COORDINATED COMMUNITY PLAN

TO PREVENT AND END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

Ohio Balance of State Continuum of Care, Region 6

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Coordinated Community Plan is to aid Ohio Balance of State Continuum of Care Region 6's efforts in developing and implementing projects funded by HUD's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP). Region 6 of the Ohio Balance of State is rural, consisting of five counties in the eastern part of the CoC including: Carroll, Columbiana, Harrison, Jefferson, and Tuscarawas counties.

Through a collaborative assessment and strategizing process, our community has identified three core needs that will be addressed through engagement with this YHDP effort:

1. Approximately 90 Youth and Young Adults (YYA) in our five-county region currently experience homelessness each year but are currently unable to access appropriate service and housing programs due to a lack of program capacity, both in terms of housing stock and ability to identify all young persons in need. We believe our system capacity needs to be expanded so that all YYA in need have access to our homeless response system.

2. The vast majority of YYA who enter our response system do so through emergency shelters. However, high percentages of those young people quickly exit the system to non-permanent destinations. We believe that our homeless response system should be so welcoming, personalized, and attuned to the specific needs of young people experiencing homelessness that all YYA are successfully supported to achieve positive outcomes.

3. Our existing homeless response system is not equipped with enough youth-specific resources to overcome the barriers YYA have in accessing our system and receiving appropriately tailored services. We believe that our homeless response system will be most successful in helping YYA achieve safe and stable housing, social and emotional wellbeing, and education and employment goals if we create specialized programs and services designed to meet their needs.

In order to meet these needs, our community has determined that the first step in an effective response will be to create a personalized and welcoming suite of outreach, case management, and navigation services all organized around a central youth access point. Through this application of services, we expect to see greater connectivity with education, juvenile justice, child welfare, and human trafficking systems as well as strengthened relationships with local communities and community leaders. In turn, these increased connections and attention to youth-specific needs should lead to a greater number of young people accessing our system, and many fewer young people exiting that system to non-positive outcomes within a few days. Moreover, by increasing our system's housing capacity with transitional housing and rapid re-housing that is built to address the particular needs of youth and young adults, we expect to see many more exits to permanent housing destinations that are supported by high rates of education and/or income goal achievement.

In order to accomplish these goals, we will need to increase our connections with the local education system, increase system housing capacity, bolster coordination between our agencies and counties, and improve supportive services available at our emergency shelters. We believe these key focus areas and outcomes will make a substantial impact on the housing, employment, and educational needs of youth in our community as well as enhance their social-emotional wellbeing and permanent, supportive connections.

Furthermore, our community is determined to reinforce these broad goals with specific measures to ensure meaningful engagement with and positive outcomes for particularly vulnerable populations, including: LGBTQ youth, minors, pregnant and parenting youth, youth involved with the juvenile justice system, youth involved with the child welfare system, survivors of trafficking, and youth suffering from substance abuse or mental health.

In short, we know that there are young people experiencing homelessness who never access our system and out of those who do, too many exit our housing and service programs before achieving safe and stable housing. The result of our needs assessment is that the most critical needs that must be addressed include an increase in our housing capacity, increased attention to the particular needs of youth and young adults, greater coordination as a

multi-county region, and improved collaboration with other social systems that work with young people experiencing or at-risk of homelessness.

II. YOUTH HOMELESSNESS IN OHIO REGION 6

The current youth homelessness response system in Ohio Region 6 utilizes emergency shelters, rapid rehousing projects, permanent supportive housing projects, and accompanying supportive services. In our current system, emergency shelters have a principal role. Region 6 is comprised of six shelters that serve almost the entire population of youth experiencing homelessness who touch the system, serve as some the access points for coordinated entry and other services, and are usually – though not always – the first stop in the system before youth gain access to permanent housing such as RRH or PSH.

In the last federal fiscal year (Oct 1, 2018 – Sept 30, 2019), emergency shelters served 86 youth. Eighty of those youth were unaccompanied youth, while the remaining 6 youth were parenting at least one child. In comparison, RRH projects served only 16 youth while 23 youth (20 unaccompanied; 3 parenting) were served in PSH. Moreover, all but two of the youth served in RRH (88%) entered that program from a shelter. Similarly, 14 of the youth served in PSH (70%) entered the program through a shelter as well. Therefore, in order to understand the current state of the homeless response system in Ohio Region 6, it is important to understand our emergency shelters.

Because Region 6 is a rural area, geography plays a key role in both access to and success within the shelters. Of the six emergency shelters located in our region, three are in Columbiana county, two in Jefferson county, and one in Tuscarawas county. Each shelter serves youth clients, but none of them are dedicated to or have specialized services specifically for youth. Carroll and Harrison counties have no shelters, though youth from those counties may access shelters in other counties to the extent they know of them and can find the transportation.

Demographically, youth known to be experiencing homelessness in our county are predominantly white, with the leading factors contributing to their episodes of homelessness including lack of suitable income, substance abuse, and mental health issues. Minors are known to experience homelessness both as part of a household and unaccompanied; however, our homeless response system does not currently have the resources to serve unaccompanied minors. Through the YHDP planning process, our community has begun the work of seeking out persons and subpopulations that are not currently known or engaging with our current system.

This Coordinated Community Plan begins with a more detailed account of what we currently know about youth experiencing or at-risk of homelessness in our region. It is followed by an account of the vulnerable populations we are aware of or are trying to learn more about, as well as the needs specific to each of these groups. From this statement of need, this plan continues to an analysis of those needs in order to determine the high-impact areas we will focus on with YHDP programming. Finally, this plan concludes by outlining the values and principles our YHDP community holds, as well as a map of our growing governance structure.

A. Youth Experiencing Homelessness

1. HMIS Data: Who are We Serving Right Now?

Data on who our homeless response system currently serves is collected through our Continuum of Care's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and available through reports such as each project's Annual Performance Report (APR). According to APR data from HUD's Fiscal Year 2019 (FY2019 is Oct. 1, 2018 – Sept. 30, 2019), 105 youth were served in housing projects throughout Ohio Region 6. These housing projects include emergency shelter (ES), rapid re-housing (RRH), and permanent supportive housing (PSH).   Of these individuals, 97

were unaccompanied youth between 18-24 years of age, while 8 were parenting youth. Most of the youth in RRH and PSH entered their program through one of the emergency shelters. However, because PSH has a relatively low turnover rate, all but four of the individuals in that program (3 Unaccompanied Youth; 1 Parenting Youth) were actively enrolled for more than a year.

As indicated in the chart below, our system emergency shelters are the primary means of providing a pathway to housing for youth experiencing homelessness:

Exhibit 1: Total Youth Served in ES, SH, RRH, PSH								
(Source: APR FY 2019)								
	ES/SH		RRH		PSH		Unduplicated Totals	
	YYA 18-25	PY 18-25	YYA 18-25	PY 18-25	YYA 18-25	PY 18-25	YYA 18-25	PY 18-25
Carroll	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Columbiana	28	0	10	0	14	0		
Harrison	0	0	1	0	0	0		
Jefferson	31	5	5	0	2	2		
Tuscarawas	21	1	0	0	4	1		
Total	**80**	**6**	**16**	**0**	**20**	**3**	**97**	**8**
						Total:	**105**	

2. Estimating All YYA Experiencing and At-Risk of Homelessness

I. YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS: FIVE COUNTY ESTIMATE

Existing HMIS data tells us how many people our homeless response system currently serves - not the total number of youth and young adults experiencing homelessness in our entire five-county region. We know that not all youth and young adults in our region successfully access our resources, and so we must estimate the total number of YYA who experience homelessness each year. In total, we estimate 194 YYA experience homelessness in our region each year. A summary of our estimation for the total number of unaccompanied youth and young adults who experience homelessness in our region each year is as follows:

Exhibit 2: Estimates of Youth Experiencing Homelessness						
	Carroll	**Columbiana**	**Harrison**	**Jefferson**	**Tuscarawas**	**Total**
Estimate of homeless YYA per year:	20	52	15	65	42	**194**

These estimates were determined by finding the largest number of YYA served in any county in the past three years, proportional to its poverty rate, and then extrapolating based on poverty rates and local knowledge. For more detail, see Appendix A.

II. YOUTH AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS: NATIONAL ESTIMATES

One way of determining the number of YYA who are at-risk of homelessness in our counties is to use national estimates. This method provides a broad estimate. We will then try to use more local methods in an attempt to identify who these youth are and where we might locate them.

The *Missed Opportunities: Youth Homelessness in America* report conducted by Chapin Hall and Voices of Youth Count offers data that is useful for estimating the number of youth and young adults who are at-risk of homelessness in our region. Using a definition of homelessness that counts "doubled up" youth as homeless, the *Missed Opportunities* report finds that 9.2% of all young adults aged 18-24 experience homelessness and 4.4% of youth ages 13-17 experience homelessness in a 12-month period. For our purposes, these statistics should be used to estimate youth who are at-risk of homelessness because HUD does not define people who are "doubled up" as homeless. Therefore, when we multiply these percentages by the respective populations of youth who live in Ohio's Region 6, the resulting estimate is a total of 2,828 youth at risk of homelessness each year. Of this total, 2,203 young adults are ages 18-24 and 675 are minors ages 14-17.

III. EDUCATION SYSTEM COUNTS

According to the National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE), the number of homeless children and youth enrolled in Ohio's public schools has been on the rise across the state over the past three years, from 27,907 to 30,346.

Ohio Region 6 does not currently have precise figures on the number of children and youth who are enrolled in our region's school districts that are experiencing or at-risk of homelessness. However, it is possible to estimate the number of our students who experience homelessness or are at risk of homelessness based on statewide data provided by NCHE. Using methods described in the Appendix, we estimate that there are 785 students in our region's public K-12 school system who are experiencing or at-risk of homelessness. Of the total 785 students, 161 students are estimated to be literally homeless, with the remaining 624 estimated students at-risk of homelessness either because they are doubled up or residing in a hotel/motel situation. Of the literally homeless students, 14 are estimated to be unaccompanied.

From Region 6's HMIS Annual Progress Report (APR) data, we know that there were 77 minors between the ages of 5-17 in our emergency shelters in the last 12-month reporting period. If we assume all of these children can be included in NCHE's estimate then that means 84 students were not accessing our homeless response system.[1] Moreover, our homeless response system currently serves no unaccompanied minors, so there may be 14 unaccompanied minors in our region who the public school system can identify as literally homeless but are not receiving housing and services.

In addition to students who are directly experiencing homelessness, we are also concerned about the high numbers of students who are at-risk of homelessness. As these students turn 18 and leave the school system (either by graduating or otherwise), some are likely to lose many of their supports from both school and family. In other words, we expect an unfortunately high percentage of youth who are at-risk of homelessness while still under 18 and/or in the school system to experience homelessness shortly after they turn 18 and/or leave the school system.

In our YHDP planning, YAB meetings, and focus groups, stakeholders have expressed significant concern over the fact that little to no connection between our homeless response system and the school system exists on this issue.

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[1] Strictly speaking, the education data would include students who are 18 and over. However, anecdotal accounts from public school employees indicate that our assumption is safe and that our final estimates seem correct.

By our estimate (see Appendix B), the number of students who are more acutely at-risk of homelessness because they are in this period of transition may be as high as 50 students.

IV. PARENTING AND PREGNANT YOUTH

From US Census data, we know that there were 693 households in our region who are under the national poverty line and where the head of household was 18-24 years old. Most of these households (494, or 71.2%) had only a single female as the head of household. The remainder of these were either married families (170, or 24.5%) or families with a male head of household (29, or 4.2%). If we assume that pregnant and parenting families in poverty are at-risk of and experience homelessness at approximately the same rate as all youth in poverty, then we can estimate a total number of parenting and pregnant youth experiencing homelessness as follows:

Exhibit 3: Estimates Homeless or At-Risk Parenting and Pregnant Young Adults (PPY)					
	A	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*
	Region 6 Estimate	**Tot. YYA 18-24 in Poverty**	**Percentage (A/B)**	**PPY 18-24**	**Estimate of Homeless PPY (C*D)**
At-Risk	2203	2536	86.9%	693	**602**
Homeless	194	2536	7.6%	693	**53**
Total At-Risk and Homeless PPY					**655**

In sum, we find an estimated 602 parenting and pregnant young adults in our region to be at-risk of homelessness, with another 53 who are literally homeless.

