

PALM BEACH COUNTY COORDINATED COMMUNITY PLAN TO PREVENT AND END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS



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Acknowledgments

PALM BEACH COUNTY COORDINATED COMMUNITY PLAN TO PREVENT AND END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

We would like to thank the community stakeholders, the participating Youth and Young Adults (YYA) and all the organizations who helped provide critical information and crucial feedback in the planning process and creation of the Palm Beach County Coordinated Community Plan (CCP) to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness. This process provided the opportunity to conduct an in-depth examination of existing data, to scrutinize current procedures, and to explore ways to identify existing gaps while developing innovative strategies for delivering a community-wide response to youth who may face homelessness.

This CCP was created because our community, through an alliance of individuals and agencies from local and state government, nonprofits and various businesses was asked to use their unique perspectives to help solve a societal problem and to achieve the shared goal of preventing and ending youth homelessness. The CCP with the help of YHDP will support the CoC in developing appropriate system capacity and introduction of a youth-coordinated system. PBC seeks to fund a wide range of programs designed to provide housing options for our YYA while assessing outcomes and promoting diversion from homelessness. This process has helped us to not only understand our current system's capacity but has helped us to identify the unmet needs of our YYA so with the help of our YAB we can design a successful plan to address gaps in our system.

We are so appreciative of the valuable input and feedback from the YYA with lived experience that participated in the development of the CCP. They had a positive impact on the entire process and participated at every level including the creation of a Youth Action Board (YAB). These youth experienced several opportunities for meaningful participation in the discussions surrounding processes that would impact their needs and those of their peers who may be facing similar experiences.

This entire process would not have been possible without the technical assistance consultants provided: The Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) Sarah Hunter and Jamerson Watson; The U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) April Mitchell; National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE) Christina Dukes; True Colors – Twiggy Pucci Garcon and Dana White.

Finally, we would like to thank A Way Home America and the Rapid Results Institute who helped our community to rethink how we addressed youth homelessness and challenged us to identify innovative community-wide solutions that empowered our YYA.

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Introduction

The Palm Beach County Coordinated Community Plan (CCP) to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness is divided into the following sections:

1. Background and History of the System of Care for Homeless Youth: This section provides an overview of prior efforts to address youth homelessness in Palm Beach County (PBC). The scope and magnitude of youth homelessness in PBC is addressed by harnessing data from youth with lived experiences and includes at-risk unaccompanied youth, at-risk pregnant and/or parenting youth, unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness and pregnant and/or parenting youth experiencing homelessness.

2. YHDP Planning: This section will introduce the YHDP, governance structure of the YAB and the YHDP community stakeholders. It will include the timeline of the planning process and the vision the community has for ending youth homelessness including the project planning, interventions and implementation strategies. PBC's plan for YYA who fall into one or more special populations are included in this section.

3. Overview of Palm Beach County's Coordinated Community Plan: Section 3 includes the mission and vision of the YHDP project, the shared vision and the statement of need based on the data collected. It will include the goals, objectives and action steps that will be taken. Additionally, this section will contain a system needs assessment with desired youth outcomes as well as a list of YHDP funded projects and new programs that are needed. Finally, a Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) plan is included in this section.

4. Appendix: Our Appendix includes several documents that support the CCP budget justification, the planning and implementation timeline, the YHDP Project Scoring Tool, the Project Monitoring Checklist, relevant terms, acronyms and definitions and letters of support.

Chapter 1

Background Information

Palm Beach County (PBC) is the 5th largest community east of the Mississippi, stretching over 2300 square miles with youth comprising 19.1% of the 1.4 million people that call PBC home. January 2017's Point in Time Count indicated that 99 unaccompanied youth and 18 households headed by a parenting youth between the ages of 18 to 24 were experiencing homelessness in PBC County. The youth parenting households were composed of a total of 42 persons. A total of 141 persons were impacted by the issue of youth homelessness.

In the summer of 2017 PBC was chosen as one of five communities nationwide to implement a 100-day Challenge to house 100 homeless youth in PBC. No funding was provided for this project, rather, it was a collaborative and innovative effort on the part of PBC Human Services, PBC Youth Services, Gulfstream Goodwill Industries, Adopt-a-Family, ChildNet, School District of PBC, Vita Nova, Community Partners, Compass, and Friends of Foster Children. Our goal was to house 141 unaccompanied youth and parenting youth. The intention of the project was to not only house youth but create a permanent change in our systems to address youth homelessness. In the first 100 days, we rapidly re-housed 121 unaccompanied youth and parenting youth.

The 100-day challenge was a valuable experience that catapulted our community into change and assisted us in setting the foundation of our efforts to end youth homelessness in PBC. We developed a youth by-name acuity list that is actively evaluated and reviewed, revamped the Lewis Center Shelter so that 20 beds of 60 are youth specific ages 18 to 24 and all youth space is on the first level, launched Rapid Rehousing for parenting youth, reallocated funding for youth specific Rapid Re-Housing, opened our first Youth Drop In Center and opened our first youth permanent supportive housing program serving 10 youth.

Additionally, when Palm Beach County participated in the 100-day challenge, the community was committed to serving those youth who are most vulnerable to experiencing homelessness; LGBTQ youth and youth of color. Beginning with planning and discussions at the kickoff meeting in Baltimore and through subsequent planning, we focused our efforts on these vulnerable populations and had success targeting LGBTQ youth and youth of color during the challenge.

Chapter 2

Youth

Homelessness

Statement of Need

- a. At-Risk Unaccompanied Youth
- b. At-Risk Pregnant and/or Parenting
- c. Unaccompanied Youth Experiencing Homelessness
- d. Pregnant or Parenting Youth Experiencing Homelessness
- e. School District Data

Statement of Need

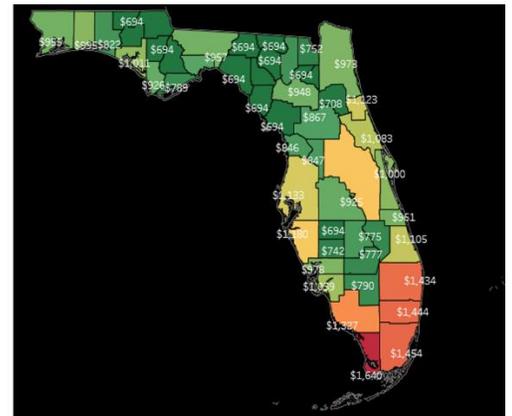
There are several community level challenges of addressing youth homelessness in our community and that is the driving force behind the creation of the Palm Beach County Coordinated Community Plan to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness. We have identified the needs of this population and plan to integrate these solutions into our CCP framework.

Stable Housing

Affordable Housing

The 2019 U.S. Housing and Urban Development Market Rent map for the State of Florida clearly indicates that Palm Beach County is the 4th highest rental market in the state. (source: hudgis-hud.opendata.arcgis.com).

Affordable housing continues to be a challenge as we continue to develop our CCP. It is both necessary and critical that we continue to develop programs that focus on finding and maintaining affordable housing for unaccompanied minors at risk of homelessness, YYA aging out of the foster care system, having DJJ involvement, and/or pregnant or parenting youth.



Cross-System Collaboration

Many of the YYA who are at-risk of homelessness or are homeless are often involved with other systems like the foster care, school system, behavioral health or DJJ. Forming a collaborative with these systems to work together instead of individually will help put an end to homelessness.

Increased Partnership with Housing Authorities

Local housing authorities have the flexibility to create innovative ways to address YYA homelessness in our community. By working together we can develop ways to address the unique needs of our YYA with a variety of housing options that can work with their voucher system.

Innovative Housing Options

In order to meet the needs of our YYA, we have to develop an assortment of housing and services to meet the needs of special populations. For example, LGBTQ, pregnant or parenting, and those with disabilities.

Education

Promote Educational Equity

All students whether homeless or otherwise deserve access to education and technology and the ability to effectively and efficiently utilize it to further learning opportunities. We need to find creative ways to ensure that YYA at-risk of homelessness or experiencing homelessness who are unable to access technology because of their living situation have access to both education and technology.

Enhance Partnership with Educational Partners

While we work closely with the PBC School Board and the McKinney-Vento Liaisons and their referral capacity within our coordinated entry process, we will continue to enhance this partnerships by sharing community strategies and while developing new ones for our YYA at-risk of homelessness or experiencing homelessness. We will continue developing opportunities with our post-secondary institutions to increase on-campus services and supports for these YYA.

Childcare

YYA that are at-risk of or are experiencing homelessness have access to quality, flexible, and affordable childcare so they can further their education. Through a partnership with the Early Learning Coalition, we are able to ensure that parenting YYA have access to childcare that meets their unique needs while attending school. We are also able to identify some campuses that provide on-campus childcare while their parents attend classes. Childcare should extend into the evening hours for those parents that are enrolled in night classes.

Transportation

YYA at-risk of homelessness or experiencing homelessness will have access to transportation to meet their educational needs. This issue of transportation can be remedied through local partnerships within our community.

Coordination with Service Providers

Through existing and newly established collaboration, we will work to establish coordination between the educational partners with other service providers, including child welfare and social service agencies; law enforcement; the court system; mental health service providers; domestic violence agencies; child care providers; and emergency, transitional, and permanent housing providers.

Employment

Employment Routes

In order to develop opportunities for YYA at-risk of homelessness or experiencing homelessness with low-barrier employment opportunities, we need to expand our partnership with CareerSource. We need to provide the YYA with supports which would include job training, skill-building, etc. We will develop pathways with DJJ to make strides for those youth who may have a criminal record or have no experience.

Transportation

YYA at-risk of homelessness or experiencing homelessness will have access to transportation to meet their employment needs. Through local partnerships in our community we can effectively eradicate this barrier.

Resources for Skill Development

With the help of our educational partners and CareerSource we can connect our YYA with employment resources that will assist in the development of skills that can help them professionally. We will expand our partnerships with local technical schools and programs designed to help this population like Jeff Industries, or EdVenture.

ChildCare

YYA that are at-risk of or are experiencing homelessness have access to quality, flexible, and affordable childcare so they are able to obtain employment. Through an arrangement with the Early Learning coalition, we can ensure that YYA have access to childcare.

Community Partnerships With Employers

We will continue to seek out partnerships with employers in our community who are able to provide flexible employment opportunities and schedules that can accommodate the unique needs of the YYA. This will include providing on the job training for those YYA that lack experience.

Social and Emotional Well-Being

Developing and Maintaining Connections

With the help of our community partners we will create interventions and develop innovative practices that focus on establishing positive permanent connections for the YYA. We will work to increase relational capacities for the YYA by formalizing existing relationships and developing new positive ones.

Behavioral Health Support

Homelessness in YYA can lead to an acceleration in a number of psychosocial problems including substance abuse, high-risk behaviors, and psychiatric disorders such as depression and anxiety. Through community-based programs, YYA at-risk of homelessness or experiencing homelessness will have access to the behavioral supports they need.

Positive Youth Development & Trauma Informed Care Approaches

In PBC we will create trauma-informed framework that is integrated into all of the services and programs that are offered. This is to ensure that YYA are provided with strategies to regulate their emotions and the ability to control anxiety so they can successfully function in society. With the addition of positive youth development programs, we are able to optimize an individual's success and not focus on what the things that might be wrong with YYA behavior or development.

Minimization of Sexual Risk Behaviors

Sexual health plays an important role in social and emotional well-being. By promoting safe sex practices and providing information on how to negotiate sexual activity we are able to minimize sexual risk factors. We are able to have a positive impact by providing YYA with training, ensuring program staff is adequately trained, having contraceptives readily available and providing access to health resources in our community.

Pregnancy and Parenthood, Early Childhood, Early Intervention, and Welfare programs

Unaccompanied pregnant and parenting YYA have difficulty obtaining housing, finding childcare, navigating cash assistance programs, while raising their children. Very often they are involved with the child welfare system as well. We will work with our community providers to create an integrated system so pregnant and parenting YYA will have a more streamlined approach to resources that can establish increased self-sufficiency.

At-Risk Unaccompanied Youth

In determining the number of youth in Palm Beach County who are at-risk of experiencing homelessness, we looked at data from system providers like the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and ChildNet, the lead agency for foster care in Palm Beach County.

There are several reasons why children impacted by foster care are at-risk of becoming homeless. Many foster youth that age out of foster care lack a reliable source of income, the skill or education necessary to find work that provides enough money to afford housing, or healthy familial supports to use as a safety net.

The National Alliance to End Homelessness commissioned a study to establish whether there were substantial links between foster care and homelessness. More recent statistics include the following:

- Approximately 400,000 youth are currently in foster care in the United States.
- Approximately 20,000 of those youth age-out each year without positive familial supports or any family connection at all.
- Within 18 months of emancipation 40-50% of foster youth become homeless.
- Nationally, 50% of the homeless population spent time in foster care.
- A history of foster care correlates with becoming homeless at an earlier age and remaining homeless for a longer period of time.
- 65% of youth leaving foster care need immediate housing upon discharge.

In the state of Florida, youth who “age out” of foster care have the opportunity to stay in foster care until the age of 23 through a variety of services to support self-sufficiency. Some of these options include case management services and oversight of their progress towards successful independence.

- Extended Foster Care (EFC) gives young people the option to remain with foster parents, live in a group home or within a supervised living arrangement, such as a college dormitory, transitional independent living housing or rented apartment, as well as provides a support network to assist these young people with transition to adulthood.
- Post-secondary Education Support Services (PESS) is for youth formerly in foster care who have obtained their high school diploma or GED and are interested in continuing their education.
- The After Care Program is for youth who aged out of licensed care and have opted-out of EFC, not participating in PESS or not eligible for PESS, but are in need of services.

