



# **TX-601**

**Tarrant and Parker Counties  
Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program**

**Coordinated Community Plan to  
Prevent and End Youth Homelessness**

**March 2022**

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are deeply grateful for the participation and dedication shown throughout the CCP process from the youth and young adults within our community. We are especially grateful to our Youth Action Board members, who were integral in the development of this CCP. From late night zoom meetings to endless email chains, our YAB members have been a guiding light throughout. Thank you all for pouring your heart and soul into this project. We appreciate each one of you.

We feel incredibly lucky to be surrounded by community partners who are always willing to show up to the table to help make our community better for everyone. Thank you all for the countless hours dedicated to making sure this CCP is inclusive and reflective of our community. Without you all, this plan is nothing but words on paper.

Thank you to our HUD representatives, technical assistance providers, and the other YHDP communities whom we have worked alongside in the last several months. Each of you have helped guide this process and we are grateful for your support. Thank you for your commitment to YHDP and your ongoing support of our community.

We are grateful to the local leaders in Tarrant and Parker Counties who have chosen to prioritize ending youth homelessness in our community. Without your support, our goal to end youth homelessness would not be possible.

## Definitions and Commonly Used Acronyms

**CCP (Coordinated Community Plan):** A community's blueprint that lays the groundwork for implementation of a community's vision for preventing and ending youth homelessness

**CoC (Continuum of Care):** a community-based homeless assistance program planning network.

**CE (Coordinated Entry):** A standardized method for connecting individuals and families experiencing homelessness to the resources available in a geographic area.

**Diversion:** A strategy that prevents homelessness for people seeking shelter by helping them identify immediate alternative housing arrangements and connecting them with services or financial assistance to help return to permanent housing.

**LGBTQIA+:** Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual.

**HMIS (Homeless Management Information System):** an information technology system used to collect client-level data and data on the provision of housing and services to homeless individuals and families and people at risk of homelessness.

**Homeless:** For purposes of this project, we have limited the term homeless to these two categories: 1) Individuals and families who live in a place not meant for human habitation (including the streets or in their car), emergency shelter, transitional housing, and hotels paid for by a government or charitable organization; or 2) Individuals or families who are fleeing or attempting to flee their housing or the place they are staying because of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions related to violence that has taken place in the house or has made them afraid to return to the house, including trading sex for housing, trafficking, physical abuse, violence (or perceived threat of violence) because of the youth's sexual orientation, and who lack resources or support networks to maintain or obtain permanent housing.

**HUD:** [United States Department of] Housing and Urban Development.

### HUD Homelessness Categories:

- **Category 1 (Literal Homelessness):** Individuals and families who live in a place not meant for human habitation (including the streets or in their car), emergency shelter, transitional housing, and hotels paid for by a government or charitable organization.
- **Category 2 (Imminent Risk of Homelessness):** Individuals or families who will lose their primary nighttime residence within 14 days and have no other resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing.
- **Category 3 (Homeless Under Other Statutes):** Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age, or families with children and youth, who do not meet any of the other categories but are homeless under other federal statutes, have not had a lease and have moved two or more times in the past 60 days and can be expected to remain unstable due to special needs or barriers.
- **Category 4 (Fleeing Domestic Violence):** Individuals or families who are fleeing or attempting to flee their housing or the place they are staying because of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions related to violence that has taken place in the house or has made them afraid to return to the house, including

trading sex for housing, trafficking, physical abuse, violence (or perceived threat of violence) because of the youth's sexual orientation, and who lack resources or support networks to maintain or obtain permanent housing.

**ICT:** Improvement, Coordination, and Training Committee

**PIT (Point in Time) Count:** Provides a snapshot of the number of people experiencing homelessness on a specific date in our community; usually occurs during the last week of January.

**Pregnant or Parenting Youth:** Individuals who are age 24 years or younger who are pregnant or who are the parents or legal guardians of one or more children who are present with or sleeping in the same place as that youth parent, and where there is no person over age 24 years in the household.

**PSH (Permanent Supportive Housing):** long-term housing with supportive services for homeless individuals with disabilities.

**RHY:** Runaway and Homeless Youth.

**RRH (Rapid Re-housing):** A program model that assists individuals or families who are experiencing homelessness to move as quickly as possible into permanent housing and to achieve stability in that housing through a combination of rental assistance, housing search and supportive services.

**TCHC (Tarrant County Homeless Coalition):** The lead agency, HMIS and Coordinated Entry administrator, for TX-601(Tarrant and Parker Counties).

**Trauma-Informed Care (TIC):** An approach to engaging people with histories of trauma that recognizes the presence of trauma symptoms and acknowledges the role that trauma has played in their lives.

**Unaccompanied Youth:** Persons who are age 24 years or younger, who are not part of a family with children and who are not accompanied by their parent or guardian during their episode of homelessness. This also includes two or more youth aged 24 years or younger who are presenting together as a family without children.

**YAB (Youth Action Board):** a group of youth included in CoC decisions, particularly on policies that relate to preventing and ending youth homelessness. Each YAB member is age 24 years or younger and at least two-thirds of the YAB members are homeless or formerly homeless.

**YHDP (Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program):** a HUD initiative to help communities drastically reduce youth homelessness through innovative strategies.

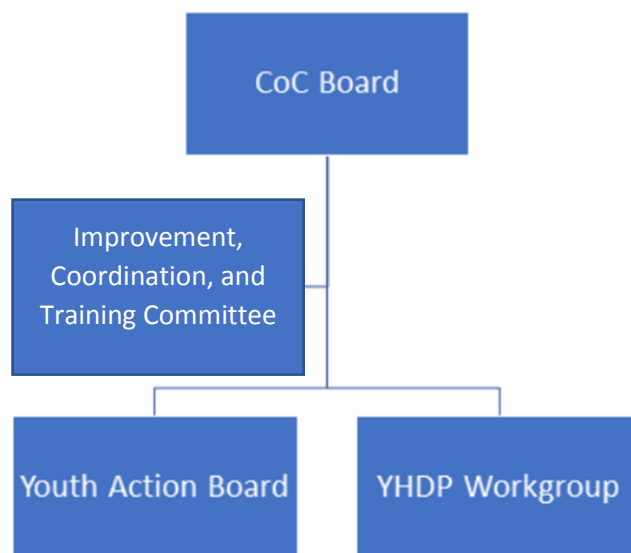
**YYA (Youth and Young Adult):** In this document, YYA is used to describe a person who is between the ages of 18-24 years and unaccompanied minors.

## TX-601 YHDP Mission and Vision Statement

Our mission is to end youth homelessness in Tarrant and Parker Counties. We envision a community where all youth and young adults (YYA) are safely and securely housed within a system that promotes future self-sufficiency. YYA in our community who become homeless will be quickly housed and connected with readily accessible, trauma-informed, holistic supportive services to ensure any instances of homelessness are brief and nonrecurring. Youth voice is respected and essential in ensuring that programs work for all YYA, including YYA of all races, ethnicities, gender identities, and sexual orientations.

## Governance Structure

Described below is the governance structure and decision-making process developed and utilized during the development of the CCP. All final decisions regarding the local CCP and projects moving forward will be made by the committees discussed below.



### The CoC (Continuum of Care) Board

The CoC Board is the decision-making body of the Continuum of Care and is designed to ensure that organizations serving individuals experiencing homelessness in our community are working in collaboration with a shared mission to end homelessness. The CoC Board includes representatives from local governments, homeless service agencies, hospital systems, local businesses, higher education institutions, Veterans Affairs, local non-profits, independent school districts, people with lived experience, as well as a YAB member. The CoC Board is responsible for final approval on all recommendations presented by any CoC workgroup.

### **The ICT (Improvement, Coordination, and Training) Committee**

The Improvement, Coordination, and Training Committee oversees coordinated entry, CoC policies, performance measures, quality improvement, priority populations, and equity initiatives. This standing committee is made up of management level staff (directors/managers) from all CoC-funded service providing agencies, local government, and a YAB member. The ICT Committee leads systems change in the CoC and oversees all population committees including YAB and the YHDP Workgroup. The ICT committee approves and finalizes any decisions made regarding YHDP in the CoC before it is presented to the CoC Board for final approval.

### **YHDP Workgroup**

The YHDP Workgroup is a non-voting group of diverse community stakeholders who meet at least every other week. This group plans, designs, and creates the CCP during the YHDP planning and implementation process. It consists of representatives from child welfare, youth homeless providers, youth street outreach, RHY funded agencies, emergency shelters, youth housing programs, LGBTQ+ youth organizations, school districts, employment agencies, higher education agencies, and the local youth trafficking service provider. A YAB Chair also serves on YHDP Workgroup and all YAB members are invited to attend YHDP Workgroup.

### **YAB (Youth Action Board)**

*Mission Statement: YAB will work alongside youth community organizations and service providers to create solutions in which all youth experiencing homelessness have access to safe, stable housing with trauma-informed, holistic care, and supportive services.*

*Vision Statement: We, The Youth Action Board, provide a safe space for youth with lived experience to unite together, make our voices heard, and fight to end youth homelessness in our community.*

The YAB is a CoC governing body comprised of YYA ages 18-24 with lived experience of homelessness. The YAB assists in the creation and implementation of the CCP, while providing the formal and final approval to the plan and projects funded by YHDP. There are currently 5 members with a goal of reaching 10 members by the end of 2022. This committee provides youth voice to the coordinated community plan, with objectives of determining needs, setting program policy, designing youth-centric programs, and approving the coordinated plan which will be sent to the ICT Committee and CoC Board for final approval. All decisions within this committee, including those regarding the CCP, are finalized with a majority vote. This committee historically met once a month. During the development of the CCP, this committee began meeting on a weekly basis and focused on ensuring all areas of the CCP were aligned with the needs of YYA in our community. YAB members receive a \$25 gift card for each attended meeting. Recruitment for new YAB members occurs through local youth outreach workers, case managers, and current YAB members. YAB members who successfully recruit others to join the YAB receive an additional \$50 gift card.

