

VERMONT YOUTH HOMELESSNESS DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

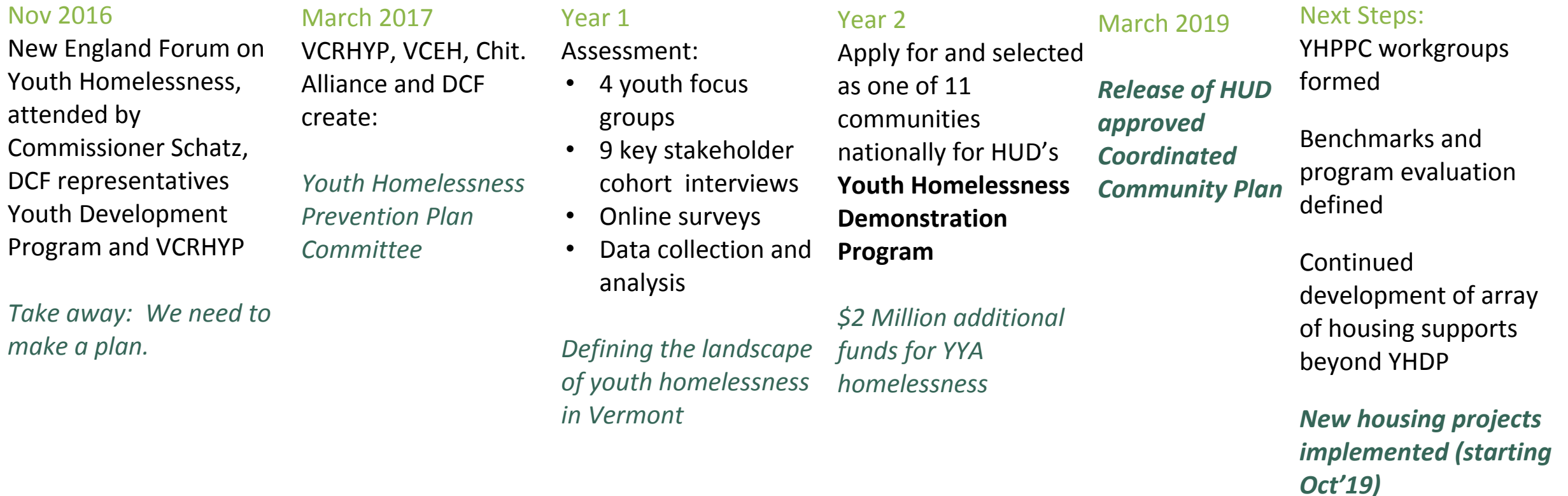
Coordinated Community Plan Highlights and Next Steps

Presented by:

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Vermont Coalition of Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs

In partnership with the Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness and the Vermont Department for Children and Families

TIMELINE :



GOALS:

Increase Continuum of Housing Supports

Community supports YYA through a variety of options that meet individual need, are youth centered, and sustainable

Build Permanent Connections

Community supports YYA establishing lasting connections with families, friends, and community and cultivate opportunities and interests

Enhance Social/ Emotional Well-Being

Community embraces youth-centered, holistic practices, including trauma-informed care and positive youth development to build on youth strengths

Promote Educational and Employment Advancement

Community removes barriers to success, offers a variety of paths

Support Prevention and Diversion

Community will enhance early identification, continue to assess and address system needs, strengthen targeted outreach, increase access points, offer supports for diversion

WHAT WE LEARNED: CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

■ Poverty is pervasive

- Youth from impoverished family networks can't count on family helping with security deposits or helping out in a pinch.

■ Lack of affordable housing and low vacancy rates

- A minimum wage worker has to contribute more than 50% of their income for rent.

