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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This Coordinated Community Plan to prevent and end youth homelessness in Hennepin County is representative of a continued commitment and focus to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-reoccurring for youth and young adults (YYA). This effort includes input from a broad range of stakeholders made up of non-profit youth agencies, government entities, local education agencies, the Heading Home Hennepin Executive Committee, and youth and young adults. The development of the Coordinated Community Plan was led by the Youth Action Board and the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP) Core Team.

Youth Action Board - The Youth Action Board (YAB) is a formal committee of youth and young adults who have experienced housing instability in Hennepin County. It consists of three to 12 members, ages 18 through 24 years old. Members represent a diversity of Hennepin County's population, and are from varied geographic, experience and identity backgrounds. Youthprise supports the group through a Youth Action Board Coordinator and evidenced-based youth strategies to engage youth and young adults.

YHDP Core Team - Planning to end youth homelessness is a collaborative effort and requires intentional partnerships between stakeholders. The YHDP core team includes a wide range of cross-system stakeholders, including youth who have experienced housing instability, child welfare agencies, school districts, property management companies and landlords, the juvenile justice system, child welfare system and organizations that represent the cultural and racial diversity of youth and young adults in the community. The following YHDP Core Team members have committed a significant amount of time and dedication to ensuring that youth voice is at the forefront of all decision and that the coordinated community plan is inclusive of a broad range of voices. We want to thank the following members for their contribution to this plan:

YAB members

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CloseKnit – Jacqueline White
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Domestic Abuse Project – Sam Zerbel
Goodwill Easter Seals – Kyle Van Acker
Greater Twin Cities United Way – Jay Wagner
Hennepin Health – Kentral Galloway
Minneapolis Public Schools– Melissa Winship
Oasis for Youth – Jasmyn Green
The Bridge for Youth – Lisa Mears, Christina Woodlee
The Link – James Lewis
YMCA of the North – Stacy Sweeney
YouthLink – Lynn Migdal, Shennika Sudduth
Youthprise – Kristy Synder

Non-profit organizations

180 Degrees – Krystal Hollins
846s.org – Dr. Remi Douah
AEON – Mark Miller
Catholic Charities Hope Street – Molly Mcinerny
City of Minneapolis – Bobby Morrow, Katie Miller

Hennepin County

Adult Behavioral Health – Amy Delgado
Child Welfare – Tracy Neil
Corrections – Adesola Jaiyesimi, Katherine Williams
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Housing Stability – Casey Schleisman, Eric Richert
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ICF – Jen Best, Ziggy Keyes
National Center for Homeless Education – Kenya Hayes
True Colors United – Justina Burton
YouthPrise – Aimee Vue, Molly Dubois

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Hennepin County (HC) Continuum of Care (CoC) was selected for the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP), which is funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). An ongoing \$3.5 million bi-annual grant accompanies this award to support a wide range of new housing and service interventions targeting youth homelessness. HC, through its CoC, a cross-sector coalition of homeless housing and shelter providers, consumers, advocates, government representatives, and youth, collaborated to create a Coordinated Community Plan (CCP) to prevent and end youth homelessness. The CCP will guide the work related to work towards ending youth homelessness in Hennepin County.

In Hennepin County, our vision is a community where all youth and young adults have access to safe and stable housing, ensuring youth homelessness is rare, brief, and non-recurring.

We will address the racial inequities that exist and the inequitable distribution of power, especially for BIPOC and LGBTQ+ youth and young adults experiencing housing instability. We commit to disrupting oppressive systems. This includes youth leadership and decision-making in advocacy, planning and action.

We will enhance an innovative and accessible system that is centered in youth choice and youth voice. The system will focus on preventing homelessness whenever possible and supporting youth in moving towards stable housing. Services and housing opportunities will be provided through a holistic approach, supporting youth connections to chosen family and community and incorporating youth-developed strategies on improving education and employment connections, prioritizing social and emotional well-being, and enhancing permanent connections.

DEFINITIONS

Hennepin County strives to prevent and end homelessness for all unaccompanied youth and young adults (YYA) under the age of 25. Unaccompanied YYA refers to YYA not accompanied by a parent or guardian. This could be YYA that are on their own or YYA that are pregnant or parenting. For the purposes of the Coordinated Community Plan (CCP), we are working to end homelessness for youth who meet all categories of homelessness as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) below:

I. Literally Homeless - YYA who are in shelter, transitional housing, hotels, or motels paid for by the government or charity (sheltered), or sleeping on the streets, in parks, or other places not meant for human habitation (unsheltered).

II. Imminently at risk of homelessness - YYA who will lose housing (including doubled up situations) within the next 14 days with no other safe place to stay and no money or other resources for housing. YYA who have been couch surfing with multiple moves in the last two months and can be expected to have continued housing instability.

III. Homeless under other federal statutes - YYA who are classified as homeless under other federal statutes, including the McKinney-Vento Homelessness Assistance Act and the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA). Youth who meet these definitions lack safe regular and adequate housing. Examples include the home of an acquaintance/ friend/significant other, a foster or group home, a hospital/emergency room, a residential treatment facility, a corrections detention center, or at the home of someone the YYA was having sex with as a means of survival.

IV. Fleeing dangerous or life-threatening situations - YYA fleeing or attempting to flee their housing or the place they are staying because of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions related to violence that has taken place in the house or has made them afraid to return to the house, including: Trading sex for housing, trafficking, physical abuse, violence (or perceived threat of violence) because of the YYA's sexual orientation. Additionally, the YYA must have no safe, alternative housing, resources, or support networks to maintain or obtain permanent housing¹.

¹ Determining Homeless Status of Youth: <https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Determining-Homeless-Status-of-Youth.pdf>

TARGET POPULATION

Youth: Minors under age 18 who are not accompanied by a parent or guardian (unaccompanied minor). This includes both single youth and youth who are pregnant and/or parenting.

Young Adults: Young adults ages 18-24 who are not accompanied by a parent or guardian. This includes both single youth and youth who are pregnant and/or parenting.

Throughout this document, the term Youth and Young Adults (YYA) refers to both target populations.

ACRONYMS

- **AMI:** Area Median Income.
- **BIPOC:** Black, Indigenous, and people of color
- **CCP:** Coordinated Community Plan
- **CES:** Coordinated Entry System, a process operated by Continuum of Care to assess and connect homeless people with homeless-designated housing programs
- **CoC:** continuum of care for the homeless; funding made available by HUD via the annual CoC program competition process
- **DHS:** Minnesota Department of Human Services
- **FHPAP:** Family Homelessness Prevention and Assistance Program; biannual grant from Minnesota Housing for homelessness prevention and rapid rehousing
- **EA:** Emergency Assistance for families
- **EGA:** Emergency General Assistance for single adults
- **ESG:** Emergency Solutions Grant; annual grant from HUD used by Hennepin County and City and Minneapolis
- **FMR:** Fair Market Rent, a calculation completed by the federal government
- **GRH:** Group Residential Housing, a state benefit that pays for housing and some services for people with disabling conditions, also called Housing Support
- **HMIS:** Homelessness Management Information System; database and reporting application
- **HUD:** United States Department of Housing and Urban Development
- **LGBTQ+:** Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, transgender, Queer/Questioning, plus
- **LTH:** Long-term homeless, a Minnesota designation of people who have been homeless or doubled-up for 12 continuous months or for 4 times in the last 3 years
- **MFIP:** Minnesota Families Investment Program, Minnesota's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program
- **MH:** Minnesota Housing
- **NOFO:** Notice of Funding Opportunity
- **PIT:** point in time count, a required count of people experiencing homelessness every January
- **PSH:** permanent supportive housing
- **TA:** technical assistance

STAKEHOLDERS CHART

Planning to end youth homelessness is a collaborative effort and requires intentional partnerships between stakeholders. Coordination is needed between a wide range of cross-system stakeholders, including youth with lived experience, local government, child welfare agencies, local and state education agencies, workforce development organizations, the juvenile justice system, and organizations that represent the cultural and racial diversity of youth in your community to effectively address youth homelessness. The involvement of stakeholders in this planning effort ranged from monitoring progress to working and meeting weekly to develop the coordinated community plan to giving the plan final approval. The stakeholder chart highlights the type of partner, their name and role, and how they were involved.

Partner	Partner's Name & Role	Involvement
Youth Action Board	Youth Action Board	Member of the YHDP core team; lead youth voice initiatives related to housing instability; approves coordinated community plan, YHDP projects and grant recipients; participates in continuous quality improvement and evaluation oversight
Local Government	Hennepin County Housing Stability Area	Hennepin County Continuum of Care Collaborative Applicant; coordinates YHDP planning and implementation activities in partnership with stakeholders, monitors and supports YHDP grant recipients; manages by-name-list; analyzes data; administers annual PIT count; holds contracts with external providers for the YAB coordinator as well as other youth homelessness services and housing contracts; invests \$3.8 in county taxpayer dollars to end youth homelessness + a myriad of other state and federal dollars that pass through
Local Government	City of Minneapolis Homeless Access Team	Member of YHDP core team; focused on unsheltered populations, including youth and young adults, and improving system for them
State Government	Office of Economic Opportunity	Invest \$3.4 million in dedicated Homeless Youth Act dollars in Hennepin County for outreach, shelter, and housing to work towards ending youth homelessness

Public Child Welfare Agency	Hennepin County Children and Family Services	Member of YHDP core team; improves coordination to prevent exits from child welfare services and programming into homelessness; provide data on child welfare involved youth
Juvenile and Adult Corrections and Probation	Hennepin County Department of Community Corrections and Rehabilitation	Member of YHDP core team to improve coordination to reduce exits from justice systems to homelessness; provide data on correction involved youth
Health, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Agencies	Hennepin County Behavioral Health Area, 846s	Member of YHDP core team; improves coordination to prevent exits from behavioral health services and programming into homelessness; provides perspective as it relates to youth and mental health; provide data on youth involved in transition age youth unit in behavioral health area
Law Enforcement	Metro Transit Police Department	Member of YHDP core team to improve coordination with police department to reduce number of youth at-risk of and currently experiencing homelessness
Emergency Solutions Grant Program Recipients	YMCA of the North	Member of the YHDP core team; provides prevention, outreach, shelter, host homes and housing to youth experiencing homelessness
Continuum of Care Program Recipients	AEON, Avenues for Youth, Catholic Charities – Hope Street, Simpson, The Link	AEON, Catholic Charities and The Link are members of the YHDP core team; Youth from AEON, Avenues and The Link sit on the YAB; between these agencies, shelter, outreach, and housing are provided; all youth agencies are members of the Hennepin County Youth Collaborative; which serves as a forum for strategic planning efforts related to ending youth homelessness
Runaway and Homeless Youth Program Providers	180 Degrees, The Bridge for Youth, Catholic Charities – Hope Street, Avenues for Youth, Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative, YMCA of the North, YouthLink	180 Degrees, The Bridge for Youth, and Catholic Charities – Hope Street and YMCA of the North are members of the YHDP core team; Youth from Avenues and the YMCA sit on the YAB; agencies provide prevention, outreach, shelter, transitional housing, maternity group homes and rapid and permanent housing; all youth agencies are members of the Hennepin County Youth Collaborative; which serves as a

		forum for strategic planning efforts related to ending youth homelessness; participate in A Way Home America Grand Challenge efforts
Affordable Housing Providers and Landlord	AEON	Member of the YHDP core team; builds and provides affordable housing options to youth experiencing homelessness; manages properties that serve youth at-risk of and currently experiencing homelessness
Local Educational Agencies	Hennepin County Education Team; Minneapolis Public School District	Member of YHDP core team; coordinates efforts to identify and enumerate youth experiencing homelessness in education settings; promotes YHDP initiatives within Hennepin County education areas
Non-Profit Youth Organizations	Youthprise	Member of YHDP core team; Youthprise hosts YAB coordinator who supports YAB (logistics of meetings, stipends, work)
Non-Profit Youth Organizations	The Link, Oasis for Youth, MoveFwd, 846s	The Link, 846s and Oasis for Youth are members of the YHDP core team; youth from The Link and Oasis sit on the YAB; agencies provide prevention, outreach, shelter, transitional housing, host homes and rapid and permanent housing; most agencies are members of the Hennepin County Youth Collaborative; which serves as a forum for strategic planning efforts related to ending youth homelessness; participate in A Way Home America Grand Challenge effort
Philanthropic Organizations	Graves Foundation, Pohlad Family Foundation, United Way, Butler Foundation, Otto Bremer	Invest \$3,920,000 annually into ending youth homelessness in Hennepin County through prevention, outreach, drop-ins, shelter and housing programs and services
Continuum of Care Board	Heading Home Hennepin Executive Committee consisting of elected officials, including the Mayor of Minneapolis and representatives of the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners, government officials, local nonprofit, business and philanthropy	As per CoC Charter: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve priorities for CoC/YHDP funding projects 2. Designate a Collaborative Applicant to submit the CoC/YHDP Program application on behalf of the CoC membership 3. Approve the CoC/YHDP's annual collaborative application to HUD

	leaders and individuals who have experienced homelessness	<p>4. Designate a single Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) for the CoC geographic area and designate an eligible applicant to manage its HMIS</p> <p>5. Approve HMIS policies and procedures, including a Data Quality Plan, Security Plan, and a Privacy Policy</p> <p>6. Approve an appeals and grievance process to consider and resolve conflicts arising from CoC/YHDP Program allocation decisions</p> <p>7. Act as champions for efforts to prevent and end homelessness, as evidenced through public advocacy, funding and external communications</p> <p>8. Provide an enduring forum for broad-based, collaborative, and strategic leadership on homelessness in Hennepin County</p>
Research and Planning	Chapin Hall	Member of the YHDP core team; contracted agency to support the development of the 'statement of need', including conducting data analysis, system modeling, hosting focus groups and surveys; will evaluate the YHDP planning process to support work moving forward and any necessary adjustments
Organizations that serve culturally specific (Black, Latino, Indigenous, people with disabilities, LGBTQ, etc.) communities	CLUES, Ain Dah Yung, Reclaim, Youth & AIDS Project, 846s	Agencies provide culturally responsive prevention, outreach, shelter, transitional housing, rapid and permanent housing, and case management services to youth; provide data to inform needs assessment
Community Voices	CloseKnit	CloseKnit is a member of the YHDP core team; focused on reducing the over representation of BIPOC youth by resourcing caring informal intergenerational hosting arrangements and removing barriers for renters who host.

SHARED VISION

The Mission and Vision statement was the result of a community-wide process. This process included answering the questions - *why are we here? what are we going to do? what is the world we are trying to create?* Through facilitated conversations, the YHDP Core Team envisioned the “end state” of YYA homelessness. The goal was to name how the community understood the work to end youth homelessness. The following Mission and Vision statement aligns the work done between all stakeholders and clearly articulates the direction and values of those working to prevent and end YYA homelessness.

MISSION AND VISION STATEMENT

Our vision in Hennepin County is a community where all youth and young adults have access to safe and stable housing, ensuring youth homelessness is rare, brief, and non-recurring.

We will address the racial inequities that exist and the inequitable distribution of power, especially for BIPOC and LGBTQ+ youth and young adults experiencing housing instability. We commit to disrupting oppressive systems. This includes youth leadership and decision-making in advocacy, planning and action.

We will enhance an innovative and accessible system that is centered in youth choice and youth voice. The system will focus on preventing homelessness whenever possible and supporting youth in moving towards stable housing. Services and housing opportunities will be provided through a holistic approach, supporting youth connections to chosen family and community and incorporating youth-developed strategies on improving education and employment connections, prioritizing social and emotional well-being, and enhancing permanent connections.

GUIDING FRAMEWORK AND PRINCIPLES

Hennepin County commits to the federal framework and principles that are outlined below. In addition, homeless youth service providers in Hennepin County utilize 9 evidence-based guiding principles to assist YYA in overcoming homelessness, which are also outlined below. The following set of framework and guidelines were used in the system analysis and planning and in addition were incorporated into the project descriptions.

USICH YOUTH FRAMEWORK AND CORE OUTCOMES

The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) released the Framework to End Youth Homelessness in 2013². The framework focuses on two complementary strategies. The strategies include a data strategy, to get to better quantitative and qualitative data on the numbers and characteristics of youth experiencing homelessness, and a capacity strategy, to strengthen and coordinate the capacity of federal, state, and local systems to act effectively and efficiently toward ending youth homelessness. The benchmarks for achieving an end youth homelessness that Hennepin County commits to include:

1. Identifying all unaccompanied YYA experiencing homelessness.
2. Using prevention and diversion strategies whenever possible, and otherwise providing immediate access to low-barrier crisis housing and services to any YYA who needs and wants it.
3. Using coordinated entry processes to effectively link all YYA experiencing homelessness to housing and service solutions that are tailored to their needs.
4. Acting with urgency to swiftly assist YYA to move into permanent or non-time-limited housing options with appropriate services and supports.
5. Securing and maintaining the resources, plans, and system capacity to continue to prevent and quickly end future experiences of homelessness among YYA.

The framework also recognizes four core outcomes for YYA. The four core outcomes that should be present in all CCP goals and objectives include:

1. Stable housing: A safe and reliable place to call home;
2. Permanent connections: Ongoing attachments to families, communities, schools, and other positive social networks;

² USICH framework to end youth homelessness: a resource text for dialogue and action

3. Education/employment: High performance in and completion of educational and training activities, especially for younger youth, and starting and maintaining adequate and stable employment, particularly for older youth; and

4. Social-emotional well-being: The development of key competencies, attitudes, and behaviors that equip a young person to succeed across multiple domains of daily life, including school, work, relationships, and community.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

In Hennepin County, in addition to the USICH Framework and Four Core Outcomes, the YHDP principles were incorporated into the goals and objectives and the new projects that were prioritized for funding.

YHDP PRINCIPLES

1. Consideration of **special populations** of YYA that experience homelessness at a higher rate, including:
 - YYA who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ);
 - YYA who are gender-non-conforming; minors (under the age of 18);
 - YYA involved with juvenile justice and child welfare systems;
 - victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation.
2. **Equity** - Measuring and considering racial and other disparities in experiences of homelessness.
3. **Incorporating Positive Youth Development (PYD) and Trauma Informed Care (TIC)** into all aspects of the YYA homeless response system, including at the system and project levels.
4. Addressing **family engagement** strategies.
5. Addressing strategies and approaches to ensure all YYA will be offered **immediate access to safe, secure, and stable housing with no preconditions**.
6. Addressing **unsheltered youth homelessness** through targeted outreach and engagement strategies,
7. Integrating **YYA choice** into all aspects of the YYA homeless response system,
8. Developing a system that responds to the different needs for service type, intensity, and length of supports by providing **Individualized and client-driven support**.
9. Providing **meaningful opportunities for participation in community activities in support of social and community integration** for young adults experiencing homelessness as they transition into adulthood.
9. Ensuring that the **coordinated entry** process for the local CoC is YYA-appropriate.