After the completion of the CCP, the YAB will continue to provide oversight and direct input for CoC services for youth, including through performance monitoring, continuous quality improvement, and policies that affect youth. In the YHDP competition, the YAB may review applications, review scores of applications, and make funding recommendations to the CoC Board for funded projects.

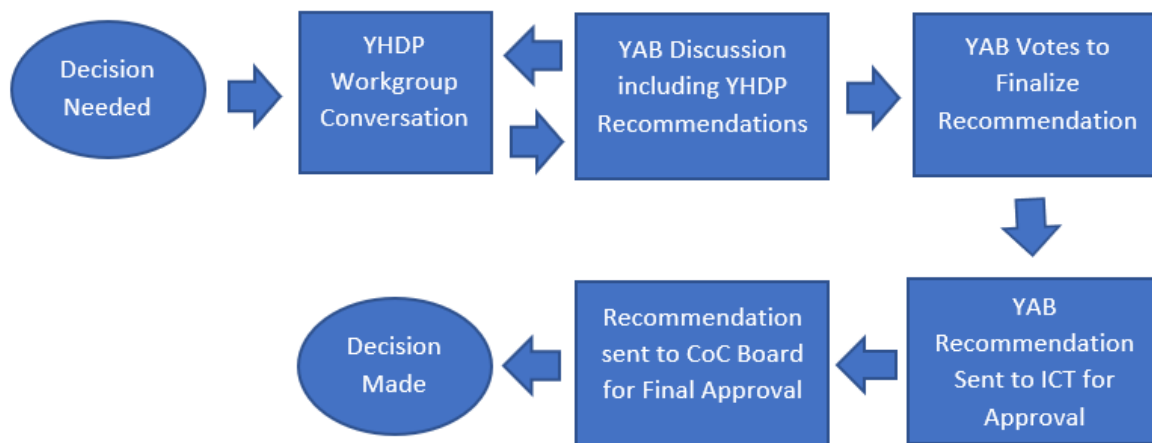
The YAB has two chairs, who share roles and responsibilities. Beginning in 2022, a member from the YAB is a voting member of the ICT Committee, as well as the CoC Board.

#### *Roles and Responsibilities of the YAB*

- Develop and approve the CCP to end homelessness for youth in Tarrant/Parker Counties
- Contribute meaningful insight, opinions, and feedback on the issue of youth homelessness
- Represent, actively engage, and empower Houseless and underrepresented youth
- Attend and participate in YAB meetings
- Assist in the recruitment of new youth to participate in YAB activities
- Participate in YHDP Workgroup meetings, ICT Committee meetings, and CoC Board meetings, as desired/available

#### **Discussion/Decision Making Flow**

The following chart shows the discussion and decision-making flow for YHDP initiatives. This process ensures that all stakeholders, including youth with lived experience, youth serving organizations, education entities, child welfare entities, juvenile justice entities, and local governments are involved in YHDP decisions. YAB members participate in YHDP Workgroup conversations to provide youth voice.



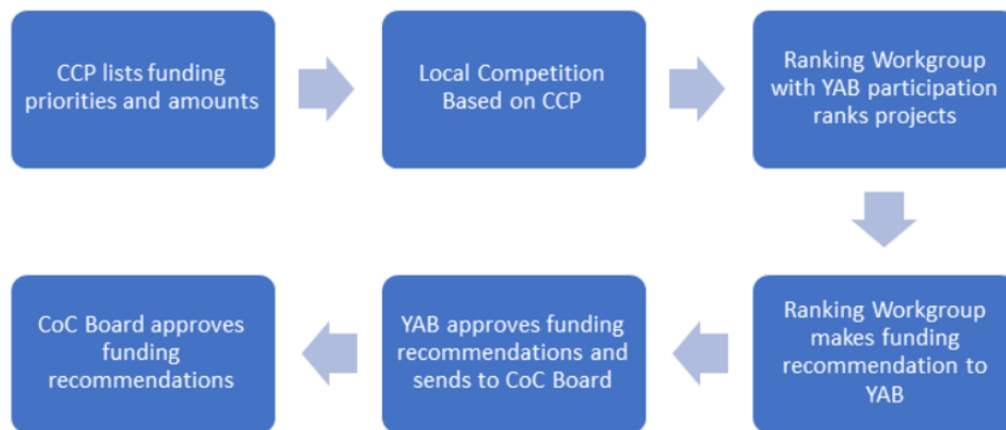
The CoC Board and the YAB share final decision-making authority regarding the CCP, RFP, project funding, and project monitoring. Therefore, we must receive a majority “yes” vote from both bodies on the CCP, RFP, scoring rubric, project funding recommendations, and project monitoring tools before publication or submission to our community or HUD. If the YAB and CoC Board do not both approve, a meeting will be held between the Chairs of each committee to come to a consensus.



### YHDP Funding/RFP Process

In the spring of 2022, the CoC will release a Request for Proposals (RFP) to the community for YHDP. The RFP will present the project types that were chosen by the YAB and YHDP Workgroup. Providers within the community will have a month to respond with their project proposals. The Ranking Committee, in collaboration with the YAB, will review the proposals and select projects based on priorities identified in the RFP.

The flowchart below describes the process that will be used to determine how YHDP funding will be utilized in our community. A ranking committee consisting of YAB members and community stakeholders that have no conflict of interest, such as any type of affiliation with an agency applying for funding, will be formed to make funding recommendations. Similarly, to the above-mentioned discussion/decision making process, all funding recommendations must be approved and finalized through the YAB and CoC Board.



## Statement of Need

This section highlights data that was considered during the development of the CCP. Unless otherwise stated, the following quantitative and qualitative data was collected through HMIS, the 2021 PIT (Point-in-Time) count, focus groups, workgroup meetings, and surveys from February 2021 to February 2022.

### Scope of Youth Homelessness in Tarrant/Parker Counties

The data presented in the chart below is based on HMIS and US Census data from 2020.

Population	Data Source	Annual Estimates of Number of Youth
<i>At Risk Unaccompanied Youth</i>	HMIS; US Census data for Tarrant County	262
<i>Unaccompanied Youth Experiencing Homelessness</i>	HMIS	526
<i>At Risk Pregnant or Parenting Youth</i>	HMIS; US Census data for Tarrant County; CDC Data for Tarrant County	43
<i>Pregnant or Parenting Youth Experiencing Homelessness</i>	HMIS	109

### Annual Point-In-Time (PIT) Count:

Every year, TCHC (Tarrant County Homeless Coalition) facilitates the national effort to count the number of people experiencing homelessness in Tarrant and Parker Counties. The Point-in-Time (PIT) count is designed to collect data on the sheltered (in emergency homeless shelters or transitional housing programs) and unsheltered (residing in places not meant for human habitation) individuals within the CoC. The PIT count historically occurs on a single night the last week in January and is carried out by TCHC staff along with volunteers from the community. However, the 2021 Point in Time Count was conducted differently to protect people experiencing homelessness from COVID-19 spread. This count was conducted by outreach teams over the course of two weeks in January and then deduplicated.

Total # of Unaccompanied Youth Experiencing Homelessness at Point In Time Count (Sheltered + Unsheltered)		
	2021	2020
# of Unaccompanied Youth 18-24	33	70
# of Unaccompanied Youth Under 18	44	15

In 2021 PIT count, there were a total of 77 youth identified (33 that were ages 18 to 24 and 44 that were unaccompanied youth under age 18). This was slightly lower than the 85 counted in 2020 (70 that were ages 18 to 24 + 15 that were under age 18). The overall decrease in unaccompanied and parenting youth (ages 18-24) captured during the 2021 PIT mirrors the 2021 decrease shown in the overall homeless population in our community. There are several possible contributing factors that impacted the system: Eviction moratorium, large increase in homeless prevention and rental assistance funding from CARES Act, and new housing developments made possible by CARES Act funding.

#### **HMIS Data:**

In 2020, HMIS data indicated there were 7,975 unduplicated homeless individuals in Tarrant and Parker Counties. Of those individuals, 635 were unaccompanied or parenting youth experiencing homelessness under the age of 24.

<b>Youth Experiencing Homelessness in Tarrant County: Based on HMIS Data from 1/1/20-12/31/20</b>				
	<b>18-24</b>	<b>Under 18 (Unaccompanied)</b>		<b>Total</b>
<b>Unaccompanied Youth</b>	385	141		<b>526</b>
<b>Parenting Youth</b>	109	0		<b>109</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>141</b>		<b>635</b>

According to HMIS data of the 494 unaccompanied/parenting YYA experiencing homelessness between the ages of 18-24 in Tarrant and Parker Counties in 2020, 47 YYA either remained homeless or exited to a negative destination by the end of the year.

#### **Data on Subpopulations of YYA Experiencing Homelessness in Tarrant/Parker Counties:**

**Race:** The percent of African American homeless youth (55%) in our community is three times the percent of African Americans in the local population (18%). Further, African American women are 86% of homeless parenting youth. While there are clear racial disparities in youth becoming homeless, African American and multi-race youth exit homelessness at faster rates than White youth.