V. SUMMARY OF ESTIMATES

The following chart provides a high-level summary of the estimates made in this section. Note that the number of parenting and pregnant youth estimated here are included within the total number of all YYA 18-24 (i.e. they are counted both places).

Exhibit 4: Summary of Estimated Homeless and At-Risk YYA		
Population	**At-Risk**	**Homeless**
All YYA, 18-24	2203	194
Unaccompanied Minors in School System	53	14
Parenting and Pregnant Youth	602	53

In Section A.1 we showed that our current system serves approximately 105 YYA per year, 23 of whom were in PSH. Therefore, this analysis indicates that at least 89 YYA (i.e. 194 – 105) who are presently not accessing our homeless response system.
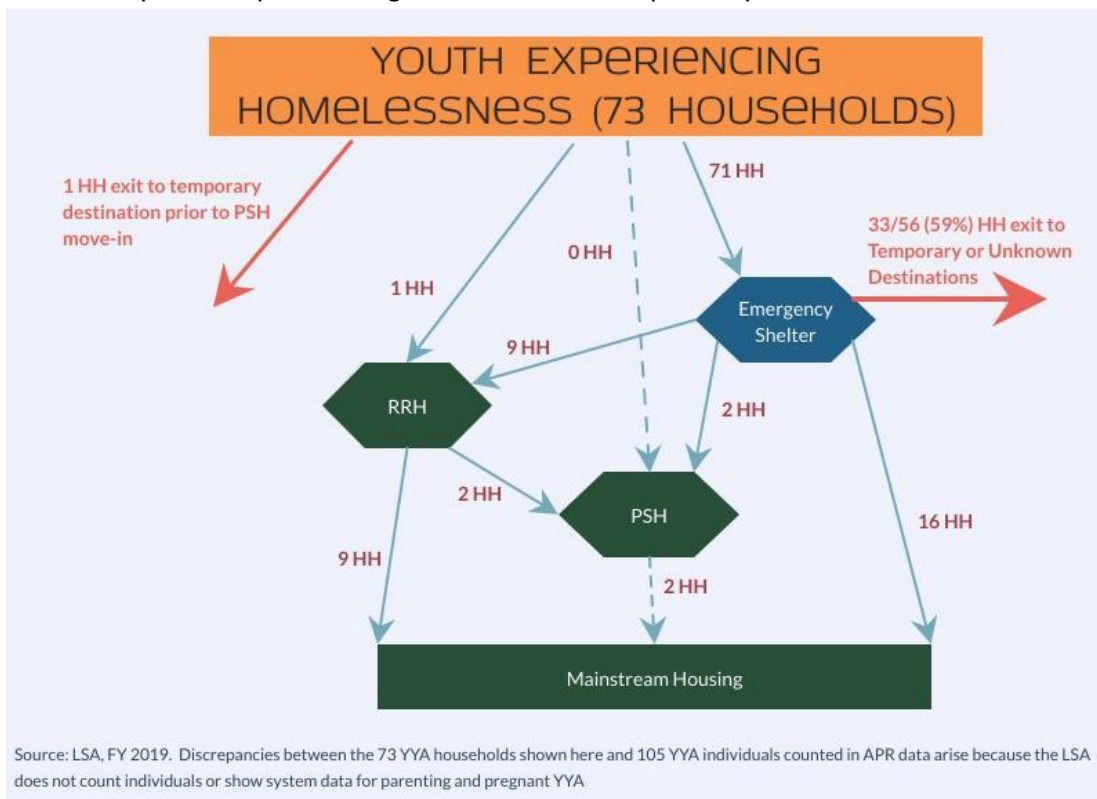
B. Current Response System

1. System Map

Youth experiencing homelessness almost exclusively enter our response system through the emergency shelter. Within the shelters, youth either wait for placement in RRH or PSH, find another permanent housing destination, or decide to leave. Unfortunately, this last group is large: 59% of all exits from our emergency shelters are either to temporary or unknown destinations. The system map of the existing pathways to permanent housing found below illustrates this central role of emergency shelters in Region 6:

Exhibit 5: System Map of Existing Youth Homeless Response System

Source: LSA, FY 2019. Discrepancies between the 73 YYA households shown here and 105 YYA individuals counted in APR data arise because the LSA does not count individuals or show system data for parenting and pregnant YYA

From the perspective of these youth who leave the shelters, these temporary our unknown destinations are not necessarily undesirable. For instance, 18% of these individuals exited to medical institutions, which may often be the best location to serve the needs of the person in question. However, both local housing and service providers as well as our region's YAB members have emphatically agreed that many of these exits are negative outcomes. Many of these departures happen because youth feel that they are not receiving – or not likely to receive - the services they need. As discussed in more detail in our Statement of Need below, sometimes this means that youth feel that this path is not likely to lead to permanent housing. Other times, it indicates that youth may be drawn away from the shelters because of drug and/or alcohol addictions. The two charts below provide a summary of these statistics.

Exhibit 6: Exit Destinations from ES (Source: APR FY2019)					
	Permanent Destinations	**Temporary Destinations**	**Temporary - Institutional**	**Other**	**Total**
UY 18-24	30	15	5	17	**67**
PY	4	2	0	0	**6**

Exhibit 7: Non-Permanent Exit Destinations from ES (Source: APR FY2019)							
	Medical	**Incarceration**	**Other Temporary**	**Family**	**Friends**	**Unknown**	**Total**
UY + PY	6	1	2	7	5	13	**34**
Percent of Total	18%	3%	6%	21%	15%	38%	**100%**

2. Current System Capacity

Our region's current system capacity is limited by the number of emergency shelter beds and units available at any given time. As indicated above, virtually all YYA enter our homeless response system through an emergency shelter, so any limitation there is a limitation of the system as a whole. The following chart shows the number of persons served on a single day in each quarter from 10/1/18 – 9/30/19. It also shows the number of beds available at any one time from the Homeless Inventory Count (HIC):

Exhibit 8: OH Region 6 Capacity: PIT vs HIC for ES (Source: HMIS, FY 2019)						
	Jan	**Apr**	**Jul**	**Oct**	**HIC Beds**	**Exits to Permanent Destinations UY 18-24**
Col. - CAA ES	8	8	4	8	11	2/8
Col. - MHC Hand in Hand	1	1	3	1	3	2/3
Col. - Kendall Home	3	4	5	5	6	12/13
Jeff. - Urban Mission Dorm	15	14	16	13	26	7/27
Jeff. - Hutton House	12	11	13	10	10	3/3
Tusc. - Friends of the Homeless	38	36	33	39	36	8/19

As this chart shows, our shelters are almost entirely full on any given day. Because there are no specific youth shelters or youth designated beds, if these shelters are full for everyone, then they are full for YYA. While there does appear to be some additional capacity in a few shelters, the last column showing the number of positive destination outcomes for young adults 18-24 reminds us that some of this capacity is available only because YYA exit these shelters at high rates and very rapidly. Thus, if we were to successfully retain YYA in these shelters until we could meet their needs for safe and stable housing, it is likely that our system would be at or above capacity even without increasing access for the 89 YYA who are not presently accessing our homeless response system.

C. Vulnerable Populations and Equity

In Ohio Region 6, we define equity as the idea that some people may need more or different resources than others to achieve the same goals as a result of who they are, where they are, or what their circumstances are.

In order to try and build a sense of equity into our homeless response system, we have worked to start identifying what issues may impose barriers to adequate housing and income in our area so that we can address those issues through our YHDP projects. In this section, we will present what we have currently discovered about vulnerable populations in our area. We will then incorporate responses to these specific findings in the context of the ideal system we propose, below. It is worth noting from the beginning, however, that we know that our current findings are only the beginning of our exploration of this topic, and that one of our equity goals will need to simply be to keep learning and having conversations about these issues.

1. Youth Identifying as LGBTQ+

At the present time, there are no homelessness providers in Ohio Region 6 that collect data on sexual orientation. Likewise, no youth in the system identify themselves as transgender to case managers. Therefore, there is no official data on anyone in our region presenting as LGBTQ+. However, we recognize that an absence of reported data on LGBTQ+ youth does not mean that individuals who identify as LGBTQ+ do not live in our community, experience particular difficulties that may lead to homelessness, or enter into our housing and service projects. Therefore, we view YHDP as an opportunity to learn more about LGBTQ+ young people in our counties and to inform our programs on best practices to ensure youth who do identify as LGBTQ+ feel safe, affirmed, welcome, and likely to succeed.

2. Racial Minorities

Racial equity can be a difficult topic in our region, simply because Ohio Region 6 is a very white area when examined as a whole. Indeed, census data shows that over 95% of all residents are white. However, when we look closer, we find two things:

1. Although our region as a whole is predominantly white, there are specific areas with significantly higher rates of people of color.
2. Poverty rates for people of color are significantly higher than for people who are white. Among other findings (see Appendix for more detail), we have noted that poverty rates among Black or African American persons are two to five times greater than their white counterparts, reaching as high as 49.7% in Carroll County and 51% in Columbiana County. In three counties (Columbiana, Jefferson, and Tuscarawas), there are Native American and census-defined "other" populations with poverty rates over 50%.

To us, this means that there are likely to be small communities of racial minorities with high poverty rates. It is also highly possible that these communities have many individuals who are at-risk of or experiencing literal homelessness but are experiencing barriers to accessing our homeless response system.

We need to gain more local information about these people and communities. As a start, however, we have identified areas where we see high rates of youth households under the census poverty line (see map, below). Four areas stand out in particular, highlighted in an orange circle in the map below:

Exhibit 9: Locations of People of Color and Youth in Poverty
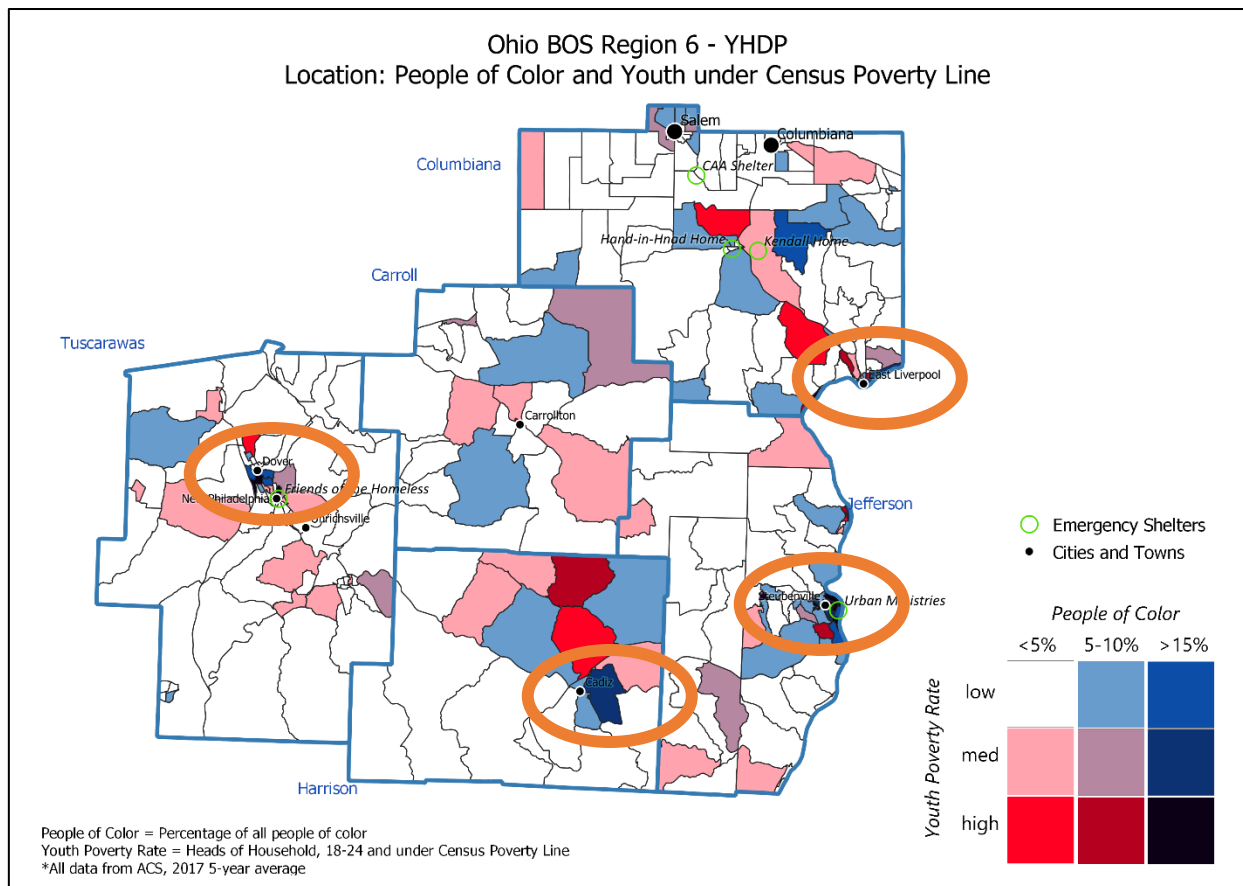
When determining the location of our services, we will take these four areas into special consideration – especially near East Liverpool and Cadiz, where there are currently no emergency shelters (our primary access points in the current system). Moreover, we will work to build contacts with local leaders and representatives from minority communities in order to ensure that our services can be accessed by everyone.