9 EVIDENCE-BASED GUIDING PRINCIPLES TO HELP YOUTH OVERCOME HOMELESSNESS

The Hennepin County homeless YYA community further supports additional values is assisting YYA to overcome homelessness. In 2012, six nonprofit organizations in the Twin Cities of Minnesota supporting homeless YYA began collaborating around shared principles. Working with the Otto Bremer Foundation and an internationally regarded evaluation expert, Michael Q. Patton, the agencies first identified shared values and common principles. The Foundation and the collaborative then engaged an independent evaluator, Nora Murphy, to lead the evaluation process. To do this they conducted 14 in-depth case studies of YYA had interacted with the agencies, including interviews with the YYA and program staff, and review of case records. The results of the case studies were then synthesized. The collaborative participated in reviewing every case study to determine which principles were at work and their effectiveness in helping the YYA meet their needs and achieve their goals. The result was the [9 Evidence-based Guiding Principles to help youth overcome homelessness:](#)

1. Journey Oriented - Interact with YYA to help them understand the interconnectedness of past, present, and future as they decide where they want to go and how to get there.
2. Trauma-Informed - Recognize that most YYA experiencing homelessness have experienced trauma; build relationships, responses, and services on that knowledge.
3. Non-Judgmental - Interact with YYA without labeling or judging them on the basis of background, experiences, choices, or behaviors.
4. Harm Reduction - Contain the effects of risky behavior in the short-term and seek to reduce its effects in the long-term.
5. Trusting Youth-Adult Relationships - Build relationships by interacting with YYA in an honest, dependable, authentic, caring, and supportive way.
6. Strengths-Based - Start with and build upon the skills, strengths, and positive characteristics of each YYA.
7. Positive Youth Development - Provide opportunities for youth to build a sense of competency, usefulness, belonging, and power.
8. Holistic - Engage YYA in a manner that recognizes that mental, physical, spiritual, and social health are interconnected and interrelated.
9. Collaboration - Establish a principles-based, youth-focused system of support that integrates practices, procedures, and services within and across agencies, systems, and policies.

Principles provide guidance and direction to those working with YYA experiencing homelessness. They provide a framework for how to approach and view the, engage and interact with them, build relationship with them, and support them. The challenge for YYA workers is to meet and connect with each young person where they are and build a supportive relationship from there. Principles provide the anchor for this relationship-building process.

We acknowledge that there are a variety of values and principles woven through this plan and have identified a need to review and potentially revise the local 9 Evidence-based Guiding Principles that were adopted in 2012. This work is outlined in the plan's goals and objectives and will provide an opportunity to refresh our local values using all the resources mentioned in this section.

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

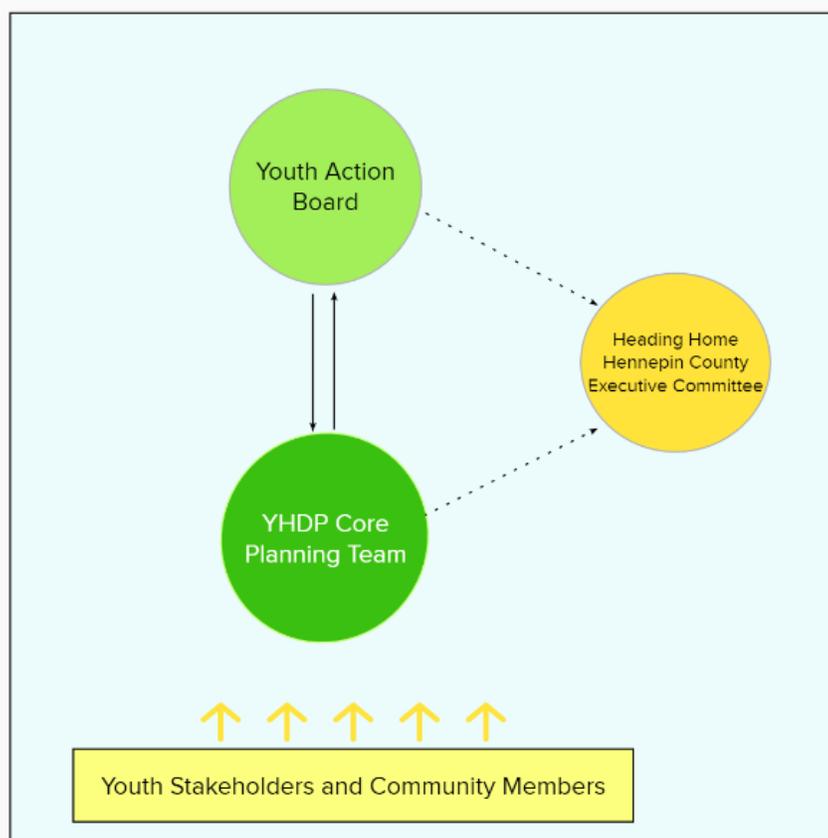
The Hennepin County YHDP leadership and governance structure was carefully designed to put youth voice and leadership at the forefront of decision-making.

PHASE 1- COORDINATED COMMUNITY PLAN DECISION MAKING STRUCTURE

Phase I has been in place from the inception of the planning phase through the completion of the coordinated community plan.

The core elements of the Phase 1 governance include:

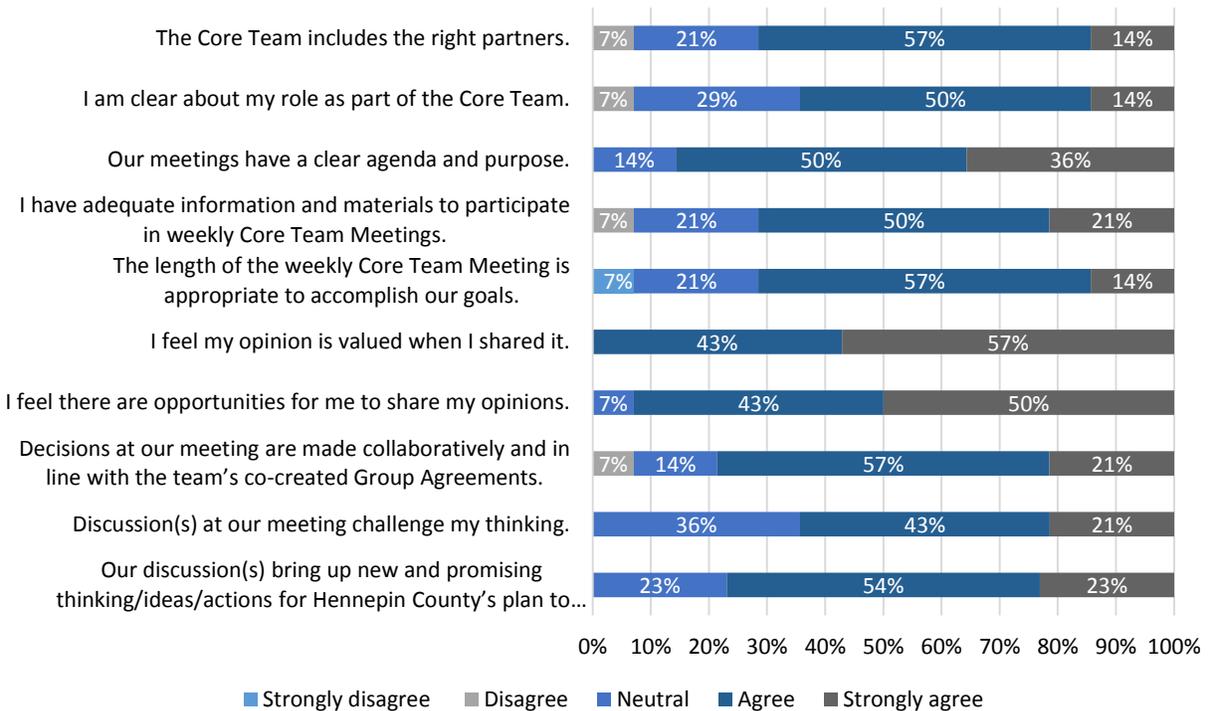
1. The Coordinated Community Plan (CCP) was developed by the YHDP core planning team.
2. When the core team has come to consensus, recommendations go to the full YAB.
3. The YAB holds decision making power (both approval and disapproval) on planning efforts; information can be shared from the YAB to the YHDP Core Planning Team, but the YAB holds final decision-making authority.
4. The YAB communicates decisions back to the YHDP core planning team and the groups collaboratively make recommendations to the Heading Home Hennepin Executive Committee.
5. Heading Home Hennepin Executive Committee is required to sign off in support of the plan. If they have feedback on the plan or require changes, those changes will go back to the YHDP Core Team and work through the governance structure again, until the Heading Home Hennepin Executive Committee gives approval.



Chapin Hall has been contracted to support the Hennepin County (HC) Continuum of Care in the planning process during the development of the CCP. During Phase I, Chapin Hall evaluated the planning process on two occasions, via an online survey. The first survey was completed by 14 core team members. The second survey was completed by 15 core team members. Respondents replied to 10 statements indicating their level of agreement from “strongly disagree” to “strongly agree.”

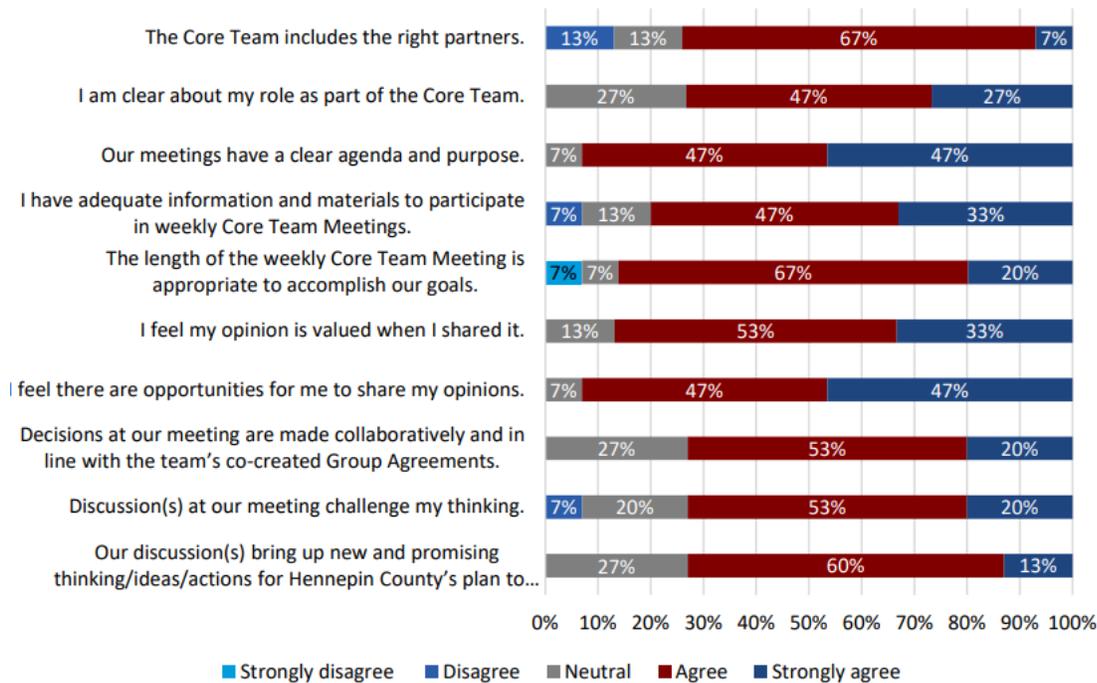
The findings from the first monthly planning assessment survey highlight broad satisfaction with how the Core Team is operating and driving towards its goals. Members feel they have opportunity to share their opinions and that their opinions are valued. The results point to the need to better elevate some voices, enhance integration with the YAB, and remind the Core Team of the ultimate goals of the YHDP planning process. See Figure 1 for further details.

Figure 1



The findings from the second monthly planning assessment survey highlight broad satisfaction with how the Core Team is operating and driving towards its goals. Members feel comfortable with the expectations of the meeting and with the opportunities to share their opinions. The results also point to the need to bring in more diverse community voices and to elevate the voices of the YAB. Additionally, Core Team members were excited about the anticipated YHDP planning work for the month of March and noted a few specific goals that would help to improve the youth homelessness system in Hennepin County. See Figure 2 for further details.

Figure 2



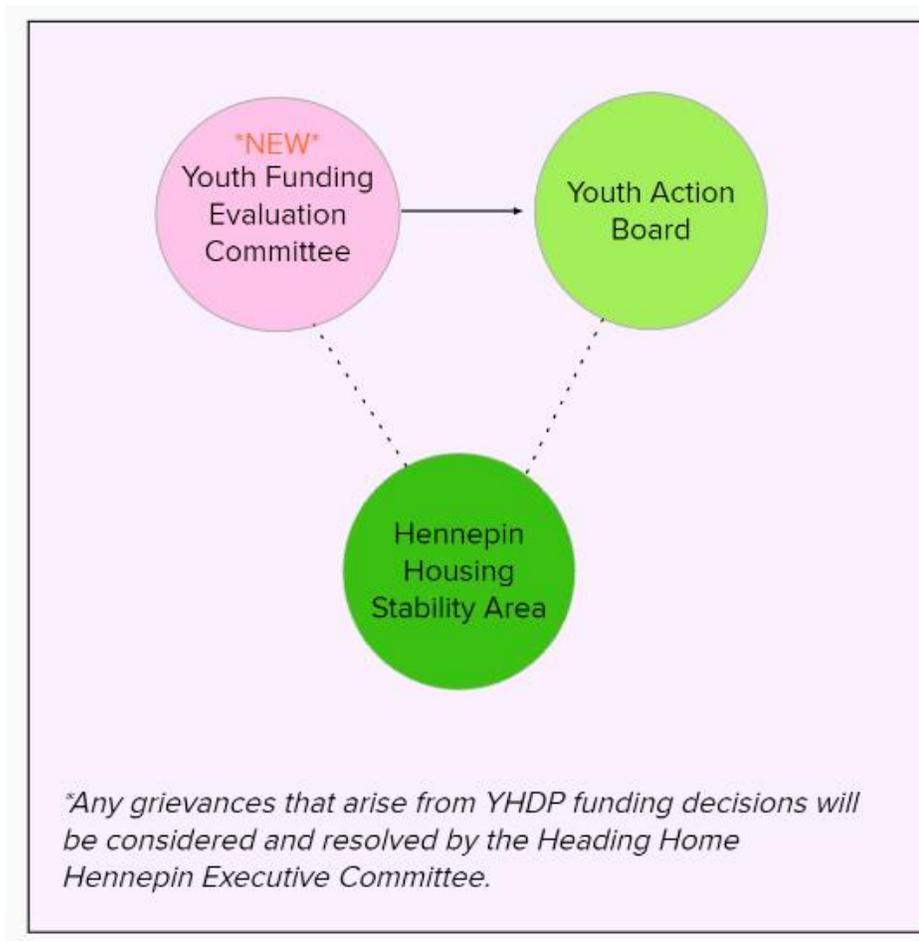
PHASE 2- YHDP PROJECT FUNDING STRUCTURE

This structure will go into effect when the CCP has been finalized through the selection of YHDP funded projects.

The core elements of the Phase 2 governance include:

1. Building off phase 1 - The CCP outlines new projects and priorities.
2. A new YHDP Funding Evaluation Committee is created comprised of at least 51% YYA with lived experience of housing instability (ideally YAB members) for each panel that is created to review proposals. This group/s will be responsible for reviewing applications as part of the request for proposals process. Support will be provided by the Hennepin County Housing Stability Area and Contract Management Team, as needed.
3. Hennepin County/YouthPrise ensures all Youth Evaluation Committee Members have adequate resources to participate in the work (including computers/WIFI, etc.).
4. The YHDP funding evaluation committee makes funding recommendations to the YAB.
5. Hennepin County Housing Stability Area supports both the Youth Funding Evaluation Committee and the YAB in finalizing project recommendations - support can include review of eligible costs,

review of final budget, consistency with CCP goals, logistics, etc. The YAB reviews funding recommendations and either approves or discusses changes with YHDP funding evaluation committee.

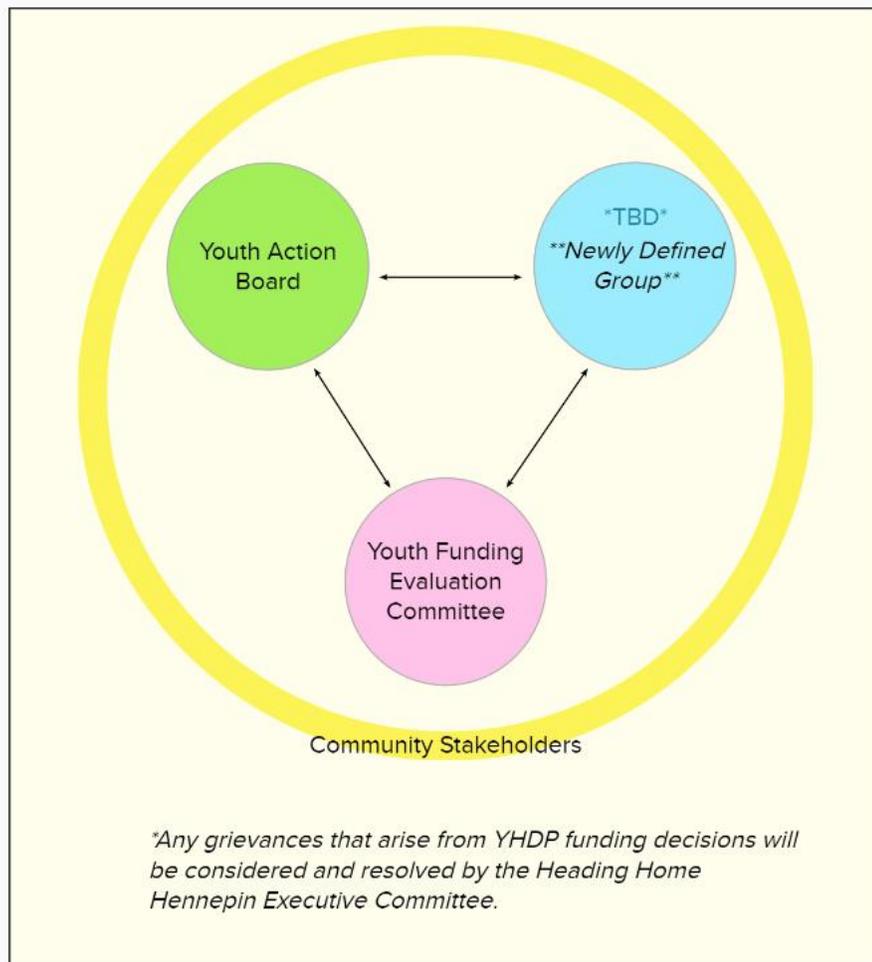


PHASE 3- ONGOING YHDP GOVERNANCE

This structure will be in place from when the YHDP projects are selected and ongoing.

The core elements of the Phase 3 governance include:

1. Youth voice at all levels.
2. The creation of a *Newly Defined Group* will drive the mission/vision of the coordinated community plan and ensure YHDP work is integrated with other youth work happening in Hennepin County. This newly defined group may be a completely new group or a re-grouping of an existing group working to address housing instability for youth.
3. The Youth Evaluation Committee will be a subset of the YAB and the *Newly Defined Group* who are focused on continuous quality improvement work throughout the demonstration period of YHDP.
4. All three of these bodies will communicate and make decisions collaboratively.



STATEMENT OF NEED

Hennepin County Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program Planning Support: Rapid Study of Youth Needs & System Capacity

Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago (Chapin Hall) has had previous opportunities to work with the HC CoC and HC, more broadly, to support efforts related to understanding and preventing youth homelessness. Chapin Hall supported the YHDP planning process and development of the CCP, by bringing capacity and effort to the process with respect to research, evaluation, data, and evidence-based/informed practices.

Aims

This investigation had three aims:

Articulate the needs of the population of YYA at risk of or experiencing homelessness in Hennepin County, attending to the inflow of YYA into the youth homelessness system:

Present prevalence by age group and household type (i.e., single vs. parenting)

Describe intersections between experiences of youth homelessness and YYA's demographic characteristics or experiences (e.g., systems involvement)

Highlight findings in the US Interagency Council on Homelessness' (USICH) four core outcome domains among youth experiencing homelessness.

