



Cascade Youth & Family Center, COIC Expand
Housing Options for Young Adults on Their Way
to Independence
Isabella Warren, KTVZ



Cascade Youth & Family Center, COIC Expand Housing Options for Young Adults on Their Way to Independence

by Isabella Warren

BEND, Ore. (KTVZ) -- Cascade Youth & Family Center (CYFC), a program of J Bar J Youth Services, continues to step up to meet needs of young people in our region by addressing one of our most urgent issues: housing.

Central Oregon's housing crisis has made finding affordable housing difficult under the best circumstances. For young people striving to transition to independence while navigating additional barriers, the struggle is even greater.

J Bar J was awarded funds from Central Oregon's MAC group, facilitated by COIC (Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council), to implement this critical program.

CYFC's new Housing Program will serve young adults ages 16 to 24, offering a stable option for those who need more independence but still benefit from daily case management. This program is open to youth from various backgrounds, including those aging out of foster care or facing homelessness, whether or not they have previously lived in one of CYFC's three youth shelters.

Cascade Youth and Family Center's acquiring of a Wilson Avenue triplex (that became a source of neighborhood concern over another type of program) marks a tangible step in the effort to support our community's vulnerable youth.

The youth housed through this program receive daily case management support to help them navigate independent living and responsible decision making. The neighborhood surrounding the triplex have been informed of the new use of the property and have been given resources and contact info to educate them on the program's mission.

J Bar J Youth Services plays a key role in the region's response to youth homelessness. J Bar J Youth Services works collectively with partners like The Homeless Leadership Coalition (HLC), Central Oregon's Youth Action Board, COIC, Neighbor Impact and others to prevent and end youth homelessness.

Eliza Wilson, Director of Services for Runaway and Homeless Youth and Chair of the HLC, has been instrumental in these efforts, bringing together partners from Crook, Deschutes, and Jefferson counties, as well as the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. "We want to be able to find housing options for everybody, especially young people who face many barriers to housing locally," said Eliza.

Stephanie Alvstad, CEO of J Bar J Youth Services, states "These housing initiatives by J Bar J Youth Services are not only a response to the region's housing crisis but also an extension of the organization's long-standing mission: to provide young people with the tools, support, and encouragement they need to step confidently into adulthood."



**Coordinated Community Plan
To Make Youth Homelessness Rare, Brief, and
Non-Recurring**
Central Oregon Youth Action Board





(Logo created by former Youth Action Board (YAB) member and marketing specialist, Jesus Velasco)

Coordinated Community Plan

To make Youth Homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring

Central Oregon CoC (OR-503)

2024

1. Introduction

- a. Acknowledgments
- b. YAB Involvement and Recruitment
- c. Letter from the Youth Action Board (YAB)
- d. Vision & Mission Statements
- e. Definitions and Acronyms

2. Statement of Need –

- a. Brief Written Summary
 - i. Community history with a Youth Homeless System
- b. Completed Data & Needs Chart from section C.1.b

3. List of Goals, Objectives, & Action Steps - (Delayed to 8.1.24)

- a. Brief written summary introducing goals
- b. Completed Goals, Objectives, and Action Steps charts

4. Governance & Partners –

- a. Governance Model
- b. Written explanation of Governance Chart
- c. Completed List of Partners

5. New Project List –

- a. Brief description of the process used to select/prioritize new project types
- b. Completed new project charts

6. Signatures Pages – (Delayed to 8.1.24)

- a. Completed signature forms for all required partners.

1. Introduction

Acknowledgements

We want to thank the youth and young adults who have supported our community with their leadership and guidance throughout the process of creating the Coordinated Community Plan. We are grateful to them for their expertise and wisdom. We understand that we are all stewards of this plan and have a responsibility to them and ourselves to center their leadership and guidance in the growth and improvement of the response system for youth in Central Oregon. This is only the beginning.

We also want to thank the Board of the Homeless Leadership Coalition, Central Oregon's Continuum of Care, who have continually expressed support for the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) and have made early commitments to further integrate youth and young adults into the decision-making process to help end youth homelessness. Furthermore, the support from Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council (COIC) has been instrumental in our region's ability to move this work forward. We are appreciative of COIC's staff who have supported this process from the initial application to HUD, through the creation of the CCP, and for the work they will do in the future to support this impactful work.

Additionally, we thank our many partners who have supported the YHDP planning process. We have been so fortunate to partner with each of the organizations, public agencies, and community partners below. Thank you for coming to the table to support the creation of the Coordinated Community Plan and for your commitment to addressing youth homelessness in Central Oregon. We firmly believe that with youth and young adult leadership and the support of our partners, we can make a collective impact toward preventing and ending youth homelessness in Central Oregon. Lastly, thank you to our TA team who has guided us through this process, encouraging us to think bigger, brighter and better!

Central Oregon Youth Action Board	Coordinated Houseless Response Office	High Desert Education Service District - McKinney Vento Liaisons
The Homeless Leadership Coalition	J Bar J Youth Services	Central Oregon FUSE
Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council	US Dept of Housing & Urban Development	The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
NeighborImpact	Corporation for Supportive Housing	Family Kitchen
Heart of Oregon Corps	Oregon Department of Human Services	Mountainview Community Development
Central Oregon Community College	SriPonya Collective	Jefferson County
Deschutes County	Elizabeth Kirby Consulting	Family Access Network
Mosaic Community Health	The Father's Group	REACH
Shepherd's House	Bethlehem Inn	Embrace Bend
Redemption House Ministries	Crook County	Housing Works
Bend-La Pine School District	True Colors United	The City of Bend

YAB Involvement and Recruitment

The Central Oregon YAB has been involved in all aspects of the CCP planning process including:

- Attending all onsite events with TA
- Attending community meetings
- Attending weekly YHDP Lead meetings with TA
- Attending CoC board meetings
- Participating in sessions to create content for the CCP and review previous YHDP work from other communities
- Giving guidance and direction for and writing sections of the CCP and the RFP
- Participating in the Bidder's conference
- Scoring of applications for YHDP project proposals

Central Oregon YAB members led the following recruitment efforts:

- Hosted community listening sessions
- Worked with a professional videographer to shoot informational video about YHDP for the community
- Created and distributed fliers to youth all over Central Oregon (three counties, three times)
- Created a YAB personal recruitment plan
- Created and distributed surveys to youth experiencing homelessness throughout the community to solicit input
- Collaborated with youth at onsite events in attempts to recruit them to the YAB
- Partnered with Outreach providers to inform and recruit youth living unsheltered across Central Oregon
- Hosted an election for YAB representative within programs to elect their appointee
- Presentations to youth in shelters to solicit members
- Created email account for YAB
- Created social media presence for YAB (Instagram and Discord)

Letter from YAB



March 15, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

The Central Oregon Youth Advisory Board attended and participated in the Coordinated Community Plan through participating in planning meetings and writing work groups. The Central Oregon YAB supports and endorses this Central Oregon YHDP Coordinated Community Plan.

Respectfully submitted,

Isabelle Patterson: 
Kai Weathersbee 
Paige Press 
Anthony Angel
Kira L Akito

Vision

Our vision for Central Oregon is a youth led community that ensures Youth and Young Adults access to individualized services, designed and informed by young adults in Central Oregon. We will achieve this by developing a culture that creates equitable systems where youth homelessness is rare, brief, and non-recurring.

YAB's motto: Nothing about us, without us!

Mission

Central Oregon is committed to the safety and welfare of **all** youth and young adults (YYA) in our community. Together, we can create a community where YYA homelessness is rare, brief, and non-recurring. We believe that by centering youth leadership and agency in the decision-making process, we will build a community where YYA can quickly and easily access safe housing and services that respect, dignify, and affirm their variety of cultures, identities, and abilities.

Leading this effort is Central Oregon's Youth Action Board (YAB), a board composed of youth and young adults with lived experience, whose expertise and insight is at the forefront of every action that we take. The YAB Central Oregon's Youth Action Board believes the following statements to be foundational principles of a youth-centered response to ending YYA homelessness in Central Oregon:

All Youth and Young Adults should have access to:

- Education and employment;
- Bodily autonomy;
- To systems that are trauma-informed, low-barrier, coordinated, data-informed, accessible, and readily available;
- To chosen family and community;
- To individualized services that meet YYA needs and respect YYA voice.;
- To a safe, identity-validating, stable place to live. All youth should feel welcome within community programs;
- To a community that is vigilant and engaged in the effort to ensure YYA have the lifelong skills to achieve their goals, maintain their self-dignity, and thrive to their full potential;
- To resources and opportunities.

We acknowledge that some YYA are more likely to experience discrimination and homelessness, including YYA of Color, YYA who are LGBTQIA+, pregnant and/or parenting YYA, systems involved YYA, and others who experience marginalization and the effects of white supremacy. By creating a community centered on safety and belonging, we aim to ensure YYA's have space to be their authentic selves. Youth should feel safe to express their voice, they should be heard, and respected.

We hear you, we see you, and we stand by you!

Definitions and Acronyms:

YAB - Youth Action Board

YYA - Youth & Young Adults

YHDP - Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program

CoC - Continuum of Care

HLC - Homeless Leadership Coalition

Central Oregon - Crook, Jefferson, and Deschutes Counties and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs

CCP - Coordinated Community Plan

Systems Involved-youth - young people who spent time in foster care, Juvenile Justice, Probation or Parole, Department of Justice, etc

Governance - A system that provides a framework for how decisions are made.

Rapid Rehousing (RRH) - a medium term housing program that provides rent payments and light to medium touch supportive services for a defined period of time (up to 36 months) to individuals or families below a certain income level.

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) - a long term housing program that provides rent payments and intensive supportive services to individuals or families with chronic homelessness status below a certain income level, indefinitely.

Transitional Housing (TH) - a program that provides temporary housing and supportive services with the goal of stabilizing an individual or family and preparing them to move into permanent housing (RRH or PSH).

Transitional Living Program (TLP) - Shelter program for YYA experiencing homelessness ages 12-21yo for up to 24 months, funded by Family and Youth Bureau of HUD. Some programs can serve YYA up to the age of 24yo with additional funding.

Maternity Group Home (MGH)- Shelter program for pregnant and or parenting YYA experiencing homelessness ages 14-21 yo for up to 24 months, funded by Family and Youth Bureau of HUD. Some programs can serve YYA up to the age of 24yo with additional funding.

Emergency Shelter (ES) - sites that provide a place for individuals to sleep temporarily.

Support Services Only (SSO) - a type of project type that does not provide housing, but offers other supportive services like case management, peer mentoring, addiction services, employment services, etc.

Coordinated Entry (CES) - A system by which a homeless response system identifies and prioritizes clients for placement in programs that have available space.

2. Statement of Need

Data Sources Overview

In preparing this statement, we have consulted with regional, state, and federal partners to gather datasets and relevant statistics to create the most complete assessment of youth homelessness in Central Oregon to date. We would like to recognize the contributions of the following partners: Central Oregon's Youth Action Board, NeighborImpact, J Bar J Youth Services and their programs, Family Access Network, Bend La Pine School District, Deschutes County Behavioral Health, Oregon Department of Human Services, Deschutes County Juvenile Justice, and others.

Regional Perspective

To understand the Central Oregon Region, one must first understand the geography of Oregon. The Cascade Mountain range reaches a height of 11,250 feet and runs from Oregon's northern border with Washington to its southern border with California. The Cascade Mountains separate Central and Eastern Oregon from the Willamette Valley, where the bulk of Oregon's population and resources for Youth and Young Adult (YYA) services are concentrated. Thus, these mountains serve as a natural barrier between these two very distinct parts of the state, insulating each half from the other.

Oregon's geography has two distinct effects on the YYA population. First, it is quite easy to get stuck in Central Oregon during the winter months. Second, the region has one provider of YYA services in Central and Eastern Oregon, J Bar J Youth Services. The lack of YYA resources in Central and Eastern Oregon funnels nearly all youth in this part of the state to Deschutes County for transitional living services and limits our region's ability to successfully account for the true number of YYA experiencing homelessness. It is also important to note that the climate in Central Oregon is adverse for those who are living outside. The average low between November and April is at or below 30°F, with temperatures regularly dipping as low as -15°F during nights in December through February. Oregon is home to a high percentage of unsheltered and unaccompanied homeless youth, [ranking worst-in-the-nation for unaccompanied youth homelessness in 2023](#). The combination of these two factors speaks volumes to the importance of expanding services for YYA in the Region and the importance of YHDP for those experiencing homelessness east of the Cascades.

The geographic area that comprises Central Oregon is over 15,000 sq miles and includes Crook, Deschutes, and Jefferson counties, and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. Deschutes County has the largest population of the three counties with 198,253 residents. Major cities in Deschutes County of Bend, La Pine, Sisters, Redmond, and Warm Springs. Crook County, with the second largest population of the three counties with 24,738 residents, has one major population center, The City of Prineville. Jefferson County has a population of 24,502, and includes several cities, Madras, Culver, and Metolius.

According to the [2020 Census](#), the total population of our region was 250,888. The region has grown 18.5% from a population of 204,441 in 2010, continuing a decades-long trend of rapid population growth.

Total Population – 2010 vs 2020

Year	Crook	Deschutes	Jefferson	Warm Springs*	Total Population
2010	20,978	157,733	21,720	4,010	204,441
2020	24,738	198,253	24,502	3,395	250,888

*Warm Springs data source differs from counties.

While the population of our region has increased rapidly, housing stock has failed to keep pace, growing at a rate of 13.6% over the same period ([2020/2010 decennial census redistricting data](#)).

Housing Units – 2010 vs 2020

Year	Crook	Deschutes	Jefferson	Warm Springs*	Total Housing Units
2010	10,20	80,139	9,815	512	100,668
2020	11,15	94,110	10,250	1,045	116,564

*Warm Springs data source differs from counties. Detail diff here.

Scope of Need in Central Oregon

[In 2020, HUD released the Annual Homeless Assessment Report \(AHAR\)](#), a document intended to share a picture of the state of homelessness in the United States, and the nation’s capacity to serve people who are currently or at-risk of experiencing homelessness. The [AHAR](#) ranks Oregon as one of the states with the 3 highest rates of homelessness, reporting 35 people per 10,000, and third in the percentage of people experiencing homelessness who were unsheltered at 61%.

[In 2022, Annual Homelessness Assessment Report \(AHAR\)](#) to Congress, Central Oregon is identified as one of the nation’s Continuums of Care (CoC) with the highest percentage of people experiencing family homelessness who are unsheltered (86.3%), and one of the CoCs with the highest percentage of unaccompanied Youth Experiencing Homelessness (YEH) who are unsheltered (73.8%).

A predominant factor to the rise in homelessness in Central Oregon is housing inaccessibility and relatively low wages. Central Oregon’s increasing housing costs and lack of affordable housing make it difficult for low-income populations to afford rent. For YYA this can be the reason they find themselves in unstable housing situations, and a major barrier to getting off the street. In recent years, Central Oregon has seen a substantial increase in population, increasing the demand for housing and putting upward pressure on the cost of rent. According to [Zillow](#), the median gross rent in Bend is \$2,400 and the median home value is \$687,880, according to Zillow. Housing purchase costs in Bend are over double the national average of \$339,048 (gross rent \$1,163).

According to the [Oregon Housing Alliance](#), to meet the need for housing, 2,725 new affordable housing units are needed in Central Oregon. As a result of rising housing costs, more than 25% of renters in Deschutes and Crook counties are paying more than 50% of their income in rent. The mean renter's wage of \$14.93/hr. in Deschutes County does not provide full-time workers with enough income to offset the rising cost of rent. Workers would need to work 77 hours/week to afford rent. For those who work minimum wage jobs, the cost of rent or home ownership is completely out of reach. Central

Oregon's economy is dominated by low-paying service jobs. In Oregon, 58% of jobs pay less than \$20/hour, and 59% of those jobs pay less than \$15/hour. In Central Oregon this is especially true, given the large tourism industry that attracts seasonal workers. The low-paying job market and high-cost housing market have a compounding effect on an individual or family's inability to pay rent.

Youth and Young Adults Experiencing and At Risk of Homelessness

According to [Census data from 2020](#), the Central Oregon Region, which includes Deschutes, Crook, and Jefferson Counties are home to approximately 19,082 youth ages 14-24.

According to the [2023 Point In Time count](#), 1647 of Central Oregon's residents were experiencing homelessness, which represents a 28% increase from 2022. Of those homeless residents 1189 were unsheltered, 196 were children (under 18), 133 were youth between the ages of 18 and 24. Total combined homeless youth under 24 is 329, according to the PIT 2023 count. A study by [Chapin Hall](#) estimates that every year 1 in 30 youth, ages 13 to 17, and 1 in every 10 YYA, ages 18 to 24 experience some form of homelessness.

As per federal guidelines, this only counts survey respondents that meet the HUD definition of "literally homeless." Unfortunately, this means that many people who are living in poverty and not formally considered "literally homeless" are not counted in the point in time count. The HUD definition excludes many YYA who are experiencing housing instability and homelessness, such as those that have left their home and are sleeping on a friend's couch.

Furthermore, it is estimated that this yearly count misses roughly 30% – 40% of homeless youth. For a comprehensive understanding of homelessness and housing instability in Central Oregon for YYA, this plan utilizes data from local school districts to get a more complete understanding of the number of youth experiencing homelessness in Central Oregon vs. solely using numbers from the PIT Count.

