



COORDINATED COMMUNITY PLAN TO PREVENT
AND END YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT
HOMELESSNESS

Table of Contents

1. Background	Page 3
2. Definitions	Page 5
3. Shared Vision	Page 6
4. Guiding Principles and Values	Page 7
5. Scope of Youth and Young Adults Experiencing Homelessness	Page 21
6. Gaps and Needs: At-Risk and Experiencing Homelessness	Page 31
7. Special Populations	Page 32
8. System Modeling	Page 41
9. Elevating Impact by Aligning Resources	Page 45
10. YAB Sustainability	Page 47
11. Indianapolis YHDP Partners	Page 48
12. Goals, Objectives, and Action Steps	Page 56
13. Goals, Objectives and Action Steps for Minors	Page 72
14. YHDP Projects	Page 83
15. Governance Structure	Page 92
16. YHDP Continuous Quality Improvement Plan	Page 95
Appendix 1: Governance Structure Chart	Page 97
Appendix 2: Map of Indianapolis	Page 98
Appendix 3: Indianapolis Homeless Response System Vision	Page 99
Appendix 4: Required Signatures	Page 100
Appendix 5: Terms, Definitions, and Acronyms	Page 101

1. Background

The Youth and Young Adult (YYA) Workgroup, previously named Homeless Youth Taskforce, was created as a formal Indianapolis Continuum of Care (CoC) committee in 2016 and charged with creating a community plan to prevent and end youth and young adult homelessness in the community. In addition to the YYA Workgroup, the Youth Action Board (YAB) was created in late 2016 in order to provide a space for youth and young adult voice to incorporate in the development of a community response to youth and young adult homelessness in Indianapolis. Together, the YYA Workgroup and YAB launched a coordinated community plan, titled *Re:Home*, in the summer of 2018. *Re:Home* provided a framework for Indianapolis to create a youth and young adult homeless response system to quickly identify young people experiencing homelessness and provide clear pathways towards permanent housing and services.

In August 2019, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) selected Indianapolis as a Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) community with the goal to foster a coordinated community approach to prevent and end youth and young adult homelessness. Indianapolis will receive \$3.88 million to build upon *RE:Home* and to implement a more dynamic, coordinated community approach to prevent and end unaccompanied youth and young adult homelessness.

Leading this effort are two entities: the Coalition for Homelessness Intervention and Prevention (CHIP) and the City of Indianapolis (Collaborative Applicant), in partnership with young people and a diverse group of stakeholders and cross system representatives. This collaborative effort will be grounded in a data-driven collective impact approach to facilitate system change for young people experiencing homelessness within our community, while also ensuring alignment with the overall vision, goals, and priorities of the larger Indianapolis Community Plan to End Homelessness (2018-2023).

The *Indianapolis Community Plan to End Homelessness (2018-2023)* provides a strategic vision, framework and set of priorities for our community's broader efforts to ensure homelessness in Indianapolis is rare, brief, and recoverable. Within that plan, sub-populations were prioritized, including those experiencing chronic homelessness, veterans, families and youth. In that plan, an original goal to reduce youth and young adult homelessness by 30% by 2023 was set. However, after being awarded YHDP in August 2019, that goal was amended to functionally end youth and young adult homelessness by the year 2023. The YYA Workgroup and the Youth Action Board (YAB) will ensure this coordinated

community plan aligns with the larger CoC strategic plan to elevate the impact on our overall homeless response system.

The YYA Workgroup and the Youth Action Board (YAB) have met weekly, either in person or via phone, to prepare this coordinated community plan. These groups, in addition to other relevant workgroups, will continue to meet to expand upon this plan and support implementation.

The YYA Workgroup members include and are representative of the following organizations:

Amy Gibson (CHIP)

Jenni White (Trinity Haven)

Daniel Melin (CHIP)

Rose Herrmann (YAB member)

Courtney Purnell (City of Indianapolis)

Gina Woodward (Department of Education)

Chris Clere (YAB member)

Anisa Evans (Department of Child Services)

Amber Ames (Stopover)

Crystal Haslett (McKinney Vento Liaison)

Amy Rich (Community Health)

Sara Alrajabi (Adult & Child)

Beth Hahn (Outreach, Inc.)

Brian Paul (Adult & Child)

Courtney Modisette (Stopover)

Shaina Lawrence (IUPUI)

Chris Paulsen (Indianapolis Youth Group)

Barbara Walters (Lutheran Child & Family)

Nicole Spacey (Anthem)

Danielle Pierson (Outreach, Inc.)

Jaime Reynolds (Damien Center)

Sheena Linville (Marion County Adult Probation)

Damita Lane (Marion County Juvenile Probation)

2. Defining Homelessness among Youth and Young Adults

Defining homelessness is complicated for youth and young adults as many federal agencies define homelessness differently. Throughout this plan, we reference both youth and young adults experiencing homelessness.

Youth are defined as minors ages 12 - 17 who are not accompanied by a parent, guardian, or other adult. Most minors who face homelessness do so with a parent, guardian or other adult. Minors with a parent or guardian will not be addressed in this coordinated community plan as they are considered part of a family unit. Family strategies, including targeted approaches for children within families, are included in the CoC's efforts to end family homelessness. Unaccompanied minors face distinctive barriers, such as mandated reporting to the Department of Child Services (DCS), the inability to sign leases, and the need to complete school independently.

Young adults are defined as young people between the ages of 18 - 24 who are unaccompanied by a parent or guardian. Within the young adult population, strategies and data were separated for those who identified as pregnant and/or parenting.

Youth and Young Adult (YYA)

- **Youth** – unaccompanied minors under age 18 who are not with a parent, guardian, or other adult
- **Individual Young Adults** – Young adults ages 18-24 who are not connected to their families and do not have children, or children in their custody
- **Pregnant and Parenting Young Adults** – young adults ages 18-24 that are either pregnant or are currently parenting children and have their children in their custody

Further definitions may be found in Appendix 3.

3. Shared Vision

The YYA Workgroup refined the system vision as part of the YHDP planning process in order to better reflect the intended goal and alignment with the *Indianapolis Community Plan to End Homelessness* vision that:

“We believe everyone has the right to be housed and connected to care”

The revised youth and young adult vision builds off of this by expanding the vision to include:

“We believe all young people have the right to equitable housing and services to ensure that homelessness is rare, brief, and non-recurring.”

In order to achieve the community’s goal of ending youth and young adult homelessness by 2023, Indianapolis is dedicated to activating a coordinated response system which includes more than housing options. Prioritizing an increase of housing options for youth and young adults remains the foundation for the plan, however, an increase in housing alone will not address the complex needs, barriers, and systemic challenges which young people face within our community. Engaging with multiple systems to address **education, employment, social – emotional well-being, permanent connections and stable housing** will be critical to prevent and end youth and young adult homelessness in Indianapolis.

We understand ending youth and young adult homelessness does not mean there will never again be a young person in Indianapolis who experiences housing instability or a housing crisis. What it does mean is that we have implemented and funded a response system that includes prevention, diversion, and housing and service interventions that are driven by youth and young adult needs and choice so that homelessness is rare, brief, and recoverable. The system will be built to guarantee young people will not have to live unsheltered and have an opportunity and the necessary support to thrive. We recognize this ambitious goal cannot be achieved by only the YAB and YYA Workgroup, but will take commitment from many community stakeholders.

4. Guiding Principles and Values

The YAB and YYA Workgroup identified the following guiding principles for the coordinated community approach to prevent and end youth and young adult homelessness in Indianapolis. These guidelines represent a set of practices, understandings, and standards that value youth and young adults. The principles are interconnected, provide a recipe for Indianapolis to improve the quality of programming, and do even more to improve lives of youth and young adults experiencing homelessness. The YYA Workgroup and YAB will **require** providers to incorporate these values into the YHDP projects they create, fund and implement. These principles will be encouraged in non-funded projects as well. All of the following guiding principles are fused into the Goals, Action Steps and Objectives as well as project models.

Guiding Principle 1: Adopt the USICH Framework and Four Core Outcomes for Young People

Indianapolis is dedicated to designing and implementing a community approach with strategies and interventions that support the achievement of four core outcomes for youth and young adults, as identified by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) in the Federal Framework to End Youth Homelessness.

- Outcome 1: Stable housing includes safe housing and a reliable place to call home. Stable housing fulfills a critical and basic need for youth and young adults experiencing homelessness. Lack of stable housing exposes young people to a multitude of risks on the streets and housing stability supports a young person's efforts to function across a range of life activities.
- Outcome 2: Permanent connections includes ongoing attachments to families, communities, schools and other positive social networks. Connections support young people's ability to access new ideas and opportunities that help them thrive and provides a social safety net when young people are at-risk or re-entering homelessness.
- Outcome 3: Education and employment includes high performance in and completion of educational and training activities, especially for minors, and starting and maintaining adequate

and stable employment for young adults. Achievements in education and employment increase a young person's capacity to support themselves and avoid future homelessness.

- Outcome 4: Social- emotional well-being refers to the social and emotional functioning of a youth or young adult experiencing homelessness. It 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.

Guiding Principle 2: Special Populations

We understand certain subpopulations of youth and young adults face unique barriers in the homeless response system in our community. The prevalence of these barriers must be considered when developing and implementing strategies and interventions. In order to have an effective response to youth and young adults, programs must address the following populations:

- Minors
- Young people of color
- LGBTQ+
- Young people with special needs
- Pregnant and parenting young adults
- Child welfare involved
- Justice involved
- Survivors of trafficking or domestic violence

Guiding Principle 3: Positive Youth Development

Positive Youth Development (PYD) is an evidence-based framework for approaching youth and young adults and the services offered. PYD focuses on identifying and developing young people's resiliencies and assets, rather than concentrating on their risks and deficits. It centralizes the role of guidance and support from caring adults and their roles in helping youth and young adults to grow up healthy, happy, and safe and to make positive contributions to their families, schools, and communities. "Deficit-based" approaches focus narrowly on youth and young adults' problems and immediate solutions to them. A

committee of experts in human development has identified eight key features of positive developmental settings for youth and young adults, which align with the PYD framework.

Key Elements of Positive Youth Development:

1. Physical and psychological safety
2. Appropriate structure
3. Supportive relationships
4. Opportunities to belong
5. Positive social norms
6. Opportunities to make a difference
7. Opportunities for skill building
8. Integration of family, school and community

Guiding Principle 4: Trauma Informed Care

All youth and young adults experiencing homelessness have endured trauma by the very nature of their situation, and many have undergone multiple forms of trauma and/or chronic trauma. These experiences have far-reaching developmental and behavioral effects. They can lead youth and young adults to act out or engage in risky or self-destructive behaviors or, alternatively, lead youth to withdraw and experience anxiety and depression.

Being trauma-informed includes realizing the widespread impact of trauma and potential paths for recovery; recognizing the signs and symptoms of trauma in youth and young adults, families, staff, and others involved with the system; responding by fully integrating knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures, and practices; and seeking to actively avoid re-traumatization. It is important that project staff receive ongoing training on 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 adults overcome trauma.

Key elements of trauma informed care:

1. Understanding trauma and its impact

2. Promoting safety
3. Ensuring cultural competence
4. Supporting consumer control, choice, and autonomy
5. Sharing power and governance
6. Integrating care
7. Healing happens in relationships
8. Recovery is possible

Guiding Principle 5: Housing First

Systems and programs that embrace a Housing First philosophy ensure that people experiencing homelessness are connected to permanent housing swiftly with few to no preconditions, contingencies, or other barriers based on a desired behavior, treatment, or outcome. Housing First is based on overwhelming evidence that individuals experiencing homelessness can achieve stability in permanent housing if provided with the appropriate level of services.

As such, effective programs and services adhere to harm-reduction principles. Harm reduction refers to policies, programs, and practices that aim to reduce the harms associated with the use of psychoactive drugs in people unable or unwilling to stop. The defining features are the focus on the prevention of harm, rather than on the prevention of drug use itself, and the focus on people who continue to use drugs.

A Housing First approach tailors the level of assistance to the needs of the individual being served, rather than prescribing assistance and/or requiring a minimum length of stay to complete the program as a condition of accessing permanent housing. Housing First programs commit to helping ensure housing stability, including transferring people to other units or projects to ensure a good fit and client choice.

HUD has identified four core components of Housing First:

1. Immediate access to permanent housing without preconditions
2. Youth/young adult choice and self-determination
3. Individualized and client driven supports

4. Persistent engagement

Guiding Principle 6: Youth and Young Adult Choice

Youth and Young Adult Choice relates to youth and young adults' active participation in decisions about their present and future circumstances. It reflects a participant-centered style of interaction and helps young people exercise self-determination by valuing, eliciting, and supporting their goals, needs, self-awareness, assertiveness, sense of responsibility, and community knowledge. Staff make decisions with youth and young adults rather than make decisions for the young people.

As such, youth and young adults' input shapes the type of housing program they access and the extent and nature of supports and services they receive. The philosophy promotes presenting alternative options for youth and young adults who avoid programs due to barriers like sobriety or abstinence. Closely related to the concepts of PYD and Housing First, Youth and Young Adult Choice will be a prominent part of the coordinated entry system, case management, and other service planning processes.

In addition, Youth and Young Adult Choice encompasses youth and young adult participation in decision making about program- and system-level policies and practices. This is sometimes also referred to as "youth/young adult voice." In this sense, it is evidenced when young people provide input alongside and with equal weight as adult counterparts on matters as small as program rules and as large as the community's homeless response system structure.

Programs that embrace Youth and Young Adult Choice implement collaborative, participatory decision-making and provide an environment that ensures youth and young adults feel safe and supported in the process. Staff may need to help youth and young adults engage in the Youth and Young Adult Choice process by scaffolding the process until it is familiar or working to build youth and young adults' confidence and voice.

Key Elements of Youth and Young Adult Choice:

1. Ongoing feedback from youth and young adults solicited and integrated
2. Decisions are collaborative between adults and youth and young adults, avoiding "adultism"
3. Youth and young adults influence policies, procedures, and programs

4. Youth and young adult input through various learning styles
5. Common language rather than industry jargon used

Guiding Principle 7: Family Engagement

For many youth and young adults, the best diversion and intervention strategy is to engage families through community partnerships with organizations such as child welfare agencies, education entities, youth and young adult providers, and other community organizations. Services throughout our system should be equipped to strengthen, stabilize, and reunify families as part of their work with youth and young adults experiencing or at-risk of homelessness whenever possible.

Providers work to build trust with parents/family members and overcome other barriers to their engagement. At the same time, providers support Youth and Young Adult Choice by offering options for whether, when, how, and to what extent to engage the family. Providers also take active measures to avoid traumatizing or re-traumatizing young people during the Family Engagement process.

When reunification occurs, providers remain engaged to provide ongoing support and coaching to the youth or young adult and their families to support the transition and ensure long-term well-being.

Key Elements of Family Engagement:

1. Engage carefully with parents and family members
2. Combine multiple services and tailor them to the needs of the family and young person
3. Include the youth or young adults and families in a collaborative decision-making team
4. Provide support post-reunification
5. Strategically and flexibly implement services
6. Offer services in multiple locations, including the family home

Guiding Principle 8: Inclusivity and Cultural Competency

Inclusivity and cultural competency refers to the ability to effectively provide care for people with diverse characteristics and perspectives. The term implies a willingness to provide services in different ways and to intentionally make cultural awareness central to youth and young adults and provider

interactions. Providers demonstrate sensitivity to differences and accept and embrace the full range of human behaviors, attitudes, and activities.

Specific practices to support inclusivity include using value-neutral and diversity-affirming language and setting shared ground rules and agreements that encourage respect for all community members.

Diversity and representation in the staffing of organizations and among service providers also matters: recruiting staff and volunteers who reflect those they serve and have lived experiences similar to those they serve helps build trust, social connections, and a sense of community. Staff should have ongoing training to better understand inclusivity and cultural competency and to inform their policies, practices, and culture. Providers should have formal avenues to receive feedback on program and system operations from participants and stakeholders with lived experience.

Several subpopulations of young people are especially vulnerable to homelessness, including those who identify as LGBTQ+, are pregnant and parenting, young people of color, minors (under age 18), individuals who have been involved in the juvenile justice or child welfare systems, or are survivors of sexual trafficking and exploitation. These young people experience pathways to homelessness that are distinct from the general population of youth and young adults, and they may need specialized services and strategies to overcome their barriers to stable independent living or family reunification. Sometimes projects are designed to exclusively serve one or more of these populations, and it is particularly important that the staff understand and practice cultural competency in these settings.