**Gender:** Female youth are over-represented among youth experiencing homelessness at 58%. Female youth also exit homelessness faster than male youth.

**LGBTQ+:** 6% of youth experiencing homelessness report being LGBTQ+. Clients are not required to answer this question and LGBTQ+ status is likely under-reported. While the census does not include a general population estimate of LGBTQ+ people, the CoC believes that LGBTQ+ youth are over-represented among youth experiencing homelessness.

**Foster Care:** Current data indicates that 2% of local youth experiencing homelessness recently exited foster care. However, this question is not consistently answered across the CoC and foster care history is under-reported. Forty-three percent of unaccompanied youth who exit homelessness returned to a foster care placement, indicating a greater percentage of unaccompanied youth in foster care that enter and exit homelessness. CitySquare, a local non-profit agency operating the Dept of Family & Protective Services aftercare services in Tarrant County, reports that 48% of youth transitioning out of foster care report experiencing homelessness.

**Criminal Justice:** Among all people experiencing homelessness in TX-601, 3% report that they were most recently in jail. This question is not a required question in the assessment, so the data is under-reported. In a Texas legislature report, 20% of homeless youth had a prior conviction in either the juvenile or adult criminal justice system.

**Sexual or Commercial Trafficking:** According to Lighthouse, out of 9,000 clear concern CSE-IT screenings completed in Tarrant County, 41% of YYA who had likely experienced commercial sexual exploitation had indicators of homelessness. 61% of clear concern screenings had a history of running away, which may or may not have led to homelessness.

## **Causes of Youth Homelessness and Current System Needs**

Across TX-601, a primary factor contributing to homelessness is an inability to afford rent. In the Point-in-Time count survey, the most common reason a person became homeless was “not able to afford rent.” Further, the fair market rent for TX-601 has increased 42% since 2017.

YAB members identified a lack of income, financial literacy, and “adulting skills” as primary contributors to youth homelessness. One member said, “It’s hard transitioning from adolescence to adulthood and a lot of youth lack the income, support, and skills to become a successful adult...there is only so much a job is willing to pay someone and that’s so hard when you’re providing for yourself.” Other factors the YAB identified are lack of mental health support, unstable families, and abuse.

The YHDP Workgroup identified a breakdown of a youth’s support network as a primary factor for youth homelessness. This includes youth exiting foster care, LGBTQ+ youth who are kicked out of their family home, and parenting youth whose families cannot support them.

### **Common System Needs for YYA in Tarrant/Parker Counties:**

**Youth-Dedicated Housing:** Both YHDP stakeholders and YAB members expressed their concern and frustration regarding the lack of youth dedicated housing available in our community, both in permanent housing and emergency shelter. The concerns of the stakeholders and YAB members were also demonstrated through a needs assessment conducted by TCHC in 2021. This needs assessment found that there is currently a lack of emergency shelter, transitional housing, rapid rehousing, and permanent supportive housing in TX-601 dedicated for YYA.

The table below details the number of dedicated beds by intervention available for YYA in TX-601.

Summary of TX-601 Youth Dedicated Programs By Intervention Type			
Intervention	# of Beds Dedicated to Youth	Total TX-601 System Beds	% of Total System Beds Dedicated to Youth
Emergency Shelter	24	1677	1.43
Transitional Housing	28	215	13.02
Rapid Rehousing	43	816	5.27
Permanent Supportive Housing	0	1847	0

TX-601 currently has only 71 youth-dedicated housing units, including 28 Transitional Housing units and 43 Rapid Rehousing units using the Housing First model. **The assessment found that TX-601 requires 126 more youth-dedicated housing units to meet the needs of youth.** This includes youth who remained homeless or had a negative exit in 2020, youth who were in a housing program that was not specialized to youth needs and expected returns to homelessness for youth. Youth-dedicated housing units are needed for Rapid Rehousing, Joint Transitional Housing-Rapid Rehousing with on-site supportive services and housing support available for up to 48 total months, housing for unaccompanied youth under age 18, crisis residential transitional housing, and housing that supports youth with criminal justice or foster care histories.

**Education/Employment:** A lack of resources for educational advancement or employment opportunities was a concern for both YAB members and community stakeholders. YAB members expressed their desire for employment that pays a reasonable wage, assistance from providers in finding employment opportunities, or the ability to attend higher education without having to struggle financially. Data collected by TCHC examining employment and income of YYA receiving housing assistance showed that only 15% of youth increased earned income and 9% increased non-employment income in 2020. Overall, only 25% of YYA receiving housing services increased any type of income.

Community stakeholders discussed the disconnect between providers of homeless services and local educational systems. This disconnect in our CoC could result in increased youth homelessness, as well as providers not understanding educational opportunities or referral systems needed to link youth to services.

**Safety:** A theme in YAB meetings, surveys, and focus groups with YYA was their concern about physical and emotional safety, particularly for women and members of the LGBTQ+ community, in our community. One YAB member tearfully recalled her experiences on Lancaster Street, where most homeless services are offered, describing manipulation and abuse “all because we are young, because they know they can take advantage of us.” Another YAB member described being manipulated by a group of men who took him from Fort Worth to Austin, Texas and forced him to panhandle for money. These types of experiences not only put YYA in emotional and physical danger, but also may discourage some from seeking services.

**Social/Emotional Well-being:** A lack of supportive services, specifically for mental health and overall well-being was discussed by YAB members and YHDP stakeholders.

YAB members and stakeholders recommended community providers increase youth's access to behavioral health services. Stakeholders described the need for immediate on-site mental health services to youth, particularly those in crisis. YAB members voiced that YYA need assistance coping with homelessness and the emotional impact that being without shelter has on a young person.

**Increased Collaboration:** Both YAB members and YHDP stakeholders in our community described opportunities for providers of homeless services to expand partnerships with workforce development agencies, educational systems, mental/behavioral health providers, and legal aid providers. Partnerships with such agencies would benefit YYA experiencing homelessness by resulting in an increase of successful referrals and linkage to services.

### **Current System Needs for Special Populations in Tarrant/Parker Counties**

The following information was collected through focus groups, workgroup meetings, and discussions with YYA with lived experience with housing instability.

	<b>Housing</b>	<b>Employment/Education</b>	<b>Well-Being</b>
<b>Pregnant and Parenting</b>	Stable and Permanent housing options for family unit.	Childcare for YYA with children is needed to ensure parenting YYA can seek employment or advancement of education.	Peer support programs. Parenting classes/education. Sexual education/reproductive healthcare.
<b>LGBTQ+</b>	Training needed to ensure all housing providers can provide services to LGBTQ+ YYA in an accepting and affirming environment. LGBTQ+ YYA often do not self-identify due to fear of discrimination. Forms need to be inclusive of all gender-identities.	Supportive work environments, as well as assistance with finding higher educational systems that are inclusive. Critical document support for Trans YYA.	LGBTQ+ Affirming Healthcare Systems, including mental health services. Peer support programs. Family acceptance efforts through mediation/counseling support.
<b>Foster Care Involved</b>	Stable/Permanent Housing Options.	Assistance with understanding how to enter higher education (FAFSA, grants, scholarships). Access to foster youth specific benefits.	Peer Support/Navigation. Increased access to mental health services.
<b>Criminal Justice Involved</b>	Private landlords who will rent to YYA with justice system involvement.	Employers who will hire YYA with justice system involvement.	Mental/Behavioral health services. Programs, such as intensive case management, to assist with

			transitioning from the justice system.
<b>Victims of sexual trafficking</b>	Housing options that prioritize safety and confidentiality.	Connection to education and employment after YYA gain safety.	Trauma-Informed care, including mental health services.
<b>Minors</b>	Safety. Stable/Permanent Housing. Connection to family or foster care.	Assistance within the school systems to navigate and understand services. School staff who are understanding and flexible.	Increased access to mental health services.

## Strategies to Engage and Address Homelessness for Special Populations

This section discusses the specific strategies for addressing homelessness and engagement of YYA for LGBTQ+ and gender non-conforming, Pregnant and Parenting, Minors (Under the age of 18), Justice System and Foster Care Involved, and YYA who are Victims of Trafficking and Exploitation. While some of these strategies are common practice already within TX-601, many of the listed approaches are currently in the planning stages and will be formally introduced as YHDP is implemented in our community.

### LGBTQ+ and Gender Non-Conforming

- Ensure all forms used in CoC are inclusive of all sexual and gender identities.
- Evaluate data collection procedures to ensure the collection of accurate information regarding sexual and gender identities to better measure the needs and outcomes of LGBTQ+ YYA. To ensure that youth have lower barrier access to housing, reporting sexual orientation or gender identity will not be required for the youth to obtain housing.
- Provide training to providers on affirming, empowering engagement strategies.
- Establish housing options that do not exclude or discriminate against LGBTQ+ YYA.
- Evaluate current homeless service providers processes to ensure the safety and inclusiveness of LGBTQ+ YYA.

### Pregnant and Parenting YYA

- Develop partnerships with agencies offering holistic medical and supportive services for pregnant YYA or YYA with children.
- Identify and partner with agencies offering affordable childcare support for parenting YYA.
- Ensure that YHDP-funded project staff are trained to provide services to pregnant and parenting YYA who are experiencing homelessness.
- Work with agencies within the CoC who are providing emergency housing options to eliminate barriers to entry for pregnant and parenting YYA.

### **Minors (under the age of 18)**

- Provide training and system coordination for schools to better identify and link YYA experiencing homelessness to services.
- Provide training for providers on building relationships with YYA that prioritizes YYA voice/choice.
- Practice family reunification strategies when safe, appropriate, and desired by the minor.
- Improve connections with the foster care system and local foster care providers.

