

The Way Home

The Way Home Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Coordinated Community Plan

THE WAY HOME CONTINUUM OF CARE

The Way Home is the collective effort to prevent and end homelessness in Houston and throughout Harris, Fort Bend, and Montgomery counties, Texas.

CONTINUUM OF CARE | TX-700

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Executive Summary

The Way Home is committed to ENDING and preventing homelessness in the greater Houston region. Since 2012, the homeless service agencies, local governments, Public Housing Authorities, the local Veterans Affairs Medical Center, and other nonprofits and community stakeholders that make up The Way Home — the local homelessness response system — have been working together to refine their programs, practices, and policies so the greater Houston region can provide permanent housing and wrap-around supportive services to as many individuals and families experiencing homelessness as possible.

The Way Home has done amazing work, and there is still a great deal of work left to be done. Our community recognizes the need to improve system coordination among youth-serving providers and institutions, ensure there is a clear pathway for young people to access critical services, and increase resources that are dedicated to the specific needs of young people who experience homelessness. This Coordinated Community Plan (CCP) was created because our community, through an alliance of individuals and agencies from local governments, homeless service agencies, and other nonprofits, stakeholders, and those with lived experience of homelessness were asked by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to use their unique perspectives and expertise to achieve the shared goal of preventing and ending youth homelessness. The Way Home's CCP provides a strategic vision, framework, and set of priorities for our community's broader efforts to achieve this. Through this plan, we intend to experiment, innovate, and remain flexible enough to adapt and learn over time. It will require all of us to be agents of change in our efforts to prevent and end youth and young adult (YYA) homelessness for good.

What is YHDP?

The Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) is an initiative designed to reduce the number of youth and young adults (YYA) experiencing homelessness. The goal of the YHDP is to support communities across the United States, in the development and implementation of a coordinated community approach to preventing and ending youth homelessness. The YHDP will also support a robust continuous quality improvement plan to inform the federal effort to prevent and end youth homelessness.

Our award

In September 2019, HUD selected the Houston, Pasadena, Conroe/Harris, Fort Bend, Montgomery Counties Continuum of Care (TX-700), which we call The Way Home, to participate in the YHDP. Our community received \$10,077,535 to develop the CCP and fund innovative new projects.

Planning Process

Our guiding principles reflect a governance structure that prioritizes shared ownership, broad partnerships, and consensus-based decision-making. The Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County (the Coalition), the lead agency and collaborative applicant for The Way Home; youth with lived expertise; and community stakeholders convened a Youth Action Board (YAB), a YHDP Youth Leadership Writing Team (YLWT), and a Community Stakeholder workgroup to drive the CCP planning process. Our YAB, composed of local YYA with lived experience of homelessness, participated in every meeting, provided input and expertise throughout, and held approval authority over the final plan. The YHDP Youth Leadership Writing Team (YLWT) served as the primary authors of our CCP. Additional members included youth providers and partners from child welfare, juvenile justice, education, and local government agencies.

Acknowledgments

There are more individuals and agencies to thank for making this plan possible than could be included in this section. But it is important to state that when the Coalition reached out, we were met with enthusiasm from all areas of the community. First and foremost, we are deeply grateful for the guidance and direction we have received from the Youth and Young Adults (YYA) participants throughout this process. We are especially grateful to our Youth Action Board (YAB) members who were integral in the development of this document.

The Way Home CCP was made possible by the unwavering efforts and commitment of many individuals with lived experiences and commitment to ending youth homelessness. We would like to thank the community stakeholders and all the organizations who helped provide critical information and crucial feedback in the planning efforts. This process provided the opportunity to conduct an in-depth examination of existing data, to scrutinize current procedures, and to explore ways to identify existing gaps while developing innovative strategies for delivering a community-wide response to youth who may face homelessness.

Thank you to HUD for selecting The Way Home to become a YHDP grant recipient. Joining the national network of YHDP communities brings us closer to a future in which all young people in our community have access to safe, stable housing.

And, finally, thank you to everyone who commits to making this plan a reality by creating projects that allow youth and young adults to make meaningful choices about their futures.

Special thanks to our...

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Charmet Findley: Co-chair

Jacob Castillo: Co-chair

Angela Williams

Cerenity Flowers

Daniel Scott

Charles Manning

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Coalition for the Homeless

Community Stakeholders:

Aids Foundation of Houston

Alliance of Community Assistance Ministries

Ambassadors for Christ

Angel Reach

Avenue 360

Be the Peace, Be the Hope

Central American Minors Working Group

Be the Peace, Be the Hope

Central American Minors Working Group

Children at Risk

Christian Community Service Center

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Covenant House

Cypress Fairbanks ISD

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Harris County Juvenile Probation

Harris County Resources for Children and Adults

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Houston Area Women's Center

Houston Area Council

Houston Area Women's Center

Houston Community College

Houston Education Research Consortium

Houston Housing Authority

Houston ISD

Houston: reVision

Humble ISD

Humble ISD

Keturah's Haven

KIPP Texas Public Schools

Lone Star College

Mayor's Office of Human Trafficking and
Domestic Violence

Montrose Grace Place

Rice University

Nakia Sims, CoC Steering Committee

Rice University

Salvation Army

Sam Houston State University

San Jacinto College

San Jacinto College

SEARCH Homeless Services

SER Jobs

Shelters to Shutters

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services
Administration Technical Assistance

Spring Branch Community Health Center

Spring Branch Independent School District

Tejano Center

Temenos

Texas Department of Family and Protective
Services

Texas Network of Youth Services

The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD

The Hay Center

The Houston Endowment

The Coalition for the Homeless of
Houston/Harris County

The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD

The Hay Center

The Montrose Center

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Work Faith

Workforce Solutions

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Collaborative

Definitions

The Way Home is the name for our local Continuum of Care (CoC), also referred to as [TX-700](#) by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Way Home is the collective effort to prevent and end homelessness in Houston, and throughout Harris, Fort Bend, and Montgomery counties, Texas. The Way Home is made up of more than 100 partners from all areas of the community, including homeless service agencies, local governments, public housing authorities, the local Veterans Affairs office, and other nonprofits and community stakeholders. The partners of The Way Home CoC work to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring in our region.

The [Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County](#), is the **lead agency** to The Way Home. Founded in 1982 and incorporated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in 1988, the Coalition has a long-standing history as a leader of the local homeless response system. The Coalition acts as a catalyst, uniting partners and maximizing resources to move people experiencing homelessness into permanent housing with supportive services. As the lead agency, the Coalition believes everyone in our community has a safe place to call home.

The target population for this plan is:

- **Youth:** Minors under age 18 who are not accompanied by a parent or guardian (unaccompanied minor)
- **Young Adults:** Young adults ages 18-24 who are not accompanied by a parent or guardian
- Throughout this document, the term **Youth and Young Adults (YYA)** refers to both target populations.

HUD Homelessness Categories:

Category 1, Literal Homelessness: Individuals and families who live in a place not meant for human habitation (including the streets or in their car), emergency shelter, transitional housing, and hotels paid for by a government or charitable organization.

Category 2, Imminent Risk of Homelessness: Individuals or families who will lose their primary nighttime residence within 14 days and have no other resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing.

Category 3, Homeless Under Other Statutes: Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age, or families with children and youth, who do not meet any of the other categories but are homeless under other federal statutes, have not had a lease, and have moved two or more times in the past 60 days and can be expected to remain unstable due to special needs or barriers.

Category 4, Fleeing Domestic Violence: Individuals or families who are fleeing or attempting to flee their housing or the place they are staying because of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions related to violence that has taken place in the house or has made them afraid to return to the house, including trading sex for housing, trafficking, physical abuse, violence (or perceived threat of violence) because of the youth's sexual orientation, and who lack resources or support networks to maintain or obtain permanent housing.

Vision & Mission Statement

Vision: The Way Home is a determined, youth-led, action-oriented community, committed to ending youth homelessness.

Mission: Our mission is to END and prevent youth homelessness by developing and implementing solutions that erase systemic inequities and disparities in housing, education, employment, social and emotional well-being services, and lead our Youth and Young Adults to independence.

Tagline: "We must be willing to get rid of the life we have accepted, so that we may obtain the life that is destined for us." - Houston YAB

Shared Values and Guiding Principles

Through the YHDP, community stakeholders and the Youth Advisory Board (YAB) have agreed to the following guiding principles and values that will direct The Way Home's approach to prevent and end youth homelessness.

1. United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) Youth Framework and the Four Core Outcomes
2. Equity and Inclusion
3. Youth-Driven
4. Youth-Centered Practices
5. Commitment to Housing First
6. Individualized and youth-driven supports
7. A Person-Centered Approach
8. Accountability

These reflect the priorities and values of our community. Each shared value and principle are defined, and clear action steps are included that demonstrate how each principle is implemented in our work.

Guiding Principle 1: USICH Youth Framework and the Four Core Outcomes into the Homeless System

The Way Home recognizes that stable housing, permanent connections, education and/or employment, and an overall sense of well-being are of paramount importance for the success of young people and their successful transition from homelessness to independence. The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) framework and core principles will guide the planning and development of YHDP-funded projects and the Coordinated Community Plan (CCP). During CCP planning sessions, YHDP stakeholders were in support of adopting the USICH's criteria and benchmarks to prevent and end youth homelessness in our community. The four core outcomes of USICH are a central focus of all YHDP work in The Way Home. All four core outcomes are integrated into system and project-design, and the goals, objectives, and action steps of the CCP.

USICH Key Outcome #1: Stable housing includes safe housing and a reliable place to call home.
USICH Key Outcome #2: Permanent Connections include an ongoing attachment to families, communities, schools, and other positive social networks.
USICH Key Outcome #3: Education/Employment includes high performance in and completion of education and training activities, especially for younger youth and starting and maintaining adequate and stable employment particularly for older youth.
USICH Key Outcome #4: Social-emotional Well-being includes the development of key competencies, attitudes, and behaviors that equip a young person to succeed across multiple domains of daily life, including school, work, relationships, and community.

Guiding Principle 2: Equity and Inclusion

Our community recognizes that social and structural differences are deeply embedded in the fabric of our society. Our system will act to identify and understand the disparities that exist for Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer/questioning, asexual, and queer community (LGBTQIA+) youth to ensure that no youth will be discriminated against based on their race, gender, gender identity, or ethnicity. Equity includes ensuring meaningful access to power for those most impacted by homelessness. This includes identifying who does and does not have the power to make decisions and shifting that power balance to ensure equitable access and outcomes.

Implementation Strategies:

Evaluate equity of access to housing, services, and various supports through the Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) process.
Emphasize equity and inclusion in procurement decision-making, including assessing submitted proposals for demonstrated cultural competency as well as evidence of partnerships, programming, and hiring strategies that promote racial and gender equity.
Develop accountability structures to ensure youth leadership and guidance in program and system operation, development, and evaluation.
Review outcomes for subpopulations and create measurable goals for addressing inequities.
Create paid opportunities for Youth and Young Adults (YYA) enrolled in the YHDP funded projects.
Provide Equity trainings to all staff on the historical context and subsequential impact of systemic and institutionalized racism.

Guiding Principle 3: Youth-Driven

Our community will respect and amplify the voices of youth. Youth leadership will be an integral part of community decision-making, with adults and youth working in partnership to design programs, services, and systems that prevent and end youth homelessness.

Implementation Strategies:

Supporting the growth and sustainability of the Youth Advisory Board (YAB) to ensure that youth with lived experience continues to play a lead role in CoC planning, decision-making, and program design and evaluation.
Invest in resources and staff time to help members of the YAB to achieve identified goals around professional development, community service, and leadership development.
Emphasize integrated youth involvement in project design and implementation in procurement decision-making.

Guiding Principle 4: Youth-Centered Practices

The Way Home will commit to Positive Youth Development (PYD), the belief that, given guidance and support from caring adults, all youth and young adults can grow up healthy and happy, making positive contributions to their families, schools, and communities. PYD does not address youth primarily as problems to be solved, but rather assets to be developed.

Implementation Strategies:

To understand the developmental processes and challenges youth encounter without using those understandings as justification for adultism practices and processes.
Welcome youth of all identities, including gender, sexual orientation, and cultural identity through messaging, environment, and services.
Ensure that youth providers, community partners, and advocates learn how to interact with youth in a non-judgmental way, without labeling or judging them based on their background, experiences, choices, or behaviors.
Provide training and ongoing coaching for all youth-serving programs’ staff and hold staff accountable to PYD principles in their interactions with YYA.

Guiding Principle 5: Commitment to Housing First

Our community views housing as a basic need and human right for all youth and will quickly connect youth to housing with no preconditions and that are paired with services that are individualized and client driven. We commit to a Housing First system orientation that recognizes that people experiencing homelessness—like all people—need the safety and stability of a home to best address challenges and pursue opportunities. First is a homeless assistance approach that prioritizes providing permanent housing to people experiencing homelessness, thus ending their homelessness, and serving as a platform from which they can pursue personal goals and improve their quality of life. We believe that Housing First should be grounded in a rights-based philosophy that all people deserve housing. This means that for a young adult to access housing, there should be no sobriety requirements, no mandated services, and no requirements around employment, education, or income.

Implementation Strategies:

Applying The Way Home Housing First policy to all YHDP-funded programs and providing YHDP Standards of Practice guidance on what Housing First means for YYA. Housing first will be incorporated at all steps in the housing process from identification through exit.
All YHDP projects will adhere to the YYA core components of Housing First as identified by HUD that include: immediate access to permanent housing with no preconditions, youth choice, and self-determination, individualized and youth-driven supports, persistent engagement, few to no programmatic prerequisites to permanent housing entry, low barrier admission policies, rapid and streamlined entry into housing, supportive services are voluntary, but can and should be used to persistently engage tenants to ensure housing stability, tenants have full rights, responsibilities, and legal protections, practices, and policies to prevent lease violations and evictions, and housing first principles and practices will apply to all YHDP housing models.
Fully utilizing best practices and techniques for engagement to better serve youth: positive youth development, Trauma-Informed Care, Harm Reduction, and Motivational Interviewing.

Reduce wait time to access permanent housing by increasing The Way Home inventory of youth-dedicated Rapid Re-housing units and implementing a youth-focused coordinated entry process to reduce the time from referral to enrollment.
Street outreach providers, emergency shelters, and other parts of the crisis response system will work closely with YHDP housing providers to connect people to permanent housing as quickly as possible.
Work to ensure that people are not evicted back into homelessness whenever possible.
Community leaders work collaboratively to ensure that a range of affordable and supportive housing options and models are available to meet local needs.
Ensure that all new and existing providers can implement Housing First effectively by providing training, coaching, and Continuous Quality Improvement accountability.
Educate tenants and landlords about their rights and responsibilities, including laws and requirements in the Fair Housing Act.
Build trust and provide support to landlords by being responsive to any concerns or crises that arise.
Provide additional skill-building activities (e.g., personal finance, credit history) to support youth success in maintaining housing.

Guiding Principle 6: Individualized and youth-driven supports

Our community recognizes that everyone’s needs, and strengths are unique. We commit to operationalizing Individualized Client-Driven Support in the development and delivery of services. Youth in our community will select the supports that best align with their goals and needs.

Implementation Strategies:

Deliver services at locations and during times that are accessible and convenient for youth.
Ensure that youth drive their goal setting and service needs.
Identify and address individual youth needs through a comprehensive coordinated access assessment and referral process.
Use a “no wrong door, no wrong time” approach so that youth can enter and re-enter services as needed.
Encourage providers to intentionally hire staff who share an identity or background of the youth served.
Ensure low-barrier services are available to support housing stability, mental and physical health needs, education, employment, and life skills.
Create and implement a training plan and CQI process to ensure all providers are trained and effectively implement Client-Driven Support.

Guiding Principle 7: A Person-Centered Approach

Our community is committed to making fundamental changes to our system to prevent and end youth homelessness. We envision a system that not only prevents and end youth homelessness but also transforms how we view and engage youth in our community. The goal of our CCP is to ensure that we are creating systems that rebuild YYA’s sense of control and are not re-traumatizing.

Implementation Strategies:

Actively engage youth with lived experience.
Deliver crisis services and housing supports in a human-centered, trauma-informed manner that respects and honors the inherent value and dignity of every individual regardless of race, ethnicity, age, disability status, gender identify, familial status, or citizenship status, or if they are fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, sexual assault, or human trafficking.
Regularly evaluate service providers and partners from a Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) lens for safety, transparency, YYA support, collaboration, empowerment, and inclusiveness.

Incorporate TIC into intake assessments across all systems of care for YYA experiencing homelessness.

Create and implement training to ensure that all providers are trained and successfully utilize a trauma-informed approach when working with YYA.

Guiding Principle 8: Accountability

To effectively end to youth homelessness in our community, The Way Home YHDP will consistently review and refine our practices to guarantee that they remain flexible and responsive to the needs of youth and young adults.

Implementation Strategies:

Include the critical voices of people with lived experience in every aspect of planning, decision-making, and activities undertaken by the CoC. We as a system will be accountable for this input because it is a key to our success.

Ensure alignment of CCP with existing plans created by other regional partners.

Adjust the plan as necessary to reflect changing needs and resources.

Review progress towards the outcome goals to end YYA homelessness.

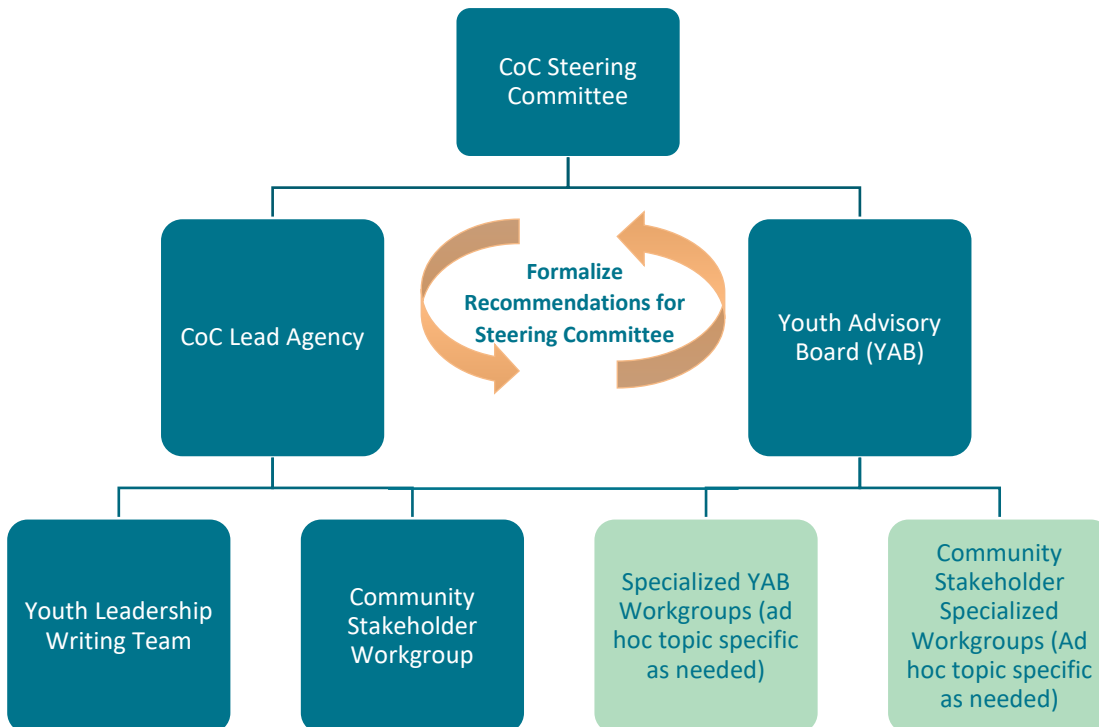
Ensure programs are including YYA feedback and provide opportunities for them to share in how to improve services.

Ensure that community partners and systems are being nimble in finding housing and supportive services for YYA experiencing homelessness.

Ensure that Coordinated Entry Systems (CES) and other systems are remaining adaptive and inclusive to our YYA unique needs.

Governance Structure

Our governance structure encourages and welcomes youth voice in every aspect of our decision-making process. It is a collaborative of The Way Home Steering Committee and The Way Home lead agency (Coalition for the Homeless), the Youth Advisory Board (YAB), Youth Leadership Writing Team (YLWT), Community Stakeholder Workgroup, Specialized YAB Workgroups and Specialized Community Stakeholder Workgroups.



The Way Home Steering Committee

Starting in 2011, Houston underwent a major shift in leadership across multiple entities including City and County Government, Housing Authorities, the Coalition for the Homeless, and the philanthropic community. As a result, Houston was named a Priority Community and designated as one of the first One CPD communities. This convergence helped support innovation and drive transformative initiatives focused on solving the challenging social issue of homelessness.

In 2012, HUD engaged technical assistance from the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH), a partnership that was instrumental in establishing the foundation for transformation. With the infusion of technical experts, community leaders simultaneously focused on CoC strategic planning and governance, developing a coordinated assessment and placement system, completing a “right-sizing” analysis and system flow map, defining the financial model and implementation plan for permanent supportive housing (PSH), completing HMIS data-quality evaluation, and transitional housing conversion analysis. These efforts led to establishing performance measurements and more data-driven decision making.

At the core of Houston’s CoC is the CoC Steering Committee, a unified funding and decision-making body created in 2012 that is ultimately responsible for the implementation of the community’s strategic plan. Additionally, our community facilitated an in-depth and structured planning process (Charrette). The Charrette included participation from over 400 stakeholders and 36 local and national experts, resulting in enhancements to the local strategic plan. With a renewed community consensus and a new leadership structure in alignment with the federal goals in Opening Doors, the CoC defined an initial action plan and set in motion major system changes to support a housing-centric model.

The Steering Committee oversees all decision-making for the CoC Lead Agency and makes all final decisions and approvals of the Coordinated Community Plan (CCP) and project applications.

The Way Home Lead Agency

Since 2011, the Coalition has been proud to serve as lead agency to the local homeless response system, The Way Home. The Coalition serves as the ‘conductor’ of the local homeless response system ‘orchestra’.

Our community is fortunate to have direct service nonprofits working directly with people in crisis; the Coalition helps these partners by using data to make sure that the right number and kinds of housing and service programs are being implemented, that our community has the funding and other resources to implement these programs, and that everyone has a safe place to call home.

The Coalition leads in the development, implementation, and evaluation of a coordinated community approach to end youth homelessness. The Coalition works together with the YAB to formalize recommendations for The Way Home Steering Committee.

The Youth Advisory Board

The Youth Advisory Board consists of Youth and Young adults (YYA) with lived homeless experiences. The YYAs are change agents who are passionate about ending youth homelessness in our region. The YAB is supported by Collective Action for Youth (CA4Y), which oversees the strategic planning and development of the YAB. The YAB is a governing membership structured in 3 tiers:

YAB Co-Chairs-> YAB Core Members-> YAB General Members

The YAB Co-Chairs provide oversight, direct vision, and facilitate bi-monthly meetings. The YAB Co-Chairs are generally employees of the CA4Y and Participates in all aspects of the YHDP process. The YAB Core Members are responsible for participating in the planning and drafting of the Coordinated Community Plan, they attend the Youth Leadership Writing Team and Community Stakeholder Workgroups. The YAB General members provide input and vote on ideas that are presented at the bi-monthly meetings.

YAB Core Members and Co-Chairs are represented in both the Youth Leadership Writing Team and will have one seat on The Way Home Steering Committee. A minimum of 50% of the YAB are required to attend all Community

Stakeholder meetings. The Coalition works together with the YAB to formalize recommendations for The Way Home Steering Committee.

The Youth Leadership Writing Team (YLWT)

The YLWT is comprised of diverse stakeholders representing education, child welfare, YAB Core members, YAB Co-chairs, CoC providers, juvenile justice, and more. The YLWT is a working group and was tasked with writing the YHDP Coordinated Community Plan (CCP) based on data driven recommendations from the Community Stakeholder Workgroup, Lead Agency and YAB. The YLWT operates on a consensus-based approach with facilitated open discussion.

Community Stakeholder Workgroup

The community stakeholder workgroup structure is comprised of a broad range of sectors and systems working together to contribute to planning efforts to end youth homelessness. 50% of YAB membership participation is required in this workgroup to ensure youth voice throughout the planning process. This group operates on a consensus-based approach with facilitated open discussion. Members of this group can also participate in specialized workgroups as needed. These specialized workgroups include:

- **Data/Evaluation/Outcomes:** The Data, Evaluation and Outcomes workgroup will focus on operationalizing The Way Home CCP benchmarks for ending youth homelessness.
- **Best Practices and Program Design:** The Best Practices and Program Design workgroup will be formed to research and evaluate programmatic needs to prevent and end youth homelessness in The Way Home CoC. Utilizing data on the needs of youth in our community, this committee researched the potential programs to meet local needs.
- **Coordinated Entry and System Triage:** The purpose of the Coordinated Entry and System Triage workgroup will be to analyze, evaluate, and revise local Coordinated Entry policies and workflow to ensure that the unique needs of youth experiencing homelessness are affirmatively met by the broader CoC's efforts to end homelessness, as well as to identify opportunities for systems improvement in messaging, systems access, prioritization, and project referral for all individuals experiencing homelessness.
- **Systems Homelessness YYA Diversion:** The System's Homelessness Diversion workgroup will work to understand how youth are currently receiving homeless services and prevention services in Houston.
- **Systems TH-RRH:** The System's Transitional Housing- Rapid Re-Housing (TH-RRH) workgroup will work to design bring this new intervention type to scale in our community and continue to monitor and modify as needed.
- **Project Ranking and Review:** This group will be responsible for reviewing organizational applications for YHDP project implementation. They will review and rank applicants and make formal recommendations to the YAB and the CoC Steering Committee.

Community Goals

Youth experience homelessness because of many interconnected challenges, which require a holistic solution that addresses both system-level and youth-level needs. The Way Home's planning process highlighted significant system inefficiencies and barriers faced by youth experiencing homelessness. Through a deliberate planning process, the core Youth Leadership Writing Team (YLWT), developed the following community goals as we work to end and prevent homelessness. Identified goals, objectives, and action steps were created to align with the USICH Youth Framework to End Youth Homelessness. All goals were developed with authentic youth collaboration and the commitment to ensuring that all planning, decision-making, resource allocation, and system evaluation will be youth-driven from day one.

The Way Home CCP Goals

1. **Identification and Access:** Identify all youth and young adults experiencing and at risk of homelessness as quickly as possible and connect them to available resources.
2. **Equity:** Ensure that youth have equitable access and opportunities for success within The Way Home CoC.
3. **Youth Choice & Action:** Engage youth in leading and implementing strategies to address youth homelessness.
4. **Housing:** Improve housing stability and decrease repeated returns to homelessness.
5. **Opportunity:** Increase educational engagement and income for youth experiencing homelessness.
6. **Diversion:** Create diversion strategies specific to youth and young adults

Goal 1: Identification and Access

Goal: Identify all youth and young adults experiencing and at risk of homelessness as quickly as possible and connect them to available resources.

Coordinated Entry in The Way Home:

The Coordinated Entry Process is a system designed to coordinate and manage the resources of the homeless crisis response system. Utilization of Coordinated Entry allows service providers to connect households more effectively and efficiently to services and interventions that address their unique needs. Our community's Coordinated Entry System (CES) acts as a community-wide assessment tool and referral process connecting people experiencing homelessness to the available housing and resources with the goal of ending homelessness.

To address system gaps in identification and access, The Way Home's homeless response system will:

Objective: Employ dedicated youth-specific system navigators and outreach teams (including peer navigators/ outreach members in leadership roles) who will identify youth, divert youth if possible, and if not, connect youth to crisis and permanent housing options and other non-housing resources and benefits.	
Action Steps	Youth Centered is defined as a youth being meaningfully engaged and a part of the decision-making process for addressing YYA homelessness. With this in mind, we will develop a youth-centered outreach strategy that is inclusive of LGBTQIA+ and special populations and utilizes training and compensated peer outreach workers. These specialized teams will focus on areas frequented by young people.
	Expand CoC Housing Navigation services to allow youth to access housing quickly by eliminating barriers to housing (e.g., facilitating getting IDs, deposits, processing eligibility paperwork, etc.).
	Improve strategies for accurately identifying undercounted special populations of youth including BIPOC, LGBTQIA+ youth, pregnant and parenting youth, minors, and undocumented youth.
	Work with the YAB to assess the current CES process and determine the most appropriate access points for CES entry.
	Partner(s) Responsible: Lead Agency, YAB, youth service partners, existing homeless outreach teams and system navigators

	Timeframe for Action: Q4 2022-2023
USICH Outcome alignment: Stable housing	
HUD Principle: Equity, Coordinated Entry, Youth Choice, Housing First, Community Integration	
Objective: Develop a streamlined and comprehensive referral process that includes resource navigation (e.g., employment and income, legal services, and health services) for YYA.	
Action Steps	Engage community youth service providers to address current gaps and propose solutions for the referral process.
	Develop options for system partners to identify unsheltered, sheltered, and doubled up youth and enter them into HMIS (e.g., education, justice, child welfare).
	Ensure our educational partners are fully engaged in The Way Home including connecting School Homeless Liaisons and Social Workers to CES. Provide CES training to school staff. Host trainings and meet and greets between schools and community resource partners, starting with the districts with the highest number of unaccompanied youths.
	Embed resource navigation services into all YHDP funded projects and create a monitoring plan to track outcome success.
	Partner(s) Responsible: Lead Agency, ISDs, Work Force Solutions, DFPS, HAY Center, DOJs
	Timeframe for Action: Q4 2022-2023-2024
USICH Outcome alignment: Stable housing	
HUD Principle: Coordinated Entry, Housing First, Community Integration	
Objective: Explore CES modifications to meet the needs of youth (including expanded points of access).	
Action Steps	Review the standardized CES and prioritization policies to ensure they are tailored to YYA, including the flexibility to house marginalized young people (BIPOC/LGBTQIA+). This includes assessing the CES vulnerability scale to match the risks levels for YYA. If a need for modification is identified, make appropriate changes to CES.
	Ensure CES is trauma-informed, person-centered, flexible, and creates regular opportunities for youth to offer input.
	Include questions about special populations in assessments to address unique needs of LGBTQIA+/Gender Non-conforming/Pregnant Parenting/Justice Involvement/Foster Care/Victims of Abuse/Human Trafficking and Exploitation.
	Evaluate CES to address racial inequities or unseen biases.
	Partner with the court system to connect justice involved YYA to CES.
	Partner(s) Responsible: Lead Agency, Youth Service Partners, University of Houston
	Timeframe for Action: 2023-2024
USICH Outcome alignment: Stable housing	
HUD Principle: Youth Choice, Coordinated Entry, Equity, Trauma Informed Care	

Objective: Implement standards of care, grievance policies, and conduct performance monitoring to ensure quality delivery of services at coordinated entry points.	
Action Steps	Fund a <i>YHDP Training and Engagement</i> position to provide training, coaching, and support to ensure YHDP projects adhere to best practices, YHDP principles, lead youth specific CES marketing (e.g., apps/social media platforms), and monitor CQI of funded projects.
	Require YHDP funded agencies to participate in planning, implementation, and project monitoring. This includes the use of HMIS.
	Standardize and monitor data collection and performance metrics across all YHDP funded projects.
	Analyze CES data and develop recommendations designed to maximize system performance and community progress.
	Create YHDP specific dashboards.
	Partner(s) Responsible: Lead Agency, YHDP funded agencies, YAB
	Timeframe for Action: Q4 2022- 2023
USICH Outcome alignment: Stable housing	
HUD Principle: Coordinated Entry	
Objective: Develop multiple, well-advertised access points.	
Action Steps	Launch a youth-centered communication strategy that reduces stigma and informs youth about available resources.
	Support YAB in the development of a YYA communication plan encompasses multiple platforms e.g., social media.
	Partner(s) Responsible: YAB, Lead Agency, YYA community service providers
	Timeframe for Action: 2023-continuous
USICH Outcome alignment: Stable housing	
HUD Principle: Youth Choice, Coordinated Entry	
Objective: Increase data sharing capabilities with adjacent systems (child welfare and justice system)	
Action Steps	Establish formal data sharing agreements with DFPS to identify youth exiting care.
	Establish formal data sharing agreements with DOJs to identify the justice system prior to release.
	Partner(s) Responsible: DFPS, DOJs, Lead Agency
	Timeframe for Action: 2023-2024
USICH Outcome alignment: Stable housing	
HUD Principle: Community Integration	

Racial inequity in homelessness:

Youth of color are significantly more likely to experience homelessness than their white counterparts. A recent study to document the high rates of homelessness among people of color as well as their pathways into and barriers to exit from homelessness found that 89.1% of young adults ages 18-24 experiencing homelessness identified as youth of color¹. Although poverty is a factor it does not explain disproportionality.

Local Data:

Race/Ethnicity	Harris County, Q3 2021	Poverty Rate	Enrolled in HMIS	Identified as Homeless K-12
Race				
White	70%	7%	34%	13%
Black or African American	20%	20%	61%	34%
Ethnicity				
Hispanic	44%	21%	23%	49%

Combating systemic racism requires aggressive action to address structures, policies, and practices that contribute to the wealth gap, to health disparities, and to inequalities in educational access, outcomes, and beyond. The Way Home must ensure system policies, programmatic practices, and unconscious bias are not preventing or delaying people of color from accessing services or directing them to services not of their choosing.

