

There's No Place Like Home

*A Transformative Coordinated Community Plan to
Eradicate Homelessness Among Youth & Young Adults in Rhode Island*



March 2022

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Title Page Image Description:

The YAB worked with Victoria Matthews, Providence native and artist, to illustrate our vision of growth and change that the CCP, and the process to create it, represents. The greenhouse symbolizes a caring space--warm, nurturing, and affirming with the conditions necessary to thrive. Grounded in love, equity, partnership and celebration, the tree grows within the greenhouse and ultimately beyond it. The leaves tell the story of multiple perspectives, roles, and kinds of expertise our community has and needs to ensure the tree continues to remain strong and vibrant as we evolve. For us, this image evokes strength, connection, diversity, growth, and joy.

Acknowledgements

The development of this coordinated community plan (CCP) would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our youth leaders, Rhode Island community partners, RCoC members, committees and Board. We would like to specifically name and express our utmost gratitude to the Youth Action Board (YAB), Unaccompanied Youth Committee (UYC), YHDP Steering Committee, youth service providers, community stakeholders and technical assistance advisors who contributed their time, care, experience, and expertise to ensure this coordinated community planning process successfully aligned with our vision for a youth and equity centric, community driven process.

We are particularly grateful for and appreciative of the feedback and input from the youth and young adults with lived experience. When provided meaningful opportunities to participate--in community listening sessions, individual conversations, and through the YAB--they provided thoughtful insight regarding their needs and those of their peers, and recommended nuanced strategies for positive impact and significant change.

Rhode Island stakeholders have been on a journey to design our ideal system to end homelessness among youth and young adults in our state and to ensure that our collective vision and voice are seen and heard. Now we begin the important next phase of transforming this vision into reality. While there is still much work to be done, we understand our current system's capacity and have identified unmet needs. We've built community while designing this plan for transformative action, and are prepared to address and fill the gaps as we work together to create something that has not yet existed--an equity-centric system to eradicate unaccompanied youth homelessness in Rhode Island. We're grateful for the partnerships and sense of solidarity developed thus far, and are eager to deepen and grow this movement for a system built on love, justice, and community.

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Call to Action

A message from the Youth Action Board

We are involved in work that most shy away from because we have experienced homelessness, struggle with inconsistent living situations, and have friends and loved ones who have been homeless. We raise our voices, share our vision, and are part of making policy, program and funding decisions to prevent and end youth homelessness because we know how important and necessary real change is. We're part of this movement so youth who are struggling with housing now can have their voices heard and know they're not alone, and to make sure others no longer have to go through what we've experienced.

We all know that having a place to call home is one of the most important things that gives us the freedom to be happy, healthy and to be our best selves. Having so many youth and young adults experiencing homelessness in our community with so few resources is unacceptable and cannot be tolerated. We must do better. Youth homelessness is complex AND it is a solvable problem. We're excited to be working with others who see us as full partners in creating solutions, have the courage to think boldly, and know that ending youth homelessness is a matter of justice. There is a lot of momentum--energy and commitment to confront hard truths and make real change--to prevent and end youth homelessness in Rhode Island. Combined with this \$3.5M YHDP award, our movement has a rare opportunity to begin building an equitable system that works for all youth. We hope you'll join us in building a stronger community and a better future.

With love, hope and urgency,

Andrea, Benji, Ella, Favour, Gloria, Johan, Sofia, and Suzan

Rhode Island Youth Action Board

Executive Summary

In September 2021, Rhode Island's Continuum of Care (RiCoC) was selected for the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) competitive Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP). Upon Rhode Island's designation as a YHDP community the RiCoC received an investment of \$3.5 million to, following the leadership of the YAB, design and then build a system to eradicate homelessness among unaccompanied youth and young adults in Rhode Island.

Rhode Island has steadily grown its systemic response to youth homelessness over the past five years and the infusion of resources associated with YHDP offers a wonderful opportunity to create and shape sustainable youth centric, equity focused supportive housing resources. Rhode Island's current supply and configuration of homeless services do not meet the needs of local youth and young adults (YYA), and research indicates that the longer a young person remains homeless, the worse their chances of finding and maintaining a permanent home become.

Designed in collaboration with local stakeholders and through a planning process that prioritized youth voice, agency, and leadership, three key strategies are identified in the Coordinated Community Plan (CCP), with goals and activities to deliver on these strategies are outlined. Our CCP, and each of its components, integrates our racial equity and justice values and core principles, and embeds strategies for effective practice that focus on the needs of prioritized populations who disproportionately experience homelessness and housing insecurity. Rhode Island's key strategies to eradicate homelessness among youth and young adults are to:

1. **Build and maintain capacity to provide community-based prevention, diversion, early identification and intervention, support, and stabilization services.** We will implement solutions that enable us to identify as many YYA who are experiencing or are at risk of homelessness as possible and to connect them with robust systems of support. These efforts will help us ensure youth homelessness is a rare experience.
2. **Develop and ensure rapid access to a spectrum of youth-centric, affirming, safe, supported housing solutions and robust cross-system services.** We will invest in a comprehensive array of new resources that responds to our housing and service needs, tests new and innovative models, and better serves priority populations to ensure youth homelessness is a brief, one-time occurrence
3. **Develop, improve, and sustain the resources and capacity to prevent and end unaccompanied youth homelessness through cross-sector planning, coordination, advocacy, and oversight.** We will organize the way that we work and make decisions to form a clear, comprehensive, equity and community centric, system to sustain system capacity at scale and eradicate youth homelessness

Gentrification, wildly inadequate stock and investment in affordable housing, the COVID-19 pandemic, systemic racism, and a host of other socio-political realities impact youth and families and their ability to become and remain stably housed in Rhode Island, so our approach to tackling homelessness among YYA must be dynamic and flexible, and always driven by youth voice, vision, and leadership. We hope this Coordinated Community Plan will serve as a living document, inspiring ideas, connections, and transformative action that will eradicate homelessness and housing instability among youth and young adults in RI.

The Rhode Island Landscape

Community Context

To understand the realities of youth and young adults in Rhode Island, we first look at the overall context using social determinants of health. The lived and built environment has an outsized role in opportunity and outcomes. Questions of racial disparity in a nation whose economy was founded on slavery and didn't fully recognize the voting rights of African Americans until the 1960s must be considered. As do questions of disparities based on gender, sexual orientation, and gender identity in a nation that didn't accord White women the right to vote until 1920, or afford marriage equality to LGBTQ+ folks until 2016, and continues to attack bodily autonomy,



access to education, the workforce, and civil rights and protections. These and other disparities based on intersectional, marginalized identities play out in terms of educational, economic, and wellness realities and outcomes; each of which impact housing.

Rhode Island is a mere 1,545 square miles with a population of 1,097,379 (2020 Census) living in 39 cities and towns, with **approximately 158,280 youth and young adults ages 14-24**. 83.6% of the population is White, not Hispanic/Latino; 16.3% are Hispanic/Latino, 8.5% are Black/African American, not Hispanic/Latino; 51.3% female. In 2019 in Rhode Island, 46% of children under age five were People of Color, compared with 35% of adults ages 25 to 44 and 12% of people age 65 or over. The median household income is \$71,169 (median individual income is \$33,986) and 43.4% of the population is college educated.

According to US News & World Report, the state ranks #34 in the nation for opportunity in 2021, after ranking #26 in 2019. These and other rankings, outlined on the scorecard (right) and throughout this section, are closely aligned with social determinants of health, and include some equity measures.

RANKINGS SCORECARD	
Health Care	#9
Education	#39
Economy	#28
Infrastructure	#49
Opportunity	#32
Fiscal Stability	#44
Crime & Corrections	#7
Natural Environment	#7

Further, the Hope Initiative offers the following perspectives on health equity in the Ocean State compared to other states across various factors that influence health (Below: Ranking is out of 50 states; lower is better. Domain summary scores are out of 100, and higher scores indicate better combined performance).

Health Outcomes	Social & Economic Factors	Community & Safety Factors	Physical Environment	Access to Healthcare
16th	45th	14th	50th	6th
Domain Score: 68	Domain Score: 45	Domain Score: 68	Domain Score: 40	Domain Score: 80

- American Indian/Alaska Native adults in Rhode Island face substantial challenges to home ownership, quality housing, employment, and are among the least likely to have food security.
- Hispanic and American Indian/Alaska Native populations still experience difficulties in their ability to access affordable health care.
- Despite ranking among the top states in measures of social environment, Hispanic populations in the state are least likely to live in opportunity-rich areas with low rates of poverty and robbery, and are among the least likely to have affordable housing or live in areas with low liquor store density.
- Hispanic individuals in Rhode Island also have the fewest opportunities to attain post-secondary education or earn a livable income, and are least likely to be in excellent or very good health.

Healthcare & Health Equity

While healthcare access as defined by availability of health insurance is ranked 4th best in the nation, actual access to that health care ranks a problematic #32 (US News) and significant disparities persist. Key findings from the Rhode Island Department of Health 2015 Statewide Health Inventory are:

- Number of full-time equivalents of primary care physicians is up to 40% lower than previous estimates and is about 10% less than national standards for adequate access to care.
- Substantially limited data exists across practices and facilities regarding race, ethnicity and primary languages of patients, as well as a lack of appropriate interpreter services at many healthcare facilities and practices.
- The survey of patients and communities in Rhode Island suggests that financial barriers, such as high co-pays and deductibles, may be preventing Rhode Islanders from receiving the care they need when they get sick.

Additionally,

- Hispanic Rhode Islanders were significantly less likely to seek medical care and dental care due to cost compared to White, non-Hispanic Rhode Islanders.
- Among Rhode Island adults with a disability, 19.3% reported not seeking medical care due to cost, and 26.7% reported not seeking dental care due to cost, compared to 7.3% and 9.0%, respectively, among adults without a disability.
- The statewide five-year average teen birth rate declined 53% between 2003-2007 and 2013-2017, from 30.4 births per 1,000 teen girls to 14.4. The teen birth rate in the four core cities declined by 54% during that time but remains more than three times higher than the rest of the state.
- Despite declines among all racial and ethnic groups, disparities exist among racial/ethnic groups regarding youth pregnancy/parenting. During 2009-2011 in the city of Providence, the teen birth rate was about 3 times as high among Black or African Americans, 4 times as high among those of Hispanic/Latino ethnicity, and 6.5 times as high among Native Americans as among Whites
- 9.7% of people under age 65, had a disability (2015-2019)
- Providence had one of the highest teen pregnancy rates in the state during 2009-2011. The rate in Providence (54 per 1,000 teens) was 1.4 times that for the state (38), with 1,627 teen pregnancies occurring during the three-year period
- Women of Color are more likely than White women to receive delayed or no prenatal care and to have infants with low birthweight. Native American, Black, and Hispanic women are also more likely to have preterm births than White and Asian women. Black children are more likely to die in infancy than White, Hispanic, or Asian children. Hispanic, Native American, and Black youth are more likely than White and Asian youth to give birth as teenagers.
- Untreated trauma and lack of access to trauma-informed diagnosis, treatment, medication, and follow ups for transition age youth also creates challenges with independent, communal, and shared living, being able to maintain relationships and mitigate issues with neighbors or landlords.

Education

There are 311 Rhode Island schools serving over 139,000 students, 123 of those schools are middle and/or high schools. As of October 1, 2020, there were 59,280 students in grades K-5; 32,450 in grades 6-8; and 45,178 in grades 9- 12. There were 2,276 children enrolled in preschool classrooms in Rhode Island public schools. During the 2020-2021 school year:

- 1,848 children were enrolled in RI Pre-K in 25 public school classrooms and 76 community based center classrooms.
- In October 2020, 54% of Rhode Island public school students were White, 28% were Hispanic, 9% were Black, 5% were Multi-Racial, 3% were Asian/Pacific Islander, and 1% were Native American. 46% of public school students in Rhode Island were low income (students who were eligible for the free or reduced-price lunch program).
- 15% of Rhode Island public school students were receiving special education services and 11% were Multilingual Learners/English Learners.
- The graduation rate among economically disadvantaged students in Rhode Island was 76%, compared to 93.4% among students who were not economically disadvantaged. Hispanic and multiracial students had the lowest four-year graduation rates among all racial/ethnic groups, at 75.8% and 79.3%, respectively.
- Woonsocket, Central Falls, and Providence had the lowest four-year graduation rates among high school students. The graduation rate for students with disabilities was 63%, compared to 88.2% for students without disabilities. Nationally, RI is ranked #25 for K12, and #49 for higher education.

Built Environment

The condition of infrastructure is key to determining quality of life. Here, RI's notoriously poor public transportation and transportation infrastructure (ranked 50th), energy (#45) and internet access (#37) significantly impacts mobility, connectedness, and opportunities afforded to those who live, work and play here.

- Compared to other cities and towns in Rhode Island, West Greenwich, Scituate, and Little Compton have the lowest availability of low to moderate-income housing relative to the estimated number of income-eligible households.
- No community in Rhode Island has enough low to moderate-income housing units relative to the estimated number of income-eligible households, and most communities have less than one low to moderate-income housing unit for every five income-eligible households.
- More than 24% of renters and owners are cost burdened in all municipalities in Rhode Island. Rhode Island's core cities – Providence, Pawtucket, Central Falls, and Woonsocket – are four of the top five municipalities with the greatest housing cost burden.
- In 2019, there was no municipality in which the state's median renter's income could afford a two-bedroom unit and only 6% of housing stock met lead safe standards.
- According to the 2021 Housing Fact Book by Housing Works R.I. at Roger Williams University, Burrillville is the only municipality where a household earning an income of \$36,078, which is the state's median rental income, could affordably rent an average two-bedroom apartment.
- The critical shortage of affordable housing, coupled with rising numbers of people experiencing homelessness illustrates a central systemic problem of housing instability that disproportionately impacts transition age youth who tend to experience more barriers to accessing education and living-wage, safe and sustainable employment, and subsequently receive lower wages.

Social & Community Stability

According to the 2020 Rhode Island Commission for Health Advocacy and Equity Legislative Report:

- Central Falls (43%), Providence (45.3%), Woonsocket (46.3%), and Pawtucket (53.3%) ***(Rhode Island's core cities) had the lowest voter participation in the 2016 election;*** Scituate, Little Compton, and Jamestown had the highest voter participation.
- Central Falls, Providence, Woonsocket, and West Warwick had the highest numbers of non-violent offenders under probation or parole per 1,000 residents in each municipality. Richmond, Jamestown, and Barrington had the lowest number of non-violent

offenders under probation or parole per 1,000 residents in each municipality. Four of the top five most disadvantaged municipalities for this measure are core cities – Providence, Pawtucket, Central Falls, and Woonsocket.

The RI Kids Count Factbook provides the following insights:

- In the 2010 Census, 6% (13,968) of all children in Rhode Island lived with a grandparent caregiver and 2% (4,398) lived with other relatives.
- In 2019, 95% of children in Rhode Island were born in the U.S. **Twenty-seven percent of children in Rhode Island in 2019 lived in immigrant families** (either they are foreign-born, or they have at least one parent who is foreign-born), which is almost the same as the U.S. rate of 25%. Nearly all (97%) Rhode Island children in immigrant families had parents who have been in the United States for more than five years.
- **Half (50%) of Rhode Island's Hispanic children live in an immigrant family.**
- In January 2021, there were 106 fewer slots for infants and toddlers and 453 fewer slots for preschoolers in licensed centers, and there were 384 fewer slots in licensed family child care homes than in January 2020
- In December 2020, **there were 7,016 child care subsidies** in Rhode Island, down 34% from December 2019 (pre-pandemic). Additionally, 21% of children participating in the Rhode Island Child Care Assistance Program were enrolled in programs with high-quality BrightStars ratings (four or five stars), up from 16% in 2019 and 10% in December 2018.
- Using the federal child care affordability guideline (no more than 7% of family income should be spent on child care), a Rhode Island family would need to earn at least \$155,757 annually to afford the average yearly cost for a three-year-old at a licensed center in 2018 (\$10,903)
- In 2019, **there were 2,903 emergency department visits and 1,841 hospitalizations of Rhode Island children with a primary diagnosis of mental disorder.** In 2019, 15% of Rhode Island high school students reported attempting suicide one or more times during the past year. In Rhode Island between 2015 and 2019, there were 1,165 emergency department visits and 794 hospitalizations of youth ages 13-19 due to suicide attempts.

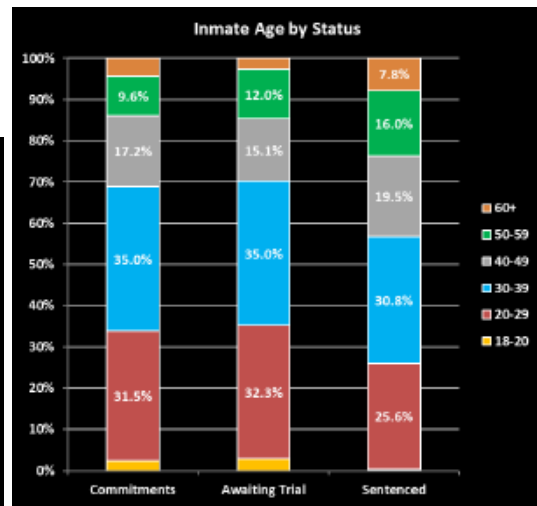
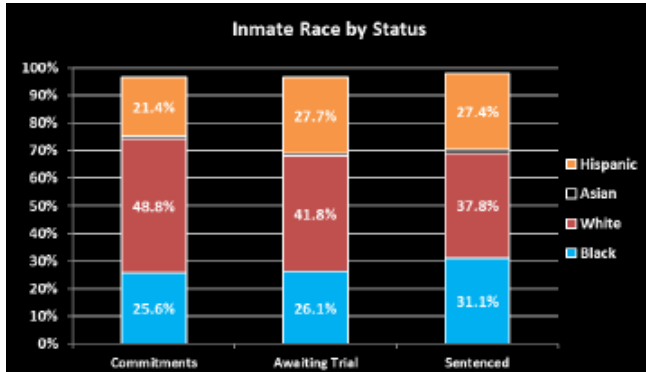
Nationally, over 1 million youth each year will become involved with the criminal/legal system at some point, and nearly 400, 000 will be on their own and homeless for some period of time .

- In Rhode Island during 2021, non-Hispanic Black youth made up 20% of youth at the Training School (RI's juvenile detention facility) and 22% of youth on probation, while making up only 8% of the total child population. Hispanic youth made up 40% of youth at the Training School and 34% of youth on probation, while making up 26% of the total child population.
- On January 1st 2022, **there were 262 youth on probation and 37 youth were living at the Training School.**
- Of the 84 youth who received supplemental behavioral health treatment at the Training School in 2021, 60% had documentation of child abuse or neglect, 75% were treated for a psychiatric diagnoses and 64% received some level of substance abuse treatment

The RI Department of Corrections (RIDOC) reports the following for fiscal year 2021:

- The vast majority of those **committed and sentenced** are White, followed by Black and Hispanic. The vast majority of those awaiting trial are White, followed by Hispanic and Black. Those who identify themselves as Asian, Native American, other, or their race is unknown make up less than 5% of the population for each category.
- **Males make up most (85%) of the RIDOC commitments while women account for only 15%.** Males also make up the majority (92.9%) of RIDOC's awaiting trial population, while females make up just 7.1%. Males account for 96.9% of RIDOC's sentenced population, while females make up only 3.1%.
- Nearly two-thirds of all RIDOC detainees are between the ages of 20-39. The median age of those sentenced for both males and females is 37. Pre-trial males have a median age of 33 and females have a median age of 33.5.

Race and Age of Inmates (Department of Corrections, 2021)



Economic Stability

While conditions for business have improved (ranked #10), employment (#26) and growth (#41) stall economic well being. The cost of living index in RI is 118.6 compared to a national average of 100. The poverty rate is 10.8% compared to 12.3% nationally.

- While Rhode Island has a low overall **youth disconnection** rate (5%), there are striking racial and ethnic disparities. In 2018, 6% of Latino young adults ages 16 to 19 in Rhode Island were not in school and not working, which is nearly triple the White rate of 2%.
- The **equity ratings** for the state measure gender parity, racial inequality in education rates, income and unemployment rates, and more, economic opportunity tracks income inequality, median household income, poverty rates and food insecurity rates--contributing to RI's opportunity ranking of 32nd.
- According to the 2020 **Rhode Island Standard of Need**, it costs a single-parent family with two young children \$57,671 a year to pay basic living expenses, including housing, food, health care, child care, transportation, and other miscellaneous items. This family would need an annual income of \$66,057 to meet this budget without government subsidies.
- Hispanic and Black single-parent families in Rhode Island are one and a half times as likely as White single-parent families to **live in poverty**. Hispanic and Black married-couple families and married-couple families of some other race are more likely than White and Asian married-couple families in Rhode Island to live in poverty.
- In 2020 in Rhode Island, the **unemployment rate** was 15.2% for Hispanic workers, 9.4% for Black workers, and 8.6% for White workers. Nationally, the unemployment rate was 11.4% for Black workers, 10.4% for Hispanic workers, and 7.3% for White workers.
- In Rhode Island in 2019, the **median family income** for immigrant families with children was \$71,500, compared to \$83,500 for non-immigrant families with children.¹⁵ Between 2015 and 2019, 67% of Rhode Island's children living in poverty lived in families with U.S.-born parents.

According to the 2020 Rhode Island Commission for Health Advocacy and Equity Legislative Report:

- Richmond, Woonsocket, and West Greenwich had the highest percentages of income eligible individuals enrolled in SNAP.
- Rhode Island's core cities - Providence, Central Falls, Pawtucket, and Woonsocket - are in the top 11 of Rhode Island's 39 municipalities for the percent of income-eligible people enrolled in SNAP

Prevalence and Characteristics of Youth Experiencing Homeless & Housing Insecurity

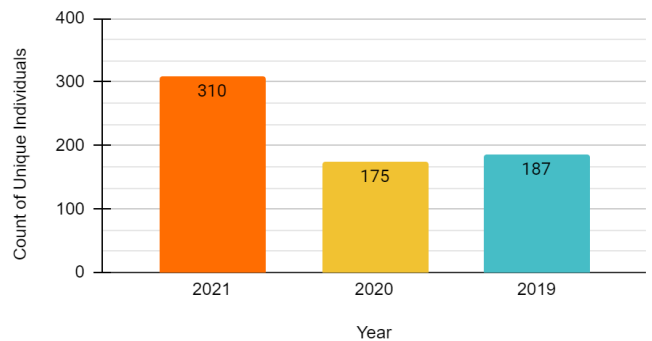
There are many causes of youth homelessness including residential instability, economic difficulties, family conflict, mental health challenges, substance use, experiences of systemic and institutional oppression including violence because of one’s identity(ies) and lack of permanency in foster care. Youth tend to run away due to parental neglect, strained family relationships, domestic violence, sexual abuse, family rejection, or substance use disorders. Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) can be a determinant of youth homelessness. A high number of ACEs in childhood increases the risk of persistent marginalization including ongoing trauma, poverty, interface with the criminal legal system, and homelessness among youth and young adults.

A recent Chapin Hall (2017) study indicates that 1 in 30 youth ages 13-17 and 1 in 10 young adults ages 18-24 experience homelessness over a 12 month period, with approximately 25% and 50%, respectively, couch surfing exclusively. That could mean as many as 13,000 housing unstable youth in Rhode Island. The same groundbreaking national study also found that Black or African American youth have an 83% higher risk and Latino youth have a 33% higher risk for housing instability. Additionally, LGBTQ+ youth have a 120% higher risk, and unmarried parenting youth have a 200% higher risk for housing instability.

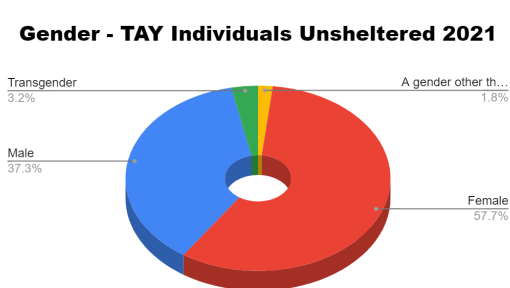
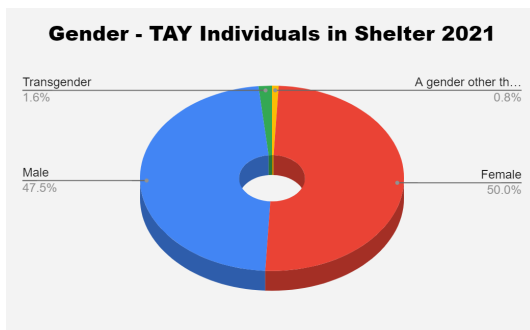
The National Runaway Safeline (NRS) screens a number of calls from youth in crisis. Thirty percent of those calls are made up of youth who have left or been forced out of their home, and homeless youth. NRS has seen an increase in calls from female, male, trans & non binary youth. While White youth make up the biggest portion of calls to NRS at 47%, Black or African American youth make up a bigger proportion of NRS calls in comparison to the general youth population.

Data from our Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), pilot Youth Point In Time Count/Surveys, and input during 8 community listening sessions in December 2021-January 2022, provide a window into the realities for those who have connected to the existing system, and have also illuminated gaps in our processes and data collection. The following tables compare demographics and realities for youth entered into HMIS 2019-2021.

Unique Individuals (ages 18-24) vs. Year

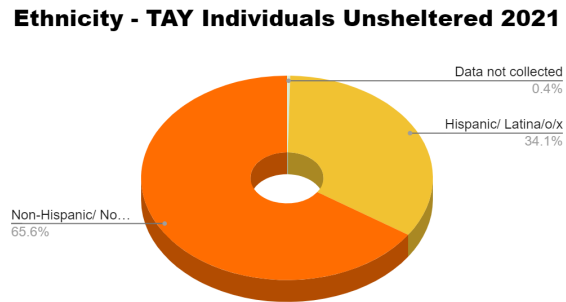
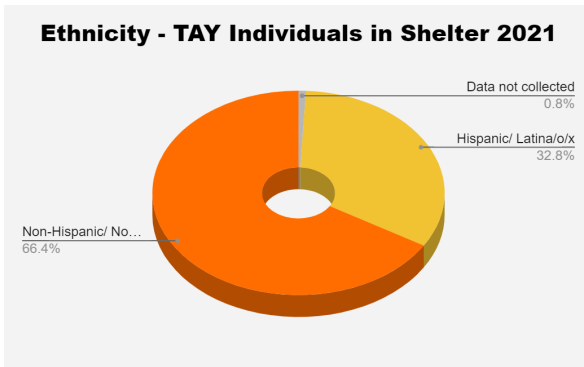


People of color are disproportionately more likely than White people to experience homelessness in the US. Systemic discrimination and racism have resulted in disparities in the ways housing programs and homeless services impact diverse populations. When people of color experience homelessness, trauma, substance use, and mental health challenges, their housing stability is further undermined by racism, discrimination, and stigma.



