

# Ending Youth Homelessness in Austin/Travis County

*A Coordinated Community Plan to Prevent & End Youth Homelessness*



December 15, 2017

## *I am from...*

I am from my grandmother's calloused hands,  
from the crock pots of my family household kitchen.  
I am from my mother's smile, the way she works day in and day out.  
From my daddy's mistakes,  
from my father's excuses,  
I am from a new day.

I am from forgiveness and I am from forgetfulness.  
I'm from the dirty alleyways  
and the street corners of my block.  
No place to sleep, I was grateful under a bridge,  
passed out on a one-inch thick cardboard box.

I'm from the dirty pockets of drug dealers  
in front of the liquor store shooting dice with hoodies on and handguns,  
Cuz they don't think tomorrow will be any better or  
tomorrow doesn't make a difference.

I am from granny's front porch,  
I'm from the south side,  
where black and brown leaders were overlooked  
and were put down for their passion for standing up to oppression.

But where I'm from doesn't determine where I'm going,  
and who you were doesn't defeat the fat facts of a better life you have today.  
You have to be the change you wish to see.

-Darion Chi Borders, Austin Youth Collective Founding Member and Poet

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## **About ECHO**

The Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO) is a non-profit that plans, develops, prioritizes, and implements systemic, community-wide strategies to end homelessness in Austin and Travis County, Texas. Together with its community partners, ECHO uses strategic, data-driven decision making and innovative, bold thinking to transform the system to end homelessness.

ECHO is elected locally and recognized by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as the Continuum of Care (CoC) lead agency, the local leader in coordinating the system of housing and services for persons experiencing homelessness. ECHO is also designated as the lead agency for the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), a system-wide database that tracks the needs of households experiencing homelessness, services received across the community, and their outcomes.

## **About LifeWorks**

LifeWorks is a local non-profit in Austin serving youth and a fierce advocate for youth and families seeking their path to self-sufficiency. LifeWorks is committed to innovative problem solving, shared accountability, and a relentless focus on achieving real, sustainable, and measurable results for the clients they serve.

## **Acknowledgements**

We would like to acknowledge and thank the community organizations who helped provide key input in the development of this plan and participated in the planning process:

Allies Against Slavery	Foundation Communities
American YouthWorks	Foundation for the Homeless
Any Baby Can	Front Steps
Arnold Grounds	GoodWill of Central Texas
Austin Apartment Association	Housing Authority City of Austin
Austin Board of Realtors	Housing Authority of Travis County
Austin Child Guidance Center	LifeWorks
Austin Community College	LINC
Austin Community College: Foster Care Student Program	OutYouth
Austin Independent School District	People's Community Clinic
Austin Integral Care	Safe Alliance
Austin Opportunity Youth Collaborative: Workforce Solutions Capital Area	SafePlace
Austin Voices for Education and Youth	Salvation Army
Austin Police Department	Seton
Austin Youth Collective to End Homelessness	St. David's Foundation
Boys & Girls Club	Street Youth Ministry
Caritas of Austin	Texas Affordable Housing Corp
Casa Marianella	Texas Appleseed
Central Health CCC	Texas Department of Juvenile Justice
City of Austin - Austin Public Health	Texas Department of Family and Protective Services
City of Austin - Neighborhood Housing and Community Development	Texas Juvenile Justice
City of Austin Mayor's Office	Texas Network of Youth Services
Congregational Church of Austin	The Texas Homeless Education Office
Dell Children's Hospital	Travis County Health and Human Services and Veteran Service
Dell Children's - Children's Comprehensive Care Clinic	Travis County Juvenile Justice
Ending Community Homelessness Coalition	University of Texas at Austin
	Upbring
	Workforce Solutions
	YWCA

We also wish to express appreciation to Corporation for Supportive Housing, True Colors Fund and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for their important technical assistance provided. In particular, we thank the youth and young adults who shared their expertise and experience in developing this plan, and continue to be involved as we move forward in ending youth homelessness in Austin and Travis County.

## **Executive Summary**

Austin is a community fiercely committed to ending homelessness. Over the past several years, Austin has worked to improve system coordination and redesign system delivery to ensure that when any person experiences homelessness, there is a system in place that addresses their needs making homelessness rare, brief, and nonrecurring.

Despite this community-wide effort, this past year over 600 unaccompanied youth experienced homelessness. The community recognizes a great need to improve system coordination among youth-serving providers and institutions, ensure there is clear pathway for young people to swiftly access critical services, and increase resources that are dedicated to the specific needs of young people who experience homelessness.

In January 2017, Austin was awarded a transformative demonstration grant by the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) called the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP). As part of this competitive opportunity, Austin joins nine other communities across the country to take on the bold task of creating a local coordinated community response to prevent and end homelessness for unaccompanied youth by 2020.<sup>1</sup>

As part of this demonstration, the Austin community is charged with implementing a coordinated system strategy that allows to both apply evidence-based practice, and think “outside the box,” while also testing new programming and breaking barriers for young people in housing crisis.

To lead this local effort, the Austin/Travis County Continuum of Care lead agency, the Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO) collaborated with LifeWorks, a local nonprofit serving youth, to convene key informants across the community, including several young adults with lived experience of homelessness to develop a data driven plan to accomplish this vision.

The response to this call for local collaboration has been overwhelmingly positive and is a testament to the fierce dedication of the Austin community. Over 100 community members participated across the various planning committees, providing an unprecedented opportunity for local collaboration across youth-dedicated and mainstream agencies, institutions such as the Texas Department of Family Protective Services and the Texas Department of Juvenile Justice and with young leaders who have lived experience of homelessness.

The plan is divided into the following sections:

- I. Our Shared Vision to End Youth Homelessness
- II. Timeline of Progress to Address Youth Homelessness
- III. Community Data on Youth Experiencing Homelessness
- IV. Existing Response System for Youth: Needs and Gaps
- V. Guiding Principles to Prevent & End Youth Homelessness
- VI. A Strategic Framework to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness
- VII. Detailed Goals, Objectives, & Action Steps
- VIII. Community Accountability

The Detailed Goals, Objectives and Action Steps sections include the following four core goals with corresponding outcomes and actions steps to achieve them.

- **Goal 1** – The community has a system in place to identify all unaccompanied youth who are experiencing homelessness and/or are unsafe and at-risk of becoming homeless

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.hudexchange.info/news/youth-homelessness-demonstration-program-community-selection-announcement/>

- **Goal 2** – The community continues to implement a Coordinated Entry and Triage system that effectively links youth to housing and services that are youth focused and driven by youth choice
- **Goal 3** – The community offers an array of program options available for youth and young adults to best meet their needs
- **Goal 4** – The community maintains the system and programs, working towards sustainability, and makes improvements as needed

By working together as community, we are dedicated to achieving these goals to reach towards our vision to prevent and end homelessness for young people in Austin/Travis County. This plan is a living document and will be updated and revised as needed as we make progress on goals.

### **Defining Homelessness for Youth and Young Adults in Austin/Travis County**

Youth homelessness takes many forms: youth may be *unsheltered* – or living in the streets, camping outdoors, or living in cars or abandoned buildings. Youth may be *sheltered* – staying in emergency shelters or transitional housing programs. They may also be staying with family or friends, usually referred to as *couch surfing* or *doubled up*. In addition, we use the language of “unaccompanied” youth to refer to a youth who presents as an individual (i.e. not as a part of a family household) who is under the age of 25 and lacks parental, foster or institutional care.

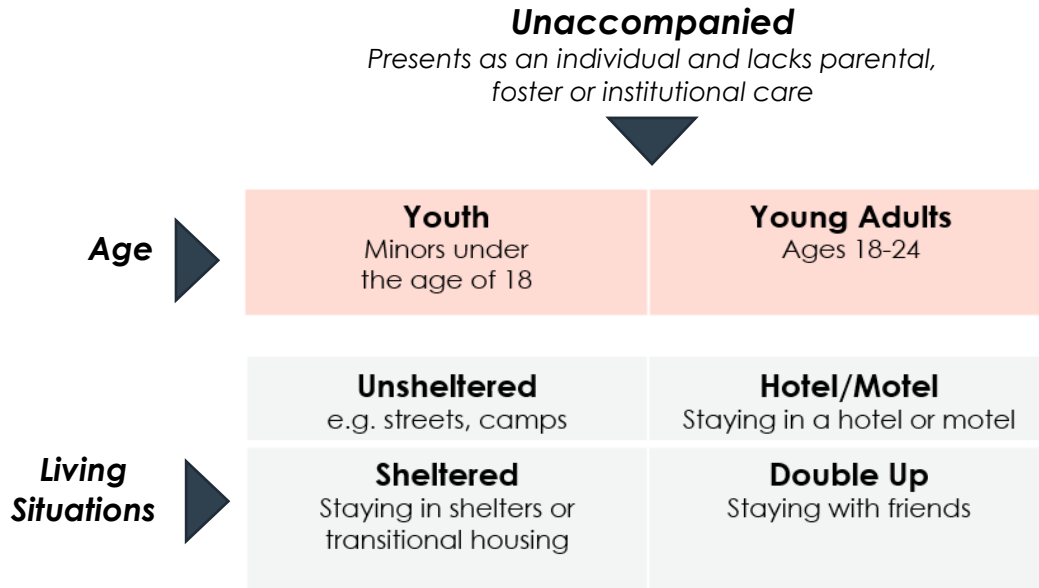
Different federal agencies use different definitions to define youth homelessness. HUD defines youth homelessness as those sheltered, unsheltered or in transitional housing under the age of 25. The McKinney-Vento homeless student definition includes both unaccompanied and accompanied youth under the age of 20 who are sheltered, unsheltered, double-up or staying in hotels/motels.

For the purpose of this plan, we will focus on addressing the needs of *unaccompanied* youth (minors under the age of 18) and young adults (ages 18-24) who are:

- *Literally homeless*: youth who are either sheltered or unsheltered. This includes parenting youth.
- *Doubled-up* youth who are unsafe and at risk of homelessness, including parenting youth.
- *Youth who are exiting institutions into homelessness* such as Child Protective Services (CPS) or Texas State and Travis County Juvenile Justice.

The following graphic depicts the population this plan will specifically serve:

**Graph 1. Population to be Served by the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program**



This plan *does not* focus on accompanied youth as those youth can be served through programs targeted to families experiencing or at risk of homelessness.



# **I. Austin/Travis County Vision to End Youth Homelessness**

## *Our Shared Vision*

By 2020, all youth and young adults in Austin and Travis County experiencing homelessness live in a safe and comfortable space, and find community through an interconnected, youth-driven system that is accessible, transparent, efficient, innovative and celebrates all identity and self-expression.

An end to youth homelessness does not mean that youth will never experience a housing crisis again. Instead, it means having a response system in place that ensures that homelessness is prevented whenever possible, and that a quick response with appropriate housing options is available on the rare occasions a youth does experience homelessness.

## *Our Values:*

- ***Youth Voice:*** Ensuring the voices of youth and young adults with lived experience root all elements of our plan and its implementation with authentic opportunities for involvement - especially involving young people who are more often marginalized by the dominant culture. Specifically seek input from youth and young adults who identify on the LGBTQA spectrum, have experience in the foster care system, are pregnant or parenting, are immigrant youth, have experience in the juvenile justice system and/or survivors of human trafficking and exploitation. Provide opportunities for on-going involvement for youth and young adults.
- ***Embracing Respect and Change:*** Be willing to listen and learn through this process and foster a culture that embraces change and iteration and opportunities to improve our system for youth and young adults.
- ***Addressing Disparities:*** Apply a racial and gender equity lens within the implementation process and actively address implicit bias and racial disparities in Austin/Travis County.
- ***Data-driven decision making:*** Utilize needs data and use an active performance management framework to drive all decision making including investment decisions and tracking progress towards outcomes. Use data to target and prioritize assistance to the youth with the greatest needs.

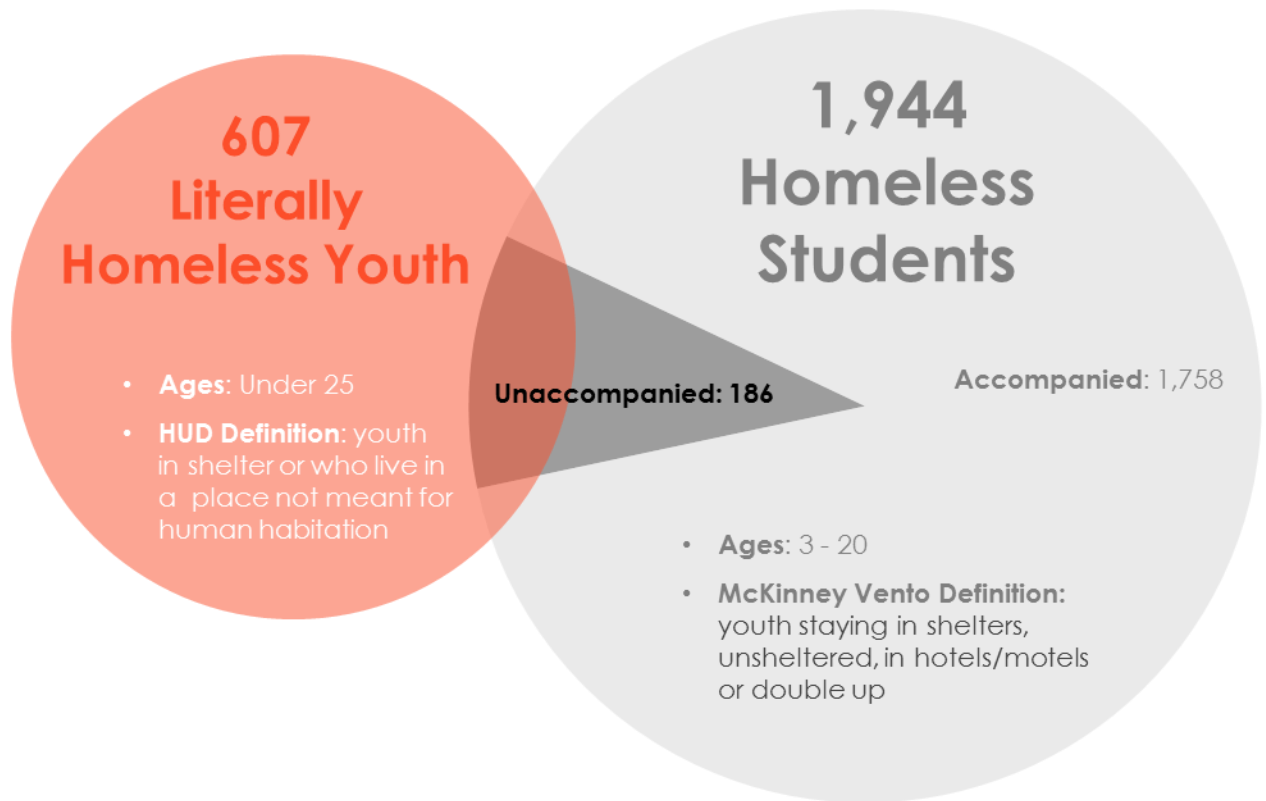
## II. Timeline of Progress to Address Youth Homelessness

- In 1995, the Austin/Travis County Continuum of Care is formed and the Austin community begins system planning efforts to end homelessness.
- In 2010, the Austin community forms the Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO) as a nonprofit to lead and implement local data-driven strategies to achieve the goals set forth in Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness.
- In 2010, ECHO publishes a 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness and introduces key strategies to address prevention, short-term and long-term homelessness.
- In October 2014, our community adopts the Coordinated Entry to streamline the system entry process for all individuals and families experiencing homelessness and prioritize referrals to housing programs - Permanent Supportive Housing and Rapid Rehousing - based on the vulnerability of households assessed.
- In August 2016, our community is recognized for achieving the rigorous benchmarks set by the U.S. Interagency Council for the Homeless (USICH) for effectively ending veteran homelessness in our community, ensuring we have a system that makes veteran homelessness rare, brief and non-recurring.
- In June 2016, Travis County participates in the Chapin Hall Voices of Youth Count, set out to find the size of the youth population and the scope of their needs.
- In July 2016, Austin is selected by A Way Home America to implement a 100 Day Challenge to permanently house 50 young people aged 18-24 years old with 50% former foster care involvement. The challenge led by the Rapid Results Institute included two other communities: Los Angeles, CA and Cleveland, OH.
- In November 2016, the community, catalyzed by the momentum to end youth homelessness, submits to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) an application for the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program.
- In December 2016, Austin exceeds the 100 Day Challenge goal by permanently housing 53 young people-with 40% having prior foster care involvement.
- In January 2017, Austin is chosen by HUD as one of 13 communities nationwide to serve as a Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program site to develop and implement a coordinated community plan to prevent and end youth and young adult homelessness by 2020.

### III. Community Data On Youth Experiencing Homelessness

At least 607 unaccompanied youth and young adults aged 18-24 experience literal homelessness in Austin/Travis County over the course of a year sleeping in places not meant for human habitation or staying in shelter.<sup>2</sup>

During the 2016-2017 school year, public schools in Travis County identified 1,944 homeless children and youth, 186 of them unaccompanied.



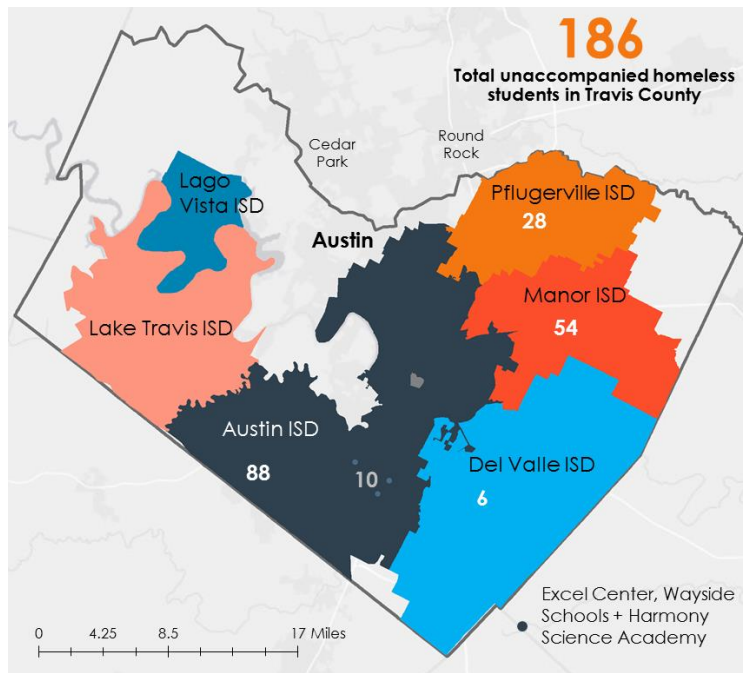
<sup>2</sup> 607 is the number of unduplicated youth counted over the course of a year on the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) captured through emergency shelters, transitional housing, safe havens and street outreach.

Trends across five school years are presented in the following table. The overall number of students identified as homeless by school districts in Travis county has increased each year, except for last year, when the population slightly decreased by 47 students. Overall trends may reflect true changes in the size of the population but could also be the result of improved methods for identifying homeless students or increased focus on reporting these numbers in more standardized way.

**Travis County - Homeless Students Across Living Situations, 5 school years<sup>3</sup>**

School Year	Unsheltered	Hotel/Motel	Sheltered	Doubled Up	Total	Unaccompanied
2016-2017	37	146	257	1,504	1,944	186
2015-2016	13	184	402	1,392	1,991	186
2014-2015	25	147	164	1,416	1,742	133
2013-2014	14	130	186	1,355	1,685	200
2012-2013	15	119	221	1,256	1,611	130

The following map shows the distribution of unaccompanied homeless students identified by each school district during the 2016-2017 school Year.



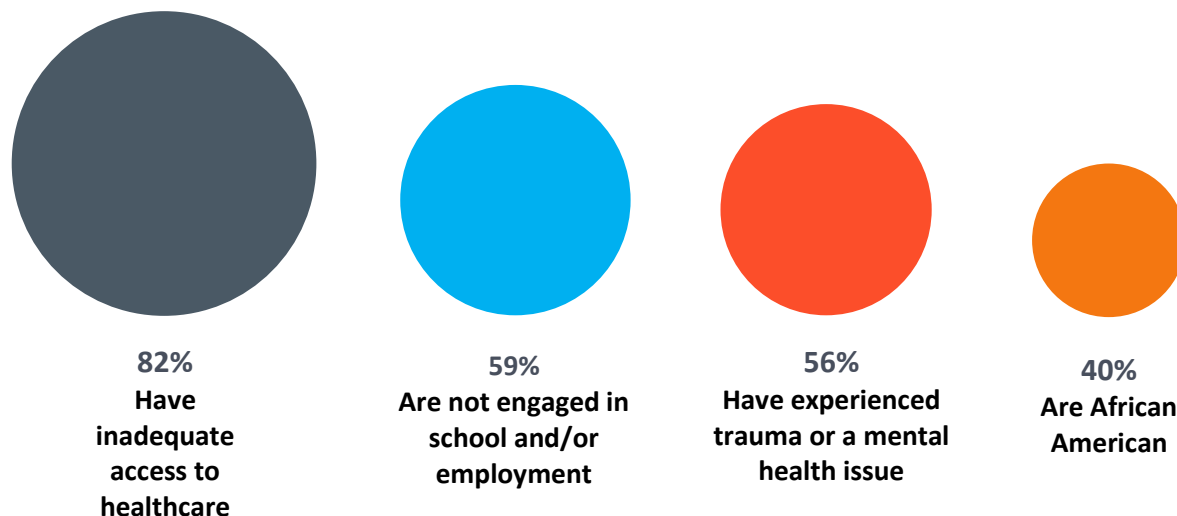
Source: Texas Education Agency, 2017.

We recognize the population numbers will change over time and may be an undercount considering homeless youth may not readily identify as homeless and may be hidden.

<sup>3</sup> Texas Education Agency, 2017.

## Characteristics of Unaccompanied Youth Experiencing Homelessness

Among 204 literally homeless youth assessed through Coordinated Assessment in Travis County (through self-report)<sup>4</sup>:

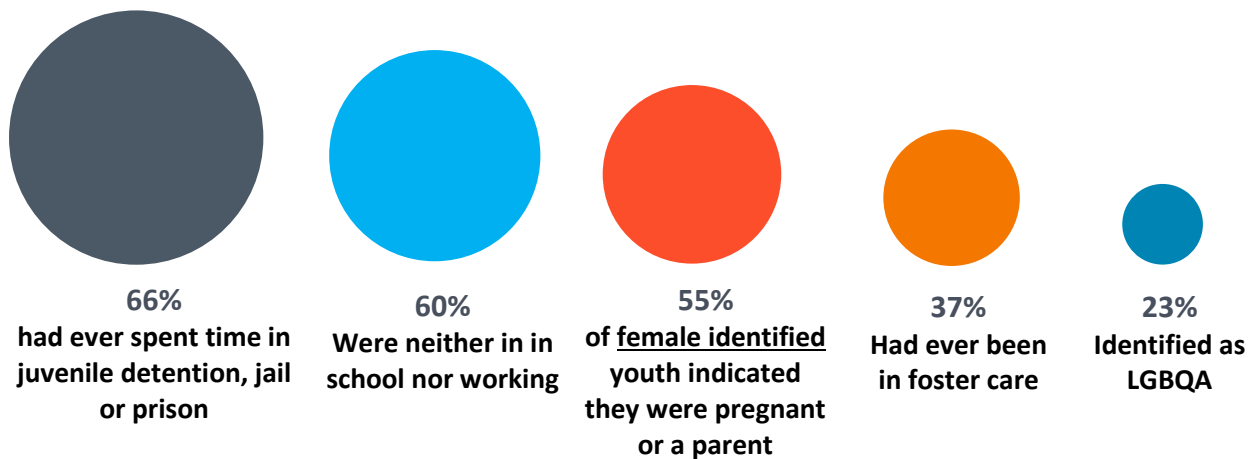


The Chapin Hall Voices of Youth Point-In-Time Count conducted in June 2016 counted 220 youth in Travis County who were homeless or unstably housed, and out of those, 133 youth were surveyed. The Chapin Hall study defined unstably housed youth as youth who lacked a stable place to stay and were sleeping in their own apartment, the home of a parent or other relative, the home of a friend/girlfriend/boyfriend, a foster or group home, a hospital/emergency room, a residential treatment facility, at the home of someone the youth was having sex with, or a juvenile detention center or jail. Results of the youth surveyed found<sup>5</sup>:

- 66% of Travis County homeless and unstably housed youth had juvenile justice involvement, having spent time in juvenile detention, jail or prison.
- 60% of the surveyed homeless and unstably housed 16- to 24-year-olds in Travis County were neither in school nor working, as compared to 10 percent of all 16- to 24-year-olds in Travis County.
- 55% of Travis County homeless or unstably housed female youth indicated they were pregnant or a parent, of whom nearly all were custodial parents.
- 23% of Travis County homeless and unstably housed youth identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual, questioning or asexual (LGBQA) to some extent.

