

Alaska Balance of State Continuum of Care (AK-501) YHDP Coordinated Community Plan

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I. Background

The Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness (AKCH2) serves at the Alaska Balance of State (AK BoS) Continuum of Care (CoC) organization. Their responsibilities include establishing best practice policies and implementing strategies to prevent and end homelessness, co-governing the Alaska Homeless Management Information System (AKHMIS) with the Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness (ACEH), and evaluating system performance on a regular basis. The AK BoS is the largest CoC territory in the nation, spanning over 660,000 square miles (all communities excluding the Municipality of Anchorage), equivalent to an area larger than Texas, California, and Montana combined. Vast distances separate communities in Alaska, most of which are not accessible by road, dramatically limiting access for vulnerable populations in need of services. Despite its large geographic area, Alaska has a relatively small statewide population (737,438). Roughly 60% of Alaskans (443,082) reside in the Balance of State.

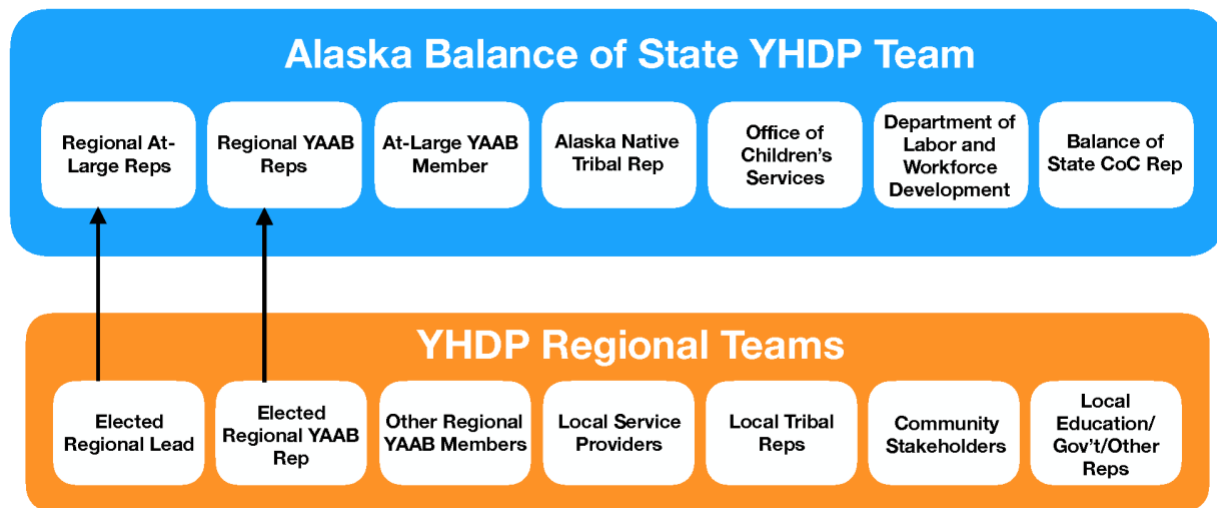
In 2019, AKCH2 was selected as one of twenty-three CoCs in the nation to plan for and implement a Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP). AKCH2 is part of the third cohort of YHDP communities and received an award of \$1.65 million over two years with the State of Alaska matching the federal grant with \$250 thousand annually. The YHDP is an opportunity for communities and stakeholders across our state to work together to establish a coordinated community plan to prevent youth homelessness and ensure that any homeless experience is rare, brief, and non-reoccurring.

To execute this YHDP grant, our community partners decided to divide the work into multiple regions based on geography, demography, preexisting referral relationships, agency service-delivery areas and the patterns in which youth and young adults experiencing homelessness move throughout the state. The regional teams indicated below will collaborate and bring decisions to the state CoC through the governance processes set out in subsequent sections. As additional communities become engaged in the YHDP planning and implementation process, the YHDP State team may change boundaries of regional teams, add additional regional teams, or merge existing regions.

Current YHDP Regional Teams

- Fairbanks/Interior
- Southeast Alaska (North)
- Mat-Su Valley
- Kenai Peninsula
- Bethel

III. Governance Structure



YHDP State Team

The YHDP State Team will consist of voting members from all of the regions identified above. Each region will nominate one local Youth Action Board member as well as one additional at large regional member. The State Team will also have one additional at large YAAB member, a representative from the Continuum of Care (AKCH2), an Alaska Native Tribal representative, a representative from the Office of Children’s Services (OCS) and a representative from the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD). Regional teams meet regularly and are organized so that they inform the Regional Leads on how to vote. The State Team will set racial and LGBTQ diversity goals for State Team membership. State Team Meetings will be open to a broad range of non-voting stakeholders including (but not limited to):

- Alaska Department of Education & Early Development
- Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development
- Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice
- Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act Regional Corporations
- Tribally Designated Housing Authorities
- Youth Service Providers
- Behavioral Health Crisis Providers
- Youth Beneficiary Groups

YHDP State Team Roles and Responsibilities

- Oversee the creation and implementation of the coordinated community response to prevent and end youth homelessness, including the creation of the plan's framework and guidance on regional work assignments.
- Determine the ranking and rating process for YHDP funds, which includes YAAB members. Based on the results of the competition, the State team will formally approve the projects prior to the CoC Board's approval.
- Ensure regions and projects are conducting business in-line with the CCP's guiding principles, including but not limited to, being youth led, using a housing first approach, focusing on equity for special populations and incorporating Trauma Informed Care (TIC) and Positive Youth Development (PYD) strategies.
- Convene once a month, telephonically or in-person, from January 2020 - April 2020 in person to review the work of the regional teams and guide the formation of the coordinated community plan to be submitted to HUD by April 2020.
- Track the progress of the open and competitive community process for awarding YHDP funds, including the local review process, which will include regional YAAB members, and the submission of YHDP applications by awardees.
- Convene the State Team in the Summer of 2020 to make formal recommendations, based off the local RFP review process, on the projects to be funded by YHDP funds to the CoC board.
- Facilitate a continuous quality improvement process on a quarterly basis throughout and after the YHDP grant term to oversee, monitor, and adjust the design and implementation of projects to be awarded by YHDP and other state and locally funded projects needed to implement the plan.
- Provide regular progress reports to the CoC Board and the CoC General Membership during and after the YHDP grant term.

YHDP State Team Decision Making

The YHDP State team will require a quorum for all votes which is defined by 2/3 of voting members being present. At the end of each State Team Meeting the group will determine what decisions need a formal vote to move forward. Any decision about the distribution of YHDP funds will need a formal vote. Votes will pass with a simple majority. The team will also determine a ranking and rating process for YHDP funds that ensure no conflicts of interest in the voting process. Regional teams will locally determine if they can send a proxy voter in the case that the regional lead cannot attend. Regions can also have co-leads and allow either to vote but will be restricted to one vote per region in any formal vote.

YHDP State Team Member List

The AK BoS YHDP State team members are listed below. If multiple individuals are listed under a single bullet point, that seat will be shared among those listed although they will only

represent one single vote on the state team. Additional members will be added to the state team as additional regions are engaged in YHDP planning and implementation.

- CoC Representative: Brian Wilson (Executive Director)
- PCWA Representative: Naomi Davidson
- Alaska Native Tribal Representative: Jackie Pata
- Department of Labor and Workforce Development: Leslie Vines
- At Large YAAB Member: Foot
- Southeast Alaska (North) Representative: Jordan Nigro
- Southeast Alaska (North) YAAB Representative: Max Wheat
- Homer Representative: Casey Brewer
- Homer YAAB Representative: Trevor Stanish-Kinsel
- Fairbanks Representative: Alnise Wyles
- Fairbanks YAAB Representative: Janet Khan
- Bethel Representative: Eileen Arnold
- Bethel YAAB Representative: Michael Bialy
- Mat-Su Representative: DaJonee Hale
- Mat-Su YAAB Representative: Al Gould
- LGBTQ+ Advocacy Representative: Julia Terry

YHDP Regional Teams

Each regional team will nominate a regional lead to represent their regional interests and vote at the YHDP state team meetings. Regional teams will be responsible for recruiting and forming their teams to complete regional assignments in-between the regular YHDP state team meetings. YHDP regional teams will report back to the YHDP state team to inform planning processes, inform planning content, and ensure implementation of the plan, including YHDP projects. Regional teams should have robust participation consisting of a wide variety of local stakeholders including (but not limited to):

- YHDP state team at-large member
- Regional state team YAAB member
- Other regional YAAB members
- Youth serving agencies
- Alaska Native Tribal Representatives
- Tribally Designated Housing Authorities
- School District Liaisons
- Representatives from stakeholders that work with at-risk or literally homeless youth (juvenile justice, behavioral health, mental health, employment, OCS)
- LGBTQ+ Advocacy Organizations
- Private Funders
- Local Housing and Homeless Coalition representatives

Regional team meetings should be as inclusive to as many local stakeholders as possible. To ensure transparency in decision-making and ongoing discussions, minutes and supporting documents should be posted publicly and uploaded to the statewide YHDP shared google drive.

Regional Team Roles and Responsibilities

- Respond to regional work assignments which will include, but are not limited to:
 - Gathering and analyzing regional data sets to inform the statement of need in the coordinated community plan and modeling the resources needed to address youth homelessness in their region
 - Developing regional goals, objectives, and action steps that are aligned with the framework agreed upon by the YHDP state team
 - Implementing the core values and principles of YHDP across their region
 - Developing innovative project ideas based on regional need
- Recruit and support YAAB members which may include supporting regional YAAB meetings
 - Strategize funding opportunities for regional youth action boards (e.g. compensation, operating costs, etc)
- Assist in the regional implementation of the coordinated community plan, including YHDP-funded projects
- Send regional representatives (at minimum the regional at-large and YAAB representatives) to regular YHDP state team convenings

Youth Alaska Action Board (YAAB)

The YAAB consists of youth and young adults ages 16-24¹ with a variety of lived experience with housing instability. The YAAB has an equal seat at all YHDP decision making tables, assists in the creation and implementation of the coordinated community plan, and gives formal approval to the plan and projects funded by YHDP. Due to our vast geography, the YAAB is maintaining outreach efforts and consistently reviews their bylaws as new members join. They have established representatives from each region, but strongly advocate for more youth involvement from the underrepresented (i.e. indigenous Alaskans, particularly from rural communities). Diverse representation of our extensive regions remains a priority.

With the help of Federal technical assistance, the YAAB drafted a structure and decision-making process, which is reviewed and updated on a regular basis. Their bylaws are can be found on the CoC website².

The Youth Alaska Action Board mission and vision are as follows...

¹ May also include 25 year olds if experienced chronic homelessness between ages 16-24

² Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness Website: <http://www.alaskahousing-homeless.org>

Mission: The YAAB self-organizes to ensure that the voices of young people are uplifted and recognized. We advocate for youth services in Alaska to be safe, stable, and secure and to create pathways for young people lacking resources.

Vision: The YAAB envisions a powerful youth voice and efficient collaboration amongst service providers in order to prevent, end, and decriminalize youth homelessness.

YAAB Structure

The statewide YAAB team consists of 5 regional representatives as well as an overall State Representative or "President," and Vice Representative, who make up the executive team. In addition, there are regional team members that attend meetings and give input regularly. The YAAB meets once a month minimum. For important decisions, there are 7 voting members. Our caucus is 5 out of 7, and $\frac{2}{3}$ majority passes. The executive team attends YHDP state meetings. Each region representative and the overall YAAB representative each get one vote at YHDP state team decisions.

Each region will have their own teams consisting of one official representative, a secondary, and any number of regional members. As mentioned before our regions are incredibly vast. Therefore, our regional teams will consist of individuals coming from various communities. Regional teams' voting and decision-making process will follow the state YAAB structure, until they create their own bylaws.

The President and Vice Representative have taken on the majority of responsibilities, including the duty to teach and share administrative skills with other members. YAAB members share administrative duties on a 3-month review/rotation. Members are either volunteer or are nominated to take on these functional tasks. It is the YAAB's goal to also receive self-advocacy and trauma informed training with the support and participation of the YHDP State Team. They hope to set a standard of providing access to opportunities to learn administrative skills, self-advocacy/leadership, and trauma informed/healing centered training to youth with lived experience lacking resources or home stability.

YAAB Roles and Responsibilities

- Represent, actively engage, and empower Homeless and underrepresented youth
- Attend and participate in Youth Alaska Action Board meetings
- Attend local resilience board, homeless resource coalition, service provider, or equivalent meetings
- Send regional YAAB representation to the YHDP state team meetings

- Provide insightful opinions and knowledge on the issue of youth homelessness based on personal experiences
- Support regional efforts to collect and review quality data
- Act as an ambassador and advocate for youth experiencing or at-risk of experiencing Homelessness
- Raise awareness and assist in recruiting new youth to participate in YAAB activities on an ongoing basis
- Connecting regional youth with local adult partners and organizations to coordinate local efforts aimed at ending youth homelessness
- Work with local schools to identify challenges and opportunities for improving local homeless response system
- Participate on the Project Ranking Committee
- Participate on the Continuous Quality Improvement Committee
- Participate and research relevant training for YAAB and service providers
- Strategize funding including grant research to maintain the YAAB budget

Compensation

YAAB membership, participation, and input to the planning, funding and system evaluation processes is critical to the success of our goals. As such, YAAB members are fairly compensated for the time they spend working on YHDP activities and meetings. YAAB members have created compensation policies based on the budget available to them. YAAB has determined that these policies are based off the living wage and must be above minimum wage by at least 20%. It is an expectation of YHDP State Team adult partners to work with the YAAB membership to identify additional funding to support YAAB activities. Regional YHDP Teams are also expected to identify local funding options to support regional YAAB activities.

IV. Stakeholder Chart

Partners	Organization Name	Description of Involvement
a. CoC Board	Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness (Scott Ciambor – Board Secretary, Dave Rose – Board Member, Mike Sanders – Board Member, Foot – Board Member, Brian Wilson – Executive Director)	YHDP State Team, Regional YHDP Teams
b. Youth Alaska Advisory Board (YAAB)	Foot, DaJonee Hale, Al Gould (Mat-Su), Max (SE Alaska),	YHDP State Team, Regional YHDP Teams, Statewide YAAB, Regional YAAB

	Janet Khan (Fairbanks), Michael Bialy (Bethel), Trevor Stanish-Kinsel (Homer)	
c. Local and State Government	Department of Labor and Workforce Development	YHDP State Team
	Office of Children’s Services	YHDP State Team
	City and Borough of Juneau	YHDP State Team
	City and Borough of Juneau, Municipality of Fairbanks, City of Wasilla, City of Homer, City of Bethel	YHDP Regional Teams
d. Public Child Welfare Agency	Office of Children’s Services	YHDP State Team, YHDP Regional Teams
	Raphael Martin	Bethel YHDP Regional Team
e. ESG Program Recipients	Fairbanks Youth Advocates	YHDP State Team, Regional YHDP Team
f. Local and State Law Enforcement and Judges	Homer Police Department, City and Borough of Juneau Police Department, Wasilla Police Department, Homer Police Department, Fairbanks Police Department, Bethel Police Department	Regional YHDP Teams
g. Early Childhood Development and Child Care providers	Sprout Family Services	Regional YHDP Team
	RurAL CAP (statewide)	Regional YHDP Teams
	Thrive Alaska	Regional YHDP Team
h. Local and State Educational Agencies	Students in Transition Representatives from Homer, Mat-Su, Juneau, Fairbanks, and Bethel	YHDP Regional Teams
	Kenai Peninsula College	Regional YHDP Team
	Lower Yukon School District (Meghan Crow)	Bethel Regional YHDP Team

<p>i. Runaway and Homeless Youth Program Providers</p>	<p>Choosing Our Roots</p> <p>My House</p> <p>Fairbanks Youth Advocates</p> <p>Youth Advocates of Sitka</p> <p>Tundra Women’s Coalition (Teens Acting Against Violence group)</p>	<p>Regional YHDP Team</p> <p>YHDP State Team, Regional YHDP Team</p> <p>YHDP State Team, Regional YHDP Team</p> <p>YHDP Regional Team</p> <p>Bethel YHDP Regional Team</p>
<p>j. Non-Profit Youth Organizations</p>	<p>Rec Room, Ninestar</p> <p>My House, Valley Charities, Inc, Salvation Army, Choosing Our Roots, BloodNFire</p> <p>Fairbanks Youth Advocates, Fairbanks Native Association, Boys and girls club</p> <p>Zach Gordon Youth Center, Juneau Youth Services, St. Vincent de Paul, AWARE, Glory Hall, Rock Juneau, Family Promise of Juneau, Youth Advocates of Sitka, SERRC – The Learning Connection</p> <p>Bethel Winter House, Tundra Women’s Coalition</p>	<p>Homer Regional YHDP Team</p> <p>Mat-Su Regional YHDP Team</p> <p>Fairbanks Regional YHDP Team</p> <p>Southeast Alaska Regional YHDP Team</p> <p>Bethel Regional YHDP Team</p>
<p>k. Juvenile and Adult Corrections and Probation</p>	<p>Kenai Peninsula Youth Court, Kenai Probation</p> <p>Fairbanks: Rob Austin</p> <p>Juneau: Alexander Heumann, Mindi Shoemake</p> <p>Zuly Petrie</p>	<p>Regional YHDP Team</p> <p>Regional YHDP Team</p> <p>Regional YHDP Team</p> <p>Bethel YHDP Team</p>

