

# Youth Demonstration Listening Session #1

## March 17, 2016

### Chat Room Log

**From** Kathy Tillotson:

We have developed a successful model of taking homeless youth 18 to 24 off the street using Emergency/Rapid Rehousing leading to employment. This is a very low cost, effective model that could be replicated nationally. If we wanted to discuss this model with someone with the demonstration project, who would we talk with?

**From** Paul Kosowsky:

Can demo projects operate outside of the CoC CAN process? Our state wide CoC has limited access to HUD funded programs to only those meeting Criteria 1 which severely limits youth access. Can anything be done about this? It seems at odds with everything we know about serving youth, and I don't understand why they do this unless they feel they will get better scores from HUD and hence more access to bonus dollars. A demo project would be severely limited by such system interference.

**From** Paul Kosowsky:

What can HUD and others do to help local communities engage Boards of Ed. and Housing Depts. which have not been willing to participate so far?

**From** Lisa Doyle-Parsons:

Youth serving agencies

**From** Deb Murphy:

youth with lived experience

**From** Paul Curtis:

Cities and counties addressing the issue in the region

**From** sandra carpenter:

we have an alliance called community youth outreach here made up of casa and a youth service agency plus a housing provider

**From** Paul Kosowsky:

Mental health and SA providers, Boards of Ed, Police, Adult homeless providers, emergency depts. (fire/police etc.,) City governments.

**From** Maggie Richerson:

school systems k-12 and college

**From** andrea myhre:

Collective impact is a common concept these days. We are attempting locally to establish a continuum of care based on youth age and kinds of services necessary to address their needs

**From** Julie Bock:

Runaway and Homeless youth serving agencies, grantees from FYSB

**From** Carissa Conway:

you have to work with your city- and adult homeless providers, youth serving agencies, schools and businesses

**From** andrea myhre:

## MOUs

**From** Diana Myers:

Housing and homeless partners, juvenile justice, child welfare, education, human services including behavioral and mental health agencies...key question is who should take the lead, which will likely vary in each community

**From** Rosemary Lavenditti:

What a collaborative approach looks like - partners needed at the table: Housing, HRY Grantees, Other homelessness service providers, Child Welfare, Education, Justice dept., Local city/county agencies.

**From** Ross Pologe:

a collaborative community approach requires a leadership commitment from the public and private partners who are involved.

**From** Paul Kosowskys:

must be integrated with local CoC, HMIS and CANS

**From** sandra carpenter:

cyo also has partnerships with cps and schools colleges and the homeless coalition

**From** Mark Heinert:

Needs to be at table: child welfare, juvenile justice, homeless providers, school McKinney Vento workers and absolutely RHY Providers. Rural areas will have more challenges - and need other partners.

**From** Dianne McManus:

School Systems, CoC's stakeholders, Workforce Development, DCF

**From** Shehial Stephens:

Currently the Colorado Metro Denver CoC is working to develop a coordinated system the current present stakeholders are all homeless youth providers particularly those with housing options. We are working to get public schools involved. So homeless service providers, schools, Child Welfare, community or county agencies, CoC lead agency, youth

**From** Rosemary lavenditti:

Employment - WIOA service providers as well.

**From** Kate Lodge:

Multiple systems, those systems that touch youth, and youth themselves. Need a convener (backbone) for a collective impact model.

**From** tonicia green:

This may involve organizations that provide training/employment as well as those that provide affordable, safe and sanitary housing.

**From** Shehial Stephens:

WIOA providers

**From** andrea myhre:

A couple of models that work well are Youth Service Teams - multi-agency staffing of youth and their families

**From** Tim Pray:

I can't speak for other CoCs around the country, but in Los Angeles, it's exceedingly difficult to find landlords/property managers willing to play ball with programs like Rapid Rehousing. So, in a perfect

world, a good community collaboration would include well-informed and, more than likely, incentivized landlords.

**From** Lisa Doyle-Parsons:  
PREP Grantees (pregnancy and std prevention) educators

**From** Carrie Campbell:  
Mental health and substance abuse counselors, schools, mckinney vento counselors, businesses, law enforcement

**From** Jon Bradley:  
for many youth all in one site with regular coordination including health, behavioral health, child welfare, school departments, law enforcement; sexual assault, and prevention in schools all available. In a community (depending on the size) single point of entry to assess level and type of initial need.

**From** Jen Elder:  
Income support programs, including supportive employment, job training, and Social Security disability programs (SSI/SSDI)

**From** kiley compton:  
RHY program, school system, community housing provider, child welfare agency, domestic violence and other victim service providers, faith based organizations, law enforcement,

**From** Dianne McManus:  
I agree Lisa Doyle...finding landlords is a HUGE barrier.

**From** Michelle Duso:  
attention to service/program, advocacy/policy and system change simultaneously and ongoing

**From** Phil Rhein:  
HHS and HUD need to do a better job of aligning the RHY and CoC programs - the reporting and homeless definitions need to be coordinated so all partners in the community are working from same set of rules and toward same goals

**From** Lisa Doyle-Parsons:  
grassroots organizations in relevant services area

**From** Dina Wilderson:  
A system that does not inhibit youth access to needed services, but that facilitates access. this includes schools systems, including PSE, behavioral health systems, education systems, job training, and employers

**From** Jarrod Feld:  
YouthLink in Minneapolis. <http://www.youthlinkmn.org/> Home and host site of the Youth Opportunity Center. Over 30 community partners.

**From** Evie Craig:  
Schools (all - including alternative and school board members), housing providers, law enforcement, congregations, HMIS, HUD and HRY grantees (all homeless service providers - CoC)), neighborhood leaders, child/family protective services, juvenile justice personnel, local units of government, most important - YOUTH!

**From** Cammie Cacace:  
School system- Homeless liasion

**From** Diana Myers:

key is participation by homeless youth and formerly homeless youth

**From** Caitlin Campbell:

Multnomah County Homeless Youth Continuum partners, Portland OR, are here responding as a group. Our Continuum of Care for homeless youth involves all youth providers meeting regularly, agreeing to values, goals, and practice standards. Working together with police, child welfare, housing authority, schools, workforce providers, landlords, government reps, foundation reps, business community, community justice, etc. on a plan for community resources.

**From** Dina Wilderson:

Other systems that need to be included - justice systems, particularly related to transition services

**From** Megan Gibbard:

Agree with all above, certainly - add libraries

**From** Lisa Doyle-Parsons:

participation on COC's as members

**From** Julie Bock:

The relationships need to be formal and there needs to be a commitment to meet regularly. CoCs are positioned to be the conveners, they need to be open to integrating Youth serving agencies into their structures.

**From** Leticia Colchado:

creating a system for youth involves planning before the youth is transitioned from systems whether it be, prior to high school graduation or release from child welfare or justice

**From** Paul Kosowsky:

state child welfare agencies

**From** Pauline Greens:

Youth Voice is essential and pivotal in informing any community collaborative efforts. Other partners include School Board, higher education institutions; the local lead COC, health care providers, including mental health care professionals, parents; housing providers, religious organizations, child welfare, juvenile justice and law enforcement

**From** Tammy Weidinger:

Must have a housing partner that provides emergency, transitional and long term housing. We have section 8 but our youth typically are the highest priority. Mental health services are critical and need to be provided on site. MOU's with post-secondary institutions that help cut through the various systems. Workforce development services must be able to provide job training with a career pathway. Financial education services can help youth understand the status of their credit report and learn to budget their money. Case management is a necessity! Youth need someone on their side who can provide support and encouragement.

**From** Diana Myers:

Delaware County PA is starting a Youth Coalition of all relevant parties including housing as an ongoing group

**From** Sandra Carpenter:

the resource center works with youth who are at risk of or are homeless youth advocates make referrals to community resources and the center itself serves meals and engages youth to begin to think about their future we provide GED training and employment help

**From** Hilary Krogh:

School District Homeless Liaisons, Youth Homeless Providers, Youth service providers, Local CoC lead agency rep, Youth Advocacy leaders (CA Coalition for Youth), mental health, Job corp.

