

# April 2022

# Community Plan to End Youth Homelessness



## Homeless Solutions

## OH-505 Dayton, Kettering/Montgomery

## County Continuum of Care

## YOUTH HOMELESSNESS DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

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## Acknowledgements

We would like to extend sincere gratitude to those who participated in and supported our work to develop a community plan to prevent and end youth homelessness, starting with the Youth Action Board, whose lived experience served as a guide for this work. We also appreciate the leadership of Dr. Victor McCarley and Rev. John Paddock, co-chairs of the Homeless Solutions Policy Board; and Montgomery County Board of County Commissioners, who work tirelessly to advocate for the needs of their constituents.

We would like to offer a special thanks to the YHDP Core Team members who helped guide our work and all the community members who participated in the brainstorming or system modeling sessions that formed the basis for this community plan.

Finally, we would like to thank our Technical Assistance providers, Aubrey Stiler, Abt & Associates, Roy Graham, Youth Collaboratory, J.B., True Colors United, for their facilitation and assistance in focusing our work to end youth homelessness in Montgomery County.

We could not have done this without all of you. Your involvement made all the difference. Thank you.

## Mission and Vision Statements

### Communitywide Mission & Vision

Our vision is to create an equitable community where youth and young adult homelessness is rare, brief, and one-time. When we've ended youth homelessness, it will be the norm and not the exception for young people's needs to be met and for them to thrive long-term. There will be easy access to all resources a young person wants and needs to flourish. Every young person will feel safe and valued, with strong connections in the community and opportunities to grow and lead.

### Montgomery County Youth Action Board (YAB) Mission Statement

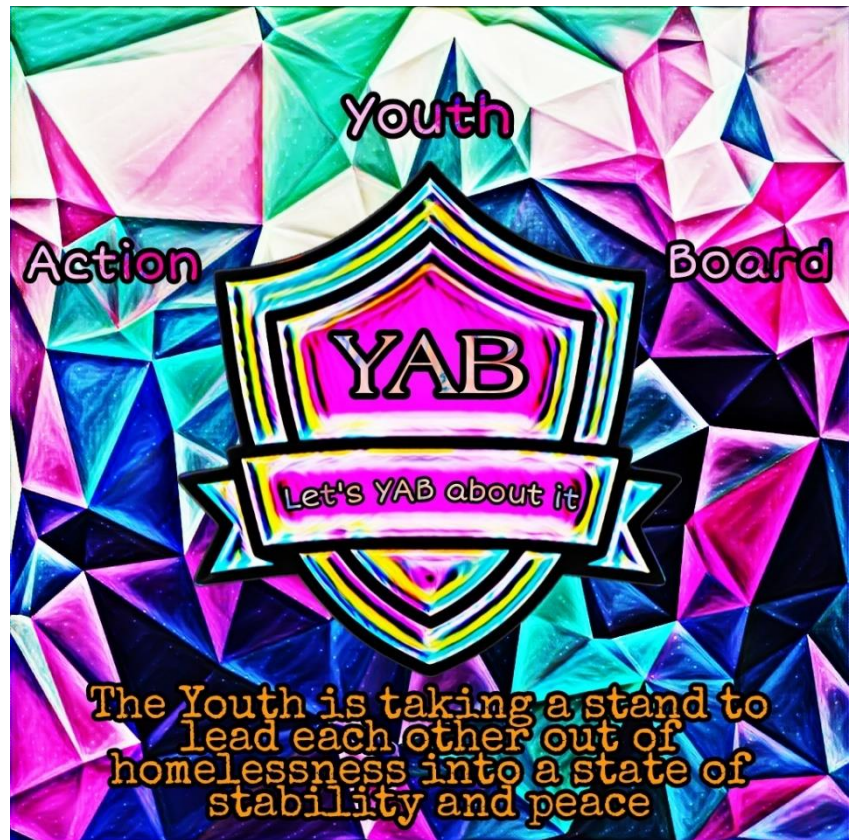
The Youth Action Board provides opportunities for youth and young adults with lived experience to create dialogue, express their voice, and provide input and feedback on their experiences for the purpose of impacting changes that will address the needs of youth and young adults experiencing homelessness in our community.

### Montgomery County YAB Vision Statement

Make sure that no homeless youth in Montgomery County goes unclothed, unfed, or unhoused.

### YAB Logo

The Montgomery County YAB developed the logo to the right. **Melvin Tabb II** was the artist who created the logo and described the intentions behind the design: "The YAB logo is mathematically designed to get our mission to our audience to show that we are out to aid the youth homeless population in the Dayton, Ohio area. The colors reflect back to our audience to show that we provide stability, knowledge, wisdom, as well as the resources to help youth experiencing homelessness build their own foundation with the tools that we have available to them." The YAB logo colors are also woven throughout this *Community Plan to End Youth Homelessness*.



## Guiding Principles

### EQUITY

*Definition:* Equity is about fairness and justice and is not the same as equality. Equality provides the same thing or service to everyone regardless of their circumstance. Equity recognizes that people have different needs and privileges and responds in a way that allows everyone to reach their full potential. For YHDP, equity is two-fold. First, equity means that every youth and young adult (YYA) can access the housing and services they need to be successful regardless of where they live, their racial identity, their household type, or whether they identify as LGBTQ+. Second, for YHDP, equity also means ensuring that YYA have an authentic voice at the table where decisions are made and are involved in the ongoing development and evaluation of our youth system.

*In Practice:*

- Youth and young adults experiencing homelessness look like the population of Montgomery County as a whole
- Community professionals across systems are trained on social identities
- Case managers and agencies review their clients' outcomes to understand their biases and who is being impacted as a result
- Resources are easily accessible throughout the community
- Shelter and housing programs are not just physically safe but also emotionally safe and supportive
- There is easier access to affirming, safe mental health services

### POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

*Definition:* Positive Youth Development (PYD) engages youth along with their families, communities, and/or governments so that youth are empowered to reach their full potential. PYD approaches focus on strengths over deficits, build skills, assets, and competencies; foster healthy relationships; strengthen the environment; and transform systems. (*YouthPower2*)

*In Practice:*

- Funders will require PYD as a key model for any programs that work with young people
- There will be training available for youth-serving organizations on implementing Positive Youth Development
- We will have a strong, active Youth Action Board

### TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES

*Definition:* Trauma-Informed Care emphasizes the need for providers to recognize the prevalence and pervasive impact of trauma on the lives of people they serve and develop trauma-sensitive or trauma-responsive services. (*National Institute of Health*)

*In Practice:*

- Funders will require youth-serving organizations to use trauma-informed practices
- Getting kicked out of a program does not mean youth and young adults are no longer eligible for housing and/or agency services
- ADAMHS trauma-informed care trainings will be widely promoted and accessed
- Peer mentoring will be available for youth and young adults who have experienced trauma



## FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

*Definition:* HUD believes that the best diversion and intervention strategy is to engage families, whenever appropriate and consented to by youth and young adults, through community partnerships with organizations such as child welfare agencies, schools, youth providers, and other community human services and homeless service providers.

