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Introduction

We believe that youth and young adult (YYA) homelessness can be ended in West Virginia and are eager to see this happen soon. West Virginia's youth are experiencing crises of historic proportions. Poverty, lack of jobs, lack of recreation and opportunities for positive development, and the erosion of communities are ripping families and the lives of their members apart, one person, one youth at a time. In this environment, communities become fertile ground for substance use and sales, crime, abuse, trafficking, and a spiral of people who once held one another up in times of need now victimizing and taking advantage of one another. It is time for an immediate, kinetic response to the issues that affect the youth of WV and compels us to drastically shift our response to ending and preventing YYA homelessness.

The West Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness (WVCEH) serves as the West Virginia Balance of State (WV BoS) Continuum of Care (CoC) lead agency. The purpose of a CoC is to promote a community-wide commitment to end homelessness, provide funding to quickly re-house people experiencing homelessness while minimizing trauma and dislocation, and optimize self-sufficiency among people experiencing housing instability and homelessness. CoC lead agencies serve as an important catalyst for increasing and improving housing resources and service coordination in communities throughout their designated geography, implementing best practices, policies, and strategies to prevent and end homelessness, and evaluating system performance on a regular basis. The WV BoS CoC is poised to end YYA homelessness due to vast experience in tackling complex problems in the CoC related to shelter, housing advocacy and resource allocation; increasing access to health care, behavioral health, and other mainstream resources for underserved populations; and program and resource development in the most rural areas of the state.

The Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) is an initiative funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) designed to reduce the number of YYA experiencing homelessness. The goal of the YHDP is to support selected communities in the development and implementation of a coordinated community approach to preventing and ending YYA homelessness. It is the intent of WV BoS CoC to work together to house YYA while we continue to learn more about their needs, develop methodologies for sharing data across systems, create new housing programs with age-appropriate services, all while developing a Coordinated Community Plan (CCP) to prevent and end YYA homelessness throughout the CoC.

It is important to note that this document references several abbreviations and acronyms which may not be familiar to the common reader. A glossary has been provided below in **Appendix I**.

Background

The WV BoS CoC is committed to developing a coordinated emergency response and permanent housing system that works effectively for our YYAs experiencing and at-risk of homelessness. Homelessness diminishes the lives and promise of young people in our region every day, yet many of our 44 rural counties currently have no dedicated beds, resources, or services for our youth experiencing homelessness. In January 2020, WV BoS CoC was invited to participate in the 100-Day Challenge. During the Challenge, the CoC refined its prioritization and unit matching process for transition age youth (TAY). Over the last year, the CoC has also worked to create youth-specific outreach and permanent housing resources in targeted CoC regions utilizing COVID-19 funding, and through partnerships with the Public Child Welfare Agency (PCWA) and a local Public Housing Authority (PHA) to implement the Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Initiative. Through these regional initiatives, we are stress-testing procedures and practices to develop trauma-informed system models that advance equitable access to housing and services.

Participation in YHDP will allow the WV BoS CoC to take lessons learned over the last two years and expand youth navigation resources across all eight CoC regions. Our YHDP team has strong youth leadership, a commitment to creating equitable services for marginalized populations, a desire for innovation and flexibility in our approaches to resolving housing crises, and an unwillingness to support failing systems and strategies: all of which will be necessary to achieve our vision. Through the YHDP process, the CoC and its partners are collaboratively designing a system that will:

- Identify and engage youth and young adults at-risk of and experiencing homelessness;
- Minimize the inflow into the homeless system by intervening to prevent the loss of housing and diverting youth from the homeless system back to family and natural supports whenever possible;
- Provide immediate access to low-barrier shelter and crisis services;
- Deliver effective housing assistance and services without preconditions that create sustainable solutions and avert cycles of recurring homelessness; and
- Utilize data to measure and improve the homeless response system and catalyze impactful change.

The CoC and its partners will evaluate system performance based on the four core outcomes identified by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH):

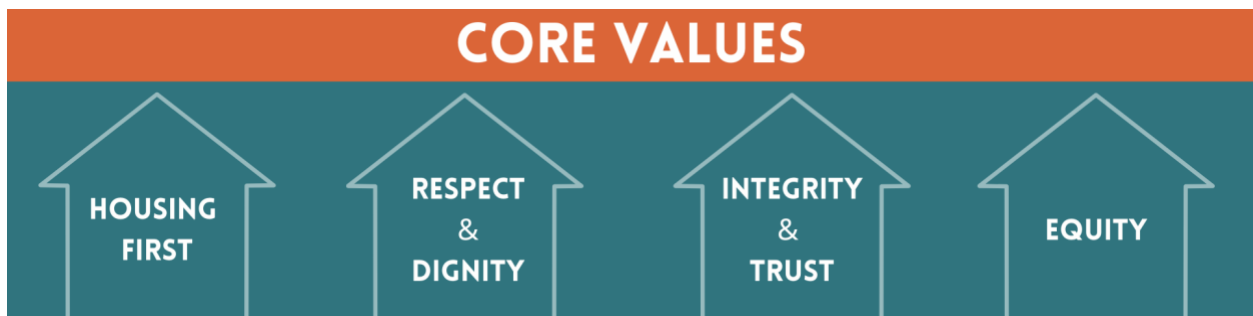
1. stable housing
2. permanent connections
3. education and employment
4. social-emotional wellbeing

These outcomes reflect the understanding that youth experiencing homelessness have varied and unique needs that require a wide array of interventions and pathways to help them achieve outcomes they have identified as most critical to their success. This CCP describes the specific needs of youth sub-populations, identifies barriers to successful outcomes, and outlines strategies, goals, objectives and action steps the WV BoS CoC must employ to achieve these four core outcomes for all YYA at-risk of or experiencing homelessness.

Guiding Principles, Values, and Vision

The YAB hosted collective-visioning sessions for CoC lead staff, in collaboration with True Colors United, to identify our core values, guiding principles, and action steps to achieve our vision when we are considering how to address youth homelessness in West Virginia. During these sessions, we established four core values that would act as a guide for how to properly implement, evaluate, and sustain services for YYA. Our four core values are as follows:

1. Operating all YYA programs utilizing a Housing First philosophy and offering low barriers and youth-centered services, while supporting YYA in skills development to promote long-term stability. It is the goal of YAB and CoC to enhance the social wellbeing and permanent connections of YYA by focusing on social supports and community integration.
2. Foster integrity and trust with our colleagues, program participants, and the broader community. The YAB and CoC believe it is important to build relationships in which people feel comfortable while also making sure their needs are being met.
3. Uplift equity in our everyday interactions and work to prevent and end youth homelessness, with the goal of designing YYA housing and supportive services programs that focus on equity for special populations who are at elevated risk for homelessness.
4. Acknowledge and respect each other's differences and keep the conversation focused on moving efforts forward to address youth homelessness.



What the YAB envisions for the future of young West Virginians is **a place where homelessness is nonexistent and everyone has access to housing, stability, safety, and the ability to pursue their dreams and accomplish their own goals.** We aim to give access to safe and stable housing to YYA in need while providing them with robust supportive services. We realize that the same needs will not be required by everyone, so in that respect, we aim to provide youth-centered service in order to meet each individual's specific needs. While providing supportive services, we also want to nurture people in a way that can lead to a sustainable life after receiving services. Giving people equal access to housing, employment, education, and supportive services are all ways we can begin eliminating YYA homelessness across the state.

The YAB aims to achieve this future by holding youth-led focus group meetings which will have different areas of concentration, allowing us to divide the work among YAB members depending on their interests. The five overarching goals of these focus groups will include:

1. Raising awareness among YYA across the CoC for YAB recruitment and retention (e.g. advertising, social media, public speaking).
2. Enhancing supportive services for unaccompanied minors, TAY, and pregnant/parenting youth who are at-risk or experiencing homelessness.
3. Expanding resources for at-risk and homeless students at all levels of education.
4. Facilitating easier Juvenile Justice and Foster Care system discharge processes.
5. Offering opportunities for professional development among YAB members (e.g. grant writing, policy development, and advocacy).

The YAB will focus on establishing one focus group at a time, and each group will collect information during their scheduled meeting to determine what resources are needed for next steps. Each focus group will apply system goals and action steps outlined in this document and then expand on each to achieve their vision. This information will be shared with the larger YAB group to make sure everyone is getting equal access to information within the YAB. Focus groups will start being facilitated by the YAB chair, but will have at least one other youth member to help lead. This is to help youth members gain more insight on the work that the community is doing and assist them in skills development to lead future meetings. Youth members from each focus group will come together during monthly YAB meetings to collectively gather information and data from the other groups. The YAB and YHDP core-planning team will take lessons learned from these focus groups to develop and continue to refine YYA programs.

CoC and YAB Governance



CoC Steering Committee

While a HUD-mandated body, the CoC is responsible for all responses to homelessness be they formal, informal, state-funded, federally funded, or publicly supported. Developing and operating

a homelessness crisis response system toward the goal of quickly accessing housing resources and ending homelessness is by far the most important function of the CoC, and this can take many forms. The WV BoS CoC Steering Committee is a collective of individuals from each established CoC region designated to provide oversight and governance on behalf of the CoC. The CoC Steering Committee is charged with setting the vision for the effective operation, goals, and expected achievements of the CoC's homeless crisis response system.

The CoC Steering Committee serves as the governing body that oversees the implementation of the CoC Interim Rule (24 CFR 578) in the BoS and advise the WVCEH CoC Staff on policy changes relative to the CoC operation and function. Committee members must be representative of the following sectors: Non-profit Homeless Services Sector, Law Enforcement, Victim Services Provider, Faith-Based Organization, Local Government, Business Owner, School District, Social Services or Substance Use Disorder services, Mental Health Provider, Hospitals, University or other Post-Secondary Education, Affordable Housing Developer, Organizations serving Veterans, Organizations serving Youth, and Persons with Lived Expertise.

Various subcommittees conduct the day-to-day business of the CoC, which includes the following, Frontline trends, Evidence-based practice and Client advocacy, HMIS and reporting, Sub-population needs, Staff Development and Training, and Coordinated Entry. Subcommittees make recommendations to Steering on emergent issues. The Steering Committee meets bi-monthly, and the chairs of each subcommittee have a voting seat on the committee.

Youth Subcommittee (YAB)

The YAB is part of the CoC Governance Structure and provides input and policy recommendations to the CoC Steering Committee. Serving a dual role as the CoC Youth Subcommittee and lead partner in the YHDP planning process, the YAB is a decision-making subcommittee made up of YYA who have experienced or are experiencing homelessness, and/or have been served by the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. In this capacity, the YAB participates in grant writing, program development, and advocacy efforts. Through the lived expertise of membership, the YAB advocates to make services and assistance better for current and future youth that have had similar experiences and works to identify and develop solutions to rectify issues that members have been through to improve systems for future youth and young adults.

The YAB works to raise awareness of existing youth resources and advocate for new programs that serve youth across the CoC. Existing resources and programs may be unknown to youth, so the YAB works with local providers to increase community knowledge of existing housing and support programs for youth. The YAB coordinates with state and local providers to assess system gaps in an effort to develop new resources, targeting the needs of youth who have or are currently aging out of the foster care system and being discharged from the juvenile justice system. The YAB partners with child welfare, juvenile justice, education, and homeless services/housing systems to make the needs of young people more well-known to the larger system, and make recommendations for change. The YAB also works with the YHDP lead agency to lead discussions for how data should be shared across systems in order to have better-informed funding decisions and improve services to youth across systems.

Youth input is very important throughout the entire grant and policy development process, including writing, reviewing, and fielding stakeholder feedback. The YAB reviews and provides input on current and future funding opportunities to ensure the grant proposal clearly outlines the CoC's goal to prevent and end youth homelessness in West Virginia. This subcommittee provides leadership and guidance in partnership with other key stakeholders during the community planning process, project selection, project implementation, and system sustainability phases of YHDP. Post CCP development, the YAB will continue to meet at a minimum monthly and also serve as the YHDP Project Rating and Ranking Committee to determine which agencies are funded to operate a YHDP project. The YAB has both affirmative and veto power for the YHDP CCP and the selected projects. Each YAB member is stipend \$15 an hour for their time spent on YHDP, community meetings, research, writing, and other youth education and outreach initiatives.