<sup>4</sup> Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO). Youth Homelessness Needs Assessment. December 2017. Percentages based on Coordinated Assessment surveys of 201 youth households per 09/30/16.

<sup>5</sup> Voices of Youth Count (2017). Travis County, Texas: Report on Youth Homelessness. Findings from the youth count, brief youth surveys & provider. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall.



### Factors Contributing to Youth Homelessness

Youth may become homeless for a number of different reasons, many of which are not mutually exclusive. Chapin Hall’s Travis County report based on in depth interviews with youth revealed that youth homelessness is often the result of chronic and deeply complex challenges youth face within their family and communities’ system. Youth themselves named foster care, family homelessness, parent’s own struggles, and chronic family conflict as a some of the most common causes of their homelessness in adolescence.

Unfortunately, the Chapin Hall study reveals the beginnings of youth’s homelessness point to persistent instability and loss throughout their early childhoods, suggesting homelessness is a symptom of much larger and enduring struggles in our society, families, systems and institutions rather than a single event.<sup>67</sup>

In Austin, 66% of youth experiencing homelessness report a history of juvenile justice involvement while 37% report a history of foster care.<sup>8</sup> Relative to other communities in the United States, the proportion of homeless or unstably housed youth who report a history of juvenile justice involvement is higher in Travis County.<sup>9</sup> What’s more, other youth may become homeless upon exiting other systems of care, such as mental health facilities, hospitals, or the adult criminal justice system.

Youth existing institution such as Juvenile Justice can have added challenges with finding safe and accessible housing options. Currently in Austin/Travis County there are limited placements for youth exiting the juvenile justice system with a registered sex offence.<sup>10</sup>

Factors affecting youth homelessness include family instability. Youth may flee their homes in the face of family conflict, abuse, neglect/abandonment, or discrimination (e.g., homophobia, cisgenderism). Indeed, based on data provided by a large, youth-serving non-profit in Austin,

<sup>6</sup> Voices of Youth Count. (2017). *Travis County, Technical Report on Youth Homelessness: Findings from the In-Depth Interviews*. Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago: Chicago, IL.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Voices of Youth Count. (2017). *Travis County, Texas: Report on youth homelessness: Findings from the youth count, brief youth survey, and provider survey*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Texas State Juvenile Justice input

approximately 41% of the youth they served who were experiencing homelessness reported a history of abuse.<sup>11</sup> Consistent with the notion that non-heterosexual youth are overrepresented in the population of youth experiencing homelessness, approximately 23% of youth in Austin identified as LGBTQA (which is more than triple the number of LGBTQA youth in the general population).<sup>12</sup> LGBTQA youth also report significantly higher rates of adversities in their lives.

Youth's immigration status may also contribute to their likelihood of becoming homeless. Youth who enter the U.S. unaccompanied and without immigration documents may eventually end up in the custody of the Department of Homeland Security in federal detention centers; for others, homeless shelters may be their only refuge while they apply for asylum or special visas. The process for receiving a decision on an application can take years leaving immigrant youth in a limbo.<sup>13</sup>

Regardless of the initial cause of homelessness, its consequences can be devastating to youth and are very costly to our community and must be responded to with urgency. We must ensure all youth can reach their full potential and contribute to stronger communities and economies.

Below is a graphic created with community input and with findings from the Chapin Hall Travis County youth study summarizing different factors that contribute to youth homelessness in our community.

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<sup>11</sup> Youth and Family Alliance dba LifeWorks. (2017). Descriptive statistics of youth experiencing homelessness, exiting institutions, or who are unstably housed. Austin, TX: Author.

<sup>12</sup> 20 and [http://www.gallup.com/poll/201731/lgbt-identificationrises.aspx?g\\_source=Social%20Issues&g\\_medium=newsfeed&g\\_campaign=tiles](http://www.gallup.com/poll/201731/lgbt-identificationrises.aspx?g_source=Social%20Issues&g_medium=newsfeed&g_campaign=tiles)

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/02/26/us/of-young-immigrants-who-arrive-alone-many-end-up-homeless-in-chicago.html>

# The Many Factors Contributing to Youth Homelessness

## **Familial & Community**

### **Family**

- Family conflict/stress
- Abuse, neglect, or trauma
- Addictions
- Mental health issues
- Pregnancy
- Family homelessness
- Poverty
- Unstable jobs/insufficient wages

### **Community Conditions**

- Safety
- Prevalence of drugs and illegal activities
- Restrictive housing policies
- Lack of formal education and support to help youth stay in school/get & retain jobs

### **Homophobia, Transphobia or Cisgenderism**

- Rejection by parent or guardian due to sexual orientation or gender identity
- Victim of bullying at school

## **Structural & Institutional**

### **Juvenile Justice**

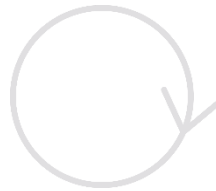
- History of justice system involvement
- Systemic racial discrimination
- Registered sex offenders
- Limited access to jobs and housing after incarceration
- Truancy policies

### **Foster Care**

- Exit from foster care with no housing or income support
- Experience of trauma
- Unstable environments

### **Services & Programs**

- Difficulty navigating resources and services
- Poor transitions in and out of services and systems
- Inadequate welfare benefits





## **IV. Existing Response System for Youth: Needs & Gaps**

As part of the planning process to draft this plan, our community collected all the available data describing the needs of youth, our existing community capacity to address those needs and the gaps in services to be able to prevent and end youth homelessness for all youth. The following table summarizes the those needs and gaps for youth as a well as for the entire homeless population.

The information is broken into 5 key components that we deem necessary for an effective response system:

- Prevention – efforts targeted to youth most at risk of becoming homeless including youth transitioning out of other systems e.g. the juvenile justice system, child welfare and foster care systems and behavioral health systems.
- Diversion – services targeted at youth reunification with family or friends whenever is safe and appropriate.
- Emergency Shelter - setting designed to provide a safe, inclusive, and stable environment for youth while they work on a permanent housing solution.
- Rapid Rehousing – housing for which youth themselves are leaseholders and can remain in the unit for as long and they choose. Housing is coupled with support services to maintain housing stability, improve their social emotional well-being, increase permanent connections and educational and employment attainment.
- Permanent Supportive Housing - housing for which youth themselves are leaseholders and can remain in the unit for as long and they choose. Housing is coupled with longer-term support services to maintain housing stability, improve social emotional well-being, increase permanent connections and educational and employment attainment.

The table also outlines 1) the proposed YHPD-funded programs to address existing gaps in the system and 2) the gaps anticipated to still exist, where additional resources will be needed to achieve our goals.

## Current Needs and Gaps Summary for Youth Homeless Population and the Entire Homeless Population in Travis County

Youth Homeless Population					Overall Homeless Population		
System Area	Current Unmet Need	Current Dedicated Resources	Proposed YHDP Projects	Remaining Gap	System Capacity	System Gap	How System Meets Youth Needs
Prevention	Approximate 200 (Age under 18) unaccompanied youth doubled up or couch surfing <sup>14</sup>  Unknown number of 18-24 double-up and couch surfing youth	Austin ISD Project HELP	<a href="#">Deeper Diversion and Familial Home Supports</a>	To be determined	Dedicated local funds (Best Single Source+) but prevention efforts are not prioritized across system and may neglect most at risk	More targeted efforts needed for greater impact	Youth can access prevention resources
Prevention - <i>persons exiting institutions</i>	50 youth aging out of foster care every year  22 youth exit criminal justice system into homelessness per year <sup>15</sup>  Unknown need for youth exiting mental health hospitals	Supervised Independent Living Programs available to youth aging out of foster care (Upbring and SAFE)  Circles of Support (DFPS) 16+  HACA-Family Unification Program (FUP)	<a href="#">Deeper Diversion and Familial Home Supports and Rapid Re-Housing Plus</a>	To be determined	None	More focus needed on youth exiting jails, Child Protective Services (CPS) and hospitals	CPS youth can access prevention and shelter but is not coordinated

<sup>14</sup> Austin Independent School District: Project HELP.

<sup>15</sup> Report from Texas State Juvenile Justice Assessment and Placement program administration

## Current Needs and Gaps Summary for Youth Homeless Population and the Entire Homeless Population in Travis County

Youth Homeless Population					Overall Homeless Population		
System Area	Current Unmet Need	Current Dedicated Resources	Proposed YHDP Projects	Remaining Gap	System Capacity	System Gap	How System Meets Youth Needs
Diversion	Unknown number/percentage of youth who can be diverted from the 607 homeless youth/year <sup>16</sup>	None	<a href="#">Deeper Diversion and Familial Home Supports</a>	To be determined	138 persons across all populations <sup>17</sup>	Unknown – need to determine number that would benefit	Youth can access CoC wide diversion program
Shelter	64 unaccompanied unsheltered youth on any given day <sup>18</sup>  Unknown number of Runaway Homeless Youth-Minors	20 beds for youth 18-24 fully utilized (90% are youth aging out of foster care)  Minors/RHY Austin Children Shelter  LifeWorks RHY	<a href="#">20 Housing Navigation Shelter beds for TAY</a>	44 Shelter Beds	897 existing beds fully utilized <sup>19</sup>	834 unsheltered persons on any given day <sup>20</sup>	44 Youth Aged 18-24 access adult shelters, in addition, 44 are unsheltered on any given day <sup>21</sup>

<sup>16</sup> Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO). Annual Count of Homeless Youth. June 15,2016 – June 14, 2017. HMIS Report. Unduplicated youth from Emergency Shelters + Safe Haven + Transitional Housing + Street Outreach.

<sup>17</sup> Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO). [Ending Homelessness Community Dashboard](#). Persons Diverted from Shelters and/or Homelessness. December 31, 2016.

<sup>18</sup> Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. (2017, September). Youth Homelessness in Travis County. Findings from the Youth Count, Brief Youth Surveys & Provider Survey. Technical Report from the Voices of Youth Initiative. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall.

<sup>19</sup> Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO). TX-503 Housing Inventory Count (HIC). 2017, January.

<sup>20</sup> Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO). 2017, January. TX-503 Point in Time Count (PIT).

<sup>21</sup> Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. (2017, September). Youth Homelessness in Travis County. Findings from the Youth Count, Brief Youth Surveys & Provider Survey. Technical Report from the Voices of Youth Initiative. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall. Appendix C.

## Current Needs and Gaps Summary for Youth Homeless Population and the Entire Homeless Population in Travis County

Youth Homeless Population					Overall Homeless Population		
System Area	Current Unmet Need	Current Dedicated Resources	Proposed YHDP Projects	Remaining Gap	System Capacity	System Gap	How System Meets Youth Needs
Transitional Housing (TH)	None – youth will be served through shelters, RRH or PSH	33 youth served in TH but not coordinated through system <sup>22</sup>  (Includes LW TLP)	None	None – youth will be served through shelters, RRH or PSH	460 persons served in TH	None - persons will be served through shelters, RRH or PSH	System serve parenting youth through transitional housing program
Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) Plus	128 vulnerable youth in need of rapid-rehousing <sup>23</sup>  58 highly vulnerable youth in need of more intensive services <sup>24</sup>	23 RRH beds (Lifeworks)	Housing 120 literally homeless youth/year through Rapid Re-Housing Plus program	To be determined	994 persons served <sup>25</sup>	2,529 literally homeless households in need of RRH <sup>26</sup>	Youth can access RRH system programs Current system serves 25 youth.
Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)	Most of all highly vulnerable youth will be served by Rapid Re-Housing Plus. Others will be served by general system.		Youth will be served through Rapid Re-Housing Plus	To be determined	1,241 persons served in PSH <sup>27</sup>	1,529 literally homeless households in need of PSH <sup>28</sup>	Youth may access PSH program, but current capacity is limited. Current system serves 25 youth.

<sup>22</sup> Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO). TX-503 Housing Inventory Count (HIC). 2017, January – Lifeworks Transitional Living serving 7 youth, Lifeworks Young Parents serving 26 youth.

<sup>23</sup> Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). By Name Lists for youth population with lower vulnerability. Coordinated Entry (CE). April/May. 2017,

<sup>24</sup> Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). By Name Lists for highly vulnerable youth population. Coordinated Entry (CE). April/May. 2017,

<sup>25</sup> Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO). [Ending Homelessness Community Dashboard](#). Successfully Moved into Permanent Housing. December 31, 2016.

<sup>26</sup> Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO). [Ending Homelessness Community Dashboard](#). Successfully Moved into Permanent Housing. May 31, 2017

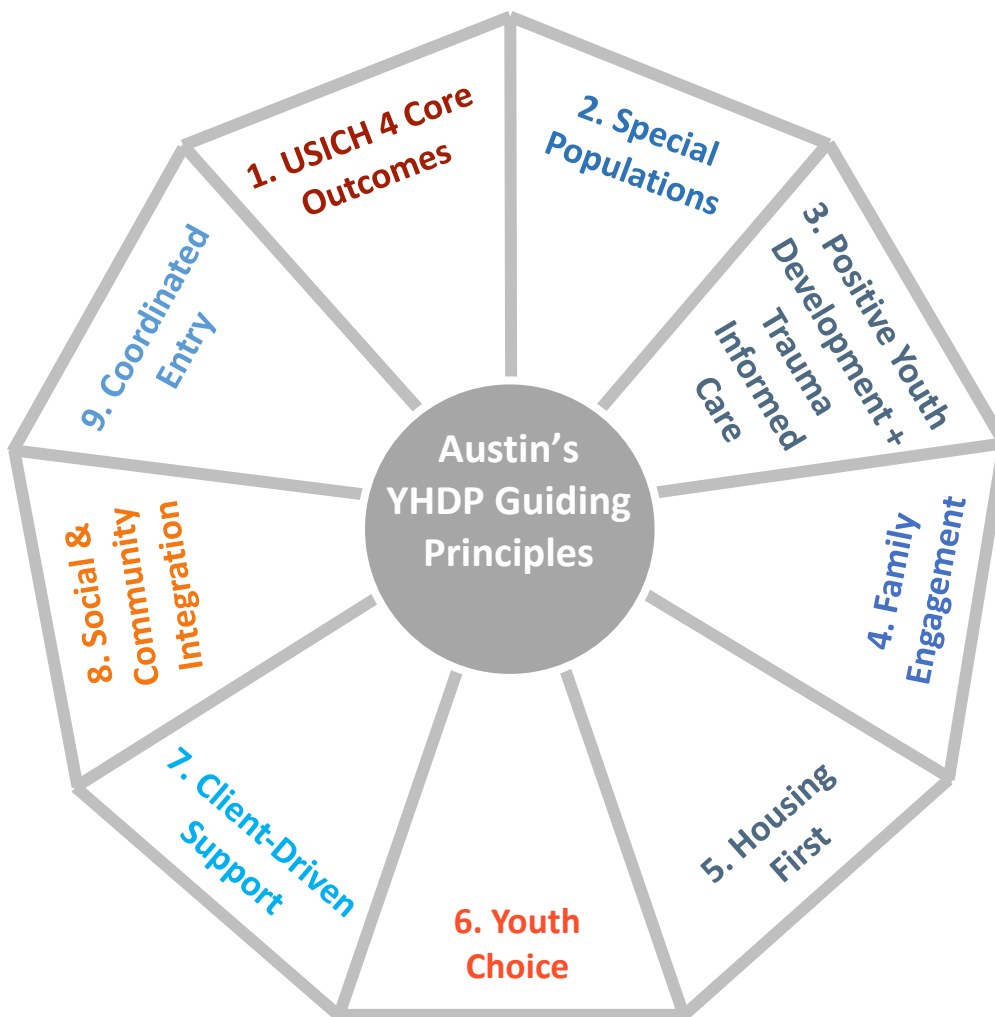
<sup>27</sup> Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO). TX-503 Housing Inventory Count (HIC). 2017, January.

<sup>28</sup> 2017, April/May. Coordinated Entry (CE) By Name Lists for entire homeless population and youth population. Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).

## V. Guiding Principles to Prevent & End Youth Homelessness

Through meaningful partnership with the Austin Youth Collective to End Homelessness, our community will use the following nine principles in our approach to prevent and end youth homelessness, including intentionally embedding them as part of the individual interventions that will support youth and as part of the processes that make up the youth response system:

1. USICH Youth Framework and the Four Core Outcomes
2. Meeting the Needs of Special Populations
3. Positive Youth Development and Trauma Informed Care
4. Family Engagement
5. Housing First
6. Youth Choice
7. Individualized and Client-Driven Supports
8. Social and Community Integration
9. Coordinated Entry



## 1. USICH Youth Framework and the Four Core Outcomes

The Austin/Travis County is committed to implementing the principles of the USICH Youth Framework to End Youth homelessness published in 2012 and its four cores outcomes:

1. Stable housing includes a safe housing and reliable place to call home;
2. Permanent connections include ongoing attachment to families, communities, schools, and other positive social networks;
3. Education/employment includes high performance in and completion of educational and training activities especially for younger youth, and starting and maintaining adequate and stable employment particularly for older youth; and
4. Social-emotional well-being includes the development of key competencies, attitudes, and behaviors that equip a young person to succeed across multiple domains of daily life, including school, work, relationships, and community.

All four core components will be fully incorporated into the different interventions for youth, including in the prevention and diversion programs and the rapid re-housing programs detailed in this plan. The Detailed Goals, Objectives & Action Steps section of this Plan describe the integration of these principles in the plan.

## 2. Meeting the Needs of Special Populations

Our community recognizes several special populations that are especially vulnerable to homelessness. These special populations may have different, distinct pathways into homelessness than the general population of youth. For these vulnerable and often overrepresented young people, more resources are necessary for identification methods, infrastructure considerations, housing and service delivery that are specific to their needs.

In the following section, we identify and address the local impact of homelessness on these subpopulations and specifically address how our response system will meet the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, and asexual (LGBTQA) youth; minors, (under the age of 18), pregnant and parenting youth, youth involved with juvenile justice and foster care systems; victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation; and immigrant youth.

### LGBTQA

National research has shown that members of the LGBTQA community are more likely to become homeless, and once homeless, more likely to endure discrimination and harassment that extends their homelessness. LGBTQA youth experiencing homelessness are particularly at-risk and report significantly higher rates of adversity and trauma in their lives. Between 20 and 40 percent of all homeless youth at the national level identify as members of the LGBTQA community, and for them, homelessness or the threat of homelessness frequently forces youth into survival behaviors that jeopardize their wellbeing and safety.<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>29</sup> <https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/resources-for-lgbt-homelessness/#resources-for-homeless-lgbt-individuals-in-crisis>

Consistent with national statistics, approximately 23% of homeless youth in Austin identify as LGBTQA (which is more than triple the number of LGBTQA youth in the general population).<sup>30</sup>

Our CoC plans to respond to the needs of LGBTQA youth by taking the following steps:

- Providing cultural competency training for service providers to ensure that no matter which program LGBTQA youth are enrolled in, providers have clear understanding of the challenges these youth experience with an emphasis on providing youth choice, using pronouns youth identify with or nonbinary pronouns, using culturally responsive intake and assessments, and youth-driven shelter options and explicitly and implicitly messaging to youth that they affirm their identities and celebrate young people.
- Offering holistic service options to youth that are not only affirming and welcoming to LGBTQA youth but also reflect layers of complexity in human diversity and take a more holistic view of youth and the number of vulnerabilities and strengths in their environment. For example, the Voices of Youth Chapin Hall research reveals that youth don't operate from, or experience their worlds from, a single space or identity. Instead, they found that while some LGBTQA youth may prefer agencies that provide safe spaces and culturally attuned services related to their sexual and/or gender minority identities, other LGBTQA youth of color, and straight/heterosexual youth of color may prioritize racial and cultural safety and attunement. Still others may seek services that are not identity-specific but still offer safe and inclusive services that affirm all of their identities and are open to a range of youth<sup>31</sup>.
- Training service providers on the Equal Access Rule and its implications on affirmative marketing, outreach services, shelter services and housing programs. HUD has published extensive material to implement the Equal Access Rule and the CoC plans to use such materials as the Equal Access Self-Assessment for Shelters and Projects tool to strengthen agency policies and practices.
- Encourage service providers to train staff in best practices related to suicide prevention (e.g. safeTALK, ASIST, and C-SSRS Screener) and identifying specific at-risk behaviors and harm reduction related to certain methods of chest binding, street hormone use and needle sharing.
- Ensuring housing options for transgender youth. Trans youth may experience additional barriers when applying to housing due to the fear of discrimination. Specifically, youth who have not changed their name on IDs or their gender markers will have to list their birth names and genders on housing applications. CoC will offer training to case managers to engage with trans youth and engage with landlords who are aware of these issues and will use the client's chosen name when interacting with the client.

### Minors

Our 2017 PIT Count data counted 11 unaccompanied minors (under the age of 18) in the

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<sup>30</sup> 20 and [http://www.gallup.com/poll/201731/lgbt-identificationrises.aspx?g\\_source=Social%20Issues&g\\_medium=newsfeed&g\\_campaign=tiles](http://www.gallup.com/poll/201731/lgbt-identificationrises.aspx?g_source=Social%20Issues&g_medium=newsfeed&g_campaign=tiles)

<sup>31</sup> Voices of Youth Count. (2017). *Travis County, Technical Report on Youth Homelessness: Findings from the In-Depth Interviews*. Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago: Chicago, IL.

sheltered count and did not count any unsheltered minors. Our CoC will partner with Child Protective Services (CPS) to meet the needs of unaccompanied minors.

In addition to CPS partnerships, our CoC is also exploring intensive family counseling opportunities as part of our Deeper Diversion model to help unaccompanied minors return to family or legal guardians when it is safe and appropriate to do so, as well legal options for emancipation or local programmatic intervention as an alternative to state institutionalization.

### *Pregnant and Parenting Youth*

Research conducted in Austin during the summer of 2016 by Chapin Hall of youth who were homeless or unstably housed revealed that more than half of homeless or unstably housed female youth indicated being pregnant or a parent, and nearly all of these were custodial parents. In some cases, youth identified being kicked out their home for becoming pregnant. This indicates a need to support parenting youth with services related to family engagement, child care, life skills, financial assistance, Trauma Informed Care and Positive Youth Development.

Our CCP outlines a Rapid Re-Housing Plus program to quickly re-house and support youth including pregnant and parenting youth. The CoC finds it crucial to get pregnant and parenting youth off the streets and into safe and stable housing not only to end homelessness for the parent, but to break the cycle of homelessness for future generations.

Options our CoC is considering includes:

- Triggering a specific referral for pregnant youth.
- Training case management to coordinate with CPS workers, apply for mainstream benefits and additional supportive services that may be needed in to successfully stabilize family.
- Including home visit training for case managers to monitor housing safety plan for possible involvement with CPS for abuse and neglect as well as well-baby and young parenting opportunities within these programs.
- Using Motivational Interviewing to increase engagement with medical providers for prenatal care and increase adherence to appointments and medication related to prenatal care.
- Developing community partnerships to ensure access to basic need items, child care supplies, and early education partners like Head Start.
- Developing partnerships with health clinics and health programs specific for parents and parenting.
- Considering including Community Health Worker (CHW) as part of their YHDP programs to help pregnant teens access medical services. Their job would be to connect clients to primary care homes and to specialists with the goal of improving health outcomes. They would help clients find doctors, go to appointments with them, help talk to doctors about their medical concerns and make sure information provided at the appointment is translated in a way that the client understands and can follow. They would also provide reminders for medical appointments and reduce barrier to accessing prescriptions.