I. Health, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Agencies	Homer: South Peninsula Behavioral Health Center, CICADA, Seldovia Village Tribe Health and Wellness, The Exchange, Auntie’s House, Opioid Task Force, Ninilchik Traditional Council, Set Free Alaska	Homer Regional YHDP Team
	Mat-Su Health Services (Johnathan Carroll)	Mat-Su Regional YHDP Team
	Fairbanks Native Association	Fairbanks Regional YHDP Team
	Juneau: Juneau Teen Health Center (Beth Leban)	Southeast Alaska Regional YHDP Team
m. WIOA Boards and Employment Agencies	Homer Job Center, Peninsula Job Center	Regional YHDP Team
	Ninestar	State YHDP Team, Regional YHDP Teams
	Literacy Council, FJC, DVR	Fairbanks Regional YHDP Team
	Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (James Swanson, Vanessa Gabel)	Southeast Alaska Regional YHDP Team
	Anny Cochrane	Bethel Regional YHDP Team
n. Landlords	Angie Newby, Bob Bornt	Regional YHDP Team
	RurALCAP	Regional YHDP Teams
o. Public Housing Authorities	Alaska Housing Finance Corporation	Regional YHDP Teams
p. Institutions of Higher Education	Kenai Peninsula College	Regional YHDP Team
	University of Alaska	Regional YHDP Teams
q. Community Development Corporations	MAPP, Chamber of Commerce, Ninilchik Traditional Council, Seldovia	Regional YHDP Teams

	Village Tribe Health and Wellness	
r. Affordable Housing Developers	Conifer Woods, Harbor Ridge, KPHI Catherine Ceders, AVCP Housing	Regional YHDP Teams Bethel YHDP Regional Team
s. Local Advocacy, Research, and Philanthropic Organizations	Rasmuson Foundation SKP Resilience Coalition, MAPP, Homer Foundation, Independent Living Center Mat-Su Health Foundation Michelle DeWitt, Bethel Community Services Foundation	Regional YHDP Teams Homer Regional YHDP Team Mat-Su Regional YHDP Team Bethel Regional YHDP Team
t. Privately Funded Homeless Organizations	Winter House	Bethel Regional YHDP Team
u. Tribally Designated Housing Entity	Tlingit Haida Regional Housing Authority	YHDP State Team, YHDP Regional Team
v. Other	Homer: Haven House, Salvation Army, Homer Community Food Pantry, CARTS/Transportation, BUMPS Mat-Su: Knik Tribe (Stephen Adams), Family Promise (Ginger Bear), Heartreach (Tara Vanaman), Mat-Su Reentry Coalition (Barbara Mongar) Institute for Community Alliances Juneau: Sealaska (Matt Carle), Tlingit-Haida Regional Housing Authority (Joyce Niven), Central Council	Homer Regional YHDP Team Mat-Su Regional YHDP Team CQI Committee Juneau Regional YHDP Team

	Tundra Women’s Coalition, Eileen Arnold, Louise Angaiak; Winter House, Jon Cochrane; Orutsarrarmiut Native Council, Denise Kinegak	Bethel Regional YHDP Team
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V. Statement of Need

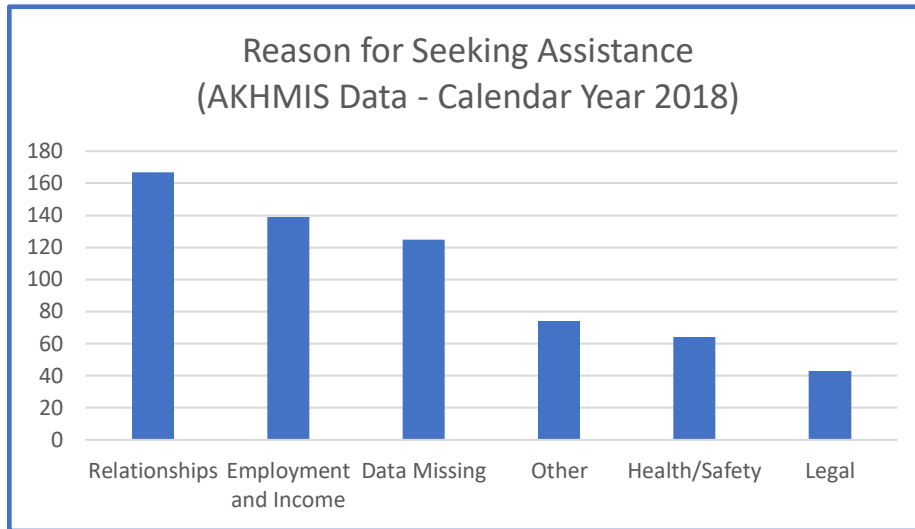
Prevalence of Youth Experiencing Homelessness and At-Risk of Homelessness in Balance of State Regions

The Alaska Balance of State Coordinated Community Plan was informed by quantitative data primarily from annual Point-in-Time (PIT) counts of persons meeting the HUD definition of literally homeless, the Alaska Homeless Management Information System (AKHMIS), Alaska Department of Health and Social Services’ Indicator-Based Information System for Public Health (AK-IBIS) and the State of Alaska Department & Early Development. As identified in the Goals, Objectives and Actions Steps section below, obtaining consistent and reliable data on youth at-risk of or experiencing homelessness has been a challenge for a variety of reasons. Lack of rural service providers and programs, agency capacity, severe overcrowding, and vast geography are the primary contributors to the limited amount of quantitative information for this population. Thus, data from these sources are commonly accepted to underrepresent the true needs and scope of youth homelessness in the Alaska Balance of State.

To ensure this planning process considered the significant risk factors specific to rural Alaska youth and capacity limitations within the existing youth homelessness service array, qualitative data was collected and analyzed from youth and other members of the community through direct interviews, in-person work sessions, and open meetings.

Alaska Homeless Management Information System (AKHMIS) Data

Due to the absence of youth-oriented homeless services, AKHMIS data is minimal in many of our regions. In 2019, AKCH2 conducted a youth needs assessment based on AKHMIS data entered by agencies throughout its geographic region during the 2018 calendar year. An unduplicated total of 2,257 youth under the age of 25 touched the homeless delivery system. Due to where youth services are primarily located, most of those youth presented in our hub communities (Mat-Su, Fairbanks, Juneau, Kenai, etc.). The primary resource accessed by youth was prevention services (1,165 clients, 51.6%) whereas 15.9% (2,257) accessed emergency shelter, 14.4% (327) permanent housing, 8.9% (202) supportive services, 3.7% (85) street outreach, and 3.4% (77) transitional housing. The primary reason for seeking assistance was relationships followed by employment and income hardships (see chart below).



Point in Time (PIT) Data

The CoC collected and reported data on sheltered and unsheltered homeless youth during the 2019 PIT count; however, the numbers collected during the 2018 PIT count are small due to numerous factors. The 2019 PIT data was collected mainly in hub communities with higher populations like Fairbanks, Juneau, Kodiak, Mat-Su Valley and Nome; therefore, sheltered and unsheltered homeless youth living in more rural areas of the state were not figured into these counts. In addition, many homeless youth and young adults move from couch to couch, trap house to trap house, or friend house to friend house sleeping in hallways, stairwells, cars, tents, and other places not meant for human habitation. Collecting PIT data becomes even more difficult because homeless youth and young adults are hard to find and only 5 of our 149 communities have any form of shelter or other housing options for youth and young adults. The 2019 PIT results for unaccompanied youth, parenting youth, and children of parenting youth can be found in the table below.

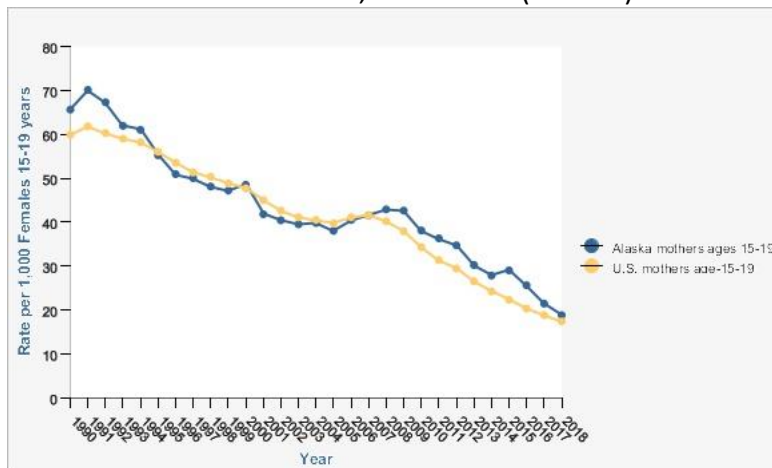
2019 Alaska Balance of State PIT Data

	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing		
Unaccompanied Youth	33	17	20	70
Under 18 Years Old	9	2	0	11
Ages 18-24	24	15	20	59
Parenting Youth	1	2	0	3
Under 18 Years Old	0	0	0	0
Ages 18-24	1	2	0	3
Children of Parenting Youth	1	2	0	3

Alaska Indicator-Based Information System for Public Health (AK-IBIS)

The Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) tracks numerous health factors annually in their AK-IBIS database. One of the many health indicators monitored is teen pregnancy rates. Research has shown many connections between teen pregnancy and homelessness³. In 2018, Alaska had a teen birth rate of 18.8 per 1,000 which is above the national rate of 17.4 births per 1,000 females aged 15-19 years for the same period. As seen in the chart below, the teen birth rate in Alaska has been higher than the national average since 2008, although both are showing relatively similar declines. DHSS analysis identified a racial disparity among teen birth rates in its most recent year of analysis. The teen birth rate of 35.7 per 1,000 for Alaska Native women 15-19 years of age in 2018 was significantly higher than those of Asian/Pacific Islander (13.9 per 1,000), Black (20.6 per 1,000), and White (12.2 per 1,000) races⁴.

Teen Birth Rate, Females aged 15-19 years
Alaska and U.S., 1990-2018 (AK-IBIS)



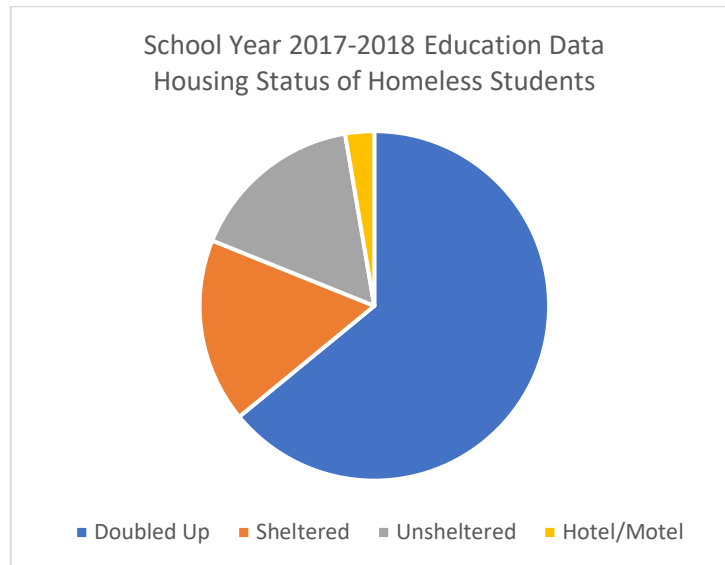
Education System Data

The Alaska Department of Education & Early Development works with McKinney-Vento school district homeless liaisons to identify and collect data on children and youth experiencing homelessness. In the 2017-2018 school year (SY1718), 1,784 homeless students were identified in the Alaska Balance of State which represents an 8.6% increase from the previous year (1,642 in SY1617). This number underrepresents the true total of homeless students counted during the SY1718 due to a high number of districts suppressing data for confidentiality purposes. A

³ Thompson, S.J., Bender, K.A., Lewis, C.M., & Watkins, R. (2008). Runaway and Pregnant: Risk Factors Associated with Pregnancy in a National Sample of Runaway/Homeless Female Adolescents. *Journal of Adolescent Health*. Vol. 43(2) 125-132.

⁴ Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (2019, August 27) *Complete Health Indicator Report of Teen Birth Rate*. http://ibis.dhss.alaska.gov/indicator/complete_profile/AdoBrth.html

total of 483 of the homeless SY1718 students were unaccompanied. The chart below displays the housing situation for the youth meeting the Department of Education’s definition of homelessness.



Service Needs of Youth Experiencing and At-Risk of Homelessness

In order to address the risks and vulnerabilities of the sub-populations identified in this section, the Alaska Balance of state will develop a continuum of housing and supports tailored to address each individual’s specific needs. As a continuum that is interdependent with the systems established within the boundaries of Alaska’s other CoC (Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness), we share the need to develop a system for all YHDP priority sub-populations that is accessible and easy to enter, which includes:

- **Outreach and engagement:** All youth and young adults who are at-risk or experiencing homelessness need intentional outreach to engage them in coordinated entry to either divert them from homelessness or to make their experience of homelessness rare, brief, and non-reoccurring. This requires a system that establishes clear entry points and referral opportunities for all at-risk or literal homeless youth, regardless of the community in which they are presenting. Given our vast geography and lack of rural service providers, this is a challenging goal to accomplish. AKCH2 will focus on strengthening our partnerships with education homeless liaisons, the Alaska 2-1-1 system and consult our statewide YAAB team on ways we can best use technology and social media to reduce barriers to entry and increase referral opportunities.
- **Age-appropriate and Individualized Case Management:** Our coordinated community planning process identified the lack of case management, particularly age-appropriate system navigation, as a gap in our service array throughout rural Alaska. All youth and young adults who are at-risk or experiencing homelessness need some level of

individualized navigation to help identify the range of options available to the youth or young adult and to assist him/her/them in selecting the supports to best meet their needs.

For each of the YHDP priority sub-populations: at-risk unaccompanied youth, unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness, at-risk pregnant or parenting youth, and pregnant or parenting youth experiencing homelessness, we have identified the following specific needs:

Service Needs of Unaccompanied Youth and Young Adults At-risk of Homelessness

Youth and young adults who are unaccompanied and at-risk of homelessness are those we intend to identify and divert from homelessness. To accomplish this, we will need to address the following needs:

- **Housing:** Depending on the age of the young person and their level of vulnerability, youth and young adults who are at risk of homelessness may need supports and navigation to be diverted from homelessness to include family reunification, host family respite or placement, host homes, and higher levels of support such as therapeutic foster care, assisted living and group homes. To address the needs of at-risk youth will require an assessment and individualized service planning to help the young person choose the most appropriate options to meet his/her/their needs. Training in rent-readiness and other skills to succeed as a tenant is a need among this group.
- **Employment + Education:** Low levels of educational attainment greatly increases the risk of experiencing homelessness due to limited higher education, vocational, and employment options. At-risk youth and young adults require supports to complete their high school educations and to continue into vocational or higher educational training including transportation to maintain school stability, tutoring, credit recovery to re-take classes, and other individualized supports. Similarly, engagement with employers and skills to increase employability are also needed.
- **Social and Emotional Wellbeing:** Connecting youth who are at-risk of homelessness with one or more caring adult is a primary need to divert them from homelessness. Particularly for youth who have higher vulnerabilities through experiencing family violence, trafficking, stigma and rejection associated with gender and sexual identity, connecting with a positive social group and with caring adults is one of the most important needs to address to protect them from future homelessness.

Service Needs of Unaccompanied Youth and Young Adults Experiencing Homelessness

Youth and young adults who are unaccompanied and experiencing homelessness are those we intend to serve through the strengthened coordinated entry system of housing and supports. To accomplish this, we will need to address the following needs:

- **Housing:** Youth and young adults experiencing homelessness need a safe and stable home with the level of support appropriate to help the young person maintain housing. The type of housing and supports appropriate to an individual depends on the age and level of vulnerability of the young person. The Alaska Balance of State suffers from a lack of housing first, affordable housing, transitional housing and host homes for all populations, particularly at-risk or literal homeless youth. The service gap widens for specific sub-populations such as youth and young adults who identify as LGBTQ+.
- **Employment + Education:** Critical for a young person who is experiencing homelessness to maintain housing is the ability to complete education, go on to higher education or vocational training, and/or to maintain employment. This may include completion of a GED, re-enrollment in high school, assistance applying for college or vocational programs, and employment readiness services. Successful models have been established in a handful of communities which meet the specific needs of YHDP subpopulations in rural Alaska.
- **Social and Emotional Wellbeing:** For a young person who is experiencing homelessness, developing a positive social network by engaging with pro-social communities and developing stable relationships with caring adults is fundamental to the young person maintaining housing, overcoming obstacles, and succeeding in their educational, employment and other life goals.