Race of Youth Ages 18-24 (HMIS)

	2021				2020				2019			
	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Sheltered		Unsheltered		Sheltered		Unsheltered	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous	6	4.9%	3	1.1%	2	3.5%	5	4.9%	2	4.2%	5	4.9%
Asian or Asian American	1	0.8%	1	0.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Black, African American, or African	43	35.2%	97	34.8%	16	28.1%	33	32.4%	8	16.7%	33	32.4%
Client doesn't know	1	0.8%	7	2.5%	1	1.8%	2	2.0%	1	2.1%	2	2.0%
Data not collected	3	2.5%	5	1.8%	0	0.0%	2	2.0%	1	2.1%	2	2.0%
Multi-Racial	18	14.8%	27	9.7%	9	15.8%	15	14.7%	4	8.3%	15	14.7%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	1.8%	1	1.0%	1	2.1%	1	1.0%
White	50	41.0%	139	49.8%	28	49.1%	44	43.1%	31	64.6%	44	43.1%
Totals	122		279		57		102		48		102	
Grand Totals	401				159				150			



Young women experiencing homelessness are almost five times more likely to become pregnant and far more likely to experience multiple pregnancies than young women who are housed. Becoming pregnant or getting someone pregnant as a teenager has implications for both parent and child.

- Only 50% of teen mothers graduate high school by the age of 22. Lack of a high school degree can lead to continued homelessness into young adulthood, particularly for young parents.
- ***The greatest single risk factor for young adult homelessness is lacking a high school diploma or GED, while the second risk factor is being a single parent. These risks are exacerbated for youth of color.***

Race of Parenting Young Adults Ages 18-24 (HMIS)

	2021				2020				2019			
	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Sheltered		Unsheltered		Sheltered		Unsheltered	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous	5	12.2%	1	1.4%	2	8.7%	4	12.9%	1	7.7%	4	12.9%
Asian or Asian American	1	2.4%	1	1.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Black, African American, or African	14	34.1%	21	29.2%	9	39.1%	9	29.0%	4	30.8%	9	29.0%
Client doesn't know	1	2.4%	2	2.8%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Data not collected	0	0.0%	2	2.8%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Multi-Racial	8	19.5%	9	12.5%	5	21.7%	4	12.9%	3	23.1%	4	12.9%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
White	12	29.3%	36	50.0%	7	30.4%	14	45.2%	5	38.5%	14	45.2%
Totals	41		72		23		31		13		31	
Grand Totals	113				54				44			

People with disabilities are at an *increased risk of becoming homeless* and socially excluded due to the prevalence of institutionalisation, discrimination in access to services, inadequate housing and social supports, a lack of accessible and affordable housing stock and unaffordable rents. Point-in-time counts (i.e., counts of the people in a community experiencing homelessness on a single night) suggest that nearly one quarter of individuals experiencing homelessness have a disability, including physical, intellectual, and developmental disabilities, as well as mental health and/or substance abuse disorders. For youth and young adults still developing, mental health issues can be particularly crucial – this is especially true for homeless and at-risk youth.

- Students who are homeless reported significantly higher rates of depression than students who are housed (45% vs. 27%).
- More than half of the students experiencing homelessness who attempted suicide reported that they required medical attention afterward, compared to 37% of students who were housed and attempted suicide.
- Depression can lead to harmful behaviors such as alcohol and substance abuse. Students who were homeless reporting depression were more than twice as likely to binge drink as students who were housed and reporting depression (41% vs. 19%).
- Although emerging research shows that youth with cognitive disabilities are more likely to become homeless and that rates of cognitive disabilities are higher among the homeless population than the population in general, exploring the intersection of disability and homelessness for youth has not been a priority.
- When denied access to shelters, nearly seven in 10 people with disabilities who experience homelessness stay in dangerous locations (e.g., on sidewalks or under bridges), directly affecting their health outcomes.

2021 Youth Health Conditions (TAY, HMIS)																					
		Mental Health Condition				Physical Condition				Chronic Health Condition				Disabling Condition				Developmental Condition			
		Sheltered		Unsheltered		Sheltered		Unsheltered		Sheltered		Unsheltered		Sheltered		Unsheltered		Sheltered		Unsheltered	
Data not collected	7	6%	154	55%	7	6%	155	56%	7	6%	154	55%	6	5%	154	55%	8	7%	155	56%	
No	58	48%	53	19%	104	85%	120	43%	96	79%	97	35%	52	43%	76	27%	100	82%	104	37%	
Yes	57	47%	72	26%	11	9%	4	1%	19	16%	28	10%	64	52%	49	18%	14	11%	20	7%	
Totals	122		279		122		279		122		279		122		279		122		279		
% Yes of those responding	46.7%		25.8%		9.0%		1.4%		15.6%		10.0%		52.5%		17.6%		11.5%		7.2%		

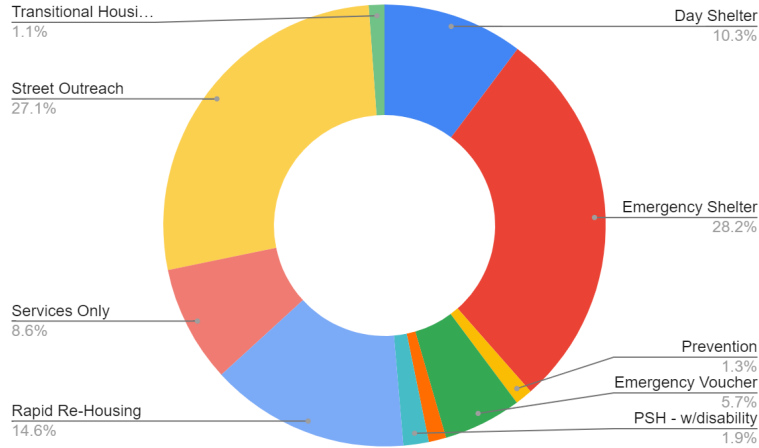
Substance Use Assessment (youth report, ages 18-24; HMIS)

	2021			
	Sheltered		Unsheltered	
Alcohol use disorder	5	4.1%	2	0.7%
Both alcohol and drug use disorders	6	4.9%	1	0.4%
Client doesn't know	1	0.8%	1	0.4%
Data not collected	8	6.6%	154	55.2%
Drug use disorder	4	3.3%	9	3.2%
No	98	80.3%	112	40.1%
	122		279	
	401			

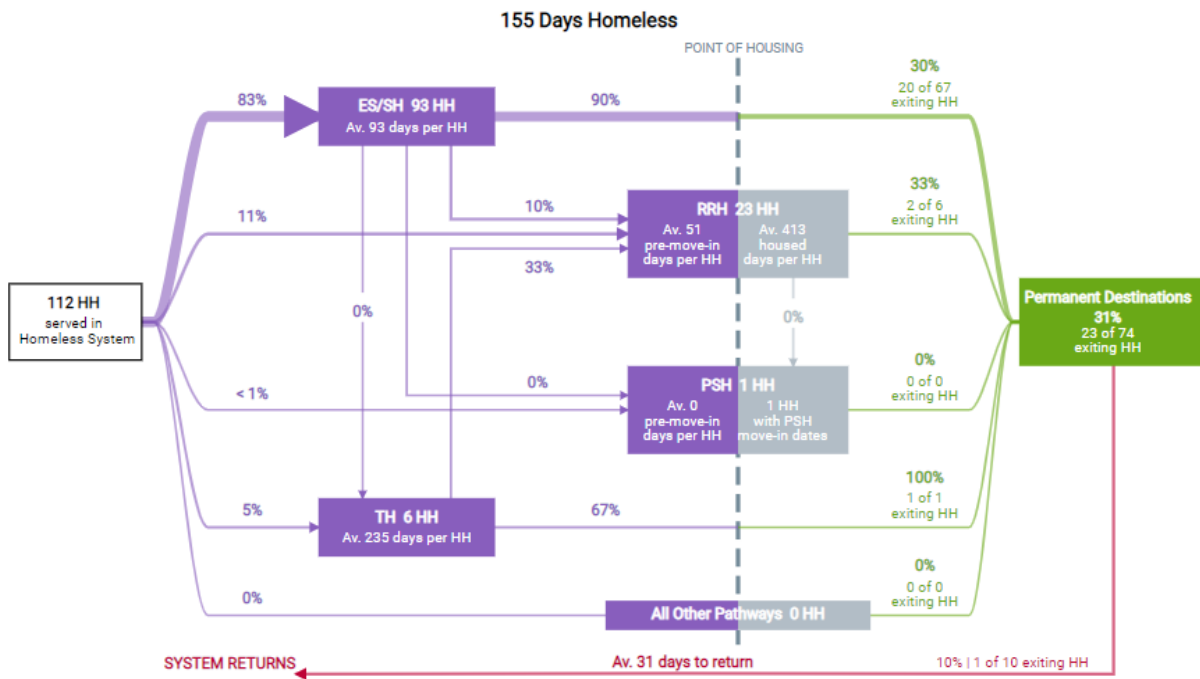
Youth Income, Ages 18-24 (HMIS)

	2021				2020			
	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Sheltered		Unsheltered	
\$100 to \$499	5	4.1%	2	0.7%	4	7.0%	1	1.0%
\$1000 to \$4999	11	9.0%	23	8.2%	6	10.5%	2	2.0%
\$500 to \$999	5	4.1%	7	2.5%	2	3.5%	3	2.9%
Undefined	101	82.8%	247	88.5%	45	78.9%	96	94.1%
Totals	122		279		57		102	
Grand Totals	401				159			

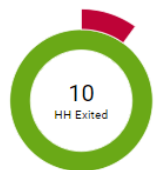
Project Types for Unaccompanied 13-24 year old Head of Household (2021; HMIS)



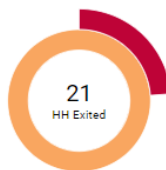
The diagram below is a visualization of the pathways traveled by the youth and young adults in the RI housing system October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021



Returns to homelessness after exit, by destination type, October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021:



10%
Returned after Exits to
Permanent Destinations
1 of 10 HH



24%
Returned after Exits to
Temporary Destinations
5 of 21 HH



33%
Returned after Exits to
Unknown Destinations
1 of 3 HH

- ***In 2020, there were 416 youth under 24 in shelters, and 96 youth or youth families unsheltered.*** This indicates approximately 2% of all the youth in Rhode Island are experiencing homelessness. However, Chapin Hall has determined, based on national Youth Point In Time Count data, that rates of youth homelessness are 1 in 10 for youth ages 18-24 and 1 in 30 for those under 18.
- ***There has been a steady increase in the number of youth, sheltered and unsheltered.*** National experts indicate most YHDP communities will experience a two to threefold increase in these numbers during YHDP project implementation.
- ***Nearly half of the youth population being served identifies as a person of color,*** indicating a need for an intersectional approach to ending youth homelessness in Rhode Island.
- ***Youth under 18*** make up for 78% of youth experiencing homelessness. Youth ages 13-17 account for 16% of the youth population experiencing homelessness, and the remainder are under 12. Youth under 12 experiencing homelessness are likely with family, showing a need to address youth homelessness with a number of different interventions.
- ***With 24 total RRH beds, there are insufficient housing resources to meet the need.*** Foster Forward is currently funded for 22 slots of RRH (14 from HUD and 8 from CHF) for individual or parenting young people 18-24, with experience in foster care, who are experiencing homelessness and referred to us through CES. Community Care Alliance has 2 funded beds for youth-specific RRH.
- ***A lack of safe, youth-specific, accessible crisis resources for youth is an extraordinary gap*** in Rhode Island. While a relatively new host home program and LGBTQ+ shelter offer much-needed crisis housing, as a state, we need to work towards creating more crisis/shelter beds, prevention and diversion resources, and wrap-around services for youth experiencing crisis and homelessness.
- Community feedback, and lessons from the field, indicate that ***it is essential to provide affirming, culturally relevant support for youth to obtain and maintain housing, surrounding youth with services and supports catered to their unique needs before, during, and after their engagement with housing programs.***
- ***Youth and providers alike repeatedly noted the need for support navigating the labyrinth of systems offering support--***from obtaining vital documents to housing applications, finding peer support and clinical care, connecting to education and employment opportunities, understanding tenant rights and managing conflict with a housemate, eliminating debt and healing from trauma.

Some current gaps in data collection for youth and young adults include:

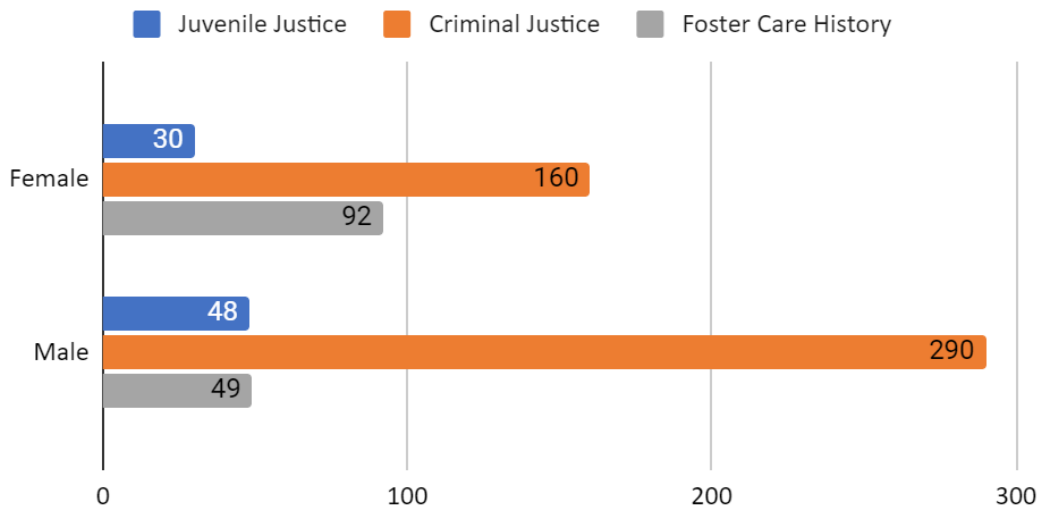
- Inclusion of youth at-risk of homelessness
- Collection of health and wellness indicators
- Identification of LGBTQ+ youth
- Identification and tracking of employment status and income
- Identification of educational status
- Identification of legal status/recent immigrant status in ways that ensure safety
- Identification of multi-lingual youth and English language learners
- Identification of parenting youth (including custodial and noncustodial)
- Identification of unaccompanied minors in HMIS
- Significant number of data not collected for many questions, compromising ability to accurately assess realities and disparities

The Rhode Island Ecosystem is an analytic system that links data at the person and family level across state agencies to drive holistic improvements in human well-being. The Ecosystem is managed by the Executive Office of Health and Human Services. The following information is from this ecosystem, and includes youth ages 18-24 in the HMIS system, 2018-2021. Data is suppressed where the number is less than 11.

- Overall, 79% (1,869) were employed
- Approximately 29% (693) received unemployment
- 40% (565) gave birth during HMIS enrollment

Individuals receiving Wage from Employment (Ecosystem, 2018-2021)		
Parameter	#	%
Overall	1,869	79.0%
Race		
White	1,082	76.6%
Black	763	82.8%
Asian	18	90.0%
Hawaiian or PI	19	82.6%
Native Amer.	119	84.4%
Multi. Race	215	81.7%
Race no collected	32	60.4%
Race Unknown	47	87.0%
Hispanic Ethnicity		
Hispanic/Latino	630	80.6%
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	1,223	78.8%
Data not collected	12	46.2%
Client does not know	*suppress*	*suppress*
Client refused	*suppress*	*suppress*
Gender		
Female	1,171	83.0%
Male	686	73.4%
No Single Gender	*suppress*	*suppress*
Questioning	*suppress*	*suppress*

Juvenile Justice, Adult Corrections, and Foster Care History (Ecosystem Data, 2018-2021)



The 2018 RI youth PIT Count/Survey (RIYC18) sample included 94 unduplicated individuals under the age of 25 who completed the youth-designed survey. The Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) was also queried for clients between the ages of 18-24 staying in shelter, transitional housing, permanent housing and rapid re-housing programs in Rhode Island. The total HMIS sample included 79 individuals. Although prevalence has increased significantly since this count, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, the findings still provide useful insights, particularly about youth at-risk of homelessness. ***Summary of the RIYC18 findings:***

- 173 Rhode Islanders age 14-24 with experiences of housing instability were identified on April 25, 2018
- 67 youth were in urgent need of housing on April 25, 2018 (on street, in shelter, awaiting housing placement)
- 57% had uncertain or unsafe 2 week living arrangements
- 84.0% of the survey sample reported couch surfing
- 59.6% of the survey sample reported having been kicked out of their home
- 16.8% of the survey sample had uncertain, unsafe or temporary living situations
- 40.4% lived without their parents before the age of 18
- The full sample was at least 73.4% engaged with a service provider
- 93.0% of participants were counted in urban areas however a national study found similar rates of housing instability in urban and rural areas
- 34.1% of the full sample were parents or expecting to become parents. 42 were female, 16 were male and one gender fluid. Seven participants affirmed full parenting responsibility, six had partial parenting responsibility and five had no parenting responsibility
- Four populations were disproportionately represented:
 - 55.5% of the full sample were youth of color, while only 20.7% of all Rhode Islanders age 14-24 are youth of color
 - 36.4% of the full sample identified as Hispanic or Latino, while 20.0% of all RI youth identify as Hispanic or Latino
 - 26.6% of survey participants identified as LGBTQ+; 4.0% of the full sample identified as queer, trans or gender non-conforming, while LGBTQ+ youth represent approximately 7% of the population
 - 20.2% of the survey sample had a history with foster care versus 0.8% of the RI youth population
- 74% of survey participants had some form of income
- 29.8% of survey participants graduated from high school or earned a GED and 38.3% of the survey sample were currently enrolled in school
- 38.3% of survey participants said they first approached friends for support upon facing housing instability
- Participants reported the most barriers to services applying for SNAP and job training services, citing transportation and not having a phone as the most frequent barriers.

Where housing unstable RI youth spent the night (RIYC18)		n	%
Currently homeless (n=67, 38.7%)	Shelter	34	19.7%
	Awaiting housing placement	20	11.6%
	Outside	13	7.5%
Formerly homeless (n=82, 47.4%)	Permanent Housing, Supportive Housing, or Rapid Rehousing	30	17.3%
	Parent or guardian's home, including foster family home	26	15.0%
	Own home	18	10.4%
	Transitional Housing	8	4.6%
Potentially housing unstable (at-risk) (n=24, 13.9%)	Home of friend or family	18	10.4%
	Inpatient setting	3	1.7%
	Hotel or motel	2	1.2%
	Correctional facility	1	0.6%
TOTAL		173	100.0%

Single night housing and service needs (RIYC18)		n	%
Urgent need for housing (n=71, 41%)	became homeless during survey window	4	2.30%
	outside	13	7.50%
	awaiting housing placement	20	11.60%
	shelter	34	19.70%
Likely need for shelter or services (n=29, 16.8%)	impermanent locations (hotel, hospital)	2	1.20%
	uncertain or unsafe 2 week housing arrangement	27	15.60%
Continued need for housing and services (n=38, 22%)	mainstream housing	38	22.00%
At risk of future housing instability (n=35, 20.2%)	2 week stability in friend or family home	9	5.20%
	2 week stability in parent of guardian home	11	6.40%
	2 seek stability in own home	15	8.70%
TOTAL		173	100.00%

A majority of **LGBTQ+ youth** that are homeless report family conflict over their gender and/or sexual identity as the reason for their homelessness. One out of five people who identify as transgender will experience homelessness. Discrimination in housing, employment, and daily life are barriers for LGBTQ+ youth. Without a place of support where youth feel accepted, safe and welcome, they might not seek out services at all. While it is a factor for many LGBTQ+ youth, it is not the only one. Aging out of foster care, poverty, and abuse or neglect also can play a role in not accessing services among LGBTQ+ youth. LGBTQ+ youth have specific needs, such as access to gender-affirming medical services, or emotional support and mental health care for their identity.

The total DCYF caseload on December 31, 2020 was 6,620, including 2,016 children living in their homes under DCYF supervision and 2,495 children living in adoption settings. About 20,000 youth 18 to 21 across the country age out of foster care annually, which means the state was not able to find an adoptive family or reunify them with their biological family. 25 percent of this population experiences homelessness within the first year of leaving foster care, and 50 percent will be homeless within the first four years.

On 12/31/2021, there were 1,798 children in out of home placement: 715 were in kinship/relative foster home (40%); 567 in non relative or private agency foster home (32%); 273 in congregate care (including assessment and stabilization center, group home, residential facility; 15%); 157 in Independent or semi-independent living (9%); 52 in medical or psychiatric hospital (3%); and 34 were absent from care (2%).

In 2018, Rhode Island established the VEC program, which allowed youth ages 18 to 21 who were in foster care on their eighteenth birthday the option of continuing to receive services until age 21. VEC helps older youth in care transition to adulthood by helping them make decisions about housing, education, employment, health care, social services, and social activities while providing guidance when challenges arise. To remain enrolled, youth must meet education or employment requirements.

- On December 31, 2020, 87 youth ages 18-21 were enrolled in VEC with approved court petitions. An additional 12 youth were in VEC case management pending court approval, and six youth were in transition to VEC.
- Of these 87 youth, 64% were female, 34% were male, and 1% were non-binary. Five percent were age 18, 45% were age 19, and 51% were age 20. Thirteen percent were Black, 29% were Hispanic (of any race), 13% were Multiracial/Other, and 46% were White.

National Human Trafficking Hotline statistics show a 25 percent jump in human trafficking cases from 2017 to 2018. This includes sex and labor trafficking. Of the more than 23,500 runaways reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children in 2018, 1 in 7 were likely victims of child sex trafficking. The Modern Slavery Research Project reported that homeless youth have higher rates of primary risk factors for trafficking such as poverty, unemployment, and a history of sexual abuse or mental health issues and those aging out of the foster care system faced high rates of sex (18%) and labor (10%) trafficking.

- **One in five runaway and homeless youth are a victim of human trafficking-** inclusive of sex and labor trafficking.
- 68 percent of the youth who had either been trafficked or engaged in survival sex or commercial sex had done so while homeless.

Rhode Island public school personnel identified 1,531 children across the state who were experiencing homelessness during the 2019-2020 school year.

- 23% of the children were living in shelters, 9% in a motel/hotel, 66% were living with other families (“doubling up”), and 2% were unsheltered.
- **The graduation rate in Rhode Island in 2020 was 84% for students with homes and 54% for those experiencing homelessness.**

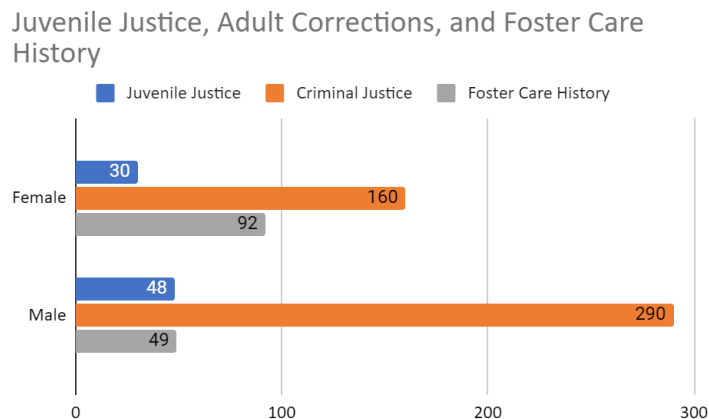
SchoolHouse Connection’s analysis of YRBS data found that young people experience homelessness at an even higher rate than currently reported by the U.S. Department of Education.

- The YRBS indicates that 5.8% of high school students surveyed in the 27 states (including RI) experienced homelessness at some point during the 2018-2019 school year.

- In contrast, public schools reported only 2.27% of all public school students as experiencing homelessness. **Based on YRBS homelessness data, public schools are identifying only slightly less than half of high school students experiencing homelessness.**

At the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI), 20% of the students referred to the Office of Community and Social Resources (CSR) are because of housing insecurity and/or homelessness. Since CSR's inception almost three years ago, 107 students have been referred to CSR for housing insecurity related issues. Of those, 83% accepted assistance from CSR. Those students who accepted assistance from CSR graduated or maintained enrollment to the Fall 2021 semester at a higher rate (50%) than those who declined the service (39%). But it is important to note that, even with intervention, CCRI still lost half the students served by CSR for housing needs.

The following chart indicates the number of youth interactions with juvenile justice and adult corrections 2018-2021, and indicates the number of those youth who had a history in foster care.



The Urban Institute developed a series of briefs on young people's experiences with safety net programs. Their findings echo the perspectives youth expressed during community listening sessions. Broadly, they discovered that:

- Safety net policies and practices **do not reflect young people's needs**
- **It is hard for young people to know** what benefits exist or how to access them
- Application processes are **complicated and difficult to manage**
- Safety net policies and processes **do not recognize the developmental and life stage realities of young people**
- Safety net programs **do not sufficiently recognize mental health issues.**

Key Takeaways quoted from the Urban Institute's brief on young people and housing assistance:

- **"Stable housing is foundational** to successful outcomes for young people; without it, they are often unable to complete education and training, apply for jobs, or receive other safety net benefits.
- Though they may be eligible, **youth heads of household do not often receive housing assistance** through the major federal rental assistance programs. Inadequate funding means that availability of assistance is extremely limited overall, with only one in four eligible households receiving any subsidy. Youth heads of household may not be prioritized for this limited assistance, although more receive assistance as part of a family unit.
- The relatively few independent young people who do receive housing subsidies through major federal programs are **likely to face additional challenges to maintaining stable housing using the assistance they receive.** Such challenges include difficulty with application paperwork resulting from inexperience navigating systems, and, if they receive a voucher, difficulty finding and leasing an appropriate rental unit and complying with rules to maintain their assistance. Resources available to help young people navigate these barriers are often insufficient.

- **Federal rental assistance programs could better meet young people's needs** if they provided all independent young people with low incomes housing assistance as well as developmentally appropriate wraparound supports. Flexibilities should be enacted that account for the circumstances of many young people's lives—income volatility, complicated family circumstances and housing arrangements, and challenges meeting programmatic expectations such as paperwork.”

To further understand the current realities for youth experiencing homelessness, we considered the *2020 State Index on Youth Homelessness* (True Colors United & National Homelessness Law Center). According to this analysis, *Rhode Island ranks 35th of the 50 states in terms of laws and policies designed to prevent and end youth homelessness.*

Recommendations for RI from the report:

- Laws authorizing comprehensive supports and services for youth experiencing homelessness and preventing youth experiencing homelessness from coming into contact with the criminal and juvenile justice systems should be prioritized.
- The state should pass a law that funds and provides oversight and regulation to youth homelessness services.
- The state should explicitly allow unaccompanied youth under 18 to apply for health insurance coverage without parental consent.
- The state should explicitly allow partial and alternative school credit accrual for homeless youth through regulations.
- The state should create an entity – such as an Office of Youth Homelessness Services – that focuses solely on designing, implementing, and evaluating youth homelessness programs.
- The state should require training about sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, healthy sexual development or issues specific to LGBTQ+ youth for staff working in RHY Systems.
- The state should establish nondiscrimination protections for LGBTQ+ youth in youth homelessness services.

