



# ENDING YOUTH HOMELESS NESS

A coordinated community plan for  
the New Hampshire Balance of  
State Continuum of Care.



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**YHDP Round 4/5 | 2022**

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## Statement from the Youth Action Board (YAB)

# STATEMENT FROM THE YAB

The New Hampshire Youth Success Project (YSP) is a board of young people who have experienced unaccompanied homelessness while under the age of 25. We are the state-wide youth action board in New Hampshire and have played a key role throughout every stage of the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) in the Balance of State and Manchester Continuums of Care.

The YSP believes that young people are the experts on the issues that most directly affect us and that we have a right to be included in decisions that impact our lives. We also believe that our systems are better and stronger when we share power with adults in decision making spaces. The work of ending youth homelessness requires innovative ideas from those most affected by this issue. Youth homelessness is a symptom of systemic injustice and not one of individual fault. Youth choice is crucial at individual level interactions with service providers and in larger systems level conversations about ending youth homelessness.

Our organization was founded in early 2020 right before the pandemic hit. The YHDP grants have allowed us to grow quickly and expand our work to serve young people across the state even with the current circumstances. Through this experience we have grown as individuals and future professionals, gained invaluable experience speaking up and sharing power with adults, and made important connections that we hope will continue to allow our organization to grow and expand past this grant period.

The work of the YSP and youth action boards across the country will continue to be an active and important piece of ending youth homelessness. The YSP hopes that future variations of the YHDP grant will allow for funding that supports the long term sustainability of youth action boards in their communities and financially support innovative approaches to ending youth homelessness. This could include, but is not limited to, the full financing of Direct Cash Transfer programs. These programs exemplify youth choice and self-determination and speak to the values of the YSP and outlined by HUD in the creation of this grant.

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## Acknowledgements

Thank you to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) grant, which has given our community the opportunity to develop a plan and new projects to end youth homelessness for the Balance of State Continuum of Care geography in New Hampshire.

This work would not have been possible without the youth and young adults in New Hampshire's Youth Success Project who have been leading the development of these joint goals and who worked actively to provide the critical expertise needed to pursue these goals. We are especially proud of the collaboration across the state departments, as well as divisions with the employees in the NH Department of Health and Human Services. We are thankful for the partnerships with Plymouth State University, and Waypoint.

We are grateful to all of those with whom we have had the pleasure to work with during the application, planning and development of this Coordinated Community Plan, too many to name. Each of the members of the Balance of State Youth Subcommittee provided extensive personal and professional guidance in meetings and singular asks for partnership, collaboration, data sharing and assistance. Their names are provided as Appendix D of this document.

Nobody has been more important to this success than all of you who are reading this. By acknowledging the problem, you are putting your time, effort, and presence into making these goals a success. We are grateful and hopeful.

## Acronyms

BIPOC – Black, Indigenous, and people of color

BoSCoC – Balance of State Continuum of Care

CCP – Coordinated Community Plan

CES – Coordinated Entry System

DCYF – Division for Children, Youth and Families

EHV – Emergency Housing Vouchers

FUP – Family Unification Program

FYI – Foster Youth to Independence

HMIS – Homeless Management Information System

HUD – Department of Housing and Urban Development

LGBTQIA+ - Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, and all of the other sexualities, sexes, and genders that aren't included in these few letters

NHHFA – NH Housing Finance Authority

NOFO – Notice of Funding Opportunity

RAP – Regional Access Point

RHY – Runaway and Homeless Youth

TA – Technical Assistance

YAB – Youth Action Board

YSP – Youth Success Project (NH’s Youth Action Board)

YHDP – Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program

YYA – Youth and Youth Adults

## Background

Since 2019 the BoSCoC laid the foundation for a strategy to prevent and end youth homelessness. The BOSCO C applied for the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) in Rounds 2 and 3, but were not successfully selected as a YHDP community. Using the feedback from the unsuccessful YHDP applications, the BOSCO C voted to prioritize the YHDP deficiencies through the work of the Youth Homelessness Subcommittee.

Beginning with the Coming Together to End Youth Homelessness Event in March of 2020, youth and young adults have been at the table as partners. NH has made efforts towards systems-level change to address youth homelessness using a Coordinated Entry System (CES) and Regional Access Point (RAP) model established in 2018. This system, largely targeted at adult homelessness, utilizes a centralized helpline (NH 211) that provides information and referrals to anyone at risk of or experiencing homelessness to one of the RAPs for prevention, diversion, housing assistance, and connections to other services. This includes the RAP for youth and young adults through Waypoint (within their catchment areas), one of NH’s runaway and homeless youth service providers.

A recent example of the success of the BoSCoC CES was the release of the Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV) through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Because the BoSCoC had an existing CES, with an established prioritization process, the BoSCoC was able to successfully fill twenty-nine of the 60 EHV BoSCoC referrals with youth-led households. Additionally, NH is expanding access to drop-in centers for youth and young adults experiencing homelessness in the BoSCoC. As a partner in the BoSCoC, Waypoint is opening drop-in centers in Rochester and Concord this summer. These centers, which expect to serve 150 youth each year, will provide prevention, early intervention, and supportive services for youth and young adults who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

Through the NH Community Development Finance Authority, the City of Claremont was awarded \$300,000 on behalf of the Claremont Learning Partnership for acquisition of the building it currently leases. Multiple social service programs operated by the Claremont Learning Partnership are housed at this facility including a licensed preschool and childcare, which gives priority to families experiencing homelessness and teen parents; drop-in childcare for parents attending court mandated meetings and appointments; parenting programs; and a teen homework space where teens can complete education requirements with access to computers and tutors. The Oasis Teen Center, a homeless shelter for young adults between the ages of 18-22 and their children (if applicable) has opened its doors as well.

The BoSCoC’s coordination of the Family Unification Program (FUP) and the Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) initiative with New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority (NHHFA), the Concord, Dover, Keene and Rochester Public Housing Authorities in the BoSCoC, and the Division for Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF), the agency housing both Child Protection and Juvenile Justice, provides another example of an innovative cross-sector effort. BoSCoC identifies and prioritizes FUP-eligible youth and families using CES and provides them with Housing Choice Vouchers. BoSCoC proactively cross-refers FUP-eligible youth and families from the CES to DCYF. NHHFA offers a

\$1,000 incentive for landlords that rent to youth with a FUP or FYI voucher, and provides youth and families with a range of housing search, case management, counseling, and other supports to find and maintain housing.

In November 2020, Governor Sununu created the Council on Housing Stability and charged it with developing and implementing a plan to create housing stability in NH. After a six-month planning process, the Council issued its [2021-2024 Strategic Plan](#). One member of the Youth Success Project, a formerly homeless youth, was an appointed member of the Council. This plan integrates the following youth-specific goals: reducing youth homelessness by 25% by 2024, and conducting a Youth Homeless Count to provide baseline data. The BoSCoC strategy will incorporate recommendations from the Youth Homelessness Event, the Council on Housing Stability's plan, and the data collected through the Youth Homeless Count and Regional Analysis, which followed the National Network for Youth's [Proposed System to End Youth Homelessness](#) as a framework.

All of these efforts were deliberately made to address the gaps identified in the BoSCoC's failed YHDP attempts. Youth collaboration, general system collaboration, capacity for innovation, and community need were the major areas in need of improvement for the Balance of State Continuum of Care. With the creation of the Youth Success Project, and the expansion of the Youth Subcommittee membership, the BoSCoC reinforced its commitment to preventing and ending youth homelessness.

## Mission and Vision

### *Vision Statement:*

The NH Balance of State Youth Subcommittee envisions a Continuum of Care where youth and young adults (YYA) are valued and cared for in the community and in their relationships with service providers. Efforts to end youth homelessness focus on changing systems rather than changing individuals, and homelessness is understood as a systemic and social justice issue rather than one of individual fault.

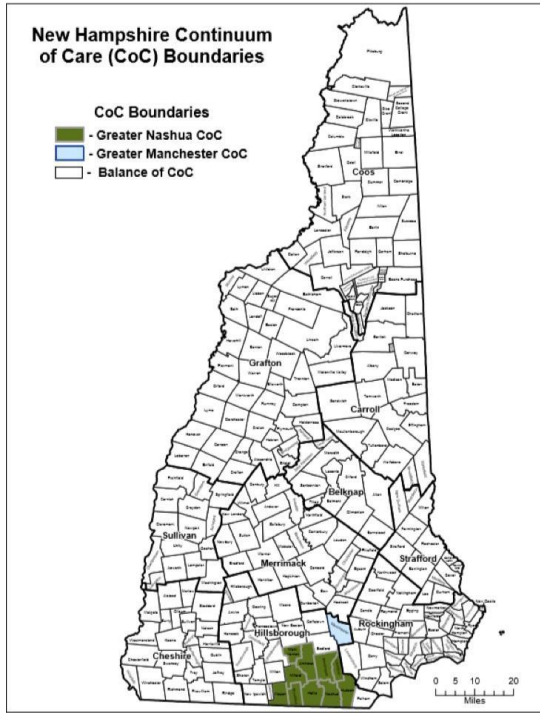
### *Mission:*

The Balance of State Continuum of Care works to support youth and young adults as they lead the way in preventing and ending youth homelessness. Young people receiving services are understood to be the experts in their own lives and are trusted to make decisions about what is best for them. This is reflected in the service provider-YYA relationship. Services delivered to youth are mindful of systems of oppression, and seek to deliver a variety of crisis and long-term equitable housing options and support.

## Statement of Need

The BoSCoC represents the overwhelming majority of New Hampshire's geographical area including 210 unique communities and 77% of the state's population. The BoSCoC is made up of a wide range of suburban and rural areas of varying socioeconomic status, resource availability, and youth experiences. This can be demonstrated in part by a significant income disparity between two BoSCoC counties: New Hampshire's rural and northern most

Coos County shows a 5-year median income of approximately \$47,000, while southeastern located Rockingham County has a median income of almost \$94,000.



Additionally, most of the social services in the BoSCoC are in the more densely populated southern region of the state. This extends to the availability of youth specific services and causes many young people in rural New Hampshire to choose between leaving their communities and support networks to access services or go without. Even within the southern region of the state, existing services often still fail to meet the need. The NH BoSCoC currently has only 4 Emergency Shelter beds and 21 Transitional Housing beds dedicated to YYA. According to the Chapin Hall [Missed Opportunities Voices of Youth Count](#), an estimated 15,000 young people experience homelessness in New Hampshire each year, and only 772 YYA in the BoSCoC were entered into the state HMIS system between October of 2020 and October of 2021.

New Hampshire is a state that is proud of its independence, with strong community values around local control, individualism and self-determination. These values are demonstrated in the state’s slogan “Live Free or Die”. Feedback from the Youth Success Project members, and focus groups held with YYA who have lived experience in homelessness attribute the lack of service availability in NH, especially in the more rural parts of the state, to the values associated with the

“Live Free or Die” slogan. Many YYA also reported an unwillingness to seek out or accept services because of the stigma associated with homelessness. Many YYA who experience homelessness or housing instability in the state of New Hampshire struggle to self-identify as homeless and are weary of services offered to them.

The YSP conducted focus groups with thirteen YYA in early 2022. One of the chief findings of these focus groups was that stigma and a lack of awareness about YYA homelessness often prevented YYA from coming forward to ask for and accept help. Other important contributing factors to participant homelessness included a history of abuse from parents and caregivers, substance use, and corrections system involvement. Additionally, most focus group participants reported that they first experienced unaccompanied homelessness while under the age of 18. This indicates a need for prevention services, stronger partnerships between schools and homeless serving organizations, and an expansion of services available to unaccompanied minors.

