

Pre-Conference Institute

Opening Doors: Accelerating Progress to End Youth Homelessness in 2020

November 9, 2015





Agenda

- I. Welcome/introductions and goals for today
- II. Overview of Federal efforts: USICH
- III. Group Discussion: Coordinated Community Response
- IV. Overview of Federal efforts: HUD
- Break
- V. Group Discussion
- VI. Q&A: Any final burning questions or thoughts?
- VII. Next steps/Wrap-up



Roles of USICH

- **Coordinates** the Federal response to homelessness
- **Maximizes** the effectiveness of 19 Federal agency partners
- **Shares** best practices
- **Drives** collaborative solutions



Opening Doors

***No one** should experience homelessness and **no one** should be without a safe, stable place to call **home**.*

The Plan sets forth four bold and ambitious goals:

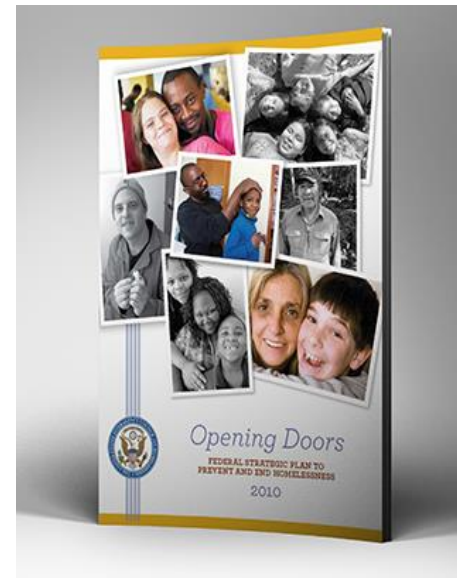
- Finish the job of ending **chronic homelessness** in 2017
- Prevent and end homelessness among **Veterans** in 2015
- Prevent and end homelessness for **families, youth, and children** in 2020
- Set a path to ending **all types** of homelessness



