The Way Home

Youth Homeless Demonstration Project
RFP Grant Conference
Welcome & Agenda

- Introductions
- Overview of CoC 101
- TX-700 – YHDP Award and Background
- YHDP Values and Goals
- Agency Eligibility and Threshold
- YHDP Projects Available for Funding
- Project Requirements and Admin
  - Youth and Project Design
- Proposal Evaluation Process
- Timeline
- Q/A Session
Introductions
Jessica Preheim,
Vice President of Strategic Planning-
Coalition for the Homeless

Stefanie Quintela
Director of Strategic Planning
(Programs) - Coalition for the Homeless

Renee Cavazos
CoC Manager - Coalition for the Homeless

Quana Smith
Youth Manager - Coalition for the Homeless

Caybryn Southern
Strategic Planning Manager - Coalition for the Homeless

Youth Action Board
Charmet Findley
Makayla Boles
Tiata Collier
Kenny Easley
Cerenity Flowers
Prince Hayward
Kiana Johnson
Waiola Jones
Charles Manning*
Daniel Scott
Celise Tibbett
Moony Williams

Bree Williams
Technical Assistance Collaborative

Natalie Metzger-Smit
Technical Assistance Collaborative

Lauren Leonardis
Technical Assistance Collaborative
### Key Contacts for the RFP Process

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions Regarding the YHDP should be directed to:</th>
<th><a href="mailto:yhdprfp@homelesshouston.org">yhdprfp@homelesshouston.org</a></th>
<th>Main Contact for YHDP Questions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coalition for the Homeless Contact</td>
<td>Quana Smith- <a href="mailto:qsmith@homelesshouston.org">qsmith@homelesshouston.org</a></td>
<td>Youth Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coalition for the Homeless Contact</td>
<td>Renee Cavazos- <a href="mailto:rcavazos@homelesshouston.org">rcavazos@homelesshouston.org</a></td>
<td>CoC Manager</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Overview of the Continuum of Care/
The Way Home- 101

Coalition for the Homeless
CoC 101

- The Coalition for the Homeless serves as lead agency of The Way Home (TWH), also known as TX-700 or local Continuum of Care (CoC).

- The Way Home is a network of local homeless organizations, government entities, private/public stakeholders who organize to facilitate safe, stable, housing solutions throughout Houston, Harris, Fort Bend and Montgomery Counties.

- As lead agency of TWH, the Coalition leads the annual Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) released by HUD (Housing and Urban Development).
  - The NOFO application process is completed collaboratively and is the only way to apply for CoC NOFO funding for our region.

- Annually our CoC funding is around $45 Million dollars which funds existing projects within our CoC, keeping clients housed and stabilized.
  - After the initial 2-year demonstration implementation the Youth Homeless Demonstration Project funding will be eligible for renewal during our annual NOFO competition.

Together we are working to ensure that everyone throughout our region has a Safe Place to Call Home.
YHDP Award & Background

Youth Homeless Demonstration Project (YHDP)
About YHDP

- **The Youth Homeless Demonstration Project (YHDP)** is a Federal grant from the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) designed to promote an end to youth homelessness in our region.

- The Way Home Continuum of Care (CoC), our local homeless response system, applied for this award in 2021 and received the fourth-highest award in the country - **$10 million** from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) -- for the Youth Homeless Demonstration Program (YHDP).

- The YHDP provides our community with the funding, technical assistance, and flexibility to develop and implement a coordinated community approach to youth homelessness that matches the needs, assets, constraints, and preferences of our community stakeholders.