Below are some of the key findings of this needs assessment:

**Rural New Hampshire:** YYA experiencing homelessness in rural regions of New Hampshire are significantly underserved when compared to other regions of the state.

**Lack of Affordable Housing:** With a statewide vacancy rate of below 1% and soaring housing costs, YYA with a lack of rental history, bad or no credit, and low income often become homeless and face additional barriers as they work to regain stability in their lives after becoming housing unstable.

**Lack of Mental Health Resources:** Members of the YSP and participants in focus groups run across the state reported significant difficulties and long waitlists when attempting to access mental health services. Significant

staff turnover and high caseloads also greatly impacted YYA’s ability and willingness to make progress in their own recovery.

**Racial Equity:** Despite generally low racial and ethnic diversity in the state of New Hampshire, Black or African American YYA are significantly over-represented in the homeless serving system.

**Youth Choice:** All services delivered to YYA experiencing homelessness and housing instability in New Hampshire should be based on the youth’s self-identified needs and goals. This is especially important when considering the YYA’s relationship with their families who may or may not offer a safe living environment for the young person.

## UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH AT RISK OF EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Risk factors for unaccompanied YYA homelessness include child welfare and juvenile justice system involvement, adult corrections system involvement, lack of high school diploma or GED, LGBTQIA+ identity, and family poverty and homelessness. Risk factors for homelessness are higher in underserved rural parts of the state where the rate of disconnection is higher than other regions of the state and there is a lack of preventative and early intervention services.

Additionally, systems involvement with child protection, juvenile justice, or the adult justice system increases the risk that YYA will experience homelessness. As noted in the chart below, in 2020 there were 341 youth between the ages of 12-17 that has child welfare system involvement (both child protection and juvenile justice), and another 554 young adults between the ages of 18-26 with adult justice system involvement. That is 895 YYA that had active child welfare or adult justice system involvement in 2020 that were at risk of experiencing unaccompanied homelessness.

<b>Exhibit 1: YYA At Risk of Experiencing Homelessness</b>		
<b>Risk Factor</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Data Point</b>
Child Welfare Involvement	Youth Count	57 out of 261 youth surveyed = 21.8% of homeless youth reported child welfare involvement
Justice System Involvement	Youth Count	78 out of 261 youth surveyed = 29.9% of homeless youth reported justice system involvement
Poverty	Kids Count	22% Youth and young adults ages 14 to 24 living in households with a high housing cost burden in New Hampshire
Poverty	Kids Count	11,000 or 11% of Persons 18 to 24 in poverty in New Hampshire live below the poverty line,



		43,000 or 26% live in low income families
Child Welfare Involvement	DCYF	341 youth aged 12-17 in DCYF care in 2020
Justice System Involvement	NHDOC DIVISION OF FIELD SERVICES 18-26 year old Clients	554 youth involved in services from January of 2021 to January of 2022
Youth connected to K-12 system experiencing homelessness with family or unaccompanied	Department of Education	1,935 youth experiencing homelessness
Substance Use Disorder	<a href="#">State of NH Drug Monitoring Initiative – 2020 Overview Report</a>	72 Overdose deaths in individuals ages 29 and under 1,188 Opioid related Emergency Department visits ages 29 and under 310 SUD treatment admissions ages 25 and under 315 Narcan Administrations (by healthcare professionals) ages 29 and under

In the focus groups run by the YSP, YYA participants identified family dynamics as a major contributing factor to their homelessness or housing instability. Most of the young people (7+/13) who participated in these focus groups reported that they first experienced unaccompanied homelessness while under the age of 18. These young people did not become connected to services until they were over 18. They talked specifically about failing out of school because home was unstable or unsafe. Multiple young people reported that their parents kicked them out, were abusive, or there was a lack of emotional support or safety in the home. Many young people reported that they chose to live out of their car or outside because it was better than their home environment.

<b>Exhibit 2: Department of Education Data on Demographics of YYA Experiencing Homelessness and Involved in the K-12 System for the 2019 – 2020 school year</b>		
<b>Risk Factor</b>	<b>Data Point</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Total youth experiencing homelessness, with to without their family	1,935	100%
Unaccompanied youth	120	6.2%
Youth with disabilities	567	29.3%

Youth in hotel	118	6.1%
Unsheltered	31	1.6%
Sheltered	129	6.7%
Doubled Up	1,118	57.8%

## UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

According to the Chapin Hall, [Missed Opportunities Voices of Youth Count](#), approximately 15,000 young people across the state of New Hampshire experience homelessness during any given year. The available counts of YYA experiencing homelessness in the BoSCoC are listed in the table below. These counts are understood to be gross underestimates of the total number of young people experiencing homelessness across the state. As previously mentioned, YYA often fail to identify as “homeless” especially when they are experiencing non-literal forms such as couch surfing or staying temporarily with friends or family. Youth specific services only exist in a very limited geographical portion of the state and leave youth in rural regions of the state significantly underserved.

<b>Exhibit 3: YYA Counts of Homelessness (ages 18 – 24)</b>			
<b>Data Source</b>	<b>Number of YYA</b>	<b>Geographical Area</b>	<b>Time</b>
PIT Count	25	Statewide	January 2022
HMIS: General	772	BoSCoC	Oct 2020-Oct 2021
HMIS: RHY Program	149	Seacoast/Tri-City region	Oct 2020-Oct 2021
RHY Referrals	215	Seacoast/Tri-City region	2021
DHHS: TANF/SNAP	155	Statewide	February 2022
DCYF Homeless Project	97	Statewide, DCYF YYA	2020
Department of Education	120, unsuppressed unaccompanied homeless youth	Statewide	2019/2020 school year

In October of 2021 the BoSCoC administered a Youth Count pilot to YYA in 4 different communities: Berlin, Plymouth, Rochester, and Claremont. These communities were chosen as they are believed to represent 4 geographically distinct experiences of YYA homelessness. This survey reached 261 unique young people in the BoSCoC. Of the youth counted in this survey, 54% reported a mix of housing situations indicating a lack of stability and need for young people to piece together multiple options to remain inside. The next largest portion of YYA

were unsheltered at 31.4%. Only 8 or 3.1% of survey respondents reported that they were housed through a shelter.

Exhibit 4: Youth Specific Beds Available in BoSCoC				
HUD 2021 Housing Inventory Count				
County	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Rapid Rehousing	Total
Strafford County	0	6	0	6
Rockingham County	4	0	0	4
Merrimack County	0	6	0	6
Grafton County	0	9	0	9
Balance of State	0	0	15	15
	4	21	15	40

## PREGNANT & PARENTING YOUTH AT RISK OF EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

According to Chapin Hall’s [Missed Opportunities](#) report, pregnant and parenting youth are at a 200% higher risk of reporting homelessness when compared to their peers. The CDC reports that New Hampshire has one of the lowest teen pregnancy rates in the country with only 6.6 births to females 15-19 years of age per 1,000 total births. Massachusetts was the only state with a lower birth rate than New Hampshire. This is a strength for New Hampshire, however it still leaves many young parents without a safe and stable place to raise their children.

As will be discussed later on in this statement of need, there is a significant shortage of affordable housing in the state of New Hampshire. This has substantial impacts on YYA’s ability to achieve stability in their lives. This is especially apparent for parenting YYA who require multiple bedrooms and often cannot live with roommates. For many young families, the only option for safe and stable housing is through housing authorities and other extremely limited publicly subsidized housing options.

Housing authorities in New Hampshire have significant waitlists that often begin at 2 years for a 2+ bedroom apartment and require significant paperwork, and regular check-ins to remain on a waitlist. This is a significant barrier for low income parents and puts them at an increased risk of homelessness or housing instability. Many young parents are forced to remain in unsafe living environments with family members or raise their kids in crisis shelter environments for extended periods of time before they are able to access public housing resources.

A lack of childcare options available to young parents is another barrier that they face when attempting to reach stability and self-sufficiency in their lives. According to an [analysis](#) done by Econsult Solutions, Inc. (ESI) and the National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP) in February of 2021, NH’s 33,000 licensed childcare spots were only

60% of what is needed in NH for children under 6 years old. This significantly inhibits young parents' ability to get and keep jobs and regain financial stability within their lives. DHHS provides childcare scholarships to low income families, however this program requires extensive paperwork to qualify. Difficulty completing paperwork, long childcare waitlists, transportation barriers, and staffing shortages caused by COVID all contribute to young parents' ability to reach stability and get their family's needs met.

The table below lists some of the numerical estimates of young people who are pregnant or parenting in New Hampshire and at an increased risk of poverty and experiencing homelessness. The count of young parents who are homeless and receiving TANF or SNAP benefits through the state does not include YYA who were doubled up or experiencing more stable forms of couch surfing.

<b>Exhibit 5: Counts of Pregnant &amp; Parenting YYA</b>		
<b>Data Source</b>	<b>Number of YYA</b>	<b>Time</b>
DHHS: TANF/SNAP	303 of 707 YYA snap/TANF recipients were pregnant or parenting	February 2022
Kids Count	5,000 or 4% of young adults ages 18 to 24 are parents in New Hampshire	2015-2019

## PREGNANT & PARENTING YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

As discussed in the earlier section, young parents face significant barriers when working to get their families housing and childcare needs met in the state of New Hampshire. These barriers put young parents and their children at a greater risk of experiencing homelessness. Once a young family does enter into homelessness, the transient nature of their living situation and a lack of transportation can make it especially difficult for them to access and maintain any parenting or childcare services they may become connected with.

Most parenting support programs in New Hampshire are based on a family's geographical location and, similar to childcare facilities, have significant waitlists. When a family moves out of a program's catchment area or is not able to access transportation to get their child to childcare, they are dismissed from the program and lose the associated support or stability they may have gained. This can have other ramifications on the parent's ability to maintain employment and may push them to engage in survival sex or other dangerous activities to maintain their housing and get their needs and the needs of their children met.

Not all childcare centers come with the same stability, family based supports, and protections that are available to young people involved in the K-12 system, or to families who are enrolled through Head Start or Early Head Start programs. This disproportionately affects the safety and wellbeing of young families and puts many young families at risk of becoming homeless, or experiencing Child Welfare involvement. The experiences of homelessness and child welfare involvement can be considered [Adverse Childhood Experiences](#), which can cause significant trauma to the young family.

The table below outlines the existing counts of YYA in the BoSCoC who have been identified as experiencing homelessness or housing instability by existing systems.

<b>Exhibit 6: Pregnant &amp; Parenting YYA Homelessness</b>			
<b>Data Source</b>	<b>Number of YYA</b>	<b>Geographical Area</b>	<b>Time</b>
PIT Count	9 YYA 18-24 12 children	Statewide	January 2022
HMIS: RHY Program	13 pregnant	Seacoast/Tri-City region	Oct 2020-Oct 2021
RHY Referrals	3 pregnant or parenting	Seacoast/Tri-City region	2021
DHHS: TANF/SNAP	46 homeless	Statewide	February 2022
Youth Count	15 out of 261 youth surveyed were pregnant and/or parenting	BoSCoC	October 2021

### Minors Experiencing Homelessness

In NH, pursuant to RSA 169-C:3 XIX, a neglected child is one who is without proper parental care or control, subsistence, education as required by law, or other care or control necessary for the child’s physical, mental, or emotional health, when it is established that the child’s health has suffered or is likely to suffer serious impairment. An unaccompanied minor who is experiencing homelessness would fit this definition, and should be reported to the Division for Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF), which is the Public Child Welfare Agency for NH. Pursuant to RSA 169-C:29, and person having reason to suspect that a child has been abused or neglected shall report.