Also an important inclusivity concern, some youth and young adults experience barriers to accessing services due to issues like geographic location and lack of access to transportation. In a truly inclusive system, providers ensure services are available and easily accessible in all corners of the community by using strategies like satellite service locations, mobile service provision, outreach, and transportation assistance.

Key Elements of Inclusivity and Cultural Competency:

1. Define values and principles for enabling effective cross-cultural interactions
2. Acquire and institutionalize cultural knowledge
3. Cultivate capacity to value diversity
4. Adapt to diversity and the cultural contexts of the communities served
5. Projects and staff conduct cultural competence self-assessments

6. Incorporate cultural competence into policies, administration, practice, and service delivery
7. Manage the dynamics of differences
8. Systemically involve youth and young adults, stakeholders, and communities

Guiding Principle 9: Individualized Support

Each youth or young adult that experiences housing instability has unique needs that must be addressed. As such, programs are best designed to focus on individual needs rather than one structured curriculum or program pathway. Programs must recognize and respond to unique needs and understand that some young people have higher vulnerability than others.

Thus, programs and systems should assure youth and young adults with low needs as well as young people with high needs have access to appropriate programs. Programs should be flexible to accommodate some youth and young adults with short-term needs and others with long-term supports and services. Programs adapt their individualized supports to help guarantee a spectrum of different vulnerabilities are served and program models are offered.

Key Elements of Individualized Supports:

1. Program flexibility for different vulnerability, length of need, and individual program components
2. Ability to access services for short-term or long-term based on needs
3. Ability for programs to serve clients with high vulnerability and low vulnerability, rather than focusing on one model

Guiding Principle 10: Social and Community Integration

The goal of services should be the successful transition into adulthood, including the successful integration into a community as a positive, contributing community member. For this to be successful, programs must provide socially supportive engagement and the opportunity for young people to participate in meaningful community activities. As youth and young adults transition to community integration, they must learn basic life skills, including budgeting, money management, interview skills,

study habits, hygiene, cooking, and other skills to which they may not have been exposed. Often, organizations are able to integrate social and community integration through collaborative opportunities with other organizations or by educating youth and young adults about other community opportunities.

Key Elements of Social and Community Integration:

1. Engage young people in discussions about independent living
2. Develop social strategies that connect youth and young adults into the community and offer opportunities to engage outside of programming
3. Develop collaborations with other organizations that provide social activities
4. Conduct life skills classes or connect them to these supports in the community

Guiding Principle 11: Coordinated Entry

An effective Coordinated Entry System (CES) is an essential component to our homeless response system, and it is critical to ensure that homelessness is rare, short-lived, and recoverable. The CES provides a structured process for diversion, assessment, prioritization, and referral for housing and services. The goal is to divert youth and young adults from entering the homeless response system whenever possible, and when further resources are needed, to efficiently and fairly allocate resources by prioritizing severity of service needs and vulnerability using policies established by the Indianapolis CoC in accordance with Community Written Program Standards.

Current System

CHIP manages and operates the CES in Indianapolis. There are currently 20 organizations throughout the CoC with over 60 trained CES Assessors who complete CES assessments with anyone experiencing homelessness in the community. CES Assessors complete assessments at overnight shelters, day shelter, drop-in centers, and on street outreach. One day a week a trained CES Assessor has open hours at Outreach Inc., a youth drop in center, to complete assessments with young adults experiencing homelessness.

The Vulnerability Index – Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT) is used within the assessment to measure vulnerability and assist the community in identifying appropriate housing matches. For youth and young adult households, the Transition Aged Youth version of the VI-SPDAT (TAY-VI-SPDAT) is utilized. This tool is tailored to more accurately measure the unique needs and considerations of youth and young adults experiencing homelessness.

Once assessed, youth and young adults are placed into the CES housing pool and prioritized based on vulnerability and length of time homeless. Youth and young adults have access to youth-specific rapid rehousing as well as permanent housing and rapid rehousing programs available to any household experiencing homelessness in the community.

In addition to completing the CES assessment, CES Assessors and outreach teams also make referrals to other services youth and young adults may need, including emergency shelter, medical or mental health care, meal sites, or basic needs items.

All CES Assessors follow Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) policies for client confidentiality and obtain a release of information/consent form from young adults to share information for client referrals to housing and services.

Gaps, Needs, and Strategies Identified

The following strategies will address the gaps in our current CES that our community's response to youth and young adults. Co-designed with YAB and community stakeholders, the strategies are grounded in the following guiding principles:

- Engage with youth and young adults grounded in PYD principles by assessing for not only their vulnerability but also their strengths and resources. Youth and young adults will be engaged as collaborators in their CES experience.
- Engage with youth and young adults through a trauma informed care lens by ensuring all CES staff are trained in TIC, access points will be set up to consider TIC principles and throughout their experience and engagement with the CES.
- Promote youth and young adult choice by expanding the options available in our inventory and building in options in our homeless response system.
- Prioritize individualized and client driven support as housing and support pathways are identified.

Youth Access Point: The Indianapolis CES is currently collaborating with community stakeholders to refine the system including developing a full-time, dedicated assessor team and refining access points in alignment with system inflow data. One need that has been identified in this process is a youth/young adult specific access point and full-time, dedicated youth/young adult assessor. This dedicated assessor will be responsible for completing CES assessments specifically with youth and young adult households and will also operate a call-in line for youth/young adults to access the system remotely. The dedicated youth/young adult assessor will be required to complete cultural competency training and will have intensive and routine training regarding community resources. As the community plans for full-scale, system-wide diversion efforts, the dedicated youth/young adult assessor will also complete diversion screenings with each youth/young adult household assessed.

Limited housing opportunities/inventory: While young adults have access to all housing opportunities within CES, there are limited housing programs that are specifically designed to serve youth/young adults. More programs and housing opportunities are needed to address the specific concerns of young adults. Young adults often have difficulty gathering chronic homeless documentation, including proof of disability, which limits their access to programs such as permanent supportive housing. The current inventory of housing within CES is far too small to serve everyone that is eligible and in need.

Limited engagement while waiting for housing: Youth and young adults report confusion around next steps after completing the CES assessment. There is limited engagement with the system until the young person is matched with housing. Due to the limited engagement while waiting, it is often difficult to locate the young person once they have been matched with housing. Limited engagement also makes it difficult to update the assessment and collect necessary documentation while waiting for housing.

Additional Assessments: Youth and young adults have identified “feelings of safety in your environment” as a component missing from the TAY-VI-SPDAT, which predominantly addresses physical safety only. They have also identified a need for housing preferences to be taken into consideration by assessing a person’s comfort level in living alone or preference to live with a roommate.

Community Education and Awareness: Youth and young adults have identified a need for education about available services and how to best navigate the system. CHIP completes an annual evaluation of the CES each year which includes client feedback through surveys. Clients seeking housing services have identified the need for additional follow-up after the assessment and reported confusion around next steps after completing an assessment. While these surveys were for all households in CES and not

specifically youth and young adults, youth and young adults have also expressed the same concern in workgroup settings.

Continued Youth Input: As CES refinement work is underway, it will be important to have youth and young adult collaboration in the process. Members of the YAB will be invited to CES refinement workgroups. The CES Team at CHIP will also attend YAB meetings as needed or provide updates to the group regarding CES refinement and system changes.

Response to Minors: The current CES does not have policy or procedure in place to serve unaccompanied minors. Current community resources and programs serving unaccompanied minors are not utilizing CES for referrals nor making referrals into the system.

CES Goals During the YHDP Timeframe

- Design and implement a youth/young adult specific access point with a full-time designated youth/young adult assessor
- Refine an engagement plan with youth/young adults following the CES assessment to include document collection, next steps, and navigation through permanent housing placement
- Develop and include more youth and young adult specific programs available through CES
- Create a community culture around assessing all youth and young adults experiencing homelessness through CES

Guiding Principle 12: Equity

We understand in order to serve the youth and young adults of the community, equity must be a priority. Naming and calling out white supremacy, entitlement and white dominance in the community is a value that has explicitly been identified in Indianapolis in the past year. For the first time, the community called out systematic barriers, such as systematic racism, in the annual Point-in-Time Count data presented to the community. Our local Central Indiana Community Foundation (CICF) released a new strategic plan that specifically names dismantling systemic racism as a strategy for facilitating true systems change and community empowerment in Indianapolis. CICF understands it is foundational to look at every racist system within our community with equity, opportunity for all. This belief is part of a larger inclusive city approach that is permeating throughout Indianapolis. CICF is challenging the community to make a commitment for generations to come in changing the lens of how systems,

including the homeless response system, operate and perpetuate inequities. CICF acknowledged that as an organization, they have over 100 years of racism to undo but are committed to making the necessary changes. CICF is also represented on the CoC's Blueprint Council and within the implementation structure to ensure alignment of values and principles.

The Indianapolis CoC created a Racial Disparities workgroup in June 2018 to assess disparities within the homeless response system. As a result of the findings, a new strategic priority was added to the *Indianapolis Community Plan to End Homelessness* that focuses exclusively on reducing the impact of homelessness on persons of color. Key strategies under that priority include increasing the representation of people of color on the CoC's governing board, the Blueprint Council, and setting an expectation that every workgroup be comprised of at least 30% people of color to reflect our community's population. We realize continuing to view the homeless response system through an equity lens is critical and are dedicated to continually challenging the ideas of white superiority.

The belief that addressing inequities by providing the same opportunities for all remains a guiding value in the Midwest. However, it's misguided and underestimates the need to target strategies to those groups who are disproportionately impacted by systemic biases to achieve our universal goals. As our community develops a better understanding of viewing youth and young adult homelessness through an equity lens, it will be a challenge to get all stakeholders to admit that universal strategies do not work for those who are situated differently within our power structure or within the cultural landscape and that targeted interventions are necessary for authentically addressing youth and young adult homelessness. Housing interventions and service models must look differently for youth and young adults who identify as LGBTQ+ and youth and young adults of color.

Additional Guiding Principles:

In addition to the previously mentioned YHDP specific guiding principles, we also hold the following values and will ensure these are integrated throughout projects and the youth and young adult homeless response system.

- **Advocating for policy change:** Throughout the YHDP planning phase, it became obvious several policy changes are needed in order for young people to gain and maintain housing stability. This is particularly true for minors and is addressed in the action plan specific to minors.
- **Prioritizing safe spaces:** We want young people to have safe, affirming spaces to access services. Through focus groups, we learned and were able to understand the current gaps in services, which included feeling safe.
- **Barrier removal:** Young people have expressed many barriers to accessing housing and services in our current system. The desire of the YAB and YYA Workgroup is to guarantee low barrier options are available and completely removed whenever possible.
- **Cross-system education:** The Indianapolis CoC recognizes the need to collaborate with other systems and fully understand the roles each system plays in preventing and ending youth and young adult homelessness. Through cross-system education and partnership the homeless response system for young people will be strengthened.
- **Renewability:** Our desire is to develop and create innovative projects with program models that serve the needs of all young people in our community. Indianapolis CoC will take this opportunity to engage local funders in different ways so the system built will be sustainable outside of YHDP. However, we also recognize the need to incorporate projects that can add to the broader CoC HUD Funding.

5. Scope and Needs of Youth and Young Adults Experiencing Homelessness

The YYA Workgroup and the YAB identified the necessity to update the community’s needs assessment after being awarded YHDP. Through this process, the YAB and YYA Workgroup were able to identify the unduplicated number of young people experiencing homelessness, determine pathways and complete system modeling. Looking at annualized data from October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2019, the needs assessment utilized data inclusive of HMIS, information directly from youth and young adult experiencing homelessness via focus groups, data from the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE), Point-in-Time (PIT) data, and data from providers not currently utilizing HMIS. However, demographics and barriers were only available through HMIS. These data sources were analyzed by the CHIP staff.

The assessment was limited to the geographic area of Marion County, Indianapolis. (See Appendix 2) Indianapolis had a total population of 867,125 in 2018, according to the US Census Bureau, ranking as the 13th largest metropolitan area in the US.

Scope of Young People Experiencing Homelessness

The main outcome of the needs assessment was determining an annualized number of youth and young adults experiencing homelessness in Indianapolis. Ultimately, this led to an unduplicated number among the three priority populations: unaccompanied minors, individuals ages 18-24, and pregnant and parenting young adults ages 18-24.

	HMIS	Other sources	Total
Unaccompanied Minors	71	19	90
Individual Homeless Young Adults ages 18-24	640	45	740
Parenting Young Adults ages 18-24	65	25	90
Total	831	89	920

Point-in-Time Count

The 2019 Youth and Young Adult Point-in-Time Count was conducted on November 6, 2019. Results are summarized below. Between 2018 and 2019, there was a 22.4% reduction in the number of youth and young adults experiencing homelessness in Indianapolis.

<i>Data Sets</i>	<i>Projects & Homelessness Distinctions</i>	<i>Youth Count</i>	<i>Children of Parenting Youth Count</i>	Total
1. HMIS & Wheeler Data	ES, SH and TH Projects & Wheeler Projects	48	10	58
2. McKinney Vento Data	Unsheltered, Unattached and Age 17 or 18 in Hotel/Motel	38	0	38
3. Survey Data	Unsheltered and Sheltered Populations	12	1	13
4. Non-HMIS Providers	Good News and Queen of Peace	17	0	17
5. DV Providers	Julian Center and Coburn Place	8	8	16
6. IUPUI	Paws Pantry	0	0	0
Totals	w/ Sheltered McKinney Vento Excluded	123	19	142

Youth and Young Adults At-Risk of Homelessness

In order to determine a numeric estimate of youth and young adults at-risk of experiencing homelessness in Indianapolis, it was first important to establish a definition. The YYA Workgroup decided to use HUD's Category 2 definition. This definition includes young people who will lose their primary nighttime residence within 14 days, have not identified a subsequent residence and lacks the resources or support network to obtain other housing. Data was captured from the same time period as that utilized to conclude an annualized number; October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019.

Data from IDOE was utilized to determine the number of unaccompanied minors at risk of experiencing homelessness. Through this process we discovered an unanticipated issue with the process in which school districts were collecting and reporting data. This would not have been identified without the YHDP planning process, and strategies were identified to improve data quality to achieve more accurate estimates in the future. In previous needs assessments, IDOE data was used to identify doubled-up students but students were not coded to identify their imminent risk of homelessness. Some students coded as doubled-up could potentially be stably housed with a friend or family member. As a result, the community does not have an accurate estimate of students who are at-risk, thus the Minor Workgroup looked further into the data to establish a method to identify which students were truly at imminent risk. For the school year 2018 – 2019, a total of 3,863 students were coded as doubled-up. This includes Indianapolis Public School, eight township schools, two city districts and sixty four charter schools. Minors considered at-risk were coded by local McKinney-Vento liaisons as both doubled-up and unaccompanied, which produced a total of 15 students. Due to this large discrepancy, it was found there are not uniform practices or guidance in place across all schools as to how students are coded or the frequency of updating each student's status. Developing and implementing consistency across all Indianapolis schools is a goal, which is outlined later in this plan.

Data for individual young adults (ages 18-24) came directly from HMIS and Outreach Inc., a local drop-in center for youth and young adults. HMIS data for both individual young adults and pregnant and parenting young adults included those who were entered in services only programs. Outreach Inc., estimated 44 young adults (25% of total reporting as doubled-up) were at imminent risk of experiencing literal homelessness. Outreach Inc. also provided data for pregnant and parenting young adults, ages 18-24, with an estimate of 13 being at-risk for homelessness. We understand these are baselines and will continue to improve our methodology for tracking the at-risk population.