See an assessment of the [2023 PIT Count](#) data for Youth and Young adults in the table on the next page:

Total unaccompanied youth (UY) 2023 PIT Count	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Shelter	Unsheltered	Total
Number of UY under 18	25	5	133	163
Number of UY 18-24	1	2	20	23
Number of Youth under 18	35	12	149	196
Gender				
Female	8	2	57	67
Male	16	3	71	90
Non-binary	1	0	1	2
Questioning	0	0	3	3
Transgender	0	0	1	1
Ethnicity				
Non-Hispanic	21	5	108	134
Hispanic	4	0	25	29
Race				
American Indian, Alaskan Native, or Indigenous	1	0	30	31
Asian or Asian American	0	0	0	0
Black, African American, or African	3	0	12	15
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0
White	19	5	80	104
Multiple Races	2	0	11	13
Chronically Homeless				
Total number of chronic youth	4	0	6	10

Students Experiencing Homelessness

In 1987, the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, Subtitle VII-B, Education of Homeless Children and Youth Program (HEARTH Act) codified and ensured the right of homeless children and youth to have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education provided to other children. As mandated by the McKinney-Vento Act, school districts collect data on student homelessness.

According to [Oregon Department of Education](#) (ODOE) data, nearly 4%, or 22,903, of preK-12 schoolchildren in Oregon were homeless during the 2022-2023 school year. Multnomah County again reported the highest total number of homeless schoolchildren at 3,495, though the nine districts with the highest rates of homelessness among schoolchildren were all rural.

The 2021-2022 count of homeless students found the combined number of youth experiencing homelessness in Central Oregon was 920 (725–Deschutes; 91–Jefferson; 104–Crook). [The Bend/La Pine School District](#) had the 7th highest number in the state with 505 homeless students – 18.4% of those students are living unaccompanied.

Data from the McKinney-Vento liaisons provide more in-depth information outside of the Point In Time Count and HMIS (Homeless Management Information System). Because most services offered are in Deschutes County, youth outside of the urban center would be less likely to be included in the HMIS data. Data from the McKinney-Vento liaisons helps provide a clearer picture of the number of youth and young adults experiencing homelessness in Central Oregon. [McKinney-Vento](#) data from the 2023 school year shows; 928 homeless students were enrolled in school in Central Oregon, 515 youth were doubled-up, 180 unaccompanied youth, 7544 children served, 2,039 were referred to shelter or housing.

The [Annie E. Casey Foundation’s Kids Count Data Book](#) uses sixteen indicators to rank states based on their ability to provide adequate healthcare, education, economic opportunity, family, and community for youth. The 2022 Data Book ranked Oregon 26th in overall child well-being. Oregon ranked 30th in the U.S. in economic well-being, and 41st in education, indicating that Oregon is significantly behind in providing adequate education and care for children. In Oregon: 15% of children live in poverty; 50% qualify for free-and-reduced lunch; 27% have parents who lack secure employment; and 31% live in households with a high housing cost burden. This makes it even more difficult for YYA to escape homelessness and thrive. Despite being committed to a 100% graduation rate by 2025, [Oregon continues to struggle to improve its high school graduation rate](#). Oregon has for years had one of the worst [graduation rates](#) in the country. Oregon consistently ranks in the bottom three states for graduation rates. [The 2020-2021 graduation rate was 81%, down 2% over 2019-2020 \(most recent available\)](#). For youth experiencing homelessness, this disadvantage is even greater. The disproportionate impact that an inadequate state school system has on the YYA population who have experienced homelessness is substantial. Given the direct connection between level of education and level of employment, it is hard to ignore the disproportionate difficulties that the YYA population who experience homelessness faces in the job market.

Students Experiencing Homelessness Attending Post-Secondary Education

Information from [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\) for Oregon](#) shows in 2018/19 school year 1,255 students and the 2019/20 school year 1,262 unaccompanied homeless youth were deemed "independent students" on the FAFSA. The "independent student" designation enables students to apply for federal student aid without information on or consideration of the income and assets of their parent(s)/guardian(s).

According to the [U.S. Department of Education](#), 41,243 students across the country were deemed independent as unaccompanied homeless youth during the 2019-2020 FAFSA application cycle. It is important to note that this data likely undercounts the number of youth experiencing homelessness in higher education given the FAFSA's use of skip logic to determine independent student status. There are 10 additional questions used to determine dependency status (e.g., age 24 or older, graduate students, married students, active military or veterans, students in foster care since age 13, etc.), with the unaccompanied homeless youth questions presented last. Once an applicant provides a positive response to a previous independent student status question, the unaccompanied homeless youth questions are not shown and, therefore, not answered.

Our local partners have made progress on streamlining data collection, resources, and regional referrals in the following ways;

- McKinney-Vento Liaisons utilizing HMIS
- McKinney Vento Liaisons and FAN (Family Access Network) advocates in schools across all districts in the Region participating the annual PIT count
- The local YYA provider J Bar J Youth Services, McKinney-Vento Liaisons, and Family Access Network and other providers in Case Conferencing YYA experiencing homelessness
- Increased engagement in Coordinated Entry for YYA.

While these are successes to be celebrated, the Region must strive to remove the barriers YYA experience in navigating systems of care. We know that students experience many barriers to education such as food, transportation, and housing, meanwhile education remains a way out of housing instability. Hope for College research conducted a survey of 2-year and 4-year college students on the topic of needs insecurity (food and housing) in 2021 in a report titled "[#RealCollege 2021: Basic Needs Insecurity During the Ongoing Pandemic](#)." Based on a national survey of nearly 195,000 college students from 130 two-year colleges and 72 four-year colleges from 24 states, including Oregon:

- 34% (66,300) of respondents reported experiencing food insecurity
- 48% (93,600) of respondents reported they were experiencing housing insecure
- 14% (27,300) of respondents reported experiencing homelessness

To significantly reduce the risk of future homelessness and attain self-sufficiency, it is critical that youth have access to educational and workforce development opportunities.

Broader picture of Youth Homelessness in Central Oregon

Population	Data Source(s)	Estimates of # Youth
<i>At-risk unaccompanied youth*</i>	HMIS data	60 Youth
Unaccompanied youth <i>experiencing homelessness*</i>	HMIS data	278 Youth
Minors (young people under the age of 18)	HMIS data	169 youth
<i>At-risk pregnant or parenting youth</i>	HMIS data	28 Youth
Pregnant or parenting youth accessing community resources	Reported from Grandmas House	1,080 Youth
Pregnant or parenting youth <i>experiencing homelessness</i>	HMIS data	35 Youth
Youth of color	HMIS data	<p><i>At Risk Homeless Youth (60 youth)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 5% Black or African American ● 16% Hispanic/Latinx ethnicity ● 20% American Indian or Alaskan Native <p><i>Youth Experiencing Homeless (278 youth)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 7.9% Black or African American ● 22% Hispanic/Latinx ethnicity ● 7.2% American Indian or Alaskan Native <p><i>Parenting At-Risk (28 youth)</i></p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 7% Black or African American ● 25% Hispanic/Latinx ethnicity ● 10% American Indian or Alaskan Native <p><i>Parenting Experiencing (35 youth)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 8.5% Black or African American ● 34% Hispanic/Latinx ethnicity ● 5.7% American Indian or Alaskan Native
LGBTQ+ and gender non-conforming youth	HMIS - Calendar year 2023, CES-IT tool 2023 Report	79 Youth
Youth involved with Juvenile Justice	Reported from Juvenile Justice	6 Youth
Youth involved with ODHS (Oregon Department of Human Services) Child Welfare**	Oregon Department of Human Services : Oregon Child Welfare Data and Reports : Data and Research : State of Oregon	143 youth
Youth involved with ILP services through ODHS Child Welfare	Independent Living Program, Oregon Department of Human Services	56 youth
Survivors of trafficking and exploitation from at: project**	10/1/2022-9/30/2023 CES-IT tool, Excel tracking	38 youth confirmed 247 Youth at-risk of trafficking
Youth with co-occurring diagnosis, including mental health, substance abuse, HIV-AIDS, and other communicable diseases	HMIS data	62 youth

Unaccompanied youth *at-risk of homelessness*

Assessing the at-risk population of YYA in Central Oregon is difficult. Looking at resources accessed through programs like Family Access Network (FAN), McKinney Vento, and J Bar J Youth Services programs we see thousands of YYA accessing resources locally that were not captured in HMIS. Using data from HMIS we calculated an estimate of youth at risk of homelessness based on the number of 14–24-year-old enrolled in homelessness prevention programs for the calendar years of 2020 through 2023. While this data tells us we have 60 youth enrolled in homelessness prevention programs in 2023, it does not tell us how many youth need these types of resources we have in the region.

Population	Year	Total
At-risk of homelessness	2023	60

Unaccompanied youth *experiencing homelessness*

Of Central Oregon’s unaccompanied youth, 278 are experiencing homelessness. Using data from HMIS, we calculated the number of youth ages 14-24 years old who are experiencing homelessness who are active in the system as experiencing unsheltered homelessness or staying in a shelter locally.

YYA under 18 years old, unaccompanied by a guardian, who are at-risk of homelessness or experiencing homelessness, have significant barriers accessing and navigating services across the country. While Central Oregon does have two shelters for non-pregnant and non-parenting youth; Canal House in Redmond, for YYA ages 14-20yo; and The LOFT in Bend, for YYA ages 14-24yo, due to the current State of Oregon licensing laws, unaccompanied minors have little to no agency in access to shelter options in the state. Oregon minors are required to receive a guardian’s permission for them to receive shelter or resources.

In 2023, HMIS shows that 169 unaccompanied youth received services from the region's youth provider J Bar J Youth Services. For these 169 YYA, approximately 50 minors a year, remain unable to receive services because their guardians refused, or they could not safely access services without their guardian being notified. Furthermore, minors cannot easily seek housing independently. While the State of Oregon tenant laws permit minors ages 16 and up to enter a lease for housing, unaccompanied youth face many barriers to accessing housing. Most landlord and property managers require credit and rental history to qualify for housing. Many youth, even those over 18, are asked for a co-signer to qualify for units, disproportionately impacting unaccompanied youth.

Population	Data Source(s)	Estimates of # of Youth
Minors (youth under the age of 18) **	HMIS Calendar Year 2023	169 youth

Pregnant or parenting youth *experiencing homelessness and At-risk pregnant or parenting youth*

Central Oregon recognizes that YYA experiencing homelessness who are pregnant, and parenting are particularly vulnerable when living unhoused. A national report from [‘Voices of Youth Count’](#) found that 44% of female-identified and 18% of male-identified YYA ages 18 to 25 experiencing homelessness reported being pregnant or a parent. In the same findings, 10% of female-identified and 3% of male-identified youth ages 13-17 reported being pregnant or parenting. The report also found that YYA who experience homelessness are more likely to become pregnant or give birth. Additionally, the report explains, some youth are at a higher risk for experiencing homelessness, including parenting youth; American Indian or Alaska Native, Black, and Hispanic youth; lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT) youth; and youth who did not complete high school.

While 28 YYA pregnant or parenting who are at-risk of homelessness show up in HMIS, limitations in HMIS data remain. There are limited prevention programs who support this population locally and no program regionally that provides prevention services to this population currently enter data into HMIS. The Region’s Maternity Group Home (MGH), Grandmas House, reports providing community resources to 1,080 YYA who are pregnant or parenting in Central Oregon in 2023.

While Central Oregon is fortunate to have one of the only Maternity Group Homes in the State of Oregon, Grandma’s House of Central Oregon, this population is still under-resourced locally. Grandma’s House serves youth aged 14-24 years old who are pregnant or parenting, with a capacity to shelter 10 families at one time. In 2023, Grandma’s House expanded bed space to add a family unit, giving two parent youth households the option to shelter together. That year Grandma’s House sheltered 31 YYA households, 60 individuals. Even with expanded bed capacity at Grandma’s House, the program turned away approximately 30 pregnant and parenting youth from shelter due to limited bed capacity at the shelter.

Youth of Color

Nationally, young people who are Black, Hispanic, and Indigenous experience homelessness at higher rates than their white, non-Hispanic peers, largely due to systemic and structural racism. These individuals are at the greatest risk of experiencing housing instability or homelessness. There are plenty of factors that contribute to youth of color in homelessness, some of those factors are housing discrimination, access to quality health care, and incarceration.

Racism negatively impacts a young person’s sense of self. As teenagers, young people establish critical aspects of their identity within the various environments, influences, and exposures that surround them. In the book [“Reaching Teens,”](#) Kenneth R. Ginsburg, MD, MS Ed, FAAP, FSAHM; and Zachary Brett Ramirez McClain, MD write that these forces can either build strengths or “create tension and deliver toxic levels of stress.” Racism also attempts to lock young people of color into low expectations for their lives, the authors add.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), in their [2019 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report](#), shows people of color experience homelessness at rates disproportionate to their white counterparts. According to HUD, Black and African American people comprise 40% of all people facing homelessness, though they are only 13% of the U.S. population. Hispanic and Latin people make up 22% of the homeless population and 18.5% of the overall U.S. population. And Indigenous people face homelessness at about three times their population share of 1.3%. [National Alliance to End Homelessness reports](#) that most minority groups in the United States experience homelessness at higher rates than Whites, and therefore make up a disproportionate share of the homeless population. African Americans make up 13% of the general population, but more than 40% of the homeless population. Similarly, American Indians/Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, and people who identify as two or more races make up a disproportionate share of the homeless population. Hispanics make up a share of the homeless population equal to their share of the general population, while Whites and Asians are significantly underrepresented.

Pathways to youth homelessness include problematic foster placements or aging out of foster care, poverty and economic disadvantage, lack of access to housing, uncompleted high school education, and criminal justice involvement. These pathways reveal the ongoing harm caused by systemic racism today. In Central Oregon, youth and young adults of color are underrepresented in the overall population and overrepresented in their experience of homelessness as national studies suggest.

HMIS Data 2023

At Risk Homeless Youth (60 youth)

- 5% Black or African American
- 16% Hispanic/Latinx ethnicity
- 20% American Indian or Alaskan Native

Youth Experiencing Homeless (278 youth)

- 7.9% Black or African American
- 22% Hispanic/Latinx ethnicity
- 7.2% American Indian or Alaskan Native

Parenting At-Risk (28 youth)

- 7% Black or African American
- 25% Hispanic/Latinx ethnicity
- 10% American Indian or Alaskan Native

Parenting Experiencing (35 youth)

- 8.5% Black or African American
- 34% Hispanic/Latinx ethnicity
- 5.7% American Indian or Alaskan Native

Source: 2023 HMIS Data

Total Population in Central Oregon Counties

- 2.69% Black or African American
- 0.84% American Indian/Alaskan Native
- 0.38% Hispanic/Latinx ethnicity

Source: 2020 US (United States) Census Data

LGBTQ+ and Gender Non-conforming Youth

Research from [The Journal of Adolescent Health, Prevalence, and correlates of youth homelessness in the United States](#), shows that:

“Those who identify as LGBTQ+ have a 120% higher risk of experiencing some form of homelessness. Researchers found that up to 40% of the 4.2 million youth experiencing homelessness identifying as LGBTQ+, while only 9.5% of the U.S. population. LGBTQ+ youth disproportionately experience homelessness compared to their straight and cisgender peers. Additionally, they are also more likely to experience assault, trauma, depression, and suicide when compared to non-LGBTQ+ populations while also being homeless. These statistics are even worse for Black and Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) LGBTQ+ populations who suffer from racial inequities and discrimination.”

The National Association of Social Workers found that among the top reasons for LGBTQ youth homelessness, 46% were rejected by their family and 43% were forced out of their homes by their parents.

A survey completed by [The Trevor Project](#) finds: 28% of LGBTQ youth reported experiencing homelessness or housing instability at some point in their lives — and those who did had two to four times the odds of reporting depression, anxiety, self-harm, considering suicide, and attempting suicide compared to those with stable housing.

[Data from Children’s Rights](#) highlights the intersections between foster care, homelessness and abuse and neglect for YYA who are LGBTQ. 78% were removed or ran away from foster homes because of the hostilities they faced, and 56 percent chose to live on the street—rather than in a foster care placement—because they felt safer there.

Historically HMIS data surrounding gender and sexual orientation has been difficult to pull from our regional data. Local providers have relied on internal tracking to offer an accurate representation of local YYA numbers. In 2023, shelter providers The LOFT and Grandmas House completed intake assessments with all YYA entering shelter, of those youth in 2023, 42%at Grandmas House and 64% at The LOFT identified as LGBTQ. Additionally, youth accessing youth specific services for YYA experiencing homelessness, 43% of our drop in center youth, 30% of our street outreach youth. There are many contributing factors to the limited data available in systems like HMIS or in our regions PIT Count.

Youth Involved with Juvenile Justice

Young adults and youths who are at risk or already experiencing homelessness are more likely to become involved with the juvenile justice system. This vulnerability puts them in a precarious situation, and it is important that we find effective ways to address this issue and provide them with the support and assistance they need to avoid such negative outcomes.

The State of Oregon Juvenile Justice Department uses a data system to collect information on YYA who have been involved with the Juvenile Justice System, however that data system does not collect information about whether the YYA is at risk of homelessness, has a history of homelessness, or is currently experiencing homelessness. When the CoC reached out to Deschutes County Juvenile Justice, they explained this and offered to survey their staff regarding their current caseload and whether any of the YYA currently being served in the system are experiencing homelessness. Deschutes Juvenile Justice staff reported that of the YYA involved with the system, staff were aware of 6 youth currently experiencing homelessness. [State of Oregon](#) reports there were 978 runaway reports were filed in Oregon in 2022. The number of non-filed runaways is estimated by providers to be 2-3 times higher based referrals to local providers indicating there may be over 2,900 in the state. Given that 1 in 5 runaways are sex trafficking victims [National Network for Youth](#), that could mean 580+ trafficking survivors are in the state of Oregon, all of whom would qualify for services from our local services for YYA experiencing homelessness.

Youth Involved in Child Welfare

According to the [Oregon Child Welfare Data Book](#), ODHS received 162,185 reports of child abuse in 2021 (most recent available). Many of these victims remained in their homes, however, 18.4% of victims were removed from their homes and placed in care. [ODHS's 2021 Child Welfare Data Book](#) shows that 8,620 children spent at least one day in foster care in 2021. The daily average number of children in foster care was 5,665 in 2021.