**From** Lisa Doyle-Parsons:

collaboration with McKinney Vento worker and other vested community partners

**From** Dianne McManus:

Juvenile Justice systems and Workforce Development programs that are already in place. Once again, it doesn't matter how well we all cooperate if you have no affordable housing for homeless youth.

**From** Camille Castillo:

El Paso had developed partnerships with LEA's, housing providers, agencies who provide supportive services, local police department

**From** Lisa Doyle-Parsons:

community forums to get likeminded partners together

**From** Phil Rhein:

Aligning Dept of Ed homeless definition would also help - local school districts won't participate in PITC partly due to privacy concerns but also because they don't follow same homeless definition as HUD, which often means CoCs are unable to help families/children who are couch-surfing, doubled up, etc.

**From** Linda Elliott:

We have a unified youth intake system with all of the youth housing providers participating. Mental and physical health providers also critical. Meeting regularly and applying the same practices and policies. Representation on the CoC is needed.

**From** Charles Knight:

I do believe we need youth who have "been there before" who can interface with our youth and can assure them we are "OK" as often people trying to help are distrusted. Remember the 60's "never trust anyone over 30". We are there now.

**From** Cammie Cacace:

Hospitals. We are funded for the Future Prep grant that offers Life Coach services to Youth that are transitioning out of foster care and we work to ensure stable housing along with other life skills. We also work closely with the child welfare system where they have a TIL Housing Coordinator that assists with securing housing.

**From** Erin Hatheway:

Collaboration should also include young people who have personally experienced homelessness. One of the best ways to include them meaningfully is to develop a parallel structure and process that allows them to propose what they would like to see happen within the CoC, so that their input is considered along with other community leaders.

**From** Dianne McManus:

Local faith based organizations, church youth programs

**From** Alyssa Senz:

mental health services

**From** Julie Bock:

Landlords need to be included - they are essential and their understanding (fear) of renting to youth makes or breaks RRH, TBRA, etc.

**From** Paul Kosowsky:  
health care providers

**From** Dina Wilderson:  
partnerships that include providers in the community plans. As we pivot toward youth as a priority population we need to make sure developmentally appropriate approaches are introduced into CoC ways of doing business

**From** Carla Storey:  
local CoC, schools, homeless service providers, youth, housing agencies, other youth serving providers, child welfare. community as a whole

**From** megan gibbard:  
Community members as host homes - natural supports for young people.

**From** Caitlin Campbell:  
In addition to adult providers, also good to involve Peer Mentors. Recovery-oriented Peer Mentors are key staff to integrate into programs.

**From** Carissa Conway:  
Homeless outreach teams, soup kitchens

**From** simon costello:  
Public and private partnership including Workforce Development Boards, Businesses and business organizations, neighborhood organizations.

**From** Cammie Cacace:  
The county's Children's Services Council assists with funding grants that have a stable housing component to combat homelessness.

**From** Kathy Tillotson to Host & Presenter:  
First is housing. We utilize WIOA funding for job readiness and employment. It is important to have mental health and substance abuse treatment. Also need legal and medical at the table. It is also important to include education, for example, high school diploma, vocational training, financial literacy. All these places need to be collaborating. We utilize volunteers, faith based organization, etc. We have our Steps to Success which is a blueprint for taking a youth from homelessness to independence. The issue is getting organizations to work together and making criteria for services less of an obstacle.

**From** Lisa Doyle-Parsons:  
Case Managers, outreach personnel, life skills providers/facilitators

**From** Minta Walker:  
An interdisciplinary approach has to be created that contains clear policies and procedures so everyone involved across the disciplines can be on the same page in the overall mission to eliminate /prevent youth homelessness

**From** Ilsa Lund:  
Experts in human trafficking

**From** Julie Bock:  
I am concerned about building a separate system. Traditional adult providers DO work with youth, they need to increase their capacity to work with youth/young adults effectively and age-appropriately.

**From** Brian Brant:

In Colorado the statewide collaborative efforts include the Division of Child Welfare, Division of Housing, Office of Behavioral Health, State Judicial, Department of Education (McKinney Vento), Department of Higher Education (Single Points of Contact), COC's and RHY providers, and other Community service providers.

**From** Alyssa Senz:

RHY programs have basic center \$ that allows for mental health services. In WI, we have been able to use these funds to support 10 free community based counseling sessions in order to help break down barriers to mental health services

**From** megan gibbard:

Agree with Julie Bock - keep linking to adult systems and ensure adult system can serve YA's well, when they see them.

**From** Charles Knight:

Yes Mellissa, big need for youth navigators, both at beginning and throughout the process.

**From** Valerie Douglas:

Everyone is sharing great suggestions. Some more specific orgs would be LGBTQ, Developmental Disabilities, higher education orgs that understand homelessness....

**From** Anne Marchand:

Within our Tribes, I like the approach to a project our Colville Indian Housing is working on using VASH Vouchers that will help start the housing project for Veterans, but include additional units for youth aging out of the foster care system. In this 'collaborative community' will be an actual Case Worker/Social Worker on site, helping the residents access needed services, mental health/chemical dependency, educational, cultural, etc., I would think that a youth housing project that offered these types of support services. With a youth specific project, I'd like to see it inclusive of our youth in either foster care or relative care. A Collaborative Community to me would be inclusive of the schools, housing program, tribal health and human services division, employment and education services division, tribal leadership, etc..

**From** Angelica Terrazas:

public defender's office is needed as well, for legal aid

**From** megan gibbard:

Agencies by and for communities of color --

**From** Hilary Krogh:

Homeless School District liaisons and Youth providers absolutely need to be at the table

**From** Caitlin Campbell:

Community planning groups need opportunities for youth to be active and ongoing participants.

**From** Mark Heinert:

Street Outreach Programs

**From** Michelle Duso:

Affinity and identity based communities--communities/providers of faith, immigrants, refugees, LGBTQQI, developmental disabilities, etc. to provide inclusive outreach, practice, community and resource provision

**From** Alison Schlageter:

nonprofit housing providers (supportive housing) and landlords

**From** Kathy Tillotson to Host & Presenter:

We are finding in our community the number of homeless youth from the foster system is a very small number of the homeless youth 18 to 24. There are housing options and AB12 for those from the foster system but no funding for those not from the foster system.

**From** andrea myhre:

Also the model for housing homeless youth is different than adult homeless. It is our experience they are better living in shared housing, especially if they are 18-20

**From** andrea myhre:

Youth don't necessary want to live alone or should live alone

**From** Natalie Metzger-Smit:

immigration services

**From** Valerie Douglas:

supports the youth and follows them wherever they may be - not only attached to a specific program

**From** Barbara Poppe:

If possible, the collaborative should be convened by an entity that has broader focus than the CoC in order to draw in and get accountability from the mainstream systems. Initially philanthropy could be convener but ultimately it will need to be held together long term by the public system as most investment will need to be from public sources.

**From** Ben Thornton:

I would expect that all groups and services be Trauma Informed in their approach to working with these youths. Another system for them to navigate without this approach could re-traumatize.

**From** andrea myhre:

Our CoC doesn't necessary include homeless youth as a priority - homelessness issues are just too huge in Oregon

**From** kenneth crookston:

Youth may not desire to live alone; however, they are completely turned off by the thought of living in any environment that looks or feels like a group home.

**From** Minta Walker:

Historically service organizations have been assisting the same clients, and often do not share information because of confidentiality laws, etc..... barriers have to be removed to enable this type of communication between the different organizations, state, local, nonprofit etc.....mandates must be put in place to share information that will help and not hinder the youth involved

**From** andrea myhre:

Not a group home.

**From** Nancy Strohming:

Connect to Police, youth picked up for sex trafficking. Also we are starting to look at Food Stamp lists.

**From** Lisa Conrad:

we've tried a version of shared housing, or multiple units in a building and it turns into an animal house environment. i think peer support (weekly group) is essential to build supportive relationships with peers who are in the same situation, or are on the other side of the situation and can say/show them "you can make it".