LGBTQIA+ Youth

There is a significant gap in uniform data collection and reporting on sexual orientation and gender identity, and the extent of correlated disproportionality in homelessness, access to services, and co-occurring impacts for LGBTQIA+ youth within The Way Home.

LGBTQIA+ youth develop in a society still full of stigma and disparities that create unique inequities which are augmented for LGBTQIA+ youth or color, making them particularly vulnerable. Unlike their cisgender and heterosexual peers, LGBTQIA+ youth face unique threats including family rejection, non-affirming school policies, a lack of employment protections and sporadic healthcare coverage. This is especially relevant considering recent moves in Texas to ban transgender youth from participating in school sports and to criminalize the provision of gender-affirming care for transgender youth. These youth are also more likely to be bullied, assaulted, experience hate crimes, experiment with alcohol and drugs, and attempt suicide.

Social stigma, discrimination, and, in many cases, experiences of rejection by their families of origin and/or licensed foster homes, and lack of access to fully affirming service providers, adds to inequities for LGBTQIA+ youth in the physical, logistical, and social/emotional challenges that all people experiencing homelessness are more likely to struggle with.

LGBTQIA+ youth who are experiencing homelessness are at higher risk for violence, abuse, and exploitation in comparison to their counterparts. Transgender youth and young adults are among the most vulnerable subpopulations, also due to social stigma and discrimination, and a critical lack of designated sheltering systems that explicitly accept and affirm their identities.

To begin to address issues of equity, this project intends to ensure that all processes, beginning with coordinated entry, will be fully inclusive, and culturally and linguistically appropriate.

Immigrant Youth

In addition to LGBTQIA+ youth, there is a significant gap in population-specific services and data regarding immigrant youth and youth from immigrant families. Houston is one of the most diverse cities in the country, where over 40% of youth have an immigrant parent². Houston is also a frequent destination of migrant youth and has one of largest

populations of immigrants from Latin and Central America, refugees who are often forced to leave their homes without the proper documentation, and whose asylum appeals are often denied².

At the same time, this area often places immigrant youth and families at the center of political debate and leads the country in incarceration and deportation of those who are undocumented³, forcing immigrant youth experiencing homelessness to hide their status. With one of the highest populations of immigrant youth in the country, this YHDP must address the gaps in data and services and explore barriers to accessing support for immigrant youth who are experiencing homelessness.

Intersectional Equity

The Way Home cannot achieve equity without first addressing racial injustice and other forms of discrimination including racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, ableism, and others. While traditional approaches to understanding difference and oppression can view individual aspects of identity within a vacuum and void of context, The Way Home YHDP partners acknowledge the deep interwoven layers of oppression experienced by historically marginalized populations. This includes BIPOC youth, immigrant youth, LGBTQIA+ and youth who are other-abled, the poor, and others.

We commit to using positions of privilege, shared power, and intentional community processes to uplift and amplify the voices of those most impacted by marginalization, including young people, who live at the crossroads of oppressed identities.

We commit to using an intersectional framework to improve equity and access throughout YHDP, as well as to address and change the cultural and structural barriers outside of the CoC, that leave historically marginalized populations vulnerable to exploitation and alienation.

To ensure all youth, especially youth of color and marginalized communities, have equitable access and opportunity, The Way Home’s homeless response system will:

Objectives: Ensure leaders and frontline staff can champion equity + inclusivity.	
Action Steps	Train staff working in the homeless response system on the concepts racism, homophobia and transphobia, inequities, and the intersections with homelessness, so they can target resources toward and develop/adapt programs for youth of color and those from other marginalized communities.
	Create a workgroup focused on, and charged with, creating equity based YYA responses to homelessness.
	Develop or adapt behavioral health interventions, domestic violence programs and other supportive services for youth of color, LGBTQIA+ youth, and youth with immigrant and foster care backgrounds, who are experiencing homelessness.
	Increase diversity, equity, and inclusion within the workforce and leadership of local homelessness response system. This includes the hiring of diverse leaders and frontline staff in organizations operating YHDP funded projects.
	Partner(s) Responsible: Lead Agency, YAB, and youth service partners
	Timeframe for Action: 2023 - 2024
USICH Outcome alignment: Stable Housing, Permanent connections, Social-emotional well-being	
HUD Principle: Equity, Community Integration	
Objectives: Continue baseline analysis of disparities related to race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation and for youth with system involvement, within the local homelessness response system and incorporate ongoing	

measurement strategies to assess progress toward equity and opportunity among youth of color, LGBTQIA+ youth and youth from other marginalized communities.

Action Steps	Expand collection of qualitative data to better understand the complicated dynamics that drive inflow and outflow for youth of color and LGBTQIA+ youth in the homeless response system.
	Better understand through research the scope of Hispanic/Latinx homelessness and the needs of Hispanic/Latinx YYA experiencing homelessness.
	Conduct additional research to understand the scope and needs of LGBTQIA+ youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness in our community. This includes increasing the ways in which LGBTQIA+ youth are identified in HMIS.
	Evaluate the existing CES to identify possible inequities.
	Develop CoC and YAB review process to support continuous evaluation of youth-serving projects and the system as a whole – assess for effectiveness, accessibility, and equity.
	Partner(s) Responsible: Local University, Lead Agency, YAB, YHDP funded agencies
	Timeframe for Action: 2023-2024

USICH Outcome alignment: Stable Housing, Social Emotional Well Being

HUD Principle: Equity, Coordinated Entry

Objectives: Ensure leaders and frontline staff can champion racial equity and LGBTQIA+ inclusivity.

Action Steps	Train staff working in the homeless response system on understanding racism, inequities, and the intersections with homelessness, so they can target resources toward and develop/adapt programs for youth of color and marginalize communities.
	Create a workgroup focused on, and charged with, creating equity based YYA responses to homelessness.
	Develop or adapt behavioral health interventions for youth of color experiencing homelessness.
	Increase diversity, equity, and inclusion within the workforce and leadership of local homelessness response system. This includes the hiring of diverse leaders and frontline staff in organizations operating YHDP funded projects.
	Partner(s) Responsible: Lead Agency, YAB, and youth service partners
	Timeframe for Action: 2023 - 2024

USICH Outcome alignment: Stable Housing, Permanent connections, Social-emotional well-being

HUD Principle: Equity, Community Integration

Objectives: Continue baseline analysis of racial and ethnic disparities within the local homelessness response system and incorporate ongoing measurement strategies to assess progress toward equity and opportunity among youth of color and youth from other marginalize communities.

Action Steps	Conduct expanded qualitative data collection to better understand the complicated dynamics that drive inflow and outflow for youth of color in the homeless response system.
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	Conduct additional research to understand the scope of Hispanic/Latinx homelessness and the needs of Hispanic/Latinx people experiencing homelessness.
	Conduct additional research to understand the scope and needs of LGBTQIA+ youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness in our community. This includes increasing the ways in which LGBTQIA+ youth are identified in HMIS.
	Evaluate the existing CES to identify possible inequities.
	Develop CoC and YAB review process to support continuous evaluation of youth-serving projects and the system as a whole – assess for effectiveness, accessibility, and equity.
	Partner(s) Responsible: Local University, Lead Agency, YAB, YHDP funded agencies
	Timeframe for Action: 2023-2024
USICH Outcome alignment: Stable Housing, Social Emotional Well Being	
HUD Principle: Equity, Coordinated Entry	

Goal 3: Youth Choice & Action

Goal: Youth choice and action- Engage youth in leading and implementing strategies to address youth homelessness.

About: This CCP is highly focused on the positive inclusion of YYA and their choices at the personal, program, and system level. It provides a blueprint to ensure that youth are actively involved and integrated into all aspects of the youth crisis response system. Youth Choice and Action is a youth-centered approach that emphasizes youth choice for both housing and supportive services and presents alternative options for youth who avoid programs with barriers.⁴ Put simply, YYA can make decisions about their lives and the services that they need. Youth choice includes respecting all aspects of youth identity including race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, developmental stage, and ability. At the individual level, this includes decisions about shelter and housing options, services, child welfare case planning, family engagement and more. At the system level, this requires active YAB leadership in designing and evaluating the services needed to prevent and end youth homelessness. It also means that there are choices and service options that meet the individualized needs of youth.

To ensure our homeless response system is based on youth choice and action, The Way Home’s CoC will:

Objective: Commit to authentic youth engagement and collaboration within The Way Home CoC.	
Action Steps	Advocate for more youth to be in positions of leadership in their community, government, and CoC system decision-making bodies. This includes authority to engage in system-wide decision making.
	Center youth voice and experience in the assessment, planning, and implementation for all strategies and programming.
	Conduct outreach and education to local system leaders on the importance of youth leadership in response to youth homelessness.
	Partner(s) Responsible: Lead Agency, YAB, youth service partners
	Timeframe for Action: Q4 2022-2023
USICH Outcome alignment: Stable housing, Permanent connections	
HUD Principle: Equity, Positive Youth Development, Youth Choice, Community Integration	

Objective: Ensure youth voice is heard throughout every step of the system, from outreach strategies to planning program design, service delivery, evaluation, and training.

Action Steps	Center youth voice and experience in the assessment, planning, and implementation for all strategies and programming.
	Hire YYA with lived expertise in YHDP service delivery roles to ensure systems are responsive to youth needs.
	Implement local CoC standards to protect youth choice in housing options. Educate case managers on the unique needs of YYA and empower YYA to engage in services that best fit their needs.
	Partner(s) Responsible: Lead Agency, YAB, Youth service providers
	Timeframe for Action: Q4 2022-2023

USICH Outcome alignment: Permanent connections, Education/employment, Social-emotional well-being

HUD Principle: Equity, Positive Youth Development, Youth Choice, Coordinated Entry, Community Integration

Objective: Ensure YYA with lived experience drives efforts to prevent and end youth homelessness.

Action Steps	Develop a sustainable resource plan to support Youth Action Board
	Provide ongoing training and opportunities for YYA to advocate for public policy and legislative changes to aid in ending youth homelessness.
	Host and pursue outside opportunities for YAB presentations and youth-led training in the social sector (i.e., health justice, behavioral health, education, etc.)
	Partner(s) Responsible: Lead Agency, CA4Y, YAB, community stakeholders
	Timeframe for Action: 2023-2024

USICH Outcome alignment: Permanent connections, Education/employment

HUD Principle: Equity, Positive Youth Development, Youth Choice, Community Integration

Goal 4: Housing

Goal: Housing - Improve housing stability and decrease repeated returns to homelessness

The Way Home recognizes that a Housing First model ends homelessness and serves as a platform from which people experiencing homelessness can pursue personal goals and improve their quality of life. YHDP funded supportive services will be offered to maximize housing stability and prevent returns to homelessness as opposed to addressing predetermined treatment goals prior to permanent housing entry.

All youth and young adults experiencing homelessness and housing instability have unique needs that must be addressed. Housing and services are not one-size- fit-all but require an expanded array of options that meet YYA needs and offers distinct choices that create a clear path to permanent housing stability. Focus groups and surveys conducted to inform the CCP, indicate that our current homeless response system is not reaching or housing YYA due to being a largely adult focused rehousing system. YHDP provides our community with the opportunity to expand available youth centered housing and service options designed to break the cycle of homelessness and establish stability for the youth we serve.

To improve YYA housing stability and decrease repeated returns to homelessness, The Way Home’s homeless response system will:

Objective: Develop housing and service models that are responsive to youth preferences and community needs.

Action Steps

Advocate for adoption of CoC standards related to youth choice among all housing providers serving youth regardless (including projects not dedicated for youth) whenever permitted by providers' funding requirements.

Require all YHDP funded projects to be low-barrier and adhere to Housing First approaches.

Create youth specific housing navigators to assist YYA in securing housing. Housing Navigation services will include but are not limited to housing search assistance, document collection, and navigation through federally mandated and often bureaucratic housing requirements (example: Public Housing Authority processes).

Incorporate comprehensive voluntary services and youth driven goal setting standards that include life skills development, employment and income supports, financial literacy, connects to continued education, health, community connection, and aftercare services.

Educate/train housing providers in the principles of Trauma-Informed Care and Positive Youth Development.

Educate housing providers on eligible alternative housing options.

Train housing staff on best practices for shared housing (e.g., roommate matching) to expand use of shared housing.

Increase master leasing opportunities to increase YYA access to lease-based housing options for YYA with barriers to securing a traditional market-rate lease.

Continue to engage youth and young adult voice to establish housing and service needs.

Partner(s) Responsible: The Lead Agency, YHDP funded service providers, YAB

Timeframe for Action: 2023-2024

USICH Outcome alignment: Stable housing, Permanent connections, Social-emotional well-being

HUD Principle: Trauma Informed Care, Coordinated Entry, Youth Choice, Housing First, Community Engagement

Objective: Decrease returns to homelessness among youth engaged in the homeless response system.

Action Steps

To better understand system inflow, conduct an in-depth analysis of CES assessment data, youth housing provider data, and self-reports by youth to identify correlations between returns to homelessness and other household characteristics.

Convene housing providers, youth, and system partners to codevelop strategies to address the identified correlations and risk factors tied to returns to homelessness.

Require that comprehensive aftercare services are offered to all youth exiting from YHDP funded projects.

Create supportive services package to increase housing stability and reduce returns to homelessness by working with all The Way Home service partners to develop a formal process and resource to connect youth served by non-youth specific housing programs to access youth-specific resources (i.e., employment connects, peer support, resource navigation, transportation assistance, education connections, etc.)

Partner(s) Responsible: Lead Agency, The Way Home Service Providers, YHDP funded agencies

	Timeframe for Action: 2023 - 2024
USICH Outcome alignment: Stable housing, Permanent connections, Social-emotional well-being	
HUD Principle: Family Engagement, Coordinated Entry, Youth Choice, Housing First, Community Integration	
Objective: Promote safe, accessible, and inclusive crisis housing options, permanent housing, and service options.	
Action Steps	Provide training and technical assistance to address barriers to youth safety and to promote youth-affirming environments and service delivery.
	Conduct quantitative and qualitative data analysis to identify disparities in the youth housing system related to race, ethnicity, gender, immigration status, parenting status, and other key characteristics.
	Develop action plan to address disparities and improve equity across all aspects of housing and service participation.
	Partner(s) Responsible: Lead agency, Homeless Services Providers
	Timeframe for Action: Q3 2023-2024
USICH Outcome alignment: Stable housing, Permanent connections, Social-emotional well-being	
HUD Principle: Equity, Positive Youth Development, Trauma Informed Care, Family Engagement, Youth Choice, Community Integration	

Goal 5: Opportunity

Goal: Opportunity- Increase educational engagement and income for youth experiencing homelessness.

One of the primary goals of The Way Home CCP is to establish an environment and homeless response system that fosters a successful transition to adulthood for youth and young adults. This requires The Way Home CoC and service partners to provide socially supportive engagement and access to opportunities; including ensuring that youth and young adults have access to holistic supportive services, employment opportunities, and educational resources to assist them in recovering from trauma and build a strong foundation for a happy and healthy life. To accomplish this, we will implement community and HYDP programs so that youth can exercise choice regarding their educational and employment goals.

Education

Challenges accessing and completing education often hinders a youth from ongoing success. Low High School graduation attainment impacts preparedness for higher ed or employment programs. According to the National Center for Homeless Education, youth with less than a high school diploma or GED have a 346% higher risk of experiencing homelessness than youth with at least a high school diploma⁵. Additionally, a person's level of education directly impacts their potential earnings. National research on youth homelessness stresses the importance of graduating from high school: youth with less than a high school diploma and youth with annual household incomes of less than \$24,000 have a greater risk of experiencing homelessness.⁶

Employment

Focus groups with community stakeholders and the YAB identified employment as a top priority for YYA who are homeless or at-risk. Employment options, training programs, and maintaining a job are impacted by a lack of transportation, access to affordable quality childcare, legal services, and an overall lack of programs to bring YYA skill levels up to qualify for good paying jobs. Research has shown that employment and income not only directly impact a youth's ability to obtain housing stability, but also increases self-efficacy, positive self-identity, and social competency⁷.

The Way Home CoC will increase pathways to employment and educational resources by:

Objective: Promote participation in education, employment, and training, to further individual goals and lead to a thriving wage.	
Action Steps	Expand The Way Homes CoC’s existing referral system to mainstream employment and educational resources. This includes developing specific points of contact that can respond to YYA needs.
	Develop processes to improve collaboration between existing education and employment agencies.
	Identify and create partnerships with existing local agencies and other nonprofits that could help youth monetize their talents/passions.
	Review and revise performance outcomes to track the success of expanded employment and educational community connections.
	Engage existing incentive programs for education attainment and employment skills training to serve YYA.
	Establish partnerships with local higher education providers to collaboratively respond to the needs of students exiting the child welfare system, the justice system, and pregnant/parenting YYA experiencing homelessness.
	Partner with Homeless Liaisons/ McKinney-Vento liaisons to decrease drop-out, truancy, and gaps in education for YYA.
	Partner(s) Responsible: Lead Agency, Workforce Investment Board, Independent School Districts, Higher Education Providers, Employment Service Providers
	Timeframe for Action: 2023 -Ongoing
USICH Outcome alignment: Education/employment	
HUD Principle: Equity, Positive Youth Development, Youth Choice, Community Integration	
Objective: Increase the availability of short-term, immediate income-generating opportunities.	
Action Steps	Cultivate relationships with local employers and community agencies to encourage recruitment and hiring of youth experiencing homelessness; enhancing opportunities for justice-involved to obtain employment.
	Promote short-term, immediate employment programs for youth.
	Hire YYA with lived expertise for YHDP peer funded roles.
	Partner(s) Responsible: Community Partners, Lead Agency, Workforce Investment Board
	Timeframe for Action: Q4 2022
USICH Outcome alignment: Permanent connections, Education/employment	
HUD Principle: Equity, Positive Youth Development, Youth Choice, Housing First, Community Integration	
Objective: Reduce Transportation barriers to education and employment opportunities.	
Action Steps	Explore and develop partnerships that provide alternative transportation resources beyond school bus and public transportation.

	Expand the availability of ride-share services options to meet transportation needs 24/7.
	Collaborate and connect YYA to providers that aid in obtaining a driver's license, budgeting to purchase transportation, and driver education.
	Partner(s) Responsible: Community providers, Lead Agency
	Timeframe for Action: 2023-Ongoing
USICH Outcome alignment: Education/employment	
HUD Principle: Equity, Youth Choice, Community Integration	
Objective: Improve youth access to mainstream resources and benefits.	
Action Steps	Hire and create YYA navigator positions to assist in obtaining identification, Social Security cards, I-9 documents, birth certificates, and transcripts to increase opportunities for employment and education.
	Increase SOAR trained case managers to connect YYA with disabilities to SSI/SSDI.
	Provide training for providers and YYA related to benefits, eligibility requirements, and enrollment process. Ensure all case management staff connect YYA to mainstream benefits for which they may qualify (SNAP/SSI/SSDI, Medicaid, WIC, TANF, etc.).
	Partner(s) Responsible: Lead Agency, Homeless Service Providers, Youth Service Providers
	Timeframe for Action: 2023- Ongoing
USICH Outcome alignment: Education/employment	
HUD Principle: Equity, Positive Youth Development, Community Integration	

Goal 6: Diversion

Goal: Diversion – Create diversion strategies specific to youth and young adults.

Youth and Young Adults at risk of homelessness:

A national survey by Chapin Hall (2017) found that prevention and early intervention solutions are needed to stop the flow of youth into homelessness. Key systems include criminal justice and child welfare. Of 4,000 YYA experiencing homelessness surveyed across the country found that 1/3 had experience with child welfare and nearly ½ had been in juvenile detention, jail, or prison⁸.

Diversion is a strategy that prevents homelessness at the front door of the homeless response system by helping people identify immediate alternative housing arrangements and, if necessary, connecting them with services and financial assistance to help them return to permanent housing. Diversion is an important tool in preventing youth and young adults from entering the cycle of homelessness. Youth 24 and under face multiple additional barriers and circumstances that can make them more vulnerable while homeless. They may also require different strategies to divert from homelessness.

Currently, sustainable diversion services for YYA are almost entirely unfunded and crisis housing resources are very limited for both youth and adults. Significant resources, beyond the capacity of the YHDP initiative alone are needed to expand diversion and family reunification practices and implement fully functioning multi-sector connections reaching into juvenile justice, secondary education, and behavioral health venues.

To divert YYA at risk of homelessness from the cycle of homelessness and housing instability, The Way Home’s homeless response system will:

Objective: Better identify and immediately assist youth at risk of experiencing homelessness.	
Action Steps	Elevate existing informal discharge partnerships to establish system-wide discharge planning approaches and coordination to reduce exits from youth-serving systems to homelessness (child welfare, justice, education).
	Conduct regular cross-sector meetings to discuss strategies to prevent youth homelessness.
	Work with system partners to develop triage tool(s) for use within youth serving systems to better identify at-risk YYA.
	Host trainings and meet and greets between schools and community resource partners, starting with the 3 largest districts with the highest number of unaccompanied youths.
	Once sufficient resources are available, develop and implement a public education campaign regarding diversion resources to economically vulnerable and disconnected youth communities. Communication plans should be youth designed and informed.
	Partner(s) Responsible: Lead Agency, YAB, Education, DFPS, Justice, Youth Service Providers
	Timeframe for Action: 2023 - 2024
USICH Outcome alignment: Stable housing, Permanent connections, Education/employment, Social-emotional well-being	
HUD Principle: Positive Youth Development, Trauma Informed Care, Family Engagement, Coordinated Entry	
Objective: Develop and implement a system-wide diversion strategy specific to youth and young adults.	
Action Steps	Create a workgroup of relevant stakeholders to inform project design and local philanthropy, state/local government, and United Way to assess opportunities to leverage non-Federal support for flexible prevention/assistance services.
	Evaluate current system data to better understand the number of young people who could benefit from diversion.
	Support family engagement by exploring resources needed to scale family strengthening and mediation services and training that can help young people remain or return to their chosen family.
	Create connections to new and existing youth employment and education services to ensure quick access to community integration through employment and educational supports.
	Partner(s) Responsible: YAB, Lead Agency, Youth Service Providers, Workforce Solutions, Education
	Timeframe for Action: Q4 2022- 2023
USICH Outcome alignment: Stable housing, Permanent connections, Education/employment, Social-emotional well-being	
HUD Principle: Positive Youth Development, Trauma Informed Care, Family Engagement, Youth Choice, Community Integration	

Objective: Create innovative Host Home options for youth with supportive services.	
Action Steps	Research best practices around Host Homes in peer communities.
	Convene focus groups to identify the desires YYA around Host Homes.
	Develop and pilot model that ensures community integration.
	Evaluate and refine as needed.
	Partner(s) Responsible: YAB, Lead Agency, Youth Service Providers, HAY Center, DFPS
	Timeframe for Action: Q4 2022- 2023
USICH Outcome alignment: Stable housing, Permanent connections	
HUD Principle: Family Engagement, Youth Choice, Community Integration	

Statement of Need (What the Data Tells Us)

While The Way Home CoC has many assets and strengths, there is a critical need for additional youth-specific services and approaches that can better meet the needs of YYA.

Community Overview

The Way Home CoC covers a vast geographic region (**3,700+ sq. miles**, including all of Harris, Fort Bend, and Montgomery Counties)

- **Houston/Greater Houston is experiencing a long-term trend of population growth:** Between 2000 and 2016 the population of Houston grew by approximately 15% (US Census) and is projected to grow by an additional 175,000 residents by 2023⁹. This growth requires the production of new housing units for households across the entire income spectrum.
- **Average housing costs are increasing:** The National Association of Home Builders/ Wells Fargo Opportunity Index indicates that the median sale price for a home in the Houston/ Woodlands/Sugarland metropolitan statistical increased approximately 20% since 2018¹⁰.
- **An increasing number of households in Houston/Greater Houston are facing housing affordability challenges:** Beyond not being able to own a home, a growing share of renters have difficulty paying the rent on the homes they already live in.
- **Renters have a large cost burden**, and it is getting worse, jeopardizing Houston’s and Harris County’s status as affordable places to live¹¹.
- **Massive eviction rates:** As of 2019, the eviction filing rate—the ratio of eviction filings to renter households—was 8.8%, meaning that approximately one in 11 renters had an eviction notice posted to their door. Approximately 4.5%, or more than one in 25 renter households were evicted¹¹.
- **Economic segregation and inequality remain** a pervasive issue that transcends housing and affects Houstonians’ prospects of upward mobility ¹¹.

Demographics/Community Characteristics

Population Estimates	Harris County	Fort Bend County	Montgomery County
Population, Census April 1 st , 2020	4,731,145	822,779	620, 443
Persons Living in Poverty	15.90%	7.40%	8.20%
Population per square mile	2,402	679.5	437.5
Race			
White	69.60%	54.70%	87.90%
Black or African American	20.00%	21.30%	5.90%
Asian	7.30%	20.90%	3.30%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.10%	0.60%	0.10%
Two or More Races	2.00%	2.30%	1.90%
Hispanic or Latino	43.70%	24.90%	25.20%
White, not Hispanic or Latino	28.70%	31.90%	64.40%
Minors			
Minors <18	1,249,022	224,619	61,935
BIPOC Minors <18	886,806	152,741	57,649
Ages 5-17 Living in Poverty	142,928	56,806	9921

Definitions

In this section, we reference both “youth experiencing homelessness” and “youth at-risk of homelessness.” Definitions are provided below. While it is important to distinguish these populations for clarity and project eligibility, we recognize, if we are going to prevent and end youth homelessness, it is imperative to help all these young people access safe and stable housing. Many of our system-wide strategies are geared toward that end.

Youth Experiencing Homelessness: Young people (including pregnant or parenting youth) who are between the ages of 10-24, not accompanied by a parent or guardian and who are experiencing literal homelessness according to HUD category 1 or category 4 definitions.

Youth At-Risk of Experiencing Homelessness: Young people (particularly unaccompanied youth and including pregnant and parenting youth) ages 10-24 who are living in unstable or inadequate housing situations (e.g., temporarily doubled up, living in a hotel or motel) but not experiencing literal homelessness according to HUD category 1 or 4 definitions. This population also encompasses systems involved youth ages 13 and up – specifically youth who are currently involved in the foster care system or have aged out, as well as youth involved in the juvenile justice system who are experiencing high risk indicators for homelessness.

Community Assets

The Way Home CoC is a collaborative of more than 100 stakeholders serving Houston and the surrounding region (Harris, Fort Bend, and Montgomery Counties). The Way Home has successfully addressed similar systematic challenges related to homelessness, including officially ending veteran homelessness; creating and maintaining formal and strong housing authority partnerships; and implementing an effective Coordinated Entry System. According to HMIS, members of The Way Home represent 271 homeless serving projects (prevention, emergency shelters, permanent housing, and outreach). Of these, 155 are homeless assistance projects (emergency shelters, permanent housing, and outreach). Unaccompanied youth and young families may be eligible for any CoC with some beds specifically designated for youth and young adults.

Youth-Designated Beds Across The Way Home CoC

2021 HMIS YYA Bed Inventory	# Beds
Emergency Shelter	76
Transitional Housing	28

PH – Rapid Re-housing	159
PH – Permanent Supportive Housing (Disability required for entry)	30

The Coordinated Entry System

The Coordinated Entry System (CES) is the front door to the homeless services system. Anyone who is homeless or at-risk of homelessness can connect to CES via regional ‘assessment hubs’ (access points), located at emergency shelters, offered by homeless outreach teams, 211, and by phone. The variety of CES assessment hubs help to ensure all YYA are connected to resources to prevent and divert their household from homelessness. Currently, our CES does not make connections to crisis services like emergency shelters. CES access points utilize a locally developed standardized assessment tool to triage and prioritize YYA for housing interventions based on vulnerability. Below is a summary of the YYA assessments conducted by CES in 2021 with corresponding responses.

YYA CES Assessments: January 2021-December 2021

Total Assessed by CES		689	
COORDINATED ENTRY QUESTIONS			
Chronically Homeless	70	10%	
Are you homeless or do you remain homeless because someone is hurting you?	196	28%	
Are you a veteran?	16	2%	
Have you ever been diagnosed with a disabling condition?	365	53%	
<i>Serious Mental Illness</i>	259	38%	
<i>Developmental Disability</i>	150	22%	
<i>Chronic physical illness or disability that limits ability to work or perform daily activities</i>	78	11%	
<i>HIV+/AIDS</i>	39	6%	
<i>Substance use disorder that prevents you from holding a job</i>	58	8%	
Were you in Special Education or Resource classes?	168	24%	
Have you ever been involuntarily hospitalized for mental health condition?	227	33%	
How many times in the past 6 months have you accessed medical services in the ER?			
<i>Never</i>	367	53%	
<i>1 Time</i>	158	23%	
<i>2 Times</i>	85	12%	
<i>3 Times</i>	36	5%	
<i>4 Times</i>	15	2%	
<i>5+ Times</i>	28	4%	
Do you have health insurance?	284	41%	
How many times in the past year have you been arrested or been in jail/prison/juvenile detention?			
<i>Never</i>	523	76%	
<i>1 Time</i>	128	19%	
<i>2 Times</i>	25	4%	
<i>3 Times</i>	10	1%	
<i>4 Times</i>	1	0%	
<i>5+ Times</i>	2	0%	
Do you have past felony conviction(s)?	84	12%	
Have you or anyone who will live with you been convicted of a sexual offense:	8	1%	
Do you currently have any income?	175	25%	
When was the last time that you worked?			
<i>Currently employed</i>	105	15%	
<i>Up to 30 days ago</i>	70	10%	
<i>31-90 days ago</i>	78	11%	
<i>3-6 months ago</i>	68	10%	
<i>6-12 months ago</i>	74	11%	

	<i>More than 1 year ago</i>	245	36%
	<i>Never</i>	49	7%
ADDITIONAL TRIAGE QUESTIONS			
Frequent service user		140	20%
Do you have a serious physical health condition that requires frequent medical care?		68	10%
OBSERVATION - Assessor, do you observe signs or symptoms of a serious physical health condition?		7	1%
Has a doctor or a professional ever recommended mental health services?		410	60%
OBSERVATION: Assessor, do you observe signs or symptoms of a mental health condition?		57	8%
In the past year, have drugs or alcohol had a negative impact on your life?		176	26%
OBSERVATION: Assessor, do you observe signs or symptoms of drugs or alcohol use?		29	4%
Have you experienced domestic violence in the past 60 days?		185	27%
Has someone asked (or forced) you to have sex or sell anything in exchange for something?		145	21%
Is someone threatening to harm you or your family if you don't do what they ask?		119	17%

Data Source Overview

To better understand the complex and often hidden experience of youth homelessness, we relied upon multiple data sources. The main sources of information include both existing and new data sources:

Data Sources

HMIS

- Point-In-Time (PIT) Count and Housing Inventory Count (HIC)
- HUD System Performance Dashboards
- HUD strategy and Analysis Tools
 - Stella P
 - Race and Equity Analysis
- System Partner Data
- National Center for Homeless Education, YHDP Education Data Workbook
- Harris County Juvenile Detention Center
- Harris County Probation
- Fort Bend Juvenile Detention
- Harris County Jail
- DFPS
- City of Houston Emergency Rental Assistance Funding
- Covenant House Houston
- The Montrose Center

Focus Groups

- Minors (Youth under age 18)
- Pregnant and Parenting Youth
- Youth Involved with Child Welfare
- Justice Involved youth
- LGBTQIA+ Youth
- Survivors of Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking
- Workforce and Higher Education
- Youth and Community Stakeholder Surveys

All available data sources were used to better understand the overall picture of youth homelessness as well as the prevalence and needs of special populations. Findings were shared with the Youth Leadership Writing Team (YLWT), the Stakeholder Workgroup, and the YAB for review and conversation. During our planning process it became clear

that there were gaps and inconsistencies in data collection within our youth-serving systems. Some systems used varying definitions of homelessness, some collected the information only in case records and could not pull aggregate data, or some did not collect the information at all (e.g., sexual orientation, parenting status, homelessness). Based on the data available, below is a summary of the estimated scope of youth homelessness in our community each year.

