



# LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY'S COORDINATED COMMUNITY PLAN TO PREVENT AND END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS JANUARY 2020 UPDATE

Advocates, providers, formerly homeless young adults and other community leaders began working in 2016 to understand youth and young adult homelessness and begin creating a coordinated plan to begin addressing the issue. This extensive plan was completed, approved by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and posted at both the HUD and Coalition for the Homeless websites for review and implementation in January 2019.

This one year update provides new information in five areas:

- Scope of Youth Homelessness
- Governance Structure
- Continuous Quality Improvement
- Funding
- Updates to Vision, Goals and Objectives



## Scope of Youth Homelessness

In 2017, there were 884 youth who were identified as homeless through the Louisville Continuum of Care. This number increased slightly in 2019 to 909. Of that 909 homeless youth, approximately 10% were pregnant (3) or parenting (83). And, a similar percent were fleeing domestic violence (83).

Youth 18 and over make up 57% of those identified. Two statistics that are very different from the older adult homeless population are: over half of those identified (474) are female and over half are African American (521) while approximately 5% are Hispanic (55).

A few other statistics that should be used to inform the implementation of the Youth Homeless Demonstration Program are:

- 1) While we may perceive youth to be healthier, those identified in need through HMIS are reporting higher rates of disability than the general homeless population. Therefore, health services must be integrated into YHDP and other programs that serve youth to ensure success. Of the 909 homeless youth identified, 44% report mental illness or developmental disabilities, 35% report drug or alcohol abuse and 42% report a physical disability.
- 2) In 2019, Louisville CoC programs provided very short-term services to homeless youth (84% were served for 30 days or less) unless they were able to access a housing program. Meanwhile, most



of those in HMIS had an unknown or unsuccessful outcome. YHDP programs and the Louisville CoC must provide longer term programs focused on long-term success to improve these outcomes in the future.

- 3) Only 5% of homeless youth identified had any earned income. Therefore, YHDP programs created to integrate housing with education and employment opportunities are key to increasing earned income and the success of our next generation.

In addition to HMIS data, the Louisville CoC has been tracking youth and young adults presently homeless on a by-name list. This list originally included 220 names when created for the 100-Day Challenge in early 2017. While this list now only includes 70 homeless youth, we expect some increase due to outreach efforts before we can eventually serve all the youth on our existing list and reach "functional zero," housing youth at the same rate they become homeless.



## Governance Structure

The 2018 Plan to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness outlined a structure made up of six committees all under the auspices of the Louisville Continuum of Care (CoC).

- The Homeless Youth Committee was the lead entity used in coordination, developing and writing the plan. They held three community meetings to gather additional data on need and best practices to address these needs. Since, the planning process has been completed, this committee has continued as a sub-committee of the CoC to allow those particularly interested in or serving youth to focus on those issues and share resources. They are meeting every other month and staffed by the Coalition for the Homeless. The Louisville CoC will continue to evaluate the structure, make up and staffing of this committee for full integration with the Continuum of Care.
- The Youth Action Board (YAB) continues to meet twice each month and recruit new members. The staffing for this board has been transferred to Home of the Innocents per needs identified by the YAB for staffing by an agency that can also provide services and referrals to board members. The YAB is actively advising on the upcoming January Street Count.
- The Youth Education and Employment Committees are meeting monthly and staffed by the Coalition Supporting Young Adults. These committees bring together homeless service providers, youth and education and employment resources. The Youth Education Committee is also hosting



trainings to create a group of education advocates to represent youth in our systems.

- The Housing/By Name List Committee has continued to meet and conduct case conferencing since being created in 2017 for the 100 Day Challenge. After YHDP funding decisions were made, the committee expanded to add additional providers who are aware of youth on the list and who can provide new housing options. This committee is staffed by the Continuum of Care in collaboration with the Common Assessment Team.
- The final YHDP committee to be created is the Continuous Quality Improvement Committee. Per the Continuous Quality Improvement section of this update, this committee will be created in the coming months.