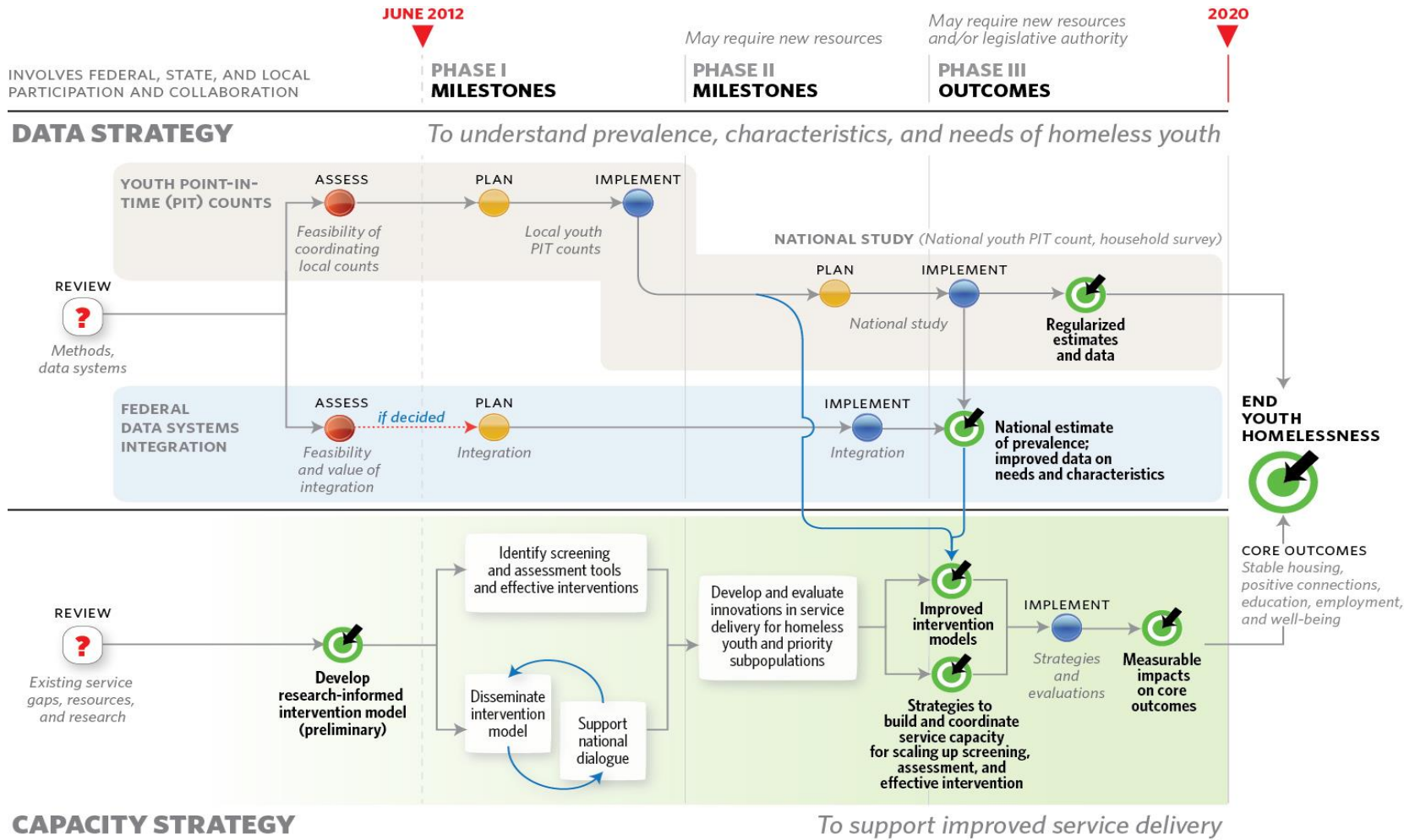
Amendment to *Opening Doors*

In 2015, USICH amended *Opening Doors* to reflect that:

- Our progress affirms that *Opening Doors* is the right plan with the right strategies for ending and preventing homelessness.
- *Opening Doors* is also a living document, strengthened by new information and lessons learned through implementation.