Priority Populations

In light of what the data tells us and what the community shared during a series of intergenerational and youth-only community listening sessions during the CCP design process, we've identified significant needs, particularly for prioritized populations. While a great number of realities and needs of YYA with marginalized identities are shared, many are specific to their identities and/or lived experiences. **Strategies to embed and explore for all YYA with marginalized identities/experiences:**

- YYA are not aware of resources currently available; providers only slightly better--culturally relevant know your rights (housing, education, employment, other services) and resources in multiple languages are needed
- Resources should be co-created with youth. As a less favorable alternative, resources created and enhanced based on input, feedback and support of youth
- Youth deserve the agency to define family; we must work with policy makers to redefine family (in system/program policy and practice, healthcare/insurance, etc.)
- Youth have autonomy in defining goals, choosing services and setting service priorities
- Hire and support peer navigators and other staff who reflect identities and lived experiences of those being served
- Use of Positive Youth Development (PYD), youth choice, and trauma informed/healing centered approaches
- Safe, affirming, affordable spectrum of housing options--scatter sites, shared housing, kinship options, dorm style options, crisis, short-term, medium-term, and permanent--with wrap-around supports provided during and after program engagement
- Enhanced advocacy for inclusive, equity-centric, anti-racist policies and practices
- Robust, inclusive data collection and analysis (including disaggregation) to enhance understanding and inform decision-making with cross-system data sharing
- Intersectional understanding and approaches are required, particularly for those who are LGBTQ+ youth of color, and young people with disabilities
- Enhanced, culturally relevant identification and outreach strategies that incorporate harm reduction, positive youth development and

trauma informed practices are needed

- Drop-in and housing sites that offer quiet, discrete spaces for studying, support, and individual tasks, as well as congregate spaces for community building and social activities, are in short supply
- Meaningful youth representation on decision-making bodies. Defined as deliberate, authentic, and formal representation by young people who reflect the identities and lived experiences of the community via their elected or nominated structures in agency, program, community-based governance structures that integrates positive youth development and is at a scale appropriate for the structure.
- Right to Shelter designation would create enabling conditions to address unaccompanied youth homelessness, and it will be imperative to identify and make transformational change regarding other cross-system policy and practice priorities
- Direct cash transfers demonstrate flexibility and trust in youth and families to know how to meet their specific needs regarding housing, education, employment, and well-being
- Restorative and transformative justice practices and policies are a necessary part of dismantling oppressive practices
- Use of crisis housing as respite is one way to support family healing and to ensure housing stability
- Grievance processes rooted in restorative practices, co-created with and resolution led by youth and young adults, are another way to center youth agency and voice, and promote self-advocacy and healing
- Employer education and support are important for youth with few adult supports and histories of trauma. Job coaching for/with youth that reflects specific needs of youth experiencing housing instability can stabilize employment and promote self-efficacy.
- Safe, timely access to medical assistance/healthcare is a significant need for all priority populations.
- Two- and multi-generational approaches honor and support family (of origin and chosen) relationships and housing stability.
- Access to culturally relevant life skills building opportunities, including financial literacy skills are critical, particularly for unaccompanied youth and young adults who frequently have limited adult support.
- Multilingual resources and services
- Partnerships with mainstream providers to develop programs specifically for youth and young adults experiencing or at risk of housing insecurity and homelessness
- Facilitated access to vital documents that reflect identity

Stable & Permanent Housing		
<i>Priority Population</i>	<i>Needs</i>	<i>Strategies to Embed & Explore</i>
LGBTQIA+	Inclusive intake, assessment, housing and support processes; respect for importance of chosen family; enhanced advocacy; safe, affirming housing options; inclusive and affirming housing navigation and support; data to understand needs and experiences; affirming engagement that demonstrates dignity and respect for youth and young adults	Shared housing; peer navigators; inclusive data collection and disaggregation; staff training; accountabilities for staff and organizations; safe crisis housing; hiring LGBTQ+, particularly gender affirming staff and queer and trans POC (QTPOC) at every step of process; embed practices that honor youth dignity and respect; facilitate access to vital documentation consistent with identity in a timely manner; staff who help landlords understand how to work and communicate with LGBTQ+ youth
Youth of Color	Elimination of discriminatory and punitive policies and practices; culturally relevant and affirming services; scattered housing to prevent targeting; affirming engagement that demonstrates dignity and respect for youth and young adults	Safe, surveillance-free housing; range of housing options with emphasis on scattered sites; well-trained staff who reflect identities of those they serve; inclusive, disaggregated data; peer navigators who demonstrate anti-racist, justice-centered approach; reallocate funding from surveillance, criminalizing,, punitive and/or

		oppressive practices to trauma-informed, healing centered, restorative supports and services
Minors	Understanding of legal requirements and limitations of serving minors; options beyond DCYF; enhanced support services to maintain or reunify with family when safe and aligned with youth goals; housing options that support minors with MH or developmental disabilities	Autonomy in choosing housing approach, with clearly articulated expectations and guidance, as well as accountability for implementation; crisis housing for minor youth; family unification and reconciliation; family stabilization; 2-gen approach; host homes; DCYF & behavioral health collaboration to optimize access to services and housing supports; explore kinship care models with youth-defined family; explore and understand legal requirements and opportunities for working with minors
Foster Care Involved	Youth choice in housing; restructuring group homes to better support youth voice and choice + PYD + TIC; housing support not connected to legal system; clear understanding of support available and rights within the system; more immediate access to barrier busting assistance, including rental assistance; emergency shelter and respite housing; ensure appropriate case loads with case workers who are well-trained; supportive housing for YYA with mental health or developmental disability	Enhance access to safe spaces that focus on youth strengths; supportive housing options for those with SMI or DD; consider options to extend VEC; explore use of specially trained foster families as host homes
Justice Involved	Remove fines owed and restrictions based on criminal/legal system involvement; help navigating and understanding criminal/legal system; eliminate barriers to housing; need to begin planning for housing earlier; address and eliminate disparities based on race and gender; holistic re-entry supports; support with landlords; crisis/emergency housing; transitional/structured housing options; TH/RRH blended model; affirming engagement that demonstrates dignity and respect for youth and young adults	Fine/fee removal; shorter lookback periods with only most serious offenses barred (use federal prohibitions only); housing navigators on discharge team & begin discharge planning earlier (explore use of waiver to the institutional stay of the HUD homeless definition to allow more youth to discharge plan into YHDP housing); peer navigators; cross-system coordination; include housing navigators and MH/BH supports during discharge planning; designated navigator to develop & manage landlord relationships
YYA with Disabilities	Designated, accessible, supported priority housing; peer navigators; housing that allow emotional support animals and service animals; ways to fund making housing accessible; YYA specific housing with intentional transition from minor to adult services and benefits	Youth specific PSH; increased awareness of population and resources; aligned transition from minor to adult services;
Pregnant/ Parenting	Affordable child care/babysitting; affordable and reliable transportation; housing that allows young families to live together; housing for YYA with more than one child; eligibility for housing to enable reunification for DCYF involved parenting YYA; shared housing with individualized wrap around services; crisis housing; RRH for more than 24 months	Housing that allows both parents, even if not married, to live together; dedicated funding and access to childcare/babysitting; more mid/long-term housing options; designate and fund specific units for YYA parents; shared housing; consider host homes for crisis/emergency housing; 2/multi-generational approach; transportation assistance
Human Trafficking/ Exploitation	Safety & security; better support youth voice and choice + PYD + TIC among providers; housing support not connected to legal system; clear understanding of support available and rights within the system; more	Peer navigators; enhanced training for program staff; range of housing options that are TIC-centric, with clear expectations and accountabilities; wrap-around services; explore shared housing options run by survivors of human trafficking; gender & sexual

	immediate access to barrier busting assistance, including rental assistance; emergency shelter and respite housing; supported scatter sites to enhance safety; options that allow survivors to remain with their children; permanent supportive housing	orientation specific housing and supports; PSH units specifically for survivors
Immigrants/ Refugees	Safe, affordable housing; elimination of discriminatory and punitive policies and practices; culturally relevant and affirming services; translation services and bi/multilingual staff; scattered housing to prevent ICE targeting; crisis housing with culturally responsive supports; shared housing; housing that doesn't require ID to lease	Fund specially trained host homes and peer navigators who share identities of youth; shared housing; low barrier housing with lease to agency and clients as sub-lease; provide training to providers re: trafficking, TIC, PYD, youth choice, and ICE. Identify opportunities to provide shared housing that doesn't require ID

Education		
Priority Population	Needs	Strategies to Embed & Explore
LGBTQIA+	Enhanced advocacy; education for and reconciliation with families; inclusive and affirming supports; affirming school-based support; inclusive and affirming sexual health education; Representation throughout curriculums; opportunities to learn about money management and how to be financially stable - Financial literacy/justice	Training for school staff & faculty; work with education and housing advocates for inclusive sexual health education & supplies in schools and housing; co-location of services; school-based support for LGBTQ+ students--clubs and culturally relevant social support; partnership to develop & implement training and supports for families. Training for students.
Youth of Color	Elimination of discriminatory and punitive policies and practices to disrupt the school to prison pipeline; culturally relevant and affirming support	Eliminate SROs--counselors not cops strategy; increase counselors and staff of color; peer navigators/mentors/counselors; incorporate restorative justice and trauma informed practices
Minors	Collaboration with schools to identify and support; avoiding school disruption regardless of housing location; opportunities to learn life skills; financial literacy/justice	Work with LEAs, McKinney-Vento liaisons, school districts, DCYF, to support permanence in communities/schools of choice; implement life skills training/supports in collaboration with community providers; youth leadership/peer educators
Foster Care Involved	Life skills education, including financial literacy; alternative education options; technology and spaces that support engagement in education; need help understanding and advocating for educational rights; enhanced utilization of tuition waiver; financial literacy/justice	DCYF required to offer all engaged youth opportunity to opt-in for life skills training & supports; peer navigators provide life skills support; school navigation/advocacy; partnerships with local colleges and universities to ensure education access and supported housing; spaces and services that promote the development of social support networks
Justice Involved	Support to re-engage in education; ensure YYA and parents know resources available; low/no cost high school equivalency and technical training; school navigation and advocacy, financial literacy/justice	Increased collaboration with K12 and community colleges to ensure education access and supported housing; peer navigators provide life skills support; school navigation/advocacy
YYA with Disabilities	Increased system collaboration, particularly in transition from minor to adult services; need additional capacity within ORS and similar services; financial justice/literacy	Accessible and reliable transportation supports. Educational advocacy and navigation. Define, develop, and implement disability justice practices that promote access, inclusion, and persistence.

	Better dx and identification of barriers, and relevant, effective treatment/supports.	Create connections to and collaboration with Office of Rehabilitative Services (ORS)
Pregnant/ Parenting	Affordable childcare/babysitting--onsite at school & in housing; affordable and reliable transportation; access to curriculum and schedule that is flexible enough to allow p/p students to attend doctor appointments and other care; academic support for parents and children; access to appropriate technology; financial justice/literacy	Develop partnerships to provide childcare and parenting support; access to education advocates and tutors, Head Start partnership to facilitate access and support. Explore Nowell Academy and other similar models.
Human Trafficking/ Exploitation	More training on identification and support; life skills supports; support to complete education; education regarding healthy relationships and self advocacy; financial justice/literacy	Peer navigators provide life skills training/supports; establish provider/RIDE partnership; training, information and group support re healthy relationships and self-advocacy by sexual assault, domestic violence, and human trafficking providers with incentives for participation; training for providers; promote access to credit recovery and alternative education pathways
Immigrants/ Refugees	Education on how to be safe in the US; education and support regarding supports and benefits available & paths to citizenship; enhanced collaboration with schools; life skills and education access supports; financial justice/literacy	Collaboration with immigration specialty agencies; training for preK-16 providers; develop and implement culturally relevant life skill and education access training; training for providers regarding rights and responsibilities re: education for immigrant/refugee students

Employment

<i>Priority Population</i>	<i>Needs</i>	<i>Strategies to Embed & Explore</i>
LGBTQIA+	Safe, affirming employment access and support services; job opportunities with safe and affirming employers; support to understand and navigate employment barriers, dedication to true inclusion (ex: application wording, representation in the workforce, self-awareness)	Employment partners; know your rights campaign; peer navigators/coaches; workforce/housing partnerships to ensure job seeking/maintenance support with housing; explore Out At Work partnership for services and mentorship; facilitated access to vital documents that reflect identity
Youth of Color	Safe, affirming employment access and support services; job opportunities with safe, affirming, antiracist employers; support to understand and navigate employment barriers, anti-racist employers, employers dedicated to diversity in the workforce.	Employment partners; know your rights campaign; peer navigators/coaches; workforce/housing partnerships to ensure job seeking/maintenance support with housing; facilitated access to vital documents
Minors	Support to obtain credentials that help get a job--diploma/GED, first aid/CPR, food handling, CPN, etc; access to youth employment and paid internship programs; job coaches; access to work permits, mental health resources/certificates individualized support	Partner with credentialing providers to develop programs specifically for housing unstable minors; peer navigators and job coaches; facilitated access to vital documents; enhanced MV services and supports; improved identification; enhanced access to certification and other alternative educational pathways
Foster Care Involved	Greater access to Works Wonders programs (workforce development program); support understanding how to move forward from minimum wage jobs	Employment partners; know your rights campaign; peer navigators/coaches; workforce/housing partnerships to ensure job seeking/maintenance support with housing tailored to this population; facilitated access to vital documents

Justice Involved	Develop understanding among potential employers; affirming employment access and support services; job opportunities with affirming employers; support to understand and navigate employment barriers; youth-focused tax credit employment program; affordable and reliable transportation	Employment partners; know your rights campaign; peer navigators/coaches; workforce/housing partnerships to ensure job seeking/maintenance support with housing; work with re-entry providers to create employment/housing program; designate funding for transportation services; facilitated access to vital documents
YYA with Disabilities	Job coaching and access to job search and maintenance services; access to SSI/SSDI, access to SNAP benefits, removal of barriers that stop you from getting different benefits	Enhanced Office of Rehabilitative Services (ORS) services, including job coaching; co-location of services; mobile case management/peer navigation; employment partners; SOAR; facilitated access to vital documents; advocacy to ensure receipt of housing and other YHDP supports do not affect eligibility for other public benefits
Pregnant/ Parenting	Affordable child care/babysitting, affordable and reliable transportation; job opportunities with family friendly policies; work from home opportunities; understanding employee rights	Employment partners; know your rights campaign; peer navigators/coaches; workforce/housing partnerships to ensure job seeking/maintenance support with housing; collaboration re childcare subsidies and Head Start; partner with temp and other employment agencies to identify WFH and other employment; facilitated access to vital documents
Human Trafficking/ Exploitation	Assistance with ID and other documents required for employment; support services to enable sufficiency; exposure to a variety of types of work	Peer navigators, mentors, and job coaches; partnerships with temp and other job placement agencies; facilitated access to vital documents
Immigrants/ Refugees	Assistance with ID, work permits/visas, and other documents required for employment; support services to enable sufficiency; exposure to a variety of types of work; information re: risk of securing employment, access to educational opportunities	Peer navigators, mentors, and job coaches; partnerships with temp and other job placement agencies; partnerships with immigrant specialty providers, educational programs; facilitated access to vital documents

Social/Emotional Health & Wellbeing		
<i>Priority Population</i>	<i>Needs</i>	<i>Strategies to Embed & Explore</i>
LGBTQIA+	Inclusive intake, assessment, housing and support processes; queer centric and queer friendly spaces to hang out and gain access to other supports; inclusive sex ed in/out of schools; enhanced advocacy; inclusive and affirming social and clinical supports; data to understand needs and experiences; intersectional understanding and supports; representation	Peer navigators; inclusive data collection and disaggregation; staff training & accountabilities for staff and organizations; sexual health ed and supports; representative staff; safe & affirming drop-in and support spaces; life and coping skills; community events and group outings; family education and support to strengthen and stabilize families
Youth of Color	Safe, affirming, inclusive spaces; enhanced advocacy; inclusive and affirming social and clinical supports; data to understand needs and experiences; intersectional understanding and supports; representation; culturally relevant, multilingual approaches	Peer navigators; inclusive data collection and disaggregation; staff training & accountabilities for staff and organizations; representative staff; safe & affirming drop-in and support spaces; life and coping skills; community events and group outings; family stabilization support--2/multi-generational approach

Minors	Understanding of rights and resources available; additional opportunities to support outside of legal system; 2-gen approach when safe and aligned with youth goals; developmentally appropriate support and social services	Ensure connection to family stabilization, conflict resolution, mediation, and reconciliation services; mentoring and peer navigation; community events and group outings; define and implement multi/2-gen approaches
Foster Care Involved	Dependable, healthy & consistent adult relationships; restorative justice/alternatives to the criminal/legal system; access to normative social activities, medical assistance, access to health insurance	Outreach and access to mentors, peer counselors, etc.; community events and group outings; focus on building reliable social support network
Justice Involved	Restorative justice/alternatives to the criminal/legal system (diversion); mentors and coaches; connections with youth serving supportive services; data to understand needs and experiences; intersectional understanding and supports; representation; support for YYA and families to reconcile and navigate systems and relationships	Peer navigators and mentors; access to affirming support services; community events and group outings; enhanced working relationships and referral processes with support agencies; 2/multi-gen approaches to service/supports to strengthen and stabilize families (of origin or choice); focus on building reliable social support network
YYA with Disabilities	Getting ready access to appropriate medication and medication review/support vs being overmedicated; access to sensory items; additional treatment options for youth with substance abuse history; access to coaching/mentoring; peer/case managers to navigate multiple systems; enhanced life skills support; increased system collaboration, particularly in transition from minor to adult services; eliminate barriers to services and benefits; safe, affirming drop-in spaces mental health services and social supports; youth friendly	SOAR (SSI/DI outreach access and recovery) services specifically for youth; peer navigators; community events and group outings; grow substance abuse treatment services that are youth centered, strengths based and trauma informed (includes detox and sobriety support)
Pregnant/ Parenting	Address healthcare debt; SA/DV education and supports, affordable childcare/babysitting; systems coordinating to serve rather than abdicating responsibility; multi-generational supports; mentoring and support; affordable and reliable transportation to connect with others; mental health support during pregnancy and early parenting; support specific to non-gestational parent; group support	Outreach and connection to peer counselors/navigators; designated funding for transportation and child care to support social connections; establish strong connections to home visitation and infant health providers; access to school-based health centers, smaller parenting groups or 1:1; community events and outings
Human Trafficking /Exploitation	Trauma informed and affirming social and clinical supports; data to understand needs and experiences; intersectional understanding and supports; access to effective drug treatment; positive interaction with law enforcement	Outreach and connection to peer counselors/navigators; designated funding for transportation to support social connections; collaborate with SA/DV/HT network to provide education, support, and mentoring; community events and group outings; co-location of counseling and housing; grow substance abuse treatment services that are youth centered, strengths based and trauma informed (includes detox and sobriety support); TIC and PYD centered outreach and training to law enforcement
Immigrants/ Refugees	Honesty regarding political situation by care providers and release of information; build trust; community providers who provide safety for immigrant youth; peer supports, translation services, group support sessions	Training to participating agencies re: immigration realities; partnership with immigration specialty agencies to provide TIC, PYD and youth choice trainings; peer navigators; community and group outings to build peer network

Creating Lasting, Transformative Change

Mission

By 2030 youth homelessness in Rhode Island will be a rare, brief and nonrecurring experience.

Vision

Our vision is that unaccompanied homelessness among youth and young adults is rare in Rhode Island, with disparities related to race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and gender identity eliminated. To do this, we will reorient our systems and services towards justice by redistributing the resources and power young people need to thrive. Ending homelessness for youth (individuals and families in which every member is under the age of 25) does not mean that a young person will never experience housing instability or homelessness. Rather, it means that our community will have a system in place to prevent homelessness for youth whenever possible and, if homelessness cannot be prevented, to ensure that the young person's homelessness is brief and non-recurring. Young people experiencing homelessness or housing instability deserve access to low/no barrier safe and stable housing, permanent connections, education and employment, social-emotional well-being, and access to healthcare.

To fulfill our vision, we embrace the core principles below and must ensure that the system:

1. Requires and reflects the vision and leadership of youth and young adults, and provides youth choice and agency.
2. Works across systems with a focus on racial equity, social justice, and collaboration.
3. Requires redistributing resources and power within and across systems, organizations and programs.
4. Requires a focus on targeted universalism--embracing strategies that are inclusive to the needs of both dominant and marginalized groups, but that pay particular attention to marginalized and disproportionately impacted groups. As such, we will unapologetically nurture, affirm and center the needs of youth of color and LGBTQIA+ youth, as well as other groups disproportionately impacted by homelessness (including but not limited to young people with experience in foster care, the carceral system, or as parents).
5. Authentically engages youth and families in the work of ending homelessness among youth and young adults.
6. Provides trauma-informed, culturally relevant, and responsive care, and uses a positive youth development framework.
7. Provides access to a spectrum of low and no barrier supported housing options.
8. Understands how many young people are homeless, what their experiences and needs are, and which interventions are most effective for/with whom.
9. Collects and uses nuanced data to inform our human-centered, data-informed decision-making.
10. Advocates for process, policy, and practice changes to eliminate systemic and social barriers faced by youth, families, communities, and providers.
11. Aligns and secures sufficient funding from public and private sources to fully implement the plan.
12. Defines unaccompanied youth homelessness in clear and inclusive terms.
13. Is prepared, for young people who do become homeless and want assistance, to respond quickly with culturally relevant and responsive, safe, and affirming housing and support services that align with youth needs and priorities
14. When in alignment with the priorities of youth, appropriate, and possible, will prevent young people from becoming homeless by promoting family search and engagement, family reconciliation and/or reunification, and other forms of support, stability, and permanency.
15. Value, resource and require collaboration and coordination among and between state agencies and systems, as well as among and between service providers, that is critical to ending homelessness among youth and young adults.

Racial Equity & Justice / Values & Core Principles

Youth homelessness exists today largely due to America's long history of structural racism and systemic inequities. In order to end youth homelessness, we will work to ensure our systems work for all youth. Partner organizations serving on the YHDP Steering Committee are committed to centering the importance of racial equity and justice in all of our work to end youth homelessness. We see equity as providing opportunities and resources based on need, realizing not everyone starts in the same place. Justice takes this concept a step further by removing the barriers that impede equal rights and self-determination; it seeks to overturn oppression at its roots. The YHDP Steering Committee, Youth Action Board, and Unaccompanied Youth Committee will strengthen our knowledge, skills, attitudes and personal competency to address inequity and injustice, internally and in our external efforts through continual practice of these core principles. [These principles are based on those developed by A Way Home America's leadership team.]

Recognize and Center Intersectionality:

Intersectionality looks at the interaction of multiple social identities and how those identities separately and together are subjected to oppression and discrimination.

- We challenge all of our partner organizations to be consistently intersectional in all of the work we do.
- We unapologetically center the voices and experiences of LGBTQ youth and youth of color, while upholding that all of us have many identities.

Name and Challenge White Supremacy:

- We name White supremacy as any condition where Whites overwhelmingly control power and material resources.
- We will name and challenge conscious and unconscious ideas of White superiority, entitlement, and White dominance.

Engage in Principled Struggle:

Learning and growing are the results of struggle. Struggle causes change and liberation. As an initiative we strive to engage in Principled Struggle (attributed to NTanya Lee) and work to foster and cultivate spaces for members, coalitions, and communities to move through conflict in a way that makes us better.

To do this, we each commit to:

1. Being honest and direct while maintaining compassion.
2. Taking responsibility for our own feelings and actions.
3. Seeking deeper understanding. (We ask and read first).
4. Considering social positions and how they inform response to conflict.

Practice Targeted Universalism:

From John A. Powell "A targeted universal strategy is one that is inclusive of the needs of both the dominant and the marginal groups, but pays particular attention to the situation of the marginal group. Targeted universalism rejects a blanket universal which is likely to be indifferent to the reality that different groups are situated differently relative to the institutions and resources of society. It also rejects the claim of formal equality that would treat all people the same as a way of denying difference."

- We commit to using targeted strategies to reach universal goals, mindful that blanket goals may be indifferent to the reality that groups are situated differently relative to the institutions and resources of society.
- We commit to evaluating the outcomes of our efforts for all populations and not just the output.

Generate Transformative Visions Towards Liberation:

- As a transformative initiative, we seek out those campaigns and activities that have the greatest potential to improve the lives of young people experiencing homelessness.
- We will reimagine opportunities to engage and win future fights that move us towards our long-term vision.

We commit to transforming power dynamics and systems. We want youth at the front lines of marginalization to have full decision making power when re-shaping systems to work better for them.

Create a Culture of Accountability:

Accountability refers to creating processes and systems that are designed to help individuals and groups be held responsible for their decisions and actions and whether the work being done reflects and embodies racial equity and justice principles.

- The Youth Action Board, YHDP Steering Committee, and Unaccompanied Youth Committee members understand that accountability is a cornerstone of racial equity work, and are committed to the practice of White accountability in particular.
- We pledge to continually evaluate and analyze our work against the following questions:
 - How is the issue being defined? Who is defining it?
 - Who is this work going to benefit if it succeeds? Who will benefit if the work does not succeed?
 - How are assignments distributed among the stakeholders? How will a group know if its plan has accounted for risks and unintended consequences for different racial and ethnic groups?
 - What happens if people pull out before the goals are met?
 - Who anointed the people and groups being relied on for the answers to these questions?
 - Are there opportunities to diversify respondents to these questions?

Group Agreements

Embraced by the Youth Action Board (YAB) and its subcommittee and partners--the Unaccompanied Youth Committee and YHDP Steering Committee--to guide our work and interactions (both virtual and in person) to prevent and end youth homelessness .

