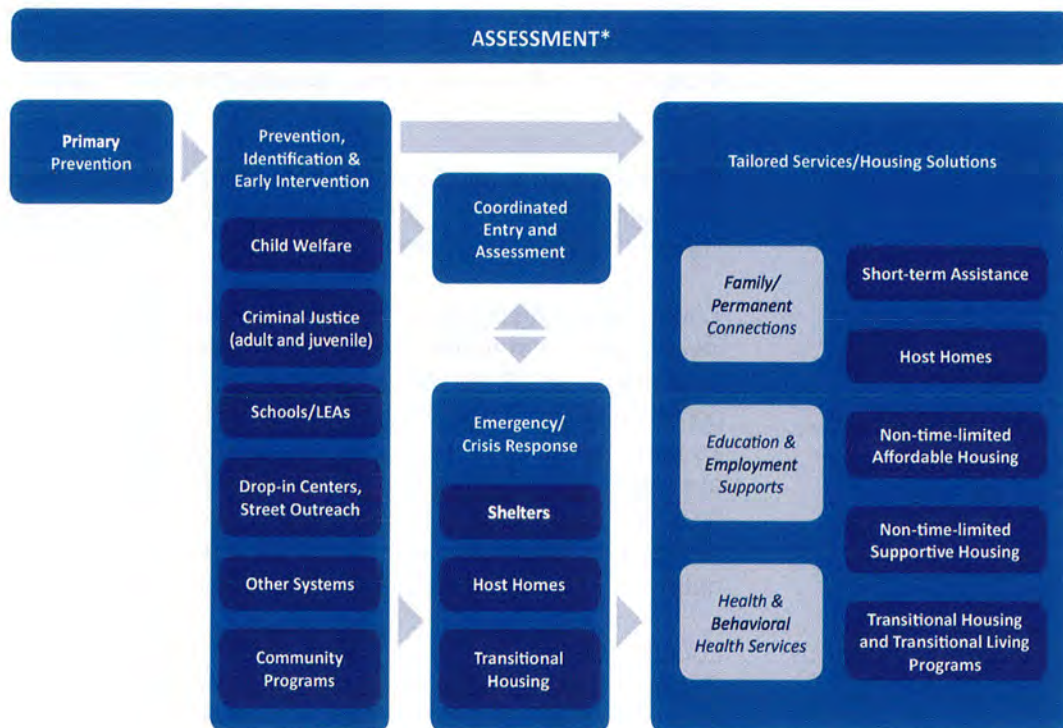




Plenary 5: Community Needs Assessments: Housing and Other Systems

Services for youth experiencing homelessness are not provided through a single, coordinated system of supports funded by a state or federal agency like they are with other systems, such as child welfare or juvenile justice. Moreover, the varied and unique needs of youth experiencing homelessness require a range of interventions and solutions.

To meet all the physical, developmental, and social needs of youth experiencing homelessness, we must design and implement a unified, collaborative response in every community. This response must include prevention, identification, and early intervention; coordinated entry and assessment; an emergency/crisis response; and services and housing options that are tailored to the needs of each youth.



**Throughout the provision of services, assessment will be ongoing.*

Note: This document was generated by technical assistance (TA) providers to support direct TA for the Forum on Ending Youth Homelessness and incorporates information from multiple sources without attribution to the original source material. References to original source material are provided in relevant resources sections of this document. The information was collected from publicly available online sources and, therefore, not every piece of information may be completely accurate or up to date. Participants that notice incorrect or outdated information are encouraged to speak up so that everyone at the forum receives the most complete and current information available. This document is not endorsed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), or any other federal agency, and it is not intended for distribution outside the Forum on Ending Youth Homelessness.



Prevention, Identification, and Early Intervention

The best outcomes for youth happen when they remain connected and housed with family or chosen supports, whenever appropriate. If this is not possible they should be supported in a planned transition to stable housing. Coordination with mainstream partners and early intervention can help prevent homelessness.

Prevention, identification, and early intervention models should be aware of and prioritize youth who are disproportionately at-risk of experiencing homelessness, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer/questioning (LGBTQ) youth and pregnant or parenting teens. Youth at risk of homelessness can be supported in developing and maintaining healthy relationships and in building their strengths and resiliency through positive youth development.

PREVENTION: KEY FEATURES AND MODELS

Family resiliency

Targeted counseling, caregiver support, conflict resolution, respite, and behavioral health services can resolve family conflict and build family resiliency so that youth can safely remain or return home. Key centers of conflict include teen pregnancy, behavioral issues, sexual orientation, gender identity, stresses of poverty, and income insecurity.

Mainstream resources

Securing income and health benefits can alleviate financial pressures on the youth and/or their families and increase financial resources available for housing costs.

Foster care transitions

Young adults aging out of foster care, or with histories of involvement with foster care, have a high risk of homelessness. Support to progress successfully into a new community should be provided to transition-age youth (TAY) as far in advance of that move as possible. Completing an assessment for factors known to put youth at higher risk of homelessness, and then coordinating services such as money management, parenting skills, and job placement, can help youth transition successfully to stable housing.

School-based prevention

Local homeless liaisons in school districts or Single Points of Contact at colleges can identify youth who may be at risk and help keep them in school while coordinating community supports and stable housing.

Leaving juvenile justice or adult correctional systems

A significant number of at-risk youth are involved with the juvenile justice or adult correctional systems. Formal collaboration with law enforcement, diversion programs, probation officers, and after care programs can help identify at-risk youth early and support better outcomes.



IDENTIFICATION AND EARLY INTERVENTION MODELS



Mobile (“Street”) Outreach

Outreach programs are often the first point of contact with unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness and are especially effective at engaging youth who are hiding. These outreach models can be particularly helpful for identifying and engaging youth experiencing homelessness in rural areas.

Key features of youth mobile outreach programs include:

- Conducting assertive outreach to places where youth may go, including parks, cars, abandoned buildings, bus or train stations, parking lots, and public storage lockers
- Establishing safety protocols for staff and collaborating with law enforcement
- Building trust through reliability and follow-through
- Meeting basic needs first and then moving on to critical service connections
- Including youth in program planning and implementation



Drop-in Centers

Drop-in centers are a first point of contact and provide an informal atmosphere to attract and engage youth who are homeless and are an effective alternative to the shelter system for older unaccompanied youth.

Key features of youth drop-in centers include:

- Providing low- or no-barrier access, with limited rules or requirements
- Choosing easy and low-key access locations
- Providing easy access to education, work, and mental health or substance abuse recovery programs when ready
- Providing peer support and activities that offer meaningful structure
- Continually assessing opportunities for family engagement



Family Engagement Services

Family engagement services help youth develop, maintain, or strengthen connections with family or chosen supports whenever safe and appropriate so that they can remain or return home. Family engagement services can be a component of a housing-focused project or can be a stand-alone service.

Key features of family engagement services include:

- Providing comprehensive services, including assessment; individual, family, and group counseling; caregiver support; conflict mediation and resolution; respite care; coordination with behavioral, mental health, and substance abuse services; and connection to community supports and activities
- Using strength-based approaches and cultural competency to engage families
- Providing support to stay connected with the youth and family following a housing choice and offering respite or caregiver support as needed



Case Studies

YOUTHCARE (SEATTLE, WA)

In 2012, YouthCare formally launched its Prevention program to help young people at risk of homelessness and their families. It is comprised of the following programs:

- [Safe Place – 1 \(800\) 422-TEEN](#): Safe Place quickly connects runaway youth and youth experiencing homelessness ages 12–17 in King County to services, either by reuniting them with their families or providing them with emergency shelter. Youth can go to a Safe Place site—recognizable by a yellow diamond logo—or call 1 (800) 422-TEEN and within 45 minutes a Safe Place coordinator will arrive to provide assistance. The program in King County is run by YouthCare, Nexus Youth & Families (Auburn Youth Resources), and Friends of Youth in partnership with local businesses and non-profit organizations that have volunteered to be “safe places.”
- [Youth and Family Connection Network \(YFCN\)](#) provides case management services to youth/young adults who are experiencing homelessness or are in a crisis that could lead to homelessness, with a goal of engaging the caring adults in the youth’s lives. YFCN’s case managers help youth engage with the natural and chosen supports in their lives and stabilize in a safe environment, whether that be the family home or another positive living situation. Youth and young adults ages 12–25 living in King County are eligible for services.
- [Preventing Homelessness among High-Risk Youth](#): YouthCare works with young people in school and in juvenile detention to address challenges such as truancy, lack of stable housing, mental health issues, domestic violence, and chemical dependency, all of which are risk factors for homelessness.
- The [Young Adult Diversion Program](#) uses an innovative set of tools to help young adults ages 18–24 who are seeking assistance to maintain or quickly identify immediate, permanent alternate housing arrangements by providing short-term, flexible financial assistance. This program is funded by the Raikes Foundation and managed by YouthCare in partnership with Nexus Youth & Families (Auburn Youth Resources), Friends of Youth, New Horizons, and the YMCA. Frontline staff facilitate flexible conversations to assist young people in identifying viable housing alternatives and provide flexible funds that can quickly address the housing crisis.

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES, STREETWORKS COLLABORATIVE (TWIN CITIES, MN)

StreetWorks Collaborative (SWC), a program of Lutheran Social Service of MN, is a collaborative of youth-serving nonprofits that have provided street-based outreach to youth experiencing homelessness in the Twin Cities Metro area since 1994. SWC is the largest outreach collaborative in Minnesota serving homeless youth, providing a coordinated intervention to meet the immediate needs of runaway and homeless youth and to interrupt exploitation by providing valuable resources, connection to services, and regular interaction with a trustworthy adult. Outreach workers provide young people (ages 13–24) with connections and needed resources such as housing, case management, counseling, life skills training, food, family reunification and safety planning, emergency shelter, and other basic necessities.



TUMBLEWEED UMOM NEW DAY CENTERS, TUMBLEWEED YOUTH RESOURCE CENTER (PHOENIX, AZ)

The Tumbleweed Youth Resource Center (YRC) is a drop-in center where youth experiencing homelessness ages 12–25 can congregate and get immediate, basic help. As youth-only facilities, the YRC is a non-threatening, safe introduction to the full range of services offered by Tumbleweed UMOM New Day Centers. The YRC offers access to daily meals; hygiene and health items; internet and phone access; laundry and shower facilities; and food and clothing. The YRC also receives a weekly visit from the Phoenix Children’s Hospital mobile medical team to provide examinations and medical referrals to clients.

EVA’S FAMILY RECONNECT PROGRAM (TORONTO, ON)

The Family Reconnect Program works with young people who are already homeless (ages 16–24) or at risk of becoming homeless (ages 14–24) and who are interested in establishing, re-establishing, and/or maintaining supportive relationships with their families. “Family” is defined by the youth and family members involved in the program. Family and individual counselling is offered for youth and their families and may focus on issues as they relate to the root causes of their struggles, including: family breakdown, youth and parent conflict, communication difficulties, sibling relationships, drug and alcohol use, and life and parenting skills.

The Family Reconnect Program counseling services often continue when youth move home or into community housing. Other core components of the Family Reconnect Program are referrals, advocacy, and accompaniment to community agencies and services, including psychiatric and psychological assessments, housing, case management, mentoring, parenting groups, mental health, and addiction supports. Family intervention counselors work with families to navigate the system and access needed services. The counselors not only provide referrals for the youth, but for other family members as well. For example, if a family member has severe depression that is influencing their relationship with the youth, the counselor may refer them to appropriate services.

Resources

Prevention and Diversion:

- **Strategies for Prevention and Early Intervention in Youth Homelessness:** Presentation from the 2016 National Conference on Ending Homelessness on effective family intervention and diversion models for addressing youth homelessness
- **Ending Youth Homelessness in Canada is Possible: The Role of Prevention:** 2013 chapter from *Youth Homelessness in Canada: Implications for Policy and Practice* detailing prevention strategies and key factors for effective implementation
- **Ending Youth Homelessness Before It Begins: Prevention and Early Intervention Services for Older Adolescents:** July 2009 brief by the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) on proven prevention strategies from the fields of child welfare, community mental health, and juvenile justice



Mobile Outreach:

- [Effective Outreach and Crisis Response for Homeless Youth](#): Presentation from the 2016 National Conference on Ending Homelessness on effective outreach models for youth, including peer outreach and day centers
- [Reaching Runaway and Homeless Youth](#): Information from the National Resource Center for Domestic Violence (NRCDV) [Runaway & Homeless Youth and Relationship Violence Toolkit](#) on effective outreach efforts for reaching youth

Drop-in Centers:

- [Facilitators and Barriers of Drop-in Center Use Among Homeless Youth](#): May 2016 review of the facilitators and barriers of drop-in center usage among youth experiencing homelessness to help engage youth in services
- [How to Open and Sustain a Drop-in Center for Homeless Youth](#): 2008 report providing guidance on opening and sustaining a drop-in center for youth, including program structure and staff development considerations

Family Engagement Services:

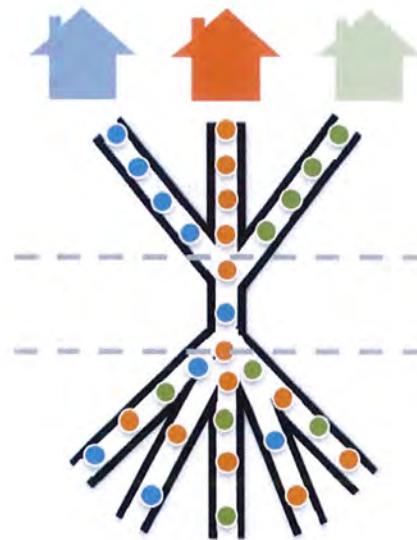
- [Family Interventions for Youth Experiencing or At Risk of Homelessness](#): July 2016 report by the Urban Institute and Child Trends summarizing existing evidence on family intervention strategies for youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness
- [Eva's Family Reconnect Toolkit](#): 2016 toolkit based on Eva's Family Reconnect Program created to inform program development for groups and communities across the country interested in exploring family intervention methods in responding to homeless and at-risk youth
- [Family Intervention for Homeless and At-risk Youth](#): April 2015 webinar by the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) on family intervention models for homeless and at-risk youth
- [Reconnecting with Family and Community: Pathways Out of Youth Homelessness](#): 2013 book chapter from *Youth Homelessness in Canada: Implications for Policy and Practice* providing insight on the role of family in solutions to youth homelessness
- [Family Matters: Homeless Youth & Eva's Initiative's Family Reconnect Program](#): April 2011 report evaluating how successful family reconnect programs can be replicated in new settings or more broadly incorporated into systems-level responses to youth homelessness
- [Family Finding Model](#): Information on the Family Finding model, offers methods and strategies to locate and engage relatives of children currently living in out-of-home care
- [Restorative Parenting: Engaging Parents & Families of Homeless Youth](#): This presentation explores the parent-child contract and how to restore it. The psychological basis of this approach is examined, recognizing the role of trauma, supported by restorative justice principles and best practices for parenting programs



Youth-inclusive Coordinated Entry

Coordinated entry represents a paradigm shift in the systemic delivery of homeless housing and services. At its heart, coordinated entry is a process that ensures all people experiencing homelessness or other housing crises in a defined geographic area have fair and equal access and are quickly identified, assessed for, referred, and connected with housing and homeless assistance based on their needs and strengths, no matter where or when they present for services.

The development of a truly coordinated and integrated community response for youth experiencing homelessness means breaking down barriers for youth to access housing and services tailored to their needs while ensuring that youth are also included in the broader Continuum of Care (CoC) homeless response system. Youth-inclusive coordinated entry requires CoCs to address the developmental and service needs of unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness; implement the key components of coordinated entry in a trauma-informed, culturally-competent, and developmentally-appropriate manner; and ensure that all relevant community stakeholders are involved in the planning and implementation process.



Components of Youth-inclusive Coordinated Entry

A youth-inclusive coordinated entry process should ensure youth receive the housing and service supports they need to resolve their homelessness crises as quickly as possible and with the lowest possible barriers. Key features of the coordinated entry process that homeless response systems and individual providers have used to better serve youth participants include the following.