Specific Needs of Special Populations of Youth Experiencing Homelessness

Minors (under 18)

Current data on minors under the age of 18 is considerably limited in the Alaska Balance of State. In 2019, AKHMIS data identified 182 minors accessed emergency shelter in the Alaska Balance of State. Over three quarters of those individuals were identified in the Fairbanks region. Based on community input, we know these data do not represent the true need of the CoC’s geography for a number of reasons. Emergency shelter options in the Balance of State are extremely limited and completely non-existent in the majority of its rural hubs. For example, Juneau, the state’s capitol, recently closed its only youth emergency shelter, leaving an entire geographic region with no emergency housing options for unaccompanied youth. The primary housing option for unaccompanied youth remains couch surfing at friends’ houses or finding other places not meant for human habitation.

The table below consists of community feedback related to the specific needs of minors (under 18) facing homelessness:

SPECIFIC NEEDS OF MINORS (UNDER 18)			
Housing Needs	Education Needs	Employment Needs	Social & Emotional Well Being Needs

Advocates/Liaisons who can help youth obtain parental signatures and explain situation to parents	Pathways for youth to obtain their GED	More job training programs	More social spaces for youth that are not in school
Creating a path for delineation of parental rights that does not require Power of Attorney	Alternative ways to connect with schooling options (AKA, reviewing “desk time” policies that currently serve as a barrier)	Decreased barriers for obtaining driver’s license/state-issued ID	Peer support for minors (particularly peers with lived experience)
Legal support for emancipation	Trauma Informed educational practices	Increased access to transportation	Recreation centers and youth drop-in centers with later hours and open 7 days a week
Policy change to allow youth more voice in their options	More counselors in schools to address needs of the whole person	Internships and training programs that connect youth to employment opportunities after completion	
Increase Host Home, Transitional Housing and Alternative Housing options across all regions		Some regions have limited vocational trainings	
Permanency Navigators who can help all homeless or at-risk youth find creative solutions to housing crisis		Access to vocational trainings can be difficult to impossible given the state’s lack of transportation system	
Housing programs that serve as a good handoff for youth aging out		Department of Labor and Workforce Development is working on improving marketing of available resources	

Pregnant and Parenting Youth

Living as a homeless, unaccompanied youth is dangerous, especially if the teen is pregnant or parenting a small child. The instability of moving from place to place is not conducive to healthy pregnancies or successful parenting where the first 1,000 days of a child's life are a critical time for cognitive, physical and social development⁵. Studies have shown that pregnant and parenting youth have increased risks of becoming homeless and that, nationally, relatively few homeless service providers serve minor parents⁶.

The most recent National Vital Statistics report⁷ cited that Alaska had a teen pregnancy rate of 19.3 birth rate in 2018 (live births per 1,000 females aged 15-19). This ranks higher than the national average of 17.4 for the same year. As shown in Alaska's most recent Vital Statistics Annual Report⁸, youth of color experience higher teen birth rates, particularly American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) youth. In 2018, AI/AN youth had a teen birth rate of 35.7, whereas white youth had a rate of 12.2 (lowest among race and ethnicity categories). In addition, the same report shows that the more rural public health regions (Northern and Southwest) had significantly higher teen birth rates (56.4 and 43.5 respectively) compared to regions that contain higher population densities (Anchorage: 15.5, Mat-Su: 14.4). Using Alaska Longitudinal Child Abuse and Neglect Linkage Project data⁹, a population level study was completed to identify factors for involvement with child protective services and the associated odds ratio for each factor. The two factors with the highest odds ratio, meaning those which increased the odds of involvement with child protection the most, were, for the mother, "being homeless" and having "public aid as a source of family income." These factors increased the odds of involvement with child protection by a factor of 5.48.

The table below consists of community feedback related to the specific needs of pregnant and parenting youth facing homelessness:

SPECIFIC NEEDS OF PREGNANT AND PARENTING YOUTH

⁵ Preventing Early Childhood Adversity Before It Starts, <https://www.chcs.org/maximize-medicaid-opportunities-prevent-early-childhood-adversity-starts>

⁶ Missed Opportunities: Pregnant and Parenting Youth Experiencing Homelessness in America, <https://voicesofyouthcount.org/brief/pregnant-and-parenting-youth-experiencing-homelessness/>

⁷ National Vital Statistics Report, Vol. 68 (13), https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr68/nvsr68_13-508.pdf

⁸ Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health, Health Analytics and Vital Records Section. Alaska Vital Statistics 2018 Annual Report. http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/VitalStats/Documents/PDFs/VitalStatistics_Annualreport_2018.pdf.

⁹ Alaska Longitudinal Child Abuse and Neglect Linkage Project (ALCANLink), Alaska Division of Public Health. <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/wcfh/Pages/mcheipi/ALCANLink/default.aspx>

Housing Needs	Education Needs	Employment Needs	Social & Emotional Well Being Needs
Emergency housing with no preconditions	Increased access to alternative schools including home school options	Viable and easily accessible day care options during working hours	Parenting classes
Housing first opportunities (Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Supportive Housing)	Decrease barriers to access by reviewing state “desk time” policies	Flexible work-at-home options	Peer Support groups
Permanency Navigator program to build trusted relationship and connect with housing opportunities and supportive services	Viable and easily accessible day care options during school hours		Access to healthcare and supportive wellness resources within housing programs and in the community
			Access to sexual wellness and resources for sexual health

Youth Involvement with Juvenile Justice and Foster Care Systems

There is a significant intersection between homelessness and the juvenile justice and foster care systems. Studies have shown that runaway and homeless youth have higher rates of involvement with the juvenile justice system¹⁰. In FY18, the Alaska Juvenile Justice system received a total of 2,544 referrals¹¹. The majority of justice involved youth were referred from Balance of State regions (59.5%) and are between the ages of 15-17 years old. The state currently operates six different juvenile justice facilities, five of which are located in the Balance of State. Two of the rural youth facilities contain zero treatment beds to address acute mental and behavioral issues.

Other reports outline linkages between aging out of foster care and increased rates of homelessness¹². Looking at the most recent complete year data for youth in out-of-home foster

¹⁰ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2008; Kaufman & Windom, 1999

¹¹ Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice, DJJ Data Trends (2019).

<http://dhss.alaska.gov/djj/Pages/GeneralInfo/Stats.aspx>

¹² From Foster Home to Homeless: Strategies to Prevent Homelessness for Youth Transitioning From Foster Care. Annie E. Casey Foundation, (2014).

care placements, the AFCARS report showed that 437,283 in the 2018 fiscal year nationally¹³. Alaska reports their out-of-home placements based on calendar year. In 2018, Alaska had 4,115 unique youth in out-of-home foster care¹⁴. Most of those placements were in Balance of State communities (59.7%, 2,458 youth). There is a significant racial disparity in the Alaska foster care system. In 2018, 62.2% (2,563) of the out-of-home foster care placements were Alaska Native.

The table below consists of community feedback related to the specific needs of justice involved youth:

SPECIFIC NEEDS OF JUSTICE INVOLVED YOUTH			
Housing Needs	Education Needs	Employment Needs	Social & Emotional Well Being Needs
More Reentry programs	Create alternative pathways (e.g. Alaska Military Youth Academy)	Employers who will hire youth with juvenile justice involvement	Therapy and mental health counseling
Alternative living situations similar to Raven’s Way in Sitka	Empowerment Counseling and advocacy		Additional treatment options for youth with substance abuse
Mentorship and Counselors	Support for lower or remedial education tracks		Programs that provide supports for transition from justice system
Data sharing across systems (AKHMIS, DJJ, OCS, etc)	Increase access to opportunities like the high performing students (e.g. At-Risk Strategy)		
	Increased access to Northern Industrial Training		

The table below consists of community feedback related to the specific needs of foster care involved youth:

SPECIFIC NEEDS OF FOSTER CARE INVOLVED YOUTH

¹³ The AFCARS Report No. 26, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children’s Bureau (2019).

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/afcarsreport26.pdf>

¹⁴ Children Out of Home Report, Alaska Office of Children’s Services (2020).

<http://dhss.alaska.gov/ocs/Documents/statistics/Webdata/mainOohYr.pdf>

Housing Needs	Education Needs	Employment Needs	Social & Emotional Well Being Needs
Stable housing strategies	Ability to gain college credits if attending alternative schools	Accessible, supported and supportive work environments	Support for separation and attachment issues
Transitional housing	Create educational pathways that are geared towards individual strengths and opportunities to explore	Connection to purposeful career pathways that are geared to the person’s passions and strengths	More emphasis on improving mediation between foster youth vs. foster placement and diversion
Shared or congregate housing options	Connection to scholarships	Collaborations and partnerships with businesses	Increased access to counseling and mediation
			Peer supports and mentorship
			Safe communication with family

Victims of Sexual Trafficking, Labor Trafficking and Exploitation

Due to the extreme risk to victims of sexual trafficking, labor trafficking and exploitation who share their stories and high need for privacy for these subpopulations, needs data is relatively limited and does not necessarily capture the true number of youth and young adults experiencing these situations. Although, a case study¹⁵ of ten communities across the nation sponsored by Covenant House included Anchorage as a focus site. Given the connectedness Anchorage has with rural communities in Alaska, we can assume that the data gathered from victim interview hold true for the Balance of State. The study found that of the sample of ten cities, Anchorage had the highest reported prevalence of trafficking (28%) compared to the national survey rate (19%). Nationally, 15% of the interviewed youth had been trafficked for sex, 7.4% trafficked for labor and 3% trafficked for both. LGBTQ+ youth were more likely to be trafficked (27%) compared to their non-LGBTQ+ peers.

The table below consists of community feedback related to the specific needs of youth and young adult victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation:

SPECIFIC NEEDS OF VICTIMS OF SEXUAL TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION			
Housing Needs	Education Needs	Employment Needs	Social & Emotional Well Being Needs

¹⁵ Loyola University New Orleans, Modern Slavery Research Project, *Labor and Sex Trafficking Among Homeless Youth*, 2016.

Domestic Violence and trafficking shelters for under 18 population	Access to private and confidential educational options	Access to private and confidential employment	Homeless response system should be asking the questions if they are experiencing sexual trafficking or exploitation as opposed to waiting for youth to self-report
Privacy and confidentiality on housing placements		Mentorship programs	Trauma Informed Care environment
Review intake process and make sure it is set up to flag if people are experiencing trafficking			Crisis intervention
Accessible entry points (e.g. 211, app resources to access services and filing reports)			

The table below consists of community feedback related to the specific needs of youth and young adult victims of labor trafficking and exploitation:

SPECIFIC NEEDS OF VICTIMS OF LABOR TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION			
Housing Needs	Education Needs	Employment Needs	Social & Emotional Well Being Needs
Domestic Violence and trafficking shelters for under 18 population	Access to private and confidential educational options	Access to private and confidential employment	Homeless response system should be asking the questions if they are experiencing sexual trafficking or exploitation as opposed to waiting for youth to self-report

Privacy and confidentiality on housing placements		Mentorship programs	Trauma Informed Care environment
Review intake process and make sure it is set up to flag if people are experiencing trafficking			Crisis intervention
Accessible entry points (e.g. 211, app resources to access services and filing reports)			

Alaska Native Youth

Nationally, most minority groups experience homelessness at much higher rates than whites¹⁶. This is consistent with statewide homelessness data, particularly for Alaska Native individuals. In a recent statewide racial disparity analysis¹⁷, we found that 30.24% of individuals who accessed homeless services were Alaska Native despite only representing 15.4% of the state’s population¹⁸. This is a significantly higher rate of homelessness compared whites (38.8% of clients, 65.3% of Alaska population). In the 2018 calendar year, AKHMIS data show that 1,035 Alaska Native youth and young adults accessed homeless services in Alaska. Nearly half of those (45%) accessed emergency shelter, 25% homeless prevention, and only 16.5% accessed PSH/RRH/TH. Alaska Native youth and young adults were also shown to be very vulnerable with 46.13% scoring highly vulnerable on the TAY-SPDAT and 60.58% displaying medium levels of vulnerability.

It is also important to note that the proportionate percentage of Alaska Native population significantly increases as you get more rural. Unfortunately, large portions of our state lack any homeless intervention resources, particularly in those rural communities. Thus, data measuring the true need of Alaska Native individuals, including youth and young adults, does not accurately reflect the actual level of service needs. In addition, rural Alaska communities experience extremely high rates of overcrowding and severe overcrowding based on HUD’s

¹⁶ Homeless Research Institute, Joy Moses, Demographic Data Project: Race, Ethnicity, and Homelessness (2019). <https://endhomelessness.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/3rd-Demo-Brief-Race.pdf>

¹⁷ Racial Disparities in Alaska Homeless Response System, ICA (2019). <https://public.tableau.com/profile/alissa.parrish#!/vizhome/2018AKRacialDisparity/2018CalendarYear>

¹⁸ United States Census Bureau, Alaska QuickFacts (2019). <http://census.gov/quickfacts/AK>

definition. All twelve Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) regions experience overcrowding rates higher than the national average. Four of the ANCSA regions (Calista, NANA, Bering Straits, and Arctic Slope) experience severe overcrowding rates ten times the national average¹⁹. The overcrowding rates increase even more when you compare non-rural hub communities with rural hubs. There is a significant negative effect of overcrowding on youth who have shown to have lower school attendance rates, increased health complications, and higher rates of being victims of child abuse.

The table below consists of community feedback related to the specific needs of Alaska Native youth and young adults:

SPECIFIC NEEDS OF ALASKA NATIVE YOUTH			
Housing Needs	Education Needs	Employment Needs	Social & Emotional Well Being Needs
Culturally connecting services	Create opportunities for telehealth, telemedicine, virtual resources	Mentorship programs	Culturally responsive and educated services
Outreach to the rural communities and connect them to existing housing services	Access to internet	Remote skills training opportunities	Emphasis on Elder input
Find ways to get supplies to build and repair housing	Teaching cultural practices of Native Alaskans is integral to youths' social and emotional well being	Increased connection with larger rural employers	Teaching cultural practices of Native Alaskans is integral to youths' social and emotional well being
Host Homes resources (e.g. grocery funding, fuel for heat, water)			
Transportation to communities to access other resources			
More transitional and Permanent			

¹⁹ Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, 2018 Housing Assessment. <https://www.ahfc.us/pros/energy/alaska-housing-assessment/2018-housing-assessment/ancsa-overcrowding>

housing opportunities			
Culturally appropriate Coordinated Entry Access points			

LGBTQ+

LGBTQ+ youth are overrepresented in the nation’s homeless population. A 2017 study by Chapin Hall of the University Chicago concluded that LGBTQ+ youth have a 120% higher risk of becoming homeless compared to their peers²⁰. True Colors United (TCU) estimates that up to 40% of the homeless youth population are LGBTQ+ despite only representing 7% of the youth in the United States²¹. The same TCU study cited family conflict (being forced out of their home or running away) at the overwhelming primary factor contributing to the increased proportion of LGBTQ+ youth.

Unfortunately, LGBTQ+ youth also face higher levels of hardship, as documented in a follow-up Chapin Hall study in 2018²². Hardship was defined as experiencing higher rates of trauma, assault, exchanging sex for basic needs, and death. As is a case with many smaller and more socially conservative communities across the nation, there is an increased amount of non-inclusive policy and programming in the Alaska Balance of State among schools, service providers, healthcare facilities, and other community supports for the LGBTQ+ population. This community planning process shed light on significant discrimination and hardships that LGBTQ+ youth face when attempting to access housing or community supports.

The table below consists of community feedback related to the specific needs of LGBTQ+ youth and young adults facing homelessness:

SPECIFIC NEEDS OF LGBTQ+ YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS			
Housing Needs	Education Needs	Employment Needs	Social & Emotional Well Being Needs

²⁰ Missed Opportunities: Youth Homelessness in America, Chapin Hall of the University of Chicago (2017). <https://voicesofyouthcount.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/VoYC-National-Estimates-Brief-Chapin-Hall-2017.pdf>

²¹ Choi, S., Wilson, B., Shelton, J., & Gates, G. “Serving our youth 2015: The Needs and Experiences of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning Youth Experiencing Homelessness” (2015). <https://truecolorsunited.org/portfolio/serving-our-youth/>

²² Morton, M. H., Samuels, G. M., Dworsky, A., & Patel, S. (2018). *Missed opportunities: LGBTQ youth homelessness in America*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.