- **Keep justice-seeking solutions & the lived experience of youth at the center** of our work and process
- **Welcome multiple viewpoints**--speak from your own experience, listen to understand, not craft your next point/argument; ask questions to understand sources of disagreements. Honor the different experiences we all bring into this space
- **Own your intentions and center your impacts**--Respect each other's experiences by taking responsibility for the effects of your words and actions; focus on the person harmed; intentions are used to build understanding or dialog not to excuse or deflect from impact
- **Challenge with care**--Go hard on issues, soft on people. Find ways to respectfully challenge others and make space to challenges to your own views; make space for both challenge and reframe
- **Notice privilege and group dynamics**--We are all responsible for this space. Be aware of how people are interacting. Name power dynamics in service of building trust and respect. Notice your own privilege, defensiveness, discomfort and resistance.
- **Call people in**--centering relationship and collective action includes inviting those who have committed to creating transformative change back into community after a misstep, offering opportunities for reparation
- **Break it down**--Use simple language and ask for clarification if needed
- **Make space/take space**--Share speaking time and try to speak after others who have not spoken; encourage others to participate; land the plane; share the mic
- **Confidentiality**--what's said here stays here; what's learned here leaves here
- **Share materials in advance, read what's shared**
- **Actively participate**--come prepared for discussion; actively engage in activities and discussion both during and between meetings
- **Be honest, be bold, be messy**--be real about the strengths and challenges of our system, orgs, etc.; imagine a bold vision for our work; this will be messy, uneven work because justice-seeking across systems is complex and happens over time

Guiding Principles for Effective Practice

The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) core principles of effective practices provide guidance in planning, monitoring, and enhancing YHDP funded projects, including the development of the CCP. These operating principles align with and reflect many traditional beliefs and current understanding regarding inclusion, equity, and just practice with and for Rhode Island youth, their families, and our communities. Strategies to monitor and establish accountabilities will be designed and implemented for each principle. All YHDP funded projects will be required to implement programs and interventions that incorporate these principles and to present their plans for continuous quality improvement (CQI)--including how youth have and will be part of program design, implementation, and CQI; this will be reflected in their performance review. What follows is a description of how our community will live into these commitments in each part of our system, from governance to entry to exit, in order to create the system young people deserve and in which they can and will thrive. The principles, practices, and considerations we'll weave into our practice include:

- Equity
- Positive youth development
- Trauma-informed and healing centered care
- Social integration
- Family engagement
- Housing first
- Youth choice
- Unsheltered youth
- Individualized, client driven support
- Coordinated entry

Equity	
A commitment to: consider and measure racial inequities and other disparities in the risks for, and experiences of youth and young adults experiencing homelessness	
How we will live into our commitment to Equity	<p>Required/Must Have</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The RCoC Equity Committee will analyze youth data and recommend policies and practices to remedy disparities which are based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, foster care experience, parenting status, experience with trafficking, etc. ● Accountability measures will be identified to ensure this goes beyond data analysis and training and move toward ways to address disparities being baked into the funding/system evolution and program implementation ● Agencies will need to monitor the practice of established policies to ensure consideration of the needs of the most marginalized populations are being proactively addressed in practice. (E.g. warm and welcoming places and staff, providing access to translators, gender neutral bathrooms.) ● Ensure that access to services (physical locations and electronic resources) are accessible to everyone--offer closed captioning for virtual events/meetings; affirming identities and culture inclusive of race, sexual orientation, neurodiversity, gender identity/expression, disability, etc; flexibility on timeline/schedules; when services are not accessible, providers are able to enact modifications that remove service barriers.. ● Ensure that the YHDP provider workforce has been trained on diversity so that they treat individuals with dignity and respect. Include training on how to provide both competent and culturally relevant care-across all vulnerable populations. Training will be led by youth leaders who are paid appropriately. ● Provide opportunities to youth to offer program feedback and share their experiences, with strong protections for youth to ensure there is no backlash from the programs/staff. Also providing staff protections from the consequences of misinformation. ● Providing direct service staff opportunities to report on and share their experiences, with protections from retaliation. <p>Recommended/ Must Consider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Advocacy on local, state, and federal level to abolish discriminatory legislation as well as putting in place

	<p>legislation that protect marginalized populations and enable equitable practices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Use of restorative and transformative justice practices within program/organization ● Youth assessment and engagement tools include explicit considerations for those historically marginalized and/or impacted by system level disparities ● Create a continuous improvement process that assesses implementation to continually enhance and evolve practices to enhance equity and dismantle the practices that result in disparities..
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Positive Youth Development (PYD)

A commitment to: integrate best practices of PYD in the youth homelessness response (focus on relationships, strengths, youth as co-creators & leaders, inclusive; able to experiment, try and fail without life-altering consequences, harm reduction)

<p>How we will live into our commitment to PYD</p>	<p>Required/Must Have</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Clear expectations for YHDP providers that are connected to funding ● Youth as partners in decision-making at every level and in every component of the system ● Youth input and feedback used to make program improvements/changes ● Community building included in the process and project design ● Relationship focused approach ● Accommodating a full range of needs/access beyond housing itself ● Targeted Universalism ● Use strengths-based models of care and eliminate punitive program practices that limit opportunities for youth to try and fail without life-altering consequences ● Ensure youth have access to and understanding of a range of information and resources in order to have more knowledge on the topic, enabling them to provide feedback and contribute to decision on the given issue ● Centering holistically on the needs of young people to set them up for success - full programmatic design, supportive services, technological services, life skills, mental health, etc. ● Remove deficit-based (blamed based) language and thinking; be clear that homelessness is a failure of the system and not a failure/reflection of the individual ● Being mindful of adultism - ensuring to create a space that at minimum is welcoming to youth, and as often as possible is youth-lead and youth-centered <p>Recommended/ Must Consider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Youth are valued and compensated as experts in their own lives and how systems affect them ● Focus on dynamic youth mental health and wellbeing for youth success and thriving as well as how homelessness affects youth mental health ● Youth are offered and supported to engage as leaders in a variety of ways in the YHDP and other youth-specific initiatives, as well as all elements of the homeless system
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Trauma Informed Care (TIC)

A commitment to: integrate TIC into youth homelessness response (culturally grounded, healing as restoration of identity, focuses on wellbeing we want vs symptoms to suppress, strengths focused, harm reduction approach)

<p>How we will live into our commitment to TIC</p>	<p>Required/Must Have</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop system-wide standards for TIC; review protocols and training received by case managers, system coordinators, program leads, etc. ● Peer support to discuss issues--show you're not alone, place to give voice to your experience and get support--is integrated in program design ● Abolitionist driven intervention that minimizes (or completely removes) punishment-based, systemically oppressive methods
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Addressing shelter/program models that perpetuate punishment-based methods ○ Adding TIC training when training peer supports and other peer positions ● Training and technical assistance to planners and partners who interact with youth to include an understanding of trauma in their work to integrate knowledge of trauma and its effects into policies, procedures and practices ● Hold organizations accountable (Youth Action Board) to provide trauma-informed training, to implement trauma informed practices, and to sustain those practices. ● Universal screening for trauma history and strengths as part of coordinated entry and program intake ● YHDP projects required to show how they'll integrate TIC (assess and develop individualized plans, emphasize physical and emotional safety, promote personal control; build skills and coping mechanisms, etc.) ● YHDP agencies will have referral process to trauma specific treatments available and will demonstrate practicing TIC principles--Safety, Trust, Choice, Collaboration & Empowerment ● TIC principles will be integrated in trainings and project monitoring ● Providing strong support system--people who youth can go to for healing and restoration ● Supervision, support and training for youth workers (case managers, etc) to ensure they are working in and providing trauma informed environments ● Youth have voice and agency in determining the appropriateness of family reunification and/or reconciliation ● Provide opportunities to youth to offer program feedback and share their experiences, with strong protections for youth to ensure there is no backlash from the programs/staff. Also providing staff protections from the consequences of misinformation. ● Providing direct service staff opportunities to report on and share their experiences, with protections from retaliation. <p>Recommended/ Must Consider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Removing any barrier that stands between access to good trauma-informed health care and diagnosis. ● Use of restorative and transformative justice practices within program/organization
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Family Engagement

A commitment to: strategies to strengthen, stabilize, or reunify families.

<p>How we will live into our commitment to Family Engagement</p>	<p>Required/Must Have</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Use broad definition and understanding of family guided by youth choice ● Safety and youth choice in reconciliation and/or reunification with family of origin ● Locate shelters/housing in diverse locations that allow youth to maintain ties to social supports and avoid school disruption ● YHDP projects required to support reconnection with family, as defined by youth (calls, visits, mediation, locating family, etc.); invite youth to establish family engagement goals as part of individual plans; training on how to establish boundaries with family and friends ● Integrate exploration of natural supports and use of family engagement in every aspect of system; begin with natural support exploration in CES/diversion appointments; consistent outreach to viable permanent connections ● Short term crisis housing models that provide opportunities for youth/families to have a break and create plans for healing/repair; include within the continuum using host home model as part of the continuum ("Cool Beds") ● Ensure options for youth with no or minimal family (however they define it) support; ensure connections to family across state lines ● Build social network and community support into design of all programs <p>Recommended/ Must Consider</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Use two/multi-generation models that work to improve economic security, improved relationships, connections to employment and education pathways (approach to services that consider the needs of the entire family for example a parenting youth and their child having wraparound supports) ● Build robust connections to family mediation and reconciliation support services to reduce family conflict
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Housing First

A commitment to: strategies to offer youth immediate access to safe, secure and stable housing without preconditions (without proving that they're "ready" for housing).

<p>How we will live into our commitment to Housing First</p>	<p>Required/Must Have</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Require all YHDP housing programs commit and adhere to Housing First principles including low or no barrier access to safe and stable housing ● Eliminate barriers to housing; and leave room for error and mistakes without life altering consequences ● Information and support will be given to landlords, host homes and community partners regarding Housing First principles ● Training to and oversight of participating agencies on Housing First principles, expectations and requirements ● Providers incorporate strategies to solicit and consider youth feedback to ensure lived experiences with providers align with commitment to Housing First principles ● Eliminate ability of programs to "cherry pick" who gets housing ● Expand and enhance housing navigation and case management (particularly by peers and those with lived experience of homelessness) services to allow youth to access housing quickly by eliminating barriers to housing (ID, paperwork, etc.) ● Establish a landlord and tenant program for youth focusing on relationship building, maintaining housing, and restorative practices/responses to housing agreement infractions. ● Ensuring access to housing for post-secondary students who have no other options for school breaks (winter, summer, etc.) <p>Recommended/ Must Consider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Help people get more resources to get housing and keep housing--case workers, more housing options ● Provide access to ongoing support and services for as long as needed (diversion & aftercare wraparound services) to establish stability, recover from trauma, build life skills, connect to education and employment, establish healthy connections, and create strong linkages with community resources ● Explore opportunities to ensure that for youth who need housing, the system identifies appropriate housing first and works out how it's paid for/program model - while our system adopts housing first in policy, we believe that in reality/implementation, coordinated entry and the various programs serving youth and their unique eligibilities end up acting as barriers to rapid access to housing
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Unsheltered Homelessness

A commitment to: address and decrease unsheltered youth homelessness

<p>How we will live into our commitment to address Unsheltered</p>	<p>Required/Must Have</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Street, virtual, and place-based outreach focused on engaging unhoused youth and young adults ● Drop-in spaces that offer lockers, showers, laundry facilities, food/kitchen, computer access, and opportunities for social engagement, social worker or access to external services ● Youth outreach workers co-locate with other youth service organizations to reach youth not engaged with outreach or housing providers
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Homelessness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Providing youth with safety planning support exploring temporary housing options ● Provide peer and case management support to youth and young adults, particularly those who do not identify family and other social supports ● Expand identification and support within the schools and after school setting ● Create a contact person within each diversion department to liaison with non-profits and other youth-lead organizations. <p>Recommended/ Must Consider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide diversion programs through state agencies that work with youth (DCYF, DOC)
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Youth Choice

A commitment to: youth having choices about which providers and interventions they'll engage with; youth having options and self-determination regarding the kind of housing youth need and the extent and nature of supports and services they access; harm reduction approach

How we will live into our commitment to Youth Choice	<p>Required/Must Have</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rated service experiences will be reviewed by YAB, YHDP Steering Committee, YHDP Project Review Committee; those service providers with multiple or notably bad reviews will be addressed and held to some standard of accountability, up to and including loss of funding for unresolved issues ● Programs specify the youth they're serving--race, LGBTQ+ youth, parenting youth, young people with disabilities, etc. and be sure that their safety is prioritized and that they're housed and served in a space that is affirming and comfortable; all spaces should be affirming and create safety for the most marginalized/oppressed (universal design) ● Learn from kinship care/elder care (allowing youth to identify a family member, friend, or mentor to live with) and to provide this person some financial assistance to give them the resources they need to provide housing/board. ● Develop a variety of flexible housing options, including dorm-like transitional housing with services on site that allows time to build skills and finances before they move into permanent housing; and provides access to those services without requiring participation in the housing program. ● YHDP projects will be required to incorporate youth choice as a service policy and practice that will allow youth to exercise choice in all the following--goals and priorities, housing location and type, who they live with, supportive services and programs they access; projects will be encouraged to incorporate training in evidence-based practices that have a focus on youth choice such as Motivational Interviewing, Stages of Change and Healing Centered EngagementYHDP agencies required to commit to youth having the power/choice in the development and implementation of their services ● Employment and education services developed based on personal interest and motivations; ongoing support services will include connections to agencies and individuals that honor and reflect the identities of youth and young adults ● Peer navigators that make connections to resources/supports <p>Recommended/ Must Consider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop youth resource listing/electronic hum that young people can add to and rate their experiences with service providers
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Individualized, Client-Driven Support

A commitment to: flexibility to accommodate unique needs of each person and respond to different needs for service type, intensity, and length of support.

<p>How we will live into our commitment to Individualized and Client-Driven Support</p>	<p>Required/Must Have</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CES screening tools, referral processes and policies will serve to ensure that individual needs are identified and addressed ● YHDP agencies commit to developing individualized and client-driven supports based on the unique identities and cultures of youth and young adults, built upon the strengths, competencies and desires of each individual served; provide regular training and support to organizations to establish and maintain individualized and client-driven supports ● Client-driven processes defined and monitored for each program, and included in youth feedback processes ● Case management approach that integrates lived experience to build trust, relationships, and shared experience/peer support ● Culturally-competent and linguistically diverse staff and peers to meet clients where they are and who understand culture and lived experience ● CES and individual intervention/goal-setting tools made for youth, reviewed by youth, and used by youth ● Co-locate support services in affirming, culturally relevant, community-based spaces ● Evaluation process for clients to provide feedback without retaliation (and for case managers to provide feedback); a client and case manager relationship that doesn't click is OK--we need enough providers to be able to find a better fit for someone <p>Recommended/ Must Consider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dedicated resource bank of committed, quality, and trained providers that remains at the ready to meet unique and diverse needs of clients ● Develop process to match culturally competent & diverse case managers with clients ● Provide supports for practice specific to both core and other cities, as well as those intended to be use with/for specific populations vs for general population
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Social and Community Integration

A commitment to: offer meaningful opportunities for participation in community activities and the creation and/or strengthening of social supports

<p>How we will live into our commitment to Social and Community Integration</p>	<p>Required/Must Have</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Housing located within community and close physical proximity to services/resources ● Assess and include social and community inclusion in individual plans ● Dedicated all-inclusive youth led and mentor supported spaces for social connecting inside and outside of the core cities (particularly making sure non-core city youth are connected) ● Providers demonstrate youth leadership within programs to determine rules, procedures for intake and engagement, and program components ● Establish intra- and inter-agency opportunities to attend events and activities, become oriented to community-based resources, and otherwise support social integration; develop a system-wide calendar of such supported engagement events; young adults hired as curators of these experiences, including organizing events, identifying community collaborators, promoting opportunities, etc. ● Services and activities that support access to natural supports; engagement in meaningful activities through connection to community, education and employment; advocacy and system change to address inequities in access, inclusion and belonging, particularly for those holding marginalized identities ● Include mentoring and peer-based interventions; use tech and social media to connect youth to supports and networks combined with harm-reduction training or coaching in use of technology ● Peer navigators are paid living wages to make connections to affirming, culturally relevant community activities ● Providers outline strategies to connect youth to their identified supports (family, friends, teachers, mentors,
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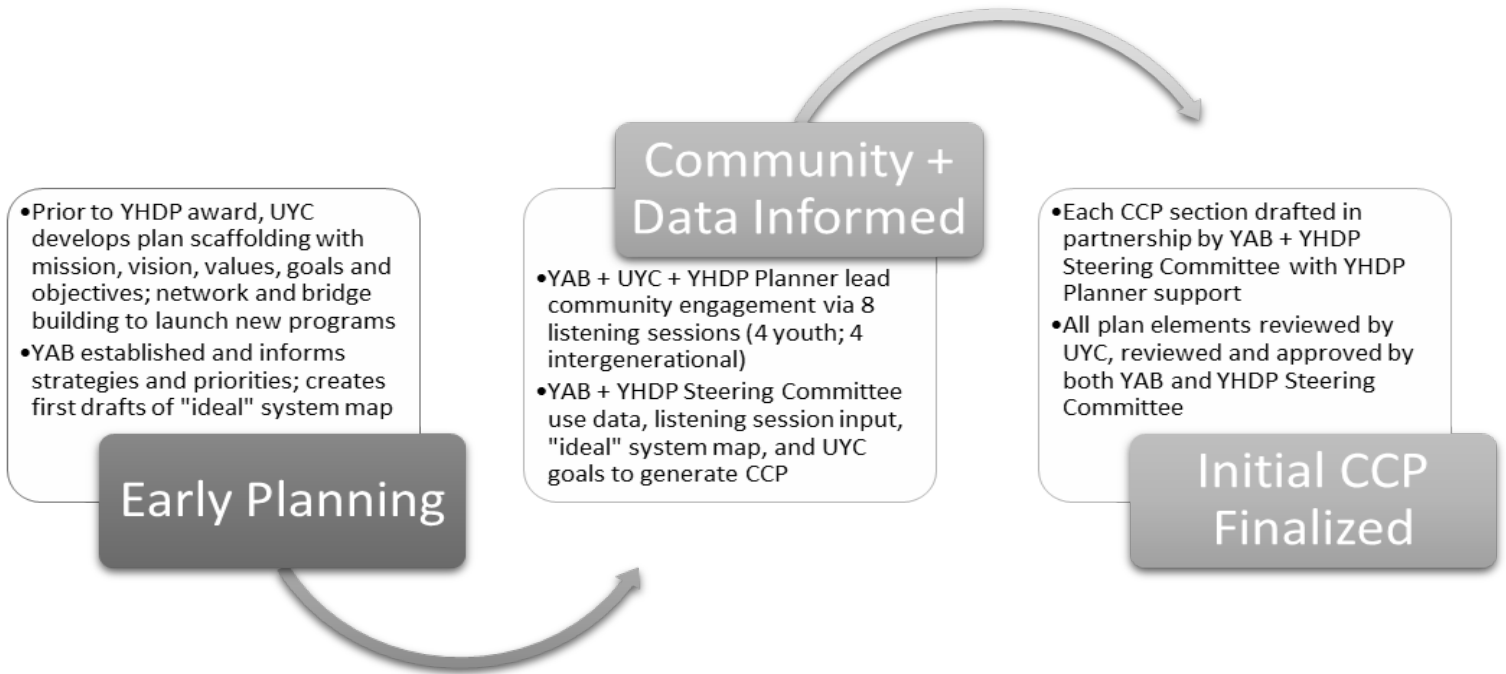
	<p>and others) in Rhode Island or elsewhere</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● YHDP providers adapt/adopt policies and practices to include youth and young adults as partners in decision-making--staff, volunteers, committee and board members. ● Transportation assistance (Lyft/Uber/ridesharing, shuttles, RIPTA) ● Require all YHDP projects to collect, report and address health and wellbeing measures <p>Recommended/ Must Consider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Advance policy that helps increase social inclusion (public transit, tenant rights, right to shelter, etc.) ● Develop a youth resource listing that young people can add to and rate their experiences with ● Advocate for youth participation requirements and/or policies in local city/town boards, committees, etc. to empower youth and provide decision-making authorities
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Coordinated Entry System (CES)

A commitment to: ensuring the coordinated entry process (how youth get connected to resources when they request housing assistance) incorporates youth needs and is youth appropriate.

<p>How we will live into our commitment to Youth-Centric Coordinated Entry</p>	<p>Required/Must Have</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CES and individual intervention/goal-setting tools made for/by youth, reviewed by youth, and used by youth ● Review & update CES policies and procedures and guidelines; the YAB and YHDP Steering Cmte will review the effectiveness of CES quarterly ● Create youth specific coordinated entry tools and processes in collaboration with youth ● Make sure schools and other youth serving agencies understand and can refer youth to an access point ● Train all case managers/direct care staff in conducting screening for under age 18 and 18-24 year olds as well as DV situations and safety planning ● Keep a youth only by-name list, updated weekly, reviewed in case conferencing regularly ● Progressive intake and screening process that goes at youth person's pace; develop a screening tool that youth can self-administer ● Cast a wider net of folks who are door to CES--no wrong door approach. Create coordinated entry protocols and trainings to meet unique needs of different populations; ensure services delivery is provided in safe space with refinements based on youth feedback ● Ensure that schools and other youth serving agencies understand the CES process and can refer youth to an access point (CES training at scale) ● Develop a way to prioritize youth under the age of 18 to crisis or permanent housing as appropriate ● Develop and deliver trainings on youth-specific coordinated entry, diversion, navigation and housing ● Develop additional strategies for linking youth to community activities, peer mentoring and navigation, volunteer opportunities, creative endeavors, education and workforce pathways, etc. ● Connection to prevention/diversion/aftercare outside the homeless services system, so services received to prevent homelessness or prevent a return to homelessness ● Put practices/steps in place so that staff conduct follow-up to ensure that individuals get the services needed. (closed loop referral system) ● Staff are trained in culturally appropriate, TIC practices. <p>Recommended/ Must Consider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ensure that CES system is minor-friendly and is able to appropriately direct them to affirming services. ● Hire peer navigators as CES staff and pay living wages
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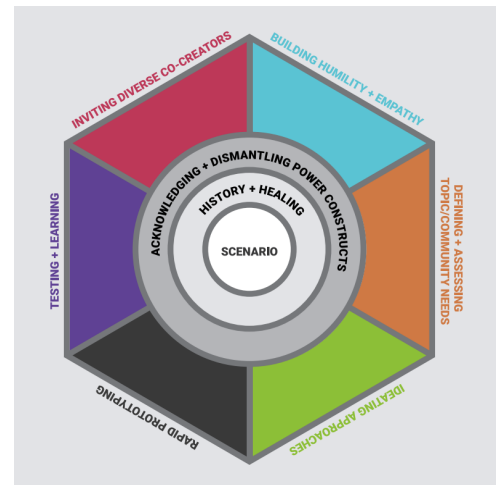
YHDP CCP Design Process



Despite the reality that HUD timelines impose significant time constraints on community building and CCP design processes, making it difficult to move this critical work at the pace of trust, understanding, and capacity, our community largely implemented the Equity Centered Community Design process outlined by the Heart Equity Action Lab (HEAL, True Colors United) visualized here. We are committed to incorporating and evolving the same practices in ongoing learning and design efforts.

Governance & Decision-Making

This newly designed governance structure is intended to connect the ecosystem of existing and new interventions, policy, data analysis, plan improvement, RFP development, and funding into a transparent, equity-focused, coordinated whole that will eradicate youth homelessness. While we embrace the need for anti-racist, anti-bias, and other training, we know that democratized and inclusive decision-making is infinitely better at mitigating bias and forwarding equity and justice. This informs our process and structures for governance. Consensus based decision-making is used by the YAB and YHDP Steering Committee to reach decisions for action. These decisions are reviewed by the RCoC Board (as the local entity responsible for CoC policy and funding), which we anticipate will continue to delegate decision-making regarding YHDP project selection, funding and ongoing implementation to the YAB, as the Board has done during this CCP's design process. In addition to this anticipated authority regarding YHDP projects, the RCoC Board has designated two seats for YAB members and is working to ensure board meetings are welcoming of youth as decision-makers, and we anticipate youth joining the board in 2022. As required by state law, the Housing Resource Commission (HRC) ratifies all RCoC funding decisions. **Using our shared values and core principles, we will intentionally build community as we design, update and implement our community plan.** This is built on a model of shared ownership, authentic youth-adult partnership, and human-centered, data-informed decisions. The structure will ultimately combine the YHDP Steering Committee representing a broad range of stakeholder groups, with a series of workgroups shared with the YAB, which will remain as an independent decision-making body. It is important to note that the YAB will participate as a whole or through representatives on all boards, committees, and workgroups.



Human Centered, Data-Informed

System and program level data is critical to understanding how the system is currently working, and to identifying disparities and other weaknesses that might guide ongoing improvement. While we will, of course, utilize this critical information in monitoring, assessing, refining, and adjusting programs, processes and other interventions, we will center the observations, reflections, and input from both youth and young adults utilizing the system and direct care staff working within the system. It is our intention to focus on impacts as experienced by those most affected by decisions of policy and program in evaluating progress and making policy, program, and funding decisions.

Consensus-Based Decision-Making

1. The question at hand or decision to be made is clear
2. All information required to make the decision is shared and understood
3. Options are discussed with pros and cons shared; everyone is encouraged to share their perspectives, questions, hesitations, etc. to enhance comfort and understanding, and resolve concerns
4. Consensus is achieved, which means that 100% of the people present are at least 80% comfortable with the decision being made--in other words, all members have had their concerns addressed to the extent possible, and can support and accept the decision even if it isn't what they personally wanted.

Governing Bodies

Unaccompanied Youth Committee (UYC)

This long standing, multidisciplinary, cross-sector committee established in 2016 meets monthly, and includes individuals and organizations serving youth and young adults--state departments (education, child welfare, health, social services, juvenile justice), nonprofits, libraries, elected officials, youth advocates, advocates with lived experience, and other professionals. Over 400 are on the overall list; ~100 on opt-in meeting/engagement distribution list; approximately 30 with significant and ongoing engagement. Active engagement is volunteer and opt-in. Currently staffed by consultant/YHDP Planner, to be transitioned to YHDP Lead staff during the implementation phase, prior to the end of the YHDP grant cycle.

The UYC provides leadership and guidance to ensure community-engaged process, and community-defined priorities. Advisory to the YAB; provides recommendations regarding goals/objectives, needs/gaps, policy/advocacy, and other system and program level guidance. During implementation, UYC will advise on implementation progress--how well the implementation reflects the ideas this group had during the proposal and plan development, problems with implementation the community is seeing and get information out to the community. When necessary, decisions are driven by consensus and made by majority vote.

Youth Action Board (YAB)

Group of leaders ages 13-24 with experience of homelessness and/or housing instability first established in 2017 and meaningfully funded in 2020. Significant efforts are made to ensure members represent those disproportionately impacted--namely, LGBTQIA+ youth, youth of color, parenting youth, young people with child welfare experience, and youth with disabilities. Supported and co-facilitated by youth and adult allies; staffed collaboratively by Youth In Action (YIA) and the RI Coalition to End Homelessness. YAB core team currently funded to include up to 10 members paid stipends equivalent to a fair wage and 2 youth co-coordinators paid hourly, liveable wages and benefits. Long-term goal: build a large base with varied opportunities for engagement, including through school or community-based groups. Members are self-nominated or recommended by someone else. As a RICoC standing committee, the YAB is required to include at least one board member, a requirement which will be fulfilled upon youth joining the RICoC board this spring/summer. To ensure YAB stability and implementation as an independent, youth-centric body with appropriate social and leadership support for members, establishing a YAB Lead organization will be considered during the implementation phase of YHDP.