Take stock of the resources within the YYA homelessness system (and the single adult/family homelessness systems, more broadly) in HC, attending to the outflow of YYA into temporary housing, permanent housing, self-resolution, and other system exits.

Depict gaps between the needs of the population and the resources available to meet these needs to inform the CCP planning process.

Previous Collaborations Between Hennepin County & Chapin Hall

In 2016, HC contributed to the youth Point in Time count that Chapin Hall conducted as part of *Voices of Youth Count*, a comprehensive research and policy initiative to understand the scope and scale of youth homelessness across the U.S.

In 2018, Chapin Hall partnered with Hopkins Public Schools and a local youth service provider in a suburb of Minneapolis on the Upstream Project. The Upstream Project is a place-based, systems change effort designed to build partnership between local school districts and community resources to prevent young people from becoming homeless or dropping out of school.

Method

Chapin Hall conducted a rapid study of the needs and gaps related to YYA homelessness in Hennepin County to inform the CCP Statement of Need. Rapid research is used in situations that require time pressure to influence changes in practice or policy, a large amount of information from diverse sources, and close approximation of the experiences of participants to the action being discussed.³ The method synthesizes data and uses an iterative process of data collection and analysis. For the current effort, three strategies were utilized: (1) a document review; (2) synthesis and systematic analysis of aggregate data drawn from HC administrative databases, and (3) open-ended surveys and discussion groups with YYA and agency stakeholders to glean qualitative insights to contextualize and better understand the quantitative findings.

Document & Data Review

Chapin Hall reviewed an initial trove of documents from the Hennepin County Housing Stability Area. These documents contained information from previous efforts to understand the scope and scale of youth homelessness in HC (e.g., *Voices of Youth Count*, *Wilder's Youth on Their Own* report). Chapin Hall strategized with HC staff to identify other important data sources, and subsequently conducted outreach to state and county agencies, service providers, and other stakeholders for specific data elements. In many cases, organizations contributed up to date (2021) aggregate data, and analyses were also conducted using HC's Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS) Core data. Chapin Hall also used the Youth Services Network (YSN) matrix, which contains information on YYA homelessness services across the county, including details such as specific programs, populations served, and number of beds/units.

Chapin Hall reviewed all data sources, reports, and related documents and extracted key findings that addressed questions related to population prevalence, intersections with youth's demographics and experiences, and any data on USICH's four core outcomes: stable housing, education/employment, permanent connections, and social-emotional well-being. Table 1 shows the sixteen data sources that informed the synthesis of information for the Statement of Need. Chapin Hall arrayed all information related to "population need" in one spreadsheet to facilitate sorting and analysis and similarly arrayed the YSN matrix data in a separate "system capacity" spreadsheet.

TABLE 1. DATA SOURCES

Source	Year	Information Held	Access
CES Monitoring Report	2020	Homelessness prevalence data	Shared document
Court Services Tracking System	2021	Intersections with youth in Juvenile Probation	Individual request

³ A technical difficulty prevented analysis of the focus group conducted with MVNA; an individual interview was conducted once this was realized.

Corporation for Supportive Housing Racial Disparities & Disproportionality Index	2021	Intersections with demographics	Shared document
HC FHAP Prevention Programs	2021	System capacity; USICH outcomes	Individual request
Homelessness Management Information System Core Data	2021	Homelessness prevalence data; system capacity data; intersections with demographics and system involvement; USICH outcomes	Individual request
Homeless Youth Act Reports	2021	System capacity data; intersections with commercial sexual exploitation	Individual request
Latino Communities United in Services (CLUES)	2021	System capacity information	Individual request
Minnesota Student Survey	2019	Prevalence of homelessness; intersections with gender identity, race/ethnicity, & socioeconomic status	Online data tool
National Center on Homeless Education Workbook	2019	Prevalence of homelessness	Shared document
Office of Justice Programs Data Capture	2020	Intersections with domestic violence	Individual request
Teen HOPE – Pathways	2021	Prevalence of homelessness	Individual request
Voices of Youth Count	2017	Prevalence of homelessness; intersections with gender identity, sexual orientation, race/ethnicity, mental health, substance use, commercial sexual exploitation, child welfare, juvenile justice, education, employment; USICH outcomes	Public report
Wilder’s PIT Count Report	2018	Prevalence of homelessness; intersections with race/ethnicity, mental health, substance use, employment; USICH outcomes	Public report
Wilder’s <i>Youth on Their Own</i>	2017	Prevalence of homelessness; intersections with gender identity, sexual orientation, race/ethnicity, mental health, substance use, commercial sexual exploitation, child welfare; USICH outcomes	Public report
HC Youth Housing & Homelessness Performance Reports	2021	USICH outcomes	Individual request
Youth Services Network Matrix	2021	System capacity	Shared document

Data Collection with Youth and Adult Stakeholders

Chapin Hall conducted interviews, discussion groups and a survey with YYA stakeholders to further understand needs and system capacity in HC. Five adult stakeholder groups and two groups of YYA participated (Table 2).

TABLE 2. INTERVIEWS AND DISCUSSION GROUPS HELD

Group/Organization	No. of Participants
<i>Adult Stakeholders</i>	
Extended Foster Care Program, Hennepin County Department of Children and Families	7
Minnesota Visiting Nurses Association, Hennepin Healthcare ¹	5
Reclaim ⁴	7
Underserved Youth Committee, Department of Community Corrections and Rehabilitation (DOCCR)	12
Probation Officers, DOCCR	2
<i>Youth and Young Adults with Lived Experience</i>	
Extended Foster Care (EFC) Program ⁵	
Youth Action Board (YAB), Youthprise	6
Youth with juvenile justice system involvement ³	-2

Chapin Hall analyzed the data for themes within the areas of inquiry in the agency stakeholder discussions: (1) intake screening or assessment protocols; (2) how the organization works with YYA at risk or experiencing homelessness; (3) partnerships with other organizations regarding youth homelessness; (4) gaps in services; (5) barriers to effectively serving youth; and (6) what is working well in HC for youth at risk or experiencing homelessness. The last question also asked about promising and emerging practices to prevent and end youth homelessness in HC.

The discussion group with the Youth Action Board and surveys with YYA in the EFC program and juvenile justice-involved youth centered on: (1) entry to losing housing/homelessness; (2) resources sought and how YYA learned about resources; (3) experiences with crisis services; (4) experiences with housing

⁴ Reclaim “increases access to mental health support so that queer and trans youth ages 13-25 may reclaim their lives from oppression in all its forms”.

⁵ Youth in EFC and youth with juvenile justice system involvement participated in a survey

support; and (5) advice youth would give to other youth needing support with housing. YYA ages 18 and older participated in the discussion groups and survey.

FINDINGS

Prevalence of Youth Homelessness in Hennepin County

Unaccompanied Youth & Young Adults Ages 18-24

In 2021, HMIS data showed that 2,041 single YYA between the ages of 18 and 24 were reported to be homeless. Homelessness is operationalized as individuals who were identified to be engaged in one of six programs: the coordinated entry system (CES), street outreach (SO), drop-in centers (DIC),⁶ emergency shelters (ES), social services only (SSO), and CES Connect. Of these, 128 came through CES, 563 were in ES, 477 were in SO,⁷ 744 were in DIC, 13 were in CES Connect.⁸ ⁹The numbers were deduplicated, so a youth is only counted in one of the interventions. The number of YYA who had been on the singles CES priority list at any point in 2021, includes a total of 429 YYA.

Point in time (PIT) counts are well-known to underestimate populations of individuals experiencing homelessness, particularly young people,¹⁰ but examining trends over time in HC's PIT count permits an understanding of change over time in both sheltered and unsheltered homelessness. In 2012, 349 YYA were identified as homeless in the PIT count, compared with 363 in 2018, a modest 4% increase (Figure 1).¹¹ In 2020, HC's PIT count shows 238 unaccompanied youth (35 under 18) and 45 youth families (0 under 18) with 67 children. The 2021 PIT count shows 202 unaccompanied youth (20 under 18) and 44 youth families (5 under 18) with 49 children.

UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS UNDER AGE 18

⁶ Drop-in centers include three youth-specific drop-in centers and one adult opportunity center that serves YYA ages 18+.

⁷ HMIS Core Data, 2021

⁸ CES Connect 2021

⁹ The HMIS data presented in this report captures the last known program engagement of individuals, so many individuals who are in CES have not yet received a housing placement, but this does not reflect the entire population of individuals who moved through CES in 2021.

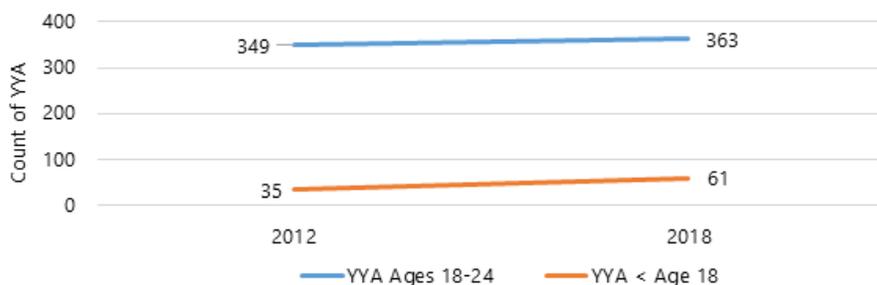
¹⁰ Horwitz, B., Hinsz, J., Kaczmar, A., Matjasko, J. L., * Vidis, J. (2018). *Conducting a youth count: A toolkit (2nd ed.)*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.

¹¹ Wilder PITC reports, 2015, 2018

In 2021, 348 single YYA under the age of 18 were reported to be homeless in HMIS. Of these, 13 were in CES, 42 were in SO, 120 were in DIC,¹² 176 were in ES, and 5 were in CES Connect.¹³ Figure 1 below also shows the change in minor YYA captured in the PIT count, which nearly doubled from 35 YYA in 2012 to 61 YYA in 2018.¹⁴

The trends shown in the HMIS data can be validated using federal education data. In the 2019-2020 school year, 614 YYA were identified for enrollment in the McKinney Vento program across HC’s middle and high schools in SY19-20.¹⁵ This is a 45% increase from the previous school year. Further, 5% of students in 9th and 11th grades in HC reported having run away from home in the past year.¹⁶ Extrapolating these findings to the entire population of HC’s students in grades 9-12 would mean that 2,659 high school students experienced homelessness in the 2019-2020 school year.¹⁷

FIGURE 1. CHANGE IN YYA IN HC POINT IN TIME COUNT, 2012-2018



Source. Wilder Hennepin PIT Count Reports, 2015, 2018

Identifying YYA at risk or experiencing homelessness in Hennepin County. Agency stakeholders were asked how their organization identifies youth at risk of or experiencing homelessness. All organizations participating in discussion groups or interviews reported asking youth about their housing status during intake and (as applicable) exit procedure such as leaving juvenile detention. How youth are assessed varied across the organizations but was commonly reported to occur within a more comprehensive assessment. Non-profit organizations reported more flexibility in choosing how to assess youth and document housing needs compared with government organizations where approaches are statewide, which may limit fuller understanding of risk and youth’s housing situation.

¹² HMIS Core Data, 2021

¹³ CES Connect 2021

¹⁴ Wilder Hennepin PITC Reports, 2015, 2018

¹⁵ NCHE Workbook 2019

¹⁶ MN Student Survey 2019

¹⁷ CountyOffice.org. (n.d.). Public schools in Hennepin County, Minnesota. Accessed from <https://www.countyoffice.org/mn-hennepin-county-public-schools/>.

Agency stakeholders recommended several best practices for identifying youth housing needs. The first is to assess youth's housing situation frequently, as circumstances can change very rapidly, and youth may not bring up their concerns. One organization reported assessing housing monthly. The second recommendation is to always couple questions about housing needs with questions about whether youth feel safe in their housing. Safety is not only fundamental to youth's well-being but is also a homelessness risk. Lastly, stakeholders emphasized genuine, youth-guided, and youth-informed problem solving that demonstrates the value of the youth and their personal agency to make choices and their ability to be active agents in their own lives.

PARENTING YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS AGES 18-24

In 2021, 159 YYA-headed families who were pregnant/parenting (PPY) were homeless, with 10 in CES, 70 in SO, 41 in DIC, 38 in ES¹⁸, and 2 in CES Connect.¹⁹ The numbers were deduplicated, so a youth is only counted in one of the interventions. The number of YYA-headed PPY families who had been on the families CES priority list at any point in 2021, includes a total of 110 YYA-headed PPY families.

Parenting Youth & Young Adults Under Age 18

In 2021, HMIS captured 9 YYA-headed PPY families that were homeless, with 2 in SO, 2 in DIC, and 5 in ES.²⁰ This estimate reflects minor-age YYA who had entered the homelessness system. The numbers were deduplicated, so a youth is only counted in one of the interventions. However, a program serving teen parents in HC, Teen HOPE Pathways, reportedly served 108 youth who were homeless, of whom 28 were pregnant, and 146 youth who were at risk of homelessness, of whom 12 were pregnant. Notably, this is likely an undercount because there are other teen parenting services in HC that are unaccounted for and may also encounter youth at risk or experiencing homelessness.

Housing resources for pregnant and parenting youth. Agency stakeholders reported that there is a critical need for age-appropriate shelters, and housing options for parenting youth. More resources are needed for rental assistance and transitional housing for PPY. For parenting youth under age 18 and in school, it's often not possible to have a job, for example, which can limit housing options.

[Conversations]... "go best when youth are invited to be author of their solutions and given the tools to do that." – Agency stakeholder

Children of Parenting Youth & Young Adults Ages 18-24

¹⁸ HMIS Core Data, 2021

¹⁹ CES Connect, 2021

²⁰ HMIS Core Data, 2021

In 2021, 232 children of YYA parents ages 18-24 experienced homelessness, of which 154 were in CES, 46 were in DS, 60 were in ES, and 107 were in SO.²¹ The number children within a YYA-headed PPY families who had been on the families CES priority list at any point in 2021, includes a total of 154 children.

Children of Parenting Youth & Young Adults Under Age 18

In 2021, 12 children of YYA parents under age 18 were homeless, of which 3 were in SO, 1 was in DS, and 8 were in ES.²² However, Teen HOPE Pathways reported serving 141 children of teen parents who were homeless and 163 children of teen parents who were at risk of homelessness in 2021.²³ We do not collect the number of children for youth under 18 served through CES.

²¹ HMIS Core Data, 2021

²² HMIS Core Data, 2021

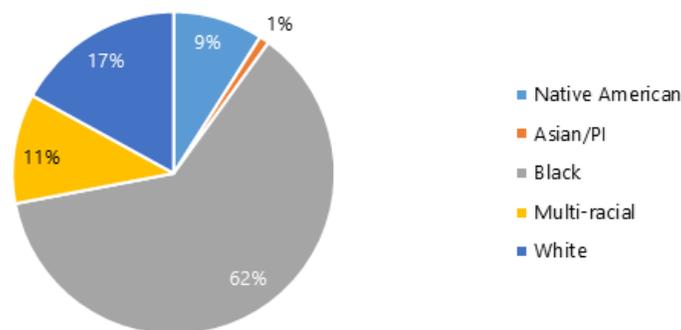
²³ MN Visiting Nurses Association, 2021

Intersections Between Youth Homelessness and Youth’s Demographic Characteristics and Experiences

Race & Ethnicity

The HMIS includes single adults and families and involves identification as homeless or receiving residential services. In 2021, HMIS data showed that individuals identified their race as the following: 62% Black, 17% white, 11% multiracial, 9% Native American, and 1% Asian/PI.²⁴ Of these individuals, 9% reported Hispanic/Latinx ethnicity (any race). Though dated, survey data from *Voices of Youth Count* reveals similar pictures of racial/ethnic disparities. *Voices* showed that YYA ages 24 or younger who were experiencing homelessness in 2016 were 63% Black, 16% white, 14% other/mixed race, 9% Hispanic/Latinx (any race), 6% American Indian, and 2% Asian American (Figure 2).²⁵

FIGURE 2. PERCENTAGE OF YYA EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN HENNEPIN COUNTY, BY RACE/ETHNICITY



Source. HMIS Core Data, 2021.

However, data from the 2018 PIT Count and the 2019 Minnesota Student Survey revealed a substantially higher proportion of Native American YYA experiencing homelessness. In the PIT count, Native American YYA comprised 18% of all YYA experiencing homelessness.²⁶ In the Minnesota Student Survey, 8% of Black youth, 12% of Native American youth, and 8% of Hispanic/Latinx youth in 9th grade in HC reported running away in the last year, compared with 4% of white youth, 8% of Black youth, 13% of Native American youth, and 9% of Hispanic/Latinx youth in 11th grade, compared with 4% of white youth (Figure 3).²⁷

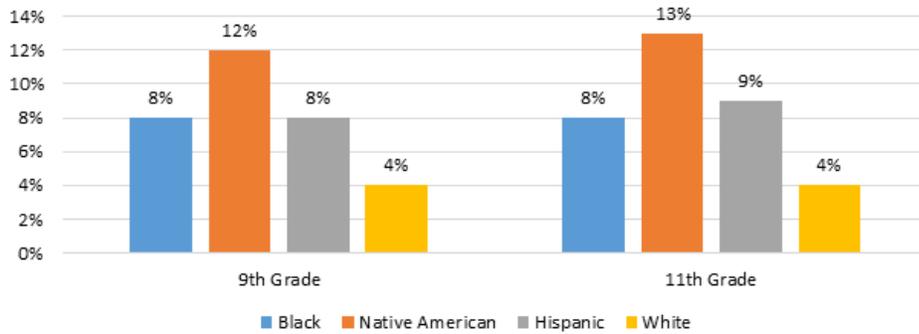
FIGURE 3. PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS WHO REPORTED RUNNING AWAY IN LAST YEAR, BY RACE/ETHNICITY

²⁴ HMIS Core Data 2021

²⁵ Wilder’s Youth on Their Own, 2017

²⁶ Wilder Hennepin PITC Report, 2018

²⁷ MN Student Survey, 2019h



Source. Minnesota Student Survey, 2019.

At a minimum, Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) YYA comprise approximately 84% of YYA experiencing homelessness in HC, despite comprising only 38% (13% Black, 1% Native American, 5% multiracial, 10% Hispanic, 62% white, 9% Asian) of the population of individuals in the Twin Cities metro area. This shows that BIPOC YYA disproportionately experience youth homelessness in HC. These disparities are also in line with findings from the Corporation for Supportive Housing’s Racial Disparities & Disproportionality Index showing that Native American and Black families are 14 and 13 times more likely than white families to enter the homelessness system, respectively.²⁸

Gender Identity & Sexual Orientation

Of the 2,277 YYA-headed households in HMIS in 2021 (including single adults and families), which involves identification as homeless or receiving residential services, 11% (n = 259) identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and gender non-confirming (LGBTQ+).²⁹ It is important to note that not all programs collect this information and youth may not disclose this information, so this is not a reliable estimate. Surveys of YYA that have permitted self-reports of identities have shown that 27% of YYA experiencing homelessness identified as LGBTQ+ compared to 7% overall.^{30, 31}

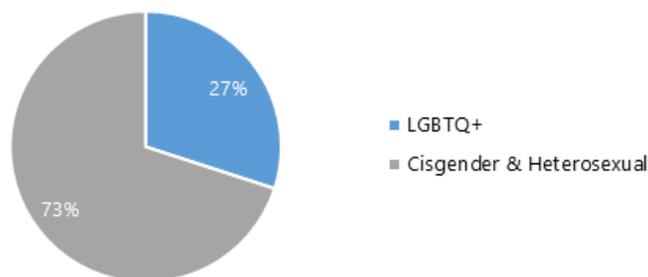
²⁸ CSH Racial Disparities and Disproportionality Index, 2021

²⁹ HMIS Core Data, 2021

³⁰ Wilder’s Youth on Their Own, 2017

³¹ VoYC, 2017

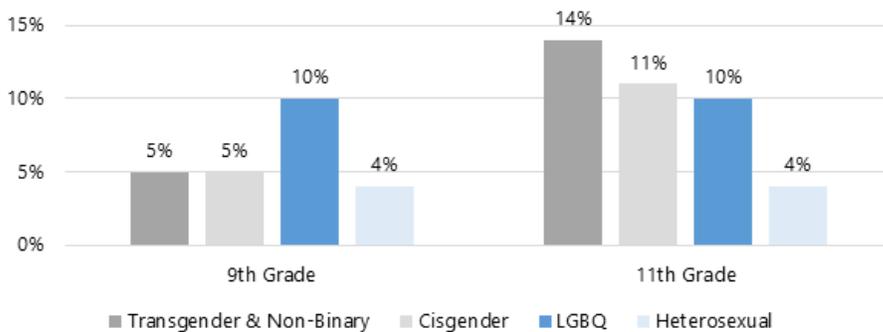
FIGURE 4. PERCENTAGE OF YYA EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN HENNEPIN COUNTY IDENTIFYING AS LGBTQ+ IN 2017



Source. Wilder’s Youth on Their Own, 2017; Voices of Youth Count, 2017.

