

April 2024

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Cover art: Words shared by YYA in the Ohio BoSCoC Round 7 award area to describe themselves. Image created by MADDOX.

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Glossary of Acronyms

BIPOC – Black, Indigenous, Person of Color	PP YYA – Pregnant and/or parenting youth and young adults
BoSCoC – Ohio Balance of State Continuum of Care	RRH – Rapid Re-Housing
CoC – Continuum of Care	SNAP – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
CQI – Continuous Quality Improvement	SSO – Supportive Services Only
ELI – Extremely Low Income	TA – Technical Assistance
FYI – Foster Youth Independence Vouchers	TH – Transitional Housing
HIC – Housing Inventory Count	TH-RRH – Transitional Housing, Rapid Rehousing Joint Component
JFS – Job and Family Services	VASH – Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing
LGBTQIA+ – Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual/Aromantic, +Other Identities	YAB – Youth Action Board
LSA – Longitudinal System Analysis	YHDP – Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program
OHFA – Ohio Housing Finance Agency	YYA – Unaccompanied youth and young adults, youth 24 years old and under
PHA – Public Housing Authorities	
PIT – Point In Time Count	

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Over the last six months, dozens of people across the state stepped up to the challenge of co-creating a coordinated community plan that was authentically and unapologetically youth-led and youth-centered. From online focus groups to individual phone calls to day-long, in-person systems modeling sessions, we witnessed an extraordinary commitment from our diverse communities to listening to the lived experience of young people and developing real solutions to the challenges they named.

The Ohio Balance of State Continuum of Care acknowledges with gratitude the contributions of the following people and agencies:¹

YAB members: Yazmin Brock, Troyonah Darby, Viola Darden, Brianna Dykes, Iyesh Johnson, Georgia Jordan, Rhiannon Stevens, Shyanne Wolfe, Paiton Blevins, Jasmine Johnson, Rose Siciliano, Amanda Moody, Cierra Persinger, Tracey Smith, Judah Stewart, Terry Stobart, and Tristen Navarro

YYA who participated in local focus groups:

1. Region 3, Scioto County Juvenile Court – 6 participants; regional system modeling – 3 participants
2. Region 3, Shawnee Health Center – 6 participants
3. Region 9, Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action Agency – 3 participants

Regional Leaders and Planning Team Members

Ohio Department of Development: Julie Jarrell and Ashley Germano

Ohio Department of Children and Youth: Sarah Shooter and Alicia Masters

Great Lakes Community Action Partnership: Ragan Claypool and Jamie Brubaker

Shawnee Family Health Center: Cynthia Holstein and Corissa Boggs

Next Step, Family & Community Services: Andrea Pollock and Jenn Matlack

Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action Agency: Randall Hunt and Amy Eldridge

Serve City: Tammi Ector and Dustin Bowman

Portsmouth Metropolitan Housing Authority: Peggy Rice

Compass Point Housing: Craig Gullion

Licking County Coalition for Housing: Deb Tegtmeyer

Butler County Educational Service Center: Beth Race, Linda Smith, and Cari Wynne

Marion City Schools McKinney-Vento Coordinator: Amy Vanderhoff

Catholic Charities Ashtabula County: Alice Harden

Other Key Informants

Marion Area LGBTQ+ Coalition: Shannon Pegg

Marion County Children Services: Jacqueline Ringer

Marion Goodwill: Beth Granlee and Beth Mathias

¹ Every effort was made to provide a complete and accurate list of contributors. Please submit any correction requests to ohioboscoc@cohhio.org

Marion City Board of Education: Tara Dyer
Marion County Family and Children First: Jamie Beckett
United Way of Licking County: Deb Dingus
Children's Advantage: Monica Ochoa
Licking County Children and Families First Council: Sylvia Friel
Newark City Schools: Tara Boyer
Scioto Foundation: Kim Cutlip and Patty Tenant
Portage County Juvenile Court: Scott Wayt
Community Action Organization of Scioto County: Luanne Valentine
Family and Community Services Inc.: Melissa Marzec
Fostering Further: Yvonne Williams
The Freedom Center: Afet Kilinc, Pam Craycraft
Additional community members: See Partner List, page 48

Focus Group Participants

Region 2

Wood County Job and Family Services: Shannon Fisher and Katie Almendinger
Transformation Life Center: Challie Brihl
First Step Center for Domestic Violence: Amy Kinney
Liberty Center of Sandusky County: Margaret Weisz
Norwalk Area United Fund: Carol Wheeler
Community Action Center of Erie, Huron & Richland Counties: Dave Harris
Mansfield / Richland County Public Library: Terry Carter
Great Lakes Community Action Partnership: Niki Brough, Susan Wren, Kami Sayre
Sandusky County Job and Family Services: Trisha Foos
Former High School Counselor: Cassandra Tucker
Ottawa Residential Services, Inc.: Stephanie Lowe

Region 3

City of Portsmouth: Tracey Shearer
Drug Addiction and Mental Health Board: Sue Shultz
Southeast Ohio Legal Services: Mark Cardosi

Region 5

Portage Jobs & Family Services: Carly Spencer
Geauga Metropolitan Housing Authority: Dawn Farrell
Ashtabula County: Jake Brand

Region 9

Pathways of Central Ohio: Kristin McCloud
Nationwide Children's Hospital: Miriam Ali and David Ciccone
Licking Regional Education Service Center: Allison Riley
Licking County Coalition for Housing: Alejandra Leon
Licking County Job and Family Services: Angela Carnahan

National Youth Advocates Program: Joei McArtor
ESSA Liaison: Theresa Pinkstock
OneEighty: Tina Zickefoose
Affiliation not disclosed: Tim Ellis and Cary Loughman

Region 14

Warren County Metropolitan Housing: Tara Ramsey
YWCA Hamilton County: Wendy Waters-Connell and Chamina Curtis
Family Promise: Billy Burns
Envision Partnerships: Jamie Simpson
Serve City: Dustin Bowman
EDGE Teen Center: LaDon Laney
Hamilton City Schools: Brandon Stanfill
New Path: Carolyn Flynn
Lakota Local Schools: Kim Melzer

Meeting Space Generously Provided by

- Great Lakes Community Action Partnership
- Southern State Community College
- The Ohio State University: Newark Campus

LETTER FROM THE YAB

March 18, 2024

We support this plan because it is a youth-driven project, and the youth involved in making this happen want this to be the start of something meaningful for YYA .

We support this plan because we are glad we can be of help with youth homelessness.

We support this plan because we wish we had this help when we were dealing with homelessness and education.

We support this plan because we want more housing for YYA.

We support this plan because it's being put together by people who have been in these positions of homelessness or close to homelessness.

We support this plan because everyone deserves an equal and fair chance, safe environment and safe housing anywhere they may be in life.












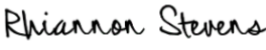







The Ohio Balance of State Youth Action Board

SIGNATURES

This Coordinated Community Plan to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness was led by the Youth Action Board and developed collaboratively by the Ohio Balance of State Continuum of Care and its statewide and regional partners.

The Coordinated Community Plan was approved by the Youth Action Board on March 16, 2024, the YHDP Planning Team on March 20, 2024, and the CoC Board on March 25, 2024.

On behalf of the Ohio Balance of State Round 7 Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program Planning Team and the youth and young adults it is designed to serve, we pledge to move this document from plan into action.

Ohio Balance of State Continuum of Care Youth Action Board Members	
Region 2	Region 3
Yazmin Brock 	Paiton Blevins 
Troyonah Darby 	Jasmine Johnson 
Viola Darden 	Region 9
Brianna Dykes 	Amanda Moody 
Iyesis Johnson 	Cierra Persinger 
Georgia Jordan 	Tracey Smith 
Rhiannon Stevens 	Judah Stewart 
Rose Siciliano 	Terry Stobart 
Region 5	Region 14
Erica Mulryan, CoC Director 	Tristen Navarro 
Ohio Balance of State Continuum of Care	
Ohio Department of Development Local Government Agency	
Patrick Smith, Chief 	
Ohio Department of Children and Youth Public Child Welfare Agency	
Alicia Leatherman, Chief Strategy Officer	Alicia Leatherman 4/3/2024

CONTEXT

The Ohio Balance of State Continuum of Care (Ohio BoSCoC) represents the 80 largely suburban and rural counties in Ohio. Within these 80 counties there are approximately 400 homeless programs including emergency shelters, transitional housing, rapid re-housing programs, and permanent supportive housing. To date, the Ohio BoSCoC has received YHDP funding in over half of its geography. The YHDP Round 7 award covers a wide geographical part of the state and includes Regions 2, 3, 5, 9, 11, and 14.

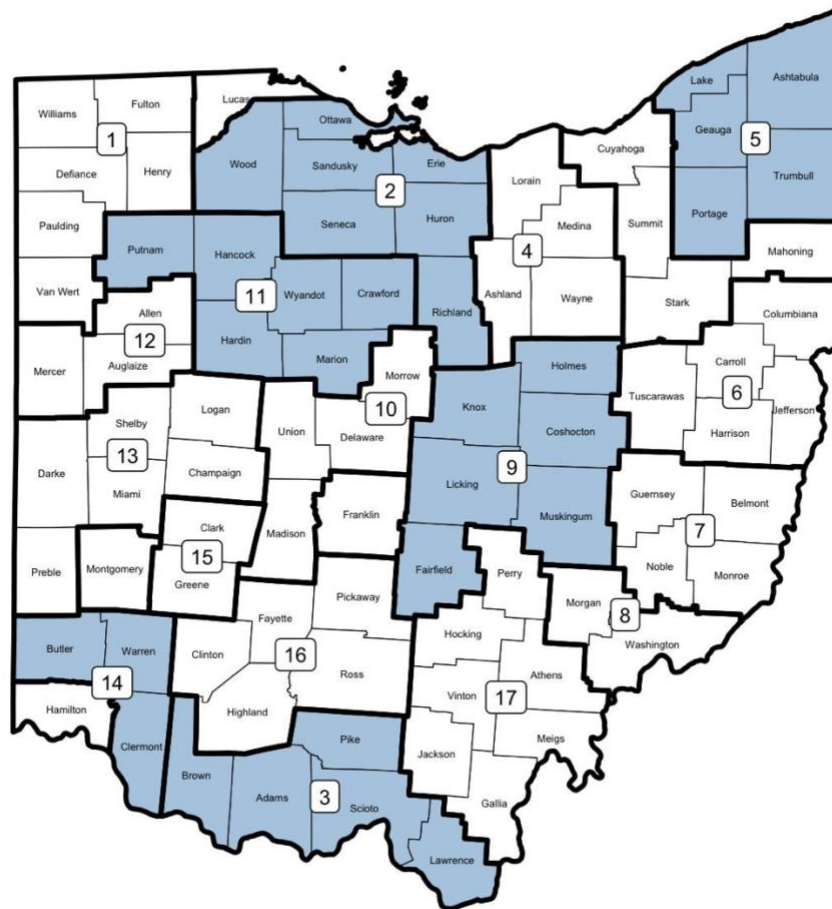


Figure 1. Ohio Homeless Planning Regions, with award areas in light blue

VISION, MISSION, AND PRINCIPLES

Vision

Led by the Youth Action Board, who envisions a world where everyone has an equal chance at quality living, the Ohio BoSCoC Round 7 Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program Planning Team (Planning Team) seeks to develop partnerships, elevate existing regional strengths, remove barriers to access, and build capacity so that youth and young adult homelessness is a brief, rare, and solvable event in our communities across Ohio.

Mission

The Ohio BoSCoC Youth Action Board is on a mission to provide youth with resources and services through active outreach to meet youth where they are to succeed in order to prevent and eliminate youth homelessness. In service of the mission of the Youth Action Board, the Planning Team supports an inclusive, diverse, and youth-led initiative to develop and implement innovative and practical solutions that provide youth with resources and services designed to prevent and end youth homelessness and co-create a world where everyone has an equal chance at quality living.

Core Principles: Ohio BoSCoC Youth Action Board

Education; Decision Making; Work; Vulnerability; Equality; Communication; and Hope

YHDP Guiding Principles

This plan affirms and is grounded in the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) Youth Framework; the Four Core Outcomes; and the following Principles of YHDP which are discussed in further detail throughout the document, but specifically in the section Identifying Community Needs and Actions through the lens of YHDP Principles.

- Coordinated Entry
- Educational Partnerships
- Equity
- Family Engagement
- Housing First
- Individualized & Client-Driven Supports
- Positive Youth Development
- Social & Community Integration
- Special Populations
- Trauma Informed Care
- Unsheltered Homelessness
- Youth Choice

THE NEED

The Ohio BoSCoC invested part of its Round 7 YHDP planning grant to develop a comprehensive Needs Assessment of the six-region award site. The Needs Assessment included both quantitative and qualitative investigation through a review of administrative data including HMIS, PIT, HIC, census data, education data, employment data, foster care data, criminal justice data, and other local reports.

Qualitative research included key informant interviews, focus groups with adult allies and providers, focus groups with youth and young adults, and 1:1 meetings with regional leaders. The Goals, Objectives, and Actions that follow were identified in response by the YHDP Planning Team led by the YAB, and

informed by housing providers and cross system partners, YYA with lived experience, and government agency representatives. Estimates of special populations within the award site are listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Estimates of special populations in the Ohio BoSCoC award site

Population or Experience	Data Source	Numeric Estimate
Unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness	HMIS 2023	727
At-risk youth	Ohio Department of Education, School Year 2022-2023	4,231
Pregnant or parenting youth experiencing homelessness	HMIS 2023	250
LGBTQIA+ and gender non-conforming youth	HMIS 2023	21
Minors	HMIS 2023	14
Justice-involved youth experiencing homelessness	HMIS 2023	10
Justice-involved youth – on parole	Ohio Department of Youth Services, Dec 2023 ²	30
Justice-involved youth – adjudicated felonies for minors	Ohio Department of Youth Services, 2022	714
Child-welfare involved youth experiencing homelessness	HMIS and TAY-VI-SPDAT 2023 ³	range 5 - 33
Youth ages 13-18 in state custody	Ohio Department of Job & Family Services ⁴ , Dec 2023	836
Victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation	HMIS 2023	86
Youth with co-occurring diagnoses ("disabling condition")	HMIS 2023	434
Unsheltered youth	PIT 2023	94

Additional housing needs for these special populations are further explored in The Solutions: Goals, Objectives, and Actions: Goal 1 – Stable Housing; Education and Employment needs are described in Goal 3 – Education and Employment; and Social and Emotional well-being needs are discussed in both Goal 2 – Health and Social and Emotional well-being and Goal 4 – Permanent Connections.

² <https://data.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/data/view/youth-services-current-parole-population>

³ <https://reports.education.ohio.gov/report/report-card-data-state-enrollment-by-student-demographic&sa=D&source=docs&ust=1710537285658495&usg=AOvVaw0q4WNTyq5ffNCqyweA9iOX>

⁴ <https://data.jfs.ohio.gov/dashboards/foster-care-and-adult-protective-services/point-in-time-count-of-children-in-care>

During a regional YYA focus group, youth identified how a young person in a housing crisis might interact with the known range of human services in their area. Figure 2 depicts the systems, places, and people that are currently in place at each stage to address a situation that may result in homelessness, as well as the supports that exist to help young people exit homelessness. We observe that young people were able to list more systems and places earlier in a housing crisis while people (either individuals or roles) emerged as resources later in the housing journey.

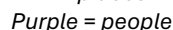


Table 2. YHDP Principles - Community Needs and Actions

Coordinated Entry – engage a system-wide process to coordinate access, assessment, prioritization, and referral quickly and equitably.	
<p>Needs</p> <p>While there are a variety of supportive services and housing resources available to YYA, they do not always know how to access them.</p>	<p>Selected actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and provide regular youth-led training by the CoC to CE Access Points to improve connection from APs to youth-dedicated resources. • Identify and train the alternate points of entry more frequently used by YYA (e.g. entities in Figure 2) to ensure YYA are quickly connected to CoC CE APs.

Educational Partnerships – partner with local education institutions to identify youth who qualify for assistance as well as how the institutions can serve youth who are at-risk of and experiencing homelessness to resolve their housing crisis.	
<p>Needs</p> <p>In School Year (SY) 2022-2023, school districts in the six awarded regions reported at least 4,231 students experiencing homelessness,⁵ with an estimated 315 experiencing unaccompanied homelessness without the presence of a parent or guardian.⁶</p>	<p>Selected actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build connections between new SSO navigators/case managers and school-based personnel such as guidance counselors, McKinney Vento liaisons, home-school assigned Educational Service Centers, higher education admissions, mentors, and Job Corps to ensure YYA can connect to the education pathways they desire.
Equity – consider and address inequities for BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ YYA to successfully achieve positive outcomes for all persons experiencing homelessness.	
<p>Needs</p> <p>Administrative data demonstrate an overrepresentation of BIPOC YYA showing up in the homelessness response system.⁷</p> <p>Within the entire Ohio BoSCoC, HMIS data from currently-funded YHDP projects shows that 24% of YYA served in those projects identify as LGBTQIA+.</p>	<p>Selected actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze system-level HMIS performance data regularly to understand disparities. • Assess providers and system partners on their cultural competency and capacity to support YYA, Black, Brown and LGBTQIA+ and gender non-conforming YYA. • Use findings from assessment, institute changes to ensure system is equipped to serve diverse YYA populations. • Include YYA with self-identified diverse identities in system policy and practice development and review.
Family Engagement – engage families, whenever appropriate, through community partnerships with organizations such as child welfare agencies, schools, youth providers, and other community human services, and homeless services providers.	
<p>Needs</p> <p>Unaccompanied youth and young adults in the Ohio BoSCoC YHDP award site have experienced challenges within their families of origin such as: rejection or ejection from the home because of LGBTQIA+ or gender non-conforming identity, parents struggling with mental health disorders or substance use</p>	<p>Selected actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convene regular youth-led meetings to strengthen relationships and coordination across agencies and systems (e.g.: child welfare, housing, etc.) for learning and development to better understand opportunities to encourage family engagement ONLY where safe and appropriate.