3. Minors

Providing housing and services to minors is not an opportunity that has been available to providers in our region prior to YHDP. However, since the earliest stages of YHDP planning, our planning team has begun reaching out across systems to contact individuals and institutions who work with minors. These systems include the local school system, juvenile justice, and child welfare systems. The most immediate surprise was that we discovered that the local education system has noticed a severe, 282% increase in homeless youth in their schools since the 2015-16 year. The definition of homelessness used in the education system includes youth who are considered at-risk by HUD's definition, so it is likely that most of these students are doubled up with friends and family.

However, anecdotal reports indicate that there may also be a significant population of these students who are literally homeless and regularly sleeping in their cars.

The immediate concern shared by both education staff and our homeless providers is that these two systems are not well connected. School staff, especially including school counselors, do not know who to contact or what resources are available to their students who are at risk of or literally homeless. Likewise, our providers have not had experience working on housing minors to know best practices for working with them, either in terms of what regulations need to be followed or in terms of the practical, programmatic aspects that will make services and housing accessible and successful.

4. Pregnant and Parenting Youth

The homeless response system for Ohio Region 6 served 6 parenting youth during the last federal fiscal year, with no accompanying data on pregnant youth. However, our estimate of pregnant and parenting youth in our region who may be experiencing homelessness (see above) found that there may be as many as 53 such individuals. Some of this gap may be accounted for by the fact that families are more likely to reunify or lend assistance to parenting and pregnant youth, thereby increasing the capacity of this subpopulation to self-resolve. But even accounting for this possibility, our needs assessment identified two particular barriers for parenting and pregnant youth.

First, our case managers, community stakeholders, and YAB were in agreement that there is a stigma in our region young adults with children fear that accessing services and/or housing, could result in their children being "taken away from them." This stigma needs to be actively addressed and worked against.

In our Tuscarawas-based focus group, we heard from youth with experience in our shelters that gaining access to our shelter system is often the same for pregnant youth as otherwise. One young woman described the intense anxiety and fear she felt while pregnant and living in her car awaiting entry to a shelter. It was winter, and she was worried that a bed would not free up before her delivery date. Fortunately, in her case, a bed became available: "When I got in," she told the group, "I cried."

While our community believes that everyone in need of emergency shelter or crisis housing should have it available to them, this is especially true for pregnant youth. Pregnant youth need our providers to know they are pregnant and to respond appropriately to ensure that they receive immediate housing and services. Parenting youth should never have to wait and "get lucky" on an available bed to access housing and services.

5. Youth Involved with Juvenile Justice

Youth who are discharged from a juvenile justice setting and are still a minor are remanded back into the custody of their parents/legal guardian, who have to be at the jail or courthouse to pick the youth up and sign transfer paperwork. If the custodian fails to show or refuses to sign, the youth may be remanded into the custody of the county PCSA. Unless a youth has a probation officer or someone from the juvenile justice system checking on them, there is no follow-up to ensure that that particular youth is at home, staying home, and is supported. With a probation officer, the youth may get linked with community resources and programs to ensure that they are supported, however this is dependent on the community.

If the individual is a young adult who is leaving a juvenile justice setting having reached the age of maturation while incarcerated, the onus is on that youth to care for themselves and ask for help. The same is true for young

adults leaving adult justice systems; even if they have a probation/parole officer, the young adult that has just been discharged from an institution is expected to know what to do.

The most recent data available from 2017 shows that in our five counties, there were a total of 751 annual delinquency cases heard by a juvenile court. The highest rates of delinquency were in Columbiana county (208 cases), Jefferson county (143 cases), and Tuscarawas county (297 cases). At the present time, the Ohio BoSCoC collects almost no data on the intersection of youth with a history of juvenile justice involvement and homelessness; however, we know that there is a high correlation between unaccompanied YYA homelessness and juvenile justice involvement. One study cited by the federal Youth.gov website indicates that over half of runaway and homeless youth in the Midwest have been arrested at some time.[2] Therefore, a first step is to establish strong connections to the juvenile courts – especially in Columbiana, Jefferson, and Tuscarawas counties.

Going forward, the YHDP lead agency, CAA, will collaborate with the variety of juvenile and adult justice systems throughout Region 6 by working with their assigned liaisons. We will work with the court support services to address homelessness among those involved in the criminal justice system. We believe that by ensuring individuals are not released into homelessness, we will be assisting our most vulnerable youth and young adults, reducing returns to homelessness, and contributing to overall safer communities.

6. Youth Involved with Child Welfare

According to the Casey Family Program every year approximately 265,513 children enter the foster care system nationally.[3] On any given day in Ohio, there are nearly 16,000 children being cared for away from their parents – more than 2,600 of them are waiting to be adopted and more than 1,000 of them are teenagers.[4] Each county in Ohio has a different method of applying the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services rules and regulations regarding child welfare. The rules in Ohio state that a Public Children Services Agency (PCSA) shall begin emancipation planning (discharge) with any youth in permanent custody at the age of 14 that the youth shall have an independent living plan on record by age 16. This plan should identify where the youth is going to live when they leave state custody. However, all of Ohio's PCSA's are overwhelmed with abused and neglected children, have high rates of staff turnover and historically lack resources to ensure compliance with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services rules related to independent living.

Youth in foster care cannot be emancipated until they are at least 18 years of age and graduated from high school. Independent Living plans developed between the young person and the PCSA often incorporates the youth transitioning to either the Ohio Bridges Program (known nationally as Extended Foster Care), a transitional living program or a college campus. Sadly, many young people exiting the foster care system do not have the independent living skills needed to maintain housing without supports and have limited or no safe family members to support their transition. Providers report that young adults often opt out of PCSA adult services, even when they have no safe housing because they have mistrust for the child welfare system. In Ohio, approximately 3,000 youth emancipate from care each year and one-third of those youth end up homeless.

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[2] https://youth.gov/youth-topics/runaway-and-homeless-youth/juvenile-justice-system

[3] https://www.casey.org/state-data/

[4] https://www.adoptuskids.org/adoption-and-foster-care/how-to-adopt-and-foster/state-information/ohio

According to the Ohio Bridges Program, approximately 74 young people emancipate from our region and can access Bridges.[5] We estimate that this means there will be an average of 25 YYA who will be at-risk of or will experience homelessness prior to the age of 24. To reach this conclusion, we estimated that if 74 young people emancipate and can access Bridges, then there are at least 100 young adults who emancipate from our area. Only half of these young adults will likely be served by Bridges due to eligibility complications or the young adult's choice. Given our understanding of these conditions, we estimate that this means one in four of the 100 emancipated YYA in our area (that is, 25 total YYA) will become at-risk or experience homelessness before turning 24.

Going forward, the YHDP lead agency, CAA, will collaborate with the Dept. of Job and Family Services, Children Services Division, by working with the Independent Living Coordinators and Bridges Program Regional Coordinators to ensure each youth emancipating from foster care has a viable plan for post-foster care housing.

7. Survivors of Trafficking

Housing and service providers in Ohio Region 6 do not keep data on the number of persons who are survivors of human trafficking. However, during the early planning phase of YHDP, our leadership team reached out across systems and began to connect with organizations dedicated to preventing human trafficking. One report from 2019 found approximately 1,032 known cases of human trafficking from 2014-2016 in Ohio.[6] While victims are more likely to have lived in or be trafficked from urban counties, 18.8% are estimated to have lived in or been trafficked from rural areas like ours. Importantly, this report establishes a connection between homelessness and human trafficking: 54 victims of human trafficking had a history of homelessness, and this statistic was noted to be underestimated due to a lack of data. Indeed, the report notes that "integrating different sources of data is a critical first step for developing accurate human trafficking victim counts." We believe that the inverse is also true: integrating human trafficking data is a crucial step in discovering persons and needs that are currently unknown to our homeless response system.

Recently, the Community Action Agency of Columbiana County received a grant to partner with local agencies and establish resources, outreach, and case management services for YYA who are victims of, or at-risk of, human trafficking. Through the YHDP process, our community will leverage these new services in order to strengthen connections between the systems responding to homelessness and human trafficking in order to identify youth survivors who are not currently being identified and to strengthen our programs to ensure safe exits for all.

8. Mental Health and Substance Abuse

In our region, persons experiencing homelessness rarely have the ability to get addiction assistance as well as housing assistance. Some of this difficulty is due to the location of our emergency shelters. For example, Columbiana county has an emergency shelter that is located in the northern part of the county in a very rural area with limited transportation and no services nearby. Stakeholders report that individuals who are experiencing

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[5] Annual numbers of emancipated by county in 2017 were: Carroll: 1 YA, Jefferson 16, Tuscarawas 24 Columbiana 26, Harrison 7 for a total of 74 YYA. See p. 54-55 of the following application: https://procure.ohio.gov/PDF/614201781633JFSR1819068132%20DT.pdf

[6] Valerie R. Anderson, Teresa C. Kulig, and Christopher J. Sullivan. 2019. "Estimating the Prevalence of Human Trafficking in Ohio, 2014–2016." *American Journal of Public Health* 109: 1396-1399, https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2019.305203

both homelessness and substance addiction will often attempt to use the isolated shelter as an opportunity to get clean, only to exit the shelter shortly after due to a lack of needed services.

This difficulty is even more extreme for youth experiencing homelessness because there is a lack of specific programming for youth. Therefore, youth struggling with addiction have to find both sobriety and housing within systems that are not designed with their specific needs in mind.

9. Summary

In summary, the result of our study of YYA subpopulations within Ohio Region 6 who have particular vulnerabilities to homelessness is that the primary need is increased access to our homeless response system. Although the barriers to access are different with respect to each need, the common theme is that the expanded youth homeless response system we are developing through the YHDP process needs to include specific initiatives to address each of the following barriers:

- **Smooth connections for YYA across systems:** By strengthening connections with the juvenile justice, child welfare, and education systems – as well as by establishing relationships with local human trafficking organizations, our community can make it easier for YYA who have been involved in those systems and are at-risk for or experiencing homelessness to access what our homeless response system has to offer.
- **Attention to geography:** While the location of programs and the client transportation needs are always a concern in rural areas, this investigation showed that particular attention to geography needs to be given with respect to service to racial minorities and persons suffering from mental health and/or substance abuse issues. Racial minorities often live together in smaller areas, some of which are quite far from their nearest access point to our homeless response system. Likewise, some of our homeless housing and service projects are distanced from locations where clients can receive mental health and substance abuse treatment. This geographical barrier to accessing our services must be overcome in order for our youth homeless response system to reach all vulnerable populations.
- **Increased data on vulnerable populations:** This needs assessment revealed that our region does not have sufficient data on vulnerable YYA populations to track their access to and outcomes in our homeless response system. By tracking data on each of these populations going forward, our region can more effectively monitor any particular challenges experienced by each of the populations in this section.