ChildNet

ChildNet is the single private non-profit entity responsible for managing the local system of services and supports for children in foster care. They have identified that in the next year PBC will have 199 youth between the ages of 18-23 who age out of foster care. In the past year, we have had 102 youth opt out/discontinue extending foster care services. It is important to note that these programs are optional and some have eligibility requirements. They do have the opportunity to opt back in as long as they are under the age of 23.

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In many cases, YYA who lack secure and stable homes get entangled with the justice system and with law enforcement. In many cases, it may be crime to simply be in a public place during certain times despite the fact that homeless youth may not have an alternative. Shelters are often not available because of limited beds availability. Youth impacted by homelessness may also be victims of human trafficking.

Youth who are homeless may also commit “survival crimes”—these include acts such as theft or robbery in order to obtain food, trespassing to be in a safer or warmer place, or engaging in physical altercations to protect themselves while on the streets. Young people experiencing homelessness may encounter the juvenile justice system because they may have committed crimes attached to their survival like stealing for food, trespassing to be in a safer location, fighting to protect themselves while on the streets or are victims of human trafficking.

In Palm Beach County, there have been comparative examinations of youth arrested from the general population and those with current involvement with DCF. There are several local initiatives that are currently underway to try and address the issue of these “cross-over” youth.

A recent study interviewed runaway and homeless youth in 11 U.S. cities and found that nearly 44% had stayed in a jail, prison, or juvenile detention center, nearly 78% have had at least one interaction with the police, and nearly 62% had been arrested at some point in their lives.

Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Family and Youth Services Bureau: Street Outreach Program Data Collection Project Final Report (April 2016).



Department of Juvenile Justice

The Department of Juvenile Justice identified one unaccompanied youth, six youth living in a hotel, three living in a shelter, four on the verge of homelessness-unaccompanied in Palm Beach County over the course of the previous year.

Housing Needs:

- Creating opportunities for family reunification or support as the initial intervention for youth at-risk of homelessness
- Expand the reach and effectiveness of housing programs for at-risk homeless youth

Education/Employment Needs:

- Supporting in-school and out-of-school youth experiencing homelessness through education and workforce partnerships
- Promote educational equity for all youth

Social/Emotional Well-Being Needs:

- Coordinate holistic interventions that address youth needs
- Strengthen quality out-of-school time opportunities
- Expand and improve detection, prevention and intervention physical and mental health services behavioral health care access

At-Risk Pregnant and/or Parenting Youth

There are similar risk factors that place YYA at risk for homelessness and early and unplanned pregnancies. Haley et al. discovered that homeless YYA who were pregnant were more likely to have been sexually abused at an early age than young, homeless women who did not become pregnant. Under ideal circumstances providing for a young family is difficult, when compounded with an unintended pregnancy, inadequate financial resources, limited education and lack of affordable housing, it puts YYA at a much higher risk of homelessness.

With the help of community programs that provide assistance to pregnant and parenting YYA, we have an established point of contact that can provide additional screening for housing instability. We hope to explore new partnerships with these organizations to ensure that these YYA are identified and referred for housing assistance.

According to Florida Health data, Palm Beach County statistics for unaccompanied pregnant and parenting youth are significantly lower than the state rate of 12.1% according to Florida Health data. Additionally, the annual pregnancy rate for all females ages 15-17 in Palm Beach County is 7.4% between the years 2015 – 2017 according to Florida Health. We currently lack data to estimate the percent of under 18 at-risk of homelessness males who are parenting in our community.

Although data is limited regarding unaccompanied pregnant and parenting youth in Palm Beach County, we were able to successfully get local prevention data on parenting youth. Parenting youth data was gathered through the County's Housing Stability program. Data shows that 149 parenting youth households, which represented 370 persons received services which included rental and/or utility assistance. Child welfare and DJJ providers have not been tracking pregnant and parenting YYA. The data we were able to collect provides us with a more comprehensive snapshot of the YYA that are pregnant and/or parenting and are at-risk of homelessness.

Housing Needs:

- Access to safe crisis housing that accept minor youth
- Opportunities for family reunification, relationship building, and service engagement for youth who are pregnant or parenting
- Teen and/or Drop-In Centers in local community spaces with access to showers, hygiene products, clothing and youth activities.

Education/Employment Needs:

- Community partner program connections with McKinney-Vento liaisons and school guidance counselors
- Increase educational, vocational, and employment options
- Transportation to maintain educational stability and other supports

Social and Emotional Well-Being:

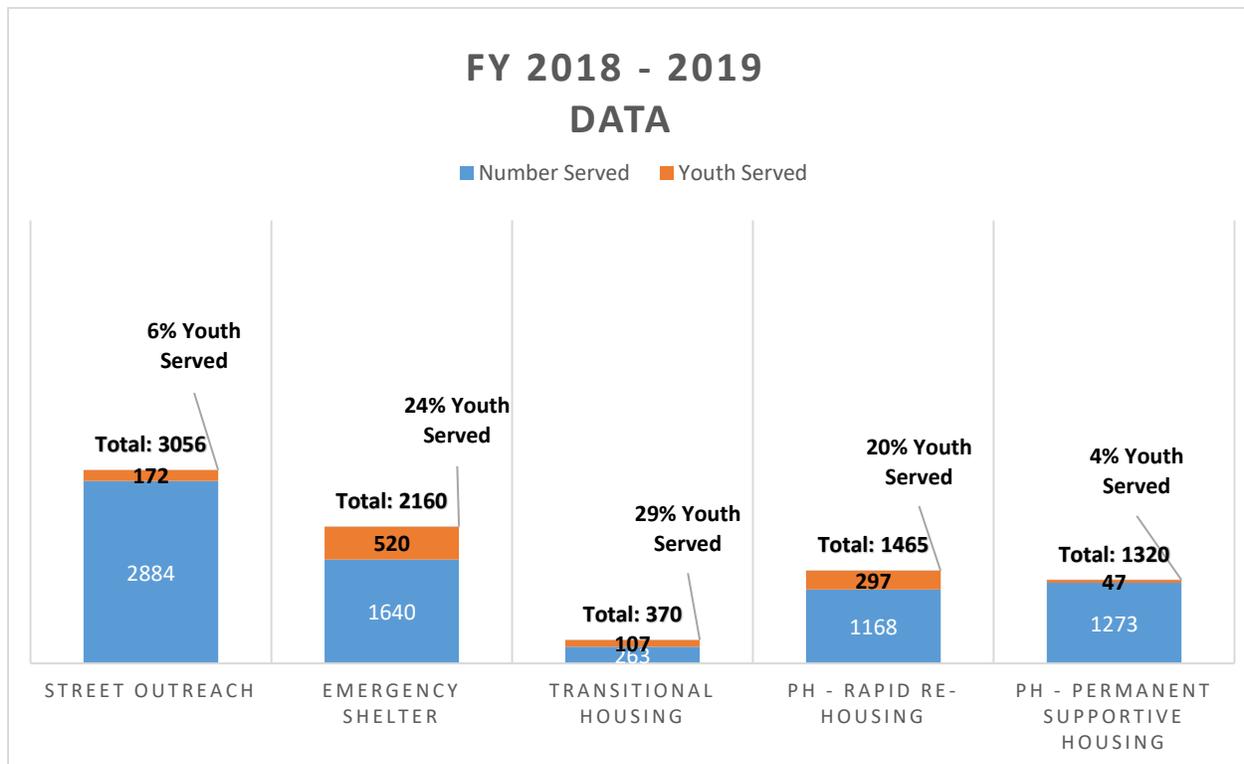
- Pregnancy and Parenthood, early childhood, early intervention, and welfare programs
- Behavioral health support for parent and children

PALM BEACH COUNTY COORDINATED COMMUNITY PLAN TO PREVENT AND END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

- Evidence based pregnancy and prevention programs
- Immediate and ongoing access to case management that includes family reunification, family engagement and/or building permanent connections

Haley N, Roy E, Leclerc P, et al. Characteristics of adolescent street youth with a history of pregnancy. J Pediatr Adolesc Gynecol. 2004 Oct;17(5):313–320. [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

Unaccompanied Youth Experiencing Homelessness



In the above graph, we utilized HMIS data to showcase the amount of youth that we have served in street outreach (SO), emergency shelter (ES), transitional housing (TH), rapid rehousing (RRH), and permanent supportive housing (PSH). The graph also shows how many youth were served from fiscal year 2018 – 2019.

Together with the CoC’s Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and our Coordinated Entry System (CES), we reviewed a number of provider annual data sources to share a viewpoint and effect of homelessness amongst unaccompanied youth ages 18 -24. Several major providers of homelessness enter information into Client Track and we have taken steps to provide unduplicated data.

Palm Beach County has been utilizing the VI-SPDAT for single adults and the VI-F-SPDAT for families with minor children as triage tools for Coordinated Entry and a way to preliminarily determine housing options since 2014. In 2017, with the introduction of the Youth 100 campaign, the community began using the TAY-VI-SPDAT to capture acuity and build service prioritization among youth experiencing homelessness. The accompanying charts show a year

over year increase in the number of youth households the TAY-VI-SPDAT has recommended for Rapid Rehousing (RRH) and Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH). The increased number of assessments completed exemplifies the community's efforts to increase awareness in the youth population of available services when at risk of, or currently experiencing, homelessness. Historically, unaccompanied and parenting youth were not able to easily access the homeless services system in our community due to a lack of outreach to the population and unintentional barriers placed when they sought services.

Housing Needs:

- Assistance finding safe, stable, and affordable housing options that are youth specific
- Develop, identify, and create more affordable housing options
- Develop and/or establish more units for Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) to meet the projected needs for youth

Education/Employment Needs:

- Mentorship from professional in desired field or from an organization of interest
- Career counseling/coaching

Social/Emotional Well-Being Needs:

- Establish a committee of health entities and institutions in Palm Beach to address homelessness, which reports to the larger Continuum of Care Board.
- Create healthcare strategies with a focus on housing as a foundation for recovery
- Expand the number of peer support specialists as part of the care coordination teams
- Increase availability of mental health and counseling services

Pregnant or Parenting Youth Experiencing Homelessness

Pregnancy is one of the primary reasons that YYA leave home voluntarily or are kicked out of their homes and experience homelessness. Other contributing factors to unintentional pregnancies include survival sex and the inability to access regular contraceptives and/or condoms.

This chart shows a yearly increase in the number of pregnant and/or parenting youth households the TAY-VI-SPDAT has recommended for Rapid Rehousing (RRH) and Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH). Although the chart above shows a significant difference between Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) versus Rapid Rehousing data, as our community continues to expand to ensure awareness we anticipate these numbers will continue to increase.

Our 2019 Point in Time Count indicates that there were 9 pregnant and parenting youth households. 7 of them had been sheltered while 2 were unsheltered. In those 9 households, there were 20 children for a total of 29 individuals who were homeless. 24 of them were housed and 5 were unsheltered.

There are two nonprofit providers locally in our area that house homeless pregnant or parenting young adults. Though their data is not tracked through HMIS, we are hoping it will be included in the future.

Joann's Cottage

Joann's Cottage identified 9 pregnant or parenting YYA that were housed in 2019. They were unable to provide data distinguishing how many young women were minors and how many were of the ages of 18-24.

Holy Ground Shelter

Holy Ground Shelter reported 19 pregnant or parenting YYA that were housed last year caring for 26 children. They had an additional 18 had contacted them for services but there was not sufficient room available or they did not meet the criteria which is not based on the housing first model.

Housing Needs:

- Access to crisis housing that is safe and stable to live with their children
- Long-Term housing subsidies with supports and connections

Education/Employment Needs:

- Access to quality, flexible, and affordable childcare while pursuing education/employment
- Supportive resources for completing education and/or advancing in educational pathways

Social and Emotional Well-Being Needs:

- Parenting skill building classes that include basic child care needs
- Develop peer and community supports around behavioral health

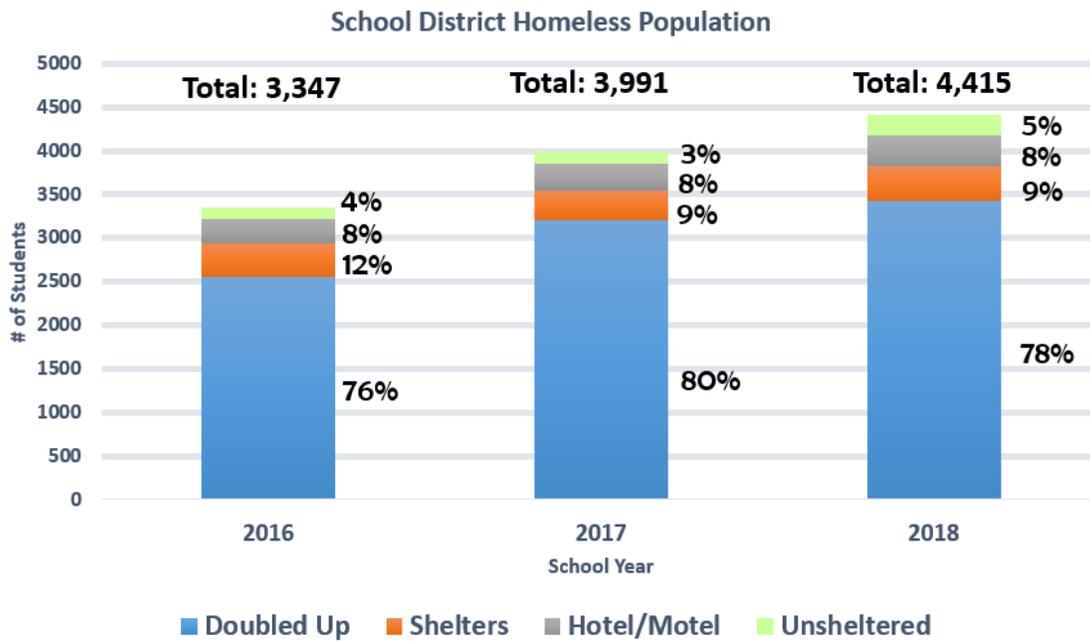
School District Data

The Palm Beach County School District (PBCSD) has established the McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program that is designed to address the problems that homeless children and teens face when enrolling, attending and succeeding at school. The McKinney-Vento program aims to ensure that homeless children and teens have equal access to the same public education, including preschool education as other families do.

