time, sustainable employment in a job field in which they are interested.



Create change!

Help break the cycle of homelessness in your community: partner with our residents through the WorkFast Program. You'll offer a young person the opportunity to learn soft skills, explore a career, and become more financially stable.

**To learn more, contact YouthLink Staff at 612-252-1200
or youthlink@youthlinkmn.org**



YOUTHLINK
FROM HOMELESS TO HOPEFUL

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