Scope of Youth Homelessness in The Way Home

Annual Estimation of Need			
Population	Data Source(s)	# Estimated Youth HMIS	# Estimated Youth Other Sources
Unaccompanied youth: At-risk	HMIS (CES assessments, program enrollments, services captured, HUD dashboards), PIT, National Center for Homeless Education, YHDP Education Data Workbook, Harris County Juvenile Detention Center, Harris County Probation, Fort Bend Juvenile Detention, Harris County Jail, DFPS, City of Houston Emergency Rental Assistance Funding	1265	2345 (education)
Unaccompanied youth: Literal homeless		910	316 (Justice)
Pregnant or parenting youth: At-risk		426	Unknown
Pregnant or parenting youth: Literal homelessness		230	Unknown
TOTAL At-risk			
Total Literal homelessness			1456
Below Special Population Data is Captured Within the Total Above <i>Additional Detail in Special Populations Section</i>			
Youth involved with the Justice System	HMIS (164), Harris County Juvenile Detention Center, Harris County Probation, Fort Bend Juvenile Detention, Harris County Jail (152)	316 Literally Homeless (point in time), need more information for at-risk	
LGBTQIA+ & gender non-confirming youth	HMIS, PIT, lack of data	47/ Lack of data	
Human trafficking & exploitation	HMIS, lack of data	145/ Lack of data	
Youth involved with child welfare	DFPS (2659 in care), DFPS (exits:185 Emancipated & 43 other)	228 Literally Homeless, need more information for at-risk	
Pregnant or parenting youth experiencing homeless	HMIS, System Performance Dashboards, PIT, DFPS	656 Literally Homeless, need more information for at-risk	
Minors (young people under the age of 18)	HMIS (209), DFPS (2659), Harris County Juvenile Detention Center (313), ISDs (2775: 324 in shelter & 107 unsheltered, 25 Hotel and/or Motel, 2320 Doubled up)	More information needed to get exact totals	

*** Additional data can be found in the Appendix.

HMIS Data Overview

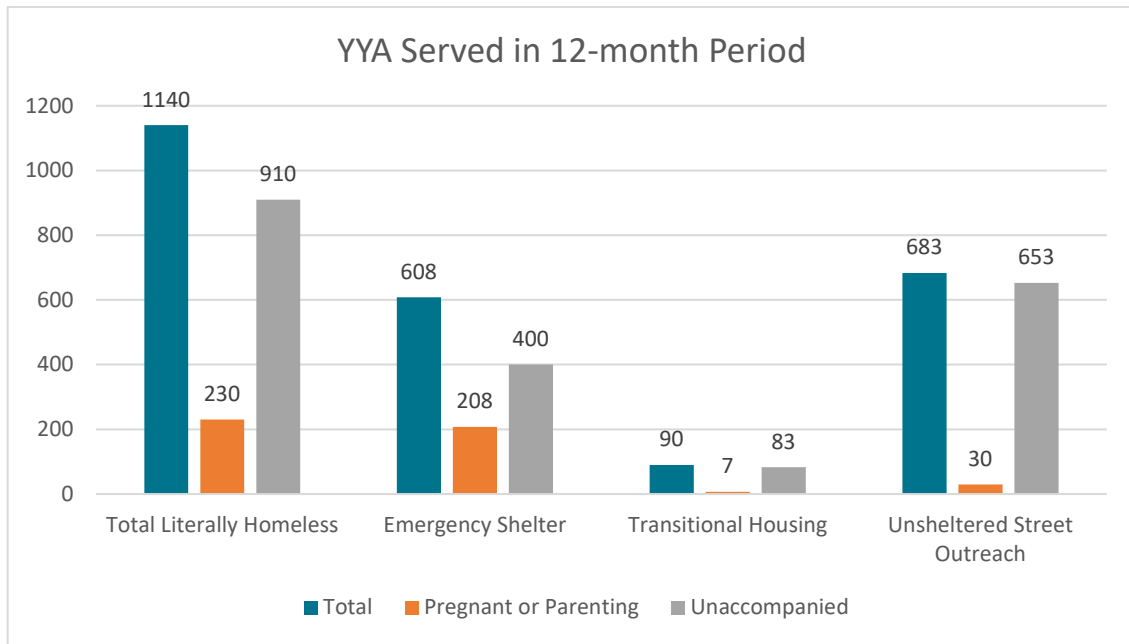
Data collected through The Way Home CES for individuals and families experiencing homelessness from July 2020 – June 2021:

- **1140** youth were identified as homeless as defined by living on the streets, in a shelter or transitional housing. Of those youth, 230 (20%) were identified as pregnant or parenting.
- **1691** youth were identified as at risk of homelessness as defined by receiving homeless prevention or other services. Of those youth 426 (25%) were identified as pregnant or parenting.

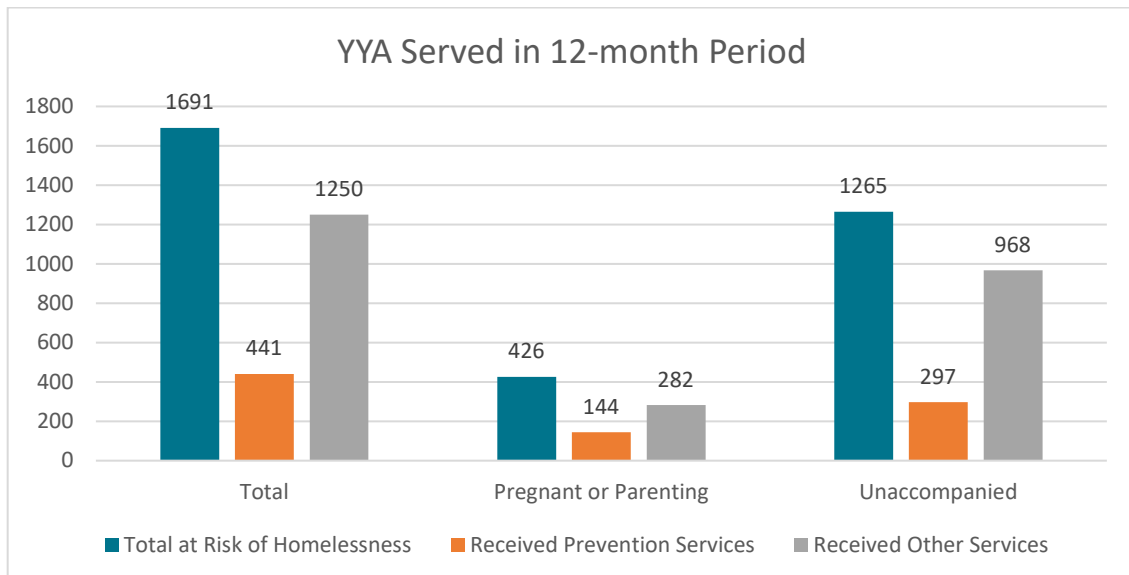
HMIS YYA Served in 2021

YYA Served in 12-month Period 7/1/2020 - 6/30/2021			
Location	Total	Pregnant or Parenting	Unaccompanied
Total Literally Homeless	1140	230	910
Emergency Shelter	608	208	400
Transitional Housing	90	7	83
Unsheltered Street Outreach	683	30	653

*** Some people were assisted by multiple project types. Someone could have been seen by street outreach (unsheltered) but also stayed at ES or TH (sheltered) during the year.



Youth and Young Adults served in 12-month period 7/1/20 - 6/30/21			
	Total	Pregnant or Parenting	Unaccompanied
Total at Risk of Homelessness	1691	426	1265
Received Prevention Services	441	144	297
Received Other Services	1250	282	968



HMIS YYA Served: Demographics

Race	Total	%
Literally & At Risk of Homelessness	2831	
American Indian, Alaska Native or African	28	1%
Asian or Asian American	14	0%
African American	1717	61%
Multi-Racial	74	3%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	10	0%
White	968	34%
Unknown	20	1%

Ethnicity	Total	%
Literally & At Risk of Homelessness	2831	
Hispanic/Latin X	663	23%
Non-Hispanic/Latin X	2156	76%
Unknown	12	0%

Gender	Total	%
Total Literally and At Risk	2831	
Other than female or male	17	1%
Female	1472	52%
Male	1300	46%
Multiple Genders	41	1%
Unknown	20	1%

Age as of 1/1/2021	Total	%
<16	66	2%
16-17	79	3%
18-20	758	27%
21-24	1823	64%
age 25 after 7/1/20	105	4%

PIT Data Overview

Data collected 2021 PIT count:

- **115** unaccompanied youth (up to age 24) sheltered
- **48** unaccompanied youth (up to age 24) unsheltered

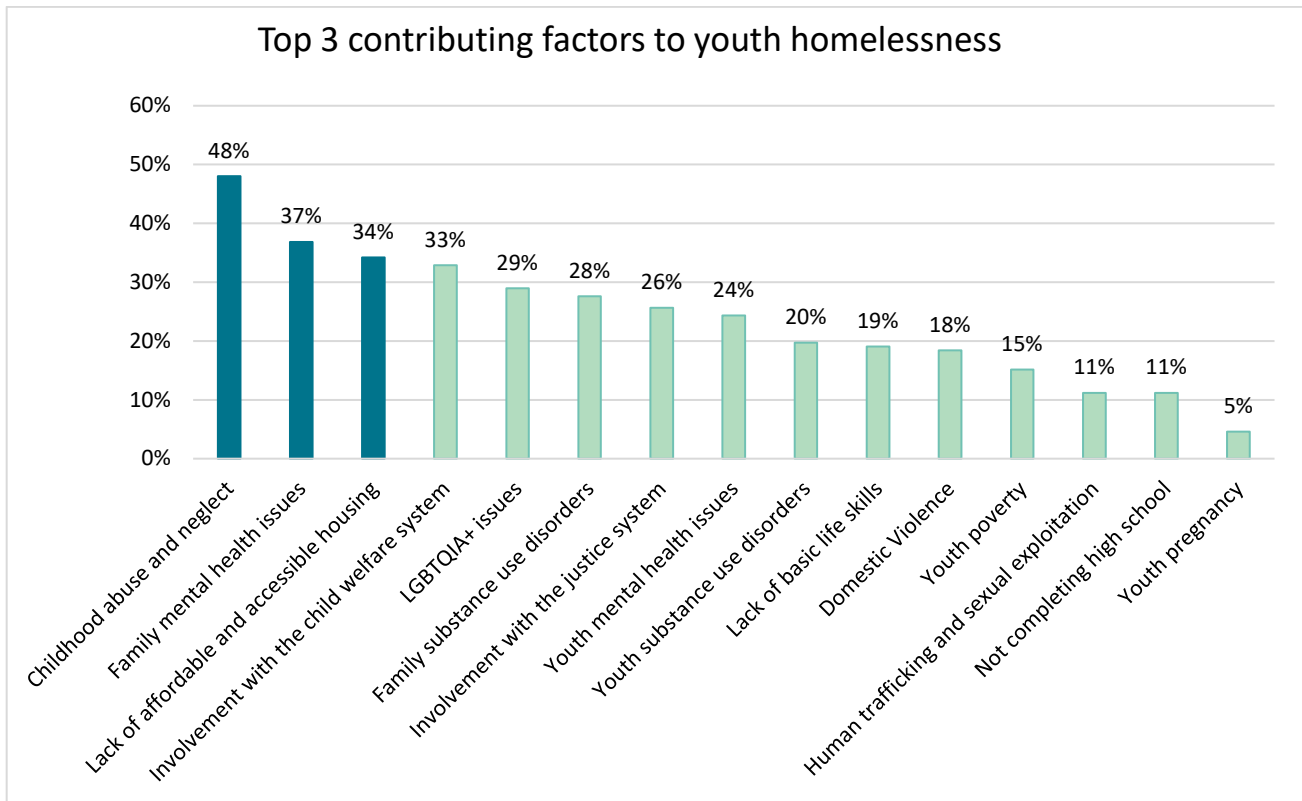
PIT Count Youth Data	2021 Unaccompanied		2021 Parenting	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Sheltered	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total
TOTAL	115	48	23	186	231	266	219	224
Chronically Homeless	9	4	0	13	13	27	28	8
Age								
<18	5	0	0	5	3	0	2	3
18-24	110	48	23	181	228	266	217	221
Gender								
Female	67	11	23	101	129	122	92	113
Male	48	34	0	82	98	143	126	111
Transgender	2	3	0	5	3	1	1	0

Gender Non-Conforming	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Race								
Asian	1	0	0	1	2	2	1	2
American Indian/ Alaska Native	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	1
Black/African American	75	25	17	117	146	173	122	122
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
White	34	20	5	59	73	82	85	86
Multiple Races	5	2	0	7	9	9	10	12
Ethnicity								
Non-Hispanic/ Latino	93	40	19	152	194	225	179	188
Hispanic/ Latino	22	8	4	34	37	41	40	36

YYA & Stakeholder Survey Data (Qualitative Data)

In 2022, a survey was administered and completed by a diverse group of 152 community members. Six YYA submitted their own thoughts in a separate survey created by the YAB and Coalition staff. Data was evaluated and themes were analyzed. Below is a summary of the results.

High-level Stakeholder Survey Results



***The survey tools used, and full report of results can be found in the Appendix.

The Stakeholder survey results identified the top three perceived **factors** contributing to youth homelessness:

1. Childhood abuse and neglect
2. Family mental health issues
3. Lack of affordable and accessible housing

The Stakeholder survey respondents identified the following top three **barriers** to meeting the needs of youth who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness:

1. Lack of adequate services for especially vulnerable youth (LGBTQIA+, survivors of domestic violence, pregnant &/or parenting, etc.)
2. Lack of awareness of resources available
3. Lack of flexible funding

The Stakeholder survey respondents identified the following top three **solutions** that are most needed to prevent and end youth homelessness for youth ages 18-24:

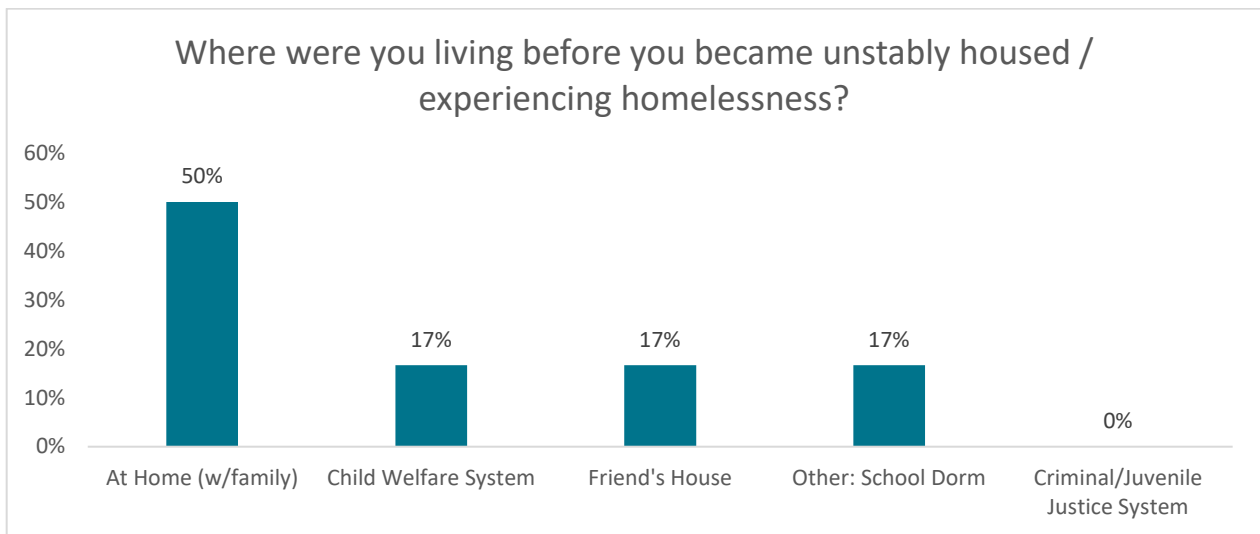
1. Case management and financial support to stay with family, friends or on own when safe and appropriate
2. Additional case management support for youth-at-risk of homelessness from the welfare or justice system
3. Increased access to Emergency Shelter

High-level YYA Survey Results

The YYA survey results identified the top four **factors** contributing to youth homelessness (all ranked equally):

1. COVID-19
2. Family Violence
3. Kicked-out
4. Sexual Identity

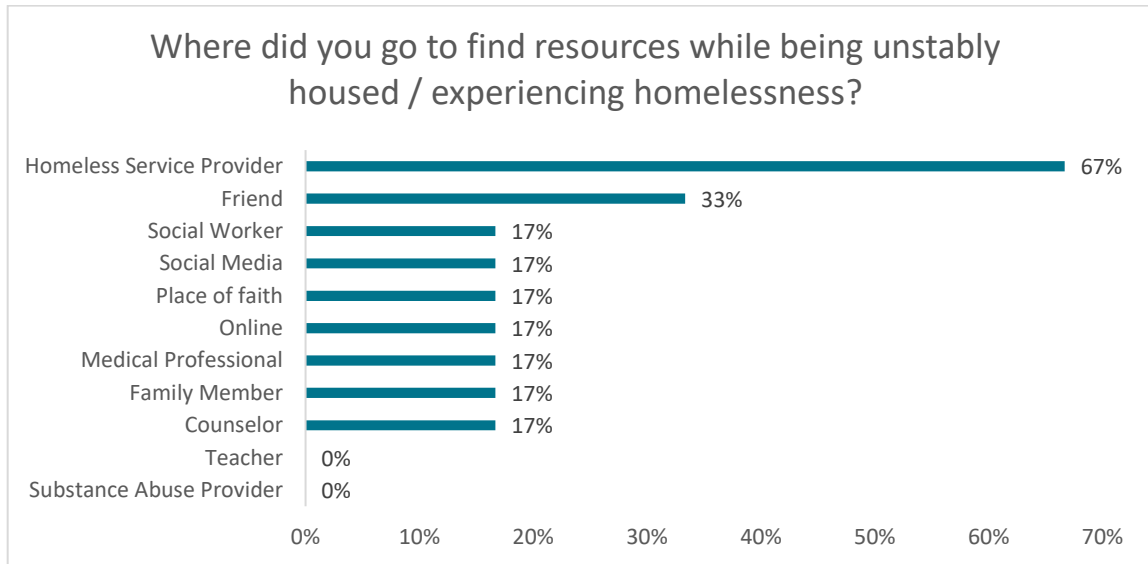
The YYA respondents identified the following living arrangements prior to becoming homeless:



The YYA respondents identified the following top 3 **barriers** to securing stable housing (respondents could select multiple barriers):

1. Income (83%)
2. Depression (67%)
3. Mental Disability (67%)

The YYA respondents identified the following location where they **sought resources** when first experiencing homelessness:



Special Populations

The Way Home recognizes that some populations of youth and young adults are at higher risk of homelessness or have unique needs that warrant special attention and response. We have conducted focus groups, community sessions, and reviewed our data to better understand these needs so we can center them in our local response to youth homelessness. 100 individual community members attended a combination of over 76 stakeholder and community meetings during the CCP planning process. This provided additional opportunity for feedback, comments, and ideas to create the goals and strategies needed to prevent and end youth homelessness in our community. The invaluable information gathered through the focus groups informed decisions throughout the YHDP planning phase, from the needs assessment to project design. One important takeaway, from the focus groups, was young people ultimately want to be diverted from the homeless response system. The following sections highlight local findings, national research and provides suggestions on how the needs of special populations can be met through the CoC.

Justice-Involved Youth

According to The United States Department of Justice, “many types of traumatic experiences occur in the lives of children and adolescents from all walks of life. Often, the after-effects of these experiences – persistent, post-traumatic stress reactions – play a role in the legal and behavioral problems that bring youth in contact with law enforcement and the juvenile justice system.”¹² Often, justice involvement and homelessness are interconnected, meaning each has been found to increase the likelihood of the other. In recognizing prevalent characteristics of our homeless youth, it is important to recognize that many of our youth can be involved in multiple systems of care and often have a diagnosable mental disorder and lack healthcare resources.

Local Data

Race/Ethnicity Demographic Data:

Adult and juvenile probation data show that youth of color are referred and detained at higher rates than other youth.

- 45% of all youth in the Juvenile Justice System are black or African American (under 18 years old)
- 44% of all youth in the Juvenile Justice System are Hispanic (under 18 years old)
- 59% of all youth on adult probation are black or African American (18 to 24 years old)
- 37% of all youth on adult probation are Hispanic (18 to 24 years old)
 - Black or African Americans make up 20% of the general Harris County population

- Hispanics make up 44% of the general Harris County Population

Gender Demographic Data:

- 82% of all youth in the Juvenile Justice System are male (under 18 years old)
- 18% of all youth in the Juvenile Justice System are female (under 18 years old)
- 81% of all youth on adult probation are male (18 to 24 years old)
- 19% of all youth on adult probation are female (18 to 24 years old)
- 50% of the general Harris County population is male
- 50% of the general Harris County population is female

2021 Adult and Juvenile Justice Data:

- 1326 youth under the age of 18 were booked into Harris and Fort Bent County Juvenile Justice.
- 4955 youth 18-24 years of age are on Harris County adult probation.

2021 Coordinated Entry System (CES) Responses:

CES asks the following *“How many times in the past year have you been arrested or been in jail/prison/juvenile detention?”* Below is a summary of the self-reported responses:

- 76% have never been arrested (523)
- 19% have been arrested 1 time (128)
- 4% have been arrested 2 times (25)
- 1% have been arrested 3 times (10)
- 0% have been arrested 4 times (1)
- 0% have been arrested 5+ times (2)

CES asks the following *“Do you have a past felony conviction(s)?”* Below is a summary of the self-reported responses:

- 12% have a past felony conviction(s) (84)

CES asks the following *“Have you or anyone who will live with you been convicted of a sexual offense?”* Below is a summary of the self-reported responses:

- 1% reported that they are or will live with someone convicted of a sexual offense (8)

CES asks the following *“Have you ever been diagnosed with a disabling condition?”* Although the information below may not necessarily be indicative of an arrest, the following may contribute to an increased likelihood of incarceration. Below is a summary of the self-reported responses:

- 38% have been diagnosed with a serious mental illness (259)
- 8% reported substance use disorder that prevents them from holding a job (58)

Harris County Jail Population Snapshot (2/21/22)¹³

- On a given day, 23% of the Harris County Jail population is under the age of 25 (2176 of 9380)
- On a given day, 7% of the total Harris County Jail population self-report homelessness (638 of 9380)
 - Given the data above, it is estimated that 152 youth under the age of 25 self-report homelessness while in the Harris County Jail
- On a given day, 8% of the total jail population self-report previous foster care involvement (783 of 9380)
 - 4% are 18 years old or younger (31)
 - 24% are 19-25 years old (185)
 - 37% are 26-35 years old (291)
 - 22% are 36-45 years old (173)
 - 10% are 46-55 years old (78)
 - 3% are 56-65 years old (21)

- 1% are 66 years and older (4)
- On a given day, 78% of the total jail population meet jail mental health indicators
- On a given day, 14% of the total jail population currently take psychotropic medication

National Data

- 46% of youth experiencing homelessness have been in juvenile detention, prison, or jail¹⁴
- Close to 70% of youth in the juvenile justice system have a diagnosable mental disorder¹⁵

Racial disparities exist within our justice and homelessness system. Like youth involved in foster care, data shows that youth in juvenile systems are disproportionately BIPOC; live in poverty, have minimal family connections, mental health needs, and have unfavorable education outcomes. In addition, these young adults were often male. This highlights a need to address systematic and institutionalized racial and gender disparities within our community. National, research indicates that about 46%¹³ of homeless youth have been involved in the justice system and is commonly linked to their lack of stable housing or due to hunger (arrested for truancy for missing school due to unstable housing, stealing resources to survive, trespassing, participating in survival sex, etc.). Upon release, many individuals struggle with basic life necessities, face barriers to obtaining housing, income, and employment due to their criminal background. The Way Home plans to reduce barriers impacting youth from obtaining stable housing, employment, and education after being involved in the justice systems by creating supportive and preventative services and pathways for successful reentry back into our community.

Needs and challenges identified by community stakeholders:

<p>Stable Housing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Youth with criminal backgrounds are faced with challenges qualifying for and securing safe quality housing as they are often denied by property owners when applying for a lease. ● Often, this results in youth securing housing high crime neighborhoods. ● After release, many youths are left without the basic identification needed to apply for market-rate housing. ● Lack of life skills training to support youth transition to independence after exiting the justice system. ● Justice involved youth need support transitioning back to families. Some properties won't the youth to reside with their family post-release or the rent may increase making it unaffordable for the family unit. ● Lack of trauma-informed youth services in existing housing programs.
<p>Permanent Connections</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Youth who are disconnected from their support network because of justice involvement need effective discharge planning and follow-up to ensure they remain stably housed or reunite with their family.
<p>Education & Employment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Because there is a lack of communication and consistency between the education and justice systems, justice-involved youth often experience gaps in education. ● We often strive for peer support in homeless service delivery, but many service provider agencies do not offer employment to youth with a criminal history. ● Youth with criminal records may face additional barriers to employment and need legal services for record sealing and expungement. ● Lack of basic needs such as clothing and hygiene products.
<p>Social & Emotional Wellbeing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Youth involved in the criminal justice system needs to be able to learn self-sufficiency through life and job skills training and education. ● Lack of access to healthcare (physical, mental, and behavioral)
<p>Policy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Many youths in child welfare are charged as adults at 17. There should be more preventative methods to prevent youth from being charged with "survival crimes" that are related to homelessness (trespassing, theft of food, truancy if unstably housed).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing policies can prevent families from accepting justice-involved youth back into the home.
Communication & collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of communication between and, in some cases, lack of collaboration among youth service systems.
Human Trafficking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Justice involved youth at risk of or experiencing homelessness have a high likelihood of being trafficked or exploited. Without proper services to aid in obtaining employment, housing, and education they are more likely to be preyed on by traffickers.

Stakeholders identified the following activities to be completed to ensure the success of YHDP Justice-Involved Youth:

Core Outcome	Objective and Actions to Address the Needs of Justice-Involved Youth	Partner &/or Lead?	Fund?
Stable Housing	Create low barrier housing interventions that are accessible to justice involved YYA.	Lead	X
	Provide “Parent Leasing” opportunities for youth who may have barriers to signing a conventional lease.	Lead	X
	Request a HUD waiver to allow for leases under 12 months to help incentivize property owners to lease to YYA with criminal backgrounds.	Lead	X
	Identify and connect youth to legal services to address barriers related to criminal records.	Partner	
	Explore additional landlord incentives that promote access to market-rate units, including Landlord Engagement Fees.	Lead	X
	To promote housing stability, remove discrimination, and educate housing providers on trauma surrounding youths’ behaviors.	Lead & Partner	
Permanent Connections	Implement new strategies to ensure youth exiting and involved with the justice system do not become homeless this includes evaluating the transition planning within the justice system.	Lead & Partner	
	Improve Re-entry planning centered around housing, employment, education, and family	Lead & Partner	
	Identify opportunities for more upstream planning and diversion services.	Lead & Partner	
	Increase data sharing with DOJ on youth entering the justice system from homelessness and exiting the criminal justice system into homelessness.	Lead & Partner	
	Facilitate better collaborations between probation and service providers.	Lead & Partner	
	Create or enhance CES to ensure Justice-involved youth at risk of homelessness are captured before they exit into the community.	Lead & Partner	X

	Increase youth access to homeless court.	Lead	
	Identify mentors with shared experiences that can help justice-involved youth transition back into communities	Partner	
	Collaborate with local providers to offer training and therapy to help families better support justice-involved youth.	Partner	
	Create and collaborate with legal advocates that can help youth navigate the justice systems.	Partner	Possible Waiver
Education & Employment	Build a network and establish relationships with employers that will hire justice-involved youth.	Lead & Partner	X
	Strengthen connections to the Workforce Investment Board as they expand youth-centered employment services.	Partner	
	Connect youth to vocational training and employment services.	Lead & Partner	X
	Create more equitable and individual need-based education opportunities for youth in the justice system.	Partner	
	Educate youth on their criminal history and solutions to resolve.	Partner	
	Expand access to basic needs (clothing and hygiene).	Lead & Partner	X
	Help youth obtain their important document (identification, health cards).	Lead & Partner	X
	Request HUD waiver to provide alternative transportation assistance.	Lead	X
Social & Emotional Wellbeing	Make connections with mental and behavioral health providers to expand access to essential healthcare services.	Partner	
	Develop a life skill curriculum for youth who successfully transition to adulthood (youth-centered and based on youth choice).	Lead & Partner	X
Policy	Advocate for the opportunity to have survival crimes removed from their record.	Lead & Partner	

LGBTQIA+ Youth

HMIS

- 3 -4% of Runaway and Homeless Youth Program (RYH) youth and YYA self-identify as transgender
- 7% of RYH youth and YYA, referred to housing self-identify as lesbian, bisexual, gay, or other sexual orientation

LGBTQIA+ Racial Demographic Data

- 68% of all YYA who identified as transgender are black or African American (32 of 47)

- Black or African Americans make up 22.59% of the general Houston population
- 23% of all YYA who identified as transgender are white (11 of 47)
 - Whites make up 57.03% of the general Houston population
- 9% of all YYA who identified as transgender are multiple races (4 of 47)
 - Multiple races make up 2% of the general Houston population

In this CCP, we are using the acronym LGBTQIA+ as an umbrella to refer to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual, and additional terms individuals use to describe their sexual orientation and/or gender identity. Not everyone uses the terms included in this definition and these terms may mean different things to different people. Additional terms people may use for sexual identity are pansexual, demisexual; people may use terms such as nonbinary or bigender to describe their gender identity, and there are many others.

National research consistently illustrates a continuous pattern that LGBTQIA+ youth populations across the United States are at a significantly disproportionate risk of homelessness¹⁶, with between 20 and 40% of youth experiencing homelessness also identifying as LGBTQIA+¹⁷.

Many youths may not self-identify as being LGBTQIA+ when initially presenting for services, especially if agencies lack culturally competent practices that make it safe for these youth to share who they are. When homeless providing agencies intake processes include information about sexual orientation and gender identity, LGBTQIA+ youth comprise approximately 40% of the clientele. In Houston, however, this data has not been consistently included on intake forms or in the PIT count, and there is a vital need for LGBTQIA+ culturally competent services throughout the system of homelessness services. Youth services providers and youth involved in the YHDP process agree that the methods of data collection in Houston are inadequate and what is reported here significantly underestimates the actual number of LGBTQIA+ youth experiencing homelessness in this area. This is important information for this YHDP and the work to be done moving forward.

The issue of homelessness among LGBTQIA+ youth illustrate the realities of intersectional marginalization. Youth who identify as both LGBTQIA+ and black or multiracial have the highest rates of homelessness.

Factors contributing to homelessness among LGBTQIA+ included stigma and bias; negative community and family reactions, including responses rooted in religious beliefs; lack of awareness about youth homelessness at the community level; and challenges youth experience when exiting the foster care and juvenile justice or adult legal systems. Family rejection resulting from sexual orientation or gender identity is the most often cited cause for homelessness among LGBTQIA+ youth. This suggests that when developing programs, there may be more opportunity to intervene before LGBTQIA+ youth become homeless.

Further, LGBTQIA+ youth experiencing homelessness are at heightened risk of facing violence, discrimination, sexual exploitation, and substance abuse and have a prolonged amount of time experiencing homelessness. According to the Voices of Youth Count Report, Missed Opportunities: LGBTQIA+ Youth Homelessness in America¹⁶:

- LGBTQIA+ youth had over twice the rate of early death among youth experiencing homelessness.
- Among youth experiencing homelessness, LGBTQIA+ young people reported higher rates of trauma and adversity.
- Transgender youth often face unique and more severe types of discrimination and trauma.

Needs and challenges identified by community stakeholders:

Stable Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In existing housing programs, there is a lack of communication between and, in some cases, lack of collaboration among youth service systems. ● Some gender specific emergency shelters in our community require individuals to be housed based on their gender assigned at birth and not their gender identity.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are limited crisis housing options dedicated to and specifically designed to meet the needs of youth experiencing homelessness and no crisis transitional units dedicated for LGBTQIA+ youth.
Permanent Connections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family Responses and Supports: Too many families respond to LGBTQIA+ identity/expression in ways that put youth at risk for becoming homeless. LGBTQIA+ youth experiencing homelessness commonly report fractured or entirely disconnected connections to their families of origin.
Education & Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gender non-conforming youth face particular barriers to employment. There is a lack of training and resources available for youth seeking employment and for employers on how to become culturally competent and LGBTQIA+ affirming. Negative school experiences are pervasive, with many concerns about harassment and behaviors among both anti-gay and transphobic students and staff.
Social & Emotional Wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant training and awareness building is needed throughout the community's youth-serving systems to provide more culturally competent, trauma-informed care for LGBTQIA+ youth and their families. Many YYA suffered compounded traumas of bullying and abuse, family rejection, and victimization. There is no systemwide education and training for providers and youth serving systems to respond in explicitly affirming and accepting ways.
Adulthood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many organizations in the community do not include youth peer-to-peer support.
Human Trafficking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LGBTQIA+ youth at risk of or experiencing homelessness have a high likelihood of being trafficked or exploited. When addressing human trafficking, sexism and homophobia may cause those seeking to help to overlook the LGBTQIA+ victims of trafficking.

