



# OVERBROOK SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

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## OSBnb Initiative

### Need and Impact

Overbrook School for the Blind (OSB) develops and delivers programming that creates opportunities for its students living with visual impairments and additional disabilities, preparing them to experience active and fulfilling lives. **OSBnb** is a project that provides accessible accommodations for children and adults with profound impairments who would otherwise be unable to enjoy all Philadelphia has to offer, while advancing our students' independence and demonstrating societal interdependence.

Initiatives of this nature are critical because, according to the National Federation of the Blind, more than 70% of visually impaired adults of working age today are not employed full-time. Beyond the job-preparedness skills provided by this initiative, it will enable students to display their abilities and shift negative stereotypes and perceptions about workers with disabilities. Through our employment training programs, we not only teach students life-changing job skills but combat the extraordinary unemployment statistics individuals with disabilities face by changing community perceptions as students demonstrate their abilities in the workplace.

### OSBnb on the Overbrook School for the Blind Campus

OSBnb will be a fully accessible school/student-run **bed and breakfast** located in a Victorian house on the campus. Its planned features will exceed ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) requirements for those with disabilities. OSBnb will address the problem of accessible accommodations that many Americans with disabilities encounter when traveling. We will address this issue and offer a new standard for accessibility on community-based lodging platforms.

Critical employment training opportunities will be afforded for OSB School to Work and high school students to gain experience in the hospitality services industry while demonstrating their abilities in the workplace. Career opportunities will include marketing and communications, hotel management, housekeeping, decorating and guest services.



### Funding Requirement:

**\$1.3 million** for the three-year start-up phase of the initiative.