⁵ https://reports.education.ohio.gov/report/report-card-data-state-enrollment-by-student-demographic&sa=D&source=docs&ust=1710951524571724&usg=AOvVaw1sJQLg_kjuV9t_YmdmP-Wr

⁶ The state has not publicly disclosed the number of students in each region identified as “unaccompanied” nor across the state in SY 22-23. The unaccompanied rate between SY19-20 and SY 21-22 was remarkably consistent, ranging from 7.38% to 7.54%. To calculate this estimate, we multiplied the average from the previous three available years, 7.45% by the total 4,321 identified students experiencing homelessness in the six regions.

⁷ Focus Group participants from Regions 5, 9, 11, 14.

disorders, family conflict that may stem from physical abuse, financial abuse or where one parent is a victim of domestic violence, generational trauma and so on.	
Housing First – address how all youth will be offered immediate access to safe, secure, and stable housing with no preconditions.	
Needs In focus groups YYA expressed a strong need for concrete services and housing.	Selected actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct YHDP funding to add units of low-barrier TH-RRH to offer youth immediate access to safe, secure, stable housing. Where appropriate and aligned with youth choice, identify hotel/motel options for crisis TH. • Continue to educate and hold accountable all housing providers in the BoSCoC on Housing First principles and practices.
Individualized & Client-Driven Supports – housing and support packages that help prevent and end homelessness among YYA recognize and respond to differences across individuals to serve them appropriately and efficiently.	
Needs YYA focus group participants reported the need for a better safety net, a way to support someone before they need shelter and programming that specifically targets YYA.	Selected actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fund youth-designed projects that are responsive to the different needs for service type, intensity, and length of supports that YYA identify. • Activate system navigation through new staff positions to quickly connect YYA to housing and services. • Build on existing work of COHHIO and statewide partners to provide increased support and professional development opportunities to education partners, specifically in meeting the need of vulnerable student populations experiencing homelessness.⁸
Positive Youth Development – an intentional, prosocial approach that engages youth within their communities, schools, organizations, peer groups, and families in a manner that is productive and constructive; recognizes, utilizes, and enhances young people’s strengths; and promotes positive outcomes for young people by providing opportunities, fostering positive relationships, and furnishing the support needed to build on their leadership strengths. ⁹	
Needs YYA who attended focus groups affirmed the needs and benefits of relationships and the	Selected actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build on success of the Round 7 Planning team wherein YYA determined how they would best be

⁸ <https://cohhio.org/homelesseducation/>

⁹ <https://youth.gov/youth-topics/positive-youth-development>

<p>different people and entities with which they can form important and meaningful relationships.</p> <p>According to the Fall 2023 Needs Assessment conducted by TCU, the YAB mission and vision is reflected in the actions of the CoC and partner YYA-serving organizations, however, YAB members had “not identified older adult liaisons that serve as YYA mentors or coaches” but do “feel like the CoC/community supports them in their personal life.”</p>	<p>able to make an impact in group discussions and opted to ensure youth were embedded within all small groups rather than operating as a separate group during team meetings where breakout groups were held which allowed YYA an opportunity to lead and share their perspectives and for older adult partners to practice authentic youth collaboration.</p>
<p>Social & Community Integration – provide socially supportive engagement and the opportunity for youth to participate in meaningful community activities toward the successful integration into a community as a positive contributing community member</p>	
<p>Needs</p> <p>YYA expressed that they “don’t have the same background” and that they “can’t just conform to what society wants.”</p>	<p>Selected actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fund additional available and reliable transportation to connect YYA to activities and experiences that could support them with housing stability and participating in education, employment, services, healthcare, community connections and extracurricular activities.
<p>Special Populations – meet the needs of youth who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ); youth who are gender-non-conforming; minors (under the age of 18); youth involved with juvenile justice and child welfare systems; and victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation; and youth with co-occurring diagnosis, including mental health, substance abuse, HIV-AIDS and other communicable diseases</p>	
<p>Need</p> <p>There is generally no indication that older adult homeless service programs across the six regions have youth-specific training or staff capacity to successfully support young people who may have housing challenges such as justice involvement or if they are pregnant or parenting. Specific numbers of YYA in special populations are listed on page 11.</p>	<p>Selected actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build on existing work of COHHIO and statewide partners to provide increased support and professional development opportunities to education partners, specifically in meeting the need of vulnerable student populations experiencing homelessness.¹⁰ • Require regular Safe Zone¹¹ (or equivalent) training for youth-dedicated providers; incentivize completion of this training system-wide.

¹⁰ <https://cohhio.org/homelesseducation/>

¹¹ <https://thesafezoneproject.com/>

Trauma Informed Care – understand trauma and how traumatic events can affect young people to promote recovery and resilience and ensure that young people are not retraumatized through experiences with human service systems. ¹²	
<p>Need</p> <p>Older adult-serving providers in the Ohio BoSCoC have not yet implemented YYA-specific, emerging best practices or service models. One YYA said, “people don’t care about how you’re feeling, at the end of the day.”</p>	<p>Selected actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use best practices in YAB meetings such as the Sanctuary Model Community Meeting¹³ to support connection to self, recognition of feelings, and goal-orientation within small groups. • Require demonstration in project implementation and CQI that new projects plan for and complete ongoing trauma informed and trauma competent training for their staff.
Unsheltered Homelessness – address and decrease unsheltered youth homelessness in the community.	
<p>Need</p> <p>In focus groups and key informant interviews, five out of six regions in the Ohio BoSCoC award site reported couch-surfing¹⁴ as being the overwhelming homelessness experience of YYA in their communities. Using PIT data, around 20% of YYA were unsheltered across the six-region award site.</p>	<p>Selected actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand provider and school-based outreach and education efforts to reach YYA at risk of homelessness. • Direct YHDP funding to support new TH-RRH projects that foster a sense of belonging and community. • Direct YHDP funding to support new SSO projects that center mobile outreach and navigation services. •
Youth Choice – provide options for which providers and interventions to engage with	
<p>Need</p> <p>YYA expressed interest in programming that specifically targets YYA during interviews and focus groups. There is generally no indication that older adult programs across the six regions have youth-specific training or staff capacity to successfully support young people who may have housing challenges.</p>	<p>Selected actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct an assessment to determine the best way to do advertise and market resources for YYA. • Ensure up-to-date resource directories are available in each region to help YYA connect with relevant services of their choosing. • Implement accessible feedback/surveys (i.e. mobile friendly and with QR code) within YYA programs; celebrate the successes & address issues/concerns.

¹² <https://youth.gov/youth-topics/youth-mental-health/trauma>

¹³ <https://www.thesanctuaryinstitute.org/publications/articles/>

¹⁴ This terminology was used by YYA in focus groups.

THE SOLUTIONS: GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTIONS

This section describes the goals named by the youth-led Planning Team will meet the objectives of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) Youth Framework and the Four Core Outcomes. Initial action steps, role assignments, and timelines are established here. Additional work will take place in summer 2024 to make these items even more specific, measurable, inclusive, and equitable once projects and providers are selected.

Goal 1 – Stable Housing

"You know, **we're trying to get a place, which is hard enough**. You know, there's not a lot of places open and the ones that are sometimes they don't accept kids..."
- YYA Focus Group Participant

Goal: YYA are able to choose low-barrier, transitional and permanent housing, embedded with YHDP principles, where they feel safe, supported, and respected.

Need

Rural settings are the predominant type of setting across the award site within the Ohio BoSCoC. Chapin Hall's national study on prevalence and characteristics of YYA homelessness finds that in rural communities YYA homelessness is "especially hidden."¹⁵ In focus groups and key informant interviews, five out of six regions in the Ohio BoSCoC award site reported couch-surfing¹⁶ as being the overwhelming homelessness experience of YYA in their communities. In fact, Chapin Hall finds that 40% of YYA in rural settings are staying with others as opposed to 20% of YYA in more populous counties. And while 50% of YYA in more populous counties are sheltered, only 20% of YYA in rural counties are.¹⁷

To further describe the current state of YYA homelessness in the Ohio BoSCoC award site, Point-In-Time count data was reviewed. While we know that the PIT is an imperfect measure of active homelessness, the 2023 count (Table 3) found that 20% of YYA were unsheltered across the six-region award site, with Region 3 having the highest number recorded.

Table 3. Ohio BoSCoC 2023 PIT Count Unaccompanied Youth by Region

	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
Region 2	4	1	5
Region 3	4	12	16
Region 5	30	1	31

¹⁵ Morton, M. H., Dworsky, A., Samuels, G. M., & Patel, S. (2018). Missed opportunities: Youth homelessness in rural America. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.

¹⁶ This terminology was used by YYA in focus groups.

¹⁷ Visualizing Youth Experience of Homelessness https://www.chapinhall.org/wp-content/uploads/Rural-and-Urban_Homelessness-in-Rural-Communities.zip

Region 9	19	2	21
Region 11	3	0	3
Region 14	16	2	18
Total	76	18	94

A contributor to this may be the availability of affordable housing. The Ohio Housing Finance Agency reports that the vacancy rate for rental units statewide is 5.8%, “at or near the lowest level on record, indicating a very tight housing market.” Between 2013 and 2017, OHFA found that “46% of Ohio’s renters experienced housing cost burden, and 24% experienced severe housing cost burden.” They also discovered that “All 88 counties have a shortage of rental housing for ELI¹⁸ renters, and only 14 counties are meeting more than half of local need.” Six of those counties are in the YHDP award site.¹⁹

According to 2023 Housing Inventory Count data, currently the Ohio BoSCoC YHDP award site operates 65 crisis residential programs (primarily emergency shelters) with about 1,380 beds for both households with and without children. There are an additional 75 beds that are seasonal, and so only available during the coldest months. However, there are 0 beds specifically for youth and young adults.

There are 446 transitional housing beds across 22 programs in the Ohio BoSCoC Award YHDP site. However, only ten of those beds are youth-dedicated; they are located within Region 5, at the Family & Community Services Inc, Next Step TH Project located in Geauga County.

Finally, there are approximately 700 beds of Rapid Re-Housing in the Ohio BoSCoC YHDP award site (as identified in the 2023 HIC); however, only a handful of those beds are YYA-dedicated. There are also about 1,780 Permanent Supportive Housing beds for people experiencing homelessness, although 400 of those beds are dedicated to Veterans (VASH beds).

As of September 2023, nine Public Housing Authorities in the State of Ohio offer 45 Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) vouchers, a HUD program partnership between local housing authorities and child welfare agencies to prevent or end homelessness for young people who are leaving or have left foster care.²⁰ Six of those nine PHAs are in the six-region award site, but only in Region 2 and Region 5. Counties issuing FYI vouchers include Trumbull, Erie, Ashtabula, Huron, Portage, and Sandusky. More work must be done to ensure young people exiting foster care have access to this resource.

The need to do more work for young people exiting foster care is especially true for minors who are currently in custody of the state. As of December 2023,²¹ there were at least 390 13-15 year olds and 446 16-18 year olds across the six regions who were in the custody of the state of Ohio. 15 out of the 32 counties in the regions did not report the ages of children, despite identifying 2,286 in some form of foster care placement, and so the number of 13-18 year olds might be much higher. That figure includes Children’s Residential Centers, Family Foster Homes, Group Homes, Relative and Non-Relative Kinship Care, and Trial Home Visits. Discharge data

¹⁸ “Extremely Low-Income” (ELI) is defined as those with incomes at or below the federal poverty level or 30% of area median income, whichever is greater.

¹⁹ <https://ohiohome.org/research/rentercosts.aspx#data>

²⁰ https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/PIH/documents/FYI_Program_Effective_Awards_9.30.2023.xlsx

²¹ <https://data.jfs.ohio.gov/dashboards/foster-care-and-adult-protective-services>

is similarly challenging to interpret across the six regions. Many report no discharges for the age range 13-15 and 16-18, despite some having large numbers of young people from those age groups reported as in custody during 2023. Nevertheless, counties in the six regions reported discharging at least 181 13-15 year olds and 300 16-18 year olds last calendar year. 109 of those discharges were reported as “Emancipation,” suggestive of a high level of need during their transition to adulthood.

While we do not fully understand the overlap between minors in foster care and minors with juvenile justice experience, the Ohio Department of Youth Services reported roughly 30 youth on parole in the six regions and 714 adjudicated felonies for minors in 2022. The average number of annual adjudicated felonies for minors over the previous ten years for the six regions is 917.²² Over 65% of youth across the state who are currently on parole are Black, and over 90% identify as Male. Based on a 2020 report, over 55% of youth in Juvenile Correction Facilities identified as Black and 90% identified as Male.²³ According to the November 2023 Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction Fact Sheet, there were only 21 minors in adult corrections in FY 2023.²⁴

Young adults are generally eligible for adult housing (housing available to anyone over the age of 18), which theoretically expands their access to housing resources beyond YYA-dedicated housing. Unfortunately, those resources are often not a viable solution for YYA, especially those under age 18. For example, adult homelessness system resources may have higher eligibility requirements (e.g., chronic homelessness) that few YYA can meet. YYA expressed interest in programming that specifically targets YYA during interviews and focus groups. There is generally no indication that older adult programs across the six regions have youth-specific training or staff capacity to successfully support young people who may have housing challenges such as justice involvement or if they are pregnant or parenting. While many domestic violence housing and support programs can provide services to those who have experienced sexual exploitation or trafficking, YYA may not be aware of these programs or have the transportation to reach them.

Goal 1: Objectives and Action Steps

Table 4. Objectives and action steps, Stable Housing

Objective	Actions	Special Populations	Responsible Entity	Guiding Principles	Timeline
Objective 1: Establish and operate new YYA-dedicated TH and PH in the YHDP site area	Action 1a: Direct YHDP funding to support new TH-RRH projects that foster a sense of belonging and community.	LGBTQIA+, Gender non-conforming, BIPOC YYA, YYA with co-occurring diagnoses, Justice involved,	COHHIO	Positive Youth Development, Trauma Informed Care, Unsheltered Homelessness, Individualized and client-driven supports, Youth	Year 1

²² <https://data.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/data/view/youth-adjudicated-or-committed-for-felony-offense>

²³ https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/102218/data-snapshot-of-youth-incarceration-in-ohio_0.pdf

²⁴ <https://drc.ohio.gov/about/resource/reports/monthly-population-count-reports/monthly-population-report-november-2023>

Objective	Actions	Special Populations	Responsible Entity	Guiding Principles	Timeline
		Foster Care involved, Victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation		Choice, Housing First, Coordinated Entry, Educational Partnerships, Family Engagement, Equity	
	Action 1b: All new YHDP projects develop service models that integrate the YHDP guiding principles and offer optional life skills support of YYA's choosing.	LGBTQIA+, Gender non-conforming, BIPOC YYA, YYA with co-occurring diagnoses, Justice involved, Foster Care involved, Victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation	YHDP New Projects	Positive Youth Development, Trauma Informed Care, Unsheltered Homelessness, Individualized and client-driven supports, Youth Choice, Housing First, Coordinated Entry, Educational Partnerships, Family Engagement, Equity	Year 1
	Action 1c: All new YHDP projects provide YYA with what they need to maintain clean and livable environments.	LGBTQIA+, Gender non-conforming, BIPOC YYA, YYA with co-occurring diagnoses, Justice involved, Foster Care involved, Victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation	YHDP New Projects	Equity, Positive Youth Development, Trauma Informed Care, Individualized and client-driven supports, Youth Choice, Housing First	Ongoing
Objective 2: Expand permanent housing options for YYA.	Action 2a: Public Housing Authorities secure FUP and FYI vouchers in the YHDP site.	Foster care involved	Public Housing Authorities	Positive Youth Development, Trauma Informed Care, Unsheltered Homelessness, Individualized and	Ongoing

Objective	Actions	Special Populations	Responsible Entity	Guiding Principles	Timeline
				client-driven supports, Youth Choice, Educational Partnerships, Family Engagement	
	Action 2b: Providers and Public Housing Authorities partner to ensure YYA receive housing assistance they are eligible for.	LGBTQIA+, Gender non-conforming, BIPOC YYA, YYA with co-occurring diagnoses, Justice involved, Foster Care involved, Victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation	Public Housing Authorities, Providers, HUD TA	Positive Youth Development, Trauma Informed Care, Unsheltered Homelessness, Individualized and client-driven supports, Youth Choice, Educational Partnerships, Family Engagement	Ongoing
	Action 2c: Analyze the YYA system every 3 years to assess the level of PH for YYA.	N/A	COHHIO	Equity, Positive Youth Development, Trauma Informed Care, Unsheltered Homelessness, Individualized and client-driven supports, Youth Choice, Housing First, Coordinated Entry, Educational Partnerships, Family Engagement	Year 3, Year 6, etc.

Goal 2 – Health and Social and Emotional well-being

Goal: YYA have access to trauma-informed wellness services that honor the identities, joy, and wellbeing of YYA through nonjudgmental and affirming practices.

Need

Unaccompanied youth and young adults in the Ohio BoSCoC YHDP award site have experienced challenges within their families of origin such as: rejection or ejection from the home because of LGBTQIA+ or gender non-conforming identity, parents struggling with mental health disorders or substance use disorders, family conflict that may stem from physical abuse, financial abuse or where one parent is a victim of domestic violence, generational trauma and so on. Providers in the Ohio BoSCoC often become central sources of caretaking for YYA experiencing homelessness. Thus, it is critical that providers are equipped to support YYA through these challenges and that YYA feel and trust that those providers are well prepared to work with them and their unique experiences.