Data from the Minnesota Student Survey also helps to illuminate disparities in the prevalence of youth homelessness by youth’s sexual orientation and gender identity. As shown in Figure 5, there were no differences in prevalence of running away among transgender, gender nonbinary and cisgender students in 9th grade (5% each). However, 14% of transgender and gender nonbinary YYA in 11th grade reported running away from home in last year, compared with 11% of students who identified as cisgender. In both 9th and 11th grades, 10% of LGBTQ students reported running away, compared with 4% of heterosexual students.³²

FIGURE 5. PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS WHO REPORTED RUNNING AWAY BY LGBTQ+ IDENTITY



Source. Minnesota Student Survey, 2019.

³² MN Student Survey, 2019

Housing gaps related to gender identity and sexual orientation. Agency stakeholders reported that resources in Hennepin County are predominantly gendered, including housing options, mental health, the county’s domestic violence programs and shelters, adult shelters, and healthcare. This equates to a continuum of services needed by LGBTQ+ youth that aren’t sufficiently equipped to assist them. Youth may not be safe in their homes, with their families, or in available shelters, where they are at risk for violence and discrimination when others know about their gender identity and/or sexual orientation. Stakeholders expressed the need to think about how to scope and restructure youth services in Hennepin County to move away from binary options that don’t affirm youth’s identities.

Finding an individual bed is basically impossible [for queer and trans youth]. There is no physical infrastructure for supporting queer/trans youth in their housing. They often end up staying on the street or couch hopping. – Agency stakeholder

Pregnant & Parenting Youth

As highlighted above, 3% (n = 70) YYA-heads of household in HMIS were pregnant or had a partner who was pregnant and 16% (n = 363) were parenting.³³ These estimates may not be mutually exclusive, and it is important to note that this information may not be consistently collected across programs. This rate is also much lower than the findings from *Voices*, which revealed that among YYA experiencing homelessness, 43% of females were pregnant/parenting (89% were custodial parents) and 25% of males were parents or had a pregnant partner.³⁴

Mental Health

Of the total 2277 YYA-headed households served in HMIS, 25% have a mental health disability and 2% (n = 55) of YYA-heads of household in HMIS had recently exited a mental health facility.³⁵ There were also 933 YYA-heads of household in HMIS in 2021 who reported having a disability, 61% (n = 569) of whom reported a mental health concern. Of course, this does not reflect the extent of need related to mental health among the population of YYA at risk of or experiencing homelessness. The 2018 PIT count report showed that 51% of YYA under the age of 25 reported a serious mental illness and 78% reported exposure to traumatic events, including at least one adverse childhood event.³⁶ Similarly, *Wilder’s Youth on Their Own Report* found that 50% of YYA experiencing homelessness had a serious mental illness.³⁷

³³ HMIS Core Data, 2021

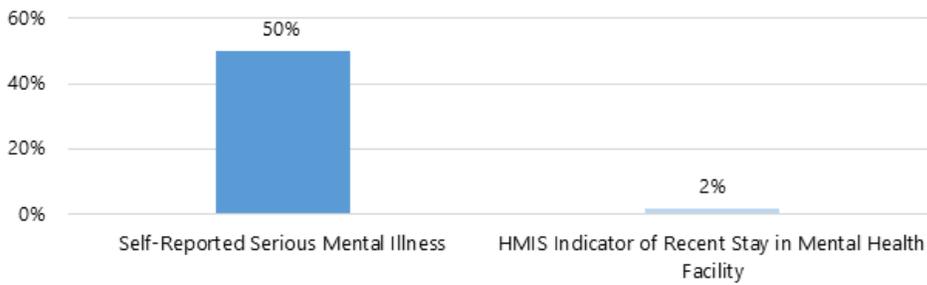
³⁴ VoYC, 2017

³⁵ HMIS Core Data, 2021

³⁶ Wilder Hennepin PITC report, 2018

³⁷ Wilder’s Youth on Their Own 2017

FIGURE 6. MENTAL HEALTH AMONG YYA EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS OR IN RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS



Source. Wilder’s Youth on Their Own; HMIS Core Data, 2021

System resources for mental health. Agency stakeholders had different opinions about the status of mental health services for youth at risk of or experiencing homelessness in HC. Some stakeholders felt there weren’t enough services and assessments of mental health among youth to meet the need, while others described the primary problem as youth not opting into available mental health services, which stakeholders attributed to previous negative experiences, being frequently told that they need mental health services, and the level of independence that youth desire as they get older. Service providers reported ongoing discussions about mental health with youth, recognizing that youth make their own choices. There wasn’t overall concern expressed by providers about mental health services being difficult to access except when youth are outside the city. Stakeholders also expressed that mental health services in Hennepin County are gendered and insensitive to queer and transgender/gender nonbinary youth, pointing to the need for wider adoption of more relevant mental health approaches for youth.

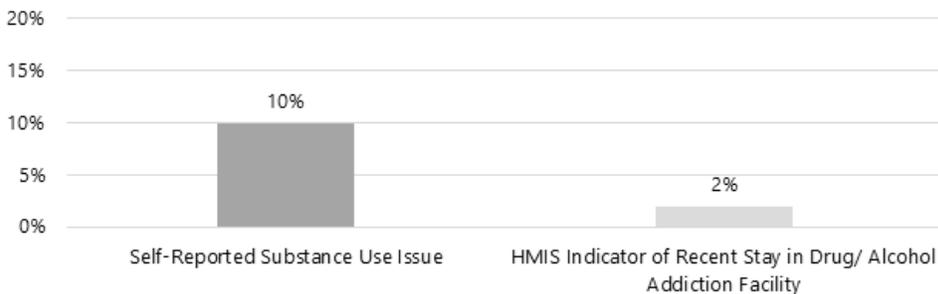
Substance Use

Of the total 2277 YYA-heads of household in HMIS, 109 (5%) of youth disclosed an alcohol, drug or both substance abuse disorder. Of the 2,277 total YYA-heads of household in HMIS, 2% (n = 50) had recently exited an alcohol/drug facility.³⁸ Other data sources indicate that approximately 10% of YYA experiencing homelessness had a substance use disorder.³⁹

³⁸ HMIS Core Data, 2021

³⁹ Wilder Hennepin PITC Report 2018

FIGURE 7. SUBSTANCE USE AMONG YYA EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS OR IN RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS



Source. Wilder’s Youth on Their Own; HMIS Core Data, 2021

Disability

In 2021, 41% (n = 933) of YYA-heads of household in HMIS reported having a disability.⁴⁰ Among these individuals, 61% reported a mental health concern, 15% had developmental issues, 12% indicated drug and/or alcohol use issues, and 6% reported a physical disability.

Child Welfare

In 2021, approximately 21% (n = 487) of YYA-heads of household in HMIS reported previous foster care experience.⁴¹ This may be an under-estimate, given that 53% of youth who were homeless in Wilder’s *Youth on Their Own Report* in 2016 had reported experiencing out of home placements as a child.⁴² Unfortunately, there are no available data on the proportion of transition-age YYA involved in the child welfare system that may be at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

Housing among child welfare-involved youth. Agency stakeholders expressed difficulties obtaining housing for youth who do not have a credit history, rental history or other documents that are required to obtain housing. Youth in child welfare’s Extended Foster Care (EFC) program receive assistance with rent and other housing supports that are necessary for these youth, but at the same time, these supports can mean that youth in EFC are not prioritized for housing programs. Stakeholders also reported that Hennepin County’s permanent supportive housing is tied to the CES, which is a barrier to child welfare-involved youth being assessed for available resources because they are reluctant to enter shelters because of prior trauma. Further, stakeholders expressed that having monthly rental funds for youth in EFC has been the most beneficial approach to preventing homelessness, yet youth in EFC still require a lot of support, particularly in housing planning, independent living skills, and mental health.

⁴⁰ HMIS Core Data, 2021

⁴¹ HMIS Core Data, 2021

⁴² Wilder’s Youth on Their Own, 2017

They underscored the value of dedicated housing for EFC youth that include co-located supports and staff.

Juvenile Justice

In 2021, 3% (n = 77) of YYA-heads of household in HMIS had recently exited detention, jail, or correctional facility.⁴³ It is important to note that this only included information on a recent exit from a Department of Community Corrections and Rehabilitation (DOCCR) facility, not any experiences of juvenile justice system involvement. In contrast, the *Voices of Youth Count* showed that 30% of YYA experiencing homelessness in HC had been detained or incarcerated.⁴⁴ Of YYA involved in the justice system, 4% (n = 36) of youth in Juvenile Probation were flagged as homeless.⁴⁵ However, contacts at DOCCR have highlighted data quality concerns with the homelessness flag in their data.

Housing supports for youth with juvenile justice involvement.

Stakeholders described unstable housing as a very prominent issue among youth involved with juvenile justice, and they often struggle to find housing to meet the need. Crisis housing and transitional housing are particularly needed, and staff reported relying heavily on group home placements which involve administrative hurdles that can take weeks or longer to resolve, during which youth typically couch hop. Recognizing the shortage of beds and the amount of need among justice-involved youth, staff are diligent early in their relationship with youth to understand the youth's social network and establish family and friend connections that can be supportive in a crisis. Stakeholders emphasized the need for family strengthening programs centered on parent-child conflict to prevent homelessness among justice-involved youth. Stakeholders stressed the limited housing options for youth ages 14 to 17, where their age is a barrier to accessing emergency housing.

"Unstable housing trickles down to everything else, if you're focused on where you're going to sleep, (the youth) is going to miss out on everything else— education, job, personal hobbies. A lot of youth think they (are capable of) only one or two things and I try to assist them with recognizing more of their strengths and expanding their opportunities." —HC Probation Officer

Systems Involvement

In 2021, 23% (n = 222) of YYA-heads of household in HMIS had a recent institutional experience in the past three months, including foster care, jail, mental health facility, etc.⁴⁶ Reports from the *Voices of Youth Count* found a higher estimate of systems involvement among YYA experiencing homelessness

⁴³ HMIS Core Data, 2021

⁴⁴ Voices of Youth Count 2017

⁴⁵ Court Services Tracking System, 2022

⁴⁶ HMIS Core Data, 2021

using self-reports methods, with 58% of youth experiencing homelessness in HC ever experiencing foster care and/or juvenile justice system involvement.

Commercial Sexual Exploitation

There are limited data in HC on youth who have been sexually exploited or youth with experiences of commercial sexual exploitation. Data presented in the Homeless Youth Act (HYA) Report for the first half of 2021 revealed that 37 youth in HYA-funded shelters and residential programs reported exchanging sex acts for money, a place to stay, clothing, food, drugs, transportation, or other items to meet their needs.⁴⁷ Contacts working with these data emphasized that this most certainly an undercount given the sensitive nature of this topic and the stigma around disclosing this information. Other data from Wilder's *Youth on Their Own* report indicated that 11% of YYA identifying as female and 15% identifying as males had been sexual with someone only for the purpose of getting shelter, clothing, or food.⁴⁸

Domestic Violence

In 2021, 43% of YYA-heads of household in HMIS had reported ever experiencing or being exposed to domestic violence (DV) and 12% (n = 274) were fleeing DV.⁴⁹ Statewide, there were 514 YYA in DV shelters in 2020,⁵⁰ highlight a considerable need for supports for YYA experiencing DV.

Socioeconomic Status

According to the Minnesota Student Survey, 9% of 9th graders and 8% of 11th graders who received free and reduced-price lunch (FRPL) reported running away from home, compared with 4% of 9th graders and 3% of 11th graders who did not receive FRPL.⁵¹ This indicates that youth facing economic hardship disproportionately experience homelessness. Further reflecting these trends are findings from the Minnesota Housing Partnership, which showed that the median rent in the Twin Cities metro area is up 17% since 2000, while wages have only risen 3%.⁵² Additionally, BIPOC households disproportionately experience housing cost burden, meaning that they are paying more than one-third of their rent on housing, and only 13% of individuals who own a home in HC identify as BIPOC.

⁴⁷ Homeless Youth Act Reports, 2021

⁴⁸ Wilder's Youth on Their Own, 2017

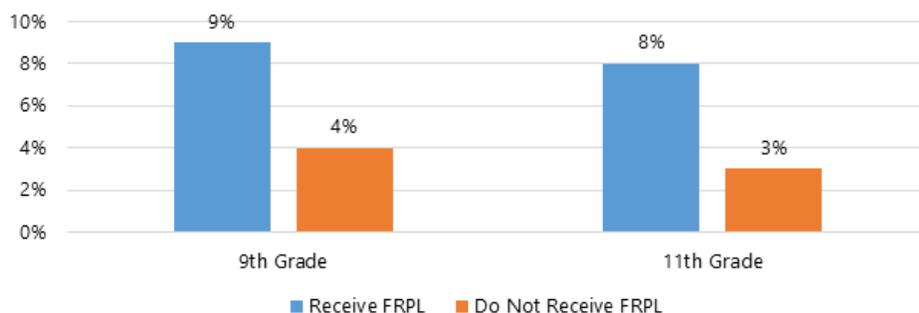
⁴⁹ HMIS Core Data, 2021

⁵⁰ OJP Data Capture

⁵¹ MN Student Survey, 2019

⁵² Minnesota Housing Partnership. (2019). *The State of the State's Housing, 2019*. St. Paul, MN: Author.

FIGURE 8. PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS WHO REPORTED RUNNING AWAY IN THE PAST YEAR, BY FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE LUNCH (FRPL) RECEIPT



NEEDS ALIGNED WITH THE U.S. INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS' FOUR CORE OUTCOME DOMAINS

Below, we describe findings for YYA experiencing homelessness in HC within USICH's four core outcome domains: stable housing, education/employment, permanent connections, and social-emotional well-being.

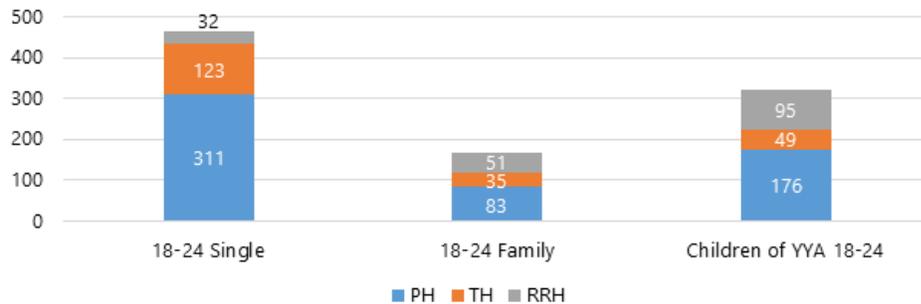
Stable Housing

In 2021, HMIS contained 763 YYA-heads of household participating in residential programs, including transitional housing (TH), rapid re-housing (RRH), and permanent housing (PH). Only 28 of those households included youth under the age of 18, most of whom were in transitional housing (n = 19) and the rest of whom were in permanent housing (n = 8).

Figure 9 below shows which residential programs young adults ages 18-24 participated in, based on household type (single vs. family), and the number of children of YYA ages 18-24 participating in these programs. Among single YYA (n = 466), the majority (67%; n = 311) received PH placements, 26% (n = 123) participated in TH, and 7% (n = 32) participated in RRH. Additionally, 3 YYA participated in host homes (not shown in Figure 9). Among YYA-headed family households (n = 169), only 49% (n = 83) received PH, 21% (n = 35) participated in TH, and 30% (n = 51) participated in RRH. Among children of

YYA-headed households (n = 320), 55% (n = 176) were living with their parents in PH, 15% (n = 49) were in TH, 30% (n = 95) were in RRH.

FIGURE 9. RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM TYPE, BY YYA AGE/HOUSEHOLD TYPE



Additionally, there is some information on the USICH outcomes measured by the programs that receive funding through the MN Homeless Youth Act (HYA). Of participants participating in THP or PSH programs, 78% of those who exited one of those programs exited to safe and stable housing or destinations.⁵³

Education/Employment

There are limited data on the educational status or attainment of YYA experiencing homelessness in HC. The *Voices of Youth Count* revealed that 64% of young adults ages 18-25 who were homeless/unstably housed had received a high school diploma or GED,⁵⁴ compared with 87% in the general population in Minnesota.⁵⁵ Among youth experiencing homelessness who were tracked in Minor Connect (2019), at intake, 39% were actively attending school, 37% were enrolled, 18% were not enrolled, 3% were in a GED program, 1% completed high school, 1% dropped out, and 2% unknown.⁵⁶

Similarly, there are limited data on the employment status of YYA experiencing homelessness in HC. Again, the *Voices of Youth Count* showed that 39% of young adults ages 18-25 who were homeless/unstably housed were neither attending school nor working.⁵⁷ Among youth experiencing

⁵³ YHHS Performance Reports, 2021

⁵⁴ Voices of Youth Count, 2017

⁵⁵ http://www.ohe.state.mn.us/sPages/educ_attain.cfm

⁵⁶ Minor Connect, 2019

⁵⁷ Voices of Youth Count, 2017

homelessness who were tracked in Minor Connect, at intake, 58% were unemployed, 36% were employed part-time, 1% were working full-time, and 5% were unknown.⁵⁸

Of the 8 programs that receive funding through MN HYA and offer THP or PSH programs, 24% of participants reported maintaining or increasing their attendance in school or an education program and 31% of participants reported maintaining or increasing their income through employment.⁵⁹

Permanent Connections

The only quantitative data of which we are aware that captures permanent connections of YYA experiencing homelessness or participating in residential programs exists in the performance reports for programs receiving funding from the MN HYA. Of the 8 programs that receive funding through MN HYA and offer THP or PSH programs, 77% of participants reported that they had at least one positive adult relationship (other than family or social service provider) on whom they could rely.⁶⁰

Supporting youth with permanent connections. Agency stakeholders reported a system-wide need to have greater understanding of youth's support system, and to help youth build a wider network so that both youth and service providers have options when it comes to preventing homelessness. When there are limited options, for example, when parents or a guardian aren't willing to be there upon youth's exit from juvenile detention, this is a risk for instability and homelessness.

Related to this is the issue of parent-child conflict that increases homelessness risk. Stakeholders stressed that there is no one-size-fits-all solution to parent-child conflict. Stakeholders expressed that there is opportunity in HC to build more effective "whole family" approaches when youth's housing stability is at risk.