Research from [The National Foster Youth Initiative](#) show 20% of foster youth will become homeless the day they age out and approximately 20,000 people age out every year, that means approximately 4,000 youth per year leave foster care into homelessness. [Nationally, around 29% of youth without housing between the ages of 13 and 25 have spent time in foster care](#). These statistics highlight the vulnerability of foster youth to homelessness during their transition to adulthood.

While the practice of hotel placements helps meet a child's immediate need for emergency shelter, it does little to provide youth with the positive development that they need in a time of such crisis. A customary practice of Oregon's DHS that meets both the need for immediate shelter and encouragement of positive youth development is placement in independent living facilities. [The Oregon Child System of Care Data Dashboard](#) shows, in 2018 1,351 of the 11,445-youth receiving care from DHS received services from independent living facilities. Such facilities help to fill the gap between foster care children and foster care providers. This is especially true for the YYA experiencing homelessness in Central Oregon.

Youth involved with child welfare often face challenges when they age-out of the system. In Central Oregon, Child Welfare partners with a youth provider to offer an Independent Living Program (ILP). ILP provides housing navigation, life skills and case management to YYA experiencing homelessness. However, there are few navigators and youth only have access to this resource if they are referred from their ODHS caseworker and there is a slot open for the youth before they age out. While most YYA exiting foster care qualify for a Family Reunification Voucher (3 years of rental assistance), Central Oregon is vastly under resourced in the number of FUP (Family Unification Program) vouchers we receive, YYA exiting foster care are not always offered this resource and many more YYA experience homelessness in Central Oregon than vouchers are allocated. As referenced below, Central Oregon's ILP program served 56 YYA, of which 13 were unaccompanied youth ages 14-24yo at risk of homelessness; 12 were unaccompanied youth ages 14-24yo experiencing homelessness; 2 were pregnant and parenting youth ages 14-24yo at risk of homelessness; 0 were pregnant and parenting youth ages 14-24yo experiencing homelessness.

Trafficking and sexual exploitation

YYA experiencing homelessness are at an especially high risk for sexual exploitation, abuse, and human trafficking (sex & labor). More than 4.2 million youth ages 13-25 experience a period of homelessness in the U.S. each year, according to [Covenant House](#). Their research revealed that 68% of youth who had either been trafficked or engaged in survival sex had done so while homeless, and that nearly 1 in 4 were approached for paid sex on their first night of homelessness.

JBYS has completed community needs assessments related to sex and labor trafficking. Services were designed as a response to those assessments. Data reflects an increasing need for services in the region. Since 2016, the program has provided services to over 450 survivors of human trafficking. Total identified trafficking survivors according to at: project data for FY2022 was 80. Additionally, in the first two quarters of 2022-2023 the program has worked with 59 trafficking survivors (10/22 – 03/23), an indication that trafficking may be on the rise in the region - 36% of those victims were under the age of 18. In addition, 40% of clients accessing services through JBYS Street Outreach Program have reported exchanging sex for money. Those same clients reported frequenting internet sites where traffickers advertise.

According to [The Department of State](#), Of the estimated 600,000 to 800,000 people trafficked across international borders annually, 80 percent of victims are female, and up to 50 percent are minors. Hundreds of thousands of these women and children are used in prostitution each year.

Reports from [Biometrica](#) show, 70% of women involved in prostitution were introduced to the commercial sex trade before age 18 and 56% of prostituted women were likely YYA who experience homelessness. The [National Center](#) for Missing & Exploited Children 74% of runaways were in the care of social services or foster care when they ran.

The at: project screens potential survivors using the CSE-IT tool. To identify trafficking in programs that serve YYA experiencing homelessness, the at: project provides trafficking awareness groups at JBYS programs that are victim centered, giving youth an opportunity to engage with a trafficking advocate.

The high rate of unsheltered youth and children in Oregon raises serious concern for their vulnerability and the threat of sexual exploitation and trafficking, now and into adulthood.

Population	Data Source(s)	Estimates of # of Youth
YYA engaged in homeless services locally	10/1/2022-9/30/2023 CSE-IT Tool	38 youth confirmed case
YYA engaged in homeless services locally	10/1/2022-9/30/2023 CSE-IT Tool	247 Youth At-Risk of trafficking

Youth with co-occurring Diagnosis

Deschutes County Behavioral Health, our region's largest provider of behavioral health services, provided data related to the YYA served in 2023 in their Early Assessment and Support Alliance (EASA), Wraparound and Young Adults in Transition (YAT) programs. In 2023, 12% of YYA ages 14-24 years old enrolled in EASA programs experienced homelessness, 9% of YAT clients, 4 percent of YAT clients were at risk of experiencing homelessness.

While, Central Oregon has limited capacity outside of HMIS to assess how many YYA experiencing homelessness have co-occurring diagnosis. In 2023, 123 YYA indicated “Yes” for a disability, 62 of those 123 indicated “Yes” for multiple disabilities.

Number of Disabilities	Number of Youth Clients
1	61
2	38
3	13
4	7
5	2
6	1
7+	1

Of YYA who indicated having a disability, 98 YYA reported to experiencing a Mental Health Disorder; 30 Physical health; 26 reported having a Developmental disability; 26 Drug Use Disorder; 22 Chronic Health Condition; 15 reported experiencing both Alcohol and Drug Use Disorders; 7 reported Alcohol Use Disorder; 2 to having HIV/AIDS; 1 to having a Vision Impaired.

Disability	Number of Youth Clients Indicating “Yes”
Alcohol Use Disorder (HUD)	7
Both Alcohol and Drug Use Disorder (HUD)	15
Chronic Health Condition (HUD)	22
Developmental (HUD)	26
Drug Use Disorder (HUD)	26
HIV/AIDS	2
Mental Health Disorder (HUD)	98
Physical (HUD)	30
Vision Impaired (Non-HUD)	1

Barriers YYA face

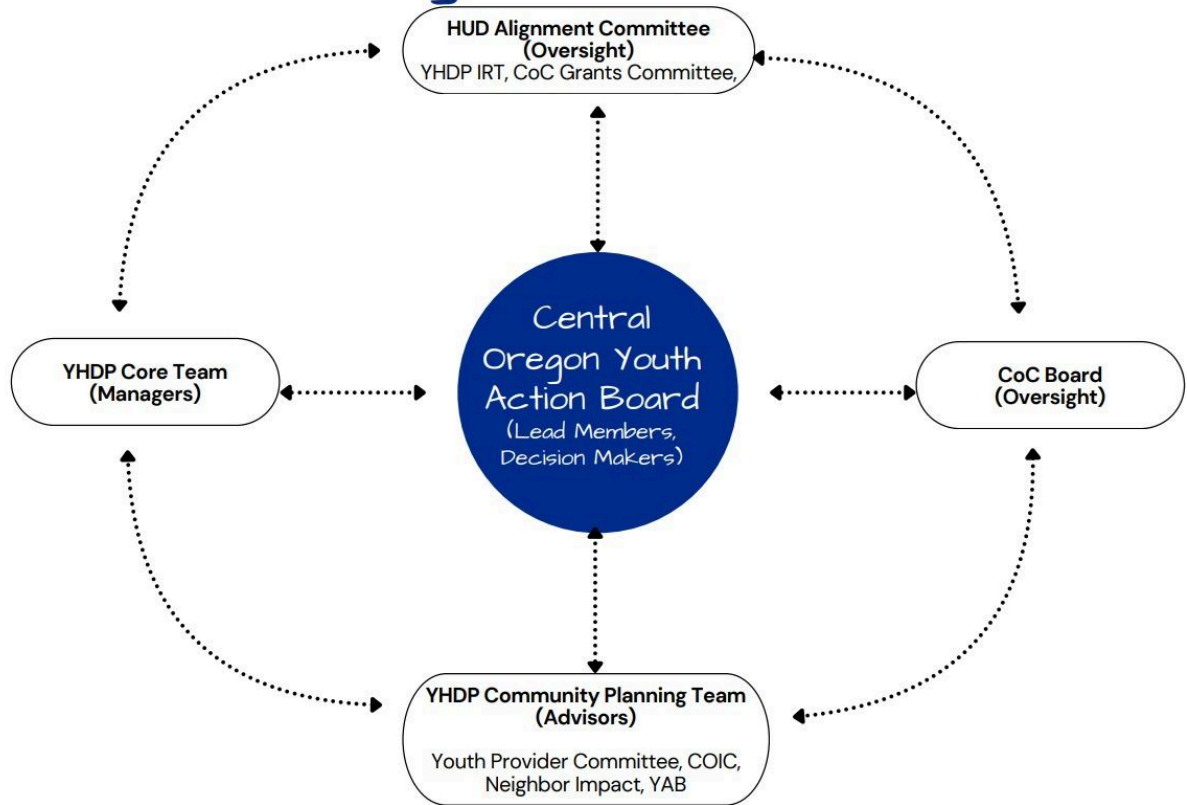
YYA who are experiencing homelessness face many barriers to long-term financial stability and access to the following:

- **Housing:** As stated elsewhere in this document, Central Oregon has a lack of affordable housing and programs that support rental subsidies that make housing attainable. YYA applying for housing are competing for units against community members who have credit, income, and rental histories, wherein youth lack many, if not all of these.
- **Childcare:** In Central Oregon, there is a childcare shortage and a recent freeze in childcare assistance at the local self-sufficiency. Lack of affordable childcare, and a one-year or longer waitlist create barriers for parenting youth and young adults who want to go to school or work to become financially self-sufficient. Even when YYA’s find childcare, Central Oregon lacks childcare open past 5pm, wherein most YYA’s starting off in the workforce are scheduled swing or night shifts.
- **Employment:** YYA struggle to find employment that pays enough to support themselves in Central Oregon with high rental markets and low paying jobs. Employment and childcare go hand in hand for YYA who are parenting, you cannot sustain one without the other. Pregnant youth face difficulties with employment when accessing medical care needed during pregnancy and birth.
- **Transportation:** Central Oregon is 15,000sq miles of mostly rural, spread-out communities. While we have a transportation system, only Bend, our largest city, has a bus route. There are routes that will take an individual to most communities in Central Oregon, but no regular routes to get around in the communities themselves. Transportation is a huge barrier for YYA.

3. List of Goals, Objectives, & Action Steps – Including YHDP Principles - Due August 1st, 2024

4. Governance & Partners

Central Oregon YHDP Governance



OLDER ADULT PARTNER GROUPS CAN ADD TO YAB DECISIONS, BUT CANNOT TAKE AWAY FROM THEM.
DECISIONS START WITH THE YAB AND FINAL DECISIONS END WITH THE YAB, WITH COLLABORATION IN BETWEEN

Governance Model Description

The Governance Structure for YHDP was created with feedback from the Youth Action Board and will be implemented to empower Youth and Young Adults (YYA) to drive the decision-making process for the OR-503 Continuum of Care on issues impacting youth experiencing homelessness in Central Oregon.

The Governance Structure allows for the YAB to participate in a leadership capacity in the entire process, from learning about new funding opportunities alongside the core team, to leading the process to determine which programs will have the greatest impact on youth homelessness, to ultimately awarding funding to providers as an integral part of the CoC Grants Committee.

This structure allows for those with lived expertise to drive the process, based on their knowledge and experience in the system. The structure also insulates the YAB, and allows for discussion and information sharing among other trusted CoC partners, to ensure the ideal outcomes for our youth homeless response system.

Partners in Governance

- **Continuum of Care (CoC) Board - Oversight**

The CoC Board is the governing body for the Central Oregon Region/ Continuum of Care and meets all requirements for HUD. The CoC provides oversight and accountability for all CoC activities (which include YHDP). The CoC reserves a voting board seat for a member of the YAB. The YAB annually approves its representative to serve in the CoC voting board seat.

- **CoC Grants Committee - Oversight**

This Committee oversees the process for CoC grant applications, CoC funds administration, provides project monitoring and oversight and drives training and technical assistance needs for CoC grantees. The Grants Committee is made up of CoC board leadership, the YAB, the Collaborative Applicant, the HMIS Lead Agency and community partners. All members of the YAB and any other young people with lived experience are encouraged to participate in this Committee.

- **YHDP Independent Review Team (IRT) Work Group - Lead; Voting Members, Decision-makers**

This Sub-Committee co-creates, monitors, and assesses a comprehensive and appropriate menu of services for YYA experiencing homelessness and housing instability. This committee evaluates proposals for YHDP and provides funding recommendations to the CoC Board for Central Oregon's CoC funding for youth homeless housing and services. Leadership of this sub-committee must include YAB members. All members of the YAB and any other young people with lived experience are encouraged to participate in this Sub-Committee.

- **Youth Action Board (YAB) - Lead; Voting Members, Decision-makers**

The YAB reviews and approves all proposals to change CoC policies and procedures related to the CoC services for YYA before final approval by the CoC Board. The YAB also generates proposals. An elected member of the YAB also serves on the CoC IRT Team, YHDP Core Team, CoC Grants Committee, and CoC board.

- **YHDP Core Team - Manage**

The YHDP Core team writes the Coordinated Community Plan (CCP). This Team leads the Request for Proposals (RFP) process, coordinates the implementation, and manages the day-to-day work of the YHDP. This Team must include YAB members, all members of the YAB and any other young people with lived experience are encouraged to participate.

- **Youth Provider Committee (currently "Youth Action Committee" in CoC Charter) - Advise**

This Committee is made up of service providers who serve YYA who are experiencing homelessness. As the youth case conferencing team, they collaborate directly with the HMIS Lead Agency for Built for Zero, Coordinated Entry and HMIS integration for YYA. Due to confidentiality, only current YYA service providers attend the Case Conferencing meetings of this Committee, however all other meetings encourage participation.

- **Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council (COIC) - Facilitation, Advising, & Admin Support**

As the CoC's Collaborative Applicant, COIC facilitates regular meetings for OR-503 CoC, provides administrative and data support, advocates for and provides funding for the CoC, participates in Core Group meetings, and helps to generate the "political will" to support the YHDP.

- **NeighborImpact - Advising and Data Sharing**

As the CoC's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Lead Agency for OR-503 CoC, Neighbor Impact provides administrative and data support.

Stakeholders

The Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) award has been an opportunity to bring community partners together in Central Oregon to strategize and make a plan to address youth homelessness in a collaborative way. The YHDP has created an intentional space for providers serving youth and young adults to get together from across the region to share their experiences and envision a future where all youth and young adults in Central Oregon have access to opportunities that meet their needs. Through the planning process for the Coordinated Community Plan (CCP), new providers have joined the effort and new relationships have been made across geographic boundaries, in an effort to better serve the youth experiencing homelessness in Central Oregon. We're hopeful these partnerships strengthen our youth homeless response system and lead to better outcomes for the vulnerable in our community.

Our region has room to grow in the way our response system invites and includes sub-population specific providers into the process. Despite many invitations, our Continuum of Care (CoC) continues to experience challenges in attaining buy-in from community partners, primarily due to lack of capacity, but also likely due to a lack of clarity on the impact their participation could have. Looking to the future, the CoC and the region would benefit from increased participation from providers and entities offering sub-population specific services.

Stakeholder Chart

Partner	Partner's Name & Role	Involvement (Data, Practice, Policy, Integration)
Youth Action Board	Central Oregon Youth Action Board (YAB)	The members of the Central Oregon YAB serve as part of the YHDP Core Team, and represent youth voice and lived-experience in planning meetings, YHDP On-sites, and core team meetings, making final approval of the CCP. Centering Youth in the decision-making process is a core tenet of YHDP, and the YAB embodies that leadership in Central Oregon. The YAB is staffed by J Bar J Youth Services, another crucial partner in the fight to end youth homelessness in Central Oregon
Public Child Welfare Agencies (ODHS)	Oregon Department of Human Services Child Welfare	Data Sharing, participation in YHDP On-sites, participation in system modeling, homelessness prevention and planning, approval of CCP
Continuum of Care and Emergency Solutions Grant Program Recipients	Central Oregon FUSE	Site based adult PSH provider
	JBar J Youth Services	Recipient Provision of Data, Staff Support for YAB, Member of Core Team, Participation in YHDP On-Sites, System Modeling and planning
	NeighborImpact	Provision of Data, HMIS Data Lead, ESG recipient
Local and State Government	COIC	Collaborative Applicant, Young Adult Alternative Education Provider, Public Transit Operator, Endorsement of CCP
	CHRO	Deschutes County Homelessness Coordinating Body
	State of Oregon YEHP, OHCS	Funding Support, Provision of Data
	Counties	Public Health Providers
Runaway and Homeless Youth Program Providers	J Bar J Youth Services	Provision of Data, Staff Support for YAB, Member of Core Team, Participation in YHDP On-Sites, System Modeling and planning
	ILP	Independent Living Program for youth exiting foster care