### Youth Involved with Juvenile Justice and Foster Care Systems

In Austin, 66% of youth experiencing homelessness report a history of juvenile justice involvement while 37% report a history of foster care.<sup>32</sup> Relative to other communities in the United States, the proportion of homeless or unstably housed youth who report a history of juvenile justice involvement is higher in Travis County.

Relative to other communities in the United States, it appears that youth exiting the foster care or juvenile justice system in Travis County are at greater risk of homelessness.<sup>33</sup> What's more, other youth may become homeless upon exiting other systems of care, such as mental health facilities, hospitals, or the adult criminal justice system.

Although Austin/Travis County has a juvenile court, many youth are certified as adults. When youth are sentenced and placed in a prison for adults, prisons have created policies to ensure their safety that requires the youth to be placed in solitary confinement. These youth show higher rates of recidivism. In the state of Texas, a 14-year-old can be certified as an adult. All these are elements our systems must be mindful of when serving youth.

In addition, youth exiting institutions such as Juvenile Justice have added challenges with finding safe and accessible housing options. Currently in Austin/Travis County there are limited placements for youth exiting the juvenile justice system with a registered sex offence.<sup>34</sup>

To specifically address the needs of youth involved with juvenile justice and foster care systems, our CoC plans to:

- Establish discharge, transition, and referral policies with Juvenile Justice, mental health providers, Child Protective Services, independent school districts, and hospitals.
- Implement agreements between the CoC and institutions serving youth such as CPS, Workforce, and Juvenile Justice.
- Codify working relationship, including data sharing between CoC and juvenile justice/criminal justice programs and foster care system.
- Incorporate Trauma Informed Care and Positive Youth Development on all program services to address the needs of youth with history of abuse, neglect, or other adverse childhood experiences.

### Victims of Sexual Trafficking and Exploitation

During our 2017 Point in Time Count, 5 of 47 unaccompanied, unsheltered youth (ages 18-24) reported experiencing sexual trafficking / exploitation. Similarly, four youth reported experiences with sex trafficking in the Chapin Hall Voices of Youth Count In-depth Interviews conducted in Austin during the summer of 2016. While the prevalence of sexual trafficking and exploitation does not seem as large compared to other populations, our community will continue to raise awareness and will address the needs of youth through a Trauma-Informed Care framework. We will continue to educate our community and service providers to identify signs of sex trafficking and exploitation and how to report possible concerns to authorities.

The CoC is also currently formally expanding its training and referral partnerships with the broader Victim Services System for all victims of sexual and domestic violence and exploitation. This

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<sup>32</sup> Voices of Youth Count. (2017). *Travis County, Texas: Report on youth homelessness: Findings from the youth count, brief youth survey, and provider survey*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid.

<sup>34</sup> Texas State Juvenile Justice input

partnership is expected to include formal referral processes and confidential communication and referral workflows across multiple points of entry for both systems, to ensure that individuals experiencing a safety crisis as well as a housing crisis can have both of their needs met fairly, efficiently, and confidentially.

### Immigrant Youth

Youth's immigration status can contribute to the likelihood of youth becoming homeless. Youth who enter the U.S. unaccompanied and without immigration documents may eventually end up in the custody of the Department of Homeland Security in federal detention centers while for others, homeless shelters may be their only refuge while they apply for asylum or special visas. The process for receiving a decision on an application can take years leaving youth in limbo.<sup>35</sup> Our CoC will meet the need of immigrant youth by:

- Providing CoC training opportunities on Trauma-Informed Care, Positive Youth Development, cultural competency and using interpreters for youth who are fluent in languages other than English, so all youth providers can meet the need of these youth.
- Partnering with providers who specifically serve this population to continue to learn about and provide services to meet specific challenges they may face.
- Affirmatively marketing CoC services and Coordinated Entry processes to this population.
- Affirmatively adopting written standards that do not allow discrimination or denial of services based upon immigration status, unless the funding source mandates such a restriction.

## **3. Trauma Informed Care & Positive Youth Development**

The prevalence of traumatic experiences in the lives of young people experiencing homelessness in Austin is extraordinarily high as evidence in the local data highlighted within this Plan and underscored by the direct input from the Austin Youth Collective to End Homelessness.

The Voices of Youth Chapin Hall study in Travis County revealed there is a great need for targeted services for LGBTQA and gender minority youth to address the higher risk of adversity and trauma they encounter. Their research reveals that “while youth’s literal homelessness often began in adolescence, youth started their stories of instability at much younger ages, some as young as birth” revealing a great need to address the loss, grief and trauma many youth described as normative in their childhoods.<sup>36</sup>

In response to the impact of such trauma, our CoC adopts and upholds the following principles of Trauma Informed Care (TIC) in the conceptualization and delivery of services including:

- Safe, calm and secure environments with supportive care;
- System-wide understanding of trauma prevalence, impact, and trauma-informed practices;
- Cultural competence and cultural humility;

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<sup>35</sup> <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/02/26/us/of-young-immigrants-who-arrive-alone-many-end-up-homeless-in-chicago.html>

<sup>36</sup> Voices of Youth Count. (2017). *Travis County, Technical Report on Youth Homelessness: Findings from the In-Depth Interviews*. Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago: Chicago, IL.

- Consumer voice, choice, and self-advocacy;
- Services that are consumer-driven; and
- Empowering, hopeful, honest, and trusting relationships.

The Trauma Informed Care service framework involves understanding, recognizing, and responding to the effects of all types of trauma on a young person's well-being, including the effects of trauma on the following life domains: 1) safe and stable housing, 2) Education, 3) Employment and 4) Positive, permanent connections.

### Positive Youth Development

Positive Youth Development (PYD) focuses on youth's existing strengths, while simultaneously building protective factors and resiliency. PYD strategies include giving youth access to experiences that build new skills, boost self-worth, and promote self-determination. PYD considers the potential and capacity of each individual young person while promoting youth choice and developing competence, confidence, character, healthy relationships and connections, and care and compassion.

Our CoC adopts and upholds the PYD principles in the conceptualization and delivery of services including services that:

- Supports young people to identify their personal strength to build self-esteem and a positive sense of self;
- Facilitates the development of youth communication and problem-solving skills;
- Enhances and builds natural supports, including family;
- Recognizes and builds on youth's own goals and aspirations; and
- Supports sustained and meaningful engagement with education and other opportunities for personal growth.

The CoC will leverage expertise and technical assistance in the system-wide implementation of Trauma Informed Care and Positive Youth Development from local experts. Namely, Integral Care and LifeWorks are CoC member organizations and both hold multiple decision-making positions in the CoC governance structure. They have been instrumental in the YHDP planning process and have experience implementing both TIC and PYD.

- Integral Care, the local mental health authority in Austin / Travis County, implements Trauma Informed Care into all of their practices. Integral Care receives technical assistance from the National Council for Behavioral Health and is also engaging partner organizations to build systemic Trauma Informed Care into practice.
- LifeWorks, the largest youth-serving organization in Central Texas, has implemented both Trauma Informed Care and Positive Youth Development into their policies and practice. LifeWorks also leads the Transition-Age Workgroup of the Trauma Informed Care Consortium of Central Texas and provides training and assistance to local providers serving transition-age youth with a history of trauma.

The CoC will work with both organizations to further and sustain the principles and practices of Trauma Informed Care and Positive Youth Development in Austin by:

- Requiring the integration of Trauma Informed Care and Positive Youth Development principles in the policies and practices of all YHDP projects. All respondents to the YHDP Request for Proposal (RFP) application will be asked to describe how their organization currently incorporates principles of TIC and PYD into practice. They will also be asked to describe how they will ensure that staff and services in the YHDP project will implement principles of TIC and PYD in service delivery. This information will be a determining factor in the YHDP applicant selection and award process. Providers may learn more about creating a holistic Trauma Responsive System by completing the Trauma Responsive Systems Implementation Advisor<sup>37</sup>.
- Requiring all YHDP recipients to adopt an assessment tool developed by YHDP Data and Evaluation Committee. The assessment measures youth's feelings of hope, sense of self-worth, coping skills, resiliency, and perceived control over one's life (youth-choice and decision-making power). By incorporating the practices of TIC and PYD in all YHDP projects, we anticipate seeing improvement over time in these constructs for youth served by YHDP.
- Connecting service providers to on-going TIC and PYD training and technical assistance resources. As the YHDP progresses, ECHO will work with YHDP recipients to determine what community-wide training is needed and what format would be most impactful. In similar cases, ECHO has sponsored community-wide trainings such as Addressing Racial Inequity and Motivational Interviewing.
- Using service providers that promote self-care strategies for staff to reduce vicarious traumatization (secondary trauma) that leads to provider burn-out and high staff turnover. Moreover, this is identified as an important component due youth needing stability, consistency, and compassion that builds trust and models appropriate emotional responses.
- Evaluating the integration of TIC and PYC into YHDP programming through the community's evaluation strategy.

#### **4. Family Engagement**

Our CoC recognizes one of the best diversion and intervention strategies for youth is to engage families, whenever appropriate, through community partnerships with organizations such as child welfare agencies, schools, youth providers, and other community human services and homeless service providers. Our community plans to address family engagement through the following means:

- Developing a specific YHDP Deeper Diversion and Familial Home Supports program whose main objective is to provide services designed to strengthen, stabilize, and/or reunify families. Services that will be part of the intervention may include family counseling, conflict resolution, parenting supports, relative or kingship caregiver resources, targeted substance abuse, mental health treatment and safety planning.
- Establishing working partnerships with child welfare agencies, schools, after school programs, youth providers, and other community human services and homeless service

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<sup>37</sup> <https://vawnet.org/material/trauma-responsive-system-implementation-advisor-tresia>

providers for upstream prevention work and early identification of youth experiencing literal homelessness.

## 5. Housing First

The Housing First model upholds immediate access to housing with no preconditions as its core value. It quickly and successfully connects individuals and families experiencing homelessness to permanent housing without preconditions and barriers to entry. Supportive services are offered to maximize housing stability and prevent returns to homelessness as opposed to addressing predetermined treatment goals prior to permanent housing entry.

Our CoC has adopted a Housing First framework, requiring all HUD-funded programs to be Housing First. All YHDP projects will also operate under the Housing First model. Our CoC plans to use the recently published [Housing First Assessment Tool](#) as a way to assess how close a project aligns to the Housing First model.

Our CoC recognizes that the housing options for youth can vary and include: scattered site housing where young people are the lease holders, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing and moving back home to live with caregivers whenever appropriate.

YHDP programs will provide choice in the type of housing and location and will adhere to all the Housing First principles outlined on the [Housing First Assessment Tool](#) including but not limited to:

- Admissions to projects will not be contingent upon pre-requisites such as abstinence of substances, minimum income requirements, health or mental health history, medication adherence, age, criminal justice history, financial history, completion of treatment, participation in services, “housing readiness”, history or occurrence of victimization, survivor or sexual assault or an affiliated person or such survivor or other unnecessary conditions required by law or funding source.
- Equal Access is provided in accordance with the 2012 and 2016 Equal Access Rules.
- Intake process are person-centered and flexible, and projects create regular and formal opportunities for participants to offer input.
- Youth choose the type and extent of services they want to participate in.
- Youth have, at a minimum, choices in deciding the location and type of housing based on preferences from a range of housing types and among multiple housing units, as available and practical.
- Exits to homelessness are avoided.
- Creating partnerships with landlords and properties management companies to offer housing to youth with barriers such as criminal backgrounds and continue to diversify the housing options in high opportunity areas.
- Continuing to use our CoC navigation services that allow youth to access housing quickly by eliminating barriers to housing (e.g., facilitating getting IDs, and processing eligibility paperwork in a timely manner).

- Continuing to work and offer services as a community system to youth as long as youth desires, and even in cases when a youth relapses, loses housing placement, struggles to positively engage with their providers and is incarcerated among other challenges. This is especially important to be accountable as a system and be there for youth, even when the fit between the youth and service providers do not work out.

## **6. Youth Choice**

Our CoC recognizes the value of self-determination, and as such, during the implementation of our Coordinated Community Plan will define processes and programs that allow youth to:

- Set their own goals;
- Choose the nature and extent of programs and services they want to participate;
- Choose their household composition;
- Choose their housing;
- Choose their gender identity;
- Choose their employment and education paths; and
- Choose which mainstream benefits to pursue.

In addition, our programs and system will provide opportunities for youth to offer feedback for services received (e.g. through the administration of annual satisfaction surveys or solicitation of feedback through an online portal), or to become involved in service-design and system leadership through participation on the Austin Youth Collective to End Homelessness.

Case managers will be offered Motivational Interviewing training to increase positive behaviors by eliciting change talk tailored to each client's own motivation and interests, and will follow harm reduction methods.

We recognize embedding youth choice in our homelessness response system is not a one-time effort and our goal is for youth to be empowered throughout every step of the process as they design and build their futures.

## **7. Individualized and Client-Driven Support**

Our vision for ending homelessness for everyone in Austin, including youth, includes individualized and client-driven support based on client empowerment, voice and choice and consumer driven services.

The screening tools, referral policies and procedures of our current Coordinated Entry ensure the needs of all participants are individually addressed. Clients have choice in all referrals, services, and housing programs available to them and play an active role in selecting the nature and extent of the services they can access and selecting options that meet their individual needs and strengths.

The proposed innovative YHDP projects are designed to address the needs of all unaccompanied youth, including those currently experiencing homelessness, those at risk and all special populations. All youth served will have choice in project-matching and service-matching to best fit their needs.

## **8. Social and Community Integration**

Our CoC recognizes that the goal of youth homelessness services should be successful transition to adulthood, including successful integration into a community as a positive, contributing community member.

The Chapin Hall Voices of Youth research reveals that peers and intimate partners play an important role in housing stability, affecting youth both positively and negatively. Peers and intimate partners often serve as linkers to accessing services and resources, but may also serve as linkers to illegal activity including sex work or drug use and sales.

To achieve the social and community integration role goal, our community will:

- Use a housing plan that focuses on building a supportive system that is more robust than traditional plans and incorporates recreation, leisure, civic engagement and strengthen youth's existing positive relationships with other adults and peers.
- Connect youth to community partners (e.g. neighborhood centers, YMCA, faith groups) and to activities that bring meaning and a sense of well-being to young people (e.g. recreational, faith, educational, employment and civic).
- Provide safety planning to stabilize youth when they experience a crisis.
- Provide transportation opportunities to reduce barriers for community engagement activities.
- Include peer support specialists as part of YHDP programs and system.
- Offer opportunities for supportive employment, mainstream youth employment, clubhouse model for people with a mental health diagnosis (member of clubhouse), education services.

## **9. Coordinated Entry**

In Austin's Coordinated Entry system, all households experiencing homelessness complete a standard assessment survey (the VI-SPDAT) that considers the household's situation and identifies the best type of housing intervention to address their situation. Permanent housing programs, including permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing, fill spaces in their programs from a community queue of eligible households generated from the standard assessment.

Since October 2016, our CoC implemented using TAY-SPDAT, a youth-specific vulnerability assessment where questions are adjusted towards youth experiences. Coordinated Entry tools and assessments are designed to be easily understood by youth and to reflect the participant's strengths and goals, risks, and protective factors (e.g., high self-esteem, academic achievement, good coping skills and problem-solving skills).

Coordinated Entry staff is trained to work with youth with low literacy and with youth with developmental disability and communicate effectively with them. Access to Coordinated Entry has many options, including two walk-in clinics, churches, phone, and mobile assessment based on online request through the CoC's website. All assessment avenues offer the same type and level

of services, thereby ensuring that youth are provided with maximum possible choice in identifying which types of assessment avenue feel most welcoming to their personal situation. The CoC also actively partners with the Austin Youth Collective when developing new Youth-oriented marketing documents, service descriptions, and assessment scripts to ensure that language and information remains consistently accessible and appropriate for youth.

Our Coordinated Entry system incorporates the principles of Trauma Informed Care and Positive Youth Development in practice and will continue to embrace these principles throughout the implementation of the Community Coordinated Plan. Informed self-direction is the cornerstone of the CoC's Coordinated Entry written standards and workflow.

As part of YHDP activities, our CoC plans to market to school and criminal justice systems for referrals as well as to youth-accessed mainstream services such as employment programs, SNAP, WIC, and walk-in clinics.



## VI. Strategic Framework to Prevent & End Youth Homelessness

Unaccompanied youth experience homelessness because of many inter-related challenges, and as such, the solution must be holistic. Our community has identified the following system components to together prevent and end youth homelessness:

### 1. Increase Community Commitment

- Ensure our community response system has enough resources in place to meet the ongoing need of youth at risk or becoming homeless
- Surge housing and support service resources to house all current youth experiencing literal homelessness
- Create a menu of options for public to be involved, and that attracts additional private philanthropy

### 2. Implement YHDP Projects

- Implement a *Deeper Diversion and Familial Home Supports* program that prevents and diverts youth from homelessness
- Implement a *Rapid Re-Housing Plus* program to connect youth to housing, employment, education and promote well-being
- Add emergency shelter beds for transitional age youth (18-24) to meet current need of unsheltered youth

### 3. Address Disparities

- Assess and train agencies and individuals serving youth in cultural competence, humility, and responsiveness
- Implement service delivery models that create safe and affirming spaces and provide an array of housing options that promote youth choice
- Regularly assess and evaluate the demographics of youth housed, days to housing, and returns to homelessness to ensure equitable access

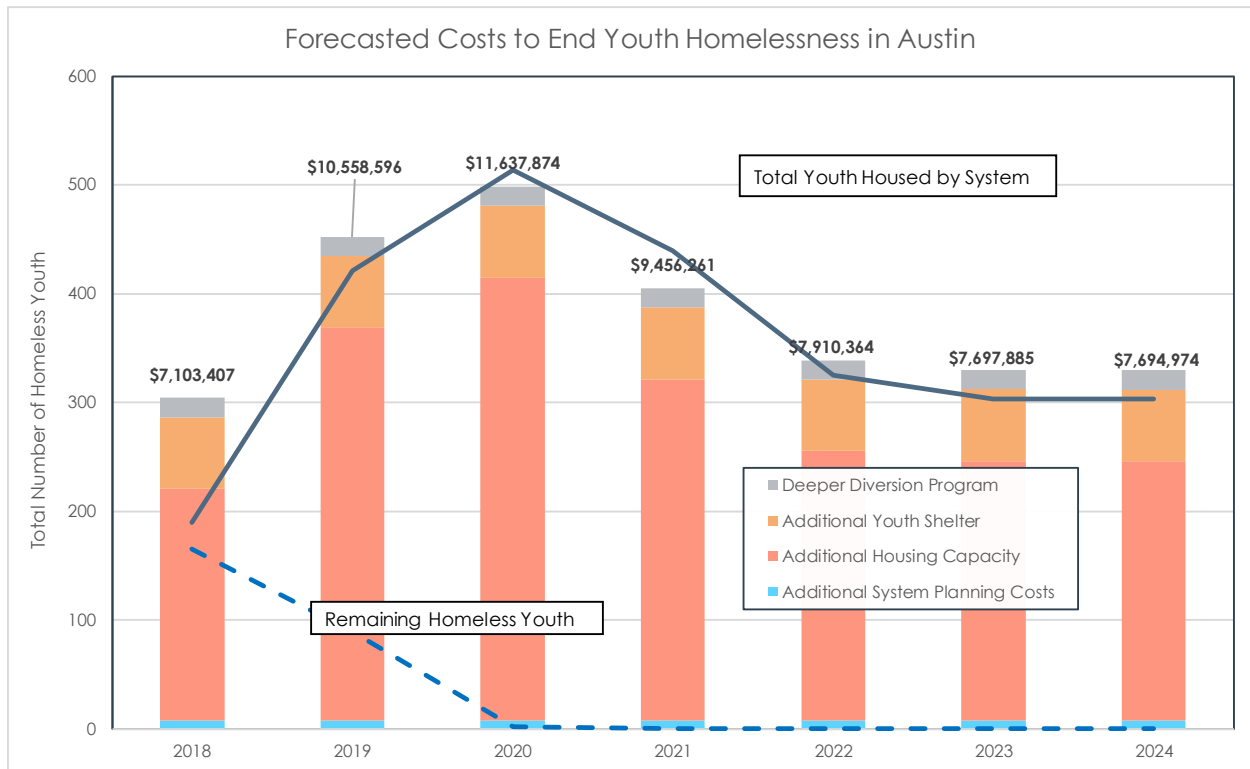
### 4. Increase System Effectiveness

- Increase alignment and impact of current funding and programs
- Continue to use data to drive change and track progress and refocus resources as needed
- Implement agreements between CoC and other systems serving youth such as CPS, Workforce and Juvenile Justice
- Identify existing legislative barriers

## Strategy 1: Increase Community Commitment

For Austin/Travis County to claim we have effectively prevented and ended youth homelessness, the community must have a youth homelessness response system that has sufficient coordination of services and adequate resources to meet the ongoing need of youth who may become homeless in the future. To achieve this goal, we recognize we need increased resources to address the current system resources gaps.

The following table presents a forecast for ending youth homelessness in Austin/Travis County by 2020 and its associated costs.



The cost estimates used were developed in collaboration with service providers who serve Austin's youth homeless population. The forecast projects service needs based on current data on Austin's homeless youth population and estimated population growth based on lessons learned from the Ending Veteran Homelessness Initiative.

The forecasted costs are based on the costs of the following interventions:

- Deeper Diversion and Familial Support Prevention Program:** costs for a novel diversion and prevention program. Costs include salaries for clinical case managers, direct financial assistance, and indirect costs.

- *Additional Temporary Shelter* is the cost to provide additional shelter, including site costs, transportation, staff salaries, training, and indirect costs.
- *Rapid Re-Housing Plus Program* includes direct rapid re-housing costs such as rent, moving costs, credit repair, transportation assistance, community-funded risk mitigation and affordability payments, as well as the program assistance cost to staff and administer new the rapid re-housing programs including staff salaries, training for staff, and indirect costs.
- *Planning and Integration* includes salaries and indirect costs associated with system planning and implementation.

The costs associated with this increase in housing capacity peak at \$11.6 million in 2020 and decrease to approximately \$7.6 million per year once functional zero is achieved. Given \$2.5 million per year in YHDP grant funds and an anticipated 25% match, this leaves a maximum funding gap of \$8.5 million in 2020, and a steady state funding gap of approximately \$4.5 million after five years.

Refer to the Appendix called Ending Youth Homelessness Projection Model documentation for details and assumptions of the projection model.