## Continuous Quality Improvement

The Louisville CoC is committed to ongoing evaluation to ensure continuous improvement throughout our project. We intend to assess progress and goals associated with our YHDP activities and projects, in order to determine the success of our work.

Using the Theory of Change, we are working to identify what interventions lead to the achievement of the outcomes and goals we have identified in this plan. Recommendations will be made that include proposed shifts in the standards, policies, and/or systems that we have put in place as part of the YHDP based on outcomes and how well they achieve our theory of change goals.

The theories identified in our planning process that we hope to measure throughout include:

- 1) Housing is the greatest unmet need identified by homeless young adults and those who serve them. Therefore, a majority of the YHDP funding should be allocated to this priority and projects should all be measured on permanent housing access and stability. The by name list should also be reviewed to make sure everyone is served in a timely manner.
- 2) Young adults also identified a lack of safety backed up by the U of L study showing a high rate of sex trafficking for those who are homeless in the area. Therefore, the community must create safe,



LGBTQ-friendly temporary housing options that can be accessed quickly and should measure to determine that lengths of homelessness are decreasing and remaining low as programs continue.

- 3) Young adults should be able to access education, employment training and placement and other services that will help them become independent. Therefore, YHDP recipients should be evaluated to determine access to services and program outcomes should be evaluated to determine their clients' success in achieving increased education, training and income.
- 4) Services presently provided to young adults are not client-focused and this is needed to achieve our ultimate goal of serving all homeless youth and young adults. Therefore, all YA housing, employment, education and service programs should be measured to determine that they participate regularly in coordinate meetings, help young adults strengthen their web of support and offer client choice.
- 5) Some sub-populations have better access and outcomes in housing, education, income and future returns to homelessness. Therefore, sub-populations identified in the plan will be measured against the general homeless young adult population to ensure funding and services are allocated appropriately.



To achieve these measurements, success for the Louisville YHDP will be measured minimally against the following outcome goals:

- Shorten length of time young adults are unsheltered to no more than 30 days
- House all young adults on the By-Name list (including reunification)
- Maintain no more than 5% recidivism of young adults housed back in emergency shelter
- Continue to house newly homeless young adults at the rate they become homeless
- Maintain monthly meetings between the four systems of the plan through on-going commitments to remove barriers to homeless young adult success
- 100% of young adults receive access to life-changing (transformative) services
- 25% of young adults increase education levels
- 85% of young adults increase income
- 45% of young adults increase income to a level that benefits are no longer necessary
- Sub-populations (including minority, pregnant and parenting, LGBTQ and those with no high school education) achieve the same housing and service access and outcomes as the general YA homeless population

The Louisville CoC will create a Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Workgroup that will assist in monitoring our activities and progress towards reaching our goals. This workgroup will be headed by our CoC's Outcomes and Monitoring Coordinator (being hired in early 2010) and will include representatives from the Youth Action Board, the CoC Board of Directors, the Coalition Supporting Young Adults, and



members from the four systems identified in our plan. The CQI Workgroup will meet on a quarterly basis beginning six months after program implementation to allow time for programs to implement and test their services.

The committee's focus areas include:

- Housing stability and other outcomes created by the committee
- Sub-population collaboration
- Equity – tracking and eliminating disparities in data, shelters, etc.
- Justice – advocacy for restorative justice practices in schools and justice system
- Map / identify homeless services to identify gaps in service The CQI workgroup will do the following:
  - Review progress towards the outcome goals listed above.
  - Ensure programs are soliciting youth feedback and providing opportunities for youth to share their opinions on how to best improve services. The feedback will be reviewed by the workgroup and make recommendations to these programs.
  - Review monthly data quality/completeness reports from our HMIS, to ensure that agencies are entering the highest quality data into HMIS. The workgroup will address data quality issues with each program and ensure they have the necessary training and support to improve data quality.
  - Provide quarterly progress reports to the Homeless Youth Committee. These reports will include progress towards meeting the outcome goals, an analysis of qualitative data (solicited from youth



participating in programs, as well as front-line staff), and recommendations for program refinement.