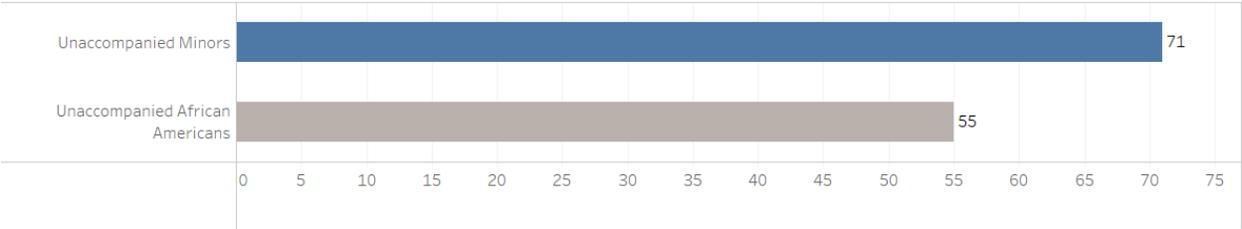
	HMIS	Other sources	Total
Unaccompanied Minors		15	15
Individual Homeless Young Adults ages 18-24	57	44	101
Parenting Young Adults ages 18-24	18	13	31
Total	75	72	147

Demographics

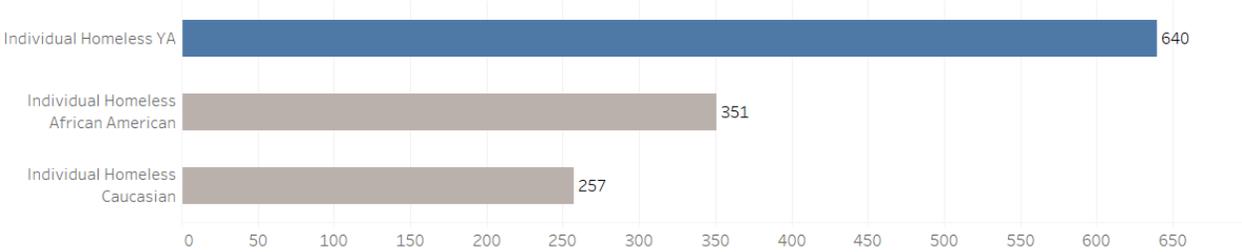
Demographics of youth and young adults experiencing homelessness are important to understand and highlight the disparities occurring across our current system.

Race

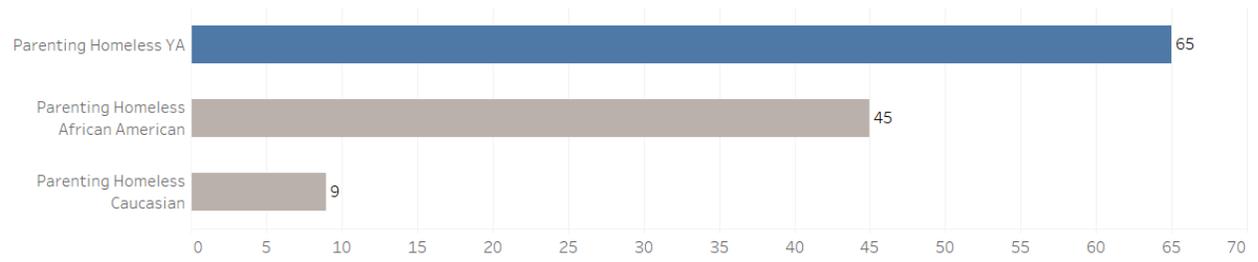
Unaccompanied Minor Race



Individual Homeless Young Adult Race

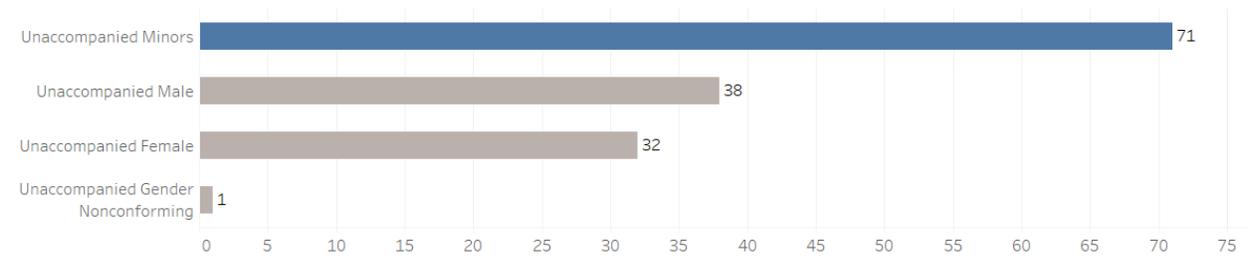


Parenting Young Adult Race

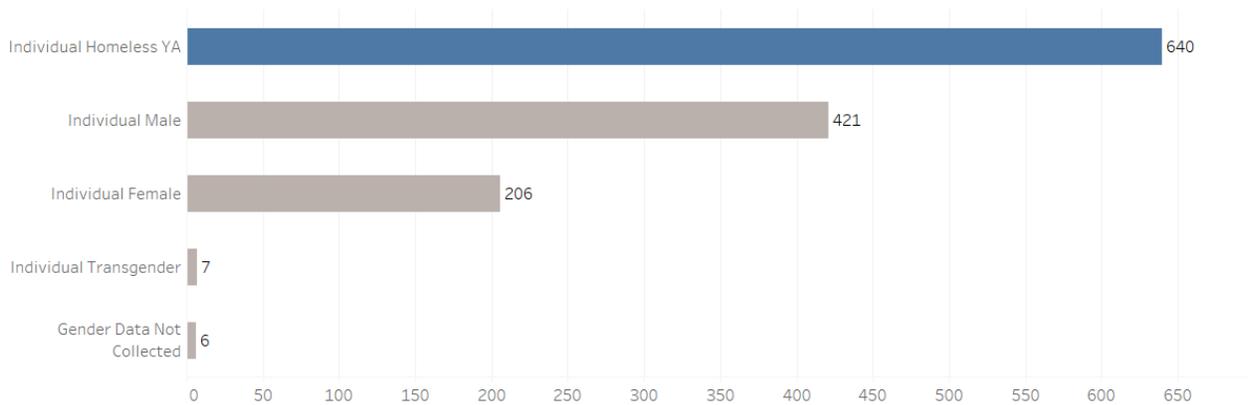


Gender

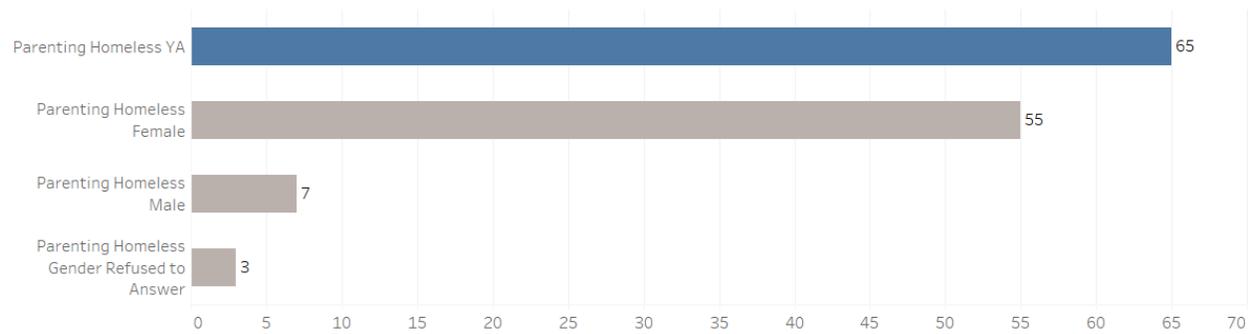
Unaccompanied Minor Gender



Individual Homeless Young Adult Gender

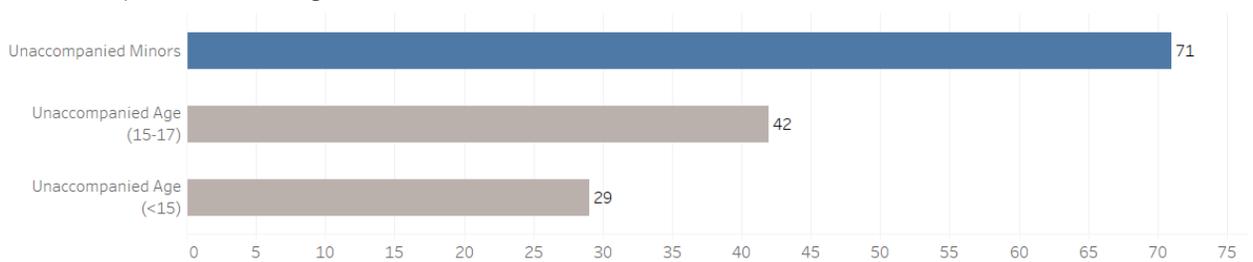


Parenting Young Adult Gender



Age

Unaccompanied Minor Age

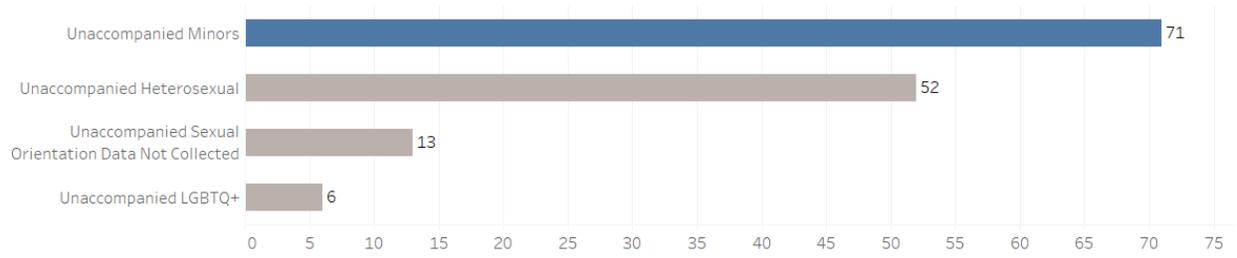


Of the 71 unaccompanied minors identified in HMIS, the majority (59% or 42) were between the ages of 15 – 17. The youngest unaccompanied young person was age 10.

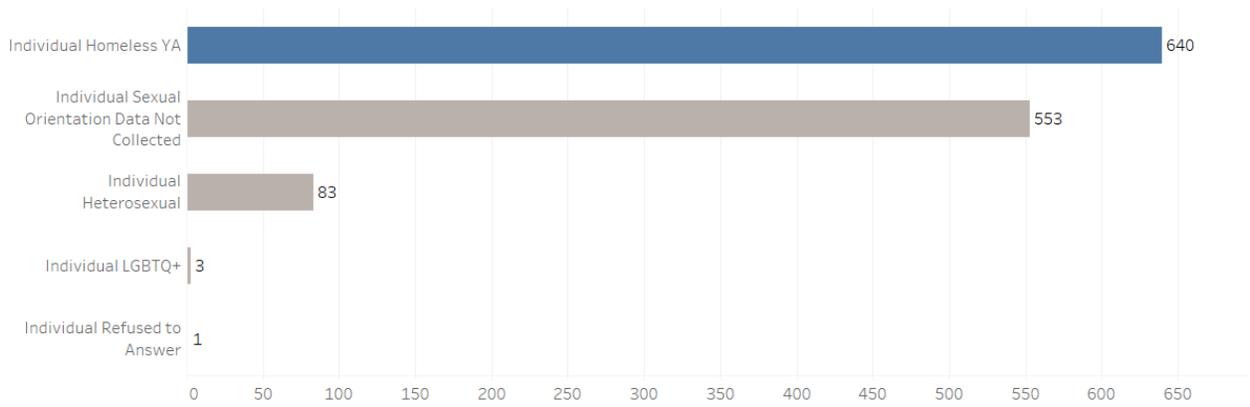
Sexual Orientation

Identifying youth and young adults experiencing homelessness by sexual orientation can be challenging as this is not a required data field in HMIS and therefore not collected for several young people. The data collection difficulties are even more showing in the young adult populations. Coordinated Entry data during the same timeframe, indicates 19 young adults identified as LGBTQ+.

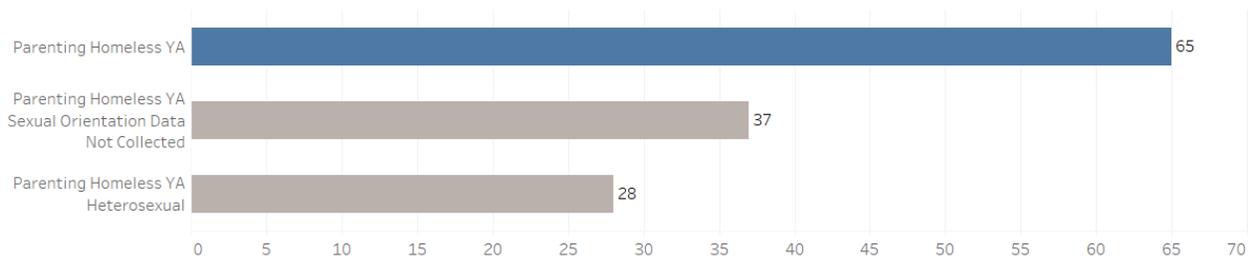
Unaccompanied Minor Sexual Orientation



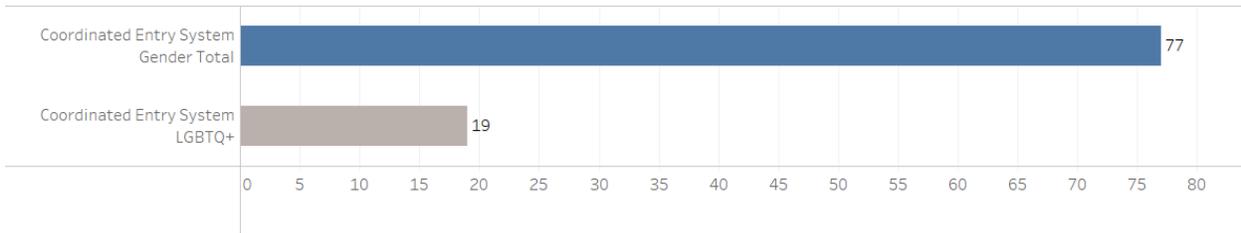
Individual Homeless Young Adult Sexual Orientation



Parenting Young Adult Sexual Orientation



Coordinated Entry System Gender & Sexual Orientation



HMIS Key Findings

It's important to note HMIS tracks only youth and young adults who are experiencing literal homelessness and enter into the homeless response system through outreach, day shelter, emergency shelter, transitional housing, or a permanent housing option. This data is limited but shows some unique factors not tracked in other sources.

Prior residence for those who enter into homelessness is tracked, although the information is optional and not always reported. For the purpose of this information, 70 unaccompanied minors, 453 young adults ages 18-24, and 55 parenting young adults ages 18-24 were reported.

Prior Residence	Unaccompanied Minors (ages 13-17)	Young Adults (ages 18-24)	Parenting Young Adults (ages 18 – 24)
Living with a family member	35	90	18
Living with a friend	3	66	10
In an emergency shelter or hotel paid for by a charity	21	135	17
Place not fit for human habitation	3	126	11

Of the 695 young adults ages 18-24 who were entered in HMIS, 65 reported having children. The table below shows the number of children each of the 65 parenting young adults have.

Number of Children	Parenting Young Adults ages 18-24
1	36
2	23
3	6
4	0
5	2

As with other data points mentioned, there are challenges in collecting barrier information. An assessment is utilized within HMIS to identify barriers to maintaining housing, however this is not a required and an individual can refuse. Another challenge is the fact young people do not always feel comfortable disclosing this information.

Common Barriers Reported		
Unaccompanied Minors (N=71)	Young Adults (N=695)	Parenting Young Adults (N=65)
2 report a mental health issue	204 report a mental health issue	17 report a mental health issue
4 report a developmental disability	77 report a developmental disability	3 report a developmental disability
1 report drug abuse	189 report an alcohol or drug abuse	8 report an alcohol or drug abuse

Success in housing young people can be best tracked by returns to homelessness. For this measure, an individual who has achieved permanent housing is tracked over a one and two year period to determine

if the individual experiences homelessness again. The table below illustrates the returns to homelessness for minors, young adults and parenting young adults.

Returns to Homelessness			
	Total Housed	Returned After 1 year	Returned After 2 years
Unaccompanied Minors	60	5	1
Young Adults	59	13	4
Parenting Young Adults	45	8	6

Another data area that proves challenging is education and the highest grade completed. Of the 640 individual young adults in HMIS, education data was not collected for 588. Data was not collected for 34 of the 65 parenting young adults.

Highest Grade Completed		
	Young Adults (ages 18-24)	Parenting Young Adults (ages 18-24)
9th Grade	8	0
10th grade	9	2
11th grade	26	7
12th grade, no diploma	11	5
High school diploma	53	19
GED	15	2
Some College	9	4

6. Gaps and Needs : At-risk and experiencing homelessness

Throughout the planning phase of YHDP, the YAB and YYA Workgroup focused on identifying the needs (housing, education/employment, social emotional well-being and permanent connections) of young people at risk of and experiencing homelessness. A few of the reoccurring needs mentioned in workgroups and by members of the YAB are listed.