## Strategy 2: Implementing YHDP Funded Projects

2.1 “Deeper” Diversion & Familial Home Supports	
<b>Program Summary</b>	This program is aimed at connecting unaccompanied, literally homeless youth or youth at imminent risk of homelessness to stable, safe, and inclusive housing, permanent connections, employment and education, and promoting social and emotional well-being.
<b>Target Population</b>	Unaccompanied Youth up to age 24, including all special populations
<b>HUD Homeless Definition</b>	Categories 1, 2 and 4
<b>HUD CoC Project Type</b>	Supportive Services Only
<b>Timeframe</b>	Typically, one-time assistance, but up to 12 months as needed to stabilize the household
<b>Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selection of services targeted to youth/youth families’ needs to divert households from homelessness:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Limited emergency housing financial assistance</li> <li>○ Mediation services</li> <li>○ Family/individual counseling</li> <li>○ Food assistance</li> <li>○ Referrals to community resources</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Case Management</li> <li>• Targeting and screening appropriately for safety, emphasizing choice and options for youth to stay where they feel most safe and supported</li> <li>• Implement all the guiding principles in this plan including Housing First, TIC, PYD, Youth Choice, Client-Driven Support, Family Reengagement</li> </ul>
<b>Outputs/Outcomes Measures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will measure progress toward the 4 USICH Benchmarks, including:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Housing stability, for example:                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ % who exit to permanent housing</li> </ul> </li> </ol> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ % who avoid subsequent returns to homelessness</li> </ul> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Employment, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Average increase in income (employment and benefits) and/or maintenance of income</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Education</li> <li>4. Well-being</li> </ol>
<b>Innovation Opportunities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Targets youth who are unsafe and unstably housed – specifically unaccompanied “doubled-up” youth</li> <li>• Diverts youth and young adults from the trauma of homelessness</li> <li>• Emphasizes options for youth to stay where they feel most safe and supported</li> </ul>
<b>2-Year YHDP Budget</b>  <b>\$836,000 (plus 25% match) = \$1,045,000</b> <b>Total Budget to serve 400 youth</b>	Costs include salaries for clinical case managers, direct financial assistance, and indirect cost to serve 400 youth over two years.

Cost Description	Amount	Needed	Duration
<i>Clinician/Case Manager</i>	\$75,000 per year	2	N/A
<i>Rent Assistance</i>	\$300 per month	50% of clients	3-6 months
<i>Food Assistance</i>	\$200-300 per month	75% of clients	3-6 months
<i>Transportation Assistance</i>	\$200	25%	One-time
<i>Indirect Costs</i>	20%	N/A	N/A

## 2.2 Transitional Aged Youth (18-24 y/o) Housing Navigation Shelter (TH-RRH)

<b>Program Summary</b>	A program aimed at connecting unaccompanied, literally homeless youth aged 18-24 years old to safe and low-barrier shelter that rapidly connects participants to low-barrier housing.
<b>Target Population</b>	Unaccompanied Youth Aged 18-24 years old, including all special populations
<b>HUD Homeless Definition</b>	Categories 1 and 4
<b>HUD CoC Project Type</b>	Joint Transitional Housing and Rapid Re-Housing (TH-RRH)
<b>Timeframe</b>	Average length of stay 30 days
<b>Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low-barrier shelter that serve as pathways to permanent housing. Offered services would include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Rapid Re-housing</li> <li>○ Family reunification</li> <li>○ Housing resource and benefit navigation</li> <li>○ Case Management focused on identifying safe and stable housing</li> <li>○ Connection to mental health, education, and employment support services</li> <li>○ Access to other YHDP programs</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Implement all the guiding principles in this plan including Housing First, TIC, PYD, Youth Choice, Client-Driven Support, and Family Reengagement</li> </ul>
<b>Outputs/Outcomes Measures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will measure progress toward the 4 USICH Benchmarks, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Housing stability, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ % who exit to permanent housing</li> <li>○ % who avoid subsequent returns to homelessness</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Employment, for example:</li> </ol> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Average increase in income (employment and benefits) and/or maintenance of income</li> </ul> <p>3. Education</p> <p>4. Well-being</p>
<b>Innovation Opportunities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safe, inclusive, and affirming spaces for all youth including LGBTQA</li> <li>• Housing navigation and connection to immediate resources for 18-24-year-old young adults</li> <li>• There are already shelter options for minors in Austin/ Travis County, but none dedicated for 18-24-year-old youth. This population can only access the mainstream adult shelters. A TAY shelter navigation shelter would be an innovative program in and of itself.</li> <li>• Safe storage and pet accommodations</li> </ul>
<b>2-Year YHDP Budget</b>  <b>\$1,537,000 (plus 25% match) = \$1,921,250</b>	<p>Costs are based on the actual costs for a current RHY youth-specific shelter located in Austin. The current shelter is staffed 24 hours a day in three shifts. Estimated 200 youth served over two years.</p>

Cost Description	Amount	Needed
<i>General Shelter Costs</i>	\$1,000,000 per year	per shelter
<i>Temporary Staff</i>	\$52,000 per year	4 per shelter site
<i>Staff Coordinator</i>	\$65,000 per year	1 per shelter site
<i>Capacity Building Training</i>	\$300/staff member	5 trainings per year
<i>Indirect Costs</i>	20%	N/A

## 2.3 Youth-Dedicated Rapid Re-housing “Plus” Program

<b>Program Summary</b>	A program aimed at connecting youth to safe, permanent, and inclusive housing, permanent connections, employment, education and promoting social and emotional well-being.
<b>Target Population</b>	18-24-year-old literally homeless Youth/ Young Adults with higher vulnerability, including all special populations
<b>HUD Homeless Definition</b>	Categories 1 and 4
<b>HUD CoC Project Type</b>	Permanent Housing-Rapid Re-Housing (PH-RRH)
<b>Timeframe</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assistance would be dynamic based on need of household and would still use a progressive engagement approach</li> <li>• Typically, 12-18 months of financial assistance, but up to 36 months for more vulnerable youth (waiver needed from HUD for assistance up to 36 months)</li> <li>• Case management up to 42 months</li> </ul>
<b>Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing Location with Dedicated Landlord Outreach Specialists to identify low-barrier permanent housing rentals</li> <li>• Financial Assistance</li> <li>• Case Management focused on housing stability</li> <li>• Connections to mental health support, employment services, and educational goals</li> <li>• Peer support, social and community integration, and family engagement when appropriate</li> <li>• Implement all the guiding principles in this plan including Housing First, TIC, PYD, Youth Choice, Client-Driven Support, and Family Reengagement</li> </ul>
<b>Outputs/Outcomes Measures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will measure progress toward the 4 USICH Benchmarks, including:</li> </ul>



	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Housing stability, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ % who exit to permanent housing</li> <li>○ % who avoid subsequent returns to homelessness</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Employment, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Average increase in income (employment and benefits) and/or maintenance of income</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Education</li> <li>4. Well-being</li> </ol>
<p><b>Innovation Opportunities</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using progressive engagement, longer financial assistance up to 36 months when needed</li> <li>• Longer case management up to 42 months when needed</li> <li>• Shared housing when appropriate, matching youth with chosen roommates to alleviate housing costs</li> </ul>
<p><b>2-Year YHDP Budget</b></p> <p><b>\$2,671,000 (plus 25% match) = \$3,338,750</b></p> <p><b>Total Budget</b></p>	<p>The following cost assumptions are based on existing RRH programming in Austin/Travis County. Estimated 250 youth served over two years.</p>

Direct Assistance Cost Assumptions			
Cost Description	Amount	Youth in Need	Duration
<i>Rent and Utilities</i>	\$1,200 per month	100%	6-36 months
<i>Moving and Furniture</i>	\$800	100%	One-time
<i>Utility Deposit</i>	\$200	100%	One-time
<i>Rental Credit Repair</i>	\$2,000	10%	One-time
<i>Bus Passes</i>	\$20.60 per month	100%	12-36 months
<i>Miscellaneous Housing Support</i>	\$250	50%	One-time
Program Cost Assumptions			
Cost Description	Amount	Needed	
<i>RRH Case Manager</i>	\$65,000 per year	1 per 20 youth	
<i>RRH+ Case Manager</i>	\$65,000 per year	1 per 15 youth	
<i>Landlord Outreach Specialist</i>	\$75,000 per year	1 per 4 RRH or 10 RRH+ case managers	
<i>Outreach and Navigation Specialist</i>	\$65,000 per year	2	
<i>Employment/Education Specialist</i>	\$65,000 per year	1 per 40 youth	
<i>Peer Support Specialist</i>	\$65,000 per year	1 per 40 youth	
<i>SOAR Specialist</i>	\$65,000 per year	1 per 100 youth	
<i>Program Manager</i>	\$75,000 per year	1 per 8 additional staff	
<i>Capacity Building Training</i>	\$300	per additional staff member, 5x per year	
<i>Indirect Costs</i>	20%	N/A	

## 2.4 Planning

<p><b>2-Year YHDP Budget</b></p> <p><b>\$156,000 (plus 25% match) =\$195,000</b></p> <p><b>Total Budget</b></p>	<p>Austin will use YHDP planning funds to support the implementation and coordination of YHDP including supporting the Austin Youth Collective to End Homelessness youth leadership, implementation coordination, tracking initiative's progress, program evaluation, and general planning coordination.</p>
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Austin/Travis County Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program Budget	
Program	2-Year Budget
Deeper Diversion and Familial Home Supports	\$836,000
TAY Housing Navigation Shelter	\$1,537,000
Youth Dedicated Rapid Re-housing Plus	\$2,671,000
YHDP Planning	\$156,000
<b>Total Award</b>	<b>\$5,200,000</b>

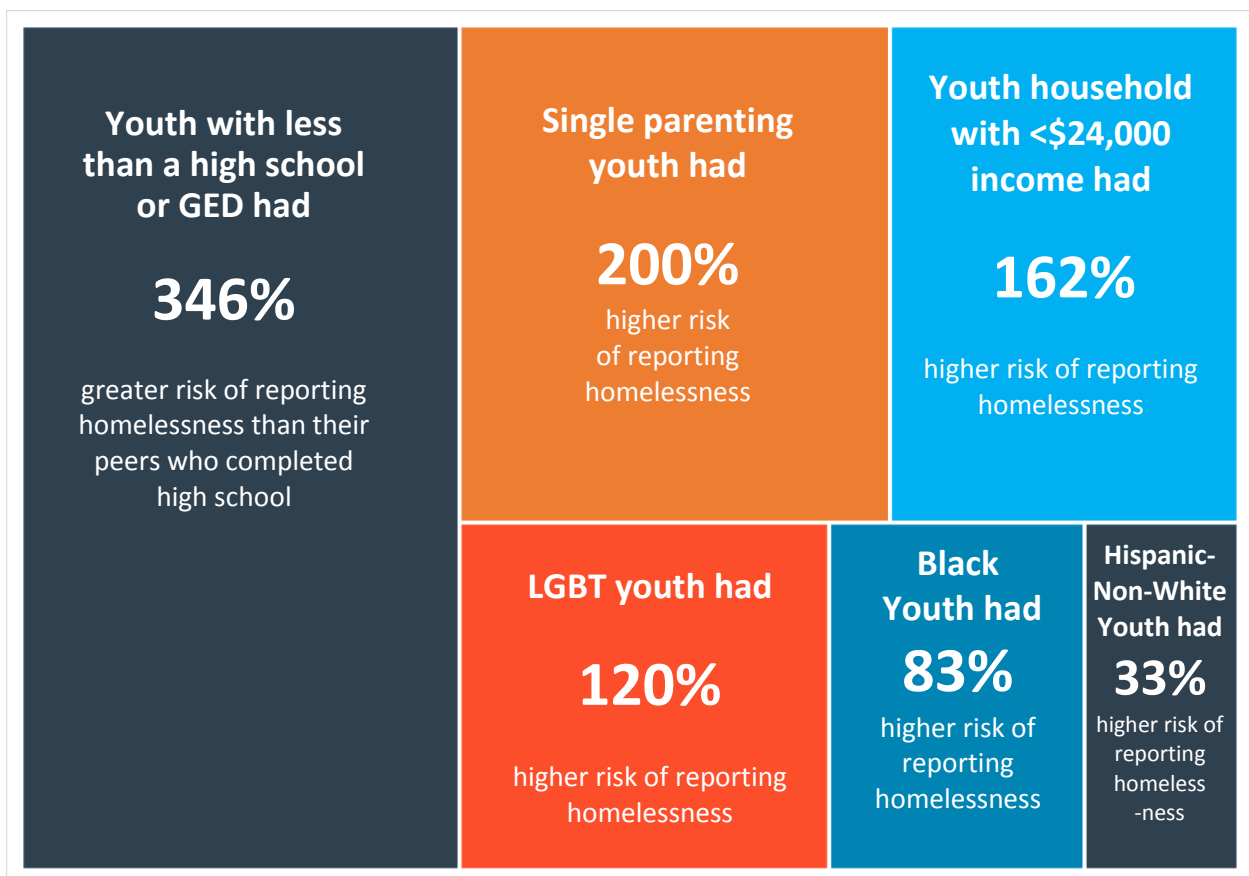
### Strategy 3: Address Disparities

In Austin, African Americans and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth are over-represented in the homeless population. African American Youth make up 40% of Travis County's homeless youth compared to the county's overall 8% African American population. LGBTQA youth make up 23% of Travis County's homeless youth population, which is more than triple the number of LGBTQA youth in the general population.

Although homelessness is hard as it is for all people who experience it, it can be much harder for individuals further marginalized by racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, or any other form of discrimination. Our vision is for everyone experiencing homelessness, including youth, to have access to housing and supportive services regardless of their race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, familial status, or disability.

Through their national Voices of Youth count study, Chapin Hall found that certain groups of youth are more likely to experience homelessness. These youth include youth with less than a high school diploma or GED, single parenting youth, youth reporting annual household income of less than \$24,000, LGBTQ youth, Black or African American Youth, and Hispanic, Non-White youth. The following tree map depicts their findings based on national statistics from their study.

### Youth at Greater Risk of Experiencing Homelessness



Chapin Hall found through their Voices of Youth Count national study that African American youth were especially overrepresented, with an 83% increased risk of having experienced homelessness over youth of other races. They found that the higher risk of African American youth compared to other races remains even when they controlled for factors like income and education. They explained it is likely that disproportionalities in other systems, (e.g. in school suspensions, incarceration, and foster care placement) along with a weaker schooling and service infrastructure in predominantly black communities, help explain elevated risk of homelessness.<sup>38</sup>

Our initiative plans to address disparities by taking action in the following areas: 1) identification of all youth experiencing and at risk of homelessness, 2) agency and individual assessment and training in cultural competence, humility, and responsiveness, 3) hiring practices that promote diversity in the workplace, 4) service delivery that models best practice in creating safe and affirming spaces and provides an array of housing options that promote youth choice, and 5) outcome and assessment evaluation that regularly evaluates the demographics of youth housed and days to housing.

### **1) Identification of youth**

- Systemically analyze demographics of youth served in our community to ensure the CoC is equitably meeting the needs of young people.
- Ensure affirming survey tools are used in pulse counts to further understand LGBTQA youth and that survey tools address preferred gender pronoun, sexual orientation and current gender identity with non-conforming options.
- Tailor outreach efforts to ensure subpopulations at higher risk of homelessness are reached and served equitably.

### **2) Agency & Individual Cultural Competency Assessment and Training**

- Utilizing HMIS data, reporting and analysis, agencies serving youth will be familiar with the special populations they are serving. Training will align and evolve to address the special needs of the populations they are serving.
- Assessment and training occurs at both an administrative and direct staff level (existing and new) to promote organizational competence.
- Training Topics should include, but are not limited to:
  - Cultural competency, humility, and responsiveness
  - Motivational Interviewing
  - Non-Violent Communication
  - Suicide Prevention and Harm Reduction
  - HUD Equal Access Rule
- Training and assessment should be ongoing for both new and existing staff to promote personal growth.
- Using True U and True Inclusion Assessment by True Colors Fund (an agency/community assessment) to ensure inclusion and affirming practices of LGBTQA identified youth.

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<sup>38</sup> Voices of Youth Count. (2017). *Missed Opportunities: Youth Homelessness in America – National Estimates*. Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago: Chicago, IL.

### **3) Hiring Practices of Youth-Serving Organizations**

- Recruitment and retention of a diverse staff, essential to providing culturally competent services.
- Promote hiring practices that consider language and qualifications include opportunities for populations disparately impacted by larger systems from applying (e.g. education requirements, background checks that do not affect the scope of work being done, encouraging the recruitment of qualified persons with lived experience).

### **4) Youth Service Delivery**

- Programs create safe, affirming spaces for youth no matter their self-expression. Practices include:
  - Non-binary intake/client assessment tools
  - Non-binary shelters and restrooms
  - A physical environment that has been considered for trauma-informed practices
  - Accessible and transparent process for young people to report harassment and discrimination, as well as, a formalized response process for agencies.

### **5) Outcome Assessment & Evaluation**

- Use data to track whether high risk sub-populations, are served less frequently or less effectively.
- Quarterly, programs will self-evaluate program inflow and outflow to identify and resolve potential disparities.
- The CoC will evaluate the demographics of youth identified as homeless (inflow) compared to youth who are housed (outflow) each month. This will allow for timely identification of disparities and swift action for addressing inequities in the CoC.
- Reporting should include: system inflow and outflow, program enrollment, housing outcomes and days to housing.

Our plan is for the CoC and YHDP programs to operate in ways that ensure the youth least likely to apply for assistance are reached, youth experiencing homelessness are treated as equal partners in determining their own future, housing options located in high-opportunity areas are available, and service data is regularly analyzed and used to ensure all sub-populations have equitable access to services. Our community's commitment to accountability is the bookend that holds the system and individual programs accountable for effective cultural responsiveness and social responsibility.

## Strategy 4: Increase System Effectiveness

A successful approach to ending youth homelessness requires systematic coordination to maximize the use of all resources. It requires 1) sharing a vision of connecting youth to housing and providing services to maintain housing, 2) having clear goals and measuring progress to achieve targets, 3) a recognition by each program and stakeholder of the role they play in ending homelessness and 4) accountability from all involved.

In Austin, we have all the foundations of an effective system. This Coordinated Community plan reflects the shared vision of addressing people’s immediate needs, quickly connecting people to housing and providing services to ensure long-term stability. It lays out clear targets for each system element and spells out specific ways of measuring progress. Through continued partnerships, we continue to define the role each of us plays in ending homelessness and invite others to join the efforts.

<b>Policy Area</b>	<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<i>Children’s Protective Services</i>	State/local	Codify working relationship, including data sharing between CoC and Child Welfare programs like foster care	Housing stability plans for all youth aging out of care, diverting youth from entering homelessness and identifying housing options for youth experiencing homelessness
<i>Juvenile Justice</i>	State/local	Codify working relationship, including data sharing between CoC and juvenile justice/criminal justice programs	Housing stability plans for all youth leaving incarceration or ending probation, diverting youth from entering homelessness and identifying housing options for youth experiencing homelessness
<i>Workforce</i>	Federal/ State/ Local	Explore new programs that measure success as to allow homeless youth access to program	Vulnerable youth have access to employment resources currently reserved for already stable individuals
<i>Education</i>	Local	Codify working relationship, including data sharing between CoC, Homeless School Liaisons and local school districts	Housing stability plans for all youth, diverting youth from entering homelessness and identifying housing options for youth experiencing homelessness

## VII. Detailed Goals, Objectives & Action Steps

**Goal 1.** The community has a system in place to identify all unaccompanied youth who are experiencing homelessness and/or are unsafe and at-risk of becoming homeless

**Objective 1.1** Create a community wide identification and crisis response system

- Outputs/ Outcomes**
- CoC has a comprehensive and formally documented set of strategies used to identify youth in sheltered, unsheltered, or doubled-up situations
  - CoC conducts weekly outreach and in-reach activities to identify all unsheltered and sheltered unaccompanied youth
  - CoC has a comprehensive and formally documented set of discharge policies, data sharing agreements, and referral processes in place

**Status** U=Underway, TBI = To Be Implemented and C=Completed

<b>Action Steps</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Engagement &amp; Identification</b>		
i. Recruit pre-identifiers (churches, schools, libraries, local businesses, transportation system) & identifiers (social services agencies) to participate in network of communication, identification and referrals	ECHO + LifeWorks	U
<b>Outreach</b>		
ii. Create an advertising/ marketing campaign to promote resources for youth and coordinated entry - e.g. developing a 211 App for youth or strategically using social media	ECHO+ LifeWorks United Way	TBI
iii. Expand street outreach capacity	ECHO+ LifeWorks	TBI
iv. Train existing outreach staff on youth engagement strategies	ECHO + LifeWorks	TBI
<b>“In-Reach” Policies</b>		
v. Establish discharge and referral policies with juvenile justice, mental health providers, child protective services, independent school districts and hospitals	ECHO + DFPS-CPS, Juvenile Justice (State and County), Travis Co ISDs, Seton & St. David Hospital Systems, Texas State Hospital, Integral Care	TBI

**Goal 1.** The community has a system in place to identify all unaccompanied youth who are experiencing homelessness and/or are unsafe and at-risk of becoming homeless

**Objective 1.2** Enumerate and collect data on all youth experiencing homelessness and/or unsafe and at-risk of homelessness

- Outputs/ Outcomes**
- The community maintains a list of all unaccompanied youth under age 25 who are experiencing homelessness (HUD Categories 1 & 4) and at-risk of homelessness (HUD Categories 2-3).
  - Community conducts one annual Youth Point-in-Time Counts, in addition to the regularly conducted Point-in-Time count in January where youth are also counted

**Status** U=Underway, TBI = To Be Implemented and C=Completed

<b>Action Steps</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Data Collection</b>		
i. The community collects data of all youth experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness	ECHO	U
<b>Sharing Data</b>		
ii. The local school system shares data with CoC of youth who are doubled-up, staying in hotels, etc.	ECHO + School Districts	U



**Goal 2.** The community has implemented a Coordinated Entry and Triage system that effectively links youth to housing and services that are youth focused

**Objective 2.1** Continue to implement a youth-focused Coordinated Entry system and assessments

- Outputs/ Outcomes**
- All youth homelessness system elements (e.g. outreach programs, Coordinated Entry, shelter, housing programs) understand their role and their relationship to other system elements in assisting youth get back into permanent stable housing.
  - 100% of unaccompanied youth and young adults experiencing homelessness are assessed and prioritized on a By-Name List maintained in real time
  - 100% of unaccompanied youth and young adults who are unsafe and at risk of homelessness are assessed and added to the “Prevention” By-Name List
  - 100% of youth served by Coordinated Entry are assessed for risks to their safety and helped to plan for their immediate safety

**Status** U=Underway, TBI = To Be Implemented and C=Completed

<b>Action Steps</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Path to Permanent Housing</b>		
i. Orient the Coordinated Entry and Triage system to serve as a pathway to permanent housing for all youth	ECHO Coordinated Entry team	U
<b>Diversion</b>		
ii. Create a common homelessness prevention/diversion follow-up system analogous to the existing Coordinated Entry system for youth experiencing literal homelessness	ECHO + LifeWorks	TBI
<b>Outreach</b>		
iii. Identify and implement outreach/access point tools (e.g., mobile app, hotline, flyers)	ECHO + LifeWorks	U
<b>Coordinated Entry</b>		
iv. Create a common access/identification/activation process across all points of formal contact with youth (e.g. outreach, drop-in centers, shelters, coordinated entry intake, etc.)	ECHO Coordinated Entry team	U
v. Include clear information about how to engage at the common access points	ECHO Coordinated Entry team	TBI
vi. Create a variety of common intake locations/methods, to allow youth to choose the settings most comfortable to them	ECHO Coordinated Entry team	TBI

<b>Action Steps</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Status</b>
vii. Train all Coordinated Entry staff on Risk Assessment and Safety Planning	ECHO Coordinated Entry team	TBI
<b>Assessment</b>		
viii. Select developmentally appropriate assessment tools to determine youth's needs and vulnerabilities and tailor materials for different youth populations	ECHO + LifeWorks	C
ix. Implement a Common Strengths-Based Housing Plan that begins at access/intake and continues through case management and housing programming	ECHO + LifeWorks	U
<b>Training and Marketing</b>		
x. Create a common community marketing message (for Youth and for Community Partners)	ECHO + LifeWorks	TBI
xi. Include common housing resource/expectation training	ECHO + LifeWorks	TBI
xii. Tailor supplemental training materials for non-youth dedicated community partners	ECHO + LifeWorks	TBI

**Goal 2.** The community has implemented a Coordinated Entry and Triage system that effectively links youth to housing and services that are youth focused

**Objective 2.2** Implement Triage System for unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness or are unsafe and at risk of homelessness