■ Rurality

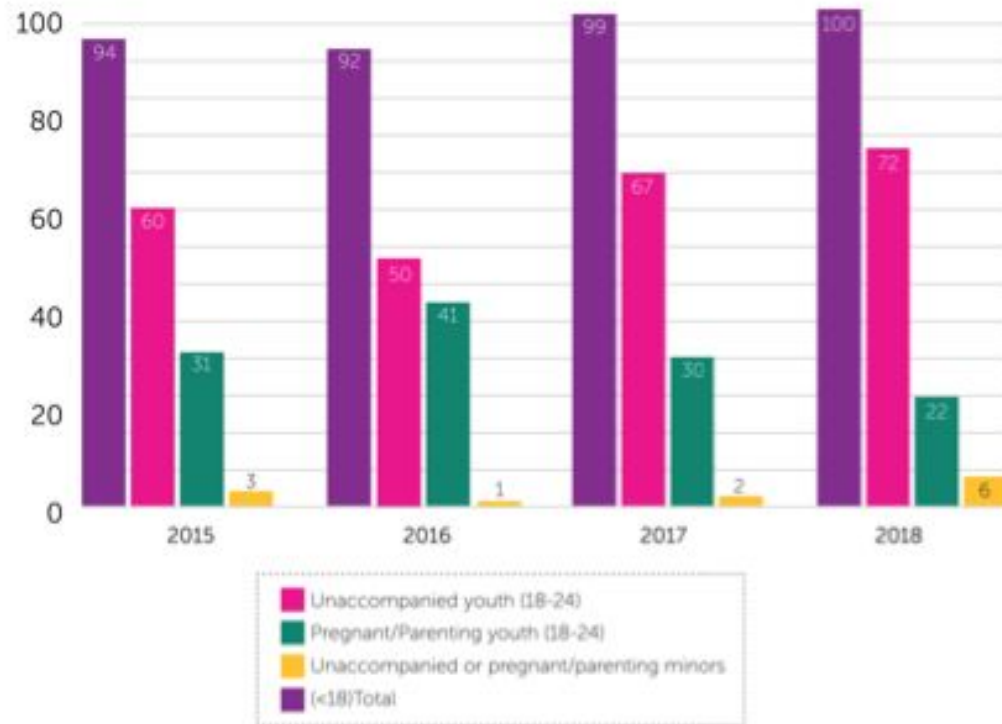
- Can't get there from here.

■ Fractured and unsupported permanent connections

- Focus group youth said: 92% of youth said they had been kicked out of somewhere, 29% said they left foster care without a place to go, 13% were evicted, 10% left an institutional setting without housing.

WHAT WE LEARNED: SCOPE OF YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

2018 BoS POINT IN TIME COUNT YOUTH DATA



224 YYA were in housing crisis on 1.31.18

Unaccompanied YYA represented **11% of the total population** for 2018 VT PIT

100 unaccompanied youth ages 12-24 were identified during the 2018 PIT count:

- 61% were in emergency shelter
- 31% in transitional housing
- 8% unsheltered

Through a separate count on the same night, **an additional 124 precariously housed youth were identified.**