As part of the CQI workgroup, there will be a separate monitoring sub-committee that meets to review individual program monitoring. The monitoring committee will be comprised of four members and will not include anyone who is employed, volunteer for, or be a Board member of any agencies receiving funding through YHDP. The monitoring committee will establish a monitoring checklist, building off the monitoring checklist that is currently used for existing CoC-funded programs. The YHDP monitoring checklist will also include evaluation to ensure that programs use a trauma-informed approach, offer client choice, and give priority to serving minority youth. Additionally, the monitoring sub-committee will look at how programs are collecting data, in an effort to ensure data is being collected with principles of youth safety, social and emotional well-being, positive youth development, trauma-informed care, and cultural appropriateness.

*For more information about this collaborative effort, go to [www.louhomeless.org](http://www.louhomeless.org)*

# UPDATES TO GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTION STEPS

<b>GOAL 1: ADDRESS GAPS IN SHELTER AND HOUSING OPTIONS FOR YAS IN METRO LOUISVILLE</b>				
<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE PARTY</b>	<b>COST PER YEAR</b>	<b>2020 Progress</b>
		<b>TIMELINE</b>	<b># SERVED / YEAR</b>	
1.1 - Ensure safety and appropriate services in adult shelters until YA shelter can be created	1.1.1 Provide LGBTQ cultural competency training for ALL shelters annually	CFH (Erin R) and Dona O'Sullivan funding	\$500-3,000	Complete and on-going
		June 2019 to ongoing	80 per year	
	1.1.2 Meet with adult shelters to discuss needs of YA in shelters and create a plan	CFH) Natalie H and emergency shelters	time commitment	Complete
		April 2019	N/A	
	1.1.3 Create host home program coordinator and host incentives	Home of the Innocents - assess to determine if RFP required	\$60,000-75,000	Program ceased - Reassess need after YHDP programs at full capacity
		July 2019	10-15 per year	
1.2 - Create additional temporary and supportive housing options for YAs	1.2.1 Create Transitional-RRH Program that provides funding for youth-centered crisis beds with transition to rapid rehousing vouchers	RFP to select partner provider(s)	\$440,000-654,000	Funded through HOTI/SVDP - Reassess need after YHDP programs at full capacity
		October 2019	40+ units (10% for special population)	
	1.2.2 Create Family Scholar House model for ALL homeless youth	Family Scholar House- assess to determine if RFP required	\$50,000-90,000	Waiver requested
		July 2019	32 units	

**GOAL 2: PARTNER WITH EXISTING COMMUNITY HOUSING PROVIDERS TO ADDRESS YA HOUSING NEED AND GAPS**

OBJECTIVES	ACTIVITIES	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	COST PER YEAR	2020 Progress
		TIMELINE	# SERVED/ YEAR	
2.1 - Create YA priorities and incentives in existing housing programs	2.1.1 Apply to LMHA to increase set asides and priorities in Section 8 and Public Housing	Home of the Innocents and any other interested partners - assess to determine if RFP required	\$168,000 - 200,000	10 Received by HOTI - Reassess need after YHDP programs at full capacity
		September 2019	20 vouchers or units	
	2.1.2 Ensure chronic youth are prioritized for supportive housing	Family Health Centers	time commitment	Complete and on-going
		February 2019	N/A	
2.2 - Increase landlord participation in YA housing programs	2.2.1 Create landlord incentives to house homeless YA	RFP to select partner provider(s)	\$21,000 - 185,000	No progress
		October 2019	40-90	
	2.2.2 Create a housing navigator to help develop participation with more landlords	RFP to select partner provider(s)	\$53,000-62,000	Funded through YouthBuild - Reassess need after YHDP programs at full capacity
		October 2019	60-80	
	2.2.3 Create move up and back-up plan vouchers for YAs who need additional supports	CoC's Move Up Committee	\$168,000-200,000	No progress
April 2019		20 vouchers		