**From** Charles Knight:

Job training based on aptitudes which help them learn job skills is so essential. but that takes money not normally placed in a NOFA for such as this could be called administrative, but in actuality it is essential to finding out what job fields the youth can be successful in

**From** Joe Alonzo:

National Safeplace model helps bring private businesses, service providers, and governmental partners together.

**From** andrea myhre:

RHY providers are really experts in the field of providing services to homeless youth

**From** Laura Moore:

With the level of generational homelessness, contacts need to be made with service providers for other family members who may try to latch on to a youth that is beginning to stabilize

**From** Brian Brant:

We tend to disagree with the idea that the response for prevention of youth homelessness should not always be the same as the response for Chronically Homeless. Although there are some youth who are very vulnerable and may need a housing first model, this is not a developmentally appropriate approach for many of our youth. We need a housing continuum that includes developmentally appropriate requirements and supports for youth who are transitioning. RHY providers report that traditional models do not work well but rather postpone the experience of homelessness.

**From** Joseph Scalise:

In Summit County Ohio, agencies serving youth serve on a homeless youth task force to address issues related to the young adult population. These include housing providers, childrens services, Street Outreach, Job and Family Services, the Housing Authority and many other public and faith based providers.

**From** Charles Knight:

agreed Laura, so needful when the primary guardian cannot function in that capacity.

**From** Kate Lodge:

Youth themselves are key partners, they help galvanize the collaboration.

**From** Joe Alonzo:

Prevention services to keep families intact in elementary and middle school. Partnering community service providers and counselors

**From** Hilary Krogh:

Youth Homelessness needs to be recognized as different and unique from Chronic Adult homelessness as buy in from leadership. Unaccompanied youth are vulnerable in safety

**From** Charles Knight:

yes, Kate the key partners are the youth themselves.

**From** Shehial Stephens:

Question 2:

**From** andrea myhre:

lack of understanding of specific issues concerning homeless youth - are lumped in with adult homeless population

**From** Kate Lodge:

barriers; disparate definitions of homelessness

**From** Paul Kosowsky:  
our CoC hasn't bought in to youth yet. they are totally focused on ending chronic adult homelessness only.

**From** Shehial Stephens:  
Question 2: Barriers- resistant youth providers that will not move forward unless it is a HUD mandate, non-unified providers competing against one another.

**From** Jarrod Feld:  
Misperceptions among community stakeholders -- seeing transition-aged youth who have experienced homelessness as charity rather than investment.

**From** Derek Harris:  
Having one definition of youth homelessness is necessary

**From** Phil Rhein:  
The lack of alignment between different definitions of homelessness probably creates the greatest barriers to collaborating with other agencies.

**From** andrea myhre:  
Local housing authorities have set their policies on how they use funding for subsidized housing

**From** andrea myhre:  
No flexibility

**From** Shehial Stephens:  
Question 2: Build into the Chronically homeless definition VISPDATS that foster care years can count as chronically homeless

**From** Joe Alonzo:  
In WA state, Legislation can be a barrier, HMIS/RHYMIS Coordinated Entry issues with under 18 consent

**From** Lisa Conrad:  
HUD homeless definition can limit access for youth or young adults (age 18-24); they have to first experience that stay in a homeless shelter before accessing services. those couch surfing youth are very homeless, just haven't burned all their bridges yet, or are able to crash from place to place for a while.

**From** Natalie Metzger-Smit:  
Transitional Housing for youth should not be placed in Tier 2 for CoC funding.

**From** Paul Kosowsky:  
Need HUD to push CoCs to give youth equal priority and access. Make them prove their efforts and not just give lip service to the focusing on youth.

**From** Carrie Campbell:  
I would agree that the definition and understanding youth homelessness vs. adult chronic homelessness is a huge barrier; also funding in schools for McKinney Vento counselors that are knowledgeable

**From** Kate Lodge:  
Barriers: Disparate definitions of homelessness.

**From** Lisa Conrad:  
need VI-SPDAT that is relevant to youth

**From** Shannon Derrick:

Young adults move between staying with people, survival sex, shelter, street, cars, etc. and at times it is hard to bring them into programs that require HUD homelessness. They are often putting themselves at great risk to avoid adult shelters.

**From** Shehial Stephens:

Question 2: Barriers Colorado and legal system seeing homeless individuals and families as criminals and treating them as criminals.

**From** Mark Heinert:

Barriers - there are too many groups that all of us are already a part of. Agencies and workers are growing tired of new projects or task forces. I think it would be best to set this up under an existing task force or collaboration so that it is not repeat. COC - one idea - also - local homeless coalitions, or other existing partnerships.

**From** Vernett Sherrill:

Barriers for CoC's are youth meeting HUD definitions for homelessness

**From** Angelica Terrazas:

Not all organizations have the necessary information regarding homeless youth and issues surrounding homelessness for this population. Need buy-in from all partners or potential partners

**From** Carissa Conway:

i think that RHY providers are so new to the COC- its difficult to figure how RHY fits in that system

**From** Natalie Metzger-Smit:

We are being pushed by our CoCs to transition TH programs for youth to RRH, a model that does not provide the support youth need to become self-sufficient.

**From** Charles Knight:

barriers are the perceived barriers that the youth feel are there, whether real or not. We need youth "ambassadors" that have "been there" and they can affirm the help coming from "the system" is "OK" and "for real".

**From** Carrie Campbell:

transportation is also a huge barrier and life skills for the young people, so many of them do not know how to be an adult and take care of themselves fully

**From** Maggie Richerson:

various definitions of homelessness, McKinney-Vento vs RHY vs HUD

**From** Shehial Stephens:

Question 2: Entitlement benefits process is difficult and Entitlement benefit providers do not recognize the issues that homeless individuals experience

**From** Angela D'Orazio:

One major barrier is competing definitions of homelessness - different definitions by department of ED, HUD, HHS makes it difficult to coordinate efforts

**From** Lisa Conrad:

youth avoid shelter system due to worry of victimization--youth, young adult shelter would be huge in terms of removing barriers to access services

**From** Caitlin Campbell:

Our CoC reflects HUD priorities. Priorities have not always matched youth needs. We often need tools that are not prioritized. This might include time frames for support. People may need more than RRH

limits, however might not be a good fit for PSH. Youth don't rank well when measured in same prioritization with adult vulnerability tools.

**From** kenneth crookston:

HUD's definition of homelessness itself is a barrier for those youth exiting the foster care system

**From** Shannon Derrick:

Some youth need more time to build skills to be self-sufficient than TH or RRH but don't qualify or don't really need PSH.

**From** Camille Castillo:

federal guidelines/provisions are not aligned with state laws

**From** tonicia green:

providing support around housing

**From** Angelica Terrazas:

Could benefit from identifying former foster youth and expediting services for them

**From** Ross Pologe:

There's a perception that the COC risks losing funds it already receives in shifting or reprioritizing programs to serving youth/young adults

**From** Paul Kosowsky:

Need HUD to give much clearer guidance to CoCs about what is acceptable to HUD in terms of models and length of stays.

**From** Charles Knight:

Most of all, listen to what they think they need, it might be vastly different from what we think they need.

**From** Jill Schoenfuss:

Because the HUD definition of youth includes both minors and young adults, there is not a clear understanding as to how to incorporate programming for youth and the referral process into the Coordinated Access Networks.

**From** Maggie Richerson:

youth under the age of 18 cannot access housing and housing programs

**From** Carla Storey:

homeless providers not understanding the unique needs of homeless youth and the types of housing that work best for them. many homeless youth are couch surfing or doubled up, which doesn't meet HUD's definition of homelessness. This eliminates them from housing programs. We have been working on educating our CoC about who the homeless youth are and the best ways to work with them. The other barrier is that the focus of our CoC is ending chronic and vet homelessness, which means housing dollars go towards PSH programs and not programs which benefit homeless youth.