The YAB makes final decisions regarding policy, funding, advocacy, evaluation, and other YHDP, youth and general priorities for UYC, YHDP Steering Committee and any other related workgroup or subcommittee. Members are thought partners and co-creators with YHDP Steering Committee regarding all things YHDP. The YAB makes program, policy, funding, and practice decisions for all activities to eradicate youth homelessness, including and beyond YHDP. Responsible, in collaboration with the YHDP Steering Committee & UYC, for ongoing YHDP oversight, improvement, and community engagement, and updating the CCP annually. This includes evaluating/approving the YHDP & YAB Lead Agency and the selection and evaluation of YHDP projects. The YAB will address potential conflict(s) of interest, with individuals completing a conflict of interest form before each deliberation. Additionally, they will work with other decision-makers to ensure their voice and vision are accounted for when there are significant conflicts, such as when funding for the YAB and its activities are being considered. The YAB uses consensus-based decision-making.

YHDP Core Team

The YHDP Core Team meets at least weekly, and currently includes staff members from the YHDP lead organization, the RICoC planner, national technical assistance providers, and the consultant hired as the YHDP Planner. [Based on concerns expressed by the YAB regarding capacity, YAB representatives will be invited to be permanent members of this team during phase 2 of YHDP implementation (development of the RFP and project selection).]

The YHDP Core Team leads the planning and other processes for the YHDP grant and oversees ongoing program/project management. Individual and collective commitment to meaningful community engagement, equity-focused work, and building and sustaining a transformative system that eradicates youth homelessness. Decisions for action are made by consensus by YHDP lead staff, YHDP planner/consultant, and RICoC Planner.

YHDP Steering Committee

Includes a wide variety of cross-sector leaders and stakeholders in education (K-12 + post secondary), child welfare, workforce development, housing, housing authorities, elected officials, youth development and organizing, priority populations, civic engagement, foster care, juvenile justice, behavioral health, and social services. Includes the RICoC Planner. Met bimonthly during the planning phase, to transition to monthly meetings going forward. YHDP Steering Committee meetings take place during regularly scheduled YAB meetings; all YAB members are committee members and are compensated. No recommendations or decisions will be made by the YHDP Steering Committee without at least three youth present. Currently staffed by the consultant/YHDP Planner, to be transitioned to YHDP Lead staff during the implementation phase.

Members are thought partners and co-creators with the YAB regarding all things YHDP. Make YHDP program, policy, funding, evaluation, and practice decisions in collaboration with the YAB. Responsible, in collaboration with the YAB & UYC, for ongoing YHDP oversight, improvement, and community engagement, and for updating the CCP annually. This includes evaluating/approving the YHDP Lead Agency and the selection and evaluation of YHDP projects. Decisions made by consensus.

YHDP Project Review Committee

A shared workgroup of the YAB/YHDP Steering Committee. Using scoring criteria detailed in the RFP (to be developed), projects are scored and recommendations made to the YAB. The YAB reviews, considers feedback from and the needs identified by the community, and makes final decisions. YAB forwards funding decisions to the RICoC Board, which reviews funding decisions as the local entity responsible for funding. The YAB and RICoC Board, or the Board's designated funding committee, can opt to jointly review the committee's recommendations, as entire bodies or with representatives of the two bodies, if both bodies agree to this alternate process. This group is staffed by the RICoC Planner and YHDP Planner and includes:

- At least 3 and up to 6 YAB members
- 2 UYC members
- 3 YHDP Steering Committee Members

The YHDP Lead will support the RCoC Planner in the process of orienting and supporting YHDP Project Review Committee members and their process. Each governing body will identify their representatives on the funding committee, with support from the RCoC and YHDP Planners. Composition of the YHDP Project Review Committee can only be revised if endorsed by the YAB. No member will be employed, volunteer, or be a member of the board of an agency submitting a funding request. A conflict of interest form will be completed by each member, and only those without conflict of interest may participate.

RCoC Board

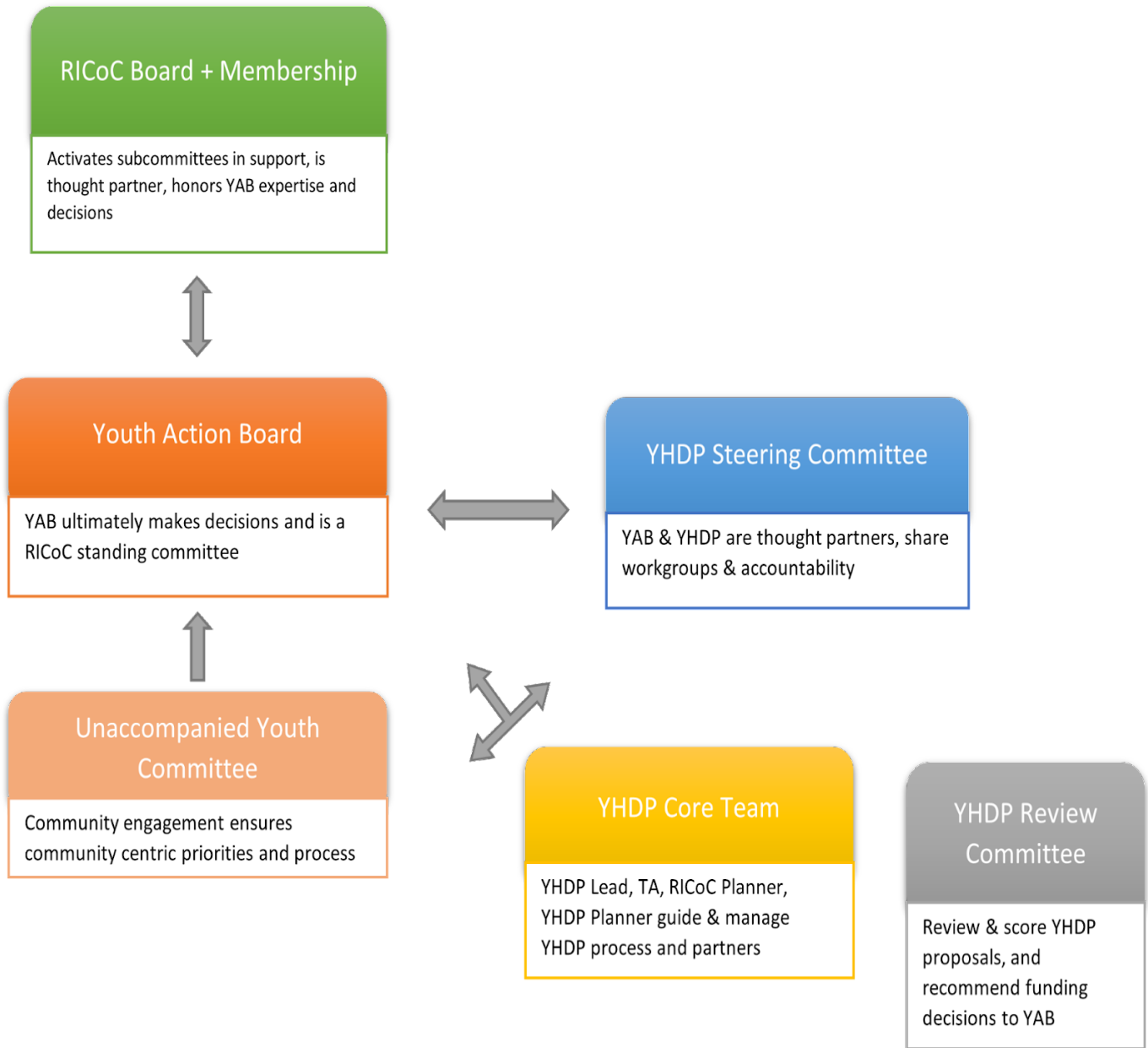
The Rhode Island Continuum of Care (RCoC) is the local Continuum of Care, whose authority on policy, planning, and funding to end homelessness comes from federal statute and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”). The majority of the RCoC’s decision making is done by the RCoC Board, which is elected from its membership. The board currently designates two seats for YAB members. To ensure youth safety, comfort, and meaningful engagement, YAB members are auditing board meetings and making recommendations for improvement before formally becoming voting members. We anticipate they will join the board in spring/summer 2022. Additionally, while not yet formally institutionalized, we anticipate the RCoC Board will delegate decision-making regarding YHDP project selection, funding, and ongoing implementation to the YAB. Decisions are made by a majority vote of the directors in attendance at a meeting, and require a quorum. For additional information please see the RCoC’s Governance Charter and the current Board of Directors, both are available on the [RCoC’s webpage](#).

YHDP Lead/ Youth System Lead

The YHDP Lead, manages and administers all related operations and activities for the YHDP on behalf of the RCoC Board, and at the guidance of the RCoC. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Supports, sustains, and guides the membership and work of the Youth Action Board (“YAB”); the YHDP Steering Committee; The YHDP Core Team; and the Unaccompanied Youth Committee (“UYC”) in ways that are consistent with the vision and core principles/values defined by the community;
- Provides strategic planning and guidance for youth system building inclusive of but not limited to youth leadership, assessment of needs, program and project priorities, data collection and analysis, policy and advocacy, cross-system collaboration, and community-centric engagement.
- Engages a consultant(s) with expertise in Youth and Young adult systems planning, local stakeholders, and youth leadership development strategies that will support ongoing development of YAB, UYC, YHDP Steering Committee, YHDP Core Team, YHDP cohorts, and coordinated strategies to end youth homelessness;
- Continuous learning, evaluation, improvement, and evolution of the Coordinated Community Plan to End Youth Homelessness (“CCP”) and YHDP projects, in accordance with HUD, YAB, and RCoC expectations and guidelines.

The YAB, in partnership with the YHDP Steering Committee, will identify, evaluate and approve the YHDP Lead agency. We imagine this role will evolve to become the Youth System Lead, administering and managing all youth initiatives.



YHDP Governance Structure

The Work of Continuous Learning & Improvement

Continuous learning and improvement requires the ability to consistently engage in meaningful, nuanced conversation about our efforts, their impact, and strategies that will bring us closer to our vision of eradicating youth homelessness. It's not just about monitoring progress, but about the flexibility to change approach or direction to improve impact and process. The following strategies will be embedded in our work, and will be used as benchmarks to monitor and improve our governing practices and the health of our processes. We endeavor to:

- I. Embed youth voice, engagement, and leadership in planning, implementation, and evaluation of YYA programs. No decisions about YHDP programming will be made without YAB endorsement.
- II. Infuse all YHDP processes with intentional community building, justice-making, and equity-based focus. This means moving at the pace of trust, meaningful orientation for new partners and members, group agreements and shared values/core principles centered in every interaction and decision, nurturing individual and group relationships in and between meetings, embracing joy and celebration as a necessary and valuable part of creating change, and holding each other accountable for living into our shared values and vision.
- III. Require the collection, disaggregation, and analysis of qualitative and quantitative program and system level data from YYA, providers (particularly direct service/care staff), funders, and other stakeholders to evaluate progress and the need for change. Include this data analysis in ongoing evaluation efforts and dashboard, and share findings with all stakeholders, including the broader community. Use this data and projections to set regular improvement benchmarks and adapt them as investments change and performance improves. This includes review and revision to system, program, and YHDP/YAB Lead policies, practices, funding, and designations.
- IV. Use targeted universalism in design and evolution of system initiatives, processes, structures, partnerships, activities, and programs.
- V. Incorporate regular (at least quarterly) community meetings with youth by youth to obtain and incorporate feedback from YYA currently engaging with system resources for refinement and future project design
- VI. The YHDP Steering Committee will review system data monthly and program data at least bi-annually, provided by YHDP grantees, compiled by the YHDP Lead Agency with the support of the HMIS Lead Agency, and the YAB/YAB Lead to inform when adjustments or TA are needed.
- VII. Recommendations for project refinements can be made by workgroups, committees, subcommittees, and/or individual YHDP Steering Committee, UYC, or YAB members. These will be considered by the appropriate governing body and decisions for action made by the YAB.
- VIII. Establish a learning community environment (through cohort building learning circles and/or technology platforms) amongst providers who are implementing YHDP projects; this effort is staffed by the YHDP Lead in collaboration with the RICoC and YHDP Planner.
- IX. All members of governing bodies commit to participate in remote and/or in-person learning forums at least annually, and to share their learnings with colleagues. These efforts will initially focus on learning from other YHDP communities, embedding principles for effective practice in systems and programs, targeted universalism, and integration of restorative/transformational justice practices.

Anticipated Allocation of YHDP Funding

Full YHDP Award					\$3,584,649
Initial Planning Grant					\$137,000
YAB	YAB Lead Phase 1 (YIA)--staff + youth compensation + materials		\$24,300		
	YHDP Lead "Phase 1" (Coalition) --staff + admin		\$27,500		
YHDP Planning & Project Management	consultant for planning and project management, CCP writing		\$85,200		
Remaining YHDP Award					\$3,455,000
Project Type		YHDP Units/ Individuals Annually	2-Year Breakout Costs	2-Year YHDP Costs	%
Planning	(Grants are for one year, budget reflects two year cost)			\$200,000	5.79%
YAB	staff + youth compensation + program materials + admin		\$110,000		
YHDP Project Management + system planning	YHDP project mgmt consultant + training		\$85,000		
Compliance	HUD compliance support for applicants/awardees		\$5,000		
Housing	(all models include support svcs)			\$1,905,000	55.14%
Permanent Supportive Housing	@ \$15,000 annually	5-10	\$175,000		5.07%
Rapid Rehousing + (RRH+)	@ \$12,000 annually	15-25	\$550,000		15.92%
Joint TH-RRH	@ \$15,000 annually	25-60	\$880,000		25.47%
Host/Kinship Home (training + host stipend)	@ \$10-15,000 annually; this leverages FYSB funding to support staff for Host/Kinship Homes	5-15	\$150,000		4.34%
Landlord Incentives	sign on bonuses, payment for damages; enhanced security deposit	20-30	\$150,000		4.34%
Support Services Only (SSO)				\$1,200,000	34.73%
Outreach	Street + place-based outreach	200-400	\$200,000		5.79%
Drop-in + Flex Pool (Diversion)	Safe spaces, co-located services, flexible diversion supports		\$300,000		8.68%
Statewide Navigation + Long-term CM + Peer Support (web)	5-6 FTE + 2-3 FTE Peers	70-120	\$550,000		15.92%
Coordinated Entry System (CES)	youth-centric system + processes to support housing access	300-600	\$150,000		4.34%
HMIS + evaluation	data analysis, training, reporting			\$150,000	4.34%
TOTAL				\$3,455,000	

Our community was awarded \$3,584,649 in YHDP funding. With the exception of planning grants, which are for one year, YHDP project grants will be for two years with the possibility thereafter of renewal annually through the HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) funding competition. The funds will be allocated/awarded to eligible project types as follows. Amounts may be adjusted to maximize project budgets and projects.

Principles for Allocating YHDP Funds

We considered the following principles when developing this proposal:

- **Values.** Our community has been clear about equity-centric, justice seeking, transformative change being our priority.
- **Replaceability.** We want to fund projects that are not likely to be funded by other means, private or public
- **Renewability.** Funds can be renewed annually through a HUD homelessness grant program, if we spend it in ways that are compatible and a limited number of other appropriate cost categories.
- **Impact.** We want the funds to have a significant, transformative impact for youth, particularly those who are disproportionately impacted (priority populations) and most difficult to engage or provide meaningful support.
- **Array & Dispersion.** Our community wants to fund projects that both expand the array of options for YYA in Rhode Island, and are geographically dispersed to enhance access.

Potential YHDP Funded Planning Projects

Approximately \$200,000, in addition to the initial \$137,000 planning project, is anticipated to cover activities that enhance ongoing planning efforts, training (in Guiding Principles for Effective Practice section, restorative justice, targeted universalism, authentic youth leadership/power sharing, harm reduction, mental health first aid, motivational interviewing, CES, HMIS, and other areas deemed critical for CCP implementation), implementation, and evaluation of the YHDP projects, guarantee ongoing community engagement, and to ensure compliance with HUD YHDP requirements.

Youth Action Board (YAB) has been partially funded utilizing a Consolidated Homeless Fund (CHF) grant. The YAB has been providing youth voice, leadership, and agency in the planning process. They designed and led youth-only community listening sessions, have been members of the YHDP Steering Committee, and are working in partnership with adult allies in framing our approach, priorities, and resource allocation. The YAB will lead the YHDP Review Committee to review, score, and fund grant applications, and be critical to monitoring and evaluating those projects.

YHDP project management and system planning will continue to include the role of YHDP Planner/Project Director who has been responsible for framing, convening, and facilitating key stakeholders in the design of the CCP. This includes partnering with YAB youth co-coordinators in YAB meetings, and leading YHDP Steering Committee, YHDP Core Team, Unaccompanied Youth Committee, and community listening sessions. Their role has been to ensure the process centered the leadership of youth and young adults with lived experience, ensuring processes and decisions are community driven, incorporating our community's core values and commitment to transformative, equity-centric change. It will also include system-wide training and technical assistance to support funded projects in delivering population specific services utilizing the principles in practice (trauma informed care, positive youth development, etc.).

Potential YHDP Projects

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) provides long-term, flexible rental subsidies for YYA experiencing homelessness and have disabilities/disabling conditions that affect their long-term ability to gain income/live independently without ongoing services.

Types of Programs:

- I. Scattered-Site Independent housing units.
- II. Group living sites for youth with higher level of needs/support.
- III. Affordable dorm-style housing for students.
- IV. Wraparound supportive services.
- V. Will be trained in trauma-informed care (TIC), positive youth development (PYD) cultural competency, meeting sexual orientation and gender identity needs, and other guiding principles of effectiveness.

Rapid Rehousing (RRH) connects YYA to medium term housing that includes tenant-based scatter-site housing and support services. We anticipate applying for applicable waivers to enable longer access to RRH for YYA (up to 36 months of assistance). *Key Components:*

Components:

- I. Scattered-site independent or shared housing.
- II. Landlord recruitment, education, and incentives
- III. Wraparound supportive services.
- IV. Will be trained in trauma-informed care (TIC), positive youth development (PYD), cultural competency, meeting sexual orientation and gender identity needs, and other guiding principles of effectiveness.

Joint Transitional Housing & Rapid Rehousing (TH-RRH) combines Transitional Housing (TH), a service-intensive, frequently congregate-care component, with Rapid Re-Housing (RRH), a scattered site independent living component. Youth can skip right to RRH if they choose, but have the option of starting in TH (if they are younger, need crisis housing, coming out of foster care, criminal/legal system, hospital, etc., or want more structure). *Key Components:*

- I. Flexible, long-term subsidies to support transition into independent housing.
- II. Landlord recruitment, education, and incentives.
- III. Opportunities for shared housing/roommates.

Will be trained in trauma-informed care (TIC), positive youth development (PYD), cultural competency, meeting sexual orientation and gender identity needs, and other guiding principles of effectiveness.

Host Homes/Kinship Care are flexible (short or medium term), crisis response community-based settings that offer youth 24/7 immediate access to a safe alternative to shelter. Financial and support services to sustain host homes. We anticipate applying for waivers to enable payment to individuals providing host homes/kinship care. *Key Components:*

- I. Robust training for hosts including TIC, PYD,
- II. Individualized training and support from program; comprehensive education; on-call support for hosts.
- III. Program serves as an intermediary to provide support to hosts, help meet youth needs, conflict mediation, case management, family reunification/strengthening with family of choice when safe and appropriate, and aligned with youth wishes.

Landlord incentives are any type of incentive to enlist and sustain landlords in leasing to youth and/or youth serving programs. *Key Components:*

- I. Education regarding benefits and successful approaches to housing youth and young adults
- II. Incentives such as sign on bonus, higher security deposits, repair or cleaning funds, etc.
- III. Conflict resolution

Outreach provides unaccompanied youth under the age of 25 with street and site-based connections to basic needs, referral, system navigation and connection to housing. Ensures identification of unaccompanied YYA experiencing homelessness. *Key Components:*

- I. Connection to mainstream benefits and services.
- II. Flexible support establishing and implementing a long-term housing stabilization plan.
- III. Assistance building or rebuilding family and community support networks.
- IV. Will be trained in trauma-informed care (TIC), positive youth development (PYD), cultural competency, meeting sexual orientation and gender identity needs, and other guiding principles of effectiveness.

Diversion provides unaccompanied youth under the age of 25 with short-term supportive services to divert from homelessness. Helps youth find alternative housing solutions to crisis housing. Our vision includes increasing the availability and use of drop-in spaces and a flexible pool of funding for diversion. Services can be varied and include showers, food, laundry, clothing closets, transportation, computer/printer access, employment programs, recreational and creative activities, life skills classes, and more. The flexible pool is available to provide YYA experiencing homelessness access to education, employment, and social/emotional well-being services/activities. This flexible funding can quickly address barriers that prevent success through auto repair/insurance, car sharing, gasoline, bus passes, short-term day care, uniforms, tools, and other needs. *Key Components:*

- I. Connection to mainstream benefits and services.
- II. Flexible support establishing and implementing a long-term housing stabilization plan.
- III. Assistance building or rebuilding family and community support networks.
- IV. Will be trained in trauma-informed care (TIC), positive youth development (PYD), cultural competency, meeting sexual orientation and gender identity needs, and other guiding principles of effectiveness.

Navigation + Long-term Case Management + Peer Support Network can have or be supportive service elements connected to community wide housing and mainstream services--both service and housing navigation, case management and peer support specialist network. Includes case management, legal services, outpatient health services, substance abuse treatment, life skills training. Also provides a consistent point of contact to help youth navigate different resources, systems of care, and needs (i.e. education, employment, health/mental health, etc.). This includes hiring youth and young adults in these roles and as part of peer support specialist networks. The vision includes referral to housing, educational, employment, and social/emotional well-being services, and the navigation of those systems. Includes aftercare. While multiple providers may ensure services are available throughout the state, creating a single web of system navigation and peer support is critical. *Key Components:*

- I. Provides 24-hour mobile access to basic needs and case management.
- II. Staffing to include peers and mental health clinicians, with careful matching of youth with their guide.
- III. Engages with traditional systems to divert from legal, criminal, and other systems utilizing punitive approaches
- IV. Role includes understanding, educating, and building bridges between systems of support
- V. Serve as an advocate for the youth.
- VI. Will be trained in trauma-informed care (TIC), positive youth development (PYD), cultural competency, meeting sexual orientation and gender identity needs, and other guiding principles of effectiveness.

Projects for 1) planning and implementation of **Coordinated Entry** and 2) **HMIS** for unaccompanied youth under the age of 25 will also be funded through YHDP funds.

Action Plan for Transformative Change

Strategic priorities

Our community has developed robust priorities that both fall within and expand beyond YHDP eligible expenses and investments. We're eager to continue transforming our vision for a just, liberatory system into reality.

Key Strategy 1: Build and maintain capacity to provide community-based prevention, diversion, early identification and intervention, support, and stabilization services. We will implement solutions that enable us to identify as many YYA who are experiencing or are at risk of homelessness as possible and to connect them with robust systems of support. These efforts will help us ensure youth homelessness is a rare experience.

- ★ **Goal 1.1** Increase capacity among providers, policy makers, and other policy, program and funding partners to implement youth-centered, culturally relevant, healing centered, PYD, TIC, and other principles for effective practice (particularly for priority populations)
- ★ **Goal 1.2** Increase capacity among providers, policy makers, and other policy, program and funding partners to implement progressive engagement
- ★ **Goal 1.3** Support services not tied to formal/legal engagement with DCYF
- ★ **Goal 1.4** Coordinate prevention and support resources across sectors, including embedded peer support
- ★ **Goal 1.5** Align and coordinate transitions across state systems
- ★ **Goal 1.6** Create community-based front door to child & family well-being system
- ★ **Goal 1.7** Build cross-sector capacity to identify early identification of youth at risk of or experiencing homelessness
- ★ **Goal 1.8** Promote family and other permanent connections
- ★ **Goal 1.9** Develop resource directory and guides/toolkits

Key Strategy 2: Develop and ensure rapid access to a spectrum of youth-centric, affirming, safe, supported housing solutions and robust cross-system services. We will invest in a comprehensive array of new resources that responds to our housing and service needs, tests new and innovative models, and better serves priority populations to ensure youth homelessness is a brief, one-time occurrence.

- ★ **Goal 2.1** Provide immediate access to youth specific crisis housing and full spectrum of housing options available
- ★ **Goal 2.2** Provide coordinated outreach, navigation, case management + housing in the right proportion; high quality, equity-centric data collection; + Streamlined CES with equity focus
- ★ **Goal 2.3** Promote access to and supported engagement with cross-sector (housing, educational, employment, social and human services, etc.) supports that promote sufficiency and housing stability

Key Strategy 3: Develop, improve and sustain the resources and capacity to prevent and end unaccompanied youth homelessness through cross-sector planning, coordination, advocacy, and oversight. We will organize the way that we work and make decisions to form a clear, comprehensive, equity and community centric system to sustain system capacity at scale and eradicate youth homelessness.

- ★ **Goal 3.1** Invest in the growth and impact of the YAB, and youth-adult partnership
- ★ **Goal 3.2** Implement, sustain and evolve a YYA specific governance structure that elevates youth leadership, reflects YYA needs and diversity, and enables us to live into our core principles
- ★ **Goal 3.3** Invest in racial equity, social justice, access + collaboration; Fully fund integration of racial and LGBTQIA+ equity in all elements
- ★ **Goal 3.4** Sustain system planning, management, and bridge building roles, and work to build community, learning, and a sustainable system

- ★ **Goal 3.5** Collect, share, analyze and use nuanced data for decision-making and quality monitoring
- ★ **Goal 3.6** Align & secure sufficient funding for system capacity to respond at scale and ensure cross-sector coordination of funding & priorities
- ★ **Goal 3.7** Provide and promote training, TA and other capacity building

Action Plan

Our community's action plan includes both YHDP eligible priorities, as well as those that are or must be funded with other resources. Each goal is identified as a short, medium, or long-term goal. This indicates when the goal would begin to be addressed and worked on. With a mission to eradicate homelessness among youth and young adults in Rhode Island by 2030, short-term goals will be considered within two years, mid-term goals in 3-5 years, and long term goals 6-8 years.

Key Strategy 1: Build and maintain capacity to provide community-based prevention, diversion, early identification and intervention, support, and stabilization services. We will implement solutions that enable us to identify as many YYA who are experiencing or are at risk of homelessness as possible and to connect them with robust systems of support. These efforts will help us ensure youth homelessness is a rare experience.

Goal 1.1 Increase capacity among providers, policy makers, and other policy, program and funding partners to implement youth-centered, culturally relevant, healing centered, PYD, TIC, and other principles for effective practice (particularly for priority populations)

Providers throughout the crisis response and service delivery programs/systems will have the capacity to provide youth-centered, culturally relevant and responsive, trauma-informed services to young people that prioritizes and maximizes youth social and emotional well-being, and enhances connection to education and/or employment.