Social-Emotional Well-Being

We could not locate any social-emotional well-being data on YYA experiencing homelessness or participating in residential programs. There is some existing information on mental health and mental health service use among youth experiencing homelessness presented above, but these data are limited.

⁵⁸ Minor Connect, 2019

⁵⁹ YHSA Performance Reports, 2021

⁶⁰ YHSA Performance Reports, 2021

Supporting youth with mental health resources. Agency stakeholders expressed that there is a need in HC to broadly support both navigator and care coordinator roles, as well as independent living skills opportunities for youth at risk of or experiencing homelessness. Youth classes in managing skills such as housing, cooking, and budgeting are of interest to youth and could be offered more broadly, according to stakeholders. Several organizations reported providing youth planning services—helping youth plan their housing and other areas of their lives which stakeholders reported helped prevent crises.

Adult stakeholders reported that navigation services to support HC’s homelessness system are a critical need for both youth and service providers. Providers struggle to navigate the system and reported, in some cases, not being able to find an answer to a specific question about housing opportunities for YYA.

CAPACITY OF HENNEPIN COUNTY TO SERVE YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

This section describes the capacity of youth-specific services to meet the housing needs of YYA experiencing homelessness in HC and illuminates the outflow of YYA from crisis experiences to stable housing. Figure 10 shows the alignment between the USICH goals that homelessness be rare, brief, and non-recurring with the continuum of services that map onto these goals.

“Pregnant and parenting youth can have a hard time managing all of the things that you have to manage to stay housed—a job, childcare, school—and plans that work this month may not work next month.” – Agency stakeholder

FIGURE 10. YOUTH HOMELESSNESS SERVICE CONTINUUM



Below, we distinguish between the services available in the following domains: prevention, entry points, crisis services, short-term housing, and long-term housing to align with how these services are characterized in HC.⁶¹ The services in each category are presented in Figure 11.

⁶¹ All the information (unless otherwise specified) presented on HC’s system capacity are drawn from the Youth Services Network Matrix, which was updated in March 2022.

FIGURE 11. YOUTH HOMELESSNESS SERVICES IN HENNEPIN COUNTY

Prevention	Entry points	Emergency services	Short-term housing	Long-term housing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case management • Diversion/rapid resolution • Homelessness prevention services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drop in centers • Street outreach (community-based, library, mobile, peer, school, site, street) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelter • Host homes* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rapid rehousing • Transitional housing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent housing • Host homes*

* *Note.* Host homes are reportedly considered both emergency services and have the potential to be long-term housing in HC.

System partnerships. Agency stakeholders reported working within a system of other providers to support youth at risk or experiencing homelessness. Organizations that were frequently discussed included YouthLink, The Link, and Oasis. Other partners included Britney’s Place, Passageways, Mary’s Place, Face to Face, The Bridge, Lutheran Social Services, Street Works, Project Pride & Living, and the YMCA. Despite having these multiple partners providing homelessness services, presented in more detail below, stakeholders unanimously brought up the need for a common living space for information about housing options and supports in Hennepin County.

Prevention

There are currently four programs run by youth-service providers that provide homelessness prevention services to YYA in HC (see Appendix A for a list of categorized programs). Two of these programs permit adults (ages 18+) and three serve families with children. These programs provide case management, financial counseling/assistance, and other homeless prevention services to 200 youth annually, at a minimum.⁶²

There are other community-based programs serving YYA that are run by service providers focused on supporting cultural communities. For example, Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio (CLUES) provides rental assistance/risk of homelessness services to clients ages 18-24. In 2021, this program served 91 YYA, most (90%) of whom identified as Hispanic/Latinx.

Entry Points

Entry points consist of drop-in centers and outreach programs, which in HC, rely on street, school, community, library, peer, site, and mobile outreach. There are currently three youth-specific drop-in programs and one adult opportunity center that serves young adults ages 18+. At least three outreach

⁶² There is some information missing on the number of YYA served across programs in each of these domains, which is why we highlight the minimum number served.

programs serve the suburbs – one in the western suburbs, one in the northwestern suburbs and one in the southern suburbs. At a minimum, these programs serve 2,250 YYA annually.

There are 12 outreach programs geared to YYA, one of which focuses on YYA at risk of commercial sexual exploitation. These programs interact with at least 5,000 YYA at a minimum, annually, and four of these programs serve the suburban regions.

Emergency Services

Emergency services include shelters, which provide immediate and very short-term housing options for YYA in crisis. There are 9 shelters focused on YYA, 2 of which serve youth who have been sexually exploited and 2 of which serve youth as young as 10. There are varying lengths of time in which YYA can stay in shelter, but the average stay is 45 days. Combined, HC has 81 shelter beds specifically for YYA, which serve on average 904 YYA at a minimum, annually.

The estimated number of shelter beds sourced by youth service providers across HC is close to the count produced by HUD's 2021 PIT Count, reported in their Housing Inventory Count Report (HIC), which identified 115 YYA-specific shelter beds.⁶³

Short-Term Housing

Short-term housing options include rapid-rehousing programs (RRH) and transitional housing programs (THP).

Rapid rehousing. There are 8 RRH programs serving youth from HC,⁶⁴ 5 of which were identified as scattered site and 1 of which is site-based.⁶⁵ The average length of stay for these programs is about 1 year, though some permit YYA to stay up to 2 years. According to service providers, there are 194 beds for YYA, and we estimate the RRH programs serve about 230 YYA annually.

The 2021 HIC found 116 RRH beds for YYA. This is a notable discrepancy that warrants further investigation about whether new RRH programs have recently come on board, or a substantial number of programs are simply not entering their data into HMIS, among other potential explanations.

Transitional housing. HC has 11 THPs geared towards YYA, and most permit YYA to stay for about 18 months. The minimum age for these programs is 16, and there are a number of population specific programs for YYA who are female-identifying, male identifying, pregnant/parenting, and employed and

⁶³ HIC 2021

⁶⁴ One RRH program, The Link's Suburban RRH, is not located in HC.

⁶⁵ There is missing information on the structure/location of the other two programs

involved in case management. According to service providers, there were 92 THP beds across HC serving 393 YYA at a minimum, annually.

The 2021 HIC found 154 THP beds geared towards YYA, which is a sizeable discrepancy between these two sources of information and points to underreporting of units/beds among service providers.

Long-Term Housing

Youth service providers reported that their programs offered 12 permanent housing (PH) options for YYA experiencing homelessness.⁶⁶ YYA can stay in these programs for between 1 and 5 years, with the average stay lasting about 1.5 years. According to service providers, there are 300 units of PH in HC, some of which are geared towards specific populations, such as transition-age youth in EFC, pregnant/parenting youth, YYA with a diagnosed mental health or substance use issue, YYA with a history of sex work, and youth experiencing long-term homelessness.

The 2021 HIC found 144 permanent supportive housing units and 138 other permanent housing units geared towards YYA, for a total of 282 units of permanent housing. These estimates of the system's capacity to provide long-term housing are fairly similar to the count of units that service providers shared.

ASSETS, GAPS, AND OPPORTUNITIES IN HENNEPIN COUNTY'S YOUTH HOMELESSNESS SYSTEM

In this section, we briefly summarize notable assets, gaps, and opportunities for HC's youth homelessness system.

System Assets

We identified various assets within HC's youth homelessness system that permits the county and its service providers to meet the needs of some of the population. For instance, the county has numerous shelters and residential programs that serve minor youth, some as young as age 10. The PIT count shows that this population of young people experiencing homelessness nearly doubled between 2012 and 2018, but it is unclear whether the need for safe and stable housing among this subpopulation has increased or whether youth are simply more likely to take advantage of resources that currently exist. This question is worth further investigation.

There are about 300 units of permanent housing across HC for which only YYA are eligible. This amount of permanent housing is notable for the size of HC's population of YYA experiencing homelessness, and likely serves about 10% of these young people. Since many YYA experiencing homelessness require

⁶⁶ This includes both permanent supportive housing and other permanent housing options provided without wraparound services.

lighter touch supports or benefit from family strengthening programs, it is not necessary to have permanent housing programs available to all youth, but it is incumbent upon the county to accurately assess the broader need for permanent housing among YYA and to ensure that service providers receive the resources to expand existing programs.

A community-based asset that EFC case workers highlighted that sits adjacent to the youth homelessness system is housing stipends for youth enrolled in EFC. This funding permits young people who are in the process of transitioning out of the foster care system to maintain a degree of control over their finances and grow their independent living skills. Case workers indicated that this is an important stopgap for many youth but described it as insufficient for some young people who continue to need more intensive or supportive housing options, which are hard to obtain without entering HC's CES.

Anecdotally, we also heard that youth service providers across the greater Twin Cities region have demonstrated a steadfast commitment to supporting YYA at risk of or experiencing homelessness in recent years. In general, providers uplifted each other and described the provider community as strong and well-skilled to meet the needs of YYA. We heard that more organizations in recent years have been collecting information about youth's gender identity and sexual orientation, and their needs.

System Gaps

Several notable gaps emerged in HC's youth homelessness system to serve YYA at risk of experiencing homelessness, including racial disparities in youth homelessness; lack of safe and affirming homeless services for LGBTQ+ youth; connections with supportive services; promotion of educational, employment, and social supports; and youth resource/documentation challenges.

Despite the international racial reckoning in 2020, and the heightened attention to racial equity issues particularly in the greater Twin Cities region, the disproportionate representation of BIPOC YYA, particularly Black and Indigenous young people, is alarming. We learned of one community-based organization, Ain Dah Yung Center, that contains residential programs for Indigenous YYA experiencing homelessness, and one organization, CLUES, that serves YYA who identify as Hispanic/Latinx and are at risk of or experiencing homelessness. However, we are not aware of any programs that address the specific needs of YYA who identify as Black or that are particularly attuned to the racial trauma and mental health needs that Black YYA, in particular, may have experienced in recent years,⁶⁷ which compound the trauma associated with experiencing homelessness. Approaches to reduce racial/ethnic disparities in youth homelessness should be further upstream to address systemic racism and other system factors that fail to prevent the disproportionate number of BIPOC YYA experiencing homelessness in HC.

⁶⁷ Morton, M., & Daniels, G. (2021). *Untold stories: Young adult and racial dimensions of COVID-19*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago

We learned through conversations with service providers that YYA who identify as LGBTQ+ in HC do not have adequate supports. In particular, providers stressed that the county needs a LGBTQ+ shelter that affirms and respects youth's identities and does not expose them to risks of violence. They indicated that LGBTQ+ youth at risk of or experiencing homelessness are fearful of the CES and emergency shelters, and as a result, are not able to get assessed for residential programs. The county should prioritize this population and consider the intersectionality of LGBTQ+ YYA who identify as BIPOC experiencing homelessness to ensure that the community has adequate supports to meet the needs of the most marginalized YYA.

Anecdotally, we heard through our participation in Core Team meetings that connections to mental and behavioral health services across the community were lacking. This was reported by both YYA with lived experience and by service providers. Both national and local data on YYA experiencing homelessness points to considerable mental and behavioral health needs among HC's YYA experiencing or at risk of homelessness, given the exposure to trauma that occurs both before and during experiences of homelessness. For many YYA, obtaining housing is not sufficient to facilitate a positive trajectory towards adulthood. YYA require specialized supports to help process trauma, address chemical dependency issues, heal from domestic violence and sexual exploitation exposure, among other needs, that service providers need to prioritize in the case management process. We also heard the need for a system-wide approach to strengthening services to address parent-youth conflict to help stem risk of youth homelessness.

Although we heard from several stakeholders that they assist YYA with their education, job training, and self-growth opportunities, it was difficult to discern more broadly how much

emphasis service providers put on helping YYA connect with supports to advance their educational or career trajectories or grow their social networks. Only a select number of providers funded by the MN HYA reported outcomes in these domains among YYA enrolled in their programs. Since these are outcome domains that USICH has identified as critical to preventing and ending youth homelessness, it is crucial that service providers expand the set of resources that are available to young people in these areas, of which there are approaches that organizational representatives we spoke with felt confident about. Understanding how providers might explore this question may be an important next step for advancing YYA's progress in these domains.

Agency stakeholders described three additional challenges to better serving youth at risk or homeless in Hennepin County. First, stakeholders saw a gap in crisis housing available to youth who were not part of any "system." Shelters are reluctant to house youth who do not have a case manager because in that situation, they're considered to not have anyone responsible for them. Second, there is a need to resolve the cycle that exists when youth do not have paperwork required for housing, for example a social security card; yet housing is needed to obtain the documentation and often takes a while to obtain, leaving youth without housing options. Third, stakeholders reported the need to address a benefits cliff that occurs when youth turn age 20 having to do with the wage disregard. Continuing benefits through age 24 would better meet youth needs.

Opportunities for System Improvement

Finally, stakeholders identified a number of emerging and promising practices to prevent and end youth homelessness in Hennepin County including:

Develop a co-located residential program for Extended Foster Care and staff in the same building to support youth comprehensively;

Provide more co-located services overall so that youth do not have to get shuttled around to numerous places to get what they need;

Launch a cash transfer program that provides YYA with more agency over their finances and lives;

Institute programs designed around collective community care/mutual aid that are spearheaded by youth, and;

Adopt a harm reduction model in youth services that better supports youth mental and behavioral health needs.

Discussion

Using a rapid research approach, Chapin Hall assessed the population needs of YYA at risk of and experiencing homelessness in HC and the capacity of HC's youth homelessness system to serve the county's young people. This report presents a comprehensive picture of the prevalence of YYA homelessness and the connections between YYA homelessness and YYA demographic characteristics and experiences. We highlight connections with USICH's core outcome domains and describe the capacity of the system. Together, these efforts begin to reveal the inflow and outflow trends of YYA's engagement with the youth homelessness system in HC, which can help inform future planning efforts.

Additionally, we illuminate the existing assets of the system, point to gaps that the YHDP-funded projects can address, and elevate opportunities for system improvement that emerged from conversations with stakeholders. Below, we note important limitations to the data that informed our conclusions in this report, many which can also be addressed through YHDP-funded solutions that will have lasting benefits to youth homelessness system planning in HC. The conclusions we draw are only as good as our available data, all of which is limited in some way, but there are avenues to improve data collection that could improve the conclusions we draw, which would ultimately benefit system planning efforts.

Limitations on Data Capture

There are several caveats to the findings presented throughout this report:

Homelessness indicators in administrative data systems may not be valid. Specifically, discussions with staff of DOCCR highlighted concerns about the quality of data that the Court Services Tracking System captures on housing instability. Currently, efforts are ongoing to improve data collection related to housing instability and risks for homelessness. Conversations with Probation Officers indicated their

sensitivity to this issue for the youth on their caseloads and their concerted efforts to quickly assess and regularly monitor youth's housing status. More standardized processes and clearer expectations around the entering of data on youth's housing status may help to better assess the need for homelessness prevention and residential services among youth involved in DOCCR.

There are limited data on pathways from child welfare system involvement into homelessness.

Despite HC's efforts to monitor the population well-being of transition-aged youth in the county, there is a dearth of information on intersections between the child welfare system and the youth homelessness system. Given that both national data and somewhat outdated survey data collected from youth experiencing homelessness in HC show that a substantial number of young people experiencing homelessness were in the foster care system, HC should explore opportunities to better capture housing instability, homelessness indicators, and housing needs among youth and minors experiencing out of home placement, in the EFC program, and further upstream among families of older youth receiving child welfare services. Emerging lessons from DOCCR's efforts may help to inform initiatives related to improving the data capture in child welfare.

Program data from organizations serving culturally specific communities are lacking. Chapin Hall, with the support of Ms. Schleisman, made numerous efforts to connect with organizations serving culturally specific communities, such as Hispanic/Latinx communities, American Indian/Native American communities, Asian American communities, and African immigrant communities. We received some data about homelessness prevention programs and residential programs serving YYA representing these communities. However, we did not hear back from many communities. As such, we cannot disaggregate any of the data on race/ethnicity that would, for instance, illuminate the variability in needs and supports for Black YYA and YYA whose families have immigrated from Somalia and other African nations. It may be useful to engage these community-based organizations in the future to learn more about the distinct needs of the populations they serve, and there may be value in youth service providers programs collecting more detailed information about YYA beyond their race/ethnicity, including immigrant status, primary language, and nationality.

Some youth service providers do not submit program data into HMIS. One of the greatest challenges for HC that emerged through this investigation is there is no repository for youth homelessness system data. Many youth service providers submit their data into HMIS, but this practice is inconsistent, particularly among providers who receive private or philanthropic funding. Understanding who comes into the system and what services they need or obtain is essential to system planning, so both the lack of data, as well as data quality issues that became apparent, are tremendous challenges. In addition, most of the data comes through the providers so for those youth who are disconnected from services, the data on them is a limitation on the overall data.

The YHDP planning process highlights that system planning requires making assumptions about the needs of the population and the ability of existing or new services to meet YYA's needs. Drawing on accurate, recent, and reliable data is key to making informed assumptions that lend to the most optimal system planning efforts. As such, these data challenges are critical limitations that interfere with planning efforts. HC should prioritize advancing data collection across the county in these domains.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Goals and Objectives are split up into four distinct categories:

- Infrastructure: racial justice, youth voice and expertise, data systems
- making homelessness rare,
- making homelessness brief,
- making homelessness non-recurring.

These four categories provide a framework for how projects were categorized. Each goal lists action steps, a timeline, and identifies a leading partner when possible. Projects that received funding are noted in the list with a gold bar.