YHDP Planning Teams

1. Project Management Team: This team meets weekly (or more as needed) to move the planning process along. This group is accountable to the Core Planning Team, WVCEH (YHDP Lead Agency), and YAB. It is important to share decision-making power with these groups. Identified members are as follows:
 - YAB Chair
 - YAB Co-Chair
 - YHDP Lead Agency Representative
2. Core Planning Team: This is a selected group of youth and adult partners from the YAB. These meetings are held weekly throughout the planning and implementation phase of YHDP. This meeting is meant to educate the lead agency (WVCEH), youth partners, and select providers (both state and local decision makers) about the YHDP process, and is led by YHDP Technical Assistance providers, the Project Management Team, and YYA members from the YAB. This meeting includes key players from the YHDP lead agency, HMIS lead representative, other direct service providers in the youth homeless services system, and partners from other systems, including but not limited to, child welfare, justice, education, employment, and behavioral health, who will make decisions about the CCP and participate deeply in the process. This team will also advance a broader strategy and action plan beyond the YHDP planning process and be responsible for carrying the goals, objectives, and action steps named in the CCP forward. This group includes entities interested in applying for YHDP funds and a singular representative from each partner organization with the power to make decisions on behalf over their agency and provide (or quickly obtain) a signature for the CCP. Details on the partnerships by discipline and agency are listed below in the YHDP Partners/Stakeholders section.
3. Broader Community Stakeholders: Convenings and listening sessions are hosted by the YAB, Project Management Team, and Core Planning Team, with support from YHDP TA, as needed based on identified training needs to streamline the process for information distribution and gain community insight throughout the planning process. It should include

anyone who wants to be a part of ending YYA homelessness locally, including, but not limited to:

- YYA beyond those represented through the Core Planning Team and YAB
- Staff at all levels of agencies that serve or come into contact with YYA (especially those not represented on YAB)
- Cross-system partners in the field (child welfare, education, workforce, justice, corrections, behavioral health, etc.)
- Philanthropies & other funders
- Faith-based community
- Grassroots community organizations and mutual aid organizers
- Public resources, such as: libraries, local youth programs, etc.
- Health care
- Local/State Government (e.g. ESG State Grantee)

Stakeholders Chart

Preventing and ending YYA homelessness requires a cross-system approach among an array of state, regional, and local partners. Below is a list of partners that are directly involved in the planning process and broader community stakeholders that support this work, along with brief description of each entity’s involvement and role in the planning and implementation of YHDP. Detailed descriptions of each partnership can be found below in **Appendix II**.

Partners	Organization Name	Description of Involvement
Youth Action Board (YAB)	WV BoS CoC Youth Subcommittee	YHDP Project Management Team YHDP Core Planning Team CoC Steering Committee
Public Child Welfare Agency	WV Bureau for Social Services (BSS)	YHDP Core Planning Team YAB older adult support
Juvenile Justice System	WV Bureau of Juvenile Services (BJS)	YHDP Core Planning Team YAB older adult support
Juvenile/Adult Probation	Supreme Court of Appeals of WV, Division of Probation Services	YHDP Core Planning Team YAB older adult support
Early Childhood Provider	WV Bureau of Public Health (BPH), Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health (OMCFH), Division of Infant, Child and Adolescent Health Right from the Start Birth to Three	Broader Community Stakeholder

Partners	Organization Name	Description of Involvement
Early Childhood Education	Early Head Start Head Start	Broader Community Stakeholder
K-12 Education	WV Department of Education (WVDE) Local Boards of Education	YHDP Core Planning Team Broader Community Stakeholder
Higher Education	WV Higher Education Policy Commission Post-Secondary Institutions WV Collegiate Initiative to Address High Risk Substance Use	Broader Community Stakeholder
Healthcare Provider	WV Managed Care Organization, Aetna Better Health WVU Medicine WV BPH WV Bureau of Medical Services (BMS)	Broader Community Stakeholder
Behavioral Health Provider	WV Bureau for Behavioral Health (BBH) Local Community Mental Health Agencies	YHDP Core Planning Team YAB older adult support
State Government	WV Division of Economic Development (DED) Community Advancement and Development (CAD) Office	Broader Community Stakeholder
Employment Providers	Workforce WV Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act organizations Other Workforce Development Agencies (Goodwill)	Broader Community Stakeholder YHDP Core Planning Team YAB older adult support
Public Housing Authorities	23 in the WV BoS CoC 2 currently operating the FYI Initiative (Fairmont Morgantown Housing Authority and Point Pleasant Housing Authority)	Broader Community Stakeholder

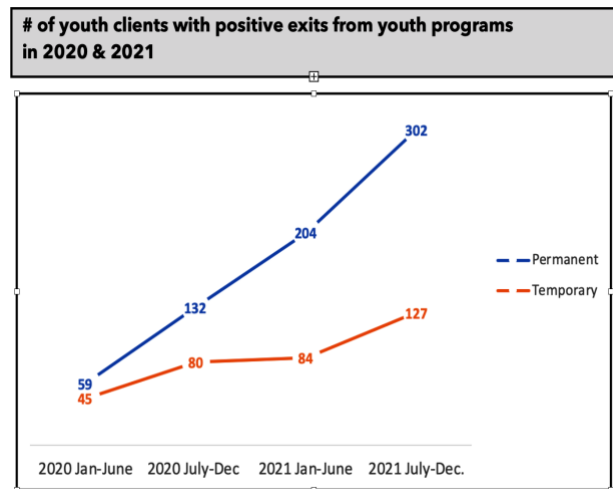
Partners	Organization Name	Description of Involvement
Black Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) Advocacy	Anti-Racist Appalachia NAACP	Broader Community Stakeholder YHDP Core Planning Team
Disability Advocacy	Disability Rights of WV Centers for Independent Living	Broader Community Stakeholder
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning, Intersex and Asexual (LGBTQIA+) Advocacy	Working to build partnership with Fairness WV and local advocacy groups	Broader Community Stakeholder
Housing/Homeless Service Providers	WV Balance of State Continuum of Care Local Homeless Services Providers	YHDP Project Management Team YHDP Core Planning Team CoC Steering Committee YAB older adult support
Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) Provider	Children’s Home Society of WV	YHDP Core Planning Team YAB older adult support
Non-profit Youth Organizations	Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Child Advocacy Centers Community Action agencies Family Resource Networks	Broader Community Stakeholder YHDP Core Planning Team YAB older adult support
Landlords	WVCEH Landlord Liaison WV BoS CoC Landlord Subcommittee (in development)	Broader Community Stakeholder
Affordable Housing and Community Development	WV Housing Development Fund (HDF)	Broader Community Stakeholder
Victim Service Providers	WV BoS CoC Victim Service Provider Subcommittee (in development) WV Coalition Against Domestic Violence	Broader Community Stakeholder

system involvement and is broken out by unaccompanied minors, transition age youth, and pregnant/parenting youth. Additional youth subpopulation data, including sexual orientation, gender, race, and disability is attached as **Appendix IV**.

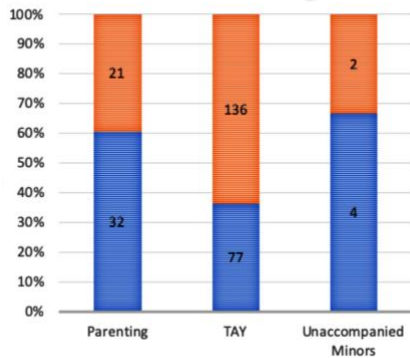
Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Data

In 2019, the WV BoS CoC focused efforts on capturing more accurate data regarding previous system involvement among youth and young adults being served by the homeless services system. In 2020, in conjunction with the 100-Day Challenge efforts, partners in targeted regions of the CoC began piloting youth-specific Outreach and RRH programs with ESG-CV funding and launching FYI programs in partnership with the BSS and local Public Housing Authorities. During this time, the CoC/HMIS lead staff created youth-specific data collection criteria from the YHDP and RHY data standards for these pilot programs. Through the youth-targeted outreach efforts and housing resource development, the number of youth served has doubled in one year, serving 277 youth in 2020 and 529 youth in 2021.

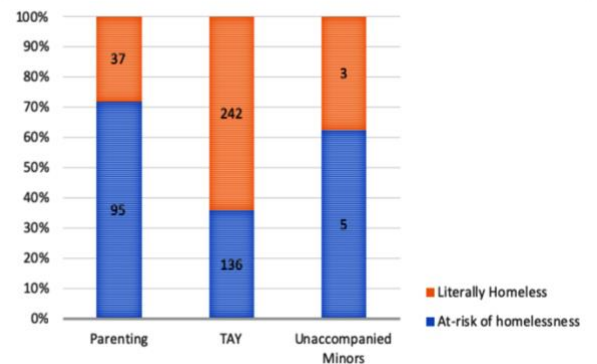
WV YOUTH HOMELESSNESS		
2020		2021
277	Youth Served	529
240	Youth Households Served	429
91	Clients formerly involved in foster care system	106
15	Clients formerly involved with juvenile justice system	52



of youth clients served in 2020 by client type



of youth clients served in 2021 by client type



Education Data

Early Childhood Education Providers

Early Head Start and Head Start promotes school readiness for children in low-income families by offering educational, nutritional, health, social, and other services. Under Head Start law and regulation, Head Start and Early Head Start programs are required to proactively identify children experiencing homelessness and prioritize them for enrollment. While we can draw insights from this data regarding the housing and employment needs of West Virginia families who have children enrolled in early education program, it is important to note that the following data is not broken out by age of the head of household.

WV Head Start Employment, Job Training, and School Data 2021	
Total number of families in which:	# of Families at enrollment
1. At least one parent/guardian is employed, in job training, or in school at enrollment	3,947
a. Of these families, the number in which one or more parent/guardian is employed	3,523
b. Of these families, the number in which one or more parent/guardian is in job training (e.g. job training program, professional certificate, apprenticeship, or occupational license)	494
c. Of these families, the number in which one or more parent/guardian is in school (e.g. GED, associate degree, baccalaureate, or advanced degree)	230
2. Neither/No parent/guardian is employed, in job training, or in school at enrollment (e.g. unemployed, retired, or disabled)	2,412

When comparing nationwide Head Start Homeless data to West Virginia, West Virginia percentages of families and children enrolled that are experiencing homelessness are similar to national data. However, in comparison to the national average, much fewer West Virginia families experiencing homelessness are reporting that they are able to acquire housing. This reflects longer-term trends and challenges in finding permanent, affordable and habitable housing in the most rural communities across the nation.

Head Start Homeless Data 2021	Nationwide	West Virginia
Total number of families served during the enrollment year	680,671	7,913
Percentage of families experiencing homelessness that were served during the enrollment year	6.2%	6.8%
Percentage of children experiencing homelessness that were served during the enrollment year	6.1%	6.9%
Percentage of families experiencing homelessness that acquired housing during the enrollment year	24.6%	2.2%

K-12

At the national level, homelessness is associated with an 87% increased likelihood of dropping out of school. Students experiencing the traumas of homelessness during their middle and high school years have a hard time staying focused on their schoolwork and matriculating on time. They also

tend to not complete the more rigorous courses needed to prepare for college and future employment. One of the strongest risk factors that correlates with homelessness is a lack of a high school diploma or GED. Those with learning impairments are also at a higher risk of homelessness. Although we cannot make causal inferences, these findings reinforce the possibility that education, and underlying factors that support educational success, protect youth from becoming homeless, and that school-based strategies that help young people persist and graduate are invaluable.

The WVDE publishes an annual *Count of West Virginia Public School Students Experiencing Homelessness*, including housing status data collected under the McKinney-Vento Act. According to 2020 Census Data, 252,357 students were enrolled in public schools in West Virginia. In the 2020 school year, 10,307 homeless students were identified, and during the 2021 school year, 9,397 were identified.

Percentage of Homeless Students Statewide by Primary Nighttime Residence		
Primary Nighttime Residence	SY20 Total	SY21 Total
Doubled-Up	87.7%	86.7%
Shelters	7.4%	6.7%
Unsheltered	2.5%	3.2%
Hotels/Motels	2.4%	3.3%

Doubled-up: Sharing housing of other persons due to economic hardship, loss of housing or other reasons (such as domestic violence).

Shelters: Transitional living shelter, domestic violence shelter, youth shelter, or family shelter

Unsheltered: Including living in cars, parks, campgrounds, temporary trailers including FEMA trailers, or abandoned buildings (substandard housing).

Hotels/motels: Hotel, motel, or similar accommodations.

Higher Education

[Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) for West Virginia shows in the 2018/19 school year 224 students, and in the 2019/20 school year 261 students, were unaccompanied homeless youth who were deemed "independent students" on the FAFSA, enabling them to apply for federal student aid without information on or consideration of the income and assets of their parent(s)/guardian(s). According to the U.S. Department of Education, 1,848 students across the country were deemed independent as unaccompanied homeless youth during the 2019-2020 FAFSA application cycle. It is important to note that this data likely undercounts the number of youth experiencing homelessness in higher education given the FAFSA's use of skip logic to determine independent student status. There are 10 additional questions used to determine dependency status (e.g. age 24 or older, graduate students, married students, active military or veterans, students in foster care since age 13, etc.), with the unaccompanied homeless youth questions presented last. Once an applicant provides a positive response to a previous independent student status question, the unaccompanied homeless youth questions are not shown, and therefore, not answered.

[Hope for College](#) research conducted a survey of 2-year and 4-year college students on the topic of needs insecurity (food and housing) in 2021 in a report titled "#RealCollege 2021: Basic Needs Insecurity During the Ongoing Pandemic". While data on the prevalence of youth homelessness among higher education students in West Virginia currently is not available, we can draw insights

from data collected by the HOPE Center. Based on a national survey of nearly 195,000 college students from 130 two-year colleges and 72 four-year colleges from 24 states, including West Virginia:

- 34% of respondents reported experiencing food insecurity
- 48% of respondents reported they were housing insecure
- 14% of respondents reported experiencing homelessness

Juvenile Justice and Probation Data

Studies by the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) have shown that runaway and homeless youth have higher rates of involvement with the juvenile justice system. When young people leave residential juvenile justice placements, they are then faced with many challenges as they reenter the community, home, and school/work force. Youth may return to unstable home settings, face a lack of family support, struggle to remain in school, lack the skills needed for employment, and experience a gap in behavioral health services, all of which may create situations where YJA end up homeless.

