

BASIC QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE HEARKEN HOUSE MINISTRY PROGRAM

1. **Must be a male.** Our ministry is small and does not have the facilities to accommodate more than one gender. Also, we house only sex offenders, including those designated as “sexually violent predators” and are therefore not permitted to house a gender other than male.
2. **Must be incarcerated within a Pennsylvania state prison or county jail.** We can no longer consider out-of-state candidates for our program unless they have already obtained approval to transfer from their state to Pennsylvania. Obtaining approval to transfer from another state to Pennsylvania is not something in which we can assist, nor can we provide a pre-approved home plan to a candidate so he may use our program/address to initiate the transfer process. We would be required to hold a bed space for the candidate during the lengthy process period (3 to 6 months), and there is no guarantee the candidate would receive approval.
3. **Must be on state or county parole or regular probation.** Due to different accountability requirements with individuals on parole or regular probation and those not on parole or regular probation, we can no longer accommodate individuals not on parole or regular probation. If an individual not on parole or regular probation performs an action he is authorized to perform or possesses an item he is authorized to possess but those on parole or regular probation are not authorized to perform or possess, those on parole or regular probation may face consequences nevertheless, including being returned to prison or jail.
4. **Must not be on special probation.** Violators of special probation requirements go before a judge, not a parole/probation officer, to determine the penalty for the committed violation. Depending upon the violation committed, the judge has the authority to shut down the entire half-way house, causing other residents to be displaced and possibly returned to prison or jail.
5. **Must be a sex offender.** Due to different accountability requirements with individuals designated as a sex offender and those not designated as a sex offender, we can no longer accommodate non sex offenders. If an individual not designated as a sex offender performs an action he is authorized to perform or possesses an item he is authorized to possess but those designated as a sex offender are not authorized to perform or possess, those designated as a sex offender may face consequences nevertheless, including being returned to prison or jail.
6. **Must possess the physical and mental capacity to perform manual labor.** Hearken House Ministry is self-funded (not funded by any state or federal agency) and must create its own income to support its program. Therefore, participants must commit to its 24-month work/training program that requires residents to work full-time at the ministry’s warehouse or other job sites. Participants must be able to operate or learn to operate pallet jacks, forklifts, motor vehicles, and other tools and machinery. Participants must also be able to single-person-lift fifty pounds and multi-person-lift 100 pounds.

Candidates must meet all the above qualifications.