Common themes emerged during focus groups and interviews around substance use, mental health, and provider capacity. Despite HMIS data showing under 5% of YYA using substances, problems with substances and their impact on youth homelessness were mentioned often in focus groups and interviews, by both adult allies and YYA. One YYA in Region 3 said that one of the biggest things they think that people need is “help quitting,” and that they observe that “most of the people who are homeless are addicts who don’t have help.” Adult allies said repeatedly that some of the areas within the awarded regions were central in the production and distribution of opioids²⁵ and thus suffered some of the deepest consequences caused by the opioid epidemic, including the placement of many YYA into foster care whose parents were using opioids. While HMIS data differs from the reported substance use people spoke about, YYA corroborated what adults said commenting, “a lot of people around here are on drugs, we’re the pill mill of America.”²⁶ Even so, one adult ally said that “All rehab is designed for adults, the juvenile rehab is in Athens, Ohio, it’s the only one.”²⁷

Ohio BoSCoC HMIS data showed 45% of unaccompanied youth and 23% of parenting youth identified that they have a “mental health problem.” HMIS data also shows that 7% of minors, 51% of unaccompanied youth and 26% of parenting youth report having a “disabling condition.” Nine percent of unaccompanied youth report having a chronic health condition while 6% of parenting youth report the same. It is unknown whether the YYA in HMIS are experiencing co-occurring disorders, but other sources of information suggest this could be the case. For example, SAMHSA reported that from 2019-2020 in the

²⁵<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8276036/#:~:text=Appalachian%20Ohio%20is%20also%20well,with%20opioid%20painkillers%20> (8) and <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2017/may/17/drugs-opioid-addiction-epidemic-portsmouth-ohio>

²⁶ YYA focus group participant, Region 3.

²⁷ Adult ally focus group participant, Region 3.

State of Ohio 28.2% of adults and 3.2% of children served had a co-occurring mental health and AOD disorder.²⁸ And, anecdotally, 32% of adult allies in focus groups said YYA need better access to mental health care, medical care and other types of social and emotional wellbeing supports.²⁹ On top of services of the need identified in focus groups, four of the twelve counties listed in the “Ohio Governor’s Certified Shortage Areas for Purposes of the Rural Health Clinic (RHC) Program” are within the six-region award site.³⁰ An example of system partners coming together to overcome this challenge, takes place in Region 3, where the Portsmouth Metropolitan Housing Authority and Shawnee Health Center partnered to build a 45-unit Permanent Supportive Housing complex dedicated to YYA experiencing or at risk of homelessness and/or exiting foster care.

While the findings above speak to some of the social and emotional well-being challenges for YYA, adult allies spoke about the need to attract and retain qualified staff, the need to provide higher salaries, offer incentives, and other employee perks to be able to sustain a strong method of engagement with YYA. Key informants described how hard they’re trying to best serve YYA given these challenges. One partner said, “There’s lots of people with boots on the ground and they’ve got huge hearts, and they really want to do stuff. It’s just getting it going and off the ground and having some direction and some funding. I mean, at the end of the day, no matter how big our hearts may be, even how much we want to do something, there has to be some funding to make it happen.”³¹ Another partner expressed the challenges with staff turnover saying, “we’re experiencing terrible turnover, early retirements, and so we’ve lost a lot of knowledge over the past couple of years about our systems of care philosophy.”³²

YHDP new projects will expand the infrastructure of YYA providers, and it will also enhance partnerships that are critical for YYA to stay healthy and feel good. Similarly, it will enable existing providers to connect YYA to services that may be more appropriate for them and in many cases, will be designed with their social and emotional well-being needs in mind.

Goal 2 Objectives and Action Steps

Table 5. Objectives and action steps, Social and emotional well-being

Objective	Actions	Special Populations	Responsible Entity	Guiding Principles	Timeline
Objective 1: Ensure providers have the resources and training to support	Action 1a: YHDP New Projects require staff training (onboarding and	LGBTQIA+, Gender non-conforming, BIPOC YYA,	COHHIO, YHDP New Projects, YAB, HUD TA	Positive Youth Development, Trauma Informed Care, Individualized and client-driven	Ongoing

²⁸ Page 10 of 32: <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/reports/rpt35261/Ohio.pdf>

²⁹ In addition to responses such as mental health, medical care, reproductive care, or behavioral health, this includes needs such as unconditional support, understanding, stability and positive role models.

³⁰ Ohio Governor’s Certified Shortage Areas for Purposes of the Rural Health Clinic (RHC) Program <https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/primary-care-office/media/pco-gov-cert-list>

³¹ Key informant, Region 14.

³² Key informant, Region 14.

Objective	Actions	Special Populations	Responsible Entity	Guiding Principles	Timeline
the wellness of YYA	annual) in best practices in serving YYA.	YYA with co-occurring diagnoses, Justice involved, Foster Care involved, Victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation, Minors		supports, Youth Choice, Housing First, Coordinated Entry, Family Engagement	
Objective 2: Make wellness services accessible to YYA.	Action 2a: Establish peer education opportunities.	LGBTQIA+, Gender non-conforming, BIPOC YYA, YYA with co-occurring diagnoses, Justice involved, Foster Care involved, Victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation, Minors	Providers, YAB	Individualized and client-driven supports, Youth Choice	Ongoing
	Action 2b: Explore opportunities to open drop-in centers for YYA.	LGBTQIA+, Gender non-conforming, BIPOC YYA, YYA with co-occurring diagnoses, Justice involved, Foster Care involved, Victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation	Providers, City Officials, Community Partners, YAB	Unsheltered Homelessness, Coordinated Entry, Positive Youth Development, Trauma Informed Care	Ongoing
	Action 2c: Build partnerships between health and wellness providers and	LGBTQIA+, Gender non-conforming, BIPOC YYA,	Providers, Education Partners, COHHIO's YHI Team with ODH,	Individualized and client-driven supports, Youth Choice, Trauma Informed Care,	Ongoing

Objective	Actions	Special Populations	Responsible Entity	Guiding Principles	Timeline
	homeless service providers.	YYA with co-occurring diagnoses, Justice involved, Foster Care involved, Victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation	local CoCs (homeless service providers)	Positive Youth Development	
	Action 2d: Provide wraparound services on site at new YHDP projects.	LGBTQIA+, Gender non-conforming, BIPOC YYA, YYA with co-occurring diagnoses, Justice involved, Foster Care involved, Victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation	YHDP New Projects	Positive Youth Development, Trauma Informed Care, Individualized and client-driven supports, Youth Choice, Housing First, Coordinated Entry, Family Engagement, Equity	Ongoing
	Action 2e: Promote and market available wellness services over and beyond YHDP-funded services.	LGBTQIA+, Gender non-conforming, BIPOC YYA, YYA with co-occurring diagnoses, Justice involved, Foster Care involved, Victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation	Providers, COHHIO, YAB	Positive Youth Development, Trauma Informed Care, Individualized and client-driven supports, Youth Choice, Housing First, Coordinated Entry, Family Engagement	Ongoing

Goal 3 – Education and Employment

Goal: YYA choose their pathways to traditional and non-traditional education and employment opportunities along with supportive services until they reach their goals.

Need

Over one in ten people in the Ohio BoSCoC YHDP award site are estimated to live below the poverty line,³³ and when we look at the “unrelated individuals” (unaccompanied) poverty table provided by the Census, 39% of people aged 18-24 in the sample live below the poverty line. The poverty rate for all those under 18 years old is 14%.

Research shows that YYA experiencing rural homelessness are “more likely to be out of school and work than youth in large counties.”³⁴ In the Ohio BoSCoC as a whole, HMIS data shows that 39% of unaccompanied, non-parenting YYA had income while 44% of parenting YYA had income. Of those, 31% and 36% had earned income respectively.

According to a report from Policy Matters Ohio, statewide employment reached pre-pandemic levels as of May 2023. Unfortunately, that has not been evenly shared, with most of that recovery centered in a few major cities and not rural areas representative of those in the award site. For example, they report that Columbus, Cincinnati, and Springfield recovered more than they lost, and that Dayton nearly recovered all jobs lost. In most communities of the Ohio BoSCoC YHDP award site, there may still be fewer jobs than in March 2020. The unemployment rate in the State of Ohio hovered around 3.4% in 2023.³⁵

Unaccompanied and parenting YYA in the Ohio BoSCoC YHDP award site repeatedly said they wanted more access to employment, beyond traditional fast food or customer service jobs. They pointed to Community Action Agencies, which operate a variety of state-funded employment programs, as places where “you can get a job.”

Education matters for housing stability. YYA with less than a high school diploma or GED are 4.5x more likely to experience homelessness compared to their peers who finish high school.³⁶ In School Year (SY) 2022-2023, school districts in the six awarded regions reported at least 4,231 students experiencing homelessness,³⁷ with an estimated 315 experiencing unaccompanied homelessness without the presence of

³³ 2023 Federal poverty level is \$14,580 for 1-person household, \$19,720 for 2-person household and \$24,860 for 3-person household: <https://aspe.hhs.gov/topics/poverty-economic-mobility/poverty-guidelines>. 18 counties of 32 have 2022 data of population living below poverty level. 11% is the average of those 18 counties for all whose status is determined.

³⁴ Chapin Hall, *ibid*

³⁵ <https://www.bls.gov/eag/eag.oh.htm>

³⁶ Kull, M. A., Morton, M. H., Patel, S., Curry, S., & Carreon, E. (2019). *Missed opportunities: Education among youth and young adults experiencing homelessness in America*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.

³⁷ https://reports.education.ohio.gov/report/report-card-data-state-enrollment-by-student-demographic&sa=D&source=docs&ust=1710951524571724&usg=AOvVaw1sJQLg_kjuV9t_YmdmP-Wr

a parent or guardian.³⁸ They are fairly evenly distributed across grades with a slight bump in identification in 9th grade and slight drop off in 11th. According to state-level data compiled by the National Center for Homeless Education, 77% of all students experiencing homelessness identified as being “doubled up,” only 12% were in shelters, 10% were in hotels or motels, 2% were unsheltered, and none identified as being in Transitional Housing (TH). Over 90% of unaccompanied students experiencing homelessness identified as being “doubled up,” 7% were in shelters, just over 1% were unsheltered, and 1% were in hotels or motels.³⁹

Although the Ohio BoSCoC doesn’t have much data around educational attainment for YYA in its homeless response system, it is assumed that Chapin Hall’s identified connections between homelessness and not completing high school would be applicable since the state of Ohio’s high school completion rate is nearly identical to the national average.⁴⁰ Adult allies report that the best outcome for YYA experiencing or at-risk of homelessness while in high school is for those students to live with a family they know and trust, and that this stability often helps students graduate.

Goal 3 Objectives and Action Steps

Table 6. Objectives and action steps, Education and Employment

Objective	Actions	Special Populations	Responsible Entity	Guiding Principles	Timeline
Objective 1: Connect YYA to employment and education services and opportunities.	Action 1a: Service providers develop MOUs with Ohio Means Jobs, CCMEP, and any other State employment opportunities for YYA.	LGBTQIA+, Gender non-conforming, BIPOC YYA, YYA with co-occurring diagnoses, Justice involved, Foster Care involved, Victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation	Providers, COHHIO YHI Team/CoC partnerships with Workforce	Youth Choice, Equity, Positive Youth Development, Social & Community Integration, Individualized & Client supports	Year 1
	Action 1b: Make education and employment office hours available	LGBTQIA+, Gender non-conforming, BIPOC YYA,	YHDP New Projects	Youth Choice, Equity, Positive Youth Development, Social &	Year 2

³⁸ The state has not publicly disclosed the number of students in each region identified as “unaccompanied” nor across the state in SY 22-23. The unaccompanied rate between SY19-20 and SY 21-22 was remarkably consistent, ranging from 7.38% to 7.54%. To calculate this estimate, we multiplied the average from the previous three available years, 7.45% by the total 4,321 identified students experiencing homelessness in the six regions.

³⁹ <https://profiles.nche.seiservices.com/StateProfile.aspx?StateID=41>

⁴⁰ <https://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/indicator/coi/high-school-graduation-rates>

Objective	Actions	Special Populations	Responsible Entity	Guiding Principles	Timeline
	and accessible for YYA.	YYA with co-occurring diagnoses, Justice involved, Foster Care involved, Victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation		Community Integration, Individualized & Client supports	
	Action 1c: Build connections with school-based personnel such as guidance counselors, McKinney Vento liaisons, home-school assigned Educational Service Centers, higher education admissions, mentors, and Job Corps.	Minors	Educational Partners, Providers	Trauma Informed Care, Youth Choice, Equity, Positive Youth Development, Social & Community Integration, Individualized & Client supports	Ongoing
Objective 2: Cultivate entrepreneurship opportunities for YYA.	Action 2a: Help YYA turn their ideas into YYA-led businesses or enterprises.	LGBTQIA+, Gender non-conforming, BIPOC YYA, YYA with co-occurring diagnoses, Justice involved, Foster Care involved, Victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation	Mentorship Programs, Local Businesses, Local Chamber of Commerce	Youth Choice, Equity, Positive Youth Development, Social & Community Integration, Individualized & Client supports	Year 3
	Action 2b: Create or connect YYA to peer training and	LGBTQIA+, Gender non-conforming,	Providers, YAB	Youth Choice, Equity, Positive Youth	Year 2

Objective	Actions	Special Populations	Responsible Entity	Guiding Principles	Timeline
	peer education opportunities.	BIPOC YYA, YYA with co-occurring diagnoses, Justice involved, Foster Care involved, Victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation		Development, Social & Community Integration, Individualized & Client supports	
	Action 2c: Help connect YYA to opportunities that they choose.	LGBTQIA+, Gender non-conforming, BIPOC YYA, YYA with co-occurring diagnoses, Justice involved, Foster Care involved, Victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation	Providers	Trauma Informed Care, Youth Choice, Equity, Positive Youth Development, Social & Community Integration, Individualized & Client supports	Year 1
Objective 3: Better promote existing employment and education opportunities for YYA.	Action 3a: YYA providers will have education and employment resource directories available for YYA.	LGBTQIA+, Gender non-conforming, BIPOC YYA, YYA with co-occurring diagnoses, Justice involved, Foster Care involved, Victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation, Minors	YHDP New Projects, Providers	Family Engagement, Youth Choice, Trauma Informed Care, Special Populations, Equity, Positive Youth Development, Individualized & Client-Driven Supports, Social & Community Integration	Year 3
Objective 4: Provide YYA with	Action 4a: Provide budgeting and financial	LGBTQIA+, Gender non-conforming,	Community partners	Family Engagement, Youth Choice,	Year 2

Objective	Actions	Special Populations	Responsible Entity	Guiding Principles	Timeline
the life skills they need.	competency opportunities to YYA.	BIPOC YYA, YYA with co-occurring diagnoses, Justice involved, Foster Care involved, Victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation, Minors		Trauma Informed Care, Special Populations, Equity, Positive Youth Development, Individualized & Client-Driven Supports, Social & Community Integration	
	Action 4b: Make life skill learning opportunities available and accessible to YYA.	LGBTQIA+, Gender non-conforming, BIPOC YYA, YYA with co-occurring diagnoses, Justice involved, Foster Care involved, Victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation, Minors	YHDP New Projects, Providers, Community Partners	Positive Youth Development, Youth Choice	Year 2
	Action 4c: Assist YYA with obtaining identification and other necessary documents for education and employment.	LGBTQIA+, Gender non-conforming, BIPOC YYA, YYA with co-occurring diagnoses, Justice involved, Foster Care involved, Victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation, Minors	Providers, all local health departments for birth certificates	Youth Choice, Trauma Informed Care, Equity, Positive Youth Development, Social & Community Integration, Individualized & Client supports	Year 1

Goal 4 – Permanent Connections

"We **need love, support, and understanding**. There needs to be more awareness of youth homelessness in our communities."
- YAB member

Goal: YYA develop meaningful relationships within their communities and with provider organizations to foster their sense of belonging and purpose.

Need

In focus groups YYA expressed a strong need for concrete services and housing, equally as much they expressed their need for love, companionship, support, and mentorship. One YYA said, “people don’t care about how you’re feeling, at the end of the day.” YYA expressed that they “don’t have the same background” and that they “can’t just conform to what society wants.” For YYA who are parenting, they expressed the many challenges of taking care of themselves and their children while experiencing homelessness. For YYA to participate in 90-minute focus groups, providers were often enlisted to take care of the children of the YYA since those youth didn’t have other supports they could rely on for help with childcare. In adult ally focus groups, regional partners expressed the need for additional and/or affordable childcare options as well.

YYA who attended focus groups spoke about the needs and benefits of relationships and the different people and entities with which they can form important and meaningful relationships. For example, YYA at Hisle Park spoke about relationships with staff on site leading to concrete needs being met like help with groceries, getting to a doctor’s appointment but they also expressed special things like Thanksgiving Dinner being “really f---ing cool,” and about the engagement of donors in providing everything they needed when they moved in, bringing in meals, and decorating their units for the holidays. They said these things helped them get “what they didn’t have.” YYA in other focus groups spoke about needing friends, grandparents, parents, and other adults. YYA also commented on how some of the systems they interact with aren’t best designed for them. Specifically in Region 3, YYA reported they are “treated badly” by the court system.