**From** Evie Craig:

there's a need for young adult shelters- 18-24-year-old-specific programming

**From** andrea myhre:

There is a great deal of difference in how COCs address homeless youth. RHY have to really advocate for youth and get involved in their COC to change anything

**From** Carrie Campbell:

Because youth homelessness is not seen differently enough the program times are often too short to really deal with the issues for that youth.

**From** Christy Saxton:

Allow for creativity and flexibility. Providers have immense capacity to deliver robust services but at times funding can limit that programming due to strict regulations. By allowing for flexibility then a stronger partnership between provider and funder can occur.

**From** Derek Harris:

Better language around Rapid Rehousing programs that are youth and young adult focused. Youth Rapid Rehousing should focus on longer length of stay up to 24 months with supportive services and case management

**From** Julie Bock:

I really think RHY providers are well connected with Youth serving organizations in their communities. The issue is that the CoCs are seen (and often act) as "Adult-only" homelessness addressing organizations. This division is not real and inhibits service provision. Unless there is an issue of legal guardian permission, RHY and CoC member organizations are doing very similar tasks. They need to be completely integrated on all levels. HUD can require that all these entities are included in CoCs, and that the interactions and relationships are real, not just in name only. The NOFA can require evidence of inclusion.

**From** Michelle Duso:

barriers: lack of competency to provide services to youth with disabilities and/or LGBTQI youth and young adults...TA, training, nondiscrimination policy/practice requirements

**From** Lisa Conrad:

transitional housing is 24 months. young adults are in a transitional period of their lives, and often might need more than 24 months to complete education, or become stable in a program. need to increase the transitional timeframe possibly. they don't need PSH, but something longer than 24 months.

**From** Jarrod Feld:

Combination of very high rent and low vacancy rates especially in urban areas.

**From** simon costello:

Organization missions not in line with each other. We need some coordinated goals and develop action plans to implement.

**From** Phil Rhein:

HUDs emphasis on focusing CoC and ESG funding on housing without services makes it extremely difficult to ensure people have the services and assistance they need to achieve and maintain stability. The limits on funding HUD faces are real but it is difficult to maintain progress on stability without making it possible for homeless shelters to access billing sources such as Medicare

**From** Evie Craig:

Privacy laws can be a barrier with schools and mental health providers

**From** Hilary Krogh:

Our youth shelter is full and youth are waiting for housing. Specifically, the homeless youth are entered into the Coordinated Entry Queue...but there is no Permanent Supportive Housing for Youth (only Families).

**From** Jennifer Dangremond:

We also see an implied barrier in that there is such a focus on prioritizing services and housing for the chronic population. Are youth missing resources because the focus is on the chronic. Likewise, youth transitional housing is barely hanging on in Tier II. We need to keep that housing option a priority and not let the funding in Tier II get completely re-allotted to PSH for chronic or RRH.

**From** Mark Heinert:

Federal government can require less mandates. Every funding source already has too many mandates. We could benefit to get more federal partnerships to combine reporting and other things so that programs are not duplicating. The federal government could also look at longer term funding for services that work. Too much time is wasted on writing proposals and scrambling for lost funds.

**From** Pauline Green:

In Miami-Dade, our local CoC is not currently prioritizing youth homelessness, which is a challenge as we develop a community collaborative to end youth homelessness. Youth do not feel safe in accessing the services available and feel that shelter spaces are dangerous.

**From** Evie Craig:

Here in Kansas City, we would love to be able to case conference on youth as we do with adults in Zero:2016 - sometimes privacy concerns prohibit this

**From** Manny Sarria:

(1) Establishing a need for homeless youth housing, and (2) serving youth who are couch surfing and do not meet the HUD definition of homelessness. If we cannot demonstrate a need for youth housing by way of the PIT, we cannot justify using HUD resources to expand youth supportive housing. In Miami, we seem to have very little unsheltered youth (per the PIT) in comparison to the 1000's of children who are unstably housed per the school board's data.

**From** Lisa Doyle-Parsons:

Major Barrier, HUD definition of homeless doesn't capture well the reality of a homeless youth who is often a couch surfer prior to becoming totally unsheltered

**From** Charles Knight:

Yes Evie, there is a need for young adult (youth) shelters that move folks into housing they can relate to and grow along with as they transition into full adulthood and responsibilities, such as job placement and money budgeting and goals achievement assistance and encouragement

**From** Julie Bock:

I respectfully disagree, Housing First works with Young Adults. And I agree that supportive services are essential to seeing that model be successful. And time-limits (24 months) many not fit for young adults.

**From** Erin Hatheway:

Agree with comments above about ensuring a developmentally appropriate length of time in Rapid Rehousing programs for young adults. Young people have advocated for at least up to 24 months of stepped-down rental assistance.

**From** Derek Harris:

Create a Federal Young Adult Shelter program for young adults age 18-24. Many young adults do not want to access adult shelters for safety reasons and those shelters are not developmentally appropriate.

**From** Phil Rhein:

Discussion about difficulties between CoC and RHY isn't necessary - people know what the problems are between the two; HUD and HHS need to ensure everyone is working toward the same goals, not similar goals that happen to overlap from time to time.

**From** Evie Craig:

Lack of flexibility for aging out youth; for example, if a youth is in a good home with a non-parent/guardian headed family, s/he can't stay after 18

**From** Christy Saxton:

another barrier is that the deliberate eradication of transitional housing. This is a critical model for transition aged youth and needs to be protected for this population. CoCs are being forced to eliminate TH based on direction from HUD. research and evaluated the validity of TH for this population.

**From** Evie Craig:

That was referring to Public Housing - sorry - unclear

**From** Nonie Brennan:

A critical barrier to establishing these relationships is having an identified entity who is providing the support to bring people to the table to move things forward. The Federal Government can identify a lead entity who provides the support to lead the planning and administrative and infrastructure activities that are essential for collaboration but are often not funded and don't exist.

**From** Michelle Duso:

Identifying policy/practice barriers within traditional youth service programs that often result in transitioning youth losing access to supports and services. Move toward housing first approach with supportive services versus prescriptive accountability structure that push many young people onto the streets

**From** Tim Pray:

One thing that would be very helpful is - much like the efforts that have gone into early childhood education - federal recognition of the unique developmental needs of the TAY population. Those needs are so diverse, so it would be helpful if Housing First approaches included transitional living program models and other developmental/trauma-informed considerations.

**From** Caitlin Campbell:

Support and funding for coordination activities, as well as direct services.

**From** George Martin to Jeanette McDermith (privately):

Youth

**From** Brendan Woodburn:

I see several different populations of youth which could mean a variety of solutions. The LGBTQ community and homeless youth as a result of discrimination, human trafficking, and addiction. Then, the aging out of child services population. Then, the addiction and MH pop

**From** megan gibbard:

Agree with callers comments on data sharing - huge issues between HUD, HHS, Ed data requirements and protections

**From** Angelica Terrazas:

I agree with Christy Saxton: transitional housing benefits homeless youth and should remain as part of CoC funded programs

**From** Charles Knight:

Yes, from the caller, we need to share our data with other agencies so we have joint requirement from confidentiality so we help our people move forward and not keeping them without help to keep the data secure.

**From** Phil Rhein:

this isn't specific to youth per se but HUD could make a great deal of affordable housing available for all homeless populations, young and old alike, by REQUIRING PHAs to prioritize homeless for placement in subsidized units and Section 8 vouchers, not simply "encouraging" PHAs to adopt such policies - our local CoC has no ability to compel or convince the local PHAs to adopt this preference; the PHAs simply refuse to do so.

**From** Paul Kosowsky:

Lack of supportive housing for youth to exit to - perhaps shared housing programs with support, not time limited.

**From** Mark Heinert:

A big challenge is the federal RHY saying transitional Living is best practice for this age group, but HUD continues to say Permanent housing is the greatest desire. If these care not in agreement, it creates local friction as each provider is trying to meet the needs of their funders.