COORDINATED ENTRY: KEY FEATURES

Part of the broader homeless response system	The purpose of youth-inclusive coordinated entry is to break down barriers to accessing housing and services that are appropriate and accommodating to youths' needs. Coordinated entry for youth should connect youth with the broader homeless response system, including housing and services in the adult system of care if appropriate, while also providing access to specialized and tailored interventions for meeting youth needs.
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Comprising knowledgeable and trained staff

Any staff involved in the coordinated entry process who will interact with youth—whether at a standalone access point, emergency shelter, or through street outreach—should be adequately trained. Staff must be knowledgeable about topics such as developmentally appropriate solutions, the eligibility and documentation requirements for dedicated homeless resources, and mainstream resources available through a referral from the coordinated entry process.

Built on provider expertise and capacity

The coordinated entry process for youth should be informed by the expertise and capacity of all youth-serving providers and organizations in the community. Stakeholder engagement in the development, implementation, and process improvement is critical to success.

Youth-centered

The coordinated entry process should be built on relationships between adults and youth that are empowering to youth and based on positive youth development principles.

Informed by the Youth Intervention Model

The coordinated entry process should be grounded in risk and protective factors as noted in the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) Youth Framework's Preliminary Intervention Model.

Developmentally appropriate

The coordinated entry process and those working directly with youth should be aware of youth brain development and positive youth development frameworks to ensure the whole coordinated entry process is developmentally appropriate.

Trauma-informed

The coordinated entry process should be built on an understanding of the complex trauma experienced by youth and young adults experiencing homelessness. Trauma-informed coordinated entry processes include system-wide training in trauma; prioritization based on standard criteria, not on demonstrated capacity to achieve positive outcomes; youth choice and preference; and connecting youth with non-housing resources and supportive services.

Culturally appropriate and inclusive

The coordinated entry process, including any tools or instruments used with youth, should be responsive to the characteristics and needs of youth, including age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identification, and language. The process should be inclusive of all youth populations of focus, including youth who have been victims of human trafficking or domestic violence; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer/questioning (LGBTQ) youth; and pregnant or parenting youth.



Safe, inviting, and accessible access points

Access point locations (physical, virtual, or both) should be safe, inviting, and easily accessible for youth, taking into account where youth congregate and other important aspects of local youth culture. CoCs must decide whether they will operate a youth-specific access point for coordinated entry with dedicated and specially trained staff or make sure that all general access points have the cultural and linguistic competency to meet youth needs.

Prioritization

The coordinated entry system should include a process to prioritize housing and supportive services for youth in a timely manner. The homelessness crisis response system for youth is under-resourced and CoCs need to make well-informed decisions around prioritizing limited housing and services dedicated to homelessness.

Incorporate family reunification

In many situations, family reunification is an appropriate referral within coordinated entry if the family home is a safe and stable environment. Family reunification should be a primary referral option for youth under age 18, where only a small percentage may be most appropriately served by an independent, safe, and stable housing situation. Many youth 18 and older will also benefit from family reunification.

Attention to safety and security of youth

The coordinated entry process should promote safety and security for all youth who enter the system, including youth fleeing domestic violence and survivors of human trafficking. Coordinated entry practices to promote safety include providing informed consent; offering linkages to support services, priority placement, and safety planning; and offering safe, secure entry at access points.

Resources

- [**Coordinated Entry for Youth Experiencing Homelessness**](#): May 2017 HUD brief on youth-inclusive coordinated entry processes centered around the four core elements of coordinated entry: access, assessment, prioritization, and referral
- [**Youth-specific FAQs for Coordinated Entry**](#): August 2015 compilation of frequently asked questions (FAQs) and answers on the development and implementation of coordinated entry processes specific to working with runaway and homeless youth
- [**Coordinated Entry and Assessment: Key Components in Creating Coordinated Community Responses to Ending Youth Homelessness**](#): November 2016 summary by MANY of findings on coordinated entry for youth following a series of meetings with youth providers
- [**Creating Trauma-informed Coordinated Entry Systems for Youth**](#): August 2016 brief by the Hollywood Homeless Youth Partnership on the opportunities and challenges of developing and implementing trauma-informed coordinated entry systems for youth



- [How to Adapt Coordinated Entry and Rapid Re-housing for Youth Homelessness](#): June 2016 white paper by Clarity Human Services and BitFocus on rapid re-housing for youth and the role of coordinated entry in the youth rapid re-housing model
- [Coordinated Entry Implementation: Effective Models for Youth](#): Presentation from the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) Supportive Housing Summit 2017 on lessons from communities that have successfully integrated youth into their coordinated entry system

Youth-inclusive Access Points

A key objective of youth-inclusive coordinated entry is to streamline and standardize the process for youth to access comprehensive, youth-oriented housing and services across the entire homelessness crisis response system. It is vital to ensure that all access point locations (whether physical or virtual) within the coordinated entry system are safe, inviting, and easily accessible for youth.

ACCESS POINT REQUIREMENTS

Access points of a coordinated entry process, either virtual or physical, must...



Cover the entire geographic area of the CoC



Be easily accessed by youth seeking assistance



Be well advertised so that those who need it are aware of the coordinated entry process.

KEY FEATURES: INSTRUMENTATION/ASSESSMENT TOOLS

Dedicated and specialized access points for youth

HUD's 2017 Coordinated Entry Notice establishes that communities may establish different access points for youth. Dedicated and specialized access points for youth might include youth drop-in centers, youth emergency shelters, schools, and other locations where youth may congregate.

Flexible hours and means of access

CoCs might offer after-hours access or consider both public and private transit options to ensure that access points are easily accessible to youth. CoCs may also try providing virtual or mobile access points that operate after hours or 24 hours a day to increase accessibility for youth.



Safe and inviting environment	The location, room arrangement, and physical infrastructure of access points should be safe and comfortable for all youth, including survivors of human trafficking or domestic violence, LGBTQ youth, and pregnant or parenting youth.
Developmentally and culturally appropriate	Communities should ensure access points “meet youth where they are” by operating in a space and manner that is developmentally and culturally appropriate for youth.
Youth-oriented advertisement	CoCs can utilize local peer networks and advertise access points through youth-friendly venues such as social media and schools.
Youth provider involvement	Youth providers can serve as access points in the local coordinated entry process, or they can help with the planning and development of access points that are safe, accessible, and appropriate for youth in the community. Connection with the coordinated entry process provides mutual benefit, connection, and referrals for youth providers.

Instrumentation/Assessment Tools

A core component of the coordinated entry process is standardized screening and assessment. Youth-inclusive coordinated entry instrumentation and assessment tools are utilized as part of a standardized approach for gathering information on factors that can prevent and end youth homelessness and informing the housing and services that meet their needs and strengths.

DECISION POINT: PHASED HOUSING ASSESSMENT



The standardized assessment process for youth may utilize a progressive or phased approach, meaning that assessment occurs over time and as relevant and necessary for providing the appropriate interventions. A phased assessment may include separate tools for the following purposes:

- screening for diversion or prevention (such as supportive services, early intervention, and family reunification support),
- assessing shelter and other emergency needs,
- identifying housing and service resources and barriers,
- evaluating vulnerability to prioritize for assistance (which may include evaluating risk and protective factors to make placements as effective as possible),
- screening for program eligibility, or
- facilitating connections with mainstream resources (including adult resources when appropriate).



KEY FEATURES: INSTRUMENTATION/ASSESSMENT TOOLS¹

Coordination	If a community decides to implement a phased assessment approach, the phases should be coordinated as much as possible to ensure that youth are not required to repeat their story, which could result in re-traumatization.
Incorporate experiences and perspectives of youth	The wording and order of questions in the standardized assessment tool can be adapted to more directly respond to and incorporate the experiences or perspectives of youth. Additional questions to include in standardized assessment to address the particular needs of youth may include eligibility for other types of mainstream services, youth choices and goals, and immediate safety.
Person-centered, strengths-based approach	Staff conducting screening and assessment for youth should utilize a person-centered approach that is based on the youth's strengths, goals, risks, and protective factors, including culturally and linguistically competent practices.
Information gathering	Assessment(s) should collect only enough participant information to prioritize and refer participants to available housing and support services. Because case conferencing meetings may be used to prioritize and refer youth, ensure the information needed to facilitate robust and meaningful care coordination is collected during the assessment phase.
Youth-specific assessor training	Assessors should be trained in youth-specific language and culture, and they should receive training for interacting with and guiding youth experiencing homelessness. Youth service provider staff can help conduct assessments or can provide training and preparation for assessors.
Youth choice	The standardized assessment tool should emphasize youth choice and preferences regarding housing and services, including ensuring youth have the option of declining housing options without consequence.
Periodic ongoing assessment	Periodic ongoing assessment should occur to ensure interventions are meeting the youth's needs and continue to be developmentally appropriate, particularly if a youth remains homeless for a long time.

¹ In the context of coordinated entry, the terms screening and assessment involve tools that specifically measure an individual's vulnerability to harm and continued homelessness and need for housing and related services. This is distinct from behavioral and mental health screening and assessment.



By-name List for Youth Prioritization Approach

A by-name list for youth is a real-time, up-to-date list of all youth experiencing homelessness that can be filtered by categories and shared across agencies. The by-name list gives key community partners involved in ending youth homelessness a solid understanding of the people (not just the numbers) who need to be re-housed at any given time and facilitates efficient decision-making around how best to refer individuals experiencing homelessness to housing resources.

KEY LESSONS LEARNED FROM BY-NAME LISTS FOR VETERAN HOMELESSNESS



Many communities began the development of by-name lists to reach the goal of ending veteran homelessness and are using this model to create by-name lists for additional homeless populations, including unaccompanied youth. Referring to veteran homelessness, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) lists the following purposes and benefits of a by-name list:

- Ensure all individuals experiencing homelessness within a community are identified and their housing needs are known
- Track the status and progress toward permanent housing for each individual
- Coordinate housing and services for each household between all community providers
- Measure progress toward goals, including how close a community is to reaching an end to homelessness among the populations of focus
- Identify key barriers to goal attainment and opportunities for resolution

KEY FEATURES: CONNECTING COORDINATED ENTRY TO OTHER SYSTEMS

Youth-focused outreach

An organized and intentional outreach plan helps capture a full and accurate picture of youth homelessness in the community for the development of a by-name list. It also prevents the duplication of outreach efforts and ensures full geographic coverage of the CoC to avoid omissions.

Accurate, up-to-date information

The by-name list must be updated regularly to ensure it has the most accurate information on youth in the community and their current housing status, vulnerability, and needs.

Collaboration with diverse stakeholders

Information on youth experiencing homelessness can be collected from outreach, Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS), shelters, schools, runaway and homeless youth providers, child welfare, and any other providers or agencies in the community who may work with unstably-housed youth.



Standardized housing assessment tool

Establishing a by-name list requires a common assessment tool since it provides a standardized structure for client data collection and vulnerability/acuity-based scoring. Prioritization based on standard criteria and not on a person's ability to connect with a case manager or demonstrate a capacity for achieving positive outcomes is a core component of a trauma-informed coordinated entry system.

Established HMIS data-sharing protocols

The CoC should establish HMIS data-sharing protocols among all providers and agencies who will be involved in populating the by-name list. In addition, the community should develop a process to provide informed consent and obtain signed waivers from all clients to allow direct referrals and share information as needed when working through the by-name list. Communities may need to establish separate data-sharing and consent protocols for youth under age 18.

Coordination and case conferencing meetings

The by-name list can be used at youth-focused coordination/case conferencing meetings to determine where youth are in the homeless assistance system, who needs to be prioritized, what barriers need to be removed to get them into housing, and who is responsible for each youth. Individual case plans with customized connections should be created from these meetings.

Connecting Coordinated Entry to Other Systems

Youth who experience unstable housing are often engaged by multiple systems. Youth under age 18 may be engaged with or recently disconnected from school systems. Family instability may lead to involvement in the child welfare system, and involvement with the criminal justice system may be a result or a cause of youth homelessness. Youth may engage with service providers outside the homeless response system to meet their housing and service needs.

The development and implementation of a youth-inclusive coordinated entry process should include all community stakeholders who engage with youth who are at-risk of or experiencing homelessness, including runaway and homeless youth providers, child welfare agencies, school systems, systems of justice, workforce system partners, and other youth-serving organizations.





KEY FEATURES: CONNECTING COORDINATED ENTRY TO OTHER SYSTEMS

Coordinated entry system planning and development	Involvement of youth and non-youth system partners in the planning and development of the local coordinated entry system helps ensure the comprehensive needs of youth are considered, that critical knowledge and trust are built among community partners, and that the implementation of the process is youth-appropriate.
Identification of youth at risk of or experiencing homelessness	Cross-system partners can help identify youth with whom they are engaged who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness and refer them to the coordinated entry system. Some partners can integrate questions about housing stability and homelessness status into existing intake processes or regularly conducted assessments; others may utilize a single indicator or observation to make a referral to the coordinated entry process.
Role as access points	Some cross-system partners may have the desire and capacity to provide safe and easily accessible entry points to the coordinated entry system for youth. These partners can work with the CoC to serve as dedicated youth access points.
Coordinating referrals from the homeless response system	The CoC may establish a protocol for coordinating referrals from the coordinated entry system to partners outside the homeless response system who provide resources that are relevant to youth experiencing homelessness (e.g., education and employment services). Referrals may be coordinated in numerous ways, including through electronic connection, a warm handoff, or through co-located programming with coordinated entry operations.
Maximize utilization of community resources	Effective cross-system coordination can expand opportunities for youth and maximize the utilization of resources for preventing and ending youth homelessness. System partners can invest in housing and supportive services that complement those resources provided within the homeless response system for youth, and these services can be made accessible to youth by referral through the coordinated entry system.
Prioritizing resources for youth experiencing homelessness	Cross-system partners, such as those in foster care or the employment systems, can prioritize access to supports for youth referred through the local coordinated entry processes who are engaged in their services.



Emergency and Crisis Response

Youth experiencing a housing crisis or fleeing an unsafe situation need to find a quick and safe place to stay. Emergency shelter and interim housing can fill this role within a crisis response system. These interventions should be low-barrier and align their goals and program activities with the larger system's goals.

For youth experiencing homelessness, emergency shelter and interim housing options should put safety, self-determination, and youth choice at the forefront of program design and operation. Interim housing options such as host homes and transitional housing provide flexible, youth-driven models that support youth in the development of community connections while permanent housing options are established.

Youth Shelters

Youth shelters are often the first point of contact with unaccompanied youth, and they provide an immediate and short-term alternative to unsheltered homelessness. Hours of operations can vary (24 hours/day or evening-to-morning) and crisis shelters may focus on younger youth (under 18) or young adults (ages 18–24) depending on funding and licensing.

YOUTH SHELTERS: KEY FEATURES

Low-barrier youth focus	Access to youth shelters should be low- or no-barrier programs with easy access to attract youth who would otherwise choose to couch-surf or sleep on the streets.
Safety and harm reduction	Youth shelters should emphasize safety and use a harm reduction model with screening for safe behaviors. Adhering to a low-barrier, harm reduction approach entails providing case management to address rule violations and unsafe behaviors, rather than termination of assistance.
Family engagement and connection	Services for youth should include opportunities to connect with families and natural supports, such as providing phone cards, postcards or postage, and overnight visits to support reunification if desired.
Immediate basic needs	Youth shelter and emergency services should help youth meet immediate basic needs, including food, laundry, showers, clothing, medical care, access to internet and phones, and storage for personal belongings.
Individualized case management	In addition to meeting immediate basic needs, on-site staff should provide crisis intervention, assessment, and individual case management. This may include connections to schools, caring and trusted adults, health care providers, and youth development organizations.



Housing plan and transitional supports

The goal of youth shelter is to provide quick exit planning to housing by engaging and stabilizing youth through case management and counseling services, family reunification, and other supports for transitions to stable and safe environments.

Short-term financial intervention

Youth shelters can provide short-term or one-time financial assistance in order to secure stable and independent housing for youth experiencing a housing crisis.

Host Homes

Host homes are an arrangement between a community member and a service provider in which the community member provides youth experiencing homelessness with shelter, food, and sometimes transportation while the service provider provides program coordination, host support, and case management services. Host homes provide safe and stable transition-like housing tailored to the physical, emotional, and social needs of youth.

HOST HOMES: KEY FEATURES

Cost-effective

Host home program costs may include coordination, host recruitment, host support, and youth case management. Two host home programs interviewed by the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth reported operating on only \$25,000 a year. In Minnesota, hosts receive extensive training and support but no compensation.

Positive, family-like setting

Host homes provide a non-institutional environment for youth—a home-like alternative to emergency and transitional shelters.