According to a report released by the WV Center on Budget and Policy on [Improving Juvenile Justice in West Virginia](#), YJA in West Virginia are being funneled toward youth incarceration for non-violent offenses due to lack of foster care placement options and youth mental health treatment facilities designed to serve youth with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) and Autism Spectrum Disorder whose needs exceed the capacity of residential treatment facilities. In 2013, it was reported that 62% of juveniles were being committed for non-violent offenses indicating the need for reallocation of existing resources for mental health service and development of intensive community-based services. The average cost of placing a youth in a WV DHHR (Department of Health and Human Resources) out-of-home facility, based on average facility per diems for emergency shelters and all in-state and out-of-state group residential programs, is \$289.32 per day, or \$105,600 per year. The average cost of placing a youth in a DJS facility is \$277.91 per day, or \$101,439 per year. Those costs continue to increase.

The WV DHHR has recently implemented a new waiver program for Children with Serious Emotional Disorders (CSED) to prioritize children/youth with serious emotional disorders (SED) who are in Psychiatric Rehabilitation Treatment Facilities (PRTFs) or other residential treatment providers either out-of-state or in-state; and other Medicaid-eligible children with SED who are at risk of institutionalization to begin addressing the needs of this population. The CSED waiver, in addition to stable housing and other wrap-around services to support the overall wellbeing of YJA with higher needs and behavioral disturbances, will likely increase permanent housing retention rates and lower recidivism rates for both the homeless services and justice systems.

Data from each WV Bureau of Juvenile Services (BJS) after care worker reports that 10% of YJA enrolled in after care services were at-risk or experiencing homelessness. It is important to note that this data likely undercounts the number of YJA experiencing homelessness with previous juvenile justice involvement, because it does not take into account the number of YJA who exited BJS custody and where contact was lost. At this time, there is no data available to illustrate how

many YYA exited WV BJS custody into unstable housing or homelessness. The YHDP/CoC lead agency is working with WV BJS to develop Memorandum of Understanding for the purpose of improving data sharing across systems to better assess need for funding reallocation and new program development.

The following Juvenile Probation and WV BJS data was provided by the Division of Probation Services. This first chart demonstrates the total number of YYA actively enrolled in juvenile probation throughout the state, and the number of YYA enrolled in 2020-21 who were experiencing homelessness or exited to housing status unknown.

WV Juvenile Probation Data 2020-21		
Total # of YYA with Active Juvenile Probation Cases: 3,603		
Housing Status	2020	2021
Unknown Housing Status at Exit	653	491
Identified as Homeless during enrollment	90	129

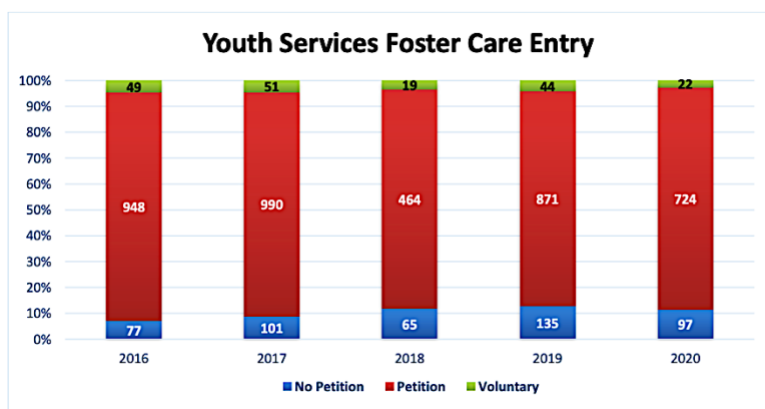
The following two charts are comprised of weekly data of various folks from BJS, Division of Probation Services, WV DHHR (BSS and BBH), Aetna, WVDE, and the Emergency Shelter Provider Network. The responsibility of this group is to review certain YYA who have been placed in the Bureau of Juvenile Services. The goal of this group is to determine services needed and the most appropriate placement for these cases while examining systemic gaps that are preventing these YYA from leaving incarceration and going to appropriate treatment facilities. The YYA identified in this group typically have Borderline IDD, IDD, or Autism Spectrum Disorder. They are often young (under 14 years old to align with the juvenile competency code) and/or have behavior issues that have generally disqualified them from placements in West Virginia. The group also reviews the current status of each YYA, how they are currently functioning, and the progress on finding more appropriate placement. At any given time, there are between 20 – 25 YYA a week on the list for review.

WV BJS Custody Data 2017-2021: IDD/ASD	
Total # of YYA admitted to WV BJS custody: 651	
Subpopulation	% of YYA in custody
IDD	17.8%
Borderline IDD	15.1%
Autism Spectrum Disorder	11.7%
Deemed Incompetent	7.2%

WV BJS Custody Data 2017-2021: Placement Rates	
Total # of YYA admitted to WV BJS custody: 651	
Placement Location	% of YYA in custody
Shelter	8.9%
In-state	22.0%
Out-of-state	28.7%
Home	24.9%
Committed	5.5%
Unknown (Data Not Collected)	10.0%

Foster Care Data

According to the National Foster Youth Institute, the child welfare system is sometimes described as a highway to homelessness. Nationwide, an average of 1 out of every 4 youth in foster care will become homeless within 4 years of aging out of foster care and 50% of the homeless population spent time in foster care. The [2021 WV Kids Count Data Book](#) details that the percentage of children enrolled in the WV public school system who are in Foster Care under Medicaid has nearly doubled from 5.5% in 2018 to 10.9% in 2020.



This graph shows Foster Care entry in West Virginia over the last five years by source. The primary source of entry for Youth Services remains to be through a petition to the court.

The table below by the [National Kids Count Data Center](#) shows the number of YYA exiting Foster Care in WV over the last 5 years.

Location	Data Type	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
West Virginia	Number	3,458	3,467	3,808	4,429	4,757

While the above data is useful in understanding inflow and outflow of the WV Foster Care system, the number of YYA exiting to unknown, temporary, or unstable housing status is still unknown in West Virginia. Based upon the National Youth in Transition Data project report by state, West Virginia 17 year olds reported 11% had experienced homelessness, 19 year olds reported 25% had experienced homelessness, and 21 year olds reported 14% had experienced homelessness. The YHDP Lead Agency will continue to coordinate with BSS through YHDP planning efforts and advocate for inclusion of housing status at Foster Care exit. For additional information on Youth Services and Foster Care in WV, the WV DHHR BSS Youth Services Annual Report, can be found [here](#).

The John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP) offers assistance to help current and former foster care YYA achieve self-sufficiency. Grants are offered to States and Tribes who submit a plan to assist youth in a wide variety of areas designed to support a successful transition to adulthood. In West Virginia, this program is known as the Mentoring and Oversight for Developing Independence with Foster Youth (MODIFY) with the Center for Excellence in Disabilities (CED) which provides on-going services to YYA who are transitioning out of the foster care system. While the following chart indicates how many YYA were served through MODIFY over the last two school years, there is no current measurement on the number of YYA enrolled in

MODIFY who dropped out and did not complete college. It is also important to note that YYA connected to MODIFY are not counted as aging out. The Education and Training Voucher (ETV) data is reported as part of the Annual Progress and Services Reports by West Virginia, can be found [here](#).

West Virginia MODIFY Program		
School Year	Total ETVs Awarded	Number of New ETVs
<i>Final Number:</i> 2018 – 2019 (July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019)	239	71
2019 – 2020 (July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020)	256	88

The Educational and Training Vouchers (ETV) Program provides resources specifically to meet the education and training needs of youth aging out of foster care.

Behavioral Health Data

Consistent with the National Clearinghouse on Homeless Youth and Families, youth experiencing or at-risk for homelessness have higher rates of mental health issues, including depression, anxiety, and conduct disorders than those in stable homes. Lack of access to behavioral health care further complicates most individuals’ ability to seek treatment. For organizations and providers focused on at-risk youth, prioritizing mental health is the key to long-term success for runaway and homeless youth. For runaway and at-risk youth, mental health issues can lead to a host of other struggles, including:

- Higher school dropout rates
- Greater risk for substance use
- Higher rates of unemployment and informal work
- Longer and more frequent bouts of homelessness

The WV Bureau of Behavioral Health (BBH) is the federally designated State Authority for mental health and substance-use disorder as well as the lead agency for intellectual and development disabilities. The Bureau’s Office of Children, Youth and Families administers funding to agencies across the state to promote the behavioral health of children and youth in West Virginia communities through primary prevention and individualized services for mental health, substance use, and intellectual and developmental disabilities. Successfully identifying and treating mental health issues that YYA are facing is the key to lifelong emotional and mental well-being. Many BBH youth programs do not currently have a primary focus on the homeless population. In an effort to inform resource allocation, the YHDP Lead Agency will continue to coordinate with BBH through YHDP planning efforts and advocate for inclusion of housing status and subpopulation data collection across youth programs.

Youth Behavioral Health Programs in WV								
Program	Youth under 18 y.o.		TAY		Pregnant/Parenting YYA		Identified as Homeless	
	FY19	FY20	FY19	FY20	FY19	FY20	FY19	FY20
Regional Youth Service Centers	328	1,604	246	1,576	--	--	9	18
Youth Drop in Center	--	1	--	56	--	--	--	--
FAST	--	3,944	--	15	--	--	--	--
Family Coordinators	--	1,020	--	150	--	--	--	--
Children's Homeless Outreach Program	--	118	--	2	--	0	--	120
Youth Suicide Intervention Specialist	--	56	--	11	--	--	--	--
First Episode Psychosis	11	15	68	46	--	--	--	--
Mobile Crisis Response and Stabilization	--	770	--	59	--	1	--	--
Children's Crisis and Referral Line	--	281	--	66	--	--	--	--
Children's Mental Health Wraparound Program	--	299	--	10	--	--	--	--
Positive Behavior Support	--	85	--	14	--	--	--	--
Expanded School Mental Health	--	683	--	98	--	1	--	--

Details on WV behavioral health programs for children, youth & families can be found on the [WV Bureau of Behavioral Health website](#).

Service Needs of Youth At-risk and Experiencing Homelessness

Based on existing data which outlines the scope of need and characteristics of each target populations, we anticipate service needs to be as follows. Additional detail on the service needs of special populations is in the subsequent section, and details on how these service needs will be addressed are outlined in the Goals, Objectives, and Action Steps section of this document.

Population	Stable Housing	Education/Employment	Wellbeing
Unaccompanied Youth At-risk of Homelessness	1) Diversion support and service navigation (e.g. family reunification; CSED waiver; access to higher levels of support like therapeutic foster care, in-patient mental health treatment, and recovery programs)	1) GED and re-enrollment support 2) Academic support (e.g. tutoring, assistance requesting reasonable accommodations) 3) Connections to employers and opportunities for skills training to learn a trade (e.g. WIOA, Goodwill Industries)	1) Identification of positive peer support and caring adults 2) Connection to behavioral health supports 3) Connection to community activities and social events

Population	Stable Housing	Education/Employment	Wellbeing
	2) Individualized and age-appropriate case management	4) Reinforcing connections between local school systems and community supports (e.g. Community In Schools) 5) Connection to child disability benefits when appropriate (SOAR)	4) Linkage to mainstream resources and benefits (e.g. food, healthcare)
Transition Age Youth At-risk of Homelessness	1) Diversion support and service navigation (e.g. family reunification; CSED waiver until 21 y.o.; access to Crisis Housing and Transitional Housing, in-patient mental health treatment, and recovery programs) 2) Individualized and age-appropriate case management	1) GED and re-enrollment support 2) Academic support (e.g. tutoring, credit recovery, connection to Higher Ed, assistance requesting reasonable accommodations and applying for financial aid) 3) Connections to employers and opportunities for skills training to learn a trade (e.g. WIOA, Goodwill Industries) 4) Connection to adult disability benefits when appropriate (SOAR)	1) Identification of positive peer support and caring adults 2) Connection to behavioral health supports 3) Connection to community activities and social events 4) Linkage to mainstream resources and benefits (e.g. food, healthcare)
Pregnant/Parenting Youth At-risk of Homelessness	1) Access to safe, stable, affordable housing for the family 2) Individualized service navigation specialized in the needs of families with young children	1) Connection to vocational training, GED completion, Higher Ed 2) Childcare supports, including both infrastructure development to reduce waitlists and financial subsidies 3) Connection to early childhood education providers for young children 4) Connection to adult or child disability benefits when appropriate (SOAR)	1) Connection with home visiting programs and parent support 2) Behavioral health Supports 3) Connection to positive peer parenting groups 4) Linkage to mainstream resources and benefits (e.g. food, healthcare, prenatal care)
Unaccompanied Youth Experiencing Homelessness	1) Access and availability to immediate crisis	1) GED and re-enrollment support	1) Trauma-Informed Care, Positive Youth Development and