WHAT WE LEARNED: SCOPE OF YOUTH HOMELESSNESS



276

in CoC, RHY BCP, RHY TLP and HOP funded housing projects entering into HMIS



91

in domestic and sexual violence shelters (does not include youth under 18) and

13

in D/SV transitional housing that do not enter data into HMIS

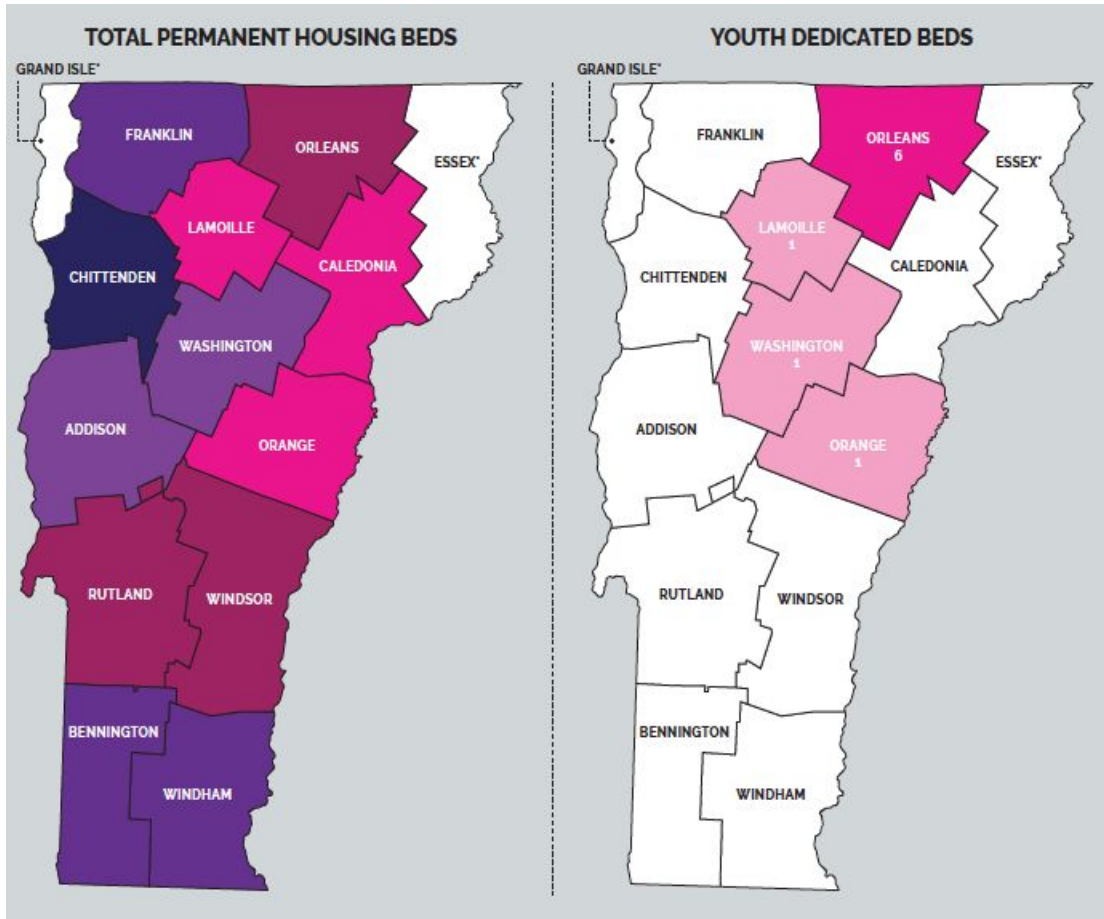


19

served in HOP-funded warming shelters that don't enter data into HMIS

399 total unaccompanied youth, 12-24, sheltered/housed in FY18

WHAT WE LEARNED: SERVICE CAPACITY



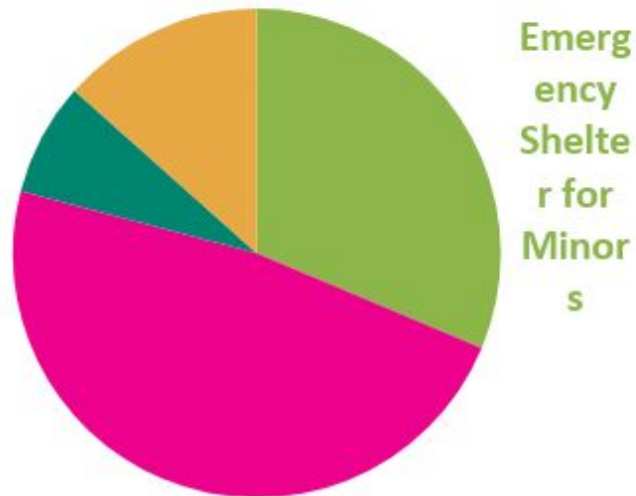
CoC/ HUD funded permanent housing mainstream supports compared to youth-specific options.