*In Practice:*

- Young people experiencing homelessness are connected to a strong support system/family
- No project requires youth and young adults to speak or interact with their families unless they consent to
- There is an expanded definition of family to focus on each young person and the best “family” for them, including chosen family
- Organizations work with families from a strengths-based perspective

## HOUSING FIRST

*Definition:* Housing is the answer to homelessness. Young adults experiencing a housing crisis should have quick access to safe, secure, stable housing without preconditions.

*In Practice:*

- All programs embody a Housing First model, affirming that all young people are housing-ready
- All youth and young adults are connected to the housing and services they need without preconditions
- Training about Housing First is provided to organizations outside the homeless system
- There is a common understanding across systems, e.g., child welfare and justice, about what Housing First means for those systems

## YOUTH CHOICE

*Definition:* The capacity for self-determination is a critical factor in obtaining positive outcomes for young adults experiencing homelessness. Allowing young adults to exercise self-determination is a youth-centered approach that values their expressed needs and self-awareness. (HUD)

*In Practice:*

- There is a strong, engaged Youth Action Board, actively involved in decision-making in the CoC
- Young people’s agency is respected
- A customized plan for success is driven by each young person and supported by providers
- The system has changed so that young people with lived experience are a valued part of the conversation and planning for change

## INDIVIDUALIZED & CLIENT-DRIVEN SUPPORTS

*Definition:* Housing and services that help prevent and end homelessness among young people are designed with the flexibility to resolve the needs of unique individuals

*In Practice:*

- The system, and individual programs, will meet young people where they are and where they want to go rather than where providers think young people should go
- Throughout the community, in the homeless system and other systems, there will be individualized goal setting centered on skill building, vocational/educational exploration, etc.

## SOCIAL & COMMUNITY INTEGRATION

*Definition:* The goal of youth homelessness services should be a successful transition to adulthood, including the successful integration into a community as a positive, contributing community member. This requires the community to provide socially supportive engagement and the opportunity for youth to participate in meaningful community activities. (HUD)

*In Practice:*

- Peer support exists both within programs through peer mentoring and outside of programs through support groups

## UNSHeltered HOMELESSNESS

*Definition:* Persons who are sleeping in places not ordinarily used or designed to be used as regular sleeping locations are considered to be experiencing unsheltered homelessness. These locations include abandoned buildings, cars, camp sites, etc.

*In Practice:*

- No young person is sleeping unsheltered in our community
- The CoC has an active outreach program, dedicated to identifying and engaging youth and young adults
- CE Navigation provides targeted assistance to young people experiencing unsheltered homelessness to ensure a connection to permanent housing

## COORDINATED ENTRY

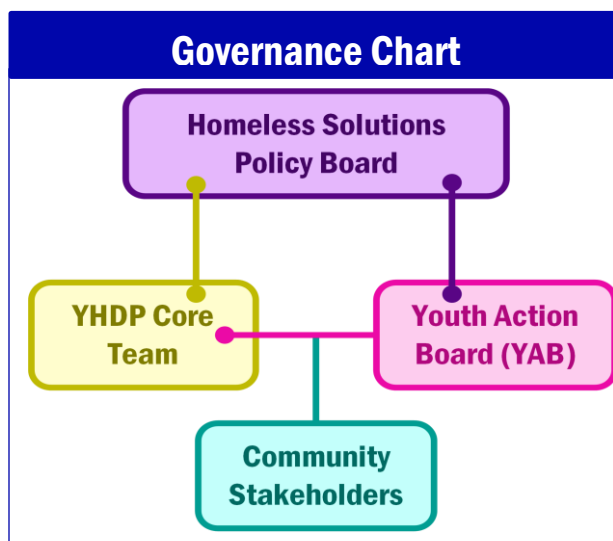
*Definition:* Coordinated Entry (CE) is a process developed to ensure that all people experiencing a housing crisis are quickly identified, assessed, referred, and connected to housing and assistance based on their strengths and needs in a fair and equitable way. (HUD)

*In Practice:*

- CE System has been redesigned to ensure it is equitable and youth-appropriate regardless of where a youth or young adult first accesses the homeless system
- Young adults with lived experience are part of the ongoing evaluation and quality improvement process for CE
- CE includes an initial triage before young people enter shelter
- CE Navigators provide assistance to young people as they navigate the CE system

## Governance Structure

The **Homeless Solutions Policy Board (HSPB)** is the CoC's Governing Board. The role of the Homeless Solutions Policy Board is to 1) provide policy direction, allocate funding, coordinate programs and the overall homeless system, and evaluate performance to prevent and end homelessness; and 2) direct the implementation of the Homeless Solutions Community Plan. A minimum of 50% of the current members of the Homeless Solutions Policy Board, or their designated alternates, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. If a quorum is present, any vote issued by that quorum is valid. All Policy Board members may vote unless there is a conflict of interest as outlined in the Conflict of Interest & Recusal Policy. Alternates shall vote only in the absence of the Policy Board member. Motions shall be adopted by a majority vote of those present. If a decision is needed in between Policy Board meetings, the Executive Committee has interim decision-making authority, with subsequent Policy Board ratification.



The Homeless Solutions Policy Board accomplishes most of its work through its committee structure. While the full HSPB received regular updates on the YHDP Initiative and development of the Coordinated Community Plan throughout the planning process, two of its committees were especially key in the work to develop the YHDP Coordinated Community Plan (CCP) – the **Youth Action Board** and the **YHDP Core Team**. The Policy Board's bylaws call for a YAB member to be a member of the Homeless Solutions Policy Board; the YHDP Coordinator is an ex-officio member of the Homeless Solutions Policy Board as an additional support to the YAB representative.