Stakeholders identified the following activities to be completed to ensure the success of YHDP LGBTQIA+ Youth:

Core Outcome	Objective and Actions to Address the Needs of LGBTQIA+ Youth	Partner &/or Lead?	Fund?
Stable Housing	Create stable housing that is safe and affirming of youth identities.	Lead & Partner	X
	Work to eliminate barriers & improve services to LGBTQIA+ youth across multiple service-providing organizations.	Partner	
	Better transitions for LGBTQIA+ youth from foster care & juvenile justice systems.	Partner	
Permanent Connections	Assist youth identify natural connections that help to build a strong and affirming support network.	Partner	
	Support caregivers and providers in mentoring LGBTQIA+ youth.	Partner	
	Counsel families of justice involved LGBTQIA+ youth on permanency & acceptance.	Partner	
	Encourage districts and schools to work with parents on decreasing rejecting behavior directed at LGBTQIA+ youth.	Partner	
	Collaborate with local, non-traditional points of contact to identify, assess & refer at-risk LGBTQIA+ youth.	Lead & Partner	X
Education & Employment	Assist youth to obtain identification that lists their correct gender for employment opportunities.	Lead & Partner	X
	Identify at-risk & homeless LGBTQIA+ youth enrolled in schools, GED programs & youth employment agencies.	Lead & Partner	X

	Remove discrimination within social service programs so that LGBTQIA+ youth can fully access resources.	Lead & Partner	
	Develop a curated support and resource package for victims of human trafficking and domestic violence.	Partner	
	Provide culturally competent parenting resources for LGBTQIA+ and non-binary parents.	Partner	
Social & Emotional Wellbeing	Increase competency among providers to identify, assess & treat LGBTQIA+ youth.	Lead & Partner	
Facilitate better local collaboration	Facilitate better local collaboration between stakeholders working with youth to prevent homelessness among LGBTQIA+ youth.	Lead & Partner	
Improve identification	Improve identification of LGBTQIA+ youth at-risk of or experiencing episodic literal homelessness through outreach, screening & assessments.	Lead & Partner	X
Reduce homelessness	Reduce homelessness among LGBTQIA+ youth & improve their outcomes in the areas of permanent connections, stable housing, education/employment, & well-being	Lead & Partner	X

Human Trafficking and Exploitation

Human Trafficking is defined by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000¹⁸ as:

Sex trafficking

Using force, fraud, or coercion to recruit, harbor, transport, provision, obtain, patronize, or solicit a person for a commercial sex act.

Recruiting, harboring, transporting, obtaining, patronizing, soliciting, or provision of a person under 18 years old for a commercial sex act.

Labor trafficking

Using force, fraud, or coercion to recruit, harbor, transport, provision, or obtain a person for labor or services. The victim experiences involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

Human trafficking can affect anyone: children and adults, women, and men. Victims can come from any range of income levels, race, sex, age, or socioeconomic or educational status. In a study by Covenant House, a nationwide organization providing housing and supportive services to youth experiencing homelessness, nearly 14 percent of the youth they interviewed fit the US definition of human trafficking¹⁹.

National research indicates that youth experiencing homelessness are especially at risk of sex trafficking and other forms of sexual exploitation. Although sexual exploitation is frequently underreported for a variety of reasons, Texas consistently ranks 2nd in the country for the state with the highest number of reported human trafficking cases²⁰. The City of Houston consistently ranks 1st in cities with the highest number of reported cases. Existing data on the prevalence of human trafficking is based on reported cases but the actual scope of human trafficking is unknown. According to United Against Human Trafficking (2020)²¹:

- 200,00 U.S. children are at risk of being sold into sex trafficking each year
- 83,000 victims are trafficked in Texas each year
- 20,000 victims are trafficked each year in Houston
- 26% of all sex and labor trafficking victims are children
- The average age of entry for victims of sex-trafficking is 12

The Polaris Project is a leading data-driven social justice movement to fight sex and labor trafficking. An ongoing analysis of The U.S. National Human Trafficking Hotline (2019) found the following top 5 risk factors/vulnerabilities for sex trafficking victimization²²:

- Substance Use Concern
- Runaway Homeless Youth
- Recent Migration/Relocation
- Unstable housing
- Mental Health Concern

HMIS RHY trafficking questions did not result in any findings of minors experiencing trafficking, however **14%** (395) of unaccompanied youth assessed in a 12-month period reported fleeing from domestic violence.

In 2021, of the hundreds of youths in The Way Home CoC who were assessed for homeless services at coordinated entry, the questions below may indicate the possibility of sexual trafficking or exploitation:

- **28%** of youth answered “yes” to the question “Are you homeless or do you remain homeless because someone is hurting you?” (196 YYA)
- **27%** of youth answered “yes” to the question “Have you experienced domestic violence in the past 60 days?” (185 YYA)
- **27%** youth answered “yes” to the question “Has someone asked (or forced) you to have sex or sell anything in exchange for something?” (145 YYA)
- **17%** of youth answered “yes” to the question “Is someone threatening to harm you or your family if you don't do what they ask?” (119 YYA)

Victims of human trafficking are among society’s most vulnerable, having faced severe trauma, with limited access to supportive resources. Due to systemic distrust of law enforcement and emotional manipulation by traffickers, victims generally are reluctant to disclose information about their situations and require special supportive service linkages, many of which they have been deprived of, including medical and dental services, mental health services, educational and vocational services, legal assistance, and safe housing. Because victims do intersect with educators, child welfare²³, juvenile justice system and nonprofit organizations, it is imperative to address human trafficking through a collaborative approach.

Needs and challenges identified by community stakeholders:

<p>Stable Housing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local stakeholders shared operational challenges they faced as they encountered youth in crisis during outreach efforts. Access to quick, confidential, and zero barrier shelter placement and systematic access to expedited medical and psychological resources is lacking as is systematic access to established resources for long term housing. • Legal assistance to remove charges related to trafficking or DV experience. • Trauma informed intake into housing programs is needed.
<p>Permanent Connections</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistance is needed to identify natural supports that are safe and not associated with a perpetrator of violence, including peer supports with experience of trafficking. • Ensure youth identified as survivors have a support network who have knowledge of human trafficking and understand trauma-informed care
<p>Education and Employment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals experiencing poverty and homelessness are vulnerable to exploitation through human trafficking. • Service providers typically rely on informal networks of contacts to connect survivors to job opportunities without a systematic program. Many survivors may be disqualified for prior convictions caused by their victimization, struggle in traditional workplaces not geared toward trauma-informed principles or lack the

	<p>necessary therapeutic and financial supports. Without economic independence, many survivors are caught in abusive relationships, and the gains they make with traditional social services are not fully realized.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of documentation assistance with obtaining things like identification, social security cards, and secured/independent banking. • A need for training on self-advocacy.
Social and Emotional Supports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth are hesitant to disclose occurrences of sexual exploitation, either from a desire for privacy, sense of shame, or because they do not understand how to identify a human trafficking situation. • Many survivors experience complex trauma due to abuse/neglect/exploitation. • Lack of legal supports to ensure survivors are not returned to the perpetrator. • Need for trauma-specific treatments and interventions for survivors. • Lack of safety resources and counseling if a victim of domestic violence or trafficking. • We need more cultural competency with youth providers and to hire bilingual staff to overcome any language barriers.

Stakeholders identified the following activities to be completed to ensure success of Human Trafficking and Exploitation:

Core Outcome	Objective and Actions to Address the Needs of Human Trafficking and Exploitation	Partner &/or Lead?	Fund?
Stable Housing	Identify and house youth in scattered site permanent housing units that are secure and safe with security, cameras, locks, and are in confidential locations.	Lead	X
	Offer services provided by survivors of human trafficking.	Partner	X
	Train and require all service providers to be equipped to identify and serve survivors of human trafficking, sexual exploitation, and domestic violence.	Lead & Partner	X
	Adopt a standardized service/risk assessment tool that includes questions about trafficking.	Lead	X
	Ensuring all providers are trauma-informed and equipped to deal with survivors of trafficking, especially crisis housing providers in the community.	Lead & Partner	
Permanent Connections	Work with domestic violence agencies to develop a robust crisis intervention system with the option to designate a trusted person to accompany as a care advocate.	Partner	
Education & Employment	Create confidential connections with employment and education support services including assistance obtaining identification and banking documents.	Lead & Partner	X
Social & Emotional Wellbeing	Work with healthcare providers to increase access to mental health care is critical for these survivors to help them deal with their traumatic experiences.	Partner	
	Work to develop a formal referral system with substance abuse treatment centers in the area.	Lead & Partner	
	Provide training to service providers and partners on relevant topics such as trauma bonding. Partners include churches, schools, college campuses, law enforcement, emergency rooms, etc.)	Lead & Partner	

Minors

Although most YYA experiencing homelessness are aged 18-24, there are many under 18 (minors) that slip through the cracks and do not enter the homeless service system. The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) is the state agency primarily responsible for providing services for minors experiencing homelessness. However, many minors fear system involvement and go to great lengths to avoid engagement with child welfare. Our current homeless system is designed to identify and serve older adults and not unaccompanied minors. Greater Houston has extremely limited resources for minors experiencing homelessness and limited collaboration across systems that service minors. Additionally counting the number of minors experiencing homelessness is more challenging than counting YYA aged 18-24. Such efforts face additional barriers related to involvement with the child welfare system and exceedingly limited resources within the homeless service system that are targeted to minors.

A study to count youth experiencing homelessness or at-risk of homelessness conducted in Harris County found that 55% of YYA surveyed reported becoming homeless prior to age 18²⁴. Previous research shows that the longer youth experience homelessness, the harder it is to escape homelessness. Voices of Youth Count (2018) found that 46% of homeless youth surveyed spent time in the criminal justice system and 29% had been in foster care²⁵. Due to the challenges of estimating the number of minors experiencing homelessness or at-risk of homelessness, we reviewed data from HMIS and adjacent partners in education, child welfare and juvenile justice.

Utilizing multiple data sources, we estimate the following annual minor data:



While most of these young people will not enter the formal homeless service system, it points to the incredible need for multiple system partners to contribute planning and resources to ensure all young people have access to economic and housing stability.

Minor Racial Demographic Data:

HMIS

- 52% Black or African American
- 40% White

DFPS

- 44% Black or African American
- 34% Hispanic
- 21% Anglo

Juvenile Justice

- 52% Black or African American
- 41% Hispanic

Educational Data:

Our CoC is one of the largest in the nation, covering over 3700+ square miles. Within our jurisdiction, there are 51 independent school districts and numerous additional charter and private schools. In 2020, 51 independent school districts reported that they have unaccompanied homeless students, ranging in size from fewer than 5 (smaller districts) to more than 700²⁶. Youth under 18 face additional challenges as they are not yet legal adults, and they can be particularly vulnerable to instability. It is challenging to estimate the number of minors at-risk of experiencing homelessness. Within U.S. public schools, an unaccompanied homeless youth (UHY) is a youth who meets the McKinney-Vento definition of homeless and is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian. In school year 2019-2020, public schools in Harris, Fort Bend and Montgomery Counties reported 2886 UHY. Of those:

- 12% reported living in shelters (346)²⁶
- 4% reported unsheltered (115)²⁶
- 84% reported living doubled-up (at-risk) (2424)²⁶

The existing CE system that The Way Home CoC uses as an entry point to housing programs treats YYA similarly to adults. This results in an undercount of YYA experiencing or at-risk of homelessness. Despite 55% of YYA reporting experiencing homelessness for the first time prior to the age of 18, only 5% of YYA in our homelessness system were under 18. Minors need access to rapid family reconnection supports when appropriate, safe brief respites (such as trauma-informed youth shelters or host homes), or long-term safe and stable housing options, depending on their needs and preferences. Many minors self-organize temporary housing by couch surfing with friends or relatives. Although safe, this type of arrangement is unstable²⁸. These minors need supports to get them on the path to housing stability.

Needs and challenges identified by community stakeholders:

<p>Stable Housing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to low barrier affordable housing that allow minors. • Access to emergency shelter and transitional housing in the suburbs specific to youth under age 18. • Many young people do not disclose their current housing crisis because of shame, fear of system involvement, fear of being forced to return to an abusive situation, or because they do not identify themselves as homeless. • Minors who cannot obtain parental consent or identification documents have difficulty accessing services and securing benefits to meet their basic needs.
<p>Permanent Connections</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minors experiencing or at-risk for homelessness need to be identified and obtain services to strengthen and maintain healthy connections with caring Adults.
<p>Education and Employment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minors have a difficult time securing transportation to school and work. • Limited school resources exist for critical services like mental health care and childcare. • Minors in foster care need to have access to information regarding educational and employment services available to them i.e., paid college tuition, FUP vouchers.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater need for connection with services to minors identified as homeless or at-risk in schools to ensure completion of High School. Without this, they are at significant risk of experiencing homelessness as a young person. • Minors have competing priorities of education, employment, and life skills to maintain their safety, stability, and success.
Social and Emotional Supports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to mental health care resources to provide supports during housing instability and a vulnerable period of adolescent development. • There is a lack of support in the development of minor’s ability to communicate and advocate for themselves.
Complexity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each of the systems that serve minors are very complex with multiple layers. Eligibility differs depending on funding sources. In addition, each system has differing and sometimes conflicting definitions of homelessness, creating tensions between the homeless service sector and other systems.

Stakeholders identified the following activities to be completed to ensure success of minors:

Core Outcome	Objective and Actions to Address the Needs of Minors	Partner &/or Lead?	Fund?
Stable Housing	Create low barrier housing options for minors (i.e., host homes or new TH-RRH)	Lead	X
	Expand drop-in/nurturing centers where minors congregate.	Lead & Partner	
	Create youth-specific housing navigation for literally homeless minors.	Lead	X
	Develop age-appropriate service assessments for minors (client-driven)	Lead & Partner	X
Permanent Connections	Promote projects and programs that prioritize family reunification, whole family support, and therapeutic support as opposed to increased system involvement.	Lead & Partner	
	Create intentional connections with public education, juvenile justice system, and child welfare to identify and connect minors experiencing or at-risk of homelessness to reunification resources or caring adult mentors.	Lead & Partner	
	Create services that address the unique challenges adolescents face as their body and mind rapidly develop.	Lead & Partner	X
	Encourage service providers to hire mentors with lived experience who can serve as role models.	Lead & Partner	
	Encourage providers, direct service staff, and schools to recognize that adolescents desire to make their own choices and have autonomy, with the guidance of a trusted adult, and modify policies and procedures accordingly to incorporate youth leadership opportunities.	Lead & Partner	
Education & Employment	Create supportive programs to connect minors experiencing or at-risk of homelessness to supportive services needed to ensure completion of	Lead & Partner	

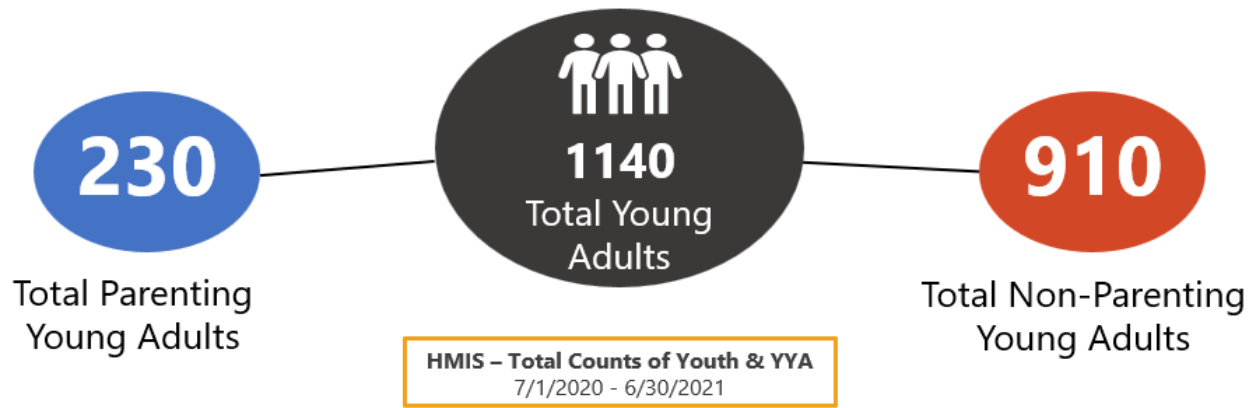
	High School or GED and connect minors to public and community youth career programs.		
	Partner with educational experts to expand college readiness services including help with FASFA, test prep, application fee waivers, and tutoring.	Partner	
	Create connections to vocational trade and training in unconventional jobs i.e., tattoo artist, barber, etc.	Lead & Partner	X
	Host trainings and meet and greets between schools and community resource partners, starting with the 5 districts with the highest number of unaccompanied youths.	Lead	
Social & Emotional Wellbeing	Work with local healthcare providers to increase access to mental health care and counseling to support vulnerable periods of adolescent development	Lead & Partner	
	Access to mentors/caring adults to support navigation through available services.	Partner	
Identification	Develop system-specific protocols for rapidly and accurately identifying minors at risk of or experiencing homelessness. This includes creating a referral system in partnership with school staff to identify school-age youth who are at-risk or experiencing homelessness.	Lead	X
	Refine methods of tracking minors at risk of or experiencing homelessness to strengthen data collection around this special population and ultimately provide more informed care.	Lead	X
	Explore a digital marketing and social media campaign that will attract young people, raise awareness about resources, engage youth in ways that better meet their needs and expectations, minimize barriers, improve access to resources, and provide opportunities to connect with both peers and navigators.	Lead & Partner	
	Integrate consistent feedback mechanisms to identify service gaps and needs throughout the region and advocate for additional resources, changes in policy, and/or changes in local, regional, or state practices.	Lead	

Pregnant and Parenting Youth & Young Adults

In Houston, there were 2886 births to teens ages 15 to 19 (2019)²⁹. Voices of Youth Count (2018) found that pregnancy and parenthood may increase the risk of youth homelessness³⁰.

Pregnant and parenting youth account for a significant number of youth ages 18 to 24 years identified as homeless in the City of Houston, Harris, Fort Bend, and Montgomery County.

Pregnant and parenting youth data from HMIS:

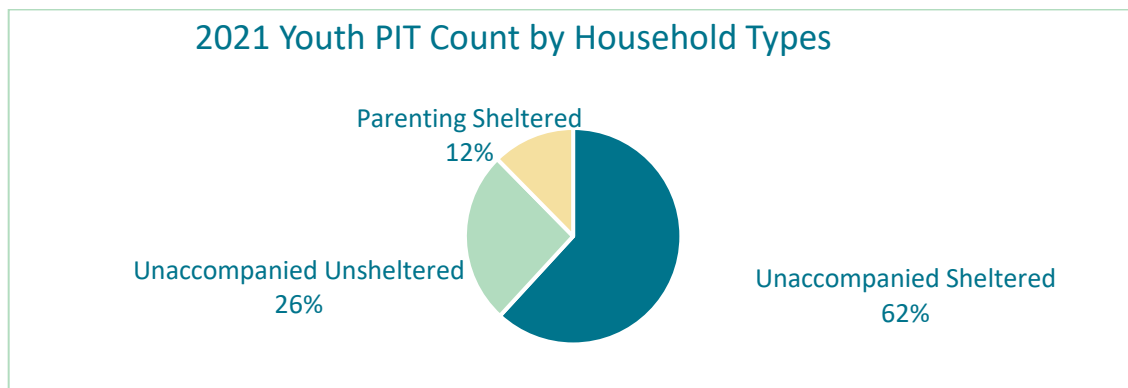


- Each year, 20% of all literally homeless YYA are pregnant or parenting (230 of 1140)
 - 34% of all YYA in Emergency Shelter are pregnant or parenting
 - 8% of all YYA in Transitional Housing are pregnant or parenting
 - 4% of all YYA living unsheltered are pregnant or parenting
- 25% of YYA identified as at risk of homelessness, are pregnant or parenting (426 of 1691)
 - 33% of YYA who received homeless prevention services, are pregnant or parenting

Racial Demographic Data

- 69% of all YYA who are pregnant, or parenting are black or African American (961 of 1393)
 - Black or African Americans make up 20% of the general Houston population
- 28% of all YYA who are pregnant, or parenting are white (389 of 1393)
 - Whites make up 70% of the general Houston population

Pregnant and parenting YYA data from the 2021 Point in Time Count:



- 12% of all YYA counted were pregnant and parenting and residing in Emergency Shelter (23 pregnant and parenting YYA)
- 0% of all YYA counted were pregnant and parenting and living unsheltered

2021 Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) reports the following youth who are pregnant or parenting in Texas for the previous year³¹:

- 267 youth were in DFPS conservatorship and the parent of a child
- 39 children were born to parenting youth while in DFPS conservatorship and who were also placed in DFPS conservatorship
- 380 pregnant youths were in DFPS conservatorship

Within the homeless service system, a significant portion of youth and young adults are themselves pregnant or parenting. Homeless youth and young adults who are pregnant or parenting experience unique challenges. Young

parents need quick access to shelter and housing to ensure the health and safety of their young children and may need legal aid to regain custody of their children. Beyond the usual array of homeless youth services, pregnant and parenting youth express other needs, including the needs for connection to childcare, prenatal care, and independent living skills that include a parenting component.

Needs and challenges identified by community stakeholders:

<p>Stable Housing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many adult-serving programs continue to provide segregated shelter environments that prohibit fathers or other male-identified caregivers from residing with their families creating a situation in which parenting couples and young fathers have limited options for shelter and are forced to choose between remaining in unsheltered or dangerous living situations until permanent housing or youth-dedicated housing services are available or separating their family. • The existing homelessness response system is generally built to accommodate the needs of individuals with disabilities and persistent homelessness. Although families have equal access to permanent supportive housing resources, few of these programs are provided by organizations with experience and expertise related to the unique issues associated with family homelessness.
<p>Permanent Connections</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pregnant and parenting youth may need additional support in maintaining relationships to partners, family members, or others who are involved in child-rearing.
<p>Education & Employment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pregnant and parenting youth experiencing homelessness may face uncertainty about how to improve their financial security while juggling multiple responsibilities, structural barriers imposed by benefit cliffs, and lack of access to childcare. Even when a homeless family has access to subsidized childcare, they often face additional barriers including mobility, lack of transportation, and work schedules that don't align with childcare hours. • A significant factor in parenting youth's educational attainment or pursuing employment is access to childcare and the added expense of paying for childcare.
<p>Social & Emotional Wellbeing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pregnant and parenting youth need access to a range of resources and supports above and beyond those of the general population of homeless youth. Managing the daily rigors of caring for an infant or young child is specially challenging for youth who lack a strong support network. • Unfamiliarity with available health and family supportive services
<p>Child welfare involvement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns about potential child welfare involvement if experiencing homelessness with their child(ren).

Stakeholders identified the following activities to be completed to ensure success of YHDP Pregnant and Parenting Youth:

Core Outcome	Objective and Actions to Address the Needs of Pregnant and Parenting Youth	Partner &/or Lead?	Fund?
<p>Stable Housing</p>	<p>Develop specific strategies and service models to support parenting youth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This means that all service providers across systems are trained and equipped to meet the needs of pregnant and parenting YYA. This includes meeting the needs of pregnant and parenting YYA of all genders. • Identify and fund resources and services that address their needs as a parent, and as a young adult. 	<p>Lead</p>	<p>X</p>

	Housing options that are safe, stable, and nurturing for child(ren) and parent(s).	Lead	X
Permanent Connections	Skills training on healthy relationships to strengthen relationships with family and other natural supports to create a strong and positive network of support.	Lead & Partner	
	Parenting skills training and supports to help them maintain custody of their child(ren).	Lead & Partner	
Education & Employment	Educate parenting minors on their rights and available services, including early care and education services for their children.	Partner	
	Work with partners to create in-school supports such as mental health care, and childcare, to encourage completion of education.	Partner	
	Access to affordable childcare to expand employment options and the ability to maintain a job through Workforce Investment Board opportunities.	Lead & Partner	
	Request a HUD waiver to pay for reliable and affordable transportation to attend school, work, and transport child to daycare.	Lead	X
Social & Emotional Wellbeing	Work with healthcare providers to increase access to prenatal/post-partum and infant healthcare.	Partner	
	Work with healthcare providers to increase access to mental health care and counseling to support their transition to parenthood.	Partner	
	Provide safety resources and counseling if a victim of domestic violence or trafficking.	Lead & Partner	
	Provide parenting education or support groups.	Partner	
	Create peer support groups for young families experiencing homelessness.	Partner	

Youth in Child Welfare

Many different factors contribute to youth homelessness, but the child welfare system is sometimes described as a highway to homelessness. National, research indicates about 26,00 youth age out of foster care every year³². A large percentage of these youth will become homeless. Foster care is designed to provide temporary housing and care for children and adolescents until they can be either reunited with their family, taken in by relatives, adopted, or emancipated as an adult. Too often, however, youth that pass through the foster care system fail to find permanent homes, transitioning from one living situation to another.

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) 2021 Data:

There were a total of 2659 youth in care³³

- 62% in Foster Homes (1649)
- 31% in Kinship care (840)
- 3% in Adoptive Homes (85)
- 3% In other placements (85)

Time in Care

- 34% 0-12 Months

- 27% 13-24 Months
- 26% 2-4 Years
- 9% 5-7 Years
- 4% 8-10+ Years

Top 5 Reasons for Removal

- 56% Neglectful Supervision
- 15% Physical Abuse
- 8% Physical Neglect
- 6% Refusal to Accept Parental Responsibility
- 4% Sexual Abuse

Exits from Care³⁴

- 27% Custody Given to Relatives (409)
- 25% Returned Home (366)
- 17% Adoption by Non-Relatives (259)
- 15% Adoption by Relatives (229)
- 12% Emancipation (185)
- 3% Other (43)

Not only are African American youth more likely to be homeless, but African American youths who also experience homelessness are more likely to be involved with child welfare.

- 31% of all youth served by DFPS are black or African American (3,833 of 12,203)
 - Black or African Americans make up 20% of the general Houston population

2020 Texas DFPS Costs³⁵:

- \$102,428,710 was spent on Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) services for 39,473 Youth (19,791 Families)
 - Cost per/ youth spend on PEI: \$2,595
 - Cost per/ family spend on PEI: \$5,176
- The 2020 total DFPS budget in Texas was \$2,164,524,325, and 64,151 youth were served across Texas
 - Cost per child served: \$33,741

National Data:

- An estimated 20% of young adults who are in care become homeless the moment they're emancipated at the age of 18 ³⁶.
- 50% of the homeless population spent time in foster care³⁶.
- 29% of homeless and unstably housed youth had foster care involvement ¹⁴.

According to Norweeta G. Milburn's, Journal of Research on Adolescence, foster youth are more likely to become homeless, incarcerated, and unemployed, or to experience physical, developmental, behavioral, and mental health challenges³⁷. One challenge faced by YYA aging out of foster care is finding a safe and affordable place to live. Unlike their peers who continue to live with or receive financial assistance from their parents, many of these former foster youth often struggle find and maintain housing. The dynamics of being in foster care are not conducive to learning the necessary life skills that their peers in more stable environments generally gain. While in foster care, youth may not have had adequate supports to help them cope with negative experiences and trauma that led to their removal from their family, and possible traumatization while in the system. Multiple placements often result in frequent

disruptions in education due to changes in schools and can make it difficult for youth in foster care to build connections to caring adults and to progress in school.

Other needs and challenges that community stakeholders have identified include:

<p>Stable Housing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of life skills training that supports YYA’s transition to independence from care. • Lack of housing location assistance (including access to public resources and education about tenant rights and responsibilities) • When connected to homeless resources, available case management services provided not youth specific or adequate to meet YYA service needs. Many YYA experiencing homeless express difficulties in communicating with caseworkers and service providers.
<p>Permanent Connections</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistance is needed to identify natural supports and positive connections before age 21 to build a strong and affirming network of supports when they age out of care. • Many youths have been separated from families due to safety risks and have minimal to no connections with family once they leave care.
<p>Education & Employment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On average, many youths aging out for foster care have lived in 6-8 different placements. Lack of housing stability in foster care often contributes to education instability. Many of these youth are behind and do not complete a high school education before aging out of care. • Youth who age out of care may not know if the financial educational benefits for which they qualify.
<p>Social & Emotional Wellbeing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of access to mental health care resources. • Lack of access to resources on parenting to support their ability to maintain custody of their children.
<p>Human Trafficking</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth in foster care are especially vulnerable to human trafficking due to their complex trauma, transitioning out of foster care without a stable placement, and youth who run away from foster care.

YHDP stakeholders identified the following activities to be completed to ensure the success of YHDP for Youth in Child Welfare Systems:

Core Outcome	Objective and Actions to Address the Needs of Youth in Child Welfare Systems	Partner &/or Lead?	Fund?
<p>Stable Housing</p>	<p>Implement new strategies to ensure youth exiting and involved with the foster care system do not become homeless. This includes identifying new housing options with wraparound services (TH-RRH).</p>	<p>Lead</p>	<p>X</p>
	<p>Develop data sharing agreements and a standardized process to identify, and track youth who are homeless, at-risk of homelessness, and involved with child welfare. Have a designated liaison responsible for implementing the standardized process.</p>	<p>Lead</p>	
	<p>Create a realistic transition plan to housing options that best-fit youth needs (youth-centered service delivery)</p>	<p>Lead & Partner</p>	
	<p>Increase access to independent living skills training that is site-based, tailored to the individual, and designed to provide better support transition to independence.</p>	<p>Lead & Partner</p>	<p>X</p>

Permanent Connections	Assist youth in identifying positive caring adult connections before they age out of the child welfare system. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide intentional support for youth to develop authentic and ongoing positive connections and relationships with family, friends, and community supports. 	Partner	X
	Involve supportive adults/ agencies in the youth transition plan.	Partner	
	If youth are returning to family members, assist in connecting family with supportive services.	Lead & Partner	X
Education & Employment	Provide diversion and prevention services aimed at improving education and employment outcomes.	Lead	X
	Offer opportunities for credit recovery, obtaining a high school diploma or GED before exiting care.	Partner	
	Increased services to inform YYA of their educational benefits.	Partner	
	Provide vocational training (resume writing, interviewing, etc.)	Lead & Partner	X
Social & Emotional Wellbeing	Youth involved in child welfare systems have experienced complex trauma due to abuse/neglect. Housing providers engaging with youth will be trained in Trauma-Informed Care to best serve them.	Lead	X
	Expand and enhance services that support social-emotional wellbeing and permanent connections. Examples include trauma-focused mental health, drop-in centers for TAY with expanded hours, and mentoring opportunities.	Partner	
	Capacity building and system change efforts that enhance youth voice, eliminate barriers to services and prevent victimization.	Lead & Partner	
	Connect youth to mental health resources and educate them on their insurance options/information.	Partner	
Facilitate better local collaboration	Facilitate better local collaboration between stakeholders working with youth prevent homelessness among youth exiting foster care.	Lead	

Housing Needs

System Modeling Overview

System modeling is a technique used to understand the ideal set of housing and services interventions needed to successfully end and prevent homelessness for the youth and young adults who become homeless. To identify our system needs, we used data from HMIS to guide system model efforts. This data allowed us to identify the necessary units for various interventions for youth and young adults in the community. System modeling identified the annual need for housing and services, assuming all young people would engage in housing given the opportunity. It is important to note our system modeling mainly focused on youth between the ages of 18-24 but we acknowledge unaccompanied youth under the age of 18 need services and assistance with legal barriers to access housing.

In the development of this CCP, we relied on our YAB, youth with lived experience, and community stakeholders to lead in the development of YYA service delivery models. Youth with lived experience who informed planning efforts

represented various systems and experiences, including but not limited to previous involvement with child welfare, just system involvement, and histories of literal homelessness. Our community openly acknowledges that there isn't a one size-fit-all solution to end youth homelessness but that the problem and the solutions are complex. All Stakeholder Workgroups and YAB acknowledge the impact of homelessness is significant for special populations. Given their unique barriers and challenges, we must tailor interventions and opportunities to meet the specific needs of each population. Intentional strategy and preparation occurred to ensure providers who serve each of the special populations would be present for system recommendations. YAB members participated in system modeling and advised of their own experience, or those of peers, and how pathways need to be tailored to the individual.

Gaps Analysis

Below is a summary of the housing gaps identified within the current resource structure that can be supported by YHDP funding. The chart below identifies YYA Housing Intervention types and amount by quantifying the annual number of YYA who were served by adult homeless service projects as well as the average annual rates of return to homelessness by intervention type.

Estimated YYA Annual Housing System Needs for HUD Categories 1 & 4						
Intervention Type	# Exited	% Return to homelessness	# Returned to homelessness	% of Homelessness resolved	YYA Referred to adult housing projects	Total Need
ES	535	5.60%	30	94.40%	NA	30
Outreach	433	12.70%	55	87.30%	NA	433
PSH	210	4.70%	10	95.30%	68	78
RRH	314	7.40%	23	92.60%	198	221
TH	93	11.80%	11	88.20%	Unknown	11
Diversion	98	New Project- More data needed			325	325
Total	1683		129		591	1098

Additional System Initiatives

In addition to the housing interventions listed above, our community also identified significant additional service and system needs listed below:

- **YYA specific homeless outreach teams:** We received feedback from stakeholders that current community outreach teams may not be finding youth in areas and at times when youth present. Stakeholders also indicated the need for enhanced cultural competencies for staff to reach YYA special populations.
- **Navigation services (housing):** Youth and young adults report confusion around next steps after completing the CES assessment. There is limited engagement with the system until the young person is matched with housing. Due to the limited engagement while waiting, it is often difficult to locate the young person once they have been matched with housing. Limited engagement also makes it difficult to update the assessment and collect necessary documentation while waiting for housing.
- **Navigation services (resources):** Youth and young adults have identified a need for education about available services and how to best navigate the system.
- **CES- Increased access points (ISDs, justice, and expanded hours):** additional collaboration is needed with community stakeholders to refine the system access points and assessors in alignment with system inflow data.
- **Access to drop-in centers:** need to increase the availability of flexible and safe spaces for all young people.
- **YYA tailored employment supports:** need to increase employment resources that further the individual goals of youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness.
- **Supplemental services for existing RRH (new/enhanced services):** our existing YYA RRH CoC program need access to enhanced YHDP services to better support YYA. Rental CoC line items increase annually to match FMR and market changes, but services stay funded at original grant application levels. This means that existing programs often struggle to provide essential services to YYA.

