

## Proposed Framework For Youth Homelessness Prevention Plan Committee

### COMMITTEE GOALS

- Increase data collection and analysis to gain better understanding of youth homelessness in Vermont.
- Develop a shared understanding of evidence-informed practices to address youth homelessness, current Vermont and national resources, and what interventions increase positive outcomes.
- Create a statewide plan to end youth homelessness through increasing capacity for interventions that reduce risk factors, build protective factors and mitigate long-term impacts of experiences of homelessness. Interventions should address core outcomes for youth.
- Ensure that every community has the capacity to identify and engage youth at risk of experiencing homelessness and intervene to prevent loss, reduce barriers to emergency crisis services, and increase short and long term housing supports appropriate for the unique populations needs.

### CORE OUTCOMES FOR YOUTH<sup>1</sup>

- **Stable housing** includes a safe and reliable place to call home.
- **Permanent connections** include ongoing attachments to families, communities, schools, and other positive social networks.
- **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.
- **Social-emotional well-being** includes the development of key competencies, attitudes, and behaviors that equip a young person to succeed across multiple domains of daily life, including school, work, relationships, and community.

### TIMELINE

Committee will meet every other month with a goal of completing a plan in spring of 2018.

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<sup>1</sup> United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, Framework for ending youth homelessness, February, 2013, <https://www.usich.gov/tools-for-action/framework-for-ending-youth-homelessness>

## **PROCESS**

**Assess:** create a systems map, conduct a needs analysis, analyze existing data, understanding the problem in Vermont, learn from national partners and initiatives, seek feedback from key stakeholders including youth.

**Design:** build a vision, identify and define desired program models, develop plan to enhance the current infrastructure to support priorities, define benchmarks for progress.

**Implement:** support implementation of plan, progress towards benchmarks, and ongoing evaluation and improvement.

## **SPHERES OF CHANGE**

### ***Systems***

- What does a coordinated community response to youth homelessness look like?
  - See [USICH Preventing and Ending Youth Homelessness, A Coordinated Community Response](#)
- How are priorities defined and supported through resource allocation?
- How are systems and services being evaluated and revised to enhance positive youth outcomes?
- What are our benchmarks for change?
- What are internal and external influences on how we address youth housing needs?
- What policies, practices, and rules are in place that become barriers to youth accessing or maintaining services?

### ***Services***

- What is the existing service array and how do youth access it?
- What strategies work best to support youth in housing? How are these strategies being implemented and how can they be expanded?
- Are there existing services that could be used more effectively or gaps to address?
- How do the youth and housing service systems interact and coordinate?
- How do services look different for youth under 18 vs 18-24?

### ***Supply***

- What is the gap between housing needs and what exists? Financial supports? Stock availability?
- Are there underutilized options?
- If there is a stock shortage, how do housing development projects support youth housing options?