- As part of the grant award, our community was tasked with creating the Coordinated Community Plan with a goal to reduce the amount of young people (under 25) experiencing homelessness.
  - Over the past 8 months the Coalition led by the Youth Action Board (YAB) and Youth partners/stakeholders throughout our region have worked together to produce the **Coordinated Community Plan (CCP)** which details our shared vision, mission, goals, and action steps to prevent and end youth homelessness within our region.
  - The CCP process including bringing together a wide variety of stakeholders, including housing providers, local and state child welfare agencies, school districts, juvenile justice and workforce development.
  - The YHDP Flexibility and Innovation in project design is to help address youth homelessness within our community. Addressing core principles and goals.
YHDP Values and Guiding Principles

Guiding principles and values that will direct The Way Home’s approach to prevent and end youth homelessness
United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) Youth Framework and the Four Core Outcomes

- Stable Housing include safe housing and a reliable place to call home
- Permanent Connections include an ongoing attachment to families, communities, schools, and other positive social networks.
- Education/Employment includes high performance in and completion of education and training activities, especially for younger youth and starting and maintaining adequate and stable employment particularly for older youth.
- Social-emotional Well-being includes the development of key competencies, attitudes, and behaviors that equip a young person to succeed across multiple domains of daily life, including school, work, relationships, and community

Equity and Inclusion

- Youth-Driven
- Youth-Centered Practices
- Commitment to Housing First
- Individualized and youth-driven supports
- A Person-Centered Approach
- Accountability
Through the planning process, the core Youth Leadership Writing Team (YLWT) developed the following community goals as we work to end and prevent homelessness. Goals, objectives, and action steps were created to align with the USICH Youth Framework to End Youth Homelessness and were development with youth collaboration.

1. **Identification and Access**: Identify all youth and young adults experiencing and at risk of homelessness as quickly as possible and connect them to available resources.

2. **Equity**: Ensure that youth have equitable access and opportunities for success within The Way Home CoC.

3. **Youth Choice & Action**: Engage youth in leading and implementing strategies to address youth homelessness.

4. **Housing**: Improve housing stability and decrease repeated returns to homelessness.

5. **Opportunity**: Increase educational engagement and income for youth experiencing homelessness.

6. **Diversion**: Create diversion strategies specific to youth and young adults.
Agency Eligibility & Threshold
Eligible applicants include:
- Non-profit organizations
- Local and state government
- Instrumentalities of local and state government (such as housing authorities)
  - For-profit entities are not eligible
- Agencies must be located within our service region- Houston, Harris, Fort Bend and Montgomery County
- Must serve people experiencing homelessness or at imminent risk of experiencing homelessness

Please reference page 14-17 of the RFP for additional requirements including:
- Adhering to Housing First Practices
- Active DUNS/SAMS number
- Involvement of youth/young adults in project design, implementation and evaluation of projects. Including adding youth/young adults with lived experience into leadership roles.
- Active membership within the CoC (The Way Home)
- Utilization of Coordinated Access System (Centralized Intake) and HMIS (Homeless Management Information System)
Housing First is an approach to quickly and successfully connect individuals and families experiencing homelessness to permanent housing without preconditions and barriers to entry, such as sobriety, treatment or service participation requirements. Supportive services are offered to maximize housing stability and prevent returns to homelessness as opposed to addressing predetermined treatment goals prior to permanent housing entry.
Coordinated Access offers a coordinated approach to addressing the needs of individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Clients complete an assessment to assist in resolving their homelessness and may be assigned to a case manager and/or referred to other agencies. The Coalition for the Homeless is lead Agency for the Coordinated Access System. All YHDP projects must take referrals only from the Way Home Coordinated Access System to be eligible for funding. A youth specific Coordinated Access System will be designed and implemented for the YHDP projects.
A Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is used to collect client-level data and data on housing and services to homeless individuals and families and persons at risk of homelessness.

The Coalition for the Homeless is the lead agency for HMIS and works and supports our CoC partners to comply with HUD's data collection, management, and reporting standards.

All YHDP projects must participate in the TWH HMIS system or DV system (for victims of domestic violence).
YHDP Projects Available for Funding
YHDP Projects

Through the planning process the YAB along with community stakeholders aligned the following project types to address the critical need for housing and supportive services for youth under 25 who are at risk of and are experiencing homelessness.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employment Supports</td>
<td>Supportive Services Only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diversion PLUS</td>
<td>(including Host Homes and Resource Navigation)- Supportive Services Only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent Supportive Housing</td>
<td>(PSH- with access to short-term crisis housing)- PSH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transitional Housing/Rapid Re-Housing Hybrid</td>
<td>(TH-RRH)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Employment Supports

YHDP funds will be used to support a community Youth and Young Adult (YYA) dedicated staff to providing individual assistance and navigation to support young people’s engagement in available education and employment programs.