### **Justice System Involved YYA**

- Continue to build relationships with Tarrant County Juvenile Probation Department to establish processes to link YYA to services.
- Train case managers, navigators, and landlord liaisons within CoC on advocacy and support needs for YYA involved with the justice system.
- Expand current landlord liaison program to include providing education to landlords to create housing opportunities for youth that were formerly incarcerated.
- Improve connections with the adult criminal justice system to establish processes to link YYA to services.

### **Foster-Care Involved YYA**

- Strengthen relationships with the Texas Department of Family & Protective Services and other agencies providing services to YYA with foster care experience and develop strategies to improve housing options for youth aging out of the foster care system.
- Explore developing peer mentorship programs to assist YYA by providing informed mentorship from lived experience.
- Continue to strengthen partnerships with community partners providing supportive and housing services to YYA with foster-care experience.
- Continue to improve processes and utilization of public housing authority FUP & FYI vouchers in our CoC.
- Provide training to the CoC regarding the needs and evidence-based practices on working with this population.

### **Victims of Trafficking and Exploitation**

- Provide education to CoC regarding the needs and evidence-based practices of this population.
- Require all YHDP-funded programs to have a process to link YYA to certified mental health professionals, when appropriate and youth-choice.
- Improve homeless response system intake process to ensure provider staff understand the sensitivity and risk of youth self-reporting sexual/labor trafficking and exploitation.
- Develop stronger relationships with local law enforcement, healthcare providers, LGBTQ+ organizations, behavioral health providers, and legal service providers to ensure all resources are being used to address the service needs of the population.



# YHDP PLAN PRINCIPLES

## USICH (US Interagency Council on Homelessness) Youth Framework and Four Core Outcomes

The TX-601 CCP was developed to align with the following USICH 4 core objectives.

- 1) Stable Housing
- 2) Permanent Connections
- 3) Education/Employment
- 4) Social Emotional Well-being

All YHDP funded housing programs will be required to have a plan and services or case management to support the four core outcomes as well as other evidence-based practices to serve the YYA population.

**Stable Housing:** Our CCP plan consists of objectives and action steps to fund and establish: Crisis Transitional Housing, Joint Transitional Housing-Rapid Rehousing, Rapid Rehousing, and Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) programs for youth.

**Permanent Connections** include ongoing attachments with communities, schools, and other positive social networks. The CoC will explore developing a peer support framework that could include a youth peer mentoring program, peer study hall, and peer navigators in K-12 and post-secondary education. These strategies and resources are designed to provide additional effective support and connect youth to ongoing attachments to schools, communities, and other positive social networks.

**Education and employment** services will aim to reduce drop-out rates among the YHDP eligible youth in K-12 and post-secondary education. Housing programs should also help youth to improve employment skills through education or other supportive services. Housing programs should also help youth find viable employment according to their unique skills and needs.

**Social emotional well-being** services will allow YYA to succeed across various aspects of their lives. The social emotional well-being of YYA in our community will be strengthened by offering holistic and trauma-based behavioral health services to allow YYA a place to understand themselves, their potential, and create a safe space for self-discovery and expression. Creating youth leadership opportunities in our community through YAB and other CoC boards and committees allow YYA to invest in their own futures and helps create a path of self-advocacy.

### Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI)

TX-601 understands the importance of continuous quality improvement and will conduct quality improvement processes throughout each project implementation stage. Funded planning staff at TCHC will complete quarterly scorecards for all YHDP programs. These scorecards assess the programs on all HUD system performance measures, as well as grant management components.

YAB members review the aggregated scorecards of all youth-specific housing programs to identify areas for needed improvement. The YAB also provides feedback for system-level planning especially as it relates to youth engagement, choice, supports for success, and barriers to success. If the YAB believes more information is needed to fully assess the programs, TX-601 can create and conduct surveys to collect qualitative data to assess projects. Youth who complete the survey will receive a \$25 Visa gift card.

YAB reviews all collected data to identify quality improvement projects and shares the findings with the ICT Committee. The ICT Committee oversees CQI activities for all CoC programs.

### **Trauma Informed Care (TIC)**

Research indicates that by the age of 16 years, more than two-thirds of people will have experienced at least one traumatic event in their lives (Copeland, Keeler, Angold, & Costello, 2007). Due to the prevalence of trauma and how it impacts every aspect of a person's life, Trauma Informed Care (TIC) is a foundation of care for YYA experiencing homelessness. All key partners within the CoC who provide services to YYA experiencing homelessness will receive training in TIC. YHDP staff will be present during committee meetings when YAB members or YYA experiencing homelessness are present to ensure that youth are protected and are not re-traumatized during discussions that can be sensitive in nature. Furthermore, partners and staff in the CoC are sensitive to youth's experiences and experienced on how to facilitate these types of vulnerable conversations.

### **Positive Youth Development (PYD)**

Positive Youth Development (PYD) is a strengths-based approach when working with YYA that focuses on their psychological, emotional, and social development rather than problems or deficits. All YHDP funded projects will be required to incorporate Positive Youth Development (PYD) into their program design and implementation. Plans for PYD integration into services must be outlined in all applications for YHDP funding.

In addition to the above, the following strategies will be used to ensure PYD in all YHDP-funded projects:

- Continued development of youth opportunities to participate in decision-making activities through the Youth Advisory Board (YAB) and other CoC committees.
- Provide opportunities for YYA to regularly connect with caring adults and build a network of support outside of their family.
- Ensure that our system of care encourages YYA to set and have ownership of their own goals in addition to goals associated with housing.

### **Youth Voice and Youth Choice**

From the beginning stages of planning for YHDP, our community has prioritized youth voice to ensure we build and create a system that is conducive to YYA needs. Our YAB has been key in the development of our CCP by providing input and brainstorming strategies to end youth homelessness. On a weekly basis, our YAB met to discuss various topics such as barriers to services, their unique stories of homelessness, and how to improve our system of care for all YYA in our community. The level of commitment and vulnerability shown by our YAB members has been crucial in the CCP process.

Our CoC believes in self-determination or a client's right to choose their services based on their perception of their own needs. Our CoC's CE referral system gives clients the choice of accepting or rejecting housing/supportive services based on their own belief of what they need to address their housing challenges. Allowing youth to exercise self-determination is a client-centered approach that values a person's expressed needs. By allowing YYA to make choices that determine their housing situation, the CoC encourages YYA to have ownership in that choice and any goals or objectives

necessary to achieve housing stability. All YHDP funded projects will ensure that YYA experiencing homelessness will be active participants in the decisions-making regarding their own circumstances.

### **Equity**

Through analysis of the CoC system level data during our community needs assessment, the CoC identified racial and gender disparities in rates of homelessness. Black and female YYA in our community experience homelessness at higher rates compared to other populations. We also believe that LGBTQ+ YYA are both under reported and overrepresented. Ensuring that we create an environment that is safe and equitable for all is critical to our YHDP services. Through the following strategies, we will continue to ensure an equitable system for all YYA.

- The YHDP funding decision-making process will include how project proposals will implement strategies to ensure equal access to services for all YYA.
- All YHDP programs will be informed by youth voice.
- Build Continuous Quality Improvement strategies that ensure the CoC is equitably meeting the needs of YYA.
- Ensure that programs have a transparent process for young people to report harassment and discrimination.

## YHDP Partners

Partner Type	Partner's Name & Role	Agency	Involvement
Youth Action Board*	Bentley Gordon, YAB Chair		YAB Co-Chair, YHDP Workgroup Member, CoC Board Member
	Carena Macomber, YAB Chair		YAB Co-Chair, ICT Committee Member
	Lillian Buchanan, YAB Meeting Participant		YAB Meetings
	Raiden Hood, YAB Member		YAB Member
	Anthony Vaughn, YAB Member		YAB Member, YHDP Workgroup
	Antwanet Dears, YAB Member		YAB Member, YHDP Workgroup
Public Child Welfare Agencies*	Natalie Witherspoon, CPS Program Administrator	DFPS	YHDP Workgroup
	Taylor Davis, Private Administrator of Foster Care	Our Community Our Kids	YHDP Workgroup
Continuum of Care and Emergency Solutions Grant Program Recipients	Ash Campbell, YHDP Manager; Alex Dunn, Director of Planning; Katie Welsh, Data; Anthony Hogg, Director of Operations; Nathan Crites-Herren, Coordinated Entry Operations Manager; Charlotte Wiig, Coordinated Entry Coordinator	TCHC	YHDP Workgroup Members, Youth Committee Members, Completed Community Needs Assessment
	Jarrold Polk, Case Manager	Arlington Life Shelter	YHDP Workgroup
	Tara Gordon, Lead Case Manager. Madeline Reedy VP of Public Policy & Gov't Affairs	CitySquare	YHDP Workgroup, YHDP Workgroup Chair, Youth Committee, YAB Outreach and Liaison