- **Continuous Quality Improvement (monitoring projects/dashboards):** ensure all funded projects are monitored for quality service delivery, internal and publicly facing dashboards are created, and we have a community process to refine and modify as needed.
- **Youth voice and choice:** To prioritize and incorporate youth voice and choice, YHDP projects must include methods for consistently soliciting and reporting youth feedback. This feedback will be instrumental to all YHDP governing decisions—informing us of potential gaps in services, influencing modifications of funded projects, and shaping future project development.

YHDP Funded Projects

For all YHDP funded elements, The Way Home CoC is committed to prioritizing the following programmatic elements:

- **Serving the most vulnerable youth:** prioritized, low-barrier entry for the most vulnerable youth as identified by the coordinated entry system.
- **Innovative adoption of Housing First principles:** the absence of barriers to entry and service participation requirements, voluntary and individualized intensive supports to ensure housing success.
- **Youth-centered case management:** Adoption of principles of flexible, youth-centered case management focused on the individualized needs of youth, which may include making connections to connections to schools, caring and trusted adults, health care providers, and youth development organizations.
- **Positive Youth Development principles:** Use Positive Youth Development to build strengths and promote resiliency and to provide services with a focus on skills-building, leadership, and community involvement.
- **Expansion of housing options and supply:** Creative engagement with community residents and landlords to increase permanent and temporary housing options.
- **Expand shared housing:** inclusion of pilot programs for roommate matching, host homes, master/parent leasing models, all of which will incorporate youth choice and respond to Houston housing market constraints.
- **Navigation Services:** creation of housing and resource navigation supports from identification to housing.
- **Innovation in education and employment:** links to demonstrated, flexible, youth-led and -appropriate education and/or employment support.
- **Trauma-Informed Care approach:** staff are trained to provide trauma-informed care, including crisis intervention, conflict resolution, and specialized services for special populations that are responsive to their history of trauma.
- **Foster permanent connections:** provide services for the development and strengthening of ongoing attachments to biological and chosen family and other positive social relationships. Services may include reunification, crisis intervention, mentoring programs, and family engagement services.
- **Social and community integration:** offer and promote meaningful opportunities for community involvement, engagement, and leadership for youth.
- **Targeted housing and services:** Housing and services with targeted supports for identified subpopulations (LGBTQIA+, pregnant and parenting, justice, and child welfare involved youth).
- **Innovation in identifying and measuring outcomes:** ensure outcomes-based goals and objectives are outlined, monitored, and adjusted to meet the needs of youth.

Proposed Allocations:

The Way Home CoC recognizes that \$10 million in HUD funding will accelerate our efforts to prevent and end YYA homelessness in our community. We also recognize that our HUD funding is insufficient and that our plan will require significant private, local, state, and federal investment. With that in mind and during the community planning process, several innovative projects were identified as priorities for funding. To better meet the needs of youth and young adults experiencing homelessness, the following YHDP-funded Projects embody the core principles and contain new innovations in our community.

HUD Project Type	Community Project Name	# Served Per/Year	YHDP Allocation
Planning	YHDP Planning Grant (Convert to addition funding to: TH-RRH, YYA Landlord Engagement Services, Employment Services, & extended drop-in center hours upon expiration)	NA	1,007,754
SSO	Employment Supports	230	548,910
SSO	Diversion PLUS (Including Host Homes & Resource Navigation)	325	1,774,221
PSH	Permanent Supportive Housing (With access to short-term crisis housing)	78	1,566,377
TH-RRH	Transitional Housing / Rapid Re-Housing Hybrid	221	4,201,599
CES	Youth Housing Navigation Services	462	347,750
CES	Youth CES Assessors	All Projects	208,650
CES	YYA Homeless Outreach	All Projects	208,650
HMIS	Enhanced Data System + HMIS Project Management Lead	All Projects	213,624
Total			10,077,535

The following tables include more information on each project to be funded by HUD YHDP:

YHDP Planning Grant

Summary: Funding to support project management, YHDP stakeholder engagement, YAB, and authentic youth engagement in the planning process.	
HUD Project Type	Planning
Target Population	Not applicable
HUD Eligibility	Not applicable
Program Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project design and implementation • Establishing a collaborative process for project design using system qualitative and quantitative data • Support the YAB • Enhance the CoC's ability to track and report on data points, including the development of YHDP specific dashboards • CQI goals on data quality • Compliance with HUD and OMB requirements • Administration of procurement efforts to select YHDP service provider partners • Incorporate participation of new providers, projects, and project types into HMIS • Providing training, coaching, and support to youth projects to ensure projects have capacity to adhere to YHDP principles, best practices, and YHDP goals • Lead system-focused youth leadership development and engagement
USICH Outcome (s) addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stable housing • Permanent connections • Social emotional well-being • Education / Employment
Project Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All guiding principles as outlined in this plan

Desired Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fully engage YAB planning, project design, and evaluation of YHDP funded projects. Improvements in data collected Increase system capacity to triage, engage, and connect youth to supports Develop and continue a collaborative planning process to develop innovative YHDP projects.
Innovation Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This will allow us to reach CQI goals on data quality and to refine our system to better meet the needs of youth
Total Annual Needed According to System Modeling	Not applicable
Annual YHDP Budget	\$1,007,754 (one time)
Remaining Amount to Fund	25% Match: \$251,939

Employment Supports

Summary: YHDP funds will be used to support a community YYA dedicated staff to providing individual assistance and navigation to support young people's engagement in available education and employment programs.

HUD Project Type	SSO (project may be combined with other YHDP SSO, Housing, and CES project types)
Target Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unaccompanied Youth (under 18) Pregnant / Parenting Youth (under 18) Unaccompanied Young Adults (age 18 – 24) Pregnant / Parenting Young Adults (age 18 – 24) Includes all special populations: LGBTQIA+, justice involved, pregnant and/or parenting, youth of color, and child welfare involved YYA
HUD Eligibility	Categories 1, 2, & 4
Program Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobile career advisors YYA specific job coaches (including peer supported staffing) Education advisors/mentors to assist with educational credit recovery to ensure high school graduation Incorporate participation of new providers, projects, and project types into HMIS. Assistance in obtaining required documents: identification, Social Security card, I-9 documents, transcripts, etc. Connections to work supplies and other essential items (clothing, hygiene, etc.) Access to alternative and accessible transportation. Sober coaches Increased access to Legal Aid services to reduce legal barriers to employment Partnership with childcare resources Connections to vocational training Offer workshops with varying topics (independent living skills, parenting, conflict resolution, etc.)
USICH Outcome (s) addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stable housing Education / Employment Social emotional well-being
Project Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All guiding principles as outlined in this plan Participation in system workgroups Commitment to quality service delivery and data

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hire individuals with lived experience to deliver services
Desired Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in income at exit • Increase access to livable wages • Increased number of positive exits • Decreased returns to homelessness
Innovation Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payments for one time car repairs for transportation to education or employment services (and other alternative forms of transportation) • Hiring YYA with lived experience as peer supports for YHDP funded projects • Incorporate YYA Mobile Career Advisors that can travel throughout the CoC on specific days of the week to provide resources traditionally offered at brick-and-mortar locations.
Total Annual Needed According to System Modeling	More data is needed to identify total community need (estimated to be 4000+ YYA per/year). This project will support 230 YYA annually.
Annual YHDP Budget	\$548,910
Remaining Amount to Fund	25% Match: \$137,228

Diversion PLUS (including Host Homes & Resource Navigation)

Summary: Projects will provide services to help youth and young adults avoid literal homelessness, specifically focused on immediate housing crisis resolution and housing stabilization. Projects will provide supports to help connect youth and young adults experiencing housing instability and crisis to permanent housing more quickly or self-resolve existing barriers to stable housing. Diversion PLUS services will include professional staffing and flexible fund assistance aimed at diverting youth into natural, supportive environments and other age-appropriate housing and service resources including but not limited to family reunification, host homes, short-term shallow subsidy, and service linkage.

HUD Project Type	SSO (project may be combined with other YHDP SSO and CES project types)
Target Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unaccompanied Youth (under 18) • Pregnant / Parenting Youth (under 18) • Unaccompanied Young Adults (age 18 – 24) • Pregnant / Parenting Young Adults (age 18 – 24) • Includes all special populations: LGBTQIA+, justice involved, pregnant and/or parenting, youth of color, and child welfare involved YYA
HUD Eligibility	Categories 1, 2, & 4
Program Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individualized needs (including the following): • Case Management services • Resource navigation • Limited financial assistance • Short-term shallow subsidy • Host Homes and Host supports • Conflict resolution • Family reunification • Relationship supports • Life skill development • Increased access to Legal Aid services to reduce legal barriers to housing stability and employment • Expanded hours of operation with a call-in option and/or a mobile application (nights and weekends) • Expanded access points: drop-in center, shelters, law enforcements, hospitals, churches, locations, agencies that serve sub-populations

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intentional connections between homeless outreach teams and diversion services • Integrate into mainstream system discharge planning processes • Flexibility in length of service based on YYA need • Follow-up assistance provided post exit
USICH Outcome (s) addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stable housing • Permanent connections
Project Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All guiding principles as outlined in this plan • Participation in system workgroups • Commitment to quality service delivery and data • Hire individuals with lived experience to deliver services
Desired Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decrease the number of youths who become homeless • Decrease length of episode of homelessness, if the CoC cannot prevent entry into the homeless response system • Development of qualitative indicators of survey post exit • Develop a monitoring plan to track what interventions are most successful • Increase access to mainstream community resources
Innovation Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create new community models (i.e., Host Homes) • Support youth who are homeless from other systems (i.e., justice, welfare, education) • Emphasizes options for youth and young adults to stay where they feel safe and supported • Divert youth and young adults from the trauma of homelessness
Total Inventory Needed According to System Modeling	325
Annual YHDP Budget	\$1,774,221
Remaining Amount to Fund	25% Match: \$443,555

Permanent Supportive Housing (with access to short-term crisis housing)

Summary: Long-term subsidy with wrap-around support services that help youth with intensive service needs obtain and maintain housing stability. This project will target YYA with disabilities and/or complex needs and will provide the time and flexibility needed to stabilize in permanent housing. Due to the shortage of YYA crisis beds, this project will also link unsheltered youth to short-term crisis housing option while they await permanent supportive housing.

HUD Project Type	PSH (leasing and rental)
Target Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unaccompanied Young Adults (age 18 – 24) • Pregnant / Parenting Young Adults (age 18 – 24) • Includes all special populations: LGBTQIA+, justice involved, pregnant and/or parenting, youth of color, and child welfare involved YYA
HUD Eligibility	Categories 1 & 4
Program Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master/parent leasing, or scattered site (options intended to promote access to housing for YYA with barriers to securing a traditional lease). Project based options need to be youth driven. • Housing First • Youth Choice • Onsite Case Management services (integrated and individualized supports). Case Management supports is more intensive than other intervention types • Rental Assistance

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life skills development training (life skills, health, mental health, social and emotional wellbeing, education and employment, and permanent connections to adulthood) • Increased access to Legal Aid services to reduce legal barriers to housing stability and employment • Short-term crisis housing while awaiting a permanent housing location. • Connections to basic needs (i.e., food, clothing, hygiene) • Housing location and landlord engagement supports • Strengthen positive connections with family, friends, and community supports • Peer support services and community building efforts • Transportation assistance • Specific assistance for special populations including YYA who identify as LGBTQIA+ and victims of DV and trafficking
USICH Outcome (s) addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stable housing • Permanent Connections • Education/ Employment • Social-Emotional Well-being
Project Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All guiding principles as outlined in this plan • Participation in system workgroups • Commitment to quality service delivery and data • Hire individuals with lived experience to deliver services
Desired Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of youths who exit to stable housing • Decrease the length of stay/wait time for housing • Increase the number of youths in stable housing 12 months or more • Decrease the number of youths returning to homelessness after 24 months • Increase the number of YYA reporting that they have a permanent connection with at least one adult for a safe, stable relationship, guidance, and emotional support • Development of a moving-on strategy for youth who have stabilized in PSH
Innovation Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master/parent-leasing options for youth with barriers to securing a traditional lease. • Alternative lease terms to assist in securing a traditional market rate lease (under 12 months) • YYA specific housing navigation services
Total Annual Needed According to System Modeling	78
Annual YHDP Budget	\$1,566,377
Remaining Amount to Fund	25% Match: \$391,594

Transitional Housing/ Rapid Re-Housing Hybrid

Summary: The Transitional Housing/ Rapid Re-Housing (TH-RRH) Hybrid allows YYA to access crisis housing (TH) and/or move to medium term RRH (up to 36 months). This hybrid model provides low-barrier and inclusive housing that fits each youth's individual needs. YYA will be connected to education, employment, social/emotional, health and other supportive services. The TH component of this project will serve as an option for YYA who need intensive support to resolve an immediate crisis and stabilize prior to moving to permanent housing. The TH component connects youth to RRH and other housing options as appropriate.

HUD Project Type	TH-RRH (leasing and rental)
Target Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unaccompanied Young Adults (age 18 – 24) • Pregnant / Parenting Young Adults (age 18 – 24) • Includes all special populations: LGBTQIA+, justice involved, pregnant and/or parenting, youth of color, and child welfare involved YYA
HUD Eligibility	Categories 1 & 4
Program Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scattered site and shared housing with master/parent leasing options (options intended to promote access to housing for YYA with barriers to securing a traditional lease) • TH component services designed to increase independence (i.e., employment services) • Rental and move-in assistance • Housing First • Youth Choice • Intentional Case Management (onsite, flexible, voluntary) • Life skills development training (life skills, health, mental health, social and emotional wellbeing, education and employment, and permanent connections to adulthood) • Peer supports, mentor supports, and community building efforts • Housing location and landlord engagement supports • Flexible after hour services • Increased access to Legal Aid services to reduce legal barriers to housing stability and employment • Connections to basic needs (i.e., food, clothing, hygiene) • Specific assistance for special populations including YYA who identify as LGBTQIA+ and victims of DV and trafficking • Follow-up and aftercare support
USICH Outcome (s) addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stable housing • Permanent Connections • Education/ Employment • Social-Emotional Well-being
Project Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All guiding principles as outlined in this plan • Participation in system workgroups • Commitment to quality service delivery and data • Hire individuals with lived experience to deliver services
Desired Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of youths who exit to stable housing • Decrease the length of stay/wait time for housing • Increase the number of youths in stable housing 12 months or more • Decrease the number of youths returning to homelessness after 24 months • Increase the number of YYA reporting that they have a permanent connection with at least one adult for a safe, stable relationship, guidance, and emotional support • Development of qualitative indicators for success and stability
Innovation Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating more housing flexibility for YYA with a new housing model • Opportunity to increase the array of services offered based on YYA choice • Establishes opportunities for master/parent leases with YYA subleases (will help to establish a positive rental history) • Alternative lease terms to assist in securing a traditional market rate lease (under 12 months)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YYA specific housing navigation services
Total Annual Needed According to System Modeling	221
Annual YHDP Budget	\$4,201,599
Remaining Amount to Fund	25% Match: \$1,050,400

Youth Housing Navigation Services

Summary: The goal of Housing Navigation is to support individuals that have been referred to housing programs/units through The Way Home’s CES. To ensure referrals from CES result in a client moving into a unit in the shortest time possible, intensive support through the leasing process is critical. Youth Housing Navigation services will support people to navigate the process of finding housing units, applying for housing units, utilizing housing subsidies, and moving into an approved housing unit.

HUD Project Type	CES
Target Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unaccompanied Young Adults (age 18 – 24) • Pregnant / Parenting Young Adults (age 18 – 24) • Includes all special populations: LGBTQIA+, justice involved, pregnant and/or parenting, youth of color, and child welfare involved YYA
HUD Eligibility	Categories 1 & 4
Program Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single point of contact for youth during the housing search process • Youth specific navigation • Assistance with obtaining necessary documentation necessary to complete a housing program enrollment, housing unit application, and/or a lease up • Accompany clients to all housing appointments and serve as clients’ primary advocate. • Housing Navigators complete in-depth assessments with clients to ensure they are searching for a unit that will meet the needs of that client and their household. • Engage in landlord negotiation on behalf of clients. • Provide transportation assistance to ensure clients can attend all housing related appointments. • Peer supports • Specific navigation assistance for special populations including YYA who identify as LGBTQIA+ and victims of DV and trafficking
USICH Outcome (s) addressed	Stable housing
Project Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All guiding principles as outlined in this plan • Participation in system workgroups • Commitment to quality service delivery and data • Provide regular feed-back to management level staff of collaborating agencies regarding the CES process. • Participate in case conferences as needed • Hire individuals with lived experience to deliver services
Desired Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of YYA who make it from CES referral into housing • Decrease the time YYA remain homeless (i.e., rapidly resolve homelessness)
Innovation Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connection to youth-specific housing and resources • Act as a YYA advocate in the housing search process

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist youth in navigating often bureaucratic processes (i.e., public housing authority application process, obtaining required documents like identification and social security cards, etc.)
Total Annual Needed According to System Modeling	462 (TH-RRH, PSH, and Diversion as needed)
Annual YHDP Budget	\$347,750
Remaining Amount to Fund	25% Match: \$86,938

Youth CES Assessors

Summary: To enhance a youth centered CE system and to reach additional YYA who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness, YHDP will fund YYA dedicated CES Assessors. The YYA CES Assessors will conduct preliminary triage assessment, support increased identification of YYA, and help in the navigation of CES. The YYA CES Assessors will expand to engage youth via phone (offering access outside of normal business hours), in school districts, and those involved in the justice system.

HUD Project Type	CES
Target Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unaccompanied Youth (under 18) Pregnant / Parenting Youth (under 18) Unaccompanied Young Adults (age 18 – 24) Pregnant / Parenting Young Adults (age 18 – 24) Includes all special populations: LGBTQIA+, justice involved, pregnant and/or parenting, youth of color, and child welfare involved YYA
HUD Eligibility	Categories 1, 2, & 4
Program Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve information and process available to support coordination, connection and prioritization of services that best resolve housing crisis for youth and young adults as swiftly and safely as possible. Building relationships with system partners (i.e., child welfare, juvenile justice, education) to improve coordination and access to resources across systems Expand assessment hours to better meet the needs of YYA Specific assistance for special populations including YYA who identify as LGBTQIA+ and victims of DV and trafficking
USICH Outcome (s) addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stable housing Permanent Connections Education/ Employment
Project Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All guiding principles as outlined in this plan Participation in system workgroups Commitment to quality service delivery and data Hire individuals with lived experience to deliver services
Desired Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve identification of youth who are homeless Improve coordination between other systems (i.e., justice, welfare, education) Increase the number of identified YYA and connect them to available homeless response resources Decrease the length of time youth are homeless (i.e., rapidly resolve homelessness) Increased YYA engagement
Innovation Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanded access to CES Ensure success grown of out CE System to meet the needs of YHDP expanded resources

Total Inventory Needed According to System Modeling	3 YYA dedicated assessors
Annual YHDP Budget	\$208,650
Remaining Amount to Fund	25% Match: \$52,163

YYA Homeless Outreach

Summary: YYA enhanced street outreach will ensure full coverage throughout the CoC and in areas where YYA present but may be missed by existing homeless response outreach teams. This includes expanding outreach to those living unsheltered outside of the inner-city core. YYA outreach teams will move outside of agency walls to engage YYA experiencing homelessness who may be disconnected from other mainstream services and supports. YYA outreach staff will provide on-the-spot assistance, assessments, and referrals to housing and/or services.

HUD Project Type	CES
Target Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unaccompanied Youth (under 18) • Pregnant/Parenting Youth (under 18) • Unaccompanied Young Adults (age 18 – 24) • Pregnant/Parenting Young Adults (age 18 – 24) • Includes all special populations: LGBTQIA+, justice involved, pregnant and/or parenting, youth of color, and child welfare involved YYA
HUD Eligibility	Categories 1 & 4
Program Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teams will be mobile and, on the streets • Extended nontraditional hours • Lead YYA specific marketing and engagement • Inclusion of peer supports on outreach teams • Specific assistance for special populations including YYA who identify as LGBTQIA+ and victims of domestic violence, human trafficking, and exploitation (includes ongoing training)
USICH Outcome (s) addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stable housing • Permanent Connections • Education/ Employment • Social-Emotional Well-being
Project Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All guiding principles as outlined in this plan • Participation in system workgroups • Commitment to quality service delivery and data • Hire individuals with lived experience to deliver services
Desired Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decrease number of negative exits and returns to homelessness from street outreach • Reach more youth living unsheltered • Provide expanded coverage for entire CoC jurisdiction • Make homeless outreach service more accessible to YYA
Innovation Opportunities	Hiring YYA with lived experience as peer supports for YHDP funded projects
Total Inventory Needed According to System Modeling	3 staff, 1 dedicated YYA team
Annual YHDP Budget	\$208,650
Remaining Amount to Fund	25% Match: \$52,163

Enhanced Data System + HMIS Project Management Lead

Summary: Expansion of the HMIS is a required program type to provide the needed system development, training, and CQI measurement and ongoing support to CoC and YHDP youth serving projects. With the addition of new YHDP projects and specifically expansion of CoC access and identification of youth meeting Category 2 homelessness and

further integration of adjacent system partner, the work requirements on the Lead Agency staff will increase significantly requiring additional staffing and system development. This funding recommendation will support the expansion of HMIS to include new YHDP projects and to enhance the CoC's ability to understand the prevalence of YYA at-risk of and experiencing homelessness which will inform future system modeling and needs assessments for YYA.

HUD Project Type	HMIS
Target Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unaccompanied Youth (under 18) • Pregnant/Parenting Youth (under 18) • Unaccompanied Young Adults (age 18 – 24) • Pregnant/Parenting Young Adults (age 18 – 24) • Includes all special populations: LGBTQIA+, justice involved, pregnant and/or parenting, youth of color, and child welfare involved YYA
HUD Eligibility	Not Applicable
Program Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand HMIS to incorporate the new YHDP Projects • Provide better data to inform project implementation and system performance improvements • Provide platform for CQI strategies specific to tracking community goals
USICH Outcome (s) addressed	Not Applicable
Project Requirements	All guiding principles as outlined in this plan
Desired Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This will enhance our ability to track and report on data points not in the current system, incorporate participation of new providers, projects, and project types; and reach our CQI goals on data quality • 100% HMIS participation in all YHDP projects • Improvements in data collection on inflow, outflow, length of time waiting for housing/services, increase in income, length of time in housing/services and exits for YYA
Innovation Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This will allow us to reach CQI goals on data quality and to refine our system to better meet the needs of YA
Total Inventory Needed According to System Modeling	Not Applicable
Annual YHDP Budget	\$213,624
Remaining Amount to Fund	25% Match: \$53,406

Continuous Quality Improvement

CQI Process

Through the development and implementation of YHDP, our goal is to prevent and end youth homelessness within The Way Home CoC. To measure progress towards our CCP goals and objectives, USICH outcomes, and HUD key principles, we must develop and engage in Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI). Our CQI process will measure the result of the interventions mentioned within the CCP, as well as ensure youth who are experiencing homelessness have quick and reliable assistance to access the appropriate housing, services, and/or intervention to fit their needs. Our goal is to gather data that demonstrates youth progress towards stable and rewarding futures (e.g., continuing education, gainful employment, developing social-emotional well-being, and individualized goals as defined by youth). To reach these goals, we are committed to evaluating our partnerships, working groups, and systems alongside the YAB.

The success of preventing and ending youth and young adult homelessness in our region will be continuously monitored by the Coalition, lead agency to The Way Home CoC, the YAB, as well as The Way Home Steering Committee. We will consistently review and refine our strategies, practices, and goals to ensure that we remain

responsive to the needs of youth and young adults, as well as develop more effective and systemic solutions to end youth and young adult homelessness.

The YHDP working groups led by the Coalition and in partnership with the YAB will meet quarterly to review progress on implementation of the CCP, correlated impacts on system performance, and the current state of youth homelessness in our region. Our HMIS, CES, and other systems will be continuously monitored to ensure that they are adaptive and inclusive to the unique needs of youth and young adults'. This quarterly review will use UISCH core outcomes as the baseline to track progress. For each core outcome, we review the following correlated impacts:

1. Stable Housing
 - Amount of homeless youth and young adults identified (Enhanced Data Quality).
 - Total of youth assisted with homeless YHDP funded interventions and outcomes for those youth.
 - Exits to permanent housing.
 - Utilization rates of housing and service pathways within the youth homelessness response system.
 - Amount of unsheltered youth that is provided engagement supports and access our CES for housing.
 - Number of returns to homelessness after exits.
2. Permanent Connections
 - Providers across systems will track positive long-term connections for youth and young adults.
 - Total families assisted with homeless diversion resources to preserve household.
3. Education/Employment
 - Total employment connections made to youth and young adults (including increases in earned income).
 - Amount of education opportunities created for youth and young adults with gaps in learning/ unique education needs.
 - Amount of employment/ education navigator positions created to engage youth and young adults.
4. Social-Emotional Well Being
 - Number of providers trained to address/understand needs of youth (i.e., Trauma-Informed Care, Positive Youth Development).
 - Total connections to healthcare and mental health providers.
 - Total new pathways created to reach/serve LGBTQIA+, BIPOC, Pregnant and Parenting, and system-involved youth.
 - Utilization of system-wide youth-focused diversion/ problem-solving conversations in CES initial screenings.

Results will be shared with the full YAB, YHDP working groups, and The Way Home Steering Committee.

INSERT HERE: Signature of Endorsement

Appendix

Appendix A. Terms and Definitions

Acronym/ Terms	Definition
CCP	Coordinated Community Plan to prevent and end youth homelessness
CES	The Coordinated Entry System is a powerful piece of a community’s housing crisis response system as it ensures that people at risk of or experiencing homelessness can readily access and navigate housing assistance— no matter where in the community they first seek help. It is designed so that households are prioritized for and matched with the appropriate intervention as quickly as possible based on their vulnerability and severity of needs. Overall, CE aims to standardize the access, assessment, prioritization, and referral process across all agency providers in a community in order to quickly and successfully provide assistance.
Chronic Homelessness	an unaccompanied person experiencing homelessness with a disabling condition who has been homeless for a year or more OR has had at least 4 episodes of homelessness in the past three years.
CoC	A Continuum of Care (CoC) is a regional or local planning body that coordinates housing and services funding for homeless families and individuals.
CoC Lead Agency	Agency that is designated to carry out the activities of the CoC or grant including fiscal and compliance activities. The Lead Agency is tasked by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) with developing a systemic response to homelessness, and to increase capacity and improve rapid re-housing (RRH) practices and performance.
Couch surfing/Doubled Up	Having one or more adults in addition to the head of household and spouse or partner, such as an adult child living at home, two related or unrelated families residing together, or a parent living with an adult child.
Coordinated Access	A process through which individuals and families experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness are provided access to housing and support services.
DFPS	The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) works with communities to promote safe and healthy families and protect children and vulnerable adults from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
Diversion Program	Is “an intervention designed to immediately address the needs of someone who has just lost their housing and become homeless. Diversion is a client-driven approach; its goal is to help the person or household find safe alternative housing immediately, rather than entering shelter or experiencing unsheltered homelessness. It is intended to ensure that the homelessness experience is as brief as possible, to prevent unsheltered homelessness, and to avert stays in shelter.
ES	Emergency shelter means any facility, the primary purpose of which is to provide a temporary shelter for the homeless in general or for specific populations of the homeless and which does not require occupants to sign leases or occupancy agreements.
ESG	Emergency Solutions Grant is a grant program which provides individuals experiencing homelessness with basic shelter and essential supportive services. Eligible activities include funding for essential services, operations, and homeless prevention activities to emergency shelters, transitional housing, and day/night shelters.
HIC	Housing Inventory Count is a Point In Time inventory of provider programs within the CoC that provide beds and units dedicated to serve persons experiencing homelessness
HMIS	Homeless Management Information System, an information technology system used to collect client-level data and data on the provision of housing and services to homeless individuals and families and people at risk of homelessness.
Host Home	A private home associated with a host home program that volunteers to host youth in need of temporary housing. Host homes offer youth a safe alternative to shelters on either a short- or long-term basis and are paired with supportive services provided by a service agency.

Housing First	A homeless assistance approach that prioritizes providing permanent housing to people experiencing homelessness, thus ending their homelessness, and serving as a platform from which they can pursue personal goals and improve their quality of life. This approach is guided by the belief that people need basic necessities like food and a place to live before attending to anything less critical, such as getting a job, budgeting properly, or attending to substance use issues. Additionally, Housing First is based on the theory that client choice is valuable in housing selection and supportive service participation, and that exercising that choice is likely to make a person more successful in remaining housed and improving their life.
HUD	[United States Department of] Housing and Urban Development.
HUD Homelessness, Category 1, Literal Homelessness	Individuals and families who live in a place not meant for human habitation (including the streets or in their car), emergency shelter, transitional housing, and hotels paid for by a government or charitable organization.
HUD Homelessness, Category 2, Imminent Risk of Homelessness	Individuals or families who will lose their primary nighttime residence within 14 days and have no other resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing.
HUD Homelessness, Category 3, Homeless Under Other Statutes	Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age, or families with children and youth, who do not meet any of the other categories but are homeless under other federal statutes, have not had a lease and have moved two or more times in the past 60 days and can be expected to remain unstable due to special needs or barriers.
HUD Homelessness, Category 4, Fleeing Domestic Violence	Individuals or families who are fleeing or attempting to flee their housing or the place they are staying because of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions related to violence that has taken place in the house or has made them afraid to return to the house, including trading sex for housing, trafficking, physical abuse, violence (or perceived threat of violence) because of the youth's sexual orientation, and who lack resources or support networks to maintain or obtain permanent housing.
LGBTQIA+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual
Sexual Orientation	A person's sexual identity stated in relation to the gender to which they are attracted; the fact of being heterosexual, homosexual, or bisexual.
Transgender	The term transgender refers to people whose gender identity (the sense of gender that every person knows inside) or gender expression is different from their sex at birth.
Lived Expertise	A core value of this plan is Youth Voice. We believe that people with lived experience in homelessness provide invaluable expertise and that this input should be prioritized.
Motivational Interviewing	A clinical approach that helps people with mental health and substance use disorders and other chronic conditions make positive behavioral changes to support better health.
NOFA	Notice of Funding Availability
NOFO	Notice of Funding Opportunity
PIT	Point-in-Time Count is a nationwide count of sheltered and unsheltered persons experiencing homelessness on a single date in January
Pregnant or Parenting Youth	Individuals who are age 24 years or younger who are pregnant or who are the parents or legal guardians of one or more children who are present with or sleeping in the same place as that youth parent, and where there is no person over age 24 years in the household.
PSH	Permanent Supportive Housing, long-term housing with supportive services for homeless individuals with disabilities.
PYD	Positive Youth Development, an intentional, prosocial approach that engages youth within their communities, schools, organizations, peer groups and families in a manner that is productive and constructive; recognizes, utilizes, and enhances young people's strengths; and promotes positive outcomes for young people by providing opportunities, fostering positive relationships, and furnishing the support needed to build on their leadership strengths.
RFP	Request for Proposals
RHYA	Runaway and Homeless Youth Act are grants that provide foundational support to address youth and young adult homelessness

RRH	Rapid Re-housing, A program model that assists individuals or families who are experiencing homelessness to move as quickly as possible into permanent housing and to achieve stability in that housing through a combination of rental assistance, housing search and supportive services.
Shared Housing	Long-term living arrangement between two unrelated people who choose to live together as a way of sharing costs and building a community of support.
TA	Technical Assistance
TH-RRH	Joint Transitional Housing to Rapid Rehousing. A Joint TH and PH-RRH Component project is a project type that includes two existing program components—TH and PH-RRH—in a single project to serve individuals and families experiencing homelessness.
Transition-age Youth	Individuals between age 18 and 24 years.
Transitional Housing	Transitional housing (TH) is designed to provide homeless individuals and families with the interim stability and support to successfully move to and maintain permanent housing. Transitional housing may be used to cover the costs of up to 24 months of housing with accompanying supportive services. Program participants must have a lease (or sublease) or occupancy agreement in place when residing in transitional housing.
Trauma-Informed Care	An approach that recognizes the widespread impact of trauma and understands potential paths for recovery; recognizes the signs and symptoms of trauma in clients, families, staff, and others; responds by fully integrating knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures, and practices; and seeks to actively resist re-traumatization.
Unaccompanied Youth	Persons who are age 24 years or younger, who are not part of a family with children and who are not accompanied by their parent or guardian during their episode of homelessness. This also includes two or more youth aged 24 years or younger who are presenting together as a family without children.
USICH	United States Interagency Council on Homelessness is an independent federal agency within the US executive branch that leads the implementation of the federal strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness
YAB	Youth Action Board, a group of youth included in CoC decisions, particularly on policies that relate to preventing and ending youth homelessness. Each YAB member is age 24 years or younger and at least two-thirds of the YAB members are homeless or formerly homeless.
YHDP	Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program, a HUD initiative to help communities drastically reduce youth homelessness through innovative strategies.
Youth	A person who is under the age of 25 years.
YYA	Youth and Young Adults
BIPOC	Black, Indigenous, and people of color

Appendix B. Partner Chart

Partner	Partner's Name	Involvement
Continuum of Care Board	The Way Home Steering Committee	Decision-making body for The Way Home CoC that is dedicated to assuring YHDP aligns with the community's strategies and funding.
CoC Lead Agency/HMIS Lead Agency	Coalition for the Homeless	Leads in developing and implementing the CCP. This includes but is not limited to ensuring youth are meaningfully engaged in implementing the CCP, facilitating YHDP Stakeholder Workgroups, Youth Leadership Writing Team working meetings, and special population focus groups. Will manage and lead RFP process and serve as the project manager for YHDP funded projects and CQI.
Youth Action Board	Youth Advisory Board (YAB)	Co-Collaborators with the CoC Lead Agency in the development of the CCP. Youth and Young Adults with lived experience lead decision-making body that participates in Youth Leadership Writing Team working group, YHDP Stakeholder Workgroups, Focus Groups, and RFP and CQI process.

