

Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) & Coordinated Community Plan (CCP) to Prevent & End Youth Homelessness

August 2018

YHDP BACKGROUND

The Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) Grant uses funding made available through the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (Public Law 115-31). This act appropriated up to \$43 million to the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) to implement projects to demonstrate how a comprehensive approach to serving homeless youth, age 24 and under, can dramatically reduce youth homelessness.

HUD is awarding approximately \$6.07M over two years to Community Shelter Board on behalf of the Columbus/Franklin County Continuum of Care (CoC). Columbus/Franklin County was one of six urban communities to be funded in this second round of YHDP, along with five rural communities. Columbus received the second highest award in round 2. Ten other communities were awarded funding in round 1, including the Cincinnati/Hamilton County CoC and the Ohio Balance of State CoC.

The population to be served by this demonstration program is youth experiencing homelessness, including unaccompanied and pregnant or parenting youth, where no member of the household is older than 24. YHDP funding may be used to support projects eligible under HUD's Continuum of Care Program, such as rapid re-housing, permanent supportive housing, host homes, and other types of homeless assistance.

CSB will issue a request for proposals following the creation of a coordinated community plan, per HUD requirements. Project funding will be renewable annually after the first 2 year funding period through the CoC Program Competition. The award will be blended with resources from the public and private sector, in keeping with our community's longstanding tradition of public/private partnerships, to support a comprehensive response for youth facing homelessness.

Initial funding has been committed by The Columbus Foundation, Franklin County, City of Columbus, United Way, and the Ohio Attorney General's office to support a full-time, new Youth System Manager position, as well as development of a comprehensive, coordinated, community-wide response to youth homelessness.

CREATION OF A COORDINATED COMMUNITY PLAN (CCP)

YHDP NOFA: "A central requirement of the YHDP is that each selected community will develop a coordinated community plan to prevent an end youth homelessness. HUD has designed the YHDP to allow for up to 4 months of initial planning together with a significant level of direct HUD technical assistance and up to 4 months of additional time for HUD feedback and plan edits. The planning process is expected to lay the ground work for implementation and provide a framework for the various projects that the Collaborative Applicant [CSB] will request HUD to fund within the selected community."

The Plan should reflect the aspirational functions, guiding principles and youth goal established in A Place to Call Home (<https://www.csb.org/how-we-do-it/community-plan>), our new strategic framework for action approved by the CoC and CSB board of trustees. Prioritized strategies were identified for youth and should be considered a starting place for development of a comprehensive plan.

Strategy 1: Further develop and maintain an up-to-date list of all youth who are literally homeless, including youth who are unsheltered or unsafely housed, and related case conferencing to address complex issues and

assure efficient, effective assistance

Strategy 2: Develop access points, shelter options, and services that are tailored for youth as part of the larger homeless crisis response system

Strategy 3: Explore and develop additional permanent housing options appropriate for youth, such as shared housing, rapid re-housing, and permanent supportive housing

Strategy 4: Further develop and support the Youth Action Board and inclusion of youth in system development and oversight

The driving vision within our community is for ***all youth to have a safe place to call home***. We'll know we are successful when all youth have immediate and easy access to the support they need to prevent homelessness or, if needed, have immediate and easy access to crisis housing and services to ensure that homeless episodes are rare, brief, and one-time.

To achieve this, we will develop a coordinated community plan that provides a 3 year timeframe, goals, objectives, and actions that will be supported with YHDP, other public and private funding and, if funded and realized, will result in a comprehensive approach to:

1. **Prevention:** community-based and youth-serving system (e.g., foster care, education, justice) strategies for identifying at-risk youth in the community and providing immediate access to targeted prevention assistance and/or other critical developmental and supportive services (e.g., employment, transportation, etc.).
2. **Shelter & Re-Housing:** homeless crisis response system strategies that are developmentally appropriate and, when homelessness is not prevented, assure ready access to homeless assistance, emergency shelter and transitional housing options, and a variety of permanent housing options (e.g., rapid re-housing, host homes, permanent supportive housing).
3. **Stabilization & Connections:** community-based and youth-serving system strategies for providing immediate access to critical developmental and supportive services for youth that support housing stability, education and employment needs, foster permanent and healthy relationships, and the social-emotional-physical well-being of youth.

In order to be approved by HUD, the CCP must address how the following approaches and principles will be incorporated into the community's overall approach to preventing and ending youth homelessness, as well as the individual interventions that support such an approach.