The School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC) identified 4,415 students experiencing homelessness during the 2017-2018 school year using the McKinney-Vento Act homeless definition. This number represents all students identified as homeless in grades Pre-K through high school whether they were homeless with their families or unaccompanied students experiencing homelessness on their own. The great majority of homeless students identified during the 2017-2018 school year were in “doubled-up” homeless situations with their families.

310 unaccompanied homeless youth, the target population for this YHDP, were identified during the 2017-2018 school year. The majority of these young people experiencing homelessness on their own were in high school and doubled-up or couch surfing.

PALM BEACH COUNTY COORDINATED COMMUNITY PLAN TO PREVENT AND END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS



Securing housing, schooling, and jobs are the keys to future success for homeless young adults, success in these programs depends on the ability of young adults to resolve their own social/emotional well-being and strong relationships with caring people and resources to help with the challenges.

Chapter 3

Guiding Principles

- a. USICH Four Core Outcomes
- b. Data Quality
- c. Special Populations
- d. Positive Youth Development and Trauma Informed Care
- e. Family Engagement
- f. Immediate Access to Housing with No Pre- Conditions
- g. Youth Choice
- h. Individualized & Client Driven Support
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- k. Equity

USICH Four Core Outcomes

The four core outcomes of USICH are a key priority and central focus of all the YHDP work in PBC. All four core outcomes are integrated into our goals, action steps, planning, discussions and outcomes to prevent and end youth homelessness.

Stable Housing: includes a safe and reliable place to call home. Our CCP addresses this by swiftly providing low-barrier crisis housing to any and all vulnerable YYA who want or need it. Through our coordinated entry process we have built in diversion practices in place to prevent YYA from being sheltered if at all possible. For those who need to be sheltered, we have developed a variety of housing options to best fit the individualized needs of the YYA including rapid rehousing, permanent supportive housing and the opportunity to use a waiver if additional time is needed that will result in permanency.

Permanent Connections: Include ongoing attachments to families (as defined by youth), schools, communities and other positive social networks. Several studies report that once youth become homeless that nearly half return home after three months and that over time, many more are able to return home and stay there. While some of the YYA may be at high risk of returning to homelessness, we want to create healthy relationships between staff and the YYA so we can help navigate difficult situations before homelessness reoccurs. It is important that we keep these connections open for the YYA that want to communicate with their families and friends. We can do this by providing access to transportation, social networks, the internet and cell phone service. The case managers can help stabilize healthy family connections when possible and when it is not possible, there is the opportunity to use other community supports to develop healthy and positive relationships.

Education or Employment: includes high performance in and completion of educational and training activities, especially for younger youth, and starting and maintaining adequate and stable employment, particularly for older youth. PBC's plan is based on the premise that in order to prevent and end homelessness that education and employment are as important as housing for stability. While developing the CCP, we were able to revisit existing relationships and develop new ones with community partners who were already providing these services for other YYA who were at-risk of homelessness. Through these partnerships, we have found solutions for many of the barriers faced by YYA that prevent them from continuing their education and/or seeking employment such as child-care, transportation and employment and training assistance.

Social-Emotional Well-being: refers to the social and emotional functioning of homeless youth. This area includes the development of key competencies, attitudes, and behaviors that equip a young person experiencing homelessness to avoid unhealthy risks and to succeed across multiple domains of daily life, including school, work, relationships and community. Our CCP offers several interventions to the YYA in PBC who are at risk of or are experiencing homelessness. Community resources will be available throughout the county including schools and other areas that YYA may gather. There are systems in place to navigate both substance abuse and mental health services. With the assistance of the YAB and community based partners, there will be

several occasions to engage in ongoing peer mentoring with built-in leadership opportunities. The YYA will be supported through an individualized approach to meet their specific needs

Data Quality

In order to improve data quality across our various community systems, we will continue increasing specifically customized responses during data collections that coincide with our trauma-informed practices. We will consistently identify opportunities to share additional data to support our analysis. Our HMIS department will work with the agencies who enter data in HMIS to ensure that their input is of a high quality. We have identified community partners who have not participated in sharing data in the past who are now willing to allow us to access their data for the purposes of strengthening our CCP.

Special Populations

Our community recognizes that there are several special populations that place our youth at risk of experiencing homelessness. These vulnerable young people are at a much greater risk for negative outcomes than their peers who have not been exposed to the same risk factors or stressors while making the transition into adulthood. The majority of these youth are more likely to have been a part of other systems of care like child welfare or juvenile justice at a disproportionate rate; so much so, that special consideration must be given to this population when creating and implementing a system to prevent and end youth homelessness. The service array must include components that are specific to the needs of these special populations which include LGBTQ+ youth, minors (under the age of 18), pregnant and parenting youth, youth with involvement in the juvenile justice and/or foster care systems and youth who are victims of human trafficking.

This chapter will discuss how our community plan will address this cross-section of YYA, how we will meet their needs and how we will improve their outcomes.

Minor Youth under age 18

Our CCP includes a community based approach and collaborative efforts of ChildNet, the lead agency for child welfare in PBC, DCF and their Child Protective Services team, DJJ, PBCSD and Compass, an organization that provides services and supports for LGBTQ+ youth and young adults.

A key in reducing homelessness in minor youth is the quick identification of at-risk youth who may be at risk of experiencing homelessness. Our CCP strategies include increasing outreach and public awareness so that vulnerable youth will know what resources are available to them if at risk of experiencing homelessness. One of the most effective strategies for identifying unaccompanied youth is to build trust by offering a consistent and supportive environment that provides responsive services.

Once the youth have been identified, there are several strategies implemented to divert and prevent homelessness. Our goal is to provide a full array of services to meet the needs of all

unaccompanied at-risk youth to deter them from ever experiencing homelessness. Efforts will always be made to return minor youth to family or legal guardians when it is safe and appropriate to do so.

In PBC, services provided to minor youth who are not in foster care who may be at risk of homelessness without parental support include:

- Emergency shelter catering to adolescent runaway and homeless youth under the age of 18. Safe Place sites are located throughout PBC in connection with emergency shelter providing food, clothing and counseling for youth
- Mentoring programs for LGBTQ+ providing guidance and tutelage to help youth rise to their full potential. Youth, and their mentors, participate in tutoring, field trips, youth group activities, and emotional and social support
- Drop-In Center for LGBTQ+ youth and their allies (ages 12-18). A safe space to hang out, use computers, participate in youth groups, talk about the issues that matter to individuals, engage with mentors and connect with the community
- Therapy Group for youth who could benefit from talking to their peers in a facilitated setting led by licensed therapists
- Re-entry program that includes: Case Management, Job Preparedness, Life Skills, Education Planning, Job Placement, Family Intervention, Restitution Community Service, Tutoring, Behavioral Health & Substance Use Counseling, and Aggression Replacement Training

LGBTQ+ YYA

Although estimates vary on the number of homeless youth who identify as LGBTQ+, research suggests that a high percentage of youth are significantly overrepresented. There are a number of reasons why LGBTQ+ youth disproportionately experience homelessness including rejection, hostility or violence from their family, running away from home and very often, physical and/or sexual abuse. Research has shown that once LGBTQ+ youth are homeless, they are at higher risk of discrimination and/or harassment which prolongs the amount of time they are homeless.

The CCP strategy for LGBTQ+ youth who are homeless or at-risk for becoming homeless in our community includes ensuring that all of the service providers have been trained in cultural competency with an emphasis on youth choice. It is equally important to use pronouns that youth can identify with because gender identity and expression are essential to the way these youth can comfortably engage in their surroundings. It is also important that shelter options are youth-driven, welcoming to LGBTQ+ youth and relay messaging that supports their identities. Another strategy is to offer service options to youth that is not a “one-size-fits all”. Some youth may place a higher value on cultural sensitivity while others may be more comfortable with an emphasis on their sexual identities. Others still, just want services that provide safety and stability despite other sub-categories they may represent. PBC’s plan will also ensure that transgender youth have housing options.

In PBC, services provided to LGBTQ+ youth include:

- Health services Case Management as well as mental health and peer support services that promote healthy outcomes for people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHAs).
- Social/support groups and community education that addresses the physical, mental, and social needs of people living with HIV/AIDS
- Free HIV prevention and testing, education and awareness
- Behavioral health services provided by certified Mental Health Therapists for individuals with HIV/AIDS
- Social group that provides LGBTQ+ men an opportunity to talk about sex and fosters empowerment
- Support groups specific for transgender youth and their families, youth who are seeking help with the coming out process, support groups specific for non-binary or gender non-conforming and support group for youth recovering from alcoholism

Pregnant & Parenting Youth & Young Adults

Our CCP hopes to quickly house and support parenting and pregnant YYA so that the needs of both the parents and the minor children are addressed before there are any adverse consequences within the family. During a time when youth should be focusing on the healthy transition into adulthood, they are also coping with the additional stressors of pregnancy and/or parenting. When you add housing instability to the mix it increases the level of vulnerability and periods of crisis.

Our CCP strategy includes several different options for young adults who find themselves in this situation. We have identified several approaches that will not only get pregnant and parenting youth into housing that is both safe and stable, but will also provide supports to ensure that the stressors are reduced. Youth in PBC will be supported with a full service array including family engagement, child care assistance and life skills training. It is important to promote positive youth development while reducing the effects of trauma, not only for the parents, but for their children so they can break the cycle of homelessness. With a robust Rapid Re-Housing program, we plan to re-house and put services into place immediately to avoid them languishing on the streets. Our CoC has several options of consideration to triage pregnant and/or parenting youth; a specific referral for this population, coordination with child welfare organizations to establish and monitor safety plans and collaborating with community organizations to ensure access to parenting essentials.

In PBC, services provided to pregnant and parenting youth include:

- Residential Programs that provide shelter and mentoring to homeless, pregnant and parenting young mothers (ages 17-23) and their children in Palm Beach County that utilizes an independent living model and provides rental assistance.
- Non-Residential Programs that provides case management, life skills training, academic and vocational counseling, employability, job search skill building and essential resources like baby equipment, clothing, etc.

- Family style maternity home providing comprehensive care for young mothers and young mother to be, up to age 23 that provides case management, independent living services, parenting classes, access to quality medical care, and comprehensive support services to ensure safety and well-being of the mothers and mother to be.

Youth Exiting Foster Care and Juvenile Justice Programs

There are YYA who become homeless in Palm Beach County that have or are currently involved with the child welfare and/or juvenile justice systems. Involvement with one or both of these systems is a consistent risk factor for homelessness. Foster youth are more likely to be involved with other systems as they reach adulthood and are more likely to experience challenges with behavioral and mental health increasing the likelihood of becoming homeless. Some of the programs that have recently been established were as a direct result of the 100 Day Youth Challenge. Prior criminal justice involvement poses an increased risk factor for future homelessness.

It was very important to our community stakeholders that we have preventative measures in place using cross-system strategies to provide support for these young people. There is continued discussion about the importance of using housing models that would encourage youth to develop connections and healthy relationships to ensure youth don't feel like an extension of a foster care or DJJ placement. It is important to the juvenile justice stakeholders that young people being discharged from DJJ systems would have the opportunity to transition in an environment that was supportive and in a different setting than near family and friends who may have played a role in some of the illegal behaviors.

PBC has several housing options available for YYA who are aging out of these systems:

- Independent living services to assist with obtaining life skills, educational support, housing assistance financial planning and career exploration to become self-sufficient, live independently and maintain employment.
- Transitional living program for young adults that have "aged out" of the dependency system and/or community homeless young adults to assist with safe and affordable living that focuses on transition into successful adulthood. These include employment coordination, healthcare coordination, education coordination, behavioral health services, and drug/alcohol management
- Drop-In Center for youth at-risk or experiencing homelessness to link them to resources and programming aimed at eliminating or reducing the risk of homelessness. Youth can receive assessments, life skills training and linkage to housing, health care, employment, education and overall wellness needs.
- Reentry programs for youth transitioning back into society after being released from incarceration. Opportunities for employment service programs which provides job skills training, supervised transitional work experience opportunities and assistance searching for and obtaining employment.

- Restore program designed to reduce recidivism by 50% over a 5-year period for the target population by identifying needs, providing targeted evidence-based programs, and coordinating pre- and post-release services that will assist inmates transitioning from prison to the community. Services include driver license reinstatement assistance, employment program and substance use disorder counseling.