**From** Lisa Doyle-Parsons:

Another barrier experienced in WV and perhaps an issue in smaller states is much of the HUD funded projects is awarded to the same organizations over and over so rarely can a new organization gain access to the funding

**From** Ilsa Lund:

One of the barriers is elevating the conversation beyond fighting for our against specific housing models as the most appropriate housing model for homeless youth and TAY. TH works well for some youth, RRH works well for some, portable subsidies, PSH, etc. There needs to be a continuum of housing options that match the diversity of youth needs.

**From** Dina Wilderson:

Lack of alignment among agencies. particularly as it relates to the outcomes for youth as outlined in Open Doors. If providers have to continue to report on outcomes that aren't driving toward these higher level goals if lessens our ability to execute and have impact

**From** Lori Freedman:

Agree with numerous other participants... transitional housing is needed to foster motivation, as opposed to permanent housing for which there are few "requirements"

**From** megan gibbard:

Mark H, I'd offer another perspective here - which is that I think we can agree we want all young people onto a permanent housing destination [out of a program, out of the system, into their lives if possible!] but that the steps to get there for a young adult are likely to take longer, include things like TH as appropriate, and are likely to require more support than an adult.

**From** Derek Harris:

Would agree with many of the comments on keeping and supporting Transitional Housing programs for young adults as they are a proven strategy in the continuum. The National Network for Youth has a great document on what works to end youth homelessness that I would recommend reading

**From** Jeanette McDermith (privately):

What is the password for the webinar? Our other computer will not connect

**From** Jeanette McDermith (privately):

Thanks

**From** Michelle Duso:

Include trauma-informed, positive youth development approaches with both transitional and permanent housing models. Provide "scattered" housing and group living options, as optimum solutions differ.

**From** Hilary Krogh:

HUD models discourage transitional housing which is appropriate for adults who can access Rapid ReHousing. However, Youth may need the supportive services offered by a Transitional housing model. RRH is unilaterally unavailable for youth since they have not been Chronically homeless long enough.

**From** Mark Heinert:

Both child welfare and juvenile justice need to be held more accountable for being a part of programming and FUNDING for youth that were formerly in their systems.

**From** megan gibbard:

we have also seen success to 24mo. RRH programs for YA's right out of shelter

**From** Charles Knight:

Yes, the birth certificate problem, why not a national registry tied to Social Security that can affirm the birth information. I think that is viable and able to be implemented instantly, as instantly as coding and such can allow.

**From** Megan Blondin:

Right on Dina - If providers have to continue to report on outcomes that aren't driving toward these higher level goals if lessens our ability to execute and have impact

**From** Maggie Richerson:

Birth certificates and Social security cards create barriers for youth accessing services (school, housing). Develop a system for students to access these items easily (with school records, etc.)

**From** Dianne McManus:

Youth needing an adult to sign for many agency resources. Homeless youth do not often have an adult to sign which means approaching an emancipated youth status...

**From** Phil Rhein:

all homeless populations have difficulty accessing vital records like birth certificates - any systemic changes HUD can push through would be extremely helpful but this is an issue created in large part by the Patriot Act and other federal regulations

**From** simon costello:

ting or passing?

**From** Charles Knight:

WE also might consider, among males especially, if the youth would benefit by transitioning into the military with a guaranteed effort to help with housing when they are honorably discharged from the military. Might include civilian job assistance as well.

**From** Dianne McManus:

Fear keeps many youth from even acknowledging they are sleeping on the streets. They do not want to be caught up in the 'system'

**From** Hilary Krogh:

There is free access to Birth certificates in California here

**From** Caitlin Campbell:

Multnomah County Homeless Youth Continuum works with Portland Police Bureau and supports community policing initiatives, assists with training new police cadets, and police sit on the coordinating body of our youth system.

**From** Vernett Sherrill:

We need a system to build in social media and advance technology

**From** Michelle Duso:

Yes to youth drop-in centers; recognize that serving youth who are not (yet) homeless is related prevention work

**From** Evie Craig:

Agree with caller that programs needed for youth and young adults (drop in centers, transitional housing) are not programs that most CoCs would rank high during the NOFA process

**From** Hilary Krogh:

Birth Certificates

[https://www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/birthdeathmar/Documents/AffidavitforFreeCertifiedCopyofBirthCertificate-8-](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/birthdeathmar/Documents/AffidavitforFreeCertifiedCopyofBirthCertificate-8-15.pdf)

[15.pdf](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/birthdeathmar/Documents/AffidavitforFreeCertifiedCopyofBirthCertificate-8-15.pdf)<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/birthdeathmar/Documents/AffidavitforFreeCertifiedCopyofBirthCertificate-8-15.pdf>

**From** megan gibbard:

Dianne, agree re: many young people don't want to be in a system - how can we support young people to get into their lives without requiring them to enter the system. Young people here in King County have asked for RRH [up to 24 months] and Host Homes - both not system's responses.

**From** Charles Knight:

Yes, homeless is not what our youth feel they are. They are without a good place to lay their head and good shelter, but they still have a "home" in regards to relatives. Houseless is what they are. They do not view themselves as homeless, just houseless.

**From** Dianne McManus:

The last person many homeless youth want to speak to is law enforcement. Have a mentorship program with LE to foster relationships of trust with HY

**From** Christine Ohl-Gigliotti:

Require residential colleges that accept ETV grants to provide low/no cost housing during holiday, semester, and summer breaks for their homeless students. They all have the resources to easily do so and it would make sense for the significant funding they receive from the ETV grants.

**From** Barbara Poppe:

Having HHS, DOL, and DOJ establish incentives for their grantees to be active on youth homelessness collaborative would be helpful. More than HUD will be needed to get the right players at the table. Guidance from each of these agencies on how their funding/programs can be part of the collaborative.

**From** Lisa Doyle-Parsons:

The VI-SPDAT Form does not serve the homeless youth population, it actually works against them

**From** Megan Blondin:

Allow demo sites to request waivers where they identify barriers with regulations

**From** Shannon Derrick:

Funding is very restricted. For example, services money and costs associated with college are not allowed

**From** Dianne McManus:  
Agree Llsa

**From** Megan Blondin:  
great idea barbara

**From** Nancy Strohminger:  
We think transitional housing is a good model for this population, with required case management services. However, HUD is moving away from that. Rapid Re-Housing does not work with a model for youth with no history of running a household.

**From** Tim Pray:  
Data collection instruments (databases) are still a long way from being consistent for agencies, creating enormous administrative workloads with double and triple data entry. Large CoC's are tasked with the process of supporting HMIS users, but cannot provide the tech support and one-on-one support to users, especially those not comfortable with technology. Some of the processes (such as RHYTTAC) are extremely clunky user unfriendly.

**From** Paul Kosowsky:  
Our CoC still holds us to the document standard but also requiring Category 1 only. Youth often fall into Category 2 but they don't allow us to serve these youth.

**From** Charles Knight:  
All regulatory groups in the Federal government need to talk with each other and not have regulations that bar folks from cross participation and therefore keep the youth "at risk" any minute longer than absolutely necessary.

**From** Michelle Duso:  
Agree re VI-SPDAT form not serving homeless youth

**From** Camille Castillo:  
although frowned upon, a high amount of services needs to be built into the housing of this population

**From** Caitlin Campbell:  
Regulatory Barriers: different homeless definitions, different age limits. Youth may have shorter documented lengths of homelessness and not prioritized for housing with CH requirement or prioritization,

**From** Anne Schulz:  
HUD Public Housing and HUD Homeless laws conflict specifically around eligibility. Need to use public housing for step down but impossible with eligibility conflicts.

**From** Nancy Strohminger:  
I think it is challenging to get IDs or SS card --that must be mailed to an address.

**From** kenneth crookston:  
Is it true that you are required to have a youth shelter up and running before or as part of having a drop-in shelter?

**From** kenneth crookston:  
\*drop in center

**From** Ben Thornton:

youth who are out of county can get services in our county so while we can help we can't work with agencies who have this barrier to working with youth. Some of them have been in the city for months but don't have ID.