D. Specific Needs

1. Housing

For youth in our region, finding and affording adequate rental housing is a substantial challenge. The first hurdle for youth is simply finding an available unit. According to official estimates from the US Census Bureau, Carroll and Tuscarawas counties have a rental vacancy rate under both national and statewide averages. The vacancy rate for Columbiana county is right at these averages, while Harrison and Jefferson counties actually have slightly more vacancies available.

Exhibit 10: Rental Vacancy Rate						
(Source: American Community Survey, 2017 5-year estimate)						
Carroll	**Columbiana**	**Harrison**	**Jefferson**	**Tuscarawas**	**US**	**Ohio**

| 5.0% | 6.0% | 7.9% | 8.5% | 4.3% | 6.1% | 5.8% |

However, especially in rural counties, numbers like these hardly tell the whole story. With relatively few properties, small percentages like this can fluctuate rapidly. Therefore, even when counties have vacancy rates equivalent to national rates in the long run, if just a few properties go off the market then youth looking for housing may see a shortage that lasts long enough to cause a serious problem. Vulnerable homelessness youth cannot currently safely wait for vacancies. Additionally, if we consider the issue geographically, then it is clear that most of the county is filled with owner-occupied houses with units for rent located within small towns and cities that are accessible or simple to locate.

For youth who are able to locate rental housing, the next challenge is affording it. As of 2017, the median monthly rent for single bedroom units ranges from $340 in Harrison county to $584 in Columbiana County. As shown in the table below, rates continue to go up from there for youth who are not able to locate a single bedroom unit. The median rent for the region as a whole tends to hover closer to $650.

Exhibit 11: Median Rent (Source: American Community Survey, 2017 5-year Estimate)					
	Carroll	**Columbiana**	**Harrison**	**Jefferson**	**Tuscarawas**
1BR	$ 486	$ 584	$ 340	$ 427	$ 548
2BR	$ 661	$ 635	$ 594	$ 580	$ 702
Countywide Median	$ 682	$ 639	$ 625	$ 674	$ 708

These rental rates would not necessarily price youth out of the rental market if reasonably well-paying jobs were more readily available. Unfortunately, as the next section shows, jobs are often difficult for youth to obtain and tend to be very low-paying. For many youth and young adults, a job at or near the state minimum wage ($8.55/hr) is the best opportunity available. As shown in the following chart, it is possible to view median rents as a percentage of the net monthly income youth would receive from such a job. Rent very quickly takes up between one-third to one-half of one's income at these rates.

Exhibit 12: Median Rent as Percent of Net Full-Time Min. Wage Income (Source: American Community Survey, 2017 5-year Estimate)					
	Carroll	Columbiana	Harrison	Jefferson	Tuscarawas
1BR	37%	44%	26%	32%	41%
2BR	50%	48%	45%	44%	53%
Countywide Median	52%	48%	47%	51%	54%

In short, the housing challenge for youth in our region is finding an appropriate and affordable unit to rent given a limited housing stock that is very spread out across the counties. Moreover, youth need to have a tightly maintained budget with no emergency or unexpected expenses just to get and keep their unit.

2. Employment

The most recent community assessment conducted by the Jefferson County Community Action Council found employment training to be the most requested service by low income residents in the county, accompanied by a desire for more and better employment options. Indeed, jobs can be quite difficult for youth to find, especially in Jefferson and Columbiana counties where unemployment rates for youth ages 20-24 are as high as 14.8% and 17.3%, respectively.

Exhibit 13: Unemployment Rates for YYA 20-24 (Source: American Community Survey, 2017 5-year estimate)						
Carroll	**Harrison**	**Columbiana**	**Jefferson**	**Tuscarawas**	**US**	**Ohio**
7.00%	5.50%	17.30%	14.80%	11.10%	11.60%	11.10%

Even for youth who are able to find employment, many jobs are not well-paying. Although some counties fare better than others, on the whole, the average number of persons in poverty is higher across the region than the national average. When measured across all ages, 14.9% of the region falls below the Census Bureau's poverty line, with rates increasing to 21.1% for youth under the age of 18.

Exhibit 14: Poverty Estimates (Source: US Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE), 2018)								
	Carroll	**Columbiana**	**Harrison**	**Jefferson**	**Tuscarawas**	***Region 6** (Weighted Avg.)*	**US**	**Ohio**
All Ages in Poverty Percent	12.9%	15.1%	15.3%	19.0%	12.3%	***14.9%***	13.1%	13.8%
Under Age 18 in Poverty Percent	17.3%	22.3%	21.8%	26.8%	17.3%	***21.1%***	18%	19.2%

3. Education

According to the US Census Bureau, Ohio Region 6 has education rates that are roughly on par with the rest of the nation for residents 25 years old and over. For this demographic, 88.5% of individuals have a high school degree or higher. This is slightly higher than the national average of 87.3% and just under the average for the State of Ohio at 89.8%.
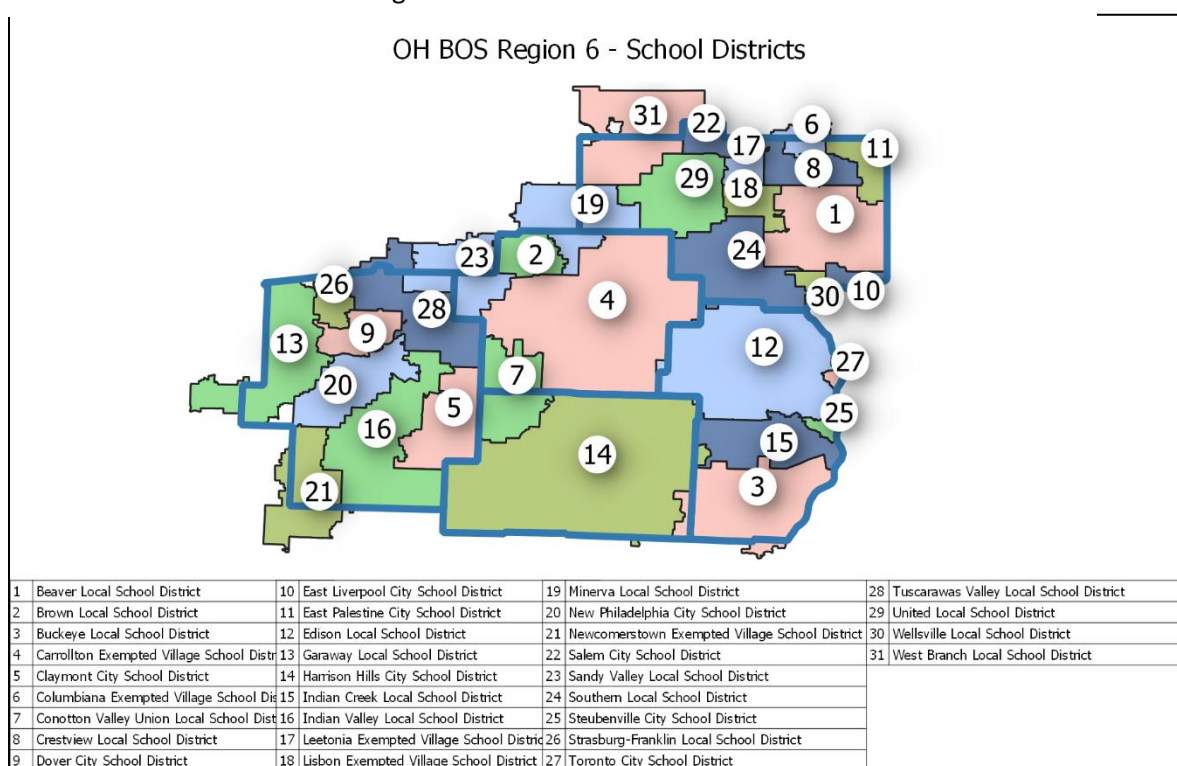
However, the story changes when we look the number of young adults aged 18-24 who do not yet have a high school degree. Compared to the national rate of 13.4% and statewide rate of 13.7%, 17.3% of all youth 18-24 in Ohio Region 6 do not have a high school degree. While Jefferson county has a rate slightly better than the national and state averages (13.0%), rates increase to 15.3% in Columbiana, 19.0% in Harrison, 20.2% in Tuscarawas, and 26.7% in Carroll. Summarized in the chart below, these numbers indicate that for most of our counties, individuals have attained education rates on par with the rest of the state and nation. However, youth are not currently on track to achieve those education rates through the traditional K-12 school system in which they would graduate high school by approximately age 18. This indicates that a large portion of youth in our region need more educational support than they are currently receiving from their local school system alone.

Exhibit 15: Education Rate Comparisons (Data Source: American Community Survey, 2017 5-year Estimates)								
	Columbiana	Jefferson	Tuscarawas	Carroll	Harrison	Region 6 (Weighted Avg.)	US	Ohio
Age 25+ High school graduate or higher	90.2%	89.1%	86.4%	88.2%	86.4%	**88.5%**	87.3%	89.8%
Age 18-24 Less than high school graduate	15.3%	13.0%	20.2%	26.7%	19.0%	**17.3%**	13.4%	13.7%

In addition to educational difficulties, all stakeholders – including the YHDP Leadership Team, YAB, and youth focus groups – agree that local school systems are not currently connected with the homeless response system. Our stakeholders agree that this is a serious problem for three reasons. First, students experience homelessness and may need these resources directly, as demonstrated in the section on education system counts, above. Second, as youth leave the school system, they are no longer connected with its support structures. Additionally, youth tend to graduate or otherwise leave the school system at around the same time they become an adult and may have less family support. Therefore, being able to connect with youth during this transition age is particularly important. Finally, our homeless response system may have relationships with services – especially regarding employment and mental health – that can supplement what youth receive through the education system.

With these insights in mind, our region has begun planning how to coordinate more closely with schools. The first step was to identify all the school districts in our area as well as the designated homeless liaisons at each. Unfortunately, most of these liaisons did not know what steps to take when a student is at-risk for or experiences homelessness. Therefore, we know that a significant need is to have more knowledgeable and engaged resources at their schools to help them connect with our homeless response system when needed.

Exhibit 16: School Districts in Region 6

OH BOS Region 6 - School Districts

1	Beaver Local School District	10	East Liverpool City School District	19	Minerva Local School District	28	Tuscarawas Valley Local School District
2	Brown Local School District	11	East Palestine City School District	20	New Philadelphia City School District	29	United Local School District
3	Buckeye Local School District	12	Edison Local School District	21	Newcomerstown Exempted Village School District	30	Wellsville Local School District
4	Carrollton Exempted Village School Distr	13	Garaway Local School District	22	Salem City School District	31	West Branch Local School District
5	Claymont City School District	14	Harrison Hills City School District	23	Sandy Valley Local School District		
6	Columbiana Exempted Village School Dis	15	Indian Creek Local School District	24	Southern Local School District		
7	Conotton Valley Union Local School Dist	16	Indian Valley Local School District	25	Steubenville City School District		
8	Crestview Local School District	17	Leetonia Exempted Village School Distric	26	Strasburg-Franklin Local School District		
9	Dover City School District	18	Lisbon Exempted Village School District	27	Toronto City School District		

4. Social and Emotional Wellbeing

The concept of social and emotional wellbeing "includes the development of key competencies, attitudes, and behaviors that equip a young person experiencing homelessness to avoid unhealthy risks and to succeed across multiple domains of daily life, including school, work, relationships, and community."[7]

Resilience

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[7] Morton, M. H., Blondin, M., Chrisler, A., Pufpaff, J., Kull, M. A.., Kugley, S., & Elliott, K. (2019). Measuring Up: Youth-level Outcomes and Measures for System Responses to Youth Homelessness. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. p8.

In a 2017 Community Assessment Report covering Harrison, Carroll, and Tuscarawas counties, community members and key informants identified financial literacy/money management as one of the most significantly lacking community resources. This formal study is supported by the lived experience of our YAB, who have experienced firsthand how little training youth receive either at school or at home on how to manage money, pay rent, build relations with landlords and so forth. As one YAB member puts it: "This is a school of hard knocks area. Parents leave everything for their children to figure out on their own."