Permanent connections

Host homes help youth build the kind of long-term relationships with caring adults that allow them to grow personally, seek employment, complete educational goals, and transition more successfully into adulthood.

Flexibility

Host homes can serve as emergency shelter or longer-term transitional housing; have been successfully implemented in urban and rural communities; and have been adapted to serve populations of focus, such as LGBTQ youth.

Host recruitment

Most communities can identify adults willing to provide housing with supports to youth. Host recruitment can take place through informal community networks (such as faith-based and LGBTQ networks), or a community advisory council can support host recruitment.



Host training

Hosts receive extensive training on topics including positive youth development, trauma-informed care, LGBTQ competency, bias and privilege, and conflict management.

Wraparound support for youth

Support services should include regular visits from a counselor/coach to address challenges as they arise, provide academic support, independent living skills and transition planning; connection with needed community resources and services; and possibly a modest stipend to help the family cover costs.

Transitional Housing and Transitional Living

Transitional housing and transitional living refer to temporary or interim accommodation (up to 21–24 months) for youth experiencing homelessness who are not ready to live independently and where family reunification is not appropriate due to age or family environment. Service-rich transitional housing programs should provide a comprehensive range of case-managed support services that build independent living skills; support overall well-being; and aim at helping youth transition to long-term and permanent housing, self-sufficiency, and independence.

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING CONFIGURATIONS



Congregate housing with overnight staff



Clustered units with or without a supervisor on site



Scattered-site apartments or shared units in which a youth may hold the lease

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING AND TRANSITIONAL LIVING: KEY FEATURES

Youth-driven, individualized case plans

Case plans can be used for tracking youth goals and activities. The plans should be youth-driven, allowing a young adult to develop planning skills and autonomy even within a transitional housing/congregate living situation.

Independent living

Life skills to support independent living may include, but are not limited to, money management, job training, employment, housing retention, education and training, health and well-being, daily living skills, personal and social development, and legal rights and responsibilities.

Serving special populations

Transitional housing can be tailored to provide specialized services and community supports for vulnerable populations, such as pregnant and parenting teens, youth with mental and behavioral health issues, youth fleeing domestic violence or trafficking situations, TAY, those leaving juvenile justice, or LGBTQ youth.



Flexible time limits and warm handoffs

Time limits should be flexible to allow youth to transition to a new housing placement when appropriate and ready. Robust exit planning is needed to facilitate a smooth transition to permanent housing, as well as to provide a warm handoff to the adult system of care when preferred/appropriate. Many programs also provide aftercare support and case management for up to 6 months following program exit.

Youth-driven, youth-focused program values

Values critical to the success of youth transitional housing include creating a setting conducive to youth being successful and productive, encouraging and empowering youth in stabilizing their life situation, increasing self-sufficiency and self-esteem, and applying a harm reduction philosophy.

Case Studies

Y2Y HARVARD SQUARE (CAMBRIDGE, MA)

Population of focus: Youth ages 18–24

Y2Y Harvard Square is a student-run overnight shelter that employs a youth-to-youth model to provide a safe and affirming environment for young adults experiencing homelessness. Y2Y guests have opportunities to collaborate with service providers, other youth experiencing homelessness, and student volunteers to create sustainable pathways out of homelessness and develop skills for long-term success. The gender-inclusive shelter provides access to 30-day or one-night stays for youth ages 18–24. Services to support pathways out of homelessness include access and referrals to legal aid, medical and mental health care, case management, and enrichment workshops. Guests and volunteers also build leadership and advocate for directing attention and resources toward young adult homelessness.

ALI FORNEY CENTER, EMERGENCY HOUSING PROGRAM (NEW YORK, NY)

Population of focus: LGBTQ youth

Ali Forney Center's Emergency Housing Program is a youth crisis shelter hosted in home-like apartments in Queens and Brooklyn, complete with nightly home-cooked meals. Ali Forney Center has four emergency housing sites with a total of 52 beds. Through consistent support and affirmation, the Emergency Housing Program stabilizes young people and works with them to achieve housing readiness. Depending on the site, the program lasts from one to six months, with the hope that emergency housing residents ultimately graduate into the more independent transitional living program.

AVENUES FOR HOMELESS YOUTH, GLBT HOST HOME PROGRAM (MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA)

Population of focus: LGBTQ youth

The Avenues for Homeless Youth GLBT Host Home Program is an “outside-the-system” community and volunteer-based response to youth homelessness. The GLBT Host Home program has intentionally been kept small and serves no more than 10 young adults at one time. The program has focused on “taking care of basic needs while simultaneously fostering



connections and building community.” Participants are provided a stable and supportive environment to grow and where their sexual orientation and gender identity are respected.

The GLBT Host Home Program operates through the support of volunteer hosts who do not receive reimbursement of any kind. Because many of the young adults have stayed in foster care or other settings where their caregivers may have been motivated by money, it is very meaningful that the program is volunteer-run. Avenues for Homeless Youth believes this is a powerful factor in the effectiveness of the program. Since its opening in 1994, the program has served more than 2,000 youth experiencing homelessness.

SAFE PLACE FOR YOUTH (LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA)

Population of focus: TAY

Safe Place for Youth (SPY) was awarded funding to test and pilot the first L.A.-based Host Homes program for youth experiencing homelessness through the United Way Home for Good Initiative. SPY recruits hosts through outreach events and social media campaigns who have a spare bedroom or private space to offer. Hosts are asked to commit to three- to six-month stays. Safe Place for Youth also recruits “respite” hosts to step in if a guest’s long-term option is not identified within six months. The program offers up to \$500/month of incentives available for hosts. The program provides opportunities for hosts and guests to connect in fun, neutral settings and strives to make matches based on shared interests or identities. Guests have access to welcome kit and budget management services upon being matched with a host home.

MASON COUNTY HOST PROGRAM (SHELTON, WA)

Population of focus: Students in transition

Mason County’s HOST (Housing Options for Students in Transition) program works to eliminate homelessness crises for youth ages 16–21 while they complete their educational goals, including young people seeking a high school diploma, GED, or vocational/technical program certificate. HOST maintains close partnerships with local school systems, including the Shelton and North Mason School Districts. Support to host families includes 24/7 crisis support, mediation when conflicts arise, and coordinating respite for host families. HOST also aims to provide some financial support to host families, mostly in the form of paying a portion of utility or cable bills (directly to the company) or providing gift cards for groceries.

THE FOYER MODEL: CHELSEA FOYER (NEW YORK, NEW YORK)

Population of focus: Youth involved with the foster care system

The Foyer Model is an innovative positive youth development and trauma-informed transitional supportive housing model that focuses on youth who are aging out of foster care or who are already homeless. It is similar to a transitional housing program but with minimal program requirements. Young adults live semi-independently in dormitory-style studio apartments or suites while receiving a continuum of services to help them gain the competencies and confidence necessary for long-term self-sufficiency.

The 40-unit Chelsea Foyer in New York (operated by Common Ground), was introduced in New York in 2004 to help address the growing problem of homelessness after foster care. The program development and practice model is supported by a commitment to providing a



supported transition in which young adults can practice independent living, an appropriate environment for building a sense of competence, and a community of peers and caring adults with emphasis on peer mentoring. The Foyer offers daily activities and workshops related to housing (e.g., money management, establishing good credit, running a household, communicating effectively with landlords); work (e.g., monthly career clubs where youth have opportunities to network with employers); and general health and well-being (e.g., fitness programs, a men's forum, a women's forum, cooking classes).

[BILL WILSON CENTER, TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM \(SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA\)](#)

Populations of focus: Pregnant and parenting youth

Bill Wilson Center's Transitional Housing Program provides comprehensive services for homeless youth ages 18–24, including young single parents and their children. Young adults live in shared, supervised apartments or houses throughout the county while they receive counseling, independent living skills training, parenting classes, and employment services. The goal of the 12- to 18-month program is to help youth become self-sufficient adults with strong connections in the community.

Resources

Youth Shelters:

- **[Guide to Starting a Youth Program](#)**: Guide from the Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) on how to create and how launch a youth-serving nonprofit organization, including a youth shelter
- **[Moving to a Low Barrier and Housing Focused Shelter Model](#)**: Presentation from the 2016 National Conference on Ending Homelessness on developing housing-focused and low-barrier policies to support effective shelter operations

Host Homes:

- **[Avenues for Homeless Youth Host Home Toolkit](#)**: This comprehensive toolkit includes forms, documents, and other policy and procedure resources used by Avenues for Homeless Youth
- **[Host Home Implementation Report](#)**: March 2018 report by Lighthouse Youth & Family Services sharing insights and tips on launching and running a host home program, as well as resources for communities looking to start their own host home program
- **[Safe Place for Youth](#)**: The following resources are used by the Safe Place for Youth Host Homes Pilot (HHP) Program:
 - **[Frequently Asked Questions](#)** about HHP
 - **[HHP Host-Guest Matching Process](#)**
 - **[HHP Host-Guest Contract](#)**
- **[Washington State Research and Recommendations on Host Homes](#)**: July 2017 report by the Washington State Department of Commerce providing a review of host homes programs in Washington and nationally and offering recommendations for supporting host home programs



- **Webinar: Host Homes for Homeless Youth**: May 2015 NAEH webinar profiling two host home programs in Minnesota and Nebraska
- **Host Home Programs: An Approach to Address Youth Homelessness in South King County**: 2014 research study providing a review of existing host home programs in the U.S. and U.K.
- **What Works to End Youth Homelessness?**: 2015 report by the National Network for Youth detailing current research on existing service structures for youth, including host home programs
- **Housing + High School = Success: Schools and Communities Uniting to House Unaccompanied Youth**: November 2009 report by the National Association for the Education of Homeless Youth and Children (NAEH CY) that highlights host homes as an innovative temporary housing program for unaccompanied youth

Transitional Housing and Transitional Living:

- **Youth Transitional Housing Toolkit**: March 2015 toolkit from the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness outlining the recommended practices in youth transitional housing
- **What Works to End Youth Homelessness?**: 2015 report by the National Network for Youth detailing current research on existing service structures for youth, including transitional housing programs
- **The Foyer Toolkit**: 2012 toolkit on the essential program components of the Foyer Model of transitional housing for youth
- **Housing + High School = Success: Schools and Communities Uniting to House Unaccompanied Youth**: November 2009 report by the National Association for the Education of Homeless Youth and Children (NAEH CY) highlighting transitional living as an innovative temporary housing program for unaccompanied youth
- **More Than a Roof: Best Practices for Transitional Housing Models for Homeless Youth in Halton**: January 2007 report providing an overview and framework for transitional housing models for youth experiencing homelessness



Youth-oriented Housing Interventions and Models

There is a range of youth-oriented housing interventions and models for addressing youth homelessness, including rapid re-housing (RRH), non-time-limited supportive housing, and the new [Joint TH and PH-RRH Component project](#).

The goal of these housing models is to assist youth experiencing homelessness back into safe and stable housing and onto a path of long-term housing stability as soon as possible. Stable housing promotes stability in other aspects of life, including health, social-emotional well-being, education, employment, and the development of permanent connections for youth.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) [Ending Youth Homelessness: A Guidebook Series](#) provides an in-depth look at the key features of emerging housing models for preventing and ending youth homelessness.

These housing intervention models are most effective as part of a youth-oriented coordinated entry system and when implemented through a framework of Housing First for Youth—an adaptation of the Housing First model designed to respond to the comprehensive needs of youth.

Rapid Re-housing for Youth

Rapid re-housing is a promising strategy for older youth with greater independent living skills for whom family reconnection requires time or is not a safe and viable solution. RRH is an intervention that helps people who are homeless quickly return to permanent housing through housing identification, financial assistance (rent and move-in), and housing-focused case management and services. RRH assistance is offered without preconditions (e.g., employment, income, the absence of a criminal record, sobriety, rental/credit history, etc.) that may present distinct barriers to housing for youth.

RAPID RE-HOUSING: KEY FEATURES

Landlord engagement

Building and sustaining relationships with landlords is key to helping youth overcome potential barriers to housing, such as lack of an employment history or issues with credit history. It may also be important to educate landlords about positive youth development.

Leasing assistance

Youth under the age of 18 may need legal aid to obtain a lease. For minors to overcome legal barriers to leasing a unit, RRH providers may be able to co-sign leases with youth, enter into three-party lease agreements, or may be required to use a lease-sublease model.



Financial assistance

Youth may require rent and move-in assistance for a longer time than adults on average, and assistance may need to be more flexible since employment income may be sporadic, especially when they first move into housing.

Client-driven, Housing First philosophy

Adopting a client-driven, Housing First philosophy requires a shift from judging whether youth are “ready” to be housed on their own to focusing on how to help youth succeed in housing. It also requires providers to embrace a voluntary services approach that allows youth to lead the way in developing their own service plans.

Flexible and service-rich case management

Case management services in youth RRH programs should be flexible and individualized (including mobile case management options, more intensive (with smaller caseloads for the case managers), and last for longer than average compared to adult clients.

Comprehensive support services

The range of support services needed for youth may be extensive, including independent living skills (such as managing a budget, preparing meals, and understanding tenant rights and responsibilities) and access to education and employment services. Services should be relationship-based and trauma-informed for all youth.

Non-time-limited Supportive Housing

Non-time-limited youth supportive housing is a specialized age- and service-appropriate version of permanent supportive housing for youth with complex needs. This housing does not include traditional time limits or program requirements; it provides youth with the time and flexibility to achieve permanent housing stability at their own rate.

POPULATION OF FOCUS



Non-time-limited housing should be prioritized for the most vulnerable, highest-need youth: those living with intense medical needs, mental health conditions, substance use disorders, histories of trauma, or any combination of these factors.

NON-TIME-LIMITED YOUTH SUPPORTIVE HOUSING: KEY FEATURES

Comprehensive support services

Comprehensive support services should be available on a purely voluntary basis and tailored to the individual. These comprehensive services should be trauma-informed and address the physical, socio-emotional, intellectual, and life skills development of youth on the pathway to adulthood.



Non-time-limited and non-age-limited

In addition to eliminating time limits on housing, youth do not “age out” of eligibility for non-time-limited supportive housing. Youth can overcome barriers to housing stability and achieve permanent housing on their own timeline and with service continuity.

Provider flexibility

Provider flexibility to determine when a young adult can move on or move to a more appropriate placement is critical to the effectiveness of this model. The model allows the provider to identify higher-need youth, serve them as long as appropriate, and, if necessary, transition them to a more appropriate setting according to their individual needs.

Culture of “moving on”

A culture of “moving on” enables stable tenants of supportive housing who no longer require on-site services to transition to another affordable, independent apartment. Without a rigid time limit, youth move on when they are ready, and youth with higher service needs have the time they need to stabilize.

Breaking the cycle of homelessness and systems involvement

Non-time-limited supportive housing supports youth until they can thrive independently, preventing youth from cycling between the shelter system, emergency rooms, the criminal justice system, and other public systems.

Case Studies

PATHFINDERS, Q-BLOK PROGRAM (MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN)

Population of focus: LGBTQ youth

The Pathfinders Q-BLOK Program launched in 2009 with a 25-youth caseload using Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program (HPRP) funds. Since the end of HPRP in 2012, Pathfinders has continued on a smaller scale with about 8–10 youth at a time. The population of focus for Q-BLOK Rapid Re-housing is young adults, ages 18–25 who identify as LGBTQ and who require assistance to achieve successful independence and self-sufficiency due to possible histories of running away, homelessness, and family rejection. The program also serves “allied youth”—those comfortable with the LGBTQ community but who do not identify as such. The average length of stay for the program is about a year.

Q-BLOK works with a single landlord who has multiple safe and affordable buildings; all units are efficiencies or one-bedrooms. The program master leases 10 units and initially pays the damage deposits, which roll over as new program participants move into the unit. Youth sign a sublease for a unit that can convert to an individual lease at program exit (the program transfers their master lease to another unit). The program covers 100 percent of the housing costs for youth enrolled in the program and utilizes positive youth development, harm reduction, trauma-informed care, and Housing First concepts to engage youth in intensive case management.