Youth Framework

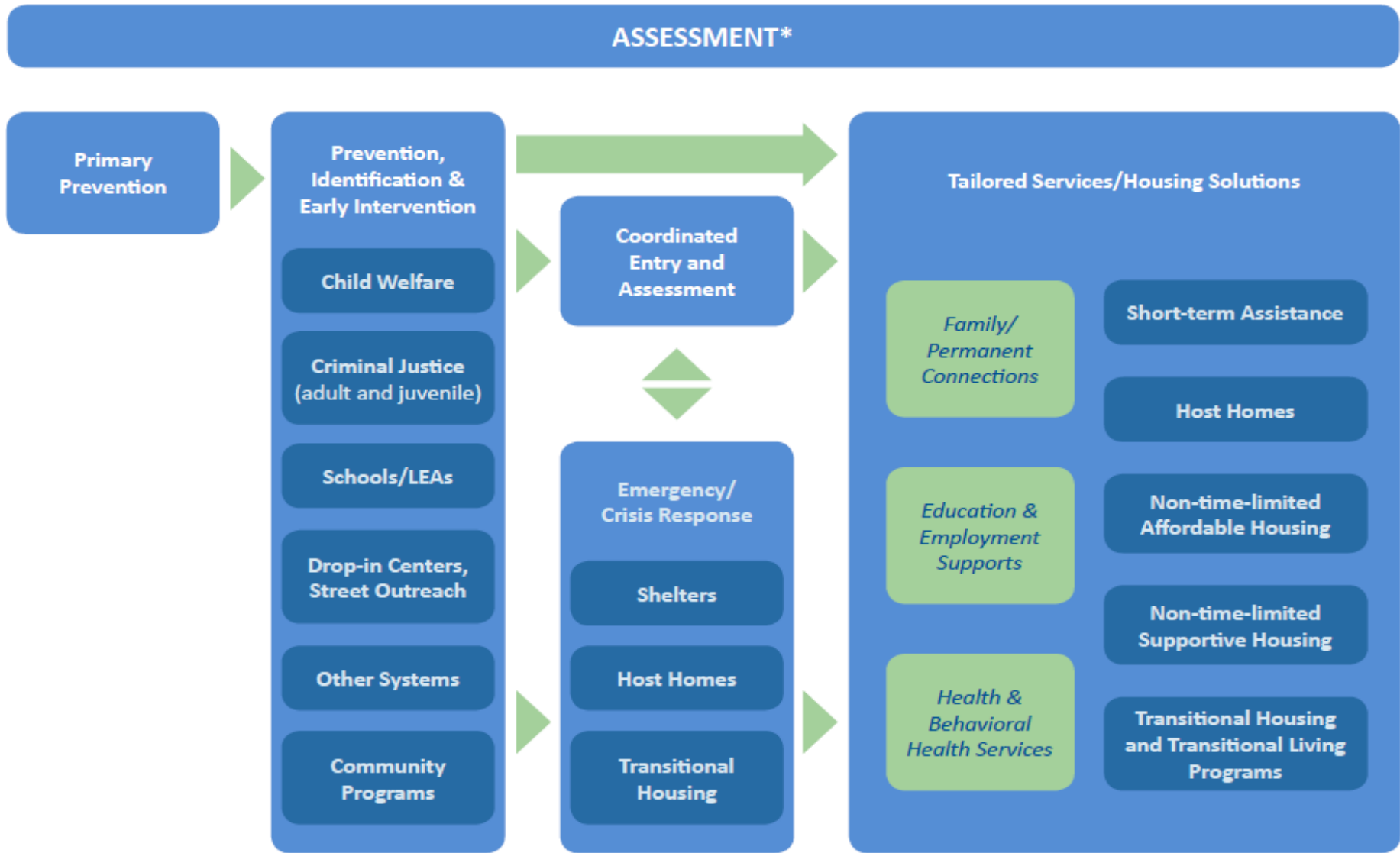


Preventing and Ending Youth Homelessness

A Coordinated Community Response



Interagency Vision of Coordinated Community Response



**Throughout the provision of services, assessment will be ongoing.*



Federal Strategic Action Area #1

Build the foundation for a coordinated and comprehensive community response

- **Shared understanding** – what it means to end youth homelessness
 - Common vocabulary
 - Inventory of Federal programs

- **Metrics** –measure progress toward the 2020 goal
 - Identifying system and program level measures

- **Technical Assistance** – provide TA resources to refine community response



Federal Strategic Action Area #1

- **Modeling** – project full range of resources needed including new investments
 - Data-sub group
 - Improve youth data
 - Utilize integrated HUD & HHS/RHY data

- **Messaging** – provide information and guidance across Federal, state, and local governments
 - Coordinate Federal messaging across agencies on what an end to youth homelessness means
 - Provide information and guidance on available Federal resources



Strategic Action Area #2

Build the capacity of local communities to implement the components of a coordinated and comprehensive community response

- **Prevention, Identification and Early Intervention**
 - Promote coordination with CoC's and mainstream systems
 - TA resources to identify youth under 18
 - Agency guidance for competitive grants and services
 - Prevention strategy
 - Guidance on transitioning from child welfare and criminal justice systems
 - Engaging at-risk youth
 - ACYF and HUD demos



Strategic Action Area #2

- **Coordinated Entry and Assessment**
 - HUD guidance for documentation requirements
 - Trafficking screening tools

- **Emergency and Crisis Response**
 - Guidance and TA
 - Documentation
 - Family Separation
 - Emergency services

- **Tailored Services and Housing Solutions**
 - Trauma-informed
 - Developmentally and age appropriate
 - Range of housing interventions and supportive services



Group Discussion

Coordinated Community Response

1. General thoughts/feedback on the guidance?
2. How does this proposed coordinated response align with your work?
3. What additional guidance will be helpful?