Only 9 CoC-funded Rapid Rehousing vouchers dedicated to youth. While available in 4 counties, all 9 went to Orleans and Washington in FY18.

A barrier for other counties utilizing those vouchers was a lack of supportive service dollars to provide necessary accompanying case management.

WHAT WE LEARNED: SERVICE CAPACITY

68 Youth-Specific options



Other youth-specific beds:

38 Transitional Housing units for 18-22* year old's, operated by VCRHYP programs, all Federally funded through FYSB, with 3 receiving additional VT HOP funding. (**some exceptions for 16, 17, 23 yos*)

21 year-round emergency shelter beds for minors 12-17 years old operated by VCRHYP's FYSB funded Basic Center Program sites.

85% of funding for youth beds is coming from one source and is only for crisis housing

WHAT WE LEARNED: FY18 HMIS BED UTILIZATION



WHAT WE LEARNED: ACCESSING CRISIS HOUSING SUPPORTS

Youth under 18

- 16 unaccompanied minors were sheltered through VCRHYP's Runaway and Homeless Youth Program for 20 shelter stays

Youth Ages 18-24

- 223 youth aged 18-24 in the BoS used GA motel vouchers, 23 of these youth were parenting
- 219 used adult-based emergency shelters
- 91 were sheltered by domestic and sexual violence agencies
- 66 received transitional housing from VCRHYP agencies

WHAT WE LEARNED: LENGTH OF TIME IN SHELTER

Median length of stay

- **19 days for <18**
 - More than half of all emergency shelter stays for minors reached the 21-day max: 6 stays for 21 days, 5 between 18-20, 9 for fewer than 9 days
- **36 days for all youth 12-24**
 - 79 days for pregnant and parenting youth vs. 25 days for non-parenting youth
 - 74 days for Black youth vs. 36 days for White youth
- **54 days for all persons of all ages**

WHAT WE LEARNED: ACCESSING PERMANENT HOUSING SUPPORTS

- CoC funded permanent housing beds (PSH and RRH only) are accessed through Coordinated Entry
- Over a three-month review period:
 - Average of 114 youth 18-24 on Master List each month, about 10% of total ML population
 - 49% literally homeless (ES, TH, unsheltered)
 - 51% precariously housed- *Not eligible for existing HUD housing resources*
 - Youth are on the ML for slightly longer than their older adult counterparts
- In initial assessment, there was not a significant difference in youth vs. older adults CE scores; however, length of time homeless plays a critical role in prioritization and youth are inherently disadvantaged.
 - Result: 62% of youth aged 18-24 on ML for more than 90 days vs. 50% of all adults**
- Only 10% of youth exit the Master List, monthly. Of those only 4% exited to a RRH project.

WHAT WE LEARNED: SUB-POPULATIONS OF NOTE

Pregnant and parenting youth are overrepresented

- Almost 1 in 4 youth receiving housing supports is parenting

LGBTQ youth are overrepresented

- 18% of all youth served by VCRHYP RHY programs identify as LGBTQ
- 4% identified as transgender or gender non-conforming
- Only about 6% of VT's population identifies as LGBTQ (though 11% of youth surveyed through the YRBS)

High correlation between child welfare involvement and homelessness

- 32% of youth served by BoS VCRHYP providers were currently involved with DCF in some way,
- 48% reported some form of past involvement.
- 5% of youth served by VT's Youth Development Program were homeless as some point during the past year, 2 of them were under 18.