- Outputs/ Outcomes**
- 100% of youth identified through coordinated entry are screened for reunification and diversion eligibility
  - 90% of youth who identify family reunification goals achieve housing stability through family reunification
  - 95% of youth who receive diversion assistance do not experience homelessness in the following 6 months
  - 100% of unaccompanied youth under age 18 have immediate access to safe emergency shelter (within 24 hours of identification).
  - 100% of unaccompanied youth & young adults between the ages of 18–24 have immediate access to safe emergency shelter (within 24 hours of identification), if they choose
  - No youth seeking basic center services or emergency shelter are turned away, unless they are successfully diverted to another safe living environment of their choosing.
  - 100% of youth (homeless category 1&4) who are not diverted through a non-homeless intervention will be offered the Coordinated Assessment (VI-SPDAT)

**Status** U=Underway, TBI = To Be Implemented and C=Completed

<b>Action Steps</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Implementation</b>		
i. Update HMIS eligibility tool for triage and service enrollment	ECHO	TBI
ii. Assess and streamline current system diversion and prevention support services	ECHO	TBI
iii. Train primary adult-serving shelters to provide youth-focused programming for 18-24yo experiencing homelessness	To be determined, LifeWorks as consult	TBI
iv. Community staff review a By-Name List on weekly basis to provide updates on housing stability plans for youth	All community providers housing youth	U

**Goal 3.** The community offers an array of youth-dedicated programming options

**Objective 3.1** Create menu of program options for youth and young adults that meet need (based on system data)

- Outputs/ Outcomes**
- 100% of youth identified as experiencing homelessness (including those who are sheltered or doubled-up) are offered connections to appropriate housing
  - Community-wide average time from the date youth are identified as homeless in the CoC’s geographic area to the date they move into permanent housing, decreases over time to 30 days or fewer
  - 90% of youth in temporary housing will exit to permanent housing within 30 days

**Status** U=Underway, TBI = To Be Implemented and C=Completed

<b>Action Steps</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Implementation</b>		
i. Assess youth needs and service capacity gaps	ECHO	C
ii. Recommend type of projects and scale of different program investments based on the needs identified through Coordinated Assessment and the related community understanding of the level of vulnerability of youth	ECHO	C
iii. Propose specific project ideas to be implemented with YHDP funds	ECHO	U
iv. Create/identify new shelter capacity for 18-24 y/o unaccompanied youth	YHDP Funded Program	TBI
v. Create new “Deeper Diversion and Familial Supports” program that meets needs of unaccompanied youth who are at risk of homelessness and unsafe	YHDP Funded Provider	TBI
vi. Community definitions of RRH and PSH waivers are submitted to HUD, including mandatory data collection elements	ECHO	U
vii. Offer all youth the choice of selecting the housing intervention they feel is most appropriate for themselves, even when the youth’s choice does not align with the recommended intervention from their Coordinated Assessment	ECHO Coordinated Entry	U
viii. Offer permanent housing options on a regular basis to youth who initially choose to not enter permanent housing	ECHO, Crisis Housing & Outreach Partners	U

<b>Action Steps</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Status</b>
<p><b>Evaluation</b></p> <p>ix. Regularly monitor programs' ability to offer and rapidly place youth in permanent housing, including accessing progress in reducing the length of time it takes for youth to access housing</p>	ECHO	U

**Goal 3.** The community offers an array of youth-dedicated programming options

**Objective 3.2** Create a framework for Active Performance Management

- Outputs/ Outcomes**
- 90% of youth report that they have a meaningful relationship with at least one caring adult at program exit
  - 90% of youth under age 18 who are interested in pursuing education goals have demonstrated progress toward meeting their educational goals by program exit
  - 90% of youth over age 18 who are interested in pursuing education goals have demonstrated progress toward meeting their educational goals by program exit
  - 90% of youth over age 18 who are interested in pursuing employment goals show an increase in income by program exit
  - 90% of youth will maintain or improve their sense of safety by program exit
  - 90% of youth with behavioral health goals will show improvement in their mental and/or behavioral health by program exit

**Status** U=Underway, TBI = To Be Implemented and C=Completed

<b>Action Steps</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Written Standards</b>		
i. CoC establishes program standards and operationalizes benchmarks for YHDP-funded projects	ECHO	TBI
<b>Training</b>		
ii. Develop trainings and materials for community partners. Topics may include identifying youth, trauma informed care, cultural competency, social justice, motivational interviewing, non-violent communication, safety planning	ECHO + LifeWorks	U
<b>Evaluation</b>		
iii. Regularly monitor programs' progress toward the community-defined benchmarks, including the 4 core outcomes identified by YHDP	ECHO	TBI
iv. Identify when projects require a course correction and provide analytical support to generate solutions and support decision-making	ECHO + YHDP Leadership	TBI
v. Identify and incorporate best practices and evidence-based models	ECHO + Providers	U

**Goal 3.** The community offers an array of youth-dedicated programming options  
**Objective 3.3** On-going System Capacity Assessment

**Outputs/ Outcomes** The total number of youth moving into permanent housing destinations is greater than the total number of newly identified homeless youth

**Status** U=Underway, TBI = To Be Implemented and C=Completed

<b>Action Steps</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Implementation</b>		
i. Local YHDP NOFA is created with project priorities	ECHO	U
ii. Local projects awarded through YHDP competition-Fall 2017	ECHO	TBI
iii. Community develops process for reallocation of YHDP programs, as needed to meet the need	ECHO	TBI
iv. Community creates new projects as needed	Providers	TBI
v. Identify and implement outreach/access point tools (e.g., mobile app, hotline, flyers)	ECHO + Community	TBI
<b>Evaluation</b>		
vi. The CoC regularly monitors progress in reducing overall youth homelessness, in particular- the proportion of youth exiting to permanent housing relative to the number of newly identified homeless youth	ECHO	U
vii. Adult partners and Youth and Young adults serve on the Rank and Review Committee	ECHO	TBI

**Goal 4.** The community maintains the system, works towards sustainability, and make improvements as needed

**Objective 4.1** The community prevents recurring homelessness

- Outputs/ Outcomes**
- 95% of youth who exit to permanent housing remain stably housed after 6 months
  - Prevention interventions become better at targeting resources better understanding predictive factors leading into youth homelessness

**Status** U=Underway, TBI = To Be Implemented and C=Completed

<b>Action Steps</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Evaluation</b>		
i. Regularly monitor system performance for returns to homelessness	ECHO	U
ii. Youth who exit to permanent housing receive follow-up at 3, 6 and 12 months to prevent recurring homelessness	Housing Providers	TBI
iii. Track the number of youth who are prevented from falling into homelessness	ECHO	TBI



**Goal 4.** The community maintains the system, works towards sustainability, and makes improvements as needed

**Objective 4.2** System feedback

**Outputs/  
Outcomes** N/A

**Status** U=Underway, TBI = To Be Implemented and C=Completed

<b>Action Steps</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Implementation</b>	LifeWorks	
i. Austin Youth Collective to End Homelessness meets monthly to review and provide feedback on projects		TBI
ii. The CoC provides quarterly feedback to community partners at YHDP Leadership and Membership Council re: outcomes, demographics of youth, training opportunities, materials, and resources	ECHO	TBI
iii. Community partners provide feedback to CoC each quarter on system response	YHDP Leadership and Membership Council	TBI
iv. The Coordinated Community Plan to End Youth Homelessness is reviewed and updated on a quarterly basis by the YHDP Leadership Council, incorporating all implementation and evaluation learnings, including feedback from the Austin Youth Collective	YHDP Youth Leadership Council	TBI

**Goal 4.** The community maintains the system, works towards sustainability, and makes improvements as needed

**Objective 4.3** Sustainability

**Outputs/  
Outcomes** N/A

**Status** U=Underway, TBI = To Be Implemented and C=Completed

<b>Activities &amp; Action Steps</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Implementation</b>		
i. Community identifies and secures other public and private funding sources to implement YHDP programs, reach functional zero and sustain a system that prevents and ends youth homelessness	LifeWorks + ECHO	U
ii. Community ensures smooth information sharing across project and system stakeholders	LifeWorks + ECHO	TBI

## VIII. Community Accountability

### **Data Collection and Performance Management**

Austin's CoC has a history of successfully collecting, maintaining, and reporting data in an accurate and timely manner. Our community utilizes ServicePoint, developed by Mediarware Information Systems, as our Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) where the needs and outcomes of persons experiencing homelessness are tracked.

In our community, the following homelessness projects/programs participate in HMIS:

- Federal programs including Continuum of Care (CoC), Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG), Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH), Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF), and Grant Per Diem (GDP).
- Local programs funded by City of Austin and Travis County.

Additionally, 18% of the 38 currently participating HMIS agencies do not receive funding from any of the above sources, but opt to participate in HMIS because of the direct benefit to the clients they serve. The coverage of our HMIS implementation is expansive and so our CoC has the unique ability to track and report on those receiving services from any provider of housing or homelessness services in our community.

All YHDP-funded programs will be expected to enter their data into the HMIS, and any new partners will participate in a required training prior to receiving access to our HMIS<sup>39</sup>. Four full-time staff manage the Austin/Travis County HMIS: Director of HMIS, HMIS Administrator, HMIS Trainer and HMIS Support Specialist.

Data collection for our proposed outputs and outcomes will involve tracking information pertaining to program operations, service delivery, and youth's progress toward the four core outcomes identified by the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), among other things. CoC and programs will review data on a monthly basis to ensure data quality and program compliance. All data elements required to monitor our progress will be built into ServicePoint, and the YHDP team will work with the HMIS Administrator to create any necessary reports.

### **Quality Improvement Process**

Austin's YHDP is committed to continuous quality improvement and regular evaluation of our local data to ensure that we achieve the vision and goals outlined in our community plan. To assess progress and outcomes associated with YHDP activities, we will do the following:

- Funded programs will solicit youth feedback and provide opportunities for youth to share their thoughts on how services could be strengthened or improved.
- Funded programs will be asked to provide 1) quarterly reports to YHDP governance regarding their successes, barriers to implementation, and additional needs, so YHDP staff can proactively address challenges and capitalize on opportunities to strengthen impact, 2) monthly data completeness reports and progress reports to be included on monthly dashboards where progress is tracked.
- The YHDP staff lead will be responsible for providing quarterly status reports to the YHDP Leadership Council and Austin Youth Collective, highlighting our community's progress toward meeting our goals, objectives, and timeline milestones.

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<sup>39</sup> Victim Service Agencies are required to enter into comparable system as it is not allowable to enter in data directly into the HMIS

- The YHDP Leadership Council may convene an ad-hoc committee to evaluate monthly program outcomes on all newly implemented programs.
- Quarterly Reports that review the project's key activities and projected timeline will be published through the Continuum of Care lead agency (ECHO) and reviewed quarterly at the Membership Council (CoC Board).
- Any objectives that are not achieved in a timely manner will be evaluated by the YHDP governance and YHDP TA (CSH) for consideration of possible resolutions (e.g. amendment of the originally stated objectives); and
- The Austin Youth Collective and the YHDP Youth Leadership Council will review and update the Coordinated Community Plan to End Youth Homelessness on a quarterly basis, incorporating all implementation and evaluation learnings. The mechanism to review and update the plan will be to present, discuss and reach consensus on desired changes during the scheduled meetings of the different YHDP governance structure groups including meetings held by the Austin Youth Collective and the Youth Leadership Council.

#### **Local Performance Assessment**

- YHDP staff will develop the necessary documentation and training materials to ensure the reliability and validity of the new data elements developed by our community and that all funded projects fully understand all data entry and reporting requirements. To measure our success at preventing and ending youth homelessness in our community, YHDP staff will monitor progress toward achieving the outputs and outcomes outlined above.
- Should a formal evaluation be conducted at the local level, the designated evaluator will be expected to utilize HMIS' universal data elements, the RHY data elements adopted by our community for all YHDP-funded projects, the new data elements adopted by our community to track youth's progress toward the four core outcomes identified by USICH, and any additional data elements that may be specified by USICH at a later date.

## Projected Assessment Timeline

<i>Anticipated Date of Completion</i>	<i>Activities</i>
September 2017	Finalize selection of measures used to track outputs and outcomes
October 2017	Create data dictionary for new data elements
November 2017	Create new data elements in local HMIS
November 2017	Develop training materials pertaining to data and reporting requirements for YHPD-funded projects
December 2017; ongoing	Complete trainings in data requirements for YHDP-funded projects
December 2017; ongoing	Submit IRB applications for any proposed research projects
January 2018	Develop reports to monitor progress toward outputs and outcomes
February 2018; ongoing on a monthly/quarterly basis	YHDP-funded projects submit monthly/quarterly reports to YHDP governance
February 2018; ongoing on a monthly basis	Provide update to YHDP Leadership Council and Austin Youth Collective
April 2018; ongoing on a quarterly basis	Publish and review report documenting project activities and community progress
July 2018; ongoing at least annually	Review community plan and make any necessary adjustments

## IX. Conclusion

Ending youth homelessness requires tremendous dedication and drive from many community stakeholders to enact change. As we've learned through the success of the A Way Home America 100 Day Challenge-when we act as a community with urgency, are willing to try new innovations and use data to drive solutions, we can make substantial progress and bring about profound changes to the lives of youth.

Working with the Austin Youth Collective has been integral to driving the success of this effort. The direct input and cultural shifts ensuring we have persons with lived experience at the center of this planning effort have offered opportunities for unprecedented growth and enrichment.

We will be using this plan as a tool to drive our community to our shared vision to disrupt the status quo and implement a strategy to prevent and end homelessness for youth in Austin/Travis County.



## X. Appendix

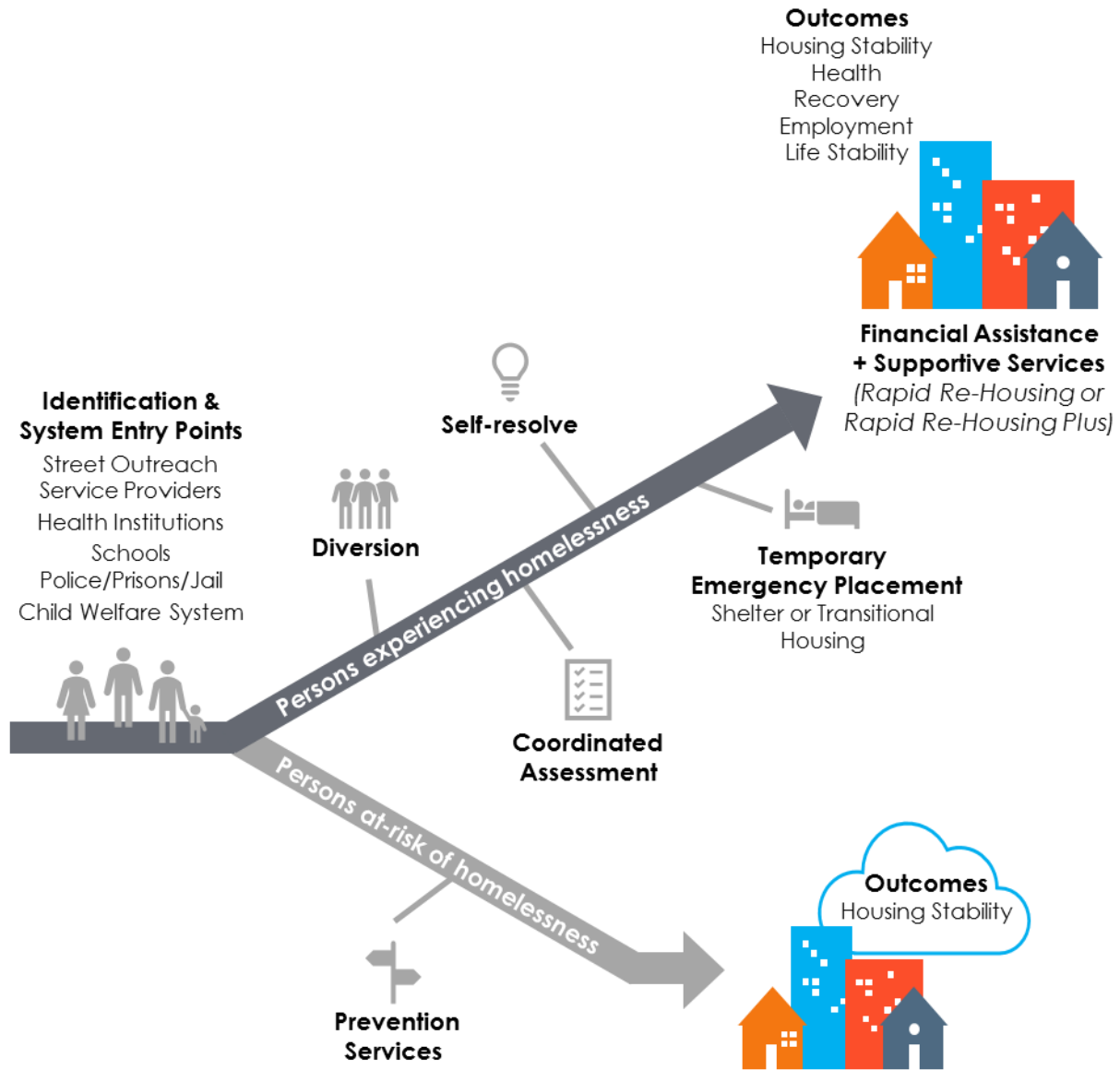
## Appendix A. Logic Model to End Youth Homelessness

VISION			
<p>By 2020, we have a youth homeless response system:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where all youth and young adults in Austin experiencing homelessness can access a safe and comfortable space, and find community through an interconnected and youth-driven system, and</li> <li>• that is accessible, transparent, efficient, innovative and celebrates all youth identities and self-expressions.</li> </ul>			
GOALS AND OBJECTIVES			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The community has a system in place to identify all unaccompanied youth who are experiencing homelessness and/or are unsafe and at-risk of becoming homeless <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Create a community wide identification and crisis response system</li> <li>▪ Enumerate and collect data on all youth experiencing homelessness and/or unsafe and at-risk of homelessness</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. The community has implemented a Coordinated Entry and Triage system that effectively links youth to housing and services that are youth focused <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Youth-focused Coordinated Entry system and assessments</li> <li>▪ Develop and implement Triage System for unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness or are unsafe and at risk of homelessness</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. The community offers an array of youth-dedicated programming options <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Create menu of program options for youth and young adults that meet need (based on system data)</li> <li>▪ Program Quality Improvement</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. The community maintains the system, works towards sustainability, and make improvements as needed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ On-going System Capacity Assessment</li> <li>▪ The community prevents recurring homelessness</li> <li>▪ System feedback</li> <li>▪ Sustainability</li> </ul> </li> </ol>			
LOCAL CONTEXT	INPUTS	PRIORITY ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programs working with limited resources affected by recent cuts at the federal level</li> <li>• Desire to innovate but constrained by limited resources to try things differently</li> <li>• Austin is experiencing unprecedented population growth putting pressure on housing affordability and low-income wage earners including youth</li> <li>• The community at large is interested in learning more about how they can help end homelessness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providers serving youth across different sectors</li> <li>• YHDP funds</li> <li>• Other federal and local funding</li> <li>• YHDP Technical assistance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local collaboration across agencies and sectors</li> <li>• Coordination among stakeholders on assessing and triaging youth</li> <li>• Developing of plan to end youth homelessness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community identifies all unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness</li> <li>• Community uses coordinated entry to link all youth from homelessness to housing/services</li> </ul>
OUTCOMES			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our community has a coordinated response system that makes youth homelessness rare, brief and non-recurring</li> <li>• There are few youth experiencing homelessness at any given time</li> <li>• No unaccompanied youth under 18th experiencing homeless shelter</li> </ul>			



## Appendix B. Coordinated Systems Map to End Youth Homelessness

The following graphic depicts how we envision our system to end and prevent youth homelessness.



## Appendix C. Special Populations as Known by Travis County Service Providers

<b>Summary: Special Population Estimated Totals</b>				
	<b>Literally Homeless</b>	<b>Estimated Totals</b>	<b>At-Risk of Homelessness</b>	<b>Estimated Totals</b>
<b>Immigrant Youth</b>	Casa Marianella: 26/year	At least 26/year	Unknown	Unknown
<b>Juvenile Justice Involvement</b>	Texas State Juvenile Justice Dept: 22/year	To account for duplication, at least 70/year	Austin ISD: 10/year	To account for duplication, at least 71/year
	LifeWorks: 67/year		LifeWorks: 71/year	
	HMIS RHY: 29/year			
	Chapin Hall VOYC: 114/point in time			
<b>Foster Care Involvement</b>	Chapin Hall VOYC: 64/point in time	To account for duplication, at least 80/year	LifeWorks: 61/year	At least 61/year
	LifeWorks: 80/year			
	HMIS RHY: 81			
<b>Pregnant and Parenting</b>	HMIS Sys PM 3: 153/year	To account for duplication, at least 150/year	Austin ISD: 15/year	To account for duplication, at least 65/year
	2017 PIT Count: 78		LifeWorks: 63/year	
	Austin ISD: 1/year			
	LifeWorks: 32/year			
<b>LGBTQA</b>	Chapin Hall VOYC: 40/point in time	To account for duplication, at least 52/year	LifeWorks: 30/year	At least 30/year
	LifeWorks: 35/year			
	HMIS RHY: 52/year			
<b>Minors</b>	Austin ISD: 3/year	To account for duplication, at least 91/year	Austin ISD: 89	At least 89/year
	HMIS Emergency Shelters: 91/year			
	Chapin Hall VOYC: 5/point in time			
	2017 PIT Count: 11/point in time			
<b>Sexual Trafficking and Exploitation</b>	2017 PIT Count: 5/point in time	At least 5 at any specific time / undetermined annualized count	UT School of SW: 78,646 across Texas	Undetermined – More data is needed
	Chapin Hall VOYC: 4/point in time			
	UT School of SW: 354/across Texas			

**Unaccompanied Immigrant Youth** experiencing homelessness: In 2016, Casa Marianella, served 26 sheltered unaccompanied immigrant homeless youth ages 18-24 in Travis County. 77% of those youth were either awarded asylum or were somewhere in the asylum process. 58% entered homelessness upon release from immigration detention centers. 15% were transgender. 27% were pregnant or parenting. Immigrant youth in Travis County come from many different countries of origin including countries in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, South America, Central America and North America. The diversity of countries, languages, cultures and identities of these youth requires a high level of cultural competency to serve their needs well.<sup>40</sup> It is important to note that these numbers reflect only the youth who resided at Casa Marianella and not the entire

<sup>40</sup> Casa Marianella, Statistics on Unaccompanied Immigrant Youth, March 2017

population of sheltered and unsheltered homeless immigrant youth in Travis County. Our homelessness system does not currently track or store any data related to national origin or immigration status within HMIS so as not to put any clients at risk, but will continue to work with local providers to understand the extent of their specific needs and address them.

**Juvenile Justice Involvement:** There are currently five primary data sources from which to quantify the number of unaccompanied youth and young adults who are experiencing homelessness or who are at imminent risk of homelessness and have been involved in the justice system. The relationships between these data sources, as well as the degree of duplication, is described below.