THE LINK, RAPID REHOUSING PROGRAM (MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA)

Population of focus: Parenting youth

Through the Rapid Rehousing Program, the Link provides housing for youth through market-rate apartments in the Twin Cities and provides landlords with rental subsidies. Rapid Rehousing serves homeless singles ages 18–24, and Families Rapid Rehousing serves homeless singles ages 18–24 and their children. All participants are referred via Hennepin County Coordinated Entry. In addition to housing, the program provides trauma-informed supportive services for youth, including case management, life skills education, assistance with education and employment, connections with mental health and substance abuse treatment, connections with healthcare services, and leadership development opportunities.

VALLEY YOUTH HOUSE, PRIDE PROGRAM (PHILADELPHIA & MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA)

Populations of focus: LGBTQ youth, pregnant and parenting youth

Valley Youth House assists youth ages 18-24 experiencing homelessness. Youth may start in RRH with an option for other more supervised programs, if appropriate. Youth Valley House operates an LGBTQ RRH program in Philadelphia (PRIDE) and provides RRH options for youth with children. The apartments are scattered-site, market-rate units. Shared housing is permitted and encouraged for financial reasons. The program has a unique relationship with a local Bed Bath & Beyond; the retailer donates all their merchandise returns to provide furnishing and supplies for program participants.

Valley Youth House offers frequent, intensive case management with caseloads of 10 or fewer and weekly home visits. Staff and youth proactively identify and plan for likely issues, such as drawing limits with family and peers. The program uses a positive youth development approach, including age-appropriate goals, youth-directed planning, and choice. The staff are building their knowledge and skills around trauma-informed care, including attending training about the effects of trauma on brain development.

FIRST PLACE FOR YOUTH, MY FIRST PLACE PROGRAM (OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA)

Populations of focus: Youth involved with the foster care system, pregnant and parenting youth

First Place for Youth primarily serves former foster youth ages 16-24. Most youth enter First Place after experiencing homelessness or extreme housing instability following a discharge from foster care. Approximately one-third of the youth who enter the program are pregnant or parenting. First Place for Youth employs a low-barrier, harm reduction program model and, thus, serves many “high-risk” youth who may be screened out of other programs.

Through the My First Place program, youth live in one- or two-bedroom apartments and receive support with move-in costs, rent, food, essential furnishings, health and mental health needs, and access to employment and education services. The youth receive case management services and support from a youth advocate, and they are supported in gaining meaningful employment by an employment and education (EE) specialist. In addition to support from a youth advocate and an EE specialist, pregnant and parenting youth receive specialized assistance, including support for youth-run peer groups about parenting.



JERICHO PROJECT, RAPID RE-HOUSING PROGRAM (NEW YORK, NEW YORK)

Populations of focus: LGBTQ youth, youth experiencing literal homelessness

The Jericho Project works to rapidly re-house young adults from shelter (ideally within 30 days) by providing temporary financial assistance and individualized case management to ensure housing stability. The RRH program operates with a Housing First approach and is built upon the principles of providing client-driven and flexible assistance. Case managers provide referrals to community providers for legal services, healthcare, mental health/substance abuse services, recreation, and any other support to help youth overcome underlying barriers to maintaining housing. One year into the RRH program, the Jericho Project has worked with 47 youth ages 18–24 and connected 36 youth to permanent housing in an average of 55 days.

NORTHWEST YOUTH SERVICES, PERMANENT HOUSING PROGRAM (BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON)

Population of focus: Youth experiencing chronic homelessness

Northwest Youth Services' RRH program, called Permanent Housing, serves youth experiencing homelessness ages 18–24. The priority is focused on the most vulnerable youth, including those experiencing chronic homelessness. The program does not require youth to be clean and sober or actively addressing any mental health issues at the time of enrollment. The program accepts referrals from the local coordinated entry system and walk-ins.

The housing search is tailored to each youth's choices. Part of the housing search process is to help youth create a budget that includes rent, expenses, and projected income. Youth utilize this budget to decide whether they can afford an efficiency, one-bedroom, or shared two-bedroom apartment and make an appropriate housing choice. The program offers landlord supports (communication, mediation, monitoring, timely payments) and youth hold the lease, which may be for one year, three months, or month-to-month.

The program blends positive youth development, harm reduction, and Housing First practices to serve its youth. Staff provide weekly case management meetings and home visits as frequently as necessary, but at least monthly, with case plans reviewed every three months. Northwest Youth Services also offers vocational support and employment assistance through other agency programs, including searching for a job and making connections with part-time job opportunities for youth who have little to no employment experience.

SALVATION ARMY, YOUTH COUNTS RAPID RE-HOUSING PROGRAM (CENTRAL OHIO)

Population of focus: Youth involved with the foster care system

The Salvation Army's Youth Counts Rapid Re-housing Program started in 2009 and operates in the suburban and rural communities outside of the Columbus, Ohio, metropolitan area, serving 23 youth per year throughout a four-county region. The program primarily serves youth who have experienced homelessness after aging out of foster care and who are participating in independent housing. Youth are generally ages 18–22, but the program will occasionally assist an emancipated 17-year-old. Youth Counts has a very low-barrier intake process; they accept youth with a variety of backgrounds and barriers, including substance abuse and a criminal history.

Youth Counts participants move into scattered-site, market-rate units with a lease in their own name. Youth Counts provides rental subsidies and housing start-up costs, including security



and utility deposits. The program also has flex funds to pay for driver's license costs, laundry, and cleaning supplies. The services are more intense than many other RRH programs for other populations; the caseloads are about five or six individuals, and home visits are at least twice per week. Case managers provide "mobile" case management and utilize youth-centered communication, such as texting (TracFones are provided to all youth participants).

WEST END RESIDENCES, TRUE COLORS RESIDENCE (NEW YORK, NEW YORK)

Populations of focus: LGBTQ youth, youth with complex needs

In 2011, West End Residences opened New York's first non-time-limited youth supportive housing program, True Colors Residence. Located in Harlem, True Colors Residence has 30 studio apartments, each equipped with its own kitchen and bathroom, as well as community spaces for on-site service and program delivery. Tenants have leases and are responsible for paying rent, calculated at 30 percent of their income. The program serves LGBT young adults between ages 18 and 24 (at entry) who are experiencing homelessness, with a portion who also have active substance use disorders.

True Colors utilizes a Housing First, harm reduction, and trauma-informed care approach, with comprehensive support services available on a purely voluntary basis and tailored to the individual. The program fosters a culture of moving on, enabling stable tenants of supportive housing who no longer require on-site services to transition to another affordable independent apartment. Staff work to engage youth at their own pace and offer tailored services for meeting their needs. When youth are ready, staff support them in defining and working toward their goals for mental and physical health, employment and education, and moving to independent living. When youth no longer need services and are ready to move on, they are provided a subsidy or other resources for becoming stable.

BEACON INTERFAITH HOUSING COLLABORATIVE, NICOLLET SQUARE (MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA)

Populations of focus: Youth involved with the foster care system

Nicollet Square operates 42 studio apartments with supportive services designed for youth ages 16–21 who have experienced homelessness or are exiting the foster care system. The population of focus is youth ages 18–22, but 16- or 17-year-olds may be accepted as residents if it is determined that permanent supportive housing is the best option for them.

Staff from a partner agency, YouthLink, provide on-site supportive services and transition coaching. YouthLink case managers work in collaboration with youth to develop individualized plans for connecting youth with services that support their self-sufficiency. Mental health screening is a component of the service planning between the staff and residents. The residents have access to mental health services that include psychosocial education, treatment programs, medication education, psychological evaluations, and therapeutic counseling through partner agencies.

Nicollet Square also offers a "Work Fast" program for residents with no income or employment. The "Work Fast" model is to provide immediate access to employment. Employment is supported, meaning that on-site job coaching is provided to demonstrate job readiness skills. Nicollet Square has a partnership with Butter Bakery Café (on the same street corner), which serves as a worksite and mentorship program for youth.



EDWIN GOULD ACADEMY, EDWIN GOULD RESIDENCE (EAST HARLEM, NY)

Populations of focus: Youth aging out of foster care ages 18–25, parenting young adults

Edwin Gould Academy is a housing program for young adults, ages 18–25. The East Harlem residency provides safe, affordable housing to 36 young adults in studio apartments. The residence also has 15 supportive housing units which consist of 15 one-bedroom apartments for a single parent with one child. In addition to housing, the Edwin Gould Academy offers a host of services and supports that include counseling, peer groups, life-skills training, and referrals—all designed to meet the emotional, employment, housing, educational, and legal needs of youth in one convenient setting.

Resources

Rapid Re-Housing:

- **[Jump Start Tool: Rapid Re-housing for Youth](#)**: May 2017 tool published by HUD to provide an overview of key steps for CoCs and providers to quickly develop rapid re-housing projects for youth
- **[Rapid Re-housing for Youth FAQs](#)**: May 2017 document by HUD to answer frequently asked questions (FAQs) about rapid re-housing for youth
- **[Rapid Re-housing for Youth Checklist](#)**: May 2017 checklist by HUD for assisting CoCs and RRH project providers with planning and implementing RRH projects for youth
- **[Rapid Re-housing for Youth Toolkit](#)**: June 2017 toolkit published by the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) highlighting key lessons learned by providers in implementing RRH for youth
- **[Webinar: Rapid Re-housing—Serving Youth and Young Adults](#)**: July 2015 NAEH webinar on lessons learned by providers on connecting youth with housing through the RRH model
- **[Rapid Re-housing for Youth: Lessons from the Learning Community](#)**: March 2017 blog post by NAEH summarizing the lessons learned from the NAEH Rapid Re-housing for Youth Learning Community
- **[Rapid Rehousing Models for Homeless Youth](#)**: May 2015 HUD profiles of four youth RRH programs that demonstrate successful approaches to assisting TAY with obtaining and retaining permanent housing
- **[Can You Use Rapid Re-housing to Serve Homeless Youth? Some Providers Already Are](#)**: August 2015 blog post by NAEH detailing community implementation of RRH for youth
- **[SNAPS in Focus: Rapid Re-Housing as a Model and Best Practice](#)**: August 2014 message from HUD's Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs (SNAPS) highlighting the core components of the rapid re-housing model
- **[Rapid Rehousing Tools for Success](#)**: The Community Rebuilders Training Academy features these five tools for rapid re-housing programs:
 - **[Keys to Being a Quality Tenant](#)** is a 10-item agreement to be signed by participants



- The [Rapid Rehousing Landlord Packet](#) shares the seven components of a packet for landlords who have agreed to rent to a participant
- The [Housing Resource Specialist \(HRS\) Toolkit](#) features the history and standards of the housing resource specialist model, a look at Community Rebuilders' values, sections on goal setting and HUD performance measurement, a sample survey for customer feedback, and self-assessment tools
- [6 Easy Steps for Settling Landlord/Tenant Disputes](#) is an easy to use one-pager
- [Engaging for Success](#) is a short presentation on engaging consumers
- [Rapid Re-housing for Youth Webinars](#): A collection of online meetings from the NAEH Rapid Re-housing for Youth Learning Community
- [Rapid Re-housing Roommate Matching Survey](#): Roommate matching survey created and used by the Jericho Project Rapid Re-Housing program in New York City

Non-Time-Limited Supportive Housing:

- [No Strings Attached: Helping Vulnerable Youth with Non-Time-Limited Supportive Housing](#): March 2016 brief from CSH discusses non-time-limited supportive housing with a focus on the outcomes of True Colors Residence, a New York City program
- [Catalog of Permanent Supportive Housing Programs for Transition-age Youth](#): CSH's catalog of programs provides a profile and descriptive details about specific permanent supportive housing programs for youth, as well as the programs' sponsors
- [Examining Non-Time-Limited Youth Supportive Housing as Part of a Coordinated Community Response to End Homelessness](#): June 2016 blog post by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) detailing non-time-limited youth supportive housing as a promising practice for ending youth homelessness
- [Tailoring Services and Housing Solutions for Youth: Examples of Non-Time Limited Housing](#): August 2015 webinar by USICH highlighting examples of non-time-limited housing for youth



Innovative Project Models

A key goal of HUD's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) is to provide communities with the opportunity to implement new and innovative project models to prevent and end youth homelessness. A range of innovative project models and activities are eligible for funding under the YHDP, both directly and through a waiver process.

Examples of Eligible Projects

Examples of projects that are fundable under YHDP, do not require a waiver, and are renewable under the CoC Program are as follows:

HOST HOMES AND KINSHIP CARE

- A family agrees to allow a youth to reside with them.
- CoC funds can subsidize the additional costs attributable to housing the youth (e.g., additional food costs).

SHARED HOUSING

- A model of housing assistance where rental assistance is provided so that a youth can reside with a family.
- The youth leases from the property owner and shares the unit with the family. The unit may be a house or an apartment.
- YHDP funds may be used to provide tenant-based rental assistance to youth in shared housing arrangements.

Please note that for this demonstration, recipients may use YHDP for other costs of the host family in the Host Home and Kinship Care Model, such as additional utility costs. However, these utility costs are not eligible under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and are thus not renewable under the CoC Program.

Example of Eligible Projects Through Waivers

In general, projects funded under the YHDP must follow CoC Program requirements. However, because the purpose of the YHDP is to demonstrate **innovative methods** of reducing youth homelessness, HUD will entertain applications for waivers.



- Elements of projects that are waivers of statutory requirements (HEARTH Act) cannot be renewed under the CoC Program.
- Waivers of regulatory requirements (CoC program interim rule) can be renewed under the CoC Program.

Examples of projects that could be applied for under the YHDP, will require a waiver, and are renewable under the CoC Program include the following.

PROJECT MODEL	KEY FEATURES
Rapid re-housing 2.0	May include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• requesting funds for both rental assistance and leasing in the same project• waiving regulations that limit RRH to short- or medium-term tenant-based rental assistance• waiving the prohibition against combining rental assistance and leasing costs or rental assistance and operating costs in the same structure
Transition-age youth rental assistance	May include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• PH-RRH projects that would provide medium-term rental assistance to TAY for 12 months or until the program participant turns 25—whichever is longer• waiving the requirement to reassess a program participant's continued eligibility for assistance annually
Increased security deposits	May include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• waiving the 2-month limitation on security deposits for leasing funds and rental assistance
Post-transitional housing assistance	May include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• providing security deposits for permanent housing to program participants moving from transitional housing to permanent housing• providing the first and last month's rent for permanent housing to program participants moving from transitional housing to permanent housing



Joint Transitional Housing and Rapid Re-Housing Component

In 2017, HUD created a new Joint Transitional Housing and Rapid Re-Housing Component (“joint component”) project type to allow communities to provide low-barrier, temporary housing while individuals and families are being quickly and seamlessly connected to permanent housing through a rapid re-housing intervention. By allowing CoCs to create a project that combines transitional housing and rapid re-housing, individuals and families have access to low-barrier temporary housing and the financial supports necessary to help them quickly move into and sustain permanent housing.

ROLE OF THE JOINT COMPONENT IN ADDRESSING YOUTH HOMELESSNESS



Youth have high rates of unsheltered homelessness. The joint component provides a tool to develop projects specially tailored to meet their unique developmental needs and help them move quickly into permanent housing with available supportive services to help them maintain that housing.

JOINT COMPONENT: KEY FEATURES

Housing First

Projects should use a Housing First approach with client-driven service models and a focus on helping people move to permanent housing as quickly as possible. Participants cannot be required to participate in treatment or services to receive assistance.

Low barrier

Projects should have low barriers to entry and accommodate people with possessions, partners, pets, or other needs.

Client choice

Projects should incorporate client choice by helping participants find permanent housing based on their unique strengths, needs, preferences, and financial resources. Participants will choose when they are ready to exit the crisis housing portion of the project and move to permanent housing, with providers assisting participants with this move.

Goal-oriented

Projects should provide or connect participants to resources that help them improve their safety and well-being and achieve their goals.

