

Youth Homelessness Joint Committee Proposal
Chittenden Continuum of Care and Balance of State Continuum of Care
Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness, December 2016

Point of Contact: Bethany Pombar, Director, Vermont Coalition of Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs

Proposal: As the Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness (VCEH) and the Chittenden Homeless Alliance (CHA) work to advance local and national goals of ending homelessness by 2020, we recognize that youth under 25 represent a unique population impacted by experiences of homelessness. Factors that contribute to youth homelessness include family problems, economic circumstances, class and racial disparities, mental health and substance abuse issues, and involvement with public systems. Responses to preventing and ending youth homelessness require a range of interventions that meet youth's unique developmental and social needs.

To address the unique needs of this community, we convene the Youth Homelessness Joint Committee to:

- 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 four primary outcomes as outlined in the USICH framework¹:
 - Stable housing
 - Permanent connections
 - Education/ employment
 - Well-being
- 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.

¹ 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>

The Committee will be composed of both VCEH and CHA members as well as external stakeholders such as other youth service organizations. The Committee will meet monthly beginning in early 2017 and work towards creation of a plan by early 2018. At that time the committee can reassess whether continuing to convene meets the needs of forwarding the plan or if the goals of the committee have been met.