1. The Texas State Juvenile Justice Department reports there is an estimated 22 youth exiting both State and County Juvenile Justice institutions into homelessness in Austin annually.<sup>41</sup> At the point of data sharing, identifiable information was not disclosable. Consequentially, there is likelihood of duplication between this youth and those identified through other data sources.
2. Austin Independent School District identified 10 unaccompanied students that were doubled up, at imminent risk of homelessness, and had Juvenile Justice involvement during the 2016-17 school year. Of these 10 students, 9 were Hispanic or Black / African American.<sup>42</sup> Since these students were at imminent risk of homelessness, we do not project high duplication with the known youth experiencing literal homelessness from other data sources during the same period.
3. LifeWorks, the largest provider of services to vulnerable youth in Central Texas, found that more than half (53% or 67) of the literally homeless youth they served between (October 1, 2015 - September 30, 2016) had a history of legal issues, with 22% of youth having been convicted of at least one misdemeanor. A comparable proportion of the 105 who enrolled in services after exiting some type of institutional setting had a history of legal issues (52%), a slightly smaller proportion of the 157 unstably housed youth served by LifeWorks had such a history (45%).<sup>43</sup>
4. From the CoC's HMIS, Juvenile Justice involvement is data collected by projects funded by U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) program. From August 1, 2016 - July 31, 2017, 34% (29 of 85) of youth served by RHY-funded projects in Austin that have had Juvenile Justice system involvement.<sup>44</sup> This data duplicates the LifeWorks data above because they are the only RHY recipient, but takes a more narrow, focused scope. LifeWorks operates multiple projects that serve youth who are experiencing homelessness, the RHY projects are one subset. Therefore, the HMIS data here allows us to zoom in on youth served specifically in RHY-funded projects.
5. Additionally, Chapin Hall Voices of Youth Count preliminary results found that 66% of the youth and young adults identified ( $n = 172$ ) had spent time in Juvenile Justice, jail, or prison. The rate of involvement was found to be higher in Austin than other Voices of Youth Count participating sites.<sup>45</sup> Since this was a point-in-time count, there is duplication in these results compared to the other data sources. However, the Voices of Youth Count helps us understand the need on a single day in Austin.

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<sup>41</sup> Report from Texas State Juvenile Justice Assessment and Placement program administration.

<sup>42</sup> Austin Independent School District, Project HELP, Statistics on Homeless Students, July 2017

<sup>43</sup> LifeWorks, Statistics on Youth Clients Served, September 2017

<sup>44</sup> Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO), HMIS data from Austin / Travis County, August 2017

<sup>45</sup> Voices of Youth Count (2017). Travis County, Texas: Draft Report on Youth Homelessness. Findings from the youth count, brief youth surveys & provider. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall.

**Foster Care Involvement:** There are 4 primary data sources on foster care involvement and unaccompanied youth and young adults who are also experiencing homelessness or at imminent risk of homelessness. The relationships between the data sources are described below.

1. A report from the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) in 2016 estimates that 50 youth age out of foster care in Travis County annually. DFPS creates housing plans with each youth prior to exiting care but has difficulty identifying the predictive factors of future homelessness and indicators the initial plan may fail.<sup>46</sup> The data shared here was de-identified and as such, we project duplication between the youth that become homeless after DFPS involvement and youth from other data sources described here.

2. Preliminary results of the Chapin Hall Voices of Youth Count found that 37% of youth and young adults identified ( $n = 172$ ) had been in foster care at some point.<sup>11</sup> Since this was a point-in-time count, there is a high likelihood of overlap between the youth identified here and in other data sources. The benefit to this source is that it allows us to drill into the need on a single day across Austin.

3. Additionally, data from LifeWorks found that 63% or 80 of the literally homeless youth they served during FY2016 ( $n = 127$ ) had a history of CPS involvement (39% of youth were in care at the time that they received services). Drilling in, of the 105 youth entering services from some type of institutional setting, nearly all had a history of foster care (95%), and 39% of the 157 unstably housed youth served by LifeWorks were foster-involved at some point.<sup>9</sup>

4. Data from the CoC's HMIS, identified that 63% (81 of 128) of youth served by RHY-funded projects between August 1, 2016 and July 31, 2017 in Austin had foster care involvement.<sup>10</sup> This data source is highly duplicated, yet confirmatory, of the LifeWorks data since LifeWorks is the only RHY provider in Austin.

**Pregnant and Parenting:** There are four data sources on pregnant and parenting youth who are also experiencing homelessness or at imminent risk of homelessness in Austin. The relationships between these sources are described below.

1. The CoC HMIS Lead, ECHO, modified System Performance Measure 3 (Number of Homeless Persons) to filter for youth and young adults and household composition. The results of this report yielded that in FY16, 30% ( $n = 153$ ) of the youth and young adults that entered Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing ( $n = 513$ ) were parenting youth households.<sup>47</sup>

2. 21% (21 of 99) youth and young adults who have been served by RHY-funded projects between August 1, 2016 and July 31, 2017 in Austin were pregnant or parenting.<sup>13</sup> This is noteworthy for two primary reasons. First, this piece of data is a drill down into the System Performance Measure 3 above, since all RHY projects in Austin are either Emergency Shelter or Transitional Housing. These RHY projects are also the only youth-specific Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing projects in our community. Secondly, since 21% of the RHY youth were pregnant or parenting and 30% of youth through other (non-youth specific) Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing projects were pregnant or parenting, we know that pregnant and parenting youth who are literally homeless in our

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<sup>46</sup> Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Statistics on Foster Care Exits in Travis County, November 2016

<sup>47</sup>Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO), HMIS data from Austin / Travis County, May 2017

community are more likely to access non-youth specific shelter options. This underscores the need for increased crisis housing options for youth.

3. The 2017 Point in Time Count identified 176 youth experiencing homelessness. Of the 176, 44% were in youth-parenting households. More specifically, 31 youth-parents were identified, and 47 children were in households parented by youth. There was a total of 78 young people in parenting-youth households in the 2017 Point in Time Count.<sup>48</sup> There is a high degree of duplication in this data with to other sources here, namely the HMIS data sources. This data, like the Voices of Youth Count data, promotes an understanding of the need on a single day.

4. Additionally, Austin Independent School District reports 16 unaccompanied students were pregnant or parenting in the 2016-17 school year. Of these 16 students, 15 were doubled-up and at imminent risk of homelessness and 1 reported an emergency shelter was her primary residence.<sup>49</sup> At the time of this data share, identifiable information was not disclosable. Consequentially, there is a likelihood of duplication with other identified data sources.

5. Of the 127 literally homeless youth served by LifeWorks between October 1, 2015 - September 30, 2016, 19% were parenting (and had an average of 1.87 children) and 6% were pregnant or expecting. Whereas a smaller proportion of 105 youth entering from institutional settings were either parenting or pregnant (8% and 3%, respectively), a far greater proportion of the 157 unstably housed youth served by LifeWorks were parenting or pregnant (33% and 7%, respectively).<sup>50</sup> There is high degree of duplication between the literally homeless youth identified by LifeWorks and the data sourced from HMIS. The LifeWorks data allows us to drill deeper into the special population and confirms the HMIS data, as it is highly consistent.

**Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, Asexual (LGBTQA):** There data currently available locally on rates of LGBTQA identification amongst youth and young adults who are experiencing unaccompanied homelessness is limited. Using the data currently available to us, we know:

1. From the Chapin Hall Voices of Youth Count preliminary results, 23% of the 172 youth counted identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual, questioning, or asexual (LGBQA) to some extent.<sup>51</sup>

2. Between October 1, 2015 - September 30, 2016, 28% of the 127 literally homeless youth served by LifeWorks identified as either lesbian, gay, bisexual, questioning, or asexual (LGBQA). A comparable proportion of the 105 youth entering services from institutional settings identified as LGBTQA (28%), and a somewhat smaller proportion of the 157 unstably housed youth served by LifeWorks identified as a sexual minority (19%).<sup>16</sup>

3. From HMIS RHY-funded project data, 21% (52 of 246) of youth and young adults served in RHY projects identified as LGBTQA between August 1, 2016 - July 31, 2017.<sup>13</sup> This data source, as it has been for other special populations, is a duplication of the LifeWorks data and is helpful for understanding the rate of LGBTQA rates in RHY-funded projects specifically.

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<sup>48</sup> Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO), 2017 Point in Time Count Report, April 2017

<sup>49</sup> Austin Independent School District, Project HELP, Statistics on Homeless Students, July 2017

<sup>50</sup>LifeWorks, Statistics on Youth Clients Served, September 2017

<sup>51</sup>Voices of Youth Count (2017). Travis County, Texas: Draft Report on Youth Homelessness. Findings from the youth count, brief youth surveys & provider. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall.

4. Coordinated Assessment data from unaccompanied youth, also from HMIS, found that <1% of youth who have completed an assessment are transgender and 1.3% are gender non-conforming.<sup>52</sup> The Coordinated Assessment process does not collect data on sexual orientation.

**Minors:** The community compiled data from 4 data sources during the YHDP planning phase. This data yields that minors who are at risk of or are experiencing homelessness in Austin are a smaller proportion of the total. An important consideration here is the potential limitation to the data we currently have for minors. Limitations are discussed below.

1. Austin ISD 2015-16 school year:
  1. Literally homeless minors: 3 students
  2. At-risk homeless minors: 89 students
2. HMIS Emergency Shelters: 3/31/2016 – 4/1/2017, 91 minors served
3. Chapin Hall Voices of Youth Count (VOYC): Compared to other VOYC sites, Austin has fewer minors at risk of and/or experiencing homelessness. Of 172 youth counted, only 3% were minors (5 minors), compared to 13% of youth counted at other sites being minors.
4. 2017 PIT Count: 11 minors in the sheltered count (0 unsheltered). Since the sheltered count is generated from HMIS, these 11 minors are duplicated in the annualized CoC Emergency Shelter data above.

**Sexual Trafficking and Exploitation:** There are 3 data sources for sexual trafficking and exploitation. Considerable work still needs to be done to quantify the prevalence of trafficking in Austin, specifically.

1. In the 2017 Point in Time Count, 5 (of 47) unaccompanied, unsheltered youth (ages 18-24) reported experiencing sexual trafficking / exploitation.
2. A 2016 report<sup>53</sup> from the University of Texas at Austin, School of Social Work, finds approximately 79,000 minors and youth victims of sex trafficking in Texas. Of these young people, 354 are also experiencing homelessness. The number in Austin, specifically, was not described in the report.
3. 4 youth reported experiences with sex trafficking in the Chapin Hall Voices of Youth Count In-depth Interviews in Austin.

#### **Limitations to current data and areas of opportunity for improvement:**

**LGBTQA:** While existing local data does not capture a significant rate of LGBTQA youth, national research indicates that up to 40% of youth experiencing homelessness identify as LGBTQA and are at greater risk of victimization, unsafe sexual practices, and mental health issues<sup>54</sup>. We recognize our existing data collection is limited and plan to improve data by implementing the following strategies:

- We will learn from other YHDP communities about best practices in collecting LGBTQA data.

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<sup>52</sup>Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO), HMIS data from Austin / Travis County, May 2017

<sup>53</sup> Busch-Armendariz, N., Levy Nale, N., Kammer-Kerwick, M., Kellison, B., Maldonado Torres, M.I., Cook Heffron, L., Nehme, J. (2016). *Human Trafficking by the Numbers: The Initial Benchmark of Prevalence and Economic Impact for Texas* (Final Report December 2016). Austin, Texas: The University of Texas at Austin, School of Social Work, Institute on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

<sup>54</sup> <https://truecolorsfund.org/our-issue/#>

- We will seek technical assistance from our YHDP TA for improved data collection in this area.
- We are considering expanding collection of LGBTQA identification beyond only the RHY-funded projects. We will do due diligence to ensure this data would be collected purposefully and ethically if we decide to move in that direction.
- We will ensure that all YHDP planning efforts are LGBTQA affirming and will ensure the needs of LGBTQA young people are addressed.

**Juvenile Justice and Foster Care:** We also understand there are limitations to our current data on Juvenile Justice involved youth and youth who have been in foster care that also experience homelessness or who are at risk of homelessness when exiting institutions. We see the YHDP as an opportunity to expand and quantify our existing knowledge through a shared, cross-system, real-time By Name List of all youth who are experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, homelessness. Through sharing one list, we will eliminate duplication and collaboratively expedite services for all youth in need of safe, stable housing in Austin. Leadership from the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services and Texas State Juvenile Justice Department have been heavily involved in the planning process for YHDP. Their involvement has provided guidance and shed light into areas of opportunity for strengthening our collaborative efforts to prevent and end homelessness for youth and young adults in our community. We will continue to build these cross-system relationships to rapidly identify youth in need of housing intervention and to promote urgent and proactive intervention.

**Minors:** There are limitations to data on minors experiencing homelessness. One limitation to the data on minors is that the majority of emergency shelter and transitional housing programs in Austin do not serve people under the age of 18, which means there is a cap on the number of minors that can be served during a year. When we drill into emergency shelter and transitional housing programs that *can* serve minors, we see a higher rate of minors experiencing homelessness comparatively (77% of clients served in shelters designed for youth were minors). An additional gap to current data on minors are minors who are at imminent risk of homelessness. Most of the data the CoC has on minors are those that are literally homeless. However, data from Austin ISD (AISD) finds many unaccompanied minors who are at risk of homelessness. It will be the continued work of YHDP to build working relationships with AISD and other community partners that are working with minors so that their housing needs are met.

**Sexual Trafficking and Exploitation:** There is still considerable work to be done to quantify the prevalence of sex trafficking and exploitation in Austin. Existing data gives us a sense of magnitude, but for YHDP, we hope to drill into meaningful numbers and by-name information where we will be able to meet the housing needs of these young people. This work will happen through the following identified partnerships: 1) The CoC works with the SAFE Alliance, the primary service provider for child abuse, sexual assault and exploitation, and domestic violence in Austin. SAFE has an equivalent Coordinated Assessment process for survivors and people fleeing from domestic violence. The CoC will partner with the SAFE Alliance to ensure that the needs of young people who have experienced or are experiencing sex trafficking and exploitation are met. 2) ECHO is working with Allies Against Slavery to quantify the prevalence of trafficking and exploitation in Austin and Travis County.

## Appendix D. Ending Youth Homelessness Projection Model Documentation

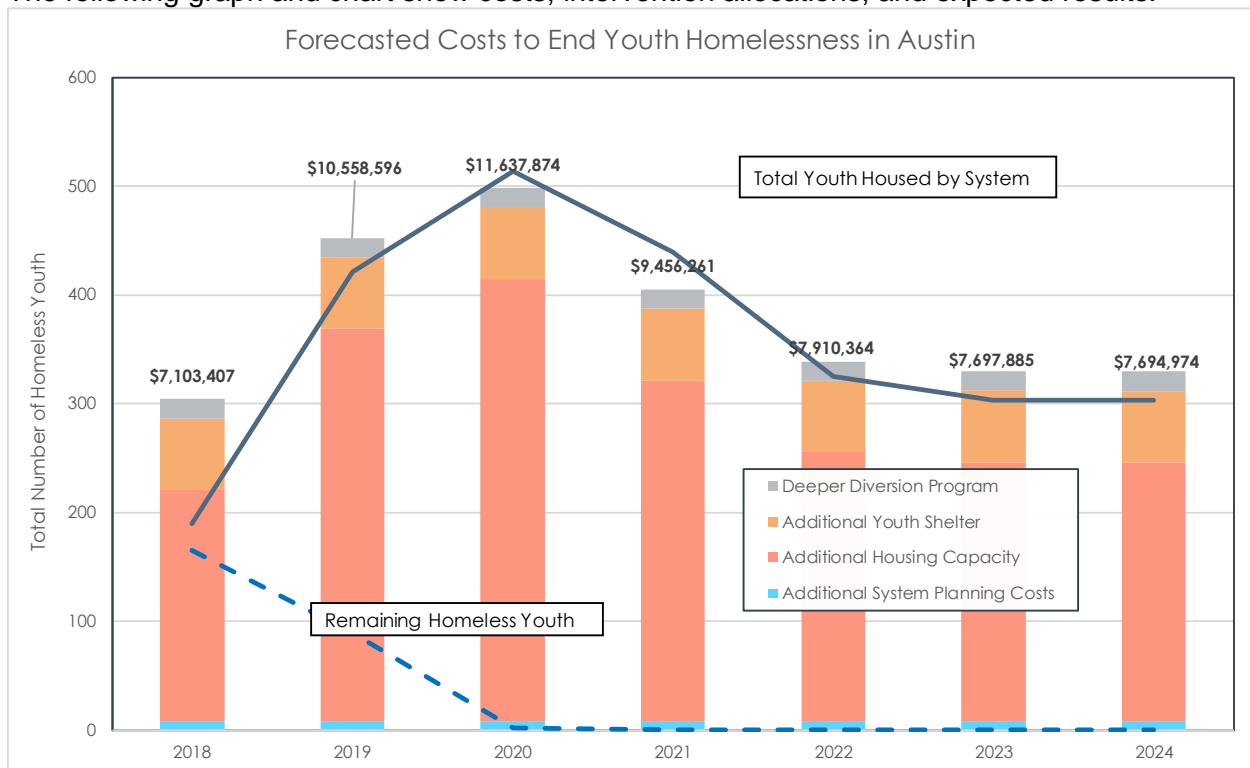
This model calculates the cost of ending youth homelessness in Austin/Travis County by 2020. ECHO developed these cost estimates in collaboration with service providers who serve Austin's youth homeless population. The model projects service needs based on current data on Austin's homeless youth population and estimated population growth based on lessons learned from the Mayor's Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness.

To achieve functional zero in 2020, the model assumes a large increase in youth housing capacity over two years, followed by a smaller increase in housing capacity in year three. The number of total youth housed and utilizing services peaks at 514 in 2020 and decreases to a steady state of 303 after five years.

The costs associated with this increase in housing capacity peak at \$11.6 million in 2020 and decrease to approximately \$7.6 million per year once the system achieves functional zero. Given \$2.5 million per year in grant funds and an anticipated 25% match, this leaves a maximum funding gap of \$8.5 million in 2020, and a steady state funding gap of approximately \$4.5 million after five years.

Costs for non-housing interventions (Deeper Diversion, Youth Shelter) are not currently dynamic as it is unclear how additional investment may or may not impact continuing program needs. As more data becomes available about the youth population after the program start date, the assumptions used in this model may change. For instance, our community's goal is that the Deeper Diversion program will reduce the growth rate of the population of youth experiencing homelessness, which will in turn dramatically impact the needs and costs associated with housing interventions.

The following graph and chart show costs, intervention allocations, and expected results.





## Model Assumptions

- This model projects additional housing need for youth experiencing homelessness in Austin/Travis County and associated costs.
- The number of future youth in need of housing is based on the current By-Name List (BNL) and a growth based on the number of youth identified over the past two years (2016-2017). As of December 4, 2017, the BNL identifies 234 youth in need of housing.
- Analysis of our youth BNL data from 2016 and 2017 gives an average of roughly 12 per month. Based on this observation, the model uses a growth rate of 12 new youth in need of housing per month.
- Next, based on coordinated assessment data for youth, the model assumes that 75% of youth in need of housing will qualify for Rapid Rehousing and the remaining 25% will qualify for Rapid Rehousing Plus.
- Finally, the model makes assumptions about how long youth will receive both 1) direct assistance (ex: rent), and 2) case management.
- For youth placed in Rapid Rehousing the model assumes 100% will receive direct assistance for 6 months and 50% will receive direct assistance for an additional 6 months. All youth in Rapid Rehousing receive case management for two years.
- For youth placed in Rapid Rehousing Plus the model assumes 100% will receive direct assistance for 1 year, 50% will receive direct assistance for an additional year, and 10% will receive direct assistance for a third year. All youth in Rapid Rehousing Plus receive case management for three years.

## Cost Assumptions

All cost estimates were developed in collaboration with community organizations who provide services to Austin's youth experiencing homelessness. ECHO also included feedback from youth with lived experience.

### *Deeper Diversion*

Cost Description	Amount	Needed	Duration
<i>Clinician/Case Manager</i>	\$75,000 per year	2	N/A
<i>Rent Assistance</i>	\$300 per month	50% of clients	3-6 months
<i>Groceries Assistance</i>	\$200-300 per month	75% of clients	3-6 months
<i>Transportation Assistance</i>	\$200	25%	One-time
<i>Indirect Costs</i>	20%	N/A	N/A

Costs for this program are largely unknown and are expected to change once the program begins. Good data is available for the transportation assistance cost, which represents bus and plane tickets to facilitate family reunification.

### *Additional Youth Shelter*

Cost Description	Amount	Needed
<i>General Shelter Costs</i>	\$1,000,000 per year	per shelter
<i>Temporary Staff</i>	\$52,000 per year	4 per shelter site
<i>Staff Coordinator</i>	\$65,000 per year	1 per shelter site

<i>Capacity Building Training</i>	\$300	per staff member, 5 per year
<i>Indirect Costs</i>	20%	N/A

These costs are based on the actual costs for a current youth-specific shelter located in Austin. The current shelter is staffed 24 hours a day in three shifts.

*Rapid Re-housing*

1. Direct Assistance Cost Assumptions

Cost Description	Amount	Youth in Need	Duration
<i>Rent and Utilities</i>	\$1,200 per month	100%	6-36 months
<i>Moving and Furniture</i>	\$800	100%	One-time
<i>Utility Deposit</i>	\$200	100%	One-time
<i>Rental Credit Repair</i>	\$2,000	10%	One-time
<i>Bus Passes</i>	\$20.60 per month	100%	12-36 months
<i>Miscellaneous Housing Support</i>	\$250	50%	One-time

2. Program Cost Assumptions

Cost Description	Amount	Needed
<i>RRH Case Manager</i>	\$65,000 per year	1 per 20 youth
<i>RRH+ Case Manager</i>	\$65,000 per year	1 per 15 youth
<i>Landlord Outreach Specialist</i>	\$75,000 per year	1 per 4 RRH or 10 RRH+ case managers
<i>Outreach and Navigation Specialist</i>	\$65,000 per year	2
<i>Employment/Education Specialist</i>	\$65,000 per year	1 per 40 youth
<i>Peer Support Specialist</i>	\$65,000 per year	1 per 40 youth
<i>SOAR Specialist</i>	\$65,000 per year	1 per 100 youth
<i>Program Manager</i>	\$75,000 per year	1 per 8 additional staff
<i>Capacity Building Training</i>	\$300	per additional staff member, 5x per year
<i>Indirect Costs</i>	20%	N/A

These assumptions are based on current rapid re-housing program costs. ECHO is working with Austin's public housing authority to develop a cost growth rate based on housing market trends and observed price increases.

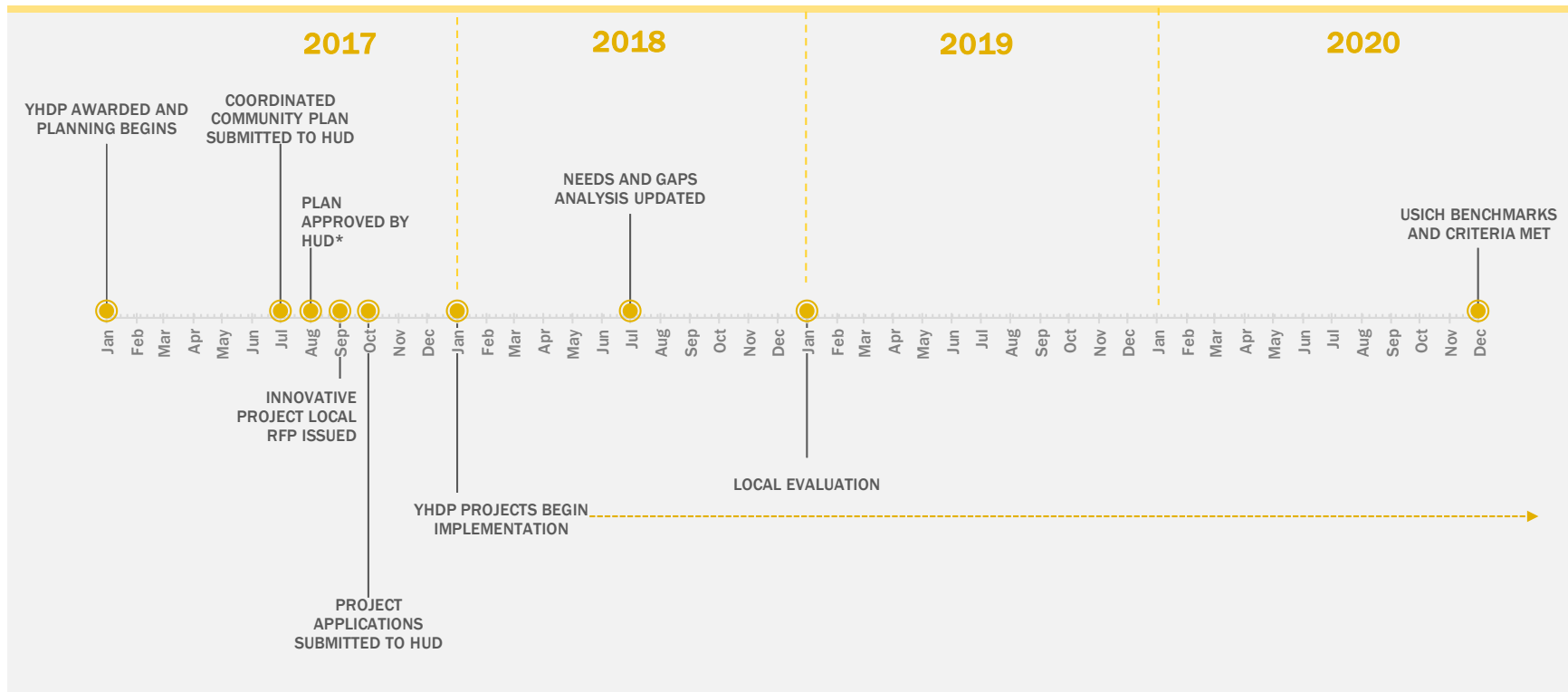
Feedback from community organizations indicates that current case load assumptions may be too high, and salaries may be too low.