YYA who have Experienced Human Trafficking

Not only is Florida ranked third of all of the states across the country for human trafficking incidents, but Palm Beach County ranks third of all counties in Florida for suspected cases of human trafficking. There is one safe house currently operating that is designed specifically for victims of trafficking. According to the Human Trafficking Coalition of Palm Beach County, in 2017, there were 2762 minor victims who had been identified as trafficked. While the community has resources in place to meet the immediate needs of trafficked YYA, victims may experience devastating psychological mental effects including post-traumatic stress, anxiety, fear, and other mental trauma. These young adults need a framework of services that provides support with trauma-informed care and for much longer periods than those youth who don't have those experiences. Many trafficking victims need immediate assistance and are rescued at night. They are able to go to the Senator Philip D. Lewis Center, which operates 24 hours/7 days a week, to provide them with a safe place to stay immediately.

In PBC we currently have safe house options available for YYA:

- Safe house offers recovery, restoration and release from the nightmare of human trafficking who provide a safe residential treatment house for women who have been freed from human trafficking, education, mental health counseling, career counseling, mentoring and trauma therapy.

Positive Youth Development:

Positive Youth Development (PYD) is an evidence-based framework focusing on services that identify and develop young people's resiliencies and assets, rather than concentrating on their risks and deficits. The key elements of positive youth development include:

1. Physical and psychological safety
2. Supportive Relationships
3. Opportunities focusing on belonging
4. Opportunities to make a difference
5. Appropriate structure and boundary setting
6. Positive social norms
7. Integrating of community, school and family efforts
8. Opportunities to develop and build skills

Trauma Informed Care:

Youth, who are homeless, have experienced trauma by the very nature of their situation. Many youth have experienced various types of trauma and these experiences have far-reaching effects both developmentally and behaviorally. Trauma often leads to risky and self-destructive behaviors as well as anxiety disorders and depression.

Palm Beach County is has been a staunch advocate for Trauma Informed Care as community providers realize the widespread impact of trauma and the potential paths for recovery of such. Education of staff, families, youth and the community about trauma and trauma informed practices so they can recognize and properly attribute trauma related behaviors and act with the understanding needed to help youth and young adult overcome trauma and lead health productive lives.

Palm Beach County has eight principles of trauma informed care based on research of such. They are as follows:

1. Understanding trauma and its impact
2. Sharing power and governance
3. Promote safety
4. Integrate care
5. Ensure cultural competence and equity
6. Positive Youth Relationships
7. Support youth choice and autonomy
8. Recognize recovery from trauma is possible

The following guiding principles of PYD and TIC are intertwined throughout our coordinated community plan in our goals, action steps, outcomes, governance structure and projects:

- Skill building that develops soft and life skills through skill building activities within individual, family, peer and community settings
- Youth engagement and contribution that allow youth engagement to take different shapes which can include youth expression, youth involvement in community service and creating opportunities for youth decision-making at various levels.
- Healthy relationships and bonding that identify and link youth to positive adult role models, mentors, coaches, teachers, health care providers and community leaders. To ensure youth have at least one caring and consistent adult in their lives.
- Belonging and membership that foster activities where youth feel included regardless of gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disabilities or other factors by providing activities with a sense of belonging.
- Positive norms, expectations, and perceptions that have a clear, consistent norms, expectations about health, relationships, and forms of engagement that provide youth with an increasing amount of responsibility and independency.

- Creating a safe space that are tailored to the needs of youth
- Insuring that information is available to youth and families, connecting and integrating health and social services so there is a continuum of care and support
- Trained staff ready to provide crisis-intervention, conflict resolution, and counseling services while having access to services specifically for LGBT youth
- Training staff to develop the youth's competence, confidence, character, caring, and connection, and contribution

Social & Community Integration

A part of the Housing First model is to help youth integrate into their community which will require socially supportive engagement and the opportunity to participate in meaningful activities. Being socially isolated can result in the stability of housing being comprised. Through continued support and encouragement, the YAB will continue to be more actively involved in community advocacy. All YHDP funded projects can help to build positive peer relationships with YYA by encouraging positive social interactions. These interactions are meant to provide relationally corrective experiences while helping to overcome previous trauma from unhealthy interactions.

Housing programs that do not stigmatize or isolate youth. This is one reason why scattered sites approach are utilized in our housing models for youth in Palm Beach County.

Opportunities for social and cultural engagement are supported through education and vocational training, employment, and recreational activities.

Education

- Through a partnership with the School Board and their Adult and Community Education program the YYA can earn their high school diploma, learn English, attend career and technical training, attend a Pre-Apprenticeship program, and even get help with the necessary paperwork to attend college.

Employment

- CareerSource has a Young Adult Program designed with our YYA in mind. They have a career prep program and training opportunities available in addition to job placement opportunities.

Vocational

- The PBC Outreach and Community Programming Division (OCP) coordinates several youth programs throughout the county. They work in partnership with several community organizations and allocates resources to support evidence-based initiatives and create opportunities to reconnect disconnected youth to training, trades and employment opportunities.

Recreational

- The Spot is a drop-in center for homeless youth that provides an opportunity to create a support network for YYA with social activities and mentorship. They have a monthly calendar of fun social events to attend. YYA will be able to connect with other peers who share similar experiences and create a space to celebrate each other's success.

Immediate Access to Housing with No Pre-Conditions

Housing first involves providing youth with assistance in finding and obtaining safe, secure and permanent housing as quickly as possible. The key to housing first is that youth are not required to first demonstrate that they are ready for housing. Housing is not a conditional on sobriety, employment, good behavior or abstinence. Ensuring that youth choice is running contrast to the housing first model is infused throughout our programs and services. A solution to providing immediate access to safe, secure and stable housing with no preconditions is to eliminate all barriers that may have existed prior to YHDP. All YHDP funded projects will have no preconditions to receive housing or services. This can be accomplished by developing innovative projects in our community.

- Implementation of housing first and rapid re-housing programs
- Our CoC currently only operates using Housing First models through rapid rehousing (RRH) and Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)
- Creation of a low-barrier, trauma-informed Homeless Resource Center shelter
- Foster a welcoming, safe, non-judgmental environment, with limited rules and/or requirements

Family Engagement

Family engagement is the process used to build genuine relationships with families. Relationships with families support overall family well-being and children's healthy development. When families are engaged, partnerships are created that have a common focus— helping children grow and thrive.

PBC is committed to ensuring that through programs and support services, families are strengthened, stabilized and reunified. One of the key desired goals is to build stronger collaborative among system providers which includes DCF, DJJ and PBCSD.

- Ensuring that homeless children and teens have equal access to the same public education, including preschool education as other families do.
- Link youth to services that address conflict and help reconnect youth when it is appropriate
- Comprehensive intervention services that typically include assessment, individual, family, and group counseling
- Securing income and health benefits

- Build strength through casework practices approach youth and families with genuineness, empathy, and respect. Ensuring staff are actively listening; include the voices of youth and their families while using a strength-based approach to collaborate with them.
- Provide support, post reunification.
- Offer services in multiple locations, including the family home.

Youth Choice

It is imperative that youth are active participants in decisions about their present and future circumstances. Youth input shapes the type of housing programs they access, the extent and kind of support systems and services needed, and promotes self-awareness, assertiveness, a sense of responsibility and allows staff to make decisions with the youth rather than making decisions for the youth.

The theory behind Youth Choice is simple: Provide systems and programs that embrace youth choice through collaboration, include youth participation in the decision making process and provide an environment that ensures youth feel safe and supported. A solution to ensuring that all YHDP funded projects are actively utilizing the Youth Choice model is to include an opportunity for YYA to decline specific services from our YHDP providers. We will continue to incorporate the voice of our YYA in all of our discussions regarding YHDP by always including our YAB.

Key Elements of Youth Choice include:

1. Solicit and integrate youth feedback
2. Do not adultism. Decisions are made collaboratively between youth and adults.
3. Policy, procedures and programs are influenced by youth
4. Realize that youth learn through various styles.
5. Do not use industry jargon

Coordinated Entry

Coordinated Entry is essential in homeless prevention and intervention plans. Coordinated Entry ensures that homelessness is rare, brief and short-looked. The first line of defense in coordinated entry is diversion, or deflecting the youth from entering the homeless system. If unable to divert, coordinated entry ensures that each youth is prioritized according to the severity of needs and vulnerabilities using the policies established by the local Continuum of Care.

Multiple site-coordinated entry improves the access for youth to enter the system. All sites for Coordinated Entry offer the same cookie cutter decision-making process and is accessible by all people who are presenting as homelessness or at risk. A strategy we will use when ensuring that our coordinated entry process is youth appropriate is by including the YAB in any discussion to insure that the unique needs of our YYA is considered. We will insure that our plan takes into account the unique needs of our YYA who may be vulnerable.

The Key Elements for Coordinated Entry include:

1. Diversion that targets youth
2. Programmatic standards that address youth specifically
3. Access points throughout the community
4. Common application and assessment tools
5. Prioritization and eligibility assessment specific to youth
6. Shelters prioritization for youth

Individualized and Client-Driven Supports

Structured programs often do not work for youth as each young person has unique needs that have to be addressed on an individual basis rather than one curriculum or pathway. Programs designed for youth must have the ability to serve youth with low needs as well as youth with long-term ongoing needs. It is imperative that programs offer a spectrum of programs to serve a variety of vulnerabilities. The strategy we will use when ensuring that our supports are individualized youth-centered, flexible, and client-driven is to guarantee that all YHDP funded programs including case management activities have an array of services to offer the YYA that are designed to meet their specific needs. Together, the YYA and case manager will determine such things as services needed, support time frame and intensity based on the desires of the YYA.

The key elements to individualized supports is:

- 1) Programmatic flexibility and adaptability ie. Length of stay, programmatic components, etc.
- 2) Ability of the youth to openly access short or long-term programs and services based on presenting needs.
- 3) Programs must focus on a variety of models as one programmatic model does not fit all

Equity

PBC is a member of the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE). The Alliance leads with race, with the recognition that the creation and perpetuation of racial inequities has been baked into government, and that racial inequities across all indicators for success are deep and pervasive. We believe that other groups of people are still marginalized, including based on gender, sexual orientation, ability and age, to name but a few. Focusing on racial equity provides the opportunity to introduce a framework, tools and resources that can also be applied to other areas of marginalization.

PBC is engaged in Racial Equity work for the purpose of addressing racial disparities and promoting equity. Community partners, service providers, funders and government leaders are committed towards addressing the issues of disproportionality represented in the service delivery systems in the community. PBC is currently working across systems to examine data, processes, organizational structures and community participation in its racial equity work. Several organizations have expressed commitment to equity through such actions as adopting Racial and

Ethnic Equity Impact Statements, establishing core values that include equity, providing equity trainings, and taking action to ensure equity in funding and vendor contracting decisions.

Local government in an effort to ensure equity is promoted and exercised has partnered with Racial Equity Institute (REI) and has made an introductory 2-day training mandatory for all county employees. In addition, all organizations receiving funding from local government are required to attend the 2-day training as well. Several departments within local county government have created positions to specifically address and plan around equity work. The Criminal Justice Commission has engaged in the work, more specifically reviewing data, hosting REI, and serving as the lead entity for a FUSE project which targeted frequent users of multiple systems and addressing racial disparities. In addition, a re-entry task force program works to reduce recidivism in the jail system using an equity lens.

A Youth Master Plan led by a local government department, Youth Services, was developed by over 60 members of Birth to 22 as a blueprint for setting priorities and taking action to improve the lives of children and youth in Palm Beach County. It reflects an ongoing effort to engage community members at all levels in building on strengths, aligning ongoing efforts and addressing gaps in order to create a community where all youth – from birth to 22 – reach their full potential. Birth to 22 aims to ensure that all youth have the opportunity to succeed. Special attention must be paid to ensure equity for youth facing systemic barriers because they are LGBTQ, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, English Language Learners, caregiving, homeless, court-involved, in foster care, have special needs or are presenting with behavioral health concerns. In addition, the Youth Services Department of the county local government serves as the lead for the local My Brother’s Keeper (MBK), which is a part of a national initiative which began during the Obama administration. The intent is to bridge the opportunity gaps for young men of color.

The Youth Services Department offers trainings through the Education and Training Center, a community resource for primary prevention through education, training and professional development. Such trainings include:

- Best Practices for Therapeutic Work with LGBTQ+ Clients
- Moving the Margins – LGBT
- Transition Challenges and Interventions for At-Risk Youth
- Your Brain on Poverty

The Youth Services Department hosts “Future Leaders United for Change,” a forum to give voice to the youth of Palm Beach County. Youth members provide input on the design, implementation and communication of an ongoing strategic plan for future community conversations, focus group discussions, interviews, surveys and youth summits.

The CoC is committed to ensuring that services delivered, processes and programs operate through an equity lens. The CoC’s training committee has held “Cultural Competency, Diversity, Oppression and Privilege” trainings with robust discussions engaging providers and members in the community. This 2-part workshop is intended to provide ways to spark thinking and assist social service provider to begin discussions regarding issues related to race, gender, class and

sexual orientation. The intent is to find ways and practical applications in the daily work with the people served, as well as within the teams providing the services that will result in equity for all. The workshop challenges perceptions and serves as a starting point in the improving systems discussion.

The **Children’s Services Council of Palm Beach County** has adopted a Racial and Ethnic Equity Impact Statement (<https://www.cscpb.org/equity>), which includes a commitment to “advancing racial equity so that ALL children grow up healthy, safe and strong.”