Technical Assistance partners from True Colors United (TCU) conducted a Youth Collaboration Assessment, talking with five YYA and six adult allies to inform the TA they’d provide for the Ohio BoSCoC YHDP award site. Findings from this assessment support the need to deepen YYA involvement in homeless system response planning.⁴¹ While respondents believe that the YAB mission and vision is reflected in the actions of the CoC and partner YYA-serving organizations, YAB members had “not identified older adult liaisons that serve as YYA mentors or coaches” but do “feel like the CoC/community supports them in their personal life.” This speaks to the ability of the CoC to help build a sense of belonging for YYA both interpersonally and within the homeless response system.

⁴¹ Ohio, BoS (OH-507) YC TA Plan, True Colors United.

Goal 4 Objectives and Action Steps

Table 7. Objectives and action steps, Permanent Connections

Objective	Actions	Special Populations	Responsible Entity	Guiding Principles	Timeline
Objective 1: Build community and sense of belonging among YYA with lived experience of homelessness.	Action 1a: Invest in regular check-ins, texts, in-person meetings between provider staff and YYA in programs.	LGBTQIA+, Gender non-conforming, BIPOC YYA, YYA with co-occurring diagnoses, Justice involved, Foster Care involved, Victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation, Minors	Providers	Youth Choice, Trauma Informed Care, Equity, Positive Youth Development, Social & Community Integration, Individualized & Client supports	YHDP Projects - Year 1, Other Providers - Year 2, Ongoing
	Action 1b: Develop after care plan; identify supports; implement plan.	LGBTQIA+, Gender non-conforming, BIPOC YYA, YYA with co-occurring diagnoses, Justice involved, Foster Care involved, Victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation, Minors	Providers, Technical Assistance	Youth Choice, Trauma Informed Care, Equity, Positive Youth Development, Social & Community Integration, Individualized & Client supports	YHDP Projects - Year 1, Other Providers - Year 2, Ongoing
	Action 1c: Use best practices during meetings with YYA like the Sanctuary Model to support connection to self, recognition of feelings, and goal-orientation within small groups.	LGBTQIA+, Gender non-conforming, BIPOC YYA, YYA with co-occurring diagnoses, Justice involved, Foster Care involved, Victims of sexual	Providers	Youth Choice, Trauma Informed Care, Equity, Positive Youth Development, Social & Community Integration, Individualized & Client supports	YHDP Projects - Year 1, Other Providers - Year 2, Ongoing

Objective	Actions	Special Populations	Responsible Entity	Guiding Principles	Timeline
		trafficking and exploitation			
Objective 2: Deepen YYA collaboration through YAB opportunities.	Action 2a: Institute YABs across the YHDP site	LGBTQIA+, Gender non-conforming, BIPOC YYA, YYA with co-occurring diagnoses, Justice involved, Foster Care involved, Victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation, Minors	Providers, COHHIO, Technical Assistance, YAB	Youth Choice, Trauma Informed Care, Equity, Positive Youth Development, Social & Community Integration	Year 2
	Action 2b: Ensure BoS YAB membership includes representation from all regions.	LGBTQIA+, Gender non-conforming, BIPOC YYA, YYA with co-occurring diagnoses, Justice involved, Foster Care involved, Victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation, Minors	Providers, COHHIO, YAB	Youth Choice, Trauma Informed Care, Equity, Positive Youth Development, Social & Community Integration	Year 1-2
	Action 2c: Identify existing and former YAB members to recruit and mentor up and coming new YAB members.	LGBTQIA+, Gender non-conforming, BIPOC YYA, YYA with co-occurring diagnoses, Justice involved, Foster Care involved, Victims of sexual trafficking and	YAB, COHHIO	Youth Choice, Trauma Informed Care, Equity, Positive Youth Development, Social & Community Integration	Year 2

Objective	Actions	Special Populations	Responsible Entity	Guiding Principles	Timeline
		exploitation, Minors			
	Action 2d: Identify point person to work with the local CoC's and potential YAB members to educate CoC member/community services, equip them for authentic youth collaboration.	LGBTQIA+, Gender non-conforming, BIPOC YYA, YYA with co-occurring diagnoses, Justice involved, Foster Care involved, Victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation, Minors	YAB, COHHIO, HUD TA	Youth Choice, Trauma Informed Care, Equity, Positive Youth Development, Social & Community Integration	Year 2
Objective 3: Create opportunities for YYA to have relationships outside of the program.	Action 3a: Empower YYA's to develop connections with people they identify including family and other supports as defined by YYA.	LGBTQIA+, Gender non-conforming, BIPOC YYA, YYA with co-occurring diagnoses, Justice involved, Foster Care involved, Victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation, Minor	YHDP New Projects	Family Engagement, Unsheltered Homelessness, Youth Choice, Trauma Informed Care, Special Populations, Equity, Positive Youth Development, Individualized & Client-Driven Supports, Social & Community Integration	Year 1
	Action 3b: Provide guidance on re-building family relationships if desired by YYA.	LGBTQIA+, Gender non-conforming, BIPOC YYA, YYA with co-occurring diagnoses, Justice involved, Foster Care involved, Victims	YHDP New Projects, Providers, Community Partners, HUD TA	Family Engagement, Unsheltered Homelessness, Youth Choice, Trauma Informed Care, Special Populations, Equity, Positive Youth	Year 2

Objective	Actions	Special Populations	Responsible Entity	Guiding Principles	Timeline
		of sexual trafficking and exploitation, Minors		Development, Individualized & Client-Driven Supports, Social & Community Integration	
	Action 3c: Create mentorship opportunities for YYA program alumni to help connect current YYA to outside resources (e.g., peer navigators or near-peer mentors.)	LGBTQIA+, Gender non-conforming, BIPOC YYA, YYA with co-occurring diagnoses, Justice involved, Foster Care involved, Victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation	YAB, COHHIO YHI Team/CoC Staff	Positive Youth Development, Social & Community Integration, Youth Choice	Year 2-3
Objective 4: Provide resources to YYA by making care and resources accessible to their partners or family members also needing support.	Action 4a: Train providers to ensure they are meeting the needs of couples, households, or other people important to YYA.	LGBTQIA+, Gender non-conforming, BIPOC YYA, YYA with co-occurring diagnoses, Justice involved, Foster Care involved, Victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation, Minors	HUD TA, ODCY, community partners, COHHIO	Family Engagement, Unsheltered Homelessness, Youth Choice, Coordinated Entry, Trauma Informed Care, Special Populations, Equity, Positive Youth Development, Individualized & Client-Driven Supports, Social & Community Integration	Year 2
	Action 4b: Strengthen relationships and coordination across agencies and systems (e.g.:	LGBTQIA+, Gender non-conforming, BIPOC YYA, YYA with co-occurring	COHHIO YHI Team, YHDP Providers, CAAs, ODCY, PHAs	Family Engagement, Housing First, Unsheltered Homelessness, Youth Choice,	Year 1-2

Objective	Actions	Special Populations	Responsible Entity	Guiding Principles	Timeline
	child welfare, housing, etc.) through convening regular meetings for learning and development	diagnoses, Justice involved, Foster Care involved, Victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation, Minors		Coordinated Entry, Trauma Informed Care, Special Populations, Equity, Positive Youth Development, Individualized & Client-Driven Supports, Social & Community Integration	

Goal 5 – System Improvements

Goal: We commit to authentic youth collaboration across systems, holding each other accountable, and seeking new resources to ensure YYA have the information, access, and services they need.

Need

System Coordination constraints: The Ohio BoSCoC YHDP award site includes 32 counties, some that offer limited, youth-specific services and some that do not. Because the regions within the Ohio BoSCoC YHDP award site are not in contiguous proximity to one another, this creates limitations in access and referral processes cross-county, cross-region, and cross-system. Without formalized coordination and referral processes, connecting systems-involved YYA to the homelessness response system proves difficult and perpetuates the challenges in navigating multiple systems, siloed data platforms and referral systems. Oftentimes, cross-system providers, like JFS, Child Welfare, and Education, do not communicate with each other. Although they may be serving the same YYA, capturing the same data requirements, and providing similar services, they do not necessarily work collectively. In addition to gaps in cross-county, and cross-region referral processes, there is a need for more effective data gathering strategies amongst system partners like JFS, Child Welfare, and Education, to ensure there is an accurate accounting of the number of YYA experiencing homelessness throughout the Ohio BoS. Although there is a full spectrum of services that youth have access to in some counties, a lack of advertising and marketing of these services makes them difficult to access.

Emerging YYA collaboration: The Ohio BoSCoC created a YAB in 2022. After being selected as a Round 7 YHDP site, the Ohio BoSCoC intentionally added additional members from the six-region award site. These young people received training and technical support to build on their lived expertise, skills, and knowledge to lead the YHDP initiative. In interviews and groups, YAB members expressed that they have their own unique needs, experiences, and perspectives. They also shared that, up until now, they have generally been left out of places where decisions are made about them and have not been presented with opportunities to engage with older adults, advocate for what they need, or design programs and services meant to serve young people. Moreover, older adult-serving providers in the Ohio BoSCoC have not implemented YYA-specific, emerging best practices or service models. Recognizing that YYA have unique diverse needs, experiences, perspectives, and identities, they deserve relevant services and care designed to serve their population.

“Not a lot of adults in the community who listen to young people.”

- YYA Focus Group Participant

Barriers with transportation: The Ohio BoSCoC YHDP award site has a long-term and well-known challenge of limited to no transportation options for YYA, especially in its most rural areas. Five of the six regions noted that transportation was one of the main barriers to housing for YYA. Without readily available and reliable transportation, YYA are limited in how they can engage in activities and experiences that could support them with housing stability and participating in education, employment, services, healthcare, community connections and extracurricular activities. The same barriers that limit YYA from participating in life-enriching opportunities also contribute to risk factors including sex trafficking and exploitation. Isolated geography and lack of transportation can make it easier to recruit YYA who are experiencing homelessness or running away. Oftentimes, recruitment in rural areas takes place at truck stops, welcome centers, and desolate highways or streets, increasing the vulnerability of YYA who have limited places to seek assistance or utilize safe transportation options.⁴² Rural areas have characteristics that can make trafficking both harder to recognize and address. At the same time, traffickers can find small cities and towns attractive places to operate and recruit, given that residents and local law enforcement may tend to underestimate the threat and are unfamiliar with how to identify those at risk.⁴³

Goal 5 Objectives and Action Steps:

Table 8. Objectives and action steps, System Improvements

Objective	Actions	Special Populations	Responsible Entity	Guiding Principles	Timeline
Objective 1: Amplify YAB voices and provide a platform for them	Action 1a: Include YAB members in CoC CQI and monitoring.	LGBTQIA+, Gender non-conforming, BIPOC YYA,	YAB and COHHIO CoC Team	Positive Youth Development, Social & Community	Ongoing

⁴² Trafficking in Rural America <https://freedomnetworkusa.org/2021/07/27/trafficking-in-rural-america/>

⁴³ Trafficking in Urban, Suburban, and Rural Areas <https://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/human-trafficking-american-schools/trafficking-in-urban-suburban-rural-areas>

Objective	Actions	Special Populations	Responsible Entity	Guiding Principles	Timeline
to advocate for YYA-led solutions to both local and national agencies.		YYA with co-occurring diagnoses, Justice involved, Foster Care involved, Victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation, Minors		Integration, Youth Choice	
	Action 1b: Implement feedback/surveys (i.e. QR code) within YYA programs; celebrate the successes & address issues/concerns.	LGBTQIA+, Gender non-conforming, BIPOC YYA, YYA with co-occurring diagnoses, Justice involved, Foster Care involved, Victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation, Minors	COHHIO YHI, CoC Teams, Technical Assistance	Positive Youth Development, Social & Community Integration, Youth Choice	Ongoing
	Action 1c: In partnership with YYA, refine policies and standards within the CoC related to the YYA response system.	LGBTQIA+, Gender non-conforming, BIPOC YYA, YYA with co-occurring diagnoses, Justice involved, Foster Care involved, Victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation, Minors	YAB, COHHIO CoC Team, Local Regions as applicable, Technical Assistance	Positive Youth Development, Social & Community Integration, Youth Choice	Annually
	Action 1d: Identify and secure new funding to expand the YYA response	N/A	COHHIO YHI and CoC Teams, Local Foundations	Positive Youth Development, Social & Community	Ongoing

Objective	Actions	Special Populations	Responsible Entity	Guiding Principles	Timeline
	system and to sustain the YABs.			Integration, Youth Choice	
	Action 1e: Develop a recruitment pipeline for YAB membership.	LGBTQIA+, Gender non-conforming, BIPOC YYA, YYA with co-occurring diagnoses, Justice involved, Foster Care involved, Victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation, Minors	YHDP Providers, Other Youth and Adult System Providers, Technical Assistance	Positive Youth Development, Social & Community Integration, Youth Choice	Year 1, update annually
Objective 2: Better advertise resources and services so that YYA know what is available and how to access them.	Action 2a: Conduct an assessment to determine the best way to do advertise and market resources for YYA.	LGBTQIA+, Gender non-conforming, BIPOC YYA, YYA with co-occurring diagnoses, Justice involved, Foster Care involved, Victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation, Minors	YAB, Providers, CoC Partners, COHHIO, Technical Assistance	Trauma Informed Care, Social & Community Integration, Youth Choice	Year 1 - 2
	Action 2b: Design and implement YYA-led strategies based on the assessment.	LGBTQIA+, Gender non-conforming, BIPOC YYA, YYA with co-occurring diagnoses, Justice involved, Foster Care involved, Victims of sexual	YAB, Providers, CoC Partners, COHHIO, Technical Assistance	Trauma Informed Care, Social & Community Integration, Youth Choice	Year 2 - 3

Objective	Actions	Special Populations	Responsible Entity	Guiding Principles	Timeline
		trafficking and exploitation, Minors			
	Action 2c: Providers will have resource directories available to help YYA connect with relevant services.	LGBTQIA+, Gender non-conforming, BIPOC YYA, YYA with co-occurring diagnoses, Justice involved, Foster Care involved, Victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation, Minors	YHDP New Projects, Providers	Family Engagement, Youth Choice, Trauma Informed Care, Special Populations, Equity, Positive Youth Development, Individualized & Client-Driven Supports, Social & Community Integration	Year 1
Objective 3: Equip providers with adequate training to serve YYA.	Action 3a: Create standards around training requirements for homelessness providers to be more YYA competent especially with YYA of color, LGBTQIA+ and gender non-conforming YYA, Indigenous YYA, etc.	LGBTQIA+, Gender non-conforming, BIPOC YYA	COHHIO, Technical Assistance	Trauma Informed Care, Social & Community Integration, Youth Choice	Year 2
	Action 3b: CoC identifies and/or creates accessible training resources like online learning, videos, webinars, etc.	N/A	COHHIO	Trauma Informed Care, Special Populations, Equity, Positive Youth Development, Individualized & Client-Driven Supports, Social &	Year 2 - 3

Objective	Actions	Special Populations	Responsible Entity	Guiding Principles	Timeline
				Community Integration	
	Action 3c: Institute YYA affirming practices into street outreach.	LGBTQIA+, Gender non-conforming, BIPOC YYA, YYA with co-occurring diagnoses, Justice involved, Foster Care involved, Victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation, Minors	COHHIO, Regional Leaders	Trauma Informed Care, Special Populations, Equity, Positive Youth Development, Individualized & Client-Driven Supports, Social & Community Integration	Year 2 - 4
Objective 4: Support regions to navigate the web of conflicting funder requirements.	Action 4a: Advocate and/or research for and secure resources that can complement the YYA response system and fill gaps including flexible funding.	N/A	COHHIO, Regional Leaders, Providers	Equity, Positive Youth Development, Individualized & Client-Driven Supports,	Year 1 - 3
Objective 5: Eliminate transportation barriers so YYA can access services.	Action 5a: Ensure YYA projects have resources to provide transportation assistance, to provide rides directly, to explore developing new programs to support car ownership among YYA.	LGBTQIA+, Gender non-conforming, BIPOC YYA, YYA with co-occurring diagnoses, Justice involved, Foster Care involved, Victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation, Minors	Providers	Equity, Positive Youth Development, Individualized & Client-Driven Supports	Year 2 - 3
	Action 5b: Explore funding to allow	N/A	Providers	Equity, Individualized &	Year 2 - 3

Objective	Actions	Special Populations	Responsible Entity	Guiding Principles	Timeline
	providers to pay to have their own vehicle and/or rent cars.			Client-Driven Supports	
	Action 5c: Promote programs that pay for permits, licenses and drivers' education.	LGBTQIA+, Gender non-conforming, BIPOC YYA, YYA with co-occurring diagnoses, Justice involved, Foster Care involved, Victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation, Minors	Providers	Equity, Positive Youth Development, Individualized & Client-Driven Supports,	Year 2 - 3
Objective 6: Partner with YAB and across systems to ensure the YYA system operates in alignment with YHDP principles and is responsive to the CCP.	Action 6a: Create a Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) workgroup(s) to develop the CQI plan.	LGBTQIA+, Gender non-conforming, BIPOC YYA, YYA with co-occurring diagnoses, Justice involved, Foster Care involved, Victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation, Minors	YAB, CoC, COHHIO YHI, ODOD, State Child Welfare Agency, YHDP providers, Technical Assistance	Youth Choice, Equity, Positive Youth Development, Individualized & Client-Driven Supports, Special Populations	Year 1 - 2
	Action 6b: Develop a comprehensive YHDP CQI plan to monitor and evaluate YHDP projects in partnership with YAB and cross system partners to	LGBTQIA+, Gender non-conforming, BIPOC YYA, YYA with co-occurring diagnoses, Justice involved, Foster Care involved, Victims	YAB, CoC, COHHIO YHI, ODOD, State Child Welfare Agency, YHDP providers, Technical Assistance	Family Engagement, Housing First, Unsheltered Homelessness, Youth Choice, Trauma Informed Care, Special Populations, Equity, Positive	Year 1

Objective	Actions	Special Populations	Responsible Entity	Guiding Principles	Timeline
	ensure action steps are being achieved and new YHDP projects are being developed. Implement effective strategies to create a YYA system that improves over time and seeks to better understand the solutions to ending youth homelessness.	of sexual trafficking and exploitation, Minors		Youth Development, Individualized & Client-Driven Supports, Social & Community Integration	
	Action 6c: Implement effective strategies to create a YYA system that improves over time and seeks to better understand the solutions to ending youth homelessness.	LGBTQIA+, Gender non-conforming, BIPOC YYA, YYA with co-occurring diagnoses, Justice involved, Foster Care involved, Victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation, Minors	YAB, CoC, COHHIO YHI, ODOD, State Child Welfare Agency, YHDP providers, Technical Assistance	Youth Choice, Equity, Positive Youth Development, Individualized & Client-Driven Supports	Years 2-3
	Action 6d: Create a space to connect with YHDP navigators (at minimum), outreach workers and TH-RRH supportive services staff (where possible) to continually learn how YHDP implementation is progressing	LGBTQIA+, Gender non-conforming, BIPOC YYA, YYA with co-occurring diagnoses, Justice involved, Foster Care involved, Victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation, Minors	YAB, CoC, COHHIO YHI, ODOD, State Child Welfare Agency, YHDP providers, Technical Assistance	Family Engagement, Housing First, Unsheltered Homelessness, Youth Choice, Coordinated Entry, Trauma Informed Care, Special Populations, Equity, Positive Youth Development, Individualized &	Year 2

Objective	Actions	Special Populations	Responsible Entity	Guiding Principles	Timeline
				Client-Driven Supports, Social & Community Integration	

Goal 6 – Equity

"Racial disparity, I think it shows up in biases, right, like **so people make assumptions about you, just based on how you look**, and so maybe you don't get the resources that you need."
 - YYA Focus Group participant

Goal: We acknowledge, educate, and hold ourselves accountable for the disparities in our communities so that YYA have equitable opportunities while seeking and receiving services, regardless of how they identify.