The **Youth Action Board (YAB)** is comprised of young adults who have lived experience of homelessness in our CoC. The YAB makes decisions using a consensus model and has developed additional governance criteria related to membership. The Youth Action Board had the final say on the CCP prior to its approval by the Homeless Solutions Policy Board and will continue to have a key voice and vote in any future recommendations. A YAB member and the YAB Coordinator are active members of the YHDP Core Team, helping to ensure coordination between the two groups.

The **YHDP Core Team** also includes representatives from the CoC's youth provider (Daybreak), child welfare, justice, United Way, behavioral health, the adult shelter system, and education. The YHDP Core Team uses a consensus-based decision-making structure, thereby making sure that this community team will support an idea even if it is not every member's first choice. If a Core Team member is not able to join a meeting where a vote will take place, they may register their input and vote in advance of the meeting. To vote on an item, a majority of the Core Team must be present or have sent their vote via email in advance of the meeting. If less than 100% of people agree, the group will discuss any concerns or questions they have that are preventing the item from moving forward. After clarifying those questions or concerns through discussion, the group will vote again. This process may be repeated up to 3 times at which time the Core Team may either agree to defer to a majority vote or to hold off on voting and revisit at a future meeting.



## Partners

In the development of this CCP, our CoC engaged a wide array of stakeholders, keeping the voices and experience of youth and young adults at the center of our work. Other stakeholders include child welfare, education, the justice system, philanthropy, healthcare, and homeless system providers.

Partner	Name/Organization	Role/Involvement
<b>Youth and Young Adults</b>	Youth Action Board Additional YYA	Identification of Needs Identification of Solutions Sharing youth voice and perspective Brainstorming Sessions System Modeling Final approval of CCP
<b>Public Child Welfare</b>	Children Services	YHDP Core Team Brainstorming Sessions System Modeling
<b>CoC and ESG Program Recipients</b>	Daybreak St. Vincent Montgomery County	YHDP Core Team Brainstorming Sessions System Modeling
<b>Local Government</b>	City of Dayton Montgomery County	CoC Governing Board
<b>Runaway &amp; Homeless Youth Program Providers</b>	Daybreak	YHDP Core Team Brainstorming Sessions System Modeling
<b>Domestic Violence Providers</b>	YWCA	Brainstorming Sessions System Modeling CoC Governing Board
<b>Health, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Agencies</b>	Alcohol Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services Board	YHDP Core Team Brainstorming Sessions System Modeling
	Dayton Children's Hospital	Brainstorming Sessions
	Five Rivers Health Centers	System Modeling CoC Governing Board
<b>Juvenile and Adult Corrections and Probation</b>	Law Office of the Public Defender	YHDP Core Team Brainstorming Sessions System Modeling
<b>Law Enforcement</b>	Montgomery County Sheriff	Brainstorming Sessions
<b>Legal System</b>	ABLE Law	CoC Governing Board
<b>Affordable Housing Providers</b>	MVHO YWCA	CoC Governing Board
<b>Real Estate, Landlord Associations</b>	Miami Valley Fair Housing Center Greater Dayton Real Estate Investors Association	Coc Governing Board

<b>K-12 Education</b>	Dayton Public Schools Montgomery County Educational Services Center	Brainstorming Sessions
<b>Higher Education</b>	Wright State University Sinclair Community College	YHDP Core Team Brainstorming Sessions System Modeling CoC Governing Board YHDP Core Team
<b>Philanthropy</b>	United Way of Greater Dayton	Core Team Member Brainstorming Sessions CoC Governing Board
<b>Neighborhood Associations</b>	Southwest Priority Board Downtown Dayton Partnership	CoC Governing Board member

## Statement of Need

### How many youth and young adults are at-risk of or experiencing homelessness in Montgomery County?

As part of the YHDP planning process, we undertook a needs analysis that incorporated quantitative data from HMIS, the DV shelter's comparable database, and data from other systems, including education, child welfare, public health and justice. Over the last five years, there has been a 29% decrease in the number of unaccompanied minors accessing shelter and a 31% decrease in the number of young adults experiencing homelessness in our community. The number of young adult households experiencing homelessness did increase 10% in 2021 after having declined every year prior since 2016. The number of unaccompanied minors in shelter over the course of a year has declined steadily since a high of almost 200 in 2018. Regardless, the number of youth and young adults experiencing homelessness in our community is too high, and we are committed to the hard, collaborative work of ending youth homelessness.

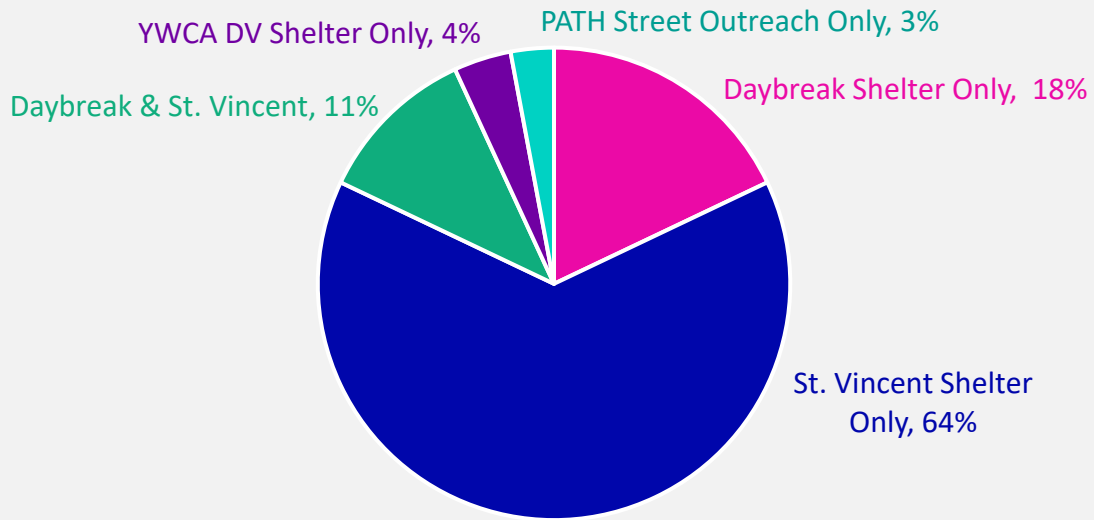
The following tables show a breakdown of different subpopulations of youth and young adults experiencing or at-risk of homelessness in our CoC in one year. Note, YYA could be counted in more than one row.