The equity impact statement includes the following: “Our leadership involves not only promoting policies and practices that address racial and ethnic equity but also working to dismantle structural and institutional racism that harms our community’s children...We commit to ensuring equity in terms of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, age, ability and other protected categories of individuals. However, we also recognize that race and ethnicity are some of the biggest predictors of long-term success. Therefore, we commit to ensuring racial and ethnic equity is embedded in our structure, policies, strategic planning, and advocacy efforts.”

The **United Way of Palm Beach County** has applied an equity lens to its fundraising and philanthropic efforts. In conjunction with Palm Beach County and other organizations and financial sponsors, the United Way hosts equity trainings through the Racial Equity Institute.

In 2017, United Way of Palm Beach County accepted the role as the host organization for a new collective impact initiative, **Achieve Palm Beach County**. Achieve (Achievepbc.org) is a county-wide collaboration with a mission of collectively ensuring an integrated and effective system of supports from middle school through post-secondary that empowers students for career success. The mission of Achieve is that every Palm Beach County high school graduate completes a post-secondary credential within six years of high school graduation. Positive outcomes include degrees, professional job certifications, apprenticeships, military enlistment and vocational training that prepares students for a meaningful career with a sustainable wage.

Achieve PBC is comprised of over 150 individuals representing 50 organizations and entities throughout our community. These encompass local grassroots organizations, faith-based organizations, community-based organizations, post-secondary institutions, government entities, funders and business partners that are focused solely on preparing our underserved middle and high school students to enroll into a post-secondary education program from which they graduate within six years of enrollment. Using a collective impact approach, along with community asset mapping, Achieve PBC is connecting various groups and individuals to a rich pool of already existing community resources intended to create sustainable supports for our students and families while strengthening community relationships. The four areas of focus include: Parent and Family Support and Engagement, Post-Secondary Advising for High School Students, FAFSA Completion (Free Application for Federal Student

Aid) and Scholarships, Non-Financial Resources and Support Services for College Students.

The United Way also reflects the **ALICE Study** in its efforts. ALICE® is an acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (https://unitedwaypbcc.org/storage/2019/02/18UW_ALICE_Report_FL_Refresh-11.14.18_Final_Lowres.pdf). The Study of Financial Hardship in Florida was a 2018 report by the United Ways of Florida www.uwof.org/alice. Other states also have participated in the United Way *ALICE Project*, a collaboration of United Ways in Connecticut, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin.

The report includes demographic information and identifies the income and wealth disparities persist by race/ethnicity, sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation. The following are four of the biggest obstacles to financial stability for ALICE families, and a sample of ideas and pilot programs being debated and considered across the country: 1. Widening Skills Gap, Lack of Stable and Viable Employment, Lack of Savings and Assets, and Systemic Bias.

The **Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Commission (CJC)** works in partnership with multiple agencies and organizations to implement criminal justice system reforms to safely reduce the county's jail population and address racial and ethnic disparities in that population. The CJC has 21 public sector members representing local, state, and federal criminal justice and governmental agencies, 10 private sector business leaders representing the Economic Council of Palm Beach County, and one clergy member nominated by a variety of clergy associations in the county representing a broad range of faiths.

The CJC has a Racial and Ethnic Disparity (RED) Team, which was formed and supported by the W. Haywood Burns Institute. The Burns Institute provided technical assistance in performing data analysis and presentations to the team. The team also identified opportunities for system-wide Implicit Bias/Systemic Racism training.

The Florida Department of Juvenile Justice has implemented the **Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI)** in conjunction with the Annie E. Casey Foundation ([http://prod.djj.state.fl.us/research/latest-initiatives/juvenile-detention-alternatives-initiative-\(jdai\)](http://prod.djj.state.fl.us/research/latest-initiatives/juvenile-detention-alternatives-initiative-(jdai))): “Applying JDAI core strategies and decision-making based on data-driven policies and practices will establish system accountability to reduce secure detention placements, and promote long-lasting productive outcomes for youth development and public safety.”

JDAI's **Youth Reentry Task Force and RED/DMC** committee focuses on data review and systems recommendations to eliminate bias and reduce racial disparity and disproportionate minority contact.

Coordinated Entry system data since the start of our Youth specific work in 2017, shows that of the 1,839 youth that engaged CE, 94% were people of color and 4% identified as LGBTQ+.

Housing programs data shows that of the 457 youth that entered, 91% were people of color and 11% identified as LGBTQ+.

Data is collected through our primary entry points into youth homelessness which include street outreach, a youth specific drop-in center, programs and shelters. These multiple entry points help connect youth with crisis programs and other services they might need. Minors and/or youth in public schools can also enter the homeless system through a referral from our McKinney-Vento Office.

Data collection consists of gathering demographic information, gender and sexual orientation, episodes of homelessness, systems involvement, education and employment status. Housing and services are driven by youth choice.

Chapter 4

YHDP

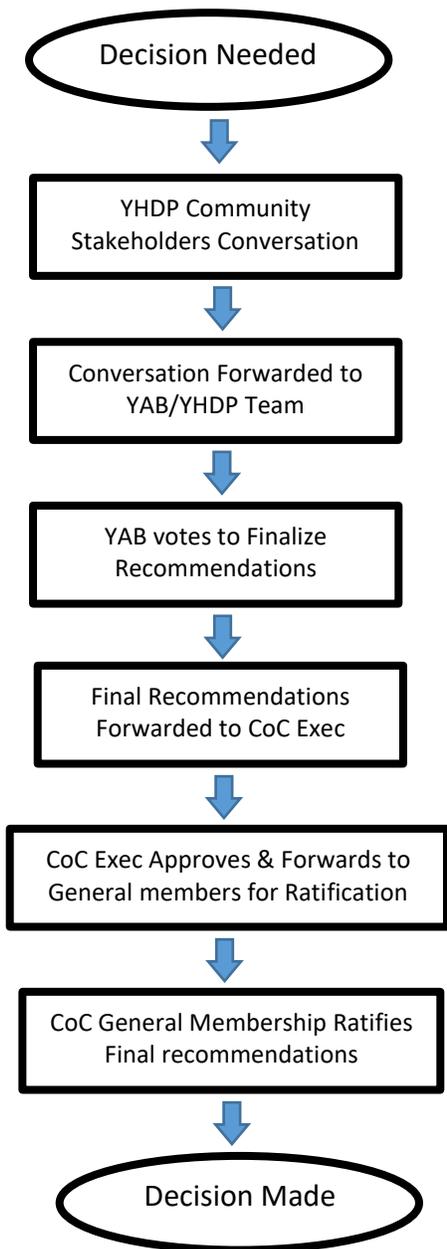
Governance

Structure and

Partnerships

- a. COC (COC Exec)
- b. YHDP Team
- c. Youth Action Board
- d. YHDP Community Stakeholders

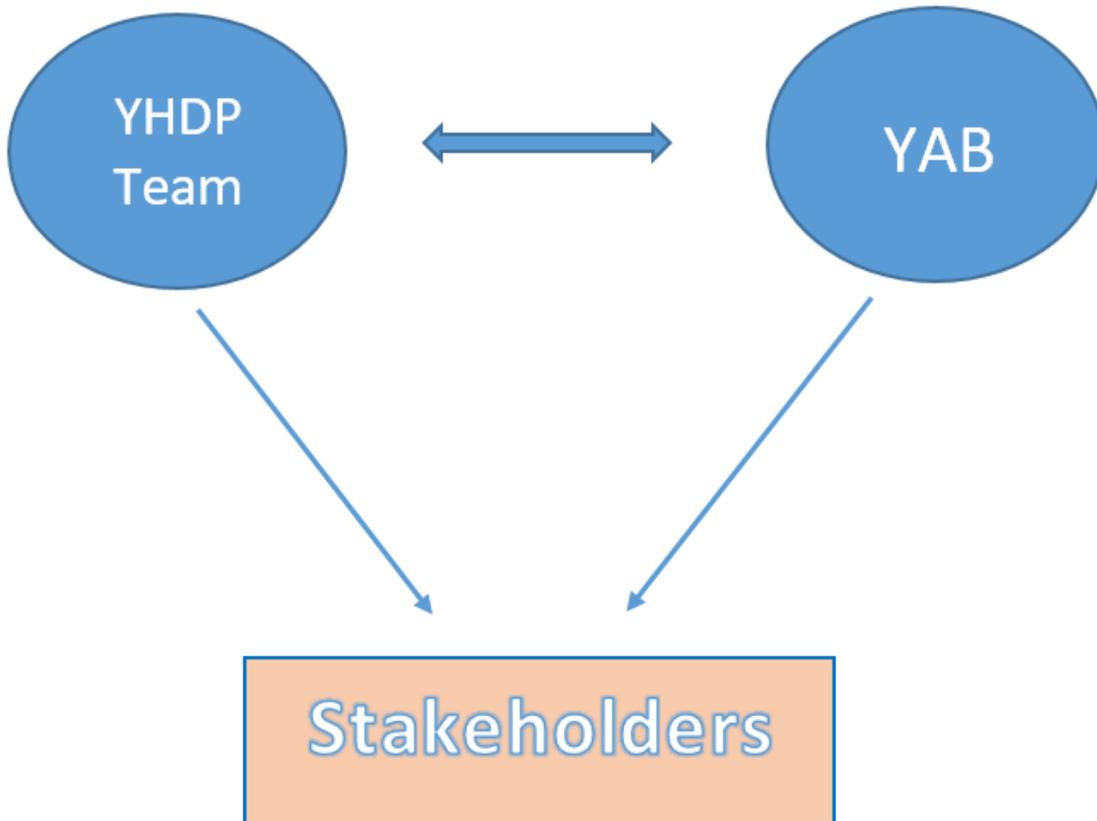
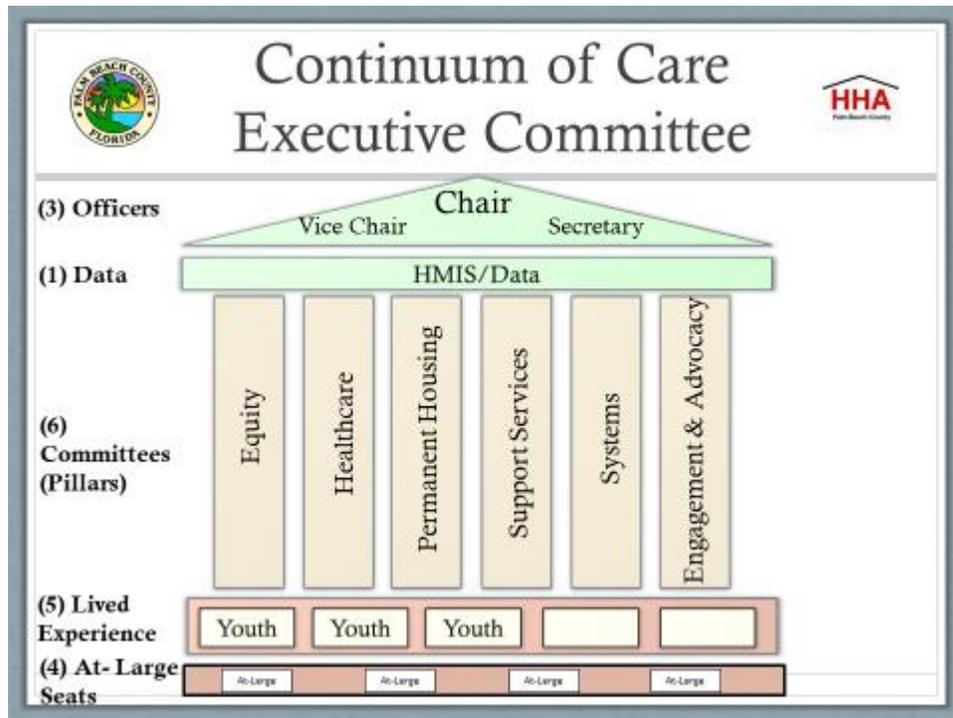
Decision-Making Process:



For all matters that require a general agreement decision between the Youth Action Board (YAB), including how YHDP funds will be utilized, coordinated votes are held using the decision-making process.

On both the YAB and the CoC Executive Committee all matters are introduced by motion, require a second, and majority vote to implement. The two entities must come to a consensus with their votes in order for the matter to be passed.

While CoC Executive Committee and YAB meetings are open to the public, only CoC Executive Committee and YAB members are allowed to vote.



COC (COC Executive Committee)

Palm Beach County (PBC) Continuum of Care (CoC) also known as the Homeless and Housing Alliance (HHA) serves as the lead agency for the YHDP. The CoC has over 30 members in “Good Standing” representing community constituents, service providers, educational system, faith-based community, and local government entities. The CoC Executive Committee serves as the governing body for the CoC.

The CoC Executive Committee consists of 15 members. The breakdown of the members of the CoC Executive Committee is the following: (There will be youth representation on every sub-committee of the CoC)

- 3 seats serve as officers (Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary)
- 7 seats serve as committee chairs (HMIS/Data, and the six pillars; Equity, Healthcare, Permanent Housing, Support Services, Systems and Faith-Based)
- 5 seats are set aside for individuals with Homeless Lived Experience (3 of those seats are youth specific)
- 4 seats At-Large

The CoC Executive Committee is responsible for the leadership and general oversight and business of the CoC. PBC Division of Human & Veteran Services serves as the lead agency for the CoC. The CoC Executive Committee will provide oversight, decision & distribution of YHDP funds and management of the Coordinated Community Plan.