Based on these NH State laws, the Balance of State Continuum of Care works closely with DCYF to ensure that unaccompanied minors experiencing homelessness have their safety and well-being needs met. Data is limited at this time. DCYF is able to identify how many youth between the ages of 12 and 17 years old are being served in the child welfare system, however, they currently are not able to easily identify how many of those youth were experiencing unaccompanied homelessness. The Bureau Chief for the Bureau of Evaluation, Analytics and Reporting with DCYF is committed to partnering with the BoSCoC to ensure minors experiencing unaccompanied homelessness are being identified.

### Victims of Sexual Trafficking and Exploitation

Data on victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation is currently only available in aggregate, and cannot be broken down by age, only by minors or adults. A member of the NH Human Trafficking Task Force is a member of the BoSCoC Youth Subcommittee, and was a member of the Community Advisory Team that helped create this plan. This partnership will allow the BoSCoC to work closely with the NH Human Trafficking Task Force to ensure that YYA victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation are having their needs met. In addition to this collaboration, the BoSCoC is launching a CoC Rapid Re-Housing project dedicated to survivors of human trafficking in the fall of 2022.

This project was awarded during the Fiscal Year 2021 CoC Competition. The director of this new project is also a member of the BoSCoC Youth Subcommittee, and was a member of the Community Advisory Team.

The BoSCoC Youth Subcommittee conducted a pilot Youth Count of four BoSCoC communities in October of 2021. One question was asked about whether or not the YYA had engaged in survival sex. Of the 238 total responses, at least 142 individuals engaged in survival sex at least sometimes.

<b>Exhibit 7: Youth Victims of Sexual Trafficking and Exploitation</b>	
NH Youth Count October 2021 - Survival Sex	
Never	90
Prefer Not to Say	6
Sometimes	81
Yes	61

## HOUSING

The shortage of affordable housing across the state of New Hampshire contributes significantly to the housing instability faced by youth and young adults. According to the [Kids Count](#) national dataset 15% of adults ages 18 to 24 who have little or no confidence in their ability to pay their next rent or mortgage payment on time in New Hampshire (Kids Count, 2021). The NH Housing Finance Authority [2021 Residential Rental Cost Survey](#) cites a consistently declining rental vacancy rate of 0.9% for all units and 0.6% for 2 bedroom units. A vacancy rate of around 5% is considered to be a balanced market.

These decreasing vacancy rates have been accompanied by a statewide increase in median gross rent over the last 8 years. According to the NH Housing Finance Authority “to afford the statewide median cost of a typical two-bedroom apartment with utilities, a New Hampshire renter would have to earn 128% of the estimated statewide median renter income, or over \$59,900 a year.” New Hampshire’s minimum wage remains at the federal rate of \$7.25/hour with a median fast-food worker wage of \$12.08/hour according to New Hampshire Employment Security. Additionally, most new rental units being added to the market tend to be more expensive than existing units.

This disparity between wages and the availability of rental units poses an especially challenging situation for youth and young adults facing housing instability in the state. YYA often lack adequate or good credit, rental history, and struggle to meet most landlords’ income requirements with the consistently increasing cost of rent.

In addition to the lack of affordable and realistic private and unsubsidized housing options available to young people there is also a significant lack of youth specific housing options in New Hampshire. As indicated in Exhibit 4, there are only 40 youth specific beds across the BoSCoC. These temporary housing options come nowhere close to meeting the needs of the 772 YYA entered into the BoSCoC HMIS and 15,000 youth experiencing homelessness across New Hampshire each year.

## EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT

According to the Chapin Hall [Missed Opportunities](#) report, a lack of a high school diploma or GED led to a 346% higher risk of YYA experiencing homelessness than for youth with a high school diploma. This is the strongest risk factor for YYA homelessness and is especially pronounced among youth and young adults in rural New Hampshire.

Of the Youth Count survey respondents, 54.8% reported that they were not attending school regularly and had not earned their high school diploma or GED.

[Measure of America](#) reports that New Hampshire's rural Sullivan County and Coos County have the highest rates of disconnection in the state at 13% and 17.4% respectively. New Hampshire as a whole reports a significantly lower disconnection rate at only 7.5%. Disconnection refers to the percentage of teenagers and young adults between the ages of 16 and 24 who are neither working nor in school.

Schools, when effectively engaging with a student, can offer a consistent and stable environment for YYA experiencing homelessness and housing instability and serve as a referral point for a variety of other stabilization resources. They are also oftentimes in the best position to recognize and interrupt family and unaccompanied homelessness before it occurs. One of the recommendations generated by participants of the YYA focus groups, conducted by YSP in February of 2022, was to improve partnerships between schools and homeless serving organizations in New Hampshire.

The majority (7/13) of participants in the focus groups run by the YSP disclosed that the first time they experienced unaccompanied homelessness or housing instability was while under the age of 18. Most of these young people did not become connected to services until they were over the age of 18 and were generally unaware of programming available to minors. New Hampshire's RHY program supports a basic center program aimed at reaching and serving YYA under the age of 18, however the program reports that only 35 of the 215 referrals they received in 2021 were for YYA under the age of 18. This indicates an opportunity to better reach and interrupt homelessness among YYA involved in the K-12 school system.

Employment is both a risk factor and a significant barrier that YYA face when working to reach stability in their lives. Data from the state-wide HMIS data set of YYA experiencing homelessness in New Hampshire between October 2020 and October 2021 found that 63.5% of YYA were not working. YYA involved in the YSP focus groups shared the barriers they faced when seeking employment or education, these are shown in the visual below. The barriers shared speak to the cyclical nature of homelessness and the ways in which preventative and quick response to YYA homelessness and housing instability are important and effective ways to interrupt longer term instability in a young person's life.

<b>BARRIERS TO EDUCATION</b>	<b>BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• explaining to teachers why grades went down while homeless</li><li>• fear of DCYF return to abusive parents</li><li>• wish schools were better able to talk about and respond to youth homelessness</li><li>• stigma of homelessness</li><li>• mandatory attendance :(</li><li>• expelled because of drugs</li><li>• bad influences</li><li>• working 2+ jobs to get needs met</li><li>• left school at 15 because homeless</li><li>• no money for school</li><li>• failed out because home was unstable and unsafe</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• phone</li><li>• money</li><li>• documents</li><li>• confidence/ courage, staying motivated and willing to put yourself out there</li><li>• mental health stuff ++</li><li>• even minor past drug offenses can keep you from getting a job</li><li>• holes in resume that you have to explain</li><li>• stigma of being homeless</li><li>• no food, water, or shelter</li><li>• place to shower</li><li>• transportation</li><li>• place to park at night while in car, tired if didn't sleep well</li><li>• didn't know resources existed until older</li></ul>

## SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL WELLBEING

In focus groups conducted by the YSP, YYA identified mental health struggles as a major barrier that impacted their ability to get their educational, employment, income, and housing needs met. Multiple young people also reported that their mental health made it especially challenging for them to reach out to access and accept services available to them.

Trauma history and mental health issues can both contribute to a young person becoming homeless and be aggravated by their experiences while homeless. According to the [Issue Brief: Consequences of Youth Homelessness](#) by the National Network 4 Youth, “the consequences of homelessness bring despair to youth in the form of mental health problems, substance use, victimization and criminal activity, unsafe sexual practices, and barriers to education and employment.”

BoSCoC HMIS data indicates that 326 of 772 or 42% of young adults entered into the system had a reported disability. The Department of Education reports 567 or 29.3% of young people experiencing homelessness in the BoSCoC who are connected to the k-12 system had a disability. A breakdown of disability types are listed in the table below. This data comes from the Runaway and Homeless Youth Program operating in the Seacoast region of New Hampshire. Mental health disorders made up the largest portion with 76 of the total 149 young people captured.

<b>Exhibit 8: HMIS RHY Data on Disability Type</b>	
<b>Disability Type</b>	<b>Client Count</b>
Alcohol Use Disorder	3
Both Alcohol and Drug Use Disorder	5
Chronic Health Condition	9
Developmental	12
Drug Use Disorder	17
Mental Health Disorder	76
Physical	13

New Hampshire reports suicide as the second leading cause of death for 15-24 year olds in the state. According to the [New Hampshire Suicide Prevention Annual Report for 2020](#), which is the most current data available, the suicide death rate in NH is higher among 18-24 year olds at a rate of 21.06 per 100,000 compared to 15.66 nationally.



Members of the YSP have reported significant waitlists when attempting to access mental health services and high turnover among counselors once successfully connected to services. Long term, YYAs are unable to maintain their housing, work towards their long term stability, and achieve their personal goals without these vital supports.

One focus group participant, when asked what they would like people in power to know about youth homelessness, responded that “problems in life don't end when you become housed” and there is an ongoing need for mental health and substance use support. The current system is failing to meet these needs and leaves many young people’s needs unmet and falling on alternative systems. Young people experiencing homelessness or housing instability often require supportive services, of their choosing, to support their recovery and stable and long term housing.

Mental health supports are a critical piece of responding to, reducing, and ending youth homelessness in the state of New Hampshire.

## INEQUALITIES & DISPARITIES

### Racial

New Hampshire is a predominantly white state with the US census reporting over 93% of the population as “white alone.” This low racial and ethnic diversity is especially prominent in the BoSCoC regions, as the majority of the state’s non-white population resides in the other two more urban Continuums of Care. However, the data available on YYA experiencing homelessness or at risk of experiencing homelessness in New Hampshire demonstrate significant racial disparities particularly when comparing rates of Black or African American YYA homelessness to population level data.

All data sources listed in the table below demonstrated significantly higher percentages of mixed race and Black youth in the homeless system when compared to the rates of Black and mixed race people in the general New Hampshire population. The US Census reports that only 1.8% of the total NH population is Black or African American and 1.8% of the population is mixed race.

<b>Exhibit 9: Racial Disparities in YYA Homelessness</b>		
<b>Source</b>	<b>Data</b>	<b>Disparity</b>
HMIS: RHY Program (BoSCoC)	8.7% YYA Black or African American; 6% multi-racial	Yes
NH Division for Children, Youth, and Families	6.2% of DCYF involved YYA experiencing homelessness were Black	Yes
NH Division for Children, Youth, and Families Bureau of Field Services	8.85% of the youth involved in the Juvenile Justice system were Black	Yes
Youth Count (BoSCoC)	31.9% of respondents reported their race as Black or Black and one or more other races	Yes

This disparity aligns with national level data. Chapin Hall’s [Missed Opportunities](#) report lists Black or African American youth at an 83% higher risk of reporting homelessness when compared to white youth. This disparity appears to be significantly higher in the NH BoSCoC, indicating a need for culturally and racially affirming services informed by the lived experiences of YYA of color.