INFRASTRUCTURE: RACIAL JUSTICE, COMMUNITY VOICE & YOUTH EXPERTISE

Addressing racial inequities will be at the root of the entire youth homelessness system. and several strategies have been prioritized to **reduce the overrepresentation of Black, Indigenous, and youth of color in the homeless response system.**

1. Define what it means for Hennepin’s youth homelessness response to adopt a “justice” lens, to ensure culturally affirming and equitable programs.		
Action Steps	Timeline	Leading Partner(s)
Develop a justice task force to imagine a youth homelessness response rooted in a justice framework. The task force will outline the shifts required in the existing response to achieve racial justice, embrace community voice, and center youth expertise and that will outline specific strategies and expectations for all youth homelessness providers.	July - September 2022	TBD
Develop specific strategies and expectations for all youth homelessness providers, as well as training plans to ensure consistency across agencies/projects.	July - September 2022	TBD

<p>Develop racial justice policy committee to investigate how to address barriers that prevent renters from extending hospitality to youth in need of stable housing who they know.</p>	<p>September – December 2022</p>	<p>CloseKnit, other partners TBD</p>
<p>2. Integrate community voice and develop intentional connections with culturally specific resources and community support. It is critical to broaden the traditional homeless youth response system to be more inclusive of culturally specific providers serving YYA and community members who provide informal support to YYA at-risk of and currently experiencing homelessness.</p>		
<p>Action Steps</p>	<p>Timeline</p>	<p>Leading Partner(s)</p>
<p>As part of the justice task force, develop a subcommittee to engage community voice and identify these resources and community supports.</p>	<p>July - September 2022</p>	<p>TBD</p>
<p>Develop a plan for engagement with culturally specific providers, beyond the traditional homeless youth response system.</p>	<p>July - September 2022</p>	<p>TBD</p>
<p>3. Develop and strengthen the process by which the voice and power of the YAB is always centered in the work.</p>		
<p>Action Steps</p>	<p>Timeline</p>	<p>Leading Partner(s)</p>
<p>Support the YABs plan for how they want to be involved in system-level work.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Youthprise, YAB partners</p>
<p>Secure funding to support the ongoing needs of the YAB.</p>	<p>September – December 2022</p>	<p>Youthprise, Hennepin</p>

		County Housing Stability Area
Ensure that YAB leadership is centered in the development of a to-be-defined implementation committee, illustrated in phase 3 governance.	July – September 2022	Youthprise, Hennepin County Housing Stability Area
<p>4. Develop a Best Practices Framework to guide system response. Creating the Framework provides an opportunity to review and revise the 9 evidenced-based guiding principles developed in 2012 that have been core to Hennepin County’s approach to addressing youth homelessness. Fully integrating Chosen Family/Natural Supports strategy that can be implemented with youth experiencing housing instability, at any point of interaction with the system.</p>		
Action Steps	Timeline	Leading Partner(s)
Develop a task force, led by the YAB, to begin to build out the best practices that can be incorporated into the homeless youth response system	July – September 2022	YAB (in assistance with Youthprise)
Develop training plans to ensure consistency across all agencies/projects;	October – December 2022	TBD
Establish consistent community-wide standards on the following identified areas: 1. utilization of ‘move on’ strategies, whenever appropriate, as a means of connecting youth & young adults to subsidized housing opportunities outside of the homeless response system;	July – September 2022	TBD

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. strategies for supporting youth that age-out of youth-dedicated projects (age 25); 3. strategies for homeless youth providers that serve youth headed households and their children, specifically standards related to serving the children within the household; and 4. Implementation of accessible and consistent aftercare services. 		
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INFRASTRUCTURE: DATA SYSTEMS

<p>1. Utilize the Homeless Management Information System as the primary database serving all youth experiencing homelessness. All service providers are currently using multiple different databases to put information into. We need all service providers serving youth experiencing homelessness to use one database so that we can better understand and address system gaps.</p>		
<p>Project prioritized for funding through YHDP</p>		
<p>Action Steps:</p>	<p>Timeline</p>	<p>Leading Partner(s)</p>
<p>Create standards for uploading documentation into HMIS or The Vault (HB101)</p>	<p>September 2022</p>	<p>Hennepin County Housing Stability Area, other partners TBD</p>
<p>Apply for a YHDP project to add youth dedicated HMIS staff to the system.</p>	<p>June 2022</p>	<p>Hennepin County Housing Stability Area, other partners TBD</p>

Create and build workflows for all interventions in HMIS	July – September 2022	Hennepin County Housing Stability Area, Institute for Community Alliances
Develop consistent outcomes, utilizing the 4 core USICH outcomes, for all interventions	July – September 2022	Hennepin County Housing Stability Area, other partners TBD
Review agency intake forms and recommend a consistent HMIS -based intake process to be utilized in all youth serving projects.	October 2022 – March 2023	Hennepin County Housing Stability Area, other partners TBD
<p>2. Implement community cards at every drop-in, shelter and outreach program serving youth at-risk of and currently experiencing homelessness, ages 18+. Instead of having to continually re-tell their story, these would allow youth to swipe in at these places, instead of going through an entire intake each time. It would also make connecting with youth easier when they are referred out to housing.</p>		
Action Steps	Timeline	Leading Partner(s)
Apply for a YHDP project to add youth dedicated HMIS staff to the system.	June 2022	Hennepin County Housing Stability Area
Support agencies to implement community cards	October – December 2022	Hennepin County Housing Stability Area
Develop data collection strategy regarding community cards	October – December 2022	Hennepin County Housing Stability Area
Complete youth focus group(s) to establish the best practices for implementing community cards.	TBD	YAB, YouthPrise, Hennepin County

<p>3. Expand the services listed within the YSNmn.org app to include housing options (especially chosen family host homes and how ‘natural points of contact’ can be supported) and options for pregnant and parenting youth. This app has proven to be accessible to young people and expanding the resources on the app, will ensure all subpopulations of youth and young adults can utilize it.</p>		
Action Steps	Timeline	Leading Partner(s)
Build out resources available to pregnant and parenting youth.	July – December 2022	The Bridge for Youth and other partners TBD
Assure all Hennepin County shelter options for YYA to access are available during evening hours.	September – December 2022	TBD
Develop a new tab – ‘in need of housing, click here’ and all the resources within it, including chosen family	July – December 2022	The Bridge for Youth and other partners TBD

GOAL 1: MAKE HOMELESSNESS *RARE*: REDUCE THE NUMBER OF NEW ENTRIES INTO HOMELESSNESS

<p>1. Make sure there is an adequate housing stability response for unaccompanied youth within the child welfare system.</p>		
Action Steps	Timeline	Leading Partner(s)
Create an advocacy strategy for child welfare to create housing opportunities, using the best practices developed in the homeless youth space, to serve minors	2023	TBD

2. Make sure every youth that is involved in and transitions out of any Hennepin County system – corrections, foster care, behavioral health – has stable housing.		
Action Steps	Timeline	Leading Partner(s)
Develop a cross-system task force to focus on decreasing known pathways from other systems to homelessness	September 2022 – March 2023	TBD
Ensure each the area has developed and implemented discharge policies to prevent youth from exiting into homelessness	Corrections: current – December 2023 Foster Care: October – March 2023 Behavioral Health: October – March 2023	Corrections: Underserved Committee Cross-system task force
Ensure questions are asked at intake about housing stability in these areas and housing plans are formed based upon the information	TBD	Cross-system task force
Ensure staff in these areas and youth are knowledgeable and understand how to connect youth to the County Involved Young Adult housing programs	June 2022 - ongoing	Hennepin County Housing Stability Area
3. Secure funding for services for 60 of the 200 Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) vouchers. There are 200 new vouchers for housing for youth with foster care experience, but there is no money to provide services to the youth.		
Project prioritized for funding through YHDP		

Action Steps	Timeline	Leading Partner(s)
Explore how FYI vouchers can be used to support chosen family hosting	September – October 2022	CloseKnit, other partners TBD
Select YHDP project provider to provide services for 60 youth with an FYI voucher	May – June 2022	YHDP funding evaluation committee
Hire and train team to implement project	July – September 2022	YHDP selected provider/s
Create workflow for external referrals	July 2022	Hennepin County Housing Stability Area and selected provider/s.
Set up YHDP selected provider/s in HMIS to track outcomes, demographics.	August – September 2022.	YHDP Provider/s, Hennepin County Housing Stability Area, Institute for Community Alliance

4. Secure funding for culturally responsive health services for youth.

Action Steps	Timeline	Leading Partner(s)
Identify what youth want for health services (mental, physical, emotional, etc.)	July – September 2022	YAB (with support from Youthprise)
Build out a plan around the needs of the young folks	October – December 2022	YAB, TBD
Implement plan	January 2023	TBD

GOAL 2: MAKE HOMELESSNESS *BRIEF*: ACCELERATE THE RATE AT WHICH THOSE WHO DO EXPERIENCE HOMELESSNESS ARE ABLE TO EXIT HOMELESSNESS

<p>1. Implement a youth shelter diversion program. A youth shelter diversion program will create a common point where youth could go who is dealing with housing instability to access shelter services – this could be one phone number, one website or one place or all of them. If alternative housing accommodations cannot be secured, the youth would be assisted in finding the shelter that best meets their needs.</p>		
Action Steps	Timeline	Leading Partner(s)
<i>Cre Work with young people to identify who is their support system and create action steps for connections</i>	July – September 2022	CloseKnit, selected shelter diversion provider/s
Create a centralized access point for youth shelter	July – December 2022	Youth shelter providers, Hennepin County
See Appendix B for further information on youth shelter diversion	See appendix B	See appendix B
Create training for how to bring under-the-radar hosting arrangements with renters aboveboard.	TBD	CloseKnit, other partners TBD
<p>2. Add more shelter beds, specifically for youth that identify as LGBTQ+, Native American, Latino/a, African, pregnant and parenting youth, and have mental health needs</p>		
Action Steps	Timeline	Leading Partner(s)

Do a specific needs analysis specific to the distinct populations to better understand their needs when it comes to shelter	January – March 2023	TBD
Develop further plan to meet identified needs	January – March 2023	TBD
Complete youth focus group(s) to identify is policy/practice changes could be implemented at existing youth shelters to better serve youth who identify as LGBTQ+. Develop action steps from learnings.	TBD	YAB, other partners TBD
3. Make sure all agencies serving youth have health services available (including mental health services).		
Action Steps	Timeline	Leading Partner(s)
Conduct system mapping to better understand needs and gaps.	September – October 2022.	TBD, potential committee focused on intersections between public health and provider
Creating a training series and self-training series on mental health awareness for service provider staff.	October – December 2022	TBD, potential committee focused on intersections between public health and provider
Develop a go-to help line for youth to call, offering immediate counseling services. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that there are options and preferences for the youth to have a counselor of their choice (including gender, etc.). 	January – March 2023	TBD, potential committee focused on intersections between public health and provider

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eliminate bias on who can access services. <p>Establish Mental Health supports instead of police interactions - no police.</p>		
<p>Create a centralized location in Hennepin County for people to come in and have a common space. Could include fidgets, on-site transportation, and food resources. Space for 1-on-1 resources.</p>	TBD	TBD
<p>4. Add connection and housing navigators to work directly with youth to connect them to safe and stable housing that best meets their needs.</p>		
<p>Project prioritized for funding through YHDP</p>		
<p>Action Steps</p>	<p>Timeline</p>	<p>Leading Partner(s)</p>
<p>Apply for YHDP funding to develop a new Youth Housing and Connections Navigation team. This team will be centrally located to support connections of YYA across the complete system.</p> <p>Request HUD flexibility to increase supportive services to 24 months so that the Navigation team can provide services to YYA enrolled in the Direct Cash Transfer program, when funding is secured.</p>	June 2022	Hennepin County Housing Stability Area
<p>Create standards, expectations and preferred and required skills for Navigators.</p>	May – June 2022	YAB, Hennepin County Housing Stability Area
<p>Hire and train Youth Navigators. Young people with lived experiences need to be in the hiring process for the housing navigator.</p>	August – September 2022	YAB, Hennepin County Housing Stability Area

Create workflows, HMIS requirements, procedures, etc. to effectively roll out program	August – September 2022	Hennepin County Housing Stability Area, Institute for Community Alliance
Develop explicit coordination between the existing Coordinated Entry system (CES) and a new YHDP funded Youth Navigation Team.	August – September 2022	Hennepin County Housing Stability Area, other partners TBD
Develop and implement youth centered updates to the CES.	October 2022 - ongoing	Hennepin County Housing Stability Area
Develop a process for ensuring youth who meet categories 2 & 4 of the homeless definition are integrated into CES	TBD	TBD
5. Coordinate all youth outreach services to make sure that everyone is working together and that all geographic areas are covered.		
Action Steps:	Timeline	Leading Partner(s)
Conduct system mapping for all agencies providing outreach to better understand gaps and create plan to more strategically fill them	September – December 2022	Streetworks, other partners TBD
Create points of contacts for high need schools, if not already identified	January – March 2023	TBD
Help build a peer culture that destigmatizes homelessness and enlists youth to help peers access resources.	TBD	TBD

GOAL 3: MAKE HOMELESSNESS *NON-RECURRING*: MINIMIZE THE NUMBER OF RETURNS TO HOMELESSNESS AMONG PEOPLE WHO HAVE PREVIOUSLY EXITED.

<p>1. Increase the number of permanent supportive housing units – housing that is not time limited and has services provided.</p>		
<p>Project prioritized for funding through YHDP</p>		
Action Steps	Timeline	Leading Partner(s)
Select YHDP provider	May – June 2022	YHDP funding evaluation
Support new provider to fully implement new program in alignment with newly defined best practices	July – September 2022	Hennepin County Housing Stability Area
<p>2. Increase the number of rapid rehousing units – housing that is usually subsidized for up to 24 months, although the typical length of stay is 18 months. Services are provided while youth is in this type of housing.</p>		
<p>Project prioritized for funding through YHDP</p>		
Action Steps	Timeline	Leading Partner(s)
Select YHDP provider	May – June 2022	YHDP funding evaluation
Support new provider to fully implement new program in alignment with newly defined best practices	July – September 2022	Hennepin County Housing Stability Area

<p>3. Create a direct cash transfer program for youth that are currently experiencing literal homelessness. This typically provides youth cash to cover the costs of housing. Services are typically provided to youth who receive this.</p>		
Action Steps	Timeline	Leading Partner(s)
Secure funding to establish a pilot project serving 50 youth and young adults with DCTs.	TBD	TBDF
Establish the Youth Housing and Connections Navigation team as the service providers for DCTs when established (understanding that this team may need to increase capacity).	TBD	TBD
Create a policy for multiple ways to direct cash.	October – December 2022	TBD
Address policy barriers created by additional cash coming into a household, such as benefit cliffs	October – December 2022	TBD
<p>4. Improve relationships with property managers and landlords to ensure YYA can move into housing quickly.</p>		
Action Steps:	Timeline	Leading Partner(s)
Ensure YYA renters are equipped with resources that help them better understand who to call when housing needs arise (if the housing option has a leaky faucet, etc.)	March 2023 – ongoing	TBD
Develop a task force to strategize ways to improve landlord and property management relationships.	January 2023 – March 2023	TBD

Increase willingness of property managers/landlords to accept copies of vital documents.	March 2023 – ongoing	TBD
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PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

The following projects were selected through facilitated community process. In this process projects that aligned with the shared vision, adhered to the guiding principles and were eligible for YHDP funds were prioritized by the Core Team with final approval by the YAB. Each of the following project description includes:

- core elements,
- target population,
- number of YYA to be served,
- desired outcomes
- indication if the project is anticipated to be funded
- project budget
- how the YHDP principles and USICH core outcomes will be addressed

Youth Housing and Connections Navigators	
Core Elements of the Project	<p><i>Youth and Connections Navigators provide direct support to youth in crisis as they navigate and engage with the system. Providing supportive services necessary to assist program participants to obtain and maintain housing. Housing navigation services can include supporting housing solutions outside of the opportunities offered in the homeless response system.</i></p> <p><i>Housing and Connections Navigators will serve a broad population of youth & young adults (YYA). This new project will help inform youth specific needs as they relate to the coordinated entry system, while not limiting access of YYA to other projects within Hennepin County.</i></p> <p><i>Referrals could be of youth in the coordinated entry system, corrections system, foster care system, adult behavioral health system, schools, and other entities where youth are connected, including self-referral.</i></p> <p><i>The Navigation team is designed to bring together all elements of the system - outreach, shelter, drop-in centers, coordinated entry, and housing projects to support YYA getting into housing quicker and easier. This will also include building relationships with partners/organizations outside of the system that may be self-identified as safe places for YYA, specifically culturally specific providers not typically engaged in the traditional homeless youth system. The navigators will ensure youth are connected to all benefits and county services available to them, including specific housing vouchers such as foster youth to independence and county involved young adult vouchers. Navigation services are considered</i></p>

	<p><i>“mobile” with staff meeting youth where they are - both physically and in addressing the unique needs of each YYA they engage. Hours of availability should be flexible and responsive to the needs of YYA.</i></p> <p><i>The Navigation team will ideally operate in a way that allows the full team to support YYA, as needed. This differs from typical case management structures, where a YYA is matched to a case manager as their sole point of contact. The Navigation team will work as a team and develop coordination strategies to ensure that whichever team member is available, is able to support a YYA through engagement efforts. Ideally, the team will be structured to offer available services beyond normal business hours and will consider having an “on-call” phone number that YYA enrolled in the project can utilize to connect immediately with a navigator.</i></p> <p><i>Additional details and structure of the Navigation Team will be designed with the Youth Action Board (YAB), but it is expected that the team would include a staff person in a management role who would lead a broader team of several (up to 4) navigators.</i></p> <p><i>The Housing Navigation team can provide services to YYA when they are experiencing homelessness and for up to 6 months after they have moved into permanent housing.</i></p> <p><i>The Youth Housing Navigator Project is a system-level project and designed to be a centralized element of the youth homeless response system. It is critical the recipient organization operates as a central entity and not be tied to a specific site or organization.</i></p>
<p>Target Population</p>	<p>Youth under the age of 25, including pregnant and parenting youth plus all special population groups. HUD Homeless Categories 1, 2, and 4.</p>
<p>Projected Number of Youth to be Served (annual)</p>	<p><i>15 youth per caseload at any given time. Approximately 120 youth annually with 4.0 FTEs, with an approximate length of service to up to 6 months.</i></p>
<p>Supportive Services Description</p>	<p><i>Core Elements of the Navigation Team:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>○ Navigators must be outgoing and have people skills - equipped to navigate emotional states and different personalities</i> <i>○ Navigators should reflect the community that they are serving, the Navigator should have lived experiences</i>

- *Navigators must have equity training on LGBTQ+ and racial equity issues*
- *Team needs to be accessible outside of typical business hours*
- *Navigators should provide a longer-term connection to provide continuity to YYA*
- *Connected to outreach teams to ensure collaborative & non-duplicative services*
- *Offer Housing Problem Solving Strategies - ability to have creative conversations with YYA to identify housing options that are safe, appropriate, & stable*
- *Research & find options to meet youth needs - match to what is existing in the system*
- *Have access to transportation resources including, long term bus cards, gas cards, and bus tokens*
- *Have on-site food resources: grocery gift cards, food gift cards, etc. Something for the YYA to have a small meal for the day*
- *Understanding of housing/tenant laws*
- *Housing mediation & conflict mediation (with roommates, family, chosen family)*
- *Make connections to other systems, especially within Hennepin County*
- *Assist youth in navigating and getting access and connected to benefits*
- *Understand the CES system & support YYA in navigating*
- *Collect vital documents necessary for moving into housing. If possible, offering a safe place to store vital documents*
- *Build relationships with landlords to build up stock of housing options (unit sizes, locations, etc.)*
- *Support YYA in developing consistent communications and making connections to cellular services and Wi-Fi*

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Assist in building out and maintaining YSNmn.org to include housing resources and a process for referrals</i> • <i>The Youth Navigator Manager would host youth case conferencing to ensure the needs of youth on the CES list are being served by a navigator if not elsewhere. The Youth Navigator Manager would participate on the youth and families CES committees and host a youth specific CES committee to inform the larger single adult and family committee work. The Youth Navigator Manager would assist in creating partnerships with culturally specific organizations.</i> • <i>If/when Direct Cash Transfer (DCT) funding is secured, the navigation team will be able to provide supportive services to participants who are receiving the DCT; this may require an expansion of the Navigation Team</i>
<p>Desired Outcomes</p>	<p><i>BRIEF: Youth will obtain safe and stable housing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percent of youth who exit, exit to safe and stable housing/destinations. Goal = 95%. • Of the percent of youth who exited to safe and stable housing/destinations, a percent of them are still housed at 6 months post exit. Goal = 98%. • Of the percent of youth who exited to safe and stable housing/destinations, a percent of them are still housed at 12 months post exit. Goal = 90%. <p><i>RARE: Youth maintain/increase financial stability</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percent of youth who maintain or increase total income (including benefits). Goal = 90%. • Percent of youth who maintain or increase attendance in school or an education program. Goal = 90%. • Percent of youth who obtain their vital documents. Goal = 90% <p><i>RARE AND NON-RECURRING: Youth improve their social connections and well-being</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percent of youth who are pregnant and/or parenting have been referred to, and actively assisted in accessing, supportive services. Goal = 90%.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percent of youth who have identified healthcare (including mental health) providers and/or are connected to a clinic. Goal = 90%. • Percent of youth who identify at least one positive adult relationship (other than a social service provider) that can be called upon. Goal = 100%. <p><i>* Additional outcomes may be defined prior to implementation of the project, specifically around permanent connections, and social emotional well-being</i></p>
<p>Innovative Strategies to be built into Implementation</p>	<p>New project within the community, designed by young folks; YAB will create job descriptions, project standards, and expectations of this team.</p>
<p>Is the project anticipated to be funded with YHDP funds?</p>	<p><i>Yes, Supportive Service Only (SSO)</i></p>
<p>Will the project seek any CoC program flexibilities through the notification or approval process?</p> <p>(See Appendix A of the YHDP NOFO for more details)</p>	<p><i>Yes</i></p> <p><i>Appendix A I.C.1.b. (2) Request to provide services to program participants for up to 24 months after the program participant exists homelessness, transitional housing, or after the end of housing assistance; specifically for participants receiving a DCT</i></p> <p><i>Appendix A I.C.1.a.(9) Provide up to \$500 per month for families that provide housing under a kinship care model</i></p> <p><i>Others to be determined during the procurement process.</i></p>
<p>Is the project still feasible, if flexibilities are applied for but not granted?</p> <p>(If applicable)</p>	<p><i>Yes, with modifications</i></p>
<p>Projected Cost (1 year)</p>	<p>Approximate \$600,000</p>
<p>YHDP Values & Principles Addressed in this Project</p>	
<p>Special Populations</p>	<p>Navigators will work with youth that have neurodiverse conditions, involved in corrections, foster care, and adult behavioral health.</p>