Tribal Nations	Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs	(Potential) Data Sharing
Physical Health	St. Charles	Data Sharing
	Mosaic Community Health (MCH)	Data Sharing, Referrals, Planning, Participation in YHDP on-sites
Mental Health	HOST Program (Deschutes County Operated Program)	Data Sharing, Referrals, participation in YHDP on-sites
	Deschutes County Behavioral Health Youth Programs YAT, WRAP, EASA	Data Sharing, Referrals for YAB members, participation in YHDP on-sites
	Best Care	System Modeling & Planning
Substance Abuse Agencies	Ideal Options	Planning & Modeling, meeting participation
	Best Care	Planning & Modeling, meeting participation
	Rimrock Trails	Planning & Modeling, meeting participation
	Turning Points	Planning & Modeling, meeting participation
	SriPonya	Planning & Modeling, meeting participation, participation in YHDP on-sites
Juvenile and Adult Corrections and Probation	Deschutes County Juvenile Justice	Provision of Data, participating in meetings, participation in YHDP on-sites
	Crook County Juvenile Justice	Provision of Data, participating in meetings
	Adult Corrections - (Deschutes Sheriff Office - through Ideal options	Provision of Data, participating in meetings?
Local and State Law Enforcement and Judges	Bend PD	Assisting with system modeling and planning, participating in meetings
	Deschutes Sheriff's Office	Assisting with system modeling and planning, participating in meetings
	School Resource Officers	Data Sharing?, Assisting with system modeling and planning, participating in meetings
	Redmond PD	Assisting with system modeling and planning, participating in meetings
	Deschutes County DA's Office - Victim Advocates	Assisting with system modeling and planning, participating in meetings
Public Housing Authorities	Housing Works	data sharing, system modeling, planning, & participating in meetings
Affordable Housing Providers	Epic Property Management	system modeling, planning, & participating in meetings
Early Childhood Development and Child Care Providers	NeighborImpact	Provision of Data, HMIS Data Lead
Local and State Educational Agencies	Better Together	Collaboration between partners, planning, data sharing, participating in meetings
Institutions of Higher Education	COCC	Participating in meetings
	OSU-Cascades	Participating in meetings
Non-Profit Youth Organizations	Boys & Girls Club	Data Sharing, Planning, Participation in Meetings
	Big Brothers Big Sisters	J Bar J Program
	Vamanos Outside	Opportunity for future partnership, Latino Youth outdoors program.
Landlords	Epic Property Management	Tied in with Housing Works, Planning, System Modeling, Data Sharing, Participation in Meetings
Local Advocacy, Research, and Philanthropic Organizations	Bend YIMBY	Advocacy around affordable housing
	Oregon Community Foundation	Funding Support
	Ford Family Foundation	Funding Support
	Roundhouse Foundation	Funding Support

	Meyer Memorial Trust	Funding Support
	United Way	Funding Support
	League of Women Voters	Advocacy, YAB trainings & support, planning, system modeling, meeting participation?
Organizations that serve culturally specific (Black, Latino, Indigenous, people with disabilities, LGBTQ, etc.) communities	Fathers Group	Fathers Group is an organization that supports Black/African American individuals and families and helps create community in Central Oregon. System modeling & planning, participating in meetings
	OUT Central Oregon	OUT Central Oregon is an organization that supports Queer & LGBTQIA2S+ community members of Central Oregon. System modeling & planning, participating in meetings
	Latino Community Association	Latino Community Association is an organization that supports Latino/a community members. System modeling & planning, participating in meetings
	P-Flag	System modeling & planning, participating in meetings
	Abilitree	Abilitree is an organization that supports independent living in Central Oregon. System modeling & planning, participating in meetings
	Central Oregon Disability Support Network (CODSN)	CODSN is an organization that supports individuals living with disabilities in Central Oregon. System modeling & planning, participating in meetings
	Embrace Bend	Embrace Bend is an organization that supports Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion integration in Central Oregon. System modeling & planning, participating in meetings
Continuum of Care Board	Homeless Leadership Coalition	Planning & System modeling, participation in meetings, approval and oversight of all CoC activities, endorsement of CCP
VA/SSVF	COVO	Referral Partner
	Tri County Veterans Services Offices	Referral Partner
Metropolitan Library	Deschutes Public Library	Future opportunity for connection and referrals. Resource Hubs.
	Jefferson Public Library	Future opportunity for connection and referrals. Resource Hubs.
	Crook Public Library	Future opportunity for connection and referrals. Resource Hubs.
Workforce	COIC	Collaborative Applicant, Young Adult Alternative Education Provider, Public Transit Operator, Endorsement of CCP
Immigrant & Refugees	AT Project	J Bar J Program, Data Sharing, Planning, Meeting participation
	Latino Community Association (LCA)	Community Building, Data Sharing, Planning Support, Future Meeting Participation
Faith-based Orgs	Mountainview Community Fellowship	Data Sharing, Planning & System Modeling, potential meeting participation
	Shepherd's House	Data Sharing, Planning & System Modeling, potential meeting participation
	First Presbyterian	Data Sharing, Planning & System Modeling, potential meeting participation
	Bethlehem Inn	Data Sharing, Planning & System Modeling, potential meeting participation
	Foundry Church (?)	Data Sharing, Planning & System Modeling, potential meeting participation

	Redemption House Ministries	Data Sharing, Planning & System Modeling, potential meeting participation
	JCFBN	Data Sharing, Planning & System Modeling, potential meeting participation
	Unitarian Universalist Fellowship	Data Sharing, Planning & System Modeling, potential meeting participation
Crisis Support	Cascade Youth and Family Center (CYFC) Crisis Support Line	J Bar J Youth Services Program, meeting participation, data sharing, planning

5. New Project List – Including YHDP Principles –

Description of the Process

The Homeless Leadership Coalition, Central Oregon’s Continuum of Care, was awarded an initial grant amount of \$953,950 through HUD’s FY2022 Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) Competition. Initial grants from this process will have a 2-year grant term. Thereafter, YHDP is expected to be renewed annually through the Annual CoC Program Competition. Funding through this opportunity can be used to support eligible activities under the Continuum of Care. COIC did not apply for the non-renewable planning grant for their role supporting the Continuum through this process, in an effort to maximize the amount of renewable funding to support Central Oregon’s service providers. The following outlines proposed projects that the Continuum would like to support through the YHDP process.

In order to come to the recommendations listed below, the CoC conducted, with support from Technical Assistance Providers, both virtual and in-person listening sessions to hear from community members, service providers, youth and young adults, and those with lived-experience about the gaps in Central Oregon’s Youth Homeless Response System. Through System Modeling, our Youth Action Board was empowered to take a critical look at Central Oregon’s established homeless response system, and highlight the paths youth in Central Oregon can take towards Housing Stability. Final decisions for projects and funding allocations were formally voted on by the YAB and will be voted on by the CoC before August 1st, 2024.

Rapid Rehousing (RRH)

Project Type

Rapid Rehousing (RRH) - Assistance for up to 36 months

Project Description

These projects prioritize a quick transition out of homelessness and into permanent housing by providing up to 36 months of housing and supportive services. Our CoC anticipates funding numerous RRH units through the YHDP process. These programs may vary some on program design but will follow the key principles described in this project description. Applicants may submit project proposals for RRH programs that offer either housing with the young person as the leaseholder or with the agency as the lease holder in a master lease. RRH programs will be low-barrier and will provide opportunities for youth-centered feedback on programs and policies on a regular basis. Clients will be placed in CoC-funded units through the Coordinated Entry process. HUD expects that at least 50% of the YHDP award will be spent on housing, determined as percentage of Rental Assistance, Leasing, and Operating budget line items across community projects compared to the total YHDP award.

RRH services can be project-based or scattered-site housing. Projects can also incorporate shared housing to help youth sustain housing after assistance ends or according to each individual or family's needs. Assistance for youth households (individuals and families) with rapid rehousing will be provided by supporting clients with unit identification, applying to access the units, and ultimately moving into permanent housing with subsidized rent (limited to 36 months), with additional supportive services included, as necessary.

While youth are enrolled in RRH programs, in addition to housing services, clients will be offered trauma-informed and youth-centered supportive services, including (but not limited to):

- Individualized, client-driven resource referrals to meet immediate, basic needs.
- Assistance addressing or clearing criminal background
- Connection to education and training resources, including connection to financial assistance
- Connection to employment
- Connection to community activities or groups
- Support with Furnishing Unit
- Life Skills Programs - in-person and virtual options
- Mental Health and Counseling supports

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Inclusion in the Youth Action Board (YAB) ● Goals for Transitioning out of supported housing ● Support with transportation ● Fair Housing Training - Tenants Rights ● On-site or prioritized referrals to child care for pregnant and/or parenting youth
Target population and number served (annually)	Youth & Young Adults, pregnant youth, and parenting youth between the ages of 16-24 who are experiencing or are at risk of homelessness, including all special populations. Expected 15-20 households per year.
Target number of housing units	Approximately 15 1–2-bedroom units. Rental assistance will last up to 36 months, depending on the needs of the program participants.
Staffing	Projects are required to have adequate staffing, including case management and peer navigation. Staff to client ratio should be a minimum of 1:15
Projected Annual Cost (2-year Initial Grant Term)	\$476,975

6. Signatures - Due August 1st, 2024

The CCP is designed to be a full-scale plan for preventing and ending youth homelessness and because it will take more than homeless service system to accomplish the end state, cross-system partners are critical to the work.

Name _____

Title _____

Organization _____

Signature _____

Date _____



Federal Prevention Framework
Ending Homelessness Before it Starts
United States Interagency Council on Homelessness





Ending Homelessness Before It Starts: **A Federal Homelessness Prevention Framework**

U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness

September 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Click Below to Jump

Acknowledgements.....	2
Overview.....	2
Introduction.....	4
Terms and Concepts to Guide Prevention Strategies.....	5
Values to Guide Homelessness Prevention.....	8
Goals for Homelessness Prevention.....	8
Building a Community Approach to Homelessness Prevention.....	11
Identify and Gather Partners.....	12
Utilize Data to Inform Your Planning.....	16
Map Services to Create Shared Understanding of Local Resources and Programs.....	22
Develop an Action Plan.....	24
Implement Plan, Track Outcomes, and Work Continuously to Improve.....	25
Homelessness Prevention Categories.....	27
Prevention (Primary) Programs and Policies That Promote Stable Housing.....	29
Diversion (Secondary) Programs That Help People Avoid Homelessness.....	31
Rehousing and Stabilization (Tertiary) Programs That Help People Quickly Get Into Housing and Promote Stability Once They Are Housed.....	32
Promising Approaches to Homelessness Prevention.....	34
Resources That Can Be Used for Prevention.....	39
Additional Resources.....	42

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This framework was developed at the recommendation of the White House Homelessness Prevention Working Group. We thank our partners at the U.S. departments of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Health and Human Services (HHS), and Veterans Affairs (VA) for helping to inform the drafting. Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) provided administrative support, and USICH extends a special thanks to the people with lived experience of homelessness who shared their wisdom to inform the development of this framework.

DISCLAIMER: This material is based upon work supported by funding under an award with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The substance and findings of the work are dedicated to the public. Neither the United States Government, nor any of its employees, makes any warranty, express or implied, or assumes any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of any information, apparatus, product, or process disclosed, or represents that its use would not infringe privately-owned rights. Reference herein to any specific commercial product, process, or service by trade name, trademark, manufacturer, or otherwise does not necessarily constitute or imply its endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the U.S. Government or any agency thereof. Opinions expressed in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official position of, or a position that is endorsed by, HUD or by any HUD program.

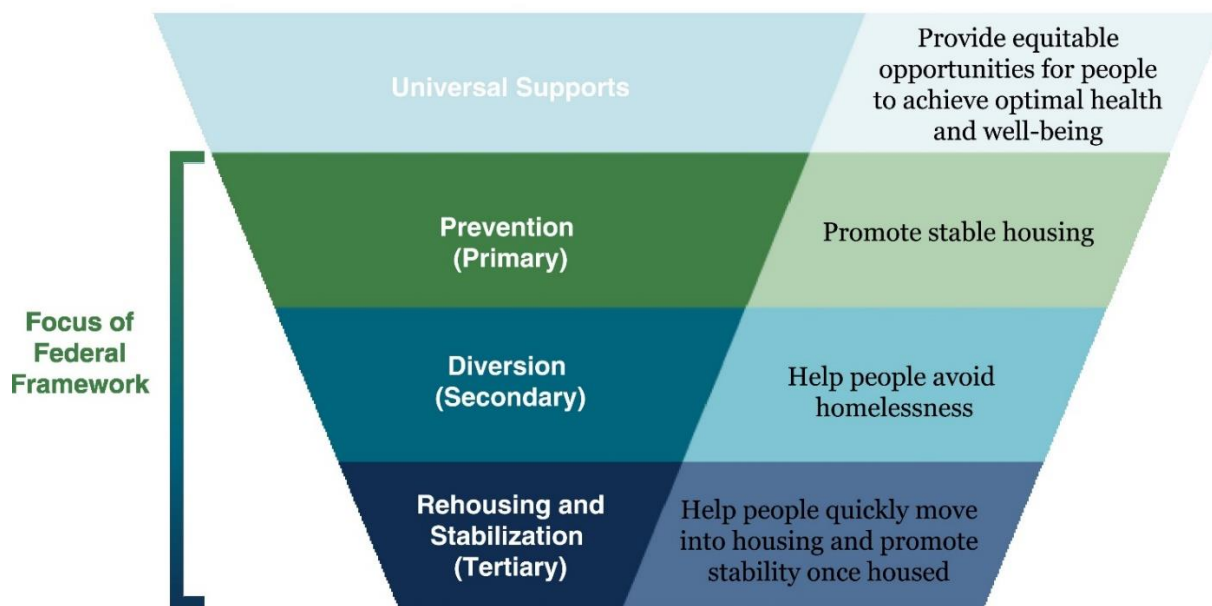
OVERVIEW

Building upon [All In: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness](#), a multi-year, interagency blueprint, and the [System Planning: Framework for Homelessness Prevention](#), the Homelessness Prevention Framework is an actionable guide to help government agencies, Tribal nations, non-profits, funders, people with lived experience of homelessness or housing instability, and other partners with interest in preventing and ending homelessness (see full list below) to work together across systems, as well as within their own, to better support housing stability and prevent homelessness. Using the information in this guide, communities will be able to develop and implement a cross-system homelessness prevention strategy grounded in the expertise of people with lived experience of homelessness or housing instability, equity, efficiency, and effectiveness.

This framework:

- Provides recommendations for collaborating across systems to coordinate a community approach to homelessness prevention ([Building A Community Approach to Homelessness Prevention](#))
- Defines three categories of homelessness prevention that can be used to structure cross-sector resource mapping and prevention planning ([Homelessness Prevention Categories](#))

Categories of Homelessness Prevention



- Shares promising practices for homelessness prevention programs ([Promising Approaches to Homelessness Prevention](#))
- Details resources from multiple systems that can be used for homelessness prevention ([Resources That Can Be Used for Prevention](#))

This framework is intended for a wide range of audiences, including:

- Federal, state, county, city, and territorial governments, Tribal nations, and other units of government
- Systems, providers, staff, advocates, and others focused on housing, health, behavioral health, justice, education, employment, economic mobility, child welfare, other human services, and emergency services
- Providers (including culturally-astute organizations) that support Veterans, LGBTQIA+¹ individuals, families, children, youth, young adults, youth aging out of foster care, older adults, people with disabilities, survivors of violence and human trafficking, people exiting juvenile and adult corrections, and other populations
- Philanthropic, corporate, and other funders
- People who have experienced or are experiencing or at risk of homelessness or housing instability

Note: This framework provides some common language and grounding that partners from different systems can work from to build a collaborative approach to prevention. We acknowledge that federal agencies and community-based organizations that work in various systems use different definitions (such as for homelessness) and terms specific to the programs, grants, and/or services they offer, which are not covered in this framework but are critical to local conversations.

¹ LGBTQIA+: Abbreviation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, and Asexual. The additional “+” stands for all of the other identities not encompassed in the short acronym.

“The overall number of people experiencing homelessness will only go down if more people exit homelessness than enter it. Ending homelessness requires working on both fronts—rehousing people who are already homeless while preventing people from becoming homeless in the first place.”

– All In: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness

INTRODUCTION

Safe, stable, and affordable housing is critical to well-being and tied to many outcomes, including mental and physical health, safety, life expectancy, education, and financial well-being. In 2022, the [United States Interagency Council on Homelessness](#) (USICH) released [All In: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness](#), outlining a blueprint for federal action to support a future where everyone has a safe, stable, accessible, and affordable home, and no one experiences homelessness. *All In* recognizes that work to prevent homelessness before it begins is critical to this overall effort. In addition, *All In* recognizes that interdisciplinary, interagency, and intergovernmental action is required to effectively create a response comprehensive enough to address the complex problem of homelessness.

The Homelessness Prevention Framework emphasizes the importance of proactive prevention and a collaborative, cross-system response. Communities have a wide range of resources, services, and programs that can support people in maintaining safe and stable housing, preventing homelessness, and navigating housing challenges without someone ever needing to enter the homelessness response system. These include universal supports such as broad anti-poverty programs, affordable housing, living wage jobs, as well as programs and resources that help people attain a livable income and meet basic needs, including workforce development and education programs, income supports, health care, and more. Although these universal programs require significant resources and political will to implement and maintain, they go a long way toward ensuring everyone has what they need to access safe, stable, and affordable housing.

The homelessness response system differs by community, but often includes emergency shelters and housing resources prioritized for people with the greatest needs. It is designed to triage and support those in crisis when all other resources and options have been exhausted. **The homelessness response system is intended to serve as a last resort, rather than the first response, as it is not designed to meet all the housing needs in a community.**

This framework focuses on the prevention programs and strategies in the middle of the spectrum between universal supports and the homelessness response system. Prevention work, which take many different forms (as detailed in the [Homelessness Prevention Categories](#) section of this document), can and should be a part of the work of every sector and system that interacts with people at risk of or experiencing a housing crisis.

This framework is designed as an actionable guide to help government agencies, Tribal nations, non-profits, funders, people with lived experience of housing instability and/or homelessness, and other partners with interest in preventing and ending homelessness (see more comprehensive list in the [Overview](#)) to work together across systems, as well as within their own, to better support housing stability and prevent homelessness. The framework is meant to aid prevention efforts by offering shared [terms](#), [values](#), [goals](#), and [definition of homelessness prevention categories](#); providing a series of actionable steps to help communities [build a collective approach to prevention](#); and sharing [promising approaches](#) and [resources](#) that communities can consider as they work together to improve their local homelessness prevention efforts.

Supporting housing stability and preventing homelessness can and should be part of the work of every sector and system that interacts with people at risk of or experiencing a housing crisis.

This framework will not go into depth about the unique needs of specific populations, such as Veterans, families, youth and young people, older adults, people with disabilities, LGBTQIA+ persons, and survivors of violence and human trafficking. However, as communities use the action steps and context from this guide to [build a community approach to homelessness prevention](#), it is crucial to include people with these identities and lived experiences and the organizations and systems that serve these populations to ensure that their unique needs are being considered and met through the community-wide approach to prevention.