## LGBTQIA+ Youth

Another demographic of youth identified to be at a higher risk of homelessness is LGBTQIA+ youth. Chapin Hall reports that LGBTQIA+ youth had a 120% higher risk of reporting homelessness when compared to their straight and cisgender peers. Data presented in the table below may be compared to estimates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System](#) that estimate LGB youth in the general population at about 9.2% and transgender youth in the general population at about 0.73%. It is also reasonable to assume that LGBTQIA+ youth are undercounted in these estimates as a provider may assume a young person’s identity or the youth may choose not to disclose out of fear for their safety or access to further supportive services.

The BoSCoC approved the addition of data elements to capture gender identity and sexual orientation status, effective July 1, 2022. This will allow the BoSCoC to better track disparities in the homeless services system for YYA in the LGBTQIA+ community.

<b>Exhibit 10: LGBTQIA+ Disparities in YYA Homelessness (BoSCoC)</b>		
<b>Data Source</b>	<b>Data</b>	<b>Disparity</b>
Youth Count: LGB	15.7%	yes
HMIS RHY Program: LGB	22.1%	yes
Youth Count: Trans or non-binary/agender/gender nonconforming/other	9.6%	yes
HMIS RHY Program: Trans or non-binary/agender/gender nonconforming/other	5.4%	yes
HMIS: Trans or non-binary/agender/gender nonconforming/other	1.4%	yes

In the focus groups conducted by the NH YSP, a young person identified their sexuality as a central reason for their homelessness as a young person under the age of 18. This young person grew up in a Catholic household and described their sexual orientation as one of many reasons why their home environment was not safe. In a separate listening session, also hosted by the YSP, a young transgender person described experiences of harassment from shelter staff and discriminatory practices while residing in an adult shelter in New Hampshire. There are currently no LGBTQIA+ specific housing and/or shelter resources in New Hampshire.

## Rural YYA

According to the [Missed Opportunities](#) report by Chapin Hall, “youth experience homelessness in rural areas as commonly as they do in urban areas.” In a focus group conducted by the YSP, a young person who experienced homelessness in rural New Hampshire cited transportation as a major struggle when working to get their most basic needs met. A lack of adequate transportation services, particularly in rural areas of the state, have made it difficult for YYA to make it to doctors’ appointments, get and keep jobs, access services, and get their most basic needs met.

These focus group findings match up with key findings from Chapin Hall’s report on youth homelessness in rural areas. YYA in rural areas typically have “greater reliance on couch surfing and sleeping in vehicles or outdoors.” This means that youth homelessness in rural areas is especially “invisible” and leaves this population severely undercounted and underrepresented in conversations about ending youth homelessness. The Chapin Hall report also highlights that youth in rural areas are especially susceptible to the negative impacts of industry crashes or the emergence of a substance use epidemic.

As discussed above, there is a significant lack of general social services available to YYA experiencing homelessness or housing instability in rural regions of New Hampshire. YYA in rural communities who seek support are often given the choice to go without help or to leave their communities and support networks to access housing resources and programming in other regions. Providers in rural regions of New Hampshire are fewer and less connected to work happening in the BoSCoC than providers in more densely populated areas. This indicates a need to build both connections and youth specific resource networks throughout rural regions of New Hampshire.

## Goals, Objectives, and Action Steps

The below statements were written collaboratively with the YSP, the Community Advisory Team, and the Core Leadership Team, which is the decision making body for the YHDP process. The first draft of these goals were put together by the YSP, passed along to the Community Advisory Team, brought back to the YSP general membership, and then approved by the Core Leadership Team. The Core Leadership Team includes YSP leaders and utilized a consensus decision making process.

The YSP and the Community Advisory Team looked at two nationally recognized youth frameworks when creating the goals and objectives – the National Network for Youth [Proposed System to End Youth and Young Adult Homelessness](#), and the [US Interagency Council on Homelessness Criteria and Benchmarks for Achieving the Goal of Ending Youth Homelessness](#). Components of each national framework were incorporated into the ten goals for the NH Balance of State Coordinated Community Plan to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness. The Key Principles listed below were incorporated to each goal statement.

### HUD Key Principles

*Housing First, Low/No Barrier:* Housing & services are offered without pre-conditions or background checks; programs work to screen-in rather than screen out; eligibility documentation protocols are streamlined

*Youth-Driven Services:* Service plans are governed by youth with no imposed goals; youth have choice of interventions and may refuse opportunities with no consequence

*Racial Equity:* Strategies are employed to ensure one’s race is not a determining factor in their permanent housing outcomes

*Positive Youth Development:* The system gives young people opportunities to develop skills that have real-world application; youth are looked at as resources and partners in service environments




*Stable Housing:* Youth have access to safe and stable housing opportunities

*Trauma Informed Care:* a strengths based framework that is grounded in an understanding of and responsiveness to the impact of trauma experienced by youth

*Permanent Connections:* Youth have ongoing attachment to families, schools, communities, and other positive social networks of their choice

*Social/Emotional Well-being:* Development of key competencies, attitudes, and behaviors that help youth succeed in work, relationships, and community

*Education & Employment:* High performance in/completion of educational and employment opportunities of choice

<b>Goal 1 - Youth Voice:</b> The New Hampshire Balance of State Continuum of Care (NH BoS CoC) recognizes that YYA have a right to hold decision-making power in systems level conversations, as well as in individual discussions with service providers that directly affect their lives.			
<b>Objective</b>			
1. Increase opportunities for youth voice in systems-level planning and decision-making.			
<b>Action Steps</b>	<b>Partner Responsible</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>	
1.1. Partner with City and State government to identify potential leadership opportunities for Youth and Youth Adults (YYA).	Youth Subcommittee	Short-term	
1.2. Increase opportunities for youth-serving providers to participate in training on authentic youth collaboration and adultism (and require this for YHDP-funded projects).	Youth Subcommittee	Short-term	
1.3 Identify committed adult allies who agree to support YSP in spaces where they are invited to participate in planning and decision-making.	Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing	
1.4 Work with Continuum of Care leadership to establish a minimum of 2 seats for YSP members on the CoC's decision-making body (e.g., Board).	Youth Subcommittee, COC	Short-term	
1.5 Pursue opportunities for YSP to engage in work of their choice in other sectors/systems that interact with homeless or at-risk youth.	Youth Subcommittee, YSP	Ongoing	
1.6 Identify additional decision-making, advisory, or legislative bodies where YSP can contribute to macro-level systems planning to end youth homelessness.	Youth Subcommittee, YSP	Short-term	
<b>HUD Key Principles</b>			
Equity <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive Youth Development 	Trauma-Informed Care <input type="checkbox"/>	Family Engagement <input type="checkbox"/>
Housing First <input type="checkbox"/>	Youth Choice 	Community Integration 	Coordinated Entry <input type="checkbox"/>

**Goal 2 - Equity:** The NH BoS CoC recognizes that homelessness is a space where systemic level inequities are concentrated. In order to create lasting and community-wide change, youth and young adults (YYA) must have equitable access to culturally competent housing, opportunities, and resources.

**Objective**

1. Ensure that all housing and services for YYA are designed and delivered with an equity lens.




Action Steps	Partner Responsible	Time Frame
1.1. Increase opportunities for youth-serving providers to participate in training on diversity, equity, and inclusion (and require this for YHDP-funded projects).	Youth Subcommittee, COC	Ongoing
1.2 Establish clear and transparent grievance process for youth who experience discrimination in shelter system; ensure that process is known to and accessible for all youth and providers.	Bureau of Housing Supports, YSP	Short-term
1.3 Require annual Equal Access Rule training for all shelter providers.	Bureau of Housing Supports	Ongoing
1.4 Require YHDP-funded projects to participate in training on racial and LGBTQIA+ equity and white dominant culture.	Bureau of Housing Supports, COC	Ongoing

**Objective**

2. Improve access to and experience with youth homeless response system for NH YYA of all identities.

Action Steps	Partner Responsible	Time Frame
2.1. Ensure access to translation services for all YYA who do not speak English as a first language when engaging with the youth homeless response system.	COC, Partner agencies	Ongoing
2.2 Require YHDP funded crisis housing resources to prioritize youth who are most vulnerable.	COC, Coordinated Entry System	Ongoing
2.3 Pursue solutions to the barriers that youth face in obtaining their driver's license and target any resources identified to those youth who are most vulnerable.	Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing

**HUD Key Principles**




Equity 	Positive Youth Development <input type="checkbox"/>	Trauma-Informed Care <input type="checkbox"/>	Family Engagement <input type="checkbox"/>
Housing First <input type="checkbox"/>	Youth Choice 	Community Integration <input type="checkbox"/>	Coordinated Entry 

**Goal 3 - Permanent housing & support:** The NH BoS CoC works to connect YYA to low barrier housing that is suited to their individual needs and accompanied by youth-driven supports.

**Objective**

1. Increase permanent housing options for youth and young adults experiencing homelessness or housing instability in the NH BoS CoC.

<b>Action Steps</b>	<b>Partner Responsible</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>
1.1. Increase number of Foster Youth to Independence Vouchers (FYI) and Family Unification Program Vouchers (FUP) available to YYA (or develop new housing resource based on this model)	Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing
1.2. Increase number of Permanent Housing beds (including Permanent Supportive Housing and Rapid Rehousing beds) dedicated to YYA in the CoC, with focus on longer-term RRH, and housing for YYA with disabilities.	COC	Ongoing
1.3. Develop direct cash transfer program for YYA experiencing homelessness.	Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing
1.4. Partner with the Council on Housing Stability to address the affordable housing crisis in NH by identifying barriers to development, and exploring legislative opportunities to address the identified barriers.	Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing
1.5. Partner with New Hampshire's colleges and universities to establish family housing options for pregnant and parenting youth who want to pursue higher education.	Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing
1.6. Identify funding resource to support development of tiny homes/intentional communities for YYA.	Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing
1.7 Reduce the time YYA spend in shelter environments by creating a menu of quickly available housing options for families, single young adults, and couples.	Youth Subcommittee, COC	Ongoing
1.8 Increase access to disability specific housing vouchers by working with New Hampshire Housing & Finance Authority to make 811 vouchers more accessible to young people not hospitalized or connected to a Community Mental Health Center.	Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing
1.9 Partner with DCYF and local housing authorities to streamline and reduce barriers to the application process for FYI, FUP, and other housing resources not administered through CE.	Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing
1.10 Work with housing authorities to reduce the amount of documentation needed to be added to a waitlist.	Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing

<b>Objective</b>			
2. Increase crisis and short-term housing options for youth and young adults.			
<b>Action Steps</b>		<b>Partner Responsible</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>
2.1. Increase the number of transitional housing beds dedicated to YYA.		Youth Subcommittee, COC	Short-term
2.2. Increase the number of Emergency Shelter beds dedicated to YYA.		Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing
2.3. Develop temporary host home option for youth in need of short or medium term housing; including host homes targeted to special populations such as LGBTQ+ youth and minors under the age of 18.		Youth Subcommittee, COC	Short-term
2.4 Establish youth specific and age appropriate crisis shelter options that keep YYA in their chosen community.		Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing
2.5 Provide alternate accommodations for the pets of people entering a shelter environment.		Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing
<b>Objective</b>			
3. Establish strategic plan for recruitment and retention of landlord partners.			
<b>Action Steps</b>		<b>Partner Responsible</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>
3.1 Explore community led affordable housing infrastructure that does not rely on partnerships with for-profit landlords.		Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing
3.2 Identify funding resource to support landlord incentive costs (e.g., sign-on bonus).		Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing
3.3 Develop and implement a targeted strategy for increasing access to rental units for YYA including the recruitment of landlords, exploration of a rental co-signer program, community based housing, and others.		Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing
<b>Objective</b>			
4. Ensure that all housing options dedicated to youth and young adults include adequate, individualized supportive services that meet their unique needs.			
<b>Action Steps</b>		<b>Partner Responsible</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>
4.1. Ensure that any new housing projects dedicated to YYA include wrap-around supportive services that are available for a duration of time that meets the youth's needs and supports the goal of achieving housing stability.		Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing
4.2. Increase peer support and mentorship in supportive services offered to YYA enrolled in housing programs.		Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing
4.3 Identify and seek out people with lived experience to fill staffing positions and occupy peer support roles in youth homelessness programs.		Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing
4.4 Increase success of housed YYA by extending voluntary aftercare to 12 months past as a young person becomes housed in all youth specific housing		Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing
<b>HUD Key Principles</b>			
Equity <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive Youth Development <input type="checkbox"/>	Trauma-Informed Care <input type="checkbox"/>	Family Engagement <input type="checkbox"/>
Housing First 	Youth Choice 	Community Integration 	Coordinated Entry <input type="checkbox"/>

**Goal 4 - Consistency:** YYA have steady access to stable and caring professionals to support their healing and development as people. This requires the expansion of the current system to better serve more YYA in need and reduce staff turnover.