Need

Within the Ohio BoSCoC, Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) represent 33% of the non-parenting and parenting YYA served in 2023, according to HMIS data. Importantly, 24% of both groups identify as Black and 7% of non-parenting and 6% of parenting YYA identify as Hispanic, Latino/a/e/x. For perspective, only 18% of the general population between 10 and 25 years of age in the Ohio BoSCoC YHDP award site identifies as non-white non-Hispanic.⁴⁴

Not only does administrative data demonstrate an overrepresentation of BIPOC YYA showing up in the homelessness response system, but providers also affirmed this was the case within their organizations and agencies.⁴⁵ Throughout the Ohio BoSCoC YHDP award site, there is a lack of representation of BIPOC staff at the provider level which may add to the lack of clarity on how to best serve BIPOC YYA.

Nationally, LGBTQIA+ and gender non-confirming YYA represent approximately 20% of all YYA experiencing homelessness, with some studies reporting as high as 40%.⁴⁶ As a result of family and community rejection of their orientation and identities, LGBTQIA+ and gender non-confirming YYA are also at 120% higher risk of experiencing homelessness than their straight cis-gender peers.⁴⁷ Within the

⁴⁴ U.S. Census Bureau. "ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates." *American Community Survey, ACS 1-Year Estimates Data Profiles, Table DP05*, 2022, https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDP1Y2022.DP05?t=Race and Ethnicity&g=040XX00US39_050XX00US39001,39007,39015,39017,39025,39031,39033,39043,39045,39055,39063,39065,39075,39077,39083,39085,39087,39089,39101,39119,39123,39131,39133,39137,39139,39143,39145,39147,39155,39165,39173,39175. Accessed on March 14, 2024.

⁴⁵ Focus Group participants from Regions 5, 9, 11, 14.

⁴⁶ Safe Schools Coalition, NAEH LGBTQ Homeless Youth Fact Sheet, <http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/LGBTQhomelessFactSheetbyNAEH.pdf>

⁴⁷ Missed Opportunities: Youth Homelessness in America, Chapin Hall, https://www.chapinhall.org/wp-content/uploads/ChapinHall_VoYC_1-Pager_Final_111517.pdf

Ohio BoSCoC, HMIS data from currently-funded YHDP projects shows that 24% of YYA served in those projects identify as LGBTQIA+. Although there are only about six YHDP projects currently operating in the Ohio BoSCoC, they are also the only youth-dedicated projects operating within the entire CoC, which makes it more likely their data is representative of YYA experiencing homelessness in rural Ohio rather than the PIT data and data from older adult serving projects. HMIS data from all homeless assistance projects in the Ohio BoSCoC indicates that of those YYA served by all projects, only 1% identify as “Non-Binary,” and 2% identify as “Transgender” (non YHDP/RHY projects do not collect data on sexual orientation) – numbers that the CoC does not feel are an accurate reflection of the YYA experiencing homelessness in the Ohio BoSCoC. The TAY-VI-SPDAT, which is the common assessment tool currently used by the Ohio BoSCoC, includes a question that asks participants to report the reason for their homelessness. In the Ohio BoSCoC, CY2023 VI-SPDAT data showed:

- 13% identified “Difference in religious or cultural beliefs from your parents, guardians or caregivers”
- 10% identified “Conflicts around gender identity or sexual orientation”

These YYA-specific assessment question responses align more closely with rates of LGBTQIA+ identification reported by current YHDP projects, further reinforcing that data collected from YYA by older adult serving projects is likely not as accurate.

The lower numbers of Transgender and Gender Non-conforming YYA identified in the Ohio BoSCoC as a whole, may be due, in part, to YYA not feeling safe to disclose their identity to non-youth dedicated project staff and worry of being outed, or providers simply not asking questions about gender identity.

Over 530 anti-LGBTQIA+ bills have been introduced in state legislatures across the United States since the start of 2023. Eleven of those bills were introduced in Ohio. Compounding this difficulty, one participant noted that they work to support LGBTQIA+ youth in a community with an active chapter of two white nationalist organizations.⁴⁸ When legislation and the political landscape targets the LGBTQIA+ community, violence increases. When asked about navigating racial and LGBTQIA+ equity, an older adult ally shared “Some towns are ‘traditional type’ and ‘not accustomed to’” and another mentioned “geographical biases” that impact how the LGBTQIA+ community is treated.

In contrast to the negative efforts of state legislators, community partners want to make sure LGBTQIA+ and gender non-conforming YYA are supported and protected. During Region 9 interviews, the fear of violence towards Transgender YYA was mentioned seven times; one provider shared about a young person receiving services, “he’s afraid if somebody knows that he’s trans that he has to be afraid for his life.”

⁴⁸ Key informant interview, region anonymized.

Goal 6 Objectives and Action Steps

Table 9. Objectives and action steps, Equity

Objective	Actions	Special Populations	Responsible Entity	Guiding Principles	Timeline
Objective 1: Increase likelihood that landlords lease to YYA.	Action 1a: Providers explore how to institute housing navigation services to liaise between landlords and YYA.	LGBTQIA+, Gender non-conforming, BIPOC YYA, YYA with co-occurring diagnoses, Justice involved, Foster Care involved, Victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation, Minors	Providers	Individualized and client-driven supports, Youth Choice, Housing First, Coordinated Entry, Family Engagement, Equity	Years 2-3
Objective 2: Increase system transparency through assessments and data.	Action 2a: Create a data action plan that includes what data needs to be collected and from where to compare rates, experiences, outputs, and outcomes broken down by age, race, gender, and any other characteristics to improve system equity.	LGBTQIA+, Gender non-conforming, BIPOC YYA, YYA with co-occurring diagnoses, Justice involved, Foster Care involved, Victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation, Minors	COHHIO CoC/HMIS Teams	Housing First, Unsheltered Homelessness, Youth Choice, Coordinated Entry, Trauma Informed Care, Special Populations, Equity, Individualized & Client-Driven Supports	Year 1
	Action 2b: Assess providers and system partners on their cultural competency and capacity to support YYA, Black, Brown and	LGBTQIA+, Gender non-conforming, BIPOC YYA	COHHIO consultant, CoC Persons with Lived Experience committees, YAB, HMIS Teams, HUD TA	Housing First, Unsheltered Homelessness, Youth Choice, Coordinated Entry, Trauma Informed Care, Special Populations,	Years 1-2

Objective	Actions	Special Populations	Responsible Entity	Guiding Principles	Timeline
	LGBTQIA+ and gender non-conforming YYA. Using findings from assessment, institute changes to ensure system is equipped to serve diverse YYA populations.			Equity, Individualized & Client-Driven Supports	
	Action 2c: Analyze system-level HMIS performance data regularly to understand disparities.	LGBTQIA+, Gender non-conforming, BIPOC YYA, YYA with co-occurring diagnoses, Justice involved, Foster Care involved, Victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation, Minors	COHHIO CoC, HMIS leads	Housing First, Unsheltered Homelessness, Youth Choice, Coordinated Entry, Trauma Informed Care, Special Populations, Equity, Individualized & Client-Driven Supports	Ongoing

Goal 7 – Prevention

Goal: YYA identify and are connected with the supports they need to stay stably housed.

Need

As is true across many communities in the United States, there are a limited number of dedicated homelessness prevention projects in the Ohio BoSCoC targeted to at-risk YYA. Focus group participants and key informant interviews make clear that when providers can intervene before someone loses access to a friend or family's apartment or a couch that this can prevent at-risk YYA from ending up on the street, one of the hardest forms of homelessness to experience. While this doesn't mean we need to change the homeless definition eligibility (e.g., using Department of Education's definition over HUD's definition), it does illustrate the need for existing projects to revise their practices so they can better identify, enroll, and serve YYA. One focus group participant said if they had a magic wand, they would "have more prevention efforts, be

"Let's not put a band aid on the problem. Let's stop the problem from happening."
- Adult Ally

proactive instead of reactive, go upstream.”⁴⁹ Region 5 reported proactive prevention as one of the area’s top system needs.

YYA focus group participants reported the need for a better safety net, a way to support someone before they need shelter. One participant said that older adults and people in power “need to know how dangerous it is” to experience homelessness.⁵⁰ In fact, local data demonstrates that within the Ohio BoSCoC, non-parenting YYA most commonly report living on the streets before entering the homeless response system.⁵¹

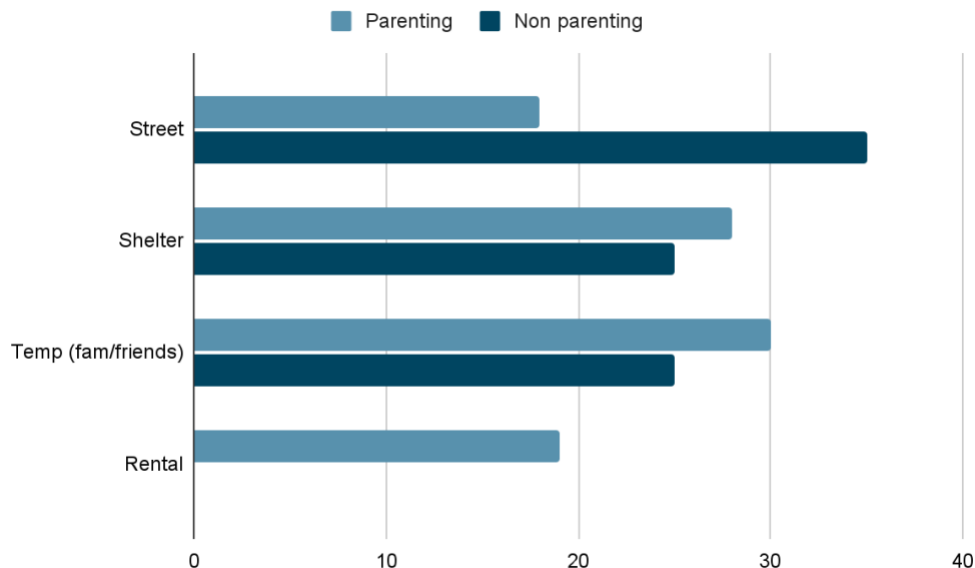


Figure 3. YYA Prior Living Situation (%) (HMIS, 2023)

Ohio BoSCoC HMIS data further shows that nearly half of non-parenting YYA leaving the homeless response system do not exit into permanent settings, potentially putting them at further risk for homelessness. In contrast, nearly 80% of parenting YYA exit to permanent destinations, a finding that may be due to families having better access to long term housing subsidies, a tool known to reduce the risk of future experiences of homelessness.⁵²

When looking at returns to homelessness for YYA, Ohio BoSCoC FY22 LSA data shows that non-parenting YYA have higher rates of returns to homelessness compared to older adults and their parenting YYA counterparts. For example, in FY22, 16% of non-parenting YYA returned to homelessness within six months of their exit, compared to a 13% return rate for all populations, and a 3% return rate for parenting youth. Looking at one year after exit, 11% of non-parenting YYA returned to the system, compared to a 13% return rate for all populations and a 4% return rate for parenting youth.

⁴⁹ Adult ally focus group participant.

⁵⁰ YYA focus group participant, Region 3.

⁵¹ HMIS 2023, 35% of non-parenting 18-24 year olds report prior living situations as “street.”

⁵² https://www.cbpp.org/research/housing/research-shows-rental-assistance-reduces-hardship-and-provides-platform-to-expand#_ftn2

Taken together, the data clearly shows the need for housing stability and prevention resources focused particularly on non-parenting youth.

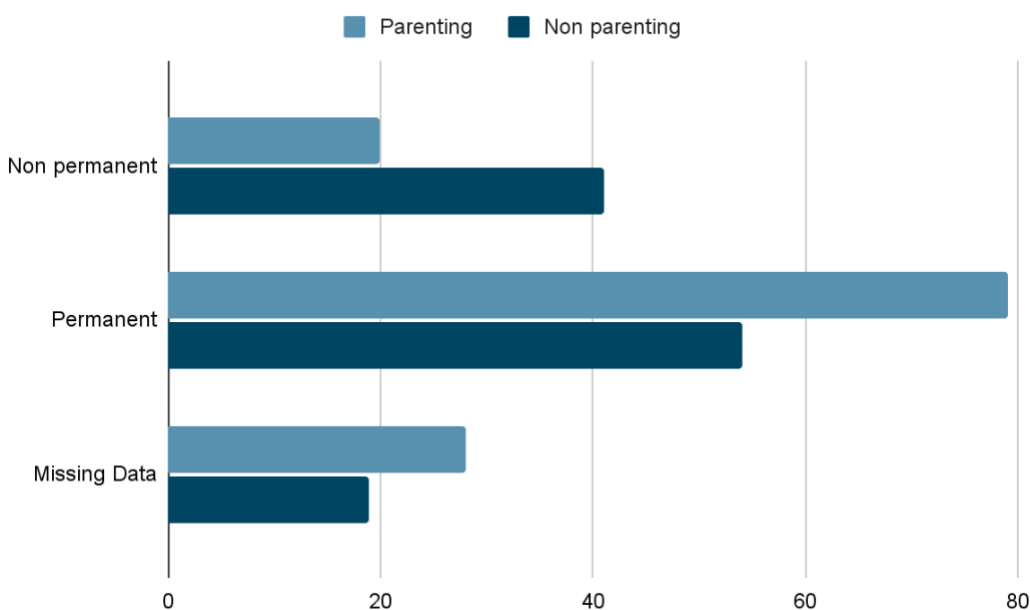


Figure 4. YJA Exit Destinations (%) (HMIS, 2023)

Nationally, Chapin Hall finds that common experiences of YJA homelessness can be linked to “early family instability and disruptions of home, including entrance into foster care and family homelessness.” And while we cannot make this connection with certainty, they also found that 35% of YJA experiencing homelessness had also experienced the death of at least one parent or primary caregiver.⁵³ Pairing this with what adults reported across the award site about the impact of loss by the opioid epidemic on YJA, it’s possible this may be true in the BoS.

We can use federal and state benefits participation as a proxy for the need for prevention services too. For example, Ohio produces a dashboard that reports on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) use at a county-level. The percentage of the population participating in SNAP varies by county from 2% participation in Holmes, 3% in Geauga, and 4% in Warren, to 21% in Adams, 24% in Scioto, and 25% in Pike. Taken together, Region 14 has the lowest SNAP participation rate at 7% and Region 3 has the highest SNAP participation rate at 21%. Regions 2, 5, 9, and 11 all have a rate between 10% and 11%. There are over 340,000 SNAP participants in the Ohio BoSCoC YHDP award site. Given the low-income limits to qualify for SNAPS benefits, it is reasonable to conclude that all these households could be considered at risk of experiencing homelessness.

⁵³ Samuels, G. M., Cerven, C., Curry, S., Robinson, S. R., & Patel, S. (2019). Missed opportunities in youth pathways through homelessness. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.