- **US Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) Youth Framework and the Four Core Outcomes.** The coordinated community plan must demonstrate a commitment to the principles of the USICH Youth Framework to End Youth Homelessness published in 2012 and to its four core outcomes:
 1. **Stable housing** includes a safe and reliable place to call home;
 2. **Permanent connections** include ongoing attachments to families, communities, schools, and other positive social networks;
 3. **Education/employment** includes high performance in and completion of educational and training activities, especially for younger youth, and starting and maintaining adequate and stable employment, particularly for older youth; and
 4. **Social-emotional well-being** includes the development of key competencies, attitudes, and behaviors that equip a young person to succeed across multiple domains of daily life, including school, work, relationships, and community; and

- **Special Populations.** USICH, together with its partner agencies, has identified several special populations that are especially vulnerable to homelessness and which have been shown to experience homelessness, including pathways to homelessness, in ways that are distinct from the general population of youth. For these vulnerable and often overrepresented young people, there is a need for identification methods, infrastructure considerations, housing and service-delivery that are specific to their needs. The coordinated community plan must identify and address the local impact of homelessness on these subpopulations and specifically address how the system will meet the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth; minors (under the age of 18), pregnant and parenting youth; youth involved with juvenile justice and foster care systems; and victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation; and
- **Positive Youth Development (PYD) and Trauma Informed Care (TIC).** Both PYD and TIC are accepted best practices in housing and service delivery for youth and include principles and service frameworks endorsed by many branches of the federal government, including HUD, the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and the US Department of Education (ED). The coordinated community plan must address how PYD and TIC will be incorporated into all aspects the youth crisis response system; and
- **Family engagement.** HUD believes that the best outcome for young people is to never have to engage with crisis response resources. Further, HUD believes that the best diversion and intervention strategy is to engage families, whenever appropriate, through community partnerships with organizations such as child welfare agencies, schools, youth providers, and other community human services and homeless services providers. The coordinated community plan must address family engagement strategies and services designed to strengthen, stabilize, and reunify families. Potential services include family counseling, conflict resolution, parenting supports, relative or kinship caregiver resources, targeted substance abuse and mental health treatment, etc.; and
- **Immediate access to housing with no preconditions:** Housing is a cornerstone for meeting a multitude of basic needs necessary for success. Young people should be provided with rapid access to safe, secure, and stable housing that meets their needs as quickly as possible, without the condition that they are 'ready' for housing. The coordinated community plan must address how all youth will be offered immediate access to safe, secure, and stable housing with no preconditions; and
- **Youth choice:** The capacity for self-determination may be a critical factor in obtaining many positive outcomes for Transition Age Youth (Carter, Lane, Pierson, & Stang, 2008),[3], and is closely related to the principles of PYD. Consistent with federal youth policy, allowing youth to exercise self-determination is a youth centered approach that values youths' expressed needs, self-awareness, and community knowledge. This youth-centered approach emphasizes youth choice in terms of the kind of housing youth need and the extent and nature of supports and services they access, and promotes presenting alternative options for youth who avoid programs with barriers like sobriety or abstinence. The coordinated community plan must address how youth choice will be integrated into all aspects of the youth crisis response system; and
- **Individualized and client-driven supports:** The coordinated community plan must acknowledge that the needs of the young people to be served will be unique. Housing and support packages that help prevent and end homelessness among youth must recognize and respond to individual differences across individuals to serve them appropriately and efficiently. Communities must design the system flexibly to accommodate individuals with both high and low service needs, as well as the need for short-term or long-term supports. The coordinated community plan must address how the youth crisis response system will provide individualized and client driven supports; and

- **Social and community integration:** The goal of youth homelessness services should be a successful transition to adulthood, including the successful integration into a community as a positive contributing community member. To accomplish this requires the community to provide socially supportive engagement and the opportunity for youth to participate in meaningful community activities; and
- **Coordinated entry:** Coordinated entry processes are necessary components of a high functioning crisis response system and must be developed intentionally to incorporate youth. The coordinated community plan must address how the CoC will ensure that the coordinated entry process is youth-appropriate.

TIMING

The coordinated community plan will be developed between August and November 2018. Initial draft of the plan is due to HUD by November 13, with final HUD approval provided by March 2019 or sooner. CSB will issue an RFP for YHDP funding upon completion of the plan. Prospective applicants will need to provide 25% match, as required by HUD. Implementation of new project models and strategies for youth is anticipated to begin later in 2019 upon approval of projects by HUD. Other strategies identified in the CCP that are not dependent on or eligible for YHDP funding will be pursued upon plan completion.

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Youth Committee Core Team:** oversee coordinated community plan (CCP) development, with support from CSB and Measurement Resources Company
- **Youth Action Board:** review & recommend CCP to CoC; select & recommend YHDP projects to CoC and CSB
- **CoC Youth Committee:** review & recommend CCP to CoC; select & recommend YHDP projects to CoC and CSB
- **CoC & CSB Board of Trustees:** review & approve final CCP and YHDP projects for submission to HUD

PLANNING RESOURCES

A Place to Call Home, Columbus/Franklin County new strategic framework:

<https://www.csb.org/how-we-do-it/community-plan>

USICH benchmarks and criteria, guidance, and framework for ending youth homelessness:

<https://www.usich.gov/goals/youth>

YHDP round 1 community plans approved by HUD:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/yhdp/community-resources/#coordinated-community-plans>

YHDP round 1 lessons learned summary and additional resources:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/YHDP-Lessons-Learned.pdf>

HUD ending youth homelessness guidebook series:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/5138/ending-youth-homelessness-a-guidebook-series/>