**Objective**

1. Ensure consistency in the YYA relationship with their service providers by reducing the number of times they change case managers.





Action Steps	Partner Responsible	Time Frame
1.1. Identify funding that allows the case worker to follow the YYA, regardless of program.	Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing
1.2 Develop and share client centric guidelines to ease transitions between case managers and counselors interacting with young people.	Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing

**Objective**

2. Reduce staff turnover at YYA serving agencies.

Action Steps	Partner Responsible	Time Frame
2.1. Explore funding to provide mental health services to direct care staff to prevent burnout.	Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing
2.2. Identify funding opportunities to increase salaries for direct care staff.	Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing

**HUD Key Principles**

Equity <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive Youth Development 	Trauma-Informed Care 	Family Engagement <input type="checkbox"/>
Housing First <input type="checkbox"/>	Youth Choice 	Community Integration 	Coordinated Entry <input type="checkbox"/>








**Goal 5 - Relationships:** YYA are given the tools and support to build strong and positive relationships of their choosing with other YYA in their communities, family members, and mentors.

**Objective**

1. Increase opportunities for YYA to make strong community connections.

Action Steps	Partner Responsible	Time Frame
1.1. Pursue development of 'safe hangout' spaces for YYA in communities where needed.	Youth Subcommittee, YSP	Ongoing
1.2. Expand peer mentorship opportunities in housing and services offered to YYA through homeless response system.	Youth Subcommittee, YSP	Ongoing
1.3 Programs receiving YHDP funding should utilize the positive youth development model to encourage ongoing relationships and support from existing safe people in YYA's community.	Youth Subcommittee, COC	Ongoing
1.4 Provide training to law enforcement that provides context and reduces stigma around homelessness and connection to age appropriate resources.	Youth Subcommittee, YSP	Ongoing
1.5 Center youth choice in decisions made about crisis shelter options for minors engaged with DCYF or RHY programming.	Youth Subcommittee, Partner agencies	Ongoing
1.6 Provide training to law enforcement around effective mental health crisis de escalation and recognizing and responding to disabilities.	Youth Subcommittee, YSP	Ongoing
1.7 When desire is expressed by a YYA and parents, provide connection to family mediation and other supportive services.	Partner Agencies	Ongoing

**HUD Key Principles**

Equity <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive Youth Development 	Trauma-Informed Care 	Family Engagement 
Housing First <input type="checkbox"/>	Youth Choice 	Community Integration 	Coordinated Entry <input type="checkbox"/>

**Goal 6 - Health and social-emotional wellbeing:** The NH BoS CoC acknowledges and addresses the traumatic effects of YYAs' experiences on their wellbeing. It seeks to minimize the harmful effects of this by building upon YYAs' individual strengths and supporting their further personal development.

**Objectives**

1. Improve transportation access for all YYA.

Action Steps	Partner Responsible	Time Frame
1.1. Pursue philanthropic/other funding to purchase vehicles for YYA in need.	Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing
1.2. Establish formal coordination between youth homeless services and New Hampshire Department of Motor Vehicles with the goal of reducing barriers for YYA.	Youth Subcommittee, YSP	Ongoing
1.3 Create public transportation partnerships to expand the transportation system to rural areas of New Hampshire.	Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing
1.4 Pursue solutions to the barriers that youth face in obtaining their driver's license and target any resources identified to those youth who are most vulnerable.	Youth Subcommittee, YSP	Ongoing

**Objectives**

2. Increase access to mental health and other health services for all YYA.







Action Steps	Partner Responsible	Time Frame
2.1. Partner with Community Mental Health Centers to ensure access for all YYA experiencing homelessness or housing instability.	Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing
2.2. Expand mental health groups, peer support opportunities, and access to clinical mental health professionals in housing and supportive services targeted to YYA.	Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing
2.3. Establish partnership between youth-serving homeless service providers and Managed Care Organizations in New Hampshire.	Youth Subcommittee	Short-term
2.4. Improve access to substance use treatment for YYA.	Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing
2.5. Develop Health Navigator service to reduce barriers for YYA experiencing homelessness to access healthcare, health insurance, etc.	Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing
2.6 Expand access to community based therapists.	Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing
2.7 Make connection to and maintenance of mental health supports through community mental health centers more accessible.	Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing
2.8 Include on-site counseling and mediation in communal housing programs funded by YHDP. Serve as a bridge to sustain YYA before long term counseling can be accessed. Available by youth choice.	Youth Subcommittee, YSP	Ongoing

**Objectives**

3. Increase opportunities for YYA to experience joy and to engage in activities that that they like.

Action Steps	Partner Responsible	Time Frame
3.1 Include YYA in all case plan development.	Partner Agencies	Ongoing
3.2 Explore opportunities for increased peer to peer connections.	YSP	Ongoing

**HUD Key Principles**

Equity 	Positive Youth Development 	Trauma-Informed Care 	Family Engagement <input type="checkbox"/> 25
Housing First 	Youth Choice 	Community Integration 	Coordinated Entry <input type="checkbox"/>

**Goal 7 - Education, training, and employment:** The NH BoS CoC supports youths' long term stability by connecting them to employment and education opportunities, if desired, that build on their long term career growth in areas that match their individual interests, skillsets, and goals. YYA are given equitable access to tools and support in a way that is accessible and realistic for them.

**Objectives**






1. Strengthen pathways for youth who have disengaged from the education system to reconnect with schooling should they want to attend.

<b>Action Steps</b>	<b>Partner Responsible</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>
1.1. Strengthen and sustain coordination between local school systems/homeless liaisons and youth homelessness response system.	Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing
1.2. Secure funding to increase number of homeless liaisons available at K-12 schools.	Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing
1.3. Offer training to all K-12 school employees on youth homelessness, available resources, etc.	Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing

**Objectives**

2. Improve student connection & retention in higher education (increasing supports and navigation).

<b>Action Steps</b>	<b>Partner Responsible</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>
2.1. Strengthen and/or formalize connection between tech/trade schools and homeless response system.	Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing
2.2. Strengthen and/or formalize connection between community colleges and homeless response system.	Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing
2.3. Advocate for colleges/universities in NH to allow for dorms to remain open during break time to accommodate YYA without anywhere else to stay.	Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing
2.4 Provide low barrier financial support options to homeless students to ensure that they are able to meet their technology and other basic needs while attending higher education programs.	Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing
2.5 Work with college and university systems in New Hampshire to develop year round housing options for students.	Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing
2.6 Increase public awareness about the occurrence of YYA homelessness, signs, causes, and the availability of resources to support YYA in this situation.	Youth Subcommittee, YSP	Ongoing

<b>Objectives</b>			
3. Support youth to explore and pursue employment pathways of their choice.			
<b>Action Steps</b>		<b>Partner Responsible</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>
3.1 Partner with Job Corps (or similar org) to reduce barriers to access and expand resource for interested YYA.		Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing
3.2. Partner with and incentivize employers who are willing to hire and support YYA.		Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing
3.3. Develop strategies to address transportation challenges that limit employment choice, especially youth in rural areas.		Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing
3.4 Ensure that YYA in alternative high school programs also have access to and are encouraged to utilize vocational and college prep resources.		Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing
3.5 Expand education and career support programs into rural regions of New Hampshire.		Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing
3.6 Create public transportation partnerships to expand the transportation system to rural areas of New Hampshire.		Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing
<b>HUD Key Principles</b>			
Equity 	Positive Youth Development 	Trauma-Informed Care 	Family Engagement <input type="checkbox"/>
Housing First <input type="checkbox"/>	Youth Choice 	Community Integration 	Coordinated Entry <input type="checkbox"/>

**Goal 8 - Identification of all youth experiencing homelessness:** The NH BoS CoC has a coordinated community response to identify YYA experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, homelessness in multiple settings and with varying circumstances. This includes YYA who are couch surfing, running away, staying with friends or family temporarily, and experiencing literal forms of homelessness.

**Objectives**

1. Increase opportunities for youth in need to access resources and the homeless response system.






Action Steps	Partner Responsible	Time Frame
1.1. Partner with 211 to ensure that they have the most up to date information about resources for homeless and at-risk YYA.	Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing
1.2. Establish and implement an annual youth count for state of New Hampshire.	Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing
1.3. Utilize social media to reach wider audience of YYA and ensure that people know what resources are available if they need them.	Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing
1.4 Designate a youth specific phone operator at 211 to provide consistent and human based support, connection to services, and follow up for YYA seeking support around homelessness.	Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing
1.5 Train workers in DHHS food stamps offices to screen for YYA homelessness when conducting interviews and connect to YYA specific services.	Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing

**Objectives**

2. Improve identification of minors under 18 at-risk of or currently experiencing homelessness.

Action Steps	Partner Responsible	Time Frame
2.1. Strengthen coordination between K-12 schools and homeless response system, ensuring that all school staff (not just Mckinney Vento liaisons) have some knowledge of resources/organizations available to support homeless and at-risk YYA	Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing
2.2. Develop training that can be offered to all providers and system partners who frequently interact with youth (healthcare, education, etc.), specifically focused on how to talk about homelessness and housing instability with YYA, with the goal of increasing number of YYA who disclose and request support.	Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing
2.3. Establish a state-wide office of Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) to elevate need for training, identification, etc. at the state-level, also allowing for wider reach.	Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing
2.4 Increase public awareness about the occurrence of YYA homelessness, signs, causes, and the availability of resources to support YYA in this situation.	Youth Subcommittee, YSP	Ongoing
2.5 Provide community education to YYA around what homelessness is, recognizing the signs, stigma reduction, and connection to resources.	Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing
2.6 Utilize existing community infrastructure and supports in rural New Hampshire to help community members recognize and connect YYA experiencing homelessness to case management, crisis housing, and long term housing supports.	Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing

**HUD Key Principles**

Equity 	Positive Youth Development <input type="checkbox"/>	Trauma-Informed Care 	Family Engagement <input type="checkbox"/>
Housing First <input type="checkbox"/>	Youth Choice 	Community Integration 	Coordinated Entry 

**Goal 9 - Prevention:** There is a community wide commitment to quickly identify YYA at risk of homelessness in the NH BoS CoC. The young person is connected with appropriate resources and support that meet their needs and desires while preventing homelessness.