Mandatory education and training for sheltering and youth-serving systems (including licensed foster homes) to respond in explicitly affirming and accepting ways	Mandatory education and training for educators and education systems to respond in explicitly affirming and accepting ways	Education for job training programs to create supportive environment for LGBTQ+ youth	Education, training and awareness opportunities
LGBTQ+ specific providers and spaces	Update to all forms and intake to include gender identity, relationship orientation, name used	More job training programs	Community with other LGBTQ+ people (peer and multigenerational)
More Host Homes similar to those run by Choosing Our Roots	Educators should be aware of and make referrals to LGBTQ+ advocacy and peer resources	Advocacy alongside youth in order to support engagement with job readiness providers (bias, transphobia, and homophobia is a huge barrier to job skill acquisition)	Required annual equity training for all HUD and other state-funded agencies
Update to all forms and intake to include gender identity, relationship orientation, name used	Encourage support of local LGBTQ+ alliance organizations to develop mentorship space for LGBTQ+ youth	Accessible, supported and supportive work environments	Access to LGBTQ+ affirming healthcare systems
Intention and advocacy around data collection in order to demonstrate need in housing systems	Create educational pathways that are geared towards individual strengths and opportunities to explore and reduce barriers with GED and completion programs		Connection to telehealth for behavioral health support, especially in conservative communities and small communities where privacy is an issue
All sheltering systems must have a LGBTQ+ evidence-based response process for	Connection to scholarships specific to LGBTQ+ young people		Young adult support people (trained volunteer mentorship program)

appropriately sheltering gender expansive/trans youth.			
Emergency shelter and THP must shelter trans youth according to their identity	Access to LGBTQ+ specific information (including increasing access to telemedicine, telehealth, affirming healthcare, etc)		
All systems in CoC must affirm a zero tolerance for anti-LGBTQ+ behaviors	Schools are not doing a good job upholding zero tolerance policies		
Commitment to assist youth with finding shelter in their own community, if that's what they prefer			
Providers are wrongfully placing gender expansive youth into binary, gender enforcing programs			
Some communities continue to refer to conversion therapists			
Some service providers have biases against LGBTQ+ youth and inaccurately state that all LGBTQ+ youth have substantial mental health problems			
Housing providers discomfort with serving LGBTQ+ youth results in			

youth refusing to access services			
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VI. Guiding Principles & Strategies (USICH Core Outcomes)

In 2012, USICH released an amendment to the federal *Opening Doors* plan to assist communities in their planning processes to create a coordinated community response to ending youth homelessness. These outcomes reflect the understanding that youth experiencing homelessness have varied and unique needs that require a wide array of interventions and pathways to help them achieve outcomes they have identified as most critical to their success. USICH described the core outcomes in a memo released in early 2013²³ as:

- **Stable Housing.** Stable housing includes a safe and reliable place to call home. Stable housing fulfills a critical and basic need for homeless youth. It is essential to enabling functioning across a range of life activities. Lack of stable housing, on the other hand, exposes young people to a multitude of risks on the street.
- **Permanent Connections.** Permanent connections include ongoing attachments to families, communities, schools, and other positive social networks. Connections support young people’s ability to access new ideas and opportunities that support thriving and they provide a social safety net when young people are at risk of re-entering homelessness.
- **Education & Employment.** 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. Achievements in education and employment increase a youth’s capacity to support themselves and avoid future homelessness
- **Well-being.** Well-being refers to the social and emotional functioning of homeless youth. It includes the development of key competencies, attitudes, and behaviors that equip a young person experiencing homelessness to avoid unhealthy risks and to succeed across multiple domains of daily life, including school, work, relationships, and community.

This Coordinated Community Plan describes the specific needs of multiple subpopulations, identifies barriers to successful outcomes, and outlines strategies, goals, objectives and action steps the Alaska Balance of State must employ to achieve these four core outcomes for all youth and young adults at-risk of or experiencing homelessness.

²³ Framework to End Youth Homelessness: A Resource Text for Dialogue and Action, USICH. (February 2013).

Strategies Used to Engage and Address Homelessness for Special Populations

There is no “one size fits all” approach to addressing homelessness for youth and young adults. The Alaska Balance of State YHDP Team realizes that different subpopulations face unique challenges and have specific housing and supportive service needs. Based on national and statewide data, it is clear that certain subpopulations face significant increased risks of homelessness, harm, and other forms of trauma.

This section will outline the specific strategies for youth and young adults for the following subpopulations:

- Alaska Native Youth
- LGBTQ+ Youth
- Minors (Under 18)
- Pregnant and Parenting Youth
- Justice System and Foster Care Involved Youth
- Victims of Sexual Trafficking, Labor Trafficking and Exploitation

These strategies are intended to work in coordination with the goals, objectives, and action steps outlined in the sections below. Some of the strategies listed in this and other sections are currently being implemented while others are still in the planning phase. As we continue to implement YHDP in the Balance of State, we will update this and other sections of the coordinated community plan.

Alaska Native Youth

- Ensure that Native youth and Native organizations are always engaged in planning, implementation, and decision-making process in a voting role
- Work with Native youth with lived experience, Tribal Corporations, tribally designated regional housing authorities, and the Tribal healthcare system to ensure that all aspects of the homeless response system are culturally appropriate and culturally inclusive for Alaska Native youth and young adults
- Ensure that all Point in Time and Youth Count activities are culturally inclusive and inviting for Alaska Native population
- Provide pathways to housing and supports for individuals who have been removed from their home community (either by choice or need) and do not have established relationships or knowledge of local providers and resources
- Improve data collection and monitoring to ensure that all youth and young adults struggling with a housing crisis, including overcrowding, are captured in our data

systems. Currently, some Federal definitions of homelessness still count overcrowding situations as “doubled up”

- Work to identify safe homes in all communities. Many villages don’t have local service providers or emergency housing options for youth that may need an immediate housing alternative
- Provide counseling services that offer specialized care for historical or unresolved trauma and mental or behavioral health issues associated with racism and colonialism
- Conduct an annual racial disparity and system mapping analysis to identify where inequity exists in the current system. Develop strategies to eliminate any demonstrated inequities

LGBTQ+ Youth

LGBTQ+ youth are part of every special population identified in this plan thus all the barriers and interventions also apply to this population. In addition, other LGBTQ+ specific strategies include:

- Work with Choosing Our Roots and LGBTQ+ youth to improve data intake forms (e.g. include gender identity, relationship orientation, etc.) and system analysis procedures to ensure we are better measuring the specific needs and outcomes of housing and service interventions
- Require all HUD, state and locally funded housing and service organizations to receive equity training on an annual basis. Ensure all front-line personnel receive equity training prior to providing services
- Work with schools, housing providers and youth serving agencies to ensure proper trainings are taking place on how to work with LGBTQ+ youth
- Establish housing options that do not exclude or discriminate against LGBTQ+ youth or young adults
- Ensure annual Point in Time and Youth Count events are inclusive and inviting to LGBTQ+ community
- Ensure youth have access to transition-related medical services, particularly in rural areas
- Work to establish LGBTQ+ peer support groups in as many communities as possible and identify ways for LGBTQ+ youth to access peer supports virtually

Minors (Under 18)

- Establish and improve mentorship and counseling options to assist youth in obtaining parental signatures which may serve as a barrier to accessing housing
- Explore options for homeless minors to have a physical address needed to obtain identification documents
- Reassess all marketing documents targeted to youth specific to supportive and housing services. Work with youth to ensure they are written in an easy to understand way and

that advertisement strategy accommodates those without access to phone or internet services.

- Permanency Navigator program that can provide consistent peer support to assist homeless youth find housing and service options appropriate to their needs
- Create a path for delineation of parental rights that does not require Power of Attorney
- Ensure that all youth programs and referral process guarantee youth choice in service delivery. Youth must have a say in their recovery process to increase the chances of successful outcomes
- Work with local housing and homeless coalitions to ensure that youth have a “place to go” 24 hours and day, 7 days a week. As it stands, several rural hub communities only have drop-in centers operating during limited hours.

Pregnant and Parenting Youth

- Develop a peer community of young mothers, fathers and parents that can be accessed either in their home community or virtually for youth who may live in rural areas with limited resources
- Communities will work with early childhood programs to ensure they are trained and equipped to the intersections of pregnant and parenting youth who are experiencing homelessness
- Work with HHS to identify ways to improve accessibility of healthcare systems for pregnant and parenting youth in rural communities. Identify telehealth options whenever necessary.
- Work with providers to ensure sexual health education and birth control can be easily and confidentially accessed
- Work with funders of emergency housing options for youth to eliminate barriers to entry for pregnant and parenting clients.
- Work with Department of Labor and Workforce Development to identify flexible work at home options for pregnant or parenting youth

Justice System and Foster Care Involved Youth

- Develop a landlord liaison program that provides education to landlords and aims to create new housing opportunities for youth that were formerly incarcerated
- Continue partnership with Division of Juvenile Justice and Office of Children’s Services to enter data sharing agreements, where possible, to increase service coordination.
- Create pathways to immediate housing upon aging out of foster care or discharge from juvenile justice system
- Develop peer mentorship opportunities and permanency navigators to assist youth and young adults and provide informed mentorship from lived experience
- Identify funding to assist youth with transportation back to their home community or a safe community of their choice

- Strengthen partnerships with Division of Juvenile Justice & Office of Children’s Services by engaging in regular planning meetings with housing and supportive service providers. Also ensure that both entities remain informed on Continuum of Care and YHDP State Team activities.
- Work with Department of Labor and Workforce Development to identify and market job opportunities to justice involved youth in rural communities that have limited employment options

Victims of Sexual Trafficking, Labor Trafficking and Exploitation

- Improve homeless response system intake process to ensure provider staff understand the sensitivity and risk of youth self-reporting sexual trafficking, labor trafficking and exploitation
- Conduct regular privacy training to providers to ensure the safety of the youth is maintained, particularly in small communities where confidentiality is difficult to sustain
- Establish a data subcommittee that identifies a more reliable way to obtain and analyze data related to sexual and labor trafficking. Most of what we know about the prevalence of trafficking is via word of mouth from our youth participants.
- Develop stronger relationships with local law enforcement, healthcare providers, and LGBTQ+ youth organizations to ensure all resources are being used to address the service needs of the victim, ensure the safety of the victim, and protect them from their perpetrator
- Ensure youth have no barriers to safe housing in confidential locations with necessary security measures in place (cameras, locks, on-site security, etc.)
- Formalize the referral system between homeless service providers, victim’s assistance agencies, substance misuse treatment, mental health providers, and legal services

Values & Principles

Positive Youth Development (PYD) Trauma-Informed Care (TIC)

The Alaska Balance of State YHDP Team is committed to establishing and maintaining service programs that embrace national best practices that empower youth to achieve positive outcomes while also not losing sight of the complexities of the causes of youth homelessness, trauma, and other hardships a someone might be experiencing. Fostering Positive Youth Development and employing a Trauma-Informed Care approach to service delivery are aspects of establishing a successful homeless response system.

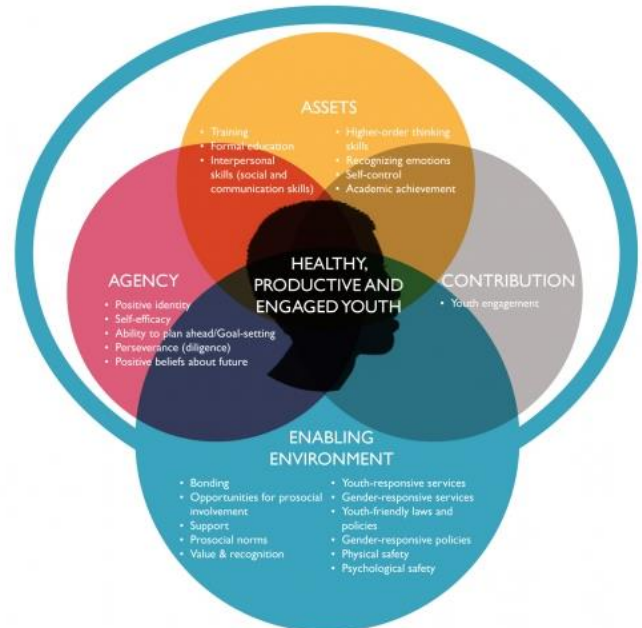
Positive Youth Development (PYD)

A federal interagency working group on youth programs provided the following definition for PYD²⁴:

PYD is an intentional, prosocial approach that engages youth within their communities, schools, organizations, peer groups, and families in a manner that is productive and constructive; recognizes, utilizes, and enhances young people’s strengths; and promotes positive outcomes for young people by providing opportunities fostering positive relationships, and furnishing the support needed to build on their leadership strengths.

Youth Power created a framework²⁵ to assist communities and service providers with developing programs that follow PYD best practices to ensure youth improve their:

- **Assets:** youth have the necessary resources, skills, and competencies to achieve desired outcomes.
- **Agency:** Youth perceive and have the ability to employ their assets and aspirations to make or influence their own decisions about their lives and set their own goals, as well as to act upon those decisions in order to achieve desired outcomes.
- **Contribution:** Youth are engaged as a source of change for their own and for their communities’ positive development.
- **Enabling environment:** Youth are surrounded by an environment that develops and supports their assets, agency, access to services, and opportunities, and strengthens their ability to avoid risks and to stay safe, secure, and be protected and live without fear of violence or retribution. An enabling environment encourages and recognizes youth, while promoting their social and emotional competence to thrive. The term “environment” should be interpreted broadly and includes: social (e.g., relationships with peers and adults), normative (e.g., attitudes, norms and beliefs), structural (e.g.,



²⁴ Positive Youth Development, youth.gov. <https://youth.gov/youth-topics/positive-youth-development>

²⁵ Positive Youth Development (PYD) Framework, Youth Power (2019). <https://www.youthpower.org/positive-youth-development-pyd-framework>

laws, policies, programs services, and systems) and physical (e.g., safe, supportive spaces).

Trauma-Informed Care (TIC)

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has studied the effects of trauma on individuals for several decades. In 2014, SAMHSA released guidance for communities, providers, and organizations to ensure services were delivered using a Trauma-Informed Care approach²⁶. They described the concept of trauma in the following way:

*Individual trauma results from an **event**, series of events, or set of circumstances that is **experienced** by an individual as physically or emotionally harmful or life threatening and that has lasting adverse **effects** on the individual's functioning and mental, physical, social, emotional, or spiritual well-being.*

This established the concept of the three “E’s” of trauma: events, experience, and effects.

- **Events** are singular or repeated actual or threat of physical or psychological harm or neglect.
- **Experiences** determine whether or not an event was traumatic or not for the individual, understanding that individuals react to different types of events in their own way. How an individual assigns meaning to an event determines whether or not an event was traumatic. Cultural, identity, age, and development differences can significantly affect how an individual processes an event.
- **Effects** of events may include long-lasting adverse consequences to an individual. The onset of effects may be immediate or delayed and last for varying durations. Effects come in many different forms including (but not limited to) losing the ability to cope with the normal stresses of daily living, increases in distrust of others, decreased cognitive functioning related to memory or attention, etc.

SAMHSA identified six key principles fundamental to a trauma-informed approach:

1. **Safety.** Ensuring all staff and clients feel physically and psychologically safe, understanding safety as defined by those who are being served is a high priority.
2. **Trustworthiness and Transparency.** Operations and decisions are conducted with transparency with the goal of building and maintaining trust with clients and family members, among staff, and others involved in the organization.
3. **Peer Support.** Peer support and mutual self-help are key vehicles for establishing safety and hope, building trust, enhancing collaboration, and utilizing their stories and lived experience to promote recovery and healing.

²⁶ SAMHSA’s Concept of Trauma and Guidance for a Trauma-Informed Approach. SAMHSA (July, 2014). https://ncsacw.samhsa.gov/userfiles/files/SAMHSA_Trauma.pdf

4. **Collaboration and Mutuality.** Importance is placed on partnering and the leveling of power differences between clients and organizational staff of all levels, demonstrating that healing happens in relationships and in the meaningful sharing of power and decision-making.
5. **Empowerment, Voice and Choice.** Throughout the organization and among the clients served, individual' strengths and experiences are recognized and built upon. Understanding the importance of power differentials and ways in which clients, historically, have been diminished in voice and choice and are often recipients of coercive treatment.
6. **Cultural, Historical, and Gender Issues.** The organization actively moves past cultural stereotypes and biases (e.g. based on race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, religion, gender-identity, geography, etc.); offers, access to gender responsive services; leverages the healing value of traditional cultural connections; incorporates policies, protocols, and processes that are responsive to the racial, ethnic and cultural needs of individuals served; and recognizes and addresses historical trauma.