Prioritize vulnerable populations

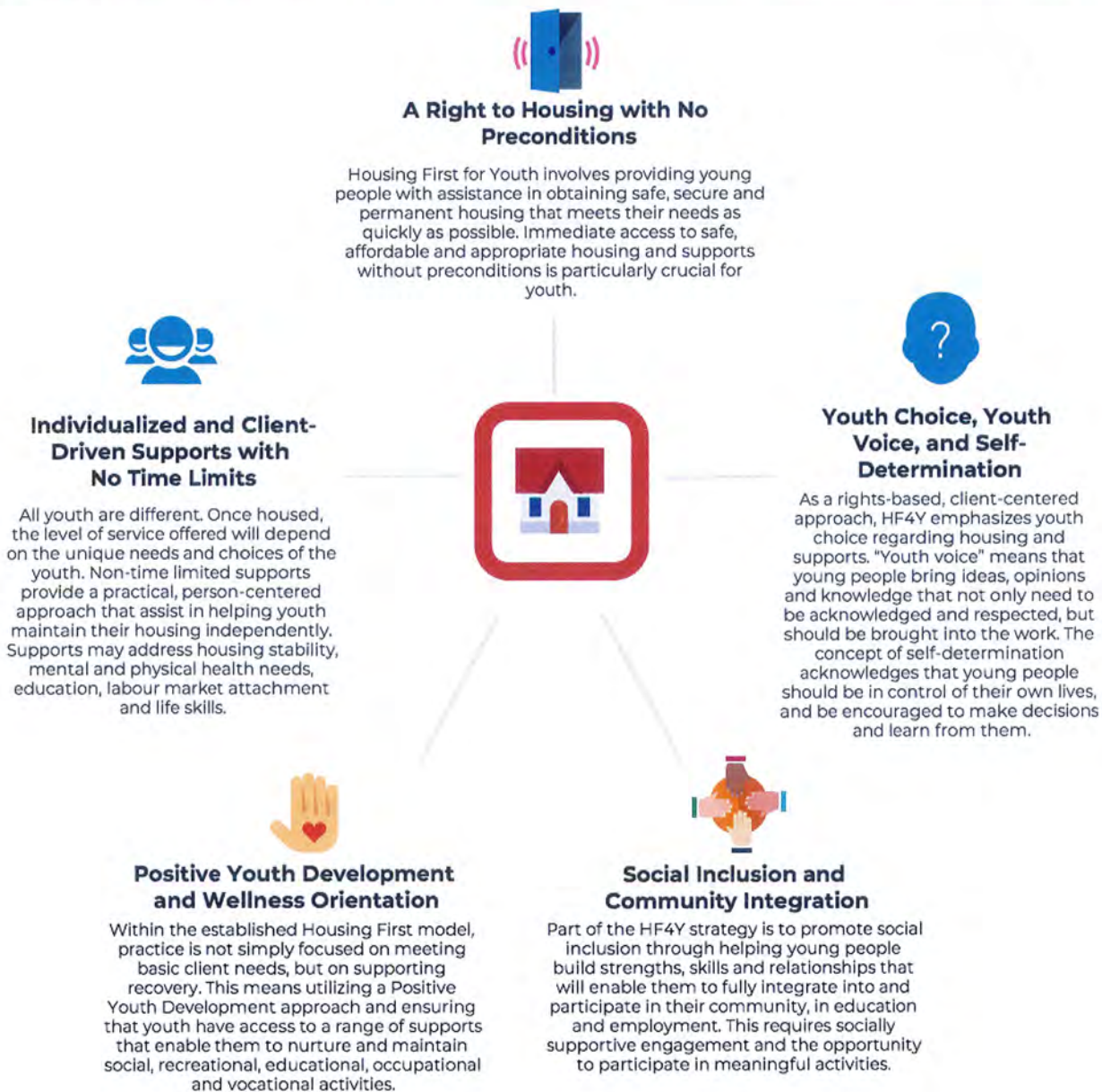
Projects should prioritize people experiencing homelessness with higher needs and who are most vulnerable.



Housing First for Youth

Housing First is a recovery-oriented homeless assistance approach that prioritizes providing people experiencing homelessness with permanent housing as quickly as possible with no preconditions, then providing voluntary supportive services as needed. Housing First for Youth (HF4Y) is an adaptation of the well-established Housing First approach to addressing homelessness. HF4Y is a rights-based intervention for youth ages 13–24 who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness that is designed to provide immediate access to safe, affordable, and appropriate housing and the necessary supports that focus on health, well-being, life skills, engagement in education and employment, and social inclusion.

Core Components of Housing First for Youth





HOUSING CONSIDERATIONS



The HF4Y model accommodates a wide range of housing options to support the core principle of youth choice and self-determination. Housing models that have been shown to be effective in serving youth experiencing homelessness include host homes, transitional housing/transitional living, rapid re-housing, and non-time-limited permanent supportive housing.

HOUSING FIRST FOR YOUTH: KEY FEATURES

Family reunification

One of the potential housing outcomes of HF4Y is for youth and young adults to return to the home of their parents or to the home of a significant adult, including relatives, godparents, or family friends. Family reconnection and reunification services should be accessible to youth and supported in cases where returning to the home is safe, reasonable, possible, and preferred by the youth.

Diverse models of accommodation

HF4Y may include a range of housing options, including returning home, independent living, transitional housing, or supportive housing. Best practice housing models utilized in the adult system of care may need to be adapted for the youth. An example could be ensuring that permanent supportive housing is not time-limited. Additionally, program models such as host homes and transitional housing provide unique options for youth that are not preferred or effective in the adult system of care.

Program infrastructure

Increased flexibility in program structure is important for youth, including providing congregate and scattered-site housing options, opportunities for supervision as well as independence, and options for on-site as well as mobile access to service supports.

Youth engagement techniques

Youth engagement techniques to support a Housing First approach include positive youth development, trauma-informed care, harm reduction, and motivational interviewing. These techniques should be integrated into the delivery of housing and services; program policies, procedures, and practices; and staff trainings and capacity-building.

Eviction and termination policies

Termination of a youth's participation in a project should only occur in the most severe circumstances; non-participation in supportive services is not a reason for project eviction or termination. Housing programs can utilize conflict resolution strategies and restorative justice principles to address conflict between housing participants.



SUPPORTIVE SERVICES CONSIDERATIONS



Housing First for Youth must ensure that supportive services are youth driven, strengths based, and trauma-informed; are delivered from a positive youth development perspective; and are accessible to youth regardless of their type of housing accommodation. The range of services should also facilitate independence, self-sufficiency, and positive transitions into adulthood.

SUPPORTIVE SERVICES: KEY FEATURES

Housing supports

Youth may need assistance with obtaining housing due to a lack of rental history/experience, legal barriers, and age discrimination by landlords. Youth may also need housing retention support to maintain housing and rental supplements to help overcome a lack of employment. Additional housing supports may include access to start-up home furnishings and appliances, eviction prevention, crisis management, and aftercare after achieving some level of housing stability.

Health and well-being

Supports designed to address health and well-being should incorporate a harm reduction approach and an organizational philosophy that supports trauma-informed care. Youth need access to primary care, mental health and substance use supports, supports to enhance personal safety, food security, and services that promote healthy sexuality.

Access to income and education

Educational engagement, re-engagement and achievement, employment training and access, and income supports should be a central feature of Housing First supports for youth, with the goal of addressing long-term housing stability.

Complementary supports

These are supports designed to facilitate housing stabilization and to help individuals and families improve their quality of life, integrate into the community, and potentially achieve self-sufficiency. Such supports may include life skills, advocacy, system navigation, peer support, parenting support, and legal advice/representation.

Social inclusion

Supports should facilitate the development and strengthening of healthy social relationships and connections, including enhancing family and chosen supports, community engagement and integration, cultural connection, and engagement in meaningful activities.



Case Studies

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF CALGARY (CALGARY, ALBERTA, CANADA)

Population of focus: Indigenous youth

The Boys and Girls Club of Calgary (BGCC) is a local organization providing a range of services, including housing and supports, to adolescents and youth in Calgary, Alberta. The BGCC currently operates several HF4Y programs, two of which—the Infinity Project and Home Fire—are detailed below. Using the HF4Y philosophy allowed the BGCC to design programs that meet the needs of the general youth experiencing homelessness population, as well as the more specific sub-population of Indigenous youth.

- **The Infinity Project**, a HF4Y program for all young people on the homeless continuum, was introduced in February 2009. The Infinity Project provides youth aged 16–24 with a permanent home in the community of their choice and the supports they need to become independent and self-sufficient. Staff work with youth to help identify affordable and appropriate housing options, develop life skills (such as learning to budget, clean a home, and interact with landlords) and prepare for independent adult living.
- **Home Fire** provides housing support for indigenous youth aged 16–24 who are experiencing homelessness. The program focuses on providing a cultural home where youth can reconnect with family and culture and begin healing.

SHELTERING ARMS CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES (NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK)

Population of focus: Low-income youth and families

When Sheltering Arms Children and Family Services (formerly Safe Space NYC) decided to embrace Housing First, they held a training session with their board and all staff. Next, they reviewed all of their policies to remove any aspect that was consequence-driven. Finally, they engaged with their youth participants to discuss other structural changes to the program and garner buy-in.

Resources

- **This is Housing First for Youth: A Program Model Guide**: October 2017 report from A Way Home Canada highlighting the philosophy, program model, and core principles of Housing First for Youth
- **Using a Housing First Philosophy When Serving Youth**: May 2017 HUD brief providing an overview of the Housing First philosophy and how it applies to youth-serving projects
- **A Safe and Decent Place to Live: Towards a Housing First Framework for Youth**: 2014 webinar and report from the Canadian Youth Network assists planners of new programs with adopting a Housing First approach



Appendix A: Community Needs Assessment Resource List

The following resources on housing, coordinated entry, and data can support your community in conducting a community needs assessment and developing a coordinated community plan to prevent and end youth homelessness.

[Criteria and Benchmarks for Achieving the Goal of Ending Youth Homelessness](#)

Synopsis: Collaboratively with communities across America, the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) and its federal partners developed a national vision for what it means to end homelessness, ensuring it is rare, brief, and non-recurring. The *Criteria and Benchmarks for Achieving the Goal of Ending Youth Homelessness* ensure all communities are working toward that goal. Criteria and benchmarks work together to provide a complete picture and an ongoing assessment of a community's response to homelessness. While the criteria focus on describing essential elements and accomplishments of the community's response, benchmarks serve as important indicators of whether and how effectively that system is working on an ongoing basis. Together, these criteria and benchmarks are intended to help communities drive down the number of unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness to as close to zero as possible, while building long-term, lasting solutions that can effectively and efficiently respond to future needs.

[Assessing Whether Your Community Has Achieved the Goal of Ending Youth Homelessness](#)

Synopsis: USICH and its member agencies have adopted [specific criteria and benchmarks](#) for ending youth homelessness in order to guide communities as they take action to achieve the goal through a coordinated community response. These questions can help you begin to assess your community's progress. As USICH develops a process for communities who seek federal confirmation of their achievements, an interagency review team will also ask for documentation that addresses these questions.

[Advancing an End to Youth Homelessness: Federal and National Initiatives](#)

Synopsis: Since the launch of the Federal Framework to End Youth Homelessness, there has been an unprecedented increase in collaboration, both among federal agencies and between the government and locally-driven efforts, to end homelessness among unaccompanied youth under age 25. This document highlights some of the significant efforts underway, and how they are contributing to local, state, and national progress. USICH encourages communities to look for opportunities to participate directly in these initiatives or follow their progress as we learn and share best practices from across the country.

[Federal Programs that Can Help Communities End Youth Homelessness](#)

Synopsis: For youth experiencing homelessness to achieve stability, thrive, and avoid future experiences of homelessness, they must have stable housing, permanent connections, education, employment, and an overall sense of well-being. To positively impact these outcome areas, communities need the capacity to build a coordinated community response that leverages public, private, and philanthropic funding, including available federal, state, and local services and programs.



The federal programs described in the resources below offer targeted and non-targeted funding for preventing and ending homelessness, including homelessness among youth, that can, in conjunction with other funding sources, help communities implement the coordinated response they need. Community-based organizations or local entities can apply to federal agencies to receive some, while others are funded through block grants that state and local governments then allocate, often through competitive application processes.

- **[Targeted Federal Programs That Can Help Communities End Youth Homelessness](#)**

Synopsis: The federal programs described in this document offer targeted funding for preventing and ending homelessness, including among youth.

- **[Non-Targeted Federal Programs That Can Help Communities End Youth Homelessness](#)**

Synopsis: The federal programs described in this document provide funding and resources that can support local efforts to prevent and end homelessness, including among youth.

*Please see **Appendix B, Relevant Federal Housing and Crisis Resources to Help Communities End Youth Homelessness** for information from these resources on targeted and non-targeted federal programs to help address housing and crisis needs in your local community efforts to prevent and end youth homelessness*



Appendix B: Relevant Federal Housing and Crisis Resources to Help Communities End Youth Homelessness²

The federal programs described below can support community efforts to prevent and end homelessness, including among youth. Community-based organizations or local entities can apply to federal agencies to receive support from some of the following programs, while others are funded through block grants that state and local governments then allocate, often through competitive application processes.

TARGETED RESOURCES FOR PREVENTING AND ENDING HOMELESSNESS

Continuum of Care (CoC) Program

Funds collaborative, community-wide efforts by nonprofit providers, states, and local governments to quickly re-house and provide services for people experiencing homelessness and to promote access to, and effective utilization of, mainstream programs.

Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG)

Provides funding to: (1) engage individuals and families living on the street; (2) improve the number and quality of emergency shelters; (3) help operate these shelters; (4) provide essential services to shelter residents; (5) rapidly re-house individuals and families experiencing homelessness; and (6) prevent families/individuals from experiencing homelessness.

Family Unification Program Voucher Program

Provides vouchers to promote unification of families for whom the lack of adequate housing is a primary factor in the separation, or the threat of imminent separation, of children from their families or the delay in discharge from out-of-home care. Also for 18- to 21-year-olds who left foster care at age 16 or older and lack adequate housing.

Grant and Per Diem Program: Per Diem Only and Transition in Place

Funds short-term housing for veterans experiencing homelessness using one or a combination of the following housing models: bridge housing, low demand, hospital-to-housing, clinical treatment, service-intensive transitional housing, and service centers.

HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH)

Combines HUD Housing Choice Voucher rental assistance for Veterans experiencing homelessness with case management and clinical services provided by VA.

Runaway and Homeless Youth Basic Center Program

Provides youth up to age 18 with emergency shelter, food, clothing, counseling, and referrals for health care.

² U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness. (2018, March). "Federal Homelessness Assistance Programs that Can Help Communities End Youth Homelessness." https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/nontargeted-programs-for-ending-youth-homelessness.pdf and (2018, May). "Non-Targeted Federal Programs That Can Help Communities End Youth Homelessness." https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/nontargeted-programs-for-ending-youth-homelessness.pdf



Runaway and Homeless Youth Street Outreach Program Funds street outreach workers to build relationships with youth who are experiencing homelessness and provide support services that aim to move youth into stable housing.

Runaway and Homeless Youth Transitional Living Program/Maternity Group Homes Provides longer-term housing and services to youth experiencing homelessness ages 16–22.

Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Funds rapid re-housing and prevention services for Veteran households experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) Funds communities to develop and execute a coordinated community approach to preventing and ending youth homelessness.

NON-TARGETED RESOURCES FOR PREVENTING AND ENDING HOMELESSNESS

Family Self-Sufficiency Program Funds program coordinators that work with families receiving Housing Choice vouchers or in public housing to make progress toward economic independence and self-sufficiency.

Community Services Block Grant Funds states and other eligible entities for a wide range of projects that reduce poverty and address the needs of low-income individuals.

Family Violence Prevention and Services Grant Program Funds states, territories, and tribes to provide shelter and services for victims of domestic and dating violence and their children.

HOME Investment Partnerships Program Funds a wide range of activities, including building, buying, and/or rehabilitating affordable housing for rent or homeownership, or providing direct rental assistance to low-income people.

Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Formula Grants Funds states for approved, evidence-based home visiting models.

National School Lunch Program Funds states to provide school meals.

Social Services Block Grant Funds states and territories to tailor social service programming around local goals related to reducing dependency and promoting self-sufficiency.



Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children

Funds states to provide supplemental nutrition, screening, and referrals to pregnant and postpartum women and children.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Funds states for nutrition assistance, including for people experiencing homelessness.

Transitional Housing Assistance to Victims of Domestic Violence

Funds state, tribal, and local governments, and other eligible applicants, to provide six to 24 months of transitional housing and other support services to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

Jurisdictions may choose to use TANF funds to provide rental assistance, shelters and transitional housing, and other financial and supportive services. Offered services vary by state and county.