Group	# Households
Unaccompanied minors experiencing homelessness	125
Unaccompanied young adults and young adult couples experiencing homelessness	326
Young adult parents experiencing homelessness	45
Young adults engaged with PATH street outreach (unsheltered)	16
Trans and gender non-conforming/non-binary youth and young adults experiencing homelessness	13
YYA fleeing DV, including sex trafficking/exploitation	285
Unaccompanied youth at risk of homelessness (Education)	39
Pregnant or parent YYA at risk of homelessness	168
Young adults exiting foster care system at risk of homelessness	59

*Sources: Dayton-Montgomery County HMIS 2021, YWCA DV Comparable Database 2021, Education SY 19-20, Public Health Dayton-Montgomery County, Children Services, Miami Valley Human Trafficking Task Force*

Of the 407 young adult households who experienced homelessness in 2021, only 18% were sheltered by the CoC's youth shelter (Daybreak). The remaining youth households were sheltered in adult, family, or domestic violence (DV) shelters, or were only enrolled in street outreach. This underscores the necessity of making our entire system responsive to the needs of young adults. The chart below shows a breakdown of where/how they accessed the homeless system's shelters.

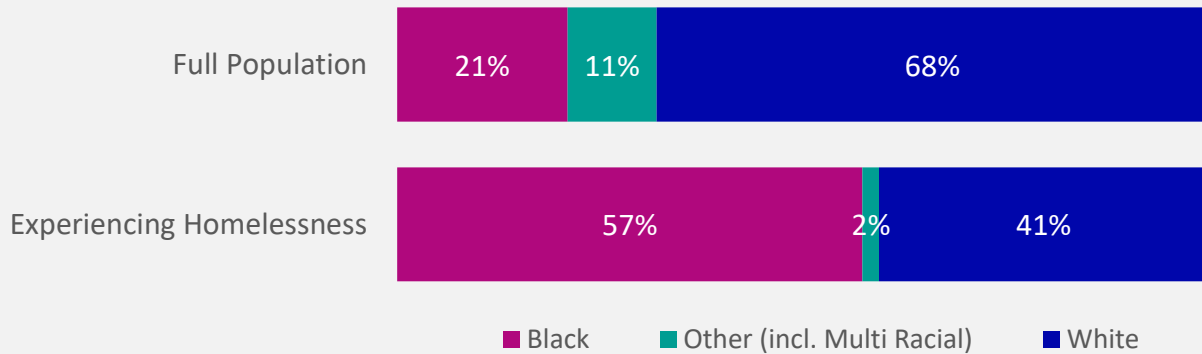
### Young Adult Households by Sheltered Location in 2021



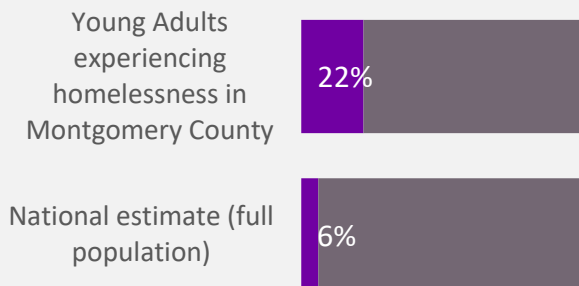
Consistent with national and state data, a number of disparities were identified through the assessment. The biggest disparities are race, identifying as LGBTQ+, and involvement in either the justice or child welfare systems. While homelessness is related to poverty, it appears to be even more closely linked to race. Black households are overrepresented in our homeless system, even when looking at deep poverty. The disparity doesn't end there. For all subpopulations, including unaccompanied and parenting young adults, a Black household's episode of homelessness is longer than their white peers. Of the youth who answered the RHY questions in HMIS, 13% identified as LGBTQ+, 21% had a juvenile justice history, 30% had been in foster care. In Ohio, 28% of youth who aged out of foster care at age 18 experienced homelessness by age 21. While we do not have data on the number of undocumented young people experiencing homelessness in our community, the youth shelter, adult shelter, and DV shelter have all reported anecdotally that they are seeing an increase in the numbers of undocumented persons accessing the homeless system.

The following graphs highlight some of the disparities in our system.

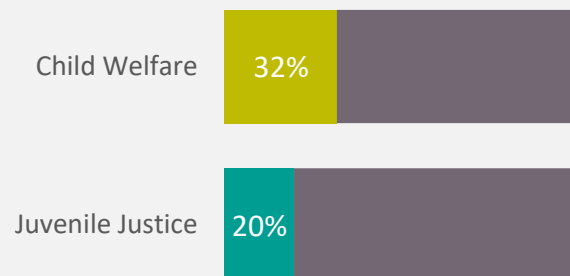
### Young Adult Households by Race in Montgomery County



### LGBTQ+ Young Adults\*



### Involvement in Other Systems\*



\* these questions are only recorded in HMIS for some youth and young adults

## What do youth and young adults at-risk of or experiencing homelessness need?

In order to better understand the needs of youth and young adults in our community and complement the quantitative data, we held a series of brainstorming sessions with youth and young adults currently or formerly experiencing homelessness, professionals from youth-serving organizations, and policy makers. Sessions focused on the needs of youth and young adults 18-24, gaps in the current systems of care, and the identification of potential solutions. Each brainstorming session included breakout discussions focused on specific subpopulations of youth and young adults experiencing homelessness or housing instability, including the following:

- pregnant & parenting YYA
- YYA fleeing domestic violence or trafficking
- Undocumented YYA
- LGBTQ+ YYA (including trans and gender non-conforming/non-binary YYA)
- YYA involved with other systems, including child welfare, developmental disabilities, education, and justice.



While there were some unique challenges and needs identified for each subpopulation, many identified needs and potential strategies were similar across all groups. These include: transportation, access to services, youth-specific case managers, racism, mental health, education, employment, and the need for a strong “family” support network, however broadly family is defined.