*System Planning and Integration*

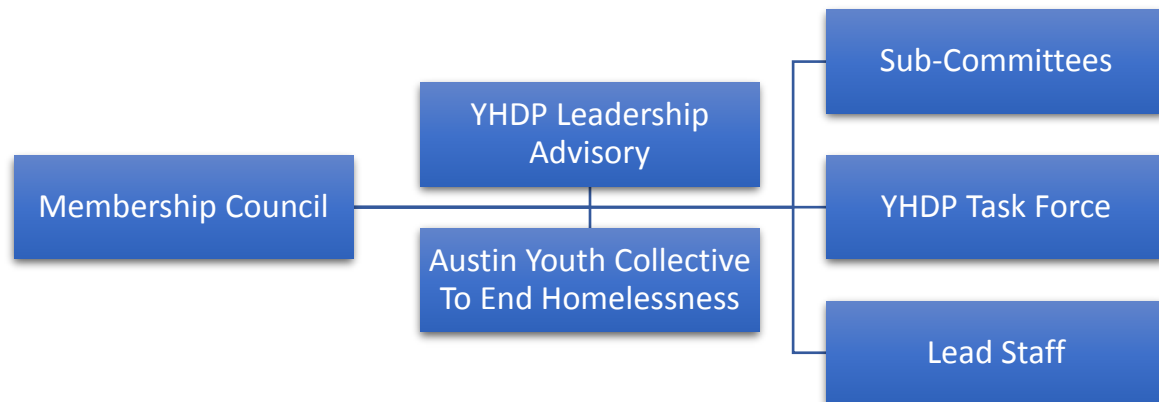
Cost Description	Amount	Needed
<i>Diversions System Coordinator</i>	\$75,000 per year	1
<i>Youth Program Coordinator</i>	\$75,000 per year	1
<i>Indirect Costs</i>	20%	N/A

# Appendix E. 2017-2020 Timeline

## Austin's YHDP Timeline



## Appendix F. YHDP Governance Structure



### **Austin/Travis County CoC-Membership Council**

Description: The Membership Council is the CoC decision making board for the Austin/Travis County Continuum of Care. ECHO, led by Executive Director Ann Howard is the lead agency for the TX-503 Continuum of Care and convenes this body. Austin Mayor Pro Tem Kathie Tovo chairs the Council this year. The Membership Council meets monthly and is led by a governance charter that is reviewed and revised annually. Per the governance charter, the Membership Council appoints workgroups as needed to accomplish the collaborative planning and work of the CoC. The Membership Council will make the final project application decisions for the YHDP award.

#### Members:

- Chair: Mayor Pro Tem Katie Tovo, City of Austin
- Ann Teich, Austin ISD
- Cathy McClaugherty, Travis County
- Chris Laguna, Integral Care
- Christy Moffett, Travis County
- Elizabeth Baker, Integral Care
- Erin Whelan, LifeWorks
- Gage Kemp, Austin Youth Collective to End Homelessness
- Greg McCormack, Front Steps
- John Elford, Faith-Based Organization Representative
- Josh Rudow, City of Austin
- Julia Spann, SAFE Alliance
- Kathleen Casey, Integral Care
- Kathleen Ridings, The Salvation Army

- Lisa Garcia, Housing Authority City of Austin (HACA)
- Michael Cooper, Heritage Title
- Michelle Wilkinson, Easter Seals
- Monica Keller, U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs
- Patrick Howard, Travis County Housing Authority (HATC)
- Sandra Chavez, AIDS Services of Austin
- Taber White, City of Austin
- Terri Sabella, CommUnity Care
- Vella Karmen, City of Austin

Advisors:

- Bill Brice, Downtown Austin Alliance
- Kristan Arrona, Austin Apartment Association
- Mandy De Mayo, City of Austin
- Paul Cauduro, Austin Apartment Association
- Paul Hilgers, Austin Board of Realtors
- Sandy Coe Simmons, Central Health
- Sarah Cook, Community Care Collaborative (CCC)
- Sherri Fleming, Travis County
- Stephanie Hayden, City of Austin
- Susan McDowell, LifeWorks
- Thomas Visco, BVE Partners

ECHO Support Staff: Ann Howard, Niki Paul, Katy Manganella, Mariana Salazar, Preston Petty, Laura Evanoff, Casey Soberon

**YHDP Leadership Advisory Council**

Description: In preparation for the YHDP application submission, the Membership Council formed the YHDP Leadership Advisory Council in November 2016 to oversee the application and planning effort. After the YHDP award announcement in January 2017 the YHDP Advisory Council convened to discuss and implement the planning governance structure.

The YHDP Advisory Council is chaired by Susan McDowell, Executive Director of LifeWorks. Advisory Council has a representative on the ECHO Membership Council to provide updates on the progress and achievements of the YHDP proposed outcomes.

Members:

- Chair: Susan McDowell, LifeWorks
- Ann Howard, ECHO
- Brandy Mueller, Travis County
- Cara Fox, Upbring
- Casey Soberon, ECHO
- Christine Gendron, Texas Network of Youth Services (TNOYS)
- Curk McFall, Community Care Collaborative (CCC)
- Darilynn Cardona-Beiler, Integral Care
- Darrion Borders, Austin Youth Collective to End Homelessness
- Dylan Shubitz, Housing Authority City of Austin (HACA)
- Erica Gallardo-Taft, Boys and Girls Club of Austin
- Erin Goodison, SAFE Alliance

- Erin Whelan, LifeWorks
- Gabriella McDonald, Texas Appleseed
- Gage Kemp, Austin Youth Collective to End Homelessness
- Haleh Kersten, LINC Austin
- Heather Larkin, University of Texas at Austin
- Jamey Bellisle, Travis County
- Jeanne Stamp, THEO, University of Texas at Austin
- Jennifer Long, Casa Marianella
- Jo Kathryn Quinn, Caritas of Austin
- Julia Spann, SAFE Alliance
- Kathleen Casey, Integral Care
- Kathleen Ridings, The Salvation Army
- Kathryn Gonzales, OutYouth
- Kathryn Mattingly, Texas Juvenile Justice Department
- Katy Manganella, ECHO
- Ken Martin, THEO, University of Texas at Austin
- Kevin Kersten, LINC Austin
- Kirsten Siegfried, Travis County
- Lara O'Toole, Texas Network of Youth Services (TNOYS)
- Lisa Colin, Texas Juvenile Justice Department
- Lisa Garcia, Housing Authority City of Austin (HACA)
- Liz Schoenfeld, LifeWorks
- Lori Frasco, Caritas of Austin
- Mitchell Gibbs, Front Steps
- Naomi Ortiz Tejero, Housing Authority of Travis County
- Natasha Ponczek, City of Austin
- Niki Paul, ECHO
- Patrick Howard, Housing Authority of Travis County
- Paul Hilgers, Austin Board of Realtors
- Rosie Coleman, Austin ISD
- Socorro Carrasco, Austin Voices
- Staci Love, Texas Department of Family Protective Services
- Terry Cole, Street Youth Ministry

### **Austin Youth Collective to End Homelessness**

Description: The Austin Youth Collective (AYC) formed in November 2016 and serve as the Youth Advisory Council for the Austin/Travis County Continuum of Care. As of September 2017, there are eight regular members with a recruitment goal to increase membership to ten (10) Youth & Young Adults by January 2018.

AYC members have meet monthly and represent on the YHDP Leadership Advisory Council and Membership Council. In addition, 3 AYC members participate on YHDP Sub-Committees with initial research and planning on the sub-committees to address the issue of Youth Homelessness.

#### Members:

- Alexander Zapata
- Chante Powell
- Clair Cole

- Darrion Borders
- Gage Kemp
- Jimmy Taylor
- Justin McKinney
- Lyric Wardlow

**YHDP Lead Staff:**

Description: The YHDP Lead Staff are the primary contacts for the YHDP development and implementation.

Members:

- Ann Howard, Executive Director, ECHO
- Susan McDowell, Executive Director, LifeWorks
- Niki Paul, Chief Program Officer, ECHO
- Erin Whelan, Div. Director of Homeless and Housing, LifeWorks

**YHDP Task Force:**

Description: The YHDP Task Force is a team of selected staff from key community organizations responsible for leading the YHDP. This team meets regularly on Friday mornings and are responsible for the direct development and implementation of the YHDP plan.

Members:

- Bree Williams, Director of Community Housing, ECHO
- Brooke White, Director of Residential Services, LifeWorks
- Casey Soberon, CoC Coordinator, ECHO
- Erin Goodison, Director of Supportive Housing, SAFE Alliance
- Erin Whelan, Div. Director of Housing and Homeless Services, LifeWorks
- Katy Manganella, MA, Director of Homeless Management Information System
- Laura Poskochil, Director of Apartment Based Living, LifeWorks
- Liz Schoenfeld, PHD, Director of Research and Evaluation, LifeWorks
- Mya Randle, Youth Council Liaison and Case Manager, LifeWorks
- Niki Paul, Chief Program Officer, ECHO
- Preston Petty, Coordinated Entry Program Director, ECHO

**YHDP Planning Sub-Committees:**

**Housing Partnerships/Landlord Outreach**

Description: The Housing Partnerships/ Landlord Outreach Sub-Committee focuses on creating a portfolio of permanent housing opportunities for youth and young adults receiving support from the continuum of providers working to end youth homelessness. This work focuses on expanding existing work within the CoC aimed at diversifying low barrier housing opportunities; these strategies include building partnerships with landlords, sustaining various landlord incentives, and implementing strategies to access maximum affordability. The Committee also began exploring and implementing unique opportunities to cater to the needs of young people; these opportunities include cooperative living environments, student living, and various forms of shared/roommate living

Members:

- Chair: Bree Williams, Director of Community Housing, ECHO

- Abby Tatkow, ECHO
- Dylan Shubitz, Housing Authority City of Austin (HACA)

### **Data/Evaluation/Outcomes**

Description: The Data, Evaluation and Outcomes Sub-Committee focuses on operationalizing the USICH Benchmarks for Ending Youth Homelessness. Through a comprehensive understanding of the available data on youth homelessness, they identified what data is missing, who might have it, and built bridges between datasets. Data was used to identify needs and to inform innovative YHDP solutions that could fill service gaps for unaccompanied youth in Austin. The work of this committee yielded programmatic and systematic outputs and outcomes to measure progress toward housing stability, education, employment, well-being, and permanent connections.

Members:

- Co-Chair: Liz Schoenfeld, LifeWorks
- Co-Chair: Katy Manganella, Director of HMIS, ECHO
- Adriana Kohler, Texas Children’s Hospital
- Amy Knop-Narbutis, Upbring
- Cassidy Dossett, Texas Department of Family Protective Services
- Christine Gendron, Texas Network of Youth Services
- Ellen Stone, Texas Appleseed
- Gabriella McDonald, Texas Appleseed
- Kate Bennett, LifeWorks
- Lisa Colin, Texas Juvenile Justice Department

### **Best Practices and Program Design**

Description: The Best Practices and Program Design Sub-Committee was formed to research and evaluate programmatic needs to prevent and end youth homelessness in Austin. Utilizing data on the needs of youth in our community, this committee researched the following potential programs to meet local needs: Host homes, outreach models and faith-based community models, reunification strategies for families, roommate / shared housing, community case management models, system practices for prevention and diversion, best practices for youth-dedicated shelters, short-term interim housing and co-op models, Rapid Rehousing and wrap around services, permanent supportive housing. From this research, the Committee made innovated program recommendations to the YHDP Leadership bodies, which are described in this Plan.

Members:

- Co-Chair, Niki Paul, Chief Program Officer, ECHO
- Co-Chair, Erin Whelan, Div. Director of Housing & Homeless Services, LifeWorks
- Allison Jackson, Caritas of Austin
- Amanda Bowen, ViaHope
- Annette Price, Austin Re-Entry Roundtable
- Bree Williams, ECHO
- Chris Baker, Integral Care
- David Clauss, American Youth Works
- Erin Goodison, SAFE Alliance
- Laura Poskochil, LifeWorks
- Lori Frasco, Caritas of Austin
- Stephanie Green, Caritas of Austin
- Terry Cole, Street Youth Ministry



### **Social Justice: Addressing Disparities**

Description: The Social Justice Sub-Committee was formed to outline the key elements needed to address cultural competency and racial disparities in Austin's Comprehensive Community Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness.

#### Members:

- Chair: Casey Soberon, CoC Coordinator, ECHO
- Daettrion White, Austin Youth Collective
- Darrion Borders, Austin Youth Collective
- Kara Bisson, OutYouth
- Sandra Chavez, AIDS Services of Austin
- Tiffany Hart, For the City and Texas Homeless Network

#### Advisors:

- Dr. Cal Streeter, University of Texas, School of Social Work
- Dr. Suchitra Gururaj, UT Longhorn Center for Community Engagement, Division of Diversity
- Dr. Virginia Brown, Dell Medical School

### **Coordinated Entry and System Triage**

Description: The purpose of the Coordinated Entry and System Triage Planning Sub-Committee is to analyze, evaluate, and revise local Coordinated Entry policies and workflow to ensure that the unique needs of youth experiencing homelessness are affirmatively met by the broader CoC's efforts to end homelessness, as well as to identify opportunities for systems improvement in messaging, systems access, prioritization, and project referral for all individuals experiencing homelessness.

#### Members:

- Chair: Preston Petty, Coordinated Entry Program Director, ECHO
- Clair Cole, Austin Youth Collective
- Aaron Mickens, SAFE Alliance
- Angelica Cancino de Sandoval, Austin Community College
- Christine Laguna, Integral Care
- Christopher Larson, Front Steps
- Karen Dorrier, Integral Care
- Laura Poskochil, LifeWorks
- Terry Cole, Street Youth Ministries

### **Systems Homelessness Prevention**

Description: The Systems Homelessness Prevention Sub-Committee worked to understand how youth are currently receiving homeless services and prevention services in Austin. The Committee collected admissions policies, housing plans, and discharge plans from various providers across the CoC working to end homelessness. This informed how youth currently receive services for prevention and literal homelessness. The Committee identified current gaps in prevention services as well as an understanding of how effective current discharge plans are at preventing future homelessness for youth in Austin.

Members:

- Chair: Brooke White, Residential Director, LifeWorks
- Brenda Fierro, Integral Care
- Chante Powell, Austin Youth Collective
- Erica Brown, Austin Police Department
- Hugh Simmons, Integral Care
- Kari Hamilton, SAFE Alliance
- Kathryn Mattingly, Texas Juvenile Justice Department
- Lisa Colin, Texas Juvenile Justice Department
- Nathaniel Whitfield, Gardner Betts Juvenile Justice Detention Center

### **Project Ranking and Review -to be implemented in Fall 2017**

Description: This group will be responsible for reviewing organizational applications for YHDP project implementation. They will review and rank applicants and make formal recommendations to the Austin Youth Collective to End Homelessness, YHDP Leadership Council, and the Membership Council for the local selection of YHDP project recipients.

Members: To be determined.

### **Review and Selection Process for YHDP Project Applications**

In alignment with the HUD Continuum of Care NOFA process, ECHO will publicly announce a Request for Proposal (RFP) to select YHDP projects. A bidder's conference will be held to inform interested applicants of the scope of the YHDP and the local individual projects available for bid.

#### **Project Application Review**

Once applications are submitted, a Project Ranking and Review Team comprised of persons without conflict of interest, including youth with lived experience, will conduct the following:

- Review individual written project applications;
- Hear presentations from the project applicants regarding their ability to implement their proposed project;
- Rank projects based on their ability to carry out the requirements outlined in the RFP for their specific project type, including:
  - A demonstrated ability to serve young people; and
  - A demonstrated ability to rapidly re-house persons experiencing homelessness; and
- Present selection recommendations to the Austin Youth Collective to End Homelessness (AYC), YHDP Leadership Council and the CoC's Membership Council.

#### **Project Selection**

The AYC and YHDP Leadership Council will consider the Project Ranking and Review Team's recommendations and agree upon a final ranking of project applications to be presented to the Membership Council.

As the primary decision-making body for the CoC, the Membership Council, which has two voting seats dedicated to members of the Austin Youth Collective to End Homelessness, will vote on the final ranking of YHDP project applications.

## Appendix G. CoC Governance Charter

### AUSTIN/TRAVIS COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE GOVERNANCE CHARTER

This charter outlines the broad organizational structure and general work of the Austin, Travis County (Continuum of Care (TX-503) funding process, (hereinafter referred to as the “CoC”).

A CoC is a community planning body that addresses the needs of persons who are experiencing homelessness. It is specifically designed to:

- Promote a community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness,
- Provide funding for efforts to rapidly re-house individuals and families experiencing homelessness,
- Promote access to and effective use of mainstream programs,
- Optimize self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness, and
- Cover a specific geographic area.

#### CoC Governance Structure

The charter identifies the CoC’s governance structure, including the Collaborative Applicant and HMIS Lead Agency designations and purposes. It also describes the purposes of the CoC Membership Council, other committees, and the Lead Agency and staff support.

The Austin/Travis County CoC consists of:

- The CoC Membership Council
- CoC Standing Committees, Subcommittees, and Workgroups
- The CoC Lead Agency and staff support
- The CoC Collaborative Applicant
- The CoC HMIS Lead Agency
- The CoC HMIS System

And other stakeholders representing organizations working to end homelessness in Austin and Pflugerville, Texas, and all of Travis County, Texas.

Group	Details
CoC Membership Council	The CoC Membership Council is the primary decision-making body for the Austin/Travis County CoC. Board members determine the policy direction of the CoC and ensure the CoC fulfills its responsibilities as assigned by HUD. Additionally, the Membership Council oversees and approves the work of CoC committees and workgroups.

CoC Standing Committees, Subcommittees, and Workgroups	While decisions for the Continuum will be made by the Membership Council, the work of the Continuum will generally be carried out by its committees, workgroups and, as appointed by committees, subcommittees. Committees shall not make any policy or funding-related decisions. Committees may make recommendations to the Membership Council, and those recommendations may be placed for voting approval by the CoC Membership Council.
CoC Lead Agency and Staff Support	The Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO) has been selected by the Austin/Travis County CoC to serve as a CoC Lead Agency. The Lead Agency performs a variety of necessary functions such as performance monitoring, engagement and education of stakeholders, and submission of the annual collaborative CoC Program grant application. ECHO manages all aspects of the CoC, including ensuring all federal HUD CoC Program requirements are met.
CoC Collaborative Applicant	ECHO is designated by the Austin/Travis County CoC to apply for grants from HUD and other governmental and philanthropic organizations on behalf of the Austin/Travis County CoC.
CoC HMIS Lead	ECHO is designated by the Austin/Travis County CoC to operate a Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS) on its behalf. ECHO serves as the HMIS project grantee under the CoC Program and is responsible for managing all aspects of the Austin/Travis County CoC HMIS and ensuring it meets all federal requirements.
CoC HMIS System	The Austin/Travis County CoC has designated Service Point by Mediware as the single HMIS system for meeting HUD client level data collection and reporting.

**CoC Membership Council**

***Purpose***

The Membership Council serves as the HUD-designated primary decision-making group and oversight board of the CoC.

**Regulatory Citation**

24 CFR Part 578

**HUD Guidance Documents and Resources**

CoC Duties: Establishing and Operating a Continuum of Care  
[hudexchange.info/resources/documents/EstablishingandOperatingaCoC\\_CoCprogram.pdf](http://hudexchange.info/resources/documents/EstablishingandOperatingaCoC_CoCprogram.pdf)

As the oversight board of the CoC, the Membership Council’s responsibilities are:

1. To ensure that the CoC is meeting all responsibilities set forth in the CoC Program Interim Rule at 24 CFR 578.7 (see below);
2. To represent the diverse organizations and entities serving homeless subpopulations including persons with lived experience of homelessness;
3. To ensure the community has a pathway to stable housing and supportive services for persons experiencing homelessness; and
4. To be inclusive of all the needs of the homeless population in the geographic area, including the special service and housing needs of homeless sub- populations;
5. To facilitate responses to issues and concerns that affect the agencies funded by the CoC beyond those addressed in the annual CoC application process.

### ***Responsibilities***

As the designated board of the CoC for the geographic area, the Membership Council works with the CoC Collaborative Applicant (ECHO) to fulfill three major duties:

1. Operate the CoC, which must address:
  - i. **Regular meetings:** Conduct monthly meetings (twelve during a calendar year) and per 24 CFR 578.7(a), two of those meetings will be public meetings of the full membership with published agendas.
    - i. One of the twelve meetings will also be dedicated to reviewing and updating the CoC's business, structure, and operations.
  - ii. **Invitation for new members:** Make an invitation for new members to join publicly available within the geographic area at least annually;
  - iii. **Additional committees.** Appoint committees, subcommittees, or workgroups;
  - iv. **Governance Charter:** In consultation with the CoC Collaborative Applicant and the HMIS Lead, develop, follow, and update annually this governance charter, which will include all procedures and policies needed to comply with CoC requirements as prescribed by HUD; and a code of conduct and recusal process for the Membership Council, its chair(s), and any person acting on behalf of the board;
  - v. **Monitoring:** Consult with recipients and sub-recipients of CoC funding to establish performance targets appropriate for population and program type, monitor recipient and sub-recipient performance, evaluate outcomes, and take action against poor performers;
  - vi. **Evaluation:** Evaluate outcomes of projects funded under the City of Austin/Travis County Emergency Solutions Grants program (hereinafter referred to as "ESG") and the CoC program, and report to HUD;
  - vii. **Coordinated Assessment:** In consultation with recipients of ESG funds, establish and operate a centralized and coordinated assessment system that provides an initial, comprehensive assessment of the needs of individuals and families for housing and services.
  - viii. **Written Standards:** In consultation with recipients of ESG funds within the geographic area, establish and consistently follow written standards for providing CoC assistance. At a minimum, these written standards must include:
    1. Policies and procedures for evaluating individuals' and families' eligibility for CoC assistance;

2. Policies and procedures for determining and prioritizing which eligible individuals and families will receive transitional housing assistance;
3. Policies and procedures for determining and prioritizing which eligible individuals and families will receive rapid re-housing assistance;
4. Standards for determining what percentage or amount of rent each program participant must pay while receiving rapid re-housing assistance;
5. Policies and procedures for determining and prioritizing eligible individuals and families will receive permanent supportive housing assistance; and
6. When the CoC is designated a high-performing community, policies and procedures for determining and prioritizing which eligible individuals and families will receive Homelessness Prevention Assistance.

## 2. Designate and operate a Homeless Management Information System (HMIS):

- i. Designate a single HMIS for the geographic area;
- ii. Designate an eligible applicant to manage the CoC's HMIS, which will be known as the HMIS Lead;
- iii. Review, revise, and approve a privacy plan, security plan, and data quality plan for the HMIS.
- iv. Ensure consistent participation of recipients and sub-recipients of CoC and ESG funding in the HMIS;
- v. Ensure the HMIS is administered in compliance with requirements prescribed by HUD.