Profiles in Preventing and Ending Youth Homelessness: Community Needs Assessment, Housing and Other Systems

The following profiles on housing and other system interventions have been curated from the Coordinated Community Plans of Round 1 YHDP grant recipients, as well as from information provided by communities that have accepted the 100-day Challenge to End Youth Homelessness, an initiative made possible through funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Anchorage, AK

Existing Project: Youth Engagement Center (Youth Drop-in Center, Shelter, Mobile Outreach)

In 2013, with strong support from Anchorage's providers, funders, and local government officials, Covenant House Alaska (CHA) transformed its model of care from traditional emergency shelter and crisis intervention to a youth engagement center model. The 42,000-square-foot youth engagement center is a multipurpose facility that combines a 60-bed youth emergency shelter, mobile outreach, youth drop-in center, and a wellness center. Nine community partners provide services on site at the youth engagement center, including tribal health and social supports, behavioral health, primary care, education and employment services, and other social supports. Positive youth development and trauma-informed care are incorporated in all housing and support service delivery.

San Francisco, CA

Proposed Project: Youth Coordinated Entry System

The community identified as a top priority a robust youth coordinated entry system that collects comprehensive data and provides access and referral to all elements of the youth homelessness response system from problem-solving to crisis response to housing placement. The system will incorporate interventions designed to identify at-risk families and youth, assess for protective factors using culturally competent, youth-targeted tools, and prevent homelessness through family- and youth-focused services. The system will provide low-barrier access points and referrals that are targeted and appropriate for San Francisco's youth subpopulations including pregnant/parenting transition-age youth (TAY), LGBTQ+ youth, African American and Latinx youth, youth from underserved neighborhoods, commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC) and youth, and youth with justice- and foster-system involvement. In addition, the system will provide ongoing evaluation of youth vulnerability to accommodate changing housing and service needs as youth age, stabilize, and transition across systems, as well as coordinate with the entire system of care to ensure the full range of developmentally appropriate referral options.

Youth coordinated entry will be part of the San Francisco Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH) Online Navigation and Entry (ONE) System, currently being



implemented in phases. The ONE System will support coordinated entry for the family, single adult, and youth systems using shared data from the San Francisco systems of care, which include HSH-funded participating nonprofits, all organizations receiving Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) and Continuum of Care (CoC) program funding, and government partners (HSH, human service agencies, family and children services, departments of public health); the school district; foster care agencies; and providers of mainstream benefits to ensure data sharing and coordination.

All interventions targeted to youth experiencing homelessness, including those not yet in place in the community, will be linked to youth coordinated entry to avoid the re-traumatization that occurs from outreach and assessments that do not provide immediate links to appropriate shelter or services.

Santa Cruz, CA

Proposed Project: Host Homes

The host home model is a new and innovative intervention for Santa Cruz County. Host homes provide a housing option for youth that includes a homelike alternative to shelter and transitional housing. This pilot program will be designed based on successful models in other areas of the country. Host home families will be recruited, trained, and supported. The pilot will focus specifically on outreach to LGBTQ+, ethnic minorities, pregnant or parenting youth, and other vulnerable youth preferring a home-based private setting with adult support to group shelter or being on their own in transitional housing. Length of stay and financial support models will be researched through established programs.

The host home model will provide integrated, individualized supportive services connected to housing and transition to independent living to address housing stability, life skills, health, social and emotional well-being, education, employment, and permanent connection into adulthood. Support includes a continuous relationship with a team, including a case manager and peer housing and service navigator.

To support the host home model, the Santa Cruz YHDP Team has also proposed working with cities and the county to decrease the threshold for building auxiliary dwelling units (ADUs) and provide incentives for individuals that build ADUs to house youth experiencing homelessness.

Connecticut Balance of State

Proposed Project: Rapid Exit Funding (Prevention/Diversion)

Rapid exit funding will be available for young adults who are unable to be diverted before entering crisis housing but have yet to be enrolled in a rapid rehousing or longer-term supportive housing program. Rapid exit funding will provide flexible financial assistance, such as security deposits and utility costs, designed to meet each young adult's particular needs. Rapid exit funding for expenses such as transportation costs to return home will also be available to minors at any point during their homelessness episode.

A statewide (CT BOS area only) fund administrator will manage a single rapid exit fund that will be available to eligible participants through the discretion of local YHDP-funded youth navigators. The selected fund administrator will have experience operating a multi-coordinated



access network (CAN) fund and the capacity to administer a federal grant. This fund will be combined with the YHDP diversion funding to create flexibility within these two resources.

Minors who are experiencing or at risk of imminent homelessness will be eligible for this funding as well throughout their episode of homelessness in consultation with youth navigators.

Kentucky Balance of State

Proposed Project: Rural Outreach and System Navigation

This project will ensure quick identification of youth experiencing literal homelessness (HUD Category 1 or 4) or who are at risk of homelessness (HUD Category 2) who are not likely to present through the traditional homeless service entry points. Schools, mainstream service providers (e.g., health care, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), workforce programs, Head Start), law enforcement, and foster care and juvenile justice systems will work with the system navigator to connect youth with the coordinated entry system or with prevention/diversion resources.

Through intensive community marketing and engagement, rural outreach staff will be well versed in nontraditional locations where youth may present, as well as making sure that the communities have easy access to outreach staff on an as-needed basis. Outreach staff will not only meet the client where they are but also conduct a client-centered assessment to identify immediate needs.

Outreach/navigation staff will be based out of existing youth drop-in centers or other established service providers in the area. System navigation services will also ensure clients are included in the coordinated entry processes for their geographic area. System navigators will work with youth, as needed, until they are connected through a warm handoff with the appropriate resource/housing solution.

Grand Traverse, Antrim, and Leelanau Counties

Proposed Project: Youth Rooming House (Permanent Supportive Housing)

The Youth Rooming House Project will consist of either the renovation of an existing building or new construction into 9–12 single room occupancy (SRO) units. It will include shared living and kitchen spaces and allow one of the rooms to be occupied by a resident assistant. Individualized housing-based case management will be provided to each of the residents to link them with community resources and help them remain housed and move forward to eventual self-sufficiency.

The Youth Rooming House will be located in Traverse City, where the highest population of youth are located, as well as public transportation, jobs, high school, and the local community college. Youth will be given the opportunity to be permanently housed with case management services until they reach a point in their lives where they can either move forward to house themselves through their own resources or experience life changes that require they live in a different housing model. This housing choice will give them the chance to stop focusing their lives on the basic human need for housing and begin to work on other parts of their lives, such as food stability, education, work, mental health, and substance use disorders.



Youth Advisory Board (YAB) Input in Project Development and Planning

The Northwest Michigan YAB has been involved in this project from the onset. It is 100 percent driven by the youth involved in focus groups, surveys, and the YAB. This project was not a real consideration until youth themselves expressed the desire to live in group housing with peers. YAB has been involved in securing funding through community grant opportunities, designing the needs of the house itself, and the location of the final project. As the project moves forward the YAB will lead the process of how decisions are made by occupants, contracting with a resident assistant, and final physical design. YHDP leadership will find the financing, and YAB will lead all other decisions.

Content experts and key stakeholders to be engaged in the development and implementation of this project include Traverse City Housing Commission as an expert in housing development and funding, property maintenance, and management; Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency and Goodwill Industries as experts in housing development and funding and housing-based case management; and Child and Family Services/Third Level as the owner of one of the housing options and as the runaway and homeless youth local provider.

This project will require a waiver to use HUD CoC leasing assistance dollars in a new way; the Northwest Michigan YHDP team will ask permission to house in these SROs youth age 18 to 24 years who are literally homeless, fleeing domestic violence, or at imminent risk of homelessness within HUD's definitions.

Cincinnati/Hamilton County, OH

Proposed Project: Progressive Engagement Housing Model (Permanent Housing)

The Cincinnati/Hamilton County CoC will institute a progressive engagement housing model to best serve the needs of youth experiencing homelessness. This innovation to the community would allow funding to be administered where needed and enable the community to immediately respond to specific housing needs.

Progressive engagement is designed to start off providing the lightest touch to clients in need while allowing flexibility to transition between housing programs/options if needed. Although the community will make youth-centered improvements to the existing coordinated entry system with a goal of connecting young people with appropriate housing interventions, it is recognized that long-term housing needs are not always clear at the time of initial assessment and that housing needs change throughout the duration of services. Under the progressive engagement housing model, all youth who need a housing intervention will start with rapid re-housing, with permanent supportive housing used only for young people with a demonstrated need for long-term supportive housing. Individualized services will be provided by a Youth Dedicated Service Team.

The community cannot anticipate how much of each housing component is needed to meet the needs of young people experiencing homelessness having never had an opportunity to offer them a choice. Currently, youth are offered traditional housing interventions when they present for services; a more flexible system would allow individualized care. Due to the lack of data on



housing options, and in search of an innovative model, YHDP calls for a housing funding pool with the flexibility to be used for the following housing interventions:

Rapid re-housing (RRH) is an intervention housing model through which households experiencing homelessness move to permanent housing quickly. Cincinnati will institute two types of RRH, knowing that youth may initially move into site-based housing and later graduate to a more independent living environment in a scattered site unit. Both RRH models are permanent housing, driven by client choice and supporting a goal of housing stability even after rental assistance ends. Lengths of stay in RRH will likely vary, given that young people experience a range of barriers and vulnerabilities. The Youth Dedicated Service Team will review the by-name list of all homeless and housed youth to cooperatively evaluate care plans and the need for financial assistance. The team will make recommendations regarding the need for continued assistance for each young person.

- **Scattered-site RRH** is housing where the client is the leaseholder of a housing unit in the community, also known as tenant-based rental assistance.
- **Site-based RRH** is immediate housing in a semi-independent and supportive setting. This housing model will allow youth to receive intensive case management services in a supportive environment before entering a rental unit on their own. Cincinnati does not anticipate buying property for the site-based housing component but will utilize current site-based buildings or, based on need, will master lease multi-unit buildings to create semi-independent living. Although youth can live permanently in the site-based unit, they will also be given the opportunity to transition into a scattered-site unit without program disruption or service changes. The project seeks to enable a seamless transition within the scope of progressive engagement housing. This site-based model will allow subpopulations within the 18- to 24-year-old population to create community living environments, if desired.

Rapid re-housing, as the initial housing intervention strategy, would have several exit destinations accessible when stability has been established and a youth is ready to exit the program. For example, destinations may include the following:

1. **Market-rate, affordable housing.** The Youth Dedicated Service Team will continue to provide supportive services through aftercare support.
2. **Connection to site-based housing** or a **housing choice voucher** through the Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA). The Youth Dedicated Service Team will continue to provide supportive services through aftercare support. Cincinnati has secured two CMHA preferences for housing choice vouchers:
 - a. Homeless preference—The community has secured 500 homeless preference vouchers for which youth graduating from a YHDP project will be eligible.
 - b. Foster care preference—Lighthouse Youth and Family Services have partnered with CMHA to administer local preference for 30 youth aging out of foster care for housing choice vouchers.
3. **Permanent supportive housing (PSH)** refers to permanent housing in which supportive services are provided to enable residents to live independently. This long-term supportive housing will be available to youth who have a disability and are identified



as needing supportive housing for an undetermined length of time. If a youth transitions to PSH, supportive services will continue through the Youth Dedicated Service Team.

Ohio Balance of State

Expansion of Existing Resources: Crisis Transitional Housing

A short-term facility with 24-hour staffing and onsite services such as job and educational training will offer 18 beds annually to youth and young adults experiencing homelessness.

An expanded emergency voucher system will offer short-term shelter and services to youth in a scattered-site setting in counties with limited or no shelter or crisis transitional housing access. This will allow youth to be served in their own community, if they choose. Vouchers will be issued based on individual needs and geography.

A Youth Crisis Response Team (CRT) will provide primary services, including daily contact, limited evening supervision, assessment, housing plan development, food assistance and vouchers, and extremely swift linkages to alternate shelter or housing resources.

Austin/Travis County, TX

Proposed Project: Transition-age Youth (TAY) Housing Navigation Shelter (Joint Transitional Housing and Rapid Re-housing)

The TAY Housing Navigation Shelter is aimed at connecting unaccompanied, literally homeless youth ages 18–24 with safe and low-barrier shelter that rapidly connects participants with low-barrier housing. Services offered through the Housing Navigation Shelter would include the following:

- Rapid re-housing
- Family reunification
- Housing resource and benefit navigation
- Case management focused on identifying safe and stable housing
- Connection to mental health, education, and employment support services
- Access to other YHDP programs

There are shelter options for minors in Austin/Travis County, but none dedicated for 18- to 24-year-old youth; this population can only access the mainstream adult shelters. A TAY navigation shelter would be an innovative program for the community. The shelter will also provide safe, inclusive, and affirming spaces for all youth, including LGBTQA youth. Austin/Travis County has also proposed providing safe storage and pet accommodations as part of the low-barrier model of the TAY Housing Navigation Shelter.



Seattle/King County, WA

Proposed Project: Youth Engagement Team (Prevention/Diversion, Family Reunification, Housing Navigation)

- **Target Population:** Homeless and unstably housed youth under the age of 18, particularly targeting justice-involved youth and youth with experience in the foster care system
- **HUD Homeless Definition:** Categories 1, 2, and 4
- **Project Type:** Supportive services only, used as diversion and housing navigation
- **Staffing:** This model includes a legal advocate, family therapist/mediator, and will incorporate a staff member who will be employed at Children's Administration to triage any questions on referrals through Child Protective Services, support exit planning when foster youth are at risk of exiting to homelessness, participate on the Youth Engagement Team (YET) multidisciplinary team when appropriate, and support youth in extended foster care who are at risk of homelessness.

The goal of the YET is to house and support youth and families either immediately prior to an impending experience of homelessness or within the first few days of the experience. This strength-based approach would use a multisystem team to help the youth and family either reunify immediately or access short-term housing while services are being delivered. The approach would use mediated plans as often as appropriate. When achieving reunification is possible, the goal is to do so with the support of both the youth and the parents/guardians. Referrals of youth experiencing or on the verge of homelessness would be made to a single entity (the YET) by juvenile justice staff (including law enforcement, probation, judges, detention staff, attorneys, and others), school staff (including counselors, liaisons, and others), and provider staff (including outreach, drop-in, shelter, and others). Youth would voluntarily opt in with the benefit of securing housing and services.

The central entity would regularly convene a team of professionals, including a mediator/family therapist, peer mentor, legal counsel for youth, housing provider, housing navigator, the youth, and (when possible and appropriate) their parents/natural support system (including the referring party). In the style of a family team decision-making meeting, the team would work toward short-term and long-term plans, including authorizing services and short-term shelter, which could include a relative's, neighbor's, or host home. The team would have access to flexible funds (utilizing a diversion approach) to address needs such as short-term housing supports.

Where parents are unable or unwilling to parent or where there is a serious risk of abuse, the team would refer to the Children's Administration staff who would, when appropriate, join the team. Where reunification is ultimately not possible, the team would look for other housing options through existing homeless housing programs.



Palm Beach, FL (100-day Challenge)

Use of HOME Funds for Rapid Re-housing

HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funds for Palm Beach County are granted to the Palm Beach County Division of Housing and Economic Stability. In fiscal year (FY) 2017–2018, Palm Beach County received \$1,637,604 in HOME funds. Most of the funds are used for development or to provide a match for developers and community housing development organizations (CHDOs). However, there is a set-aside of \$573,161 for tenant-based rental assistance (TBRA), which is subcontracted to the Palm Beach Community Services Department of Human and Veteran Services.

Palm Beach Community Services Department of Human and Veteran Services has used the TBRA set-aside to provide rapid re-housing assistance to families and adults experiencing homelessness. However, the department decided in 2017 to redirect half of the TBRA set-aside dollars to youth in support of the 100-day Challenge, recognizing that the longer length of time and flexibility of assistance allowed through HOME TBRA funds were important considerations for serving youth experiencing homelessness. The community will continue to utilize HOME funds in this manner until they are certified as at Functional Zero for ending youth homelessness.

The maximum amount of time to receive assistance with HOME funds is 24 months. Palm Beach is aiming to provide 12 months of rapid re-housing assistance to youth with a declining subsidy to serve all youth in need of housing assistance. The community will collect and analyze data to determine if 12 months is an adequate period of time to meet the needs of local youth experiencing homelessness.