Child Welfare Agency	Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (TDFPS)	Participates in YHDP Youth Leadership Writing Team and YHDP Stakeholder Workgroup. Provides data on the child welfare system to develop and inform CCP.
Local Government Child Welfare Agency	Harris County Resources for Children and Adults	Provides Transitional Services for Current and Former Foster Youth and Permanency Planning. Participates in Youth Leadership Writing Team, YHDP Stakeholder Workgroup, and YHDP CCP focus group for criminal justice. Provides data to inform CCP.
Local Government Domestic Violence	Harris County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (HCDVCC)	Representatives of every aspect of the Harris County community that has contact with domestic violence victims. The purpose is to end domestic violence. Involved in CoC Steering Committee, Youth Leadership Writing Team, and YHDP Stakeholder Workgroups to develop CCP. Provides data on YYA experiencing homelessness that are fleeing domestic violence.
Runaway and Homeless Youth Program Providers	Covenant House	Shelter and care facility for YYA facing homelessness and survivors of human trafficking. Participate in Youth Leadership Writing Team and YHDP Stakeholder Workgroups. Provides data to inform CCP.
	Ambassadors for Christ	Emergency shelter and services for runaway youth and young adults. Participates in YHDP Stakeholder Workgroup.
Landlord/ Property Owner	Temenos	Provides affordable housing opportunities, supportive services, and employment resources to low- extremely low-income persons on their journey to self-sufficiency. Participates in YHDP Stakeholder Workgroup.
ESG Program Recipient	SEARCH Homeless Services	SEARCH's programs help individuals obtain housing, increase their income, improve their health, and stabilize their lives through a proven path of services that engage & stabilize, house, employ, and educate. Participates in YHDP Stakeholder Workgroup.
ESG Program Recipient	Houston Area Women's Center	Multi-racial, multi-lingual agency that supports survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and sex trafficking. Participates in YHDP Stakeholder Workgroup and provides data to inform the CCP.
ESG Program Recipient	Spring Branch Community Health Center	Health center providing quality, affordable healthcare services to the underserved and uninsured communities of Spring Branch and West Houston. Participates in the YHDP Stakeholder Workgroup.
ESG Program Recipient	Career and Recovery Resources	Four core program areas employment and career development, veterans and housing assistance, deaf and hard of hearing services and alternative substance abuse treatment. Participates in the YHDP Stakeholder Workgroup.
ESG Program Recipient	Tejano Center for Community Needs	Provide social, health, educational, economic and housing services. Participates in the YHDP Stakeholder Workgroup.
ESG Program Recipient	Alliance of Community Assistance Ministries (ACAM)	Works to advance collaboration to create community-wide solutions for thriving nonprofits, neighborhoods, and families. Participates in the YHDP Stakeholder Workgroup.
Health, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Agencies	Avenue 360	Delivers quality and compassionate healthcare in the Greater Houston area. Participates in the YHDP Stakeholder Workgroup.
	AIDS Foundation Houston	Provides health and wellness services. Working to end HIV Epidemic in Houston. Participates in YHDP Stakeholder Workgroup.
	The Harris Center	Provides services to people with behavioral health and IDD needs to improve their lives through an accessible, integrated, and

		comprehensive recovery-orientated system of care. Participates in the YHDP Stakeholder Workgroup.
	TLC Health and Wellness	Provides mental health and behavioral health services. Participates in Youth Leadership Writing Team and YHDP Stakeholder Workgroup.
Juvenile and Adult Corrections and Probation	Harris County Juvenile Probation Department	Provides supervision and services to youth between the ages of 10 and 17. This is the largest juvenile probation department in Texas. Participates in the YLWT, YHDP Stakeholder Workgroup, and YHDP CCP focus group for criminal justice.
	Harris Community Supervision & Corrections Department Harris County	The third-largest probation department in the United States. Offers community supervision, outpatient counseling, residential treatment, and cognitive-behavioral programming. Provides data to inform CCP and participates in the YHDP Stakeholder Workgroup.
	Fort Bend County Juvenile Probation	Juvenile Probation Department in Fort Bend County that provides crisis intervention, supervision, and services to youth. Provided data to help inform and develop the CCP.
Local and State Educational Agencies	Houston ISD	The largest Independent School District in Texas and the 8 th largest in the United States. Participates in Stakeholder Workgroups.
	Fort Bend ISD	Independent School District in Fort Bend County. Provides data to develop and inform the CCP
	Spring Branch ISD	Independent School District in Harris County. Provides data to develop and inform the CCP.
	KIPP Public Charter Schools	A network of public charter schools in the greater Houston region. Participates in YHDP CCP focus group for K-12 Education.
	Humble ISD	Independent School District in Harris County. Participates in YHDP CCP focus group for K-12 Education.
	Cypress-Fairbanks ISD	Independent School District in Harris County. Participates in YHDP CCP focus group for K-12 Education.
	Be the Peace-Be the Hope	Works to improve well-being, academic performance, and safety in schools. Serve at-risk, low-income, and minority students. Participates in Stakeholder Workgroups.
Institutions of Higher Education	University of Houston School of Social Work	Involved in research with focus on youth involved in foster care and juvenile justice system at-risk of homelessness. Participates in the YLWT, YHDP Stakeholder Workgroup and YHDP CCP focus group for criminal justice.
	Houston Education Research Consortium/ Rice University/	Involved in partnership research model with local school districts to improve educational equity. Participates in YHDP Stakeholder workgroup and YHDP CCP focus group for higher education.
	San Jacinto College Central Campus	Provides higher education to YYA in the greater Houston area. Participates in YHDP Stakeholder Workgroup.
	Sam Houston State University	Provides higher education to YYA in the greater Houston area. Participates in YHDP Stakeholder Workgroup and education focus groups and YHDP CCP focus group for higher education.
	Lonestar College	Provides higher education to YYA in the greater Houston area. Participates in YHDP Stakeholder Workgroup and YHDP CCP focus group for higher education.
	Houston Community College	Provides higher education to YYA in the greater Houston area. Participates in YHDP Stakeholder Workgroup and YHDP CCP focus group for higher education.

Non-Profit Youth Organization	reVision	Works to break the cycle of isolation among the most profoundly disconnected youth, most of whom are caught up in the juvenile justice system. Participates in YLWT and YHDP Stakeholder Workgroups.
Non-Profit Youth Organization	The Montrose Center	Empowers LGBTQIA+ individuals and their families to live healthier, more fulfilling lives through services, support, and housing. Provides data to inform CCP. Participates in YHDP Stakeholder Workgroups.
Non-Profit Youth Organization	Montrose Grace Place	Provides drop in center for ALL youth experiencing homelessness. Welcoming environment for LGBTQIA+ at-risk of homelessness. Participates in YHDP Stakeholder Workgroups to develop CCP.
Non-Profit Youth Organization	Keturah's Haven	Provides housing and skills training for pregnant youth and young adults. Provides data to inform and develop the CCP.
Non-Profit Youth Organization	Parks Youth Ranch	Provides emergency shelter, counseling, and life-changing services to youth in Fort Bend County. Participates in YHDP Stakeholder workgroups.
Non-Profit Youth Organization	Angel Reach	A faith-based organization in Montgomery County that helps children and youth between 16-24 achieve their full potential through transitional living, supportive services, and family engagement. Participates in the YHDP Stakeholder Workgroup.
Employment Providers	SER Jobs	Provides education, skill-based training, employment, and long-term financial stability to youth and young adults. Participates in YHDP Stakeholder Workgroup and YHDP CCP focus group for employment SSO.
	Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast Region	The public workforce system provides connections to employment, education, training, and support. Participates in the Youth Leadership Writing Team, YHDP Stakeholder Workgroups, YHDP CCP focus group for employment SSO, and YHDP CCP focus group for K-12 Education. Provides data to inform the CCP.
	Shelters to Shutters (S2S)	Partners with apartment management companies to place people experiencing or at-risk of homelessness in onsite entry level jobs. Participates in YHDP CCP focus group for employment SSO and YHDP Stakeholder Workgroup.
	Work Faith	Provides faith-based training and soft skills training to youth through on-campus school programs. Participates in YHDP Stakeholder Workgroups.
Local Advocacy, Research, and Philanthropic Organizations	Collective Action for Youth (CA4Y)	A collective impact initiative working to systematically improve the lives of youth involved in both juvenile justice and child welfare systems. Supports The Way Home YAB through positive youth development, community engagement and advocacy training. CA4Y participates in both the Youth Leadership Writing Team and YHDP Stakeholder Workgroup.
	The Simmons Foundation	Supporting Leadership development and funding policy change to create equitable systems for BIPOC, LGBTQ, and youth. Participates in the YHDP Stakeholder Workgroup.
	Children at Risk	A catalyst for change to improve the quality of life for children through strategic research, public policy analysis, education, collaboration, and advocacy. Participates in the YHDP Stakeholder Workgroup.
	Houston Endowment	A private foundation that partners with others in the nonprofit, public, and private sectors to improve the quality of life for the

Community Development Corporations		residents of greater Houston. Participates in the YHDP Stakeholder Workgroup.
	Texas Network of Youth Services	Strengthen services and support for Texas youth and families to help them overcome challenges and achieve healthy development. Participates in YHDP Stakeholder Workgroup.
	Baker Ripley	Provides resources education, and connection to emerging neighborhoods. Participates in YHDP Stakeholder Workgroups.

Appendix C. Youth Action Board Developed Governance Structure

The Way Home YAB Roles, Rights & Responsibilities

The Way Home YHDP YAB is a body of youth with lived experience of homelessness that represents young adults experiencing homelessness in Houston and throughout Harris, Fort Bend, and Montgomery counties, Texas. The governance of the YAB is made up of four (4) internal tiers and two (2) systemic support tiers each with unique and important responsibilities. Decision-making for the YAB is influenced by all tiers while centering the voices of young people with lived experience; each contributing to the richness and diversity of the YAB and to the collective voice we hold in our communities and Houston. The following tiers and responsibilities have been agreed upon and are supported by the members of The Way Home YAB.

YAB Members & Membership

Youth and young adults (14-28) who have experienced homelessness may be considered general YAB members once they have attended their first YAB Meeting.

General YAB Members have the following responsibilities:

- Attend meetings occasionally
- Participate during meetings (No Idea is too big, No Idea Too Small).
- Show up on time & respect the time of other YAB members
- Help maintain the group agreements
- Contribute to YAB Meetings and any content that comes from them
- Provide a W-9 form for payment
- If attending meetings in person, members must wear masks and not come if they feel sick.
- If a YAB member misses 5 meetings, then they forfeit their spot

General YAB Members have the following rights:

- To be compensated for their time at the meeting (assuming they are one of the first 10 people and have met all the responsibilities outlined at the beginning of the meeting for stipend payment).
- If members will be 15 minutes late, please notify either Charmet Findley (charmefindley@ca4y.org) or Jacob Castillo (jacobcastillo@ca4y.org)
- If late members will receive partial compensation that reflects the amount of time, they attended the meeting.
- To have a vote in YAB Decisions.

YHDP Core YAB Membership

Our YAB Members are the 3 YAB members tasked with working on the YHDP project. Core YAB Members, in addition to all the above, have the following responsibilities:

- Consistently attend YAB Meetings, at least 5 meetings monthly
- When unable to attend YAB meetings consistently, core members make efforts to review notes or other materials supplied to them by the YAB Co-Chairs or YAB Coordinator.
- Respond and do YHDP work in a timely and efficient manner.

- Demonstrate ability to show up and communicate, sharing opinions and providing feedback at YAB meetings, while being open minded to providing new ideas and information.
- Make an effort to recruit new members to the YAB by inviting friends, sharing flyers, sharing events or communications, or otherwise encouraging new youth to join.
- Participate in opportunities outside of the general YAB meetings, when available.
- Core members must consider everyone's experiences, not just their own, and have the ability to speak for the YAB as a whole especially when participating in outside opportunities in the representation of the YAB.
- Core members commit to uplifting the unified voice and ideas of the YAB and supporting a diverse culture within the YAB to ensure the YAB's voice is equitably represented.

Core members have the following right in addition to the General YAB Member Rights:

- To make decisions surrounding language as it pertains to the YAB.
- Discretion to decide whether or not other items that need to be voted on need to go to the full YAB or not

YAB Staff & YAB Co-Chairs

YAB chairs are young people who have experienced homelessness or housing instability who are hired as a 2-person co-leadership model for 12-month leadership positions in the YAB.

Their responsibilities include:

- These coordinators will be responsible for the day-to-day oversight of the work of the YAB
- The coordinators will plan and facilitate bi-monthly General YAB meetings that will be open to any youth experiencing homelessness in Houston
- would hold a seat with the COC steering committee.
- The coordinators (Charmet and Jacob) will also be required to attend YAB Team meetings with YAB staff, and other adult allies as needed
- On the alternate weeks of the month to plan for the General YAB meetings, discuss and work on upcoming projects, engage in professional development and continue to work on strategic planning regarding the YABs role in larger systematic work to end youth homelessness, as well as monthly individual supervision with YAB staff
- Outreach and recruitment strategy development and implementation.
- Take on additional special projects that come up over the course of the year. These have included designing trainings, planning events, community education projects, presenting at conferences, developing guidelines or documents, and more.
- Scheduling of meetings with the larger YAB and setting appropriate compensation based on the kind of meeting attended, the information Individuals are going to be expected to share and the length of the meeting

YAB Adult Supporters

The adult supporters of the YAB are comprised of individuals with personal lived experience of homelessness, and/or with programmatic experience working with and serving youth who experienced homelessness and housing instability. The adult supporters are programmatic staff from the Coalition and CA4Y.

The YAB Adult Supporters Responsibilities:

- Invest in Authentic Youth Leadership
- Demand and provide transparency in all systems we work with for YAB Members to the best of our ability.
- Support and create space for all tiers of Youth Involvement in the YAB.
- Manage overall timelines, tasks, and projects for the YAB.
- Advocate on behalf of the YAB, even (especially) when youth are not present
- Direct strategic planning
- Manage compensation for YAB members

Systemic Supports

- Coalition for Homeless Youth
- CA4Y is the 5013c home of The Way Home YAB. As our host agency, their responsibilities to the YAB include:
- Contract negotiations with funders and ensuring contractual obligations are met
- Support the strategic planning and development of the YAB
- Support the YAB's financial stability through fundraising and grant writing
- Manage the overall YAB Budget, and payments for YAB Staff (Co Chairs and YAB coordinator)
- Provide YAB Team with space and administrative support
- Collecting data for the YAB Program

CA4Y Rights include

- Decisions about Staffing of the YAB (hiring or firing YAB employees)

Funders of the YAB

Funders are any entity that supports the YAB financially, either by donation or through contract.

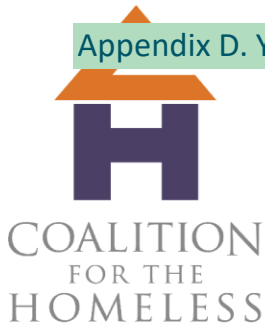
Funder's responsibilities are the following:

- To uphold the contracts that they have consensually agreed to.

The rights of YAB Funders are as follows:

- To decide whether or not they would like to financially support the work of the YAB.

Appendix D. YAB & CFTH Collaboration Agreement



YHDP YAB and CoC Lead Agency Collaboration Agreement

The purpose of this agreement is to foster collaboration and communication while allowing youth and young adults (YYA) to engage in targeted decision-making to end youth homelessness through The Way Home CoCs Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP).

The Youth Action Board (YAB), comprised of YYA with lived experience, will help guide the work to end youth homelessness. They meet bi-monthly and play an integral role in all aspects of the YHDP's Coordinated Community Plan (CCP). To improve efficiency in the development and implementation of the CCP, the Coalition for the Homeless (CFTH), lead agency to The Way Home CoC, and YAB agree to the following communication plan:

- The YAB will be structured and supported by Collective Action for Youth (CA4Y). CA4Y will assign staff to oversee the functioning of the YAB and be a point of contact for CFTH.
- CFTH will provide support through training, materials, and communication upon request to make sure that YAB is knowledgeable about our community's homeless response system and all aspects of the CCP process.
- CFTH will honor and respect YAB's expertise, need for transparency, and privacy.
- The YAB will be composed of YAB Leads, YAB Core Members, and YAB General Members. All members will be voting members and adhere to the guidelines in the YAB governance structure.
- The YAB Leads will facilitate communication between the YAB, YHDP Stakeholder Workgroup, YHDP Youth Leadership Writing Team, and CFTH.
- The YAB Leads will participate in all meetings to develop the CCP (YAB Meetings, YHDP Stakeholder Workgroup, Youth Leadership Writing Team (YLWT), CA4Y Check-In, YHDP Round 4&5 Community Calls, TAC's YAB Community Call, YHDP NCHE Education Cohort Webinar, etc.)
- The YAB Core Members (3 at minimum) will participate in YLWT, YHDP Stakeholder Workgroups, YHDP Round 4&5 Community Calls, TAC's YAB Community Call, and any other meetings that YAB Leads may assign.
- The YAB General Members will participate in the bi-weekly YAB meetings.
- The YAB Leads and YAB Core will be responsible for communicating information and decisions that need to be voted on at YAB Meetings.
- If there is a decision that needs to be made before the YAB bi-weekly meeting, the YAB leads will be responsible for dispersing information and receiving feedback by their preferred method of communication (i.e., text messaging, phone calls, online polls, etc.).
- CFTH will notify CA4Y of any new meetings or change in meetings a week in advance OR as soon as possible.
- The YAB will recognize that while their input and feedback will play a major role in creating and implementing the CCP, no decision is final, as this is a collaborative plan that will undergo editing until a final plan is submitted.
- The YAB is empowered to appropriately communicate any concerns and express any issues with adulthood to the Coalition for the Homeless, the lead agency to The Way Home. The signatures below represent the mutual respect and agreement between the CFTH and the YAB to effectively collaborate to end youth homelessness in our region.

YAB Lead(s): Charmet Findley Jr. CA4Y: Megan Davis CFTH: Michael Nichols
Jacob Castillo

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FY2022

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Appendix E. Focus Group Questions & Prompts

a. Criminal Justice Service Providers Focus Group

The purpose of this focus group was to gather information about the services and gaps involved in criminal/ juvenile justice systems which affect youth and young adults experiencing homelessness. This information was used to develop the YHDP CCP.

The following are a list of prompting questioning asked of stakeholders and YYA:

- What do you think are some of the housing policy barriers to servicing Youth and Young Adults (YYA) experiencing homelessness that is involved in the criminal/juvenile system?
- What special services are you currently providing to homeless YYA involved in the criminal/juvenile justice system?
- Describe how inequities and disparities impact service provisions for YYA involved in criminal/juvenile justice?
- How can we aid YYA with a criminal history and help them access supportive services (stable housing/employment/education)?
- What changes would you suggest being made to the current systems?
- YYA leaving juvenile placements face many barriers as they reenter the community, home, and school/workforce, what services are needed to improve their reentry to the community? How do we prevent them from becoming homeless?

Topics to Discuss:

Successful reentry plans, services, and support should address:

- **Family/Housing:** What services and support are needed to ensure family and home stability, skill development, and healing of damaged relationships? What housing options are available for reentry when not returning home?
- **Employment/Positive Youth Development:** What services and support need to be in place to promote positive youth development for YYA leaving criminal/juvenile justice placements? What employment options do they have, or can we offer to prevent homelessness? What vocational training can we supply these YYA?
- **Education:** What services are in place to promote the transference of educational records and placement in the appropriate school settings that will support educational success and achievement?
- **Mental, behavioral, and physical health:** What services and supports are in place to address mental health, social/behavioral concerns, and/or chronic health problems?

b. Education Focused Workgroups

The purpose of this discussion was to gather feedback from education stakeholders about the gaps, barriers, and challenges homeless YYA are experiencing in education.

The following are a list of prompting questioning asked of stakeholders and YYA:

As we begin this discussion, it is important to note the intersection between homelessness and educational disruption for homeless YYA.

- Select the type of educational provider that you serve as:
 - Administrator

- Teacher
 - Social Worker
 - Homeless Liaison
 - Other
- What is the name of your school district or agency/organization? What age groups do you serve?
 - What do you see as system gaps for providing effective services to homeless YYA? What system level changes would you recommend?
 - What supports and services are needed for homeless YYA access/pursue education?
 - Are there ways we can leverage existing capacity (people, funding, initiatives, etc.) to accomplish this work?
 - How can the system address the school identified youth who fall outside of HUDS eligibility criteria for homeless services?
 - What next steps would you recommend be implemented for YYA in the referral process and services and the Coordinated Entry for accessing services
 - What would an ideal Coordinated Entry System look like for homeless YYA?
 -

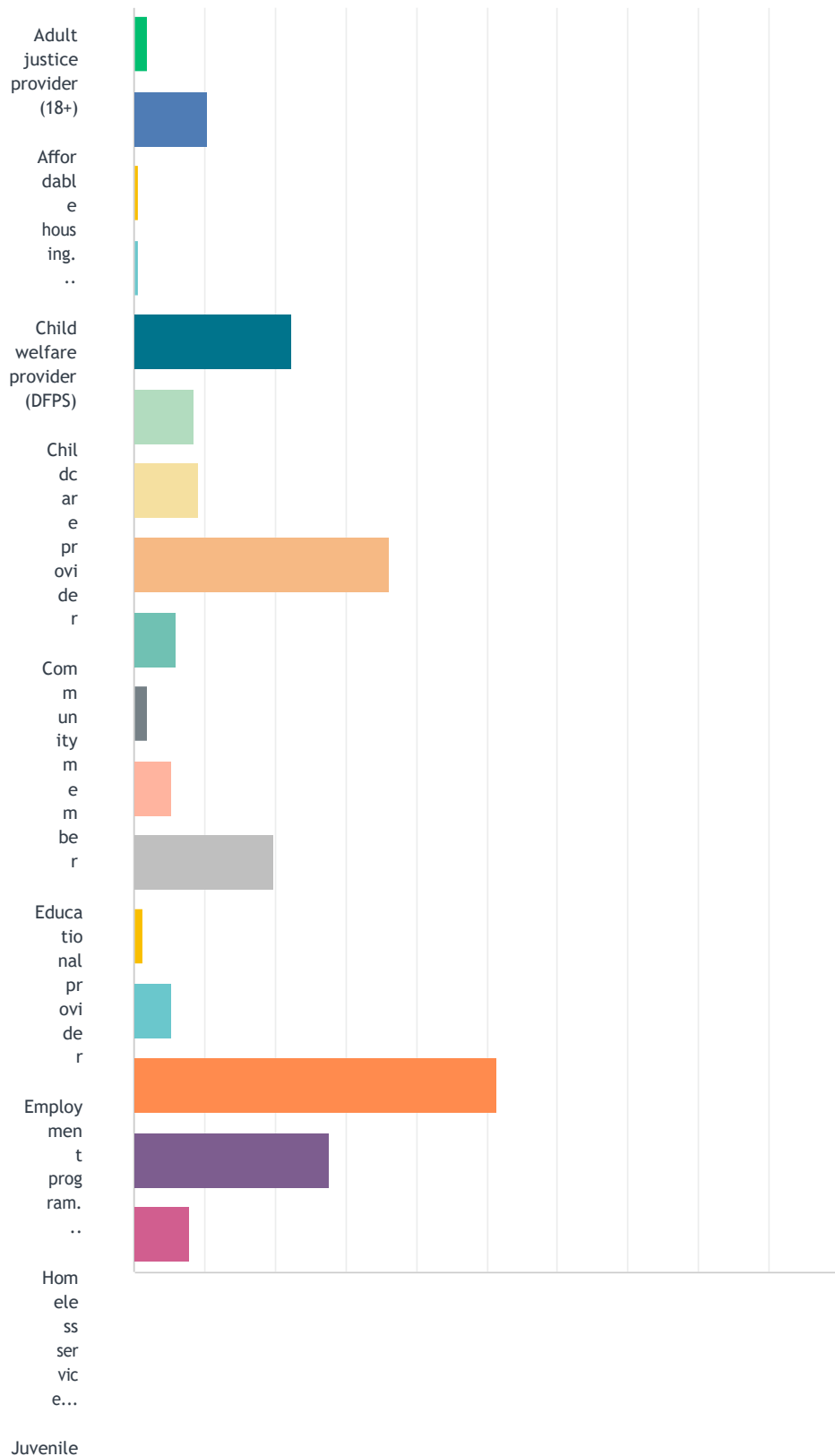
Appendix F. Overview of YHDP Planning Process & Timeline

INSERT HERE: Overview of YHDP Planning Process & Timeline

Appendix G. Stakeholder Survey Tool

Q1 Please select the option or options that best describes your role as a community partner (check all that apply).

Answered: 152 Skipped: 0



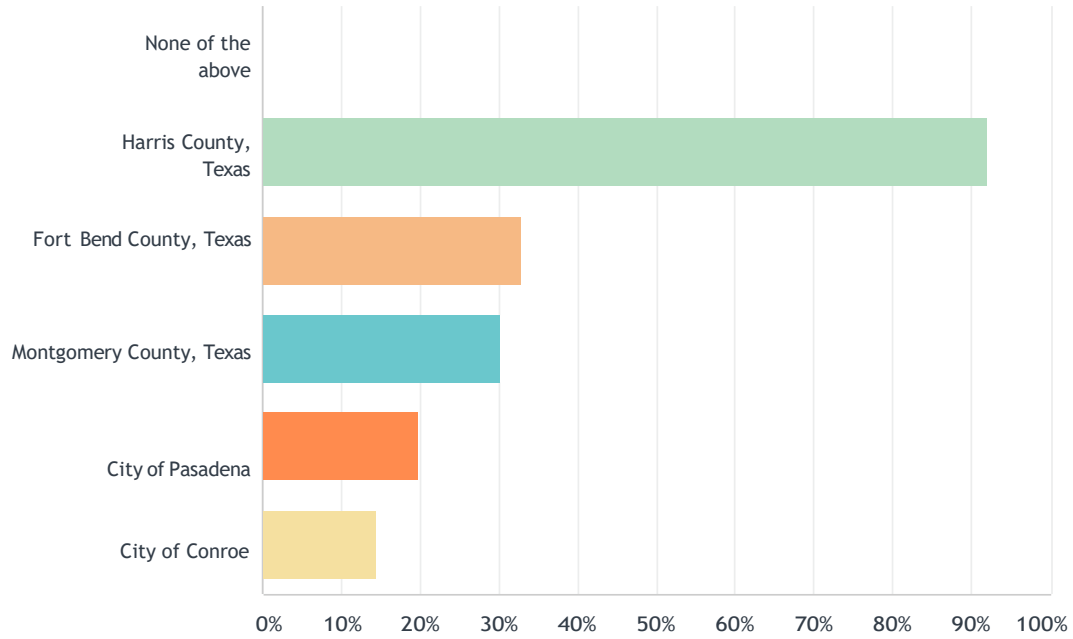


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Adult justice provider (18+)	1.97%	3
Affordable housing provider (landlord or developer)	10.53%	16
Child welfare provider (DFPS)	0.66%	1
Childcare provider	0.66%	1
Community member	22.37%	34
Educational provider	8.55%	13
Employment program provider	9.21%	14
Homeless service provider for young adults (18-24)	36.18%	55
Juvenile justice provider	5.92%	9
Legal system/law enforcement representative	1.97%	3
Medical provider	5.26%	8

Mental health provider	19.74%	30
Policymaker/government representative	1.32%	2
Research/advocacy organization	5.26%	8
Service provider for adults (age 18+)	51.32%	78
Service provider for youth (under 18)	27.63%	42
Substance use provider	7.89%	12
Total Respondents: 152		

Q2 My agency/organization serves people in:

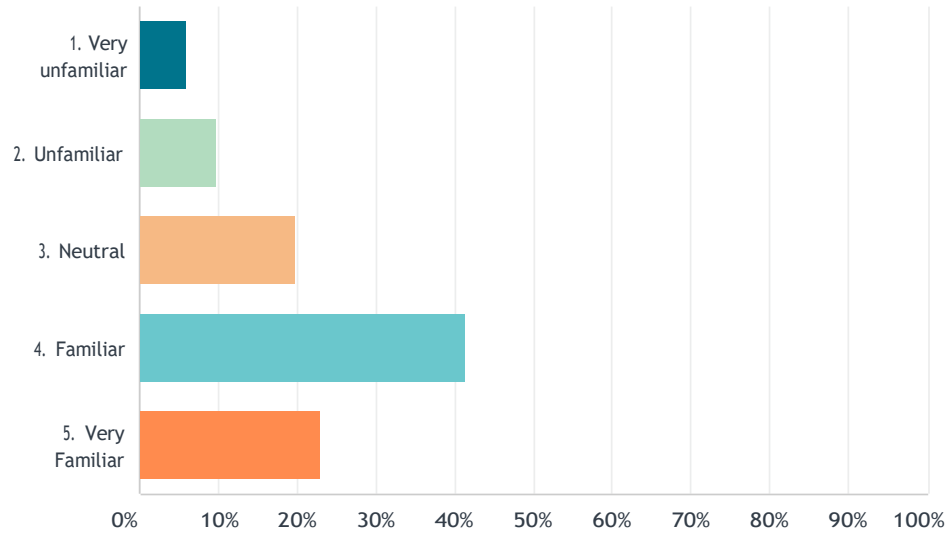
Answered: 152 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above	0.00%	0
Harris County, Texas	92.11%	140
Fort Bend County, Texas	32.89%	50
Montgomery County, Texas	30.26%	46
City of Pasadena	19.74%	30
City of Conroe	14.47%	22
Total Respondents: 152		

Q3 On a scale of 1 (never heard of) to 5 (extremely familiar), please rate how familiar are you with youth and young adult homeless services and homeless prevention resources in your area?

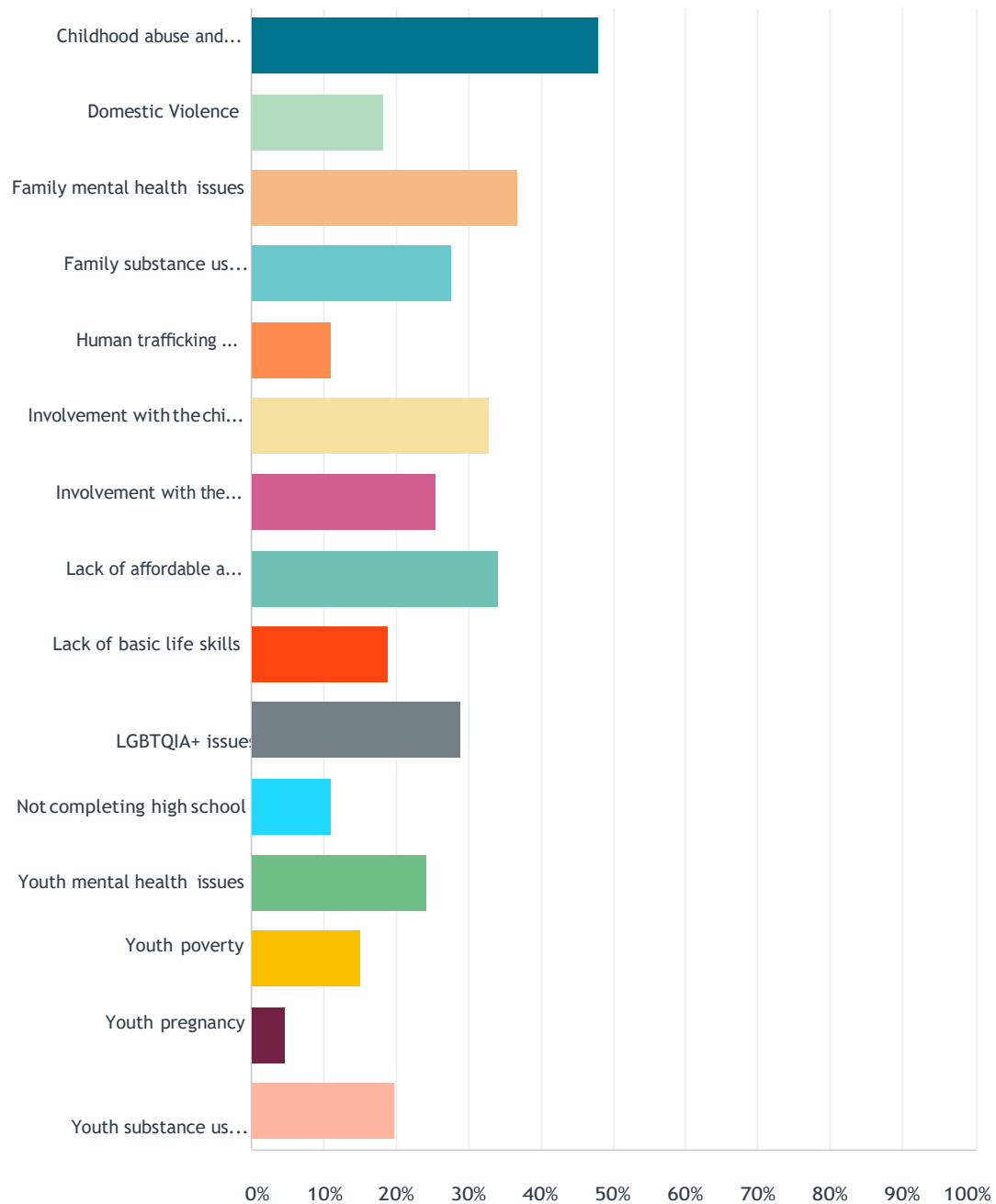
Answered: 152 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1. Very unfamiliar	5.92%	9
2. Unfamiliar	9.87%	15
3. Neutral	19.74%	30
4. Familiar	41.45%	63
5. Very Familiar	23.03%	35
TOTAL		152

Q4 Please select what you feel are the top 3 contributing factors to youth homelessness (please select only 3).