**Objectives**

1. Increase options and alternatives to homelessness for people exiting institutions or other systems of care.

Action Steps	Partner Responsible	Time Frame
1.1. Pursue increase in beds dedicated to mental health treatment and/or for people leaving mental health treatment.	Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing

**Objectives**

2. Develop strategies for upstream prevention of youth homelessness.





Action Steps	Partner Responsible	Time Frame
2.1. Support pursuit of universal childcare in New Hampshire.	Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing
2.2. Develop mobile crisis intervention team to support youth in crisis (and their families) as upstream prevention measure.	Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing
2.3. Partner with Family Resource Centers to ensure that YYA families are aware of resources available for prevention of homelessness.	Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing
2.4 Utilize existing community infrastructure and supports in rural New Hampshire to help community members recognize and connect YYA experiencing homelessness to case management, crisis housing, and long term housing supports.	Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing

**Objectives**

3. Develop and support legislative pursuits to decrease the number of youth who enter the juvenile or adult justice systems.

Action Steps	Partner Responsible	Time Frame
3.1. Work with advocacy organizations to identify laws in NH that criminalize common survival behavior of YYA at-risk of or experiencing homelessness and work to decriminalize (e.g., loitering, truancy).	Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing

**HUD Key Principles**

Equity 	Positive Youth Development 	Trauma-Informed Care 	Family Engagement <input type="checkbox"/>
Housing First <input type="checkbox"/>	Youth Choice 	Community Integration 	Coordinated Entry <input type="checkbox"/>

**Goal 10 - Sustainability:** The NH BoS CoC will continue to strengthen cross-system partnerships, build system capacity, and expand resource availability to effectively support all youth and young adults in need. These efforts will be done through data driven decision making.

**Objectives**

1. Formalize cross-system partnerships to ensure sustainability beyond YHDP process.

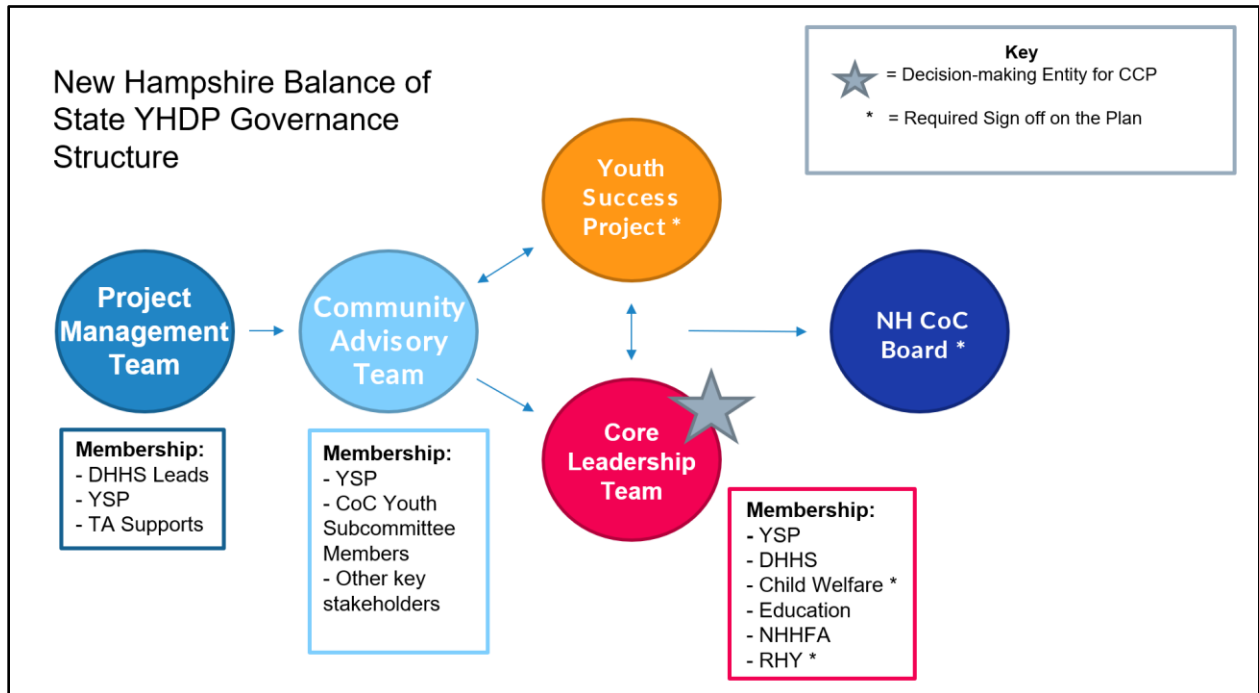
Action Steps	Partner Responsible	Time Frame
1.1. Establish state-level role/position dedicated to coordination and maintenance of partnerships between youth-serving systems.	BHS	Short-term
1.2. Pursue dedicated state funding to maintain coordination of systems and partners working to end youth homelessness in New Hampshire.	BHS	Short-term
1.3. Improve data sharing between youth-serving systems.	Youth Subcommittee	Short-term
1.4. Include on-site counseling and mediation in communal housing programs funded by YHDP. Serve as a bridge to sustain YYA before long term counseling can be accessed. Available by youth choice.	BHS	Ongoing
1.5. Improve upon and formalize partnerships between schools and homeless youth serving systems.	Youth Subcommittee	Short-term

**HUD Key Principles**

Equity ★	Positive Youth Development ★	Trauma-Informed Care ★	Family Engagement □
Housing First □	Youth Choice ★	Community Integration ★	Coordinated Entry ★

## Governance & Partners

### Governance Structure



The creation of this coordinated community plan would not have been possible without the important voices, expertise, and contributions of providers and decision makers operating across the state of New Hampshire.

The Project Management team was made up of two team members from the state Bureau of Housing Supports (BHS) and the Director of the YSP. The BHS is the collaborative applicant for the BoSCoC. The Project Management team worked closely with the TA providers to provide structure and facilitation during the Community Advisory Team and Core Leadership Team meetings.

Community Advisory Team meetings were open to any and all providers across the BoSCoC who work with or come into regular contact with youth and young adults experiencing homelessness. These meetings were designed to be a brainstorming space where people who were most closely connected to the issues of youth homelessness were invited to share their experiences and expertise as well as ideas about what may be most helpful in addressing these issues.

Findings from the Community Advisory team were then summarized and put into drafted content for approval by the Core Leadership Team or decision making body. The Core Leadership team was made up of community leaders from each of the entities listed in the diagram above, including those who are required to sign off on the completed CCP. This group utilized a standard consensus decision making process to approve each stage of the CCP process.

The YSP was involved throughout this process in multiple ways. The YSP Director and two YSP youth leaders attended all of the Core Leadership and Community Advisory Team meetings and actively participated throughout each stage of the process. These leaders were tasked with representing their own beliefs and experiences as well as those of the greater YSP membership. Brainstorming with the greater YSP membership was also done alongside the work done in Community Advisory Team meetings.

The YSP membership wrote the first draft of the vision and mission, the goal statements, completed system modeling, wrote objectives and action steps, as well as the Statement of Need for this Coordinated Community Plan. The work done by the YSP was invaluable and typically used as a basis for the Community Advisory Team to build upon during their meetings.



## Core Leadership Team Members

<b>Core Leadership Team</b>	
Ariel Hayes	Youth Success Project Director
Madison Lemay	Youth Success Project Leader
Celene Johns-Thomas	Youth Success Project Leader
Melissa Hatfield	BOSCOC Collaborative Applicant/Co-Chair
Heidi Young	Balance of State YHDP Administrator
Susan Watson	Family Support Services, Division of Economic & Housing Stability
David Cady	Deputy Director Field Services, Department of Corrections
Allison Joseph	Program Director, My Turn
Robert Rodler	Division for Children, Youth, and Families
Mandy Lancaster	Senior Program Manager, Waypoint
Maggie Fogarty	Director, American Friends Service Committee
Dee Pouliot	NH Housing Finance Authority
Adele Bauman	Bureau of Children's Behavioral Health
Meghan Morrow Raftery	Institute for Community Alliances, HMIS System Administrators
Debra Nelson	Bureau of Child Development and Head Start Collaboration
Aurelia Moran	Community Health Services, Division of Public Health Services
Regina Flynn	Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services
Lisa Hayward	Prevention Coordinator, Department of Education
Athena Cote	Community Collaborations, Division of Public Health Services
Kimberly Livingstone	Social Work Program Director, Plymouth State University

## New Project List

The below project types were selected and finalized using a consensus decision making process. The Community Advisory Team participated in guided brainstorming sessions to generate ideas about gaps in services in NH, and possible solutions. The Youth Success Project participated in a separate guided session, and their feedback was incorporated into the summary of project ideas. With the support of the Technical Assistance team, a project list was presented to the Core Leadership Team. The projected cost for the first year is an estimate, and will be adjusted based on the number of applications that are received.

### YHDP Planning Grant

<b>Project Type: YHDP Planning Grant</b>	
<b>Core Elements of this Project</b>	The initial planning grant will fund the Youth Success Project - NH's Youth Action Board, along with YHDP project management staff. The planning grant funds will support the creation of the Coordinated Community Plan (CCP), the Project design and application process, and the implementation of the CCP.
<b>YHDP Principles to be Addressed</b>	Youth Choice, Equity
<b>Is the project anticipated to be funded with YHDP funds?</b>	Yes
<b>Projected Cost (1 year)</b>	\$224,683

### Supportive Services Only – Coordinated Entry

<b>Project Type: Supportive Services only - Coordinated Entry</b>	
<b>Core Elements of this Project</b>	This includes policy and procedure work, assessments, prioritization, housing referrals, case conferencing, and the community level integration work to improve the access to the system for people trying to access housing services.
<b>Target Population</b>	All YYA experiencing homelessness
<b>Supportive Services Description</b>	N/A - this project will fund system level work to ensure the NH Balance of State Continuum of Care Coordinated Entry System incorporates YHDP principles.
<b>YHDP Principles to be Addressed</b>	Coordinated Entry, Housing First, Youth Choice, Equity, Community Integration
<b>Is the project anticipated to be funded with YHDP funds?</b>	Yes
<b>Projected Cost (1 year)</b>	\$100,000

Supportive Services Only – Youth Navigators

<b>Project Type: Supportive Services Only - Youth Navigators</b>	
<b>Core Elements of this Project</b>	Navigation staff who will be connected with youth when they first present for assistance, focus on diversion when possible, connecting youth to shelter and youth-specific supportive services, provide continuity in case management through to point when youth is connected to longer-term resources. Navigators will either be mobile or located in areas where youth in
<b>Target Population</b>	Youth in rural areas, youth under 18, at-risk youth in other systems of care (CPS and JJ), LGBTQ+ youth, BIPOC youth, youth with developmental disabilities
<b>Supportive Services Description</b>	General case management. Referrals/warm hand-offs to a variety of resources including shelter, housing, food, employment/vocational services, LGBTQ+ supports, legal services, education, childcare, mental health, substance use and more
<b>YHDP Principles to be Addressed</b>	Equity, Housing First, Youth Choice, Trauma-Informed Care, Coordinated Entry, Community Integration, Positive Youth Development, Family Engagement
<b>Length of Assistance</b>	Until the youth is connected to longer-term resources (case management and/or permanent housing)
<b>Is the project anticipated to be funded with YHDP funds?</b>	Yes
<b>Will the project seek any CoC program flexibilities through the waiver notification or approval process?</b>	No
<b>Projected Cost (1 year)</b>	\$350,000