Because employment opportunities are scarce, financial literacy is an especially important topic. One misinformed step can send youth on a downward spiral that is hard to escape. Greater financial literacy and money management would therefore make a huge impact on the self-efficacy and resilience of youth who are at-risk of homelessness.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health

Columbiana County's 2019 Community Health Needs Assessment demonstrates that mental health and substance abuse are the second and third largest health issues for the county – only chronic disease rates higher. Examining mental health issues revealed, the leading issue for youth appears to be growing rates of depression and suicide. 26% of youth in the area report feeling depressed most or all of the time within the last month, and an astonishing 20% report having attempted suicide one or more times.[8]

Substance abuse is also a major issue in our region. In consultation with law enforcement officials and health and social service providers, this assessment found that heroin, methamphetamine, and cocaine usage has been steadily increasing. At the same time, the area has been affected by the opioid epidemic with approximately 49.5% of accidental drug overdoses involving an opioid. From 2014 to 2017, the coroner's office found that unintentional drug-related deaths more than doubled in Columbiana County alone.[9]

5. Transportation

Transportation is one of the largest challenges in our region, and it intersects with almost every other need. Fixed route, public transportation is virtually nonexistent in our counties. The city of Steubenville (Jefferson County) has three fixed bus routes; each other county has only demand responsive services with advanced reservations required. Even within Jefferson County, residents find transportation to be highly limited. The most recent community assessment conducted by the Jefferson County Community Action Council found that transportation was continually one of the top needs identified by local residents.

The need for transportation has also been reaffirmed by our YAB, who note that the problem with the existing – mostly demand responsive – transportation is that it works primarily for people who are in a specific services program and need relatively few rides. In other words, it is not a reliable means of transportation for work, job training, or educational programs. For youth, and especially youth experiencing homelessness, this often means that the valuable services and programs that do offer a way forward are simply unavailable.

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[8] 2018 Columbiana County Profiles of Student Life: Attitudes and Behaviors Survey

[9] Columbiana County 2018 Coroner's Report

As a means of summarizing the previous sections, if we compare the current capacity of our existing youth homeless response system to the number and needs of youth and young adults who are experiencing or at-risk of homelessness in our region, we find the following gaps:

- **Insufficient capacity:** Our current system does not have the housing capacity to serve all youth and young adults estimated to be experiencing homelessness in our region. At the present time, we estimate as many as 194 YYA may be homeless across our five counties, but only 105 were served last year. Moreover, with our shelters almost continually full, it is unlikely that substantially more YYA could be served in our system without displacing others. Therefore, we must be prepared to increase our system's housing capacity to serve as many as 89 additional YYA per year.

- **High non-positive exit rates:** Too many YYA exit our homeless response system before they are able to achieve safe and stable housing. As shown in our Current System Map, approximately 59% of youth households in our emergency shelters exited to temporary or unknown destinations during the last reporting year. Many of these exits happen simply because shelters were unstaffed at night or did not have case managers who were able to quickly establish trusting connections with youth. Youth have also reported that shelters establish rules that seem arbitrary to youth and do not take their specific needs into account. This is especially true for youth with substance abuse problems. In each of these cases, it is clear that our emergency shelters do not currently have the resources to offer the level or type of supportive services youth need. If youth do not immediately feel that shelters will be a positive resource for them, then they are unlikely to stay long enough to achieve the positive outcomes they deserve.

- **Barriers to access:** Not all YYA in our region who need access to our homeless response system are able to do so. One reason for this is the lack of strong relationships between our homeless response system and the education, child welfare, juvenile justice, and anti-human trafficking systems and networks in our region. By ensuring that we have contacts in each of these systems who know how to help connect YYA with our resources, we believe we can dramatically increase access to our youth homeless response system. Another persistent barrier to accessing our system is the lack of transportation available throughout most of our region. Therefore, a focus on transportation must accompany our work on increasing access to our system.

- **No youth-specific projects or specialized services:** While many of our region's homeless providers serve youth and young adults, our region has no funded projects or staff members tasked solely with meeting the specific needs of this population. We believe that this lack is a contributing factor to the high exit rates from our housing and service projects. By adding or designating program staff specifically dedicated to and highly trained on the needs of youth and young adults –including our most vulnerable subpopulations – we can increase the speed and quality of our response to youth homelessness. As a result, we expect our housing and services to be so inviting and helpful that all YYA who enter our system will choose to keep working with our programs until they achieve safe and stable housing goals.

- **Insufficient collaboration between counties and agencies:** Underlying many other issues is the lack of coordination between different agencies and across county lines. Sometimes, resources exist in our region, but because they are outside the agency or county in which a young person presents themselves, neither they nor the program staff they work with have the knowledge or ability to connect them with these resources. If our community uses YHDP funding to increase housing and service projects but does not fix this coordination issue, then it is not likely to be used to full capacity.

Our community believes that each of these five gaps in our current homeless response system can be overcome through the implementation of a more robust, youth homeless response system. In Part III of this plan, we present the strategic framework, key components, and principles of our ideal youth homeless response system that will meet all the needs of homeless and at-risk YYA in our region.

Part III of this Coordinated Community Plan details the ideal youth homeless response system that our region believes will meet all of the needs identified in Part II.

A. Goals and Objectives

The mission of our YHDP Team is to provide youth and young adults in Ohio Region 6 with stable housing, in an effort to prevent, reduce, and end youth and young adult homelessness and help provide a promising future.

In order to achieve this mission and to overcome the gaps found in Part II, our team has committed to the following broad goals:

- **Meet young people where they're at:** Our YHDP community is dedicated to meeting youth and young adults where they're at by ensuring our system and its projects are well known, easily accessible, and responsive to youth-specific needs.

- **Increase access to our response system:** Our YHDP community is dedicated to increasing awareness of system resources removing barriers to access.

- **Increase the capacity of our response system:** Through the YHDP process, our community will increase the number of housing and service options available, with a focus on increasing emergency housing/shelter resources and flexible housing options.

- **Support youth and young adults through our system services:** Through YHDP, our community will commit to providing additional staff supports and the provision of a 24-hour hotline for youth. Supportive staff on-boarded in YHDP implementation will a complete comprehensive and ongoing youth specific training to directly improve the current disconnect YYA are experiencing in the system.

- **Build relationships across systems:** The YHDP team is committed to building and strengthening relationships with education, child welfare, juvenile justice, human trafficking programs, and any other system the YHDP community interfaces with. Recognizing that these systems often serve young people who are experiencing or at-risk of homelessness stronger relationships with them lends itself to the development of multi-system teams to wrap-around YYA and deliver purposeful, comprehensive supports.

- **Foster regional coordination:** Although we frequently reach across county lines to facilitate service provision, we also believe there is room to make these relationships stronger so that we increase collaboration as a region. This goal will require increased communication and planning efforts, beginning with this YHDP process.

The following section contains a high-level overview of the ideal youth homeless response system we plan to implement in order to achieve these goals.

B. Our Ideal Youth Homeless Response System

The following plans have been developed as part of a regional planning process including our Youth Action Board; regional homeless housing and service providers; service providers from education, child welfare, and juvenile justice systems; and other community stakeholders, including youth focus groups. This plan represents our most up-to-date understanding of how to address the needs of youth and young adults in our community who are experiencing or at-risk of homelessness. We will continue to monitor the status of homelessness in our

community as well as the effectiveness of our response over time, and our governance team is prepared to continue developing this system as needed.

1. Ideal System Map

In order to reach the goal of preventing and ending youth homelessness throughout our region, our community has designed a model of what we believe is an ideal system response. The ideal system map below shows the key pathways out of homelessness that we believe will best prevent and end youth homelessness in our community.

Exhibit 17: System Map of Ideal Youth Homeless Response System
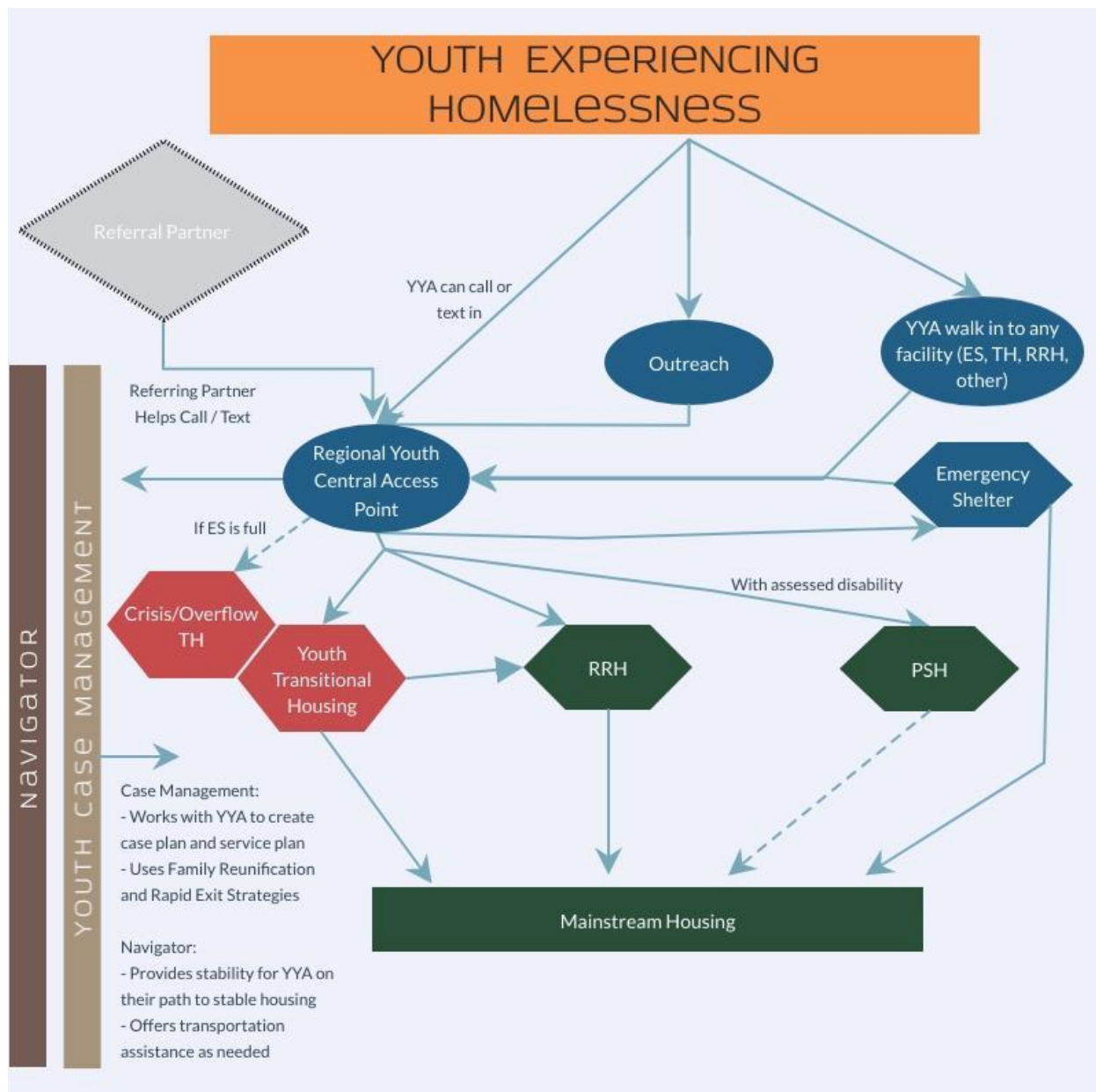
The following sections contain more details on each part of the system, including identifying the elements of the system that will be created with YHDP funding.

I. ACCESS POINTS

- **Project HOME:** "Project HOME" will be a Central Access Point (CAP) available to YYA throughout our region who are either experiencing or at-risk of homelessness. Although Project HOME will be able to assist clients of any age or subpopulation, it will make sure to place a special emphasis on the unique needs of YYA who access the project.

  Project HOME will work connect with YYA in two ways. First, the CAP will be available through a 24-7 support hotline that can be accessed by call or text. This support hotline will be highly advertised, and partners in other systems, community-based organizations, and local community leaders will be trained on how to access the hotline and how to support youth experiencing homelessness in making that first call/text. Second, this CAP will be available in person, particularly for unsheltered YYA, but also for YYA who access our system by walking into any emergency shelter or other provider.