Population	Stable Housing	Education/Employment	Wellbeing
	<p>housing with no preconditions</p> <p>2) Transitional Housing options and service navigation coupled with Permanent Housing options in the mainstream rental market once emancipated or 18 y.o.</p>	<p>2) Academic support (e.g. tutoring, assistance requesting reasonable accommodations)</p> <p>3) Connections to employers and opportunities for skills training to learn a trade (e.g. WIOA, Goodwill Industries)</p> <p>4) Reinforcing connections between local school systems and community supports (e.g. Community In Schools)</p> <p>5) Connection to child disability benefits when appropriate (SOAR)</p>	<p>Motivational Interviewing</p> <p>2) Connection to community activities and social events</p> <p>3) Mentors and positive peer support</p> <p>4) Connection to behavioral health supports</p> <p>5) Linkage to mainstream resources and benefits (e.g. food, healthcare)</p>
Transition Age Youth Experiencing Homelessness	<p>1) Access and availability to immediate crisis housing with no preconditions</p> <p>2) Transitional Housing and Permanent Housing options (both site-based and leasing)</p> <p>3) Service navigation resources and individualized case management in each region of the CoC (e.g. housing location, tenant education, assist in the development of Independent Living skills, connection to community supports)</p>	<p>1) GED and re-enrollment support</p> <p>2) Academic support (e.g. tutoring, credit recovery, connection to Higher Ed, assistance requesting reasonable accommodations and applying for financial aid)</p> <p>3) Connections to employers and opportunities for skills training to learn a trade (e.g. WIOA, Goodwill Industries)</p> <p>4) Connection to adult disability benefits when appropriate (SOAR)</p>	<p>1) Trauma-Informed Care, Positive Youth Development and Motivational Interviewing</p> <p>2) Connection to community activities and social events</p> <p>3) Positive peer support</p> <p>4) Connection to behavioral health supports</p> <p>5) Linkage to mainstream resources and benefits (e.g. food, healthcare, prenatal care, etc.)</p>
Pregnant/Parenting Youth Experiencing Homelessness	<p>1) Access and availability to immediate crisis housing with no preconditions</p> <p>2) Quick transfer to longer term housing</p>	<p>1) Connection to vocational training, GED completion, Higher Ed</p> <p>2) Childcare supports, including both infrastructure development to reduce</p>	<p>1) Connection with home visiting programs and parent support</p>

Population	Stable Housing	Education/Employment	Wellbeing
	<p>resources in the community that are stable and safe for children</p> <p>3) Individualized service navigation specialized in the needs of families with young children</p>	<p>waitlists and financial subsidies</p> <p>3) Connection to early childhood education providers for young children</p> <p>4) Connection to child or adult disability benefits when appropriate (SOAR)</p>	<p>2) Connection to community activities and social events</p> <p>3) Positive peer support</p> <p>4) Connection to behavioral health supports</p> <p>5) Linkage to mainstream resources and benefits (e.g. food, healthcare, prenatal care, etc.)</p>

Goals, Objectives, and Action Steps

As previously discussed in the Background section of this document, WV BoS YHDP core planning team adopted the USICH criteria and benchmarks for ending youth homelessness. Consistent with its emphasis on authentic youth collaboration, the YHDP core planning team, in collaboration with the YAB, developed six system goals to ensure that all planning, decision-making, resource allocation, and system evaluation is youth-driven and moves the needle on preventing and ending youth homelessness in the CoC. To accomplish these goals, there are numerous statewide and region-specific actions that must take place and are outlined in the chart below.

System Goals	Objectives: <i>What are we doing to achieve the shared vision?</i>	Action Steps: <i>How do we get there?</i>	Timeline	Responsible Partners
YAB Structure Refinement & Professional Development	<p>1. Recruitment and Retention</p> <p>2. Advocacy</p> <p>3. Peer Support</p>	<p>1.1: Work with TCU to refine existing Recruitment and Retention Focus Group. 1.2: Increase outreach to college campuses. 1.3: Flyer distribution in marginalized communities 1.4: Increase social media presence.</p> <p>2.1: Older adult members will work with YYA to identify top advocacy priorities and prepare</p>	<p>1.1: Spring-Summer 2022</p> <p>1.2: Summer-Fall 2022</p> <p>1.3: Winter-Spring 2022</p> <p>1.4: Winter-Spring 2022</p> <p>2.1: Winter 2022 (ongoing)</p> <p>2.2: Winter 2022 (ongoing)</p> <p>3.1 – 3.3: Summer/Fall 2022 to prep for 2023</p>	<p>1.1: YAB, YHDP Core Planning Team, and TCU</p> <p>1.2: YAB, YHDP Core Planning Team, NCHE</p> <p>1.3: YAB, Community Stakeholders</p> <p>1.4: YAB, WVCEH social media team, TCU</p> <p>2.1 – 2.2: YAB, CoC Steering Committee, state systems (e.g. BSS,</p>

System Goals	Objectives: <i>What are we doing to achieve the shared vision?</i>	Action Steps: <i>How do we get there?</i>	Timeline	Responsible Partners
		<p>advocacy responses related to the needs of YYA in WV.</p> <p>2.2: Create opportunities for young people to speak at local, state, and national advocacy events.</p> <p>3.1: Outline the current needs of YYA to articulate how a peer support group for youth enrolled in housing programs will promote overall well-being, connection, and stability.</p> <p>3.2: Determine the cost of a youth peer support program and target areas through anonymous youth client surveys.</p> <p>3.3: YAB coordination with BBH and YHDP lead agency to articulate to legislatures and funders on how a youth peer support program will benefit and support YYA in housing.</p>	legislative session.	BJS, WVDE), YHDP lead agency
Bolstering Discharge Planning resources for both Juvenile Justice and Foster Care Systems	<p>1. Pre-Discharge Preparation to reduce exits to unstable housing and homelessness</p> <p>2. Expand Post-Discharge Housing Options for YYA</p> <p>3. Enhance Service Navigation/Resource Connection for YYA</p>	<p>1.1: Expand discharge protocols to include new and future housing resources for YYA housing plan.</p> <p>1.2: Expand youth navigation resources to each CoC region.</p> <p>1.3: Improved data collection and sharing among state systems to quickly identify and</p>	<p>1.1: Fall 2022- Winter 2023</p> <p>1.2: Fall 2022</p> <p>1.3: Immediate (quarterly)</p> <p>2.1: Summer/Fall 2022</p> <p>3.1 – 3.2: Fall/Winter 2022</p>	<p>1.1: YAB, BSS, BJS, YHDP Lead agency</p> <p>1.2: YHDP Core Planning Team</p> <p>1.3: BSS, BJS, Probation, WVDE, Head Start, Higher Ed, BBH, Workforce WV, BPH and YHDP Lead agency (include CoC & HMIS staff)</p>

System Goals	Objectives: <i>What are we doing to achieve the shared vision?</i>	Action Steps: <i>How do we get there?</i>	Timeline	Responsible Partners
	4. Outreach and Training for Child Welfare and Justice partners	<p>meet the needs of youth with system involvement.</p> <p>2.1: Creation of low-barrier crisis/transitional housing and permanent housing options through YHDP, FYI and other funding streams.</p> <p>3.1: Expansion of youth navigation resources in each region of the CoC through YHDP funding.</p> <p>3.2: Streamline training protocol on best practices for all staff of newly funded YHDP projects.</p> <p>4.1: Outreach and training to homeless services, foster care, and juvenile justice/probation staff to improve local coordination and ensure no youth is discharged without a stable housing plan.</p>	4.1: Immediate (on-going)	<p>2.1: YAB, YHDP Core Planning Team, YHDP-Funded agencies</p> <p>3.1: YAB, YHDP Core Planning Team, YHDP-Funded agencies</p> <p>3.2: YAB, YHDP Core Planning Team, YHDP Lead agency (include CoC staff), Collaborative Solutions, YHDP-Funded agencies</p> <p>4.1: YAB, YHDP Lead agency, YHDP Core Planning Team, Collaborative Solutions</p>
Refinement of CES process to best serve YYA	<p>1. Ensure Equitable Access to Homeless Services System</p> <p>2. Enhance existing CES Prioritization process for youth</p> <p>3. Continue to streamline CES Referral process with new and existing housing providers</p>	<p>1.1: Increase CES outreach and advertising efforts by region to agencies that serve youth, college campuses, and community stakeholders.</p> <p>1.2: On-going analysis of HMIS data to ensure that marginalized groups</p>	<p>1.1: Summer/Fall 2022</p> <p>1.2: Immediate (quarterly)</p> <p>1.3: Fall/Winter 2022</p> <p>2.1: Winter/Spring 2022</p>	<p>1.1 – 1.3 YAB, YHDP/ CoC/ HMIS/ CES Lead agency, CES access points</p> <p>2.1 – 2.3 YAB, YHDP/ CoC/ HMIS/ CES Lead agency, CES access points</p>

System Goals	Objectives: <i>What are we doing to achieve the shared vision?</i>	Action Steps: <i>How do we get there?</i>	Timeline	Responsible Partners
		<p>are easily accessing resources in a timely manner.</p> <p>1.3: Training for all CES access points to increase knowledge of youth-specific resources for the purposes of Diversion and quick resource connection.</p> <p>2.1: Re-evaluate prioritization criteria for youth to include equity data and subpopulation needs.</p> <p>2.2: Expand youth prioritization meetings to all CoC regions.</p> <p>2.3: Provide training to CES access points for identifying youth and quickly connecting them with services.</p> <p>3.1: Provide training to homeless services providers on age-appropriate services, low-barrier services to youth.</p> <p>3.2: Coordination among CES and housing providers serving youth to quickly identify safe, temporary housing, while housing resources are being located.</p>	<p>2.2: Ongoing; finalized Fall/ Winter 2022</p> <p>2.3: Fall/ Winter 2022</p> <p>3.1 – 3.2: Fall/ Winter 2022</p>	<p>3.1 – 3.2 YHDP/ CoC/ CES Lead agency, CoC, ESG, & YHDP-funded agencies; PHAs</p>
<p>Develop partnerships across all levels of Education and Employment</p>	<p>1. Outreach and Training for Education and Employment partners</p>	<p>1.1: Meet individually with leadership of Education and Employment Partners.</p>	<p>1.1: Immediate</p> <p>1.2: February 2022</p> <p>1.3 Ongoing</p>	<p>1.1 – 1.3: YHDP Lead agency, National Center for Homeless</p>

System Goals	Objectives: <i>What are we doing to achieve the shared vision?</i>	Action Steps: <i>How do we get there?</i>	Timeline	Responsible Partners
<p>providers to better support at-risk and homeless YYA.</p>	<p>2. Increase identification of homeless YYA in the local school system and pregnant/ parenting YYA with children enrolled in early childhood education.</p> <p>3. Identify options for gap housing on college campuses</p> <p>4. Connection to SOAR-trained staff when appropriate</p> <p>5. Expansion of child care resources for pregnant and parenting youth.</p>	<p>1.2: Schedule and host convenings with Education and Employment partners</p> <p>1.3: Ongoing engagement and relationship building with Education and Employment partners.</p> <p>2.1: Develop and maintain relationships with WVDE, Early Head Start, Head Start, and Pre-K (state and local levels).</p> <p>2.2: Improved data collection and sharing to quickly identify unaccompanied, TAY, and pregnant/ parenting YYA in the school system.</p> <p>3.1: Outreach to High Ed Policy Commission and universities/ colleges in the CoC.</p> <p>3.2: Expand survey completed at Glenville State to identify the needs of college students related to food and housing insecurity.</p> <p>3.3: Identify sustainable funding options to support the need for gap housing in between semesters.</p> <p>3.4: Expand outreach efforts to community colleges and trade schools.</p> <p>4.1: Identify which populations currently</p>	<p>2.1: Immediate (Ongoing)</p> <p>2.2: Summer/ Fall 2022</p> <p>3.1: Immediate</p> <p>3.2: Summer/Fall 2022</p> <p>3.3 Winter/ Spring 2023</p> <p>3.4: Immediate (Ongoing)</p> <p>4.1– 4.2 Winter/ Spring 2023</p> <p>5.1 Summer/Fall 2023</p>	<p>Education (NCHE), YAB</p> <p>2.1: WVDE, Head Start (statewide), YHDP Lead agency, local school systems, local Early Head Start programs, and local Head Start programs, local Pre-K programs, YAB, NCHE</p> <p>2.2: WVDE, Head Start, YHDP Lead agency (include HMIS staff), YAB, NCHE</p> <p>3.1 – 3.4: NCHE, YHDP Lead agency, YAB</p> <p>4.1– 4.2: SOAR TA Center, YHDP/SOAR Lead agency, BSS, BJS, Workforce WV</p> <p>5.1: WVCEH Policy Team, YAB, Education & Employment providers</p>

System Goals	Objectives: <i>What are we doing to achieve the shared vision?</i>	Action Steps: <i>How do we get there?</i>	Timeline	Responsible Partners
		<p>have access to SOAR services and where increased access is needed.</p> <p>4.2: Provide training to partners on identifying youth exiting state systems that may be eligible for SSA benefits.</p> <p>5.1: Create advocacy opportunities at the local and state level for the expansion of child care infrastructure and services.</p>		
Expand behavioral health and peer support options for YYA	<p>1. Expand Mental Health treatment options for minors to reduce incarceration of unaccompanied minors for non-violent offenses</p> <p>2. Expand MH/SUD treatment options in the community for YYA (e.g. youth drop-in centers)</p> <p>3. Develop Peer Support Group in collaboration with YAB (<i>see YAB System Goal above</i>)</p>	<p>1.1: Work with BJS, BBH, and BSS to conduct a cost analysis of incarcerating non-violent juveniles without a housing option.</p> <p>1.2: Advocate for a shift in funding to expand youth mental health treatment to serve youth with IDD and Autism Spectrum Disorder whose needs exceed the capacity of Residential Treatment Facilities.</p> <p>2.1: Increase resources for Community Mental Health center to serve high-need and vulnerable YYA.</p> <p>2.2 Expand drop-in centers for at-risk youth.</p>	<p>1.1 – 1.2: Fall 2022/ Winter 2023</p> <p>2.1 – 2.2: Fall 2023/ Winter 2024</p> <p>3.1: Summer/Fall 2022 to prep for 2023 legislative session</p>	<p>1.1 – 1.2: YAB, YHDP lead agency, YHDP Core Team, BJS, BBH, BSS</p> <p>2.1 – 2.2: YAB, YHDP lead agency, YHDP Core Team, BBH, local behavioral health programs</p> <p>3.1: YAB, CoC Steering Committee, BBH, YHDP lead agency</p>