Shared Housing

Palm Beach utilized the momentum of the 100-day Challenge to expand rental housing options for youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness. To support the shared housing model, the Palm Beach 100-day Challenge team facilitated an open house for youth and landlords to connect and held meet-and-greets intended to match roommates together. The meet-and-greets have a formal agenda and brochure, and the team has administered a feedback survey for youth to evaluate the meet-and-greets and make any changes necessary. The meet-and-greets have become a successful forum for youth to connect and discuss their interests and limitations, as well as to determine compatibility for shared housing opportunities.

Palm Beach County has also established strong relationships with landlords to support the shared housing model and increase youth access to rental units. An important factor in the successful launch of the shared housing model was executing individual leases for each tenant, ensuring that missed rent payments or lease violations that could result in the eviction of one roommate would not affect the other roommate's ability to remain in the unit. Palm Beach was able to increase the number of landlords participating in the shared housing model through a dedicated pot of funds available to support the landlord and household by allowing double deposits, making guaranteed rent for 12 months, or other similar financial supports.

San Diego, CA: Housing Profile



Persons Aged 18 to 24 in Poverty



As of 2016, approximately **41,000 individuals aged 18 to 24 (28%)** in San Diego had incomes below the Census Bureau's poverty threshold.

Runaway Youth

In 2017, there were **855 calls** to the National Runaway Safeline from youth in the greater San Diego metropolitan area.



Housing Wage



"Housing wage" is the hourly wage needed to afford a two-bedroom apartment at Fair Market Rent without paying more than 30% of income on housing. It assumes a 40-hour work week, 52 weeks per year.

California has the **3rd highest housing wage in the country.** **\$32.68/hr** is required to afford a two-bedroom rental home.

In San Diego County, the housing wage is **\$34.92/hr.**

Youth Experiencing Homelessness in San Diego (2017)



● Adult Homeless Population ● Unaccompanied Youth (Under 18) ● Unaccompanied Youth (18-24)

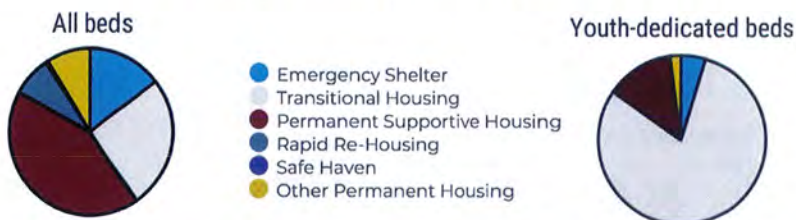
Of the 9,160 individuals reported experiencing homelessness in the 2017 Point-in-Time Count, **1,160 individuals (13%)** were unaccompanied youth - **68 youth were under age 18**, and **1,092 youth were aged 18 to 24**.

7th: Ranking among major city CoCs in the country for largest number of unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness.



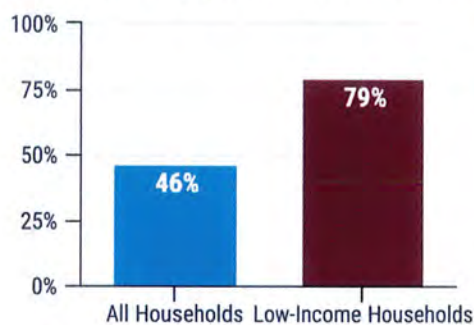
There were **94 parenting youth** identified in the 2017 Point-in-Time Count - **4 youth under age 18** and **90 youth aged 18 to 24**.

San Diego Housing Inventory Count (2017)



As of 2017, there were **9,124 total year-round beds** in San Diego: 42% Permanent Supportive Housing, 25% Transitional Housing, 15% Emergency Shelter, 9% Other Permanent Housing, 8% Rapid Re-Housing, and less than 1% Safe Haven. Of these, **390 were youth-dedicated beds**: 80% Transitional Housing, 13% Permanent Supportive Housing, 5% Emergency Shelter, and 2% Other Permanent Housing.

Children Living in Households with a High Housing Cost Burden



In 2016, **46%** of children in San Diego lived in households with a **high housing burden** (more than 30% of income is spent on housing).

Over three-fourths (79%) of children living in low-income households in San Diego were **housing cost burdened**.

Louisville, KY: Housing Profile



Persons Aged 18 to 24 in Poverty



As of 2016, approximately **13,000 individuals aged 18 to 24 (25%)** in Louisville had incomes below the Census Bureau's poverty threshold.

Runaway Youth

In 2017, there were **232 calls** to the National Runaway Safeline from youth in Louisville.



Housing Wage



"Housing wage" is the hourly wage needed to afford a two-bedroom apartment at Fair Market Rent without paying more than 30% of income on housing. It assumes a 40-hour work week, 52 weeks per year.



Kentucky has the **48th** highest housing wage in the country. **\$14.40/hr** is required to afford a two-bedroom rental home.

In the Louisville metropolitan area, the housing wage is \$15.79/hr.

Youth Experiencing Homelessness in Louisville (2017)



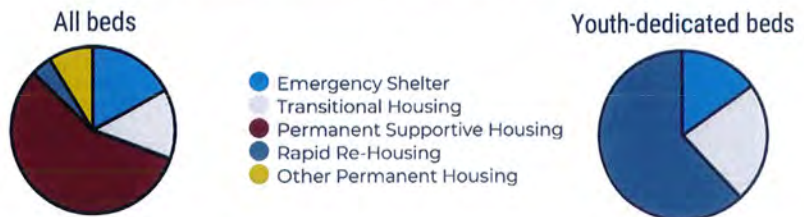
● Adult Homeless Population ● Unaccompanied Youth (Under 18) ● Unaccompanied Youth (18-24)

Of the 1,034 individuals reported experiencing homelessness in the 2017 Point-in-Time Count, **53 individuals (3%)** were unaccompanied youth - **11 youth were under age 18**, and **42 youth were aged 18 to 24**.



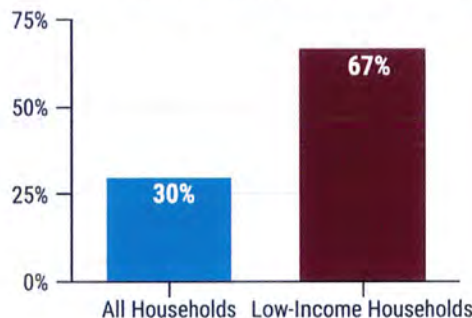
There were **16 parenting youth** (aged 18 to 24) identified in the 2017 Point-in-Time Count.

Louisville Housing Inventory Count (2017)



As of 2017, there were **2,992 total year-round beds** in Louisville: 56% Permanent Supportive Housing, 17% Emergency Shelter, 14% Transitional Housing, 9% Other Permanent Housing, and 4% Rapid Re-Housing. Of these, **94 were youth-dedicated beds**: 49% Transitional Housing, **32% Emergency Shelter**, and 19% Rapid Re-Housing.

Children Living in Households with a High Housing Cost Burden



In 2016, **30%** of children in Louisville lived in households with a **high housing burden** (more than 30% of income is spent on housing).

As of most recent data from 2011, **67%** of children living in low-income households in Louisville were **housing cost burdened**.

Boston, MA: Housing Profile



Persons Aged 18 to 24 in Poverty



As of 2016, approximately **24,000 individuals aged 18 to 24 (37%)** in Boston had incomes below the Census Bureau's poverty threshold.

Runaway Youth

In 2017, there were **176 calls** to the National Runaway Safeline from youth in Boston.



Housing Wage



"Housing wage" is the hourly wage needed to afford a two-bedroom apartment at Fair Market Rent without paying more than 30% of income on housing. It assumes a 40-hour work week, 52 weeks per year.



Massachusetts has the **6th highest housing wage in the country. \$28.64/hr** is required to afford a two-bedroom rental home.

In the Boston metropolitan area, the housing wage is **\$33.46/hr**.

Youth Experiencing Homelessness in Boston (2017)



● Adult Homeless Population ● Unaccompanied Youth (Under 18) ● Unaccompanied Youth (18-24)

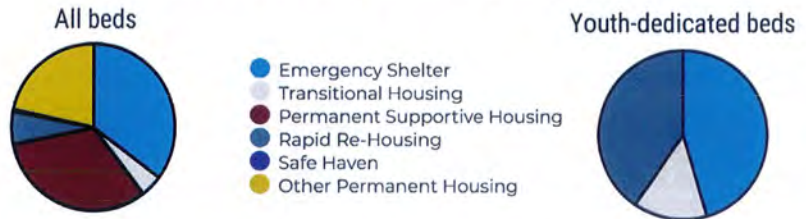
Of the 6,135 individuals reported experiencing homelessness in the 2017 Point-in-Time Count, **190 individuals (3%)** were unaccompanied youth - **51 youth were under age 18**, and **139 youth were aged 18 to 24**.

Boston has one of the lowest rates of unsheltered unaccompanied youth in the country (3.7% unsheltered).



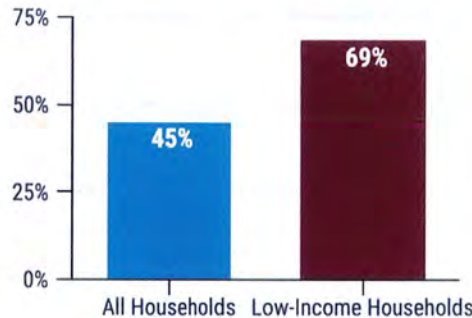
There were **173 parenting youth** (aged 18 to 24) identified in the 2017 Point-in-Time Count.

Boston Housing Inventory Count (2017)



As of 2017, there were **14,773 total year-round beds** in Boston: 35% Emergency Shelter, 32% Permanent Supportive Housing, 22% Other Permanent Housing, 6% Rapid Re-Housing, 4% Transitional Housing, and less than 1% Safe Haven. Of these, **99 were youth-dedicated beds: 46% Emergency Shelter, 40% Rapid Re-Housing, and 14% Transitional Housing.**

Children Living in Households with a High Housing Cost Burden



In 2015, **45%** of children in Boston lived in households with a **high housing burden** (more than 30% of income is spent on housing).

69% of children living in low-income households in Boston were **housing cost burdened**.

Northwest Minnesota: Housing Profile



Persons Aged 18 to 24 in Poverty



As of 2016, approximately **89,000 individuals aged 18 to 24 (20%)** in Minnesota had incomes below the Census Bureau's poverty threshold.

Runaway Youth

In 2017, there were **149 calls** to the National Runaway Safeline from youth in the Northwest Minnesota YHDP area.



Housing Wage



"Housing wage" is the hourly wage needed to afford a two-bedroom apartment at Fair Market Rent without paying more than 30% of income on housing. It assumes a 40-hour work week, 52 weeks per year.



Minnesota has the **22nd highest housing wage in the country.** **\$18.82/hr** is required to afford a two-bedroom rental home.

The housing wage in Minnesota's combined nonmetropolitan area is **\$14.30/hr.**

Youth Experiencing Homelessness in Northwest Minnesota (2017)



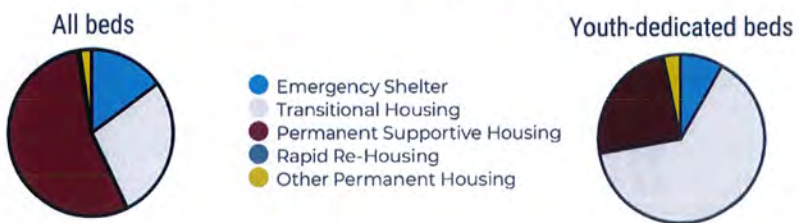
● Adult Homeless Population ● Unaccompanied Youth (Under 18) ● Unaccompanied Youth (18-24)

Of the 288 individuals reported experiencing homelessness in the 2017 Point-in-Time Count, **49 individuals (17%)** were unaccompanied youth - **18 youth were under age 18**, and **31 youth were aged 18 to 24.**



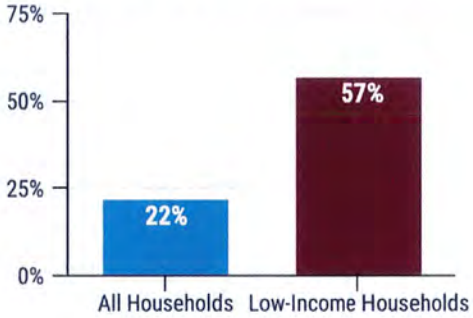
There were **21 parenting youth** (aged 18 to 24) identified in the 2017 Point-in-Time Count.

Northwest Minnesota Housing Inventory Count (2017)



As of 2017, there were **695 total year-round beds** in Northwest Minnesota: 54% Permanent Supportive Housing, 28% Transitional Housing, 15% Emergency Shelter, 2% Other Permanent Housing, and less than 1% Rapid Re-Housing. Of these, **119 were youth-dedicated beds**: 64% Transitional Housing, 24% Permanent Supportive Housing, 9% Emergency Shelter, and 3% Other Permanent Housing.

Children Living in Households with a High Housing Cost Burden



In 2016, **22%** of children in Minnesota lived in households with a **high housing burden** (more than 30% of income is spent on housing).

57% of children living in low-income households in Minnesota were **housing cost burdened.**

Nebraska Balance of State: Housing Profile



Persons Aged 18 to 24 in Poverty



As of 2016, approximately **39,000 individuals aged 18 to 24 (24%)** in Nebraska had incomes below the Census Bureau's poverty threshold.

Runaway Youth

In 2017, there were **196 calls** to the National Runaway Safeline from youth in Nebraska.



Housing Wage



"Housing wage" is the hourly wage needed to afford a two-bedroom apartment at Fair Market Rent without paying more than 30% of income on housing. It assumes a 40-hour work week, 52 weeks per year.

Nebraska has the **39th highest housing wage in the country.** **\$15.66/hr** is required to afford a two-bedroom rental home.

The housing wage in Nebraska's combined nonmetropolitan areas is **\$12.99/hr.**



Youth Experiencing Homelessness in Nebraska Balance of State (2017)



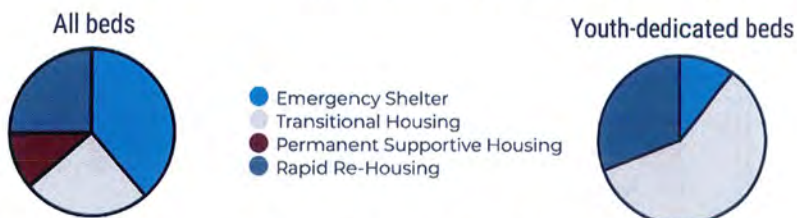
● Adult Homeless Population ● Unaccompanied Youth (Under 18) ● Unaccompanied Youth (18-24)

Of the 506 individuals reported experiencing homelessness in the 2017 Point-in-Time Count, **54 individuals (11%)** were unaccompanied youth - **7 youth were under age 18**, and **47 youth were aged 18 to 24.**



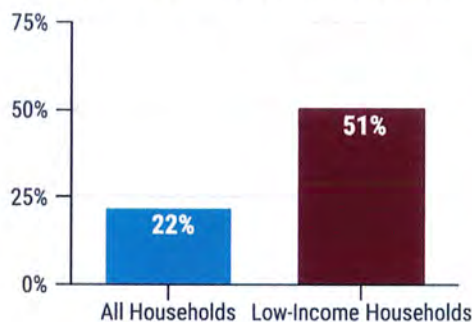
There were **16 parenting youth** (aged 18 to 24) identified in the 2017 Point-in-Time Count.

Nebraska Balance of State Housing Inventory Count (2017)



As of 2017, there were **1,030 total year-round beds** in the Nebraska Balance of State: 39% Emergency Shelter, 25% Rapid Re-Housing, 25% Transitional Housing, and 11% Permanent Supportive Housing. Of these, **39 were youth-dedicated beds: 59% Transitional Housing, 31% Permanent Supportive Housing, and 10% Emergency Shelter.**

Children Living in Households with a High Housing Cost Burden



In 2016, **22%** of children in Nebraska lived in households with a **high housing burden** (more than 30% of income is spent on housing).

51% of children living in low-income households in Nebraska were **housing cost burdened.**

New Mexico Balance of State: Housing Profile



Persons Aged 18 to 24 in Poverty



As of 2016, approximately **48,000 individuals aged 18 to 24 (26%)** in New Mexico had incomes below the Census Bureau's poverty threshold.

Runaway Youth

In 2017, there were **321 calls** to the National Runaway Safeline from youth in New Mexico.



Housing Wage



"Housing wage" is the hourly wage needed to afford a two-bedroom apartment at Fair Market Rent without paying more than 30% of income on housing. It assumes a 40-hour work week, 52 weeks per year.