Report to Congress

To accelerate progress, Congress directed USICH, through the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2015, to evaluate and report on how to better coordinate Federal programs serving youth experiencing homelessness.



HUD Funding 101

Homeless Programs

- Continuum of Care
 - Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)
 - Rapid Re-Housing (RRH)
 - Transitional Housing (TH)
 - Supportive Services Only (SSO)
 - HMIS
 - CoC Planning Grants
- Emergency Solutions Grants
 - Emergency Shelters
 - RRH

Major Housing Programs

- Public Housing
- Voucher Programs
 - HCV
 - FUP
 - HUD-VASH
- Multifamily Programs
 - PBRA



The FY2015 Continuum of Care Funding Announcement (NOFA)

Policy Priorities

- Addition of youth homelessness as its own policy priority
- Addition of youth in a new policy priority around inclusive decision making to ensure youth providers are included in the CoC.

Funding

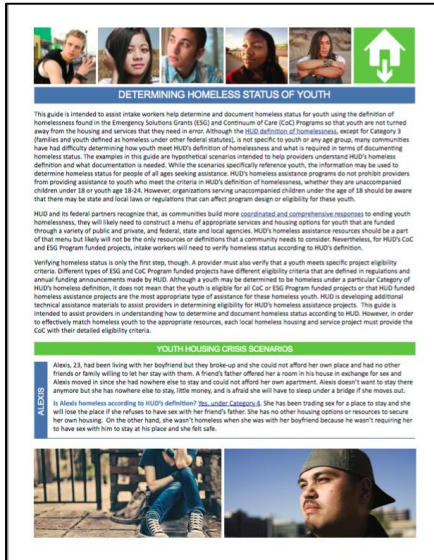
- Youth RRH and PSH projects are eligible under both reallocation and new bonus funding.
- HUD also specifically requests that any youth-serving projects that are reallocated are repurposed to a project serving youth.
- Existing TH projects serving youth are also given priority in Tier 2.

Scoring

- A new scoring section on youth, including incentives for increasing the number of youth beds and serving more vulnerable youth (among other things).

The FY 2015 CoC Program Competition opened September 17, 2015 and will close on November 20, 2015 at 7:59:59 PM EST.

Recent Guidance & Messaging



DETERMINING HOMELESS STATUS OF YOUTH

This guide is intended to assist intake workers help determine and document homeless status for youth using the definition of homelessness found in the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) and Continuum of Care (CoC) Programs so that youth are not turned away from the housing and services that they need in error. Although the HUD definition of homelessness, except for Category 3 (families and youth defined as homeless under other federal statutes), is not specific to youth or any age group, many communities have had difficulty determining how youth meet HUD's definition of homelessness and what is required in terms of documenting homeless status. The examples in this guide are hypothetical scenarios intended to help providers understand HUD's homeless definition and what documentation is needed. While the scenarios specifically reference youth, the information may be used to determine homeless status for people of all ages seeking assistance. HUD's homeless assistance programs do not prohibit providers from providing assistance to youth who meet the criteria in HUD's definition of homelessness, whether they are unaccompanied children under 18 or youth age 18-24. However, organizations serving unaccompanied children under the age of 18 should be aware that there may be state and local laws or regulations that can affect program design or eligibility for these youth.

HUD and its federal partners recognize that, as communities build more coordinated and comprehensive responses to ending youth homelessness, they will likely need to construct a menu of appropriate services and housing options for youth that are funded through a variety of public and private, federal, state and local agencies. HUD's homeless assistance resources should be a part of that menu but likely will not be the only resources or definitions that a community needs to consider. Nevertheless, for HUD's CoC and ESG Program funded projects, intake workers will need to verify homeless status according to HUD's definition.