System Goals	Objectives: <i>What are we doing to achieve the shared vision?</i>	Action Steps: <i>How do we get there?</i>	Timeline	Responsible Partners
		<p>3.1 Coordination among YAB, YHDP Lead agency, and BBH to articulate a clear purpose and goal for developing/expanding a Peer Support program targeting YYA.</p>		
<p>Uplifting Equity across systems and eliminating disparities in services for YYA.</p>	<p>1. Funded agencies receive training on evidence-based practices and low-barrier services</p> <p>2. Ongoing data analysis on service provision (by agency and across systems)</p> <p>3. Engage community stakeholders to increase resource awareness in marginalized communities</p>	<p>1.1: Review shelter and housing service standards that could allow for differential treatment.</p> <p>1.2: Provide training to shelter and housing programs on how to shift from program punishment to TIC consequences.</p> <p>1.3: Streamline training requirements for all YHDP-funded agencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Positive Youth Development (PYD) ▪ Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) ▪ Family Engagement ▪ Housing First ▪ Youth Choice ▪ Individualized and Client Driven Support ▪ Social and Community Integration ▪ Equity and Cultural Competency <p>2.1: Measure, collect, analyze, and utilize customer</p>	<p>1.1 – 1.3: Fall 2022/ Winter 2023</p> <p>2.1 – 2.2: Immediate (On-going)</p> <p>3.1: Winter/ Spring 2023</p> <p>3.2 – 3.3: Winter/ Spring 2022</p>	<p>1.1 – 1.3: YHDP/CoC Lead agency, BSS (WV DHHR contract shelters), ESG Grantee, YAB</p> <p>2.1 – 2.2: YHDP/HMIS lead agency, YAB, YHDP Core Planning Team, Collaborative Solutions, C4</p> <p>3.1 – 3.3: TCU, Collaborative Solutions, C4, YHDP/CoC Lead agency (also FHEO grantee), YAB, YHDP Core Planning Team</p>

System Goals	Objectives: <i>What are we doing to achieve the shared vision?</i>	Action Steps: <i>How do we get there?</i>	Timeline	Responsible Partners
		service qualitative data and disaggregate by protected classes. 2.2: Map YYA homeless services by county to identify gaps in service. 3.1: Technical assistance to establish best practices for recruitment of staff and board members who reflect the population served. 3.2: Engage community to determine need in underserved areas (e.g. surveys, listening sessions). 3.3 Integrate the work of the newly awarded HUD Fair Housing grant to identify the needs of marginalized communities in WV.		

List of New Potential Projects

In preparation for the FY 2019/20 YHDP Project Selection Process, the YHDP lead agency in partnership with the YAB released a Letter of Interest (LOI) to their CoC-wide community partner network. Agencies desiring to participate in the FY2019/20 WV BoS CoC YHDP project application process for YHDP were asked to submit a LOI outlining the scope of their project, targeted youth subpopulations, and community need for the project. In preparation for the application process, agencies were also asked to complete a list of questions in their LOI to outline their project plan to increase access to crisis response and permanent housing for youth, reduce barriers to service, and enhance community resource connection to promote overall wellbeing and stability among the youth they intend to serve.

YHDP applicants will be required to explain how they will implement Positive Youth Development (PYD) & Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) practices into their service delivery. This includes how they plan to ensure they are making the following considerations:

- Age, developmental stage, and life stage considerations
- Gender considerations
- Cultural considerations
- Language and literacy considerations
- Physical and social position considerations

Through qualitative and quantitative data analysis, the following project types were proposed.

Supportive Services Only: Coordinated Entry System (Diversion and System Navigation)	
Purpose	This project model is dedicated to providing client-driven supportive services to help problem-solving housing crisis with young people. Types of activities will include providing system coordination and navigation, discharge planning support alongside state systems, homelessness diversion, and other creative problem-solving services to keep experiences of homelessness among YYA rare, brief, and nonrecurring.
Target Population	Unaccompanied youth and young adults under the age of 25, including pregnant and parenting youth plus all special population groups. HUD Homeless Categories 1, 2, and 4.
Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project design must include broad advertising efforts to marginalized communities to ensure equitable access resources. • Authentically collaborate with YAB and CoC lead agency on the design and continuous improvement of the project. • Support CES, CoC, and HMIS Lead staff with refining the CES to support the unique needs of YYA. • Provide system navigation support. • Connect YYA to individual and client-driven supports. • Promote youth choice in the referral and housing match process. • Participate in the WV HMIS Statewide Implementation. • Adhere to all values and principles set forth in this document and in the WV BoS CoC CES Guidance. • Serve the designated area within the WV BoS CoC. • Build and maintain partnerships with education, employment, foster care, juvenile justice, and behavioral health providers in each WV BoS CoC region through community education and outreach, and collaboration with WV BoS CoC policy team and state agencies to conduct system monitoring for future policy recommendations.
Desired Outcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with state systems to develop creative solutions for unaccompanied minors and youth aging out who are experiencing housing instability and homelessness. • Increase identification of YYA across education systems who are at-risk or experiencing homelessness. • Connect participants to networks of available resources to meet housing, educational, and social/emotional needs. • Improving partnerships with postsecondary, spread awareness of education pathways, on campus supports, tuition assistance. • Participants achieve self-sufficiency and meet self-determined goals.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of a YYA informed CES prioritization and referral process. • Youth can be diverted from shelters to safe alternative housing options with supports. • Increase access to navigators for system-involved youth. • Continue to improve awareness of how couch surfing/doubled up young people can fit into the HUD categories of homelessness.
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Supportive Services Only: Street Outreach, Service Navigation, and Drop-In Center

Purpose	<p>This project model is dedicated to providing Street Outreach and Service Navigation, which will operate as CES access points for YYA who are at-risk and experiencing homelessness. Street Outreach and Service Navigation focuses primarily on supporting YYA with accessing safe, temporary housing with the ultimate goal of permanent housing by building trusting relationships and ongoing rapport with YYA participants. Street Outreach and Service Navigators will seek to engage YYA living unsheltered or in an emergency shelter, discharging from a state system without a stable housing plan, and/or identified by the school system or other community provider as at-risk of homelessness.</p> <p>This component also includes Drop-In Centers, which serve as a physical space designed to offer basic needs assistance, connection to other systems, and diversion service. Target population, Requirements, and Desired Outcomes for Drop-In Centers are the same as Street Outreach and Service Navigation programs.</p>
Target Population	Unaccompanied youth and young adults under the age of 25, including pregnant and parenting youth plus all special population groups. HUD Homeless Categories 1, 2, and 4.
Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer services to YYA in a culturally competent and trauma-informed manner. • Provide links to mainstream services, and use diversion and problem-solving techniques to connect YYA with safe, temporary housing options whenever possible. • Utilizing a person-centered and strength-based approach is necessary during all interactions with YYA participants. • Create service support plans based upon the specific needs, and presenting issues of the YYA, and leverage the strengths of the individual to help them create and take action on a plan to resolve their homelessness. • Harm reduction practices shall be supported by Street Outreach and Service Navigation staff to help address risks and potential harms related to use of alcohol and other drugs and/or participation in sex work by YYA. All staff shall be conversant in, and practice harm reduction strategies that do not require access to harm reduction supplies, and also be cognizant of how to access and deploy harm reduction supplies. • Coordination with the state systems, community providers, CES, Emergency Housing, and Permanent Housing providers in designated region to keep experiences of homelessness among YYA rare, brief, and nonrecurring. • Assist participants with obtaining vital documents that are often required when signing a lease. • Participate in the CES YYA prioritization meetings and WV HMIS Statewide Implementation. • Adhere to all values and principles set forth in this document and in the WV BoS CoC CES Guidance.

Desired Outcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The primary and ultimate goal of Street Outreach and Service Navigation is to find affordable housing for each YYA • Enhance access to voluntary wrap-around services needed to stay healthy, including employment, substance use treatment and mental health care. • Collaborate with state systems to develop creative solutions for unaccompanied minors and youth aging out who are experiencing housing instability and homelessness. • Participants achieve self-sufficiency and meet self-determined goals. • Youth can be diverted from shelter to safe alternative housing options with supports. • Increased identification of young people in the school system and with state system involvement to improve access to resources. • Communities have a more accurate count of youth experiencing homelessness. • Youth engage in service intervention and exit homelessness. • Continue to improve awareness of how couch surfing/doubled up young people can fit into the HUD categories of homelessness.
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Transitional Housing (including Crisis Residential Transitional Housing)	
Purpose	<p>Transitional housing (TH) is a housing intervention that provides YYA with medium term housing and supportive services with a connection to permanent housing. TH programs are designed to empower youth in achieving self-sufficiency and housing. TH may serve as an intervention for YYA who need some additional supports prior to moving into permanent housing or as a crisis shelter for youth exiting from a state system or coming from the street with no immediate access to permanent housing.</p> <p>TH projects may provide assistance through leasing or rental assistance for up to 24 months. Project may be scattered site or congregate setting. Intensity, duration, and array of services are customized and unique to each TH program and youth participant.</p>
Target Population	Unaccompanied YYA under the age of 25, including pregnant and parenting youth plus all special population groups. HUD Homeless Categories 1, 2, and 4.
Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project design must address how they will create a safe, inclusive, and affirming spaces for all YYA. • Authentically collaborate with YYA with lived expertise on the design and continuous improvement of the project. • Offer individual and client-driven supports. • Participate in the CES YYA prioritization meetings and WV HMIS Statewide Implementation. All referrals for TH will be conducted through the CES referral process. • Adhere to all values and principles set forth in this document and in the WV BoS CoC CES Guidance. • Offer services to YYA in a culturally competent and trauma-informed manner. • Provide links to mainstream services, and provide problem-solving case management. • Utilizing a person-centered and strength-based approach is necessary during all interactions with YYA participants. • Assist participants with obtaining vital documents that are often required when signing a lease.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create service support plans based upon the specific needs, and presenting issues of the YYA, and leverage the strengths of the individual to help them create and take action on a plan toward housing stability. • Build and maintain partnerships with education, employment, foster care, juvenile justice, and behavioral health providers in each WV BoS CoC region. • Harm reduction practices shall be supported by Housing Stabilization and Service Navigation staff to help address risks and potential harms related to use of alcohol and other drugs and/or participation in sex work by YYA. All staff shall be conversant in, and practice, harm reduction strategies that do not require access to harm reduction supplies, and also be cognizant of how to access and deploy harm reduction supplies. • Operate low-barrier services utilizing a Housing First philosophy. • Collaborate with local Public Housing Authority and other subsidized properties in the project service area to assist YYA with connecting to longer-term housing subsidies when appropriate.
Desired Outcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the amount of supportive services available for YYA and develop a more equitable geographic distribution of services throughout the region. • Provide creative solutions for YYA experiencing housing instability and homelessness in WV BoS CoC to engage in services and exit homelessness. • Connect participants to networks of available resources to achieve housing stability, improve educational pathways, and support social/emotional needs. • Participants achieve self-sufficiency and meet self-determined goals. • Support youth in achieving key education, employment, income, health, and well-being goals. • Lasting connections to community.

Rapid Re-Housing	
Purpose	<p>Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) is a housing program designed to quickly connect YYA experiencing homelessness to permanent housing through a tailored package of assistance that may include the use of time-limited financial assistance and targeted supportive services. All RRH programs are based on the established core components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Housing Identification Assistance; 2. Financial Assistance—rent and move-in assistance; and 3. Case Management and Supportive Services <p>Participants may receive up to 24 months of dynamic and flexible rental and supportive service assistance. Intensity, duration, and array of services are customized and unique to each RRH participant.</p>
Target Population	Unaccompanied youth and young adults under the age of 25, including pregnant and parenting youth plus all special population groups. HUD Homeless Categories 1, 2, and 4.
Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project must provide housing search and identification assistance, financial assistance for rent and move-in costs; and case management and supportive services. • Assist YYA with understanding the terms of a rental lease and responsibilities of being a good neighbor. • Project design must address how they will create a safe, inclusive and affirming spaces for all YYA.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in the CES YYA prioritization meetings and WV HMIS Statewide Implementation. All referrals for RRH will be conducted through the CES referral process. • Adhere to all values and principles set forth in this document and in the WV BoS CoC CES and RRH Guidance. • Offer services to YYA in a culturally competent and trauma-informed manner. • Authentically collaborate with YYA with lived expertise on the design and continuous improvement of the project. • Offer individual and client driven supports. • Offer services to YYA in a culturally competent and trauma-informed manner. • Provide links to mainstream services, and provide problem-solving case management. • Assist YYA to with increasing income through employment and/or education pathways, develop budgeting skills, and paying rent portion, toward the ultimate goal of paying full rent. • Utilizing a person-centered and strength-based approach is necessary during all interactions with YYA participants. • Create service support plans based upon the specific needs and presenting issues of the YYA and leverage the strengths of the individual to help them create and take action on a plan toward housing stability. • Build and maintain partnerships with education, employment, foster care, juvenile justice, and behavioral health providers in each WV BoS CoC region. • Harm reduction practices shall be supported by Housing Stabilization and Service Navigation staff to help address risks and potential harms related to use of alcohol and other drugs and/or participation in sex work by YYA. All staff shall be conversant in, and practice, harm reduction strategies that do not require access to harm reduction supplies, and also be cognizant of how to access and deploy harm reduction supplies. • Operate low-barrier services utilizing a Housing First philosophy. • Collaborate with local Public Housing Authority and other subsidized properties in the project service area to assist YYA with connecting to longer-term housing subsidies when appropriate.
Desired Outcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the amount of supportive services available for YYA and develop a more equitable geographic distribution of services throughout the region. • Provide creative solutions for YYA experiencing housing instability and homelessness in WV BoS CoC to engage in services and exit homelessness. • Connect participants to networks of available resources to achieve housing stability, improve educational pathways, and support social/emotional needs. • Participants achieve self-sufficiency and meet self-determined goals. • Support youth in achieving key education, employment, income, health, and well-being goals. • Lasting connections to community.