Goal 7 Objectives and Action Steps

Table 10. Objectives and action steps, Prevention

Objective	Actions	Special Populations	Responsible Entity	Guiding Principles	Timeline
Objective 1: Expand outreach and education efforts to reach YYA at risk of homelessness.	Action 1a: Direct YHDP funding to support new SSO projects that center outreach and navigation services.	LGBTQIA+, Gender non-conforming, BIPOC YYA, YYA with co-occurring diagnoses, Justice involved, Foster Care involved, Victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation, Minors	COHHIO	Family Engagement, Housing First, Unsheltered Homelessness, Youth Choice, Coordinated Entry, Trauma Informed Care, Special Populations, Equity, Positive Youth Development, Individualized & Client-Driven Supports, Social & Community Integration	Year 1
	Action 1b: Explore the creation of a hotline or other methods for YYA to find services.	LGBTQIA+, Gender non-conforming, BIPOC YYA, YYA with co-occurring diagnoses, Justice involved, Foster Care involved, Victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation, Minors	YAB, COHHIO, HUD TA	Individualized & Client-Driven Supports, Social & Community Integration, Youth Choice, Coordinated Entry	Year 2-3
	Action 1c: Make sure YYA leaving the system know	LGBTQIA+, Gender non-conforming,	YAB, Providers, HUD TA	Positive Youth Development, Individualized &	Ongoing

Objective	Actions	Special Populations	Responsible Entity	Guiding Principles	Timeline
	who to call if they are at risk of experiencing homelessness again.	BIPOC YYA, YYA with co-occurring diagnoses, Justice involved, Foster Care involved, Victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation, Minors		Client-Driven Supports, Equity, Youth Choice	
	Action 1d: Equip school personnel and students to talk to YYA about homelessness; equip them to know what questions to ask, when to ask, and where to refer students for assistance.	Minors	YAB, Department of Education McKinney Vento liaisons, COHHIO YHI	Family Engagement, Housing First, Unsheltered Homelessness, Youth Choice, Coordinated Entry, Trauma Informed Care, Special Populations, Equity, Positive Youth Development, Individualized & Client-Driven Supports, Social & Community Integration	Ongoing
	Action 1e: Advertise coordinated entry so that anyone who encounters YYA experiencing homelessness can try to help.	LGBTQIA+, Gender non-conforming, BIPOC YYA, YYA with co-occurring diagnoses, Justice involved, Foster Care	System Partners, YAB, COHHIO	Coordinated Entry, Social & Community Integration, Youth Choice	Ongoing

Objective	Actions	Special Populations	Responsible Entity	Guiding Principles	Timeline
		involved, Victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation, Minors			

PARTNER LIST

Ohio Balance of State Round 7 Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program Planning Team seeks to be inclusive and representative of the communities that will be served with new YHDP projects. While all the YHDP Guiding Principles were embodied and enacted through this process, the group's practice with these three should be noted:

- *Individualized & Client-Driven Supports* – The Planning Team ensured that team members were able to participate in meetings by selecting a time that worked well for the YAB, and an accessible online platform reduced barriers to participation. Meetings were recorded and made available to team members for review.
- *Positive Youth Development* – YYA led the determination of system pathways during system modeling that older adult partners then supported and added onto. YYA also practiced leading consensus decision-making and developed this as a standard method of responding within all meetings to help express points of support or dissent. This allowed the whole Planning Team to take the time needed to make decisions effectively and equitably.
- *Social & Community Integration* – YYA determined how they would best be able to make an impact in group discussions and opted to ensure youth were embedded within all small groups rather than operating as a separate group during team meetings where breakout groups were held. This allowed YYA an opportunity to lead and share their perspectives and for older adult partners to practice authentic youth collaboration.

To guide the work for this award, the following partner roles were identified and filled.

Table 11. Partner List

Partner Type	Representative or Organization	Involvement
Youth Action Board	Region 2 Yazmin Brock Troynah Darby Viola Darden Brianna Dykes Iyesis Johnson Georgia Jordan Rhiannon Stevens Shyanne Wolfe	Learn and lead the way to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft and approve YHDP application • Participate in interviews, focus groups to develop need statements • Identify existing system resources and pathways • Identify gaps in youth homelessness system • Design new system pathways • Support older adult partners in decision-making • Design new projects • Review and approve CCP • Support project selection, implementation, and CQI
	Region 3 Paiton Blevins Jasmine Johnson	
	Region 5 Rose Siciliano	

Partner Type	Representative or Organization	Involvement
	Region 9 Amanda Moody Cierra Persinger Tracey Smith Judah Stewart Terry Stobart Region 14 Tristen Navarro	
Public Child Welfare Agency	Ohio Department of Children and Youth: Sarah Shooter Alicia Masters	CCP Signatory Collaborate with YAB on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs assessment System modeling Action plan development
Continuum of Care	Ohio Balance of State Continuum of Care: Erica Mulryan, Erin Hachtel, Hannah Basting	CCP Signatory Collaborate with YAB on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder recruitment Project management Needs assessment System modeling Action plan development New project development YAB compensation and support
CoC Program Recipients	Region 2 – Great Lakes Community Action Partnership: Ragan Claypool, Jamie Brubaker Region 5 – Family & Community Services: Andrea Pollock, Jenn Matlack Region 9 – LCCH: Deb Tegtmeier Region 14 – Serve City: Tammi Ector, Dustin Bowman; Warren MHA: Tara Ramsey	Collaborate with YAB on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder recruitment Needs assessment System modeling Action plan development Recruitment of new YAB members New project development
ESG Program Recipients	Ohio Department of Development: Julie Jarrell, Ashley Germano Region 9 – Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action Agency: Randall Hunt, Amy Eldridge, Brooke Lowe, Melanie Swonger, Chick Anderson,	Collaborate with YAB on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs assessment System modeling Action plan development Recruitment of new YAB members New project development
Local and State Government	Ohio Department of Development: Julie Jarrell, Ashley Germano	Collaborate with YAB on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs assessment System modeling

Partner Type	Representative or Organization	Involvement
	Region 5 – Ashtabula County: Jake Brand, Sarah Jammal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action plan development New project development
Tribal Government	n/a Ohio does not have any federally recognized tribal governments	
Tribally Designated Housing Entities	n/a Ohio does not have any federally recognized tribal governments	
Runaway and Homeless Youth Program Providers	Region 5 – Family & Community Services: Andrea Pollock, Jenn Matlack, Jennifer McCloskey, Melissa Marzec, Amanda Trego, Emily Werger, Anne Face	Collaborate with YAB on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs assessment System modeling Action plan development New project development
Health, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Agencies	Region 3 – Shawnee Family Health Center: Cynthia Holstein, Corissa Boggs Region 5 – Children’s Advantage: Monica Ochoa Region 9 – The Freedom Center: Afet Kilinc; Zanesville-Muskingham County Health Department: Brandon Francis Region 9 – Nationwide Children’s Hospital: Miriam Ali, David Ciccone	Collaborate with YAB on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs assessment System modeling Action plan development New project development
Juvenile and Adult Corrections and Probation	Region 3 – Scioto Juvenile Court: Jeff Swords Region 5 – Portage Juvenile Court: Scott Wayt Region 9 – Licking County Juvenile Court: Anthony Wedemeyer	Collaborate with YAB on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs assessment System modeling
Local and State Law Enforcement Agencies	Region 9 – Licking Co Probate-Juvenile Court: Mattie Klein	Collaborate with YAB on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs assessment System modeling
HIV Serving Organizations	Region 9 – Family Health Services of East Central OH: Ashley Washburn	Collaborate with YAB on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs assessment System modeling
Public Housing Authorities	Region 3 – Portsmouth Metropolitan Housing Authority: Peggy Rice Region 5 – Geauga Metropolitan Housing Authority: Dawn Ferrell	Collaborate with YAB on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs assessment System modeling Action plan development New project development

Partner Type	Representative or Organization	Involvement
	Region 14 - Warren MHA: Tara Ramsey	
Affordable Housing Providers	Region 3 – Compass Point Housing: Craig Gullion Region 9 – Licking County Coalition for Housing: Deb Tegtmeier, Trina Woods	Collaborate with YAB on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs assessment System modeling Action plan development New project development
Early Childhood Development and Childcare Providers	Region 2 – Great Lakes Community Action Partnership Head Start Region 9 – Lancaster-Fairfield CAA Head Start; Licking County Children and Families First Council: Sylvia Friel	Collaborate with YAB on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs assessment System modeling
Local and State Educational Agencies	Ohio Department of Children and Youth: Sarah Shooter, Alicia Masters Region 5 – Ashtabula County Technical and Career Center: Shaelynn Ballard; Kent City Schools: Louise Feciuch Region 9 – Muskingham Valley Educational Service Center: Tonya Steele Region 11 – Marion City Schools McKinney-Vento Coordinator: Amy Vanderhoff Region 14 – Butler County Educational Service Center: Beth Race, Linda Smith, Cari Wynne	Collaborate with YAB on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs assessment System modeling Action plan development New project development
Institutions of Higher Education	Region 3 – Southern State Community College Region 9 – The Ohio State University: Newark: Jamie White	Collaborate with YAB on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs assessment System modeling Donated meeting space for system modeling Donated meeting space for YAB meetings
Non-Profit Youth Organizations	Region 11 – Marion Goodwill: Beth Mathias Region 5 – F&CS: Melissa Marzec Region 9 – National Youth Advocate Program: Joei McArtor; Fostering Further: Yvonne Williams	Collaborate with YAB on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs assessment System modeling

Partner Type	Representative or Organization	Involvement
Landlords		
Privately Funded Homeless Organizations	<p>Region 5 – Catholic Charities Ashtabula County: Alice Harden</p> <p>Region 9 – St. Vincent Haven: Natalie Freeman; Winter Sanctuary: Tim Ellis</p>	<p>Collaborate with YAB on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs assessment System modeling
Local Advocacy, Research, and Philanthropic Organizations	<p>Region 3 – Scioto Foundation: Kim Cutlip</p> <p>Region 5 – The Salvation Army, Lake County: Major Alma Riley; United Way of Portage County: Maureen Gebhardt</p> <p>Region 9 – United Way of Licking County: Deb Dingus, Sharon Pratt</p> <p>COHHIO Youth Housing Initiative: Amanda Wilson, Ami Diallo, and Evelyn Garon</p>	<p>Collaborate with YAB on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs assessment System modeling (COHHIO only): YAB compensation and meeting support beyond that provided by YHDP Planning Grant
Community Development Corporations	Region 3 – City of Portsmouth, Community Development: Tracy Shearer	<p>Collaborate with YAB on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs assessment System modeling
WIOA Boards and Employment Agencies	<p>Region 2 – Great Lakes Community Action Partnership: Christina Keller, Kandice Carmona, Tina Smith, Sonya M Adcock, Ragan Claypool, Susan Wren, Niki Brough, Shawna Hartman; Wood County Job and Family Services/ OhioMeansJobs Wood County: Shannon Fisher and Katie Almendinger</p> <p>Region 3 – CAO Scioto County: Luanne Valentine, Joseph Pratt</p> <p>Region 5 – Ohio Guidestone: Kimberly Brown; CCMEP OhioMeansJobs Portage County: Carly Spencer</p> <p>Region 9 – Kno-Ho-Co-Ashland CAC: Lindsey Stillion; Knox County JFS: Scott Boone</p>	<p>Collaborate with YAB on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs assessment System modeling
Organizations that serve culturally specific communities	Region 11 – Marion Area LGBTQ+ Coalition: Shannon Pegg	<p>Collaborate with YAB on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs assessment

Additional support for this work comes from the following entities:

- Technical Assistance Providers – contributed expertise from various disciplines in support of CCP development and ongoing capacity building
- Contracted Consultants – supported the development of the CCP by seeking and taking direction from the Youth Action Board; conducted the Needs Assessment including meeting with key stakeholders; cataloged existing resources; and helped regions and the BoSCoC award area to identify gaps in programs and services.



Figure 5. Region 9 system modeling discussion, January 2024



Figure 6. Regions 2 and 11 system modeling discussion, January 2024

NEW YHDP PROJECTS LIST

The Ohio BoSCoC was awarded \$5,196,300. The allowable 3% amount of \$155,889 was spent on Planning Activities leaving \$5,040,411 for new projects over two years. The two projects prioritized by the Ohio BoSCoC YAB and agreed upon by the Planning Team were the joint component Transitional Housing – Rapid Rehousing (PH:TH-RRH) and Supportive Services Only (SSO) to support outreach and navigation. A project budget template is provided in the Appendix, page 75.

The following table describes each project.

Table 12. New YHDP Projects

Description	PH: TH-RRH Transitional Housing Rapid Re-Housing Joint Component	SSO Crisis Response Outreach and Housing Navigation Support
Project Description	<p>This project prioritizes a quick transition out of homelessness and into short term and/or permanent housing by providing up to 36 months (with a special YHDP activity) of housing and supportive services in the RRH component and up to 24 months in the TH component. This project serves YYA single and family households experiencing category 1,2, and 4 of the HUD homelessness definition including unaccompanied youth under age 18 and ages 18-24.</p> <p>The CoC anticipates funding several, high quality/high impact, TH-RRH programs through a youth-led request for proposal process. Project designs will vary by region to meet the local needs. Projects will follow the YHDP principles and other key principles described here.</p> <p>The TH component will operate as a crisis short-term housing option (site-based or scattered-site, including use of hotel/motel if necessary and appropriate using a special activity) creating or</p>	<p>This project provides mobile wraparound crisis response designed to quickly resolve issues that are currently or will soon result in homelessness. Outreach and housing navigators will coordinate with CE access points to connect YYA to housing-focused support, with a focus on YYA fleeing dangerous situations and/or YYA experiencing unsheltered homelessness.</p> <p>This project serves YYA single and family households experiencing category 1,2, and 4 of the HUD homelessness definition including unaccompanied youth under age 18 and ages 18-24.</p> <p>Supportive services will help YYA that want and need it to locate and move into permanent housing and provide transportation.</p> <p>Services to be available include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual assessment • Case management • Childcare • Moving costs

Description	PH: TH-RRH Transitional Housing Rapid Re-Housing Joint Component	SSO Crisis Response Outreach and Housing Navigation Support
	<p>leveraging at least 50 TH units with an average length of stay of 1-3 months most commonly, filling an emergency housing gap.</p> <p>Additionally, YYA that want and need medium-term TH may access the TH for 6-24 months (system projections indicate this to be less common but sometimes needed).</p> <p>RRH will create or leverage at least 50 units. TH-RRH will offer housing either with the YYA as the leaseholder or with the agency as the lease holder in a master lease. TH-RRH can be project-based or scattered site and can offer shared housing options for YYA that want and need it.</p> <p>TH-RRH supportive services will be high quality/high impact and housing focused. Supportive services will help YYA that want and need it to locate and move into permanent housing and provide transportation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case management • Education services • Job training • Food • Housing search & counseling services • Legal services • Life skills • Mental health services • Outpatient • Outreach services • Substance abuse prevention services • Transportation • Utility Deposits
Project Type/Subtype	Permanent Housing (PH: TH-RRH)	Supportive Services Only (SSO) Navigation and Outreach
Special Activities See Special Activities, page 75 for Detail	Match Exemption Short-term hotel/motel Up to 36 months of Rental Assistance Up to 24 months of aftercare	Match Exemption Security Deposits Up to 12 months of aftercare
Target Number of YYA Served	50	60
Homeless Category Served	1, 2, 4 – single or family	1, 2, 4 – single or family
Target Populations Served	BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, Gender non-conforming, justice-involved, foster-care involved, pregnant/parenting YYA, victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation, youth	BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, Gender non-conforming, justice-involved, foster-care involved, pregnant/parenting YYA, victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation, youth

Description	PH: TH-RRH Transitional Housing Rapid Re-Housing Joint Component	SSO Crisis Response Outreach and Housing Navigation Support
	with co-occurring disorders, unaccompanied youth under age 18 and ages 18-24	with co-occurring disorders, unaccompanied youth under age 18 and ages 18-24
Staffing, number of FTEs	3.5	3
Staff/client ratio	Case Management Staff Site based TH – 1:15 Scattered site TH – 1:12 RRH – 1:15-20	Navigation/outreach workers 1:25
Supportive Services Staff/Project Salaries	\$199,500	\$171,000
Minimum Total # of Units	50	-
Estimated Length of Stay	TH Component <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Average length of stay is Short-term (<3 months) TH Hotel/motel average length of stay is 30 days. In some cases, YYA will need medium-term (up to 24 months) RRH Component <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Average length of stay is 12 months with the option for extended rental assistance up to 36 months 	Short-term (<3 months)
Estimated Total Funding per year	\$2,113,717.00	\$406,488.50
% of YHDP Funding (less planning)	83%	17%
Planning Grant % of YHDP Funding	\$155,889 3%	
Administration	\$192,156.09	\$36,953.50
Operating	\$82,000.91	-
Rental Assistance	\$1,080,000.00	-
TH Leasing (site based and hotel/motel)	\$394,260.00	-
Supportive Services (staff and services)	\$363,250.00	\$367,500.00
HMIS	\$2,050.00	\$2,035.00
Acquisition/Rehab/Construction	\$0	\$0

Description	PH: TH-RRH Transitional Housing Rapid Re-Housing Joint Component	SSO Crisis Response Outreach and Housing Navigation Support
Guiding Principles	Equity, Positive Youth Development, Trauma Informed Care, Family Engagement, Unsheltered homelessness, individualized and client-driven support, Youth Choice, Housing First, Social and Community Integration, Coordinated Entry, Educational Partnerships	Equity, Positive Youth Development, Trauma Informed Care, Family Engagement, Unsheltered homelessness, individualized and client-driven support, Youth Choice, Housing First, Social and Community Integration, Coordinated Entry, Educational Partnerships
Supportive Services	Annual assessment Case management Childcare Moving costs Case management Education services Job training Food Housing search & counseling services Legal services Life skills Mental health services Outpatient Outreach services Substance abuse prevention services Transportation Utility Deposits	Annual assessment Case management Childcare Moving costs Case management Education services Job training Food Housing search & counseling services Legal services Life skills Mental health services Outpatient Outreach services Substance abuse prevention services Transportation Utility Deposits

GOVERNANCE AND CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

YHDP Planning Governance

To complete our CCP planning process we had a decision-making Planning Team, led by YYA and composed of cross-sector key stakeholders from the award area and staff from the Balance of State Continuum of Care and the COHHIO Youth Housing Initiative. The Planning Team was supported in this work by Technical Assistance providers and a contracted consulting team. The work of the Planning Team began with the award announcement and continued through project selection.