Verifying homeless status is only the first step, though. A provider must also verify that a youth meets specific project eligibility criteria. Different types of ESG and CoC Program funded projects have different eligibility criteria that are defined in regulations and annual funding announcements made by HUD. Although a youth may be determined to be homeless under a particular Category of HUD's homeless definition, it does not mean that the youth is eligible for all CoC or ESG Program funded projects or that HUD funded homeless assistance projects are the most appropriate type of assistance for these homeless youth. HUD is developing additional technical assistance materials to assist providers in determining eligibility for HUD's homeless assistance projects. This guide is intended to assist providers in understanding how to determine and document homeless status according to HUD. However, in order to effectively match homeless youth to the appropriate resources, each local homeless housing and service project must provide the CoC with their detailed eligibility criteria.

YOUTH HOUSING CRISIS SCENARIOS

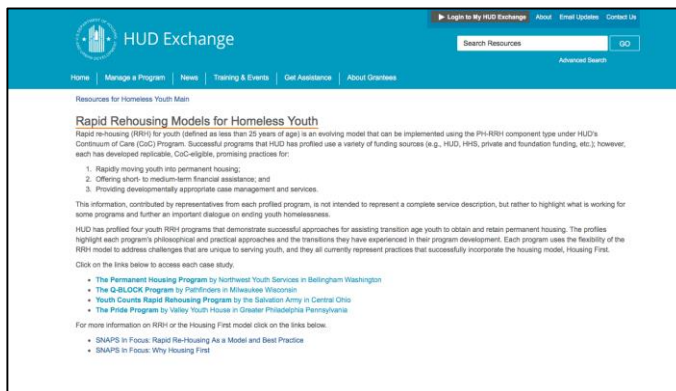
ALIAS Alexis, 23, had been living with her boyfriend but she broke up and she could not afford her own place and had no other friends or family willing to let her stay with them. A friend's father offered her a room in his house in exchange for sex and Alexis moved in since she had nowhere else to stay and could not afford her own apartment. Alexis doesn't want to stay there anymore but she has nowhere else to stay, little money, and it's afraid she will have to sleep under a bridge if she moves out. Alexis is homeless according to HUD's definition (3rd under Category 3). She has been trading sex for a place to stay and she will lose the place if she refuses to have sex with her friend's father. She has no other housing options or resources to secure her own housing. On the other hand, she wasn't homeless when she was with her boyfriend because he wasn't requiring her to have sex with him to stay at his place and she felt safe.

Determining homeless status of youth

- includes information about documentation

Case studies on Rapid Re-Housing for youth

- Bellingham, WA
- Milwaukee, WI
- Central OH
- Philadelphia, PA



HUD Exchange

Search Resources GO

Home | Manage a Program | News | Training & Events | Get Assistance | About CoC/ESG

Resources for Homeless Youth Main

Rapid Rehousing Models for Homeless Youth

Rapid rehousing (RRH) for youth (defined as less than 25 years of age) is an evolving model that can be implemented using the PH-RRH component type under HUD's Continuum of Care (CoC) Program. Successful programs that HUD has profiled use a variety of funding sources (e.g., HUD, HRH, private and foundation funding, etc.); however, each has developed replicable, CoC-eligible, promising practices for:

1. Rapidly moving youth into permanent housing;
2. Offering short- to medium-term financial assistance; and
3. Providing developmentally appropriate case management and services.

This information, contributed by representatives from each profiled program, is not intended to represent a complete service description, but rather to highlight what is working for some programs and further an important dialogue on ending youth homelessness.

HUD has profiled four youth RRH programs that demonstrate successful approaches for assisting transition age youth to obtain and retain permanent housing. The profiles highlight each program's philosophical and practical approaches and the transitions they have experienced in their program development. Each program uses the flexibility of the RRH model to address challenges that are unique to serving youth, and they all currently represent practices that successfully incorporate the housing model, Housing First.

Click on the links below to access each case study.

- The Permanent Housing Program by Northwest Youth Services in Bellingham Washington
- The Q-BLOCK Program by Pathfinders in Milwaukee Wisconsin
- Youth Courts Rapid Rehousing Program by the Salvation Army in Central Ohio
- The PRIDE Program by Valley Youth House in Greater Philadelphia Pennsylvania

For more information on RRH or the Housing First model click on the links below.