  Regardless of how YYA first access Project HOME, it will offer an array of services with a particular youth-focused lens once the age of clients has been determined. For YYA in need of emergency shelter, the CAP would facilitate that connection. Because some youth and young adults may not need the assistance of housing projects because they will be able to be diverted from the system. Diversion is therefore a key aspect of our CA project, where workers will help youth and young adults attempt problem solving and family reunification strategies to resolve their homeless situation. The YAB will be regularly consulted to ensure that both the public messaging and services of Project HOME are relevant to the particular needs of YYA.

  - o YHDP Intervention: The CAP (Project HOME) will be implemented through YHDP funding, and its YHDP-funded component will ensure an ongoing youth focus for YYA clients.

- **Outreach:** Outreach workers will canvas the entire region. They will be highly knowledgeable with each city and town and will be tasked with actively maintaining contact with education, child welfare, and juvenile justice systems, as well as any other community-based organizations and leaders that may have knowledge of youth experiencing or at imminent risk of homelessness. The main goal of outreach workers will be to establish trust and maintain meaningful engagements with youth experiencing homelessness, knowing that not everyone may be immediately ready for assistance. For YYA experiencing unsheltered homelessness, outreach workers will also provide eligible emergency resources such as food, hygiene items, clothing, transportation, etc.

  When clients are ready for assistance, outreach workers will refer them to the CAP while also continuing to support them until they self-resolve, have been successfully diverted, or entered into a housing project. It is possible that outreach workers may also serve in another capacity as Project HOME staff, thereby creating a seamless between outreach, assessment, and referral for youth.

  Outreach workers will also be responsible for maintaining relationships with school systems, higher education systems, the child welfare system, the juvenile justice system, and human trafficking boards and organizations.

  - o YHDP Intervention: The outreach project will be implemented through YHDP funding.

II. HOUSING

- **Emergency Shelter (ES):** Emergency Shelters continue to play an important role in our ideal youth homeless response system. Shelters will serve as important access points for YYA since they are well known in the area. Our shelters will also continue to provide safe, emergency housing for YYA until they

are able to resolve their homelessness or be transitioned to TH, RRH, or PSH. Although our community will not create additional shelter capacity through YHDP funds, the additional housing and services offered through YHDP will increase the supports young people have in shelters and reduce the demand on shelters.

- o Since Ohio Region 6 currently has PSH programs available in 3 of 5 counties, Ohio Region 6 will not seek to expand ES programs for youth.

- **Youth Transitional Housing (TH):** In our ideal system, youth and young adults will have access to housing that is designed with parameters and supports to help foster positive development, increase life skills and empower independence. YHDP funded transitional housing will be available to YYA for 3 months to 2 years while they work to secure income and get connected to services that will promote sustained housing stability. Services will be available on-site and individualized to meet the needs of youth.

  We will implement two models of transitional housing: crisis TH and service-intensive TH. Crisis TH will help address the lack sufficient emergency shelter beds by providing short-term housing that is specifically tailored to the needs of YYA, including specialized populations (e.g. youth of color, LGBTQ, etc.). Our service-intensive TH will be available for YYA who need and want greater levels of support. Although this program will be designed to meet needs of nearly all homeless YYA, certain individuals may benefit from this model including those struggling with a substance use disorder, individuals in early recovery from a substance use disorder, survivors of domestic violence or other forms of severe trauma, and pregnant or parenting YYA.

  Supportive services connected to the both models of TH include support service access services, life skills trainings, and opportunities to develop permanent connections for improved social and emotional wellbeing. The youth case managers and housing navigators (see below) will continue to work with YYA in TH as part of the suite of services offered.

  - o YHDP Intervention: YHDP funding will be used to implement new TH options according to both models.

- **Rapid Rehousing (RRH):** RRH plays a key role in getting young adults back on their feet and into permanent housing with time-limited rental assistance. The RRH assistance offered to youth through this program can extend up to 24 months, although the goal is to provide financial assistance and services that are individualized to each youth. Traditionally, RRH projects provide assistance for an average duration of about 3 months. However, this YHDP RRH project will be designed with the expectation that much longer durations of assistance may be needed.

  - o YHDP Intervention: Ohio Region 6 providers currently offer limited RRH assistance to homeless households. We will expand RRH resources for YYA in Ohio Region 6 as part of our YHDP effort.

- **Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH):** In our ideal system, PSH is available for youth and young adults with a disability that prevents them from attaining mainstream housing and income.

  - o Since Ohio Region 6 currently has PSH programs available in 3 of 5 counties, Ohio Region 6 will not seek to expand PSH programs for youth.

III. SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

- **Youth Case Management:** In our ideal system, all YYA experiencing homelessness will be immediately connected to a specialized youth case manager. These youth case managers will work throughout the region and are not project or agency specific. Rather, they will work with all YYA throughout our region, regardless of where the individual is housed. The goal of case management is to establish a personalized case plan for each YYA that takes into account the client's goals for achieving and maintaining permanent housing. Case managers will work with their clients to determine which of our region's available housing programs best fit their path to permanent housing. Additionally, case managers are responsible for working with clients to determine which supportive services – especially related to education, income, and increasing social and emotional wellbeing – are necessary to foster the YYA's independence and path

to safe and stable housing. Case managers will participate in regular case conferencing with housing navigators and program staff. Finally, case managers will continue to work with their clients through their achievement of permanent housing, even if they transition between various housing and service programs along the way. Case managers may continue to work with their clients as necessary for up to six months after they move in to permanent housing in order to ensure the stability of their housing and access to mainstream services.

   o YHDP Intervention: Ohio Region 6 will use YHDP funding to create a regional youth case management project, with the goal of offering this youth-specific case management service to all YYA in our homeless response system.

- **Housing Navigator:** The goal of a housing navigator is to support youth and their case managers through the process to obtain permanent housing. The goal of the housing navigators is not to duplicate the work of case managers, but rather to assist YYA in making sure all elements of their case plan are actually carried out by lowering barriers to accessing housing and services. Specifically, the housing navigator will help YYA enroll in all housing and services to which they have been referred, check in with YYA to make sure they remember and can make all appointments, and help YYA address transportation needs. Housing navigators are able to provide transportation directly if needed. Finally, navigators will maintain regular contact for six months after program exit to ensure ongoing stability.

   o YHDP Intervention: Ohio Region 6 will use YHDP funding to create a housing navigator project, with the goal of offering this service to all YYA in our homeless response system.

2. Case Conferencing

Case conferencing between case managers, housing navigators, and program staff will be critical to creating the ideal youth homeless response system. Held on a regular basis, case conferencing will ensure that each individual who provides services or housing to YYA is on the same page regarding the status of their individual service plan and their respective responsibilities. In other words, our youth and young adults who are working hard to resolve their episode of homelessness should not have to track down each person in charge of helping them – on the contrary, all individuals working with that client should be up to date on essential case plan details, transportation plans, and intentional choices the youth or young adult has made about their situation.

3. Personalized Goals and Service Plans

In order to ensure that youth and young adults experiencing homelessness receive all the supports they need to achieve safe and stable housing, youth-dedicated case managers will work with each young person to create an individual service plan centered on personal goals. In addition to housing, these plans will ensure youth have a process to reach their education, employment, benefits, health, food access, permanent connections and other service goals that will support their maintenance of housing and overall wellbeing. Case managers will be the primary persons responsible for working with clients to establish their service plans, and they will take special care to ensure that these plans take into account youth choice while also being informed and sensitive to any particular trauma that may be present.

Moreover, our community understands that the goals young people establish may change and develop over time. Therefore, case managers will operate in accordance with the principle of youth choice and recognize service plans may need to be adjusted as youth and young adults continue on their path to housing.

Finally, although case managers are the primary persons responsible for helping clients establish their goals and plans, it is crucial that all other program staff – especially the housing navigators – understand these plans, stay informed about any updates, and play their respective parts in helping youth and young adults fulfill their goals.

4. Theory of Change

Throughout this YHDP planning process, our community has identified a need to increase the ability of youth and young adults to access our homeless response system and to achieve positive outcomes within that system. In short, we know that there are young people experiencing homelessness who never access our system and out of those who do, too many exit before achieving safe and stable housing. Our needs assessment identified that the most critical need is to increase housing and shelter/crisis housing capacity, increase attention to the particular needs of youth and young adults, improved coordination as a multi-county region, and collaborate better with other social systems serving young people experiencing or at-risk of homelessness.

In order to meet these needs, our community has determined that the first step in an effective response will be to create an intensely personal and welcoming collection of outreach, case management, and navigation services all organized around a centralized, regional Central Access Point. Through this collection of services, we expect to see greater connectivity to education, juvenile justice, child welfare, and human trafficking systems as well as strengthened relationships with local communities and community leaders. In turn, these increased connections and attention to youth-specific needs should lead to a greater number of YYA accessing our system, and fewer youth quickly exiting that system to non-positive outcomes. Moreover, by increasing our system's housing capacity with transitional housing and rapid re-housing designed to address the particular needs of youth and young adults, we expect to see many more exits to permanent housing destinations that are supported by high rates of education and/or income goal achievement.

5. Continuous Quality Improvement

Our community is dedicated to monitoring our progress toward preventing and ending youth homelessness by collecting and monitoring data as well as by incorporating feedback – especially from youth and young adult stakeholders – in order to improve our system and projects over time. As a result, our community will develop a Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) plan prior to project implementation that will:

1. Use our YHDP goals, objectives, and theory of change to develop specific system-level and project-level measures of success
2. Develop a schedule for CQI that identifies when we will evaluate our youth homeless response system and who will be responsible for conducting those evaluations
3. Specifically include the YAB as part of the review process
4. Develop mechanisms for incorporating the feedback of YYA who have accessed our system, as well as the feedback of collaborative community providers
5. Establish a plan for how our community will vote on and adopt any necessary future changes to our YHDP youth homeless response system.

C. Core Principles and Values

Our YHDP Leadership Team, YAB, and service providers are committed to incorporating the following core principles and values into the programs and system created through this effort.

1. Increasing Equity

For the Ohio Region 6 YHDP community, the concept of equity means that all youth and young adults – regardless of who they are, where they are, or what their circumstances are – will be able to access our youth homeless response system and to achieve positive outcomes through it. Our community is particularly aware of the potential barriers to housing that are experienced by youth and young adults described in the "Vulnerable Populations" section above. While each of these populations has their own unique vulnerabilities, our assessment is – across the board – that our primary difficulty as a regional response system is in making sure that YYA from these populations are receiving equitable access to and attention within our system.

In developing strategies to increase equity and respond to each of these vulnerable populations, our community has divided our response into thinking about increasing equity throughout the system, from the point of access, to increasing equity in overall outcomes, as follows.

- Equity in Access: Our plan to increase equitable access to our youth homeless response system centers on our newly planned youth outreach, navigator, and case management services. Our region will strive to ensure equitable access to our system by ensuring that outreach staff know about specific vulnerabilities and strengthen relationships that give us greater connection to each particular vulnerable population. Moreover, our outreach staff will take proactive steps to let all youth and young adults know that this system is for *them* and will meet their specific needs. Immediate access to trained navigation and case management staff will emphasize personal relationships and their unique, specific needs. As a result, these services will reaffirm that our housing and services really are for youth and tailored to their specific needs. More specifically, these services will pay special attention to:
  - *Geography:* Areas where there are higher concentrations of youth and young adults in poverty – especially any areas that are not as physically close to where our emergency shelters and service agencies are currently located.
  - *Communities of Color:* Areas with higher concentrations of racial minorities. We know that in rural areas, racial minorities tend to aggregate in smaller communities among people of their race; some of these communities have higher rates of poverty than others. Outreach workers will pay special attention to these areas and ensure that they build strong relationships with community leaders and other points of contact that will help ensure access for persons in those smaller communities.
  - *Pregnant and Parenting Youth:* Outreach workers will take special care to proactively notify all parenting and pregnant youth that entering into our system does not immediately "take their children away from them." This stigma – which exists in our region about both the homeless response system and Child Protective Services – creates a barrier for this population. As a result, we must ensure that our outreach and our referral partners are specifically trained to dismantle this myth.
  - *Cross-system collaboration:* By strengthening relationships with partners in the education, juvenile justice, and child welfare systems, as well as local responders to human trafficking, we should be able to increase referrals from each of those systems. Engagement with these systems will also help us identify minors, or young adults who have just aged out of supports for minors – an especially vulnerable subpopulation. A key step in these connections is for outreach staff to immediately connect individuals with a housing navigator and case manager in order to combat

the feeling that they are just being "handed off" to yet another agency or being "given the run around."