Joint Transitional Housing and Rapid Re-Housing Component	
Purpose	The Joint TH and PH-RRH component project combines two existing program components– Transitional Housing and Permanent Housing-Rapid Re-Housing– in a single project to serve YYA experiencing homelessness. The ultimate goal of the program is to connect YYA with permanent and stable housing, while ensuring client choice throughout this process. This project type is intended to be a means to increase a

	<p>community’s crisis housing capacity, while maintaining a focus on getting youth connected with permanent housing as quickly as possible.</p> <p>Participants may receive up to 24 total months of assistance between both components. Intensity, duration, and array of services are customized and unique to each TH-RRH participant. Participants may choose to utilize only RRH component of the project and are not required to utilize the TH component.</p>
Target Population	Unaccompanied youth and young adults under the age of 25, including pregnant and parenting youth plus all special population groups. HUD Homeless Categories 1, 2, and 4.
Requirements	<i>See both TH and RRH requirements listed above.</i>
Desired Outcome	<i>See both TH and RRH desired outcomes listed above.</i>

HMIS (CoC Lead Agency Only)	
Purpose	<p>A Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is a local information technology system used to collect client-level data and data on the provision of housing and services to individuals, youth, and families who are at- risk and experiencing homelessness. Each Continuum of Care (CoC) is responsible for selecting an HMIS software solution that complies with HUD’s data collection, management, and reporting standards.</p> <p>The purpose of this project will be to expand the existing HMIS lead agency team to support data sharing and analysis across state systems that serve YYA. This project will also support training and technical assistance to HUD, HHS, state and privately-funded youth projects to ensure data quality and adherence to CoC performance standards.</p>
Target Population	Unaccompanied youth and young adults under the age of 25, including pregnant and parenting youth plus all special population groups. HUD Homeless Categories 1, 2, and 4.
Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authentically collaborate with YAB and CoC lead agency on the design and continuous improvement of the project. • Support CES, CoC, and HMIS Lead staff with refining the CES to support the unique needs of YYA. • Adhere to all values and principles set forth in this document and in the WV BoS CoC Guidance and HMIS Statewide Data Quality Policies and Procedures. • Authentically collaborate with YYA with lived expertise on the design and continuous improvement of the project. • Provide ongoing training and technical assistance to youth projects utilizing the HMIS for reporting purposes. • Collaborate with the CoC lead agency on the development of cross-system partnerships to create mechanisms for sharing data to evaluate project performance and system impact.
Desired Outcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with state systems to develop creative solutions for sharing data of unaccompanied minors and youth aging out who are experiencing housing instability and homelessness for the enhancement of services. • Improve methods for identification of YYA across education systems who are at-risk or experiencing homelessness. • Creation of a YYA informed CES prioritization and referral process. • Youth-informed data collection process.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify trends and improve methods for resource allocation across the CoC. • Support the CoC and HMIS lead agency in the CoC monitoring and rating and ranking process, as it relates to youth specific projects.
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Continuous Quality Improvement

The CoC monitors all providers, including the few current youth providers, through an intense annual monitoring process in collaboration with the WV ESG Grantee and WV DHHR throughout the WV BoS CoC. Monitoring criteria includes: HUD Performance Measures on an agency level, client eligibility, agency utilization of housing first, adherence to CoC guidance, appropriate use of evidence-based tools, appropriate financial controls and processes, and HMIS accuracy and completeness. The CoC provides feedback to agencies via a comprehensive monitoring score card and a request for agencies to submit a quality improvement plan for CoC-funded programs that do not meet minimum threshold. The CoC provides comprehensive Technical Assistance and training to agencies that request help as a result of monitoring deficiencies as a way to improve program performance. The CoC also provides multiple venues for training throughout the year.

Moving forward the CoC will work closely with the YAB and YHDP Core Planning Team to develop a YHDP Rating and Ranking committee led by youth members. The YAB Chair will work with the CoC staff to develop a score card for the Rating and Ranking of YHDP projects, and the CoC will offer training to YAB members in preparation of this process on YHDP and CoC eligible costs, client-centered supports, and the rating and ranking process. Once YHDP project funds are awarded and operational, project performance will be analyzed utilizing HMIS and cross-systems data to determine opportunities for improvement. The YHDP/CoC lead agency and YAB will offer training on youth-centered services and evidence-based practice for serving YYA to ensure high-quality and equitable services across the CoC. The YHDP/CoC lead agency will also work closely with the YAB and YHDP Core Planning Team to develop parameters for monitoring youth-specific programs to ensure Positive Youth Development & Trauma-Informed Care best practices are being followed as part of the Continuous Quality Improvement process. When YHDP funded projects are renewed through CoC funding, YAB members from the YHDP rating and ranking committee will be provided the opportunity to serve on the CoC’s Rating and Ranking subcommittee.

Signatures of CCP Approval

WV Division of Economic Development, Community Advancement & Development Office

Name/Title: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

WV BoS CoC Youth Action Board

Name/Title (Chair): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

WV BoS Continuum of Care Lead Agency

Name/Title: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

WV BoS Continuum of Care Steering Committee

Name/Title (Co-chair): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name/Title (Co-chair): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Children's Home Society of WV (RHY-funded provider)

Name/Title: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

WV Bureau for Social Services

Name/Title: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

WV Department of Education

Name/Title: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

WV Bureau of Juvenile Services

Name/Title: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Supreme Court of Appeals of WV, Division of Probation Services

Name/Title: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

WV Bureau for Behavioral Health

Name/Title: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Workforce WV

Name/Title: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

WV CASA

Name/Title: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Appendix I: Glossary

Balance of State (BoS) – Most Continuums of Care (CoC) were originally established to plan services to prevent and end homelessness in metropolitan areas “cities”. BoS CoCs cover the areas of a state that do not have the resources to establish their own CoC. WVCEH is the designated BoS CoC lead agency for West Virginia.

Bureau for Behavioral Health (BBH) – A division of the WV Department of Health and Human Resources (WV DHHR) and the federally designated State Authority for mental health and substance abuse, as well as the lead agency for intellectual and developmental disabilities and provides planning, direction, training and funding for prevention, treatment and recovery services throughout the state.

Bureau for Social Services (BSS) – A division of the WV Department of Health and Human Resources (WV DHHR) that oversees Child Protective Service, Youth Services, Foster Care Services, and Adult Protective Services.

Bureau of Juvenile Service (BJS) – A division of the WV Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation which oversees juvenile centers/facilities and youth day report. It is important to note here that juvenile probation is under the Supreme Court of Appeal of WV, Division of Probation Services.

Coordinated Community Plan (CCP) – Your community has to complete this before you can fund new projects with YHDP money. The CCP “threshold” requirements are detailed in the YHDP NOFO Appendix B. Big-picture, the requirements outlined this document include:

Threshold 1: Statement of need

Threshold 2: Communitywide stakeholder engagement in planning process

- Youth Action Board (YAB) which includes youth with lived experience of homelessness, juvenile justice, and/or foster care involvement, in addition to, local and statewide adult partners.
- Homeless system partners (recipients of CoC, ESG, RHY, etc.)
- Cross-system partners (child welfare, justice, education, behavioral health, landlords, etc.)

Threshold 3:

- Mission, vision, & action plan for ending youth homelessness
- Governance & decision-making structure
- List of new projects to be funded by YHDP & other entities
- Signature pages

Threshold 4: Key principles

Coordinated Entry System (CES) – An approach to coordination and management of a crisis response system’s resources that allows users to make consistent decisions from available information to efficiently and effectively connect people to the appropriate intervention, in the

right order, in the most objective & efficient manner possible. WVCEH serves as the CES lead agency and operates the CES Intake Line.

Continuum of Care (CoC) – This can mean 3 different things:

- “The CoC” means the folks from a designated lead agency (WV Coalition to End Homelessness) responsible for planning your local homelessness system (JJ, Lauren, and Zack work for the WVCEH who serves as the CoC and YHDP lead agency).
- “The CoC” also means the whole geography or area that works together to end homelessness – in this case, all the community partners working to end homelessness in the 44 counties is the WV Balance of State CoC’s area.
- “The CoC Program” is one of the pots of federal funding that goes out to CoCs around the BoS toward ending homelessness.

Diversion – A strategy that prevents homelessness for people seeking shelter by helping them identify immediate alternate housing arrangements and, if necessary, connecting them with services and financial assistance to help them return to permanent housing. Diversion programs can reduce the number of families becoming homeless, the demand for shelter beds, and the size of program wait lists.

Emergency Shelter (ES) – A place for people to live temporarily when they cannot live in their previous residence. This includes programs that provide motel vouchers to persons experiencing homelessness. Emergency shelters assist persons experiencing homelessness in regaining permanent housing. It is important to note here that ES is different than a youth crisis shelter whose purpose is to serve as an emergency placement of minors in state’s custody.

Foster Youth to Independence Initiative (FYI) – Public Housing Authorities (PHA) partnering with Public Child Welfare Agencies (PCWA) may request Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV) in the form of Tenant Protection Vouchers (TPV) to assist eligible youth for a period of 36 months, subject to availability. Eligible youth must meet the following conditions:

- Has attained at least 18 years and not more than 24 years of age;
- 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 at age 16 or older; and
- Is homeless or is at risk of becoming homeless.

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) – A local information technology system used to collect client-level data and data on the provision of housing and services to homeless individuals and families and persons at risk of homelessness. The information system designated by the Continuum of Care must comply with the HMIS requirements prescribed by HUD. The HMIS used in West Virginia Statewide HMIS Implementation, which includes all four CoCs, is ServicePoint.

Homeless System – All of the services and housing available to persons who are literally homeless.

Housing Prioritization Guide – A guide, or multiple guides by population group, of persons who are experiencing homelessness in the CoC and imminently “house-able”. This list is created and managed within HMIS. The CES staff oversee the housing guide along with a larger list of those who are engaged in services, but may still need additional information prior to connecting with appropriate housing intervention. Street Outreach staff and Emergency Shelters are linked to CES to assist with those who are not yet engaged and maintain engagement with those who are on the list.

[Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#) – HUD released the YHDP NOFO earlier this year, which told CoCs across the country that they had an opportunity to apply for YHDP. The NOFO explains what YHDP is, the requirements to participate, and what the awarded money can and can’t be used for (see YHDP NOFO Appendix A for YHDP project selection and award details).

[Rapid Re-Housing \(RRH\)](#) – A housing intervention designed to help individuals and families quickly exit homelessness and return to permanent housing. RRH assistance is offered without preconditions and the resources and services provided are tailored to the unique needs of the household.

[Runaway and Homeless Youth Act \(RHYA\)](#) – Defines homeless youth as individuals who are “not more than 21 years of age...for whom it is not possible to live in a safe environment with a relative and who have no other safe alternative living arrangement.” This definition includes only those youth who are unaccompanied by families or caregivers.

[Permanent Supportive Housing \(PSH\)](#) – A housing intervention that combines housing assistance with voluntary support services to address the needs of chronically homeless people. PSH assistance is offered without preconditions and the resources and services provided are longer-term and more intensive than RRH, while still tailoring to the unique needs of the household.

[Street Outreach \(SO\)](#) – A project type that meets people experiencing homelessness where they live and provides supportive services, advocacy, and access to emergency services and housing options.

[Transition Age Youth \(TAY\)](#) – persons between age 18 and 24 who are transitioning from childhood to adulthood.

[Transitional Housing \(TH\)](#) – A time-limited housing intervention that combines housing assistance with support services to address the needs of people experiencing homelessness. TH is an expensive intervention and is not effective if operating on the premises of “housing readiness”. TH can be effective if utilized for specific populations, such as youth, or as triage when other housing options are not available.

[Unaccompanied Youth \(or Minors\)](#) – persons who are under 18 years old, who are not part of a family with children, and who are not accompanied by their parent or guardian during their episode of homelessness or when they present for services.

