The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness: Key priorities and strategies accelerating efforts at the national, state and local level

U.S. Department of Education
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness

October 29, 2017
29th Annual NAEHCY Conference
Chicago, IL
ED/EHCY Priorities and Strategies
Addressing HCYs & UHYs

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Liaison
Section 722(f)(4), Functions of the Office of Coordinator, states that (4) in order to improve the provision of comprehensive education and related services to homeless children and youths and their families, coordinate activities and collaborate with—

- (B) providers of services to homeless children and youths and their families, including public and private child welfare and social services agencies, law enforcement agencies, juvenile and family courts, agencies providing mental health services, domestic violence agencies, child care providers, runaway and homeless youth centers, and providers of services and programs funded under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5701 et seq.);

- (C) providers of emergency, transitional, and permanent housing to homeless children and youths, and their families, including public housing agencies, shelter operators, operators of transitional housing facilities, and providers of transitional living programs for homeless youths;

- (E) community organizations and groups representing homeless children and youths and their families;
LEA Coordination Requirements and U/HYs

Section 722 (g) State Plan LEA Requirements (all LEAs)

(5) Coordination

(A) In general

Each local educational agency serving homeless children and youths that receives assistance under this part shall coordinate—

- (i) the provision of services under this part with local social services agencies and other agencies or entities providing services to homeless children and youths and their families, including services and programs funded under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5701 et seq.); and
- (ii) transportation, transfer of school records, and other interdistrict activities, with other local educational agencies.

(B) Housing assistance

- If applicable, each State educational agency and local educational agency that receives assistance under this part shall coordinate with State and local housing agencies responsible for developing the comprehensive housing affordability strategy described in section 12705 of this title to minimize educational disruption for children and youths who become homeless.
LEA Liaison Coordination Duties for U/HCY’s

Section 722(g)(6) Local educational agency liaison (under State plan)

(A) Duties

Each local educational agency liaison for homeless children and youths, designated under paragraph (1)(J)(ii), shall ensure that—

- (i) homeless children and youths are identified by school personnel through outreach and coordination activities with other entities and agencies;
- (iv) homeless families and homeless children and youths receive referrals to health care services, dental services, mental health and substance abuse services, housing services, and other appropriate services;
- (vi) public notice of the educational rights of homeless children and youths is disseminated in locations frequented by parents or guardians of such children and youths, and unaccompanied youths, including schools, shelters, public libraries, and soup kitchens, in a manner and form understandable to the parents and guardians of homeless children and youths, and unaccompanied youths;
- (viii) the parent or guardian of a homeless child or youth, and any unaccompanied youth, is fully informed of all transportation services, including transportation to the school of origin, as described in paragraph (1)(J)(iii), and is assisted in accessing transportation to the school that is selected under paragraph (3)(A);
LEA Liaison Coordination Duties for U/HCYs

Section 722(g)(6)(A)(x) unaccompanied youths—

Each local educational agency liaison for homeless children and youths, designated under paragraph (1)(J)(ii), shall ensure that—[UHYs]

- (I) are enrolled in school;
- (II) have opportunities to meet the same challenging State academic standards as the State establishes for other children and youth, including through implementation of the procedures under paragraph (1)(F)(ii); and
- (III) are informed of their status as independent students under section 1087vv of title 20 and that the youths may obtain assistance from the local educational agency liaison to receive verification of such status for purposes of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid described in section 1090 of title 20.
ED and Interagency Youth Homelessness Work in FY 2018

- NCHE to work with 10 YHDP sites on coordinated TA and Evaluation
- General TA possibly provided to an additional 50 CoCs; updated LEA-CoC Crosswalk; multiyear data workbooks
- Collaboration on PIT Counts; guidance on implementing youth criteria and benchmarks; coordinated entry systems
2018 and Beyond

- Improved coordination with HHS-ACYF-FYSB-RHY programs through national, regional, and local TA
- YHDP: More effort to present at HUD grantee venues—e.g., NAEH
- Performance pilot monitoring: under-identification, under-serving, and homeless student achievement gaps
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Runaway and Homeless Youth Program: School Collaboration and Partnership
Runaway and Homeless Youth Program

• The passage of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) by Congress over 40 years ago created a network of federally funded and supported programs nationally to support runaway and homeless youth and youth in at-risk situations.