Strategies to Address PYD and TIC in Service Delivery

As outlined in the Request for Proposals section below, all YHDP-funded programs will be required to follow the framework to achieve Positive Youth Development and establish a service delivery system that practices Trauma-Informed Care. To ensure that these practices will be followed, the Alaska Balance of State Continuum of Care will employ the following strategies:

- YHDP-funded agencies will be required to complete PYD and TIC training on an annual basis. Prior to providing services to youth or young adults, all new staff members will be required to complete PYD and TIC training
- The CoC will identify ways to provide annual training opportunities for PYD and TIC to all service agencies, regardless of funding source.
- PYD & TIC training opportunities will also be made readily available, virtually if possible, to state and regional YAAB members.
- YHDP applicants will be required to explain how they will implement PYD & TIC practices into their service delivery. This includes how they plan to ensure they are making the following considerations:
 - Age, developmental stage, and life stage considerations
 - Gender considerations
 - Cultural considerations
 - Language and literacy considerations
 - Physical and social position considerations
- The YHDP State Team will develop a monitoring process to ensure PYD & TIC best practices are being followed as part of the Continuous Quality Improvement process.

Equity

Our statement of need and other analyses of our homeless response system has identified significant racial and ethnic disparities in rates of homelessness, vulnerability, and client outcomes. LGBTQ+, Alaska Native, and other racial minority groups experience homelessness at disproportionately higher rates compared to other populations. As identified in the strategies listed above and in the Goals, Objectives, and Action Steps chart, addressing existing inequities in our homeless response, school, and child welfare systems is an overarching pillar of our work going forward. To ensure that we accomplish our goal of creating fair and equitable systems for all, our YHDP community will employ the following strategies:

- The YHDP funding decision-making process will review how new project proposals are implementing strategies to ensure all clients have equal access to housing and services appropriate for their individual needs.
- Our current and future programs will be informed by youth voice, particularly from the special populations outlined above.
- The Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) process will work with our HMIS Lead Agency to develop the appropriate metrics and data dashboards to monitor equity across all program types and client outcomes. If existing inequities continue, the CQI process described below outlines how this community plan can be updated to adjust strategies for addressing this issue.

Family Engagement

One of the most effective diversion and intervention strategies is to engage families, whenever appropriate, through community partnerships with organizations such as child welfare agencies, schools, youth providers, and homeless service providers. Family engagement is a philosophy where providers work to build trust with parents or individuals identified as family by a youth or young adult experiencing homelessness and overcome barriers to their involvement. In addition to the strategies outlined in other areas of this document, our YHDP community will employ the following strategies:

- Ensure that all YHDP funded service providers, case managers, and system navigators receive family engagement training on an annual basis.
- Gain an understanding of the spectrum of family dynamics related to why youth are at risk or become homeless in partnership with the youth or young adult experiencing homelessness. Our CoC data committee will work with youth with lived experience to review intake and assessment procedures to ensure that our providers are asking the right questions regarding a youth's biological or chosen family in an effort to work with them to overcome barriers associated with that relationship.
- Work with our youth and young adults to identify what their own family goals are and provide them with the resources to accomplish those goals.

- Whenever possible, address logistical barriers that may be complicating their relationship with family members. This may include challenges relating to childcare, transportation, or access to family-based services.

Immediate Access to Housing without Preconditions

Our CoC has long held the belief that any individual experiencing homelessness should have immediate access to housing without preconditions. We have implemented a Housing First approach to creating an accessible homeless response system. Housing First is an approach to quickly and successfully connect individuals and families experiencing homelessness to permanent housing without preconditions and barriers to entry, such as sobriety, treatment or service participation requirements. While our CoC and CES policies have removed these barriers for federally and state funded housing programs, we have also identified ways to ensure that when clients are housed, they have ready access to the supportive services appropriate to their needs. 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. To ensure that our YHDP housing programs are consistent with this value, all YHDP programs will be required to complete the USICH Housing First Checklist²⁷ prior to service delivery. For programs not currently implementing housing first principles or are struggling to meet the fidelity of the housing first model, the CoC will connect the agency with appropriate training or technical assistance, either provided by CoC staff or other qualified training organizations.

Youth Choice

Our CoC CES policies and procedures established a referral system that gives clients the choice of accepting or rejecting housing and service interventions based on their own belief of what they need to address current housing challenges. Allowing youth to exercise self-determination is a youth-centered approach that values youths' expressed needs, self-awareness, and community knowledge. All YHDP funded projects will ensure that youth and young adults experiencing homelessness will be active participants in decisions about their present and future circumstances. Our YHDP planning process has also prioritized authentic youth collaboration in decision making about program and system level policies and practices.

Individualized and Client Driven Supports

All youth and young adults experiencing housing instability have unique needs that must be addressed. As such, programs are best designed to focus on individual needs rather than one

²⁷ United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, "Housing First Checklist: Assessing Projects and Systems for a Housing First Orientation" (September, 2016).
https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/Housing_First_Checklist_FINAL.pdf

structured curriculum or program pathway. Not only should we embrace the pathway a youth experiencing homelessness chooses, but it's also equally as important to let the youth establish their own timeline for when services are accessed. Different youth experiencing unique housing and other personal challenges take different amounts of time to show up and participate in services. All programs aimed to assist youth must eliminate rigid time requirements for completing recovery milestones.

Social and Community Integration

One of the primary goals of our coordinated community plan is to establish an environment and response system that fosters a successful transition to adulthood, including the successful integration into a community as a positive contributing community member. This requires our community, CoC and providers to provide socially supportive engagement and the opportunity for youth to participate in meaningful community activities. Our strategies to accomplish this include:

- Continue to support and empower the YAAB to be a critical part of policy- and decision-making processes.
- All YHDP projects will be required to connect youth and young adults to positive adults and peer mentors to cultivate strong relationships and enhance resiliency to help overcome adversity important for their social and emotional well-being.
- Reach out to organizations and communities throughout the Balance of State to form new partnerships that support and strengthen relationships of youth within their communities.
- Ensure that youth and young adults have access to supportive services, employment opportunities, and education resources to assist them in recovering from trauma and build a strong foundation for a happy and healthy life.

Coordinated Entry

The Alaska Balance of State CoC has had Coordinated Entry System (CES) policies in place since early 2018. Currently, there are four referral zone regions actively participating in CES: Juneau, Mat-Su Valley, Kenai Peninsula, and Fairbanks/North Star Borough. All regions with CoC and ESG funded programs are participating in CES. The Anchorage Homeless Response System, managed by the Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness (Alaska's only other CoC region), is also participating in CES under their own policies and procedures. Our CES policies and procedures outline multiple goals:

1. Create a fair, equitable, and objective resource allocation algorithm that prioritizes resources to the most vulnerable Alaskans who are at imminent risk of or currently experiencing homelessness.
2. Ensure CES is client-driven by:

- a. establishing accessible, safe and culturally appropriate CES Access Points
- b. protecting clients by giving them the agency to accept or refuse a referral and outlining a process where they can work with case managers/system navigators to ensure they have a path forward that is tailored to their individual needs
- c. completing an annual 360 review and policy update process that includes input from clients who have gone through the CES assessment & referral process

3. Wherever possible, reduce barriers to accessing safe and stable housing. Funding allocations have prioritized Housing First service delivery models that eliminate sobriety, group participation, income thresholds, or other requirements prior to move-in.

Assessment Process

While from initial glance the seven-phased assessment process may seem cumbersome or arduous for an individual experiencing trauma, many of these phases happen simultaneously and the immediate life and safety needs of an individual are prioritized over all other factors. If someone needs an immediate alternative to sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation, service provider staff prioritize finding a safe housing option prior to moving through the assessment process.

Currently, all participating agencies in the Alaska Balance of State CES will follow the same phased assessment approach for their clients, regardless of the target population. As will be explained below, the Balance of State CoC intends to improve current policies to ensure they are more appropriate to the specific needs of youth and young adults entering the homeless response system. The Balance of State CES policies and procedures assessment phases are as follows:

1. **Initial triage.** Likely focused on defining the nature of the current crisis and ensuring the person's immediate safety. Clients whose current option is to sleep in a place not meant for human habitation will be immediately referred to emergency housing or other appropriate safe housing alternatives before moving on with the CES assessment process.
2. **Prevention/Diversion.** Can occur as part of initial triage or separately; is likely focused on assisting the person to examine his or her resources and options other than entering the homeless system. This may come in the form of rental/utility assistance, connections to legal services (eviction intervention), temporary alternative housing options (hotel/motel, staying with other friends/family, etc.), or family reunification efforts via mediation or the OCS investigative process.
3. **Intake.** Likely occurs when the person accepts crisis assistance, such as emergency shelter. Assessment is likely limited to collecting information necessary to enroll the person in a homeless assistance project (i.e., the homeless assistance project could be

coordinated entry itself or an emergency shelter, depending on how the localized CES is structured or how crisis response interventions are defined locally).

4. **Initial assessment.** The initial assessment will incorporate the common assessment tool which measures an individual's level of risk, vulnerability, and the person's barriers, and need. The person's responses to initial assessment can be used to help define risk and prioritize the person for further CoC Program or ESG Program assistance such as street outreach, emergency shelter, rapid rehousing, and permanent supportive housing.

Note that some of the initial assessment questions might be asked multiple times throughout project enrollment, as the person's barriers, goals, and preferences evolve as a result of their immediate crisis needs being addressed.

For youth, the Balance of State is currently using the Transition Aged Youth – Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (TAY-SPDAT) for initial assessment and triage.

5. **Potential eligibility assessment.** Eligibility screening (predetermination) considers the potential participant's likelihood of being eligible for admission to a project based on its specific eligibility requirements and the CoC's written standards for prioritizing assistance.

Collecting required information and documentation regarding eligibility can occur at any assessment stage, but *determining* eligibility occurs separately from the prioritization process. Responsibility for collecting and maintaining eligibility documentation rests with the specific homeless assistance project.

This phase occurs during the referral process. Case managers and system navigators, after collecting eligibility information, will discuss housing and service referral options with clients so they can make an informed decision which pathway forward is most appropriate for their needs.

6. **Comprehensive assessment.** Typically a follow-up to initial assessment. Refines, clarifies, and verifies the person's history, barriers, goals, and preferences. Together, staff and the person develop a housing and services plan, including a strategy for exiting homelessness. Comprehensive assessments often involve some level of case conferencing, which includes conversations with staff from multiple projects and agencies and the participant themselves to ensure the outcomes of the assessment align with the CoC's prioritization process. Case conferencing allows for consideration of unique, person-specific vulnerabilities and risk factors to be included in the participant's housing plan.
7. **Next-step / moving on assessment.** Re-evaluates program participants who have been stably housed for some time and who are ready for less intensive housing or services, perhaps even an exit to self-sufficiency. Can also be used when new information about a

person is revealed during enrollment in a project and the new information suggests a different service strategy might be warranted.

Plan for Updating CES Policies and Procedures

Implementation of the BoS CES has been a long process as we navigate as a CoC the challenges of creating a fair and equitable system for all Alaskans in our region (even when there aren't any housing resources within hundreds of miles of some clients), establishing case conference teams following a new referral system, training dozens of providers across four different regions, and updating HMIS policies to ensure data sharing policies were in sync with CES aspirations.

We have learned a lot about CES strengths and shortcomings, as has the rest of the nation, and are committed to making the changes necessary to ensure our service delivery system is seamless and appropriate for all subpopulations. As stated in Goal 3, Objective 1, Action Step 1.1 in the Goals, Objectives, and Action Steps chart, we intend to proceed with our CES policies and procedures update process in 2020. To ensure our updates are youth inclusive, we will rely on input from the Statewide and Regional YAAB groups to improve known oversights in our youth CES. This update process will also include input from our Anchorage CoC peers as well as the Anchorage Youth Task Force to ensure that our CES policies work in unison with each other as our clients don't access services based on invisible CoC boundaries. Our CoC is also in the process of reviewing and updating its bylaws to include a requirement of having a minimum of two youth board members. We are excited that our first youth board member, who also is a Statewide YAAB leader, was recently elected to the CoC board.

VII. Goals, Objectives and Action Steps

The State YHDP team adopted the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) five criteria and benchmarks for ending youth homelessness. Consistent with its emphasis on authentic youth collaboration, the state YHDP added a sixth goal (listed first in the chart below) to ensure that all planning, decision-making, resource allocation, and system evaluation will be youth-driven from day one. To accomplish these goals, there are numerous statewide and region-specific actions that must take place. The chart below is specific to CoC and statewide YHDP level actions. Goals, Objectives, and Action Steps charts specific to individual regions can be found in Appendix 1.

ALASKA BoS YHDP GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTION STEPS		
GOAL	Objectives	Statewide Action Steps
1. All Planning, decision-making, resource	Objective 1: Get more youth to the table.	Action Step 1.1: Agencies/access points hold

<p>allocation, and system evaluation will be youth-driven from <u>day one</u>.</p>	<p>Objective 2: All governance & policy docs explicitly include this goal.</p>	<p>space for those conversations. AKCH2 Who: YHDP State & Regional Teams Timeline: Ongoing</p> <p>Action Step 1.2: Diversify opportunities & activities to engage youth. Who: CoC Board Timeline: Ongoing (Encourage youth-specific PHC, beneficiary panels at conference, online forums)</p> <p>Action Step 1.3: No minimum participation requirement for youth to engage in the YAB activities/meetings. Who: CoC Timeline: Spring, 2020 (bylaws update)</p> <p>Action Step 1.4: Youth are compensated adequately for their participation. AKCH2 Who: CoC Board Timeline: Ongoing</p> <p>Action Step 1.5: Utilize technology to engage and allow harder to reach communities to participate.</p> <p>Action Step 2.1: Update bylaws to explicitly outline how youth are involved in decision-making, planning,</p>
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	<p>Objective 3: Develop a streamlined communication plan.</p>	<p>board, and committee structure. Who: AKCH2 Board Timeline: Spring, 2020</p> <p>Action Step 2.2: Update Coordinated Entry Policies and Procedures to address lack of youth participation and youth-specific needs/goals of CES. Who: AKCH2 Timeline: 2020 Calendar Year</p> <p>Action Step 3.1: Create comprehensive email lists for YHDP state team, regional teams, state YAAB, regional YAAB teams, and all entities engaged in YHDP planning. Who: Brian/Foot Timeline: Immediate</p> <p>Action Step 1.2: Questionnaire for distribution Who: Foot Timeline: January</p> <p>Action Step 1.3: Youth Community Service hours (genuine participation) Who: Education Partners Timeline: 2020</p> <p>Action Step 1.4: Transportation (rides, taxi vouchers) Who: CoC Board Timeline: Ongoing 2020</p>
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<p>2. The community identifies all unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness.</p>	<p>Objective 1: Create a comprehensive list of youth experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness (or who aren't being counted) that includes/combines information from multiple sources.</p>	<p>Action Step 1.1: Increase partnerships between entities who manage database/systems to identify data sharing, case coordination options. Who: AKHMIS Advisory Board Timeline: Spring, 2020 – AKHMIS Strategic Plan Completion</p> <p>Action Step 1.2: Consult with local YABs to help identify uncaptured youth populations. Who: AKCH2 & Statewide YAAB Timeline: Ongoing (emphasis on PIT/PHC, youth-specific outreach and Summer Counts)</p> <p>Action Step 1.3: Use technology to engage all communities when doing youth counts, etc. Who: AKCH2/ICA Timeline: Annually (PIT/PHC Planning Process)</p> <p>Action Step 1.4: Increase access to essential telephone and internet service. Who: YHDP State Team & CoC Board Timeline: Spring/Summer, 2020</p>

	<p>Objective 2: Collect qualitative data from youth experiencing homelessness to better understand the complexities of youth homelessness.</p> <p>Objective 3: Update all intake forms to be more gender-inclusive and accurately collect LGBTQ+ status.</p>	<p>Action Step 1.5: Increase awareness by posting at public places and known hangouts. Who: YHDP Regional Teams Timeline: Ongoing</p> <p>Action Step 1.6: Engage all agencies/access points to help identify youth to the best of our ability. Who: YHDP State Team & YAAB Timeline: 2020 Calendar Year (CES Policies Update)</p> <p>Action Step 2.1: Establish YAAB consisting of youth with lived experience from all regions of Alaska Who: YHDP State Team & YAAB Timeline: Ongoing, formed early 2020</p> <p>Action Step 2.2: Incorporate youth voice in CQI process to ensure client experiences are considered in addition to quantitative data Who: CQI Team When: Quarterly</p> <p>Action Step 3.1: Establish sub-committee of AKHMIS Advisory Board specifically focused on updating forms Who: AKHMIS Advisory Board, YAAB, LGBTQ+ Advocacy Partners When: Summer, 2020</p>
<p>3. The community uses prevention and diversion</p>	<p>Objective 1: Statewide access to crisis housing that</p>	<p>Action Step 1.1: Update CES policies to explicitly state the</p>