A few Program Elements – please see RFP for additional elements
- YYA specific job coaches (including peer-supported staffing)
- Education advisors/mentors to assist with educational credit recovery to ensure high school graduation; maintain and obtain higher education
- Incorporate participation of new providers, projects, and project types into HMIS.
- Assistance in obtaining required documents: identification, Social Security card, I-9 documents, transcripts, etc.
- Connections to work supplies and other essential items (clothing, hygiene, etc.)
- Access to alternative and accessible transportation.
- Sober coaches
- Mobile career advisors

Innovation Opportunities
- Payments for one-time car repairs for transportation to education or employment services (and other alternative forms of transportation)
- Hiring YYA with lived experience as peer supports for YHDP funded projects
- Incorporate YYA Mobile Career Advisors that can travel throughout the CoC on specific days of the week to provide resources traditionally offered at brick-and-mortar locations.
Diversion PLUS

Projects will provide services to help youth and young adults avoid literal homelessness, specifically focused on immediate housing crisis resolution and housing stabilization. Projects will provide supports to help connect youth and young adults experiencing housing instability and crisis to permanent housing more quickly or self-resolve existing barriers to stable housing. Diversion PLUS services will include professional staffing and flexible fund assistance aimed at diverting youth into natural, supportive environments and other age-appropriate housing and service resources including but not limited to family reunification, host homes, short-term shallow subsidy, and service linkage.

A few Program Elements – please see RFP for additional elements

• Individualized needs (including the following):
  • Case Management services
  • Resource navigation
  • Limited financial assistance
  • Short-term shallow subsidy
  • Host Homes and Host supports
  • Conflict resolution
  • Family reunification
  • Relationship supports
  • Life skill development
  • Increased access to Legal Aid services to reduce legal barriers to housing stability and employment

Innovation Opportunities

• Create new community models (i.e., Host Homes)
• Support youth who are homeless from other systems (i.e., justice, welfare, education)
• Emphasizes options for youth and young adults to stay where they feel safe and supported
Permanent Supportive Housing

Summary: Long-term subsidy with wrap-around support services that help youth with intensive service needs obtain and maintain housing stability. This project will target YYA with disabilities and/or complex needs and will provide the time and flexibility needed to stabilize in permanent housing. Due to the shortage of YYA crisis beds, this project will also link unsheltered youth to short-term crisis housing option while they await permanent supportive housing.

A few Program Elements – please see RFP for additional elements
- Master/parent leasing, or scattered site (options intended to promote access to housing for YYA with barriers to securing a traditional lease). Project based options need to be youth driven.
- Housing First
- Youth Choice
- Onsite Case Management services (integrated and individualized supports). Case Management supports is more intensive than other intervention types
- Rental Assistance
- Life skills development training (life skills, health, mental health, social and emotional wellbeing, education and employment, and permanent connections to adulthood)
- Increased access to Legal Aid services to reduce legal barriers to housing stability and employment
- Short-term crisis housing while awaiting a permanent housing location.

Innovation Opportunities
- Master/parent-leasing options for youth with barriers to securing a traditional lease.
- Alternative lease terms to assist in securing a traditional market-rate lease (under 12 months)
- YYA specific housing navigation services
Transitional Housing/Rapid Re-Housing Hybrid

The Transitional Housing/ Rapid Re-Housing (TH-RRH) Hybrid allows YYA to access crisis housing (TH) and/or move to medium term RRH (up to 36 months). This hybrid model provides low-barrier and inclusive housing that fits each youth’s individual needs. YYA will be connected to education, employment, social/emotional, health and other supportive services. The TH component of this project will serve as an option for YYA who need intensive support to resolve an immediate crisis and stabilize prior to moving to permanent housing. The TH component connects youth to RRH and other housing options as appropriate.