• The RHY Act provides authority for three major grant programs:
  • Street Outreach Program (SOP) - Provides street-based aid and prevention services to street youth who have been subjected to or are at risk of sexual exploitation and abuse
  • Basic Center Program (BCP) - Addresses the immediate needs of runaway and homeless youth under age 18 by providing an array of services including shelter, food, medical care, and counseling
  • Transitional Living Program (TLP) - Provides longer-term residential services to homeless youth ages 16 to 22, including shelter, life skills, educational opportunities, and career counseling
Runaway and Homeless Youth Program

• Transitional Living Program Grants also fund Maternity Group Homes
  • These are community-based, adult-supervised congregate shelters, apartments, scattered site apartments, and supportive services for youth ages 16 to 22 that are homeless and are pregnant and/or parenting who cannot safely live with their own families.
  • Services include counseling in basic life skills, parenting skills, interpersonal skill building, educational advancement, job attainment skills, and physical and mental health care. These services are designed to help youth that are homeless develop the skills necessary to make a successful transition to self-sufficient living.
RHY Programs and School Partnership

• RHY Final Rule (effective January 19, 2017) requires RHY programs to “assist youth in staying connected with their schools or to obtain appropriate educational services, training, or employment services.”
  • Coordination with McKinney-Vento school district liaisons
  • Coordination with local college placement services
  • Provide access to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
  • Coordination with local employment and employment training agencies or programs

45 CFR part 1351
MGH’s and School/Early Childhood Partnership

• MGH child care plans must link the youth to safe, affordable, and accessible child care, and early childhood development services so that the youth can complete education and employment goals

• Partner with Early Childhood Development Centers

• Encouraged to utilize the Early Childhood Self-Assessment Tool for Family Shelters

Transitional Living Program and Maternity Group Homes Funding Opportunity Announcement - HHS-2017-ACF-ACYF-CX-1233
Federal Goal to End Youth Homelessness

NAEHCY Conference 2017
HUD’s Homeless Assistance Grants

- **Continuum of Care (CoC) Program** – a competitive program that funds transitional housing, permanent housing, and supportive services

- **Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program** – a formula that funds street outreach, emergency shelter, rapid re-housing, and homelessness prevention assistance
Community Resources

Ending Youth Homelessness
Guidebook Series: System Planning

The guidebook topics include:
1. System Planning: strategies for developing a youth homelessness system and leadership.
2. Mainstream System Collaboration: strategies for engaging mainstream sectors such as child welfare, education, workforce, justice, housing, health, early childhood education, community organizations, and mainstream benefits.

Ending Youth Homelessness
Guidebook Series: Mainstream System Collaboration

The guidebook topics include:
1. System Planning: strategies for developing a youth homelessness system and leadership.
2. Mainstream System Collaboration: strategies for engaging mainstream sectors such as child welfare, education, workforce, justice, housing, health, early childhood education, community organizations, and mainstream benefits.

Ending Youth Homelessness
Guidebook Series: Promising Program Models

The guidebook topics include:
1. System Planning: strategies for developing a youth homelessness system and leadership.
2. Mainstream System Collaboration: strategies for engaging mainstream sectors such as child welfare, education, workforce, justice, housing, health, early childhood education, community organizations, and mainstream benefits.
Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP)

- $33 million awarded to 10 communities to:
  - Build national momentum around preventing and ending youth homelessness
  - Evaluate the coordinated approach to preventing and ending youth homelessness
  - Expand capacity
  - Evaluate performance measures to better measure youth outcomes
  - Establish and framework for federal program and TA collaboration
FUP-FSS Demonstration

- Available to PHAs that administer both FUP and FSS Programs
- Goals of the Demonstration:
  - Provide housing stability for youth aging out of foster care
  - Expand opportunities to become self-sufficient and transition to independent living and adulthood
  - Increase access to FUP for youth
  - Strengthen PCWA/PHA partnerships
  - Increase coordination with community efforts to establish and operationalize a coordinated assessment system
  - Build knowledge base of promising practices
FY 2017 Consolidated Appropriations Act provided $43 million to HUD for a second round of YHDP.