Throughout the CCP development, the Youth Action Board was equipped to lead decision making. YAB members participated in training from True Colors United and in HUD Round 7 Community Calls. YAB members identified system resources and gaps in the award area, developed their preferred system pathways, and designed two projects to be funded with the award. These elements were presented to older adult partners in Planning Team and other community meetings as the foundations of the CCP; older adult partners then had the opportunity to add to the work of the YAB. The result is a plan to address youth and young adult homelessness that is authentically youth-led.

During meetings, the YAB and the Planning Team used a Consensus Decision Making process.⁵⁴ In this practice, team participants committed to arrive at decisions through discussion and shared agreement rather than by majority vote.

In addition to the YHDP Guiding Principles, the following values and practices guided discussion and decision making:

- Inclusiveness – To the extent possible, all necessary interests are represented or, at a minimum, approve of the decision. Youth and young adults will be present and their lived experience will be centered by stakeholders. Inclusion is everyone’s responsibility.
- Accountability – Participants usually represent stakeholder groups or interests. They are accountable both to their constituents and to the process.
- Facilitation – An impartial facilitator accountable to all participants manages the process, ensures the ground rules are followed, and helps to maintain a productive climate for communication and problem solving.
- Flexibility – Participants design a process and address the issues in a manner they determine most suitable to the situation.
- Shared Control/Ground Rules – Participants share with the facilitator responsibility for setting and maintaining the ground rules for a process and for creating outcomes.
- Commitment to Implementation – All stakeholders commit to carrying out their agreement.

During meetings where decisions were made, including determining the project types and the funding allocation for each, the Planning Team, led by the YAB, used the following numbers to inform our Levels of Consensus:

⁵⁴ Adapted from <http://www.csh.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/38-National-Partner-Recommendation-Consensus-Decision-Making-Process-incl-Modified-Consensus.pdf>

1. I give an unqualified "yes"!
2. I accept the decision.
3. I can live with the decision.
4. I do not fully agree with the decision, however, I will not block it and will support it.
5. I do not agree with this decision, I am blocking it, and I am offering an alternative for discussion and consideration.

No decisions were made without YAB members present and involved. As described in the YYA Recruitment, Integration and Compensation section, YYA met during regularly scheduled Monday YAB meetings and participated in YHDP Planning Team meetings, system modeling sessions, and other YHDP discussions to the extent that they had capacity and interest to do so. This prepared them for full participation in Planning Team discussions.

Project Design

The YAB held an in-person retreat in January 2024 to participate in training from technical assistance providers and use that learning to inform and design system pathways. Ten members from four planning regions within the award area attended. In this way, **the YAB led the process** to determine pathways that were then used in a series of system modeling events. In those meetings, YAB members used the pathways they created and worked alongside older adult system partners and stakeholders to identify projects that would best address these youth-identified needs.

From award notification through project design, regularly scheduled YAB meetings were either partially or completely comprised of YHDP training and discussion. Three additional project-specific meetings were scheduled in February 2024 in which YYA determined the parameters of two project types: Permanent Housing (Joint Component TH-RRH) and Supportive Services with Navigation and Outreach (SSO). Each project design meeting started with a thorough description of its intent, and YYA affirmatively assented to actively participate in the design session.

YAB-designed projects were then presented to the YHDP Planning Team for review and recommendation to include in the CCP. Older adult partners in these sessions were able to ask clarifying questions and offer additional suggestions but not overturn or negate YAB project design.



Figure 7. YAB members designing system pathways, January 2024

IMPLEMENTATION AND GOVERNANCE

Project Selection

Ohio BoSCoC will form a Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program Round 7 Project Selection Workgroup to solicit, evaluate, and recommend project proposals that will fulfill the objectives, goals, and actions of the CCP. This workgroup will serve as a short-term team from April – July 2024 that will prepare a Request for Proposal package including letter of interest, application, timeline, and selection evaluation criteria to ultimately recommend projects to allocate YHDP Round 7 funding.

To ensure a manageable size and effective experience, this workgroup will be composed of no more than 10 members, including four YAB members, four system representatives, and two COHHIO staff. Technical assistance from HUD will also be available.

Ohio BoSCoC established its RFP-project selection practices based on previous YHDP experience and that guidance of YYA. Project selection and evaluation criteria will be based on the YAB-led vision for the CCP and project design and determined using the consensus decision making model discussed throughout this plan. YAB members on the workgroup will be equipped to lead decision making in project selection through supportive training from HUD TA and the Ohio BoSCoC.

Consistent with BoSCoC governance policies and procedures, anyone, including current YAB members, YHDP Planning Team members, and CoC Board/Committee/ Workgroup members, interested in seeking membership on this project workgroup must submit an application for membership. Persons applying for this workgroup membership must be located within the state of Ohio; membership preference will be given to people residing/working in a county within the YHDP award area. Geographic diversity of applicants will be considered to ensure that different areas of the state have representation on this workgroup. The Ohio BoSCoC Steering Committee will review submitted applications and will develop a slate of candidates for consideration by the BoSCoC Board. Upon approval by the Board, applicants will be notified of member decisions by the CoC. Coc Staff are available to assist with membership applications to minimize barriers to participation for YAB members.

YAB representatives must have demonstrated active participation for at least three months in the Balance of State Youth Action Board and/or Round 7 YHDP planning discussion meetings.

System representatives may be selected from:

- Ohio Department of Development, the collaborative applicant
- Child welfare agencies, those who work with YYA aging out/aged out of foster care
- Juvenile justice agencies, those who work with YYA who may be exiting justice institutions or programs
- Education (including early childhood, K-12, higher education)
- People who work in organizations that primarily serve Black, Indigenous, and Persons of Color (BIPOC), persons with disabilities, and LGBTQIA+ and gender non-conforming populations

- Members who are representative of those served in the youth homeless response system, particularly those who identify as BIPOC, LGBTQIA+ and gender non-conforming, and persons with disabilities

To avoid any conflict of interest, staff or leadership volunteers of provider organizations who intend to apply for YHDP Round 7 funding in the BoS are excluded from consideration.

Workgroup members who have lived experience of homelessness and/or are transition-age youth (18-24 years old) whose time cannot be compensated by their employer, may be compensated for their time spent participating in workgroup meetings. Compensation is provided via a stipend that is paid quarterly.

To help make participation easier, this workgroup is not planning to meet in person; instead, we will meet via Zoom. Additionally, standing meeting dates/times may be adjusted to accommodate schedules if needed. Technical support is available on request to ensure equitable access to equipment or connection. If the group determines an in-person meeting is required, support (childcare, transportation, other) will be provided upon request and as needed.

Project Implementation

Ohio BoSCoC will form a Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program Round 7 Project Implementation Workgroup to ensure a plan is in place to fulfill the youth-led objectives, goals, and actions of the CCP. This workgroup will serve as an intermediate team to bridge the work from project selection into CQI that will commence upon project selection. YAB members on the workgroup will be equipped to lead decision making in project implementation through supportive training from HUD TA and the Ohio BoSCoC.

Anyone, including current YAB members, YHDP Planning Team members, and CoC Board/Committee/Workgroup members, interested in seeking membership on this project workgroup must submit an application for membership. Persons applying for this workgroup membership must be located within the state of Ohio; membership preference will be given to people residing/working in a county within the YHDP award area. Geographic diversity of applicants will be considered to ensure that different areas of the state have representation on this workgroup. Similarly, gender and racial diversity of applicants will also be considered to ensure that there are representative perspectives in the workgroup. The Ohio BoSCoC Steering Committee will review submitted applications and will develop a slate of candidates for consideration by the BoSCoC Board. Upon approval by the Board, applicants will be notified of member decisions by the CoC. Technical assistance from HUD will also be available.

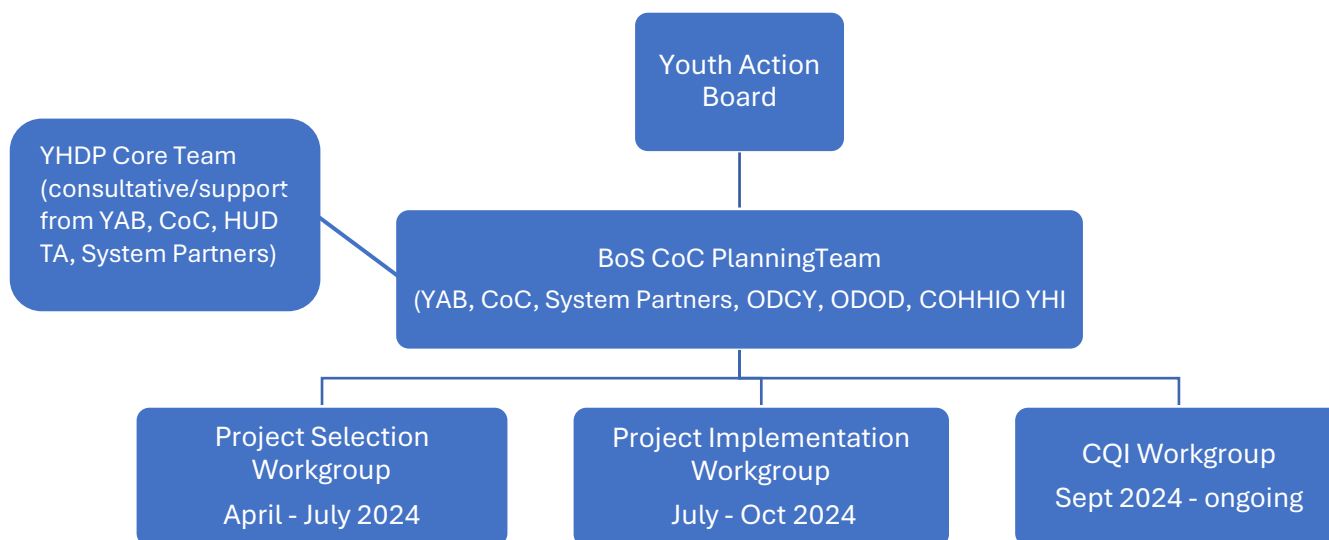


Figure 8. Organizational chart for YHDP Round 7 governance

Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI)

We will partner across systems and with the YAB to ensure the YYA system operates in alignment with YHDP principles and is responsive to the Objectives and Action Steps included in this plan. As part of our CQI process, we will create a workgroup with cross-system representatives from all six regions and the YAB. This workgroup will develop a comprehensive plan to monitor and evaluate new YHDP projects, implement effective strategies that help the system improve over time, and continuously learn about field best practices on solutions to preventing and ending youth homelessness. The CQI Workgroup will create spaces for YHDP partners (especially new project providers) to convene to learn from each other and make improvements to their projects through the demonstration period and beyond.

Our CQI Workgroup will:

- Use our CCP goals, objectives, and actions to set metrics of success at both the project level and system level
- Collaborate with COHHIO, HMIS leads and CoC Racial Equity Committee on all actions within Goal 6, Objective 2.
- Iterate on best practices for YAB collaboration and inclusion in CQI at the CoC level (Goal 5, Objective 1, Action 1a)
- Help providers and COHHIO to develop mechanisms for incorporating YYA feedback and perspectives on project level programming (Goal 5, Objective 1, Action 1b)
- Refine policies and standards within the CoC related to the YYA response system (Goal 5, Objective 1, Action 1c)
- Provide an annual update to COHHIO and the future YHDP governing bodies about progress towards commitments in the CC
- Annually review system-level performance data (Goal 6, Objective 2, Action 2c) such as:
 - Number of youth assisted with homeless prevention and outcomes for those youth disaggregated by race
 - Number of homeless youth identified (sheltered vs. unsheltered)

- Length of time homeless
- Length of stay in YYA programs
- Permanent housing exits (as compared to all exits)
- Rates of returns to homelessness

Like with other workgroups in the CoC, members who have lived experience of homelessness and/or are transition-age youth (18-24 years old) whose time cannot be compensated by their employer, may be compensated for their time spent participating in workgroup meetings. Compensation is provided via a stipend that is paid quarterly.

To help make participation easier, this workgroup is not planning to meet in person; instead, we will meet via Zoom. Additionally, standing meeting dates/times may be adjusted to accommodate schedules if needed. Technical support is available on request to ensure equitable access to equipment or connection. If the group determines an in-person meeting is required, support (childcare, transportation, other) will be provided upon request and as needed.

YYA RECRUITMENT, INTEGRATION, AND COMPENSATION

Building on lessons learned through previous awards and the Round 7 experience, the Ohio BoSCoC continues to engage YYA in system planning and coordination that is most responsive to the needs of those it serves through youth-led recruitment, integration and compensation, and transition processes.



Figure 9. Youth Action Board Facebook page cover

YAB Recruitment

The Ohio BoSCoC enacts the principles of Youth Choice, Equity, Positive Youth Development, Individualized & Client-Driven Supports, and Social & Community Integration by establishing and

supporting the Youth Action Board. To be eligible to join the Ohio BoSCoC YAB, prospective members must meet all of the following:

- YAB members must be between 18 and 24 years old. YAB members who turn 25 during their YAB membership may be able to transition onto other workgroups such as the Lived Experience Advisory Board or serve in a mentoring role.
- Two thirds of YAB members must either be currently experiencing homelessness or have previously experienced homelessness or housing instability. Prospective new membership is evaluated, in part, on how a past or current experience of homelessness helps achieve this threshold.
- YAB members must currently reside in a geography located within the Ohio BoSCoC.

CoC policies and practices support a long-term strategy for recruitment from those that are represented in the system of care, including BIPOC YYA, LGBTQIA+ YYA, gender non-conforming YYA, pregnant and parenting YYA, youth aging out of foster care, youth exiting institutions, students at local colleges and universities including HBCUs, survivors of violence and/or trafficking, and participants in youth-serving housing programs. The annual recruitment for young people with lived experience of homelessness includes outreach to culturally specific organizations through email and website postings. Membership in the YAB is capped at 20 people. The YAB's plan to build on this foundation and include members who come from varied geographic areas within the BoSCoC, and who have diverse backgrounds, experiences, and identities will use the following tactics:

- Reach out to YYA through system partners like Job and Family Services and provider organizations that work with YYA exiting foster care or other institutions (juvenile justice) – e.g. Bridges, Youth Navigator Network
- Involve YYA who are residents in PSH – e.g. Hisle Park in Region 3
- Connect with YYA through offices of student services at community college and four-year institutions, including Ohio's two HBCUs Wilberforce University and Central State University
- Use social media platforms like Facebook to promote opportunities to join and to share the activities of the YAB
- Send information to and develop more collaborative relationships with culturally-specific serving orgs to engage potential YAB members
- Develop a YAB speakers bureau that can do virtual and in person presentations about the YAB and how to get involved
- Create safe spaces for people who identify as LGBTQIA+ or gender non-conforming
- Ensure onboarding process is inclusive, welcoming, barrier-free
- Continue to offer online forms (application, financial paperwork)
- Train provider organizations on authentic youth collaboration and trauma informed practices so that there can be pathways to develop and support regional YABs
- Revisit CoC YAB policy and procedures annually through youth-led process

During the needs assessment process, listening sessions with YYA surfaced several areas to be aware of when it comes to youth experiences of the homeless response system. Folks in several regions

mentioned the need to protect trans YYA in particular, given Ohio’s political climate and active anti-trans legislators. To plan for successful recruitment and engagement of YYA in our regions, some additional local considerations include:

Region 2 (Ottawa, Wood, Sandusky, Seneca, Erie, Huron, Richland counties)

- Ensure transportation supports are available for in person meetings
- Connect with community colleges (Terra, Owens) to host listening sessions or outreach events

Region 3 (Pike, Adams, Brown, Scioto, Lawrence counties)

- Meet people where they are: e.g., host meetings at Hisle Park, a PSH community for YYA
- Create safe(r) spaces for people who identify as LGBTQIA+ or gender non-conforming

Region 5 (Lake, Ashtabula, Geauga, Portage, Trumbull counties)

- Create safe(r) spaces for people who identify as LGBTQIA+ or gender non-conforming, especially trans YYA
- Reach out to Kent State University and regional campuses to connect with YYA

Region 9 (Knox, Licking Holmes, Coshocton, Muskingum, Fairfield counties)

- Recognize and seek to mitigate the trauma identified by YYA from their interactions with faith-based organizations/churches
- Reach out to Ohio State University and Ohio University regional campuses to connect with YYA
- Consider additional special populations – i.e. Amish YYA who may be harder to engage in services

Region 11 (Putnam, Hancock, Hardin, Wyandot, Marion, Crawford counties)

- Leverage the gift of being “small” and build bridges through familiar contacts
- Host peer-led listening sessions for YYA about their needs

Region 14 (Butler, Clermont, Warren counties)

- Be attuned to the disparities that are surfacing for Black and multiracial YYA

The YAB will meet to continue to develop these ideas

YYA Integration

The Ohio BoSCoC has a Governance Charter⁵⁵ that outlines how the CoC operates and is governed, including policies and procedures that guide its support of a Youth Action Board. In this formal workgroup of the CoC, young adults with lived experience of homelessness can inform all aspects of the CoC’s work. The BoSCoC YAB has been an official workgroup since early 2022.