Answered: 152 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Childhood abuse and neglect	48.03%	73
Domestic Violence	18.42%	28
Family mental health issues	36.84%	56
Family substance use disorders	27.63%	42
Human trafficking and sexual exploitation	11.18%	17
Involvement with the child welfare system	32.89%	50
Involvement with the justice system	25.66%	39
Lack of affordable and accessible housing	34.21%	52
Lack of basic life skills	19.08%	29
LGBTQIA+ issues	28.95%	44
Not completing high school	11.18%	17
Youth mental health issues	24.34%	37
Youth poverty	15.13%	23
Youth pregnancy	4.61%	7
Youth substance use disorders	19.74%	30
Total Respondents: 152		

Q4 Community Stakeholder Results:

- Child Abuse and Neglect
- Family Mental Health Issues
- Lack of Affordable and Accessible Housing

Q5 What do you think is working best in your community to help youth and young adults end and/or avoid homelessness? Why is it working (be specific as possible)?

Answered: 138 Skipped: 14

Q5 Community Stakeholder Results:

- Supportive Services
- Agency Coordination and Collaboration

Q6 Where are the gaps or what is NOT working in the current system of care/housing for youth and young adults who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness? Why is it NOT working (be specific as possible)?

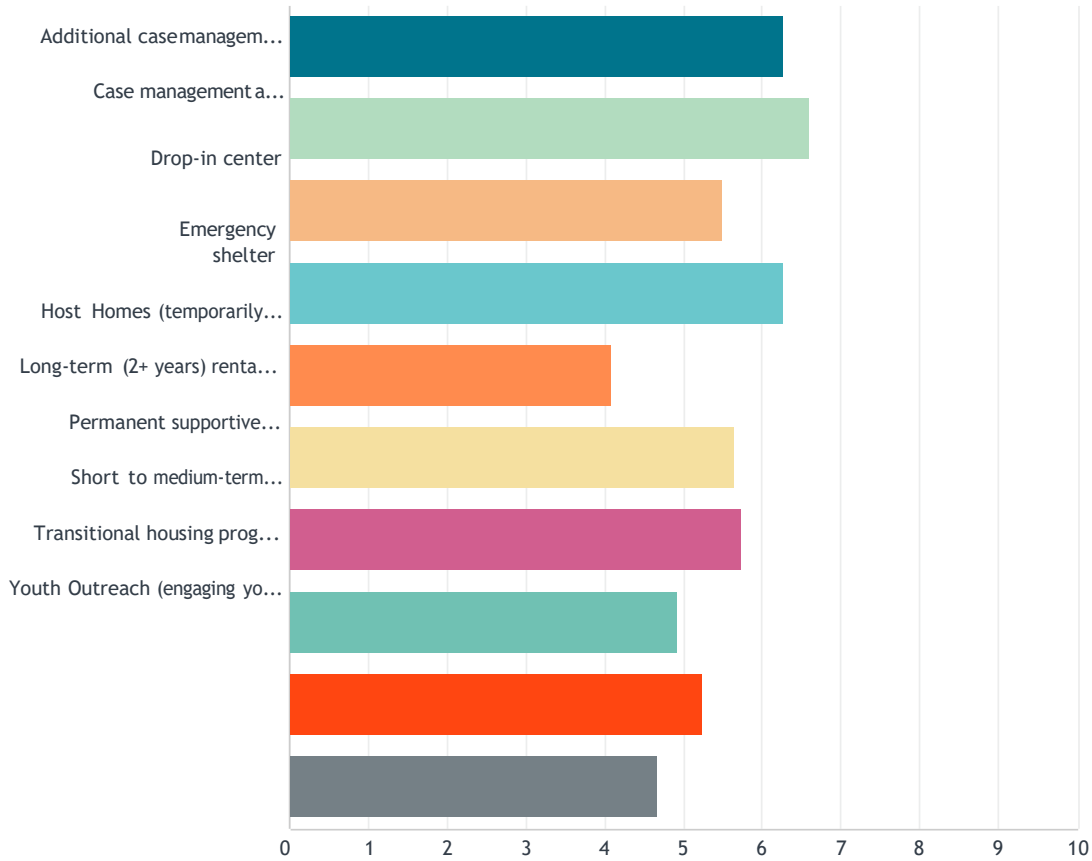
Answered: 136 Skipped: 16

Q6 Community Stakeholder Results:

- Lack of Funding
- Lack of affordable, accessible housing
- Lack education/employment/ mental health services

Q7 Rank the solutions you think are MOST NEEDED to prevent and end youth homelessness for youth ages 18-24 in your area (the first solution listed being the solution most needed, and the solution listed last the least needed).

Answered: 149 Skipped: 3



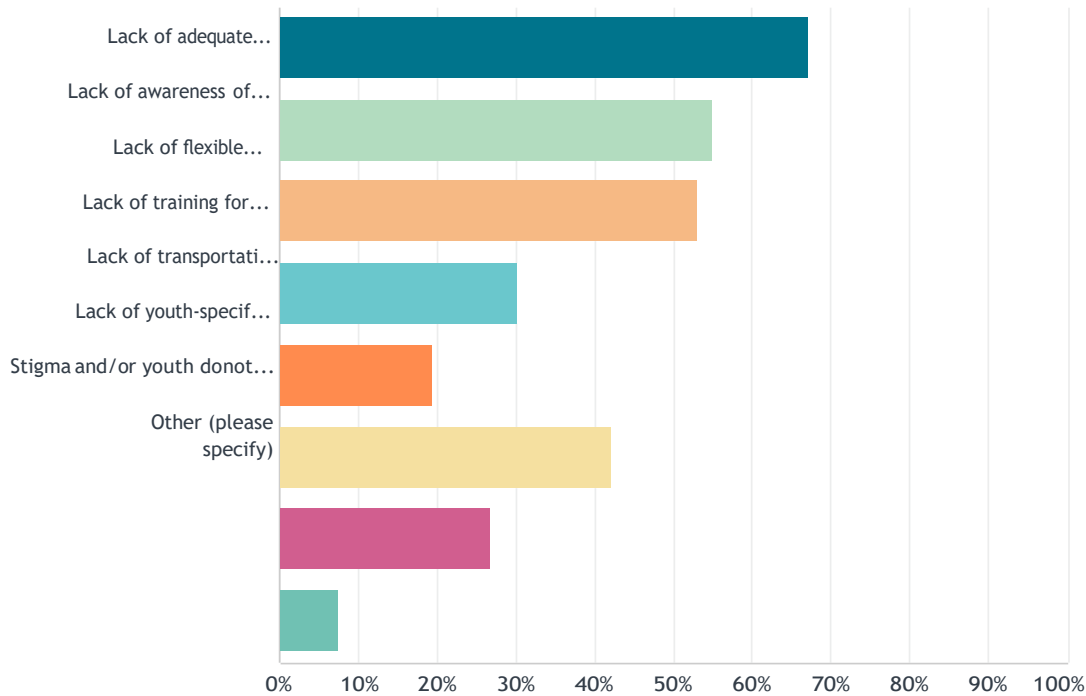
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	TOTAL	SC
Additional case management support for youth-at-risk of homelessness from the welfare or justice system	15.94% 22	15.94% 22	5.80% 8	14.49% 20	8.70% 12	12.32% 17	5.07% 7	6.52% 9	6.52% 9	8.70% 12	138	
Case management and financial support to stay with family, friends or on own when safe and appropriate (diversion)	13.24% 18	16.91% 23	17.65% 24	10.29% 14	8.82% 12	7.35% 10	8.09% 11	6.62% 9	8.82% 12	2.21% 3	136	
Drop-in center	11.76% 16	8.09% 11	16.18% 22	7.35% 10	8.82% 12	5.15% 7	6.62% 9	10.29% 14	18.38% 25	7.35% 10	136	
Emergency shelter	13.97% 19	16.18% 22	10.29% 14	13.97% 19	7.35% 10	8.82% 12	6.62% 9	10.29% 14	2.94% 4	9.56% 13	136	
Host Homes (temporarily staying with a host family)	3.73% 5	2.99% 4	4.48% 6	5.22% 7	13.43% 18	11.19% 15	14.93% 20	9.70% 13	12.69% 17	21.64% 29	134	
Long-term (2+ years) rental assistance and case management	5.76% 8	10.79% 15	14.39% 20	10.07% 14	9.35% 13	13.67% 19	12.23% 17	10.79% 15	7.19% 10	5.76% 8	139	
Permanent supportive housing (permanent housing with intensive case management)	14.60% 20	11.68% 16	10.22% 14	8.03% 11	7.30% 10	8.03% 11	10.95% 15	8.76% 12	10.95% 15	9.49% 13	137	
Short to medium-term (3-24 months) rental assistance and case management	3.76% 5	3.76% 5	10.53% 14	6.77% 9	15.79% 21	11.28% 15	16.54% 22	15.04% 20	11.28% 15	5.26% 7	133	
Transitional housing program (up to 24 months)	6.52% 9	10.87% 15	2.90% 4	13.77% 19	13.77% 19	8.70% 12	11.59% 16	13.04% 18	11.59% 16	7.25% 10	138	
Youth Outreach (engaging youth in the community)	12.95% 18	3.60% 5	8.63% 12	6.47% 9	6.47% 9	10.79% 15	6.47% 9	9.35% 13	10.07% 14	25.18% 35	139	

Q7 Community Stakeholder Results:

- Case management and financial support to stay with family, friends or on own when safe and appropriate (diversion)
- Additional case management support for youth-at-risk of homelessness from the welfare or justice system
- Emergency Shelter

Q8 What are the three main barriers to meeting the needs of youth who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness (choose only 3)?

Answered: 149 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Lack of adequate services for especially vulnerable youth (LGBTQ, DV survivors, pregnant/parenting, etc.)	67.11%	100
Lack of awareness of resources available	55.03%	82
Lack of flexible funding	53.02%	79
Lack of training for organizations on best practices to better serve youth	30.20%	45
Lack of transportation options	19.46%	29
Lack of youth-specific outreach	42.28%	63
Stigma and/or youth do not consider themselves homeless	26.85%	40
Other (please specify)	7.38%	11
Total Respondents: 149		

Q8 Community Stakeholder Results:

- Lack of adequate services for especially vulnerable youth (LGBTQ, DV survivors, pregnant/parenting, etc.)
- Lack of awareness of resources available
- Lack of flexible funding

Q9 If you would like to add more information about barriers to meeting the needs of youth who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness that you selected above, do so here.

Answered: 93 Skipped: 59

Q9 Community Stakeholder Results:

- Independent living/ job and life skills
- Flexible state funding
- Low barrier housing
- Revised vulnerability scale

Q10 If your agency could receive additional funding to prevent and/or end youth homelessness, how would you use it?

Answered: 122 Skipped: 30

Q10 Community Stakeholder Results:

- Outreach Services
- Affordable and stable housing
- Supportive Services (education, employment, mental health)

Q11 If you could change one thing about how our region is working to prevent and end youth homelessness, what would it be?

Answered: 118 Skipped: 34

Q11 Community Stakeholder Results:

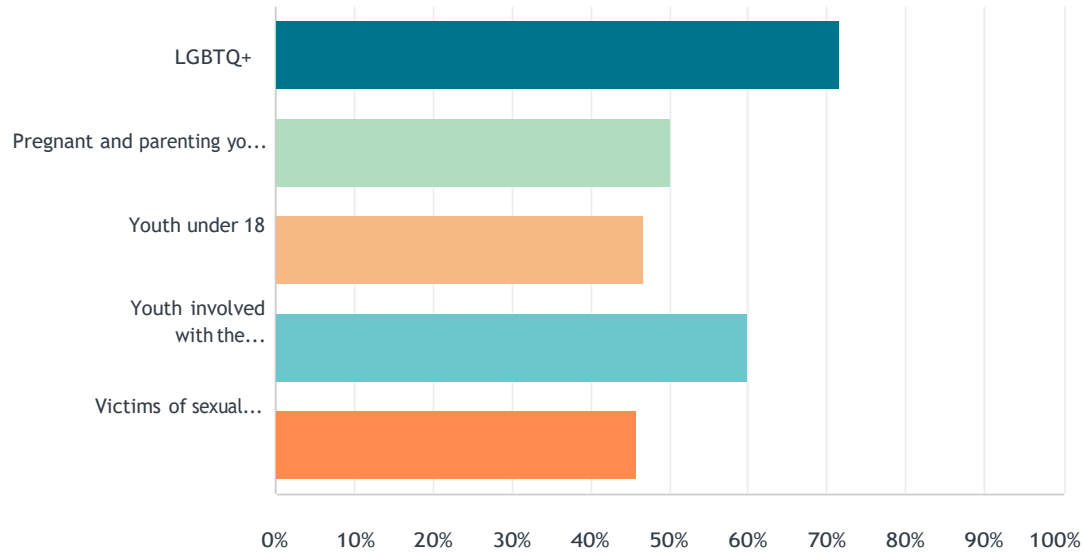
- Fewer disparities and more equity
- Invest more in prevention/multidisciplinary approaches/ trauma informed
-

Q12 We are taking an inventory of organizations that provide services to youth and young adults (under the age of 25) that are experiencing homelessness or at-risk of homelessness in our region. Please list youth service provider(s) in your area (including non-traditional service providers) and the main services provided.

Answered: 114 Skipped: 38

Q13 We plan to address the unique needs of subpopulations for youth and young adults experiencing homelessness. Please let us know if you serve one or more of the following subpopulations (check all that apply).

Answered: 120 Skipped: 32



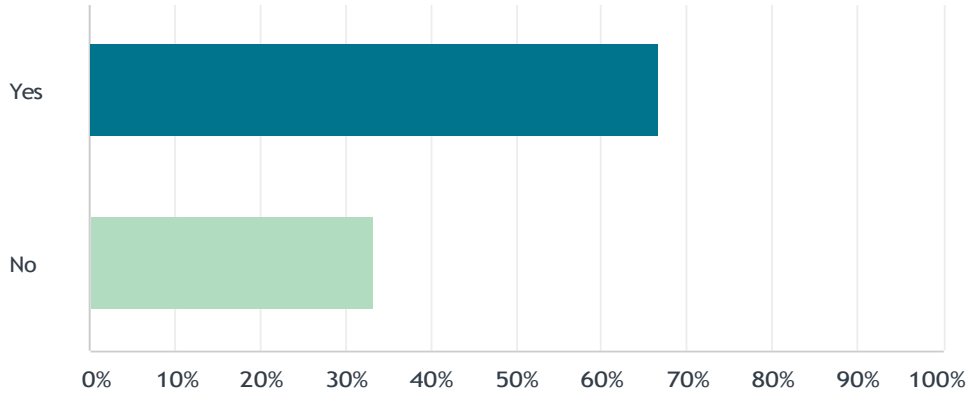
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
LGBTQ+	71.67%	86
Pregnant and parenting youth experiencing homelessness	50.00%	60
Youth under 18	46.67%	56
Youth involved with the juvenile justice and foster care systems	60.00%	72
Victims of sexual trafficking	45.83%	55
Total Respondents: 120		

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Name	98.92%	92
Agency/Organization	98.92%	92
Address	0.00%	0
Address 2	0.00%	0
City/Town	0.00%	0
State/Province	0.00%	0
ZIP/Postal Code	0.00%	0
Country	0.00%	0
Email Address	98.92%	92
Phone Number	96.77%	90

Appendix H. YAB Survey Tool

Q1 Are you currently in or have you recently experienced unstable housing?
(Homelessness, couch surfing, staying outside, staying in places not meant for housing, etc.)

Answered: 6 Skipped: 0

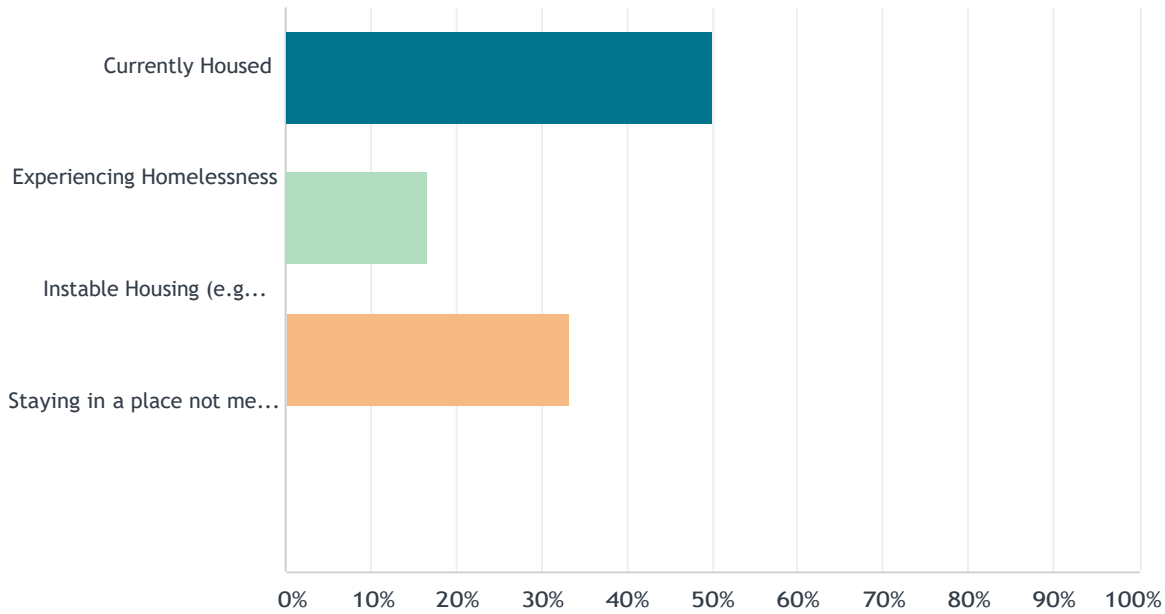


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	66.67% 4
No	33.33% 2
TOTAL	6

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	currently	2/25/2022 12:47 PM

Q2 How would you define your current housing situation?

Answered: 6 Skipped: 0

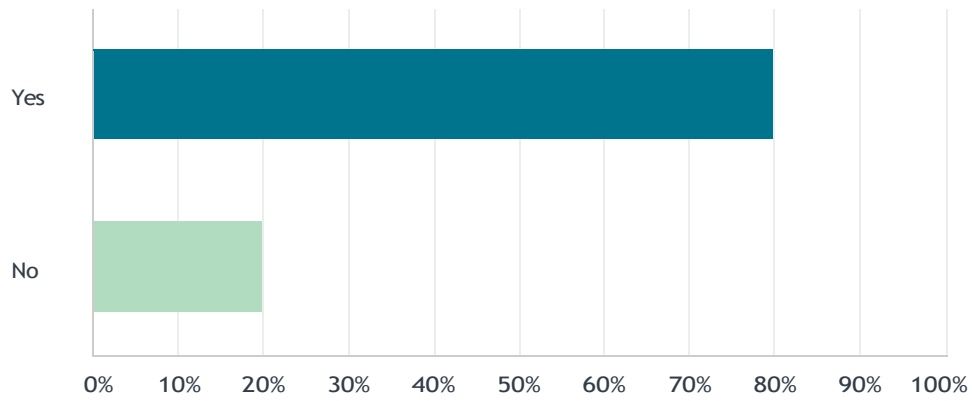


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Currently Housed	50.00%	3
Experiencing Homelessness	16.67%	1
Instable Housing (e.g., couch surfing, close to eviction, etc.)	33.33%	2
Staying in a place not meant for human habitation	0.00%	0
TOTAL		6

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	staying with my boyfriend	2/25/2022 9:50 PM

Q3 Do you currently feel safe where you are staying?

Answered: 5 Skipped: 1

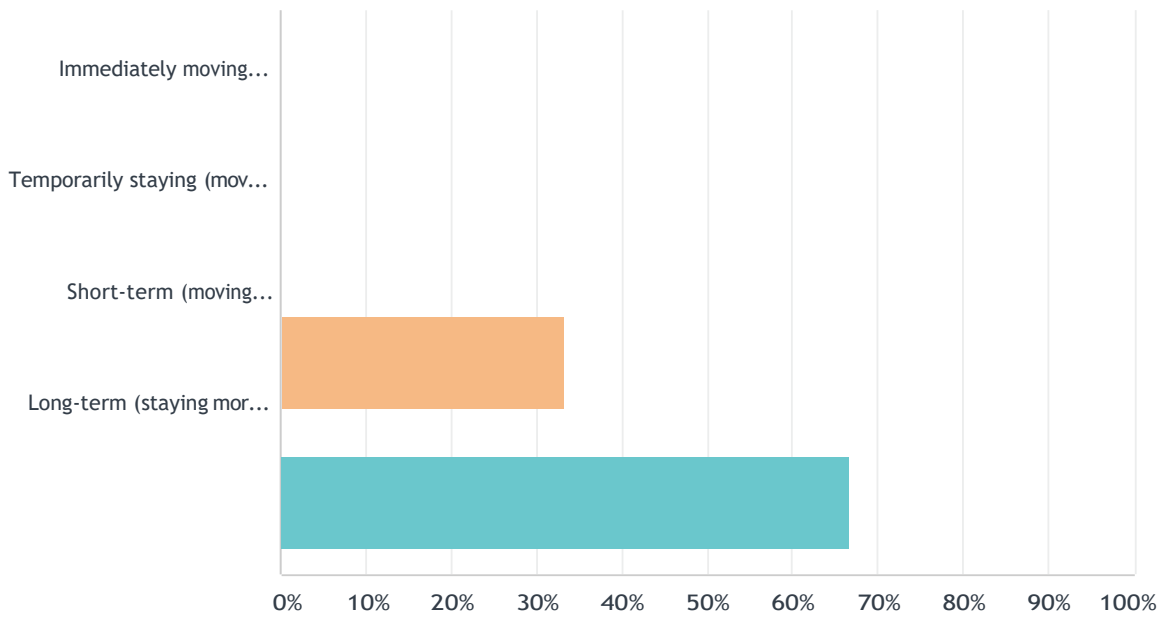


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	80.00%	4
No	20.00%	1
TOTAL		5

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	kinda	2/25/2022 12:47 PM

Q4 How long do you plan/expect to stay where you are currently located/reside?

Answered: 6 Skipped: 0

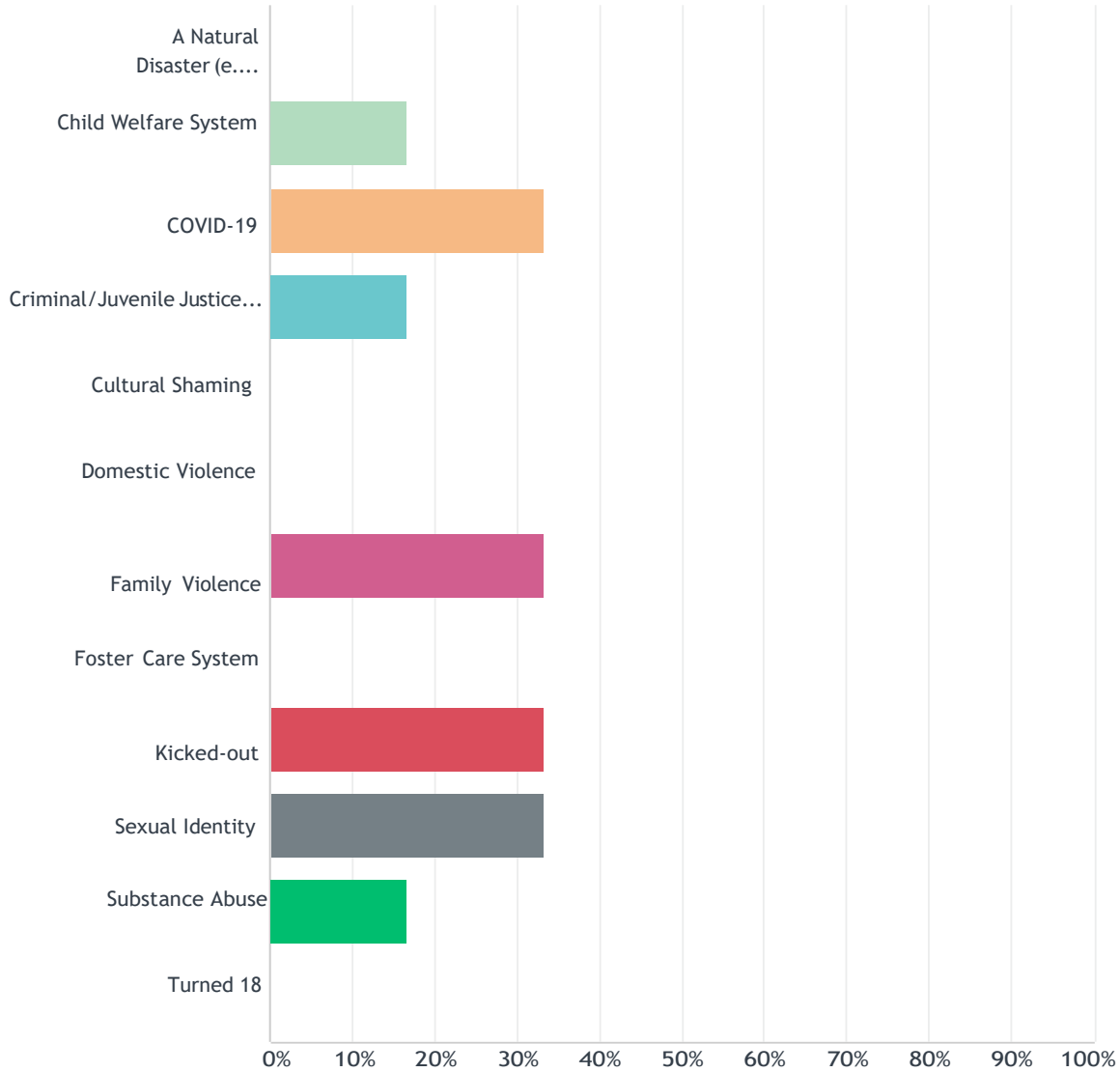


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Immediately moving elsewhere (within less than 24hr)	0.00% 0
Temporarily staying (moving elsewhere within 2 weeks)	0.00% 0
Short-term (moving elsewhere within 90 days)	33.33% 2
Long-term (staying more than 90 days)	66.67% 4
TOTAL	6

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	currently just went and checked out a house that does housing vouchers, but somebody is currently moving out then I should be able to move in soon once I get a \$350 deposit.	2/25/2022 12:47 PM

Q5 What led to your experience of unstable housing/homelessness? Please check all that apply.

Answered: 6 Skipped: 0

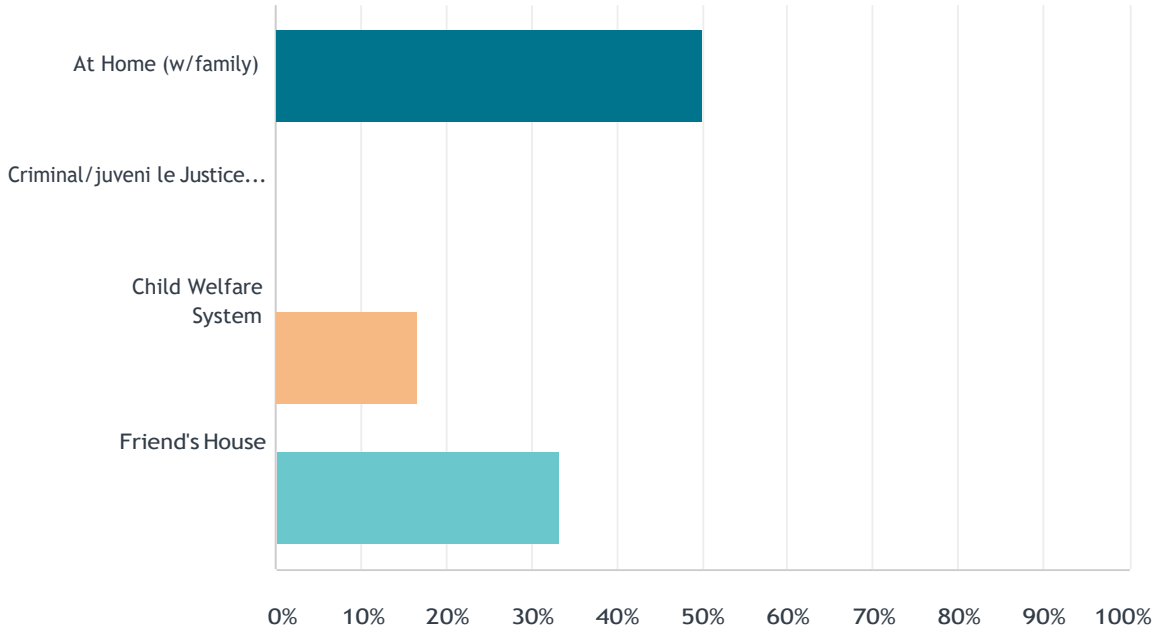


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
A Natural Disaster (e.g., flood, hurricane, tornado, etc.)	0.00%	0
Child Welfare System	16.67%	1
COVID-19	33.33%	2
Criminal/Juvenile Justice System	16.67%	1
Cultural Shaming	0.00%	0
Domestic Violence	0.00%	0
Family Violence	33.33%	2
Foster Care System	0.00%	0
Kicked-out	33.33%	2
Sexual Identity	33.33%	2
Substance Abuse	16.67%	1
Turned 18	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 6		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Family issues, no money for school housing	2/25/2022 12:49 PM

Q6 Where were you living before you became unstably housed / experiencing homelessness?

Answered: 6 Skipped: 0

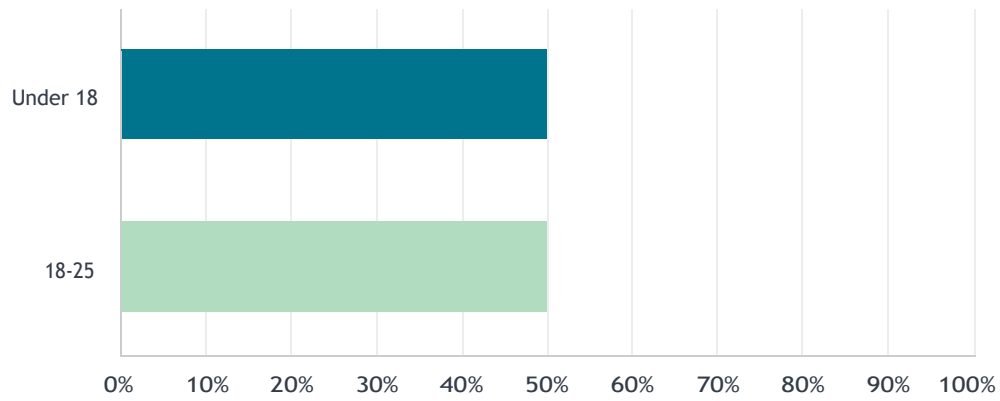


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
At Home (w/family)	50.00% 3
Criminal/juvenile Justice System	0.00% 0
Child Welfare System	16.67% 1
Friend's House	33.33% 2
TOTAL	6

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	school dorm	2/25/2022 12:49 PM

Q7 At what age did you experience unstable housing?