WHAT WE LEARNED: SUB-POPULATIONS OF NOTE

Homelessness and Education

- Nationally, youth with less than a HS diploma or GED have a 346% higher risk for homelessness.
- 340 students in grade 6-12 were supported by BoS McKinney-Vento liaisons:
 - 14.2% residing in shelter
 - 56% doubled up
 - 8.5% unsheltered
 - 1.4% migrant youth
 - 6.2% unaccompanied

Homelessness and Domestic and Sexual Violence

- 19% of all persons sheltered through VT's D/SV agencies were aged 18-24
- 27% of all YYA served by BoS housing providers identified as D/SV victims and survivors
- 8/5% reporting fleeing domestic violence at the time of accessing services (*this is beyond those housed by D/SV shelters who do not use HMIS.*)

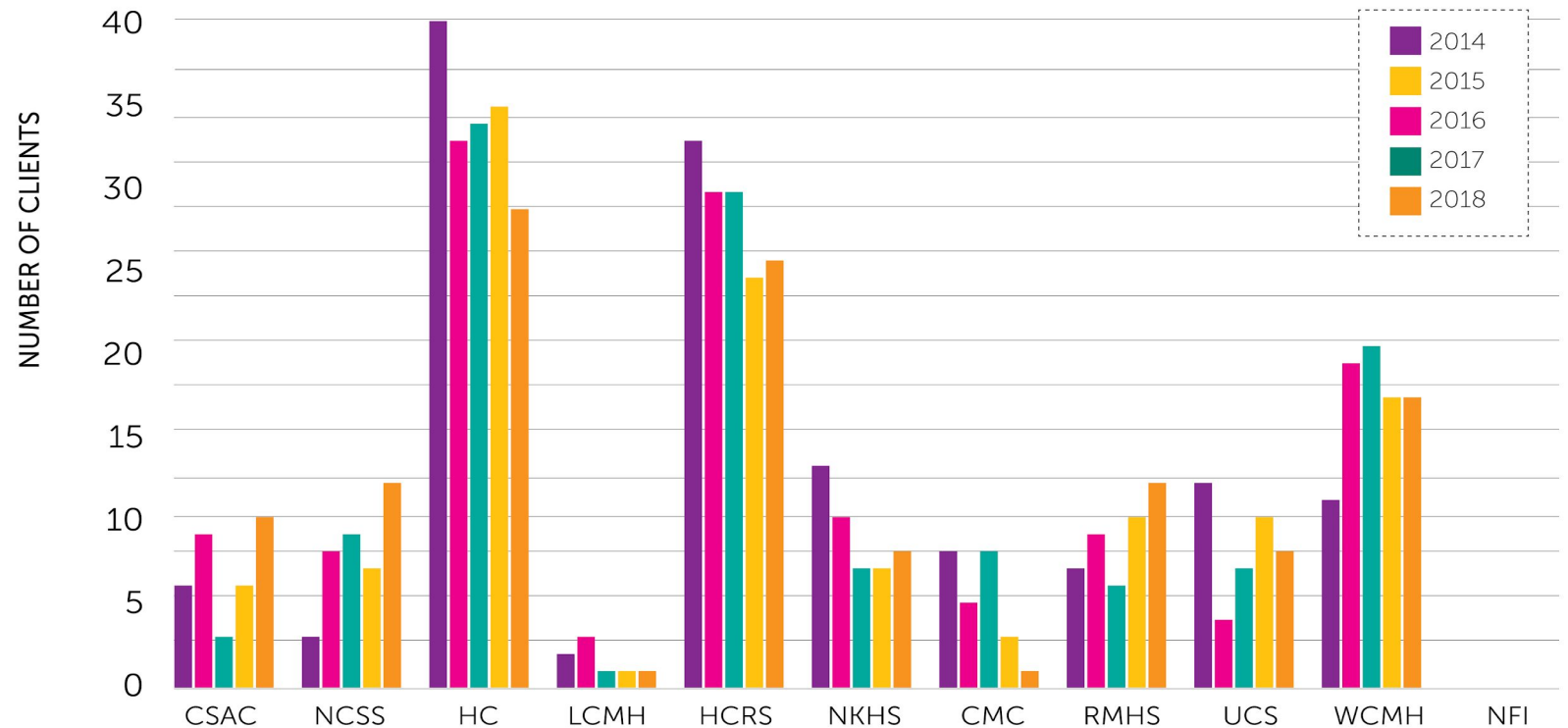
WHAT WE LEARNED: SUB-POPULATIONS OF NOTE