	Tracy Koller, Senior Director BH Youth Services	MHMR Tarrant County	YHDP Workgroup
	Lanesha Davis, Director of Special Programs	Fort Worth Housing Solutions	YHDP Workgroup
Local and State Government*	Tara Perez, Directions Home manager	City of Fort Worth	YHDP Workgroup
	Tomi Grover, Regional Administrator for North Texas	Office of the Governor, Child Sex Trafficking	YHDP Workgroup
	Nancy Cerda, Youth Program Manager	Texas Workforce Commission	YHDP Workgroup
Runaway and Homeless Youth Program Providers	Edna Foster, Transitions Program Clinical Supervisor	ACH	YHDP Workgroup
	Rosa Quintero, Outreach Case Manager; Roderick Howard, RHY Director; Tasha Thomas, Lead Case Manager	Seasons of Change, INC.	YHDP Workgroup
Health, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Agencies	Tracy Koller, Senior Director BH Youth Services	MHMR Tarrant County	YHDP Workgroup
Juvenile and Adult Corrections and Probation	Ron Lewis, Deputy Director	Tarrant County Juvenile Probation	YHDP Workgroup
Public Housing Authorities	Lanesha Davis, Director of Special Programs	Fort Worth Housing Solutions	YHDP Workgroup
Early Childhood Development and Child Care Providers	Patricia Sutton, Director of Special Programs	Fort Worth ISD	YHDP Workgroup
Local and State Educational Agencies	Patricia Sutton, Director of Special Programs	Fort Worth ISD	YHDP Workgroup
	Amanda Aykanian, Assistant Professor	UTA	YHDP Workgroup

Institutions of Higher Education	Vakeesha Baker	Tarrant County College	YHDP Workgroup
Non-Profit Youth Organizations	Renika Atkins, Founder and Executive Director	RISE	YHDP Workgroup, Youth Committee, Youth Committee Chair
	Natalie Stalmach, Development Director; Catelyn Devlin, Director of Grants & Contracts	CASA of Tarrant County	YHDP Workgroup
	Tara Gordon, Lead Case Manager. Madeline Reedy VP of Public Policy & Gov't Affairs	CitySquare	YHDP Workgroup, YHDP Workgroup Chair, Youth Committee, YAB Outreach and Liaison
	Aretha McJimson, Director of Therapeutic Program	Union Gospel Mission	YHDP Workgroup, Youth Committee
Privately Funded Homeless Organizations	Brenda Washington, Executive Director	Dunes	YHDP Workgroup
Local Advocacy, Research, and Philanthropic Organizations	Dana Hill, Mental Health Policy Fellow	TNOYS	YHDP Workgroup
Organizations that serve culturally specific (Black, Latino, Indigenous, people with disabilities, LGBTQ, etc.) communities	Brenda Washington, Executive Director	Dunes	YHDP Workgroup
	Stephanie Byrd, Director of Strategy	Unbound	YHDP Workgroup, Youth Committee
Continuum of Care Board*	Steve Montgomery		CoC Board Chair
Employment Agencies	Theresa Lam, Director Youth and Veteran Programs	Goodwill	YHDP Workgroup
	Nancy Cerda, Youth Program Manager	Texas Workforce Commission	YHDP Workgroup

## YHDP Goals, Objectives, and Action Steps

Listed below are our initial goals and objectives. We intend to continue adding additional goals and objectives, as well as action steps, as we continue to implement our projects within our CoC.

### Goal 1: All planning, decision-making, resource allocation, and system evaluation will be youth and data driven.

**Objective 1.1:** Use HMIS data to tell stories about people served and the community's larger goals, vision, and impact.

**Action Step 1.1.1:** Collect economic/financial indicators for income in HMIS.

**Action Step 1.1.2:** Use HMIS to compare outcomes for youth to outcomes for the general population served in the CoC.

**Action Step 1.1.3:** Develop front-facing youth dashboard showing returns to homelessness and positive exits data.

**Partner(s) Responsible:** TCHC (HMIS Lead)

**Timeframe:** Year 1

#### HUD Key Principles\*\*

Equity X	Positive Youth Development <input type="checkbox"/>	Trauma-Informed Care <input type="checkbox"/>	Family Engagement <input type="checkbox"/>
Housing First X	Youth Choice <input type="checkbox"/>	Community Integration <input type="checkbox"/>	Coordinated Entry X

**Objective 1.2:** Ensure all agencies serving YYA experiencing homelessness are sharing data through HMIS.

**Action Step 1.2.1:** Provide ongoing education and HMIS support to agencies to ensure integrity of data entered into HMIS.

**Partner(s) Responsible:** TCHC

**Timeframe:** Year 1

#### HUD Key Principles\*\*

Equity <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive Youth Development <input type="checkbox"/>	Trauma-Informed Care <input type="checkbox"/>	Family Engagement <input type="checkbox"/>
Housing First <input type="checkbox"/>	Youth Choice <input type="checkbox"/>	Community Integration X	Coordinated Entry X

**Objective 1.3:** Increase YYA participation within the CoC by utilizing youth and young adults' ideas to create system change.

**Action Step 1.3.1:** Present Assessment Tool to YAB to ensure data collected is reflective of YYA experience and needs.

**Action Step 1.3.2:** Increase YAB participation and meaningful engagement in ICT, CoC Board, and other CoC meetings.

**Partner(s) Responsible:** ICT, CoC Board, TCHC

**Timeframe:** Year 1

**HUD Key Principles\*\***

Equity <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive Youth Development X	Trauma-Informed Care <input type="checkbox"/>	Family Engagement <input type="checkbox"/>
Housing First X	Youth Choice X	Community Integration X	Coordinated Entry X

**Goal 2: Identify all unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness.**

**Objective 2.1:** Better identify youth in key subpopulations at high risk of homelessness.

**Action Step 2.1.1:** Host a monthly or bi-monthly ad hoc meeting for other service systems, including foster care, high schools, and juvenile justice systems, to discuss high risk youth.

**Partner(s) Responsible:** TCHC, Community Partners

**Timeframe:** Year 2

**HUD Key Principles\*\***

Equity X	Positive Youth Development <input type="checkbox"/>	Trauma-Informed Care <input type="checkbox"/>	Family Engagement <input type="checkbox"/>
Housing First <input type="checkbox"/>	Youth Choice <input type="checkbox"/>	Community Integration X	Coordinated Entry X

**Objective 2.2:** Increase identification points for the homeless assistance system to ensure all youth experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness are identified and connected to services.

**Action Step 2.2.1:** Create and provide educational materials to other entities, access points, and YYA to help connect youth to our system and resources.

**Action Step 2.2.2:** Provide training and resources to current access points to help them use our system more efficiently.

**Partner(s) Responsible:** TCHC, Community Partners

**Timeframe:** Action Step 1: Year 2. Action Step 2: Year 1

**HUD Key Principles\*\***



Equity <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive Youth Development <input type="checkbox"/>	Trauma-Informed Care X	Family Engagement <input type="checkbox"/>
Housing First X	Youth Choice <input type="checkbox"/>	Community Integration X	Coordinated Entry X

**Objective 2.3:** All at-risk youth who are at imminent risk of becoming homeless are identified continuously through a universal triage process and coordinated entry.

**Action Step 2.3.1:** Explore creating a Centralized 1-800 number and other ways that youth can report themselves through channels more accessible to youth, such as online forms and social media.

**Action Step 2.3.2:** Explore what it would take to help connect 211 to our CoC helpline and ensure the centralized triage number and other information on at risk youth prevention is provided to 211.

**Partner(s) Responsible:** TCHC

**Timeframe:** Year 2

#### HUD Key Principles\*\*

Equity <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive Youth Development <input type="checkbox"/>	Trauma-Informed Care <input type="checkbox"/>	Family Engagement <input type="checkbox"/>
Housing First X	Youth Choice X	Community Integration X	Coordinated Entry X

**Goal 3: Use prevention and diversion strategies whenever possible, and otherwise provide immediate access to low-barrier crisis housing and services to any youth who needs and wants it.**

**Objective 3.1:** Landlord partners in the community support youth in resolving their housing issues and achieving successful tenancy.

**Action Step 3.1.1:** Expand existing landlord liaison program to serve youth.

**Action Step 3.1.2:** Recruit and retain landlords willing to rent to youth with housing access and/or retention barriers.

**Partner(s) Responsible:** TCHC, YHDP grantees

**Timeframe:** Year 1

#### HUD Key Principles\*\*

Equity <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive Youth Development <input type="checkbox"/>	Trauma-Informed Care <input type="checkbox"/>	Family Engagement <input type="checkbox"/>
Housing First X	Youth Choice X	Community Integration X	Coordinated Entry <input type="checkbox"/>

**Objective 3.2:** Expand capacity for diversion activities within YYA homeless response system to assist youth who are unstably housed, or at risk of homelessness, to connect/reconnect with family as appropriate or desired.

**Action Step 3.2.1:** Develop a robust diversion training process on housing problem solving to support all staff of YHDP-funded projects.

**Action Step 3.2.2:** Provide training/education to all CE access points on diversion with a standard process for problem-solving conversations and referrals to resources including employment, education, and ID recovery.

**Partner(s) Responsible:** TCHC, YHDP Grantees

**Timeframe:** Year 1 and ongoing

#### HUD Key Principles\*\*

Equity <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive Youth Development <input type="checkbox"/>	Trauma-Informed Care X	Family Engagement X
Housing First X	Youth Choice X	Community Integration <input type="checkbox"/>	Coordinated Entry X

**Goal 4: Use coordinated entry processes to effectively link all youth experiencing homelessness to housing and housing solutions that are tailored to their needs.**

**Objective 4.1:** Re-vamp CE system to be more dynamic and YYA inclusive.

**Action Step 4.1.1:** Improve process for connecting YYA to services through centralized intake.

**Action Step 4.1.2:** Routinely update contact information in CE at all service contacts, including using overflow winter shelter sign up process to update contact information.