The following section highlights some of the biggest needs, challenges and barriers facing different YYA population groups. It is important to note that, while we had targeted conversations about each subpopulation group, there is significant overlap between some of the identities and experiences that youth and young adults hold. We intend to lift up how holding those intersectional identities and experiences impacts youth in each population group in the needs named below. Each subpopulation includes needs related to the USICH Four Core Outcomes of stable housing, education/employment, social/emotional wellbeing, and permanent connections. The Action Plan in the next section outlines strategies to start breaking down some of the biggest challenges and barriers for specific groups and across groups.

### **General:**

In general, many YYA face some common issues.

- It can be challenging to get transportation to and from school, work, job interviews, training, childcare, medical / mental health appointments, etc.
- Access to community-building opportunities, like after school programs and connections with other young people
- Access to education/training that will lead to employment with a stable, living wage

### **LGBTQ+, including gender non-conforming and non-binary YYA:**

LGBTQ+ youth and young adults shared a range of their needs and the barriers they face.

- Need for more peer support from other people with similar experiences, gender identities, and sexual orientations. More support groups for LGBTQ+ YYA and community spaces that are designed by and for them.
- It would be helpful to ensure others in a shared space are educated on social identities and are respectful/affirming of people’s full identities. For example, for those in the same site-based housing space, it should not be incumbent on LGBTQ+ YYA to enforce others using the right pronouns all the time.
- It can be challenging to have a safe place to shelter where YYA feel both physically safe and emotionally supported in their identities.
- Valuing LGBTQ+ young people’s identities is just as important as serving their housing needs. Where they are placed, including in rental market units, matters. They need to feel safe with their neighbors and landlords.
- There could be more ongoing education and training for case managers, service providers, and supervisors/leadership on being supportive to the LGBTQ+ community
- There is a shortage of affordable, accessible LGBTQ+ affirming and responsive healthcare and mental / behavioral healthcare providers.

### **Minors:**

During brainstorming sessions, YYA and the staff and community members who support them shared that the following needs and challenges tend to arise for minors experiencing homelessness and housing instability.

- Few projects can serve minors without the consent of their guardian, so many minors may avoid asking for help for fear of being required to go to (or to go back to) foster care or families where they do not feel safe and supported.
- They may not know where to go to access help, or who to ask for help.
- They may not trust many people (especially true for queer, trans, gender non-binary or non-conforming youth)
- Many lack a sense of belonging anywhere
- Parents may use Daybreak (which has a shelter for minors) for "punishment"
- Minors' agency is often not respected to make choices about where they want to be
- Many are not being supported anywhere or by anyone. They may not have a positive example of what family could be like, and they may not feel like they have their own voice to advocate
- Fear of accessing help. Some youth say they did not ask for help because they don't want to be "in the system"
- There are no emergency shelter beds available for unaccompanied minors who are parents or who are pregnant
- It's really hard for unaccompanied minors to access mental health or healthcare services
- A lot of adults – including staff, but also including broader community members – do not know how to interact with minors in a trauma-informed way and are not familiar with their experiences
- Many minors need better knowledge about and access to transportation

### **YYA with justice and child welfare/foster care system involvement:**

Youth and young adults who have been involved with the child welfare and/or justice/legal systems face distinct barriers and have unique needs.

- Youth need ongoing support, especially those who have no positive, healthy connections in the community when coming out of care.
- Figuring out transportation can be particularly challenging for this group.
- Many staff aren't trained and supported in meeting the person where they're at
- Transitions aren't seamless. Youth exit to homelessness and often then don't know how to get help.
- Sometimes youth get pigeon-holed in places that are not supportive to them
- There's a lack of housing and employment options for this group, especially for those who have specific prior criminal records. Support with expungement may help with some of this.
- Many YYA need support getting connected or reconnected to education opportunities.
- Some clients who have trespass or prohibited statuses aren't able to access Daybreak onsite services, which means they can't access any youth-specific services onsite in this county.

### **YYA who have survived sexual trafficking and exploitation and/or domestic violence (DV):**

Conversations specifically about youth and young adults fleeing trafficking, domestic violence, and other forms of sexual exploitation uplifted the following needs and barriers:

- People don't know what to do if they're in a dangerous situation or are isolated/in an area where they don't know anyone.
- There is limited space in domestic violence shelters
- When there are no DV beds available in the CoC, leaving the county for shelter isn't ideal for many clients

- Transportation and lack of resources can become a barrier. For example, if someone is fleeing DV out of Montgomery County, but the DV shelters are full within the county, they may not be able to get to a shelter in another county with an open bed.
- Resources are distant and transportation is more sparse
- They may lack healthy supports, which may cause them to gravitate to unhealthy DV relationships or individuals that would exploit them
- Resources are not adequately communicated so individuals are unaware that they exist
- People in abusive and exploitative relationships or situations often share a phone with their abusers, so it's more dangerous to try to seek help
- Those fleeing trafficking can be a less visible or identifiable population, so providers may not even know to help support that part of their experience if it is not disclosed. This may be in part due to lack of screening and lack of trauma-informed care training/support.
- For parenting households, it can be a challenge to safely get their children to school or daycare when their abuser knows where they will be and when.

### **Pregnant and Parenting YYA:**

YYA who are already or are expecting to become parents face unique barriers.

- Access to critical supplies, including diapers and clothes as their child(ren) grow, and a safe place to keep those supplies, especially if they are not yet in permanent housing.
- Lack of systems knowledge
- Lack of shelter spaces that provide support for newborns and their parent(s)
- Transportation to medical appointments
- Support caring for their children, including emotional support and childcare services

### **Undocumented YYA:**

Montgomery County has seen an increase in recent years of YYA who are undocumented and in a housing crisis. Compounding the trauma and stress of navigating the system to end their housing crises, undocumented YYA often also have to navigate additional risks and barriers to meet their housing needs.