Supportive Services Only – Host Homes

<b>Project Type: Supportive Services Only - Host Homes</b>	
<b>Core Elements of this Project</b>	Safe places for youth to stay with trusted adults in the community in order to provide a crisis housing option that allows youth to remain in their communities of origin if they choose.
<b>Target Population</b>	College students, pregnant/parenting youth, youth aging out of foster care, minors under 18
<b>Supportive Services Description</b>	Housing focused case management. Support for both youth and hosts.
<b>YHDP Principles to be Addressed</b>	Equity, Housing First, Youth Choice, Trauma-Informed Care, Coordinated Entry, Community Integration, Family Engagement
<b>Length of Assistance</b>	Shorter-term crisis option
<b>Is the project anticipated to be funded with YHDP funds?</b>	Yes
<b>Will the project seek any CoC program flexibilities through the waiver notification or approval process?</b>	No
<b>Projected Cost (1 year)</b>	100,000

## Transitional Housing – Rapid Re-Housing

<b>Project Type: Transitional Housing-Rapid Re-Housing</b>	
<b>Core Elements of this Project</b>	Immediate, safe, LGBTQ+ affirming, short-term housing option for unhoused youth without preconditions for entry.
<b>Target Population</b>	Youth in rural areas, youth under 18, at-risk youth in other systems of care (CPS and JJ), LGBTQ+ youth, BIPOC youth, pregnant and parenting youth
<b>Supportive Services Description</b>	Housing focused case management, housing problem solving and conflict resolution (connecting youth back to natural supports when possible)
<b>YHDP Principles to be Addressed</b>	Equity, Housing First, Youth Choice, Trauma-Informed Care, Coordinated Entry, Community Integration, Family Engagement
<b>Length of Assistance</b>	Goal is to transition youth to permanent housing in under 6 months, with option for longer stay as needed
<b>Is the project anticipated to be funded with YHDP funds?</b>	Yes
<b>Will the project seek any CoC program flexibilities through the waiver notification or approval process?</b>	Yes
<b>Projected Cost (1 year)</b>	\$100,000

## Homeless Management Information System

<b>Project Type: Homeless Management Information System</b>	
<b>Core Elements of this Project</b>	This project will strengthen the existing HMIS system to include youth specific data elements and reporting, including equity and coordinated entry, along with all required reporting and data entry.
<b>Target Population</b>	N/A
<b>Supportive Services Description</b>	N/A - this project will fund HMIS system administration.
<b>YHDP Principles to be Addressed</b>	Equity, Coordinated Entry
<b>Is the project anticipated to be funded with YHDP funds?</b>	Yes
<b>Projected Cost (1 year)</b>	\$45,000

## Rapid Re-Housing

<b>Project Type: Rapid Re-Housing</b>	
<b>Core Elements of this Project</b>	Rental assistance and ongoing supportive services through the duration of enrollment to help youth obtain and stabilize in a permanent housing option. This could include both shared housing and independent living options.
<b>Target Population</b>	At-risk youth, youth who are not eligible for FUP/FYI, youth who are most vulnerable
<b>Supportive Services Description</b>	Education and employment, life skills training and support, roommate education, access to healthcare (including dental care, mental health care), transportation, budgeting supports
<b>YHDP Principles to be Addressed</b>	Equity, Housing First, Youth Choice, Trauma-Informed Care, Coordinated Entry, Community Integration
<b>Length of Assistance</b>	Extending length of RRH assistance to 3 years, providing up to 1 year of aftercare supports once rental assistance ends
<b>Is the project anticipated to be funded with YHDP funds?</b>	Yes
<b>Will the project seek any CoC program flexibilities through the waiver notification or approval process?</b>	Yes
<b>Projected Cost (1 year)</b>	\$116,074

## Permanent Supportive Housing

<b>Project Type: Permanent Supportive Housing</b>	
<b>Core Elements of this Project</b>	Non-time limited rental assistance that is based on a youth's income with supportive services tailored to meet each individual's needs.
<b>Target Population</b>	Youth with disabilities
<b>Supportive Services Description</b>	Education and employment, life skills training and support, roommate education, access to healthcare (including dental care, mental health care), transportation, budgeting supports
<b>YHDP Principles to be Addressed</b>	Equity, Housing First, Youth Choice, Trauma-Informed Care, Coordinated Entry, Community Integration
<b>Length of Assistance</b>	Non-time limited, project should establish some sort of transition plan to eventually move youth who are 25+ into PSH targeted to adults or other mainstream subsidized housing
<b>Is the project anticipated to be funded with YHDP funds?</b>	Yes
<b>Will the project seek any CoC program flexibilities through the waiver notification or approval process?</b>	No
<b>Projected Cost (1 year)</b>	\$200,000

## Direct Cash Transfers

<b>Project Type: Direct Cash Transfers</b>	
<b>Core Elements of this Project</b>	Cash assistance provided directly to YYA to offset the cost burdens associated with experiencing homelessness, while allowing YYA to determine how to use the assistance to best meet their immediate needs.
<b>Target Population</b>	Youth who are not eligible for CoC or mainstream housing assistance, but who are either experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness.
<b>Supportive Services Description</b>	Education and employment, life skills training and support, roommate education, access to healthcare (including dental care, mental health care), transportation, budgeting supports
<b>YHDP Principles to be Addressed</b>	Positive Youth Development, Housing First, Youth Choice, Community Integration
<b>Innovative Strategies</b>	The Youth Homelessness Subcommittee has established a goal to create a Direct Cash Transfer program for YYA experiencing homelessness.
<b>Is the project anticipated to be funded with YHDP funds?</b>	No
<b>Projected Cost (1 year)</b>	TBD

## Upstream Prevention

<b>Project Type: Upstream Prevention</b>	
<b>Core Elements of this Project</b>	Provide services and supports to at risk YYA before they experience homelessness. Shift from being reactive, to being proactive.
<b>Target Population</b>	YYA at risk of experiencing homelessness
<b>Supportive Services Description</b>	Supportive Services will be determined by the YYA, and will be designed to meet their individual needs.
<b>YHDP Principles to be Addressed</b>	Youth Choice, Housing First, Positive Youth Development, Equity, Community Integration
<b>Innovative Strategies</b>	The Youth Homelessness Subcommittee has established a goal to develop strategies for upstream prevention of youth homelessness.
<b>Is the project anticipated to be funded with YHDP funds?</b>	No
<b>Projected Cost (1 year)</b>	TBD



# Vision

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The **vision** of the Youth Success Project is that every young person's needs are met in the state of New Hampshire and that young people are entrusted to make decisions about their own lives.

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# Mission

The **mission** of the Youth Success Project is to create an equitable platform for youth voice in decision making spaces through collective power and advocacy work led by those who have been most marginalized.

# Core Values



**YOUTH  
SUCCESS  
PROJECT**

## **The Youth Success Project (YSP) believes that ...**

1. Everyone deserves a safe and stable place to call home.
2. Young adults are capable and resilient people who have the fundamental human right to have a voice and choice in decisions that directly impact their lives. Youth choice is crucial at individual level interactions with service providers and in larger systems level conversations about ending youth homelessness.
3. Young people are worthy of safety, confidentiality, and respect in their lives. It is the job of the system and services providers to meet youth and young adults where they are at throughout their process and provide services and support that feel respectful, welcoming, and safe.
4. Identities, especially intersecting identities, directly impact the way that young people are treated in their daily lives. The stigma associated with homelessness is real. Stigma impacts young people's ability to access and accept support when available.
5. Having a diverse set of voices in decision making spaces strengthens the work to end youth homelessness. Everyone has an obligation to use privilege to lift up the identities and experiences of those who are not as well represented.
6. Homelessness is a systemic and social justice issue rather than one of individual fault. It is connected to larger systems of injustice including but not limited to classism, adultism, racism, homophobia, and sexism. Youth Homelessness cannot truly end without looking to dismantle these larger systems of oppression.
7. There are reasons why youth and young adults experience homelessness and it is incredibly hard to regain stability once entered into homelessness. No one has a right to pass judgment on young people's processes. Young people going through difficult times have a right to have fun and enjoy themselves.
8. Disabilities are real and can be both seen and unseen. The impacts of disabilities on young people's daily lives are significant and the ways that we navigate and choose to deal with those experiences are not for others to judge.
9. Family relationships are complex. All young people have a right to make decisions about how they will engage in relationships with their biological families. Relationships with chosen support networks are powerful, and consistent and stable chosen people make hard things less hard.
10. Young adults do not need to conform to older adults' styles and ideas of professionalism to have valid and meaningful feedback. All methods of communication, styles of dressing, and cultural differences are valid. Youth should be embraced into the work as they are.
11. Youth and young adults are the experts in the issues that affect them most directly. Working with the YSP is not an act of charity, it is a privilege to partner together. Adults and organizations that the YSP works with should value our voices as powerful and meaningful, and should properly compensate us for our time and expertise.

# Agreements



YOUTH  
SUCCESS  
PROJECT

- We show up at this space because we are committed to this work and one another as a **collective team**.
- This is a **shared space**. Directors and Leaders may guide the conversation, but this space belongs to all of us.
- Be as **present** as you are able. Try to avoid multitasking during YSP meetings, but use the tools you need to focus.
- **Take space, make space**: give others an opportunity to speak if you have been speaking a lot, challenge yourself to speak up if you haven't been.
- **One mic**: don't speak over others.
- **No conversations about people that are not present**.
- Acknowledge **intent and impact**. Sometimes we unknowingly hurt others. Use "oops" & "ouch" as needed.
- **Inclusiveness**: we value and affirm a range of identities and experiences in this space and are working to actively seek them out.
- **What is said here stays here, what is learned here leaves here**.
- We all commit to **work on our own internalized racist, sexist, or otherwise discriminatory beliefs**. Microaggressions and otherwise discriminatory comments will be called in.
- Partners meetings: this is a youth space that you are being invited into, call one another in on adulthood.