- o *LGBTQ+:* During the implementation phase, our YHDP leadership will receive training on LGBTQ+ cultural competency in order to enhance our outreach protocols and procedures to become as inviting and affirming to persons identifying as part of the LGBTQ+ community as possible.

- Equity in Outcomes:
  - o *Personalized Care Plans:* Setting personalized goals and care plans (see above) will help ensure that services and housing are effective for all persons.
  - o *Data and Equity Analysis:* In our analysis of vulnerable populations, we discovered that there is an overall lack of information in our region on youth experiencing homelessness who also identify as LBGTQ+, pregnant, were involved in the juvenile justice or child welfare systems, or are survivors of human trafficking. In order to ensure that the personalized goals and care plans are being met, our region plans on collecting data that will determine if clients belong to these populations, and will then evaluate if there are any populations who are systematically not receiving the levels of positive outcomes that other populations are.
  - o *Mental Health and Substance Abuse:* Youth and young adults with mental health and/or substance abuse issues will be given top priority by navigators in order to ensure that they are always able to immediately access the housing and services outlined in their personal case plan and service plan.

2. Housing First

Youth experiencing homelessness will be immediately connected to safe, appropriate housing options, whether temporary or permanent, through our regional Central Access Point (CAP). Options for immediate placement will be determined through our youth CE assessment, and all options presented to YYA will be low to no barrier. Our process for determining the right housing for YYA will also take into account each individual client's goals and needs.

3. Youth Choice

Youth experiencing homelessness have a choice and a voice in regard to where they will reside, with whom they reside, and what their overall housing goals and planning processes look like. This principle will be particularly emphasized in the process of establishing and modifying each YYA's individualized service plan. Case managers will work with YYA to assist them in setting both long-term goals related to their housing, employment, and education as well as shorter-term goals that help them stabilize, increase their overall wellbeing, increase their permanent connections and make incremental steps toward their long-term goals. Through regular case conferencing, the navigator and all other housing and service providers who serve the YYA will be kept informed of the YYA's plans and goals so that staff can provide appropriate assistance. Finally, we know that young people's goals continue to change and develop over time, so it will be important for case managers to revisit each YYA's plans frequently in order to review and appropriately modify goals as needed.

4. Establishing Permanent Connections and Family Engagement

Youth experiencing homelessness will be supported to explore past and present relationships and to identify family, friends, or other community members with whom they have a positive relationship. YHDP projects will be designed to assist youth through the process of reunification, where desired and appropriate, while providing supports which can strengthen and stabilize relationships they have identified as important.

A core component of this plan will be to engage in strategies to build permanent connections. These strategies will be employed both by the CAP and by case managers; doing so allows this work to be done both in a "diversion" context before YYA enter our system, as well as after they have entered the system as a type of rapid exit strategy or overall individual service plan.

5. Trauma Informed Care

Youth experiencing homelessness will be assisted through programming which utilizes the principles of trauma informed care. These include safety, choice, collaboration, trustworthiness, and empowerment. Trauma Informed Care (TIC) places emphasis on understanding, and responding appropriately, to all levels of trauma and the potential for re-traumatization. YHDP programs will take a holistic approach to providing resources to youth, maintaining the understanding that youth and young adults are the experts when telling their own story.

One particular challenge our community will tackle in this regard is the experience many YYA have as they present themselves over and over to various service providers and continually have to repeat their story, needs, and information. This process can cause YYA to feel retraumatized and unheard.

In order to implement trauma informed approaches in our housing and services, our community will place a special emphasis on getting YYA immediate, personal supports when they present to our system. This ensures that they don't feel they are "getting the run around again," as so many have felt as they have tried to access services in other ways. Moreover, our navigator will help ensure that as much information makes it safely from one provider to the next without YYA having to retell parts of their story over and over – which increases both the "run around" feeling and the re-experience of trauma. Finally, we will build specific language into all our youth-specific forms, assessments, trainings, etc. to clearly indicate that we are here to support and care for them, specifically.

6. Positive Youth Development

Youth experiencing homelessness will be assisted through programming which utilizes the principles of Positive Youth Development. Positive Youth Development is an engagement model which allows for collaboration between the youth and the multiple systems they are involved with in a way that promotes confidence, connection, competence, character building, and compassion. YHDP programming will offer individualized supports to assist youth in a meaningful way as they work towards becoming their best self.

D. Governance Structure

The Ohio Balance of State Continuum of Care (BoSCoC) - which is the federally recognized homeless system for the 80 non-urban counties in the state of Ohio - applied for YHDP funding for the Region 6 of the CoC, which includes Carroll, Columbiana, Harrison, Jefferson, and Tuscarawas Counties. To ensure stakeholders from all five counties are represented and engaged in the development and implementation of the youth homelessness system and to help guide the overall work of the Region 6 YHDP effort, the YHDP partners adopted a formal governance structure with designated workgroups charged with specific responsibilities.

Youth Action Board: The Youth Action Board (YAB) is a formal committee of young adults in our region, at least two-thirds of whom have lived experience. The mission of the YAB is to prevent, reduce, and end homelessness among youth and young adults on their journey to a promising future. The YAB approves the work of the YHDP Leadership Team, especially including the Coordinated Community Plan to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness. In addition, a YAB member sits on most workgroups. As necessary, the YAB helps gather information and

feedback from youth stakeholders in the region by running focus groups or other events. The YAB is led by a chairperson and vice chairperson.

YHDP Leadership Team: The YHDP Leadership Team is responsible for the YHDP Process in Ohio Region 6. Specific responsibilities include approving and updating this Coordinated Community Plan to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness, selecting new projects, and managing the region's overall approach to youth homeless. Membership of the YHDP Leadership Team includes representation from:

- Youth Action Board
- Ohio Development Services Agency
- Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO)
- Community Action Agency of Columbiana County
- Daybreak Youth Crisis Center
- Columbiana County Department of Job and Family Services
- Tuscarawas Department of Job and Family Services
- Carroll County Department of Job and Family Services
- Jefferson County Department of Job and Family Services
- Columbiana County Counseling Center
- ADMAHS Board of Tuscarawas and Carroll Counties
- Urban Mission Ministries
- Jefferson Community Action Council
- Columbiana County Juvenile Court

Coordinated Community Plan Workgroup: The CCP Workgroup is responsible for facilitating discussions, compiling data, working with the YAB and YHDP Leadership Team, developing strategies to prevent and end youth homelessness in our region, and draft the Coordinated Community Plan. The CCP Workgroup will reconvene as necessary if and when the CQI Workgroup, YAB, and YHDP Leadership Team find that changes need to be made to the plan as times change and new information becomes available. The workgroup is initially made up of members from the Community Action Agency of Columbiana County, COHHIO (the BosCoC), the YAB chairperson, a HUD technical assistance provider, and an external consultant.

Continuous Quality Improvement Workgroup: The CQI Workgroup is tasked with carrying out regular monitoring and evaluation of YHDP projects and our region's youth homeless response system as a whole. The CQI Workgroup will present their findings as well as any recommendations they have for ongoing improvement to the YAB and YHDP Leadership Team for deliberation. The CQI Workgroup will include members who are able to evaluate quantitative data from HMIS and other sources as well as members who can help evaluate the quality of YHDP projects from the perspective of YYA clients and other stakeholders.

Stakeholders: The five YHDP governance bodies listed above are supported and informed by a network of community and youth stakeholders. Community stakeholders include local educational agencies, local government representatives, public housing authorities, institutes of higher education, landlords, non-profit youth organizations, juvenile and adult corrections and probation, MHSA agencies, WIOA members, and youth service providers. Youth stakeholders include all YYA who are currently or have formerly experienced or been at risk of homelessness in our region.

Exhibit 18: Ohio BoS Region 6, YHDP Governance Structure
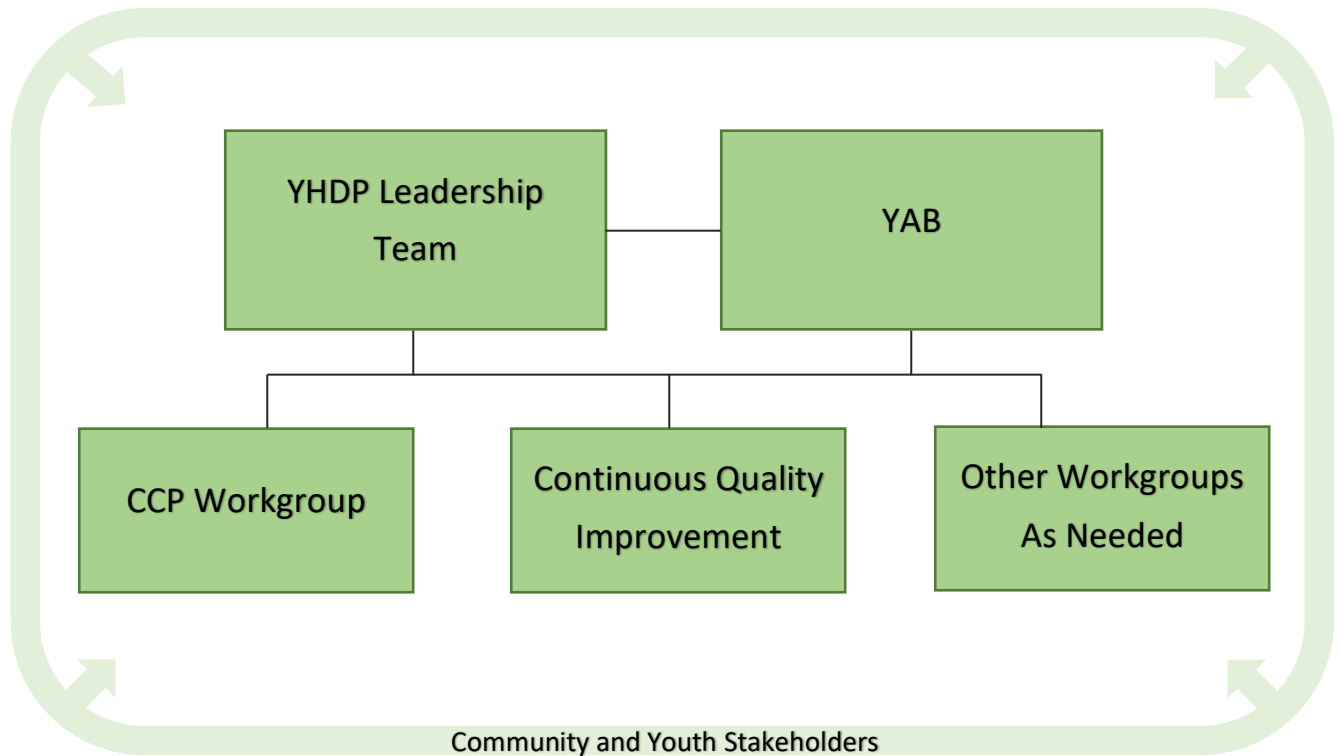
This estimate of 194 total YYA who experience homelessness each year in our region comes from an analysis of our HMIS data over the past three years. In that analysis, we found that the number of YYA who enter our programs each year varies greatly. We assume this is because none of our programs are youth-specific and frequently reach maximum capacity, thereby leaving some YYA unserved. Within the last three years, the highest number of YYA served in Tuscarawas was 42, and this seemed to be the highest number served for any county, proportional to the county's poverty rates. To establish a benchmark, we then assumed that we should plan on finding at least 42 YYA experiencing homeless in Tuscarawas each year, and that we could find an estimate for other counties based on the proportional difference in poverty rates combined with local knowledge.