Goal 1.1 Objectives	Goal 1.1 Activities	YHDP Eligible and/or other funding	Responsible Party & Timeline
Objective 1.1a Develop and implement a framework to support the regular training of program and system staff. May include recurring training series, learning communities, continuing education platforms. Begin with trauma informed care, positive youth development, equity informed design, cultural competence with priority populations, and targeted universalism. Build practices and enhance skills that support youth ability to develop and sustain healthy relationships	Using Guiding Principles for Effective Practice and needs identified for Priority Populations, develop core training requirements for direct service and supervisory staff of provider agencies.	Eligible Planning Grant activities (24 CFR 578.39). Blended funding necessary	Short-term; RCoC Board & Equity Committee, YAB/YHDP Steering Committee, YHDP Lead
	Require providers to ensure such training, as well as youth access to and supported engagement in affirming and culturally relevant social and community events, peer and professional support for healing and learning healthy relationship skills, with youth choice and voice in engagement.		Short-term; Providers & YAB/YHDP Steering Committee
	Define system and organizational responsibilities, as well as strategies to hold providers accountable to ensure staff are appropriately trained.		Short-term; Providers; & YAB/YHDP Steering Committee; RCoC and OHCD
Objective 1.1b Recruit, hire, support and sustain a provider workforce that reflects the identities and lived experience of those being served	Providers will be required to demonstrate equity-centric hiring, promotion, and compensation practices, and efforts to ensure that program staff and senior leadership reflect the identities and lived experiences of those being served.	Likely eligible under Supportive Services, 24 CFR 578.53(e)(6): Employment Assistance & Job Training. Blended funding suggested	Short/Mid-term; Providers; Equity Committee
Objective 1.1c Eliminate criminalizing, punitive, and surveillance structures, policies, and practices and replace with healing, restorative, community-building practices that restore and promote dignity, agency, and joy	Provide training and technical assistance to embrace and implement healing, restorative, community-building practices. Identify and integrate strategies to hold providers accountable.	Not directly linked to fundable activities beyond training activities in Planning Grant activities. Blended funding and leverage of RCoC Equity Committee resources suggested	Short/Mid-term; Providers, RCoC Board, YAB/YHDP Steering Committee
	Coord. with juvenile hearing boards to improve juvenile justice reform efforts and divert youth from entering the criminal justice system. Identify and engage with similar opportunities in child welfare, mental/behavioral health, and disability services sectors.		Short/Mid/Long-term; YHDP Lead & Providers
Objective 1.1d Ensure assessment and housing/service referral of each YYA is driven by and responds to youth needs and voice (service type, intensity and length of supports)	Develop progressive, youth-centric assessment and referral tools and practices, co-created with YYA (including and beyond YAB members). Orient providers and implement consistent use.	Eligible under 24 CFR 578.53 Supportive services.	Short-term; UYC, YAB/YHDP Steering Committee, CES Committee; RCoC Board

Goal 1.2 Increase capacity among providers, policy makers, and other policy, program and funding partners to implement progressive engagement

Providers throughout the crisis response and service delivery programs/systems will have the capacity to provide services to young people that prioritizes and maximizes youth social and emotional well-being, and enhances connection to education and/or employment via progressive engagement.

Goal 1.2 Objectives	Goal 1.2 Activities	YHDP Eligible and/or other funding	Responsible Party & Timeline
Objective 1.2a Ensure universal implementation of progressive engagement with regard to youth contribution toward housing costs, and require no more than 30% contribution, to ensure youth who experience housing instability have access to longer-term subsidies and/or more intensive services	Review and revise housing policies to ensure they're youth centric at youth, provider, policy and funder levels. Clearly define progressive engagement. Develop and implement policy, tools, documentation, training and protocol that ensure progressive engagement in engagement, assessment, support and housing services.	Allowable Planning Grant activities per 24 CFR § 578.39; additional funding suggested.	Short-term; RCoC Board, YAB/YHDP Steering Committee; UYC
Objective 1.2b Develop and implement policy, tools/documentation, training, and protocol that provide progressive engagement in assessing and addressing need--ensure youth are asked questions/assessed only as needed to prevent need to share information or lived experience multiple times			

Goal 1.3 Support services not tied to formal/legal engagement with DCYF			
Supportive services for youth/young adults are available to youth/young adults regardless of formal involvement with a state public agency. Strengthen current efforts within DCYF to move to a model that is focused on child safety and providing supports to families and youth outside of the traditional legal framework. Goal			
Goal 1.3 Objectives	Goal 1.3 Activities	YHDP Eligible and/or other funding	Responsible Party & Timeline
Objective 1.3a Establish web of diversion and stabilization services, including family reconciliation and reunification when appropriate and aligned with youth wishes	Explore accessibility of 211 and other hotlines to provide YYA or parents/ kin or other caring adults access to provide support without fear of system engagement.	Eligible under 24 CFR 578.53 Supportive services.	Short/mid-term; YAB/YHDP Steering Committee & YHDP Lead + Planner
	Develop additional drop-in opportunities, use host homes as respite and crisis housing, and develop a flexible pool of resources to support housing stability.		Short-term; Providers, YAB/YHDP Steering Committee & YHDP Lead + Planner
Objective 1.3b Increase services to help YYAs access and maintain housing and thrive in community by providing support as they navigate systems—including support services, housing, and connection to community activities	Expand and explore opportunities to access community-based crisis and support services such as host homes, drop-in centers, peer supports, and other innovative strategies. Develop a web of case management, system navigation and peer support network.	Eligible under 24 CFR 578.53 Supportive services.	Short-term; Providers & YHDP Lead
Objective 1.3c Increase the availability and awareness of LGBTQ+ family acceptance resources	Providers partner with existing LGBTQ+ providers and advocate for expansion of family awareness and acceptance resources. Providers responsible for partnership and professional development.	Eligible under 24 CFR 578.53 Supportive services. Suggest blended funding.	Short-term; Providers
Goal 1.4 Coordinate prevention and support resources across sectors, including embedded peer support			
A robust and coordinated youth and family prevention, and diversion system that pulls in resources from a transformed housing, child welfare, legal, and economic justice system to ensure that any youth and their family (birth and chosen) has a single point of access to the economic resources and supportive services needed to reunify or remain together in order to avoid the need for crisis and other housing supports.			
Goal 1.4 Objectives	Goal 1.4 Activities	YHDP Eligible and/or other funding	Responsible Party & Timeline
Objective 1.4a Develop and implement a statewide/system wide web of outreach, case management, navigation, mentoring, peer support, and other similar interventions to support coordination of response and care. Provide spaces for youth to make connections, provide and receive the support of peers, engage in recreation, expressive, and other civic activities in and with the community. Support access and linkages to life skills training, mentors, peer mentoring, and supports.	Develop a coordinated, statewide web of social service and housing navigators, case managers, and peer supports. Navigators with lived expertise follow youth through the system across prevention, housing, stabilization and support services.	Eligible under 24 CFR 578.53 (e)(10) Supportive services + additional funding resources required	Short-term; Providers
	Identify funding to develop and embed youth navigators/specialists in every EOHHS agency, RIDE, RI Housing, Department of Public Safety and Commerce Corporation's Office of Housing and Community Development, and family court. ensure effective connections to agency leadership. Navigators with lived expertise follow youth through the system across prevention, housing, stabilization and support services.		Short-term; Providers, YAB/YHDP Steering Committee
Objective 1.4b Implement and partner with supports and services to connect YYA to new/existing education/employment opportunities and to enhance education/employment opportunities and financial stability (including investing in new partnerships to support employment readiness, job search/coaching, and other education/employment enhancing supports for YYA with lived experiences of homelessness). Develop new employment readiness and job placement programs for youth experiencing homelessness.	Enhance existing and/or develop new employment readiness and job placement programs for youth experiencing homelessness. Develop new employment readiness and job placement programs for youth experiencing homelessness.	Potentially eligible under Supportive Services, 24 CFR 578.53(e)(6): Employment Assistance & Job Training. Suggest blended funding.	Mid-Long-term; Providers, YAB/YHDP Steering Committee
	Identify and implement programs that enhance access to and success with education and increased income for YYA experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity. Implement educational supports to increase HS/GED completion rates and higher education access and success. Increase access and connection of youth and young adults to apprenticeship programs.		Short-term; RICOc, YAB/YHDP Steering Committee, Proders
	Support access and connection to education, early childhood education, childcare, early intervention, and other relevant supports and services for pregnant and parenting youth		Short-term; RICOc, YAB/YHDP Steering Committee, Proders
Objective 1.4c Remove transportation and other barriers to access; Provide transportation that allows youth access to influential peers, mentors, community activities, and support systems	Ensure programs, including housing, support, drop-in, outreach, and flexible diversion funds provide transportation supports.	Eligible under 24 CFR 578.53(e)(15) Supportive services: Transportation. Suggest blended funding.	Short-term; Providers
Objective 1.4d Provide inclusive, affirming sexual health education and resources, particularly for LGBTQ+ youth, young people with experience with human trafficking, DV/SA, and youth with disabilities	Partner with LGBTQ+, positive sexual health, disability justice, and healthy relationship providers to ensure access to and supported engagement with inclusive, affirming, healing services.	Eligible under 24 CFR 578.53 Supportive services. Blended funding.	Short-term; Providers
Objective 1.4e Follow up with youth and young adults who were diverted for at least 6 months to provide linkages to community support, provide light touch case management as needed, and track outcomes	Utilize web of peer support network and case management to provide aftercare for 6-12 months	Potentially Eligible under 24 CFR 578.53 supportive services. blended funding suggested.	Short-term; Providers

Objective 1.4f Better connect YYA experiencing homelessness or housing instability to substance use services and recovery supports	Explore, develop, and partner with substance use and recovery programs and supports.	Eligible under 24 CFR 578.53 (e) (14) Supportive services.	Short/Mid-term; Providers
Objective 1.4g Increase access to and awareness of housing and support services and resources for priority populations including BIPOC, immigrant youth, and young people with disabilities	Develop and implement multiple platform community awareness campaigns.	Eligible under 24 CFR 578.53 Supportive services.	Mid-term; YAB/YHDP Steering Committee, YHDP + YAB Leads
	Ensure CES, housing and system navigators, case managers, and peer support network identify, provide access, and supported engagement with safe, affirming, culturally relevant services.		Short-term; Providers
	All programs ensure access to vital documents for all youth, with particular attention to gender affirming vital documents for trans/genderqueer/nonbinary youth, and youth who are immigrants/refugees		Short-term; Providers
Objective 1.4h Support access and connection to early childhood education, childcare, early intervention, and other relevant supports and services for pregnant and parenting youth	Design programs and develop partnerships to enhance 2-generation services available to pregnant and parenting youth and young adults experiencing homelessness	Eligible under 24 CFR 578.53(e)(4) Supportive services + blended funding/services	Short/Mid-term; Providers
Objective 1.4i Immediate access to an emergency resource for any youth that needs emergency housing without eligibility restrictions or prioritization factors	Explore the opportunity to provide flexible, no barrier crisis resources for minors and transition age youth.	Eligible Planning Grant activities (24 CFR 578.39) + blended funding	Mid-term; YAB/YHDP Steering Committee, YHDP + YAB Leads
Objective 1.4j Develop robust, flexible diversion and prevention funds, particularly for prioritized populations	Explore and implement direct cash transfers, guaranteed income, support for housing maintenance costs, moving expenses, and other related expenses (roof or car repair, parking fees, etc.) minimize state/federal/local eligibility requirements (policy).	Many of these are potentially YHDP eligible. Blended funding recommended.	Mid-term; YAB/YHDP Steering Committee, YHDP + YAB Leads
	Explore transportation options and fund transportation services to ensure connection to services, employment and social opportunities.		Mid-term; YAB/YHDP Steering Committee, YHDP + YAB Leads, Providers
	Request waiver to expand the 2 week timeline of Category 2.		Short-term; YAB/YHDP Steering Committee, RiCoC, YHDP Lead

Goal 1.5 Align + coordinate transitions across state systems

Align processes and coordinate planning to ensure smooth transition between supports as a young person into young adulthood; between and among RIDE + LEAs, DCYF, EOHHS, and BHDDH.

Goal 1.5 Objectives	Goal 1.5 Activities	YHDP Eligible and/or other funding	Responsible Party & Timeline
Objective 1.5a Increase services to YYAs reentering the community from state care, incarceration, and/or homelessness; ensure youth have a viable documented housing arrangement and stability plan before discharge, and their housing status is monitored and supported after exit	Identify opportunities to enhance peer, case management, and navigation support prior to and during reentry to prevent housing instability and homelessness. Develop and implement policies, practices and processes, to support housing stability upon and after reentry.	Eligible under 24 CFR 578.53 Supportive services. (a) In general. Grant funds may be used to pay the eligible costs of supportive services that address the special needs of the program participants.	Short/Mid-term; YHDP Review Committee; YHDP Steering Committee, community partners
Objective 1.5b Improve and increase identification of and case management support for youth and young adults who are more vulnerable to losing housing, those who may qualify for adult services prior to age 18, and 18-24 year olds who have not accessed public benefits, services and accommodations for which they qualify	Develop and implement use of universal assessment tools in each sector (education, medical, substance use/recovery, employment, public benefit, dental, mental health, etc.).		Mid-term; YAB/YHDP Steering Committee, CES Committee
	Connect vulnerable to peer support and/or case management services as appropriate.		Short-term; Providers

Goal 1.6 Create community-based front door to child & family well-being system

A front door to a new child and family well-being system run by community-based organizations, not government agencies, and designed to keep families intact or supporting youth in their choice to live independently by offering immediate and unrestricted access to a host of universal needs (income, education, housing, etc.)

Goal 1.6 Objective	Goal 1.6 Activities	YHDP Eligible and/or other funding	Responsible Party & Timeline
Objective 1.6 Increase access to and engagement in services to help YYAs access and maintain housing and thrive in community by providing support as they navigate systems--including support services, housing, and connection to community activities	Develop a coordinated, statewide web of social service and housing navigators, case managers, and peer supports. Navigators with lived expertise follow youth through the system across prevention, housing, stabilization and support services. (Also Objective 1.4a)	Eligible Planning Grant activities (24 CFR 578.39) + Eligible under 24 CFR 578.53 (e)(10) Supportive services + additional funding resources	Short-term; Providers
	Identify funding to develop and embed youth navigators/specialists in every EOHHS agency, RIDE, RI Housing, Department of Public Safety and Commerce Corporation's Office of Housing and Community Development, and family court. ensure effective connections to agency leadership. Navigators with lived expertise follow youth through the system across prevention, housing, stabilization and support services.		Short/Mid-term; YHDP Lead, YAB/YHDP Steering Committee

Goal 1.7 Build cross-sector capacity to identify early identification of youth at risk of or experiencing homelessness			
Work with cross-sector partners (including schools, child welfare, mental/behavioral health, medical, youth skill centers, etc.) to build capacity to effectively identify and serve youth vulnerable to housing insecurity. (This includes information on housing instability/homelessness, know your rights and resource availability for youth; training resources, tools and networking for providers, public information campaigns, youth leadership development, etc.)			
Goal 1.7 Objectives	Goal 1.7 Activities	YHDP Eligible and/or other funding	Responsible Party & Timeline
Objective 1.7a Improve identification of "hidden" YYA at risk of and experiencing homelessness, particularly among priority populations; increase capacity of high schools, colleges, and universities to identify & support YYA at risk of and experiencing homelessness.	Using expanded outreach (street, place-based, digital, mobile, etc.) programs, robust data collection, universal intake tools, training, know your rights campaigns, social media and other public marketing, embedded universal screenings, and other strategies.	Several activities are eligible under system navigation and HMIS or under 24 CFR 578.53 Supportive services. Additional funding suggested.	Short-term; YAB/YHDP Steering Committee, Providers
	Design and implement a collaborative school and community based early identification and intervention strategy, particularly in locations of higher need.		Short/Mid-term; Providers, YAB/YHDP Steering Committee
	Train navigators, street outreach, and other front door staff in identification of hotspots, TIC, harm reduction, motivational interviewing, mental health first aid, PYD data tracking and safety. Ensure youth-centric navigators and outreach workers coordinate with other navigators and outreach teams.		Short-term; RCoC Board, YAB/YHDP Steering Committee, Providers
Objective 1.7b Coordinate with community providers to co-locate low-barrier services (basic needs, medical + dental screenings, LGBTQ+ services, sexual health services, peer supports, employment and education) in mobile and site-based locations throughout the state	Provide access to cross-sector outreach, drop-in and other co-located services to enhance access to safe, affirming services.	Eligible under 24 CFR 578.53 Supportive services.	Short-term; Providers
	Train navigators, street outreach, and other front door staff in identification of hotspots, TIC, harm reduction, motivational interviewing, mental health first aid, PYD data tracking and safety.		Short-term; Providers
	Ensure youth-centric navigators and outreach workers coordinate with other navigators and outreach teams.		Short-term; Providers
	Develop and utilize cross-system strategies to raise awareness among youth and families regarding educational rights (McKinney Vento), supports, resources, etc.		Short-term; YAB/YHDP Steering Committee, RCoC Board, YHDP Lead
Goal 1.8 Promote family and other permanent connections			
When in alignment with the priorities of youth, safe, appropriate, and possible, will promote family search and engagement, family reconciliation and/or reunification, and other forms of support, stability, and permanency.			
Goal 1.8 Objectives	Goal 1.8 Activities	YHDP Eligible and/or other funding	Responsible Party & Timeline
Objective 1.8a Connect or reconnect youth to family, including chosen family, whenever possible, safe and in alignment with youth wishes. Integrate two and multi-generational engagement and intervention strategies and resources.	Using housing support services and/or web of support--case management, peer support, housing and support services navigators--connect young adults to permanent, life-long connections both familial, and non-familial, that youth identifies. Prevent family separation when safe, possible, and in alignment with youth wishes.	Eligible under 24 CFR 578.53 Supportive services. Blended funding suggested. NOTE: FUP not eligible as match.	Short-term; Providers
	FUP vouchers used to support reunification. Family Unification Program (FUP) vouchers, offer housing choice vouchers (section 8) to families with a housing need that are at risk of their children being removed or where housing is a barrier to being reunified with children who have been removed by the child welfare system.		Short/Mid-term; DCYF, Providers, YHDP Lead
	Identify and implement two and multi-generational approaches in all programs as appropriate.		Short/Mid-term; Providers
Objective 1.8b Connect youth who express concern about parental/caregiver rejection with school-based Gender Sexuality Alliance (GSA), family acceptance resources, and other LGBTQ+ affirming clinical and social supports	Housing support services and/or web of support--case management, peer support, housing and support services navigators--connects LGBTQ+ youth to affirming clinical and social supports.	Eligible under 24 CFR 578.53 Supportive services. Blended funding suggested.	Short-term; Providers

Goal 1.9 Develop resource directory and guides/toolkits			
Develop the infrastructure and processes to support a comprehensive, universally accessible resource directory, optimized and easy to use on phones, tablets and computers, that describes youth-specific and youth-friendly services; includes capacity for youth to rate their experiences (easy to access and view individual and aggregate ratings)			
Goal 1.9 Objectives	Goal 1.9 Activities	YHDP Eligible and/or other funding	Responsible Party & Timeline
Objective 1.9a Map existing resources, ensure map/list is regularly updated and widely accessible, include youth review of providers/services	Explore opportunities to develop an updatable listing and map of existing services (for youth and provider access) to include youth review of provider/services. Consider 211, Unite Us, and college-based resource lists as starting points. Identify and secure funding to develop resources.	Eligible under Planning Grant activities (24 CFR 578.39); recommend leveraging other funding	Mid-term; YHDP Lead + Planner, YAB/YHDP Steering Committee, RCoC Board
Objective 1.9b Review and expand existing resource guides (online or otherwise) so youth can self-refer and support friends to access services and supports	Identify resource guides within each system relevant to YYA experiencing homelessness and/or housing instability. Review and revise, and ensure broad accessibility.		Short/Mid-term; YAB/YHDP Steering Committee

Key Strategy 2: Develop and ensure rapid access to a spectrum of youth-centric, affirming, safe, supported housing solutions and robust cross-system services. We will invest in a comprehensive array of new resources that responds to our housing and service needs, tests new and innovative models, and better serves priority populations to ensure youth homelessness is a brief, one-time occurrence.

Goal 2.1 Provide immediate access to youth specific crisis housing and full spectrum of housing options available

Ensure immediate access to youth-specific safe, affirming crisis housing (shelter, host homes, hotel, etc.) for all youth who express need, including the option for youth-only shelter/crisis housing. Time-limited housing, including Transitional Living Programs (TLP) and other transitional and bridge housing programs. Ensure youth move swiftly to permanent or non-time-limited housing with appropriate person-centered services in place

Goal 2.1 Objectives	Goal 2.1 Activities	YHDP Eligible and/or other funding	Responsible Party & Timeline
Objective 2.1a Implement changes to existing shelter and housing solutions in order to ensure safe, affirming, and immediate access for young adults	Promote safety and appropriate services in adult shelters until an adequate spectrum of YYA specific options can be created. Create set-asides for youth and young adults in traditional adult shelters and other housing opportunities system wide. Consider creating YYA bed/unit/# priorities and incentives to meet them utilizing existing housing programs until adequate scale of YYA specific housing exists	Not YHDP eligible; Leverage other funding	Short/Mid-term; RICO Board, YHDP Lead, Providers
Objective 2.1b Expand supply of and access to safe, affirming youth-specific housing and housing support options that support well-being, permanent connections, education and/or employment, with focus on priority populations	Expand supply and increase access to safe, affirming, low-barrier immediate crisis response for YYA--drop-in, shelter, navigation, crisis host homes, crisis TH. Provide immediate access to safe, affirming shelter or other temporary accommodations for all youth who express a need without eligibility restrictions or prioritization factors. Includes respite options, host homes, scatter site rooms, dorm-style options, etc.	TH, TH-RRH and Host Homes are YHDP eligible	Short-term; Providers
	Expand supply and increase access to safe, affirming temporary and permanent supportive housing options for YYA with the most severe physical, mental, and behavioral health needs	TH, RRH, and PSH are YHDP Eligible	Short-term; Providers
	Assist youth to swiftly move to permanent or non-time-limited housing options with appropriate services and supports using youth specific CES and system wide navigation, case management and peer support	Eligible under Support Services	Short-term; Providers
	Increase landlord participation in YYA housing programs	Landlord incentives are not directly eligible. They could be considered for an "innovative activity" -- but through engagement with system navigators (supportive services); consider leveraging more flexible funding sources for landlord incentives	Short-term; Providers, YHDP Lead
	Develop housing interventions to expand supply and improve access for YYA attending post secondary education, training and employment--consider travel distance and transportation supports. Structure rental subsidies and other housing solutions in ways that give youth the ability to choose higher education and longer-term vocational training as pathways.	TH-RRH, RRH, diversion, transportation supports are YHDP eligible	Short-term; Providers
	Establish flexible funding to pay for one-time housing and housing-related costs (security deposits, application fees, rental assistance, arrears, moving assistance, purchase of furnishings, etc.)	Many of these activities/costs are eligible; furnishings are eligible if they are owned by and stay with an agency; so funds cannot be used to pay for furnishings in a RRH unit, but could furnish TH units	Short-term; Providers
	Increase affordable, healthy and safe open-market housing. A full-scale investment in the rehabilitation and production of affordable and accessible housing units and homes that meet housing demands. City, state, and federal tax incentive programs for affordable housing developers to rehab or build new affordable housing units for people experiencing homelessness. In areas where youth have social and other connections/supports; community of choice.	Acquisition/Rehab is only eligible for TH; this is not considered permanent housing; blended/leveraged funds recommended for affordable housing	Long-term; YHDP Lead, RICO, Providers, Partners
	Increase community-based interventions that prevent institutionalization and replace traditional out-of-home placements (host homes, kinship models, shared housing, etc.).	Host homes and shared housing are YHDP Eligible	Mid-term; Providers, YHDP Lead, RICO

<p>Objective 2.1c Explore emerging, alternative, and innovative housing and housing support solutions; focus on priority populations</p>	<p>Explore and implement direct cash transfers and other innovative models to support stable housing and other core outcomes</p> <p>Design and fund emerging housing strategies--coops owned by community organizations, lease to own models, etc.</p>	<p>Direct cash transfers are an eligible "innovative activity"</p> <p>Depends on model; TH-RRH could work well with a lease-to-own model potentially</p>	<p>Mid/Long-term; Providers, YHDP Lead, YAB/YHDP Steering Committee</p>
<p>Goal 2.2 Provide coordinated outreach, navigation, case management + housing in the right proportion; high quality, equity-centric data collection; + Streamlined CES with equity focus</p>			
<p>Ensure coordinated, comprehensive outreach, sharing and review of data sources, and methods to identify and engage youth experiencing homelessness. Continue implementation and enhancement of coordinated entry to standardize assessment and prioritization processes, and to streamline fair and equitable access to crisis housing and a continuum of housing and services for youth. Referral process and structures.</p>			
<p>Goal 2.2 Objectives</p>	<p>Goal 2.2 Activities</p>	<p>YHDP Eligible and/or other funding</p>	<p>Responsible Party & Timeline</p>
<p>Objective 2.2a Develop, implement and improve youth-centric coordinated entry process that enhances access to housing and services that are responsive to youth needs, with focus on priority populations</p>	<p>Design and implement a youth-centric coordinated entry process that provides immediate access to crisis housing, and affirming, inclusive, culturally relevant assessment and connection to housing and housing supports. Develop and implement universal, progressive screening, assessment and other tools, policies and practices--co-design with youth, outreach and navigation specialists, and data equity practitioners. Connect McKinney-Vento, FCCP, and other resources to prevention, diversion, housing and housing support services.</p>	<p>YHDP Eligible; Supportive services; youth system navigators and coordinated entry could be good models for this</p>	<p>Short-term; YAB/YHDP Steering Committee, CES Committee</p>
<p>Objective 2.2b Ensure high quality, nuanced data collection, reporting and analysis to inform system health, progress, gaps, inequities, and vulnerabilities</p>	<p>Work with HMIS Lead to co-design inclusive, equity centric data collection, entry, reporting, and analysis tools, policies, and practices. Monitor and enhance tools, policies and practices. Ensure transparency, community access, and accountability.</p>	<p>YHDP Eligible</p>	<p>Short-term; HMIS Lead/Committee; YAB/YHDP Steering Committee</p>
<p>Objective 2.2c Provide continuum of outreach, navigation, case management, and housing services available to meet individual and collective youth needs; with focus on priority populations</p>	<p>Connect youth to coordinated care and individualized supports before and after they are engaged in a housing program.</p>	<p>YHDP Eligible</p>	<p>Short-term; Providers</p>
	<p>Maintain youth-specific by name list and facilitate secured housing with supports to ensure stability. Ensure case conferencing is used to identify alternative or supplemental housing resources that can be presented to youth to enhance their stability. Connect McKinney-Vento, FCCP, and other resources to prevention, diversion, housing and housing support services.</p>		<p>Short-term; CES Lead, HMIS Lead, Providers</p>
<p>Goal 2.3 Promote access to and supported engagement with cross-sector (housing, educational, employment, social and human services, etc.) supports that promote sufficiency and housing stability</p>			
<p>Prevent returns to homelessness through connections to education supports, employment, health and behavioral health care, positive community supports, mentors, peer groups, and/or other supportive services that promote sufficiency and long-term housing stability. Ensure all programs address housing stability, education and employment, social & community connections, and overall well-being through integration and collaboration with cross-sector community based partners.</p>			
<p>Goal 2.3 Objective</p>	<p>Goal 2.3 Activities</p>	<p>YHDP Eligible and/or other funding</p>	<p>Responsible Party & Timeline</p>
<p>Objective 2.3 Support YYA in establishing permanent connections and supports that promote social-emotional well-being to promote housing stability and meet the needs of YYA experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity</p>	<p>Develop a coordinated, statewide web of social service and housing navigators, case managers, and peer supports. Navigators with lived expertise follow youth through the system across prevention, housing, stabilization and support services.</p>	<p>Eligible under 24 CFR 578.53 Supportive services.</p>	<p>Short-term; Providers</p>
	<p>Require providers integrate basic needs, mental and behavioral health, social integration, and medical needs, with a focus on affirming, culturally relevant permanent connections</p>		<p>Short-term; Providers</p>
	<p>Identify and address policy, protocol and practice challenges that are barriers to access and engagement to services and activities that promote social-emotional well-being, with a focus on priority populations</p>		<p>Short/Mid/Long-term; YHDP/YAB Lead, YAB/YHDP Steering Committee, RCoC Board + Committees</p>

Key Strategy 3: Develop, improve and sustain the resources and capacity to prevent and end unaccompanied youth homelessness through cross-sector planning, coordination, advocacy, and oversight. We will organize the way that we work and make decisions to form a clear, comprehensive, equity and community centric system to sustain system capacity at scale and eradicate youth homelessness.