TERMS AND CONCEPTS TO GUIDE PREVENTION STRATEGIES

Being **stably housed** (or having housing stability) means that an individual or family can stay in their housing over an extended period without being at immediate risk of eviction or otherwise having to leave. This includes having the financial security or stable income stream to maintain the housing (by paying the rent or mortgage,

utilities, and other costs necessary to keep the housing), being able to meet other obligations of the lease or mortgage, if applicable, and being able to meet their basic needs (e.g. food, clothes, medicine, etc.).

A cross-system strategy on homelessness prevention is a plan that brings together partners from a variety of systems to support housing stability for the people in their community.

Housing instability and homelessness are often experienced in conjunction with challenges related to health, employment, education, justice system involvement, and other factors. A cross-systems approach allows communities to provide a holistic response that addresses many different needs, while strategically focusing resources within and across systems. This strategic focusing can also preserve resources within institutions, allowing them to serve more people in need. In addition, cross-system strategies that take a “whole of community approach” to prevention can save money and improve outcomes in multiple systems by getting people access to what they need before they reach a crisis. For example, providing timely health and housing support for someone experiencing housing instability and medical issues will ensure that neither challenge exacerbates the other and that the individual can stay both housed and healthy.

As stated by All In: “It is critical that people who have experienced or who are experiencing homelessness and housing instability lead and participate in the development and implementation of policies and programs.” People with lived experience and expertise are best positioned to identify what is working, what is not working, and solutions that meet the wants and needs of the community. They should be included as partners and decision makers throughout the process of developing, implementing, and evaluating homelessness prevention strategies, and compensated for their time and expertise. For more information and resources on how to engage and compensate people with lived experience, see the [Identify and Gather Partners](#) section.

Policies and **programs** are both important to develop and implement as providers and people with lived experience work together to find ways to help people achieve and maintain housing stability.

- Homelessness prevention *policies* are laws, regulations, or other administrative actions that aim to keep people from experiencing homelessness or housing instability.
- Homelessness prevention *programs* provide resources and services to specific eligible households to help them regain stability, whether in their current housing or a new unit.

Risk and protective factors

- **Risk factors** increase individuals' likelihood of experiencing homelessness or housing instability. Nationally, studies indicate that certain factors increase risk, including previous experiences with homelessness and/or eviction, frequent moves, having a high amount of past due rent and/or severe rent burden, experiencing violence, experiences with the child welfare system, carceral involvement, and the lack of a high school degree or GED.ⁱ
- **Protective factors** help reduce the chances that an individual or family will experience homelessness. These factors can include having a large social network, graduating from high school, having access to health care and human services, and receiving cash assistance or a housing subsidy.ⁱⁱ Policies and programs that strengthen and build protective factors can help households maintain or regain housing even in the face of multiple risk factors.

Housing First is a proven approach that focuses on reducing barriers and connecting people experiencing homelessness to permanent housing as quickly as possible.ⁱⁱⁱ In the context of homelessness prevention, Housing First principles can be applied by reducing barriers that keep people from retaining their housing or obtaining new housing. This approach can include ensuring that there are no sobriety requirements or other unnecessary conditions for entry into housing and services, as well as ensuring that program application processes are as simple and easy to complete as possible. It is also critical for information about the programs and applications to be accessible to those without internet, people with Limited English Proficiency and differing literacy levels, and people living with disabilities. Additionally, under Housing First, it is important for programs and providers to work with great urgency to help people access safe and stable housing as quickly as possible while centering the household's choices and needs. For example, staff in a prevention program might hesitate to assist an individual or family with their choice to stay in or move to a specific housing situation because staff are worried that the household will be rent burdened (paying more than 30% of their income). In an ideal situation the program will be able to help the individual or family stay in or find housing that meets their wants and needs and does not leave them rent burdened. If that is not possible, however, a good way to apply a Housing First approach is to honor the choices of the household and then continue to support them in building greater stability through increasing income, searching for more sustainable, affordable housing options, or other solutions.

VALUES TO GUIDE HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION

The Homelessness Prevention Framework is based on the same foundational pillars outlined in [All In](#), which can assist in guiding community efforts to develop and implement cross-system plans to prevent homelessness:

Equity	Evidence	Collaboration
Lead with equity to address racial and other disparities among people experiencing homelessness.	Use data and evidence to make decisions by grounding action in research, quantitative and qualitative data, and the perspectives of people who are experiencing or have experienced homelessness.	Collaborate at all levels to break down silos between federal, state, local, Tribal, and territorial governments; public, private, and philanthropic sectors; and people who are experiencing or have experienced homelessness.

GOALS FOR HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION

There are three overall goals for communities to keep in mind when setting goals and thinking about what success looks like for prevention strategies and programs:

- Identify people who are at risk of homelessness and help them stay in their home or quickly settle into a new one
- Tailor the type and level of resources based on need
- Scale programs appropriately

Identify People Who Are At Risk of Homelessness and Help Them Stay in Their Home or Quickly Settle Into a New One

Many people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness do not know about prevention assistance that might be available to them and/or do not seek out support until they are on the verge of entering emergency

shelter or experiencing unsheltered homelessness. To build a more proactive, responsive system, communities can do the following:

- **Work to identify and support people who are at risk before they enter the homelessness response system.** Screening for housing status in systems such as health care, human services, mental health and substance use, child welfare, justice, education, employment, income support, and more can help to identify people at risk of homelessness and connect them with prevention resources and services so that they never have to experience homelessness or enter the homelessness response system. For more, see the [Promising Approaches](#) section.
- **Provide clear, easy to access, up-to-date information on available programs and resources** to people at risk of or experiencing housing instability or homelessness, as well as the systems and organizations who work with them. This can include providing transparent information in multiple forms (e.g. online, printed flyers, shared by service providers), updating it regularly, and making it accessible to people with Limited English Proficiency and differing literacy levels, people living with disabilities, and people who do not have access to the internet.
- **Reduce barriers to accessing prevention programs** (e.g. by simplifying and streamlining application processes, finding ways to expedite application processing, and reducing requirements for documentation as much as possible while still complying with regulations) to help people access prevention support when they need it, before the housing crisis deepens.

Tailor the Type and Level of Resources Based on Need

Many low-income households experience housing insecurity and housing crises, but not all of them will experience homelessness. Among those likely to experience homelessness are some who can stabilize in housing with minimal support, such as conflict mediation or a small amount of one-time financial help. Others may need more support to gain or regain housing stability, such as assistance from a housing navigator to find a new home and a few months of rental assistance. The [Homelessness Prevention Categories](#) section of this document describes categories of prevention programs based on different needs and housing situations, and the [Resources That Can Be Used for Prevention](#) section highlights different programs that may be available locally. To meet varying needs for homelessness prevention, communities can:

- **Offer a range of prevention programs** that serve the people who are most likely to experience homelessness (along with robust universal supports that help ensure housing stability and well-being for a broader population).
- **Ensure that people are matched to resources** based on what they need to regain housing stability. See the [Utilize Data to Inform Your Planning](#) section of this document for more on how to determine who is at the greatest risk of experiencing homelessness in your community.
- **Provide accessible services**, including offering reasonable accommodations and modifications needed to ensure that individuals with disabilities, people with Limited English Proficiency and differing literacy levels, and others who need tailored assistance are served effectively.

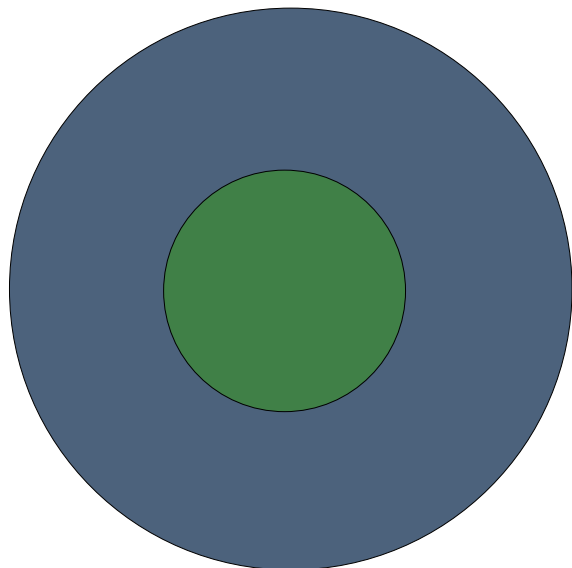
Scale Programs Appropriately

Prevention strategies and programs are effective when they are funded at a level to have a meaningful impact on the people they are intended to serve. Communities can focus on two important ways to ensure that their strategies and programs are appropriately scaled:

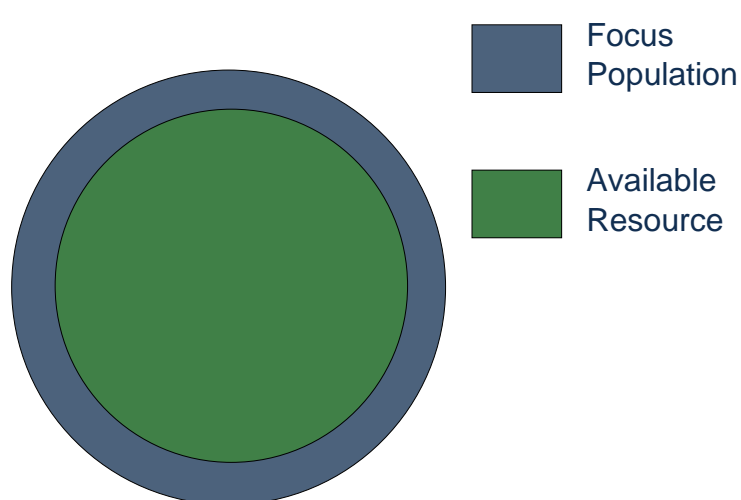
- Bringing in partners from multiple systems to **increase the resources and programs available** to help people maintain or reestablish housing stability. This can include identifying programs that offer universal supports, such as financial assistance for people with low or no incomes, which can help to keep people from experiencing housing instability and/or can provide support for people already at risk of or experiencing homelessness. Although these resources are often already available in a community, bringing the partners together to find ways to make it easier for people who are at risk of housing instability or homelessness to learn about and access them can help the community bring its prevention efforts to scale. For more on universal supports, see the first paragraph of the [Homeless Prevention Categories](#) section of this document.
- **Appropriately and strategically match resources to local needs.** Some of the funds used for homelessness prevention have great flexibility in how they can be used, but they are not always available in an amount that can meet the needs of all people experiencing or at risk of housing instability or homelessness in a community. If there are not enough resources within a particular funding stream available to have a meaningful impact on the population that it is meant for, and there

are no options for increasing those resources, the community might consider narrowing the eligibility criteria to better match the level of resources available. The following graphic, from [How to Design, Scale, and Fund a Homelessness Prevention Program](#), can help planners visualize the importance of proper scaling and support a community-level discussion about scaling and focusing resources.

Improperly Scaled Strategy



Scaled Strategy



When engaging in the system mapping and action planning activities described in [Building A Community Approach to Homelessness Prevention](#), communities can look at how existing prevention programs are scaled and where there are opportunities both to bring in additional resources and appropriately focus eligibility criteria.

BUILDING A COMMUNITY APPROACH TO HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION

Many systems (such as homelessness, health, human services, behavioral health, education, employment, justice, Veterans, and more) serve people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Some of these systems capture information on housing status, including when housing stability is at risk, and some have

programs to address housing instability, but they are often siloed. There is not yet a strong infrastructure in place nationally or in many local communities to coordinate resources and access so that people can get what they need when they need it. To develop a community-wide, cross-system approach to prevent homelessness, partners can work together using the following steps:

1. [Identify and Gather Partners](#)
2. [Utilize Data to Inform Your Planning](#)
3. [Map Services to Create Shared Understanding of Local Prevention Resources and Programs](#)
4. [Develop an Action Plan](#)
5. [Implement Plan, Track Outcomes, and Work Continuously to Improve](#)

1. Identify and Gather Partners

When developing a cross-system approach to prevent homelessness, it is critical to bring together a wide variety of partners from various sectors, including people with lived experience of homelessness and housing instability, in co-designing a cross-system strategy that meets the needs in your community. When assembling a team for cross-system collaboration and planning around homelessness prevention, consider the following key groups:

People with Lived Experience: People with lived experience of homelessness and housing instability, including people from groups overrepresented among people experiencing homelessness, are critical partners with valuable expertise who should be a part of the process of designing and implementing the prevention plan. People with lived experience can provide insight into various components of different systems and programs and help partners understand challenges, wants and needs, and solutions. These individuals should be included in the process as decision-makers, compensated for their time and expertise, and supported to ensure they are able to participate (for example, child care and transportation can be provided, meetings can be scheduled at a time and location that works for group members with lived experience who may be working during regular business hours, and materials can be provided ahead of time for review). For more on partnering with and compensating people with lived experience and expertise, see: [Engaging People with Lived](#)

[Experience to Improve Federal Research, Policy, and Practice](#) and [Paying People with Lived Experience and Expertise](#).

Funders and Providers: Identify who funds various parts of your current homelessness prevention system and which agencies are involved in program delivery. These might include homelessness system funders and coordinators such as Continuums of Care (find your local CoC here: [CoC Contacts](#)), government agencies that manage homelessness and housing programs, philanthropic partners, as well as service providers who offer programs including street outreach, emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent housing.

Other Systems: Many other systems serve people with low incomes who may be experiencing housing instability or are already experiencing homelessness and are critical to the conversations about better ways to support housing stability across the community. These partners may include:

- State, local, Tribal, and territorial government entities (e.g. Departments of Social Services, Human Services, or Health) which can coordinate access to programs and resources such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Supplemental Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), utility assistance, and other safety-net programs.
- Agencies that provide identification documents (such as Department of Motor Vehicles offices) can be key partners in supporting access to homelessness prevention by lowering barriers to obtaining the identification required to access some programs (such as reducing fees and expediting requests for people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness or housing instability).
- Agencies and non-profits with SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) programs, which help increase access to Social Security disability benefits. Find SOAR in your state here: [State Directory](#).
- The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and other Veteran-serving programs. Find VA locations here: [Find VA Locations](#).
- The justice system and legal services organizations, such as [legal aid programs](#).
- Law enforcement and first responders.

- Health and behavioral health providers and community health workers, especially [Federally Qualified Health Centers](#), [Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics](#), [Indian Health Services health care facilities](#), and [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \(SAMHSA\)-funded behavioral health services](#).
- Primary Care Associations, state- and local- public health officials, and other health system organizations and leaders.
- Providers that serve survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, sexual assault, and human trafficking. Find programs here: [Local Resources - Office on Violence Against Women](#), [Office for Victims of Crime-Funded Human Trafficking Services](#) and the [Office of Family Violence Prevention and Services](#).
- Child welfare, including Public Child Welfare Agencies.
- Educational systems and programs focused on children and youth who are experiencing homelessness and eligible to attend public school, including activities funded under the McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youths (EHCY) Program, the Title I, Part A Local Education Agency (LEA) homeless-set aside, and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) child find requirements. For State-level data and contact information for Homeless Education State Coordinators and local liaisons, see: [Data – National Center for Homeless Education](#).
- Early childhood programs, such as child care assistance funded by the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF), which serves children up to age 13 from low-income families; Head Start, which serves young children from low-income families; and Federal TRIO programs, which serve low-income and first generation throughout the educational pipeline. Find local programs here: [CCDF State and Territory Grantees](#), [Head Start Center Locator](#), and [TRIO Project Explorer](#).
- The Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB), of the Administration for Children and Families, funds a variety of programs and services that support youth and young adults and their families to achieve social and emotional well-being, permanent connections, education or employment, and stable housing. Find local programs here: [Grantees of the Family and Youth Services Bureau](#).

- Academic institutions and other groups conduct and publish research to advance the development of knowledge and inform social systems, and some have programs and/or graduate students that work with or may be open to working with local human services organizations focused on housing and homelessness. It can be particularly helpful to efforts to advance racial equity in your community to seek out research and partnerships with organizations and publications that are particularly focused on social justice and the inclusion of researchers who are Black, Indigenous, or other people of color and from other historically marginalized groups.
- The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, of the Administration for Children and Families, provides states and territories with flexibility in operating programs designed to help families with low incomes build family economic mobility. States use TANF to fund monthly cash assistance payments to eligible families with children, as well as a wide range of services, including supports addressing housing instability. Find state programs here: [TANF Program Contact Information](#).
- Affordable housing providers, such as Public Housing Agencies (PHAs), which provide housing and rental assistance for low-income families, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. Find your local PHA(s) here: [PHA Contact Information](#). To find other affordable and special needs housing in your area, use the [HUD Resource Locator](#).
- Community Action Associations (CAAs) provide a range of services for families and individuals with low incomes. Find your local CAA here: [Find Your CAA](#).
- Culturally-astute organizations and service providers offer affirming, inclusive, culturally responsive services. They are often led and staffed by and focus on specific considerations for people from particular communities, such as specific racial or ethnic groups or LGBTQIA+ persons. For example, the Office of Family Violence Prevention and Services (OFVPS) at the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), funds 35 Culturally Specific Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA) grants found here: [CDVSA Grants](#).
- The [Emergency Food and Shelter Program \(EFSP\)](#) provides shelter, food, and services to individuals and families experiencing or at risk of hunger and/or homelessness. The EFSP is managed by a National Board and local boards. To find local organizations funded by the EFSP, see: [EFSP Website](#) and search under 'Funded Organizations' for your state.