YHDP Team

The YHDP team consists of 24 members made up of 8 agencies and the Youth Action Board. The agencies on the YHDP team represent non-profit youth provider agencies, local government, school district, foster care and juvenile justice. The YHDP team will be responsible for the following:

- Review progress of the CCP and communicate updates to the CoC
- Work collaboratively and provide supports to the YAB
- Serve as ambassadors for the YHDP mission
- Serve as Subject Matter Experts to ensure the successful completion of the CCP
- Actively recruit and engage potential community partners

Youth Action Board

The PBC YAB consists of 8 members currently and we are working on recruiting additional members. The YAB held their first meeting in the fall of 2019. The purpose of the YAB is to ensure that the voices of our youth in PBC are privileged, empowered and celebrated as they play a critical role in affecting the desired change when addressing youth homelessness.



The YAB will be responsible for the following:

- Leading the efforts of the YHDP
- Working collaboratively with YHDP team and CoC to ensure successful implementation and completion of CCP
- Actively recruit new members to the YAB
- Lead community-wide discussions focusing on ending youth homelessness
- Have seats and actively engage with the CoC
- Provide input into decisions around programs, funding, and policies



YHDP Community Stakeholders

During the planning of the YHDP over 100 stakeholders from various systems were engaged and participated. A complete list of participating organizations is included in Appendix A. Stakeholders participated in community discussions focused on addressing the needs of youth experiencing homelessness. Stakeholder meetings were held on a monthly basis for 4 months. The discussions included system modeling, establishing the goals and vision for the CCP, evaluation of the current system of care and what areas needed to be improved, data collection, and strategy moving forward.

Chapter 5

Shared

Mission & Vision

Goals, Objectives & Action Steps
(USICH 5 Benchmarks)

- a. Identify Youth
- b. Prevention and Diversion Strategies
- c. Coordinated Entry
- d. Housing Options
- e. System Capacity

Mission Statement

*Empowering youth with tools
to ensure housing stability*

Vision Statement

*A community that ensures
youth are never homeless*

End State

In Palm Beach County, we have a shared community vision that ensures our YYA are never homeless. Through our community partnerships and the creation of a youth-driven homeless service system, we can be assured that youth homelessness in our community is rare, brief and one-time. PBC is committed to the customization of a system that is geared towards the unique needs of YYA which is not limited to just housing. We will fully support interventions that will allow for employment, education, permanent connections and social and emotional well-being for YYA. We will continue seeking out ways to address system barriers while creating opportunities for our YYA. We believe that when youth are successful, it helps to strengthen our community.

Goals Summary

Representatives from several different systems from within our county came together to initiate a discussion on goals and objectives associated with ending youth homelessness. Several YAB members were present and were involved with both the discussion and subsequent planning process of developing these goals and objectives. Once the YHDP community stakeholders met, the next part of the process was to discuss the goals and objectives in much greater detail with the YHDP team. The following goals and objectives materialized from the process as a methodical and deliberate methodology to ending youth homelessness in Palm Beach County.

1. Identify Youth

| | | |
|--|--|---------------------------------|
| Goal 1: <i>Identify all unaccompanied and at-risk youth experiencing homelessness and at imminent risk of becoming homeless.</i> | | |
| Objective 1: All youth who are unsheltered or unsafely housed are identified on an ongoing basis through a universal triage process and coordinated entry used by all street outreach, drop-in centers, shelters, transitional housing, the school district and other homeless providers. | | |
| Action Step 1: Track inflow and outflow of YYA including their location prior to entry and at exit. | Responsible Party: PBC HMIC, YYA Program Agencies, Outreach Programs, Coordinated Entry Programs, School Board | Time Frame: 2020/2021 |
| Objective 2: All youth who are homeless, including those who are sheltered, unsheltered or unsafely housed are maintained on an active By-name list. | | |
| Action Step 1: Expand the collection of information to include all YYA 18-25 regardless of HUD designation. | Responsible Party: PBC HMIC, YYA Program Agencies, Outreach Programs, Coordinated Entry Programs, School Board | Time Frame: 2020/2021 |
| Objective 3: All at-risk youth who are at imminent risk of becoming homeless are identified continuously through a universal triage process and coordinated entry. | | |
| Action Step 1: Develop data sharing process to identify and track programs who don't currently enter data in HMIS. | Responsible Party: PBC HMIC, Community Providers not funded through YHDP or CoC, School Board | Time Frame: 2020/2021 |

2. Prevention and Diversion Strategies

| | | |
|---|--|---------------------------------|
| Goal 2: <i>Prevent and divert youth from becoming homeless.</i> | | |
| Objective 1: Youth who are involved with the child welfare system are assisted to identify and secure stable housing. | | |
| Action Step 1: Develop data sharing process to track who is exiting foster care who may be at risk of homelessness. | Responsible Party: ChildNet | Time Frame: 2020/2021 |
| Objective 2: Youth who are involved with the juvenile justice system are assisted to identify and secure stable housing. | | |
| Action Step 1: Develop data sharing process to track who is exiting juvenile justice system who may be at risk of homelessness. | Responsible Party: Department of Juvenile Justice | Time Frame: 2020/2021 |
| Objective 3: Youth who are unstably housed, at-risk of or are experiencing homelessness are assisted with diversion to community resources to secure stable housing including connecting/reconnecting with support services. | | |
| Action Step 1: Work with providers throughout the community to coordinate services and ensure the needs of the youth are met before they escalate to homelessness. | Responsible Party: YYA Program Agencies, Outreach Programs, Coordinated Entry Programs, School Board, Community Providers not funded through YHDP or CoC | Time Frame: 2020/2021 |

3. Coordinated Entry

| | | |
|---|--|---------------------------------|
| Goal 3: <i>Link all youth experiencing and/or at risk of homelessness through coordinated entry to housing and services specific to their needs.</i> | | |
| Objective 1: All unsheltered youth are offered access to crisis housing including emergency shelter options. | | |
| Action Step 1: Increase collaboration and coordination between the housing providers throughout the community, youth service systems, education, and workforce organizations, etc. | Responsible Party: School Board, Coordinated Entry Programs, Workforce Programs, Youth Service Programs | Time Frame: 2020/2021 |

4. Housing Options

| | | |
|---|--|---------------------------------|
| Goal 4: <i>The community acts with urgency to swiftly assist youth to move in to permanent or non-time-limited housing options with appropriate services and supports.</i> | | |
| Objective 1: Permanent or non-time limited housing options will be immediately provided as directed by youth. | | |
| Action Step 1: Develop systems within coordinated entry to ensure the assessment and prioritization process is youth-centered and successfully identifies and prioritizes youths' needs for housing. | Responsible Party: Coordinated entry Programs, PBC | Time Frame: 2020/2021 |
| Action Step 2: Support youth and young adult specific low-barrier and Housing First approaches through project funding. | Responsible Party: CoC and All Community Stakeholder Providers | Time Frame: 2020/2021 |
| Action Step 3: Through coordinated entry, youth will meet with provider agencies to explore the most appropriate housing options. | Responsible Party: All Coordinated Entry Programs | Time Frame: 2020/2021 |

5. System Capacity

| | | |
|--|---|---------------------------------|
| Goal 5: <i>The community has resources, plans, and system capacity in place to continue to prevent and quickly end future experiences of homelessness among youth.</i> | | |
| Objective 1: Through continuous strategic partnerships and efforts, systems are put in place to prevent and quickly end youth homelessness. | | |
| Action Step 1: Partnerships are created with child welfare and juvenile justice systems, the educational system, behavioral health system and employment systems and other programs that serve youth to continue coordinating solutions to prevent and end youth homelessness | Responsible Party: All YHDP Community Stakeholders, CoC | Time Frame: 2020/2021 |

Chapter 6

YHDP Priorities and Projects

a. Current Non YHDP Programs

1. Youth Rapid Re-Housing
2. Youth Permanent Supportive Housing
3. The Spot
4. Safe Harbor

b. New Projects

Non- Funded Youth Projects:

| | | |
|--|--|----------------------------------|
| Program Type: | Youth Rapid Re-Housing | Approx. \$1 million- \$2 million |
| Timeframe/Length of Assistance for Participants: | 12 Months to 24 Months | |
| Populations Served: | <input type="checkbox"/> Unaccompanied Youth, under 18 <input type="checkbox"/> Pregnant/parenting Youth, under 18 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaccompanied Young Adults, 18-24 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pregnant/parenting Young Adults, 18-24 | |
| Program Description/Elements: | <p>Once housing is secured, case management and supportive services are provided with a focus on job readiness, educational advancement, financial literacy, as well as ensuring that mental health challenges are addressed.</p> | |

| | | |
|--|--|------------------------|
| Program Type: | Youth Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) | Approx. \$200k- \$500k |
| Timeframe/Length of Assistance for Participants: | Non-Time Limited | |
| Populations Served: | <input type="checkbox"/> Unaccompanied Youth, under 18 <input type="checkbox"/> Pregnant/parenting Youth, under 18 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaccompanied Young Adults, 18-24 <input type="checkbox"/> Pregnant/parenting Young Adults, 18-24 | |
| Program Description/Elements: | <p>Youth Homeless Residential Programs provide safe, comfortable housing for youth with disabilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This program serves youth who have been chronically homeless and/or have a disability. Utilizing the housing first model, wrap-around services that include counseling, case management, job placement, financial education, and psychiatric services. • Priority is given to those who are chronic substance users, veterans and persons diagnosed with severe mental illness. • All programs offer case management, life skills training, substance abuse and financial education, and job placement assistance. | |

**PALM BEACH COUNTY COORDINATED COMMUNITY PLAN TO PREVENT AND
END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS**

| | | |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| Program Type: | Drop-In Center (The Spot) | Approx. \$500k - \$1 million |
| Timeframe/Length of Assistance for Participants: | Non-Time Limited | |
| Populations Served: | <input type="checkbox"/> Unaccompanied Youth, under 18 <input type="checkbox"/> Pregnant/parenting Youth, under 18 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaccompanied Young Adults, 18-24 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pregnant/parenting Young Adults, 18-24 | |
| Program Description/Elements: | <p>The Spot is a safe and non-judgmental drop in center for homeless youth ages 18-25. For homeless youth who are unaware of where to go or not sure how to get started, the Spot is here to help. We welcome youth in off the streets in an effort to link them to resources and programming aimed at eliminating or reducing the risk of homelessness.</p> <p>At the Spot, youth will receive assessment, life skills training and linkages to meet housing, health care, employment, education and overall wellness needs. The Spot team members are enthusiastic, encouraging, understanding and ready to partner with youth.</p> | |

| | | |
|---|--|--------------------|
| Program Type: | Shelter for Runaway and Homeless Youth (Safe Harbor) | Approx. N/A |
| Timeframe/Length of Assistance for Participants: | Non-Time Limited | |
| Populations Served: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaccompanied Youth, under 18 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pregnant/parenting Youth, under 18 <input type="checkbox"/> Unaccompanied Young Adults, 18-24 <input type="checkbox"/> Pregnant/parenting Young Adults, 18-24 | |
| Program Description/Elements: | <p>This is the only emergency shelter for runaway and homeless youth in Palm Beach County. Safe Harbor also provides emergency shelter to teens. Offers counseling to runaway, truant and high-risk youth. Designed to preserve and strengthen the family.</p> <p>Services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case Management • Family Reunification • Follow-ups • Referrals • Screening and Assessment • Therapeutic Counseling | |

YHDP Funded- New Projects:

| | | | |
|--|--|--|----------------------------------|
| Program Type: | | Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) | Approx. \$500K - \$700K/annually |
| Timeframe/Length of Assistance for Participants: | | Non-Time Limited | |
| Populations Served: | <input type="checkbox"/> Unaccompanied Youth, under 18 <input type="checkbox"/> Pregnant/parenting Youth, under 18 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaccompanied Young Adults, 18-24 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pregnant/parenting Young Adults, 18-24 | | |
| Categories of Optimal Provider Characteristics: | | Knowledge or Experience of homelessness and homeless service agencies; Experience operating a PSH program; Positive Youth Development and Trauma Informed Care, Housing First, Equal Access, Fair Housing, and Youth Choice; | |
| Program Description/Elements: | <p>Permanent supportive housing with indefinite leasing or rental assistance paired with supportive services to assist homeless youth with a disability or youth families with a youth or child member with a disability achieve housing stability. Long-Term move-out strategies; No restrictions to age-out at age 25.</p> <p>Key Elements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive Youth Development and Trauma Informed Care • Immediate Access to Housing with No Pre-Conditions • Youth Choice • Individualized & Client Driven Support • Social & Community Integration | | |
| Desired/Expected Outcomes: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decrease length of time youth are literally homeless • Reduce returns to homelessness • Increase Successful housing outcomes <p>Increase support for youth in achieving education, employment, health and well-being goals</p> | | |
| Timeframe for Project Selection Process: | <p>A Request for Proposal (RFP) will be released on March 9, 2020. Applicants will have 30 days to submit the application to be considered for a grant award. The Non-Conflict grant (NCG) review committee which will consist of YAB members will have a week to review, rate, and rank the projects based on the rating/ranking. Once determined the ranking will be given to the YAB for approval on April 18, 2020 followed by approval of the CoC Executive Committee on April 23, 2020. Announcements of the grant winners will be posted on April 24, 2020.</p> | | |