Equity	Project will adopt recommendations of the equity task force for implementation of equitable strategies.
Positive Youth Development	<p>Positive youth development is a required philosophy that must be embedded in project design, staff training, and service delivery.</p> <p>Services will be implemented with a harm reduction approach to relationships to support YYA in building their circle of natural supports and permanent connections.</p>
Trauma-Informed Care	<p>Trauma Informed Care is a required philosophy that must be embedded in project design, staff training, and service delivery.</p> <p>Additional TIC strategies will be included in a forthcoming community strategy including ways that safe, authentic, and positive relationships can be corrective and restorative to survivors of trauma.</p>
Family Engagement	Project will adopt a forthcoming community strategy of strengthening/building natural support/chosen family relationships.
Housing First	Services will have low barriers and meet participants where they are.
Unsheltered Homelessness	The housing navigators may refer youth and young adults that are unsheltered that need housing services through a multitude of referral sources.
Youth Choice	YYA will help build the design of this project; the YAB will develop job descriptions and support the hiring process.
Individualized & Client-Driven Supports	Youth will have a choice as to whether to work with a navigator and what supports to focus on. Navigators will offer a broad array of services.
Social & Community integration	Will adopt a community strategy of building natural support/chosen family relationships; will prioritize connections with culturally specific resources and community supports.
Coordinated Entry	Youth navigators may work with youth on the CES priority lists that are completely disconnected from any service and in need of assistance. The Youth Navigator will ensure that all youth have their vital documents and

	that they are uploaded into HMIS to ensure swift access to housing. The youth navigator manager will convene youth case conferencing where all youth on the CES lists are discussed to ensure correct support is being provided to assist youth with their housing needs.
USICH 4-Core Outcomes Addressed in this Project	
Stable Housing	Navigators will be housing focused, supporting YYA in attaining stable housing.
Permanent Connections	Navigators will include a new dedicated effort to support YYA in strengthening and building permanent connections in their lives. This can include family, friends, chosen family or other trusted people in the youth’s life. Hennepin County has a goal to develop a chosen family/natural supports strategy that can be implemented with youth experiencing housing instability, at any point of interaction with the youth homeless response system.
Education/Employment	Includes high performance in and completion of educational and training activities, especially for younger youth, and starting and maintaining adequate and stable employment, particularly for older youth. Services will support youth in increasing their earning capacity. For youth who have not received a GED or diploma, services may focus on supporting a youth’s educational goals. For youth who have received a GED or diploma, services may focus on supporting a youth’s employment goals.
Social/Emotional Well-being	Refers to the social and emotional functioning of youth experiencing homelessness. This area includes the development of key competencies, attitudes, and behaviors that equip a young person experiencing homelessness to avoid unhealthy risks and to succeed across multiple domains of daily life, including school, work, relationships, and community.

Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Services

<p>Core Elements of the Project</p>	<p><i>The Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) initiative makes Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) assistance available to Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) in partnership with Public Child Welfare Agencies (PCWAs). Housing assistance is provided for up to 36 months and supportive services are provided to assist the youth on a path to self-sufficiency and holistic well-being.</i></p> <p><i>YHDP funds will be used to support the supportive services connected to the FYI vouchers. Supportive services should be individualized to meet the needs of all youth and young adults. Service options should be flexible to meet the needs of each individual YYA - case management plans and goals will be tailored to individual needs. A youth can choose to not receive services, but if they choose to want services during the duration of the 36 months, the provider is required to provide services to them.</i></p>
<p>Target Population</p>	<p><i>Single and pregnant/parenting youth who:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are 18–24-year-old • Left foster care, or will leave foster care within 90 days, in accordance with a transition plan described in section 475(5)(H) of the Social Security Act; and • Are homeless or are at risk of becoming homeless - category 1, 2, or 4. <p><i>*Participant eligibility for these services will be determined when an FYI voucher is secured. YYA who are already housed with an FYI voucher prior to the launch of this service project will not be eligible to receive services through this project.</i></p>
<p>Projected Number of Youth to be Served (annual)</p>	<p>60</p>

Supportive Services Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Utilize of 9 guiding principles to assist youth in overcoming homelessness• Support connections to natural supports, chosen family, and other permanent connections• Include youth voice and youth engagement strategies to inform all levels of programming and services• Focus on connecting youth to further supports, especially for health and transitioning to adult services• Utilize progressive engagement and two-generation (2Gen) approaches to addressing intergenerational poverty, including offering the minimal amount of assistance initially and being person centered in planning, avoiding assumptions about peoples' needs or prescriptive services, and increasing services based on needs• Provision of Mental Health supports, either on staff or with direct partnerships with community providers• Life skill development - information/counseling on money management, use of credit, housekeeping, proper nutrition/meal preparation, and access to health care (e.g., doctors, medication, and mental and behavioral health services).• Addressing housing barriers (credit, rental history, etc.)• Counseling on compliance with rental lease requirements and with HCV program participant requirements, including assistance/referrals for assistance on security deposits, utility hook-up fees, and utility deposits.• Support in job preparation and attainment counseling
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational and career advancement counseling regarding attainment of general equivalency diploma (GED); attendance/financing of education at a technical school, trade school or college; culturally responsive coaching for success in educational and economic opportunities. • Navigating & accessing applicable benefits, including childcare benefits. <i>Ideally, project recipient(s) would bring or be able to negotiate childcare prioritization for youth families engaged in the project.</i> • Provision of family supports for parenting youth • Access to Transportation - bus tokens, gas cards, etc.
<p>Desired Outcomes</p>	<p><i>BRIEF: Youth will obtain safe and stable housing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percent of youth who exit, exit to safe and stable housing/destinations. Goal = 95%. • Of the percent of youth who exited to safe and stable housing/destinations, a percent of them are still housed at 6 months post exit. Goal = 98%. • Of the percent of youth who exited to safe and stable housing/destinations, a percent of them are still housed at 12 months post exit. Goal = 90%.

	<p><i>RARE: Youth maintain/increase financial stability</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percent of youth who maintain or increase income through employment. Goal = 90%. • Percent of youth who maintain or increase total income (including benefits). Goal = 90%. • Percent of youth who maintain or increase attendance in school or an education program. Goal = 90%. <p><i>RARE AND NON-RECURRING: Youth improve their social connections and well-being</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percent of youth who are pregnant and/or parenting have been referred to, and actively assisted in accessing, supportive services. Goal = 90%. • Percent of youth who have identified healthcare (including mental health) providers and/or are connected to a clinic. Goal = 90%. • Percent of youth who identify at least one positive adult relationship (other than a social service provider) that can be called upon. Goal = 100%. <p><i>* Additional outcomes may be defined prior to implementation of the project, specifically around permanent connections, and social emotional well-being</i></p>
<p>Innovative Strategies to be built into Implementation</p>	<p>Braiding funding sources to establish consistency across youth-dedicated projects.</p>
<p>Is the project anticipated to be funded with YHDP funds?</p>	<p><i>Yes, Rapid Rehousing</i></p>
<p>Will the project seek any CoC program flexibilities through the waiver notification or approval process? (See Appendix A of the YHDP NOFO for more details)</p>	<p><i>Yes.</i></p> <p><i>Appendix A I.C.1.b. (2) Request to provide services to program participants for up to 24 months after the program participant exists homelessness, transitional housing, or after the end of housing assistance.</i></p>

	<i>Others to be determined during the procurement process.</i>
Is the project still feasible, if waivers are applied for but not granted? (If applicable)	Yes, but it will result in a gap in services for YYA utilizing an FYI voucher
Projected Cost (1 year)	Approximate \$500,000
YHDP Values & Principles Addressed in this Project	
Special Populations	It is reported that more than 50% of YYA experiencing homelessness have a previous connection with the child welfare system. This project is designed specifically to support those young people who are now between the ages of 18-24.
Equity	Project will adopt recommendations of the equity task force for implementation of equitable project design & implementation.
Positive Youth Development	<p>Positive Youth Development is a required philosophy that must be embedded in project design, staff training, and service delivery.</p> <p>Services will be implemented with a harm reduction approach to relationships to support YYA in building their circle of natural supports and permanent connections.</p>
Trauma-Informed Care	<p>Trauma Informed Care is a required philosophy that must be embedded in project design, staff training, and service delivery.</p> <p>Additional TIC strategies will be included in a forthcoming community strategy including ways that safe, authentic, and positive relationships can be corrective and restorative to survivors of trauma.</p>

Family Engagement	Project will adopt a forthcoming community strategy of strengthening/building natural support/chosen family relationships.
Housing First	Required. Low-barrier project design will be coordinated with the vouchers provided by the Public Housing Authority.
Unsheltered Homelessness	May serve youth experiencing unsheltered homelessness if all other qualifications are met for eligibility.
Youth Choice	YYA will determine where they live and the goals they want to achieve while enrolled. YYA will determine the levels of services that they want.
Individualized & Client-Driven Supports	Agency will develop a youth engagement strategy to ensure programming and services are youth-centered and driven.
Social & Community integration	Will adopt a community strategy of building natural support/chosen family relationships; will prioritize connections with culturally specific resources and community supports.
Coordinated Entry	All youth assessed through CES that are also eligible for an FYI voucher will be offered one, pending availability.
USICH 4-Core Outcomes Addressed in this Project	
Stable Housing	This is permanent housing and support will be in place to support YYA in maintaining that stable housing after the project stay has ended. This will include strategies to manage housing costs on their own as well as strengthening support networks to decrease returns to homelessness.
Permanent Connections	Case management will include a new dedicated effort to support YYA in strengthening and building permanent connections in their lives. This can include family, friends, chosen family or other trusted people in the youth’s life. Hennepin County has a goal to develop a chosen family/natural supports strategy that can be implemented

	with youth experiencing housing instability, at any point of interaction with the youth homeless response system.
Education/Employment	Includes high performance in and completion of educational and training activities, especially for younger youth, and starting and maintaining adequate and stable employment, particularly for older youth. Services will support youth in increasing their earning capacity. For youth who have not received a GED or diploma, services may focus on supporting a youth’s educational goals. For youth who have received a GED or diploma, services may focus on supporting a youth’s employment goals.
Social/Emotional Well-being	Refers to the social and emotional functioning of homeless youth. This area includes the development of key competencies, attitudes, and behaviors that equip a young person experiencing homelessness to avoid unhealthy risks and to succeed across multiple domains of daily life, including school, work, relationships, and community.

Youth Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)	
Core Elements of the Project	<p><i>Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) is a non-time limited supportive housing intervention for youth or a youth-headed household with a disability. PSH is designed to support the most vulnerable youth who will benefit from long-term housing with ongoing support. Housing and services must be low-barrier and offered without preconditions (such as employment, income, absence of criminal record, or sobriety) and the resources and services provided are tailored to the unique needs of the household.</i></p> <p><i>PSH can be offered in a scattered site model where the young person finds housing in the community or in a single site location. In both scenarios the YYA is the leaseholder of the apartment.</i></p>

	<p><i>Youth are not required to meet HUD’s Chronic Homelessness definition to enroll in the project.</i></p>
<p>Target Population</p>	<p>Youth under the age of 25, including pregnant and parenting youth plus all special population groups. HUD Homeless Categories 1, 2, and 4.</p> <p>*Youth PSH is not restricted to youth experiencing chronic homelessness.</p>
<p>Projected Number of Youth to be Served (annual)</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>Supportive Services Description</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Utilization of 9 guiding principles to assist youth in overcoming homelessness 2. Connection to natural supports, chosen family, and other permanent connections 3. Inclusion of youth voice and youth engagement strategies to inform all levels of programming and services 4. Providing support to youth in identifying and building out their natural supports/chosen family within a youth’s life, including resourcing the natural supports/chosen family 5. Focus services on connecting youth to further supports, especially for health and transitioning to adult services 6. Utilize progressive engagement and two-generation (2Gen) approaches to addressing intergenerational poverty, including offering the minimal amount of assistance initially and being person centered in planning, avoiding assumptions about peoples’ needs or prescriptive services, and increasing services based on needs 7. Utilization of the ‘moving on’ strategies as a means of connecting YYA to stable housing opportunities outside of the homeless response system, when they are ready

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Provision of Mental Health supports, either on staff or with direct partnerships with community providers 9. Independent Living Services & Basic life skills- information/counseling on money management, use of credit, housekeeping, proper nutrition/meal preparation, and access to health care (e.g., doctors, medication, and mental and behavioral health services). 10. Address housing barriers (credit, rental history, etc.) 11. Landlord recruitment 12. Housing obtainment - supporting youth to find appropriate housing to meet needs. 13. Counseling on compliance with rental lease requirements and with HCV program participant requirements, including assistance/referrals for assistance on security deposits, utility hook-up fees, and utility deposits. 14. Housing Quality Standard assessment 15. Job preparation and attainment counseling 16. Educational and career advancement counseling regarding attainment of general equivalency diploma (GED); attendance/financing of education at a technical school, trade school or college; culturally responsive coaching for success in educational and economic opportunities. 17. Navigating & accessing applicable benefits, including childcare benefits. Ideally, project recipient(s) would bring or be able to negotiate childcare prioritization for youth families engaged in the project. 18. Family supports for parenting youth 19. Transportation - bus tokens, gas cards, etc.
<p>Desired Outcomes</p>	<p>BRIEF: Youth will obtain safe and stable housing</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Percent of youth who exit, exit to safe and stable housing/destinations. Goal = 95%. 2. Of the percent of youth who exited to safe and stable housing/destinations, a percent of them are still housed at 6 months post exit. Goal = 98%.

	<p>3. Of the percent of youth who exited to safe and stable housing/destinations, a percent of them are still housed at 12 months post exit. Goal = 90%.</p> <p>RARE: Youth maintain/increase financial stability</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Percent of youth who maintain or increase income through employment. Goal = 90%. 2. Percent of youth who maintain or increase total income (including benefits). Goal = 90%. 3. Percent of youth who maintain or increase attendance in school or an education program. Goal = 90%. <p>RARE AND NON-RECURRING: Youth improve their social connections and well-being</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Percent of youth who are pregnant and/or parenting have been referred to, and actively assisted in accessing, supportive services. Goal = 90%. 2. Percent of youth who have identified healthcare (including mental health) providers and/or are connected to a clinic. Goal = 90%. 3. Percent of youth who identify at least one positive adult relationship (other than a social service provider) that can be called upon. Goal = 100%. <p>* Additional outcomes may be defined prior to implementation of the project, specifically around permanent connections, and social emotional well-being</p>
<p>Innovative Strategies to be built into Implementation</p>	<p>This PSH project is designed to align with youth PSH that is currently operating in the community.</p>
<p>Is the project anticipated to be funded with YHDP funds?</p>	<p>Yes, Permanent Supportive Housing</p>

<p>Will the project seek any CoC program? flexibilities through the notification or approval process? (See Appendix A of the YHDP NOFO for more details)</p>	<p>To Be Determined YHDP flexibilities will be outlined in the local competition for YHDP funds and respondents will determine if flexibilities will be used.</p>
<p>Is the project still feasible, if flexibilities are applied for but not granted? (If applicable)</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Projected Cost (1 year)</p>	<p>Approximately \$300,000</p>
<p>YHDP Values & Principles Addressed in this Project</p>	
<p>Special Populations</p>	<p>YYA between the ages of 18-24 and with a documented disability will be prioritized for the project.</p>
<p>Equity</p>	<p>Project will adopt recommendations of the equity task force for implementation of equitable strategies.</p>
<p>Positive Youth Development</p>	<p>Positive Youth Development is a required philosophy that must be embedded in project design, staff training, and service delivery. Services will be implemented with a harm reduction approach to relationships to support YYA in building their circle of natural supports and permanent connections.</p>
<p>Trauma-Informed Care</p>	<p>Trauma Informed Care is a required philosophy that must be embedded in project design, staff training, and service delivery. Additional TIC strategies will be included in a forthcoming community strategy including ways that safe, authentic, and</p>

	positive relationships can be corrective and restorative to survivors of trauma.
Family Engagement	Project will adopt the forthcoming community strategy of strengthening/building natural support/chosen family relationships.
Housing First	Required. Low-barrier project design is critical to successful implementation.
Unsheltered Homelessness	YYA who are unsheltered will be connected to the project through youth engagement strategies, including outreach, navigation, and the Coordinated Entry System.
Youth Choice	YYA will determine where they live and the goals they want to achieve while enrolled. YYA will determine the levels of services that they want.
Individualized & Client-Driven Supports	Agency will develop a youth engagement strategy to ensure programming and services are youth-centered and driven.
Social & Community integration	Will adopt a community strategy of building natural support/chosen family relationships; will prioritize connections with culturally specific resources and community supports.
Coordinated Entry	All referrals will be made through CES
USICH 4-Core Outcomes Addressed in this Project	
Stable Housing	PSH is permanent housing and support will be in place to support YYA in maintaining that stable housing after the project stay has ended. This will include strategies strengthening youth support networks to decrease returns to homelessness. Annual assessments of need will be completed and if/when a YYA is ready to transition out of PSH, they will be supported through moving on strategies to other housing subsidies, as needed and available.