- Non-profit organizations and philanthropic partners that address food insecurity and other basic human needs for people with low incomes include organizations and programs such as [Meals on Wheels](#), food banks and pantries, soup kitchens and other organizations that provide meal services, and diaper banks.
- Federal agencies, community organizations, and non-profit partners provide language access services (translation and interpretation) and resources to meet the needs of Limited English Proficiency (LEP) persons; additional resources can be found at [LEP.gov](#).
- Employment programs. The Department of Labor has a variety of [Program Areas](#), with several resources, tools, and programs, including specialized assistance for special populations, such as the [Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program](#). In addition, [One Stop Career Centers/American Job Centers](#) provide tools, resources, computer access, and more for job seekers. The Department of Labor's [Job Corps program](#) is the nation's largest residential vocational training program with 123 centers nationwide to house and train youth.
- Organizations that support older adults and people with disabilities. Find local agencies here: [Aging and Disability Networks](#), [Centers for Independent Living \(CILs\)](#), [Aging and Disability Resource Centers](#), and [Area Agencies on Aging](#).
- The Department of Housing and Urban Development's [Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS \(HOPWA\) program](#) provides grants to communities, states, and nonprofit organizations for projects that benefit low-income persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families.
- Reentry support organizations and correctional institutions.

2. Utilize Data to Inform Your Planning

To understand how best to focus prevention resources locally, [partners](#) can work together to integrate and analyze their data (see list of sources to consider below) to answer questions that may include:

- Which factors put individuals or families in our community at the greatest risk of experiencing homelessness?

- What are the outcomes of current prevention-related programs?
- Who is currently accessing prevention services, and are there groups who are in need but are not being served by existing programs? For example, is our community looking at people served by all the different community partners listed in the [Identify and Gather Partners](#) section when thinking about homelessness prevention?
- What racial and/or ethnic inequities are we seeing in our community among people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, and how can we design programs that advance equity, consistent with applicable law?

Data Sources to Consider

As the [identified partners](#), including people with lived experience of homelessness or housing instability, begin their planning, it is important to understand what data exist in other systems and what needs to be collected to better understand and respond to local needs. Key sources of information that can help inform planning include:

- **Qualitative data gathered from people who have experienced homelessness or housing instability** will provide the most impactful information about what is working locally, what is not working, where there are gaps, and what can be done to design a cross-system prevention strategy that is responsive to local needs. Communities can use listening circles, listening/feedback sessions, focus groups, interviews, and/or other methods to gather information to use in the development of their plan. As noted in the [Identify and Gather Partners](#), all people with lived experience who are engaged should be compensated for their time and expertise and supported to ensure they can participate.
- **Information from the homelessness response system** can help community partners understand more about the scale, trends, characteristics, and pathways of people who are experiencing housing instability or homelessness. There are a variety of sources available, including:
 - Client-level data and data on the provision of housing and services collected by the [Homeless Management Information System \(HMIS\)](#) and the [Housing Inventory Count \(HIC\)](#), a point-in-time inventory of provider programs within a CoC that provide beds and units dedicated to serve people experiencing homelessness.

- The [Annual Homeless Assessment Report \(AHAR\)](#) which provides nationwide estimates of homelessness, including information about the demographic characteristics of people experiencing homelessness.
- The Point in Time count, which provides a snapshot of people experiencing homelessness on a single night each year. Find your local data here: [CoC Homeless Populations and Subpopulations Reports](#).
- The Longitudinal Systems Analysis (LSA) tracks performance based on certain critical measures. [Stella P](#) is an interactive tool that visualizes LSA data and makes it easier to see racial inequities, pathways through different programs, and other helpful information.
- [Navigating Homelessness and Housing Needs Data: Tailoring and Driving Local Solutions](#) is a useful guide that can help people outside of the homelessness response system better understand some of the key data points around homelessness and housing needs. To find out more about your local CoC data, reach out to the CoC lead and/or the HMIS Lead listed here: [Grantee Contact Information - HUD Exchange](#).
- The Runaway and Homeless Youth Homeless Management Information System (RHY-HMIS) collects client-level data specifically on youth and young adults, including services received, school and education status, and safe and appropriate exits from programs.
- **State and Local Educational Agency data** can help communities understand the scope and scale of homelessness among youth and families with children, as well as characteristics of students experiencing homelessness, such as primary nighttime residence type, populations, and more. For more see: [Data – National Center for Homeless Education](#) and [Ed Data Express](#).
- **Other data focused on child and youth homelessness and housing instability**, including:
 - [Chapin Hall](#) has a collection of data reports focused on addressing youth homelessness in the U.S., including populations that are disproportionately affected, such as rural, LGBTQIA2S+, and pregnant and parenting youth.

- SchoolHouse Connection provides [Child and Youth Homelessness Data](#) taken from Local Education Agencies (when available) that can be sorted by State, Congressional District, County, and/or School District.
- The [Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System \(YRBSS\)](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provides information on the prevalence of behaviors of students that can lead to poor health (and in some cases could put them at higher risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability).
- **Census data** can provide some specifics on people experiencing homelessness, including information in the [PCT19, Group Quarters Population by Sex by Age Group by Quarters](#) table.
- **Court records on eviction filings and outcomes** can identify zip codes and other geographic groupings where eviction filings and judgements occur disproportionately, which can help to identify possible focus areas. For more, see: [Eviction Map & Data](#).
- **Corrections system data** from jails and prisons, including the number of people who have received discharge planning to prevent homelessness, can help to identify the number of people exiting institutions who are at risk of housing instability.
- **Emergency response systems**, including 911 centers, police, fire, Emergency Medical Services, and Emergency Department reporting can be aggregated and analyzed to identify gaps in the emergency response, public health, and social services systems that can be used to inform prevention efforts.
- **The Department of Veterans Affairs** has data on Veterans experiencing homelessness. Although local data are not publicly accessible, data use agreements can be created (as appropriate) to inform prevention planning efforts.
- **Neighborhood data from the American Community Survey (ACS)** can be used to geotarget prevention funds to areas with high risks and needs. For example, [Mapping Neighborhoods with the Highest Risk of Housing Instability and Homelessness](#) looked at a variety of ACS data to identify neighborhoods to prioritize for Emergency Rental Assistance Funds.
- Information from **programs that serve low-income individuals** (such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Head Start, Medicaid, the [Health Center Program](#), and Special Supplemental

Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) including how many are served, any information collected on housing status, and more can help provide additional context on local needs for homelessness prevention.

- The [Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program \(RWHAP\) Compass Dashboard](#) provides visualizations on the reach, impact, and outcomes of the RWHAP, including housing.
- The Health Resources Services Administration maintains data on [Medically underserved areas](#) and other relevant information.
- **Community Needs Assessments and Plans:** Many different programs require partners to engage in community needs assessments processes. Reviewing these assessments can be helpful when planning for prevention efforts to avoid duplicating work that has been done recently. Although the specific geographic boundaries and focus areas may not always align with what the partners are looking for, there is likely still information that can be helpful for planning efforts. Examples include:
 - [Consolidated Plans](#), done by states and local jurisdictions and informed by consultation with community partners and citizens. Find your local Consolidated Plan here: [CPD Consolidated Plans, Annual Action Plans, and CAPERs](#).
 - Community Action Needs Assessments are required by Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) to determine funding priorities. Contact your local [Community Action Agency](#) to request the most current needs assessment and community action plan.
 - [Community Health Assessments](#) (CHAs), done by state, Tribal, local, or territorial public health agencies, identify key health needs and issues, including inequities, through a collaborative, multi-sector process built on strong community engagement.
 - [Community Health Needs Assessments](#) assess local health needs, including social, behavioral, and environmental factors influencing health. These assessments are completed by nonprofit hospitals in partnership with local public health departments, members of medically underserved, low income, and other populations served by the hospital, and other partners.
 - [Family Violence Prevention and Services Act \(FVPSA\) Statewide Needs Assessments](#). Under FVPSA statute, a state's designated Domestic Violence Coalition is required to develop a statewide

needs assessment to inform and support the state’s plan for distributing FVPSA funds. These needs assessments engage a broad spectrum of community partners to provide a detailed overview of the community needs across the state.

- Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) Needs Assessments, conducted by RWHAP metropolitan planning councils, include information on the needs of people with HIV and current resources to meet these needs.
- State Plan on Aging: Section 307(a) of the Older Americans Act requires each state agency to develop a [State Plan on Aging](#). The State Plan on Aging is a blueprint for state government, local government, the private sector, and philanthropic organizations to use to prepare the state to be responsive to the needs of older adults. Plans are developed in collaboration with partners and outline state goals. Find your plan here: [Map of State Plans on Aging](#) and tools here: [Tools for Planning](#).
- State Plan for Independent Living: Each state and U.S. territory is required to maintain a [statewide independent living council \(SILC\)](#). The Council and the Centers for Independent Living (CILs) within the state develop a [State Plan for Independent Living \(SPIL\)](#). The SPIL is a document required by law that indicates how the Independent Living Network is going to improve independent living services for individuals with disabilities over the next three years. It identifies the needs and priorities of consumers, providers, and other partners and sets forth goals and objectives to respond to them.
- [Project CHALENG \(Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education and Networking Groups\) surveys](#), conducted annually, assess local challenges faced by Veterans experiencing homelessness, identify unmet needs, and encourage partnership action to meet the needs.
- Head Start programs utilize a [Community Assessment Matrix](#) to identify the needs of eligible (low income) families in the area, including those experiencing or at risk of homelessness.
- Community Master Plans, which provide guidance on land use decisions, can provide helpful context on local needs and priorities.

Using Data to Create Equitable Systems

Racism and oppression and the ways in which it has been embedded in systems, processes, and practices have resulted in deep racial inequities and other inequities in who experiences homelessness as well as many of the factors that put people at risk for housing instability and homelessness. For example, Hispanic or Latino, Black, American Indian and Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander groups are all overrepresented among people experiencing homelessness, as illustrated in USICH's [Homelessness Data & Trends](#). It is beneficial for communities to work to understand the impact of race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, disability, Limited English Proficiency, gender identity and sexual orientation, religious affiliation, and other identities on risk of homelessness and accessibility of local programs when analyzing data.²

3. Map Services to Create Shared Understanding of Local Prevention Resources & Programs

Identifying what resources are available in your local community for prevention and gaining a better understanding of them and how they are currently being used will give partners a starting place for what might be possible to better coordinate and build out a community approach to homelessness prevention. There is often great flexibility in how resources for prevention can be used, so it is important to review periodically to ensure they are being used to their maximum ability in coordination with the other sources.

The chart included in [Resources That Can Be Used for Prevention](#) can give you a sense of which systems and resources to start looking into locally, but there may be a variety of other local, county, state, private, or other resources available as well.

To build out a 'map' of what is available, start with the following questions:

- What programs are available in our community?
- Who is eligible for each program, and how are households prioritized for assistance, if demand is higher than supply?
- How do people in need find and get access to each program?

² Guidance on how to do this work can be found in the following resources: [The Alliance's Racial Equity Network Toolkit - National Alliance to End Homelessness](#) and [Data & Equity: Using the Data You Have](#)

- Is there a centralized point in the community (such as a 211 phone line) that people can contact to find information about/referrals to different programs?
- Are access points, programs, information, and other materials accessible for people with disabilities, Limited English Proficiency, and differing literacy levels?
- Are there ways that people interacting with specific systems, such as justice, health, and education connect with resources available through that system, or others?
- How and when do referrals happen between partners in different systems?

4. Develop an Action Plan

Using the data gathered on needs and the information about available resources, the cross-system team can Develop an Action Plan that:

- Identifies opportunities to increase cross-system coordination
- Is developed in partnership with people with lived experience who represent the diversity of people at risk, are decision-makers in the process, and are compensated for their time and expertise
- Modifies how current resources are being utilized to maximize impact
- Builds on/scales housing stability and prevention services that are working
- Develops new strategies to fill system gaps
- Diagnoses systemic inequities and advances racial equity

It can be beneficial to integrate the action plan with other relevant local plans to avoid duplication of efforts and maximize impact.

Tips and Resources for Developing an Action Plan:

- For guidance on developing measurable goals and strategies for the action plan, see: [Writing Measurable Goals](#) and [Developing Goals and Strategies for Target Areas](#).

- See the section on [Promising Approaches](#) for ideas on what might be adapted locally, and the sections on [Values](#) and [Goals](#) as a reminder of the context. In addition, [A Roadmap to Prevent Eviction and Promote Housing Stability](#) provides a useful list of strategies that can be used to support homelessness prevention, along with examples and models that can help inform the development of goals and action steps.
- When designing the overall strategy, individual programs and monitoring implementation, use a Racial Equity Impact Assessment to identify ways to reduce disparate impacts and advance equity, consistent with applicable law. For more, see: [Rehousing Activation and Racial Equity Part 1: Equity as the Foundation](#) and [Equity Assessment Tip Sheet](#). The plan can include action steps around increasing cross-system coordination and referrals as well as steps around work to scale, focus, or otherwise update existing programs as appropriate to meet local needs, and develop new programs and strategies to fill gaps.
- Examples of prevention-related action planning steps: [COVID-19 Homeless System Response: How to Design, Scale, and Fund a Homelessness Prevention Program](#); [RHY-PDP Prevention Plan Template](#); [Building Housing Stability Infrastructure](#).
- Examples of a strategic planning tool: [Community Toolbox at KU](#).
- Ensure that the action plan includes capacity building for staff in critical areas including: advancing equity, trauma informed care, and cultural humility, among others. In addition, encourage providers to build teams representative of the diversity of people in the community who are at risk of homelessness and which include people with lived experience of homelessness or housing instability.

5. Implement Plan, Track Outcomes and Work Continuously to Improve

While developing an action plan, partners can collaborate on identifying the target outcomes for the plan and for each of their prevention programs. The [Agree on Measures of Success](#) and [Establish a Governance Structure](#) section of [The Intersector Project](#) toolkit, which helps to guide successful inter-sector collaborations, has tips, examples, resources, and more that can help partners during this stage of the work. The partners can coordinate to understand which data will be collected to meet the requirements for different funding streams, identify any additional data points that are critical for tracking, and decide how to share and analyze data

together to understand progress on homelessness prevention work happening through multiple systems and throughout the community. Partners can also work together to build an understanding of what information is *not* being collected, but should be, to develop a better understanding of the people, wants and needs, and trends that are not being captured by current systems.

To monitor for inequities, collect data that can be disaggregated by demographic factors (e.g. race and ethnicity, familial status, age, etc.) such as:

- Qualitative data collected from people being served by and working in the system
- Circumstances of households seeking assistance (e.g. housing status, needs, if they are fleeing violence, etc.)
- Number of prevention program applications received, and percent approved
- Length of time from application to approval
- Amount and duration of assisted provided
- Percentage of those that received prevention assistance who entered or returned to the homelessness response system³

It is beneficial to review data regularly, not only to monitor the progress of various programs, but also to understand who is being served (and who is still not able to access services), and to inform continuous quality improvement efforts. This monitoring and quality improvement process should include the same range of partners involved in the development of the plan, including people with lived experience of homelessness and housing instability who are compensated for their time and expertise.

[Data sharing](#) can also be useful in tracking outcomes and improving systems. Agencies may consider exploring data sharing to facilitate coordination of services between systems or to understand when households still enter the homelessness response system after receiving prevention services. Any data sharing efforts should comply with all data privacy regulations and include the collection of informed consent from individuals prior to sharing individual/household data.

³ For more, see the Track Outcomes and Engage in Continuous Quality Improvement Section of: [COVID-19 Homeless System Response: How to Design, Scale, and Fund a Homelessness Prevention Program](#).

HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION CATEGORIES

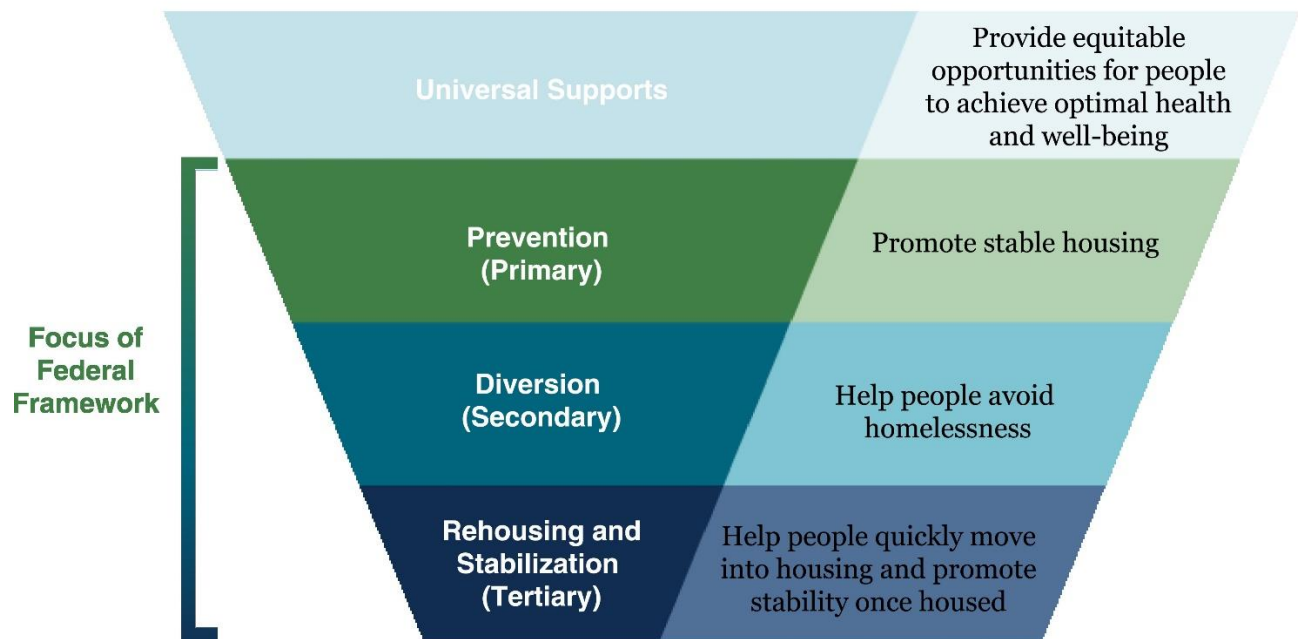
Universal Supports (sometimes referred to as primordial prevention in other frameworks, such as [Advancing Primary Prevention in Human Services: Convening Findings](#)) set the foundation for housing stability. This framework does not focus on universal supports, but they are still critical for communities to consider in larger planning efforts around homelessness prevention. This framework focuses on three categories - **Prevention, Diversion, and Rehousing and Stabilization**, which represent a reimagining of the established [primary, secondary, and tertiary levels of prevention used in a public health context](#), adapted to be more inclusive of human services and address the specifics of the homelessness prevention system.