For Columbiana and Jefferson counties, we used the poverty rates in each county to estimate the total number of YYA who experience homelessness each year. For example, for Columbiana: 42 * (15.1% / 12.3%) = 52. For Carroll and Harrison, estimates were derived from local knowledge. While our Continuous Quality Improvement may continue to refine these numbers over time, these numbers were determined to be reasonable estimates of YYA experiencing homelessness that could be realistically identified and given access to our response system given the particularities of how rural homelessness functions in our area.

Exhibit 19: Homeless YYA by County - Estimation Methods				
	Carroll	**Columbiana**	**Harrison**	**Jefferson**	**Tuscarawas**
Poverty Rate	12.90%	15.10%	15.30%	19.00%	12.30%
Method Used	Local knowledge	From Tusc: Poverty rate proportion	Local knowledge	From Tusc: Poverty rate proportion	Highest proportional YYA served
Total Estimate	20	52	15	65	42

For these estimates, we will define students experiencing homelessness according to HUD's definition of homelessness. The remaining students here are doubled up or residing in a hotel/motel, and although they are defined as homeless by NCHE and Ohio's education system, we will translate into HUD's framework when necessary.

Because the poverty rate in our counties (14.9%) is slightly higher than the statewide average (13.8%), we can assume that our region has at least the same proportion of students experiencing at-risk and experiencing homelessness than the state as a whole. NCHE breaks down the total number of homeless students into percentage groups based on nighttime residence, which is helpful because HUD considers persons who are doubled-up as at-risk of homeless rather than homeless. NCHE also provides the total number of unaccompanied students experiencing homelessness, though it does not break those numbers down into percentiles. Therefore, the numbers below for nighttime residence of unaccompanied youth are also an estimate based that follow the same percentages as total students experiencing homelessness.

Exhibit 20: Estimates of R6 Students Experiencing / At-Risk of Homelessness					
	Population	Total homeless/at-risk in school	Unsheltered	ES, TH, or Awaiting Foster Care	Doubled Up, Hotel/Motel
Ohio	11,362,293	30,346	5.6%	14.9%	79.5%
Region 6 K-12	294,083	785	44	117	624

Exhibit 21: Estimates of R6 Unaccompanied Students Experiencing / At-Risk of Homelessness					
	Population	Total unaccompanied homeless/at-risk in school	Unsheltered	ES, TH, or Awaiting Foster Care	Doubled Up, Hotel/Motel
Ohio	11,362,293	2,554	5.6%	14.9%	79.5%
Region 6 K-12	294,083	66	4	10	53

The result is that we estimate a minimum of 624 students from Region 6's K-12 school system are at-risk of homelessness while another 161 (44+117) students are literally homeless either in a sheltered or unsheltered environment. Of these students, approximately 53 of the at-risk students and 14 (4+10) of the literally homeless students are expected to be unaccompanied.

These numbers should be seen as a minimum for two reasons. First, Region 6 experiences poverty at a higher rate than the state as a whole. Second, NCHE has shown an increase of 3.3%-4.9% in the number of students experiencing homelessness each year since the 2014-15 school year, and the most recent data available are for the 2016-17 school year. For both of these reasons, the true number of students at-risk of or experiencing homelessness in Region 6 at the beginning of 2020 is likely to be several percentage points higher. Assuming a 4% growth rate each year, we should actually expect 175 literally homeless students and 649 at-risk students rather than 161 and 624, respectively.

Finally, in estimating the number of youth who are at the age where they are both becoming an adult and transitioning out of the school system, we can assume that 7.7% (i.e. 1 out of 13) of youth in our K-12 system fits this criteria (since there are 13 total grades). This percentage of 649 at-risk students yields an estimated 50 students who are in an especially vulnerable transition period.

Notes on Data Sources:

- Population estimates in blue are from US Census Bureau, 2018

- Numbers and percentages *in gold italics* are from the most recent EDFacts Initiative data available through the National Center for Homeless Education.[10]

- **Bolded numbers** are estimates for Ohio Region 6.

  - The total number of homeless and at-risk students was calculated by multiplying the proportion of Region 6 K-12 students against NCHE's count of total homeless and at-risk students for the state. Example: (294,083 / 11,362,293) * 30,346 = 785 total homeless/at-risk students in Region 6.

  - The remaining estimates took the NCHE statewide percentages in gold and multiplied them by the estimated Region 6 totals. Example: 5.6% * 785 = 44 Unsheltered students in Region 6.

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[10] See National Center for Homeless Education – Ohio at
http://profiles.nche.seiservices.com/StateProfile.aspx?StateID=41

Race and Ethnicity

The following data were used in determining issues of equity for racial and ethnic minorities in this document, as well as to reinforce discussions regarding the importance of focusing on unaccompanied youth, ages 18-24:

Exhibit 21: Equity Data by County														
	Carroll County			Columbiana County			Harrison County			Jefferson County			Tuscarawas County		
	Total	Below poverty level	Percent below poverty level	Total	Below poverty level	Percent below poverty level	Total	Below poverty level	Percent below poverty level	Total	Below poverty level	Percent below poverty level	Total	Below poverty level	Percent below poverty level
Population for whom poverty status is determined	27158	3549	13.1%	1E+05	14639	14.6%	14977	2545	17.0%	64473	11647	18.1%	91069	11990	13.2%
RACE															
White	26485	3,403	12.8%	96095	13,034	13.6%	14338	2,408	16.8%	58885	9,680	16.4%	88201	10,927	12.4%
Black or African American alone	173	86	49.7%	1312	669	51.0%	333	96	28.8%	3550	1310	36.9%	645	210	32.6%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	9	0	0.0%	79	37	46.8%	12	0	0.0%	82	43	52.4%	159	96	60.4%
Asian alone	128	2	1.6%	123	0	0.0%	74	18	24.3%	311	44	14.1%	354	105	29.7%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	0	0	-	3	0	0.0%	0	0	-	0	0	-	0	0	-
Some other race alone	16	0	0.0%	681	304	44.6%	77	0	0.0%	136	68	50.0%	165	131	79.4%
Two or more races	347	58	16.7%	1825	595	32.6%	143	23	16.1%	1509	502	33.3%	1545	521	33.7%
ETHNICITY															
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)	355	45	12.7%	1573	394	25.0%	153	0	0.0%	826	433	52.4%	2433	684	28.1%
UNRELATED INDIVIDUALS, 18-24															
Definition: Unrelated individuals are people of any age who are not living with any other family members															
18 to 24 years (US avg = 48.4%)	393	223	56.7%	1381	761	55.1%	205	145	70.7%	988	702	71.1%	1647	705	42.8%

Highlighted cells are where the percent of persons in this demographic category who are below poverty level is greater than average for the county. Source: 2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates

Gender

The following data, which are approximately consistent throughout our region, show the disproportional rates of poverty among female heads of household:

Exhibit 22: Youth 18-24 Under the Poverty Line, Region 6					
Married Families	**Families, Male Head**	**Families, Female Head**	**Single Female**	**Single Male**	**Total**
170	29	494	351	482	1526
11.1%	1.9%	32.4%	23.0%	31.6%	

Note that percentages are based off of the total number of households under the poverty line. Therefore, statistics for single and heads of household should be looked at collectively – specifically, in this case, the fact that female heads of household represent 55.4% of all households in poverty as compared to 33.5% for male heads of household.

APPENDIX D: PARTNERS AND YHDP LEADERSHIP TEAM

The following is a list of initial partner agencies and members of the YHDP Leadership Team:

YHDP Team Member	Title	Agency	Role
		Exhibit 23: YHDP Leadership Team	
Martina Grimm	CSD Director	CAA of Columbiana County, Inc.	Columbiana County CoC representative. Region 6 Executive Committee Chairperson. Work collaboratively to create youth needs assessment and develop Coordinated Community Plan.
Miles McGinnis	YAB Chairperson	CAA of Columbiana County, Inc.	As a young adult that serves on the YAB, he will assist with recruitment of additional YAB members, coordinate YAB meetings and review all area of the Coordinated Community Plan.
Tami Plunkett	Case Management Coordinator	CAA of Columbiana County, Inc.	YHDP Program Coordinator, Assist with Data quality, participate in work groups. Research and development of Coordinated Community Plan.
Brittany Tyler	Case Manager	CAA of Columbiana County, Inc	YHDP Member, participate in work groups, assist with landlord engagement and marketing.
Katina Hetrick	Daybreak Program Manager	Daybreak Youth Crisis Center	YHDP Member. Assist with identifying Program YAB youth participants and link to additional providers. Provide expertise in serving homeless youth in our region, provide supportive services and housing.
Rachel Ketterman	Director	Columbiana County Department of Job and Family Services	Coordination of services with Child Welfare in Columbiana County
David Haverfield	Director	Tuscarawas Department of Job and Family Services	Coordination of services with Child Welfare in Tuscarawas County
Jennifer Burns	Program Administrator	Carroll County Department of Job and Family Services	Coordination of services with Child Welfare in Carroll County.
Samantha Provenzano	Program Administrator	Jefferson County Department of Job and Family Services	Coordination of services with Child Welfare in Jefferson County.
Terrie Kyser	Housing Coordinator	Columbiana County Counseling Center-	Provide input on local PIT, Assist with identifying gaps in services for both individuals with mental illness and Youth

		Includes the Youth Mentoring Program.	in their mentor program for homeless young adults.
Mike Dottts	Operations Manager	ADMAHS Board of Tuscarawas and Carroll Counties (includes the Planning for Access to Housing transitional housing program that assists young adults)	Carroll and Tuscarawas County Coc representative. Assist with collection of local PIT and homeless data. Input on gaps in services in Tuscarawas and Carroll County.
Jodie Feezle	Client Engagement Coordinator	Urban Mission Ministries	Coordination of Services, Planning, outreach. Provide input on gaps and needed services. Provide expertise in area of homeless and housing in Region.
Jamie Blanchard	Housing Director	Jefferson Community Action Council	Jefferson and Harrison County Coc representative. Assist with collection of local PIT and homeless data. Provide support services and housing. Work collaboratively to create youth needs assessment.
Ann Weigle	Grant Administrator/CASA Director	Columbiana County Juvenile Court	Assist with referrals and coordination of services. Provide expertise in unique needs of youth in the juvenile legal system.

This Coordinated Community Plan to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness was developed by the YHDP Leadership Team, Youth Action Board, CCP Workgroup from Region 6 of Ohio Balance of State CoC. Its purpose is to address homelessness among unaccompanied, pregnant, and parenting youth under the age of twenty-five.

The Coordinated Community Plan describes guiding system principles and the core functions of prevention, shelter and re-housing, and stabilization and connections that comprise an effective, efficient, and developmentally appropriate crisis response system for youth facing homelessness. The plan identifies goals, objectives, and interventions that, if fully funded and implemented, would best address the needs of youth who are imminently at-risk or are experiencing homelessness, including centralized access and diversion services; case management and navigations services; emergency shelter and crisis housing; and transitional and permanent housing.

The Coordinated Community Plan was approved by the Youth Action Board and YHDP Leadership Team of Ohio Balance of State, Region 6 in May 2020. We support the Coordinated Community Plan and agree to work collaboratively with our partners to accomplish the goals and objectives outlined in the plan.

Miles McGinnis
Miles McGinnis (May 8, 2020)
_____

Miles McGinnis,
Chair, Youth Action Board

May 8, 2020
_____
Date

ERica Mulryan
ERica Mulryan (May 8, 2020)
_____

Erica Mulryan,
CoC Director, Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO)

May 8, 2020
_____
Date

Jennifer Burns
Jennifer Burns (May 8, 2020)
_____

Jennifer Burns,
Program Administrator, Carroll County Dept. of Job and Family Services

May 8, 2020
_____
Date

Ann Weigle
Ann Weigle (May 8, 2020)
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Ann Weigle,
Grant Administrator / CASA Director, Columbiana County Juvenile Court

May 8, 2020
_____
Date

Ohio BOS Region 6 - Coordinated Community Plan

Final Audit Report   2020-05-08

Created:	2020-05-07
By:	Rob Brodrick (rbrodrick@partnershipcenter.net)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAFpYsrpZMhleP63PMlaSqKfHOmsWUHvrF

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