- The option for a shared housing strategy among young adults in order to combat loneliness and build companionship.
- Low barrier housing and services options based on youth and young adult choice, which offer services specific to individualized needs. Young people explicitly call out that housing is not enough and they want access to services as well.
- Transportation in its entirety (i.e. cost, availability) is a barrier identified. The location and accessibility of supportive services is needed.
- The availability of safe spaces for all young people. Accessing services that utilize trauma informed care so youth and young adults are not re-traumatized is a need that has continued to be expressed.
- Education and employment goals are important to young people but they do not want to be placed in situations where they must pick between the two. Young people want to have the opportunity to pursue both if they choose.

The YAB and several workgroups discussed the different options and interventions to respond to these needs as strategies were developed. Young people with lived experience, outside of the YAB, were engaged to further incorporate youth and young adult voice and ensure all special populations were represented, as needs differ population to population. Ultimately, the known needs assisted the YAB and YYA Workgroup to determine program service packages that take a young person's whole being into consideration.

7. Special Populations

In order to obtain information representative of the targeted special populations, youth and young adults with lived experience were engaged, via focus groups and one-on-one conversations, to share their expertise. The YAB in partnership with youth and young adult serving organizations conducted several focus groups. The participants in the focus groups were asked to identify current services, policies, and funding in our community to directly assist young people who are experiencing homelessness. They were also asked to speak openly about gaps in the current services. Responses can be found below in the following charts.

The process of engaging youth people with lived experience was a new process for Indianapolis CoC, but necessary in an effort to enhance authentic youth and young adult collaboration. Prior to YHDP, our community had an active YAB, but this process encouraged Indianapolis to move beyond asking one group of young people for feedback. We were challenged to collaboratively partnering with young people across all aspects of the homeless response system. We will continue to expand this practice to continuously gain expertise from young people with lived experience. Co-leading YHDP alongside young people provides an example of how to better incorporate those with lived experience throughout the larger Indianapolis CoC.

In addition to engaging young people in YHDP efforts, we also collaborated with different systems, such as education, juvenile justice and public child welfare agency, for the updated needs assessment.

Current Resources as Identified by Young People

Special Population	# of young people in focus group	Stable Housing	Education / Employment	Social Emotional Wellbeing	Permanent Connections
Pregnant & Parenting	<p style="text-align: center;">6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted at Outreach Inc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Housing Authority vouchers ○ Government Assistance ○ Outreach Inc. (connects to a CES Assessor) ○ Project Home Indy ○ CHIP (CES lead) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pell grants (financial assistance) ○ Local universities ○ Job Corps ○ Local GED programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outreach Inc. ○ Nurse – Family Practitioners ○ O’Connor House ○ Coburn Place (DV Shelter) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Safe Families will provide respite for their children in order to avoid child welfare involvement
Youth and Young Adults with Child Welfare Involvement	<p style="text-align: center;">11 total</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted by DCS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hotel Placement ○ Local shelters ○ Friends / Family members ○ Former foster parents ○ Open Door ○ Job Corp Residential Program ○ Collaborative Care (up to age 21) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Job Corp ○ McDowell ○ Alternative Job Training ○ C4 and H4 ○ Foster Success – Education and Training Vouchers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Centerstone Behavioral Health ○ Health Insurance assistance ○ Job Corp ○ Local shelters ○ Counseling ○ Hospitals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Forever Families ○ CASA / GAL ○ Adoption services

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Older Youth Services (up to age 23) 			
Survivors of Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted through Lutheran Child and Family 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stopover (transitional housing) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ARCH program (Outreach Inc.) in the local high schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Life Line ○ Case management ○ Budgeting ○ Job search assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fathers and Families
Unaccompanied Minors	<p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted in local high schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ School counselors will assist but often minors do not seek assistance due to embarrassment of situation ○ Foster Care / DCS ○ Outreach Inc. ○ Halfway Homes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ McKinney-Vento liaisons ○ School opportunities for employment (lifeguard) ○ Job Fairs at the school ○ ARCH program through Outreach Inc. assist with job search 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ High School staff ○ Outreach Inc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ High School Staff
LGBTQ+	<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted at Indiana Youth Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Low-income housing ○ Long term shelters ○ Rent and utility assistance ○ Local anti-discrimination policies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In- school Gender and Sexuality Alliances ○ Teacher advocates ○ LGBTQ+ curriculums ○ LGBTQ+ competency training for teachers and administrators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Support groups ○ Indiana Youth Group ○ LGBTQ+ friendly therapists 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Friend / family ○ Case managers through Indiana Youth Group

			○ Access to the internet		
Justice Involved	42 • Conducted at the juvenile detention center	○ Staying with family or friends ○ Stopover Inc. ○ Placement through juvenile court	○ Online classes for those who are expelled from traditional school	○ Food Pantries ○ Clothing Pantries	○ Family or friends

Needed Services and Gaps as Identified by Young People

Special Population	# of young people in focus group	Stable Housing	Education / Employment	Social Emotional Wellbeing	Permanent Connections
Pregnant & Parenting	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted at Outreach Inc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ More winter shelters / funding / assistance ○ Help with legalities such as eviction, debt, felonies, etc. ○ Navigation (system, housing) ○ More affordable housing ○ Separate housing for parenting young people ○ More affordable housing in safer areas for parenting young people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ More housing options on campus ○ Assistance with budgeting / money management ○ SNAP, CCDF, TANF policies ○ Assistance with criminal background barriers ○ More accessible employment options for expecting mothers ○ Livable wages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Language barrier support ○ More community programs for young parents ○ Assistance when aging out of foster care ○ Maternity homes in the inner-city ○ Parenting support groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assistance when aging out of foster care ○ Support in place of the lack of family support

<p>Youth and Young Adults with Child Welfare Involvement</p>	<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted by DCS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ More income based housing ○ More Housing Choice Vouchers and a prioritization for young adults ○ Staffed, secure group homes ○ Early emancipation so housing is a real option ○ Accountability to the Child Welfare Agency for young people entering the homelessness system ○ Increased adoption 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ More efforts to collaborate with Job Corp ○ Identified alternative adoption programs ○ More holistic approach to employment – target young people in foster care ○ Utilization of temporary job services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improve expungement services available to foster youth ○ Walk – in clinical services that understand foster youth as clients and the trauma associated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improve older youth permanency ○ Increase adoption efforts ○ Easier adoption procedures – funding ○ Continued relationships with the Family Case Manager
<p>Survivors of Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking</p>	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted by Lutheran Child and Family 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Shelter specific to minors ○ Housing options available when departing foster care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assistance with criminal history barriers ○ Assistance obtaining a bank account for direct deposit ○ Legal assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Legal representation in Court so they are not placed back into an unsafe home (one they fled due to trafficking) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Peer Support – want peers that understand the specific trauma associated with trafficking

Unaccompanied Minors	<p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducted in local high schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing resources specific to minors Ability to sign a lease at age 17 Kinship care options 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial assistance and support for higher education Assistance when missing a lot of school due to couch surfing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A mentor for parents College liaison to assist if minor wants to further education Access to behavioral health services and counseling without parental consent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corporate connections and opportunities
LGBTQ+	<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducted at Indiana Youth Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LGBTQ+ friendly neighborhoods that are affordable Access to low-income housing Financial stability Statewide protections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competent and consistent LGBTQ+ curriculum Consistent GSA presence throughout school system Statewide protections Training requirements for LGBTQ+ competency Safe transportation to get to school / work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affordable and consistent access to LGBTQ+ competent mental health services Accessible network of LGBTQ+ individuals and organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community center accessible to multiple age groups Accessible LGBTQ+ events Regular opportunities to participate in the community Accessible network of LGBTQ+ individuals and organizations
Justice Involved	<p>42</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducted at the juvenile detention center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing resources specific to minors Transitional living programs without strict requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistance with how to explain criminal history on applications More employment opportunities for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expungement assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community center accessible to all youth and young adults Free community classes (life skills, arts,

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Shared housing options 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> minors exiting the justice system ○ Connections to trade schools ○ Assistance with obtaining important documentation in order to obtain employment ○ Cohesiveness amongst school districts to eliminate setbacks when changing schools multiple times 		<p>etc.) to all young people</p>
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The invaluable information gathered through the focus groups informed decisions throughout the YHDP planning phase, such as proposed projects desired, including services. One important takeaway, from all focus groups, was the fact young people ultimately want to be diverted from the homeless response system. This information helped shape the strategies to invest in diversion, family engagement and other supports. The strategy of creating innovative kinship care is addressed in the Minors Action Plan, as well as other strategies developed directly from the focus groups.

The YYA Workgroup will assess other opportunities set forth from the expertise of young people, such as engaging community partners named in the focus groups that were not active in the planning phase. The collaborative nature of convening focus groups and engaging young people for their technical assistance will continue throughout YHDP implementation including continuous quality improvement.

The YYA Workgroup and YAB acknowledge the impact of homelessness is significant for special populations. Given the unique barriers and challenges, we must tailor interventions and opportunities to meet the specific needs of each population. Intentional strategy and preparation occurred to ensure providers who serve each of the special populations identified would be present for system modeling. These stakeholders made certain the group thought through assumptions and how pathways can look very different between the populations. YAB members participated in system modeling and advised of their own experience, or those of peers, and how pathways cannot be prescriptive. Focus groups representing the special populations were again convened to walk through system modeling in order to guarantee the youth and young adult homeless response system is reflective of the needs of **ALL** young people in the community.

The same process occurred during the action plan development to ensure special populations and their distinctive needs are kept at the forefront. The YAB and YYA Workgroup are committed to centering these populations and respond accordingly as we continue in the YHDP process and through project implementation.

The YAB strives to have diverse membership and representation from all of the above special populations. YAB members understand their experiences are different and want their work to be representative of all young people in Indianapolis. They are currently revising their recruitment strategies to further reach young people with different lived experience.

8. System Modeling

System modeling is a technique used to understand the ideal set of housing and services interventions needed to successfully end homelessness for the youth and young adults who present to our homeless response system annually. With assistance from Abt. Associates, we utilized data from HMIS and Stella to guide system modeling with the goal to identify the needed units for various interventions for youth and young adults in the community.

System modeling identified the annual need for housing and services, assuming all young people would engage in housing given the opportunity. It is important to note this system modeling takes into account some Indiana state laws that may need to be addressed to reduce barriers for housing, such as the ability for minors to sign leases at ages 16 – 17.

The community relied on the technical assistance of young people with lived experience to lead this process. A YHDP community convening was held on December 9, 2019, which included not only young people with lived experience but representation from various systems, including Indiana DCS (public child welfare agency), Indiana DOE, Juvenile and Adult Probation, Medicaid, and multiple youth and young adult providers. The group noticed determining pathways to be a complex process. For example, some young people may be diverted from the homeless response system, while others need to enter shelter temporarily before moving into permanent housing. The group talked through alternative program models to emergency shelter that are currently not offered in Indianapolis, such as host homes as young people advised emergency shelter is not a desired model. Youth and young adults reported they would be more open to emergency shelter if Indianapolis offered a shelter specific to the age range 18 – 24 that catered to their unique needs.

All assumptions were then presented to focus groups representing the targeted special populations of young people. Focus groups were conducted with minors, survivors of trafficking, child welfare involved, pregnant and/or parenting and juvenile justice involved young people. We understand strategies will appear different for certain populations and wanted to authentically collaborate with young people in the process.

After the baseline assumptions were created, pathways were compared to our community's Stella data for the current homeless response system. The following two charts illustrate the initial assumptions of the community convening and the amendments utilizing Stella data, as well as an explanation to each change.

Program Type	Unaccompanied Minors ages 13-17 Assumptions from 12/9/19 Meeting	Stella Data	Explanation
Diversion Services & Assistance	6	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some youth will ultimately self-resolve without needing assistance
Host Homes (includes kinship care)	22	22	
Emergency Shelter	3	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stella shows youth have an average of 46 days in ES. Changed stay to 1 month from 1 week as the group discussed extended stays are not desired.
Transitional Housing	0	0	
Rapid Re-Housing	21* Later determined 0	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussed further and decided inventory should be 0 at this time due to minors cannot legally sign a lease

Non-Time Limited Supportive Housing	2* Later determined 0	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussed further and decided inventory should be 0 at this time due to minors cannot legally sign a lease
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Program Type	Young Adults ages 18-24 Assumptions from 12/9/19 Meeting	Stella Data	Explanation
Diversion Services & Assistance	75	67	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5% of young people will self-resolve
Host Homes	111	111	
Emergency Shelter	10	34	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stella shows young adults have an average ES stay of 26 days. ES stay changed to 1 month vs. 1 week.
Transitional Housing	86	86	
Rapid Re-Housing	333	239	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Per Stella : * Young adults only in RRH has an average of 66 days prior to

			<p>move in and 228 days after of assistance.</p> <p>* ES + RRH: 154 days prior to move in and 164 days after</p> <p>* ES + TH + RRH: 43 days prior to move in and 43 days after</p>
Non-Time Limited Supportive Housing	104	104	

Over the months of January and February, the YAB and YYA Workgroup presented the system modeling to several focus groups and workgroups in order to guarantee all voices were heard in this process. We understand this is our community’s baseline and will continue to refine as needed. The final system modeling for Indianapolis is illustrated below.

Program Type	Unaccompanied Minors ages 13-17	Individuals Young Adults ages 18-24	Pregnant or Parenting Young Adults ages 18-24	Total
Diversion Services & Assistance	17	74	49	140
Host Homes	13	93	0	106
Emergency Shelter	1	35	6	42
Transitional Housing	1	93	3	97
Rapid Re-Housing	0	223	56	279
Non-Time Limited Supportive Housing	0	96	4	100
TOTAL	32	614	118	764

9. Elevating Impact by Aligning Resources

Key to the success of the implementation and sustainability of Indianapolis' YHDP is fostering a shared commitment to ending homelessness among youth and young adults. This commitment relies on the adherence to a collective impact model, which requires (1) a common agenda, (2) shared measurement systems, (3) mutually reinforcing activities, (4) continuous communication, and (5) a backbone support organization. Creating and supporting collective impact requires a significant financial investment and necessitates funders to focus on and support long-term strategies that lead to measurable change. While YHDP funding serves as the type of catalytic funding that is required to rapidly transform and elevate a collective response to ending youth and young adult homelessness, it is not sufficient alone. This is where local funders can play an important and impactful role in championing the plan and commitment to end youth and young adult homelessness, aligning public and private investments in ways that scale best practices and promising practices, and supporting strategies that produce outcomes.

Specifically outlined in the *Indianapolis Community Plan to End Homelessness (2018-2023)* is a commitment to “convert existing resources, target new investments, and enhance funding collaboration to shift from managing homelessness to ending homelessness through a Housing First approach” (Strategic Priority 5.7) While Indianapolis has a robust funding infrastructure inclusive of public, private, and philanthropic stakeholders, ensuring alignment of priorities, activities, and resources requires more intentional education, communication, and data to illustrate progress and drive decision-making and targeted investment. This plan and the work done through the system modeling process provides the roadmap to engage funders in strategic and aligned ways. This plan articulates clear strategies with data to support the need and gaps to really make an impact on youth and young adult homelessness.

Indianapolis has begun to cultivate the infrastructure to support this type of alignment drawing on three key pillars of impactful funding, as laid out in “Solutions for Homelessness: Creating Change Through Innovation and Investment”: (1) champions to lead the way, (2) funding to create change through public and private investments that create a marketplace for innovation, best practices, and results, and (3) strategies that support measurable change, such as collaborative funding, continuous awareness, coordinated systems, and outcomes.

The infrastructure is inclusive of:

- **Blueprint Council to End Homelessness:** In November, 2019 reimagined continuum of care governing council was activated that brought together leaders from across the city representing key positions of influence from the public sector, funding community, other systems, research institutions, faith-based

community, business sector, and elected seats representing service providers and individuals with lived expertise. This governing council will serve as the champions and thought leaders key to the implementation of this plan.