[Community partners](#) can use these categories of Prevention, Diversion, and Rehousing and Stabilization to [map the resources available in their own systems](#) and utilize them strategically based on resource type and level of need. Utilizing these categories can give communities a shared cross-sector understanding of the goals of each phase of prevention to start from, better allowing them to coordinate resources and referrals and organize a multi-sector response to preventing homelessness.

Universal Supports aim to provide equitable opportunities for people to achieve optimal health and social outcomes, including having stable and safe housing. Universal supports can be used to prevent people from experiencing housing instability or homelessness or can be used in conjunction with other supports and resources to help those who may already be at risk of or experiencing homelessness. Examples of universal supports include:

- Income supports such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSI/SSDI), unemployment benefits, the refundable child tax credit (CTC), and the earned income tax credit (EITC) provide critical financial assistance to people with low or no incomes, and programs like the Child Care and Development Fund child care subsidy and free early care and education (such as Head Start) can make it easier for families to build income.
- Inclusionary zoning, tax credits, housing trusts, and other structures that require or incentivize the creation of affordable housing provide opportunities for people with low incomes to access housing in their community.
- Policies around rent control, rent increase caps, the right to housing counsel, strong tenant protections, source of income discrimination bans, lowering barriers to entry, and more make it easier for people with low incomes to access and stay in housing.

Categories of Homelessness Prevention



As you look to utilize these categories in planning efforts with your local partners, here are a few important considerations:

- **The housing situations of people seeking assistance are fluid, and many programs can provide services across and within the categories, leading to overlaps. In addition, the categories are focused on general situations, not eligibility criteria for specific programs.** However, the categories can still be useful framing as communities work to better integrate systems, programs and funding.
- All the categories outlined, as well as areas this framework does not focus on (including universal supports) are important to keep in mind as communities think about their overall strategy (crossing many different sectors and systems) to prevent housing instability and homelessness.
- Funding streams are often flexible, and the way resources are prioritized and implemented differs by jurisdiction. Communities can use these categories and the example housing situations as a place to start, and then update based on their local programs and funding streams.

- Communities can use these categories to plan both population-wide homelessness prevention strategies as well as approaches to meeting the needs of specific populations in their communities, such as Veterans, families with young children, youth and young people, people with disabilities, older adults, and people fleeing violence.
- It is important for agencies and providers to be intentional about ensuring equitable, meaningful access, including for people with Limited English Proficiency, differing literacy levels, and disabilities, both to comply with all applicable laws around accessibility and to successfully reach everyone eligible for services. For example, providing language assistance services and ensuring key informational documents and applications are translated are critical to ensuring accessibility for people with Limited English Proficiency. Providing access to Certified Deaf Interpreters and/or American Sign Language interpreters will ensure accessibility for people who are deaf or hard of hearing (D/HOH). When developing access points for programs, providers might take into account physical accessibility of spaces (e.g. ramps, accessible bathrooms, adjustable counters) as well as accessibility of remote systems (e.g. considering how people without phone or internet service can access online or telephone-based applications, [508 compliance](#), translation).

Programs and Policies That Promote Stable Housing

Prevention (Primary)

Primary prevention involves interventions that seek to promote protective factors for housing security for populations with high risk factors for experiencing homelessness. These interventions, among other resources, might include eviction and foreclosure prevention, legal support, rent and/or utility subsidies, workforce, education, and income supports focused on people at high risk of experiencing housing instability or homelessness.

Example Housing Situations

- People facing eviction or foreclosure and have other risk factors for experiencing homelessness, such as previous episodes of homelessness or residing in areas with high eviction rates
- People with low incomes who are rent burdened or severely rent burdened (spending more than 30% or 50%, respectively, of income on rent and utilities)
- People experiencing Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), Domestic Violence (DV) and/or other forms of violence that makes their living situation dangerous
- People who are couch surfing, doubled up, or living in other unstable housing situations

Example Programs

- The Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Policy and Development's [Eviction Protection Grant Program](#) is used to provide legal services to low-income tenants at risk of eviction.
- The Department of Veterans Affairs' Shallow Subsidy program, a type of Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) assistance, can be used (among other ways) to provide rental support for Veterans with a high rent burden to prevent eviction.
- The Health Resources Services Administration's Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program provides Emergency Financial Assistance to provide one-time or short-term payments towards utility bills for people living with HIV/AIDS.
- The Family and Youth Services Bureau's Runaway and Homeless Youth Prevention Demonstration Program is designed to support the tailored delivery of community-based initiatives to prevent youth from experiencing homelessness in partnership with youth and young adults.

Considerations for Prevention Programs

- [Appropriately scaling](#) programs and focusing resources on the people who are most at risk of experiencing homelessness if they do not receive assistance is critical to increasing the efficiency of prevention programs. It is important for communities to [utilize data to inform planning](#) locally to

maximize resources and minimize the extent to which prevention resources are provided to people who are unlikely to experience homelessness.

- Increasing prevention programs and work by other systems and partners, such as those listed in the [Identify and Gather Partners section](#), will help to provide greater access to prevention supports by people in need, who greatly outnumber resources available through the homelessness response system.

Programs That Help People Avoid Homelessness

Diversion (Secondary)

Diversion is intended for people who are at imminent risk of experiencing sheltered or unsheltered homelessness. These interventions are meant to actively resolve housing crises so the household can remain in place or move directly into new housing without entering the homelessness response system. The primary purpose of these programs is to help individuals stabilize in housing without needing more intensive supports, not to create barriers to access emergency shelter for those without other options. Resources that may be accessed in this category include family and landlord-tenant mediation, rental arrears assistance, legal services, [housing problem solving](#), and more.

Example Housing Situation(s)

- People who no longer have or have been asked to leave a temporary situation like couch surfing
- Individuals in the process of seeking shelter or facing unsheltered situations
- Individuals whose lives are in immediate danger because of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), Domestic Violence (DV), and/or other forms of violence

Example Programs

- [Emergency Solutions Grant \(ESG\) funds](#) can be used to pay rental arrears for households that are at imminent risk of losing their housing and have a high likelihood of entering shelter.
- Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF) funds used for Housing Problem Solving/Rapid Resolutions to prevent a Veteran and family from entering the homelessness response system (e.g. mediation, help identifying temporary housing within social or family networks, financial assistance, program referrals, etc.).
- The Health Resources Services Administration's Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program can offer housing services that provide transitional, short-term, or emergency housing assistance necessary to prevent homelessness for people living with HIV/AIDS.

Considerations for Diversion Programs

- Programs in the diversion category benefit from flexibility, responsiveness, and ability to creatively address the different housing challenges households are dealing with. They focus on building upon the various strengths, networks, and resources households have. Flexibility might include being responsive to highly time-sensitive needs and being as low-barrier (e.g. minimal paperwork, accessible hours) as possible to act quickly to help people retain their current housing or find another solution.
- Consider making resources available in various systems that people are interacting with to reduce the time needed to refer out to other programs. For example, [housing problem solving](#) approaches can be highly effective in reducing the number of people who need to enter shelter or stay in unsheltered locations. If health care, education, employment, justice, and other systems have staff who can provide simple housing problem solving without having to refer everyone to the homelessness response system, they can provide quick assistance at a critical time, which may make the difference between someone retaining their housing and needing to be rehoused after experiencing homelessness.

Programs That Help People Quickly Get Into Housing and Promote Stability Once They Are Housed

Rehousing and Stabilization (Tertiary)

Rehousing and stabilization refer to a series of targeted resources that aim to support individuals in the rapid transition out of homelessness and to assist with stabilization supports. This category weighs the importance of not only housing individuals but reducing their chances of experiencing recurring episodes of homelessness. Resources may include programs and services such as rapid rehousing, targeted workforce and income supports, and housing-focused case management.

Example Housing Situation(s)

- People who are in shelter, hotels/motels, transitional housing, or an unsheltered situation.
- People who have recently experienced homelessness and are now in housing.
- People who have left their homes due to safety concerns associated with Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), Domestic Violence (DV), and/or other forms of violence.

Example Programs

- The Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) Program's Street Outreach Program (SOP) engages youth experiencing homelessness, living on the street, in unsafe conditions, and at risk of sexual exploitation and connects them to housing and support services to position them for safety and stability.
- Continuum of Care (CoC) or Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Rapid Rehousing is used to rehouse an individual from shelter, offering housing-focused case management, access to educational or vocational supports, assistance connecting to health care, and other services focused on building long-term stability.

Considerations for Rehousing and Stabilization Programs

- In an ideal system, universal supports, [prevention \(primary\)](#), and [diversion \(secondary\)](#) programs will be able to prevent most individuals from having to seek [rehousing and stabilization](#) supports.
- It is important that crisis and long-term housing options meet various needs and circumstances, including for adults to stay with their children, partners to live together, people to bring pets, and opportunities to choose between site-based (in a specific building) and scattered site (in private market housing) programs.
- People who experience homelessness have a greater risk of experiencing it again, so impactful programs will provide intentional, focused support to equip them with income, services, social supports, and other protective factors to ensure long-term housing stability.

PROMISING APPROACHES TO HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION

The following approaches can offer some ideas for communities as they Develop an Action Plan that includes ways to better coordinate, refocus, and/or improve existing programs and possibly design new ones.

Housing Status Assessments and Screenings

Housing status assessments or screenings within different systems (e.g. health care, education, justice, child welfare, Veterans, aging services, food insecurity and income support programs, utility assistance programs etc.) can identify people at risk of or experiencing housing instability or homelessness early, before they arrive at an emergency shelter or are in an unsheltered housing situation. In the case of an active housing crisis, when someone is experiencing or at imminent risk of homelessness, there may be a need to refer the household directly to the homelessness response system. In many other cases, however, screenings can help to identify people who could benefit from resources and services to support their housing stability *now* to prevent them from ever having to experience homelessness. Identifying challenges to housing stability early gives people seeking assistance and the providers they work with a window of opportunity to engage in [housing problem](#)

[solving](#) and to connect to primary prevention resources and services that support housing stability. For example, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) programs utilize a national Homeless Prevention Threshold Screening tool to help prioritize assistance to those most likely to experience homelessness. This is one example of a tool that communities could consider adopting or adapting within a homelessness prevention framework, if it is appropriate for their local context.

Any screening tools and assessments, as well as the processes and workflows that follow them (such as connections to specific resources/programs), will be most effective when they are informed by local context and developed, tested, and refined in conjunction with providers (including frontline staff) as well as people with lived experience of homelessness or housing instability. Proactively identifying and working to address racial and ethnic inequities among people experiencing and at risk of homelessness, people served by prevention programs, and more will help new or revised screening tools and processes advance racial equity. In addition, communities can explore ways to make collection of data on housing status trauma informed and client centered, as highlighted here: [Client-Centered Data Collection Approach: Virtual Reality Series - HUD Exchange](#).

Housing Problem Solving

Housing problem solving approaches are increasingly being embraced by homelessness response systems.⁴ The approach recognizes that for some households, light-touch assistance and minimal resources can help resolve a housing crisis by building on the household's existing strengths, resources, and networks. Housing problem solving approaches are intended to be flexible, easily accessible, and have low paperwork requirements so they can provide quick support for time-sensitive needs. Housing problem solving may involve services like mediation between the household and their landlord or a family member they live with, or an exploratory conversation about strengths and support networks the household can tap into. It is critical to have financial resources that can be used flexibly and accessed quickly to pair with housing problem solving conversations and services. Financial support to help people retain housing might include support with an electric bill, funds for groceries, car repairs, or rental arrears, among other needs. Expanding this kind of work to systems outside of homelessness response could be particularly effective in helping to keep people from experiencing homelessness. Ways to expand this work could include educating and equipping client-facing staff in other systems with housing problem solving skills and techniques, as well as identifying funding within those systems that can be used for light-touch assistance. Examples of flexible federal funding that might be used for these

⁴ For more information on housing problem solving see: [Adopting Housing Problem-Solving Approaches](#) and [COVID-19 Homeless System Response: Housing Problem-Solving: Prevention Strategies \(hudexchange.info\)](#)

purposes include Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Social Services Block Grant (SSBG), and the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG).

Expand Coordinated Entry

When embarking on cross-system work to build a community-wide approach to homelessness prevention, communities might consider making it easier for people experiencing a housing crisis to find assistance as a key goal of the framework. Homelessness response systems use **coordinated entry processes** to streamline access to crisis response programs and prioritize resources for people with the highest needs.^{iv} In some cases, communities have coordinated entry processes with centralized or multiple access points for people seeking homelessness prevention resources, but in others there may be several different places households seeking assistance need to look. Expanding the capacity of coordinated entry access points, building in ‘no wrong door’ approaches so people can access coordinated entry from wherever they are seeking services, and increasing the number of programs to which access points can refer makes it easier for people to access assistance and for the partners involved to ensure that households are matched to resources that they are eligible for and that meet their current circumstances and level of need.

Education and Homelessness Response System Collaborations

Children, youth, and young adults both with and without disabilities face particularly strenuous challenges while experiencing homelessness, and a lack of stable housing can impact attendance, grades, proficiency levels, and other educational outcomes. Collaborations between the homelessness response system, education sector, and other community partners to support housing stability can improve housing, educational, and other outcomes for families. McKinney-Vento Liaisons, in partnership with the homelessness response system, can ensure that youth and families experiencing homelessness are connected to comprehensive resources, including rehousing and stabilization services and supports. Educational institutions can also serve as critical sources of support and information about housing and prevention resources for families they serve, who might not know where else in the community to turn for support.

Workforce Collaborations

Workforce programs can play a critical role in strengthening financial well-being and housing stability through economic advancement and, ultimately, lessening the risk of homelessness. For some households in need of [prevention-level services](#), connection to employment services at a point of housing instability may be enough to help them increase income and achieve housing stability. For others, such as those in need of [rehousing and stabilization services](#), combining employment services with rental assistance or other supports may be helpful to rebuild housing stability and reduce the risk of experiencing homelessness in the future.

Data Sharing

Sharing data allows partners from two or more systems to collaborate more effectively. In the context of prevention work, merged data can provide cross-system partners with critical insights into the characteristics and needs of people experiencing or at risk of homelessness being served by multiple systems and can inform the design of strategies and interventions that better meet these needs. For example, [New data: The revolving door between homeless shelters and prisons in Connecticut](#) highlights lessons learned from data sharing between the Connecticut Department of Corrections and the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness and actions being taken as a result, including increasing investment in reentry housing and putting a greater focus on locating housing options for individuals at risk of homelessness before release.

Although there are many state and federal laws protecting the privacy of personal information, such as the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), there are still ways for partners to share data that comply with all applicable laws and regulations, protect the data and privacy of people they are serving, and ensure that the people being served have an opportunity to provide (or decline to provide) informed consent. Developing a Memorandum of Understanding that includes a [data sharing agreement](#) is an important way for partners to define how they will work together and how data will be shared and used. Utilizing a universal release of information (ROI) is an innovative approach that can enable data sharing with multiple partners, such as health, behavioral health, justice, education, human services, and housing partners. There are a wealth of resources supporting data sharing between different systems, including:

- [Interagency Data Disclosure: A Tip Sheet on Interagency Collaboration](#), developed by the U.S. Department of Education in coordination with USICH, provides tips to help state and local education agency homeless service programs, housing and human services agencies, and provider organizations share data to better serve children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness.
- The [Homelessness and Health Data Sharing Toolkit](#), [Data Sharing Resources for Health and Housing Partnerships](#), and [Learning Brief: Data-Sharing Between Homelessness and Health Systems, Data Integration Best Practices for Health Centers & Homeless Services](#) highlight how health and housing systems can and have shared data to improve health and housing outcomes for people who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness.
- [One Roof Data Brief: Harnessing Cross Systems Data to Keep Families Together](#) focuses on how child welfare, housing, and other systems can share data to better meet the housing and wellness needs of families at risk of or experiencing homelessness and seeking to reunify with children or prevent out of home placement.

RESOURCES THAT CAN BE USED FOR PREVENTION

There are many resources that can be used in [building a community approach to homelessness prevention](#). The table below provides information about resources from different federal agencies. In reviewing the list and using it to inform local work, communities can take note of the following considerations:

- **Resources differ widely by community. Whether or not the resource is available, who is eligible, how resources are prioritized, what is provided, how people learn about and access the resource, where it falls in the continuum of prevention, and many other factors will depend on the situation in your community.**
- The [mapping services](#) process is important for communities to work through to understand which of the resources below are available locally, how the programs are being implemented, and what changes could be made to be as responsive as possible to local needs.
- The resources in the chart may be a fit for more than one category of prevention, depending on how they are used. The chart and the categories should be used as a starting place, and then adapted as needed to be responsive to local contexts.
- Communities might find value in reflecting on the [goals for homelessness prevention](#) and the [data collected to inform planning](#) as they consider how to design or update programs and to meet local needs, including for people from specific populations.
- This is not an exhaustive list. There may be state, county, local, private, and other funding available in your community that should be considered as you map resources and build out a plan.