[U.S. Department of Education](#) – Federal agency that provides funding and oversight to state Departments of Education (e.g. WV Department of Education). The McKinney Vento Act defines homeless youth as youth who “lack a fixed, regular, and nighttime residence” or an “individual who has a primary nighttime residence that is a) a supervised or publicly operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations; b) an institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill; or c) a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.” This definition includes both youth who are unaccompanied by families and those who are homeless with their families. For additional information on the McKinney-Vento Definition of Homelessness: <https://nche.ed.gov/mckinney-vento-definition/>.

[U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\)](#) – Federal agency that allocates and oversees different types of housing programs across the nation, including YHDP. The HEARTH Act defines homelessness as:

- An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, such as those living in emergency shelters, transitional housing, or places not meant for habitation,
- An individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence (within 14 days), provided that no subsequent housing has been identified and the individual/family lacks support networks or resources needed to obtain housing, or
- Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age, or families with children and youth who qualify under other Federal statutes, such as the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, have not had a lease or ownership interest in a housing unit in the last 60 or more days, have had two or more moves in the last 60 days, and who are likely to continue to be unstably housed because of disability or multiple barriers to employment, or
- An individual or family who is fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, has no other residence, and lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing.

For additional information on the HUD Homeless Definition for child and youth: <https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/HUDs-Homeless-Definition-as-it-Relates-to-Children-and-Youth.pdf>

[VI-SPDAT](#), [VI-F-SPDAT](#), [TAY-VI-SPDAT](#) – Vulnerability Index-Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool; Vulnerability Index-Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool for Families; and Transition-Age Youth Vulnerability Index-Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool are the standardized triage tools used in the CES. The VI-SPDAT is designed to be used by all providers within the CES to quickly assess the health and social needs of people experiencing homelessness to match them with the most appropriate support and housing interventions that are available. The VI-SPDAT score is part of a dynamic prioritization process that also considers an array of factors such as length of time homeless, tri-morbidity, and household size.

[WV Coalition to End Homelessness \(WVCEH\)](#) – Serves multiple roles as the Lead Agency for the WV BoS CoC, YHDP planning and implementation, HMIS which is local information technology system used to collect client-level data on household need and housing and services provided to at-risk and homeless individuals, youth, and families, and CES which is process developed to ensure that all people experiencing a housing crisis have fair and equal access and are quickly identified, assessed for, referred, and connected to housing and assistance based on their strengths and needs. WVCEH also oversees the emergency shelters throughout the state funded through WV Department of Health and Human Resources (WV DHHR), Bureau for Social Services (BSS), and operates as a direct service provider that provides street outreach, housing support services, and peer recovery services directly to clients of all ages.

[Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act \(WIOA\)](#) – Designed to help job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the labor market and to match employers with the skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy.

[Youth Action Board \(YAB\)](#) – a subcommittee of the WV BoS CoC Steering Committee led by youth with lived experience, front line staff and state entities whose primary function is to provide input and offer policy recommendations to CoC Steering Committee, as it relates specifically to unaccompanied and transition age youth. The YAB also facilitates coordination among state and local partners and assists youth services providers across the CoC with best practice recommendations and in preparing for upcoming funding opportunities as they arise to serve youth at-risk and experiencing homelessness.

[YYA](#) – Youth and young adults who have experienced or are experiencing homelessness.

[Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program \(YHDP\)](#) – Refers to the funding stream for the community planning process and proposed projects to address youth homelessness.

Appendix II: Stakeholders Descriptions

Youth Action Board

Established in 2019, the YAB, in partnership with the YHDP lead agency, works to raise awareness of existing programs that homeless youth may not be aware they may benefit from, create new housing and support programs to best serve youth throughout the WV BoS CoC, and improve communication between state systems that serve youth and young adults. Members of the YAB work with an array of state and local providers, including but not limited to, housing/homeless services, foster care, justice, education, employment, behavioral health, and healthcare to provide support to those aging out of the foster care and juvenile justice systems and connect them with mental health and substance use services, financial aid for youth interested in college, employment preparation, assistance in gathering vital documents, linkage to safe and stable housing, and connection to community support. By connecting youth to these resources, the YAB believes that the success rate increases with finding housing, sustaining independence, and enhancing their overall quality of life.

Public Child Welfare Agency

The YAB and the YHDP lead agency will continue to work closely with the WV Bureau for Social Services (BSS) to assess service gaps, coordinate foster care discharge planning services, and share and analyze data to expand and target housing and support resources for youth exiting foster care. As youth resources change or expand, the BSS will be responsible for disseminating information to the Department of Health and Human Resources county offices, foster care agencies, youth crisis shelters, and residential facilities in the WV BoS CoC. The BSS will work closely with the YHDP/CoC lead agency and local Public Housing Authorities to expand the Foster Youth to Independence Initiative. The YHDP/CoC lead agency will coordinate with the BSS to pair these voucher resources with supportive services through local service providers with the goal developing an ideal cross-system approach for identifying youth at 17 years old who will be exiting foster care without a stable housing plan.

Juvenile Justice System

The YAB and the YHDP lead agency will continue to work closely with the WV Bureau of Juvenile Services (BJS) and PSIMED, the contracted Behavioral Health provider for the WV Justice System, to assess service gaps, coordinate justice discharge planning services, and share and analyze data to expand and target housing and support resources for youth currently receiving services or exiting the juvenile justice system. As youth resources change or expand, the BJS will be responsible for disseminating information to the BJS-funded facilities, Day Report Centers, and aftercare services in the WV BoS CoC. The YAB and YHDP lead agency will coordinate with the BJS and PSIMED to expand housing options and supportive services through local service providers with the goal developing an ideal cross-system approach for youth under 21 years old who will either be exiting juvenile justice facilities or are currently receiving juvenile justice services without a stable housing plan.

Juvenile/Adult Probation

The YAB and the YHDP lead agency will continue to bolster the partnership with the Supreme Court of Appeals of WV, Division of Probation Services to develop local services coordination and referral protocols among both juvenile and adult probation, and housing and homeless services providers. As youth resources change or expand, the Division of Probation Services will be responsible for disseminating information to Chiefs at each county office in the WV BoS CoC. The YAB and YHDP lead agency will coordinate with the Division of Probation Services to expand knowledge of current and future housing options and supportive services through local service providers with the goal of developing a cross-referral approach among parties to ensure that youth navigators and probation officers are working together to connect youth with wrap-around supports to maintain housing and reduce recidivism into both the justice and homeless services systems.

Early Childhood Providers

The YAB and the YHDP lead agency will work to develop a working partnership with the WV Bureau of Public Health (BPH), Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health (OMCFH), Division of Infant, Child and Adolescent Health and the WV Managed Care Organization, Aetna Better Health, to align efforts to coordinate supports for children and youth in foster care. Since 2017, WV has expanded its categorical eligibility for the Children with Special Health Care Needs Program to all children in foster care. The YAB and the YHDP lead agency will coordinate with BPH and Aetna to develop a more comprehensive system to identify risk factors, such as homelessness, for youth aging out of the foster care system. The primary goal of this partnership will be to quickly identify young families with children in need of housing, and vice versa to ensure families coming through the CoC's Coordinated Entry System are also connected with wrap around supports through early childhood providers.

Early Childhood Education

Through support of Intensive Technical Assistance by the National Center of Homeless Education, the YAB and YHDP lead agency will work to engage and create a formal cross-referral process between housing providers and early childhood education providers, such as Early Head Start and Head Start, in each WV BoS CoC region. While there is currently no formal referral protocol between housing/homelessness and early childhood education providers, it will be a primary goal to provide on-going cross-training to ensure young families with children who are experiencing homelessness are quickly connected to the CoC's Coordinated Entry System, and vice versa. Hence, once a family is connected with housing, housing stabilization staff will also have the knowledge base to quickly connect families with children to Early Head Start and Head Start.

K-12 Education

Through support of Intensive Technical Assistance by the National Center of Homeless Education, the YAB and YHDP lead agency will work to strengthen existing partnerships with the WV Department of Education. There are currently local education partners throughout pockets of WV BoS who work closely with the CoC's Coordinated Entry System to identify and assess the housing needs of young families, unaccompanied youth, and transition age youth within the school system. It is the primary goal of the YAB and YHDP lead agency to replicate and expand these efforts to

multiple local school systems throughout the WV BoS CoC, utilizing YHDP and American Rescue Plan funding in coordination with local McKinney Vento Homeless Education Liaisons and Community in Schools providers, to support additional staffing to identify and assess the needs of students and their families.

Higher Education

The YAB and YHDP lead agency have worked with smaller colleges across the WV BoS CoC to assess the needs of at-risk college students. Through support of Intensive Technical Assistance by the National Center of Homeless Education, YAB and YHDP lead agency will continue to work with existing Higher Ed partners, including the WV MODIFY (CHAFEE) program, to push this work forward and utilize best practices learned from previous YHDP communities to develop gap housing resources for at-risk and homeless college students. The YAB and YHDP lead agency will also work to engage community colleges and tech schools in this process to expand knowledge of existing resources on campus and off campus, and also recruit new YAB membership.

Healthcare

The YHDP lead agency and YAB will coordinate with the WV BPH, OMCFH, Division of Infant, Child and Adolescent Health to analyze existing data and develop methodologies to collect and share data related to the housing need of children and youth in foster care who are enrolled in the Children with Special Health Care Needs Program and/or receiving health care benefits through Aetna Better Health, the WV Managed Care Organization. Since this partnership is currently in development, the YHDP lead agency and YAB will plan to work with the BPH, the BSS, and the WV Bureau of Medical Services (BMS) to expand knowledge of YHDP and other youth-specific housing programs to medical providers, home visitation programs, and other health care programs and resources throughout the WV BoS CoC that serve children and youth.

Behavioral Health

The YHDP lead agency and YAB will collaborate with the WV Bureau for Behavioral Health (BBH) across several departments, including but not limited to prevention resources, inpatient facilities, crisis services, drop-in centers, and other community-based mental health and substance use disorder programs for youth under 25 years old. The YHDP lead agency and YAB will work with BBH to assess behavioral health service gaps for youth currently involved or recently discharged from the foster care or justice systems, and share and analyze data to expand and target supportive services and housing options for at-risk youth with mental health and substance use disorders. Partnerships at the local level between community-based behavioral health (e.g. youth mobile crisis) and housing/homeless services providers will continue to be either enhanced or developed in CoC regions to assist youth with connecting to community supports and activities to promote overall well-being and housing stability.

State Government

The YHDP lead agency and YAB will work with the WV Division of Economic Development (DED) to ensure that YHDP funding goals align with best practices for HUD-funded housing programs. As the statewide ESG, HOPWA, and CDBG grantee, the DED Office works with the WV BoS CoC to

ensure that YHDP projects align with HUD’s goal to prevent and end youth homelessness. The DED has historically supported youth initiatives and provided funding for the training and stipends of the YAB members for the last three years. As the ESG grantee, the DED also awarded CARES Act funding to agencies across the CoC to begin to test out youth-specific Street Outreach and Rapid Re-Housing programs in preparation for YHDP. These youth navigation and supportive services were also coupled with the Foster Youth to Independence Initiative in targeted counties.

Employment

Through support of Intensive Technical Assistance by the National Center of Homeless Education, the YAB and YHDP lead agency will work to revitalize and enhance the partnerships between homeless and housing providers, Workforce Development boards, and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act organizations. The YAB and YHDP lead agency will work to expand knowledge of YHDP and host listening sessions to learn more about the gaps and needs Workforce Development agencies are experiencing when working with youth and young adults experiencing homelessness with the goal of improving cross-agency referrals and partnerships between the two different systems of care. The YAB and YHDP lead agency will also continue to develop partnerships with Goodwill Industries to provide job training, employment placement services, and other community-based programs for young adults who have barriers to employment.

Public Housing Authorities

The YHDP lead agency and YAB will continue to engage and work closely with the 23 Public Housing Authorities (PHA) in the WV BoS CoC to expand voucher opportunities for youth and young adults. Currently, there are two PHAs in the CoC operating the Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Initiative in partnership with the CoC. The WV Coalition to End Homelessness utilized CV funding to hire youth navigators to assist with documentation gathering, housing location, and housing stabilization services to the support youth enrolled in the FYI programs. This model has proven to be effective in reducing the length of time youth are experiencing homelessness and promoting long-term stability, and will be replicated with YHDP funding.

Black Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) Advocacy

The YHDP lead agency and YAB have worked diligently to expand the scope of their outreach efforts and recruitment focus to reach the BIPOC community. The YAB is working with a youth representative from Anti-Racist Appalachia which serves as an education and service group dedicated to advancing awareness about issues related to diversity awareness and anti-racism. Anti-Racist Appalachia works to expand knowledge of how economic, educational, and general equity for all is at the forefront of the struggle for anti-racist policies and attitudes. The group originated in Garrett County, Maryland, and have since worked with the Chamber of Commerce, the Garrett County Commissioners, several branches of the NAACP, and the Maryland Poor People's Campaign, and has expanded to other regions of Appalachia.

The YHDP lead agency was also selected as a grantee of the HUD Fair Housing Initiative Programs (FHIP) and invited the NAACP to join these efforts to develop a plan for expanding Fair Housing Education and Outreach efforts to BIPOC communities throughout West Virginia.