**From** Angelica Terrazas:  
criminal records stand in the way to accessing employment and assisted housing

**From** Charles Knight:  
VESPADAT is a tool to drive youth away from participation. The help is in ID and work skills aptitude testing and minimize the things like VISPADAT for now

**From** kenneth crookston:  
\*drop in center

**From** Anne Schulz:  
Cant access WIOA and other job training without documentation

**From** Paul Kosowsky:  
Drop in centers need more funding for services. Too much time is lost on HMIS entry and outreach so not enough time to provide concrete services.

**From** Evie Craig to Presenter (privately):  
New definition of chronic is not appropriate for youth

**From** Ben Thornton:  
correction @Ben Thornton youth from out of county CANT get services

**From** Joseph Scalise:  
Creation of a Youth Homeless definition that allows for doubled up youth to participate in RRH programs would be an excellent place to ease regulatory restrictions.

**From** Julie Bock:  
A single, unified definition of homelessness than spans the needs of RHY and HUD homeless youth. The definitions drive the funding and therefore the services.

**From** Anne Schulz:  
HMIS needs to be able to talk to other systems. Staff put data in City, State, County and Fed systems with lots of duplicate data entry

**From** Nancy Strohming:  
A lot of WIOIA funds are getting connected to certain jurisdictions, demanding proof of address. This is just counter-productive to homeless youth.

**From** Camille Castillo:  
Why didn't you share best practices from other communities?

**From** Camille Castillo:  
Like Austin?

**From** Charles Knight:  
John is right, rural homelessness (houselessness) is miles away from all help. Rural youth have a mindset different than urban youth

**From** Diana Myers:  
State and federal regulations prohibiting grandparents raising grandchildren from entering certain senior housing--and the grandparents need more supports to care for these youth

**From** Brian Brant:

Programs on the Federal level should be coordinated to allow programs to work with youth beyond age 21. Case Management requirements can be difficult to manage as young people age. Under the new FUP demonstration project, young people are likely to cross the age threshold of Child Welfare programs which only go to age 21 in most states.

**From** Julie Bock:

Hear on HMIS data sharing. In terms on time management, duplicative data entry takes away from other possibilities for time utilization.

**From** Carrie Campbell:

Agree with McKinney Vento inconsistencies in the schools. Some counselors are more knowledgeable than others and most have too large a case load.

**From** Hilary Krogh:

I spent a couple of years on the Coordinated Entry Committee just repeating that an adult assessment for CE is not appropriate for youth. Eventually, the VISPDAT for Youth was developed. The agency serving homeless youth just began the administration of the Youth VISPDAT

**From** megan gibbard:

Agree with HMIS data sharing - particularly with schools.

**From** Tammy Weidinger:

Low income housing tax credits can be used to develop housing but the regs prevent youth without children from attending a post-secondary institution.

**From** Tedd Peso:

At the local level, zoning is a complex regulatory barrier. It is difficult to create new program spaces for certain types of programming because the zoning process can be time consuming, complex, expensive and contentious.

**From** Nancy Strohming:

McKinney-Vento homeless youth in our districts are almost 90% couch surfing with multiple families in one household. This group could see access to services without leaving their family supports.

**From** Dianne McManus:

All frontline staff know there is a conflict between what you are required to do, what you need to do, and what you can do. Requirements vs. Outcomes is a challenge for all programs and especially with homeless youth.

**From** Anne Schulz:

Many of our youth are homeless because the adult they want to stay with has Sect 8/PSA and they can't get added to the lease.

**From** Joseph Scalise:

In lieu of a Homeless definition change to accommodate homeless youth, more funding for 18-24 shelters would not only be more appealing than couch surfing but it would enable youth to receive a category 1 classification.

**From** Dianne McManus:

Yes Anne...a huge problem.

**From** Charles Knight:

Zoning needs to be changed to allow smaller square footage housing that might have a more congregated type of kitchen or meals portion. Sort of like is done in many colleges.

**From** Carrie Campbell:

Police should be a key tool for helping homeless youth but rather they often become a barrier and scare youth into hiding. Promoting more connections with law enforcement and mental health training for them.

**From** Michelle Duso:

lack of data on levels of use (we find lack of use) of shelter and transitional housing services; youth here are not accessing due to fear, safety and distrust and end up couch surfing

**From** Caitlin Campbell:

Long-term, our HUD programs work best when they fund both rent assistance, supportive services and client assistance. Continuum of Care feel like they need to prioritize rental assistance and leverage supportive services to be competitive. Long-term it is challenging for the programs operating HUD projects.

**From** Maggie Richerson:

age requirements of the participants, unaccompanied youth vs foster youth

**From** Paul Kosowsky:

We need funding for youth shelters.

**From** Tammy Weidinger:

Incentivize housing authorities to provide section for youth 18-24. This is a very scarce resource and is usually overcommitted in communities.

**From** Alyssa Senz:

We are rural as well and utilize host homes. Many of our youth do not want/will not agree to using a host home. Express more comfort in a shared housing option. As a result, we often lose our host home families, as they feel they are not being utilized. I feel we would have more success with different housing options

**From** Evie Craig to Presenter (privately):

Yes, our Basic Center only goes to age 17 doesn't even cover 18 year olds. Has HUD considered young adult shelter funding?

**From** Anne Schulz:

Yes, we need more youth shelter funding and for pregnant and parenting youth. In Chicago we have less than 50 beds city wide with a stay of longer than 120 days for pregnant and parenting youth.

**From** Dianne McManus:

Rural areas are very challenged.

**From** Nancy Strohming:

There should be easy ways to ID and Assess youth who are better served by DDA or Mental Health umbrellas.

**From** Tammy Weidinger:

Provide capital grants for communities interested in developing emergency, transitional, and permanent housing for youth 18-24.

**From** Michelle Duso:

\*age requirements and guidelines as well as shared housing models with intentional community building

**From** Evie Craig to Presenter (privately):

Adult shelters tend to be unsafe for young adults, and meanwhile VISPDAT doesn't rank them very high

**From** Hilary Krogh:

There is inconsistent McKinney-Vento funding...the minority of school district that are funded are more active and knowledgeable. School Districts are required to have a homeless liaison, regardless of funding, but there are only limited federal funds for a great program.

**From** Charles Knight:

Agreed Alyssa, the "host home" needs to be something the youth feel they control and that they are not just pushed into. It needs thinking "outside of the box" that we use to think of for help. These are people that hundreds of years ago we would call adults and ready to serve in wars or make contracts or become kings.

**From** megan gibbard:

Reminder re: how to request to place a comment on the phone?

**From** Lisa Conrad:

can you define "youth" as it relates to HUD and funding? i've heard it interchanged for those 17 and under, and 18-24.

**From** Angelica Terrazas:

licensing issues for transitional housing for 16 and 17-year-old homeless youth

**From** Julie Bock:

Regulations that do not acknowledge the diversity of sexual orientation and gender identity, which impacts either emergency or long-term group housing for LGBTQ+ youth.

**From** Linda Elliott:

I agree with caller that more is needed to demonstrate best practices for LGBTQ youth

**From** Tammy Weidinger:

Increase the Earned Income Tax Credit so youth qualify for a higher infusion of dollars - link to Individual Development Accounts for car purchases. This would help rural youth too.

**From** Charles Knight:

Part of the "disconnect" in the rural community is the refusal to acknowledge we do have a large segment of our population that is houseless, and is not given support by any consistent older adult.

**From** Brendan Woodburn:

I would like to see youth programs be similar to model for Independent Living used for individuals with disabilities in MA. Youth decide to live together as room-mates and have case managers

**From** Dianne McManus:

Current regs do force providers to send youth to the street or adult shelters although they may be alternating couch surfing with sleeping in the woods. If they have a couch to sleep on at a friend's house and decide it is dangerous to sleep there one night...they are not considered homeless as long as they are 'couch surfing'. I put youth in serious danger to be required to sleep on the streets or adult shelter for a night before they are considered 'homeless'.

**From** Brendan Woodburn:

The one issue is the goal of diversion at our CoC leads us to see decreased homeless. That is a fake stat

**From** Carrie Campbell:

Couch surfing for youth should be considered homeless in the definition for sure.