**PALM BEACH COUNTY COORDINATED COMMUNITY PLAN TO PREVENT AND
END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS**

| | | | |
|--|---|---|----------------------------------|
| Program Type: | | Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) | Approx. \$500K - \$700K/annually |
| Timeframe/Length of Assistance for Participants: | | 12 – 36 Months and Intermittent | |
| Populations Served: | <input type="checkbox"/> Unaccompanied Youth, under 18 <input type="checkbox"/> Pregnant/parenting Youth, under 18 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaccompanied Young Adults, 18-24 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pregnant/parenting Young Adults, 18-24 | | |
| Categories of Optimal Provider Characteristics: | | Knowledge or Experience of homelessness and homeless service agencies; Experience operating a RRH program; Positive Youth Development and Trauma Informed Care; Immediate Access to Housing with No Pre-Conditions; Youth Choice; | |
| Program Description/Elements: | Rapid re-housing (RRH) emphasizes housing search and relocation services and short- and medium-term rental assistance to move homeless youth (with or without a disability) as rapidly as possible into permanent housing. Extension to length of services up to 36 months; RRH assistance for youth also ensures that youth receive assistance forming connections with desired and needed community-based services and supports youth to maintain housing, establish healthy permanent connections with peers and supportive adults, and achieve their educational, employment, and health-related goals. | | |
| Desired/Expected Outcomes: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decrease length of time youth are literally homeless • Reduce returns to homelessness • Increase Successful housing outcomes • Increase support for youth in achieving education, employment, health and well-being goals | | |
| Timeframe for Project Selection Process: | A Request for Proposal (RFP) will be released on March 9, 2020. Applicants will have 30 days to submit the application to be considered for a grant award. The Non-Conflict grant (NCG) review committee which will consist of YAB members will have a week to review, rate, and rank the projects based on the rating/ranking. Once determined the ranking will be given to the YAB for approval on April 18, 2020 followed by approval of the CoC Executive Committee on April 23, 2020. Announcements of the grant winners will be posted on April 24, 2020. | | |

**PALM BEACH COUNTY COORDINATED COMMUNITY PLAN TO PREVENT AND
END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS**

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Program Type: | Transitional Independent Living (TIP)- TH, RRH, TH-RRH | Approx. \$400K - \$600K/annually |
| Timeframe/Length of Assistance for Participants: | 6 months – 24 months | |
| Populations Served: | <input type="checkbox"/> Unaccompanied Youth, under 18 <input type="checkbox"/> Pregnant/parenting Youth, under 18 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaccompanied Young Adults, 18-24 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pregnant/parenting Young Adults, 18-24 | |
| Categories of Optimal Provider Characteristics: | Knowledge or Experience of homelessness and homeless service agencies; Partnerships with agencies such as ChildNet, DJJ, PBCSD, etc. Experience and/or willing to participate in CoC meetings and trainings; Experiencing operating a TIP program; Positive Youth Development and Trauma Informed Care; | |
| Program Description/Elements: | Transitional housing (TH) is designed to provide homeless youth with the interim stability and support to successfully move to and maintain permanent housing. Youth staying in the TH component of the program will receive a safe place to stay – crisis housing – and have access to wrap-around supportive services as needed by program participants, as well as access to the RRH component or other permanent housing assistance to help them move to permanent housing as quickly as possible. Joint TH/RRH meets the immediate needs of youth who are literally homeless and need more youth-centered, safe, and low-barrier TH while they are assisted in obtaining permanent housing. | |
| Desired/Expected Outcomes: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shortened length of time young adults are unsheltered to 30 days or less • Increase access to crisis housing • Decrease length of time youth are literally homeless • Reduce returns to homelessness • Increase Successful housing outcomes • Increase support for youth in achieving education, employment, health and well-being goals | |
| Timeframe for Project Selection Process: | A Request for Proposal (RFP) will be released on March 9, 2020. Applicants will have 30 days to submit the application to be considered for a grant award. The Non-Conflict grant (NCG) review committee which will consist of YAB members will have a week to review, rate, and rank the projects based on the rating/ranking. Once determined the ranking will be given to the YAB for approval on April 18, 2020 followed by approval of the CoC Executive Committee on April 23, 2020. Announcements of the grant winners will be posted on April 24, 2020. | |

**PALM BEACH COUNTY COORDINATED COMMUNITY PLAN TO PREVENT AND
END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS**

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Program Type: | Coordinated Entry-Diversion (SSO) | Approx. \$100K - \$200K/annually |
| Timeframe/Length of Assistance for Participants: | 1 week to 3 months | |
| Populations Served: | <input type="checkbox"/> Unaccompanied Youth, under 18 <input type="checkbox"/> Pregnant/parenting Youth, under 18 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaccompanied Young Adults, 18-24 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pregnant/parenting Young Adults, 18-24 | |
| Categories of Optimal Provider Characteristics: | Knowledge of Coordinated Entry process and homeless services agencies; Knowledge of continuum of services across CoC; Partnerships with agencies such as ChildNet, DJJ, PBCSD, etc. | |
| Program Description/Elements: | Through Coordinated Entry (CE) a youth specialists who will engage and assist youth who are literally homeless or imminently at-risk of homelessness to prevent youth from entering into homelessness. The youth specialists will work with youth in a variety of settings, such as community-based access points, drop-in centers, unsheltered locations, and emergency shelters, as well as remotely via phone, email, text, and social media. | |
| Desired/Expected Outcomes: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce youth seeking shelter services • Decrease entry into homelessness • Decrease length of time youth are literally homeless • Reduce returns to homelessness • Increase Successful housing outcomes • Increase support for youth in achieving education, employment, health and well-being goals | |
| Timeframe for Project Selection Process: | <p>A Request for Proposal (RFP) will be released on March 9, 2020. Applicants will have 30 days to submit the application to be considered for a grant award. The Non-Conflict grant (NCG) review committee which will consist of YAB members will have a week to review, rate, and rank the projects based on the rating/ranking. Once determined the ranking will be given to the YAB for approval on April 18, 2020 followed by approval of the CoC Executive Committee on April 23, 2020. Announcements of the grant winners will be posted on April 24, 2020.</p> | |

**PALM BEACH COUNTY COORDINATED COMMUNITY PLAN TO PREVENT AND
END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS**

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Program Type: | Minors- Navigation (SSO) | Approx. \$300K - \$400K/annually |
| Timeframe/Length of Assistance for Participants: | 1 month to 6 months | |
| Populations Served: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaccompanied Youth, under 18 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pregnant/parenting Youth, under 18 <input type="checkbox"/> Unaccompanied Young Adults, 18-24 <input type="checkbox"/> Pregnant/parenting Young Adults, 18-24 | |
| Categories of Optimal Provider Characteristics: | Knowledge of Coordinated Entry process and homeless services agencies; Knowledge of continuum of services across CoC; Partnerships with agencies such as ChildNet, DJJ, PBCSD, DCF, etc. | |
| Program Description/Elements: | Through Coordinated Entry (CE) a youth specialists will engage and assist minor youth who are literally homeless or imminently at-risk of homelessness to prevent minors from becoming homeless. The youth specialists will work with youth a variety of partner agencies to ensure that minor youth are not homeless by allowing temporary rental assistance for financial assistance while seeking alternative housing options and/or engaging in mediation to link minor youth to permanent housing. | |
| Desired/Expected Outcomes: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase mediation services for Youth under 18 • Reduce youth seeking shelter services • Decrease entry into homelessness • Decrease length of time youth are literally homeless • Reduce returns to homelessness • Increase Successful housing outcomes • Increase support for youth in achieving education, employment, health and well-being goals | |
| Timeframe for Project Selection Process: | <p>A Request for Proposal (RFP) will be released on March 9, 2020. Applicants will have 30 days to submit the application to be considered for a grant award. The Non-Conflict grant (NCG) review committee which will consist of YAB members will have a week to review, rate, and rank the projects based on the rating/ranking. Once determined the ranking will be given to the YAB for approval on April 18, 2020 followed by approval of the CoC Executive Committee on April 23, 2020. Announcements of the grant winners will be posted on April 24, 2020.</p> | |

Chapter 7

YHDP Continuous Quality Improvement Plan

- a. Assess
- b. Plan
- c. Act
- d. Evaluate

Continuous Quality Improvement

The focus of PBC's YHDP is to increase our capacity to prevent and end youth homelessness by developing strategies designed to build on our existing services. In addition to expanding our housing inventory earmarked specifically for YYA, we are intent on creating a system for them that eliminates the contributing factors that cause housing instability. Our YHPD structure will be designed to empower youth while strategically eliminating barriers that cause unstable and unsafe living situations. We intend to build up the supports for our YYA by providing access to educational opportunities and resources while increasing employment opportunities. We will help our YYA cultivate relationships and help to establish permanent connections while providing positive social interactions that are easily accessible to promote their self-sufficiency.

In order to ensure that all of our efforts are aligned with the goals outlined in our CCP, we will regularly evaluate our data through a continuous quality improvement (CQI) process. This process will help us to identify, disseminate and measure best practices while enhancing our processes and systems to improve overall function of our system and ensuring positive outcomes. We are committed to adjusting our plan and making corrections based on outcomes derived from the data that is collected. Our CQI plan is transparent and will fully involve the YHDP team, the YAB and the YHDP community stakeholders to identify challenges and provide solutions in a timely manner so that we are able to continually assess the effectiveness of our YHDP system. In order to create a well-functioning CQI that is aligned with the mission and the shared vision of the CCP we must integrate all YHDP community stakeholders, YAB and YHDP into CQI processes.

Our CQI will be based on the following components: *Assess, Plan, Act and Evaluate*.

1. Assess

Identify the challenges of the YYA who are at-risk of or are experiencing homelessness in Palm Beach County.

- The YHDP-funded projects will include feedback from the YAB. The YAB is encouraged to share their thoughts and ideas on how to improve services and supports
- The YHDP-funded projects will provide reports on a quarterly basis on their successes and challenges so we are able to work quickly to provide solutions and build on achievements.
- As the coordinating entity, we will provide data quarterly to showcase our progress towards milestones and goals outlined in our CCP.
- We are compiling data that accurately represents the number of YYA who are at-risk of or are experiencing homelessness in Palm Beach County, the number of YYA receiving

services, the number of YYA who need services but have not received them and our capacity to meet their needs.

2. Plan

Develop an implementation plan or roadmap to guide the COI.

- We will identify evidence-based prevention and intervention strategies not only to house YYA who are at-risk of or experiencing homelessness.
- We will identify known areas with the weakest support networks to uncover the root causes of homelessness with the help of those who know the communities best.
- Create timelines for various activities including projected dates for full implementation

3. Act

Identify services, strategies and housing needs based on data collected.

- We will begin execution of the plans, review data on the progress of our implementation and study the impact of the interventions we have in place so we can begin making adjustments to ensure successful outcomes.
- We will establish new procedures, guidelines and practices based on the information we have collected.

4. Evaluate

Use collected data to monitor performance and to inform the YHDP team, the YAB and the YHDP community stakeholders of our progress.

- We will develop an evaluation plan that can link the program components with the intended outcomes.
- Evaluation from housed YYA in addition to others who have received services.
- Review and adjust CCP based on findings from assessments
- Present findings at CoC meetings and YHDP community stakeholder meetings

Appendix A:

YHDP Partners, Stakeholders & Involvement

**PALM BEACH COUNTY COORDINATED COMMUNITY PLAN TO PREVENT AND
END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS**

Homeless and Housing Alliance (HHA)

The HHA is the Palm Beach County Homeless Continuum of Care (CoC). They provide overall direction and leadership of the CoC system and will be responsible for the final endorsement of the CCP and approval of all YHDP projects.

| Partner Type | Partner's Name | Involvement |
|---------------------|---|---|
| CoC Board | Adopt A Family | CoC Executive Committee, family coordinated entry system lead, YHDP team member, participates in weekly YHDP TA meetings, provides youth data, and participates in YHDP community stakeholder meetings. |
| CoC Board | Gulfstream Goodwill | CoC Executive Committee, individual coordinated entry system lead, YHDP team member, participates in weekly YHDP TA meetings, provides youth data, and participates in YHDP community stakeholder meetings. |
| CoC Board | The Lord's Place | CoC Executive Committee, participates in weekly YHDP TA meetings, provides youth data, participates in YHDP community stakeholder meetings, and provides support to YHDP as needed. |
| CoC Board | Department of Housing & Economic Sustainability | CoC Executive Committee, participates in YHDP community stakeholder meetings, and provides support to YHDP as needed |
| CoC Board | PB State College Trio Program | CoC Executive Committee, participates in YHDP community stakeholder meetings, and provides support to YHDP as needed |
| CoC Board | YWCA | CoC Executive Committee, participates in YHDP community stakeholder meetings, and provides support to YHDP as needed |

PBC Youth Action Board

The YAB is an instrumental part of the CCP and has established positions on the CoC. They participate in all aspects of Palm Beach County's YHDP, including the creation of the YHDP vision, goals, and system modeling. They provide input and participate in the YHDP community stakeholders meetings and weekly YHDP team meetings. They are responsible for an endorsement of the final CCP and all YHDP projects.

| | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Cortasia Bellamy | Diane Burk | Tonya Capron | Brennan Christopher |
| Jazzman Lezama | Alexis Phinazee | Miracle Scott | Savano Wilkerson |

**PALM BEACH COUNTY COORDINATED COMMUNITY PLAN TO PREVENT AND
END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS**

Local and State Government

Representatives from both local and state government are active partners in the YHDP process. They are involved with various interventions and strategies in developing the CCP. They are an integral part of the community conversation and participate in the YHDP team and the YHDP community stakeholder meetings. Noted participants are responsible for an endorsement of the final CCP and all YHDP projects.