Act directed HUD to select up to 11 communities, at least 5 of which must be rural.
Resources

(HUD) Resources for Youth Homelessness

Housing and Education Cross-Collaboration:
Housing + ED: Let’s All Get Ahead!
William Snow
Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
William.Snow@hud.gov
The Federal Vision for Achieving the Goal of Preventing and Ending Youth Homelessness

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Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness

- End chronic homelessness
- End Veteran homelessness
- End homelessness among families, youth and children
- Set a path to ending all types of homelessness

https://www.usich.gov/strengthening-the-plan
Ending Youth Homelessness: Coordinated Community Response

#1 - Build the foundation for a coordinated and comprehensive community response

#2 - Build the capacity of local communities to implement the components of a coordinated and comprehensive community response

Learn more: Coordinated Community Response to Youth Homelessness

Preventing and Ending Youth Homelessness
A Coordinated Community Response

In Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness, we set a national goal to prevent and end youth homelessness in 2020. To get there, it will take all of us—government, nonprofits, business, and philanthropy—to make sure every community has the capacity to achieve the goal.

Our understanding of the scope and dynamics of youth homelessness is growing. While we continue to learn more every day, we must act now to build the comprehensive and coordinated response that young people need to end their homelessness forever.

This document provides a preliminary vision for such a response. It draws upon what we know works to end homelessness for other populations, along with strategies that support the unique needs of unaccompanied youth and young adults under 25.

We hope you’ll use this document to advance discussions in your communities and build upon the work already underway. To receive additional tools and resources that will be developed to support the implementation of this response, sign up for our newsletter.

Our Preliminary Vision for a Community Response

The Intergovernmental Group on Ending Youth Homelessness has developed a shared vision for the community response that will be necessary to prevent and end youth homelessness, illustrated here and described in more detail below.

[Diagram showing the preliminary vision for a community response with categories such as Prevention, Identification, Early Intervention, Identification, and for Tied Services/Housing Solutions.]

**ASSESSMENT**

*The shaded area provides an overview of services, resources, and interventions.*
Youth Criteria

These criteria, and the accompanying benchmarks, apply to all youth and young adults under the age of 25 who are unaccompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or caretaker and who meet any federal definition of homelessness.

1. The community identifies all unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness.

2. The community uses prevention and diversion strategies whenever possible, and otherwise provides immediate access to low-barrier crisis housing and services to any youth who needs and wants it.

3. The community uses coordinated entry processes to effectively link all youth experiencing homelessness to housing and services solutions that are tailored to their needs.

(continued on next slide...)
Youth Criteria cont’d

These criteria, and the accompanying benchmarks, apply to all youth and young adults under the age of 25 who are unaccompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or caretaker and who meet any federal definition of homelessness.

4. The community acts with urgency to **swiftly assist youth to move into permanent or non-time-limited housing options** with appropriate services and supports.

5. The community has resources, plans, and system capacity in place to **continue to prevent and quickly end future experiences of homelessness** among youth.
Benchmarks

**Benchmark A:** There are few youth experiencing homelessness at any given time.

**Benchmark B:** Youth experiencing homelessness are swiftly connected to safe and stable housing opportunities and to permanent housing options.
The Work Underway

• Strengthening the Existing Federal Strategic Plan
• Piloting Criteria and Benchmarks
• National Estimate of Prevalence of Youth Homelessness
• Regional Interagency Strategy
• Other
The Work Ahead

- Increasing the **range and supply** of affordable housing options
- Continuing to strengthen our **data collection and analysis**
- Continuing to **innovate** around and **expand** the range of housing and services interventions necessary
- Enhancing connections to support economic self-sufficiency, including **stronger partnerships** with employment services and **education**
- Strengthening our ability to **respond rapidly**
- Enhancing **partnerships** at all levels of government
- Building a **lasting response** that will sustain our success
Adding to your toolbox

• USICH - Ending Youth Homelessness
• Coordinated Community Response
• Criteria and Benchmarks
• Progress and Work Ahead (Fact Sheets)
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