APPENDIX D

Complete List of Partners			
Partner Type	Name	Title	Organization
Health, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Agencies	Adele Bauman	Administrator	Bureau of Children's Behavioral Health
Non-Profit Youth Organizations	Allison Joseph	Program Director	My Turn
Runaway and Homeless Youth Program Providers	Alyssa Trepanier	Case Manager	Waypoint
Runaway and Homeless Youth Program Providers	Amy Malone	Case Manager	Waypoint
Institution of Higher Education	Amy Vazifdar	Director of Student Life	Nashua Community College
Non-Profit Youth Organization	Andrew Palomo	Consultant	National Network for Youth
Youth Action Board	Ariel Hayes	Director	Youth Success Project
Health, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Agencies	Ashley Sullivan	DFC Coordinator/ CoC Facilitator	Partnership for Public Health Winnepesaukee Region
Health, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Agencies	Athena Cote	Community Collaborations Administrator	DHHS Division of Public Health Services
Health, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Agencies	Aurelia Moran	Community Health Services Supervisor	DHHS Division of Public Health Services
Local and State Educational Agencies	Bethany Cottrell	Human Service Director	Merrimack County
Health, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Agencies	Catalina Kirsch	Carroll County Coalition for Public Health	Granite United Way
Non-Profit Youth Organization	Cathy Pellerin	Executive Director	Claremont Learning Partnership
Youth Action Board	Celene Johns Thomas	YSP Leader	Youth Success Project

HMIS Provider	Chertina Walker	Data Analyst	Institute for Community Alliances
Local and State Educational Agencies	Courtney Porter	McKinney Vento Liaison	Claremont School District
Non-Profit Youth Organization	Cynthia Thomas	Community Liaison	Bethany Christian Services
Juvenile and Adult Corrections and Probation	David Cady	Deputy Director Field Services	Department of Corrections
Local Advocacy, Research, and Philanthropic Organizations	Deb Bradley	Foster Parent	NH FAPA
Public Housing Authorities	Dee Pouliot	Managing Director	NH Housing Finance Authority
Juvenile and Adult Corrections and Probation	Dominic Gannett	Juvenile Probation and Parole Officer	DCYF - MCOG
Runaway and Homeless Youth Program Providers	Dominique Whiton	Case Manager	Waypoint
Local and State Government	Dylan Gatta	Data Analyst	DHHS Affiliate (ECIT)
Runaway and Homeless Youth Program Providers	Erin Kelly	Program Director	Waypoint
Public Child Welfare Agency	Erin Laskowski	Human Trafficking Program Specialist	DCYF
Local and State Government	Germano Martins	Community Relations Manager	DHHS
Public Child Welfare Agency	Harmony Varnum	Supervisor	DCYF
Institution of Higher Education	Heidi Cloutier	Co-Director of Training	Children's System of Care Technical Assistance Center (CSOC TAC) NH UNH

Local and State Government	Heidi Young	Program Planning and Review Specialist	DHHS DEHS Bureau of Housing Supports/HUD Program Applicant
Health, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Agencies	Jannell Lavin	Program Planning and Review Specialist	DEHS Bureau of Behavioral Health
Runaway and Homeless Youth Program Providers	Jay Pomeroy	Case Manager	Waypoint
Local Advocacy, Research, and Philanthropic Organizations	Jennifer Curran	Supervisor	CASA
Institution of Higher Education	Jennifer O'Brien	Professor	UNH
Health, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Agencies	Jennifer Sabin	Suicide Prevention Specialist	DHHS DBH
Non Profit Agency	Joan Laplante	Caregiver Specialist	ServiceLink of Grafton County
Public Child Welfare Agency	Joanne Coles	Child Protective Service Worker	DCYF Child Protection
Institution of Higher Education	Joanne Malloy	Director	NH UNH IOD
Local and State Educational Agencies	Jocelyne Pinsonne	McKinney Vento Liaison	Manchester School District
Runaway and Homeless Youth Program Providers	Joss Birnie	Case Manager	Waypoint
Local and State Government	Julian Long	Community Development Coordinator / Grants Manager	City of Rochester
Health, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Agencies	Kandyce Tucker	Coordinator	Franklin Mayor's Drug Taskforce (Prevention Coalition)
Local and State Educational Agencies	Karen Moore	McKinney Vento liaison	Berlin School District
Institutions of Higher Education	Kim Livingstone	Social Work Program Director	Plymouth State University

Local and State Government	Kristiane Schott	Administrator	DHHS BHS
Local Advocacy, Research, and Philanthropic Organizations	Lauren Wool	Senior Director Community Impact	Granite United Way
Health, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Agencies	Lisa Storez	Public Health Nurse Consultant	DHHS Public Health
Youth Action Board	Madison Lemay	YSP Leader	Youth Success Project
Organizations that serve culturally specific (Black, Latino, Indigenous, people with disabilities, LGBTQ, etc) communities	Maggie Fogerty	Director	American Friends Service Committee
Runaway and Homeless Youth Program Providers	Mandy Lancaster	Program Manager	Waypoint
Public Child Welfare Agency	Maria Erwin	CPSW	DCYF
Local Advocacy, Research, and Philanthropic Organizations	Mary Frances Renner	foster parent	NH FAPA
Continuum of Care and Emergency Solutions Grant Program Recipients	Mat Duclos	Director	Housing Stability - Tri Count CAP
Runaway and Homeless Youth Program Providers	Mattie Conner	Case Manager	Waypoint
HMIS Provider	Meghan Morrow Ra	HMIS Manager	Institute for Community Alliances
Non-Profit Youth Organization	Melissa Goerbig	Program Director	Big Brothers/Big Sisters NH
Local and State Government / CoC Board	Melissa Hatfield	Bureau Chief	CoC Collaborative Applicant/Bureau of Housing Supports

Public Child Welfare Agency	Michelle Smith	CPSW	DCYF
Local Advocacy, Research, and Philanthropic Organizations	Mike Apfelberg	GNCOC	Greater Nashua United Way
Public Housing Authority	Monique Lueras	FYI Voucher Program Manager	NH Housing Finance Authority
Law Enforcement	Nicole Rodler	Juvenile Division Coordinator	Rochester Police Department
Juvenile and Adult Corrections and Probation	Patrick Austin	Juvenile Probation and Parole Officer	DCYF Juvenile Justice - Berlin
Continuum of Care Board	Patte Ardizzoni	Communications Director	SNHS
Health, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Agencies	Paulette Rowell	Residential Services Coordinator	Bureau of Children's Behavioral Health
Runaway and Homeless Youth Program Providers	Quinci Worthy	Case Manager	Waypoint
Non-Profit Youth Organization	Rachel Kern	Educational & Vocational Coordinator	Youth Villages
Non-Profit Youth Organization	Rebecca Ayling	Consultant	At the Root LLC
Health, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Agencies	Regina Flynn	Student Assistance Program and Young Adult Strategies Coordinator	DHHS DCBCS Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services
Juvenile and Adult Corrections and Probation	Renee DePalo	Alternative Sentencing Director	Grafton Cty Corrections
Law Enforcement	Richard Bergeron	School Resource Office	Hollis Police Department
HMIS Provider	Roby Malchanoff	System Administrator	ICA



Juvenile and Adult Corrections and Probation	Rudiger Grzanne	Probation and Parole Officer	Dept of Corrections
Local Advocacy, Research, and Philanthropic Organizations	Shameca Brown	REACH Crisis Services Family Violence Prevention Specialist	YWCA (MCOC)
Health, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Agencies	Shannon Bresaw	Vice President of Public Health	Granite United Way
Continuum of Care and Emergency Solutions Grant Program Recipients	Shannon Dumas	Housing Stabilization Case Manager	Tri County CAP
Continuum of Care and Emergency Solutions Grant Program Recipients	Sharetta Davis	Housing Stabilization Case Manager	Tri County CAP
Organizations that serve culturally specific (Black, Latino, Indigenous, people with disabilities, LGBTQ, etc.) communities	Shirley Tomlinson	Program Specialist	DHHS Office of Health Equity
Local and State Government	Sue Watson	Program Specialist	DHHS Division of Economic and Housing Stability
Early Childhood Development Provider	Susan Amberg	Plymouth Family Resource Center Director	Granite United Way
Public Child Welfare Agency	Susan Greenwell	Child Protective Service Worker	DCYF Child Protection - Laconia
Local and State Educational Agencies	Talley Westerberg	McKinney Vento liaison	Winnacunnet School District
Runaway and Homeless Youth Program Providers	Tori Bird	Case Manager	Waypoint
Local Advocacy, Research, and Philanthropic Organizations	Tori Nevel	Program Coordinator	NH Human Trafficking Taskforce

Public Child Welfare Agency	Traci Smiley	supervisor	DCYF
Juvenile and Adult Corrections and Probation	William Duffy III	Probation and Parole Officer	Dept of Corrections
Institution of Higher Education	Yvonne Vissing	Professor	Salem State University
Local Advocacy, Research, and Philanthropic Organizations	Elissa Margolin	Director	Housing Action NH
Law Enforcement	Eric Adams	Prevention, Enforcement & Treatment Coordinator	Laconia Police Department
Drug and Alcohol Services	Emily Shanahan	Outreach and Communications Director, Young Adult Strategies Coordinator (Central Region)	Communities for Alcohol and Drug-Free Youth
Runaway and Homeless Youth Program Providers	S Fay	Case Manager	Waypoint
Affordable Housing Provider	Herb Carpenter	Executive Director	Fellowship Housing Opportunities
Organizations that serve culturally specific (Black, Latino, Indigenous, people with disabilities, LGBTQ, etc.) communities	Hershey Hirschkop	Executive Director	Seacoast Outright
Local and State Educational Agencies	Cynthia Collea	District Social Worker, McKinney-Vento Liaison and Foster Care Point of Contact	Mascoma Valley Regional School District (SAU #62)

The signatures below attest to the approval and support of the Balance of State Continuum of Care Coordinated Community Plan to End Youth Homelessness. We agree to work collaboratively with our partners to implement a comprehensive system to prevent and end youth homelessness, including the goals and objectives outlined in the plan.

**Youth Success Project members (NH's Youth Action Board)**

Name: Ariel Hayes

Title: Youth Success Project Director

Organization: Plymouth State University

Signature: Ariel Hayes

Date: 04/27/2022

Name: Madison Lemay

Title: Youth Success Project Leader

Organization: Plymouth State University

Signature: [Signature]

Date: 04/27/2022

Name: Celene Johns-Thomas

Title: Youth Success Project Leader

Organization: Plymouth State University

Signature: Celene Johns-Thomas

Date: 4/28/22

**Continuum of Care**

Name: Melissa Hatfield

Title: Balance of State Continuum of Care Collaborative Applicant/Co-Chair

Organization: Bureau of Housing Supports, Department of Health & Human Services

Signature: [Signature]

Date: 5/3/2022

Name: Heidi Young

Title: Balance of State Continuum of Care YHDP Lead

Organization: Bureau of Housing Supports, Department of Health & Human Services

Signature: Heidi Young

Date: 5/3/2022

**Public Child Welfare Agency**

Name: Joseph Ribsam

Title: Director

Organization: Division for Children, Youth & Families, Department of Health & Human Services

Signature: [Signature]

Date: 5/15/22

**Local Government Agency**

Name: Christine Santaniello

Title: Associate Commissioner

Organization: State of New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services

Signature: Christine Santaniello

Date: 5/03/2022

**Runaway and Homeless Youth Provider**

Name: Erin George-Kelly

Title: Director, Youth Services

Organization: Waypoint

Signature: Erin George-Kelly

Date: 5/3/2022

**YSP IS HOSTING FOCUS GROUPS!**

**get paid \$50**




*we must resolve*  
**HOPELESSNESS**  
*to resolve*  
**HOMELESSNESS**

Leaving homelessness needs to feel possible to youth. New Hampshire needs a variety of easily understood pathways out of homelessness.



*Everyone deserves a safe and stable place to call home.*




**PEOPLE IN POWER SHOULD KNOW**

notes from focus groups with youth and young adults who experienced homelessness in New Hampshire




**YOUTH VOICES MATTER  
 LIVED EXPERIENCE MATTERS  
 YOUTH VOICES MATTER  
 LIVED EXPERIENCE MATTERS  
 YOUTH VOICES MATTER  
 LIVED EXPERIENCE MATTERS  
 YOUTH VOICES MATTER  
 LIVED EXPERIENCE MATTERS  
 YOUTH VOICES MATTER  
 LIVED EXPERIENCE MATTERS**