Goal 3.1 Invest in the growth and impact of the YAB, and youth-adult partnership

Define, establish and sustain interdepartmental funding and youth-adult power sharing to maintain and grow the Youth Action Board and its role to advise and direct priorities, co-create solutions, lead planning, and make decisions regarding youth system and program initiatives for the RiCoC; YAB-led participatory, system and program level budgeting and resource distribution

Goal 3.1 Objectives	Goal 3.1 Activities	YHDP Eligible and/or other funding	Responsible Party & Timeline
Objective 3.1a Implement, grow and sustain a robustly resourced Youth Action Board (YAB) whose members (ages 13-24) are reflective of the identities and experiences of those served.	Identify blended funding via YHDP, CoC planning, state, and other funding to sustain the YAB. Establish sustainable structures of orientation, support, mentoring, and other enabling conditions to prioritize and implement authentic youth leadership and youth-adult partnership/power sharing.	YAB expenses are eligible Planning Grant activities (24 CFR 578.39); blended funded recommended	Short-term; YAB Lead, YAB/YHDP Steering Committee, YHDP Lead, RiCoC
Objective 3.1b Institutionalize YAB leadership, authority, and engagement in design, governance and evaluation. YAB Lead will be an organization that is already youth lead, youth centered, and community focused. YAB Lead must demonstrate anti-racist and restorative justice mission-focus, and possess a history of LGBTQIAA+ and anti-racist stance and support.	Define and identify YAB Lead Agency--with demonstrated anti-racist, LGBTQ+ inclusion, and restorative justice approach--to guide continued growth and development of youth leadership and organizing. Establish YAB representatives with voting rights and decision-making power on the RiCoC board and other committees, and who serve on funding review committees for both YHDP and other RiCoC programs and initiatives. Design and implement processes for YAB-led, participatory system and program level budgeting and resource distribution.		Short-term; YAB/YHDP Steering Committee, YHDP Review Committee, RiCoC Board
Objective 3.1c Provide professional development for YAB members and adult partners to build authentic youth-adult partnerships in service of youth and equity-centric decision-making	Identify core competencies and design professional development (training, coaching, TA, etc.) for YAB, RiCoC Board/members, YHDP Steering Committee, UYC, and other partners in the work to root out adultism, systemic racism, and other causes of inequity to build a justice focused, equity centered approach to eradicating youth homelessness.		Short-term; YAB/YHDP Steering Committee, YHDP Lead

Goal 3.2 Implement, sustain and evolve a YYA specific governance structure that elevates youth leadership, reflects YYA needs and diversity, and enables us to live into our core principles

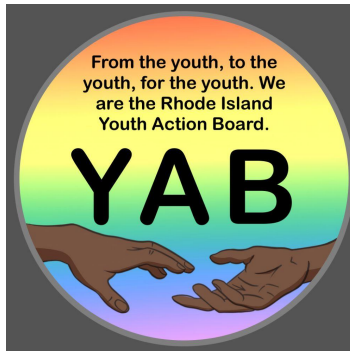
Further define and design YYA-centric governance structures and practices to ensure power shifting and sharing to privilege youth with lived experience and enable authentic youth-adult partnership

Goal 3.2 Objectives	Goal 3.2 Activities	YHDP Eligible and/or other funding	Responsible Party & Timeline
Objective 3.2a Enhance effectiveness of YHDP programs in achieving 4 core outcomes (housing stability, education and employment, permanent connections, and overall well-being) during analysis of youth & provider feedback, program and system data analysis/review, and community feedback sessions.	Design analysis process, tools, benchmarks and timelines to assess, improve, support, and terminate programs, projects, and initiatives.	Eligible Planning Grant activities (24 CFR 578.39); blended funded recommended	Short-term; YAB/YHDP Steering Committee, RiCoC Board
Objective 3.2b Identify and address process, policy, and practices that maintain power imbalances and center positional power over power shifting to YYA with lived experience	Further articulate and utilize decision-making pathways and communication loops that elevate youth leadership and reflect core values/principles.		Short-term; YAB/YHDP Steering Committee, RiCoC Board, YAB Lead
	Provide adultism, authentic youth partnership, power sharing and self-advocacy training and mentorship for youth and adults on the YAB, UYC, YHDP Steering Committee, RiCoC Board and membership.		Short-term; RiCoC, YHDP Lead, YAB/YHDP Steering Committee
Objective 3.2c Operationalize structures and processes to implement and evolve continuous learning and improvement as described in the CCP. Enhance effectiveness of YHDP programs in achieving 4 core outcomes (housing stability, education and employment, permanent connections, and overall well-being) during analysis of youth & provider feedback, program and system data analysis/review, and community feedback sessions.	Design community engagement framework to include YAB expansion, regular community meetings with youth led by the YAB, community meetings with direct care staff and community partners, and broad community engagement.		Short-term; YAB Lead, YAB
	Co-design framework to monitor and evaluate programs, projects and initiatives that incorporates routine opportunities to receive and consider feedback of those using and directly providing services and supports.		Short-term; YAB/YHDP Steering Committee, YHDP Lead, RiCoC
Objective 3.2d Engage usual and unusual stakeholders to support and sustain the CCP vision, goals, strategies, and equity-centric, community driven movement	Sustain the UYC and YHDP Steering Committee, develop practice and learning cohorts, and establish workgroups as appropriate to engage and mobilize stakeholders.	Short-term; YHDP Lead + Planner; YAB/YHDP Steering Committee	

Goal 3.3 Invest in racial equity, social justice, access + collaboration; Fully fund integration of racial and LGBTQIA+ equity in all elements			
Work across systems and strategies with a focus on racial equity, social justice, access, and collaboration; establishing and resourcing equity goals and expectations on system, organizational and program levels; Embed youth and family advocates within each state agency and Family Court who have effective connections to agency leadership.			
Goal 3.3 Objectives	Goal 3.3 Activities	YHDP Eligible and/or other funding	Responsible Party & Timeline
Objective 3.3a Define, learn, implement and continue to build racial and LGBTQ+ equity knowledge and practices.	Engage experts to build racial and LGBTQ+ equity capacity within planning, implementation, monitoring, and ongoing improvement of system, organizations and programs.	Eligible Planning Grant activities (24 CFR 578.39); blended funded recommended	Short-term; YHDP Lead, RICO Board, RICO Equity Committee, YAB/YHDP Steering Committee
	Require collection and disaggregation of demographic, equity and well-being data.		Short-term; YHDP Lead, RICO Board, YAB/YHDP Steering Committee
	Require providers to identify and address disparities in leadership, staffing, program access and outcomes. Assess policies and practices to identify and eliminate punitive, adultist, and otherwise oppressive practices, replacing with restorative, affirming, trauma-informed, equity-centric, anti-racist approaches, tools, protocols, and policies.		Short-term; RICO, HMIS Lead, YHDP Lead, Providers
	Provide and require providers to secure staff and organizational equity training and to implement equity centric practices.		Short-term; RICO, RICO Equity Committee, YHDP Lead, Providers
Objective 3.3b To ensure healthy, highly qualified, fairly compensated workforce, build requirements for individualized professional development plans, ongoing youth-specific training, living wages, and the hiring and retention of staff who reflect the demographics of those being served into all RICO funded programs	Develop and implement wage, caseload, training, and other standards to ensure a well-trained, resourced workforce that reflects the identities and lived experiences of the people being served	YHDP Eligible and/or other funding	Short-term; YAB/YHDP Steering Committee, RICO Board
Goal 3.4 Sustain system planning, management, and bridge building roles, and work to build community, learning, and a sustainable system			
Cross department funding to establish and sustain bridge building work necessary to create and implement integrated strategies across sectors; All service providers of unhoused youth participate in cohort focused on improving methods/ practices, smoothing processes and transitions for youth, networking, fostering innovation and collaboration, eliminating barriers and disparities; Includes field building and influencing at regional and national levels in multiple sectors. Advocate for legislative and system change.			
Goal 3.4 Objectives	Goal 3.4 Activities	YHDP Eligible and/or other funding	Responsible Party & Timeline
Objective 3.4a Sustain Bridge Building roles and activities, and launch learning cohorts to enhance learning, build community, and effectively mobilize/ live into our core principles	Define and implement initial cohorts to guide and enhance design, implementation, learning, and community building	Within the scope of Planning Grant activities (24 CFR 578.39); blended funded recommended	Short-term; YHDP Lead + Planner
	Design and implement community building activities including learning, connecting, joy and celebration.		Short-term; YHDP Lead+Planner, YAB/YHDP Steering Committee
	Design and implement cross-system strategies and structures to define advocacy opportunities, priorities, and activities. YHDP Steering Committee, UYC (advisory to YAB) will function as advocates (individually and collectively) for related needs that impact youth homelessness and resources in collaboration with the YAB.		Short/Mid/Long-term; YHDP Steering Committee, UYC, RICO Board + Membership
Objective 3.4b Design and implement strategies to intentionally and strategically engage in drafting, reviewing and revising program, organizational, system and state level policy to enable equity centric, youth specific approaches to prevent and end youth homelessness	Establish policy/advocacy team to implement State Index recommendations for policy reform, and advocate for policies and practices prioritized by the YAB and enabling of best/emerging/experimental practices. Establish and sustain well resourced cross-sector advocacy teams demanding reallocation of power and resources	Within the scope of Planning Grant activities (24 CFR 578.39); blended funded recommended	Short-term; YHDP Lead+Planner, YAB/YHDP Steering Committee
	Identify policy approaches and other strategies to increase access to income enhancing/enabling education, training, and employment; develop cross-system approach to implement		Short-term; YHDP Lead+Planner, YAB/YHDP Steering Committee
	Advocate for Rhode Island to become a right to housing/shelter state, elimination of work/school requirements to maintain other poverty reducing benefits (child care, food assistance, SSI, etc.)		Short-term; YHDP Lead+Planner, YAB/YHDP Steering Committee
	Coord. directly with legislators that sponsor bills relating to homelessness and the Homeless Bill of Rights when aligned with values, vision, and principles of practice		Short-term, YHDP Lead, YAB Lead, RICO Members

Goal 3.5 Collect, share, analyze and use nuanced data for decision-making and quality monitoring			
Collect, share, analyze and use nuanced data, culturally relevant and trauma-informed assessment tools and processes, to inform human-centered, data-informed, equity-driven decision-making and planning, and to regularly evaluate the responsiveness of the system to youth needs, as well as its ability to effectively achieve stated objectives. Institutionalize meaningful youth engagement in these processes. Implement continuous, transparent quality monitoring and improvements to housing and service interventions in order to sustain their successes and be responsive to future trends			
Goal 3.5 Objective	Goal 3.5 Activities	YHDP Eligible and/or other funding	Responsible Party & Timeline
Objective 3.5 Improve data collection and analysis (of both aggregated and disaggregated data) for YYA at risk of and experiencing homelessness (HMIS, tools, Youth PIT, community meetings, required participant satisfaction surveys, etc.)	Establish clear expectations and accountabilities that include both outcome and process measures, monitor use of principles for effective practice, and move beyond data analysis and training to move toward ways to address disparities. This should be baked into the funding/system evolution and program implementation/improvement	Eligible HMIS activities under 24 CFR 578.7(b)	Short-term; HMIS Lead, YHDP Lead, YAB/YHDP Steering Committee
	Create a statewide, public-facing, easily accessible, youth/user-friendly, equity-centric, interactive dashboard that tracks progress toward key system performance metrics, assists in identifying and monitoring gaps and disparities, and can be used to strengthen investments and partnerships		Mid-term; YHDP Lead, YAB/YHDP Steering Committee, RICOc Board
Goal 3.6 Align & secure sufficient funding for system capacity to respond at scale and ensure cross-sector coordination of funding & priorities			
Coordination of funding and priorities between and among state and local public and private agencies (including schools) to support YYA who are unable to remain living with their families. Fully fund statewide Youth PIT Count/Survey, embed housing vulnerability assessments, and establish meaningful data sharing agreements across systems; Dedicated funding stream for prevention, stabilization, housing, and support services to prevent and respond to homelessness and housing instability among unaccompanied youth. Establish and sustain system capacity at a scale which can be responsive to future needs and areas of increased focus; Align and secure sufficient funding from public and private sources to fully implement comprehensive system plan			
Goal 3.6 Objectives	Goal 3.6 Activities	YHDP Eligible and/or other funding	Responsible Party & Timeline
Objective 3.6a Explore and secure alternative funding sources to: a) Increase availability of transportation, child care, technology, and other resources necessary to access housing and support services; b) Increase capacity of mental/behavioral health and substance use treatment options with a focus on culturally relevant, trauma informed/healing centered engagement; c) Increase capacity of and access to mentors and apprenticeship programs; d) Provide access to flexible funding for youth experiencing or at-risk of homelessness (roof/car repair, college attendance deposits, etc.); e) Increase capacity to provide professional development training, coaching and technical assistance to organizations, staff and volunteers and to provide incentives and compensation for youth and others with lived experience to participate in system planning and governance; f) Identify and provide youth-adult led life skills development opportunities; f) Increase day and drop-in spaces for YYA not otherwise connected to the organization to be safe, have access to food, clothing, and basic needs, shower, laundry, lockers, charging stations, computers/printers, social activities, etc.	Create a workgroup to explore and create priorities, action plan and timeline for alignment of existing and increased/new funding for identified areas of need.	Many of the goals could be eligible as Planning Grant activities (24 CFR 578.39); blended funded recommended; the supportive services listed here (transportation, physical/behavioral healthcare, etc.) are eligible for Supportive Services funds	Short/Mid-term; RICOc, YAB/YHDP Steering Committee, YHDP Lead + Planner
	Implement action plan, as well as aligned independent efforts to enhance funding and other resources		Mid/Long-term; RICOc, YAB/YHDP Steering Committee, YHDP Lead + Planner
Objective 3.6b Coordinate aligned data collection, analysis and sharing	Work with HMIS Lead and cross-system counterparts to co-design inclusive, equity centric data collection, entry, reporting, sharing and analysis tools, policies, and practices. Monitor and enhance tools, policies and practices. Ensure transparency, community access, and accountability.	Eligible as HMIS expense	Short/Mid-term; HMIS Lead, RICOc, YAB/YHDP Steering Committee, YHDP Lead + Planner
Objective 3.6c Strengthen coordination between and among homeless service providers, youth service providers, social action networks, recreation centers, peer-led support groups, faith-based organizations, and other support systems (including family and other natural supports) that enhance permanent connections for youth and improve overall quality of life	Identify and address barriers to coordination and collaboration	Many of these goals could fall within the scope of Planning Grant activities (24 CFR 578.39); blended funded recommended	Mid-term; YHDP Lead, RICOc Board, YAB/YHDP Steering Committee
	Identify and implement opportunities to require meaningful cross-system alignment, coordination and collaboration between systems and providers. Can include shared training, contract requirements, enhanced cross-system alignment in funding opportunities, applications and reporting (eg. consolidated funding, common applications, shared reporting metrics), policy changes or enhancements, updated definitions, etc.		Short/Mid-term; YAB/YHDP Steering Committee, YHDP Lead, RICOc Board
Objective 3.6d Improve and coordinate discharge processes from other systems of care, ensuring revisions are cross-system and co-created; establish earlier time frames for discharge planning; establish aftercare norms to include multi-generational practices, youth choice	Identify and design solutions to address transition points, challenges, and opportunities for improved discharge processes. This cross-system work is completed in collaboration with the YAB, and solutions are co-designed with YYA with lived experience	Many of these goals could fall within the scope of Planning Grant activities (24 CFR 578.39); blended funded recommended	Short/Mid-term; YAB/YHDP Steering Committee, YHDP Lead, RICOc Board
	Implement identified solutions, monitoring impact and improvements		Mid-term; YHDP Lead, RICOc Board, YAB/YHDP Steering Committee

Objective 3.6e Identify and address process, program and system gaps, pain points, disparities, and opportunities for improvement	Design process and dashboard to identify, monitor and address process, program and system gaps, pain points, disparities, and opportunities for improvement	Many of these goals could fall within the scope of Planning Grant activities (24 CFR 578.39); blended funded recommended	Mid-term; YHDP Lead, RCoC Board, YAB/YHDP Steering Committee
	Prioritize and address challenges identified in collaboration with the YAB.		Short/Mid-term; YHDP Lead, RCoC Board, YAB/YHDP Steering Committee
Goal 3.7 Provide and promote training, TA and other capacity building			
Ensure RCoC members, providers, schools, and other stakeholders have the capacity and knowledge to support establishing and implementing the system, as well as imagine and build the future system. There will be well-resourced support and technical assistance to build the capacity of all providers, particularly BIPOC and/or LGBTQ led/specific providers, to meet HUD requirements, submit successful project applications and maintain compliance with HUD guidelines and regulations			
Goal 3.7 Objectives	Goal 3.7 Activities	YHDP Eligible and/or other funding	Responsible Party & Timeline
Objective 3.7a Ensure providers, program and supervisory staff, volunteers and participants are trained on principles of enhanced practice including trauma informed/healing centered engagement, racial equity, LGBTQ+ inclusion, client-focused, restorative justice approaches, and other principles for effective practice (See Objective 1.1a)	Using Guiding Principles for Effective Practice and needs identified for Priority Populations, develop core training requirements for direct service and senior leadership staff of provider agencies.	Many of the goals in these section could fall within the scope of Planning Grant activities (24 CFR 578.39); blended funded recommended	Short-term; RCoC Board & Equity Committee, YAB/YHDP Steering Committee, YHDP Lead
	Require providers to ensure such training for youth serving staff, supervisors and volunteers, as well as youth access to and supported engagement in affirming, culturally relevant social and community events, peer and professional support for healing and learning healthy relationship skills, with youth choice and voice in engagement.		Short-term; Providers & YAB/YHDP Steering Committee
	Define system and organizational responsibilities, as well as strategies to hold providers accountable to ensure staff are appropriately trained.		Short-term; Providers; &YAB/YHDP Steering Committee
Objective 3.7b Implement continuous quality improvements to housing and service interventions to sustain successes and be responsive to future needs/trends	Require implementation of meaningful improvements/enhancements to housing and service interventions by providers; monitor impacts and improvements based on program outcomes and youth and direct staff feedback.	Many of the goals in these section could fall within the scope of Planning Grant activities (24 CFR 578.39); blended funded recommended	Short-term; YHDP + YAB Leads, YAB/YHDP Steering Committee, RCoC Board
	Ensure continuous learning and improvement processes amplify youth voice, and require youth feedback that includes, level of satisfaction, measures of health/well-being, program process and impact.		Short-term; YHDP + YAB Leads, YAB/YHDP Steering Committee, RCoC Board
	Include adult-youth partnered documentation audits and site visits to review and evaluate program policies, protocols and practices including: assessment of physical spaces, focus groups with constituents, client satisfaction/impact surveys, onsite community meetings, anonymous input strategies		Mid-term; YHDP + YAB Leads, YAB/YHDP Steering Committee, RCoC Board
	Identify strategies to provide technical assistance and coaching and support for program/agency specific youth advisory/action boards for both struggling and strong agencies and programs		Short/Mid-term; YHDP + YAB Leads, YAB/YHDP Steering Committee, RCoC Board



*RIYAB is a program of Youth In Action,
operated in collaboration with the
RI Coalition to End Homelessness*

Since 2017, the Rhode Island Youth Action Board (RIYAB) has been working in partnership with the Rhode Island Continuum of Care (RICoC), the Rhode Island Coalition to End Homelessness, and the Unaccompanied Youth Committee (UYC) to envision a system that would meet our needs and build community. In September 2021, Rhode Island was designated a YHDP community and two months later, the YHDP Steering Committee joined us on our journey to design an equitable system to end homelessness among youth and young adults. Since then, we've co-created community listening sessions, identified key strategies, goals, and designed an action plan that we believe will help us live into the values of equity and justice we strive to uphold.

Although there were bumps in the road early in our work together, we addressed them directly to ensure our process respected and elevated youth and their expertise. As a result, the YAB was heard, we have individually and collectively felt like valued partners in the process, and believe the adults see and treat us as leaders and experts. Our work to center the margins and continue to prioritize youth voice, vision and leadership has just begun, and we're eager to bring our shared vision to life.

On March 22, 2022, the Rhode Island Youth Action Board unanimously approved Rhode Island's Coordinated Community Plan to eradicate youth homelessness in our state. We look forward to implementing our plan and to starting new programs to help youth thrive.

Benji Chaplin

Andrea

Alex Brantley

Janet

Yvonia Ombanale

Sharon Medina

Suzan Adekunle

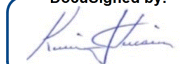
Favour - Belo

The following representative of the Rhode Island Continuum of Care Board has been authorized to endorse the Rhode Island Coordinated Community Plan to eradicate youth homelessness on their behalf.



Michelle Brophy
Associate Director, Interdepartmental Services
Department of Behavioral Health, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals
RiCoC Board Chair

The below representatives of Rhode Island's State government endorse the Rhode Island Coordinated Community Plan to eradicate youth homelessness on behalf of their departments.

DocuSigned by:

CC245036961B4EA...

Kevin Aucoin
Acting Director
Department of Children, Youth, and Families

Kelvin Roldán
Deputy Commissioner
Department of Education

DocuSigned by:

7FCD247F87174E2...

Ana Novais
Assistant Secretary
Executive Office of Health and Human Services

DocuSigned by:

96546EF945624E7...

Michael Tondra
Chief
Office of Housing & Community Development

The following representatives of organizations within Rhode Island receiving Administration of Children's Family Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) funding for Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs endorse the Rhode Island Coordinated Community Plan to eradicate youth homelessness.

DocuSigned by:

Laura Jaworski

FC1CAA9A7BF84AA...

Laura Jaworski

Executive Director

House of Hope, CDC

Street Outreach Program

DocuSigned by:

Ben Weiner

C76990FC809B4EC...