<p>strategies whenever possible, and otherwise provides immediate access to low-barrier crisis housing and services to any youth who needs and wants it.</p>	<p>is designed by the input of youth people and is trauma informed</p> <p>Objective 2: Family reunification support- Implement accessible, versatile workshops to support parents and families</p> <p>Objective 3: All communities have addiction and chemical dependency and mental health programs-both outpatient and in-patient</p>	<p>requirement of youth input when establishing youth-specific access points. Who: AKCH2 Board, YAAB & ACEH Timeline: 2020</p> <p>Action Step 2.1: Reach out to OCS partners to identify is we can improve upon referral process Who: CoC Board Timeline: Summer, 2020</p> <p>Action Step 2.2: Ensure Case Management staff understand that family reunification is a CES prevention/diversion goal and identify any additional resources needed Who: YHDP State Team & CoC Board Timeline: Fall, 2020</p> <p>Action Step 3.1: Complete system mapping to identify potential service gaps. Who: Regional YHDP Teams Timeline: Fall, 2020</p>
<p>4. The community uses coordinated entry processes to effectively link all youth experiencing homelessness to housing and services solutions that are tailored to their needs.</p>	<p>Objective 1: Statewide public awareness of CES access points</p>	<p>Action Step 1.1: Identify existing media and resource outlets (211, Social media, Flyers, etc.) Who: AKCH2 Timeline: Ongoing (continued communication with YHDP referral zones, social media, and youth agencies)</p>

	<p>Objective 2: Statewide transportation and coordinated logistics for connecting youth across regions</p> <p>Objective 3: Develop effective communication framework that can be used across regions</p> <p>Objective 4: All regions have adult mentors and peer navigation/ support</p> <p>Objective 5: Assessment tool is youth-centered and asks questions that solicit accurate data</p> <p>Objective 6: New provider training for innovative ways to communicate with youth (Outreach strategy?)</p>	<p>Action Step 2.1: Identify creative strategies to increase transportation resources within community orgs Who: AKCH2 Board Timeline: Summer, 2020</p> <p>Action Step 3.1: Reform communication between organizations and clients (<i>Host Listening Sessions? What else..</i>) Who: YHDP State Team Timeline: Summer, 2020</p> <p>Action Step 4.1: Incorporate into Program Eligibility requirements for YHDP funding Who: YHDP State Team Timeline: Spring, 2020</p> <p>Action Step 5.1: Coordinated Entry System evaluation process which includes 360 surveys with clients, agencies, and CES regional lead agencies/organizations. Who: AKCH2 CES Leadership Team & YAAB Timeline: 2020 Calendar Year</p> <p>Action Step 6.1: Reach out to federal technical assistance providers to identify available training resources for agencies. Who: AKCH2 Timeline: Summer, 2020</p>
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	<p>Objective 7: Organizations actively asking clients what they need now @ that specific moment that will help</p> <p>Objective 8: Identify legal/confidentiality barriers for cross system data and identify opportunities</p>	<p>Action Step 7.1: Update CES intake policies to ensure this is included in assessment process Who: CES Participating Agencies Timeline: Ongoing (CES Phased Assessment requirement)</p> <p>Action Step 8.1: Engage stakeholders (DJJ, OSC) to identify what data sharing possibilities exist to improve client service delivery Who: AKHMIS Advisory Committee Timeline: 2020 (following guidance in AKHMIS Strategic Plan)</p>
<p>5. The community acts with urgency to swiftly assist youth to move into permanent or non-time-limited housing options with appropriate services and supports.</p>	<p>Objective 1: Create appropriate/sufficient housing programs.</p> <p>Objective 2: Create policies/processes to house youth within 14-30 days.</p>	<p>Action Step 1.1: Create flexible program criteria to eliminate barriers to quickly housing youth. Who: YHDP State Team Timeline: Spring, 2020</p> <p>Action Step 1.2: Hire/fund community navigator. Who: State YHDP Team Timeline: Round 1 YHDP funded programs (funded as needed based on system modelling exercises and funding competition)</p> <p>Action Step 2.1: Update CES policies to state this as a clear goal Who: CoC Board & YAAB When: 2020 Calendar Year</p> <p>Action Step 3.1: Identify impact of No Wrong Door</p>

	<p>Objective 3: Implement a No Wrong Door for access to housing and services.</p>	<p>approach to CES. Identify resources needed to make this a reality. Who: YHDP State Team & YAAB Timeline: Calendar Year 2020</p>
<p>6. The community has resources, plans, and system capacity in place to continue to prevent and quickly end future experiences of homelessness among youth.</p>	<p>Objective 1: Communities have a range of services to prevent and end homelessness.</p> <p>Objective 2: Support youth to build resiliency.</p>	<p>Action Step 1.1: Ensure there are resources and services available to include: public transportation, treatment services, public housing, job placement services, supportive housing, outreach, community navigator. Who: YHDP Regional Teams Timeline: Ongoing (complete system mapping exercise)</p> <p>Action Step 2.1: Set policy stating Social and Community Integration as an intended goal and required program component for YHDP funding Who: YHDP State Team Timeline: Immediate</p> <p>Action Step 2.2: Fund a life-skills navigator. Who: YHDP State Team Timeline: First Round YHDP Funding (as needed based on needs assessment and funding competition)</p>

VIII. Proposed Project Types and Request for Proposals Process

The YHDP annual award will be \$825,000 with a local 25% match requirement. The Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development has committed an annual \$250,000 of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act funding to support YHDP programs. These funds may be used as a program’s local match but applicants are encouraged to identify additional local funding sources.

The YHDP State Team will set a floor amount of funding (\$100,000) for each of the five regions identified in this CCP. All dollars above each regions floor amount will be allocated at the discretion of the YHDP State Team following the Request for Proposals process described below. In order to ensure the priorities of the YAAB are incorporated within YHDP funded projects, the YAAB board, as well as the YHDP State Team, have provided project applicants with the following sets of required project components. Regions will choose one or more project types from those listed in the charts below to apply for through the YHDP Request for Proposals process.

Project Type Charts

Front Porch Services

<i>NAVIGATION AND DIVERSION-SUPPORTIVE SERVICES ONLY</i>	
SUMMARY	<p>This project model is dedicated to providing client-driven supportive services to help problem solving housing crisis with young people. The type of activities may include providing system navigation, homelessness diversion and other creative problem solving services to keep experiences of youth homelessness among youth rare, brief, and non-recurring.</p> <p>This project model type will be connected to providing youth and young adults access to social/emotional, financial stability, physical health, and educational supports, based on individual needs. Services provided include assessment of service needs, assistance with moving costs, case management, childcare, education services, employment assistance, food assistance, housing counseling services, legal services, life skills, mental health services, outpatient health services, outreach services, substance abuse treatment services, transportation and utility deposit assistance.</p>
NEEDS MET	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase baseline resources: AK Balance of State regions currently do not have dedicated youth resources to fund “front porch services”. This project would provide critical resources to the front door of the homeless response system for youth and increase engagement ● Increases access and coordination for young people by strengthening and resourcing the CE

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Creates community responsive services to meet the unique need of extremely rural regions of the Alaska Balance of State ● Address issues with unemployment and income instability by creating connections to employment opportunities ● Address significant access issues for youth and young adults by increasing access to transportation ● Informs the scale and strategies for what types of services best meet the housing instability needs of YYA across Alaska
<p>TARGET POPULATION & PROJECTED NUMBER SERVED</p>	<p>Unaccompanied youth and young adults under the age of 25, including pregnant and parenting youth plus all special population groups including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Minors ● LGBTQ+ ● Alaska Native ● Foster Care and Juvenile Justice Involved Youth <p>HUD Homeless Categories 1, 2, and 4. Projected to serve approximately XXX youth</p>
<p>PROJECT REQUIREMENTS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Project design must address how they will create a safe, inclusive and affirming spaces for all youth-especially LGBTQ youth, Alaska native youth, pregnant or parenting youth, youth under the age of 18 and youth with experience with the foster care system and juvenile justice involvement. ● Authentically collaborate with youth and young adults with lived expertise on the design and continuous improvement of the project ● Individual and client driven supports ● Full participation with the Alaska Balance of State coordinated entry system. ● Provide problem solving case management ● Provide system navigation support ● Participate in the Alaska Balance of State HMIS ● Adhere to all values and principles of the Alaska Balance of State CCP ● Serve the designated area within the Alaska Balance of State ● Build and maintain partnerships with the following groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Local Governments ○ Human Trafficking ○ Education (Secondary and Higher Ed) ○ OCS ○ Juvenile Justice ○ Homeless Response System ○ Continuum of Care Board ○ Tribal Partnerships ○ Tribal Corps

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Healthcare ○ Department of Labor ○ Tribal Vocational Rehab ○ Workforce Development ○ LGBTQ focused orgs ○ Regional Coordinated Entry Lead Organization ○ Department Public Assistance ○ Department of Motor Vehicles ○ YAAB ○ Youth Task Force-Anchorage ○ Local/Regional Housing Authorities ○ HUD Regional Office and YHDP TA
DESIRED OUTCOMES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase the amount of supportive services available for youth and develop a more equitable geographic distribution of services throughout the region. ● Provide creative solutions for unaccompanied youth experiencing housing instability and homelessness in rural Alaska ● Connect participants to network of available resources to meet housing, educational, and social/emotional needs. ● Participants achieve self-sufficiency and meet self-determined goals. ● Create a youth informed coordinated entry system ● Divert youth from entering the homeless system. ● Increase access to navigators for system-involved youth. ● Support youth in achieving key education, employment, income, health, and well-being goals.
INNOVATIVE IDEAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Creative Problem Solving in Rural Areas
USICH OUTCOMES ADDRESSED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Stable Housing ● Social-Emotional Well-Being ● Education and Employment ● Permanent Connections
CoC PROJECT TYPE	Supportive Services Only
PROJECTED COST	\$ XXX,XXX

Short to Medium Term Housing

<i>HOST HOMES-SUPPORTIVE SERVICES ONLY</i>	
SUMMARY	<p>This project model is dedicated to providing short term crisis housing option for youth that includes a home-based alternative to shelter and transitional housing. Host home families will be recruited, trained, and supported. The pilot will focus specifically on outreaching to LGBTQ+, youth of color,, pregnant or parenting youth, and other youth preferring a home-based private setting with safe and positive adult support.</p> <p>Integrated, individualized support connected to housing and transition to independent living-Addresses housing stability, life skills, health, social and emotional wellbeing, education, employment and permanent connections into adulthood. Case management and peer support.</p>
NEEDS MET	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase access to immediate crisis housing in communities where crisis housing does not exist ● Provide safety and culturally responsive crisis housing
TARGET POPULATION & PROJECTED NUMBER SERVED	<p>Unaccompanied youth and young adults under the age of 25, including pregnant and parenting youth plus all special population groups.</p> <p>HUD Homeless Categories 1, 2, and 4. Projected to serve approximately XXX youth</p>
PROJECT REQUIREMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Project design must address how they will create a safe, inclusive and affirming spaces for all youth-especially LGBTQ youth, Alaska native youth, pregnant or parenting youth, youth under the age of 18 and youth with experience with the foster care system and juvenile justice involvement. ● Authentically collaborate with youth and young adults with lived expertise on the design and continuous improvement of the project ● Individual and client driven supports ● Full participation with the Alaska Balance of State coordinated entry system. ● Provide problem solving case management ● Provide system navigation support ● Participate in the Alaska Balance of State HMIS ● Adhere to all values and principles of the Alaska Balance of State CCP ● Serve the designated area within the Alaska Balance of State ● Build and maintain partnerships with the following groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Local Governments ○ Human Trafficking ○ Education (Secondary and Higher Ed) ○ OCS ○ Juvenile Justice

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Homeless Response System ○ Continuum of Care Board ○ Tribal Partnerships ○ Tribal Corps ○ Healthcare ○ Department of Labor ○ Tribal Vocational Rehab ○ Workforce Development ○ LGBTQ focused orgs ○ Regional Coordinated Entry Lead Organization ○ Department Public Assistance ○ Department of Motor Vehicles ○ YAAB ○ Youth Task Force-Anchorage ○ Local/Regional Housing Authorities ○ HUD Regional Office and YHDP TA
DESIRED OUTCOMES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase the amount of crisis housing and supportive services available for youth and develop a more equitable geographic distribution of services throughout the region. ● Provide creative solutions for unaccompanied youth experiencing housing instability and homelessness in rural Alaska ● Connect participants to network of available resources to meet housing, educational, and social/emotional needs. ● Participants achieve self-sufficiency and meet self-determined goals. ● Create a youth informed coordinated entry system ● Divert youth from entering the homeless system. ● Increase access to navigators for system-involved youth. ● Support youth in achieving key education, employment, income, health, and well-being goals.
INNOVATIVE IDEAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Creative crisis housing solution in vast rural geographic area
USICH OUTCOMES ADDRESSED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Stable Housing ● Social-Emotional Well-Being ● Education and Employment ● Permanent Connections
CoC PROJECT TYPE	Supportive Services Only*** (unless cash stipend to be included-then will need to applied under rapid rehousing)
PROJECTED COST	\$ XXX,XXX

<i>YOUTH DEDICATED - TRANSITIONAL HOUSING</i>	
SUMMARY	<p>Transitional housing is a housing intervention that provides youth with medium term housing and supportive services with a connection to permanent housing. Transitional housing programs are designed to empower youth in achieving self-sufficiency and housing.</p> <p>Participants may reside in Transitional housing up to 24 months. Intensity, duration, and array of services are customized and unique to each transitional housing program and youth population.</p>
NEEDS MET	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase baseline resources: AK Balance of State regions currently has minimal dedicated youth transitional housing. ● Increases access and coordination for young people by strengthening and resourcing the CES ● Creates community responsive services to meet the unique need of extremely rural regions of the Alaska Balance of State ● Address issues with unemployment and income instability by creating connections to employment opportunities ● Address significant access issues for youth and young adults by increasing access to transportation ● Informs the scale and strategies for what types of services best meet the housing instability needs of YYA across Alaska
TARGET POPULATION & PROJECTED NUMBER SERVED	<p>Unaccompanied youth and young adults under the age of 25, including pregnant and parenting youth plus all special population groups.</p> <p>HUD Homeless Categories 1, 2, and 4. Projected to serve approximately XXX youth</p>
PROJECT REQUIREMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide housing assistance through leasing or rental assistance for up to 24 months ● Project may be scattered site or congregate setting ● Project design must address how they will create a safe, inclusive and affirming spaces for all youth-especially LGBTQ youth, Alaska native youth, pregnant or parenting youth, youth under the age of 18 and youth with experience with the foster care system and juvenile justice involvement. ● Authentically collaborate with youth and young adults with lived expertise on the design and continuous improvement of the project ● Individual and client driven supports ● Full participation with the Alaska Balance of State coordinated entry system. ● Provide problem solving case management ● Provide system navigation support ● Participate in the Alaska Balance of State HMIS

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adhere to all values and principles of the Alaska Balance of State CCP ● Serve the designated area within the Alaska Balance of State ● Build and maintain partnerships with the following groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Local Governments ○ Human Trafficking ○ Education (Secondary and Higher Ed) ○ OCS ○ Juvenile Justice ○ Homeless Response System ○ Continuum of Care Board ○ Tribal Partnerships ○ Tribal Corps ○ Healthcare ○ Department of Labor ○ Tribal Vocational Rehab ○ Workforce Development ○ LGBTQ focused orgs ○ Regional Coordinated Entry Lead Organization ○ Department Public Assistance ○ Department of Motor Vehicles ○ YAAB ○ Youth Task Force-Anchorage ○ Local/Regional Housing Authorities ○ HUD Regional Office and YHDP TA
<p>DESIRED OUTCOMES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase the amount of supportive services available for youth and develop a more equitable geographic distribution of services throughout the region. ● Provide creative solutions for unaccompanied youth experiencing housing instability and homelessness in rural Alaska ● Connect participants to network of available resources to meet housing, educational, and social/emotional needs. ● Participants achieve self-sufficiency and meet self-determined goals. ● Create a youth informed coordinated entry system ● Divert youth from entering the homeless system. ● Increase access to navigators for system-involved youth. ● Support youth in achieving key education, employment, income, health, and well-being goals.
<p>INNOVATIVE IDEAS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Creative Problem Solving in Rural Areas
<p>USICH OUTCOMES ADDRESSED</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Stable Housing ● Social-Emotional Well-Being ● Education and Employment

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Permanent Connections
CoC PROJECT TYPE	Transitional Housing
PROJECTED COST	\$ XXX,XXX