- SNAPs in Focus: Rapid Re-Housing As a Model and Best Practice
- SNAPs in Focus: Why Housing First

Data

HMIS/RHY-HMIS Integration

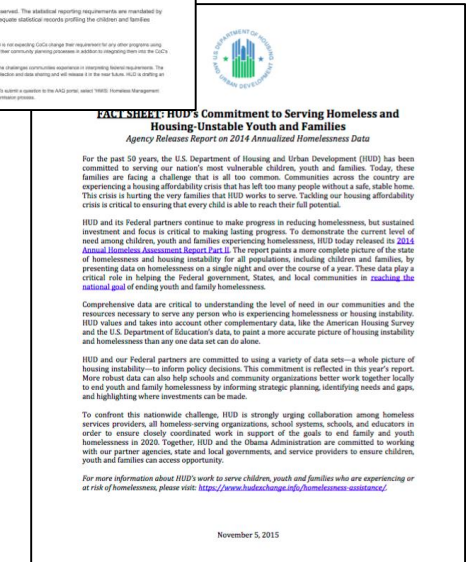
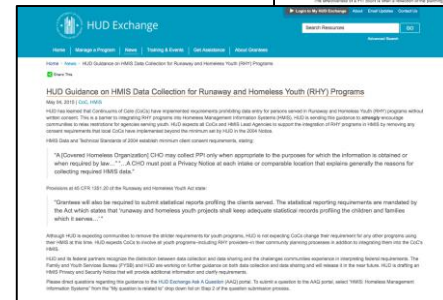
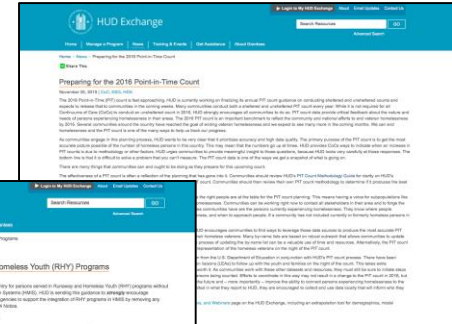
– More during the conference

AHAR Part II

– What's new

Point in Time Count

– Your CoC should be asking you get involved





LGBTQ Youth Homelessness Prevention Initiative

COMMUNITY-WIDE PREVENTION OF LGBTQ YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, AND QUESTIONING (LGBTQ) YOUTH ARE OVERREPRESENTED AMONG THE POPULATION OF YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN THE UNITED STATES.



Source: *Serving Our Youth: Findings from a National Survey of Service Providers Working with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Youth who are Homeless or at Risk of Becoming Homeless*. San Francisco, CA: 2012. A.S. available at <http://www.usich.gov/homelessness-report-2012>.

To help address these disparities, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is leading the first-of-its-kind **LGBTQ Youth Homelessness Prevention Initiative** (Initiative) to identify successful strategies for ensuring that no young person is left without a home because of their sexual orientation or gender identity and expression.

The Initiative began with two pilot communities that developed local, community-wide prevention plans, which they started implementing in fall of 2014. These plans include strategies for preventing LGBTQ youth homelessness and intervening early when it occurs.

The Initiative and the local plans are grounded in the four core outcomes in the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness's (USICH) **Framework to End Youth Homelessness: stable housing, permanent connections, education/employment, and social-emotional well-being.**

INITIATIVE GOALS

- Facilitate better local collaboration between stakeholders working with youth and families, including local child welfare, education, and law enforcement agencies; runaway and homeless youth providers; LGBTQ organizations; and other local stakeholders.
- Help federal agencies and local communities learn more about implementing community-wide strategies for preventing homelessness for LGBTQ youth at risk of becoming homeless, and intervening early when it occurs.



U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th St. SW
Washington, DC 20410

Released June 2015

NATIONAL PARTNERS

This initiative was developed by and is supported by five federal partners – the U.S. departments of Housing and Urban Development, Education, Health and Human Services, and Justice, and USICH – in partnership with the True Colors Fund, a nonprofit organization dedicated to ending LGBTQ youth homelessness. The support provided by all six partners includes intensive technical assistance to build the capacity of the pilot communities to successfully plan and carry out their local plans.