New Mexico has the 36th highest housing wage in the country. \$15.89/hr is required to afford a two-bedroom rental home.

The housing wage in New Mexico's combined nonmetropolitan areas is **\$14.35/hr.**

Youth Experiencing Homelessness in New Mexico Balance of State (2017)



● Adult Homeless Population ● Unaccompanied Youth (Under 18) ● Unaccompanied Youth (18-24)

Of the 1,164 individuals reported experiencing homelessness in the 2017 Point-in-Time Count, **74 individuals (6%)** were unaccompanied youth - **39 youth were under age 18**, and **35 youth were aged 18 to 24.**



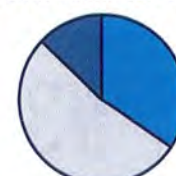
There were **6 parenting youth** identified in the 2017 Point-in-Time Count - **1 youth under age 18** and **5 youth aged 18 to 24.**

New Mexico Balance of State Housing Inventory Count (2017)

All beds



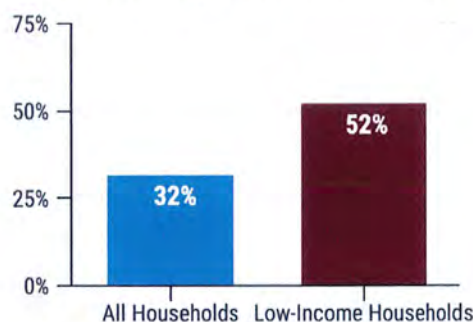
Youth-dedicated beds



● Emergency Shelter
● Transitional Housing
● Permanent Supportive Housing
● Rapid Re-Housing

As of 2017, there were **2,355 total year-round beds** in the New Mexico Balance of State: 46% Permanent Supportive Housing, 31% Emergency Shelter, 12% Rapid Re-Housing, and 11% Transitional Housing. Of these, **78 were youth-dedicated beds**: 52% Transitional Housing, **35% Emergency Shelter**, and 13% Rapid Re-Housing.

Children Living in Households with a High Housing Cost Burden



In 2016, **32%** of children in New Mexico lived in households with a **high housing burden** (more than 30% of income is spent on housing).

52% of children living in low-income households in New Mexico were **housing cost burdened.**

Columbus, OH: Housing Profile



Persons Aged 18 to 24 in Poverty



As of 2016, approximately **29,000 individuals aged 18 to 24 (36%)** in Columbus had incomes below the Census Bureau's poverty threshold.

Runaway Youth

In 2017, there were **227 calls** to the National Runaway Safeline from youth in Columbus.



Housing Wage



"Housing wage" is the hourly wage needed to afford a two-bedroom apartment at Fair Market Rent without paying more than 30% of income on housing. It assumes a 40-hour work week, 52 weeks per year.



Ohio has the **44th highest housing wage in the country.** **\$15.25/hr** is required to afford a two-bedroom rental home.

In the Columbus metropolitan area, the housing wage is \$17.50/hr.

Youth Experiencing Homelessness in Columbus (2017)



● Adult Homeless Population ● Unaccompanied Youth (Under 18) ● Unaccompanied Youth (18-24)

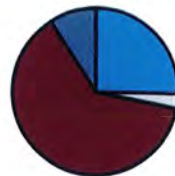
Of the 1,691 individuals reported experiencing homelessness in the 2017 Point-in-Time Count, **144 individuals (8%)** were unaccompanied youth - **10 youth were under age 18**, and **134 youth were aged 18 to 24**.



There were **42 parenting youth** (aged 18 to 24) identified in the 2017 Point-in-Time Count.

Columbus Housing Inventory Count (2017)

All beds



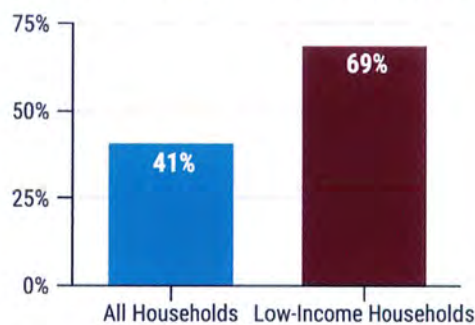
Youth-dedicated beds



● Emergency Shelter
● Transitional Housing
● Permanent Supportive Housing
● Rapid Re-Housing

As of 2017, there were **4,353 total year-round beds** in Columbus: 63% Permanent Supportive Housing, 25% Emergency Shelter, 9% Rapid Re-Housing, and 3% Transitional Housing. Of these, **77 were youth-dedicated beds**: 87% Transitional Housing and 13% Emergency Shelter.

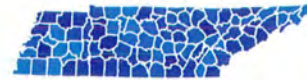
Children Living in Households with a High Housing Cost Burden



In 2016, **41%** of children in Columbus lived in households with a **high housing burden** (more than 30% of income is spent on housing).

69% of children living in low-income households in Columbus were **housing cost burdened**.

Nashville, TN: Housing Profile



Persons Aged 18 to 24 in Poverty



As of 2016, approximately **12,000 individuals aged 18 to 24 (22%)** in Nashville-Davidson County had incomes below the Census Bureau's poverty threshold.

Runaway Youth

In 2017, there were **212 calls** to the National Runaway Safeline from youth in Nashville-Davidson County.



Housing Wage



"Housing wage" is the hourly wage needed to afford a two-bedroom apartment at Fair Market Rent without paying more than 30% of income on housing. It assumes a 40-hour work week, 52 weeks per year.



Tennessee has the **37th highest housing wage in the country.** **\$15.74/hr** is required to afford a two-bedroom rental home.

In Nashville-Davidson County metropolitan area, the housing wage is **\$19.27/hr**.

Youth Experiencing Homelessness in Nashville (2017)



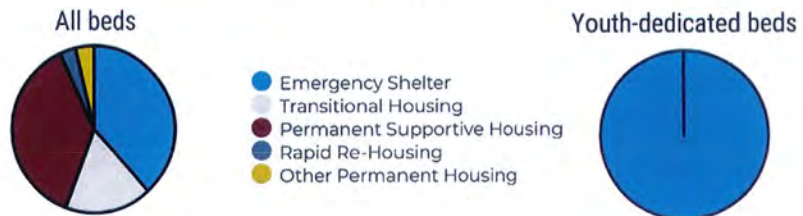
● Adult Homeless Population ● Unaccompanied Youth (Under 18) ● Unaccompanied Youth (18-24)

Of the 2,337 individuals reported experiencing homelessness in the 2017 Point-in-Time Count, **114 individuals (5%)** were unaccompanied youth - **6 youth were under age 18**, and **108 youth were aged 18 to 24**.



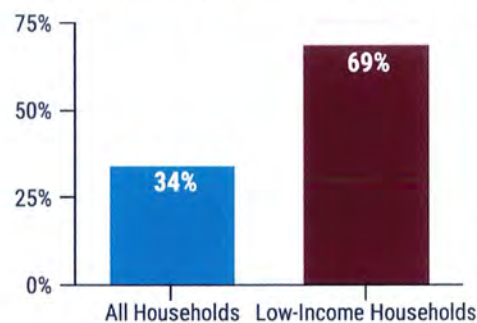
There were **zero parenting youth** identified in the 2017 Point-in-Time Count.

Nashville Housing Inventory Count (2017)



As of 2017, there were **3,201 total year-round beds** in Nashville: 38% Emergency Shelter, 37% Permanent Supportive Housing, 18% Transitional Housing, 4% Other Permanent Housing, and 3% Rapid Re-Housing. Of these, **30 were youth-dedicated beds, all in Emergency Shelter**.

Children Living in Households with a High Housing Cost Burden



In 2016, **34%** of children in Nashville-Davidson County lived in households with a **high housing burden** (more than 30% of income is spent on housing).

As of the most recent data from 2014, **69%** of children living in low-income households in Nashville-Davidson County were **housing cost burdened**.

Vermont Balance of State: Housing Profile



Persons Aged 18 to 24 in Poverty



As of 2016, approximately **13,000 individuals aged 18 to 24 (27%)** in Vermont had incomes below the Census Bureau's poverty threshold.

Runaway Youth

In 2017, there were **47 calls** to the National Runaway Safeline from youth in Vermont.



Housing Wage



"Housing wage" is the hourly wage needed to afford a two-bedroom apartment at Fair Market Rent without paying more than 30% of income on housing. It assumes a 40-hour work week, 52 weeks per year.



Vermont has the **13th highest housing wage in the country.** **\$22.40/hr** is required to afford a two-bedroom rental home.

The housing wage in Vermont's combined nonmetropolitan areas is **\$19.18/hr.**

Youth Experiencing Homelessness in Vermont Balance of State (2017)



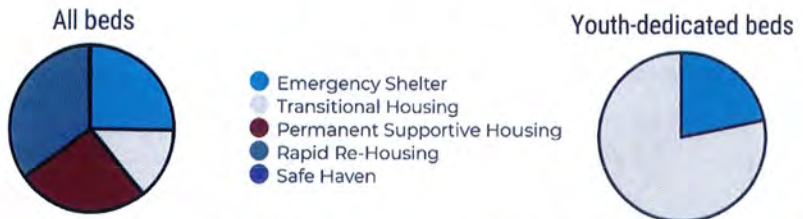
● Adult Homeless Population ● Unaccompanied Youth (Under 18) ● Unaccompanied Youth (18-24)

Of the 934 individuals reported experiencing homelessness in the 2017 Point-in-Time Count, **69 individuals (7%)** were unaccompanied youth - **2 youth were under age 18**, and **67 youth were aged 18 to 24.**



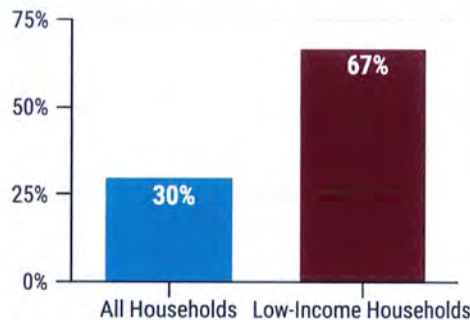
There were **30 parenting youth** (aged 18 to 24) identified in the 2017 Point-in-Time Count.

Vermont Balance of State Housing Inventory Count (2017)



As of 2017, there were **1,703 total year-round beds** in the Vermont Balance of State: 25% Emergency Shelter, 35% Rapid Re-Housing, 14% Transitional Housing, 26% Permanent Supportive Housing, and less than 1% Safe Haven. Of these, **69 were youth-dedicated beds: 78% Transitional Housing and 22% Emergency Shelter.**

Children Living in Households with a High Housing Cost Burden



In 2016, **30%** of children in Vermont lived in households with a **high housing burden** (more than 30% of income is spent on housing).

As of most recent data from 2012, **67%** of children living in low-income households in Vermont were **housing cost burdened.**

Washington Balance of State: Housing Profile



Persons Aged 18 to 24 in Poverty



As of 2016, approximately **126,000 individuals aged 18 to 24 (21%)** in Washington had incomes below the Census Bureau's poverty threshold.

Runaway Youth

In 2017, there were **980 calls** to the National Runaway Safeline from youth in Washington.



Housing Wage



"Housing wage" is the hourly wage needed to afford a two-bedroom apartment at Fair Market Rent without paying more than 30% of income on housing. It assumes a 40-hour work week, 52 weeks per year.



Washington has the **8th highest housing wage in the country. \$26.87/hr is required to afford a two-bedroom rental home.**

The housing wage in Washington's combined nonmetropolitan areas is **\$15.98/hr**, significant lower than the average housing wage for the state.

Youth Experiencing Homelessness in Washington Balance of State (2017)



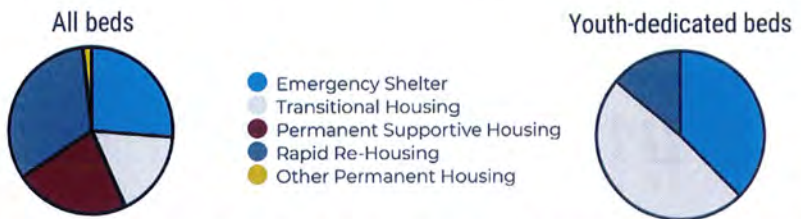
● Adult Homeless Population ● Unaccompanied Youth (Under 18) ● Unaccompanied Youth (18-24)

Of the 4,671 individuals reported experiencing homelessness in the 2017 Point-in-Time Count, **314 individuals (7%)** were unaccompanied youth - **36 youth were under age 18**, and **278 youth were aged 18 to 24**.



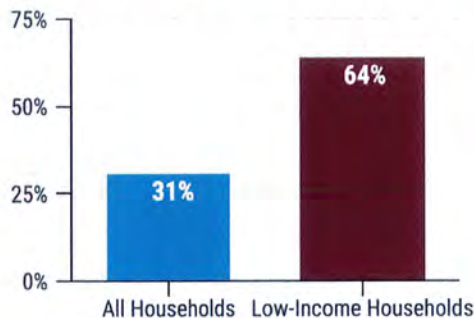
There were **69 parenting youth** (aged 18 to 24) identified in the 2017 Point-in-Time Count.

Washington Balance of State Housing Inventory Count (2017)



As of 2017, there were **9,771 total year-round beds** in the Washington Balance of State: 33% Rapid Re-Housing, 26% Emergency Shelter, 23% Permanent Supportive Housing, 4% Transitional Housing and 1% Other Permanent Housing. Of these, **297 were youth-dedicated beds**: 48% Transitional Housing, **38% Emergency Shelter**, and 14% Rapid Re-Housing.

Children Living in Households with a High Housing Cost Burden



In 2016, **31%** of children in Washington lived in households with a **high housing burden** (more than 30% of income is spent on housing).

64% of children living in low-income households in Washington were **housing cost burdened**.

Snohomish County, WA: Housing Profile



Persons Aged 18 to 24 in Poverty



As of 2016, approximately **126,000 individuals aged 18 to 24 (21%)** in Washington had incomes below the Census Bureau's poverty threshold.

Runaway Youth

In 2017, there were **163 calls** to the National Runaway Safeline from youth in Western Washington, including Snohomish County.



Housing Wage



"Housing wage" is the hourly wage needed to afford a two-bedroom apartment at Fair Market Rent without paying more than 30% of income on housing. It assumes a 40-hour work week, 52 weeks per year.

Washington has the 8th highest housing wage in the country. \$26.87/hr is required to afford a two-bedroom rental home.

In Snohomish County, the housing wage is \$36.12/hr.



Youth Experiencing Homelessness in Snohomish County (2017)



● Adult Homeless Population ● Unaccompanied Youth (Under 18) ● Unaccompanied Youth (18-24)

Of the 1,066 individuals reported experiencing homelessness in the 2017 Point-in-Time Count, **117 individuals (11%)** were unaccompanied youth - **24 youth were under age 18**, and **93 youth were aged 18 to 24**.



There were **10 parenting youth** identified in the 2017 Point-in-Time Count - **3 youth under age 18** and **7 youth aged 18 to 24**.

Snohomish County Housing Inventory Count (2017)

All beds



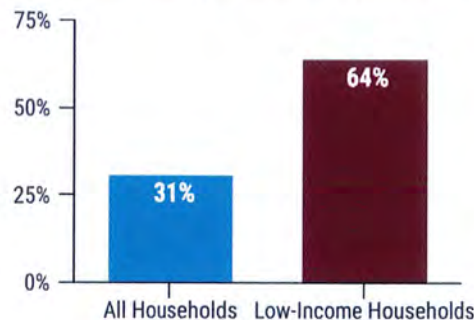
Youth-dedicated beds



● Emergency Shelter
● Transitional Housing
● Permanent Supportive Housing
● Rapid Re-Housing
● Other Permanent Housing

As of 2017, there were **2,840 total year-round beds** in Snohomish County: 51% Permanent Supportive Housing, 20% Other Permanent Housing, 17% Emergency Shelter, 8% Rapid Re-Housing, and 4% Transitional Housing. Of these, **115 were youth-dedicated beds: 51% Other Permanent Housing, 30% Transitional Housing, 11% Emergency Shelter, and 8% Rapid Re-Housing.**

Children Living in Households with a High Housing Cost Burden



In 2016, **31%** of children in Washington lived in households with a **high housing burden** (more than 30% of income is spent on housing).

64% of children living in low-income households in Washington were **housing cost burdened**.