| Partner Type | Partner's Name | Involvement |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| Local and State Government | PBC Human & Veteran Services | CoC lead, HMIS lead, YHDP lead, facilitates weekly YHDP meetings, participates YHDP TA sessions, and facilitates YHDP community stakeholder meetings. |
| Local and State Government | PBC FUSE Program | CoC lead, HMIS lead, YHDP lead, facilitates weekly YHDP meetings, participates YHDP TA sessions, and facilitates YHDP community stakeholder meetings. |
| Local and State Government | PBC Youth Services | Participates in YHDP community stakeholder meetings, and provides support to YHDP as needed |
| Local and State Government | Florida Department of Children & Families | Participates in YHDP community stakeholder meetings, YHDP team meetings, provides youth data, and provides support to YHDP as needed |
| Local and State Government | Children's Services Council | Participates in YHDP community stakeholder meetings, provides support to YHDP as needed, and is a non-conflict grant review committee member |
| Local and State Government | PBC Housing Authority | Participates in YHDP community stakeholder meetings, and provides support to YHDP as needed |
| Local and State Government | PBC Public Defender's Office | Participates in YHDP community stakeholder meetings, and provides support to YHDP as needed |
| Local and State Government | PBC Public Safety Department | Participates in YHDP community stakeholder meetings, and provides support to YHDP as needed |

**PALM BEACH COUNTY COORDINATED COMMUNITY PLAN TO PREVENT AND
END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS**

Child Welfare Agency

ChildNet is the lead agency for child welfare in Palm Beach County. ChildNet plays an active role in the YHDP process. They play an integral part in the development of the CCP and provide valuable data pertaining to youth impacted by the foster care system. They are members of the YHDP team and the YHDP community stakeholder meeting. ChildNet will be responsible for an endorsement of the final CCP and all YHDP projects.

| Partner Type | Partner's Name | Involvement |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Public Child Welfare Agency | ChildNet | Participates in YHDP community stakeholder meetings, YHDP team member, participates in weekly YHDP meetings, provides youth data, and endorses final CCP and YHDP Projects. |

YHDP Community Stakeholder's

Community Stakeholders are participants in a cross-system collaboration providing expertise from various community sectors. They have been assessing current practices, developing various strategies to develop the CCP and then implement programs that will further the goal of ending youth homelessness.

| Partner Type | Partner's Name | Involvement |
|--|-----------------------------|--|
| ESG Program Recipient Privately Funded Homeless Organization | Salvation Army | Participates in YHDP community stakeholder meetings and provides support to YHDP as needed |
| Local and State Law Enforcement and Judges | 15th Judicial Circuit | Participates in YHDP community stakeholder meetings and provides support to YHDP as needed |
| Local and State Law Enforcement and Judges | Palm Beach Sheriff's Office | Participates in YHDP community stakeholder meetings and provides support to YHDP as needed |
| Early Childhood Development and Child Care providers | Early Learning Coalition | Participates in YHDP community stakeholder meetings and provides support to YHDP as needed |
| Local and State Educational Agencies | PBC School District | YHDP team member, participates in weekly YHDP TA meetings, provides youth educational data, and participates in YHDP community stakeholder meetings. |

**PALM BEACH COUNTY COORDINATED COMMUNITY PLAN TO PREVENT AND
END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS**

| Partner Type | Partner's Name | Involvement |
|---|---|--|
| Runaway and Homeless Youth Program Providers | Children's Home Society | Participates in YHDP community stakeholder meetings and provides support to YHDP as needed |
| Runaway and Homeless Youth Program Providers Non-Profit Youth Organization | Vita Nova | YHDP team member, participates in weekly YHDP TA meetings, provides youth data, and participates in YHDP community stakeholder meetings. |
| Non-Profit Youth Organizations | Families First | Participates in YHDP community stakeholder meetings and provides support to YHDP as needed |
| Non-Profit Youth Organizations | HomeSafe | Participates in YHDP community stakeholder meetings and provides support to YHDP as needed |
| Non-Profit Youth Organizations | Alpha & Omega House, LLC | Participates in YHDP community stakeholder meetings and provides support to YHDP as needed |
| Non-Profit Youth Organizations | Community Caring Center of Palm Beach | Participates in YHDP community stakeholder meetings and provides support to YHDP as needed |
| Non-Profit Youth Organizations | Eckerds-Project Bridge | Participates in YHDP community stakeholder meetings and provides support to YHDP as needed |
| Juvenile and Adult Corrections and Probation | Department of Juvenile Justice | Participates in YHDP community stakeholder meetings, provides youth data, and provides support to YHDP as needed |
| Juvenile and Adult Corrections and Probation | Legal Aid Society | Participates in YHDP community stakeholder meetings and provides support to YHDP as needed |
| Juvenile and Adult Corrections and Probation | Riviera Beach Cares Homeless Coalition for Families | Participates in YHDP community stakeholder meetings and provides support to YHDP as needed |
| Health, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Agencies | Southeast Behavioral Health Network | Participates in YHDP community stakeholder meetings and provides support to YHDP as needed |
| WIOA Boards and Employment Agencies | CareerSource | Participates in YHDP community stakeholder meetings and provides support to YHDP as needed |

**PALM BEACH COUNTY COORDINATED COMMUNITY PLAN TO PREVENT AND
END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS**

| Partner Type | Partner's Name | Involvement |
|--|---------------------------------|---|
| Landlords | SMART Landlord Campaign | Targets housing units for youth |
| Health, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Agencies | Community Partners | Participates in YHDP community stakeholder meetings and provides support to YHDP as needed |
| Institutions of Higher Education | Barry University | Participates in YHDP community stakeholder meetings and provides support to YHDP as needed |
| Community Development Corporations | Farther Outreach | Participates in YHDP community stakeholder meetings and provides support to YHDP as needed |
| Local Advocacy, Research, and Philanthropic Organizations | United Way of Palm Beach County | Participates in YHDP community stakeholder meetings, provides support to YHDP as needed and is a non-conflict grant review committee member |
| Domestic Violence/Trafficking Organizations ESG Program Recipient | AVDA | Participates in YHDP community stakeholder meetings and provides support to YHDP as needed |
| Domestic Violence/Trafficking Organizations | Catholic Charities | Participates in YHDP community stakeholder meetings and provides support to YHDP as needed |
| Faith Based Organizations | Family Promise | Participates in YHDP community stakeholder meetings and provides support to YHDP as needed |
| LGBTQ+ Organizations | Compass | Participates in YHDP community stakeholder meetings and provides support to YHDP as needed |
| Pregnant & Parenting Organizations | Joanna's Cottage | Participates in YHDP community stakeholder meetings and provides support to YHDP as needed |
| Pregnant & Parenting Organizations | Holy Ground Shelter | Participates in YHDP community stakeholder meetings and provides support to YHDP as needed |
| Youth with Disabilities Providers | Jeff Industries | Participates in YHDP community stakeholder meetings and provides support to YHDP as needed |

Appendix B:

Terms, Definitions, and Acronyms

Terms Definitions & Acronyms

100 Day Challenge: A challenge to house 100 youth (18 - 24) in 100 days. Palm Beach County participated in this challenge in 2017, housing 122 youth in 100 days.

Affordable Housing: Housing costing no more than 30% of a household's gross monthly income, according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Basic Center Programs; Provides temporary shelter, family reunification series, counseling, food, clothing, and aftercare services

Centralized or Coordinated Entry System; A centralized or coordinated process designed to coordinate program participant intake, assessment, and provision of referrals. It must cover the geographic area, be easily accessed by individuals and families seeking housing or services, be well advertised, and include a comprehensive and standardized assessment tool.

Chronic Homeless; According to HUD, chronic homeless is when a person or family has a member who is: unaccompanied or within a family and has a disabling condition and has been continually homeless for at least one year or has been on the streets or in an emergency shelter four or more times in the last three years totaling 12 months. A family is considered chronic if an adult member meets the above definition.

Continuum of Care (CoC); A community wide commitment to ending homelessness; provides funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, and State and local governments to quickly rehouse homeless individuals and families while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused to homeless individuals, families, and communities by homelessness; promote access to and effect utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families; and optimize self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

CoC Board; A group of people designated by the Continuum of Care that makes decisions on behalf of the Continuum. The Board must be representative of the subpopulations of homeless person that exist within the geographic area and include a homeless or formerly homeless person. The Board has three major duties: To operate the continuum of Care, to designate an HMIS for the Continuum of Care, and to plan for the continuum of Care.

Department of Education Homeless Definition; The McKinney-Vento Act defines homeless children as "individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence." The Act then goes on to give examples of children who would fall under this definition: Children sharing housing due to economic hardship or loss of housing; Children living in "motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camp grounds due to lack of alternative accommodations" Children living in "emergency or transitional shelters" Children whose primary nighttime residence is not ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation (e.g. park benches, etc.) Children living in "cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations.

Emergency Shelter; Any facility, the primary purpose of which is to provide temporary or transitional shelter for the homeless in general or for specific populations of the homeless.

Episodically Homeless; A person or family experiences recurrent problems with housing, often due to seasonal/minimum-wage income jobs or sporadic domestic situations that affect stable housing.

Fleeing/Attempting to Flee Domestic Violence; Individuals and families who are fleeing or are attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or a family member.

Homeless Management Information System; Computerized data collection application designed to capture client-level information over time on the characteristics and service needs of those experiencing homelessness.

Homeless Resource Center; The agency identified as the primary administrator of coordinated intake and assessment. For the purpose of this document, that is the Philip D. Lewis Center and the partners administering the coordinated assessment process; Gulfstream Goodwill Industries, Adopt-A-Family and the Homeless Outreach Teams.

Homeless; Individuals or families who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; as well an individual who has a primary nighttime residence that is a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations, an institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

Housing First; A specific way of housing homeless persons that does not require prerequisite conditions before housing placement and prohibits eviction from housing for anything other than commonly accepted lease violations.

HUD; United States Department of Housing and Urban Development

Imminent Risk of Homelessness; Individuals and families who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence

Literally Homeless; - Individuals and families who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence and includes a subset for an individual who resided in an emergency shelter or a place not meant for human habitation and who is exiting an institution where he or she temporarily resided.

Permanent Supportive Housing; Long-term (permanent) community-based housing and supportive services for homeless persons with disabilities. The intent of this type of housing is to enable this special needs population to live as independently as possible in a permanent setting.

Permanent housing with supportive services; To assist the client maintain housing and address other needs. Most commonly this means that clients who live in permanent supportive housing have a case manager providing client centered support.

Point in Time; A count of homeless persons at a particular point in time. HUD requires that a formal sheltered homeless count occur each year during the last week of January

Prevention; An approach that focuses on preventing homelessness by providing assistance to households that otherwise would become homeless and end up in a shelter or on the streets.

Rapid Rehousing; An intervention designed to help people to quickly exit homelessness and return to permanent housing. Rapid re-housing assistance is offered without preconditions (such as employment, income, absence of criminal record, or sobriety) and the resources and services provided are tailored to the unique needs of the household. The core components of rapid re-housing are housing identification, financial assistance for rent or move-in costs, and case management and services. Services and financial assistance in rapid re-housing are short term, typically six months or less.

Runaway and Homeless Youth Act; Provides support to address youth and young adult homelessness and is administered by the US Dept. of Health and Human Services. It funds three main interventions: street outreach, basic center, and transitional living.

Transitional Housing; Transitional housing is a type of supportive housing used to facilitate the movement of homeless individuals and families to permanent housing. Homeless person can live in transitional housing for up to 24 months and receive supportive services that enable them to live more independently.

Transitional Living Program; Provides longer term housing with supportive services to homeless youth ages 16 to 21 for up to 18 months.

Unaccompanied Youth; Individuals under age 25 and families with children and youth who are defined as homeless under other federal statutes who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition.

Youth Advisory Board; The Youth Action Board is made up solely of persons under 25 who have experienced homelessness. Youth Advisory seeks to engage homeless youth and collaborate with HUD and the PBC CoC to finalize PBC's YHDP. The ultimate goal of this collaborative effort is to prevent and end young adult homelessness in Palm Beach County by 2020.

Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP); The Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) is an initiative designed to prevent and end youth homelessness. Palm Beach County was chosen to participate in this program in 2019 with \$4.92 million.

Appendix C:

Signatures from Official Representatives

PALM BEACH COUNTY COORDINATED COMMUNITY PLAN TO PREVENT AND
END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

The Palm Beach County Coordinated Community Plan (CCP) to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness was developed by the Youth Homeless Demonstration Project (YHDP) Team, the Youth Action Board (YAB) comprised of Youth and Young Adults (YYA) with lived experience and an array of YHDP Community Stakeholders. The plan addresses homelessness among YYA from the ages of 18-24 and addresses several sub-populations including those who are unaccompanied, LGBTQ+, pregnant and parenting and those who have been trafficked.

The CCP outlines a shared mission, vision, goals and objectives that will best address the needs of YYA who are at risk of or are experiencing homelessness. The plan includes coordinated entry and diversion services, emergency shelter and crisis housing, and transitional and permanent housing options.

The plan was approved by the Palm Beach County Continuum of Care, (CoC) YAB, and ChildNet. The signatures below confirm approval and support of the Palm Beach County Coordinated Community Plan to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness.


Wendy Tippett, CoC Representative

3/18/2020
Date


Diane Burk, YAB Representative

03/11/2020
Date

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The plan was approved by the Palm Beach County Continuum of Care, (CoC) YAB, and ChildNet. The signatures below confirm approval and support of the Palm Beach County Coordinated Community Plan to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness.


Susan Eby, ChildNet Representative

3/17/20
Date