Ben Weiner

Chief of Operations

Family Service Rhode Island

Basic Centers Program

Appendices

- A. Membership lists
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Committee Membership Lists

YHDP Steering Committee		
Name	Organization	Focus
Ana Novais	EOHHS	support services
Andy Taubman	Youth Pride, Inc	LGBTQ+
Anthony Hubbard	YouthBuild Prep	BBMOC/BIPOC
Elizabeth Bioteau	RI Housing	housing
Elliot Rivera	Youth In Action	BIPOC youth leadership
James Rajotte	EOHHS	support services
Jessica Mowry	RI Housing	housing
Lisa Guillette	Foster Forward	Foster care, child welfare
Maryrose Mensah	DOA, OHCD	housing
Michelle Brophy	BHDDH	support services; disabilities
Mike Burk	DCYF	child welfare
Lydia McCoy	PHA	public housing
Rilwan Feyisitan, Jr.	CAPP	support services
Shanna Wells	CCRI	post-secondary education
Stephanie Geller	RI Kids Count	Data, research
Tatiana Reis	RICEH	housing, YAB staff
Yelitza Camarena	RIDE	education
Ben Weiner	FSRI	basic center; support services
Susanna Yim	YIA	YAB staff

Youth Action Board
Andrea Germano
Benji Chaplin, Co-Coordinator
Emmanuella (Ella) Oshinkanlu
Favour Bello
Gloria Olubowale, Co-Coordinator
Johan Medina
Alexis (Sofia) Barnett
Suzan Adekunle

Unaccompanied Youth Committee		
Adrina Riggins	Joan Harmon	Roshni Darnal
Akeem Lloyd	Jordan Maddox	Rush Frazier
Alex DeRita	Jordan Mickman	Seena Franklin
Alex Gautieri	Joselin Morente	Shanna Wells
Amber Cote	Julio Berroa	Sonia Thomas
Andy Taubman	Kasim Yarn	Stephanie Geller
Anjel Newman	Katheryn Tavares	Stephen Lopes
Ann Durham	Kelly Henry	Steven Escobar
Caroline Dyhrberg	Lisa Guillette	Tanisha Simpson
Denise Achin	Michael Wynn	Tatiana Reis
Eileen Botelho	Michelle Brophy	Victoria Ferrara
Elizabeth Bioteau	Mike Burk	Volta Tran
Evan Jones	Natasha Gordon	Winsome Stone
Gem	Olivia Watson	
Jessica Mowry	Olubunmi Olatunji	
Jessica Nievera McCluskey	Patricia Ovalles De Jesus	

Type of Stakeholder	Stakeholder Name(s)	Stakeholder Involvement
CoC Program Recipient; Nonprofit Organization	Amos House	housing provider; system partner
CoC Recipient; Nonprofit Organization	Crossroads RI	Coordinated Entry lead; housing + homeless services provider; COC Board
CoC Recipient; Nonprofit Organization	Lucy's Hearth	housing provider; system partner
COC Recipient; Nonprofit Organization	Sojourner House	DV and housing provider; system partner; COC Board
CoC Recipient; Nonprofit Organization; Runaway and Homeless Youth Provider	Foster Forward	youth housing and services provider; UYC & Steering Committee member; youth in foster care; FYSB drop-in/outreach; youth RRH
Community Development Corporation	One Neighborhood Builders	system partner; HEZ backbone agency
Community Development Corporation	Stop Wasting Abandoned Property (SWAP)	affordable housing, community spaces, community development
Community Development Corporation	West Elmwood HDC	CDC, provide services and housing to parenting young adults
Community Development Corporation; CoC Recipient; Runaway and Homeless Youth Provider	House of Hope, CDC	COC Board of Directors; Unaccompanied Youth Committee; housing provider ; street outreach; FYSB youth outreach
Early Childhood Development and Child Care Providers	Head Start	early childhood care; system partner
Employment Agency	Network RI	RIDLT employment services and programs
Employment Agency	People Ready; Labor Ready	Temp agencies providing employment training and placement
Employment Agency	Workforce Partnership of Greater RI	employment & training; system partner
Employment Agency	Workforce Solutions of Providence/ Cranston	system partner; employment & training
Health, Mental Health and Substance Use Agency	Anchor Recovery (a program of The Providence Center)	Substance use recovery + treatment; system partner
Health, Mental Health and Substance Use Agency	Block Island Health Services	Heath Center;
Health, Mental Health and Substance Use Agency	CODAC	Substance use recovery + treatment; system partner
Health, Mental Health and Substance Use Agency	Planned Parenthood	Health center; youth engagement; system partner; UYC member
Health, Mental Health and Substance Use Agency	Providence Community Health Center	Health Center; healthcare for the homeless grantee
Health, Mental Health and Substance Use Agency	The Providence Center	Behavioral health care; housing navigation; system partner
Health, Mental Health and Substance Use Agency	Thundermist Health Center	Multi-service multi-site provider; medical, mental health, dental, etc.; HEZ backbone agency; Healthcare for the Homeless; Transgender Health Center
Health, Mental Health and Substance Use Agency	WellOne Primary Medical & Dental Care	Health Center
Health, Mental Health and Substance Use Agency	Wood River Health Services	Health Center
Health, Mental Health and Substance Use Agency; Community Action Agency	Blackstone Valley Community Health Center	Heath Center;
Health, Mental Health and Substance Use Agency; Community Action Agency	Community Action Program Providence	Multi-service provider; youth education and workforce development; YHDP Steering Cmte member
Health, Mental Health and Substance Use Agency; Community Action Agency	Community Care Alliance	Multi-service mental + behavioral health provider; system partner; youth RRH
Health, Mental Health and Substance Use Agency; Community Action Agency	Comprehensive Community Action Program	Multi-service provider; youth education and workforce development; FQHC

Type of Stakeholder	Stakeholder Name(s)	Stakeholder Involvement
Health, Mental Health and Substance Use Agency; Community Action Agency	East Bay Community Action Program	Heath Center; homeless services provider
Health, Mental Health and Substance Use Agency; Community Action Agency	Tri County Community Action Program	Health Center; DCYF services provider; Family Care Community Partnership (FCCP) provider
Institutions of Higher Education	Brown University's Swearer Center	system partner--interns, VISTA, networking
Institutions of Higher Education	CCRI's Office of Community and Social Resources	YHDP Steering Cmte, Education workgroup, and UYC member, advocacy and referral
Law Enforcement	Community Engagement Specialist	Youth engagement + service content expert; PD liaison
Local Advocacy, Research and Philanthropic Organizations	Coalition Against Domestic Violence	Network of DV providers; advocacy & policy advisement
Local Advocacy, Research and Philanthropic Organizations	Rhode Island KIDS COUNT	UYC member; CoC Member, YHDP Steering Cmte member; data & policy specialists
Local Advocacy, Research and Philanthropic Organizations; COC recipient;	Rhode Island Coalition to end Homelessness (RICH)	HMIS Lead, Coordinated Entry Lead, YHDP Lead; YAB fiscal sponsor/partner
Nonprofit Organization	Adoption RI	UYC member; Youth service org + system partner; youth in foster care
Nonprofit Organization	Alliance of RI Southeast Asians for Education (ARISE)	Youth service org; Southeast Asian Youth and other youth of color; youth leadership and organizing
Nonprofit Organization	AMOR	Multi-lingual hotline; response to individual and state sponsored violence; service provider
Nonprofit Organization	AS220	Youth service org + system partner; youth with foster care and/or juvenile justice involvement
Nonprofit Organization	Child & Family	Multi-service provider; system partner
Nonprofit Organization	Communities for People	Child welfare provider
Nonprofit Organization	Institute for the Study & Practice of Nonviolence	system partner; 24/7 response to street and other violence
Nonprofit Organization	Justice Resource Institute	Legal advocacy
Nonprofit Organization	LISC	HEZ Backbone; community investment
Nonprofit Organization	Martin Luther King Center	Multi-service provider; system partner
Nonprofit Organization	McCauley House	Meal site, basic needs, housing; system partner
Nonprofit Organization	New Urban Arts	Youth service org + system partner
Nonprofit Organization	Ocean Tides	Social & residential service provider; system partner
Nonprofit Organization	Open Door Health	LGBTQ+ centric health clinic
Nonprofit Organization	Open Doors	Services for formerly incarcerated individuals; system partner
Nonprofit Organization	Progresso Latino	system partner; services for Latino + immigrant communities
Nonprofit Organization	Project Weber/ Renew	Services and support for sex workers and those experiencing human trafficking; system partner
Nonprofit Organization	Providence Public Library + Ocean State Libraries	system partner
Nonprofit Organization	Providence Student Union	Youth service org + system partner; BIPOC-led and serving
Nonprofit Organization	PrYSM	Youth service org + system partner; SouthEast Asian leaders and constituents
Nonprofit Organization	Refugee Dream Center	Immigrant, refugee, asylum support; system partner
Nonprofit Organization	RI Coalition For Children & Families	Coalition providing advocacy, policy, data, and research.
Nonprofit Organization	Tri County Community Action	Multi-service provider; system partner; FCCP provider
Nonprofit Organization	Women's Resource Center	system partner; HEZ backbone agency
Nonprofit Organization	Young Voices	Youth service org + system partner; BIPOC youth leadership
Nonprofit Organization	Youth in Action	Youth service org + system partner; YAB lead; BIPOC led and constituents
Nonprofit Organization	Youth Pride, Inc.	UYC member; Youth service org + system partner; LGBTQ+ youth and young adults
Nonprofit Organization	YouthBuild Providence	education & workforce development initiative; system partner; focus on BBMOC
Nonprofit Organization; national	Point Source Youth	Provide support, networking and resources for youth program & system building

Type of Stakeholder	Stakeholder Name(s)	Stakeholder Involvement
Nonprofit Organization; Organization that serves immigrant and refugee communities	Dorcas International	system partner providing immigrant, refugee & asylum support
Philanthropic Organization	Blue Cross Blue Shield RI	insurance providers; funders/sponsors
Philanthropic Organization	Neighborhood Health Partners	insurance providers; funders/sponsors
Philanthropic Organization	United Way	COC member; community funder
Public Housing Authority and State Mortgage Finance Company	Rhode Island Housing	COC Collaborative Applicant, staffs RICOc strategic planner and mainstream and supportive housing provider
Public Housing Authority	Providence Housing Authority	Unaccompanied Youth Committee member; COC Board member; Steering Committee member
Runaway and Homeless Youth Program Provider; Nonprofit Organization	Family Service RI	Multi-service mental + behavioral health provider; FCCP provider; FYSB Basic Centers; UYC member
State Education Agency	Rhode Island Department of Education	McKinney Vento State liaison represents RIDE on the RICOc; YHDP Steering Cmte member
State Government	Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (BHDDH)	Chair of RICOc Board of Directors, member agency since RICOc establishment, Oversee Healthy Transition Program; YHDP Steering Cmte and UYC member
State Government	Executive Office of Health and Human Services	system partner; YHDP Steering Cmte member; RICOc Board Member
State Government	Governors Workforce Board	education & workforce pathways
State Government	Office of Housing and Community Development	ESG and Consolidated Homeless Fund (State funding) provider aligned with RICOc priorities; Housing Resources Commission, State Ineragency Council on Homelessness
State Government	Rhode Island Child Advocate	System partner. Agency overseeing DCYF (RI's sole child welfare agency) is responsible for monitoring the operation of each unit within the Department for compliance with internal policies and protocols, state law and federal law. Includes oversight of all DCYF sub-contractors.
State Government	RI Dept of Commerce	system partner, opportunity zones
State Government	Department of Children and Families + Training School	Public Child Welfare Agency, includes juvenile justice ("training school"). CoC member since RICOc establishment; Unaccompanied Youth Committee (UYC) member
State Government	Department of Corrections	Manage all but juvenile correctional facilities and oversight of those released
Youth Action Board	Youth Action Board	YAB is a committee of the RICOc comprised of youth under age 25 with lived experience of homeless who are the RICOcs designated authority in YHDP decision-making. Program model operated by Youth In Action.

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YHDP Glossary

Affordable Housing

Affordable housing is housing which is considered affordable to those with a median household income or income below a recognized housing affordability index.

Barrier to entry

In the homelessness context, barrier to entry means an obstacle to accessing a particular service. For example, shelters that do not allow pets can pose a barrier to entry to clients who own animals.

Centralized or coordinated entry system (CES)

A centralized or coordinated process designed to coordinate program participant intake, assessment, and provision of referrals. It must cover the geographic area, be easily accessed by individuals and families seeking housing or services, be well advertised, and include a comprehensive and standardized assessment tool.

Chronic Homeless

HUD defines the chronically homeless as a person or family that has a member who is: Unaccompanied or within a family and Has a disabling condition and has been continually homeless for at least one year or has been on the streets or in an emergency shelter four or more times in the last three years totaling 12 months. A family is considered chronic if an adult member meets the above definition.

Coordinated Entry Assessment

Also known as coordinated assessment, coordinated entry is a “no wrong door” approach to addressing homelessness that synthesizes available housing and services so that homeless persons can be quickly matched with needed and available programs.

Continuum of Care (CoC; RICOc)

- A community of service providers and other stakeholders involved in the fight against homelessness
- A plan by which communities organize and deliver housing and services to the homeless in a coordinated, comprehensive and strategic fashion
- A process by which communities apply for federal funding through the Dept. of Housing and Urban Development.
- HUD’s Definition: A collaborative funding and planning approach that helps communities plan for and provide, as necessary, a full range of emergency, transitional, and permanent housing and other service resources to address the various needs of homeless persons. HUD also refers to the group of community stakeholders involved in the decision making processes as the “Continuum of Care.”

CoC Board

A group of people designated by the Continuum of Care that makes decisions on behalf of the Continuum. The Board must be representative of the subpopulations of homeless people that exist within the geographic area and include a homeless or formerly homeless person. The Board has three major duties: To operate the continuum of Care, to designate an HMIS for the Continuum of Care, and to plan for the continuum of Care.

CoC Components

A CoC system typically consists of six basic elements:

- A system of outreach, engagement, and assessment for determining the needs and conditions of individuals or families who are homeless, and necessary support to identify, prioritize, and respond to persons who are chronically homeless; and 115
- Emergency shelters with appropriate supportive services to help ensure that homeless individuals and families receive adequate emergency shelter and referral to necessary service providers or housing search counselors; and,
- Rapid re-housing to help persons with lower barriers who are homeless successfully move to, and remain in, conventional housing units; and,
- Transitional housing with appropriate supportive services to help homeless individuals and families who need more assistance prepare to make the transition to permanent housing and independent living;
- Joint Transitional Housing and Rapid Rehousing, provides a safe place for people to stay – crisis housing – with financial assistance and wrap around supportive services determined by program participants to help them move to permanent housing as quickly as possible with the assistance of rapid rehousing if needed. Stays in the crisis housing portion of these projects should be brief and without preconditions, and participants should quickly move to permanent housing.
- Permanent housing, or permanent supportive housing, to help meet the long-term needs of homeless individuals and families; and,
- Prevention strategies, which play an integral role in a community's plan to eliminate homelessness by effectively intervening for persons at risk of homelessness or those being discharged from public systems, e.g., corrections, foster care, mental health, and other institutions so that they do not enter the homeless system.

CoC Lead Agency

Agency that is designated to carry out the activities of the CoC or grant including fiscal and compliance activities. Regular administrative tasks may include, but are not limited to: management of the annual HUD application, coordination of other funding opportunities, project and system monitoring, meeting management, etc. (Currently it is RIHousing)

Coordinated Community Plan (CCP)

A central requirement of the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) is that each selected community develops a CCP to prevent and end youth homelessness. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) designed YHDP to allow for up to 6 months of initial planning together with a significant level of direct HUD technical assistance followed by up to 6 months of additional time for HUD feedback and plan edits by the community.

Day Services

Day services refer to non-sleeping services and may include showers, laundry, telephone and internet access, medical care, substance use and mental health services, legal services, employment assistance and training, rehousing services and more.

Disabling condition

Defined by HUD as a physical, mental, or emotional impairment, including an impairment caused by alcohol or drug abuse, PTSD, or brain injury that is expected to be long-term and impacts the individual's ability to live independently; a developmental disability; or HIV/AIDS.

Diversion

Generally, diversion refers to the policy of diverting criminal defendants whose core issues are not criminological into alternative programs to treat root causes rather than sending them to jail.

Emergency Shelter (ES)

Safe, immediate alternative to the streets, either in a shelter facility or other location for a short-term, usually for 180 days or fewer. A shelter providing emergency overnight shelter. Typically, persons who are accommodated within an emergency shelter must leave each morning and return each evening for a chance of obtaining a bed. There are instances where beds are reserved for persons who continually return to a particular shelter.

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)

The Emergency Solutions Grants program provides homeless persons with basic shelter and essential supportive services. Eligible activities include funding operational costs of the shelter facility, grant administration and short-term homeless prevention assistance to persons at imminent risk of losing their own housing due to eviction, foreclosure, or utility shutoffs. ESG funds are restricted to emergency shelters or immediate alternatives to the street and transitional housing that help people reach independent living. Funds can be used to rehabilitate and operate these facilities and provide essential social services. Prevention and rapid re-housing are also targeted services for this funding opportunity. The city (unit of local government) is the grantee for these funds.

Encampment

Refers to a place of temporary accommodations consisting of huts, tents or other nonstandard housing options, often occupied by multiple individuals.

Family Unification Program (FUP) Vouchers

Family Unification Program (FUP) is a program under which Housing Choice Vouchers (HCVs) are provided to two different populations. In this plan, it refers to the particular population/program that meets the following criteria: For a period not to exceed 36 months, otherwise eligible youths who have attained at least 18 years and not more than 24 years of age and who have left foster care, or will leave foster care within 90 days, in accordance with a transition plan described in section 475(5)(H) of the Social Security Act, and is homeless or is at risk of becoming homeless at age 16 or older.

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

HMIS is a local information technology system used to collect data on individual homeless persons or those at risk of homelessness, including any access to services or housing. See also coordinated entry. It captures client-level information over time relating to the characteristics and needs of men, women, and children experiencing homelessness while also protecting client confidentiality. It is designed to aggregate client-level data to generate an unduplicated count of clients served within a community's system of homeless services. RI's HMIS is statewide, and can provide data on client characteristics and service utilization.

HMIS Lead Agency

Agency, organization or government department designated by CoC to administer and manage the HMIS. Currently it is the Coalition for the Homeless.

Homeless definition to be used by HUD under HEARTH

- Category 1: Literally Homeless - Individuals and families who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence and includes a subset for an individual who resided in an emergency shelter or a place not meant for human habitation and who is exiting an institution where he or she temporarily resided.
- Category 2: Imminent Risk of Homelessness - Individuals and families who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence.
- Category 3: Homeless Under other Federal Statutes Unaccompanied youth under age 25 and families with children and youth who are defined as homeless under other federal statutes who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition.

- Category 4: Fleeing/Attempting to Flee Domestic Violence - Individuals and families who are fleeing or are attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or a family member.

Department of Education Homeless Definition

The McKinney-Vento Act defines homeless children as "individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence." The Act then goes on to give examples of children who would fall under this definition:

- Children sharing housing due to economic hardship or loss of housing;
- Children living in "motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camp grounds due to lack of alternative accommodations"
- Children living in "emergency or transitional shelters"
- Children whose primary nighttime residence is not ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation (e.g. park benches, etc.)
- Children living in "cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations.

Homeless Census

An unduplicated count of homeless persons served in a calendar year.

Homeless Count

A count of homeless persons at a particular point in time. HUD requires that a formal sheltered homeless count occur each year during the last week of January. A street count is required by HUD every other year during the last week of January.

Housing Choice Voucher (HCV)

Sometimes referred to as the "Section 8 voucher program" after the section of the U.S. Housing Act that authorizes it) is the largest federal low-income housing assistance program. Families who are awarded vouchers use them to help pay the cost of renting housing on the open market. Housing Choice Vouchers are administered locally by the Public Housing Authority in each community. In most cases, Rhode Islanders in this program can earn no more than 50% of HUD's median family income.

Housing First

A specific way of housing homeless persons that does not require prerequisite conditions before housing placement and prohibits eviction from housing for anything other than commonly accepted lease violations. Housing First recognizes that housing is the first priority, providing a platform to better address other underlying issues such as employment, life skills, substance use treatment or medical issues.

Housing Exits

Moving individuals into housing.

Housing Resource Commission (HRC)

In the Office of Housing and Community Development (OHCD), the HRC was created by legislation in 1998 to be the State's planning and policy, standards and programs agency for housing issues.

HUD

Abbreviation for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Hygiene bay

A location allowing homeless persons to access showers and clean towels.

Intersectionality

Intersectionality looks at the interaction of multiple social identities and how those identities separately and together are subjected to oppression and discrimination. Coined by Kimberle Crenshaw in discussing the lived experiences of Black women.

Joint Transitional Housing/Rapid Rehousing

A CoC funded project type that allows communities to provide low-barrier, temporary housing while individuals and families are being quickly and seamlessly connected to permanent housing through a rapid re-housing intervention.

Lived Experience/Lived Expertise

People who are, or have, experienced homelessness.

Mainstream Voucher

The Mainstream Voucher program provides rental assistance (vouchers) to low-income households who include a non-elderly person(s) with disabilities.

McKinney – Vento Act (MV)

In 1983 a federal task force on homelessness was created to provide information to local governments and interested parties on how to obtain surplus federal property, Title V. At the same time pressure was growing to address the problems of homelessness in a tangible way from the top down, with the federal government as an active participant in addressing the needs of homeless people. In 1986 the Congress passed a few small parts of the Homeless Persons' Survival Act. Later that same year legislation containing Title I of the Homeless Persons' Survival Act - emergency relief provisions for shelter, food, mobile health care, and transitional housing - was introduced as the Urgent Relief for the Homeless Act. The legislation was passed by Congress in 1987. After the death of its chief Republican sponsor, Representative Stewart B. McKinney of Connecticut, the act was renamed the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. It was signed into law by President Ronald Reagan on July 22, 1987.

Navigation Center

A physical location providing a safe environment allowing homeless persons to access services. May or may not provide shelter beds.

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)

Low-barrier affordable housing with supportive services to assist the client maintain housing and address other needs. Most commonly this means that clients who live in permanent supportive housing have a case manager providing client centered support.

Point in Time (PIT) Count

PIT Counts are a measure of the number of homeless people on a specific day/point in time. It is considered a “snapshot” of the homeless population. HUD requires that a formal sheltered homeless count occur each year during the last week of January. A street count is required by HUD every other year during the last week of January. This is often referred to as a homeless count.

Positive Youth Development (PYD)

The Department of Health and Human Services developed a framework to empower youth to become self-sufficient and healthy adults. This framework, called Positive Youth Development (PYD), utilizes four basic principles to guide work with young people. These principles are competence, usefulness, belonging, and power. For youth to develop healthy social and emotional skills, they need to feel like they are good at something. Youth must feel that they can contribute to society, that they have friends and family, and that they are confident in themselves.

PYD is now advocated as a best-practice. PYD is designed to guide the way that staff and organizations interact with youth. PYD ensures the development of healthy social and emotional skills and coping mechanisms of serviced youth.

Project Sponsor

An entity that is responsible for carrying out the proposed project activities of a HUD Homeless Assistance grant. A project sponsor does not submit an SF-424 (Application for Federal Assistance) or enter into a direct contract with HUD, unless it is also the applicant/grantee. To be eligible to be a project sponsor, the organization must meet the same program eligibility standards as applicants/grantees. The only exception to this standard is under the Sponsor-based rental assistance (SRA) component of the S+C Program, where a sponsor must be a private, nonprofit organization or a community mental health agency established as a public nonprofit organization; therefore, eligible project sponsors for this component are statutorily precluded from applying for S+C funding.

Public Housing Authority (PHA)

Housing that is built, operated, and owned by a government and that is typically provided at nominal rent to the needy.

Ranking

CoCs must rank order the applications for new projects during submission. This allows the CoC to give input as to the community's view of what programs hold priority if choices must be made at the national level.

Rapid Rehousing (RRH)

Programs designed to help individuals and families quickly return to permanent housing after experiencing homelessness. Rapid re-housing assistance is offered without preconditions (such as employment, income, absence of criminal record, or sobriety) and the resources and services provided are tailored to the unique needs of the household. The core components of rapid re-housing are housing identification, financial assistance for rent or move-in costs, and case management and services. Services and financial assistance in rapid re-housing are short term, typically six months or less.

RFP

Request for Proposals

RIDE

Rhode Island Department of Education

Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA)

Provides support to address youth and young adult homelessness and is administered by the US Dept. of Health and Human Services. It funds three main interventions: street outreach, basic center, and transitional living. Basic Center Programs provide temporary shelter, family reunification series, counseling, food, clothing, and aftercare services, while the Transitional Living Program provides longer term housing with supportive services to homeless youth ages 16 to 21 for up to 18 months.

Runaway and Homeless Youth Management Information System: (RHYMIS)

An information technology system used to collect data on youth serviced, issues affecting these youth, and the services provided by RHYA programs

Runaway and Homeless Youth Program (RHY)

Runaway and Homeless Youth Program (RHY) is a program funded through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. These programs include street outreach, emergency shelters, transitional living 89 programs, and maternity group homes for pregnant and parenting youth.

Sheltered homeless individuals

Individuals who are living in emergency shelters or transitional housing programs.

Single Individual

An unaccompanied adult 18 and over in age.

Single Point of Entry

The phone in/walk in operation where homeless persons can find out if there is an available bed in the shelter system. Reservations are made when beds are available. All persons coming into the homeless provider system must come through this project either by phone, walk in or virtually by completing the necessary paperwork at the respective shelter. Single Point of Entry does all initial HMIS data entry completing most of the Universal Data Elements required by HUD.

Single Room Occupancy

Single room dwellings designed for the use of an individual that often do not contain food preparation or sanitary facilities.

Street Count

The collecting of information on the area's unsheltered homeless population. This includes all persons who are living in places not meant for human habitation.

Sub Recipient

The organization responsible for carrying out the daily operation of the project. The sponsor and the grantee may be the same entity.

Substance Use Disorder

Drug addiction is a disease that affects a person's brain and behavior and leads to an inability to control the use of a legal or illegal drug or medication. Substances such as alcohol, marijuana and nicotine also are considered drugs.

Supportive Housing Program

Long-term (permanent) community-based housing and supportive services for homeless persons with disabilities. The intent of this type of housing is to enable this special needs population to live as independently as possible in a permanent setting.

Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program

A program administered by VA designed to rapidly re-house homeless Veterans and their families and prevent homelessness for those at imminent risk of homelessness due to a housing crisis.

Supportive Services Only (SSO)

Projects that address the service needs of homeless persons. Projects are classified as this component only if the project sponsor is not also providing housing to the same persons receiving the services.

Targeted Universalism

From John A. Powell: "A targeted universal strategy is one that is inclusive of the needs of both the dominant and the marginal groups, but pays particular attention to the situation of the marginal group. Targeted universalism rejects a blanket universal which is likely to be indifferent to the reality that different groups are situated differently relative to the institutions and resources of society. It also rejects the claim of formal equality that would treat all people the same as a way of denying difference."

Temporary housing

A facility where the primary purpose is to provide temporary or transitional shelter for people experiencing homelessness in general or for specific populations of the homeless population. Temporary housing includes emergency shelter and facility-based transitional housing.

Tenant-based Rental Assistance

Applicants (States, local government and/or PHAs) contract with unit owners directly. The assistance is attached to the person receiving the assistance NOT to a specific building or agency (sponsor).

Transitional housing (TH)

Transitional housing is a type of supportive housing used to facilitate the movement of homeless individuals and families to permanent housing. Individuals and families experiencing homelessness receive supportive services that enable them to live more independently. Transitional housing can be provided in one structure or several structures at one site, or in multiple structures at scattered sites. Homeless people can live in transitional housing for up to 24 months and receive supportive services that enable them to live more independently.

Transition Age Youth (TAY)

Young people between the ages of 18 and 25 years old who are not accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Trauma Informed Care (TIC)/Healing Centered Approach

A strengths-based framework for practitioners and researchers of social services, healthcare, and beyond to integrate into their practice and field of study. TIC recognizes the complex nature of trauma experienced by individuals while promoting resilience and healing.

Unaccompanied children/youth

Children under the age of 18 who are not accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Unaccompanied Youth Committee (UYC)

The UYC is a subcommittee of the RCoC that is advisory to the Youth Action Board (YAB). It includes service and housing providers, representatives of state departments, youth and young adults, and individuals who are committed to building a system to prevent and end homelessness and housing insecurity among unaccompanied youth and young adults. They guide planning, policy, and program design and implementation, and serve as a network of support and innovation.

Unsheltered homeless individuals

Individuals who are living on the streets, in abandoned buildings, storage structures, vehicles, encampments, or any other place not intended for human habitation.

Youth Action Board (YAB)

The Youth Action Board is made up solely of persons under 25 who are or have experienced homelessness. YAB seeks to engage homeless youth and collaborate with HUD and the RCoC to finalize Rhode Island's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project. The ultimate goal of this

collaborative effort is to eliminate homelessness among youth and young adults by 2025. The YAB is a collaborative program of Youth In Action (YIA) and the RI Coalition to End Homelessness.

Youth At Risk of Homelessness

Youth who are residing in unsafe situations as defined by the youth or youth who are at imminent risk of losing their primary nighttime residence.

Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP)

The Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program is a new suite of programs designed to reduce the number of youth experiencing homelessness. Rhode Island was designated a YHDP site in September 2021 with a \$3.4M award.

Youth Representation

Deliberate, authentic, and formal representation by young people who reflect the identities and lived experiences of the community via their elected or nominated structures in agency, program, community-based governance structures that integrates positive youth development and is at a scale appropriate for the structure.

YHDP Steering Committee

The YHDP Steering Committee is a cross-sector governance body that guides the planning and implementation of RI's YHDP investment. They work in collaboration with the YAB to design and deliver aligned policy, data, program, process, and funding across systems and departments to attain YHDP mission, vision, and goals as defined in the Coordinated Community Plan (CCP).

YHDP Core Team

Includes staff members from the YHDP lead organization, the RICoC planner, national technical assistance providers, and the consultant hired as the YHDP Planner. The YHDP Core Team leads the planning and other processes for the YHDP grant and oversees ongoing program/project management.

Youth & Young Adults (YYA)

People ages 13-24 years of age.