Federal Resources That Can Be Used for Homelessness Prevention

Agency	Prevention (Primary)	Diversion (Secondary)	Rehousing and Stabilization (Tertiary)
<p>HHS</p>	<p>National Runaway Safeline</p> <p>Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program</p> <p>Tribal MIECHV Program</p> <p>Children’s Health Insurance Program</p> <p>Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) Program</p> <p>Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA)</p> <p>Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program</p> <p>National Human Trafficking Hotline</p> <p>Human Trafficking Services Grant Programs Protecting Rights and Preventing Abuse</p> <p>Aging and Disability Resource Centers Program/No Wrong Door System</p> <p>Health, Wellness, and Nutrition ACL Administration for Community Living</p> <p>Housing and Services Resource Center (HSRC)</p>	<p>Community Health Center Program</p> <p>Community Mental Health Services Block Grants</p> <p>Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grants</p> <p>State Opioid Response (SOR) program</p> <p>Tribal Opioid Response (TOR) grant program</p> <p>Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) Program</p> <p>Ryan White HIV/AIDS (RWHAP) Program Healthy Start Program</p> <p>Adult Protective Services (APS)</p> <p>Legal Assistance</p> <p>Protection and Advocacy Systems (P&As)</p>	<p>Runaway and Homeless Youth Street Outreach Program (SOP)</p> <p>Runaway and Homeless Youth Basic Center Program</p> <p>Runaway and Homeless Youth Transitional Living Program</p> <p>Maternity Group Homes for Pregnant and Parenting Youth</p> <p>National Runaway Safeline</p> <p>Head Start</p> <p>Child Care and Development Fund</p> <p>Health Care for the Homeless</p> <p>Treatment for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness program</p> <p>The Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) Supporting Replication Housing Initiative</p> <p>HAB HIV Housing and Employment Project</p> <p>Grants for the Benefit of Homeless Individuals</p> <p>Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)</p> <p>Social Services Block Grant (SSBG)</p>

Agency	Prevention (Primary)	Diversion (Secondary)	Rehousing and Stabilization (Tertiary)
HHS	<p>Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs)</p> <p>Centers for Independent Living (CILs)</p> <p>Assistive Technology Program Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) Program</p> <p>SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR) Program</p>		<p>Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program</p>
VA	<p>Veteran Benefits Administration (Connection to benefits)</p> <p>SOAR assistance (SSI, SSDI)</p> <p>Shallow Subsidy</p> <p>Homeless Veteran Community Employment Services</p>	<p>Rapid Resolution</p> <p>Veterans Justice Outreach</p> <p>Legal Services for Veterans</p> <p>Homeless Veteran Employment Services</p> <p>Homelessness Prevention Assistance through SSVF</p>	<p>Rapid Resolution</p> <p>HUD-VASH (Housing Choice Voucher and ongoing case management)</p>
HUD	<p>Housing Choice Vouchers</p> <p>Eviction prevention services for public housing residents, voucher households, Multifamily housing residents</p> <p>Fair Housing initiative programs</p> <p>Family Unification Program and Foster Youth to Independence Vouchers</p>	<p>Emergency Solutions Grants for homelessness diversion</p> <p>Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds used for homelessness diversion</p>	<p>Continuum of Care Program permanent housing programs, supportive services programs that facilitate housing connections</p> <p>Emergency Solutions Grants for rapid re-housing or permanent housing</p> <p>Emergency Housing Vouchers, Stability Vouchers, Mainstream Vouchers, the Family Unification Program, and Foster Youth to Independence Initiative Vouchers,</p>

Agency	Prevention (Primary)	Diversion (Secondary)	Rehousing and Stabilization (Tertiary)
<p>HUD</p>	<p>Mainstream and Non-Elderly Disabled (NED) vouchers</p> <p>HOME Investment Partnerships Program Tenant Based Rental Assistance, when targeted to high-risk groups</p> <p>Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R) Eviction Protection Grant Program</p> <p>Emergency Solutions Grant used for homelessness prevention</p> <p>Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds used for homelessness prevention or eviction prevention</p> <p>Housing counseling programs</p> <p>Fair Housing initiative programs</p> <p>Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Short-Term Rent, Mortgage, and Utility (STRMU) assistance</p>		<p>when used to housing people experiencing homelessness</p> <p>Housing Choice Vouchers in which a PHA has adopted a homelessness admissions preference</p> <p>HOPWA Tenant Based Rental Assistance for households experiencing or at-risk of homelessness</p> <p>Public housing in which a PHA has adopted a homelessness admissions preference.</p> <p>Multifamily housing in which an owner has adopted a homelessness admissions preference</p>

Additional information about programs to prevent and end homelessness can be found in Appendix B of [FY 23 Targeted Programs That Help People Experiencing or At Risk of Homelessness](#); [Government Spending Open Data](#); [Federal Health and Social Service Program That Support People Experiencing Homelessness](#); [All In: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness](#); [Federal Housing and Economic Mobility Resources](#); and [The Housing and Economic Mobility Toolkit](#).

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Listed resources may be applicable for various categories.

U.S. Department of Agriculture

The Food and Nutrition Service has staff trained to assist applicants who are experiencing homelessness, and programs that are useful in some states where available, like the Restaurant Meals Program (RMP).

U.S. Department of Defense

Service Members with concerns of housing instability, food insecurity, or financial difficulties should immediately contact their commanding officer to be connected with appropriate resources. DoD Civilians can contact their Employee Assistance Program for help with being connected to resources.

U.S. Department of Energy

The [Weatherization Assistance Program](#) reduces energy costs for households with low incomes by increasing the energy efficiency of their homes, while ensuring their health and safety.

U.S. General Services Administration

[Surplus Real Property Homeless Assistance Program](#)

Social Security Administration

- [Supplemental Security Income](#)
- [SOAR Assistance \(SSI/SSDI\)](#)
- [Retirement Benefits](#)
- [Disability Benefits](#)
- [Survivors Benefits](#)

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Federal Emergency Management Agency

- The [Emergency Food and Shelter Program](#) supplements and expands ongoing work of local nonprofit and governmental social service organizations to provide shelter, food and supportive services to individuals and families who are experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, hunger and/or homelessness.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

In addition to the resources and programs mentioned in the table above, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has some additional resources that can help serve people experiencing housing instability and homelessness through health care, behavioral health care and human services.

Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services

- [Coverage of Services and Supports to Address Health-Related Social Needs in Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program](#)
- [SMD# 23-003 RE: Opportunities to Test Transition-Related Strategies to Support Community Reentry and Improve Care Transitions for Individuals Who Are Incarcerated](#)
- [SMD #: 23-001 RE: Additional Guidance on Use of In Lieu of Services and Settings in Medicaid Managed Care](#)
- [Opportunities for Improving Access to Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services for Medicaid and CHIP Enrollees Experiencing Homelessness](#)

Health Resources and Services Administration

- [HAB Best Practices Compilation – TargetHIV.org](#)
- [The Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program \(RWHAP\)](#)

ⁱ [COVID-19 Homeless System Response: Prevention to Promote Equity; COVID-19 Homeless System Planning and Response: Homelessness Prevention Resources; Market Predictors of Homelessness](#)

ⁱⁱ [Predictive-and-protective-factors-for-homelessness-Lit-Review-12.20.17...-1.pdf](#)

ⁱⁱⁱ Padgett D, Henwood B, Tsemberis S. Housing First: Ending Homelessness, Transforming Systems, and Changing Lives: Oxford University Press; 2015. Page. 248

^{iv} [Coordinated Entry Core Elements](#)



HOMELESS PREVENTION SERIES:
Spotlight on Youth Homelessness
United States Interagency Council on Homelessness



HOMELESS PREVENTION SERIES: Spotlight on Youth Homelessness

United States Interagency Council on Homelessness

September 23, 2024

This is the first in a new series on local and federal efforts to prevent homelessness. Read the other spotlights and the first-ever federal homelessness prevention framework at usich.gov/prevention.]

For every person in America who moves off the streets or out of shelters and into homes, more than one loses a home and starts to experience homelessness. This indicates that we cannot end homelessness until we prevent people from losing homes in the first place.

Our nation's response to the COVID-19 pandemic showed the promise and power of preventing homelessness. Homelessness had been on the rise since 2016, but when the pandemic began, the nation came together to invest more in housing, support, and systems that prevent people from losing homes in the first place. Elected leaders from all levels of government used their power to help the most vulnerable, and President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan—the biggest single-year investment in ending homelessness in U.S. history. Congress created emergency rental assistance, temporarily expanded the Child Tax Credit, and distributed cash directly to lower-income households. State leaders used federal and state funding to enhance these federal programs, and local leaders prioritized discretionary funds for housing stability and homelessness prevention. These decisions prevented millions of evictions and cut poverty nearly in half. As a result, we flattened the post-2016 curve and prevented another rise in homelessness during the worst parts of the pandemic (2020-2022). Together—across party lines—we showed that progress is possible—even during the most difficult times.

In an effort to spur more innovation and more action at all levels of government and across all sectors, USICH collected emerging best practices from communities that are working to prevent homelessness. This is the first in a new series on local and federal efforts to prevent homelessness. New spotlights will be published every few weeks, each focusing on a specific method of homelessness prevention—from guaranteed basic income to eviction prevention. Other spotlights will focus on preventing homelessness among specific populations, including families, older adults, people with disabilities, and people in the justice system.

Along with the first federal homelessness prevention framework recently released by the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), we hope you will use this information to intensify your community's commitment to preventing this life-and-death crisis.

Youth Homelessness in America

More than 34,700 youth and young adults were experiencing homelessness on their own on a single night in January 2023, according to HUD's 2023 Point-in-Time Count. But this is likely an undercount because many youth experience "hidden" forms of homelessness living in motels/hotels or on family/friends' couches. Over the course of the 2021-2022 school year, public schools reported 1.2 million students* experiencing homelessness—a 10% increase from the previous school year—and more than 75% of them were "hidden homelessness" in unstable and often unsafe environments. Even more troubling, a nationwide study released

by Chapin Hall in 2017 found that 700,000 youth (ages 13-17) and 3.5 million young adults (ages 18-25) had experienced some form of homelessness over the course of a full year.

Homelessness disproportionately impacts youth of color, youth who identify as LGBTQI+, youth with disabilities, English learners, and youth who are pregnant or parenting. Compared to their peers, these groups face additional barriers—such as discrimination—to finding and maintaining housing.

Furthermore, the foster-care system is one of the biggest pipelines into youth homelessness. Every year, almost 20,000 young people age out of foster care and up to 46% of them experience homelessness by age 26. Nearly one-third of youth experiencing homelessness are or have been in the foster-care system at some point in their lives. Our systems are failing to protect these young people and failing to set them up for success after they age out of the system.

Local Efforts to Prevent Youth Homelessness

Given the intense flow of the foster care-to-homelessness pipeline, communities are increasingly targeting programs to this population. The city of Oakland, California uses a points-based prioritization system to identify people most at risk of homelessness—including youth exiting the foster-care system—and offer them emergency financial assistance, case management, and wraparound services. Since 2018, the Keep Oakland Housed Initiative has distributed \$5,400-\$8,150 to more than 8,500 people, preventing 92% of them from homelessness six months later. Oakland's model is now being deployed in communities across Alameda County.

In San Diego County and Ventura County, California, foster youth between the ages of 18 and 24 are prioritized for transitional housing with integrated support services. San Diego County also prioritizes this population for housing vouchers from the Family Unification Program. More than 90% of the youth helped by the Ventura Homeless Prevention remain housed one year later, and the nonprofit's model was recently adopted by a nonprofit in nearby Oxnard.

In addition to the foster-care system, health systems are also a major pipeline into homelessness for all ages. In Washington state, for instance, almost 80% of the young people who experience homelessness within a year of exiting any system of care came from inpatient treatment facilities for mental health and/or substance use disorders.

Recognizing this, advocates worked to create new funding and services in the state. House Bill 1929, which passed unanimously this year, fully funds and establishes the Post-Inpatient Housing Program for Young Adults to offer transitional housing along with mental health and substance use support for up to 90 days to strengthen recovery and identify long-term housing. Instead of standard discharge planning, Northstar Advocates works with young people to customize "Return To Community" plans for housing and services, key relationships, passions, education, and employment.

There are other bright spots as well. In Waterville, Maine, the Mid-Maine Shelter and Services organization operates housing with on-site case management and other services for youth exiting foster care, inpatient treatment, and jail. Living near and connecting with neighbors their own age is a unique developmental need and preference for young people. And in San Francisco, the city and county target emergency rental, housing, and

employment assistance for young people at risk of homelessness, particularly LGBTQI+ people who are more likely to experience homelessness. The city is also teaming up with providers, researchers, and Google to launch a pilot program to test the effectiveness of direct cash.

Federal Action to Prevent Youth Homelessness

Keeping youth and young adults safely and stably housed is a priority for the Biden-Harris administration. In his FY 2025 budget, President Biden asked Congress to guarantee a housing voucher for every youth aging out of foster care. As part of the White House Homelessness Prevention Working Group, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) committed to promote child-welfare funding/services to support families at risk of homelessness and to explore opportunities to test prevention strategies for this population.

In the last year, the federal government has taken the following actions, among others, to prevent youth homelessness:

- Through the Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) Program, HHS awarded nearly \$4 million in grants to design and deliver community-based demonstration initiatives to prevent youth homelessness.
- Through the Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Voucher Program, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) allocated more than 1,000 vouchers for youth aging out of foster care and at risk of or experiencing homelessness.
- HHS released new guidance to RHY grant recipients to ensure eligible young adults can access HUD's FYI vouchers.
- Through the Family Unification Program, HUD awarded an additional 625 housing vouchers for former or soon-to-be former foster youth at risk of homelessness.
- HUD awarded \$60 million to 16 communities through the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program, which requires communities to establish youth action boards so young people with lived experience lead their communities' effort to design, implement, and improve programs and policies to end youth homelessness.
- HUD released a technical assistance resource on "Combining RHY and Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project Resources."
- HUD awarded more than \$50 million in Youth Homelessness System Improvement grants for communities to either improve or create response systems for youth at risk of homelessness.
- So much more work needs to be done, and the Biden-Harris administration is committed to preventing homelessness and to building a nation where every person—no matter their age—has a safe and affordable home.



How the President's FY 2025 Budget Would Work to Prevent Homelessness

United States Interagency Council on Homelessness



How the President's FY 2025 Budget Would Work to Prevent Homelessness

*United States Interagency Council on Homelessness
March 26, 2024*

For every person who moves off the streets or out of shelters and into homes, more than one becomes homeless. Given this revolving door, **we cannot end homelessness until we close the front door to it and prevent people from losing homes in the first place.**

While the president's budget for fiscal year 2025 (FY 25) would [invest more than \\$10 billion to help people already experiencing homelessness](#)—an 11% increase overall from 2023 and a significant increase for several programs, including 40% more for Health Care for the Homeless—the president's budget also commits to doing more to prevent homelessness. **If adopted by Congress, the budget would change the lives of millions of Americans and continue the work the Biden-Harris administration started during the COVID-19 pandemic, which proved the promise and power of preventing homelessness before it happens.**

When the pandemic began, homelessness had been on the rise since 2016. Amid an economic recession and global pandemic, however, the nation came together across party lines to flatten the homelessness curve and **prevented another rise in homelessness during the worst parts of the pandemic.** This work showed that progress is possible, even during the most difficult times. This happened because we as a nation invested more in housing, support, and systems that prevent people from losing homes in the first place. In March 2021, Congress passed and the president signed the American Rescue Plan—the biggest single-year investment in ending homelessness in U.S. history. Congress also created emergency rental assistance and temporarily expanded the child tax credit—two decisions that **prevented millions of evictions and cut poverty nearly in half.** These actions and others invested in historically underserved groups and resulted in **the most equitable recovery from economic trouble in recent history.** This stands in contrast to previous downturns when Black and Hispanic Americans were typically left behind.

But today, most of the American Rescue Plan funding has been used, and homelessness is rising again. While the Biden-Harris administration is taking unprecedented action to prevent homelessness, we need Congress once again to invest more in solutions proven to keep people in their homes.

To prevent homelessness, we need to fix the systems that are failing people when they need help. Waitlists for housing vouchers are months' and even years' long. Housing markets have a shortage of 7 million affordable homes. 83 million Americans have no available primary care doctor in their area. Another 150 million have mental health conditions but do not get treatment. Minimum-wage workers can't afford a modest two-bedroom apartment in any U.S. state. The foster care system sends thousands of kids straight into homelessness. Jails and hospitals release people without helping them secure a place to go. Climate change is destroying homes.

To address these and other challenges that increase a person's risk of homelessness, **the president's 2025 budget asks Congress to invest:**

- \$32.8 billion for the Housing Choice Voucher Program, **expanding vouchers to 20,000 households**
- \$9 billion to guarantee housing vouchers for youth aging out of foster care
- \$13 billion to pave a path to guaranteed rental assistance for extremely low-income veteran families
- \$3 billion to promote and solidify **state and local eviction prevention** efforts for renters
- \$1.1 billion to support tribal efforts to expand affordable housing, improve housing conditions, and increase economic opportunity
- \$258 billion to **build or preserve more than 2 million affordable homes**, including \$1.3 billion for the HOME Investment Partnerships Program to build and expand affordable rental housing
- \$37 billion to **expand the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program**
- \$7.5 billion for climate-resilient affordable housing
- \$800 million for programs under the Violence Against Women Act, including **key investments in sexual assault services, transitional housing, and legal assistance for survivors of gender-based violence**
- \$765 billion over 10 years for middle- and low-income tax cuts, including **\$2,600 child tax credits for 39 million families**
- \$8.5 billion for critical nutrition programs, including \$7.7 billion to fully fund participation in the Women, Infants, and Children Program to serve all eligible participants
- \$8.5 billion for the Child Care and Development Block Grant Program, which will help states expand child care assistance to serve over 2 million low-income children
- \$4.1 billion for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program

In addition, the president's FY 25 budget would:

- **Require all health plans to cover mental health and substance use disorder benefits** and ensure that plans have an adequate network of behavioral health providers
- Provide Medicaid-like health coverage to lower-income people in states that have not expanded Medicaid and provide financial incentives to ensure other states maintain their existing expansion
- **Fund voluntary, universal, free preschool** for all of the nation's four-year-olds and chart a path to expand preschool to three-year-olds
- Protect and strengthen Social Security and Medicare

Homelessness is deadly—but preventable—and it is a crisis that should be treated with the same urgency as a tornado, wildfire, or pandemic. The president's 2025 budget would move us closer to preventing and ending this tragedy.