MEDIUM TO LONG TERM HOUSING

<i>YOUTH DEDICATED RAPID REHOUSING</i>	
SUMMARY	<p>Youth Dedicated Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) is a housing program designed to quickly connect youth experiencing homelessness to permanent housing through a tailored package of assistance that may include the use of time-limited financial assistance and targeted supportive services.</p> <p>All RRH programs are based on the established core components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Housing Identification Assistance 2. Financial Assistance—rent and move-in assistance; and 3. Case Management and Supportive Services <p>Rapid Rehousing participants may receive up to 24 months of dynamic and flexible rental and supportive service assistance. Intensity, duration, and array of services are customized and unique to each rapid rehousing participant.</p>
NEEDS MET	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase access to permanent housing for youth 18-24 years old
TARGET POPULATION & PROJECTED NUMBER SERVED	<p>Unaccompanied youth and young adults between the age of 18-24, including pregnant and parenting youth plus all special population groups.</p> <p>HUD Homeless Categories 1 and 4. Projected to serve approximately XXX youth</p>
PROJECT REQUIREMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Project must provide housing identification assistance, financial assistance for rent and move-in costs; and case management and supportive services

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Project design must address how they will create a safe, inclusive and affirming spaces for all youth-especially LGBTQ youth, Alaska native youth, pregnant or parenting youth, youth under the age of 18 and youth with experience with the foster care system and juvenile justice involvement. ● Rapid Rehousing is prioritized through the Coordinated Entry System. All referrals for Rapid Rehousing will be conducted through the Coordinated Entry System referral process. ● Authentically collaborate with youth and young adults with lived expertise on the design and continuous improvement of the project ● Individual and client driven supports ● Full participation with the Alaska Balance of State coordinated entry system. ● Provide problem solving case management ● Provide system navigation support ● Participate in the Alaska Balance of State HMIS ● Adhere to all values and principles of the Alaska Balance of State CCP ● Serve the designated area within the Alaska Balance of State ● Build and maintain partnerships with the following groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Local Governments ○ Human Trafficking ○ Education (Secondary and Higher Ed) ○ OCS ○ Juvenile Justice ○ Homeless Response System ○ Continuum of Care Board ○ Tribal Partnerships ○ Tribal Corps ○ Healthcare ○ Department of Labor ○ Tribal Vocational Rehab ○ Workforce Development ○ LGBTQ focused orgs ○ Regional Coordinated Entry Lead Organization ○ Department Public Assistance ○ Department of Motor Vehicles ○ YAAB ○ Youth Task Force-Anchorage ○ Local/Regional Housing Authorities ○ HUD Regional Office and YHDP TA
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DESIRED OUTCOMES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase the amount of supportive services available for youth and develop a more equitable geographic distribution of services throughout the region. ● Provide creative solutions for unaccompanied youth experiencing housing instability and homelessness in rural Alaska ● Connect participants to network of available resources to meet housing, educational, and social/emotional needs. ● Participants achieve self-sufficiency and meet self-determined goals. ● Create a youth informed coordinated entry system ● Divert youth from entering the homeless system. ● Increase access to navigators for system-involved youth. ● Support youth in achieving key education, employment, income, health, and well-being goals.
INNOVATIVE IDEAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Creative Problem Solving in Rural Areas
USICH OUTCOMES ADDRESSED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Stable Housing ● Social-Emotional Well-Being ● Education and Employment ● Permanent Connections
CoC PROJECT TYPE	Permanent Housing-Rapid Rehousing
PROJECTED COST	\$ XXX,XXX

[Request for Proposals](#)

After HUD approval of the coordinated community plan, the YHDP State Team will launch the Request for Proposals (RFP) process. The YHDP State Team will establish a Project Ranking Committee (PRC) to manage the RFP process. Any interested YHDP State Team members are welcome to join the PRC but voting membership must consist of at least 50% YAAB members.

The responsibilities of the PRC are as follows:

- Work with AKCH2 Executive Director in the creation of the Request for Proposals and program application documents
- Develop ranking criteria for project proposals
- Review project proposals and rank them using objective ranking process
- Finalize funding recommendations for YHDP State Team review
- Present recommendations to YHDP State Team at their Summer meeting

The RFP process will be launched in late Spring and applicants will have one month to review application documents and submit a proposal to the PRC. Voting members of the PRC will independently score each project proposal based on the agreed upon scoring criteria. Scores

will be compiled and averaged, creating a final project ranking spreadsheet. After initial proposal rankings are completed, the PRC will review findings and discuss final funding recommendations to bring to the YHDP State Team. The YHDP State team will review the PRC's recommendations and vote to either adopt as presented or adjust the funding recommendations based on their discussion. Funding decisions will be made using the same voting process outlined in the YHDP State Team governance section of this document.

Providers selected for YHDP funding will have until the end of the Federal Fiscal year (September 30) to finalize a funding contract with HUD. This deadline may change if the YHDP State Team receives a waiver from HUD.

IX. Continuous Quality Improvement

We understand that the road to achieving the vision described in this plan is challenging, long, and contains many unknowns. It is important that we establish a structured process to routinely track our progress across the Balance of State and adjust our initial strategies if needed. The YHDP State Team views the Coordinated Community Plan as a living document that will develop as additional communities and stakeholders get involved as well as when we learn more about our systems and evaluate outcomes of new programs. As stated in the descriptions of the statewide and regional YHDP teams as well as the state and regional YAAB teams, ongoing quality improvement and system evaluation are key tasks to ensure we accomplish the goals outlined in this plan. The YHDP State Team will follow the Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) framework for Continuous Quality Improvement.



The YHDP State Team will establish a Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) committee to complete quarterly system evaluation of programs, compare results to intended goals, make suggestions on improvements to current strategies and bring recommendations back to the full YHDP State Team meetings on a regular basis. The CQI committee will consist of, at a minimum:

- Representative from the statewide YAAB
- Alaska Native Tribal representative
- Continuum of Care Board Member
- YHDP State Team Member (in addition to those above)

Membership of the CQI committee is not limited to YHDP State Team members. The CQI process will be transparent and meetings will be open to the public. A member of our HMIS Lead Organization (Institute for Community Alliances (ICA)) will also participate in regular CQI meetings to provide expertise on data reporting and analysis.

The four phases of the PDSA cycle, and how they relate to our YHDP implementation are as follows.

Plan:

The planning process began at the onset of our Coordinated Community Plan discussions. This document will serve as a guidepost for the work of the CQI committee and YHDP State Team CQI decision-making process. The Goals, Objectives, and Action Steps, as well as the strategies listed for subpopulations, will be reviewed based on any adopted policy changes to the CCP to ensure that the CQI committee understands what metrics need to be analyzed during their quarterly meetings.

Do:

This cycle is where implementation of the CCP, and any updates to the plan, begins. Initially, this phase will begin with the Request for Proposals process outlined above. Prior to implementation, the CQI committee and YHDP State Team will ensure that providers have a clear understanding of the data needed to be collected for future system evaluation.

Study:

YHDP and YAAB teams will rely on data collected in the AKHMIS, as well as feedback from providers and youth participants, to inform strategic planning and funding decisions. The CQI committee, with the assistance from ICA staff, will develop data dashboards that display HUD system performance measures, RHYA measures, and other measures developed by YHDP & YAAB teams to ensure quality implementation and success of the youth service delivery system. The CQI committee will also refine the existing racial disparity data dashboard to display aggregate client information for the age groups and subpopulations identified in this planning document. Similar to CoC policies, feedback loops between clients, agencies, and leadership team members will be opened with the assistance of annual 360 surveys. Public planning and state team meetings will allow for public input in-person or electronically via email or social media.

Act:

On a quarterly basis, the CQI committee will review data trends and discuss whether policy or strategy changes are needed. If so, the committee will draft recommendations to bring to the full YHDP State Team for discussion. If immediate changes are needed, the YHDP State Team may adopt and revise the CCP at their next scheduled meeting. Otherwise, the YHDP State Team will review CQI committee recommendations during their annual CCP review process. Once changes are adopted, the YHDP State Team will notify all relevant stakeholders, grantees, and regional YHDP teams and begin the planning cycle again to discuss if other Goals, Objectives, and Action Steps need to be adjusted prior to implementation.

X. Signature Page

The undersigned are acknowledging their participation in the Alaska Balance of State Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program Coordinated Community Planning Process. All of the undersigned have had an opportunity to review this version of the Coordinated Community Plan and support moving forward with implementation as written.



Brian Wilson, Executive Director
Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness



Scott Ciambor, Board Chair
Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness



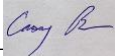
DaJonee Hale (YHDP State Team & YAAB President)
My House



Jorden Nigro (YHDP State Team – SE Alaska Rep)
Zach Gordon Youth Center



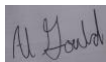
Trevor Stanish-Kinsel (YHDP State Team – Homer Youth Rep)
Youth Alaska Action Board



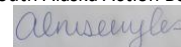
Jackie Pata (YHDP State Team – Alaska Native Rep)
Central Council Tlingit & Haida Tribes of Alaska



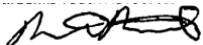
Casey Brewer (YHDP State Team – Homer Rep)
NineStar



Foot (YAAB Vice President & YHDP State Team YAAB Rep)
Youth Alaska Action Board



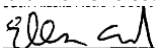
Al Gould (YAAB & YHDP State Team – Mat-Su Youth Rep)
My House



Alnise Wyles (YHDP State Team)
Fairbanks Youth Advocates



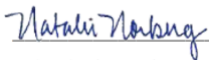
Michael Bialy (YAAB/YHDP State Team - Bethel Youth Rep)
Tundra Women's Coalition



Bryan Butcher
Alaska Housing Finance Corporation



Eileen Arnold (YHDP State Team – Bethel Rep)
Tundra Women's Coalition



Leslie Vines (YHDP State Team – DOLWD Rep)
AK Department of Labor and Workforce Development

Natalie Norberg (PCWA Rep)
AK Office of Children's Services

Appendix 1: Regional Goals, Objectives and Action Steps

Appendix 1 contains regional goals, objectives, and action steps worksheets. These charts are in **draft format**. Regional teams are currently working to finalize action steps, assign roles, and establish local timelines. We included these sheets to show examples of where a handful of regions are in their planning process.

HOMER YHDP PLANNING: ACTION STEP RESPONSE SHEET		
GOAL	Objectives	Regional Action Steps
<p>1. All Planning, decision-making, resource allocation, and system evaluation will be youth-driven from <u>day one</u>.</p>	<p>Objective 1: Get more youth to the table.</p>	<p>Action Step 1.1: Poster for distribution. Who: Foot Timeline: January</p> <p>Action Step 1.2: Questionnaire for distribution Who: Foot Timeline: January</p> <p>Action Step 1.3: Youth Community Service hours (genuine participation) Who: Chad Felice (POC) Timeline:</p> <p>Action Step 1.4: Transportation (rides, taxi vouchers) Who: Ingrid (Flex), Dana (ILC), Laurie (HH), Liz (RecRoom) Timeline:</p> <p>FOL at HHS (coordinate with Allen, Story) Morning Meetings (10am) or Friday activities (2pm) at Flex, Friday activity at SPARC, invite</p>

	<p>Objective 2: All governance & policy docs explicitly include this goal.</p> <p>Objective 3: Develop a streamlined communication plan.</p>	<p>homeschoolers (coordinate with Chris & Ingrid) *Both with enough lead time</p> <p>No minimum participation requirement for youth to engage in the YAB activities/meetings.</p> <p>Action Step 1.5: Utilize technology to engage and allow harder to reach communities to participate. Create a link or Google Form in order to capture feedback. Who: Foot Timeline:</p> <p>Action Step: Hold a Youth Only Meeting/Community Conversation (similar to last February Opioid Conversation), circle structure Who: Organizers - youth spirited (Ingrid, Doug) Timeline:</p> <p>Action Step: Youth engaging youth Who: Foot & Elizabeth Timeline:</p>
<p>2. The community identifies all unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness.</p>	<p>Objective 1: Create a comprehensive list of youth experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness (or who aren't being counted) that includes/combines information from multiple sources.</p>	<p>HCFP question for those accessing nonfood resources (10-20/week): do you have access to housing?</p> <p>Access numbers of people under 25 who are visiting</p>

	<p>Objective 2:</p> <p>Objective 3:</p>	<p>HCFP (both food and nonfood resources) Who: Doug</p> <p>Data from the Exchange Who: Ginny</p> <p>Gather data at Project Homeless Connect Who: Committee Timeline: January 29</p> <p>Action Step 1.1: Increase partnerships between entities who manage database/systems to identify data sharing, case coordination options. Who: Timeline:</p> <p>Action Step 1.2: Consult with local YABs to help identify uncaptured youth populations. Who: Timeline:</p> <p>Action Step 1.3: Use technology to engage all communities when doing youth counts, etc. Who: Timeline:</p> <p>Action Step 1.4: Increase access to essential telephone service. Who: Timeline:</p> <p>Action Step 1.5: Increase awareness by posting at</p>
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		<p>public places and known hangouts. Who: Timeline:</p> <p>Action Step 1.6: Engage all agencies/access points to help identify youth to the best of our ability. Who: Timeline:</p>
<p>3. The community uses prevention and diversion strategies whenever possible, and otherwise provides immediate access to low-barrier crisis housing and services to any youth who needs and wants it.</p>	<p>Objective 1: Statewide access to crisis housing that is designed by the input of youth people and is trauma informed</p> <p>Objective 2: Family reunification support- Implement accessible, versatile workshops to support parents and families</p> <p>Objective 3: All communities have addiction and chemical dependency and mental health programs-both outpatient and in-patient</p>	<p>Action Step 1.1: Who: Timeline: HCFP and HAP (HH), Safe Families</p> <p>Action Step 2.1: Who: Parenting with Love & Limits (The Center); OCS Timeline:</p> <p>Action Step 3.1: Who: Opioid Task Force; Set Free; Ninilchik Traditional Council; CICADA Timeline:</p>
<p>4. The community uses coordinated entry services (CES) processes to effectively link all youth experiencing homelessness to housing and services solutions</p>	<p>Objective 1: Inventory current points of entry and services; HCFP board meeting (1x/month)</p>	<p>Action Step 1.1: Who: Timeline:</p> <p>Action Step 2.1: Identify creative strategies to increase transportation</p>

<p>that are tailored to their needs.</p>	<p>Objective 2: Statewide transportation and coordinated logistics for connecting youth across regions</p> <p>Objective 3: Develop effective communication framework that can be used across regions</p> <p>Objective 4: All regions have adult mentors and peer navigation/ support</p> <p>Objective 5: Assessment tool is youth-centered and asks questions that solicit accurate data</p> <p>Objective 6: New provider training for innovative ways to communicate with youth (Outreach strategy?)</p> <p>Objective 7: Organizations actively asking clients what they need now @ that specific moment that will help</p>	<p>resources within community orgs</p> <p>Who:</p> <p>Timeline:</p> <p>Action Step 3.1: Reform communication between organizations and clients (<i>Host Listening Sessions? What else..</i>)</p> <p>Who:</p> <p>Timeline:</p> <p>Action Step 4.1:</p> <p>Who:</p> <p>Timeline:</p> <p>Action Step 5.1:</p> <p>Who:</p> <p>Timeline:</p> <p>Action Step 6.1:</p> <p>Who:</p> <p>Timeline:</p> <p>Action Step 7.1</p> <p>Who:</p> <p>Timeline:</p> <p>Identify existing media and resource outlets (211, Social media, Flyers, etc.)</p>
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	<p>Objective 8: Identify legal/confidentiality barriers for cross system data and identify opportunities</p>	
<p>5. The community acts with urgency to swiftly assist youth to move into permanent or non-time-limited housing options with appropriate services and supports. OUR BIGGEST GAP</p>	<p>Objective 1: Create appropriate/sufficient housing programs.</p> <p>Objective 2: Create policies/processes to house youth within 14-30 days.</p> <p>Objective 3: Implement a No Wrong Door for access to housing and services.</p> <p>Funding for Transitional living opportunity for youth</p>	<p>Action Step: Create flexible program criteria to eliminate barriers to quickly housing youth.</p> <p>Who:</p> <p>Timeline:</p> <p>Action Step: Hire/fund community navigator.</p> <p>Who:</p> <p>Timeline:</p> <p>Action Step: Hire/fund community navigator.</p> <p>Who:</p> <p>Timeline:</p> <p>Local Americorps within an agency (ninstar, KBC) as navigator?</p>
<p>6. The community has resources, plans, and system capacity in place to continue to prevent and quickly end future experiences of homelessness among youth.</p>	<p>Objective 1: Communities have a range of services to prevent and end homelessness.</p> <p>Funding for Transitional living opportunity for youth</p>	<p>Action Step: Ensure there are resources and services available to include: public transportation, treatment services, public housing, job placement services, supportive housing, outreach, community navigator.</p> <p>Who:</p> <p>Timeline:</p>

	<p>Objective 2: Bring in government support.</p> <p>Objective 3: Support youth to build resiliency.</p>	<p>Action Step: Fund a life-skills navigator.</p> <p>Who:</p> <p>Timeline:</p>
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ALASKA BoS YHDP PLANNING: ACTION STEPS		
Region: Mat-Su		
Regional Representatives: DaJonee Hale (Alliance Rep) and Al Gould (YAB Rep)		
GOAL	Objectives	Regional Action Steps
<p>1. All Planning, decision-making, resource allocation, and system evaluation will be youth-driven from day one.</p>	<p>Objective 1: Youth voice is incorporated into the planning process and ongoing monitoring of YHDP projects and efforts to improve the system.</p>	<p>Action Step 1.1: Ensure youth representation in meetings, workgroups and all interactions related to YHDP.</p> <p>Who: Mat Su Alliance to End Youth Homelessness (All partners)</p> <p>Timeline: From the beginning and throughout the process.</p> <p>Action Step 1.2: Create and analyze data from a survey to hear from voices that can't or choose not to attend meetings.</p>

Who: YAB, MSBSD, MSHF

Timeline:

Develop survey – by March 2020

Disseminate survey – until end of March 2020

MSBSD disseminate survey to known homeless or at-risk homeless youth in school system in March. YAB assists in analysis in April/May 2020.