**From** Michelle Duso:

Legal, social/emotional and medical transition assistance for transgender and gender nonconforming youth is lacking; youth are forced out of gender specific housing, most shared housing does not allow co-ed spaces or for young people to be placed in housing consistent with their gender identity

**From** Kathy Tillotsons:

Two other barriers are: the mental health clinics are only helping those most severe. This does not include depression, anxiety, PTSD, and bipolar for example. There is also a severe lack of detox facilities since the CA state requirement says that heroin and meth addicts do not need a medical detox only a social model detox and the county clinics only provide medical detox.

**From** Charles Knight:

True Dianne, so true, the youth should not be so demoralized as a shelter before we recognize they need help. Something else needs to be done. Even a case worker at a shelter certifying they have needs and are homeless (houseless) would be a big step forward.

**From** Paul Kosowsky:

Can HUD mandate CoCs to allocate resources based on PIT count and/or HMIS data? Without this, there is no pressure for CoC

**From** Paul Kosowsky:

's to change gears and focus more on youth.

**From** Michelle Duso:

agree that couch surfing must be considered homeless

**From** Christopher Bohlander:

Can programs be created for Undocumented Youth, those who are not US citizens?

**From** Robert Wards:

I'd like to see Mr. Suchar or someone from HUD remind the participants that couch surfers, youth or otherwise, are not homeless as far as HUD is concerned and that this definition is not going to change without an act of Congress.

**From** kennee switzer:

Recognition 1) that homeless families may have their own set of challenges, barriers and needs in their journey to stability and self-sufficiency; 2) that systems often work against (rather in collaboratively) in their journey from homelessness to stability (i.e. childcare needs versus employment training needs, etc.); 3) that regulatory barriers for families are also different from single TAY.

**From** Hilary Krogh:

Regulatory barriers - HUD focuses funding on Chronic Homeless. Youth are on the streets, but not for the length of time that prioritizes the adults. they also don't have that health conditions that moves people up on the Queue for housing

**From** Christy Saxton:

Agree with Hilary Krogh!

**From** Michelle Duso:

agree with Hilary Krogh

**From** Paul Kosowsky:

How will HUD monitor funds get reallocated once "chronic and/or vet" homelessness reaches virtual 0?

**From** Carrie Campbell:

Can we be clearer about what we mean when we say "End Homelessness"? It seems unlikely we would ever be able to end homelessness, just based on human nature, but we can End Homelessness for Individual Youth... they will be replaced by another, more likely than not, but to end it altogether... it's not a good message as it leads to constant failure.

**From** Dianne McManus:

After attending many of the HUD conferences, it seems that we are using the same criteria for Urban and Rural areas in developing definitions of "homelessness". Our youth do not have the option of a "Youth Homeless Shelter". We only have one family shelter for 2 counties.

**From** Mark Heinert:

Couch surfing as a term is used very loosely at times. By sticking with the RHY definition which includes safety: "it is not possible to live in a safe environment with a relative (or) ...other safe alternative living arrangement". - I think HUD and RHY can agree on this. Others tend to get this muddled up.

**From** Julie Bock:

With new definition for chronic homelessness young adults can't be considered for that prioritized funding until the age 22+. This is a barrier.

**From** Hilary Krogh:

Sample needs assessment

**From** megan gibbard:

Mark H I TOTALLY agree - -and we can keep moving forward.

**From** Paul Kosowsky:

More guidance on best practices for assessing and prioritizing which youth should be served in what types of programs.

**From** Charles Knight:

Our success in a coordinated effort to end youth homelessness is directly tied to the federal government being able to coordinate all programs so that we speak with one voice, not different rules for different departments and agencies.

**From** Dianne McManus:

Agree Charles

**From** Diana Myers:

We clearly need information on best practices for housing models for youth, especially for permanent housing models; also for short term housing

**From** Kathy Tillotsons:

With no COC funding for homeless TAY in Orange County, we don't have the resources to work with the HMIS system. Instead we use Salesforce for our client information. This has given us a lot of good data on over 800 homeless youth we have helped but the COC cannot take this data into their HMIS system. To collaborate, I feel it is important that we have good data on the youth.

**From** Molly Lewis:

we use hmis

**From** Paul Kosowsky:

Us too.

**From** Erin Wixsten:

definitely using HMIS!

**From** Michelle Duso:

Support learning across demonstration sites re: tools, assessments, best practices, structures, data collection and analysis, maximizing new and existing resources and expertise, etc.

**From** Aaron Farnon:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/hmis/>

**From** Kexin Ma:

We are the HMIS lead in WNY

**From** andrea myhre:

We are brand-new to our COC and HMIS as an RHY program. We would love to access HUD funding to help older homeless youth but have no idea how to do this.

**From** Molly Lewis:

We also are able to get information on the other places the youth uses

**From** Shehial Stephens:

I manage 4 separate partners under 1 HUD grant and I would like for the APRs to an automatic upload to e-snaps, or auto populate fields

**From** Linda Elliott:

We use HMIS

**From** Robin Meyer:

The

**From** Charles Knight:

HMIS works locally but trying to get the rest of the state or other states to cooperate can be a real challenge. This could be any director or agency head's cousin or niece is this without housing folks. We need to "get it together" for the sake of our youth, our future leaders.

**From** Cindy Short:

HMIS is only good if everyone uses it; our CoC has HMIS but not all of our agencies do.

**From** Paul Kosowsky:

Need funding to support the amount of data entry. We have reduced services in outreach by 15-20% to keep up with new HMIS requirements vs. RHYMIS

**From** Carrie Campbell:

Funding for data... we use HMIS and other data systems that work well to track the data needed for reporting. It is necessary, just as admin costs are part of running a non-profit.

**From** Brendan Woodburn:

We may use MHIS, but I am unsure how well the data is being analyzed in OH. That is, we as providers enter it, but it is up to outsiders to take data and crunch it

**From** Kathy Tillotsons:

In response to a previous comment, we use Housing First/Rapid Rehousing with accountability.

**From** Dianne McManus:

Increase funding for local school districts' homeless liaisons. Encourage school districts to participate in HMIS

**From** Tina Cummings:

ORR (Office of Refugee Reformation) works with undocumented youth.

**From** Mark Heinert:

Samples of plans that are recognized as good. Let FYSB and RHY providers lead. Find a way to pool resources federally so that we aren't applying for many different funding sources. Most of the support needed for TA and support are just being able to answer and clarify technical questions and then get out of the way.

**From** Kexin Ma:

Agree with Dianne McManus. Encourage Data Integration!

**From** Dianne McManus:

Agreed Anne on funding for HMIS to 'talk' to other data systems.

**From** Tedd Peso:

Require that all HMIS vendors interface with organizational databases.

**From** Charles Knight:

What can we do to help our young people so they do NOT experience what we know as homelessness. We need to protect them from this psychological trauma. How do we do that. How do we prevent this awful thing. For to prevent it might be much more economical than to treat the problem after it has happened.

**From** Ben Thornton:

yes we use HMIS

**From** Niki Paul:

It would be great to share best practices for engaging youth (peer) leadership with the CoC planning and implementation of programs. This certainly a shift away from our adult-focused continuum and we greatly understand that youth can provide critical and unique perspectives that should be provided space through the community process.

**From** Robin Meyer:

The "singles rule" through the Housing Authorities administrative code, limits young single homeless youth's access to long term subsidized housing resources. youth end up at the very bottom of years' long waiting lists even with coordinated agreements and prioritization systems in place in partnerships with our local Housing Authority. Similar to the need to expedite ID access or access to resources without ID, I would like the Housing Authorities to allow prioritization of homeless youth similar to elderly, disabled, and families.

**From** Mark Heinert:

HMIS yes - all RHY providers do this

**From** Jill Schoenfuss:

Our CoC has one steering committee member who represents the interests of homeless youth, and this has helped to keep the needs of homeless youth on the agenda of the CoC.