<b>GOAL 3: CREATE A WEB OF SUPPORT TO ENSURE HOUSING STABILITY AND A STRONG FUTURE FOR HOMELESS YOUTH AND YAs</b>					
<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE PARTY</b>	<b>COST PER YEAR</b>	<b>2020 Progress</b>	
		<b>TIMELINE</b>	<b># SERVED/ YEAR</b>		
3.1 - Increase services to help YAs access and maintain housing and thrive in the community	3.1.1 Create a network and referral system to help homeless YAs access mentors	ReImage and other partners	time commitment	No progress	
		June 2019	60-80		
	3.1.2 Create a peer support network	RFP to select partner provider(s)	\$174,000-304,000	60-80	Funded through YouthBuild and YMCA - Reassess need after YHDP programs at full capacity
		October 2019			
	3.1.3 Provide web of support model training and implementation in all YA programs	YMCA Safe Place and other partners	\$3,500-5,000	300+	Limited training provided - program to be reimplemented later this year
		May 2019 - ongoing			
	3.1.4 Create New Drop-In Day Programs and Hours	YMCA Safe Place, TAYLRD and others	\$33,000-45,000	300+	Funded through YMCA and Centerstone - Reassess need after YHDP programs at full capacity
		October 2019			
	3.1.5 Create community-wide case managers to help YAs access housing and thrive in the community	RFP to select partner provider(s)	\$227,000-276,000	60-80	Funded through YouthBuild, Centerstone and
		October 2019			

				YMCA - Reassess need after YHDP programs at full capacity
3.2 - Increase services to YA reentering the community from state care and incarceration as well as youth on the streets	3.2.1 Work with DCBS through True Up to refer youth exiting state care to a case manager, mentor or web of support	Dept of Community Based Services and True Up	time commitment	Meetings held to improve coordination
		May 2019	50	
	3.2.2 Advocate to start transition plan for youth in foster care at 15	Coalition for the Homeless and CSYA	time commitment	No progress
		February 2019	50	
	3.2.3 Formalize outreach and assistance to youth who are interested in returning to state care or reuniting with family	Dept of Community Based Services, Outreach, Police and True Up	time commitment	Meetings held to improve coordination
		June 2019	40	

**GOAL 4: CREATE TRAUMA INFORMED, CLIENT FOCUSED SERVICES FOR YOUTH WITH GREATER SERVICE NEEDS**

OBJECTIVES	ACTIVITIES	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	COST PER YEAR	2020 Progress
		TIMELINE	# SERVED/ YEAR	
4.1 - Link YA with behavioral health needs to appropriate trauma-informed services	4.1.1 Identify and change ordinances that criminalize survival acts or quality of life acts	Coalition for the Homeless and CSYA	time commitment	No progress
		November 2019	N/A	
	4.1.2 Ensure in-patient dual-diagnosis (mental health medication allowed) recovery services	Need to seek partnerships	\$1,000,000-1,600,000	No Progress
		January 2020	40	
	4.1.3 Design programs to give trafficked youth additional support and stability before providing other services	Coalition for the Homeless and YHDP funded agencies through contracts	time commitment	Training held but no policies addressed
		October 2019	N/A	
4.2 - Ensure assessment and housing/ service referral of each YA is client driven and responds to different needs for service type, intensity, and length of supports	4.2.1 Test and if appropriate implement additional YA points for high need sub-pops in VI-SPDAT	Family Health Centers	time commitment	Met to set policy and continue to monitor
		February 2019	N/A	
	4.2.2 Create outreach program to go to YAs in need and provide crisis access through a hotline (train to assess needs and make referrals; would like to partner with mobile behavioral health outreach) (Web of Support)	YMCA Safe Place and other partners	\$196,000-312,000	Funded through YMCA
		June 2019	300+	