A few Program Elements – please see RFP for additional elements
- Intentional Case Management (onsite, flexible, voluntary)
- Life skills development training (life skills, health, mental health, social and emotional wellbeing, education and employment, and permanent connections to adulthood)
- Peer supports, mentor supports, and community-building efforts
- Housing location and landlord engagement supports
- Flexible after-hour services
- Increased access to Legal Aid services to reduce legal barriers to housing stability and employment
- Connections to basic needs (i.e., food, clothing, hygiene)
- Specific assistance for special populations including YYA who identify as LGBTQIA+ and victims of DV and trafficking
- Follow-up and aftercare support

Innovation Opportunities
- Creating more housing flexibility for YYA with a new housing model
- Opportunity to increase the array of services offered based on YYA choice
- Establishes opportunities for master/parent leases with YYA subleases (will help to establish a positive rental history)
- Alternative lease terms to assist in securing a traditional market-rate lease (under 12 months)
Project Requirements

Proposed YHDP projects are **required to be new to the community** and may not be expansions of current projects. Selected YHDP project applicants must:

- Incorporate youth voice and youth in project design.
- Agree to work with Coalition for the Homeless Youth team and YAB for Technical Assistance support on project design, scope, budget, and implementation.
- Invest in Continuous Quality Improvement.
- Track Reporting and Evaluation.
- Provide 25% of the project’s total cost in match to the project.

Please note that after the initial 2-year project period, the YHDP will roll into the annual NOFO process and renewals will follow our annual NOFO competition guidelines and processes. For more information on our current NOFO competition guidelines please reference homelesshouston.org/funding.
YHDP Applicants must provide 25% of the project’s total cost in match to the project.

Minus leasing costs.

Agencies may provide match through cash and/or in-kind sources.
HUD encourages YHDP projects to seek alternative requirements ("waivers") of existing regulations to make a project more responsive to the needs of the target population and community.

Project applicants may request any alternative requirements they believe will enhance their project.

Alternative requirements may not be approved prior to project implementation, therefore applicants must be able to implement their project without waivers.
Examples of CoC program regulations that can be requested to be waived include:

- Requirement to have a 12-month lease in Rapid Rehousing Projects. *Applicants have been allowed to use lease agreements that cover less than 12-months.*

- Requirement for annual assessment of eligibility for assistance after determination of initial eligibility. *YYA in the program only need to satisfy eligibility requirements once upon program entry and retain their eligibility in the program regardless of changes in circumstance.*

- 24-month time limit in Rapid Rehousing. *Applicants have been allowed to increase the time limit for program participation to 36 months*

- Prohibition against combining leasing and rental assistance in a single structure. *Applicants have been granted the flexibility to use a leasing model for some YYA program participants and a rental assistance model for others as determined by individual circumstances.*

- Please reference Addendum A for additional information existing regarding waivers.
Project Design

Presented by TAC
Collaborating with youth to design projects

All YHDP applicants are required to collaborate with youth with lived experience to design their projects.

Opportunities for collaboration:
- Determining staff to client ratios
- Creating staffing plans
- Identifying key services
- Identifying referral partnerships
- Consider developing opportunities for youth leadership positions such as Board/Committee positions, staff positions, youth advisory council, etc.
Youth and young adults have unique experience and expertise that should inform every aspect of our work.

Creates professional achievement opportunities for youth leaders in your community.

Ensures that your agency staff reflect the identities and experiences of the people you aim to serve.

Provides concrete ways to put youth collaboration values into action and meet related grant requirements.

Why collaborate with youth to design projects?
Proposal Evaluation Process

- The YHDP selection process will occur through selected members of the Youth Action Board, Youth Team, and others review and selection members as needed.

- The selection and review committee will make funding recommendations for approval by the Youth Action Board and The Lead Agency (Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County), both of whom have the authority to approve or reject funding recommendations.

Project applications will be reviewed to determine whether they meet eligibility thresholds; projects that do not meet the threshold criteria will not be scored.