Answered: 6 Skipped: 0

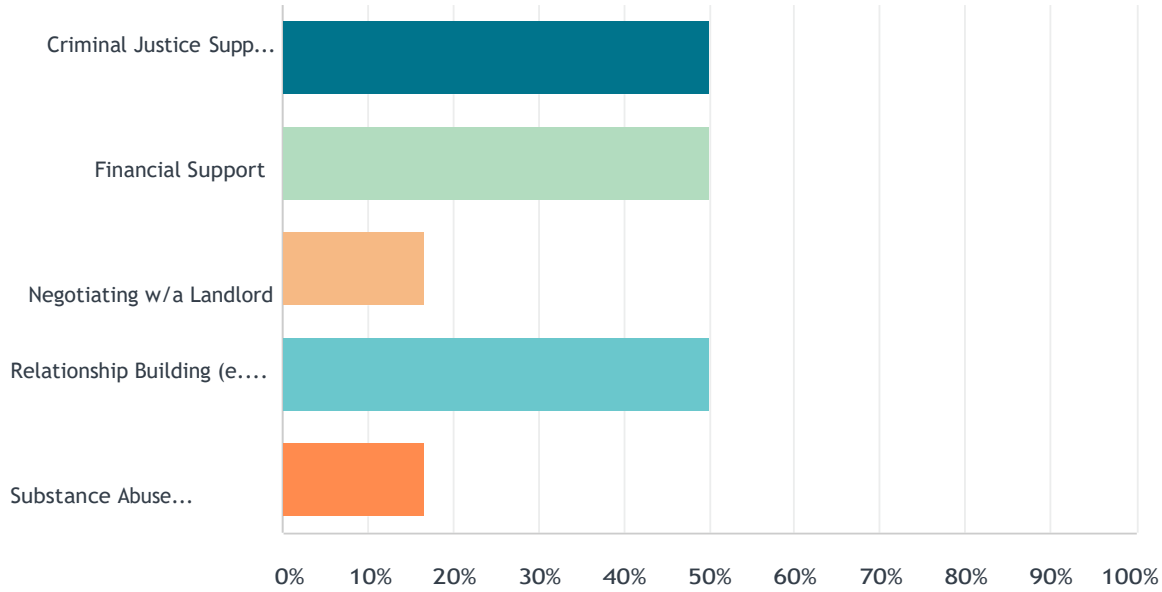


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Under 18	50.00% 3
18-25	50.00% 3
TOTAL	6

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	17	2/25/2022 12:47 PM

Q8 Was there something that could have prevented you from becoming unstably housed? Please check all that apply.

Answered: 6 Skipped: 0



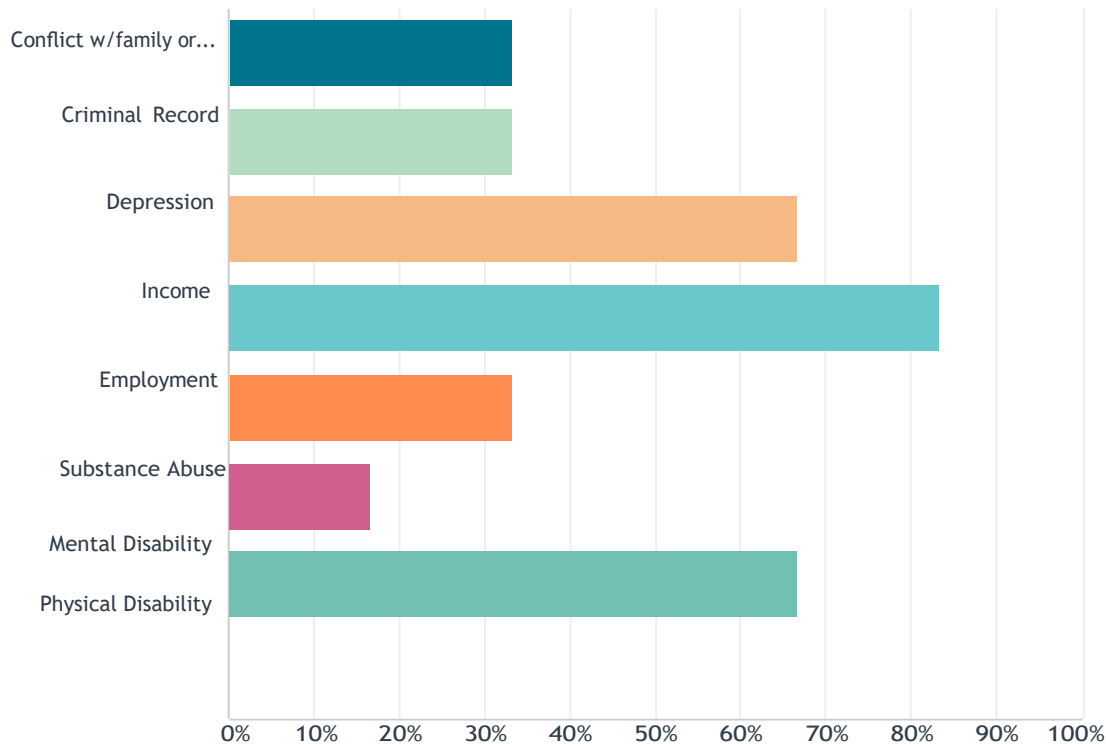
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Criminal Justice Support (e.g., a lawyer)	50.00% 3
Financial Support	50.00% 3
Negotiating w/a Landlord	16.67% 1
Relationship Building (e.g., repairing relationships w/family and/or friends)	50.00% 3
Substance Abuse Assistance\Education	16.67% 1

Total Respondents: 6

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
	There are no responses.	

Q9 Which of the following barriers have you faced or are you currently facing that have prevented you from being housed? Please check all that apply.

Answered: 6 Skipped: 0



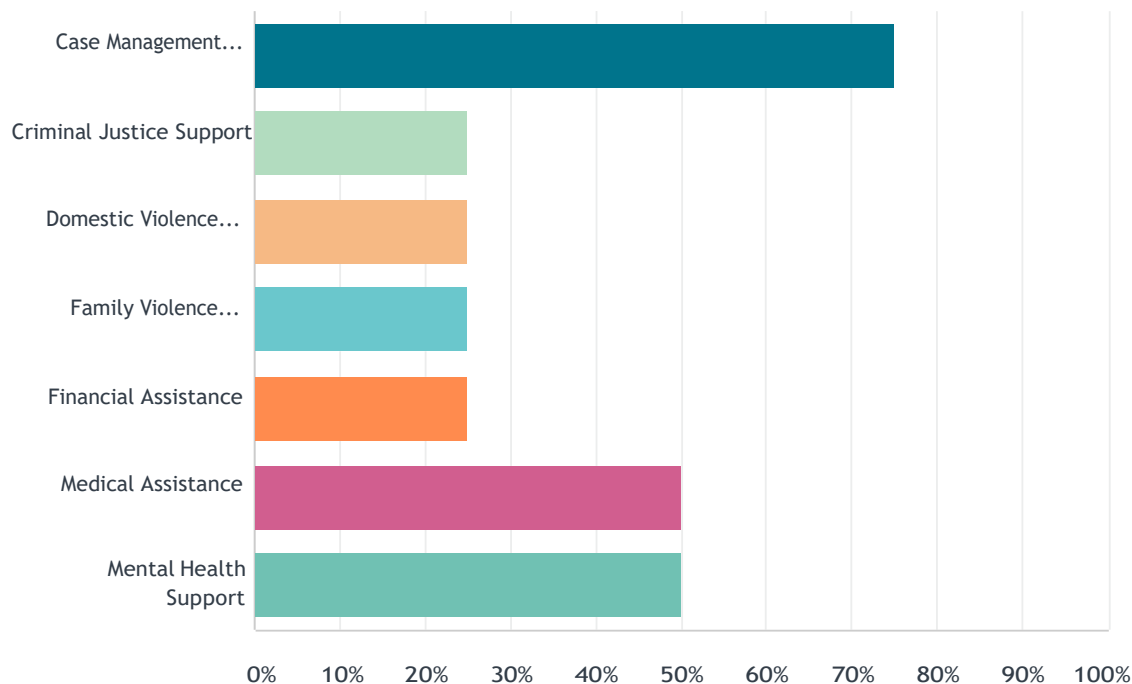
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Conflict w/family or friends	33.33%	2
Criminal Record	33.33%	2
Depression	66.67%	4
Income	83.33%	5
Employment	33.33%	2
Substance Abuse	16.67%	1
Mental Disability	66.67%	4
Physical Disability	0.00%	0

Total Respondents: 6

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
	There are no responses.	

Q10 What type of resources/supports did you receive while being unstably housed or experiencing homelessness? Please check all that apply.

Answered: 4 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Case Management Services	75.00% 3
Criminal Justice Support	25.00% 1
Domestic Violence Support	25.00% 1
Family Violence Support	25.00% 1
Financial Assistance	25.00% 1
Medical Assistance	50.00% 2
Mental Health Support	50.00% 2

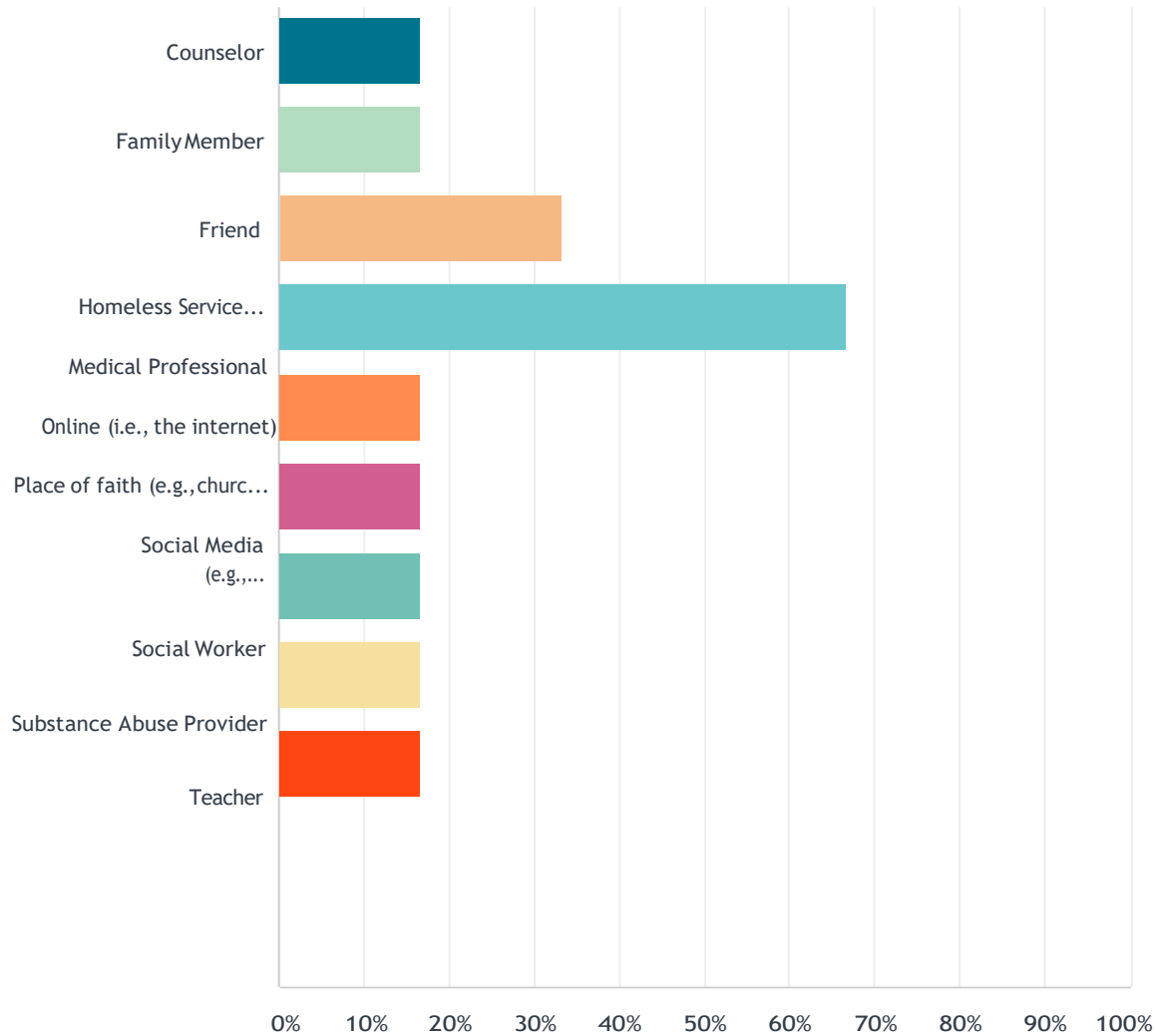
Mental Health Support

Total Respondents: 4

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	none	2/25/2022 9:50 PM
2	none	2/25/2022 12:49 PM

Q11 Where did you go to find resources while being unstably housed / experiencing homelessness? Please check all that apply.

Answered: 6 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Counselor	16.67%	1
Family Member	16.67%	1
Friend	33.33%	2
Homeless Service Provider	66.67%	4
Medical Professional	16.67%	1
Online (i.e., the internet)	16.67%	1
Place of faith (e.g., church, temple, mosque, monastery, etc.)	16.67%	1
Social Media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, etc.)	16.67%	1
Social Worker	16.67%	1
Substance Abuse Provider	0.00%	0
Teacher	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 6		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
	There are no responses.	

Q12 If you were to use media tools/resources, what would make it appealing to you? For example, what information would you want to see or know about?
What would grab your attention?

Answered: 6 Skipped: 0

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Housing Assistance, Employment Assistance, Car Finding Assistance, Financial Assistance, Financial literacy.	2/25/2022 9:50 PM
2	Help for youth homelessness	2/25/2022 2:12 PM
3	Instagram videos	2/25/2022 12:50 PM
4	it may sound cliché' but ads that say "if you're going through hard times and need resources contact..."	2/25/2022 12:49 PM
5	What would make it appealing to me is that something dealing with or causing homelessness has ended.	2/25/2022 12:47 PM
6	Where to go in case of a family emergency as I'm being kicked out due to a crazy family member	2/22/2022 1:04 PM

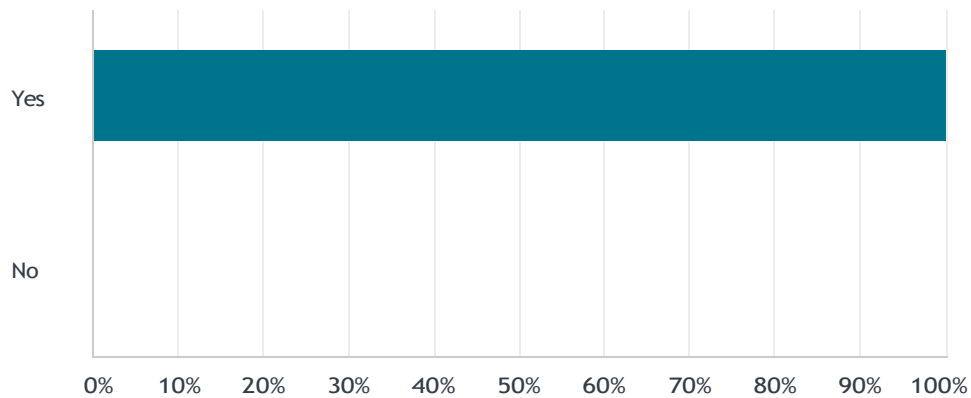
Q13 If you could do anything to prevent and end youth homelessness, what would it be and why?

Answered: 6 Skipped: 0

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	make programs that will help youth or young adults before they are homeless.	2/25/2022 9:50 PM
2	If I cloud do anything I would help find placement and housing. So instead of the youth sleeping on the street they have a place to lay their head	2/25/2022 2:12 PM
3	Create an app with all resources & people of contact for easy access to information	2/25/2022 12:50 PM
4	Having a peer-to-peer advocate with lived experience to help facilitate the transition for the youth.	2/25/2022 12:49 PM
5	build more resources and drop-in centers for people unable to get to things they need.	2/25/2022 12:47 PM
6	A place where teens feel welcome. And safe and treated respectfully	2/22/2022 1:04 PM

Q14 If you were able, would you like to be involved in future efforts to prevent and end youth homelessness?

Answered: 6 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	100.00%	6
No	0.00%	0
TOTAL		6

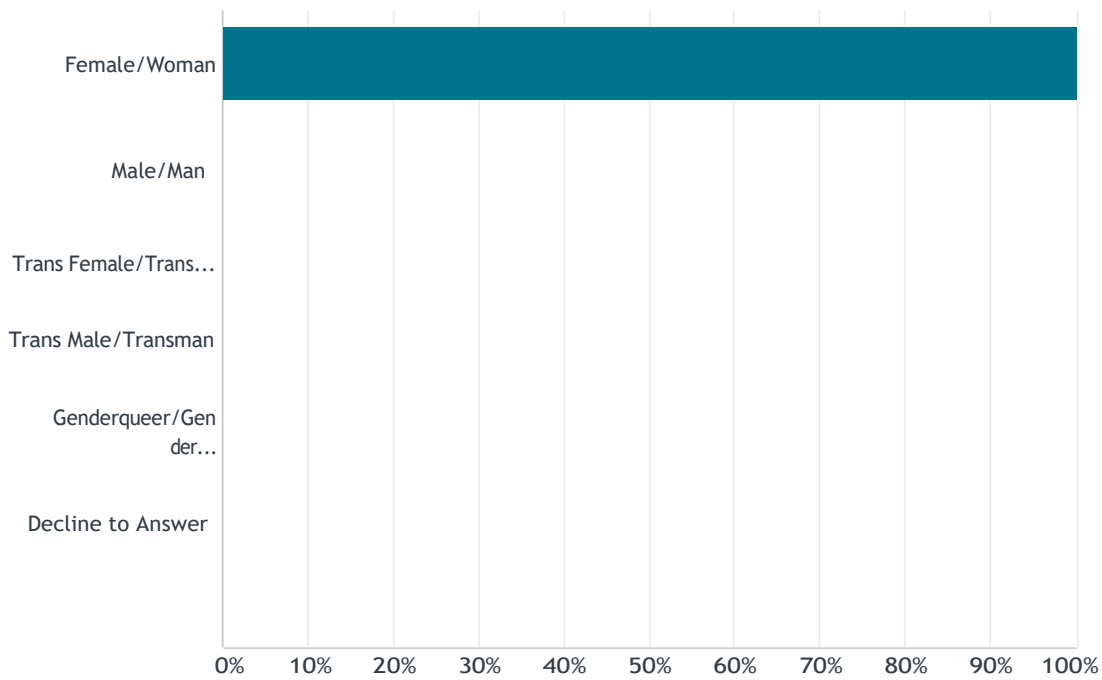
Q16 Is there anything else you would like to add?

Answered: 2 Skipped: 4

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	No	2/25/2022 9:50 PM
2	Thank you for everything y'all do	2/25/2022 12:50 PM

Q17 What is your current gender identity? Please check all that apply.

Answered: 4 Skipped: 2



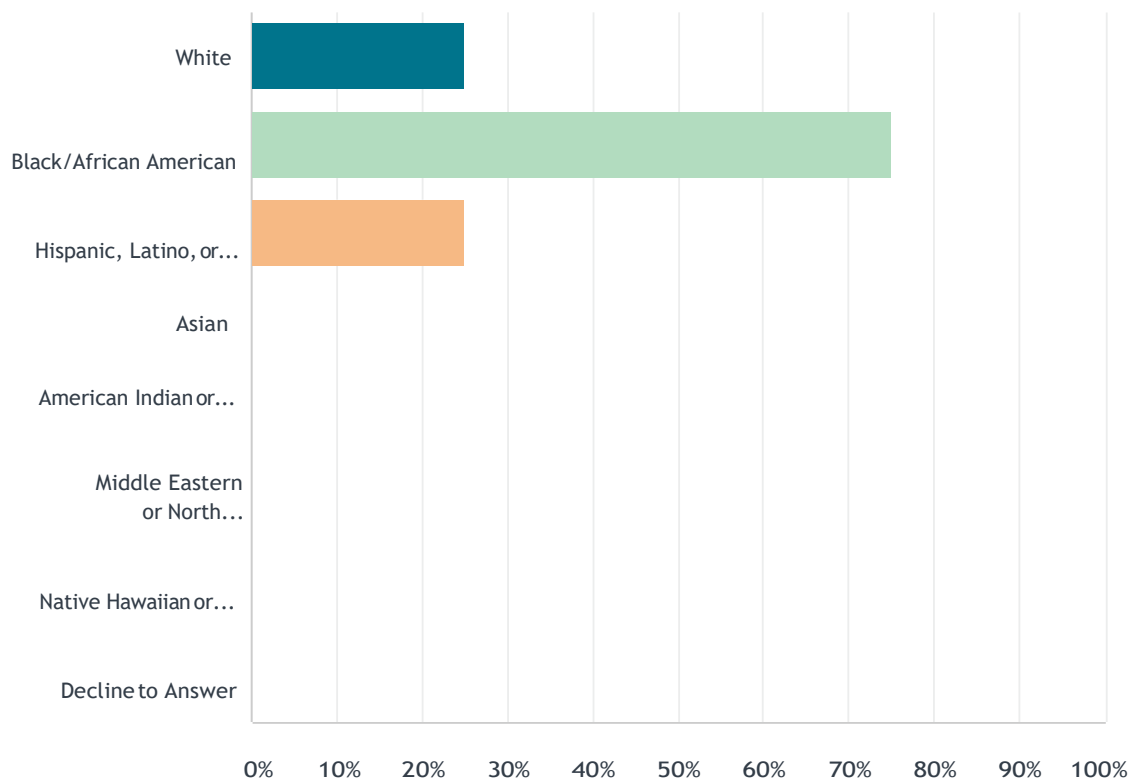
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	Count
Female/Woman	100.00%	4
Male/Man	0.00%	0
Trans Female/Transwoman	0.00%	0
Trans Male/Transman	0.00%	0
Genderqueer/Gender Non-Conforming (GNC)	0.00%	0
Decline to Answer	0.00%	0

Total Respondents: 4

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
There are no responses.		

Q18 Which category(ies) best describe you? Please check all that apply.

Answered: 4 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
White	25.00%	1
Black/African American	75.00%	3
Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin	25.00%	1
Asian	0.00%	0
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.00%	0
Middle Eastern or North African	0.00%	0
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0.00%	0
Decline to Answer	0.00%	0

Total Respondents: 4

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
	There are no responses.	

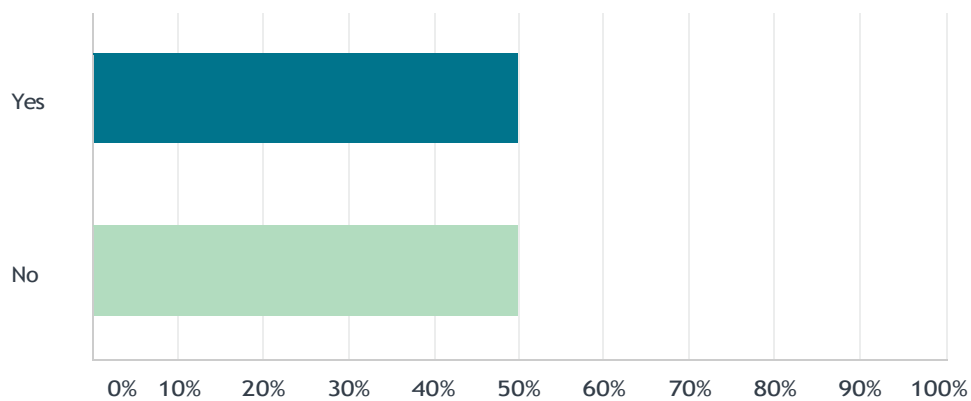
Q19 What is current age?

Answered: 4 Skipped: 2

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	24	2/25/2022 9:51 PM
2	18	2/25/2022 2:13 PM
3	20	2/25/2022 12:49 PM
4	19	2/22/2022 1:05 PM

Q20 I identify as LGBTQ and/or gender non-conforming

Answered: 4 Skipped: 2

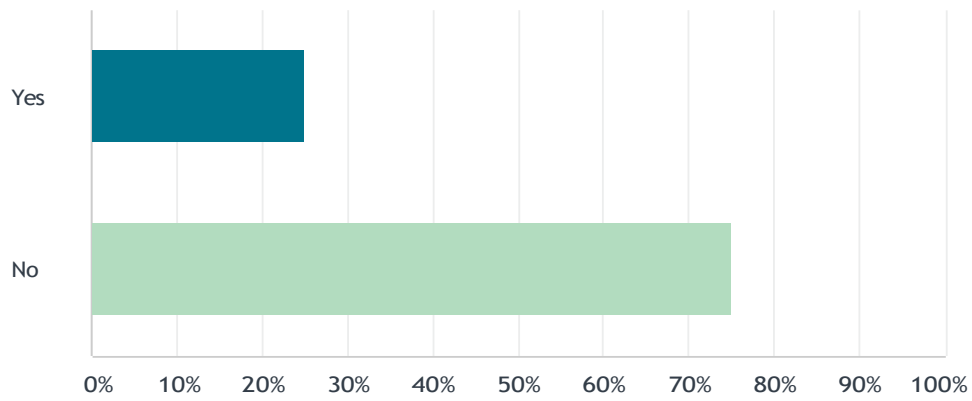


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	50.00% 2
No	50.00% 2
Total Respondents: 4	

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Lesbian	2/25/2022 12:49 PM

Q21 I do currently or have in the past struggled with substance use or addiction.

Answered: 4 Skipped: 2

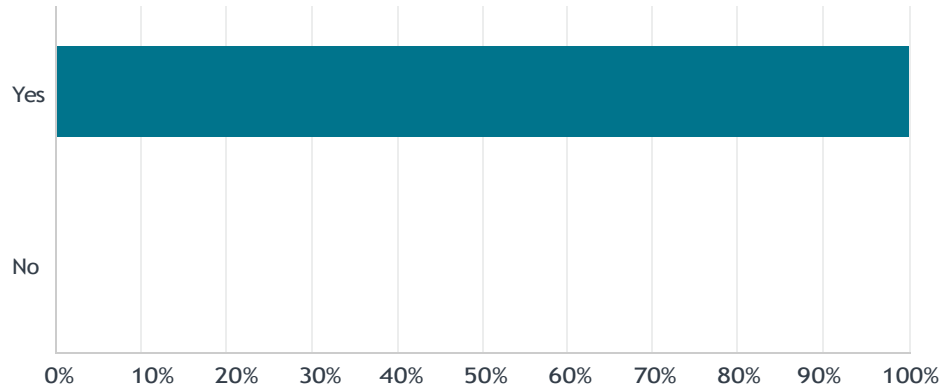


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	25.00% 1
No	75.00% 3
Total Respondents: 4	

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
	There are no responses.	

Q22 I do currently or have in the past struggled with a mental health issue.

Answered: 4 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	100.00% 4
No	0.00%
Total Respondents: 4	

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	PTSD, Disruptive mood dysregulation disorder, adhd , depression	2/25/2022 12:49 PM

Appendix I. Data Walk

INSERT DATA WALK HERE

Appendix J. Sources

Community Goals

Equity

¹Supporting Partnerships for Anti-Racist Communities (SPARC)(Center for Social Innovation) (2018), “Initial Findings from Quantitative and Qualitative Research” [online] Available at: [SPARC-San-Francisco-FINAL.pdf \(sfgov.org\)](#)

²Capps, R., Fix, M., Nwosu, C., “A Profile of Immigrants in Houston, the Nation's Most Diverse Metropolitan Area” (March 2015) [online] Available at: [Research: A Profile of Immigrants in Houston, the .. | migrationpolicy.org](#)

³Sharim, Y., “In Harris County, Texas, immigrants confront the contradictions of living at the epicenter of debate.”, Rice Kinder Institute for Urban Research. (January 2016) [online] Available at: [In Houston, A Life of Contradiction Faces Migrants | The Kinder Institute for Urban Research \(rice.edu\)](#)

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⁴U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, “Appendix B: Requirements of the Coordinated Community Plan” [online] Available at: [Appendix B \(hud.gov\)](#)

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⁵Morton, M.H., Dworsky, A., & Samuels, G.M. (2017). “Missed Opportunities: Youth Homelessness in America. National Estimates”. Chicago IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. [online] Available at: [Missed Opportunities: Youth Homelessness in America – Voices of Youth Count](#)

⁶National Center for Homeless Education, “Supporting In-School and Out-of-School Youth Experiencing Homelessness Through Education and Workforce Partnerships” (2018). [online] Available at: [Supporting In-School and Out-of-School Youth Experiencing Homelessness Through Education and Workforce Partnerships](#)

⁷Slesnick, N., Zhang, J. & Yilmazer, T. Employment and Other Income Sources Among Homeless Youth. *J Primary Prevent* **39**, 247–262 (2018). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10935-018-0511-1>

Diversion

⁸Morton, M.H., Dworsky, A., & Samuels, G.M. (2017). “Missed Opportunities: Youth Homelessness in America. National Estimates”. Chicago IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. [online] Available at: [Missed Opportunities: Youth Homelessness in America – Voices of Youth Count](#)

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⁹United States Census Bureau, “QuickFacts: Fort Bend County, Texas; Harris County, Texas” [online] Available at: [U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts: Harris County, Texas](#)

¹⁰National Association of Home Builders, “NHAB/Wells Fargo Housing Opportunity Index (HOI)”, [online] Available at: [Housing Opportunity Index \(HOI\) - NAHB](#)

¹¹Rice Kinder Institute for Urban Research, “The 2021 State of Housing in Harris County and Houston” [online] Available at: [KI Research Report–2021 State of Housing Report 4.pdf \(rice.edu\)](#)

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¹²Coalition for Juvenile Justice, “Youth Homelessness and Juvenile Justice: Opportunities for Collaboration and Impact”, (June 2016) [online] Available at: [policy brief FINAL.compressed.pdf \(juvjustice.org\)](#)

¹³Harris County (2022) “Current Jail Pop - Jail Population.” Hctx.Net, <https://charts.hctx.net/jailpop/App/JailPopCurrent>.

¹⁴Chapin Hall at The University of Chicago. “Voices of Youth Count Graphics”. [online] Available at: <https://www.chapinhall.org/voices-of-youth-count-graphics/>

¹⁵“Mental Health and Juvenile Justice Collaboration for Change (NCMHJJ) (Delmar, NY).” National Institute of Corrections, [online] Available at: <https://nicic.gov/sources/mental-health-and-juvenile-justice-collaboration-change-ncmhjj-delmar-ny>

LGBTQIA+ Youth

¹⁶Morton, M. H., Samuels, G. M., Dworsky, A., & Patel, S. (April 2018). “Missed Opportunities: LGBTQ youth homelessness in America”. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. [online] Available at: [Missed Opportunities: LGBTQ Youth Homelessness in America – Voices of Youth Count](#)

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¹⁷True Colors United, “National LGBTQ+ Youth Homelessness Research Agenda” (January 2020) [online] Available at: <https://truecolorsunited.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/LGBTQ-Youth-Homelessness-Research-Agenda--Final.pdf>

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¹⁸ National Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance Center. “What Do We Mean by Human Trafficking?” [online] Available at : [What Do We Mean by Human Trafficking? Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 \(TVPA\) | NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER \(hhs.gov\)](#)

¹⁹ Covenant House “Human Trafficking Study.” [online] Available at: [Human Trafficking Study | Covenant House](#)

²⁰ Office of Attorney General (December 2020). “Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force”. [online] Available at: <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/sites/default/files/files/divisions/human-trafficking/HumanTraffickingAnnualReport2020.pdf>

²¹ United Against Human Trafficking (2020), “Statement of Impact”, [online] Available at: <https://uaht.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/2020-United-Against-Human-Trafficking-Annual-Report.pdf>

²² Polaris (October 2019), “Trafficking Trends”. [online] Available at: <https://polarisproject.org/>.

²³ Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, “Victims of Human Trafficking”. [online] Available at: https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Investigations/Human_Trafficking/victims.asp

Minors

²⁴ Narendorf, Sarah (December 2016), “Youth Homelessness in Texas” [online] Available at: [Youth Homelessness in Texas - Final Report \(state.tx.us\)](#)

²⁵ Morton, M. H., Samuels, G. M., Dworsky, A., & Patel, S. (September 2018). “Voices of Youth Count Comprehensive Report: Youth Homelessness in America”. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. [online] Available at: [Voices of Youth Count Comprehensive Report: Youth Homelessness in America | HUD USER](#)

²⁶ Houston YHDP Cohort TEA Data Book

²⁸ Morton, M.H., Dworsky, A., & Samuels, G.M. (2017). “Missed Opportunities: Youth Homelessness in America. National Estimates”. Chicago IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. [online] Available at: [Missed Opportunities: Youth Homelessness in America – Voices of Youth Count](#)

Pregnant and Parenting Youth & Young Adults

²⁹ Kids Count Data Center, “Total Teen Births.” [online] Available at: [Total teen births | KIDS COUNT Data Center](#)

³⁰ Morton, M. H., Samuels, G. M., Dworsky, A., & Patel, S. (September 2018). “Voices of Youth Count Comprehensive Report: Youth Homelessness in America”. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the

University of Chicago. [online] Available at: [Voices of Youth Count Comprehensive Report: Youth Homelessness in America | HUD USER](#)

³¹Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS). “Youth Parents and Pregnant Youth in DFPS Conservatorship: Fiscal Year 2021”, [online] Available at: http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/About_DFPS/Reports_and_Presentations/CPS/documents/2022/2022-02-01_Pregnant_and_Parenting_Youth_Report_FY21.pdf

Youth in Child Welfare

³² Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative (June 2014). “From Foster Home to Homeless: Strategies to Prevent Homelessness for Youth Transitioning from Foster Care.” [online] Available at: [JCYOI-FromFosterHometoHomeless-2014.pdf \(aecf.org\)](#)

³³Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS). “CPS Family Preservation (FPR): Children Served.” [online] Available at: https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/About_DFPS/Data_Book/Child_Protective_Services/Family_Preservation/Children_Served.asp

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