**Action Step 4.1.3:** Add social media, such as Facebook, as a contact option.

**Partner(s) Responsible:** TCHC, YHDP grantees

**Timeframe:** Action Steps 1-2: year 1, Action Step 3: year 2

#### HUD Key Principles\*\*

Equity <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive Youth Development <input type="checkbox"/>	Trauma-Informed Care <input type="checkbox"/>	Family Engagement <input type="checkbox"/>
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Housing First <input type="checkbox"/>	Youth Choice <input type="checkbox"/>	Community Integration <input type="checkbox"/>	Coordinated Entry X
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**Objective 4.2:** Ensure all access points of coordinated entry are operated in accordance with best practices, such as trauma-informed care, positive youth development, and de-escalation.

**Action Step 4.2.1:** Clearly define what these best practices mean in the context of coordinated entry processes.

**Action Step 4.2.2:** Create a training plan to ensure all access points of CE are in accordance with best practices.

**Partner(s) Responsible:** TCHC, YHDP Grantees

**Timeframe:** Year 1

**HUD Key Principles\*\***

Equity <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive Youth Development X	Trauma-Informed Care X	Family Engagement <input type="checkbox"/>
Housing First X	Youth Choice X	Community Integration <input type="checkbox"/>	Coordinated Entry X

**Objective 4.3:** All unsheltered youth are offered access to crisis housing including emergency shelter options.

**Action Step 4.3.1:** Create/Expand drop-in centers specific to YYA.

**Action Step 4.3.2:** Increase dedicated low-barrier shelter/crisis housing options for youth ages 18-24.

**Partner(s) Responsible:** TCHC, YHDP Grantees, and Community Partners

**Timeframe:** Action 1: Year 2; Action 2: Year 1

**HUD Key Principles\*\***

Equity <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive Youth Development <input type="checkbox"/>	Trauma-Informed Care X	Family Engagement <input type="checkbox"/>
Housing First X	Youth Choice <input type="checkbox"/>	Community Integration <input type="checkbox"/>	Coordinated Entry X

**Goal 5: Act with urgency to swiftly assist youth to move into permanent or non-time-limited housing options with appropriate comprehensive supportive services including health, education, employment, and social/emotional supportive services.**

**Objective 5.1:** Youth can access a range of housing services that adhere to housing first practices, including those that are safe, decent, and low barrier, to resolve their homelessness and stabilize their housing quickly and effectively.

**Action Step 5.1.1:** Increase the number of housing programs in coordinated entry.

**Action Step 5.1.2:** Explore creating a map of the range of housing services in our community and specific subpopulation targets.

**Partner(s) Responsible:** TCHC, YHDP Grantees

**Timeframe:** Year 2

**HUD Key Principles\*\***

Equity <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive Youth Development <input type="checkbox"/>	Trauma-Informed Care <input type="checkbox"/>	Family Engagement <input type="checkbox"/>
Housing First X	Youth Choice <input type="checkbox"/>	Community Integration <input type="checkbox"/>	Coordinated Entry X

**Objective 5.2:** Youth have their healthcare, employment, education, and social/emotional needs addressed efficiently and effectively.

**Action Step 5.2.1:** Expand partnerships with supportive service providers.

**Action Step 5.2.2:** YHDP funded programs must consider the healthcare, employment, education, and social/emotional needs of participants.

**Partner(s) Responsible:** TCHC, YHDP Grantees

**Timeframe:** Year 1

**HUD Key Principles\*\***

Equity <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive Youth Development X	Trauma-Informed Care <input type="checkbox"/>	Family Engagement <input type="checkbox"/>
Housing First <input type="checkbox"/>	Youth Choice <input type="checkbox"/>	Community Integration X	Coordinated Entry <input type="checkbox"/>

**Objective 5.3:** Build up system capacity so that all YYA who need and want it can access safe and dignified permanent housing.

**Action Step 5.3.1:** Increase FUP/FYI voucher utilization.

**Action Step 5.3.2:** Increase the number of youth-dedicated supportive housing by expanding existing services and vouchers.

**Action Step 5.3.3:** Explore partnering with the larger CoC to house all chronic in our community so that PSH could then be expanded to youth who do not meet the chronicity requirement.

**Action Step 5.3.4:** Explore alternative housing solutions, such as shared housing.

<b>Partner(s) Responsible:</b> TCHC, CoC, YHDP Grantees, CoC Board			
<b>Timeframe:</b> Action Step 1: Year 1 and ongoing. Action Step 2- Year 1. Action Step 3- Year 2. Action Step 4: Year 1			
<b>HUD Key Principles**</b>			
Equity <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive Youth Development <input type="checkbox"/>	Trauma-Informed Care <input type="checkbox"/>	Family Engagement <input type="checkbox"/>
Housing First X	Youth Choice X	Community Integration X	Coordinated Entry X

**Goal 6: Secure and maintain the resources, plans, and system capacity to continue to prevent and quickly end future experiences of homelessness among youth.**

<b>Objective 6.1:</b> Ensure that all people working on the front end of serving youth can easily refer youth to housing resources or to prevent homelessness.			
<b>Action Step 6.1.1:</b> Regularly train agencies working with youth to ensure those agencies know how to identify, connect, and support youth at risk of or experiencing homelessness.			
<b>Partner(s) Responsible:</b> TCHC, YHDP Grantees			
<b>Timeframe:</b> Year 1			
<b>HUD Key Principles**</b>			
Equity <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive Youth Development <input type="checkbox"/>	Trauma-Informed Care <input type="checkbox"/>	Family Engagement <input type="checkbox"/>
Housing First X	Youth Choice <input type="checkbox"/>	Community Integration X	Coordinated Entry X

<b>Objective 6.2:</b> Embed and sustain equity as a priority within all aspects of the local youth homelessness response system.			
<b>Action Step 6.2.1:</b> Incorporate equity (measurements) into YHDP continuous quality improvement strategies.			
<b>Partner(s) Responsible:</b> TCHC, YHDP Grantees			
<b>Timeframe:</b> Year 1			
<b>HUD Key Principles**</b>			
Equity X	Positive Youth Development <input type="checkbox"/>	Trauma-Informed Care <input type="checkbox"/>	Family Engagement <input type="checkbox"/>

Housing First <input type="checkbox"/>	Youth Choice <input type="checkbox"/>	Community Integration <input type="checkbox"/>	Coordinated Entry <input type="checkbox"/>
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**Objective 6.3:** Ensure a plan for long-term sustainable funding to fully resource our goals and that it is shared with potential funders.

**Action Step 6.3.1:** Work with the CoC Allocations Committee to meet the resource needs to serve youth.

**Partner(s) Responsible:** TCHC, CoC Allocations

**Timeframe:** Year 2

HUD Key Principles**			
Equity <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive Youth Development <input type="checkbox"/>	Trauma-Informed Care <input type="checkbox"/>	Family Engagement <input type="checkbox"/>
Housing First <input type="checkbox"/>	Youth Choice <input type="checkbox"/>	Community Integration X	Coordinated Entry <input type="checkbox"/>

## YHDP Projects

As part of the YHDP planning process, we completed planning activities with YAB and technical assistance about what ideal projects would contain. The YAB also voted on the preferred number of people to be served in the various categories after this planning and system modeling. Our YHDP Workgroup, as well as members of our YAB, came together to create a model of our community's ideal YYA homeless response system. Using this input, the YHDP program staff recommended funding priorities and project designs to the YAB and YHDP Workgroup at a Project Priority Discussion. During this discussion, every member of the YHDP Workgroup and YAB voted unanimously on the projects listed below.

<b><u>Rapid Rehousing (RRH)</u></b>	
<b><u>Summary of Project and Supportive Services Description:</u></b>	<p>This project prioritizes a quick transition out of homelessness and into permanent housing by providing up to 36 months (with a HUD waiver) of housing and supportive services. Our CoC anticipates funding numerous RRH programs through the NOFO process. These programs may vary on design but will follow the key principles described in this project description. RRH will offer housing either with the young person as the lease holder or with the agency as the lease holder in a master lease. 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 youth's needs.</p> <p>Assistance for youth households (individuals and families) with rapid rehousing will be provided by helping them locate and move into permanent housing using financial assistance and housing focused services. To meet unique needs of youth households, the projects should serve youth without restrictions - regardless of income, credit score, credit history, or criminal history.</p> <p>While youth are in RRH, they receive supportive services, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phone numbers for crisis situations – needing medical attention, or been has assaulted</li> <li>• Assistance addressing or clearing criminal background</li> <li>• Assistance to those with disabilities</li> <li>• Connection to education and training resources, including connection to financial assistance</li> <li>• Connection to employment</li> <li>• Connection to community activities or groups</li> <li>• Connection to counseling services as needed</li> <li>• Connection to health services (physical, mental, behavioral)</li> <li>• Guidance on budgeting and credit score</li> <li>• Guidance on tenancy - lease requirements, how late fees work</li> <li>• Obtaining a car or other transportation</li> <li>• Connection to family</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With waiver, up to 36 months of assistance with services and rent/utilities</li> <li>• Exploring benefits of pet ownership</li> </ul>
<b><u>Target Population and Projected Number Served:</u></b>	Youth between the ages of 18-24, including all special population groups. HUD Homeless Categories 1 and 4. Projected to serve approximately 57 youth annually.
<b><u>Project Requirements:</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agencies provide a safe, inclusive, and affirming space for all youth.</li> <li>• All staff are trained in areas related to equity, cultural competency, inclusivity, and best practices.</li> <li>• Provide services to include housing identification, building relationships with landlords, finding housing quickly, and to limit the amount of time youth experience homelessness.</li> <li>• Include rental assistance to help to cover move-in costs, deposits, and the rental and/or utility assistance necessary to allow youth to move immediately out of homelessness and to stabilize in permanent housing. Continued assistance is flexible and tailored to the needs of every individual.</li> <li>• Youth-driven case management services will be provided with a variety of supportive services to help address issues that may impede access to housing. Case management services can be provided for 6 months after rental assistance has ended.</li> <li>• Adhere to a Housing First model.</li> <li>• Focus on supporting youth in developing long term supports and connections with their community.</li> <li>• Participate in the Coordinated Entry System and HMIS.</li> <li>• Adhere to the best practices and guiding principles of the CCP.</li> </ul>
<b><u>Desired Outcomes:</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decrease the amount of time youth experience homelessness.</li> <li>• Increase exits to permanent housing.</li> <li>• Increase income.</li> <li>• Decrease returns to homelessness.</li> <li>• Increase steady employment.</li> <li>• Increase access to education opportunities.</li> </ul>
<b><u>USICH Outcomes Addressed:</u></b>	<p>Stable housing</p> <p>Permanent connections</p> <p>Education/employment</p> <p>Social-emotional well-being</p>
<b><u>YHDP Principles to Be Addressed</u></b>	<p>Positive Youth Development: Projects will help youth develop their talents, strengths, and connections to thrive after assistance ends.</p> <p>Trauma Informed Care: Projects will use trauma-informed practices to support youth with trauma histories.</p> <p>Family Engagement: Projects will help youth to connect to their families according to the youth's goals through case management.</p>