<p>Permanent Connections</p>	<p>Case management will include a new dedicated effort to support YYA in strengthening and building permanent connections in their lives. This can include family, friends, chosen family or other trusted people in the youth’s life. Hennepin County has a goal to develop a chosen family/natural supports strategy that can be implemented with youth experiencing housing instability, at any point of interaction with the youth homeless response system.</p>
<p>Education/Employment</p>	<p>Services will support youth in increasing their earning capacity. For youth who have not received a GED or diploma, services may focus on supporting a youth’s educational goals. For youth who have received a GED or diploma, services may focus on supporting a youth’s employment or higher education goals.</p>
<p>Social/Emotional Well-being</p>	<p>Refers to the social and emotional functioning of homeless youth. This area includes the development of key competencies, attitudes, and behaviors that equip a young person experiencing homelessness to avoid unhealthy risks and to succeed across multiple domains of daily life, including school, work, relationships, and community.</p>

<p>Youth Rapid Rehousing (RRH)</p>	
<p>Core Elements of the Project</p>	<p><i>Rapid re-housing is an intervention designed to help youth to exit homelessness quickly and return to permanent housing. Rapid re-housing assistance is low-barrier and offered without preconditions (such as employment, income, absence of criminal record, or sobriety) and the resources and services provided are tailored to the unique needs of the household.</i></p> <p><i>RRH assistance consists of three core components: housing identification, housing stability services, and direct assistance. While a rapid re-housing program must have all three core components available, it is not required that a single entity provide all three.</i></p>

	<p><i>RRH will offer scattered site housing where the young person is the leaseholder of a housing unit in the community.</i></p> <p><i>In order to maximize the number of young people who will be serviced by RRH, both financial assistance and case management services are provided in a progressive manner. Starting with the amount that is necessary to move immediately out of homelessness and to stabilize in permanent housing and providing more when and if needed.</i></p> <p><i>RRH can be provided for up to 24 months with up to 6 months of services continuing after rental assistance ends.</i></p>
<p>Target Population</p>	<p>Youth under the age of 25, including pregnant and parenting youth plus all special population groups. HUD Homeless Categories 1, 2, and 4.</p>
<p>Projected Number of Youth to be Served (annual)</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>Supportive Services Description</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilization of 9 guiding principles to assist youth in overcoming homelessness. • Trauma Informed Care and Positive Youth Development Frameworks • Connection to natural supports, chosen family, and other permanent connections • Inclusion of youth voice and youth engagement strategies to inform all levels of programming and services • Providing support to youth in identifying and building out their natural supports/chosen family within a youth’s life, including resourcing the natural supports/chosen family • Focus services on connecting youth to further supports, especially for health and transitioning to adult services • Utilize progressive engagement and two-generation (2Gen) approaches to addressing intergenerational poverty, including offering the minimal amount of

	<p>assistance initially and being person centered in planning, avoiding assumptions about peoples' needs or prescriptive services, and increasing services based on needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Utilization of the 'moving on' strategies as a means of connecting YYA to stable housing opportunities outside of the homeless response system [CS1]• Provision of Mental Health supports, either on staff or with direct partnerships with community providers• Independent Living Services & Basic life skills- information/counseling on money management, use of credit, housekeeping, proper nutrition/meal preparation, and access to health care (e.g., doctors, medication, and mental and behavioral health services).• Address housing barriers (credit, rental history, etc.)• Landlord recruitment• Housing obtainment - supporting youth to find appropriate housing to meet needs• Counseling on compliance with rental lease requirements and with HCV program participant requirements, including assistance/referrals for assistance on security deposits, utility hook-up fees, and utility deposits.• Housing Quality Standard assessment• Job preparation and attainment counseling• Educational and career advancement counseling regarding attainment of general equivalency diploma (GED); attendance/financing of education at a technical school, trade school or college; culturally responsive coaching for success in educational and economic opportunities.• Navigating & accessing applicable benefits, including childcare benefits. <i>Ideally, project recipient(s) would</i>
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	<p><i>bring or be able to negotiate childcare prioritization for youth families engaged in the project.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family supports for parenting youth • Transportation - bus tokens, gas cards, etc. <p>Direct Assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Households may receive direct assistance for a maximum of 24 months • Individualized assistance amounts based on specific needs of each participant. • Budgeting and rental contribution discussions must be completed at least every XX months. • YYA should contribute a portion of income to needs, which can include rent or other costs that contribute to stable housing barriers (arrear, back child support, etc.)
<p>Desired Outcomes</p>	<p><i>BRIEF: Youth will obtain safe and stable housing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percent of youth who exit, exit to safe and stable housing/destinations. Goal = 95%. • Of the percent of youth who exited to safe and stable housing/destinations, a percent of them are still housed at 6 months post exit. Goal = 98%. • Of the percent of youth who exited to safe and stable housing/destinations, a percent of them are still housed at 12 months post exit. Goal = 90%. <p><i>RARE: Youth maintain/increase financial stability</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percent of youth who maintain or increase income through employment. Goal = 90%. • Percent of youth who maintain or increase total income (including benefits). Goal = 90%. • Percent of youth who maintain or increase attendance in school or an education program. Goal = 90%.

	<p><i>RARE AND NON-RECURRING: Youth improve their social connections and well-being</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percent of youth who are pregnant and/or parenting have been referred to, and actively assisted in accessing, supportive services. Goal = 90%. • Percent of youth who have identified healthcare (including mental health) providers and/or are connected to a clinic. Goal = 90%. • Percent of youth who identify at least one positive adult relationship (other than a social service provider) that can be called upon. Goal = 100%. <p><i>* Additional outcomes may be defined prior to implementation of the project, specifically around permanent connections, and social emotional well-being.</i></p>
<p>Innovative Strategies to be built into Implementation</p>	<p>Progressive Engagement Strategies in services & financial assistance.</p>
<p>Is the project anticipated to be funded with YHDP funds?</p>	<p>Yes, Rapid Rehousing (RRH)</p>
<p>Will the project seek any CoC program flexibilities through the waiver notification or approval process?</p> <p>(See Appendix A of the YHDP NOFO for more details)</p>	<p>To Be Determined</p> <p>YHDP flexibilities will be outlined in the local competition for YHDP funds and respondents will determine if flexibilities will be used.</p>
<p>Is the project still feasible, if flexibilities are applied for but not granted?</p> <p>(If applicable)</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Projected Cost (1 year)</p>	<p>Approximately \$250,000</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">YHDP Values & Principles Addressed in this Project</p>	
<p>Special Populations</p>	<p>All YYA populations between ages of 18-24 will be served</p>

Equity	Project will adopt recommendations of the equity task force for implementation of equitable strategies.
Positive Youth Development	<p>Positive Youth Development is a required philosophy that must be embedded in project design, staff training, and service delivery.</p> <p>Services will be implemented with a harm reduction approach to relationships to support YYA in building their circle of natural supports and permanent connections.</p>
Trauma-Informed Care	<p>Trauma Informed Care is a required philosophy that must be embedded in project design, staff training, and service delivery.</p> <p>Additional TIC strategies will be included in a forthcoming community strategy including ways that safe, authentic, and positive relationships can be corrective and restorative to survivors of trauma.</p>
Family Engagement	Project will adopt the forthcoming community strategy of strengthening/building natural support/chosen family relationships.
Housing First	Required. Low-barrier project design is critical to successful implementation.
Unsheltered Homelessness	YYA who are unsheltered will be connected to the project through youth engagement strategies, including outreach, navigation, and the Coordinated Entry System.
Youth Choice	YYA will determine where they live and the goals they want to achieve while enrolled. YYA will determine the levels of services that they want.
Individualized & Client-Driven Supports	Agency will develop a youth engagement strategy to ensure programming and services are youth-centered and driven.
Social & Community integration	Will adopt a community strategy of building natural support/chosen family relationships; will prioritize connections with culturally specific resources and community supports.

Coordinated Entry	All referrals will be made through CES
USICH 4-Core Outcomes Addressed in this Project	
Stable Housing	RRH is permanent housing and support will be in place to support YYA in maintaining that stable housing after the project stay has ended. This will include strategies to manage housing costs on their own as well as strengthening support networks to decrease returns to homelessness.
Permanent Connections	RRH case management will include a new dedicated effort to support YYA in strengthening and building permanent connections in their lives. This can include family, friends, chosen family or other trusted people in the youth’s life. Hennepin County has a goal to develop a chosen family/natural supports strategy that can be implemented with youth experiencing housing instability, at any point of interaction with the youth homeless response system.
Education/Employment	Services will support youth in increasing their earning capacity. For youth who have not received a GED or diploma, services may focus on supporting a youth’s educational goals. For youth who have received a GED or diploma, services may focus on supporting a youth’s employment or higher education goals.
Social/Emotional Well-being	Refers to the social and emotional functioning of homeless youth. This area includes the development of key competencies, attitudes, and behaviors that equip a young person experiencing homelessness to avoid unhealthy risks and to succeed across multiple domains of daily life, including school, work, relationships, and community.

Youth Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

<p>Core Elements of the Project</p>	<p><i>Acknowledging that full-scale planning efforts will be more effective with more comprehensive data, Hennepin County has prioritized a shift to utilize the HMIS as the primary database for tracking data across the youth homeless response system.</i></p>
<p>Target Population</p>	<p><i>Not applicable. This is not a direct service project.</i></p>
<p>Projected Number of Youth to be Served (annual)</p>	<p><i>Not applicable. This is not a direct service project.</i></p>
<p>Supportive Services Description</p>	<p><i>This project includes hiring a full-time staff person to join the Hennepin County data team. This new position will provide support and training to youth projects to use the HMIS in a more collective, system-wide manner.</i></p> <p><i>Eligible activities will include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>10. Completing data entry;</i> <i>11. Monitoring & reviewing data quality;</i> <i>12. Improving data quality;</i> <i>13. Assisting in building out workflows to manage YHDP projects;</i> <i>14. Completing data analysis of youth system data;</i> <i>15. Reporting to YHDP implementation teams;</i> <i>16. Training staff on using the HMIS; and</i> <i>17. Implementing & complying with HMIS requirements.</i> <p><i>All activities will be done in collaboration with the HMIS Lead Agency and Hennepin County’s Principal Planning Analyst focused on youth and families.</i></p>
<p>Desired Outcomes</p>	<p>Improve data quality</p> <p>Increase youth data collection in HMIS</p> <p>Conduct an analysis of gaps, trends, and needs specific to data collection and entry.</p> <p>Establish the HMIS as the primary database.</p>

	Analyze data for system-wide planning purposes.
Is the project anticipated to be funded with YHDP funds?	<i>Yes, Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)</i>
Will the project seek any CoC program flexibilities through the notification or approval process? (See Appendix A of the YHDP NOFO for more details)	<i>No</i>
Is the project still feasible, if flexibilities are applied for but not granted? (If applicable)	Not applicable
Projected Cost (1 year)	Approximate \$100,000

CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

Our vision is to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring in Hennepin County. The Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) process will measure progress towards our vision, the guiding principles and framework and the goals laid out in this plan. The CQI process will ensure that implementation of our plan to prevent and end youth homelessness is data-driven, responsive to youth needs, accountable to strategic efforts, and effective in supporting achievement of our intended outcomes. Per Phase 3 of the governance structure, the Youth Evaluation Committee will be focused on continuous quality improvement work throughout the demonstration period of YHDP. To ensure YHDP work is integrated with other youth work happening in Hennepin County creation of a *Newly Defined Group*. The Youth Evaluation Committee will be a subset of the YAB and the *Newly Defined Group*.

SIGNATURE PAGE

Adding a signature below indicates approval and support for the Hennepin County Coordinated Community Plan to Prevent and End YVA Homelessness. It demonstrates the goal of using the guiding principles and framework and to work collaboratively.

Continuum of Care Representative

Name: Laura DeRosier

Title: Hennepin CoC Coordinator

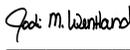
Signature:  Laura DeRosier (Apr 19, 2022 14:16 CDT)

Date: Apr 19, 2022

Public Child Welfare Agency Representative

Name: Jodi Wentland

Title: Deputy County Administrator, Health and Human Services

Signature: 

Date: Apr 18, 2022

Local Government Agency Representative

Name: David Hewitt

Title: Director, Hennepin County Housing Stability

Signature: 

Date: Apr 18, 2022

Youth Action Board Member

Name: Molly M Dubois

Title: YHDP YAB Coordinator

Signature:  Molly M Dubois (Apr 19, 2022 11:47 CDT)

Date: Apr 19, 2022

Runaway and Homeless Youth Provider – 180 Degrees, Inc.

Name: Daniel F. Pfarr

Title: CEO

Signature:  Daniel F. Pfarr (Apr 18, 2022 13:48 CDT)

Date: Apr 18, 2022

Runaway and Homeless Youth Provider – The Bridge for Youth, Inc.

Name: Lisa Mears

Title: Executive Director

Signature:  Lisa Mears (Apr 18, 2022 11:58 CDT)

Date: Apr 18, 2022

Runaway and Homeless Youth Provider – Avenues for Youth

Name: Katherine C Meerse

Title: Executive Director

Signature:  Katherine C Meerse (Apr 18, 2022 11:39 CDT)

Date: Apr 18, 2022

Runaway and Homeless Youth Provider – Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative

Name: Lee Blons

Title: CEO

Signature:  Lee Blons (Apr 18, 2022 11:50 CDT)

Date: Apr 18, 2022

Runaway and Homeless Youth Provider – YMCA of the North

Name: Lisa Pung Michaelson

Title: Executive Director Youth & Family Services

Signature:  Lisa Pung Michaelson (Apr 19, 2022 16:05 CDT)

Date: Apr 19, 2022

APPENDIX

Appendix A. System Resources

Organization	Project Name	Service Continuum	Resource Type
180 Degrees	Hope House	Crisis services	Shelter
180 Degrees	Britney's Place	Crisis services	Shelter
180 Degrees	Onward	Stable housing	THP
180 Degrees	-	Entry point	Community outreach
181 Degrees	-	Entry point	School outreach
Avenues for Youth	Minneapolis	Crisis services	Shelter
Avenues for Youth	Brooklyn	Crisis services	Shelter
Avenues for Youth	[unnamed]	Crisis services	RRH
Avenues for Youth	Minneapolis	Stable housing	THP
Avenues for Youth	Brooklyn	Stable housing	THP
Beacon	66 West	Stable housing	Non-time limited supportive housing
Beacon	Cedar View	Stable housing	Non-time limited supportive housing
Beacon	Nicollet Square	Stable housing	Non-time limited supportive housing
Catholic Charities/ Hope Street	[unnamed]	Crisis services	Shelter
Catholic Charities/ Hope Street	[unnamed]	Stable housing	THP
Catholic Charities/ Hope Street	[unnamed]	Stable housing	PSH
CLUES	[unnamed]	Prevention	Homeless prevention
CLUES	[unnamed]	Stable housing	THP
MoveFwd	Suburban Host Home Program	Crisis services	Host homes

MoveFwd	-	Entry point	School outreach
MoveFwd	-	Entry point	Street outreach
MoveFwd	-	Entry point	Drop-in center
MoveFwd	-	Prevention	Case management
MoveFwd	[unnamed]	Stable housing	THP
Oasis for Youth	[unnamed]	Stable housing	THP
Oasis for Youth	Suburban Host Home Program	Crisis services	Host homes
Oasis for Youth	-	Entry point	Drop-in center
Oasis for Youth	-	Entry point	School outreach
Oasis for Youth	-	Entry point	Community outreach
Simpson	66 West	Stable housing	Non-time limited supportive housing
Simpson	Cedar View	Stable housing	Non-time limited supportive housing
The Bridge for Youth	Resilience House	Crisis services	Shelter
The Bridge for Youth	Gloria's Place	Crisis services	Shelter
The Bridge for Youth	-	Entry point	Street outreach
The Bridge for Youth	-	Entry point	Site outreach
The Bridge for Youth	-	Entry point	Mobile outreach
The Bridge for Youth	Marlene's Place	Stable housing	THP
The Bridge for Youth	Rita's House	Stable housing	THP
The Link	Passageways	Crisis services	Shelter
The Link	Dignity House	Crisis services	Shelter
The Link	Young Families Program	Crisis services	RRH
The Link	Vintage Road	Crisis services	RRH
The Link	Live Out Loud	Crisis services	RRH
The Link	Suburban RRH	Crisis services	RRH
The Link	-	Entry point	Street outreach
The Link	Northside Homeless Prevention Program	Prevention	Homeless prevention
The Link	Lindquist Apartments	Stable housing	PSH
The Link	Housing First	Stable housing	PSH
The Link	[unnamed]	Stable housing	PSH

YMCA of Greater Twin Cities	Safe Stay	Crisis services	Shelter
YMCA of Greater Twin Cities	[unnamed]	Crisis services	RRH
YMCA of Greater Twin Cities	Safe Harbor	Crisis services	RRH
YMCA of Greater Twin Cities	-	Entry point	School outreach
YMCA of Greater Twin Cities	-	Entry point	Street outreach
YMCA of Greater Twin Cities	-	Prevention	Homeless prevention
YMCA of Greater Twin Cities	Minor Connect	Prevention	Case management
YMCA of Greater Twin Cities	[unnamed]	Stable housing	THP
YMCA of Greater Twin Cities	Archdale	Stable housing	THP
YMCA of Greater Twin Cities	St. Barnabas	Stable housing	PSH
YMCA of Greater Twin Cities	Archdale	Stable housing	PSH
Youthlink	-	Entry point	Street outreach
Youthlink	-	Entry point	Peer outreach
Youthlink	-	Entry point	Drop-in center
Youthlink	-	Prevention	Case management
Youthlink	[unnamed]	Stable housing	THP
Youthlink	[unnamed]	Crisis services	RRH
Youthlink	[unnamed]	Stable housing	PSH
Youthlink	[unnamed]	Stable housing	PSH
Youthlink	[unnamed]	Stable housing	PSH

Appendix B: System-wide shelter diversion project scope

System Wide Diversion

Project Plan

Goal: Utilize American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to develop and implement a system-wide diversion program. System-wide diversion is identified as ensuring there are shelter diversion strategies in place within the traditional family, youth, and single adult homeless shelter response systems. This may also include the domestic violence shelter system.

Leads: Hennepin County Housing Stability Staff: Casey Schleisman, Lauren Schwerzler, and Erin Wixsten

Definition: Diversion works with all households seeking shelter to quickly resolve the housing crisis by identifying a safe, appropriate alternative to shelter that is appropriate to their specific circumstances through an investment in staff time that have specific, problem-solving skills and utilize person-centered, solution focused conversation and strategies.

Target Population: Eligible Participants: households immediately seeking shelter which will include all who are eligible for shelter, but want to be served through diversion, and 3) those who are going into shelter, but have stays less than 7 days. Those going into shelter, but have less than seven days would include: 1) households already working with a diversion navigator who need to seek shelter due to safety or other reasons but will stay less than 7 days and 2) households who are accessing shelter when a diversion navigator is unavailable (holidays, weekends, after hours) and will stay less than 7 days.

History: Shelter diversion for families has been in operation since 2018. Shelter diversion for single adults has been in operation since 2021. Shelter diversion for those fleeing domestic violence has been in operation since 2020, although is still being formalized and improved. Formal shelter diversion for youth does not currently exist.

Values:

- Youth (or singles or families) involvement and youth (or singles or families) voice are vital to the process
- Shelter plays a very significant role in the continuum of services for people
- Diversion is not a denial to shelter, but an alternative
- Problem solving conversations with those seeking shelter are critical
- Shelter diversion will be a continuous improvement process
- We need to do something different

Intent: Traditionally, population specific shelter systems - youth, families, domestic violence, and single adult - have been siloed and operate independently of one another. This pivot to Diversion as a system-wide intervention seeks to remove barriers and inequities, improve system access and navigation, and create consistency across the homelessness response system whenever a household is seeking shelter services.

The primary goal is that all populations seeking shelter are provided diversion services. If the household is not able to be diverted, they will be routed to the shelter reservation entity, respective of their household composition.

Implementing system-wide Diversion is about empowering the front end of the homelessness response system to assist households seeking shelter through natural supports and progressive engagement of lighter touch solutions before providing a more intensive response through the shelter system or any other homeless service.

Program overview: All households seeking shelter will be provided Diversion services to identify a safe, appropriate alternative to shelter through problem-solving conversations which could include connecting to existing or new safe housing resources, family, or landlord mediation, and more. This intervention will seek to identify and leverage the households personal and social capital resources as part of the solution.

The main functionalities of this provider will be:

- Expert at diversion and creative conversations
- Resource connection – within and outside of the homelessness response system (Front Door, 1800 Chicago, mainstream resources, PSOP, etc.)
- System navigation - specifically to shelter and coordinated entry systems

Timeline: System-wide diversion should start in 2022, although there may be a phased approach to implementation. The phased approach may be necessary for different populations (i.e., youth, families, etc.).