- Lack of access to free and comprehensive legal services to support them in seeking or obtaining existing documentation
- Access to forms of ID for employment, to access services, even to get a vaccine.
- Language barrier
- There are not many legal employment options for this group to get a sustainable income and support their own housing long-term
- Inability to access mainstream benefits/cash assistance
- Fear of deportation or legal action if they seek help from the wrong person or agency
- Many undocumented YYA were born in the U.S. but don't have records
- Some undocumented YYA are unaware of their documentation status until a crisis occurs and they learn that they don't have, for example, a social security card or immigration documentation
- Not receiving all the information they need to know how to obtain legal status
- Stigma against non-native English speakers, non-U.S.-citizens, people from other places, and immigrants of color makes it challenging to build trust and connections

## Action Plan

GOAL 1: MAKE SURE THE YOUTH HOMELESSNESS SYSTEM AND EVERY PROGRAM IN IT EMBEDS YHDP PRINCIPLES		
ACTION STEPS	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TIMELINE
<b>Objective 1a.</b> Cultivate a culture of learning and ongoing processing of training and coaching for new and existing programs that serve youth and young adults who've experienced homelessness.		
<p>Develop training and ongoing coaching approach for direct care staff, peers, management, and cross systems partners, on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Authentic Youth Collaboration</li> <li>• Positive Youth Development</li> <li>• Affirmative LGBTQ+ Care, especially for trans and gender non-conforming or non-binary YYA</li> <li>• Social identities and Intersectionality</li> <li>• Racial Equity</li> <li>• Housing First philosophy</li> <li>• Trauma-Informed Practices</li> <li>• Harm reduction</li> <li>• Terminology 101, "Won't You Be My Neighbor?"</li> </ul> <p>Publish training schedule and encourage attendance.</p> <p>Implement and expand already developed training curricula: LGBTQ+ Experiences in Trauma-informed Practice (2 hr./CE-accredited)</p> <p>LGBTQ+ Terminology 101 (1 hr./CE-accredited)</p> <p>Partner with Sinclair Community College to broadly promote their workshops and information sessions</p>	<p>TA providers Local partners (e.g., Daybreak, St. Vincent's, and David's Place) CoC staff Third Wheel Consulting/Jill Bucaro</p> <p>CoC staff</p> <p>Josh Egeland</p> <p>Jenny McDermott</p>	<p>Develop strategy by October 2022</p>
<b>Objective 1b.</b> Ensure existing system- and program-level policies and processes embed YHDP principles.		
<p>Review current <b>program-level</b> models, policies, procedures, and processes for all youth-serving programs and develop strategies to ensure they are responsive to young people's needs and embed YHDP principles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Example: Ensure that clients can access case management / trusted staff other than the basic 9am - 5pm workday.</li> <li>• Example: Review policies to make sure that YYA are not kicked out of the only opportunity for shelter/housing available to them</li> <li>• Example: identify ways to strengthen peers living in the same housing space on LGBTQ+ identities</li> </ul>	<p>CoC staff Agency management (Daybreak, St. Vincent's, and YWCA) Direct service staff YAB members TA providers Josh Egeland</p>	<p>Complete review by 9/1/22</p> <p>Develop strategy by 10/1/22</p>

Review current <b>system-level</b> policies, procedures, and processes to ensure they are responsive to young people's needs and embed YHDP principles. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Example: Review CE policies and procedures.</li> </ul>	CoC Staff YAB YHDP Core Team	Develop strategy, process for review by Dec 30
<b>GOAL 2: PROMOTE &amp; EMBED AUTHENTIC YOUTH COLLABORATION</b>		
<b>ACTION STEPS</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE PARTY</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>
<b>Objective 2a.</b> Create and sustain a Youth Action Board (YAB) that represents the CoC.		
Determine ongoing governance and work plan	YAB, with support from YAB staff and TA providers	September 1, 2022
Develop ongoing YAB funding strategy to ensure YAB members are compensated equitably for their time and expertise	CoC staff YAB With TA support from TA providers	August 1, 2022
Develop recruitment and marketing strategy	YAB, with support from YAB staff, agency staff, and CoC staff	June 1, 2022
Support the YAB's mission, goals, and action plan	CoC staff YAB staff support	ongoing
Add at least one YAB member as a voting member to the CoC Board.	CoC Board YAB	June 1, 2022
<b>Objective 2b.</b> Seek opportunities to expand authentic youth collaboration and peer support throughout the community.		
Ensure opportunities for peer support, either officially (i.e., through paid staff positions) or unofficially (i.e., through YAB-driven buddy system)	YAB YAB staff CoC staff	September 1, 2022
Identify opportunities for broader public/community education and engagement on issues related to YYA homelessness	YHDP Coordinator CoC staff CoC Governing Board	June 2023
Train YAB and YYA project participants on core YHDP principles	TA staff	October 2022



GOAL 3: ENHANCE CROSS-SYSTEM PARTNERSHIPS TO ENSURE ALL YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS GET WHAT THEY NEED		
ACTIONS STEPS	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TIMELINE
<b>Objective 3a.</b> Ensure that minors and young adults know how and where to access services and resources available to them in the community		
Establish relationships and connections with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• K-12 education system</li> <li>• Higher Education</li> <li>• Child Welfare system</li> <li>• Faith-based communities</li> </ul>	YHDP Coordinator LGBTQ+ Public Health Alliance Montgomery County Educational Services Center Children Services Division Wright State, Sinclair, UD	November 2022
Increase marketing efforts through social media, and other areas where minors communicate and convene.	David's Place Holistic Defense Services, Public Defenders Office	May 2023,
Ensure that minors are aware of laws that protect them, and what is legally available in the community. Ensure all youth understand their rights, especially youth with prior justice/legal system involvement.	Public Defenders Office	October 2022
Develop strategies to ensure foster youth do not exit care to homelessness	Children Services Bridges YHDP Core Team	October 2023
Develop strategies to ensure youth with justice/legal system involvement do not exit to homelessness	Public Defenders Office YHDP Core Team	October 2023
<b>Objective 3b.</b> Ensure YYA have supports they are eligible for from other systems.		
Develop plan for ensuring support and fast, easy access between the homeless services system and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mental health system (and affirming mental health / substance use supports)</li> <li>• Developmental disabilities system</li> <li>• Social security and other mainstream benefits (e.g., Medicaid)</li> <li>• workforce</li> </ul>	CoC staff Cross-system partners	December 2023
Map all available resources across systems and identify ways to ensure more geography equity in where resources are available across the community.	Jenny McDermott YHDP Core Team ADAMHS YAB	Develop a plan for this by April 2023
Market resources available across systems. Ensure marketing is targeted to underserved and underrepresented groups (e.g., to undocumented people in their language)	United Way HelpLink Cross-system partners YAB	December 2023