- **Homeless Funders Table:** In November, 2019 a group of funders, facilitated by the Central Indiana Community Foundation, began gathering with the goal of bringing local funders together to learn, hear, and identify common interests and expectations in aligning funding practices and priorities to elevate the impact of investments in making homeless rare, brief, and recoverable. The funders table meets bi-monthly and is inclusive of funders from both the public, private, and philanthropic sectors. Funders represented include: (Philanthropic) Central Indiana Community Foundation, Indiana Philanthropy Alliance, Lilly Endowment Inc., United Way of Central Indiana; (Public) City of Indianapolis, Indiana Housing and Community Development Agency, Indianapolis Neighborhood and Housing Partnership; (Private) Anthem Foundation and Bank of America. This group has the ability to fund in a way that aligns priorities to create measurable change.
- **Strategy & Alignment Workgroup:** As part of the Indianapolis CoC governance transformation, the Strategy & Alignment workgroup has been activated and charged with the goal of working more upstream to plan for and align funding priorities to both maximize HUD CoC funding by ensuring projects are eligible for renewal and expansion and to capitalize on and leverage local funding opportunities to fill in the gaps and more effectively scale and sustain best practices. This is the place where YHDP integrates within the larger CoC landscape to strategize about how to align YHDP, CoC, and ESG funding priorities to ensure sustainability.
- **Quarterly Outcomes Workgroup:** As part of a commitment to ensure data quality and adherence to performance standards and thresholds, community partners come together quarterly to review data and performance measures to work towards continuous improvement. This also supports a culture that is focused on outcomes and best practices, allowing funders and funding decisions to use data and outcomes to inform and target investment.
- **Quarterly CoC Community Convenings:** In 2020, Indianapolis launched a series of quarterly CoC Community Convenings to ensure transparency and a community-driven commitment to support the strategies and priorities outlined in the *Indianapolis Community Plan to End Homelessness*. Through the

collective impact infrastructure, we are providing greater opportunities for all community members to learn about the realities of homelessness, to break down barriers, and to gain buy-in on the solutions. This is also a place where continuous awareness can be fostered to ensure our community remains coordinated and committed to the strategic vision and goals of the plan to end youth and young adult homelessness.

10. Sustainability of the YAB

The technical assistance and education provided by the YAB to the YYA Workgroup, as well as other CoC workgroups, is invaluable. Thus, we understand the vitality of the YAB and are dedicated to ensuring continued partnership with youth and young adults with lived expertise.

The YAB Sustainability Workgroup was formed in late 2019 and charged with developing strategies in order to leverage philanthropic partners in order to provide the necessary financial support for stipends, transportation support, child care needs, and supplies. We must also ensure YAB members are given the opportunity for training and further leadership development and are dedicated to supporting YAB in this way as well.

One strategy identified is requiring organizations receiving YHDP funding to provide match funding specifically designated to support the YAB. This amount will be determined by the size of the award to each project with each agency responsible for a percentage of the overall program budget. The YAB Sustainability Workgroup are committed to developing and implementing funding strategies.

11. Indianapolis YHDP Partners

Partner Type	Partner's Name	Involvement
CoC Board	Blueprint Council	Indianapolis CoC recently restructured and a new CoC Board seated. The CoC is dedicated to assuring YHDP aligns with the community's strategies and funding.
Youth Action Board (YAB)	Indianapolis YAB	<p>The YAB co-led the YHDP planning efforts by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborating for system modeling completion • Convening focus groups • Engaging with YHDP TA providers • Participating in the YYA Workgroup, as well as all other YHDP workgroups either in person or via phone • Partnering to create this Coordinated Community Plan • Participating in RFP process and project selection
Local Government	City of Indianapolis	The City of Indianapolis is the Collaborative Applicant and Sole Grantee for the Indianapolis CoC and participated in the following areas:

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submitting the YHDP Planning grant application • Attending all YHDP meetings and phone calls • Engaging with all YDHP TA providers during onsite visits and weekly calls • Will ensure contract compliance during implementation • Participating in RFP process and project selection
Public Child Welfare Agency	Indiana Department of Child Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participates in the YYA Workgroup, as well as the Minor Workgroup and RFP Workgroup • Engages with YHDP TA, both on weekly calls and during onsite visits • Convenes focus groups of child welfare involved young people • Partners with the Indianapolis CoC and Indianapolis Housing Agency (IHA) in order to provide Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) vouchers for young people aging out of foster care • Participating in RFP process and project selection

Local Advocacy, Research and Philanthropic Organization	Coalition for Homelessness Intervention and Prevention (CHIP)	<p>CHIP is designated as the system lead for the Indianapolis CoC. In addition, CHIP also serves as :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead agency for YHDP with a dedicated project manager for the youth and young adult line of work • HMIS Lead • CES Lead
ESG Program Recipients	Damien Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participates in the YYA Workgroup, as well as the YAB Sustainability Workgroup • Convenes focus groups to ensure the voice of young people who are HIV + or high risk negative are present throughout the process • Engages with YHDP TA • Has representation in broader CoC workgroups • Operates a RRH specific for transgender individuals
Local Educational Agency	McKinney-Vento Liaisons (various school districts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participates in the YYA Workgroup • Leads the Minor Workgroup • Engages with YDHP TA, both in-person and on weekly calls

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participating in RFP process and project selection
State Educational Agency	Indiana Department of Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participates in the YYA Workgroup • Participates in the McKinney-Vento Workgroup and Minor Workgroup • Ensures education is a continued focus in conversations • Engages with YHDP TA, both in-person and on weekly calls
Runaway and Homeless Youth Program Provider	Stopover Inc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participates in the YYA Workgroup as well as the YAB Sustainability Workgroup • Engages with YHDP TA, both in-person and on weekly calls • Operates emergency shelter for minors and transitional living for youth and young adults
Runaway and Homeless Youth Program Provider	Children's Bureau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participates in the YYA Workgroup and McKinney-Vento Workgroup • Operates an emergency shelter for minors
Non-Profit Youth and Young Adult Organization	Trinity Haven	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participates in the YYA Workgroup • Engages with YHDP TA during onsite visits and weekly calls

<p>Non-Profit Youth and Young Adult Organization</p>	<p>School on Wheels</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides unique perspective on education through a mobile tutoring model • Participates in McKinney-Vento Workgroup • Recent engagement with the Minor Workgroup
<p>Non-Profit Youth and Young Adult Organization</p>	<p>Project Home Indy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of the YYA Workgroup are actively engaging Project Home Indy as this is the only organization who exclusively serves pregnant and parenting young people. Engagement efforts will continue.
<p>Non- Profit Youth and Young Adult Organization</p>	<p>Lutheran Child and Family Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participates in YYA Workgroup • Engages with YHDP TA, both in-person and on weekly calls • Will operate a young adult specific PSH project (30 units), in partnership with Community Health Network, slated for 2021
<p>Juvenile and Adult Corrections and Probation</p>	<p>Marion County Probation (juvenile and adult)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participates in the YYA Workgroup, as well as the Minor Workgroup

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convenes focus groups of young people who are involved within the juvenile justice system
Health, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Agency	Adult & Child Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participates in YYA Workgroup, in addition to having representation on other workgroups throughout the CoC • Participates in YHDP TA sessions, both onsite and weekly calls • Operates the only young adult specific RRH (12 units) in Indianapolis
Health, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Agency	Community Health Network – Gallahue Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participates in YYA Workgroup and other relevant workgroups • Engages with YHDP TA, both in-person and on weekly calls • Conducts focus groups with survivors of trafficking and sexual exploitation • Will operate a young adult specific PSH project (30 units), in partnership with Lutheran Child and Family Services, slated for 2021
Health, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Agency	Anthem – Indiana Medicaid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participates in YYA Workgroup • Engages with YHDP TA, both in-person and on weekly calls • Assists in leveraging local funders

WIOA Boards and Employment Agency	Employ Indy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participated in system modeling • Exploring ways to engage in the work of YHDP • Representation sits on the Blueprint Council
Landlords	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landlord engagement is occurring within the CoC's RRH line of work. Engagement of landlords specific for young people will occur and is called out in the Action Plan.
Public Housing Agency	Indianapolis Housing Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborating with DCS and Indianapolis CoC for provide Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) vouchers
Institution of Higher Education	Indiana University Purdue University – Indianapolis (IUPUI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participates in YYA Workgroup, as well as other relevant workgroups • Actively researches other higher education housing options by speaking with peer communities • Engages with YHDP TA, both in –person and on weekly calls
Community Development Corporations	TBD	
Affordable Housing Developers	TBD	
Local Advocacy, Research and Philanthropic Organization	Foster Success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participated in system modeling

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified their agency as providing advocacy for any policy proposals that emerge from YHDP work • Engages their Youth Advisory Council for feedback from child welfare involved young people
Privately Funded Homeless Organization	Indiana Youth Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participates in the YYA Workgroup, as well as the YAB Sustainability Workgroup • Provides data related to LGBTQ+ young people • Engages with YHDP TA, both in-person and on weekly calls • Operates a drop-in center specific for young people
Privately Funded Homeless Organization	Outreach Inc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participates in the YYA Workgroup, as well as the YAB Sustainability Workgroup • Provides data relating to drop-in center that helps identify gaps • Engages with YDHP TA, both in-person and on weekly calls • Operates a drop-in center specific to young people at-risk or experiencing homelessness

12. Goals, Objectives, and Action Steps

The following action plan was developed by the YAB and the YYA Workgroup as we progressed through the planning phase of YHDP and identified our goals for the next two years. Action steps are intended for both youth (under the age of 18) and young adults (18-24) unless noted otherwise. Some action steps are specific for youth and are more detailed in the Minor’s Goals, Objectives and Action Steps section, which follows.

<i>Goal 1: Include youth and young adult partnership throughout the CoC and homeless response system.</i>				
OBJECTIVES	ACTION STEPS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	KEY OUTCOMES
A. Create authentic youth and young adult partnership	1A.1 - Develop coordinated approach for organizations to identify young people to engage in CoC	Fall 2019 - ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YAB • YYA Workgroup 	Increased collaboration with youth and young adults throughout the Indianapolis CoC
	1A.2 – Create and execute a sustainability plan for YAB, which will include training, funding, etc.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YAB Sustainability Workgroup 	
	1A.3 - Leverage local funders to support YAB after YHDP		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YAB Sustainability Workgroup • Funder’s Roundtable 	

	1A.4 - Evaluate and ensure young people are participating (in areas of their choice) and engaged throughout YHDP and CoC		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YYA Workgroup • YAB 	
	1A.5 Evaluate authentic youth and young adult engagement and make refinements		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YAB • YYA Workgroup 	
B. Strengthen meaningful opportunities for young people to engage throughout the system and beyond CoC	1B.1 - Identify opportunities for young people to engage outside of the CoC (i.e. Mayor’s leadership academy)	January 2020 – ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YAB • YYA Workgroup Team 	35% of YAB members will gain leadership skills through their participation in the Indianapolis CoC
	1B.2 - Partner with young adults (ages 18-24) to create positions alongside key CoC partners for mentorship, training, and leadership development		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YAB • Community Partners 	
	1B.3 - Develop guidelines for partner positions and create hiring process		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YAB • YYA Workgroup 	
	1B.4 - Evaluate and refine		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YYA Workgroup • YAB 	

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CQI Workgroup (not yet formed) 	
<i>Goal 2: Improve identification and assessment of need at the front door of the homeless response system.</i>				
OBJECTIVES	ACTION STEPS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	KEY OUTCOMES
A. Improve utilization of current crisis response services	2A.1 - Improve awareness of available resources and services for youth and young adults	June 2020 - ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YYA Workgroup • YAB 	Improve access to needed services
	2A.2 – Convene focus groups to better understand why young people are not currently presenting		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YAB • YYA Workgroup 	Increase number of youth and young adults appropriately diverted from the homeless response system
	2A.3 – Engage in CES refinement to ensure all young people are being triaged and/or assessed based on current situation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CES Vertical 	Improve coordination of services for unaccompanied minors
	2A.4 - Educate service providers about CES and where/how young people can be assessed		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CES Vertical 	Improve assessment and engagement of youth and young adults in need of longer
	2A.5 - Evaluate youth and young adult utilization and refine		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CQI Workgroup (not yet convened) 	term housing options and support.

	2A.6 - Establish a standardized process to identify young people who are at risk of homelessness upon exit from child welfare or juvenile justice		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CES Vertical • HMIS Vertical • YYA Workgroup 	
B. Improve data quality and system capacity to identify and assist youth and young adults experiencing homelessness	2B.1 - Establish definitions for current data sets regarding minors	July 2020 – December 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOE • HMIS Vertical 	<p>Increase number of youth and young adults exiting to housing opportunities</p> <p>Improve collective ability to drive community goals in ending youth and young adult homelessness</p> <p>Improve program level outcomes</p> <p>Improve community’s ability to address equity in access and outcomes</p>
	2B.2 - Identify gaps and barriers in data entry from youth and young adult serving organizations		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YYA Workgroup • YAB • HMIS Vertical 	
	2B.3 - Develop data collection standards		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMIS Vertical • CES Vertical • YAB 	
	2B.4 - Require all YHDP funded projects utilize CES for referrals, assuring entry into HMIS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMIS Vertical • All YHDP funded projects 	
	2B.5 - Support organizations through continued training		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMIS Vertical • CES Vertical 	

	2B.6 Develop a strategy to create “by-name” list for young adults		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CES Vertical 	
	2B.7 – Create and implement a case conferencing structure specific to young adults		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YYA Workgroup • YAB 	
	2B.7 Establish a dashboard to monitor progress and provide a visual		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CES Vertical 	
C. Develop system navigation specific to youth and young adults to ensure young people are being assessed in a consistent manner and provided with support throughout the system	2C.1 – Research and connect with peer communities to identify best practices for youth and young adult system navigation	May 2020 – December 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YAB • YYA Workgroup • CES Vertical 	Increase number of youth and young adults experiencing homelessness who become known to the system
	2C.2 - Identify the access point needs to ensure all young people experiencing homelessness are being assessed (touching CES)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YAB • YYA Workgroup • CES Vertical 	Increase number of youth and young adults exiting to permanent housing options
	2C.3 - Develop program model for youth and young adult specific system navigation (assessor and navigator positions)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CES Vertical • YYA Workgroup • YAB 	

	2C.4 - Create workgroup of existing community navigation to learn/coordinate ongoing system navigation efforts		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CES Vertical 	
	2C.5 Evaluate and modify ongoing efforts		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CES Vertical 	

Goal 3 : Create diversion strategies specific to youth and young adults

OBJECTIVES	ACTION STEPS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	KEY OUTCOMES
A. Design a diversion model specific to youth and young adults	3A.1 - Create a workgroup of relevant stakeholders	July 2020 – December 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YAB • YYA Workgroup 	45% of youth and young adults are diverted to safe, permanent housing options
	3A.2 - Evaluate current system data to better understand the number of young people who could benefit from diversion		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YAB • YYA Workgroup • HMIS Vertical 	85% of all youth and young adults diverted are linked to a positive support
	3A.3 - Research informal diversion programs, which already exist in the community (i.e. McKinney-Vento liaisons)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YHDP Team • McKinney-Vento Workgroup 	30% of youth and young adults identify reunification goals and achieve them

	3A.4 - Create diversion model in partnership with young people with lived experience		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YAB • YYA Workgroup 	
	3A.5 - Determine and create diversion entry points and referral process		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YAB • YYA Workgroup • CES Vertical 	
	3A.6 - Leverage local funders for investment in the model beyond YHDP		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funders Vertical • Blueprint Council 	
	3A.7 - Develop phased implementation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YYA Workgroup 	
	3A.8 - Scale implementation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	
B. Develop an evaluation process to monitor outcomes and drive refinement	3B.1 – Convene a group of relevant stakeholders		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YYA Workgroup • YAB 	
	3B.2 – Create a metrics to measure outcomes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance Vertical • YYA Workgroup 	

	3B.3 – Develop a process for identifying needed refinements and implement		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6B.3 – CQI Workgroup (not yet formed) 	
<i>Goal 4: Decrease the length of time youth and young adults are experiencing homelessness by rapidly exiting them to housing and services that meet their needs.</i>				
OBJECTIVES	ACTION STEPS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	KEY OUTCOMES
A. Invest in shared housing strategies to address affordability, isolation and loneliness	4A.1 - Continue to engage youth and young adult voice to establish housing and services needs	July 2020 – December 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> YAB YYA Workgroup 	Improve successful transitions to permanent housing options
	4A.2 - Engage local funders for sustainability of models not eligible for renewability under the annual CoC NOFA		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funders Vertical Blueprint Council 	Improve social well-being outcomes for young people
	4A.3 - Consult with Point Source Youth to develop host home models utilizing best practices		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Host home projects funded 	Improve longer term housing stability
	4A.4 - Educate/train housing providers in trauma-informed care, positive youth development,		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> YYA Workgroup YAB 	

	and all other guiding principles of this community plan			
B. Create a pipeline of housing options that are responsive to the needs of youth and young adults.	4B.1 – Recruit organizations to respond to the YHDP RFP	April 2020 – July 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YYA Workgroup 	House all youth and young adults identified as unsheltered or sheltered within 90 days.
	4B.2 - Identify funding and service resources for non-YHDP projects		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy and Alignment Workgroup • Funder’s Workgroup 	
	4B.3 - Develop robust landlord engagement and create landlord incentives to house young adult experiencing homelessness		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RRH Vertical • YAB 	
	4B.4 - Ensure adequate housing options exist for all special populations identified		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RFP Workgroup 	
	4B.5 - Advocate for policy change in order for minors to be able to sign leases at age 16 – 17. (minors)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor Workgroup 	

	4B.6 - Advocate for simplified emancipation for minors in order to remove barriers for housing (minors)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor Workgroup 	
C. Develop strategies to address transitions without young people having to experience homelessness again	4C.1 – Research waivers for developing a “safety net” for young people who exit the homeless response system	July 2020 – December 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> YYA Workgroup YAB 	Maintain no more than 5% recidivism of housed youth and young adults returning to homelessness
	4C.2 - Create supportive services package to increase housing stability and reduce returns to homelessness		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> YYA Workgroup YAB Funded YHDP projects 	
	4C.3 - Prioritize access to education, employment, certification opportunities, and job placement		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RFP Workgroup YHDP projects 	
	4C.4 - Align funding models		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategy and Alignment Workgroup 	
	4C.5 – Use takedown calculator to monitor returns to homelessness to understand inflow		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HMIS Vertical YYA Workgroup 	

D. Develop training protocol to guarantee all projects are grounded in the guiding principles of this plan.	4D.1 – Convene a group of relevant stakeholders	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YYA Workgroup • YAB 	Improve social-emotional well-being outcomes for youth and young adults
	4D.2 – Create a training curriculum and implement		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YYA Workgroup • YAB 	
	4D.3 - Provide ongoing training and support for all youth and young adult serving organizations.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CoC Coordination 	

Goal 5: Improve community awareness and understanding of youth and young adult homelessness.