	4.2.3 Create navigator program to help YA access housing, education, employment and other services	RFP to select partner provider(s)	\$80,000-160,000	Housing portion funded through YouthBuild, employment through KentuckianaWorks, education not addressed
		October 2019	300+	
4.3 - Ensure providers, program staff, volunteers and participants are trained on the principles of Positive Youth Development, Trauma Informed Care, Harm Reduction and Cultural Competency	4.3.1 Provide annual training to all staff who serve YA annually	Coalition for the Homeless and The Dona O'Sullivan Fund	\$5,000-\$10,000	Complete and on-going
		January 2019 - ongoing	80	
	4.3.2 Provide annual training to YA participants as well	Coalition for the Homeless and The Dona O'Sullivan Fund	Included in the activity 4.3.1 cost estimate	Complete and on-going
		January 2019 - ongoing	30	

**GOAL 5: ADDRESS THE BARRIERS TO HOUSING AND SERVICES FOR HOMELESS YAs**

GOALS OBJECTIVES	ACTIVITIES	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	COST PER YEAR	2020 Progress
		TIMELINE	# SERVED/ YEAR	
5.1 - Remove transportation and other barriers to success	5.1.1 Continue work through transportation work group to expand options for auto purchasing, insurance, ride sharing, public transportation, and other creative ideas	CSYA Transportation committee	time commitment	Meetings held - no progress on programming
		October 2018 - ongoing	300+	
	5.1.2 Create a flex fund to offer support for transportation and other needs	CSYA Transportation committee and select agency to manage fund	\$29,000-\$50,000	Limited funding provided to YMCA
		October 2019	300+	
	5.1.3 Advocate for additional child care subsidies targeted to youth and expand baby-sitting options	Kentucky Youth Advocates and partners	time commitment	No progress
		March 2019 - ongoing	30	

**GOAL 6: EXPAND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE LONG-TERM OUTCOMES FOR HOMELESS YOUTH AND YAS**

OBJECTIVES	ACTIVITIES	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	COST PER YEAR	2020 Progress
		TIMELINE	# SERVED/ YEAR	
6.1 - Implement tailored educational supports to increase high school graduation/GED completion rates and higher education access and success.	6.1.1 Partner with local career and technical ed. providers to leverage new homeless specific Perkins Act services	Coalition for the Homeless and CSYA	time commitment	Meeting held with JCPS and they are implementing
		May 2019	N/A	
	6.1.2 Have peers contact students between semesters to encourage them to return to school and address barriers	Higher education partners	time commitment	No progress
		September 2019	N/A	
	6.1.3 Advocate for changes to and potential closures of alternative schools	Coalition for the Homeless and CSYA	time commitment	Attended JCPS meetings and met with administrators, plan created but advocacy continues due to poor outcomes
		2018 - ongoing	N/A	

**GOAL 7: INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES FOR HOMELESS YOUTH AND YAs TO GAIN MEANINGFUL, SUSTAINABLE WORK FOR TODAY AND THE FUTURE**

OBJECTIVES	ACTIVITIES	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	COST PER YEAR	2020 Progress	
	SPECIAL POPULATION / USICH ADDRESSED	TIMELINE	# SERVED/ YEAR		
7.1 - Target housing interventions to YAs attending post-secondary education and employment	7.1.1 Match RRH vouchers with employment programs that lead to stability (YouthBuild, ReImage, etc)	RFP to select partner provider(s)	\$155,000-185,000	Funded through YouthBuild - Reassess after YHDP fully implemented	
		October 2019	20 vouchers		
	7.1.2 Create shelter employment training programs targeted to YA in Host Homes and YA shelter	RFP to select partner provider(s)	\$85,000-128,000		Funded through CSBG - Reassess after YHDP fully implemented
		October 2019	30		
7.2 - Increase opportunities for YA to access employment with meaningful and sustainable opportunities	7.2.1 Work with CSYA to create a single soft skills certification for employers	CSYA Employment Committee	time commitment	Committee meetings to coordinate continue	
		October 2018 - ongoing	N/A		
	7.2.2 Work with employers to create innovative partnerships that offer high school and post-secondary credentials with employment	CSYA Employment Committee	time commitment	No progress	
		August 2019	30		

*All newly funded YHDP Programs will be measured through HMIS and CQI Committee for outcomes. By-name list and shelter/housing waiting lists will be assessed for on-going need versus new community capacity once all programming is at capacity.*