Disability Advocacy

As a recent FHIP grantee, the YHDP lead will continue to work with the Disability Rights of West Virginia and Centers for Independent Living to advance advocacy efforts and expand awareness of housing discrimination for person with disabilities. The YHDP lead agency will work with the YAB to determine how they would like to integrate these education and outreach efforts to target youth with disabilities and raise awareness of tenant rights when living in rental unit.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning, Intersex and Asexual (LGBTQIA+) Advocacy

The YHDP lead agency and YAB have worked diligently to expand the scope of their outreach efforts and recruitment focus to reach the LGBTQIA+ community. Though members of the LGBTQIA+ are represented on the YAB, there has been little engagement to date of LGBTQIA+ advocacy organizations in West Virginia. The YHDP lead agency will continue work with the YAB to develop these partnerships and expand or develop new housing and support resources for LGBTQIA+ youth.

Housing/Homeless Service Providers

The YHDP/CoC lead agency and YAB will work closely the WV Division of Economic Development (DED), Community Advancement and Development (CAD) Office, and WV BSS to ensure that HUD-funded, WV DHHR-funded, and privately funded homeless services providers are offered streamline training for identifying, engaging, and supporting youth who are at-risk and/or experiencing homelessness. YHDP lead agency and YAB will continue to engage existing homeless service providers in each WV BoS CoC region to inform them of new and existing youth resources and ensure that providers know community partners in their locality who are serving youth. As resource availability permits in each CoC region, the YHDP lead will continue to work with the WVDE, BSS, and local providers to determine when temporary housing through emergency shelter, hotel/motel, and/or CoC-funded TH component of TH-RRH is necessary and appropriate while housing and services are being coordinated for homeless youth.

Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY)

The YHDP lead agency and YAB will continue to foster partnership with the Children's Home Society (CHS) of WV, who is the only RHY-funded entity in the WV BoS CoC at this time. CHS has been part of the planning process from the beginning and offers expertise in serving youth who are at-risk and experiencing homelessness in the crisis shelters, outreach, TH, and foster care programs. The WV BoS CoC also works closely with another RHY-funded provider, Youth Services Systems, whose primary service area is outside the CoC. However, they have been a beneficial partner in this process as we outline system gaps and needs of youth involved in the foster care system across the state.

Non-profit Youth Organizations

The YHDP lead agency and YAB will continue to engage and work closely with other non-profit youth organizations across the CoC, included but not limited to, Goodwill Industries, WV DHHR-contracted foster care agencies and residential treatment centers, Court-Appointed Special

Advocates (CASA), Child Advocacy Centers, Community Action agencies, and Family Resource Networks. As a BoS these working relationships vary across the CoC, and the YHDP Lead agency and YAB continue the work of streamlining information and resources for all 44 counties in an effort to identify opportunities for collaboration.

Landlords

The YHDP lead agency and YAB have done previous work to engage landlords in the community by creating a talk points document for community partners of the YAB to share. The YHDP lead agency also recently hired a landlord liaison who will work across all housing programs to engage new landlords and support existing ones. These staff positions will oversee Padmission, which is a web-based platform for homeless services organizations to manage landlord relationships and individuals, families, and youth in housing search process.

Affordable Housing and Community Development

The YHDP lead agency has worked closely with the WV Housing Development Fund (HDF) for several years, and most recently on the Home4Good funding allocations, Emergency Rental Assistance distribution, and the upcoming HOME American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding for housing development and rehabilitation. The YHDP/CoC lead agency will continue to connect agencies interested in youth programming with WVHDF to assist with the development and rehabilitation of buildings for drop-in centers, transitional, and permanent housing. The YHDP lead agency and YAB are currently working with the Eastern Regional FRN who recently received funding through Home4Good to purchase and rehabilitate a building to serve as Transitional Housing for youth who are at-risk or homeless, targeting those who are discharging from state systems. It is the goal to braid Home4Good, ARP, and YHDP funding together to support the operation and services of this project.

Victim Service Providers

The YHDP/CoC lead agency has historically been involved in working with the WV Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WVCADV), West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services (FRIS), and WV Human Trafficking Taskforce and currently has a CoC-funded DV Bonus grant for coordination of the CoC's Coordinated Entry System to ensure that persons fleeing or attempting to flee violence have equitable access to HUD-funded homeless assistance programs. The WV BoS CoC has requested HUD Technical Assistance to support the coordination of these resources across systems, which will then be integrated into youth programming.

Appendix III: Current WV Youth Programs – Systems Map Details

1. Community in Schools (CIS) through WVDE – 33 counties, 170 schools and site coordinators
 - a. Services provided to school-age children and youth include:
 - i. Tutors at local shelters
 - ii. Wraparound services through CIS and Mental Health Agencies
 - iii. Transportation for classes and school activities
 - iv. Cell phones for unaccompanied youth for school activities
 - v. Internet access (mobile hotspots, wireless service plans, community Wi-Fi hotspots, equipment, etc.)
 - vi. Short-term, temporary housing (such as hotels) in emergency situations, in order to enable attendance at school or school-based activities
 - vii. Materials necessary for school activities (sports equipment, honors classes, personal hygiene kits, clothes, shoes, extracurricular activities, college classes, etc.)
2. Runaway of Homeless Youth Transitional Living Program (RHY TLP) through Children’s Home Society of WV – Wood County
 - a. Target Population/Eligibility Requirements:
 - i. Between ages 16 and 22 and do not need to sign themselves back into care. However, parental consent if under 18 or older adult co-sign of lease is required.
 - ii. Must meet federal definition McKinney Vento definition of homelessness.
 - iii. Must agree to participate in program.
 - iv. Must be substance free.
 - v. Must be able to demonstrate ability to live independently and has basic living skills.
 - b. For YYA that do not want to participate or do not meet criteria:
 - i. Resources and other supplies are available.
 - ii. Attempts to find alternate housing solutions will be made.
3. Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Initiative – Currently operated through Fairmont-Morgantown, Point Pleasant and Kanawha-Charleston Public Housing Authorities (PHA).
 - a. Allows PHA to partner with Public Child Welfare Agencies (WV BSS) and local Continuum of Care (CoC) to request Housing Choice Vouchers (HCVs) to serve youth previously/currently involved in child welfare that are homeless/at-risk of homelessness.
 - b. Rental assistance and supportive services are offered for up to 36 months.
 - c. Target Population/Eligibility Requirements:
 - i. Must be at least 18 years of age and not more than 24 years of age.
 - ii. Left foster care or will leave foster care within 90 days in accordance with transition plan section 475(5)(H) of Social Security Act.
 - iii. Homeless/at-risk of becoming homeless at age 16 or older.

- iv. PHAs must follow income guidelines. Eligible YYA who are over income still qualify for supportive services.
 - v. Services offered to YYA enrolled in FYI through CoC partner agencies must operate utilizing a Housing First philosophy.
4. Independent Living Program through WV BSS – Pilot Sites
- a. Services offered through the following 3 pilot sites:
 - i. NECCO: Cabell, Wayne, Lincoln, Boone, Logan, and Mingo
 - ii. YSS & CHS: Jackson, Wood, Wetzel, Ohio, and Marion
 - iii. CHS: Raleigh, Fayette, Greenbrier, Summers and Monroe
 - b. Target Population:
 - i. Youth aged 17 years and 6 months, or younger if emancipated by the court, who do not plan on attending post-secondary education.
 - c. Eligibility/Requirements:
 - i. Offers services under eligible costs for Chafee Funding.
 - ii. FC18 not required.
 - iii. Must be substance free, but referrals to resources made to assist with sobriety.
5. Regional Transitional Navigation Program through WV BBH – Statewide
- a. Target Population/Eligibility Requirements:
 - i. Transitional age youth and young adults aged 14-25.
 - ii. Individuals diagnosed with SED, SMI, or SUD with needed services and supports to develop independent living skills, create, and cultivate natural supports, navigate the various systems, access, and participate in treatment and recovery services, and thrive in all eight dimensions of wellness.
 - iii. An emphasis to help those transitional age individuals experiencing homelessness, aging out of foster care or juvenile detention, or at risk of human trafficking.
 - b. Services Offered:
 - i. Offer Peer Support to create, identify, and develop natural supports with transitional age individuals.
 - ii. Information, referral and linkage to education, employment, housing, mainstream benefits, health care and behavioral health resources.
 - iii. Offering training to YYA and families on system navigation.
 - iv. In collaboration with YYA, develop independent living skill plans and provide education based on assessment determined need in areas such as but not limited to health literacy, runaway resource, coping skills, employment, education, social, and transportation.
6. Transitional Youth Drop-In Center through WV BBH – Cabell and Wayne Counties
- a. Target Population/Eligibility Requirements:
 - i. YYA aged 16-24 with behavioral health needs who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

- b. Services Offered:
 - i. Daily free meals and safe place to stay between 10:00am-7:00pm
 - ii. Mental health and/or co-occurring treatment
 - iii. Referrals and connections to housing
 - iv. Education and employment support
 - v. Job coach
 - vi. Peer support or mentoring
 - vii. Primary care
 - viii. Community engagement and outreach.
7. Youth Housing and Services Navigation – WV BoS CoC Regions 1,5, & 7
- a. Target Population/Eligibility Requirements:
 - i. Unaccompanied minors, Transition Age Youth, and Parenting/Pregnant Youth under 25 years old.
 - ii. Literally Homeless, At Imminent Risk of Homelessness, or Fleeing Violence as defined by the HUD Definition of Homelessness
 - b. Services Offered:
 - i. Street Outreach, system navigation, and coordination of housing resources and supportive services.
 - ii. Provide housing location and stabilization services to youth
 - iii. Coordinate with partner agencies to provide wraparound services to youth and connection to education, employment, housing, mainstream benefits, health care and behavioral health resources.
 - iv. Provide short to medium term rental subsidies while collaborating with local WV DHHR offices and PHAs to connect eligible youth to FYI and other long-term subsidies.
8. Children’s Mobile Crisis – Statewide through multiple providers (typically operated by the Community Mental Health agency serving that local area).
- a. Target Population/Eligibility Requirements:
 - i. Serves children and YYA (ages 0-21) going through an emotional or behavioral crisis. Offers crisis Intervention, proper referrals to services, and assisting families in navigating treatment options.
 - b. Services Offered:
 - i. Suicide prevention
 - ii. Peer support
 - iii. Youth Outreach Specialists
 - iv. Family Mental-Health Specialists
 - v. System of Care
 - vi. State Opioid Response
 - vii. Crisis Respite

9. Juvenile Centers and Facilities – Statewide

Many of the juvenile centers serve YYA under 21 years old through all 55 counties in WV, but facilities are located in different counties throughout the state. Majority provide the same general services in order to provide safe and secure area for YYA to develop skills to reduce recidivism.

- a. Services Provided:
 - i. Medical services
 - ii. Mental-health services
 - iii. Counseling
 - iv. Educational activities
 - v. On-site recreational activities

10. Youth Reporting Centers – Berkeley, Boone, Brooke, Cabell, Fayette, Greenbrier, Harrison, Jefferson, Kanawha, Lincoln, Marion, Mason, Mercer, Putnam, Raleigh, Wetzel, and Wood counties

- a. Target Population: Specialize in offering assistance to YYA under 21 years old who are in crisis situations via counseling, intervention, and education.
- b. Services Offered:
 - i. Decision-making and life skills
 - ii. Substance-abuse education
 - iii. Anger management
 - iv. Tutoring
 - v. Budgeting and money management
 - vi. Job readiness and job search
 - vii. And many more

11. The Mentoring and Oversight for Developing Independence in Foster Youth (MODIFY) – Statewide

- a. Target Population/Eligibility Requirements: Services provided to YYA who are exiting or have exited the Foster Care system and interested in Post-Secondary Education through Chafee funding overseen by the WV DHHR and operated by the WVU Center for Excellence in Disabilities (CED).
- b. Services Offered:
 - i. To ensure that children who are likely to remain in foster care until 18 years of age are provided education, training, financial support, and other needed transitioning services
 - ii. To support and serve these former foster care recipients between 18 and 23 years of age to complement their own efforts toward self-sufficiency and to assure that program participants recognize and accept their personal responsibility for preparing to make the transition from adolescence to adulthood.
 - iii. To provide youth who exit foster care at 18 or older with Educational and Training Vouchers for the purpose of attending a post-secondary educational program. The funds may be used to cover the costs of attending

college, or vocational training, including all expenses related to a course of study such as computers, special clothing, shoes or boots, books, housing, transportation, and other related educational expenses.

Appendix IV: HMIS Data on Youth Subpopulations

Youth Client Race 2020-2021	% of Reported Race
Asian or Asian American	0.37%
Black, African American, or African	9.55%
Missing Data	2.11%
Multiple Races	5.33%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.12%
White	82.51%
Grand Total	100.00%

Youth Client Sexual Orientation 2020-2021	% of Orientation
Bisexual	11.98%
Data not collected	2.08%
Gay	3.13%
Heterosexual	79.69%
Lesbian	0.52%
Other	1.56%
Questioning/Unsure	1.04%
Grand Total	100.00%

Youth Client Reported Gender 2020-2021	% of Gender
A gender other than singularly female or male*	0.50%
Female	52.61%
Female, Transgender	0.25%
Male	46.28%
Male, Transgender	0.25%
Transgender	0.12%
Grand Total	100.00%

A gender other than singularly female or male: Non-binary, genderfluid, agender, and/or culturally specific gender.