OBJECTIVES	ACTION STEPS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	KEY OUTCOMES
A. Educate young people and community partners regarding current state of youth and young adult homelessness in the community	5A.1 – Convene a group of relevant stakeholders	June 2020 – December 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YAB • Relevant youth and young adult stakeholders 	Improve community partners and young people’s knowledge around the state of youth and young adult homelessness
	5A.2 - Identify potential gaps in community’s knowledge		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YYA Workgroup 	
	5A.2 Develop a clear youth and young adult system vision		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YAB • YYA Workgroup 	
	5A.3 Leverage existing audience to socialize the coordinated community plan to further			

	enhance buy in from the community			
B. Educate broader community about the current state of youth and young adult homelessness in Indianapolis	5B.1 - Develop a graphic depiction to communicate the strategies being implemented to build the vision.	August 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YAB • YYA Workgroup 	Improve the community's knowledge around state of youth and young adult homelessness
	5B.2 Develop and implement a plan to socialize the youth and young adult strategies to the community		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YAB • CoC Coordination 	
C. Develop a marketing campaign and implement	5C.1 - Create a workgroup of relevant stakeholders in the community	September 2020 – June 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YYA Workgroup • YAB • CoC Coordination Vertical 	Improve the community's knowledge around state of youth and young adult homelessness
	5C.2 - Develop campaign using examples from peer communities and best practices			
	5C.3 Activate campaign in the community			

Goal 6: Target cross systems coordination and response at the intersections.

OBJECTIVES	ACTION STEPS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	KEY OUTCOMES
A. Engage cross system partners who serve youth and young adults	6A.1 – Identify systems not currently involved in the CoC and initiate engagement	Fall 2020 – ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YYA Workgroup 	<p>Improve collective ability to identify youth and young adults at risk of homelessness</p> <p>Improve coordinated response to youth and young adults identified in need of services</p>
	6A.2 - Integrate system partners into the larger CoC as YHDP progresses and match with appropriate workgroups		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YAB • Key youth and young adult entities 	<p>Increase collective ability to drive the narrative about youth and young adults at risk of and those experiencing homelessness</p>
B. Create effective data sharing process between systems (CoC,	6B.1 - Identify the data points each system is currently collecting	Fall 2020 – December 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CES Vertical • HMIS Vertical • YHDP Team • DOE 	Inter-system data sharing and coordinated entry options exist

DCS, Criminal Justice, ERs, etc.)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Juvenile Justice 	
	6B.2 - Create data sharing agreements and implement		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CES Vertical • HMIS Vertical • YHDP Team • DOE • Juvenile Justice 	
	6B.3 – Evaluate and refine to meet the needs of all parties		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CQI Workgroup (not yet formed) 	
C. Strengthen partnerships with higher education institutions	6C.1 - Expand awareness of higher education basic needs insecurity challenges among community partners in order to build a cohort of support for higher education institutions	June 2020 – ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local higher education institutions • CES Vertical • YYA Workgroup 	Improved collaboration with higher education institutions
	6C.2 - Engage additional Indianapolis-area higher education institutions not currently involved		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YYA Workgroup 	Increased knowledge of basic needs of higher education students experiencing homelessness
	6C.3 - Establish and implement cross-system referral protocols, including CES		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CES Vertical • YYA Workgroup 	Inter-system data sharing and coordinated entry options exist

	6C.4 - Develop stronger campus-based networks of support (partnerships with housing, tutoring and career, etc.)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higher Education Institutions 	
	6C.5 – Evaluate and refine as needed		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CQI Workgroup (not yet formed) 	
E. Develop partnerships with career and technical education providers	6D.1 - Create a more coordinated delivery of needed supports across systems (housing, community supports)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local career / employment entities CES Vertical YYA Workgroup 	Increase access to and completion of career and technical education
	6D.2 – Develop a cross-system referral protocol, including CES		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CES Vertical YYA Workgroup 	
<i>Goal 7: Ensure equity in access and outcomes for youth and young adults of color and LGBTQ+ young people.</i>				
OBJECTIVES	ACTION STEPS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	KEY OUTCOMES
	7A.1 - Create a workgroup of relevant stakeholders	January 2020 – December 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> YAB YYA Workgroup 	

A. Create a more equitable system for all young people	7A.2 – Research and identify current equity practices of youth and young adult serving organizations		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YYA Workgroup • YAB • Youth and young adult serving entities 	<p>Decrease in disparities across the youth and young adult system</p> <p>Improved system to serve all young people</p>
	7A.3- Continue to conduct listening sessions with youth and young adults of color and LGBTQ+ to better understand gaps in the current system		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YAB • YYA Workgroup 	
	7A.4 - Develop strategies utilizing targeted universalism		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Racial Disparities Workgroup • YAB • YYA Workgroup 	
	7A.5 - Provide LGBTQ+ cultural competency training to all youth and young adult serving organizations annually.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YYA Workgroup 	
	7A.6 - Pilot identified strategies		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YYA Workgroup 	
	7A.7 - Scale implementation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YYA Workgroup 	
	7A.8 - Evaluate and refine		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CQI Workgroup 	

13. Goals, Objectives and Actions Steps for Minors

Throughout the planning phase of YHDP, it became evident minors in Indianapolis face barriers that differ significantly from their older peers (ages 18 – 24). Thus, the Minor Workgroup collaborated with minors with lived experience, mainly through focus groups, to create the below Action Plan to specifically address the identified barrier youth face in Indianapolis.

<i>Goal 1: Include minors with lived experience of homelessness throughout the system.</i>				
OBJECTIVES	ACTION STEPS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	KEY OUTCOMES
A. Create an authentic partnership with youth (under the age of 18)	1A.1 - Develop a youth friendly information sheet explaining youth collaboration	May 2020 – ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor Workgroup • YAB 	Increase the number of minors participating in the CoC Increase percentage of minors active in YAB
	1A.2 - Partner with community partners to develop language in their existing intake process around consent for minor participation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor Workgroup • YAB • YHDP Team 	
	1A.3 - Continue to collaborate with youth through focus groups, listening sessions, and other partnerships		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor Workgroup • YAB • YYA Workgroup 	

	1A.4 - Engage youth in current YHDP Workgroups and broader CoC Workgroups as YHDP integrates		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor Workgroup • CoC Coordination Vertical 	
	1A.5 - Evaluate authentic youth engagement and refine		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor Workgroup 	

Goal 2: Improve identification and assessment of need at the front door of the homeless response system for minors.

OBJECTIVES	ACTION STEPS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	KEY OUTCOMES
A. Improve identification of minors through all education avenues	2A.1 - Partner with Indiana Department of Education	June 2020 – December 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOE • Minor Workgroup 	Improve access to needed services
	2A.2 Develop a process to identify all non-traditional schools (alternative, online, charter, etc.) within Indianapolis and engage		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOE • Minor Workgroup • YYA Workgroup 	Improve coordination of services for unaccompanied minors
	2A.3 – Identify how each school is coding McKinney-Vento students and definitions utilized		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor Workgroup 	

	2A.4 – Develop standardized coding process for all McKinney-Vento liaisons and implement		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McKinney-Vento Workgroup • DOE 	
B. Develop a process to enter minors into the Coordinated Entry System	2B.1- Identify best practices and HUD guidance regarding entering unaccompanied minors into HMIS / CES including any restrictions necessary	July 2020 – December 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CES Vertical • Minor Workgroup 	<p>Improve the quality of the data in regards to minors</p> <p>Improve service delivery for unaccompanied minors</p>
	2B.2 - Develop unaccompanied minor assessment questions to assess crisis, employment, and education needs		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor Workgroup • YAB 	
	2B.3 - Identify services and resources available to minors within the system / community		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YAB • Focus Groups • Minor Workgroup 	
	2B.4 - Build collaboration and process for connecting		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CES Vertical • Minor Workgroup 	

	available services and resources to the CES			
	2B.5 - Identify gaps in services and resources for minors that are not connected to the system		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YAB • Focus Groups • Minor Workgroup 	
	2B.6 - Establish relationships and on board new services / resources to connect to the CES		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CES Vertical • Minor Workgroup 	
	2B.7 - Create decision making structure to match minors with available services and resources based on assessment		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YAB • Minor Workgroup • YYA Workgroup 	
	2B.8 - Develop and implement case conferencing structure regarding minors		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CES Vertical • YAB • Minor Workgroup 	
	2B.9 - Establish an evaluation process to monitor system outcomes and develop refinements as needed		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CES Vertical • Minor Workgroup • YAB 	

Goal 3: Develop diversion strategies specific to youth				
OBJECTIVES	ACTION STEPS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	KEY OUTCOMES
A. Create a coordinated approach for diversion to be utilized across all schools and school districts within Indianapolis	3A.1 - Identify all practices currently being utilized across schools and school districts and non-traditional school settings	July 2020 – December 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McKinney-Vento Workgroup • DOE • Minor Workgroup • Focus Groups 	<p>45% of youth are diverted to safe, permanent housing options</p> <p>30% of youth identify reunification goals and achieve them</p>
	3A.2 – Identify best practices among those identified strategies		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McKinney-Vento Workgroup 	
	3A.3 – Develop a flexible diversion model that will meet the needs of all youth		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McKinney-Vento Workgroup • Minor Workgroup • YAB 	
	3A.4 – Implement formal diversion in all schools and school districts		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McKinney-Vento Workgroup • Minor Workgroup 	
	3A.5 – Evaluate and refine		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CQI Workgroup (not yet formed) • Minor Workgroup 	

B. Create innovative kinship care options for youth with supportive services	3B.1- Research best practices around kinship care in peer communities	Fall 2020 – December 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor Workgroup • McKinney-Vento Workgroup 	<p>Increase permanent connections and supports</p> <p>Increase the likelihood that minors will access higher education and/or employment after high school</p> <p>Increase housing stability while seeking education and employment opportunities</p>
	3B.2 – Convene focus groups to identify the desires of minors around kinship care		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor Workgroup • YAB 	
	3B.3 – Develop and pilot model		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor Workgroup • McKinney-Vento Workgroup • YAB 	
	3B.4 – Evaluate and refine as needed		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CQI Workgroup (not yet formed) 	

Goal 4: Advocate for policy change that directly impacts youth experiencing homelessness

OBJECTIVES	ACTION STEPS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	KEY OUTCOMES
A. Create a process for unaccompanied minors to receive services without fear from the child welfare system	4A.1 - Identify best practices in other states who also possess a mandated reporting law through child welfare	July 2020- July 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth and Young Adult Advocacy Workgroup (not yet created) • Minor Workgroup • YAB or other minors with lived experience 	Decrease the number of youth entering into the child welfare system for experiencing homelessness only

	4A.2 - Collaborate with young people with prior child welfare involvement to identify gaps in current process		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YAB • Minor Workgroup 	Increase the number of youth accessing services when experiencing homelessness
	4A.3 - Collaborate with DCS to develop a process acceptable for alternative placement outside of the child welfare system for minors who are experiencing homelessness		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor Workgroup • Youth and Young Adult Advocacy Workgroup • YAB or minors with lived experience 	
	4A.4 – Pilot the program		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor Workgroup • DCS 	
	4A.5 – Evaluate and refine as needed; advocate for legislative change if appropriate/needed		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YYA Workgroup • Minor Workgroup 	
B. Create a simplified process for emancipation for minors to remove barriers for housing.	4B.1 - Research and identify best practices in other states / communities	July 2020- December 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor Workgroup • Youth and Young Adult Advocacy Workgroup • YAB or minors with lived experience 	Reduce the barriers for youth to obtain housing when unaccompanied

	4B.2 - Collaborate with young people with juvenile justice experience to identify the gaps in the current emancipation process		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minors with juvenile justice experience • Minor Workgroup 	
	4B.3 - Collaborate with the juvenile justice system to develop a process acceptable by all systems		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor Workgroup • YAB 	
	4B.3 - Advocate for policy change with proposed process if appropriate		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth and Young Adult Advocacy Workgroup 	
C. Advocate for state law change in order for 16 and 17 year olds to obtain the capability to sign a lease	4C.1 - Identify and research best practices of other communities	December 2020- December 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth and Young Adult Advocacy Workgroup • Minor Workgroup • 	Increase housing options for unaccompanied youth
	4C.2 – Collaborate with youth to identify specific situations this would be appropriate		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YAB or other minor voice • Minor Workgroup 	
	4C.3 – Convene a workgroup of relevant stakeholders to advocate		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor Workgroup 	

Goal 5: Strengthen cross system coordination and response at the intersections where minors present				
OBJECTIVES	ACTION STEPS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	KEY OUTCOMES
A. Enhance cross-system knowledge of resources currently available	5A.1 - Create joint system training curriculum to improve understanding of partner systems and their resources	August 2020 – August 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor Workgroup • YYA Workgroup • YAB 	Increase knowledge of collaborative partners
	5A.2 - Provide training to improve coordination and comprehensive service delivery to minors		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor Workgroup • CES Vertical • YAB 	
	5A.3 - Create reference documents for organizations serving youth		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor Workgroup • YAB 	
B. Strengthen partnerships with community career and technical education	5B.1- Identify community career and technical education partners in the community	Fall 2020 – on going	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YYA Workgroup • YAB 	Increase career pathways for youth experiencing homelessness
	5B.2 - Engage new partners in YHDP process as well as integrate into the broader CoC		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YYA Workgroup 	Increase income

C. Strengthen collaboration with community education supports	5C.1 - Identify community education (early education, K-12, higher ed) supports in the community	Fall 2020 – ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YYA Workgroup • McKinney- Vento Workgroup • DOE 	Increase education attainment among youth experiencing homelessness
	5C.2 - Engage new education partners in the YHDP process and integrate into broader CoC		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YYA Workgroup • Minor Workgroup 	Increase education pathways for youth
	5C.3 - Develop training for higher education single points of contact (SPOC) to increase awareness of basic needs insecurity on campus and how to connect youth to supports		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher Education partners • YAB 	
D. Create data sharing growth among all systems in which youth interact	5D.1 - Identify the data points each system is currently collecting		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CES Vertical • HMIS Vertical • YHDP Team • DOE • Juvenile Justice 	Inter-system data sharing and coordinated entry options exist
	5D.2 - Create data sharing agreements and implement		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CES Vertical • HMIS Vertical • YHDP Team 	

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOE • Juvenile Justice • CQI Workgroup (not yet formed) 	
	5D.3 – Evaluate and refine to meet the needs of all parties			

14. YHDP Projects

From December 2019 – February 2020, system modeling was discussed, analyzed and completed for unaccompanied minors, individuals ages 18 – 24 and pregnant and parenting young adults utilizing data from Stella, IDOE, and the expertise of youth and young adults. System modeling was introduced during a community convening in December 2019, which was attended by multiple community stakeholders including YAB members, IDOE, Marion County Juvenile and Adult Probation, Indiana DCS, several behavioral health organizations, youth service providers, representatives from the City of Indianapolis and CHIP staff. In order to include further youth and young adult voice in this process, several focus groups were convened with special populations to further assess and amend. Our goal was to ensure representative voice from all special populations were involved in this process. Applying system modeling, the YAB and YYA Workgroup co-designed the below projects.