<p>Develop a communitywide resource guide for youth and young adults that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support groups</li> <li>• LGBTQ+ supports (including supports specifically for trans and gender non-conforming or non-binary YYA)</li> <li>• Mental health supports</li> </ul>	<p>YAB Cross-system partners Josh Egeland United Way</p>	<p>September 2023</p>
<p>Identify opportunities to train cross-system partners on core YHDP principles, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Authentic collaboration</li> <li>• Housing First</li> <li>• Trauma-Informed practices</li> <li>• Racial and LGBTQ+ equity, social identities, and intersectionality</li> </ul>	<p>YHDP Core Team Cross-systems partners</p>	<p>March 2023</p>
<p>Identify opportunities for peer mentorship and support between people with lived experiences of homelessness and interaction with other systems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Example: peer mentors for young parents and students</li> </ul>	<p>LGBTQ+ Public Health Alliance YAB</p>	<p>September 2023</p>

## GOAL 4: CONTINUE BUILDING OUT THE OH-505 YOUTH-SPECIFIC HOMELESS SERVICES SYSTEM

ACTIONS STEPS	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TIMELINE
<b>Objective 4a.</b> Enhance coordinated entry (CE) system and approaches to be youth-specific		
Develop youth-specific CE and outreach marketing approaches and materials. Ensure there are materials that target underrepresented groups (e.g., undocumented YYA in their language).	YAB YHDP Core Team CE Racial Equity Core Team	12/31/22

## GOAL 5: ENSURE CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT IN PROGRAM- AND SYSTEM-LEVEL IMPLEMENTATION

ACTIONS STEPS	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TIMELINE
<b>Objective 5a.</b> Develop a CQI Plan		
Develop a strategy for measuring and tracking YYA outcomes in <b>HMIS</b> , disaggregated by race, gender, and sexual orientation	CoC staff Agency staff TA providers YAB	10/1/22
Develop a strategy to get and follow up on feedback from YYA and ensure that YYA experiences and interactions with the <b>system</b> (e.g., CE access and assessment processes) align with YHDP principles (especially racial and LGBTQ+ equity) and intended system design. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Example:</b> Do LGBTQ+ YYA, including trans and gender non-binary YYA, feel included and safe?</li> </ul>	YAB CoC staff TA providers Agency staff	10/1/22
Develop a strategy to get and follow up on feedback from YYA and ensure that YYA experiences and interactions with <b>each program</b> (e.g., Daybreak TH, YHDP-funded projects, adult programs that serve YYA) align with YHDP principles (especially racial and LGBTQ+ equity) and intended system design. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Example:</b> Do LGBTQ+ YYA, including trans and gender non-binary YYA, feel included and safe?</li> </ul>	YAB CoC staff TA providers Agency staff	10/1/22
Develop a dashboard or other report-out strategy to keep all stakeholders up to date on YHDP progress and outcomes	CoC staff YAB TA providers SPEC	2/1/23
Develop a strategy for implementing course corrections based on CQI findings	CoC staff Agency staff YAB TA providers	2/1/23

## New Projects

YHDP and the CCP planning process presented a new opportunity to reimagine the homeless system and its partnerships with other youth-serving systems, including education, developmental disabilities, child welfare, justice, and workforce. The action plan outlines many of the key steps and necessary strategies to accomplish the work of changing systems to be more responsive to the needs of youth and young adults. That same notion of reimagining applies to the following set of new YHDP projects, which were developed based on critical input from young adults who have experienced homelessness in our community, system partners, local data about the need and current inventory of housing and services, and the results of the brainstorming and system modeling sessions to determine what an ideal system would look like in our community.

The CoC participated in a youth system modeling process, where stakeholders, including significant numbers of young people and staff from all local homeless service providers, worked together to envision the types of projects that are needed for the system to effectively respond to and end every young person's housing crisis. These stakeholders participated in a two-day facilitated process to define project models, document assumptions about what combinations of assistance different young people may need, and to calculate the full scale of what the optimal youth homelessness system would look like in Montgomery County.

Combining these assumptions with data on existing resources and expected inflow of youth and young adults into the system each year, the full, ideal system in Dayton, as well as the gaps in each type of program, are detailed in the table below.

Project Type	Unit of Measure	Unaccompanied. Young Adults 18-24	Parenting Youth & Young Adults	Optimal PIT System Inventory	Current System (3/2022)	Difference (i.e., gap)
Navigation Services	PIT caseload	12	4	16	0	16
Diversion funding	PIT caseload	8	1	9	0	9
ES	PIT Capacity	25	2	27	16	11
TH (site-based or tenant-based)	PIT Capacity	74	34	108	54	54
RRH (rental assistance + case management)	PIT Capacity	87	59	146	30	116
Permanent Supportive Housing	Annual New Units	8	4	12	0	12

The biggest gap in the system is for permanent housing and services in the form of RRH, though the community has also identified a sizeable gap in transitional housing resources dedicated to youth and young adults. Based on these assumptions, and in service of building toward a complete,

optimal youth homelessness response system, the community intends to fund the following projects with YHDP.