	<p>Housing First- Projects will use a Housing First model to ensure no barriers to youth entering the project.</p> <p>Youth Choice- Projects will give youth a choice of shared housing, their own housing, and housing location.</p> <p>Individualized and Client Driven Supports- Project case management will be based on client needs. Projects may use progressive engagement to adjust case management based on client needs.</p> <p>Social and Community Integration- Projects will use case management to help youth increase their connections in the community and develop social supports.</p> <p>Coordinated Entry- All projects will use Coordinated Entry.</p>
<b><u>Innovative Strategies:</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requests to HUD for program flexibility to extend RRH beyond 24 months.</li> <li>• Youth may choose to live where they desire - in shared housing or private residences.</li> </ul>
<b><u>Will the project seek any CoC program flexibilities through the waiver notification or approval process?</u></b>	<p>Yes, CoC will seek a waiver to extend RRH services beyond 24 months of service. In seeking the waiver, we will provide HUD the following according to their requirements: (1) the method it will use to determine which youth need rental assistance beyond 24 months and (2) the services and resources that will be offered to ensure youth are able to sustain their housing at the end of the 36 months of assistance.</p> <p>This project is still feasible if the waiver is not achieved.</p>
<b><u>Project Type:</u></b>	Rapid Rehousing with supportive services
<b><u>Projected Cost:</u></b>	\$578,680

## **Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)**

<b><u>Summary of Project and Supportive Services Description:</u></b>	<p>Provide long-term rental assistance and supportive services for YYA with a diagnosed disability who are impacted by severe mental health issues, substance abuse, and/or trauma and who need longer term rental assistance and supportive services to regain housing stability. PSH services can be project-based or scattered site housing. On-site supportive services for PSH are preferred when possible.</p> <p>Provide individualized case management, supportive services, and connection to services that meet the youth's unique needs and goals.</p> <p>While youth are in PSH, they receive supportive services including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phone numbers for crisis situations – needing medical attention, or been assaulted</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assistance addressing or clearing criminal background</li> <li>• Assistance to those with disabilities</li> <li>• Connection to education and training resources, including financial assistance</li> <li>• Connection to employment</li> <li>• Benefits assistance</li> <li>• Connection to community activities or groups</li> <li>• Connection to counseling services as needed</li> <li>• Connection to health services (physical, mental, behavioral)</li> <li>• Guidance on budgeting and credit score</li> <li>• Guidance on tenancy - lease requirements, how late fees work</li> <li>• Obtaining a car or other transportation</li> <li>• Connection to family, if desired.</li> <li>• Exploring benefits of pet ownership</li> </ul>
<b><u>Target Population and Projected Number Served:</u></b>	<p>Youth between the ages of 18-24, including all special population groups, with one or more diagnosed disabilities who are experiencing homelessness and/or are assessed as at highest vulnerability for YYA experiencing homelessness. Category 1 and 4.</p> <p>Projected to serve approximately 6-8 youth.</p>
<b><u>Project Requirements:</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agencies provide a safe, inclusive, and affirming space for all youth.</li> <li>• All staff are trained in areas related to equity, cultural competency, inclusivity, and best practices.</li> <li>• Provide services to include housing identification, building relationships with landlords, finding housing quickly, and to limit the amount of time youth experience homelessness.</li> <li>• Include rental assistance to help to cover move-in costs, deposits, and the rental and/or utility assistance necessary to allow youth to move immediately out of homelessness and to stabilize in permanent housing. Continued assistance is flexible and tailored to the needs of every individual and services.</li> <li>• Youth-driven case management services will be provided with a variety of supportive services to help address issues that may impede access to housing.</li> <li>• Adhere to a Housing First model.</li> <li>• Focus on supporting youth in developing long term supports and connections with their community.</li> <li>• Participate in the Coordinated Entry System and HMIS</li> <li>• Adhere to the best practices and guiding principles of the CCP.</li> <li>• Demonstrated history of working with YYA with diagnosed disabilities.</li> </ul>
<b><u>Desired Outcomes:</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide long term housing stability for youth who are impacted by severe mental health, substance abuse, disability, and/or trauma who need long term rental assistance with supportive services.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working with youth on eventually moving on to other stable housing (either to another voucher or due to self-sufficiency through income, etc.).</li> <li>Linking YYA with Workforce Solutions for employment opportunities/SSI, connection to mental health treatment/counseling, and connection to community.</li> </ul>
<b><u>USICH Outcomes Addressed:</u></b>	<p>Stable housing</p> <p>Permanent connections</p> <p>Education/employment</p> <p>Social-emotional well-being</p>
<b><u>YHDP Principles to Be Addressed</u></b>	<p>Special Populations: This program will serve youth with permanent disabilities and behavioral health disabilities.</p> <p>Unsheltered Homelessness: This project may serve youth to help them exit unsheltered homelessness into permanent housing.</p> <p>Positive Youth Development: Projects will help youth develop their talents, strengths, and connections to thrive after assistance ends.</p> <p>Trauma Informed Care: Projects will use trauma-informed practices to support youth with trauma histories.</p> <p>Family Engagement: Projects will help youth to connect to their families according to the youth's goals through case management.</p> <p>Housing First- Projects will use a Housing First model to ensure no barriers to youth entering the project.</p> <p>Youth Choice- Projects will give youth a choice of shared housing, their own housing, and housing location.</p> <p>Individualized and Client Driven Supports- Project case management will be based on client needs. Projects may use progressive engagement to adjust case management based on client needs.</p> <p>Social and Community Integration- Projects will use case management to help youth increase their connections in the community and develop social supports.</p> <p>Coordinated Entry- All projects will use Coordinated Entry.</p>
<b><u>Innovative Strategies:</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth may choose to live where they desire - in shared housing or private residences.</li> <li>Case managers could use progressive engagement to flexibly meet the amount of case management that each youth needs over time.</li> </ul>
<b><u>Will the project seek any CoC program flexibilities through the waiver</u></b>	NA

<b><u>notification or approval process?</u></b>	
<b><u>Project Type:</u></b>	Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)
<b><u>Projected Cost:</u></b>	\$123,984

<b><u>Crisis Transitional Housing (Crisis TH)</u></b>	
<b><u>Summary of Project and Supportive Services Description:</u></b>	<p>This project provides an immediate, low barrier housing option for YYA who are at heightened vulnerability to exploitation and other risk factors on the streets and/or YYA for whom short-term transitional housing is sufficient to meet immediate safety and stability needs until family reunification, kinship care, campus housing, mainstream voucher, or self-sufficiency is secured.</p> <p>This program provides housing and supportive services for 30 to 60 days while YYA is being linked to permanent housing or stabilized through other interventions, such as diversion or connection to an appropriate housing program.</p> <p>Case managers link YYA to permanent housing, as well as assist with collection of critical documents, benefits assistance, referrals to other agencies to meet specific needs (e.g., LGBTQ, trafficking), daycare referrals, insurance connections with JPS, MHMR for mental health, GED and employment referrals, and transportation.</p>
<b><u>Target Population and Projected Number Served:</u></b>	<p>Youth between the ages of 18-24, including all special population groups, who are at heightened vulnerability to exploitation and other risk factors on the streets and/or YYA for whom short-term transitional housing is sufficient to meet immediate safety and stability needs until family reunification, kinship care, campus housing, mainstream voucher, or self-sufficiency is secured.</p> <p>Funding to operate 18 Crisis Transitional Beds. Categories 1 and 4.</p>
<b><u>Project Requirements:</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agencies provide a safe, inclusive, and affirming space for all youth.</li> <li>• All staff are trained in areas related to equity, cultural competency, inclusivity, trauma-informed care, and best practices.</li> <li>• Provide services to link youth to permanent housing, finding housing quickly, and to limit the amount of time youth experience homelessness.</li> <li>• Youth-driven case management services will be provided with a variety of supportive services to help address issues that may impede access to housing.</li> <li>• Adhere to a Housing First model.</li> <li>• Focus on supporting youth in developing long term supports and connections with their community.</li> <li>• Adhere to the best practices and guiding principles of the CCP.</li> </ul>
<b><u>Desired Outcomes:</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide safe and immediate housing option for youth</li> <li>• Link youth to permanent housing</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve service connections (health care, employment and education, benefits connections) for youth</li> </ul>
<b><u>USICH Outcomes Addressed:</u></b>	<p>Stable housing</p> <p>Permanent connections</p> <p>Education/employment</p> <p>Social-emotional well-being</p>
<b><u>YHDP Principles to Be Addressed:</u></b>	<p>Unsheltered Homelessness: This project will provide a safe space for youth that should reduce unsheltered homelessness in TX-601.</p> <p>Trauma Informed Care: This project will implement trauma-informed practices to create a safe space for youth.</p> <p>Family Engagement: If the youth chooses, this project may help youth reconnect with family to end their homelessness.</p> <p>Coordinated Entry: This project will help youth connect to coordinated entry.</p>
<b><u>Innovative Strategies:</u></b>	Create a centralized HUB for YYA services, where service providers can meet YYA where they are.
<b><u>Will the project seek any CoC program flexibilities through the waiver notification or approval process?</u></b>	NA
<b><u>Project Type:</u></b>	Crisis Transitional Housing
<b><u>Projected Cost:</u></b>	\$382,817