Principles for Allocating YHDP Funds:

We considered the following principles when developing this proposal:

- Youth Led:* Youth and young adults participated and lead the final decisions made through the system modeling process. The prioritized projects for YHDP funding reflect what youth and young adults believe is needed in our community.
- Renewability:* Funds can be renewed annually through a HUD homelessness grant program (the CoC Program), if spend it in ways that are compatible, such as using YHDP funds primarily for housing interventions and a limited number of other appropriate cost categories.
- Impact:* We want the funds to have a significant impact on the number of youth and young adults experiencing homelessness and on the array of options available to young and young adults in Indianapolis.

These projects will rely on a Housing First model, with immediate access to housing with no preconditions; will incorporate the USICH Framework and core outcomes (**stable housing, permanent connections, education/employment, and social-emotional wellbeing**), and will be required to demonstrate promotion of social and community integration in their project designs.

Furthermore, all funded projects and current providers in the homeless response system will receive training on PYD principles, trauma informed care and best practices and strategies to support family engagement.

Proposed Allocations:

Project Type	# Served over Two Years	YHDP Allocation
Diversion	48	\$722,950
Host Homes	20	\$240,000
Transitional Housing	41	\$494,650
Rapid Rehousing	120	\$1,445,900
Non-Time Limited Supportive Housing	41	\$608,800
System Navigation		\$200,000
HMIS Enhancement		\$92,700
Planning Grant		\$75,000
		Total: \$3,880,000

1. Diversion Assistance and Support Services

<p>Summary: These projects will provide services to help youth and young adults avoid literal homelessness, specifically focused on immediate housing crisis resolution and housing stabilization. Projects will provide supports to help connect youth and young adults experiencing housing instability and crisis to permanent housing more quickly or self-resolve existing barriers to stable housing. Diversion will assist youth and young adults with service linkages to other community resources.</p>	
Program Type	Diversion
Targeted Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unaccompanied Youth (under 18) • Pregnant / Parenting Youth (under 18) • Unaccompanied Young Adults (age 18 – 24) • Pregnant / Parenting Young Adults (age 18 – 24) • Includes all special populations
HUD Eligibility	Category 2
Program Elements	<p>Individualized needs (including the following):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited financial assistance • Educational supports • Family counseling • Conflict resolution • Relationship supports • Strengthening and/or expanding permanent connections
USICH Outcome (s) addressed	Stable housing, Permanent connections, social emotional well-being
Project Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All guiding principles as outlined in this plan
Desired Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent unsheltered homelessness • Decrease length of episode of homelessness, if the CoC cannot prevent entry into the homeless response system • Increase wellbeing outcomes
Innovation Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New model specific for youth and young adults in Indianapolis • Diverts youth and young adults from the trauma of homelessness • Emphasizes options for youth and young adults to stay where they feel most safe and supported
Total Inventory Needed According to System Modeling	140
Budget per year: Does not include match	\$361,475
Total YHDP Spending Over 2 Years:	\$722,950
Remaining Amount to Fund:	\$1,371,050

2. Host Homes

<p>Summary: Host homes will provide safe, inclusive and affirming spaces for all youth and young adults (including safe space to store belongings and pets) in need of crisis housing and while permanent housing options are identified. Host homes will build permanent connections and natural supports.</p>	
Program Type	Crisis Housing
Targeted Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unaccompanied Youth (under 18) • Unaccompanied Young Adults (age 18 – 24) • Includes all special populations
HUD Eligibility	Category 1 and 2
Program Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic Needs are met • Referral to services • Case management services • Relationship building • Host supports • Life skill development
USICH Outcome (s) addressed	Stable housing, Permanent connections, Social emotional well-being, Education / Employment
Project Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All guiding principles as outlined in this plan
Desired Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent unsheltered homelessness • Decrease length of episode of homelessness • Increase exits to permanent housing • Increase wellbeing outcomes
Innovation Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New housing model for youth and young adults in Indianapolis • Allows youth and young adults to stabilize where they feel safe and supported and to maintain ties to communities of origin
Total Inventory Needed According to System Modeling:	106
Budget per year:	\$120,000
Total YHDP Spending Over 2 Years:	\$240,000
Remaining Amount to Fund:	\$1,540,800

3. Transitional Housing

<p>Summary: Transitional housing will provide access to help when homelessness cannot be prevented. Youth and young adults will be connected to other critical supports around their education, employment, relationships, health and well-being. In addition, transitional housing will provide a safe, inclusive and affirming space for youth and young adults in need of crisis housing while permanent housing options are identified.</p>	
Program Type	Crisis Housing
Targeted Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unaccompanied Youth (under 18) • Pregnant / Parenting Youth (under 18) • Unaccompanied Young Adults (age 18 – 24) • Pregnant / Parenting Young Adults (age 18 – 24) • Includes all special populations
HUD Eligibility	Category 1 and 2
Program Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congregate housing • Case management • Capacity for both single and roommate options • Life skills training
USICH Outcome (s) addressed	Stable housing, Permanent connections, Social emotional well-being, Education / Employment
Project Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All guiding principles as outlined in this plan
Desired Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent unsheltered homelessness • Decrease length of episode of homelessness • Increase exits to permanent housing • Increase wellbeing outcomes
Innovation Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexible time limits • Ability for new collaboration between partners for development of TH- RRH project
Total Inventory Needed According to System Modeling:	97
Budget per year:	\$247,325
Total YHDP Spending Over 2 Years:	\$494,650
Remaining Amount to Fund:	\$1,826,150

4. Rapid Re-housing

<p>Summary: Rapid Re-housing is an intervention for young adults experiencing homelessness who cannot return quickly to a family living situation and do not have other near-term housing options to pursue. The goal is to provide immediate access to stable independent housing along with supportive services in order to connect young adults to other critical supports around their education, employment, relationships, health and well-being.</p>	
Program Type	Medium – Long Term Housing Option
Targeted Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unaccompanied Young Adults (age 18 – 24) • Pregnant / Parenting Young Adults (age 18 – 24) • Includes all special populations
HUD Eligibility	Category 1, 2, and 4
Program Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect to other participants through community activities • Connect to employment or educational supports to further a career pathway • Life skill development • Builds permanent connections and natural supports
USICH Outcome (s) addressed	Stable housing, Permanent connections, Social emotional well-being, Education / Employment
Project Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All guiding principles as outlined in this plan
Desired Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decrease length of stay or wait time for housing • Increase # of young adults in stable housing 12 months or longer • Decrease the # of young adults returning to homelessness after 12 months • Increase in employment and/or education achievements • Increase wellbeing outcomes
Innovation Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to create programs that are flexible in the length of time needed by a participant • Opportunity to utilize a shared housing strategy
Total Inventory Needed According to System Modeling:	279
Budget per year:	\$722,950
Total YHDP Spending Over 2 Years :	\$1,445,900
Remaining Amount to Fund :	\$5,245,300

5. Non-Time Limited Supportive Housing

<p>Summary: Non-time limited supportive housing will provide non-time limited housing subsidies paired with supportive services surrounding their education, employment, relationships, health and well-being. Young adults with disabilities or severe challenges will receive peer and professional support.</p>	
Program Type	Medium – Long Term Housing Option
Targeted Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unaccompanied Young Adults (age 18 – 24) • Pregnant / Parenting Young Adults (age 18 – 24) • Includes all special populations
HUD Eligibility	Category 1, 2, and 4
Program Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case management • Peer and professional support • Life skills development • Access to alcohol and drug treatment, mental health care, and physical health care • Family households will receive additional supports to respond to the needs of their children and growth as parents
USICH Outcome (s) addressed	Stable housing, Permanent connections, Social emotional well-being, Education / Employment
Project Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All guiding principles as outlined in this plan
Desired Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decrease length of stay or wait time for housing • Increase # of young adults in stable housing 12 months or longer • Decrease the # of young adults returning to homelessness after 12 months • Increase in employment and/or education achievements • Increase wellbeing outcomes
Innovation Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential to utilize a shared housing strategy
Total Inventory Needed According to System Modeling:	100
Budget per year :	\$304,400
Total YHDP Spending Over 2 Years :	\$608,800
Remaining Amount to Fund :	\$2,385,200

6. Youth and Young Adult System Navigators

<p>Summary: Youth and Young Adult System Navigators will increase capacity for the Indianapolis coordinated entry system targeted to youth and young adults, who are at imminent risk or literally experiencing homelessness. Youth and Young Adult System Navigators will increase capacity for the Indianapolis coordinated entry system targeted to youth and young adults, who are at imminent risk or literally experiencing homelessness. Youth and Young Adult System Navigators will serve the entire homeless response system and are a specific organization. They will support identification of youth and young adults, navigation of coordinated entry, as well as connection to housing and non-housing resources, such as mainstream benefits, education and employment. In alignment with the work of CES Refinement, the homeless response system would have an Assessor and a CES Navigator as part of system navigation. The Assessor will triage young people and complete CES assessments, while CES Navigators will assist young people in the homeless response system complete items (collect documentation, etc.) as well as connect with services identified for the young person to achieve their chosen pathway.</p>	
Program Type	SSO – Coordinated Entry Project
Targeted Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unaccompanied Youth (under 18) • Pregnant / Parenting Youth (under 18) • Unaccompanied Young Adults (age 18 – 24) • Pregnant / Parenting Young Adults (age 18 – 24) • Includes all special populations
HUD Eligibility	Category 1, 2, 3 and 4
Program Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve information and process available to support coordination, connection and prioritization of services that best resolve housing crisis for youth and young adults as swiftly and safely as possible.
USICH Outcome (s) addressed	Stable housing, Permanent connections, Social emotional well-being, Education / Employment
Project Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All guiding principles as outlined in this plan
Desired Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase # of youth and young adults identified and triaged to appropriate pathway • Increase engagement while waiting for permanent housing • Decrease length of homelessness while waiting for permanent housing • Increase # of youth and young adults exiting to permanent housing
Innovation Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing navigation and connection to immediate resources for youth and young adults
Budget per year:	\$100,000
Total YHDP Spending Over 2 Years:	\$200,000

7. HMIS Enhancement

<p>Summary: This project will improve ability and capacity to understand the prevalence of youth and young adults at risk of and experiencing homelessness that will inform future system modeling and needs assessments for special populations.</p>	
Program Type	HMIS
Targeted Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unaccompanied Youth (under 18) • Pregnant / Parenting Youth (under 18) • Unaccompanied Young Adults (age 18 – 24) • Pregnant / Parenting Young Adults (age 18 – 24) • Includes all special populations
HUD Eligibility	Category 1, 2, 3 and 4
Program Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide better data to inform project implementation and performance that should also inform improvements in response to youth and young adults in the community. • Provide platform for continuous quality improvement strategies specific to tracking community goals.
USICH Outcome (s) addressed	Stable housing, Permanent connections, Social emotional well-being, Education / Employment
Project Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All guiding principles as outlined in this plan
Desired Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% participation of YHDP funded projects • Improvements in data collected on inflow, outflow, length of time waiting for housing / services, and exits for youth and young adults
Innovation Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to reach CQI goals on data quality and to refine our system to better meet the needs of youth and young adults
Budget per year:	\$46,350
Total YHDP Spending Over 2 Years:	\$92,700

15. Governance Structure

In 2019, the Indianapolis CoC began a process to reorganize the governance structure to better align the CoC structure to the strategies in the *Indianapolis Community Plan to End Homelessness*. The governance transformation is driven by the desire to elevate collective impact, to support new leadership, to ensure greater transparency, and to ultimately achieve the outcomes identified in the Community Plan. This work is directly tied to Strategic Priority 5, as stated below:

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 5- BUILD THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF COLLECTIVE IMPACT TO ALIGN RESOURCES, ENABLE COLLABORATION, AND MAINTAIN TRANSPARENCY WITH THE COMMUNITY.

Fostering a shared commitment to ending homelessness in our community will require a better infrastructure both within and beyond the homeless services system. We must build a unified system for collecting, sharing, and integrating data between homeless service providers and all intersecting systems so that, together, we can effectively measure the community's progress and identify real-time opportunities to adjust our approach. While this will require action across the community, it will also be critical to designate community leaders with the capacity, connections, and expertise to keep all of stakeholders connected, informed, and actively on track toward our shared goals. Through this improved infrastructure, we can provide greater opportunities for all community members to learn about the realities of homelessness, break down stigmas, and gain buy-in on the solutions.

The YAB was created in 2016 as an advisory group to the then Homeless Youth Taskforce. Previously the work of the Homeless Youth Taskforce and YAB were not formally incorporated into the CoC structure. Through the governance restructuring, a specific Youth & Young Adults line of work has been incorporated into the CoC structure. The YAB is one of the implementation workgroups under the youth and young adult vertical or line of work and is supported by a dedicated project manager from CHIP. The YAB meets regularly on issues surrounding youth & young adult homelessness, both independently and with the YHDP Team. The YAB also works in close alignment with the other workgroups, CES Refinement, HMIS, and CoC Coordination. Through the new CoC structure, these workgroups are empowered to create and refine policies and practices for the Coordinated Community Plan to prevent and end homelessness. YAB members are an essential voice to ensuring that the decisions made and policies created within workgroups are representative of the youth and

young adult experience and tailored to meet their needs. The YAB is deeply involved in advising, planning, and leading on YHDP. YAB members are compensated for their time at a rate of \$10.00 per hour via a gift card. YAB members keep a weekly timesheet and are paid for the time. All members are also provided with transportation support, either in the form of a gas card or bus pass.

In addition to the workgroups, the CoC is supported by the Blueprint Council, our governing board. The Blueprint Council is made up of local funders, government officials, representatives of other systems (i.e., Veterans Administration, healthcare, workforce development, etc.), direct homeless service providers, and individuals with lived experience. The Blueprint Council was intentionally formed to contain both individuals with direct experience and expertise of the homeless response system alongside agency and community leaders able to align their funding and programs to better meet the needs of our system. Policies are created and tested within implementation workgroups, allowing for them to be tested and shifted in real time. The workgroups are able to adjust policies as needed and fully vet them before moving the work to the Blueprint Council to be endorsed as CoC policy moving forward. This process ensures critical voices are heard while policies are developed and provides the checks and balances with a review board.

The Strategy & Alignment workgroup (part of the CoC Coordination line of work) is tasked with setting the priorities and policies for the CoC NOFA. This workgroup will incorporate members of the YYA Workgroup, YAB, CES, and HMIS lines of work to pull and review data to identify current gaps within the homeless response system, which also show priorities projects for YHDP funding. Strategy & Alignment will rely on the expertise of YAB and YYA Workgroup members to assist in the development of scoring tools, including performance thresholds, for youth and young adult specific housing projects. These scoring tools will be utilized in the ranking of CoC and YHDP projects annually. Program models will also be developed by October 2020 to establish standard thresholds and expected outcomes specific to each intervention.

The YAB and YHDP Team will collaborate with the CoC Coordination and Performance lines of work to develop the RFP and scoring tool, which will align with the CoC RFP and scoring tools. YAB & YHDP Leadership will work with the Performance and CoC Coordination verticals to complete the scoring and ranking of all CoC and YHDP new projects and renewals; YHDP projects will be scored and ranked following current CoC policies for CoC funded projects. Once the projects are approved to move forward by the Strategy & Alignment workgroup, the projects and final ranking will be presented to the CoC board for approval and submission in the NOFA. Strategy & Alignment consists of director level staff of agencies currently receiving CoC and ESG funding, as well as CoC

partner agencies who are not federally funded (such as our largest shelter provider). This group is charged with developing and implementing a NOFA strategy that aligns with the overall CoC system vision and goals. The workgroup will rank projects to ensure maximum CoC funding, while also working to ensure that progress is made toward community goals to end homelessness.