<b>Project 1 – Planning Grant</b>	
<b>1-Year YHDP Budget - \$53,100</b>	Support for the Youth Action Board, YHDP project implementation, HMIS reporting, monitoring & evaluation, and system coordination. Includes .25 FTE YHDP Coordinator, .375 YAB Coordinator, \$5,000 in YAB compensation
<b>Project 2 – Enhanced Coordinated Entry (CE) and System Navigation</b>	
<b>Program Description</b>	Support for two new roles in the youth/young adult system – CE System Management and System Navigation. These roles/positions will strengthen the operation of the entire youth coordinated entry system from identification and engagement to housing by providing direct navigation assistance to young people, ensuring all providers are using best practices, marketing the youth CE system, and engaging youth action boards in the work to build a new, improved system.
<b>Target Population</b>	Unaccompanied and pregnant & parenting youth ages 18-24 and unaccompanied minors, including all subpopulations
<b>HUD CoC Project Type</b>	SSO-CE
<b>Services Provided</b>	Development and implementation of a youth-specific CE system, including initial triage before young people enter shelter Assistance for young people as they navigate the CE system Coordination with system partners to improve coordination within, access to, and referrals to and from the CE system.
<b>Outcome Measures</b>	Increased access to crisis shelter for YYA without safe places to sleep; decrease in length of time homeless; increase in exits to permanent housing; reduction in returns to homelessness; increased connection to mainstream services
<b>2-Year YHDP Budget - \$445,565</b>	Includes .5 FTE YHDP Coordinator and 2 FTE CE Navigators
<b>Project 3 – Diversion</b>	
<b>Program Description</b>	A combination of Housing-Focused problem solving designed to assist young adults in finding or maintaining safe, appropriate housing without a stay in shelter and financial assistance for diversion/rapid resolution of homelessness.
<b>Target Population</b>	Unaccompanied or pregnant & parenting young adults
<b>HUD CoC Project Type</b>	RRH
<b>Services Provided</b>	Housing-focused problem solving and mediation Housing navigation services Flexible funding for diversion/rapid exit
<b>Outcome Measures</b>	Decrease in the number of YYA who experience homelessness, decrease in the length of time YYA experience homelessness
<b>2-Year YHDP Budget - \$424,234</b>	Includes 2 FTE diversion specialists, \$72,000 in rental assistance



<b>Project 4 – Rapid Rehousing</b>	
<b>Program Description</b>	Rental assistance, case management, and life skills, with a strong connection to employment and mainstream resources for up to 36 months, with an opportunity for up to six months of aftercare once the rental assistance ends. Young adults reside in their own units in the community.
<b>Target Population</b>	Unaccompanied and pregnant & parenting young adults
<b>HUD CoC Project Type</b>	RRH
<b>Services Provided</b>	Rental assistance Case management Connection to employment resources and opportunities
<b>Outcome Measures</b>	Increase in exits to permanent housing, decrease in length of time homeless, decrease in returns to homelessness, increase in income from employment
<b>2-Year YHDP Budget - \$866,526</b>	Includes 2 FTE case managers, 1 FTE “floater” case manager, and \$319,149 in rental assistance

## Community Support

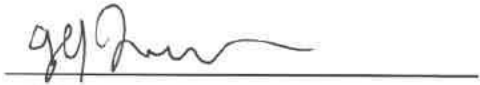
Copies of letters indicating support for the *Community Plan to End Youth Homelessness* and a commitment to implementing the Plan can be found on the following pages. The signatory organizations include the Youth Action Board, the CoC Governing Board, the Public Child Welfare Agency, Montgomery County, and the CoC's Runaway & Homeless Youth provider.

## Dayton Youth Action Board Statement of Approval

As representatives of the Dayton YAB, we hereby confirm that we endorse the strategies and approach provided in the Dayton/Kettering/Montgomery County Coordinated Community Plan. We agree to work toward this approach to implement a comprehensive coordinated system to prevent and end youth homelessness within our community.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ronald Wright", written over a horizontal line.

Signature

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jeff [unclear]", written over a horizontal line.

Signature

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sam Webb", written over a horizontal line.

Signature



**Homeless Solutions Policy Board  
Chairpersons**

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**Dr. Victor McCarley, Behavioral Health Consultant  
Rev. John Paddock, Community Leader**

117 S. Main Street, Suite 5100  
Dayton, OH 45422-3100  
937- 225-4695 (Fax) 937-496-7714

April 28, 2022

The Homeless Solutions Policy Board is the CoC Governing Board for the OH-505 Continuum of Care. This letter attests to the CoC Governing Board's approval and support of the OH-505 CoC Coordinated Community Plan to End Youth Homelessness. The Homeless Solutions Policy Board participated in the initial YHDP Community Kickoff and has received regular updates throughout the YHDP CCP planning process. We agree to work collaboratively with our partners to implement a comprehensive system to prevent and end youth homelessness, including the goals and objectives outlined in the plan.

Sincerely,

Dr. Victor McCarley, Co-Chair

Rev. John Paddock, Co-Chair



## DEPARTMENT OF JOB & FAMILY SERVICES

### CHILDREN SERVICES DIVISION

3304 N. Main Street  
Dayton, Ohio 45405-2709

937-224-KIDS (5437) - phone  
937-276-1852 - fax  
937-276-6587 - fax (Health Services)

[www.mcoho.org](http://www.mcoho.org)

### COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Judy Dodge  
Deborah A. Lieberman  
Carolyn Rice

### COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Michael B. Colbert

### DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR

Michelle Niedermier

Monday April 25, 2022

This letter attests to Montgomery County's Children Services' approval and support of the OH-505 Continuum of Care Coordinated Community Plan to End Youth Homelessness. As the public child welfare agency, we have been actively involved in the planning process to develop the Coordinated Community Plan. We agree to work collaboratively with our partners to implement a comprehensive system to prevent and end youth homelessness, including the goals and objectives outlined in the plan.

Sincerely,

Craig R. Rickett, MSW, LSW  
Associate Director  
Montgomery County DJFS-CSD



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**451 West Third Street  
P.O. Box 972  
Dayton, Ohio 45422-1326**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**Judy Dodge  
Deborah A. Lieberman  
Carolyn Rice**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

Michael B. Colbert

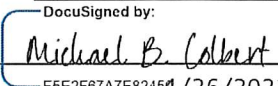
The signature(s) below attests to the approval and support of the OH-505 Continuum of Care Coordinated Community Plan to End Youth Homelessness.

We agree to work collaboratively with our partners to implement a comprehensive system to prevent and end youth homelessness, including the goals and objectives outlined in the plan.

Name Michael B. Colbert

Title County Administrator

Organization Montgomery County, Ohio

Signature 

Date F5E2F67A7E82454/26/2022



Changing Lives, Creating Futures

605 S. Patterson Boulevard  
Dayton, OH 45402

937-395-4600  
DaybreakDayton.org

April 26, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter attests to Daybreak, Inc.'s approval and support of the OH-505 Continuum of Care Coordinated Community Plan to End Youth Homelessness. As the Runaway and Homeless Youth Provider in the CoC, Daybreak has been actively involved in the planning process to develop the Coordinated Community Plan. We agree to work collaboratively with our partners to implement a comprehensive system to prevent and end youth homelessness, including the goals and objectives outlined in the plan.

Sincerely,

John Jagodzinski  
Chief Financial Officer