- **YHDP Project Review and Selection Committee**- will evaluate proposals utilizing the scoring criteria below and will select the highest-scoring valid proposal for each program type to recommend for funding. The review panel will consist of selected YAB Members, YHDP Leadership, funding partners, and other individuals knowledgeable about homelessness and housing. The panel membership is consistent with the Way Home Continuum of Care conflict of interest policy to ensure a fair selection process

- **Presentation to Review and Selection Committee**- Following application submission, eligible applicants will be asked to present their proposals to the YHDP Project Review and Selection Committee brief presentations will allow the committee to hear firsthand how the proposed projects will serve young people experiencing homelessness and provide them the opportunity to ask clarifying questions of applying organizations. Final project decisions will be made using the panel’s scoring and presentation ranking. Applicants who do not pass threshold will not be eligible for presentation reviews.
YHDP Review and Selection Committee

The review and selection committee will be comprised of members of the Coalition, YAB, and funding partners.
## Competition Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Additional Information</th>
<th>Completed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, April 27, 2022</td>
<td>RFP Is Released to the community for 28 Days</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, April 27, 2022</td>
<td>FAQ Email opens- <a href="mailto:yhdprfp@homelesshouston.org">yhdprfp@homelesshouston.org</a></td>
<td>Written Questions to be received and replied to via this email and posted on website</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, May 3, 2022</td>
<td>Intro to Youth Homelessness + Intensive Youth Collaboration Training</td>
<td>Community and YAB (YHDP HUD TAs) Led by True Colors United Audience: Providers interested in applying</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:30 am - 4:00 pm</td>
<td>2500 Bolsover St., Houston, TX 77005</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 4, 2022</td>
<td>YHDP Grant Conference for Interested Parties</td>
<td>Audience: Required for Applicants</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1:00 pm - 2:00 pm</td>
<td>Virtual option 2:15 pm - 3:15 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2500 Bolsover St., Houston, TX 77005</td>
<td>YHDP HUD Tas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, May 5, 2022,</td>
<td>Project Design training with YAB and YYA</td>
<td>Audience: YAB Only</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:00 am - 11:00 am</td>
<td>2500 Bolsover St., Houston, TX 77005</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Something FUN! Team building &amp; Leadership Development activities</td>
<td>YHDP HUD Tas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11:00 am - 12:00 pm</td>
<td>CAN Office</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, May 9, 2022</td>
<td>Final YHDP Review Committee Selected</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday May 9, 2022</td>
<td>YHDP TA</td>
<td>Optional 30 Minute TA Sessions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:00-10:00 am</td>
<td>1:00-4:00 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reach out to <a href="mailto:yhdprfp@homelesshouston.org">yhdprfp@homelesshouston.org</a> to schedule</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday May 13, 2022</td>
<td>YHDP TA</td>
<td>Optional 30 Minute TA Sessions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8:30-11:30 am</td>
<td>Reach out to <a href="mailto:yhdprfp@homelesshouston.org">yhdprfp@homelesshouston.org</a> to schedule</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, May 13, 2022</td>
<td>Last Day to Submit FAQ</td>
<td>Final FAQ’s Posted on Website</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 25, 2022</td>
<td>RFP Is Closed at 12:00 pm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 25, 2022</td>
<td>Applications received and shared with the review committee via Sharelink</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, May 27, 2022</td>
<td>ALL-DAY EVENT</td>
<td>Project Review Committee and YAB Host Virtual Project Site Visits for projects who met requirements</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 31, 2022</td>
<td>Project Review Committee and YAB Select Projects for Steering Committee Approval</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 1, 2022</td>
<td>Agency Notification</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2, 2022</td>
<td>E-Snaps Trainings as needed for selected projects- Selected projects can begin to enter application into ESnaps</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q & A

• Any questions we do not get to please send to yhdprfp@homelesshouston.org

• The FAQ document is being updated throughout the competition up until the FAQ deadline

• Questions may require input from the full YAB- we will respond via email to these specific questions/comments

• Please sign up for TA sessions by emailing yhdprfp@homelesshouston.org
Resources

• HUD Exchange- FY 2019 and FY 2020 YHDP Rounds 4 and 5 Application Resources - HUD Exchange

• USICH- Ending Youth Homelessness | United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH)

• Coalition for the Homeless- The Way Home Partner Portal (homelesshouston.org)