See Appendix 1 for Organizational Chart of Governance Structure

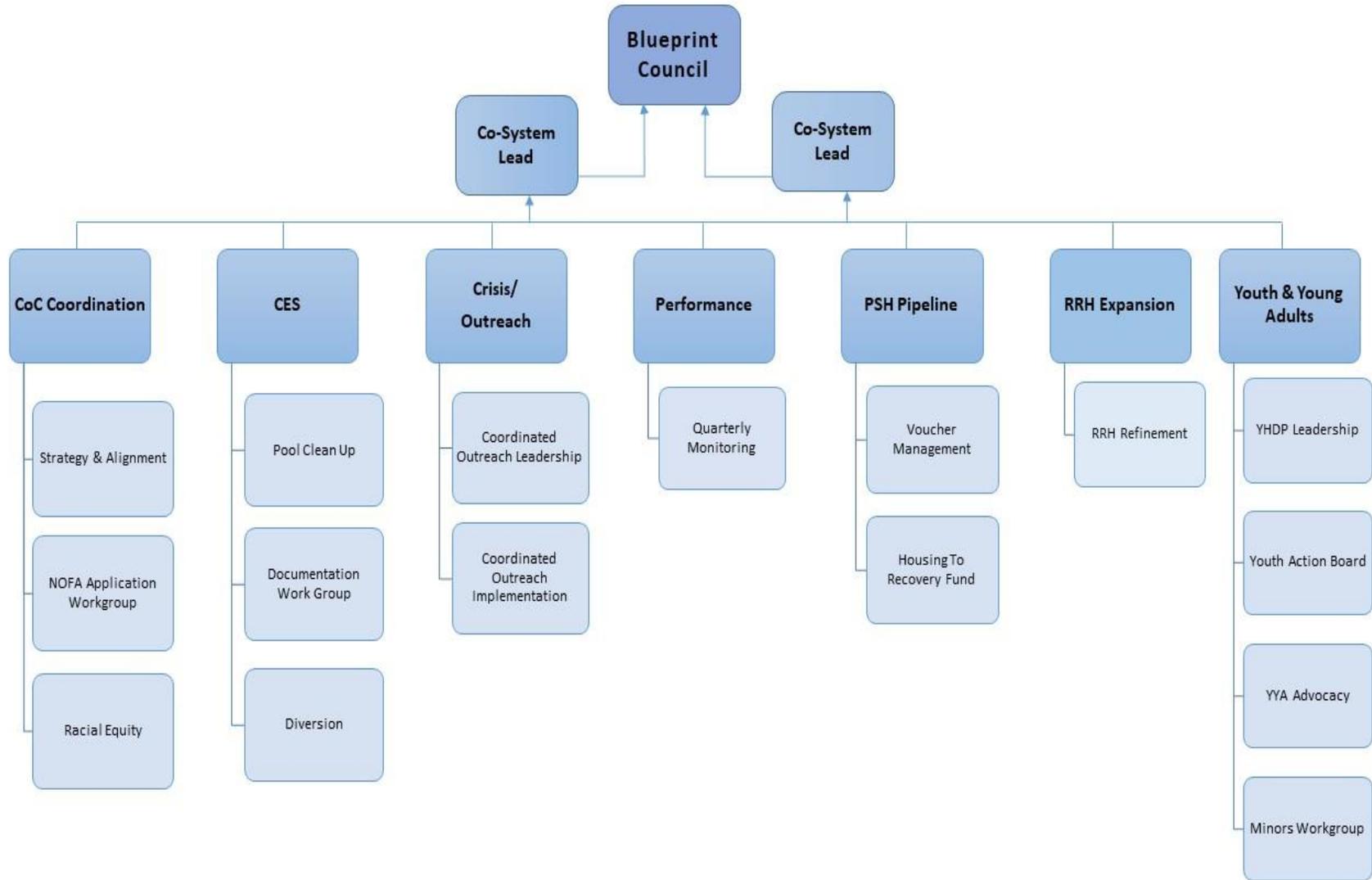
16. YHDP Continuous Quality Improvement Plan

The YYA Workgroup and YAB will establish a Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Plan to assure the ongoing efforts around the coordinated community plan are functioning effectively and are refined as needed. Our CQI Plan is designed to evaluate direct service and systemic strategies such as coordinated entry, effectiveness and quickness of housing, capacity needs of providers, and authentic youth and young adult partnership. This will keep the plan organic and responsive to evolving needs and to youth and young adults accessing the homeless response system. A CQI Workgroup, which will be comprised of representatives of the selected projects and young people, will be developed to assist in monitoring the activities of YDHP and progress towards the goals. The chart below highlights the key aspects of our CQI, which will be further developed in YHDP implementation.

Process	Activity	Outcome Goal
Plan to Prevent and End Youth and Young Adult Homelessness – success toward goals	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quarterly review goals and successful progress toward goals. 2. Complete annual progress report for the CoC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assure accountability to the system. • Make updates and changes to the coordinated community plan as needed.
Coordinated Entry System – effectively moving youth and young adults to housing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annually conduct an assessment that includes direct feedback from youth and young adults and providers about the effectiveness and cultural sensitivity to youth and young adults. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refine coordinated entry to improve
System Integration Partnership Review	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assess the effectiveness of cross-system efforts with child welfare, juvenile justice, and educational institutions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve communication, service integration, or shared outcomes.
Crisis Response	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assess that the crisis response is meeting the needs of youth and young adults experiencing literal homelessness and at imminent risk. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine capacity of existing providers to meet the emerging needs of youth and young adults. • Seek process improvement or additional resources as needed.

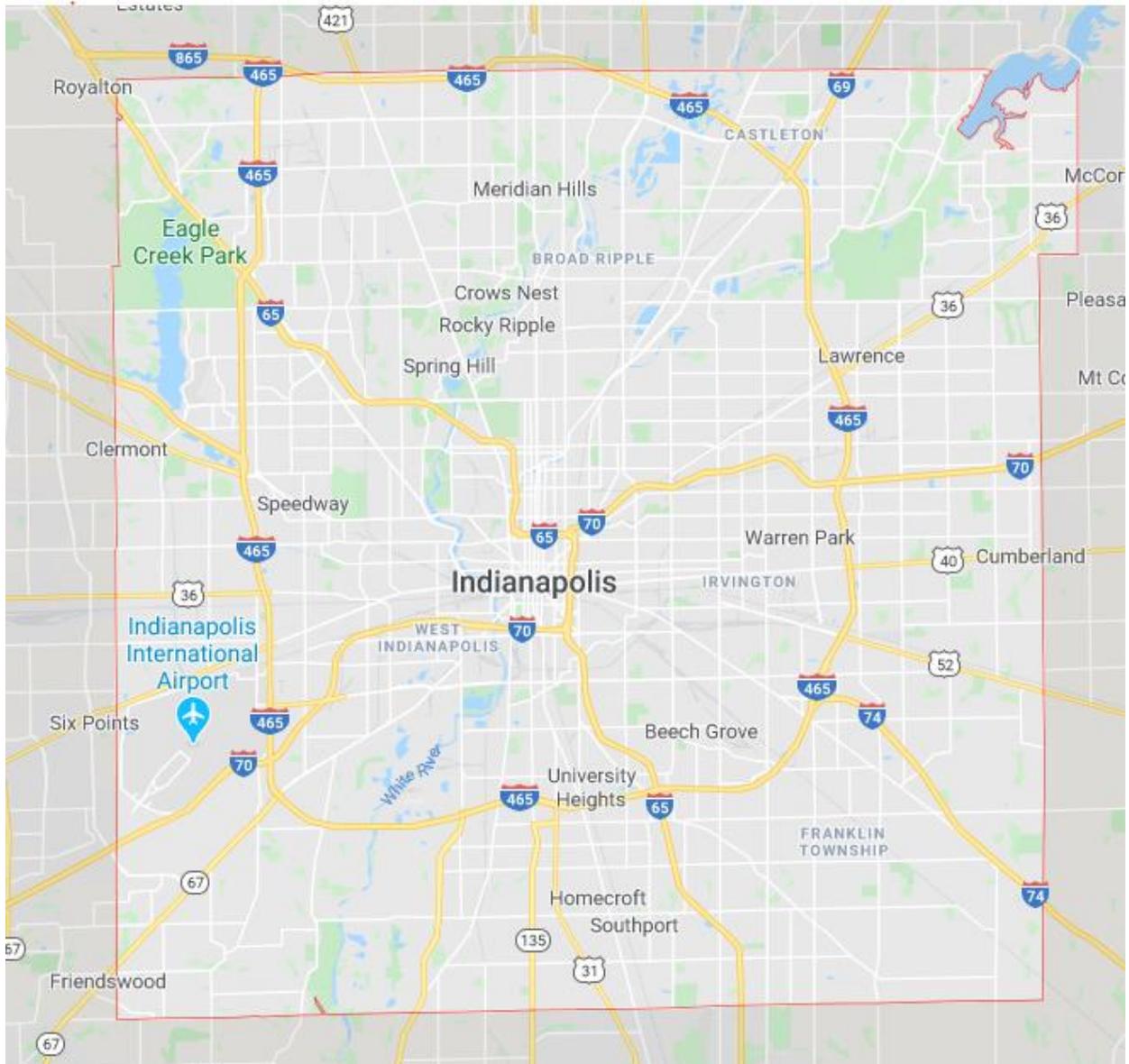
Housing Gap Analysis	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Update system modeling on an annual basis for housing inventory. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain a current analysis of the housing needs of youth and young adults. • Advocate for increased housing interventions from multiple funding sources.
Service Fidelity Evaluation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review community written standards and evaluate current programs against the established supportive services outcomes. 2. Train and incorporate the guiding principles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide technical assistance and training to providers. • Identify resource needs for supportive services.
System Level Evaluation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review process and collaboration effectiveness across the entire youth and young adult homeless response system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a set of improvement recommendations from an external evaluator.

Appendix 1: Governance Structure



Appendix 2:

Map of the geographic area of Marion County, Indianapolis.



Appendix 3: Indianapolis Homeless Response System Vision

In early spring 2019, members of the CoC came together to create a visual blueprint to our Indianapolis Community Plan to End Homelessness. This blueprint established the vision for how our homeless response system should be organized and should interact to achieve our collective mission. This system vision captures the key operational components of our system and sets the parameters for how our system should function.



Appendix 4: Required Signatures of Support

Signatures from official representatives of the following entities that support and endorse Indianapolis's Coordinated Community Plan to Prevent and End Youth and Young Adult Homelessness are found on the following pages.

- Indianapolis Youth Action Board
- Indianapolis Continuum of Care
- Indiana Department of Child Services
- City of Indianapolis

Appendix 5: Terms, Definitions, and Acronyms

Created by the Indianapolis YAB

CES – Coordinated Entry System

- Process designed to quickly identify, assess, refer and connect people in crisis to housing, shelter, and assistance, no matter where they show up in the homeless system and ask for help. It must include a comprehensive and standardized assessment tool.

CoC – Continuum of Care

- The primary decision-making entity defined in the HUD funding application as the official organization representing a community plan.
- HUD’s definition: A collaborative funding and planning approach that helps communities plan for and provide, as necessary, a full range of emergency, transitional, and permanent housing and other service resources to address the various needs of persons experiencing homelessness.

DCS – Indiana Department of Child Services

ESG – Emergency Solutions Grant

- Grant program which provides individuals experiencing homelessness with basic shelter and essential supportive services. Eligible activities include funding for essential services, operations, and homeless prevention activities to emergency shelters, transitional housing, and day/night shelters.

HIC – Housing Inventory Count

- Point in time inventory of provider programs within the CoC that provide beds and units dedicated to serve persons experiencing homelessness

HMIS – Homeless Management Information System

- Local information technology system used to collect client-level data and data on the provision of housing and services to homeless individuals and families and persons at risk of becoming homeless

HUD – The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development

IHA – Indianapolis Housing Agency

- Federally funded government housing agency that provides access to affordable housing in one of their communities or in private market housing subsidized through Housing Choice vouchers.

LSA – Longitudinal Systems Analysis

- Report produced from a CoC’s HMIS and submitted annually to HUD. This report provides HUD and the CoC with critical information about how people experiencing homelessness use their system.

PIT – Point-in-Time Count

- Nationwide count of sheltered and unsheltered persons experiencing homelessness on a single date in January

RHY - Runaway and Homeless Youth Act

- Grants that provide foundational support to address youth and young adult homelessness

USICH – U.S Interagency Council on Homelessness

- Independent federal agency within the US executive branch that leads the implementation of the federal strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness

YHDP – Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program

- Initiative designed to reduce the number of youth experiencing homelessness
- Indianapolis was selected as a YHDP community in August 2019 and awarded \$3.88 million

Chronic Homelessness – unaccompanied person experiencing homelessness with a disabling condition who has been homeless for a year or more OR has had at least 4 episodes of homelessness in the past three years.

Couch surfing/Doubled Up - Having one or more adults in addition to the head of household and spouse or partner, such as an adult child living at home, two related or unrelated families residing together, or a parent living with an adult child.

Diversion – A strategy that prevents homelessness at the front door by helping them identify immediate alternate housing arrangements and, if necessary, connecting them with services and financial assistance to help them return to permanent housing.

Emergency Shelter – Short term support and housing to persons experiencing homelessness

Host homes – Short term Intervention for youth/young adults who are currently experiencing homelessness for any variety of reasons

Housing First – An approach to homeless assistance that prioritizes providing permanent housing to persons experiencing homelessness and offers voluntary services once an individual is housed.

Literal homelessness – individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; has a primary nighttime residence that is a public place

McKinney-Vento Act (definition of homelessness) – individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

- The Act gives the following examples of minors who would fall under this definition:
 - Sharing housing due to economic hardship or loss of housing
 - Residing in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camp grounds due to lack of alternative accommodations
 - Living in emergency or transitional shelters
 - Nighttime residence is not ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation (i.e. park bench)
 - Residing in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations

McKinney-Vento liaison – Primary contact between families experiencing homelessness and school staff, district personnel, shelter workers, and other services providers. Every school district is required to designate a liaison.

(PSH) Permanent Supportive Housing – Housing that is non-time limited; and prioritized for households experiencing chronic homelessness, community based and includes supportive services.

Prevention – Focuses on an individual or family who is at risk of becoming literally homeless but currently residing in a permanent housing situation.

(RRH) Rapid Rehousing – Services and supports designed to help individuals experiencing homelessness move as quickly as possible into permanent housing with temporary financial assistance.

Safe Haven – A form of supportive housing that serves hard-to-reach persons experiencing homelessness with severe mental illness who come primarily from the streets and have been unable or unwilling to participate in housing or supportive services.

Stella - A strategy and analysis tool that helps CoC's understand how their system is performing and models an optimized system that fully addresses homelessness

(TH) Transitional Housing - Housing up to 24 months that serve as intermediary housing before a person moves into permanent housing

(YAB) Youth Action Board – Advisory Board made up of person age 24 and younger who have experienced homelessness.

- The Indianapolis Youth Action Board is forum of youth and young adults (12-24) who have experience of housing instability. This forum utilizes their lived experiences to provide input, feedback, and education to improve services provided within the city of Indianapolis. The YAB's unique outlook provides the community with opportunities for growth and improvement.
- The YAB seeks to bring together representative youth and young adults with different experiences, including but not limited to: those who have experienced chronic homelessness, pregnant and parenting youth adults, college-age youth, unattached youth, LGBTQ+ young people, those with foster care or justice experience, survivors of trafficking or domestic violence, minorities, and individuals with disabilities.

Categories of Homelessness

<i>Category</i>	<i>Living Situation</i>
Literal Homelessness (Category 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelter (emergency shelter, transitional housing, hotel or motel paid by charity) • Street or other place not meant for human habitation (car, garage, park, abandoned building) • An institution (jail, hospital, juvenile detention) that a young person is exiting and where the young person was a resident for 90 days or LESS and the young person resided in emergency shelter or a place not meant for human habitation prior to entering that institution
Imminent Risk of Homelessness (Category 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In own housing, but being evicted within 14 days • A hotel or motel paid for by the young person, family or friends where the young person cannot stay for more than 14 days • With family or friends and being asked to leave within 14 days <p>*The young person must have no safe alternative housing, resources or support networks to maintain or obtain permanent housing.</p>
Homeless Under other Federal Statutes (Category 3)	<p>Young person who does not qualify as homeless under the other 3 categories but who are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homeless under federal statutes including the Runaway & Homeless Youth Act • Have not had their own place with a lease, ownership interest or occupancy agreement in the last 60 days • Have moved two or more times in the last 60 days • Can be expected to have continued housing instability because of a disability, substance use addiction, history or domestic violence or child abuse, or two or more barriers to employment
Fleeing Domestic Violence (Category 4)	<p>Young person fleeing or attempting to flee their housing or the place they are staying because of domestic violence, dating</p>

	<p>violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions related to violence that has taken place in the house or has made them afraid to return to the house including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trading sex for housing• Trafficking• Physical Abuse• Violence or perceived threat of violence because of the young person's sexual orientation <p>Additionally, the young person must have no safe, alternative housing, resources or support networks to maintain or obtain permanent housing.</p>
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