## **Joint Transitional Housing- Rapid Rehousing**

<b><u>Summary of Project and Supportive Services Description:</u></b>	<p>This project will allow for transitional housing of youth while providing for a planned exit to permanent housing. Linkage to services will be based on the youth's needs and their desired intervention. YYA will be offered both transitional housing (TH) and rapid rehousing (RRH) assistance and will be able to choose to participate in either or both of the components of this project. RRH can be project-based or tenant-based housing where the young person is the leaseholder of a housing unit. Projects may also use master leasing to help youth gain rapid access to housing. Projects may also include shared housing to help youth sustain after assistance ends. Case management services will support youth and young adults to obtain permanent housing and achieve self-sufficiency.</p> <p>Assistance through Joint TH-RRH for youth households (individuals and families) will be provided by helping them locate and move into permanent housing using financial assistance and housing focused services. To meet unique needs of youth households, these projects will serve youth without restrictions - regardless of income, credit score, credit history, or criminal history.</p>
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	<p>While youth are in Joint TH-RRH, they receive supportive services including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phone numbers for crisis situations – needing medical attention, or been assaulted</li> <li>• Assistance addressing or clearing criminal background</li> <li>• Assistance to those with disabilities</li> <li>• Connection to education and training resources, including financial assistance</li> <li>• Connection to employment</li> <li>• Connection to community activities or groups</li> <li>• Connection to counseling services as needed</li> <li>• Connection to health services (physical, mental, behavioral)</li> <li>• Guidance on budgeting and credit score</li> <li>• Guidance on tenancy - lease requirements, how late fees work</li> <li>• Obtaining a car or other transportation</li> <li>• Connection to family</li> <li>• Assistance with supportive services and rent/utilities</li> <li>• Exploring benefits of pet ownership</li> </ul>
<b><u>Target Population and Projected Number Served:</u></b>	YYA between the ages of 18-24, plus all special population groups. HUD Homeless Categories 1 and 4. Projected to serve approximately 63 youth.
<b><u>Project Requirements:</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agencies provide a safe, inclusive, and affirming space for all youth.</li> <li>• All staff are trained in areas related to equity, cultural competency, inclusivity, and best practices.</li> <li>• Provide services to include housing identification, building relationships with landlords, finding housing quickly, and to limit the amount of time youth experience homelessness.</li> <li>• Include rental assistance to help to cover move-in costs, deposits, and the rental and/or utility assistance necessary to allow youth to move immediately out of homelessness and to stabilize in permanent housing. Continued assistance is flexible and tailored to the needs of every individual and services.</li> <li>• Youth-driven case management services will be provided with a variety of supportive services to help address issues that may impede access to housing. Case management services can be provided for 6 months after rental assistance has ended.</li> <li>• Adhere to a Housing First model.</li> <li>• Focus on supporting youth in developing long term supports and connections with their community.</li> <li>• Participate in the Coordinated Entry System and HMIS.</li> <li>• Adhere to the best practices and guiding principles of the CCP.</li> </ul>
<b><u>Desired Outcomes:</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decrease the amount of time youth experience homelessness.</li> <li>• People move from Transitional Housing into Rapid Rehousing.</li> <li>• People will gain independence and transition out of Rapid Rehousing.</li> </ul>


	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People will build community and support systems and will not enter back into homelessness.</li> <li>• People will gain appropriate income, employment, and education along with support systems to become self-sufficient.</li> <li>• Decrease returns to homelessness.</li> </ul>
<b><u>USICH Outcomes Addressed:</u></b>	<p>Stable housing</p> <p>Permanent connections</p> <p>Education/employment</p> <p>Social-emotional well-being</p>
<b><u>YHDP Principles Addressed:</u></b>	<p>Positive Youth Development: Projects will help youth develop their talents, strengths, and connections to thrive after assistance ends.</p> <p>Trauma Informed Care: Projects will use trauma-informed practices to support youth with trauma histories.</p> <p>Family Engagement: Projects will help youth to connect to their families according to the youth's goals through case management.</p> <p>Housing First- Projects will use a Housing First model to ensure no barriers to youth entering the project.</p> <p>Youth Choice- Projects will give youth a choice of shared housing, their own housing, and housing location.</p> <p>Individualized and Client Driven Supports- Project case management will be based on client needs. Projects may use progressive engagement to adjust case management based on client needs.</p> <p>Social and Community Integration- Projects will use case management to help youth increase their connections in the community and develop social supports.</p> <p>Coordinated Entry- All projects will use Coordinated Entry.</p>
<b><u>Innovative Strategies:</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requests for CoC program flexibility to extend RRH beyond 24 months.</li> <li>• Youth may choose to live where they desire - in shared housing or private residences.</li> </ul>
<b><u>Will the project seek any CoC program flexibilities through the waiver notification or approval process?</u></b>	<p>Yes, CoC will seek a waiver to extend RRH services beyond 24 months of service. In seeking the waiver, we will provide HUD the following according to their requirements: (1) the method it will use to determine which youth need rental assistance beyond 24 months and (2) the services and resources that will be offered to ensure youth are able to sustain their housing at the end of the 36 months of assistance.</p> <p>This project is still feasible if the waiver is not achieved.</p>
<b><u>Project Type:</u></b>	Joint TH-RRH
<b><u>Projected Cost:</u></b>	\$829,080

<b>Planning</b>	
<b><u>Summary of Project:</u></b>	Our CoC has already been received \$127,116 in planning dollars and are applying for an additional \$127,116 for a second year of funding. This project will support planning and implementation of the activities found within this YHDP Coordinated Community Plan for TX-601 to ensure successful implementation of YHDP program, including the completion of the CCP and awarded projects. The project will also support project monitoring, evaluation, and continuous quality improvement.
<b><u>Target Population and Projected Number Served:</u></b>	YYA ages 18-24, including all special population groups. HUD Homeless Categories 1 and 4. YHDP in our CoC is projected to benefit more than 126 YYA.
<b><u>Project Requirements:</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May only be applied for by the CoC.</li> <li>• Adhere to the best practices and guiding principles of the CCP.</li> <li>• Youth with lived experience are included in decision making.</li> <li>• All staff trainings related to equity, cultural competency, inclusivity and best practices.</li> </ul>
<b><u>Desired Outcomes:</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To end youth homelessness in TX-601.</li> <li>• Successful Implementation of YHDP projects.</li> <li>• Increase capacity and infrastructure in our community.</li> <li>• Increase YYA involvement in decision-making.</li> <li>• Inclusivity for youth participants.</li> </ul>
<b><u>USICH Outcomes Addressed:</u></b>	Stable housing Permanent connections Education/employment Social-emotional well-being
<b><u>YHDP Principles Addressed:</u></b>	<p>Special Populations- Planning project will continue to evaluate if the system is meeting the needs of special populations, including youth with disabilities, foster involved youth, criminal involved youth, and LGBTQ+ youth.</p> <p>Equity- Planning project will continue to evaluate the system to ensure that people of all races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, and genders receive equitable access to housing and supportive services. Planning project will also work to improve outcomes for specific populations if outcomes show disparities.</p>
<b><u>Innovative Strategies:</u></b>	Planning and implementation of YHDP that is youth and data driven
<b><u>Will the project seek any CoC program flexibilities through the waiver notification or approval process?</u></b>	N/A
<b><u>Project Type:</u></b>	Planning
<b><u>Annual Projected Cost:</u></b>	\$127,116



# Signature Page

## Youth Action Board Representatives

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**Brandon Gordon**

**YAB Co-Chair**

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**Carena Macomber**

**YAB Co-Chair**

## Continuum of Care Representatives

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**Steve Montgomery**

**CoC Board Chair**

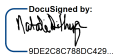
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**Lauren King**

**Executive Director, Tarrant County Homeless Coalition**

## Public Child Welfare Agency Representative

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**Natalie Witherspoon**

**Program Administrator, DFPS**

## Local Government Agency Representative

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**Tara Perez**  
**Directions Home Manager, City of Fort Worth**

## Runaway and Homeless Youth Provider Representatives

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**Edna Foster**  
**Transitions Clinical Supervisor, ACH**

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**Tavian T. Harris**  
**Executive Director, Seasons of Change, Inc.**

## Appendix: Citation Page

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