**From** Christy Saxton:

Need more funding for our HMIS requirements. We have to share our admin costs which leaves us with essentially nothing. As well, the duplication of what we have to enter into systems is mind numbing. HMIS needs to be able to 'talk' with other systems.

**From** simon costello:

The federal government can assist in focusing all the partners stay focused on the goal of the demonstration project. There is a risk in demonstration projects that the competing deliverables of implementation plans, technical assistance, evaluation and fidelity assessment, take the focus off the

goal of developing new and improved interventions and system of care - it becomes all about the process and the reports. The federal government can assist in keeping project on point.

**From** Angelica Terrazas:

Not all school districts use the HUD definition of youth homelessness. They include youth who are couch surfing. So again consider changing definition of youth homelessness to include youth who are couch surfing.

**From** Jen Elder:

Need integration of income support into plans for housing - particularly for youth with disabling conditions. Many who are transitioning from foster care may also be losing their SSI benefits because they don't have support to re-apply. Other homeless youth may not know they could qualify for Social Security disability programs and their work incentive programs. Having this connection written into strategic plans is key.

**From** Minta Walker:

Absolutely using and requesting all Stakeholders to utilize HMIS

**From** Jack Parks:

what is the name of the contact person who just spoke out of Knoxville, we are an agency here in Chattanooga who work with this population and I would like to discuss?

**From** megan gibbard:

Agree with Simon - we need to focus.

**From** Leticia Colchado:

In Los Angeles County, we have undergone an extensive process as part of our County's Homeless Initiative to identify ways to enhance services to Transition Age Youth. In bringing together TAY Service Providers, Homeless Services Providers.

**From** Dianne McManus:

Great point Robin Meyer

**From** Gerald Tracy:

But RHY-HMIS is new to the RHY providers, and they will need support to integrate both their input, and use of reported data.

**From** Dina Wilderson:

Agree with Anne Schulz

**From** Hilary Krogh:

Advisory Letter to CoC directors that it is ok to look at Out of the box plans that don't fit the current models (Chronic homeless, RRH, PIT count data)...that it is desirable to look a Transitional Housing, Host Homes, Youth shelter for 12- 24, etc. Also communicate with Housing and Redevelopment agencies. And yes. Youth are being entered into the HMIS here (Sacramento Co)

**From** Charles Knight:

We need the support in training our youth (some of them) to become the leaders tthat can help other youth and upon proven abilities "in the field" we hire them as employees. We need to put the money where our mouth is and recognize those that have knowledge in this field and want to help and hire them as we would any other need we need to have done. It might require that they continue to go to college, but that is a funding we can do that will be about like having a youth in a shelter and that is our employee that is helping get other youth, off the streets, and into good housing.

**From** Kathy Tillotsons:

I agree with an earlier comment that the HUD proposal and grant process is not allowing for innovative programs to develop that are providing housing for homeless youth. HUD could be providing support to grassroots organizations that have innovative models that are working but not large enough or don't have the resources to work with HMIS and go through the COC grant process. I agree that data is key and integrating other data systems with HMIS is critical.

**From** Kexin Ma:

Help find funding on the Federal, state, local level to support the same goal.

**From** Alison Schlageter:

funding specifically to pay youth an adequate amount of money to participate in this process. We need to value their time given to us.

**From** Hilary Krogh:

We need to replace the Point In Time count with HMIS data...if youth are enter as we serve them. It will better show the number on the streets, etc.

**From** Carrie Campbell:

i would reiterate the need for Street Outreach. This is program that gets to youth early and connects with schools to get youth and young adults the services they need. HUD has eliminated Street Outreach and PRO Youth counseling completely and this needs to be part of the continuum of care for youth.

**From** Dianne McManus:

Coordinating youth homeless programs with Workforce Development Youth Programs like Youthbuild. Summer work programs.

**From** Brendan Woodburn:

We would need new technology and monies for software

**From** Leticia Colchado:

In Los Angeles County, we have undergone an extensive process as part of our County's Homeless Initiative to identify ways to enhance services to Transition Age Youth. In bringing together TAY Service Providers, Homeless Services Providers, our County office of Education, County Departments (social services, justice, child welfare), we together identified the need to enhance our TAY CES, enhance opportunities for identification within the mainstream systems, and increase opportunities for ongoing collaboration between all stakeholders. Our county Board of Supervisors has allocated \$5 Million for these activities and are hopeful that through this demonstration, we can be provided an additional opportunity for more money to serve this population

**From** Diana Myers:

I would especially like TA in identifying successful models for engaging youth and retaining their participation in counting and planning and implementation

**From** megan gibbard:

Talk to us in King County Diana!

**From** Brendan Woodburn:

We would need more funding in general since staff funding for programs of all types has decreased

**From** andrea myhre:

That's because RHYMIS and HMIS is still messy.

**From** Charles Knight:

Yes folks, HHS and HUD need to have the same age brackets for what we call youth.

**From** Hilary Krogh:

Our Youth providers are participating in HMIS, but there is no outcome from this because there isn't housing for the youth to enter. The need is identified, but youth are not prioritized for shelter/housing funds.

**From** Jennifer Dangremond:

We need easy access to timely best practices. Can you create an on-line site where we can share our stories and case studies?

**From** Kathy Tillotsons:

One on one support for applying for HUD funding for youth programs is greatly needed. Funding is also needed to analyze the data on homeless youth.

**From** Barbara Poppe:

Tailor resources for rural communities - the issues they face due to the sever lack of resources are very different than the urban areas which may be under-resourced but usually have at least some capacity to serve homeless youth.

**From** Kexin Ma:

New York has a robust Social Services system but "welfare" is almost designed to keep singles out. We could use regulatory relief for acceptance for "welfare" such as work requirements which are so strict that one misstep means expulsion from the program

**From** Charles Knight:

Yes Barbara, the services for rural youth and urban youth need to be defined separately as they are different worlds and cultures entirely.

**From** kennee switzer:

And tailor resources for homeless TAY families

**From** Julie Bock:

HUD could require inclusion of Youth & Young Adult (very specific) data on needs assessments, strategic plans, etc. Because that then requires CoCs to really include Youth issues in their planning. Then true data will be available. And then supports, TA can be determined.

**From** Hilary Krogh:

I always feel that youth are coming from behind and still not a priority with HUD even though the goal is to end youth homelessness...we need a strong statement to the CoCs that Youth need to catch up in as a priority.

**From** Dianne McManus:

Yes Barbara, rural communities face different barriers.

**From** Kathy Tillotsons:

WIOA has a lot of funding that could be used to help these youth. Help in educating businesses, chambers of commerce, unions, etc. on how these funds could be used to not only take youth off the street but provide skilled workers for their businesses would be great. For example, there is \$6,500 for technical certification training that could be used partnering with businesses or unions to train youth on the skills they need.

**From** Kate Lodge:

Giving technical assistance to communities on authentic youth engagement so communities planning process are informed by youth!

**From** Barbara Poppe:

Could HUD include PDR resources (\$ and expertise) to support/encourage community collaborative to undertake RCT to test models so that we can advance the field to build evidence of what works.

**From** Kexin Ma:

please do not say "we are building the airplane as we fly"

**From** Tedd Peso:

Community marketing materials would be helpful. Building relationships in the community takes time in advance of the program roll-out. We, and our partners, have seen much resistance from the community when we don't have ample time to build relationships and raise awareness.

**From** Paul Kosowsky:

how about prioritizing RHY and HUD funded projects for WIOA applications?

**From** Carrie Campbell:

Reporting is very burdensome, though it is understandably required and necessary as we have to be accountable for the funding, but deadlines and clarity of those deadlines and timely notification of those deadlines. HHS deadlines have a tendency to "move" and HUD is rarely understanding when NOFAs are released late on their end but deadlines don't move on our end.

**From** Hilary Krogh:

How can we access the transcript, participant questions and/or recording? please send out access link to all participants.

**From** Molly Lewis:

Thank you for doing this..... this was very helpful

**From** Dianne McManus:

Money on time and within contract dates would be very helpful.

[End of Listening Session]