YAB members are able to serve as CoC Board members or to serve on any other CoC committee or workgroup they are interested in. Currently the YAB is charged with advising the CoC on all issues

⁵⁵ <https://cohhio.org/boscoc/gov-pol/>

related to youth homelessness. To that end, the YAB may make recommendations to the CoC on any relevant policy, funding, system planning, or other issue and the CoC considers the recommendation at the next Board meeting. To ensure that YAB recommendations are incorporated into all CoC-level policy decisions, the CoC's Governance Charter specifies that business items needing CoC Board approval first go in front of the YAB. YAB recommendations are then presented to the CoC Board for consideration at the next meeting. A recent example of decision-making influence is that a YAB representative serving on COHHIO's Coordinated Entry Equity Initiative Core Team has contributed guidance on engaging and compensating lived experience and provider system participants for their analysis and feedback on the BoSCoC's common assessment tool. This member has also helped to draft a new common assessment tool that seeks to reduce racial disparities in exits from homelessness to permanent housing in the CoC.

Ohio BoSCoC staff have developed an onboarding training for YAB members that provides foundational information about the CoC concept, key CoC policies, CoC project models, and best practices in homeless services provision. CoC staff have also developed reference documents that can be used by YAB members ongoing, including the CoC's Homeless Assistance Project Types Matrix. This matrix provides information about the different types of projects that are funded by key federal and state resources, highlighting programmatic differences, and opportunities and challenges. This training content and supplementary materials may be referenced again at future times as part of more specific meeting preparation or debrief.

During prior years CoC Competitions, YAB members have provided input on the measures the CoC uses to evaluate the performance and quality of projects seeking to renew CoC Program funding, including recommending evaluating projects on their use of Housing First practices. Similarly, YAB members engaged with the CoC to identify project selection criteria and a review tool for use in reviewing and recommending project proposals for funding through HUD's Supplemental NOFO in 2022. YAB members also directly participated in project review, scoring, and selection for including in the CoC's SNOFO application package.

In September 2023, the YAB determined a regularly occurring member meeting schedule (every other Monday afternoon). The YAB uses the Zoom platform to hold its regular member meetings; this ensures that members across our 80-county footprint are able to participate. YAB group agreements allow for members to engage on or off camera as needed.

Additional information about YYA integration and leadership of project design, selection, and implementation is provided in the Implementation and Governance section of this plan, beginning on page 65.

YAB Compensation and Sustainability

As noted in the Ohio BoSCoC Governance Charter, members of the YAB may be compensated for their time engaging in CoC work, including YHDP CCP development, project selection, and YHDP implementation at a rate of \$50/hour. YYA are compensated at a rate of \$50/hour whether they participate in person or online. Any YAB member who is employed by an organization that is able to pay them for their

time to engage in CoC work (e.g., a homeless services provider organization) is not eligible for this compensation. Payment is made directly to the participant either by payment app (Venmo or Cash App) or a check.

To be eligible for compensation, YAB members must provide the following:

- Completed Membership Application
- Completed YAB Participation Agreement
- Completed W-9

To facilitate completion of these documents, COHHIO makes them available online to fill in and sign. Prospective YAB members are expected to complete both the Membership Application and Member Agreement before attending meetings, and the CoC staff are tasked with follow up communication to assist with any questions, concerns, or to provide direct support in completing the forms. The required forms are designed to collect the minimum information needed. The forms are not intended to be a barrier to joining YAB and receiving compensation.

YAB work on YHDP project planning and selection is paid from the YHDP Round 7 Planning Grant until those funds are exhausted. YYA (non-YAB members) who were invited to participate in regional listening sessions, focus groups and/or system modeling were compensated at the BoS rate by local providers who then received reimbursement from the CoC.

Given the geographic scope of the award area, the CoC reduces barriers to participation by offering a virtual meeting platform. When meeting onsite, transportation needs are supported through the provision of gas cards to those who can drive themselves; connection to partner agencies for rides to/from meetings or events; and/or paid rideshare services. This is paid through the YHDP Planning Grant.

Ongoing work on YHDP implementation and CQI work will become part of the regular YAB work for some members; this work is budgeted in and will be compensated from the annual CoC Planning Grant. For items that are ineligible expenses, e.g. food at meetings, the COHHIO general fund budget can cover those costs.

Table 13. Estimated YAB support budget for 2024

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
YHDP Planning Grant				
YAB meetings - 1 hour	\$4,200.00	\$4,200.00		
Round 7 YHDP mtgs - 1.5 hour, up to 5 per month	\$11,250.00	\$11,250.00	\$5,400.00	\$5,400.00
Work Groups (RFP, Project Select, CQI)		\$1,600.00	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00
Onsite meetings (Jan 2 day, Mar 1 day)	\$13,000.00			
Onsite meeting, supplies	\$100.00			
Onsite meeting, room reservation				
YYA Hotel for onsite meeting	\$1,200.00			
Staff Support/Mileage	\$600.00			
Transportation	\$800.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Childcare	\$200.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
CoC Funds				
YAB meetings - 1 hour			\$4,200.00	\$4,200.00
Staff Support/Mileage			\$200.00	\$200.00
Technology - Hard/software	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
COHHIO Funds				
Food	\$400.00	\$200.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
	\$32,250.00	\$18,350.00	\$13,700.00	\$13,700.00
Estimates/Notes				
YAB member comp = \$50/hr.				
Assume avg mtg attendance 12 members				
Assume workgroup 4 YYA				
Q 3-4 planning team meetings end, move to work groups, YAB mtgs return to CoC				
CoC/COHHIO staff support for YAB work is included in the annual COHHIO budget and CoC budget				

Additional discussions have begun with the YAB and with regional contacts about developing regional or local YABs with compensation rates the same as the BoSCoC. The Planning Team is exploring ways to leverage community foundations for grant support across the award area in addition to finding agency resources that may be supplemented by either the CoC Planning Grant or the COHHIO budget, general funds. This may mean new categories of YAB membership or models of participation yet to be determined by our communities, under the leadership of the YAB.

As the YAB refines its self-governance practices and identity, it is recognizing the different ways that young people have desire and capacity to engage in the work, both in implementing YHDP projects and engaging in the broader work of preventing and ending youth homelessness in Ohio. Together, with commitment and care, we will work together to ensure that everyone has an equal chance at quality living.

“Success looks like sharing the story of **how we made a difference** so that people know what’s out there. It means **we worked hard to have more people connect** with us and **those people were connected to housing.**”

-YAB, Ohio Balance of State YHDP Round 7 Application

Project Budget

A completed Project Budget Template has been submitted to HUD with the Coordinated Community Plan Document.

Figure 9 shows the annual project allocation for the two projects described in the New YHDP Projects List, page 54.

[illegible]

Figure 10. Project Budget Template

Special Activities

Ohio BoS CoC is notifying HUD of the use of the following flexibilities to implement this Coordinated Community Plan to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness.

Flexibility	Notified
1.C1.a YHDP grant funds may be used for the following if they are necessary to assist program participants to obtain and maintain housing. Recipients and subrecipients must maintain records establishing how it was determined paying the costs was necessary for the program participant to obtain and retain housing and must also conduct an annual assessment of the needs of the program participants and adjust costs accordingly	
C.1.a(1) Leases under 12 months (minimum 1 month)	Yes
C.1.a(2) Use of leasing, Sponsored Based Rental Assistance (SRA) and Project Based Rental Assistance (PRA) in Rapid Rehousing	Yes
C.1.a(3) Up to 10 percent of the total YHDP funding made available to the community may be used for planning grants. As outlined in I.C.9 in Appendix A, planning grants are nonrenewable.	
1.C.1.a(4) YHDP planning grants and administrative funds may be used for capacity building activities for Youth Action Board members or recipient staff who are also youth with lived experience.	Yes
1.C.1.a(5) In addition to the eligible costs listed in 24 CFR 578.59(a), YHDP recipients may use project administrative funds to support costs associated with involving youth with lived experience in project implementation, execution, and improvement.	Yes
1.C.1a(6) Project administrative funds to attend conferences and training that are not HUD-sponsored or HUD-approved, provided that the subject matter is relevant to youth homelessness.	Yes
1.C.1a(7) Recipients may employ youth who are receiving services, including housing, from the recipient organization. Recipients that utilize this special YHDP activity must maintain documentation that discloses the nature of work that the youth does, and that the youth is not in a position that creates a conflict of interest.	Yes
1.C.1a(8) Recipients may use habitability standards in 24 CFR 576.403(c) rather than Housing Quality Standards in 24 CFR 578.75 for short or medium-term (up to 24 months) housing assistance. Recipients implementing this special YHDP activity must keep documentation of which standards are applied to the units and proof that the units complied with the standards before assistance is provided for every unit funded by YHDP.	Yes

Flexibility	Notified
1.C.1a(9) Recipients may provide moving expenses more than one -time to a program participant.	Yes
1.C.1a(10) Recipients may provide payments of up to \$500 per month for families that provide housing under a host home and kinship care model in order to offset the increased costs associated with having youth housed in the unit.	Yes
1.C.1a(10)(a) Security deposits for units (not to exceed 2 months of rent)	Yes
1.C.1a(10)(b) Pay for damage to units (not to exceed 2 months of rent) The costs to pay for any damage to housing due to the action of a program participant, which may be paid while the youth continues to reside in the unit. The total costs paid for damage per program participant may not exceed the cost of two months' rent.	Yes
1.C.1a(10)(c) The costs of providing household cleaning supplies to clients.	Yes
1.C.1a(10)(d) Housing start-up expenses for program participants (not to exceed \$300 in value per program participant). Housing start-up expenses for program participants including furniture, pots and pans, linens, toiletries, and other household goods, not to exceed \$300 in value per program participant.	Yes
1.C.1a(10)(e) Purchase a cell phone and service (cost must be reasonable and housing related) The one-time cost of purchasing a cellular phone and service for program participant use, provided that access to a cellular phone is necessary to obtain or maintain housing and the costs of the phone and services are reasonable per 2 CFR 200.404.	Yes
1.C.1a(10)(f) The cost of internet in a program participant's unit (costs of the service is reasonable per 2 CFR 200.404.)	Yes
1.C.1a(10)(g) Payment of rental arrears (for up to 6 months of rent in arrears) Payment of rental arrears consisting of a one-time payment for up to 6 months of rent in arrears, including any late fees on those arrears.	Yes
1.C.1a(10)(h) Payment of utility arrears (up to 6 months per service)	Yes
1.C.1a(10)(i) Payment of utilities (up to three months) of utilities for a program participant, based on the utility costs schedule for the unit size and location. Payment of utilities up to three months of utilities for a program participant, based on the utility costs schedule for the unit size and location.	Yes

Flexibility	Notified
<p>1.C.1a(10) Pay gas and mileage costs for a program participant's personal vehicle for trips to eligible activities.</p> <p>In addition to transportation costs eligible in 24 CFR 578.53(e)(15), a recipient may pay gas and mileage costs for a program participant's personal vehicle for trips to and from medical care, employment, childcare, or other services eligible under this section.</p>	Yes
<p>1.C.1a(10)(k) Payment of legal fees</p> <p>Legal fees, including court fees, bail bonds, and required courses and equipment.</p>	Yes
<p>1.C.1a(10)(l) Payment of insurance, registration and past driving fines</p> <p>Program participant's past driving fines and fees that are blocking a young person from being able to obtain or renew a driver's license and impacting their ability to obtain or maintain housing. Additionally, recipients may pay for program participants costs for insurance and registration for personal vehicles, if the personal vehicle is necessary to reach medical care, employment, childcare, or other services eligible under this section.</p>	Yes

YHDP Special Innovative Activities: Justification

Ohio BoS CoC YAB with support from the CoC and TA has prepared the following justifications and is requesting HUD approval for the use of the following special YHDP activity exemptions to implement this Coordinated Community Plan to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness.

Flexibility	Justification for Request
C.1.b.	
<p>I.C.1b(1) A recipient may provide up to 36 months of Rapid Rehousing rental assistance to a program participant if the recipient demonstrates</p> <p>(1) the method it will use to determine which youth need rental assistance beyond 24 months and</p> <p>(2) the services and resources that will be offered to ensure youth are able to sustain their housing at the end of the 36 months of assistance.</p>	<p>Providing program participants with 36 months of rental assistance helps ensure that programs are providing clients with services that preserve their community and stability for as long as possible, and, in turn, helps decrease the likelihood that a client has another period of being unhoused.</p> <p>(1) The method to determine which youth need rental assistance beyond 24 months will be determined by the individual needs of the household. Examples where a HHs might need this extended service include but are not limited to: pregnant and parenting households, the chronicity of the person's homelessness, students, and the</p>

Flexibility	Justification for Request
	<p>person's personal timeline and responsiveness to services.</p> <p>(2) YYA will be offered frequent (as often as weekly) individualized supportive services grounded in trauma informed care and positive youth development, by program staff with caseloads at 1:15 ratios throughout their time receiving rental assistance. Supportive services staff will develop individualized housing stabilization plans with YYA including individualized timelines that take into account their goals across the four core YHDP outcomes. YYA will be supported in connections to individualized cross system resources that foster independence such as employment, transportation independence, educational attainment and reunification planning (PP YYA) This will allow them the time and space to address any personal issues that may hinder their success and will allow them to build the skills they need to be successfully independent at their own pace with transparent end dates.</p>
<p>I.C.1b(2) YHDP recipients may continue providing supportive services to program participants for up to 24 months after the program participant exits homelessness, transitional housing or after the end of housing assistance if the recipient demonstrates:</p> <p>1) the proposed length of extended services to be provided;</p> <p>2) the method it will use to determine whether services are still necessary; and 3) how those services will result in self-sufficiency and ensure stable housing for the YHDP program participant</p> <p>*YHDP recipients may continue providing supportive services to program participants for up to 36 months after the program participant exits homelessness, if the services are in connection with housing assistance, such</p>	<p>Having aftercare services in place helps participants transition to independence in a supportive manner and provides them with personalized guidance. YYA are more likely to be able to navigate new and difficult situations if they have some stability via a network of supportive services providers.</p> <p>(1) 36 months</p> <p>(2) Within the first 30 days of exit YYA and supportive services staff will update the housing stabilization plan alongside YYA including timelines and intensity (frequency of interactions) for supportive services ending or transitioning to other programming. YYA will be supported in adjusting/decreasing service frequency. When needed services will be transitioned to other cross system partners on the care team. Programs will make an effort to decrease intensity of services while always prioritizing youth choice. For</p>

Flexibility	Justification for Request
<p>as the Foster Youth to Independence initiative, or if the recipient can demonstrate that extended supportive services ensure continuity of case workers for program participants.</p>	<p>example, decreasing from weekly to bi-weekly to monthly and tapering when appropriate.</p> <p>(3) Supportive services will be planned over a long term using the housing stabilization plan. Supportive services staff will regularly communicate, update and maintain plans.. YYA will be supported in connections to individualized cross system resources that foster independence such as employment, transportation independence, educational attainment and reunification planning (PP YYA) This will allow them the time and space to address any personal issues that may hinder their success and will allow them to build the skills they need to be successfully independent at their own pace with transparent end dates.</p> <p>*CoC staff, YHDP providers (especially navigation staff) will coordinate transitions to FYI as early and as often as possible in coordination with local PHAs and child welfare. In some cases, the YHDP provider may provide on-going services in partnership with the PHAs and child welfare. When appropriate supportive services staff will revisit FYI considerations with YYA that have previously opted out recognizing YYA choice shifts with time.</p>
<p>I.C.1b(3) Recipients will not be required to meet the 25% match requirement if the applicant is able to show it has taken reasonable steps to maximize resources available for youth experiencing homelessness in the community.</p>	<p>Ohio BoS CoC is requesting to not be required to meet the 25% match requirement due to a deep lack of additional funds. The CoC has worked to secure partnerships across the CoC at all levels to support the costs associated with the efforts to prevent and end youth homelessness however no additional funders have been identified to realize the ideal YYA homelessness system more fully or support the match required for YHDP. There are almost no YYA dedicated providers in the 80-county CoC. The providers doing the work currently and those who see the need and are stretching capacity to step up are balancing funding and staffing with very limited resources, requiring match would prohibit some organizations with strong skills to carry-out the work but limited financial resources or assets to provide match and ultimately implement projects. To execute many of the goals and expectations</p>

Flexibility	Justification for Request
	<p>of the CCP, many organizations will need to leverage additional funds and local resources, however this may not reach levels of 25% of requested funds. The CoC leadership is working with partners across the state to maximize the effectiveness of YHDP projects, but this will vary in local communities and is not likely to provide 25% match values. The CoC will hold a letter of interest process to determine provider interest in operating projects; it is anticipated that the providers will need more time and an opportunity to leverage YHDP to establish more resources. There are very few philanthropic organizations in the OH BoS CoC committed to ending YYA homelessness with the philanthropic resources to support this work, putting our rural CoC at a disadvantage.</p>
<p>I.C.1b(4) Rental assistance may be combined with leasing or operating funds in the same building, provided that the recipient submits a project plan that includes safeguards to ensure that no part of the project would receive a double subsidy.</p>	<p>Ohio BoS CoC is rural with very limited housing stock and a wide geographic service area. YHDP providers must be set up for success in order to operate programs in alignment with YHDP principles. YHDP providers need to explore all creative options for identifying TH-RRH units. Approval of this activity will enable YHDP providers to work creatively and co-locate projects to maximize services and housing stock when appropriate, eligible and the best use of funds. Including co-location of staff office and TH units and co-location of TH and RRH when appropriate, eligible and best use of funds. This will help programs provide quality housing for YYA who may otherwise be “unrentable” which allows YYA to rebuild their rental history so that they can become independent of service providers.</p>