## 3. Lead Continuum of Care Planning:

- i. Coordinate the implementation of a housing and service system within its geographic area that meets the needs of the homeless individuals (including unaccompanied youth) and families. At a minimum, such system encompasses the following:
  1. Outreach, engagement, and assessment;
  2. Shelter, housing, and supportive services;
  3. Prevention strategies.
- ii. Plan for and conduct, at least biennially, a point-in-time count of homeless persons within the geographic area that meets the following requirements:
  1. Count the persons who are living in a place not meant for human habitation, known as "unsheltered homeless persons" or the "unsheltered population".
  2. Count the persons living in emergency shelters and transitional housing projects known as "sheltered homeless persons", or the "sheltered population".
  3. Approve the methodology to be used to count both the unsheltered and sheltered homeless population.
  4. Other requirements established by HUD by notice, which typically specify certain questions to include while conducting the count.
- iii. Conduct an annual gaps analysis of the homeless needs and services available within the geographic area;
- iv. Provide information required to complete the Consolidated Plan(s) within the CoC's geographic area;
- v. Consult with state and local government ESG program recipients (City of Austin/Travis County) for allocating ESG funds and reporting on and evaluating the performance of ESG recipients and sub-recipients.

- vi. Prepare an application for HUD funds that must:
  - 1. Design, operate, and follow a collaborative process for the development of applications, including determining the eligibility of applicants
  - 2. Approve the submission of applications in response to the NOFA
  - 3. Establish priorities for funding projects
  - 4. Determine if one application for funds will be submitted for all projects or if more than one application for projects will be submitted

### **Membership Council Composition**

Following 24 CFR 578.5(a) the CoC Membership Council shall include community representatives within the geographic area of the Continuum of Care who are:

- a. Homeless or formerly homeless individual(s), and
- b. Representatives of the relevant organizations and projects serving the homeless population such as:
  - i. Business
  - ii. Behavioral Health
  - iii. Primary Health
  - iv. Criminal Justice/law enforcement
  - v. City HHS
  - vi. City NHCD
  - vii. County HHS
  - viii. Employment
  - ix. Private Funder
  - x. Youth
  - xi. Public ISD
  - xii. Veterans - non-HUD funded provider
  - xiii. DV – non-HUD funded provider
  - xiv. Representative from ECHO Board of Directors
  - xv. Provider 1 – Permanent Housing
  - xvi. Provider 2 – Interim Housing
  - xvii. Provider 3 – City PHA
  - xviii. Provider 4 – County PHA
  - xix. Chairs of any established Membership Council Work-Groups
- c. Governmental and quasi-governmental entities may request of the CoC Membership Council the right to appoint a member.
- d. Advisory Seats: In addition to the above roles, council members may designate non-voting representatives to attend and participate in meetings to provide advice and expertise on particular issues.
- e. *Committees, Subcommittees, and Workgroups*: Committees, Subcommittees, and Workgroups will be established to conduct the functions necessary to support the COC mission and meet funding obligations. Committees and Workgroup Chairs will be appointed by the Chair of the Membership Council. Sub-committee leadership will be appointed by the Committee Chair with the advice and consent of the sub-committee membership.

## ***Membership Council Rights & Responsibilities***

The rights and responsibilities of membership are to vote at the semi-annual “ECHO Stakeholder” meetings – one held during the fall and another one during the spring, and at any other Membership Council meeting. The Membership Council members will demonstrate a commitment to the goals and objectives of the Continuum of Care by regularly attending Membership Council meetings.

*Membership Council Selection:* There will be an annual call for nominations from the public to fill any vacancies existing on the Membership Council. The Chair will appoint an ad-hoc committee to review the nominations and complete a slate of candidates to complete the membership and to serve as officers. The existing Membership Council will approve the new members to be slated to fill such vacancies by majority vote. Vacancies may be filled immediately or through the annual nominating process.

*Election:* The slate shall be elected by the stakeholders at the ECHO fall stakeholder meeting. Each officer shall hold office for a term of one (1) year or until successors have been elected and qualified. Officers may serve up to two (2) consecutive terms. No person may hold more than one (1) office.

*Terms:* Membership Council service is defined as three-year terms. The terms shall be staggered to insure continuity of the council. After the passage of one year from the expiration of their term such individual can be considered for reelection to the Membership Council. Members will serve terms from January through December.

*Vacancies:* In the case of a vacant seat, the majority members of the Membership Council where quorum is present may elect a successor to hold the vacant seat for the remainder of the term of the person vacating the seat.

*Officers:* The officers of the Membership Council shall be two (2) A Chair, and a Vice Chair. Officers shall not be compensated for their services as such officers.

*Officer Responsibilities:* Officers are responsible for scheduling meetings of the Membership Council, ensuring that the Membership Council meets regularly or as needed, and for setting the agenda for meetings. Lead Agency staff supports the officers in fulfilling these responsibilities.

*Resignation:* Unless otherwise provided by written agreement, any officer may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Chair or Vice Chair. Any such resignations shall take effect at the time specified within the written notice or if the time be not specified, therein upon its acceptance by the Membership Council.

*Quorum:* A number equal to a majority of the representatives serving on the Membership Council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting.

*Manner of Acting:* The act of the majority of the representatives present at a meeting of the Membership Council at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Membership Council.

*Voting:* At all meetings, business items may be decided by arriving at a consensus. If a vote is necessary, all votes shall be by voice or ballot at the will of the majority of those in attendance at a meeting with a quorum represented. Each representative seat shall have one vote. No member may vote on any item that presents a real or perceived conflict-of-interest.



*Action Without a Meeting:* Any action that may be taken at any meeting of the Membership Council may be taken without a meeting if that action is approved, in writing (e.g. letter, phone email) by a majority of all Membership Council members who would be entitled to vote if a meeting was held for such purpose.

*Removal:* The seat of any representative who is absent without cause for four (4) consecutive meetings of the Membership Council may be declared vacant by the remaining members of the Membership Council. Such seats will then be filled through the processes described above under vacancies.

*Conflicts of Interest and Recusal:* Members with actual or perceived conflicts of interest must identify them as they arise. Individuals with a conflict of interest may participate in all discussion but shall recuse themselves from voting on any issue in which they may have a conflict. No member shall vote upon any matter which shall have a direct financial bearing on the organization that the member represents or sits as a board member on the organization. This includes all decisions with respect to funding, awarding contracts, and implementing corrective actions as a result from CoC Collaborative Applicant monitoring activities of CoC and ESG activities. Prior to nomination or appointment to the Membership Council, candidates will complete and sign a [Membership Council Application](#) and a [Conflict of Interest Confirmation form](#). (See Appendix).

Charter Amendments: The governance charter may be amended by voice or ballot at the will of the majority of those in attendance at a meeting with a quorum represented.

Last review, revision and approval by the Membership Council June 5, 2017.

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## Appendix H. YHDP Partners and Commitments

Partner Type	Partner Name	Involvement	Commitment	Primary Representative
Affordable Housing Developers	Austin Apartment Association	YHDP Leadership Advisory, CoC Board	Participate in monthly meeting and provide input, provide access to property owners and management companies to promote housing partnerships	Kristan Arrona, CEO
Affordable Housing Developers	Austin Board of Realtors	YHDP Leadership Advisory, CoC Board	Participate in monthly meeting and provide input, provide access to realtors for rental property	Paul Hilgers, CEO
CoC Program Recipient	Caritas of Austin	YHDP Leadership Advisory, CoC Board	Participate in monthly meeting, participate in By Name List community and staffing meetings	Jo Kathryn Quinn
CoC Recipient	Ending Community Homelessness Coalition	YHDP Leadership Advisory, YHDP Task Force, Social Justice: Addressing Disparities Sub-Committee, Data Sub-Committee, Systems Homelessness Prevention, Best Practice and Program Design Sub-Committee	YHDP Lead Agency-commits to all aspects of the YHDP	Ann Howard, Niki Paul, Katy Manganella, Preston Petty, Casey Soberon, Bree Williams, Mariana Salazar, Tim Long, Lauren Marsiglia
CoC Recipient	Front Steps	YHDP Leadership Advisory; Coordinated Entry and System Triage	Provide emergency shelter and participate in weekly youth staffing	Trey Nichols, Chris Larson
CoC Recipient	Salvation Army	YHDP Leadership Advisory, Coordinated Entry and Triage	Participate in monthly meeting; attend weekly staffing meetings; coordinated salvation opportunities	Kathy Ridings, Rick Rivera

<b>Partner Type</b>	<b>Partner Name</b>	<b>Involvement</b>	<b>Commitment</b>	<b>Primary Representative</b>
CoC Recipient; Victim Service Provider; Children Shelter	Safe Alliance	YHDP Leadership Advisory, Systems Homelessness Prevention, Data/Evaluation/Outcomes Sub-committee	Participate in monthly meeting; attend weekly staffing meetings; coordinated safe opportunities	Erin Goodison; Ashley Juraska
Community Development Corporation	Texas Affordable Housing Corp	YHDP Leadership Advisory	Participate in monthly meeting; attend weekly staffing meetings; coordinated Texas opportunities	Michael Wilt
Early Childhood Development and Child Care providers	Any Baby Can	Key Informant, Attends YHDP Leadership Meetings as needed	Ongoing thought partner; potential collaborator on teen parenting and child development expertise	Alexandra Alfau, Chief Program officer
Early Childhood Development and Child Care providers	Austin Child Guidance Center	Key Informant, Attends YHDP Leadership Meetings as needed	Ongoing thought partner; potential collaborator on counseling and child development expertise	Russell Smith, Executive Director
Early Childhood Development and Childcare Provider	YWCA	Key Informant	Participate in monthly meeting and provide input and resources for parenting youth	Ángela Jo Touza-Medina
Faith Based Organization	Congregational Church of Austin	Key Informant	Participate in monthly meeting and provide input	Will Francis
Health, Mental Health	People's Community Clinic	Key informant; attends YHDP Leadership Meetings as needed	Participate in monthly meeting; attend weekly staffing meetings, as needed; coordinate healthcare opportunities	Mary McDowell, Chief Operating Officer

<b>Partner Type</b>	<b>Partner Name</b>	<b>Involvement</b>	<b>Commitment</b>	<b>Primary Representative</b>
Health, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Agencies	Integral Care	Key Informant, YHDP Leadership Advisory, Institutional Prevention	Participate in monthly meeting, participate in By Name List community and staffing meetings	Kathleen Casey; Chris Laguna
Health, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Agencies	Central Health CCC	Data/Evaluations/Outcomes Sub-Committee	Participate in monthly meeting and provide input	Curk McFall
Institutions of Higher Education	Austin Community College	YHDP Leadership Advisory, Social Justice Sub-Committee	Participate in monthly meeting and provide input	Michael Gibbs; Angelica Cancino de Sandoval
Institutions of Higher Education	Austin Community College: Foster Care Program	YHDP Leadership Advisory	Participate in monthly meeting and provide input	Michael Gibbs
Institutions of Higher Education	University of Texas at Austin, School of Social Work	YHPD Leadership Advisory, Social Justice Sub-Committee	Participate in monthly meetings and provide data evaluation support through the UT School of Social Work	Heather Larkin
Juvenile and Adult Corrections and Probation	Texas Department of Juvenile Justice	YHDP Leadership Advisory, Systems Homelessness Prevention, Data/Evaluation/Outcomes Sub-committee	Participate in monthly meeting; attend weekly staffing meetings; coordinated Texas opportunities	Kathryn Mattingly, Lisa Colin
Juvenile and Adult Corrections and Probation	Travis County Juvenile Justice	YHDP Leadership Advisory, Systems Homelessness Prevention Sub-Committee	Attend monthly meetings and participate in the Systems Homeless Prevention Sub-Committee	Judge Brandy Mueller
Landlord	Arnold Grounds	Key Informant, Attends YHDP Leadership Meetings as needed	Promote rental housing partnerships	Jimmy Arnold
Local Advocacy & Research Organization	Texans Care for Children	Data/Evaluations/Outcomes Sub-Committee	Member of Data/Evaluations/Outcomes Sub-Committee	Adriana Kohler

<b>Partner Type</b>	<b>Partner Name</b>	<b>Involvement</b>	<b>Commitment</b>	<b>Primary Representative</b>
Local Advocacy, Research and Philanthropic Organization	Texas Network of Youth Services	YHDP Leadership Advisory	Participate in monthly meeting; assist in state level youth service advocacy	Christine Gendron, Lara O'Toole
Local Advocacy, Research, and Philanthropic Org	Allies Against Slavery	Key Informant, Attended YHDP Leadership meeting, but not on-going representative	Review materials and provide input as needed related to integration with local efforts to identify and support victims of human trafficking	John Nehme
Local Advocacy, Research, and Philanthropic Organizations	St. David's Foundation	YHDP Leadership Advisory	Thought partner; potential funder	Abena Asante
Local Advocacy, Research, and Philanthropic Organizations	Texas Appleseed	YHDP Leadership Advisory, Data/Evaluation/Outcomes & Systems Homelessness Prevention Sub-Committees	Participate in monthly meeting and provide input	Gabrielle McDonald
Local and State Educational Agencies	Austin Independent School District	Key Informant, YHDP Leadership Advisory	Participate in monthly meeting and participate in on-going data analysis and development of school triage tool	Rose Coleman, Bini Coleman
Local and State Educational Agencies	Austin Voices for Education and Youth	Key Informant, YHDP Leadership Advisory	Participate in monthly meeting and connect students with coordinated entry	Saccoro Carrasco
Local and State Educational Agency	The Texas Homeless Education Office	YHDP Leadership Advisory, Key Informant	Participate in monthly meeting and provide input	Ken Martin, Jeanne Stamp
Local and State Government	City of Austin - Austin Public Health	YHDP Leadership Advisory	Participate in monthly meeting and provide input	Natasha Ponczek
Local and State Government	City of Austin Mayor's Office	Key Informant	Provide information and support for communications	Sly Majid

<b>Partner Type</b>	<b>Partner Name</b>	<b>Involvement</b>	<b>Commitment</b>	<b>Primary Representative</b>
Local and State Government	Travis County Health and Human Services and Veteran Services	YHDP Leadership Advisory	Participate in monthly meeting and provide input	Jamey Bellisle, Kirsten Siegfried
Local and State Law Enforcement and Judges	Austin Police Department	YHDP Leadership Advisory, Institutional Prevention	Participate in monthly meeting and participate in outreach and systemic homelessness prevention	Officer Erica Brown
Non-Profit Youth Organization	Boys & Girls Club	YHDP Leadership Advisory	Participate in monthly meeting and provide input	Erica Gallardo-Taft
Non-Profit Youth Organization	OutYouth	Social Justice: Addressing Disparities Sub-Committee	Participate in monthly meeting; attend weekly staffing meetings; coordinated OutYouth opportunities	Kathryn Gonzalez
Non-Profit Youth Organization	Upbring	YHDP Leadership Advisory, Data/Evaluation/Outcomes Sub-Committee	Participate in monthly meeting and provide input	Cara Fox, Amy Knop-Narbutis
Privately Funded Homeless Organization	Casa Marianella	Key Informant	Provide feedback and information as requested on undocumented youth in Austin	Jennifer Long
Privately Funded Homeless Organization	Foundation for the Homeless	Key Informant	Provide emergency shelter to young families with children; participate in weekly youth staffing	Toni Townsend, Executive Director
Privately Funded Homeless Organization	Street Youth Ministry	YHDP Leadership Advisory, Coordinated Entry and Triage; Best Practice and Program Development	Participate in monthly meeting; provide youth drop in services	Terry Cole

<b>Partner Type</b>	<b>Partner Name</b>	<b>Involvement</b>	<b>Commitment</b>	<b>Primary Representative</b>
Public Child Welfare Agency	Texas Department of Family and Protective Services	YHDP Leadership Advisory, YHDP Task Force, Systems Homelessness Prevention, Data/Evaluation/Outcomes Sub-Committee	Participate in monthly meeting; attend weekly staffing meetings; coordinated Texas opportunities	Staci Love, Cassidy Dossett
Public Housing Authority	Housing Authority City of Austin	YHDP Leadership Advisory, Housing Partnerships Sub-Committee	Participate in monthly meeting; attend weekly staffing meetings; coordinated housing opportunities	Dylan Shubitz
Public Housing Authority	Housing Authority of Travis County	Housing Partnerships Sub Committee	Participate in monthly meeting; attend weekly staffing meetings; coordinated housing opportunities	Naomi Ortiz-Tejero
Runaway and Homeless Youth Program Providers	LifeWorks	YHDP Leadership Advisory, YHDP Task Force, Social Justice: Addressing Disparities Sub-Committee, Data Sub-Committee, Systems Homelessness Prevention, Best Practice and Program Design Sub-Committee	Participate in monthly meeting; attend weekly staffing meetings; coordinated lifeworks opportunities	Susan McDowell, Erin Whelan, Liz Schoenfeld, Laura Poskochil, Mya Randle, Kate Bennett
Runaway and Homeless Youth Program Providers	LINC Austin	YHDP Leadership Advisory, Coordinated Entry and System Triage	Participate in monthly meeting; provide outreach services; participate in coordinated entry planning	Haleh Kersten
WIOA Board and Employment Programs	Workforce Solutions	YHDP Leadership Advisory	Thought partner; potential collaborator on employment and education barriers	Tamara Atkins, CEO
WIOA Boards and Employment Agencies	American YouthWorks	Key Informant, Attends YHDP Leadership Meetings as needed	Ongoing thought partner; potential collaborator on employment/education	Parc Smith, CEO

<b>Partner Type</b>	<b>Partner Name</b>	<b>Involvement</b>	<b>Commitment</b>	<b>Primary Representative</b>
WIOA Boards and Employment Agencies	Austin Opportunity Youth Collaborative: Workforce Solutions Capital Area	Key Informant, YHDP Leadership Advisory	Thought partner; potential collaborator on employment and education barriers	Laura Brady
WIOA Boards and Employment Agency	GoodWill of Central Texas	Key informant	Thought partner; potential collaborator on employment and education barriers	DeWayne Street
Youth Advisory Board	Austin Youth Collective to End Homelessness	YHDP Leadership Advisory, AYCEH, Data/Evaluations/Outcomes Sub-Committee, Social Justice: Addressing Disparities Sub-Committee, Homelessness System Prevention Sub-Committee	Participate in monthly meeting, participate in sub-committees, provide on-going feedback and key information for YHDP plan and implementation	Gage Kemp, Darrion Borders, Clair Cole, Chante Powell, Alexander Zapata, Jimmy Taylor, Justin McKinney, Lyric Wardlow



## **Appendix I. Narratives of Involvement from Austin Youth Collective Members**

Gage Kemp:

My name is Gage. I am the former president of the Austin Youth Collective to End Homelessness. We decided that a hierarchical structure was counterintuitive to our goals. As the data specialist, I do my part to keep everyone up to date with HUD and YHDP information, relaying this from the other YHDP subcommittees as well as the HUD newsletter.

As an artist, I attempt to utilize creative expression to communicate complex ideas in simple terms. My involvement with this project has given me renewed vigor and hope for the future of our society. As a vagrant, I was an untapped resource searching for a place to belong. Myopic apathy was a result of losing touch with my own desires. Inundated by unreasonable expectations and lacking effective coaching empowered the cycle of self-destruction I had learned by example. Overcoming this conditioning I have been subjected to most of my life has been an arduous process I do not consider finished. The transition from being a client to being part of the system is an experience that will shape the rest of my life and, hopefully, the lives of others. I now consider myself drastically transformed.... I am a social philanthropist who focuses on intellectual capital. I have decided that I do not wish to dream. Refusing surrender to the chaos of life has actualized in me a solution-oriented mindset.

The YHDP has given me a clear sense of direction. I am passionate about advocacy, policy work, networking... Big picture stuff. All of my hobbies and interests seem to be reaching a converging point of productivity. Social work has become my life path and a way to heal the scars of indifference.

I am currently working to put together my nonprofit "Kind Chi" to teach physical education as a therapeutic and rehabilitative method. I believe that this will be a way to build community and potentially prevent people from becoming homeless. Especially those with struggling with addiction or disabilities. Being unable to find or ascend a socio-economic ladder of opportunity is the direct result of disconnection from community.

Clair Cole:

I got involved with AYC in the beginning stages, one of the members reached out to me because I was working as a Lifeworks youth ambassador and heard my story. I became a homeless youth at the age of 16- needing to leave an unstable home situation. I was lucky enough to have friends that helped me out and lent me couches or spare rooms to sleep in until I could find a more stable situation at the age of 17. Moving forward in excited to see AYC help to make shifts, assisting to better the resources out there for homeless youth and bringing attention to the housing crisis here in Austin. I hope to find ways for homeless youth to access medical care, meals, safe shelter and services to help mend broken bridges with their families if it's appropriate. I want to get the word out and help spread the word about services that exist and that are being creative, because when I needed them I either didn't know they existed, didn't have proper information to make me feel safe there, or didn't exist at all. I hope to build up resources and community for youth in need.

Chante Powell:

I became involved with Austin Youth Collective through my first-hand experience with being in foster care. At the time, I was residing at The Settlement Home for Children's Transitional Living Program. The director of the transitional program received a call regarding someone who would be a good candidate to join what is now called Austin Youth Collective. The director instantly thought of me and suggested that I attend the initial meeting to see if it was something I would be interested in.

Upon meeting everyone and realizing how passionate they all were I decided to dedicate my time and efforts to the Collective.

Being through everything that I have been through has led me to be committed to not letting what happened to me happen to anyone else. I lived in Child Protective Services from the age of 6-21 years of age. It has mold and shaped me into the person I am today.

So far as a representative of the Collective I have assisted with grant writing to obtain funds to end Youth Homelessness in Austin by year 2020. I have also provided my insight, first-hand experience, and other feedback on what might or might not possibly work to prevent homelessness.

I can honestly say that I am working with a group of passionate and goal-oriented individuals. However, I feel that there are quite a few things we could also be working on, like preventing homelessness way before it even starts. Going into communities and teaching people how to budget, providing child care for people who can't afford it, job readiness skills, and free to little cost counseling services, and an overall "how to be productive and marketable" in today's society. Lacking any or all of these things is a leeway to being impoverished.

There is no doubt in my mind that what we have done so far will benefit so many people. I'd like to keep it that way.

**Appendix J. Signature Page**

The Austin Youth Collective to End Homelessness

Signed,

Gage Kemp  
Name,

Chanté Powell  
Name,

Darvion Borders  
Name

Gage Kemp  
Signature

Chanté Powell  
Signature

Darvion Borders  
Signature

Ann Howard

---

Ann Howard, Executive Director  
Continuum of Care Lead Agency

Staci Love

Staci Love, Service Program Administrator, Region 7  
Texas Department of Family Protective Services-Child Protective Services

W. Korman  
*on behalf of Stephanie Hayden*

Stephanie Hayden, Interim Director  
City of Austin-Austin Public Health



July 7, 2017

Re: Austin Youth Collective To End Homelessness Signature Page

As representatives of the Austin Youth Collective to End Homelessness we are committed to the effort by using our voice and expertise of lived experience to inform, advocate and demonstrate to our community that homelessness does not define who we are. Our representatives are diverse and include voices from youth of color, LGBTQ youth and youth with experience with the foster care system.

As part of the planning effort for the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program, our voices bring a vital perspective to the planning and implementation of the coordinated plan. Our membership has participated in the YHDP Leadership Advisory Council, Data, Social Justice and Prevention Institutions sub-committees. In addition, we have been active participants in providing direct input and reviewing the drafted community plan. We are excited continue to lead our local community's movement to end homelessness.

Sincerely,

The Austin Youth Collective to End Homelessness

Signed,

Gage Kemp  
Name,

Chanté Powell  
Name,

Darvion Borders  
Name

Gage Kemp  
Signature

Chanté Powell  
Signature

Darvion Borders  
Signature