

## A Place to Call Home for Youth

Our Coordinated Community Plan for  
Youth Facing Homelessness in Columbus & Franklin County

PARTNER SUMMARY • March 2019



In July 2018, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) selected Columbus and Franklin County to receive new Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) funding to demonstrate how a comprehensive approach can dramatically reduce youth homelessness.

*A Place to Call Home for Youth* is our collective plan to guide local efforts to develop and implement comprehensive new approaches, projects, and strategies to ensure all youth age 24 and under have a safe place to call home.

*A Place to Call Home for Youth* was developed with direct input from more than 250 stakeholders, including youth and young adults currently experiencing homelessness. Through the Youth Action Board, youth and young adults inspired, informed, and provided direction for our collective efforts. Overall planning efforts were led by a Core Team supported by CSB and involving a wide range of stakeholders and an extensive needs assessment and planning process. *A Place to Call Home for Youth* has been adopted by Community Shelter Board and the Columbus and Franklin County Continuum of Care.

**VISION:** All youth have a safe place to call home.

**OVERARCHING GOAL:** Youth homelessness is prevented. If it can't be prevented, it is rare, brief, and one time.

### DEMAND & SYSTEM GAPS

According to the findings of the needs assessment conducted to inform the new plan, more than 3,000 youth are estimated to experience literal homelessness annually and another 1,400 are high risk for literal homelessness in Franklin County. Youth who participated in the needs assessment stated their greatest needs related to exiting homelessness and achieving housing stability are around permanent connections and supports, safe and affordable housing, improved life skills, and access to mental health and substance abuse treatment.

**3,000**

youth are estimated to  
be homeless each year

**1,400**

more are at high risk of  
becoming homeless

## NEW PROGRAMS & SERVICES

funded by Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program and matching private sector investments

NEW PROGRAMS & SERVICES	GAP BASED ON EXISTING RESOURCES	NEW RESOURCES WILL SUPPORT	PARTNER AGENCIES DELIVERING SERVICES
 <p><b>PREVENTION</b> services to help youth avoid literal homelessness, specifically focused on immediate housing crisis resolution and housing stabilization.</p>	1,446 at-risk youth annually	54 at-risk youth annually	 
 <p><b>COORDINATED ACCESS &amp; RAPID RESOLUTION SERVICES</b> in the form of a mobile team of youth specialists who will engage and quickly resolve the crisis by immediately offering problem-solving to secure safe, stable housing. Services directly connect youth to either additional prevention assistance or to shelter and re-housing services.</p>	Developmentally appropriate access & navigation	270 youth annually	
 <p><b>SHELTER</b> to provide access to help when homelessness cannot be prevented. Youth connected to other critical supports around their education, employment, relationships, health and well-being.</p>	72 shelter units nightly	0 shelter units	N/A – Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program funds cannot be used for shelter
 <p><b>RAPID RE-HOUSING</b> interventions and services to rapidly resolve the housing crisis and connect youth to other critical supports around their education, employment, relationships, health and well-being.</p>	451 homeless youth annually	144 homeless youth annually	 
 <p><b>JOINT TRANSITIONAL HOUSING (TH) &amp; RAPID RE-HOUSING (RRH):</b> Temporary, transitional housing is for youth with severe challenges. Residents receive peer and professional support, including life skills assistance, to prepare youth to become independent. Rapid re-housing interventions rapidly resolve the housing crisis and connect youth to other critical supports around their education, employment, relationships, health and well-being.</p>	TH: 513 homeless youth annually RRH: 451 homeless youth annually	Combined 91 homeless youth annually	  
 <p><b>PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING</b> for youth who are currently homeless, disabled and with severe challenges. Residents receive peer and professional support, including life skills assistance, and access to alcohol and drug treatment, mental health care, and physical health care.</p>	87 units nightly	40 units nightly	 

## PRINCIPLES & APPROACHES

The framework for *A Place to Call Home for Youth* includes foundational principles and approaches for youth-specific interventions and service delivery. These include evidence-based practices, such as positive youth development, trauma-informed care, and Housing First approaches, which together support quick resolution of housing crises, youth empowerment, and responsiveness to other key youth developmental needs.

Principles and approaches also focus on specific sub-populations of youth who experience disproportionate rates of homelessness and have unique support needs (e.g., foster-care involved youth, LGBTQ+ youth).

## IMPACT

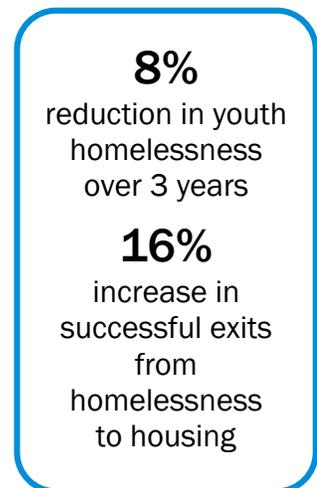
Multi-year analysis supporting this plan shows new YHDP-funded capacity and other system improvements will result in a reduction in homelessness among youth by approximately 8 percent over the next three years. A decrease is also expected in the number of youth and young adults who experience homelessness or who are imminently at-risk and go unserved. The proportion of youth and young adults who successfully exit literal homelessness to housing is expected to increase by 16 percent. These improvements represent a portion of the improvements needed to effectively prevent and significantly reduce homelessness among youth and young adults.

*A Place to Call Home for Youth* includes a shared measurement framework to ensure continuous quality and performance improvement. The measurement framework contains 26 initial measures that align with plan activities and desired results and outcomes. The measurement framework will ensure the community has data needed to answer questions regarding what was done and what was accomplished and will be used to inform ongoing system improvements and investments.

We are grateful for initial investments from both the public and private sectors. Additional resources are needed to build out a comprehensive system of programs and services to meet the needs of youth in our community. A fully comprehensive approach would also include prevention services to help youth avoid homelessness, additional shelter beds for youth, and capacity to serve more youth with rapid re-housing, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing. With additional support, we can we make sure every single youth in our community has a safe place to call home.

## GOALS

1. Identify all youth experiencing homelessness and at imminent risk of homelessness.
2. Prevent homelessness for youth whenever possible.
3. Provide immediate access to low-barrier shelter and services for all homeless youth who want it.
4. Connect all youth who are homeless to housing solutions and supportive services that are high quality, developmentally appropriate, and aligned with evidence-based practices.
5. Ensure sufficient resources and capacity to continue to prevent and quickly end repeat experiences of homelessness among youth.



**FULL REPORT: A Place to Call Home for Youth** is available at [csb.org/how-we-do-it/new-services-for-youth](https://www.csb.org/how-we-do-it/new-services-for-youth)