COMMUNITY-WIDE PREVENTION OF LGBTQ YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

COMMUNITY ACTION

The two pilot community plans include objectives and activities intended to accomplish the following:

- Facilitate greater community awareness of issues contributing to LGBTQ youth homelessness and local efforts to address these issues (e.g., through community forums).
- Facilitate greater local collaboration and systems change among stakeholders to bridge gaps through expanded communication and sharing of best practices.
- Improve the quality and use of data on sexual orientation and gender identity.
- Improve understanding about risk and protective factors for homelessness, and related tools for screening and assessing youth.
- Improve the quality of interventions to prevent LGBTQ youth homelessness.
- Develop and disseminate new resources (e.g., resource guides) and implement programs (e.g., mentoring, family conflict resolution) to address particular youth needs.
- Foster more affirming experiences for LGBTQ youth in the systems and among the providers that serve them through ongoing policy change, professional development, and resource sharing.
- Increase the numbers of LGBTQ youth with identity-affirming placements made through the child welfare system.
- Obtain funding and in-kind resources to support initiative activities.
- Document the initiative's progress, outcomes, and lessons learned to support quality improvement and enhance impact locally, and inform replication efforts in other communities.

For more detailed information about each community's objectives and activities, visit the link below to access their plans.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Communities can look to the Cincinnati and Houston plans as examples of community-wide strategies for preventing LGBTQ youth homelessness. For information and resources about this community change process and the initiative's outcomes, visit <https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/resources-for-homeless-youth/>. Contact Jeffrey Poirier, Ph.D., technical assistance lead (jpoirier@air.org) or Janna Shelton, Ph.D. (janna@truecolorsfund.org) with questions or to share information about your local prevention efforts.

PILOT COMMUNITIES



NEST
GREATER HOUSTON AREA,
TEXAS

NEST is a community-wide effort to prevent and end homelessness by 2020 among adolescents and young adults who identify as LGBTQ. NEST could change the futures of as many as 5,000 youth who run away or are kicked out of their homes in the community. This initiative co-ordinated by the Coalition for the Homeless Houston/Harris County in collaboration with Montrose Center represents more than 60 community youth agencies and service providers. The local lead contacts are Eva Thibodeau (ethibodeau@homelesshouston.org) and Deb Murphy (dm@montrosecenter.org).



SAFE AND SUPPORTED
HAMILTON COUNTY (CINCINNATI),
OHIO

From the beginning, a strong coalition of cross-sector stakeholders has driven the development of Cincinnati/Hamilton County's community plan. The Safe and Supported vision is every LGBTQ young person has stable housing, health care, education, employment, and emotional connections that ensure they thrive. The local lead contacts are Meredith Hicks (mhicks@ys.org) or Lighthouse Youth Services and Meredith Alpaugh (malpaugh@end-homelessness.org) or Strategies to End Homelessness.



Group Discussion



Q&A: Any final burning questions or thoughts?

Resources/Links

[FY2015 CoC NOFA](#)

[Rapid Re-Housing Models](#)

[Determining Homeless
Status of Youth](#)

[AHAR Part II- Estimates of
Homelessness](#)

[Preparing for the 2016 PIT
Count](#)

[HUD Guidance on HMIS Data
Collection for RHY Programs](#)

[LGBTQ Youth Homelessness
Prevention Initiative](#)

Sarah Hunter
Special Policy Advisor
sarah.e.hunter@hud.gov
202-402-2887



- [Framework to End Youth Homelessness - A Resource Text for Dialogue and Action](#) (USICH, 2013)
- [Preventing and Ending Youth Homelessness, a Coordinated Community Response](#) (USICH, 2015)

Jasmine Hayes, Policy Director

Jasmine.hayes@usich.gov

202-205-9996



Next steps and wrap-up



www.usich.gov