Homelessness and Disabling Conditions

- 49% of youth and young adults in HMIS reported having a disabling condition*

**Defined as a diagnosable substance abuse disorder, serious mental illness, developmental disability, or chronic physical illness or disability.*

18-24 RESIDENTIAL STATUS AT INTAKE (STREET/SHELTER) BY DA



WHERE WE ARE GOING: BLUEPRINT FOR FUNDED PROJECTS

Housing Intervention

Anticipated 2-Year
Funding Availability

Rapid Rehousing: Tenant or Site-Based Vouchers with Master-lease Waiver	\$768,811
Support Services: Youth Housing Navigators	\$262,440
Support Services/Coordinated Entry: Landlord Engagement/ Landlord Liaisons	\$250,000
Transitional Housing/ Rapid Rehousing Joint Component	\$500,880
Rapid Rehousing: Short-term Diversion Support	\$130,000
HMIS Data Quality and Analysis (2-year grant)	\$30,000
Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project Planning (\$30,000 awarded year 1, can reapply)	\$60,000
Total Funding Available	\$2,002,131

SYSTEM CHANGE OBJECTIVES: PREVENTION AND DIVERSION

- 1: Increase early identification of youth and young adults at-risk or experiencing homelessness.
- 2: Increase availability of low-barrier access points to services and housing supports.
- 3: Improve outreach targeting youth and young adult populations to increase awareness of available assistance and housing supports.
- 4: Increase partnerships with secondary and post-secondary institutions to help with early identification and crisis prevention for YYA at-risk of homelessness.
- 5: Increase youth homeless prevention resources.

SYSTEM CHANGE OBJECTIVES: HOUSING SUPPORTS

- 1: Improve access to and responsiveness of existing housing options for youth and young adults.
- 2: Develop new housing programs specifically for youth and young adult populations.
- 3: Incorporate low barrier and Housing First approaches across the homelessness response system.

SYSTEM CHANGE OBJECTIVES: EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

- 1: Ensure that all youth and young adults in the homelessness response system have the tools and supports they need to find and/or maintain employment.
- 2: Ensure that all youth and young adults in the homelessness response system have the tools and supports they need to advance or complete their education, including GED or high school equivalency and post-secondary education.
- 3: Ensure all students eligible for McKinney-Vento supports are identified and receive equitable services across all service systems.
- 4: Improve partnerships between alternative education programs and school districts/supervisory unions for the purposes of identification and equitable service delivery to McKinney-Vento YYA.
- 5: Ensure that youth and young adults are empowered to define their own education and employment goals and what supports/services they need to achieve them.
- 6: Create, implement and annually evaluate a network of potential employers who support youth and young adult employment.

SYSTEM CHANGE OBJECTIVES: PERMANENT CONNECTIONS

- 1: Youth and young adults exiting housing programs have permanent connections: stable, positive relationships with family, friends, and others who will be there for the youth and young adults when needed.
- 2: Integrate development of permanent connections and the use of family/natural support engagement into every aspect of service delivery system, reunifying families and/or connecting to other supportive adults.

SYSTEM CHANGE OBJECTIVES: WELL-BEING

- 1: Incorporate youth-centered, culturally-informed approaches to service delivery across all housing and service providers, including those not specifically targeting youth and young adults, to ensure that no young person experiences re-traumatization.
- 2: Youth and young adults will receive ongoing support and connection to resources in their pursuit of social, cultural, community, and recreational areas of interest.
- 3: Youth and young adults are provided with and engage in local and statewide leadership and advocacy opportunities, increasing youth voice throughout system.
- 4: All youth and young adults receiving housing or prevention supports will have access to adequate, timely and appropriate mental, behavioral, physical health services and substance abuse supports.
- 5: Service providers screen for and identify YYA who are experiencing or at-risk of human trafficking and sexual exploitation, from program entry through aftercare.
- 6: Support youth to achieve goals that will help them achieve long-term stability.

THANK YOU!

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