Action Step 1.3: YAB maintains an active social media presence for outreach and engagement.

Who: YAB – Al Gould is lead

Timeline: Choose social media platforms & start accounts by May 1, 2010. Ongoing after that, as needed.

Action Step 1.4 YAB continues to advocate for youth’s needs by monitoring implementation of the plan & Alliance activities.

Who: YAB

Timeline: ongoing

Action Step 2.1: YAB will create a governance structure including bylaws

Objective 2: YAB will develop structure and

		<p>trainings. Topics might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trauma-Informed • ACEs • Mental Health First Aid • Board training – how to be on a board/operations • Program/project budgeting • Grant writing <p>Who: YAB & training partners</p> <p>Timeline: Year 1: one training in 2020 Year 2: two trainings in 2021</p>
<p>2. The community identifies all unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness.</p>	<p>Objective 1: Create a community wide identification system that reaches any youth experiencing homelessness or at-risk.</p>	<p>Action Step 1.1: Provide training to all partners who collect HMIS data on entering data consistently, standardizing data entry.</p> <p>Who: MYHouse coordinates with ICA (HMIS data manager) to offer training/TA. All agencies using HMIS invited to participate.</p> <p>Timeline: initial training by 09/01/2020 – ongoing after that for new staff</p>
		<p>Action Step 1.2: Require use of HMIS for all YHDP funded projects.</p>

		<p>Who: YHDP grantees</p> <p>Timeline: ongoing</p>
		<p>Action Step 1.3: Work with MSCHH & Alliance members to expand scope of annual PIT count and begin collecting age when doing counts (magnet event + sheltered count + unsheltered count).</p> <p>Who: Alaska Family & Youth Network (AYFN), Choosing Our Roots (COR) & MYHouse</p> <p>Timeline: 12/31/2020, annual</p>
		<p>Action Step 1.4: Increase awareness among youth by developing outreach materials for youth with a description of access points and all services for youth, and posting at public places and known hangouts (School FIT program, Knik House, Mat-Su Central, hospitals, libraries, youth recreation centers).</p> <p>Who: YAB lead – Alliance members provide information & review.</p> <p>Timeline: 06/30/2021</p>
<p>3. The community uses prevention and diversion strategies whenever possible, and</p>	<p>Objective 1: Access to crisis housing that is designed by the input of</p>	<p>Action Step 1.1: Establish a shelter that serves both minors and youth up to age 24, including those</p>

<p>otherwise provides immediate access to low-barrier crisis housing and services to any youth who needs and wants it.</p>	<p>youth and is trauma informed.</p>	<p>who are pregnant or parenting.</p> <p>Who: MYHouse & Knik Tribe</p> <p>Timeline: 03/1/2021</p>
		<p>Action Step 1.2: Increase the number of crisis beds available for youth in multiple settings, including host homes.</p> <p>Who: MYHouse, Knik Tribe & Choosing Our Roots</p> <p>Timeline: 03/1/2021</p>
		<p>Action Step 1.3: All programs receiving YHDP funds have trained staff on being trauma-informed.</p> <p>Who: All programs receiving YHDP funds – training provided by R.O.C.K. Mat-Su or other trainers.</p> <p>Timeline: within 1st year of funding.</p>
	<p>Objective 2: Meet homeless and at-risk youth’s immediate need through financial assistance.</p>	<p>Action Step 2.1: Set up a Rapid Rehousing program for homeless or at-risk youth in Mat-Su, including policies and procedures.</p> <p>Who: MYHouse to coordinate and organize resources such as OCS, AHFC (TBRA), Choosing Our Roots, HAP Agencies.</p>

		<p>Timeline: Year 1 – identify a pilot program for Mat-Su Year 2 & 3 – begin pilot with partners.</p>
		<p>Action Step 2.2: As part of case management, at risk youth are connected to public benefit assistance programs (WIC, Medicaid, SNAP, etc).</p> <p>Who: MYHouse, COR & Alaska Youth & Family Network (AYFN)</p> <p>Timeline: Year 2, ongoing</p>
	<p>Objective 3: Help youth strengthen their relationships.</p>	<p>Action Step 3.1: Community partners offer and/or create opportunities for youth to build social connections to facilitate supportive relationships and positive youth development (PYD) and provides information on those opportunities to Connect Mat-Su.</p> <p>Who: MSBSD, MYHouse, COR, Youth 360, ROCK Mat-Su, Onward & Upward -Randy Dowd, AYFN, Knik Tribe, OCS-Independent Living</p> <p><i>Conveners:</i> United Way - Youth 360</p> <p>Timeline: ongoing</p>
		<p>Action Step 3.2 Increase number of service providers and schools who</p>

		<p>use Family Mediation programs by offering training and increasing awareness.</p> <p>Who: MYHouse, AYFN</p> <p>Timeline: Develop partnerships – Year 1; Set training goals for additional mediator – Years 2 & 3</p>
<p>4. The community uses coordinated entry processes to effectively link all youth experiencing homelessness to housing and services solutions that are tailored to their needs.</p>	<p>Objective 1: All Mat-Su agencies serving youth use an assessment tool is youth-centered and asks questions that collect accurate data.</p>	<p>Action Step 1.1: Identify a common intake tool for use by providers in the youth COC. Explore inclusion of assessment of ACES score and other needs (education, health etc.)</p> <p>Who: MYHouse lead, Youth COC Agencies</p> <p>Timeline: 12/31/2020</p>
	<p>Objective 2: Increase public and agency awareness of, and agency partners' consistent referrals to, access points.</p>	<p>Action Step 2.1: Identify all existing services and access points for youth in the community.</p> <p>Who: Connect Mat-Su, Alliance members provide information</p> <p>Timeline: 12/31/2020</p>
		<p>Action Step 2.2: Real time information on service availability is available in the community.</p> <p>Who: Connect Mat-Su</p>

		<p>Timeline: 12/31/2020</p> <p>Action Step 2.3: Strategically create connections points for Alliance & MSCH2 to develop into one governing body.</p> <p>Who: Michelle Overstreet - MYHouse, Ginger Bear - Family Promise, Jim Beck - MSHF and a YAB member</p> <p>Timeline: 12/31/2020</p>
		<p>Action Step 2.4 Standardize referral form & educate agency partners on how to provide consistent youth referrals to all services in Mat-Su.</p> <p>Who: Connect Mat-Su lead, Alliance members provide input and use.</p> <p>Timeline: 09/01/2021</p>
	<p>Objective 3: Provide support to youth through peer support and improved case management.</p>	<p>Action Step 3.1: Create peer support positions that follow best practices.</p> <p>Who: AYFN, MYHouse</p> <p>Timeline: 12/31/2021</p>
<p>5. The community acts with urgency to swiftly assist youth to move into permanent or non-time-limited housing options with</p>	<p>Objective 1: Create appropriate/sufficient no- or- low-income housing programs with no barriers.</p>	<p>Action Step 1.1: Increase the number of host homes available for youth.</p> <p>Who: COR, MYHouse, Family Promise</p>

appropriate services and supports.		Timeline: 12/31/2021
		<p>Action Step 1.2: Explore the feasibility of a homebuilding program option in Mat-Su for homeless or low-income youth (such as Tiny House Project or Habitat for Humanity models).</p> <p>Who: YAB</p> <p>Timeline: 12/31/2021</p>
		<p>Action Step 1.3 Establish a Landlord Relations program to increase available housing options for youth, including minors.</p> <p>Who: MYHouse and AYFN lead, work with MSCHH and Mat-Su Borough</p> <p>Timeline: 12/31/2021</p>
	<p>Objective 2: Provide homeless youth with appropriate supports to help them stay housed.</p>	<p>Action Step 2.1: Case managers use person-centered planning, and youth are assessed and offered supports for: Permanent positive, supportive relationships Counseling/mental health Pregnancy, parenting and post-partum, including fathers</p> <p>Who: AYFN, Any YHDP grantee</p>

		Timeline: 12/31/2021
		<p>Action Step 2.2 Create additional job training programs for youth with an emphasis on youth choice, and programs serving youth of different abilities/needs.</p> <p>Who: MYHouse, NineStar</p> <p>Timeline: 12/31/2021</p>
		<p>Action Step 2.3 The Alliance advocates to increase access and availability of counseling & mental health supports.</p> <p>Who: Alliance & YAB</p> <p>Timeline: ongoing</p>
		<p>Action Step 2.4 The Alliance advocates to increase access and availability of substance misuse treatment that is youth appropriate.</p> <p>Who: Alliance & YAB</p> <p>Timeline: ongoing</p>
<p>6. The community has resources, plans, and system capacity in place to continue to prevent and quickly end future experiences of</p>	<p>Objective 1: Mat-Su agencies use data to identify needs, barriers, and gaps and to monitor outcomes of their services.</p>	<p>Action Step 1.1: Assess Alliance members data being collected to develop a better understanding of what data is needed and</p>

<p>homelessness among youth.</p>		<p>what data partners currently collect.</p> <p>Who: COR & Aria, YAB member</p> <p>Timeline: 12/31/2020</p>
		<p>Action Step 1.2: Develop MOU's for sharing data between partner agencies to provide better services for the youth being served by partner agencies within the COC.</p> <p>Who: Alliance members each have MOAs – they will get partners to sign.</p> <p>Timeline: By 12/2021, ongoing with new partners/grantees.</p>
		<p>Action Step 1.3: Develop and field an annual youth survey about needs, barriers and gaps within the COC.</p> <p>Who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lead: YAB + MSHF Agencies: Alliance members field survey to youth Analysis: YAB + MSHF <p>Timeline:</p> <p>Year 1 – initial survey drafted, fielded & analyzed.</p>

		Year 2+ revise & fielded again. Ongoing after that.
	<p>Objective 2: Increase community support for at-risk and homeless youth and the system of youth services in Mat-Su.</p>	<p>Action Step 2.1: Help increase public awareness and empathy, reduce stigma, through a documentary, or other public campaign.</p> <p>Who: YAB led with support from the Alliance members (Knik House-videography expertise, other youth in the community)</p> <p>Timeline: By 2021 – create a video to be distributed online and via social media from perspective of homeless youth to raise awareness. Create radio ads/PSA to be shared on 99.7 FM and 92.9 FM. Share an opinion piece (OP-ED) in the local newspaper.</p>
	<p>Objective 3: Increase system capacity/reduce barriers for at-risk or homeless youth.</p>	<p>Action Step 3.1: Create a drop-in center that is open from 5pm-midnight to cater to youth in crisis.</p> <p>Who: MYHouse</p> <p>Timeline: By 12/2021</p>
		<p>Action Step 3.2: YHDP grantees have policies for no or low-barrier housing for youth in need using National Alliance to End Homelessness guidance.</p>

		<p>Who: YHDP grantees</p> <p>Timeline: September 1, 2020</p>
		<p>Action Step 3.3: Develop & standardize a process for youth to get an alternative ID for those who lack documentation.</p> <p>Who: MYHouse</p> <p>Timeline: 09/31/2021</p>
		<p>Action Step 3.4: Address needs for public transportation through existing Transportation coalition (Valley Transit, Connect Mat-Su, MYHouse, MSHF, AK DOLWD).</p> <p>Who: YAB member to participate in coalition</p> <p>Timeline: Year 1 – learn about the changes occurring to the transportation services in Mat-Su. Year 2 – Work with transportation services/Coalition to have no cost transportation to youth in crisis throughout the Borough.</p>
		<p>Action Step 3.5: Develop and pilot a program to meet youth’s transportation needs through vouchers/micro-grants, donations, host drivers, case management/peer</p>

		<p>support, or other similar models, including public transit.</p> <p>Who: Valley Transit, YAB</p> <p>Timeline: Year 1: YAB to find sponsoring agency for car program, develop partnership with Valley Transit Year 2: Pilot new programs / partnerships</p>
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ALASKA BoS YHDP PLANNING: ACTION STEP RESPONSE TABLE		
Region: Bethel		
Regional Lead:		
GOAL	Objectives	Regional Action Steps
<p>1. All Planning, decision-making, resource allocation, and system evaluation will be youth-driven from <u>day one</u>.</p>	<p>Objective 1: Get more youth to the table.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Identify barriers -Consistent commitment with non-mandated reporter -Start conversations with disclosing that people are mandated reporters 	<p>Action Step 1.1: Agencies/access points hold space for those conversations. Who: Tish--(someone will ask) Timeline: Within month</p> <p>Action Step 1.2: Diversify opportunities & activities to engage youth. Who: Tish/need to identify space/engagement points for all agencies. Timeline: Month</p> <p>Action Step 1.3: No minimum participation requirement for youth to engage in the YAB activities/meetings. Who: Timeline:</p>

	<p>Objective 2: All governance & policy docs explicitly include this goal.</p> <p>Objective 3: Develop a streamlined communication plan.</p> <p>-Ensure done by a non-mandated reporter -Identify a space</p>	<p>Action Step 1.4: Youth are compensated equally and adequately for their participation. Who: Mike Timeline: Ongoing</p> <p>Action Step 1.5: Utilize technology to engage and allow harder to reach communities to participate. Who: N/A (only successful with resources. This will be a next step) Timeline:</p> <p>Action Step: Who: Timeline:</p> <p>Action Step: Who: Timeline:</p>
<p>2. The community identifies all unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness.</p>	<p>Objective 1: Create a comprehensive list of youth experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness (or who aren't being counted) that includes/combines information from multiple sources.</p> <p>*Possible duplicated -WH (12) -TWC (18) -Ask DOJJ -Ask KLA SW -OCS (20) -Ask Jaela at Library -Ask Job Center -Ask 4H</p>	<p>Action Step 1.1: Increase partnerships between entities who manage database/systems to identify data sharing, case coordination options. Who: Ariel/other agencies Timeline: Month</p> <p>Action Step 1.2: Consult with local YABs to help identify uncaptured youth populations. Who: Tish Timeline: Within the month</p> <p>Action Step 1.3: Use technology to engage all communities when doing youth counts, etc.</p>

	<p>Objective 2: Begin to transition some of adult focus in data to youth</p> <p>Objective 3:</p>	<p>Who: N/A if resources allow--going forward Timeline: Future</p> <p>Action Step 1.4: Increase access to essential telephone service. Who: Engage GCI/refer to job center Timeline: Month</p> <p>Action Step 1.5: Increase awareness by posting at public places and known hangouts. Who: Mike as part of his outreach Timeline: One week</p> <p>Action Step 1.6: Engage all agencies/access points to help identify youth to the best of our ability. Who: All Timeline: HC updates, create committee YHDP within HC</p>
<p>3. The community uses prevention and diversion strategies whenever possible, and otherwise provides immediate access to low-barrier crisis housing</p>	<p>Objective 1: Statewide access to crisis housing that is designed by the input of youth people and is trauma informed</p>	<p>Action Step 1.1: Youth participation of what kind of housing assistance is needed. Who: YHDP committee Timeline:</p>

<p>and services to any youth who needs and wants it.</p>	<p>Objective 2: Family reunification support-Implement accessible, versatile workshops to support parents and families</p> <p>Objective 3: All communities have addiction and chemical dependency and mental health programs-both outpatient and in-patient</p>	<p>Action Step 2.1: Keep AVCP and ONC engaged Who: Timeline:</p> <p>Action Step 3.1: Further engage YKHC BH and/or BFC Who: Timeline:</p>
<p>4. The community uses coordinated entry processes to effectively link all youth experiencing homelessness to housing and services solutions that are tailored to their needs.</p> <p>N/A. Until our community has resources this has to be on the strategic plan. A strategic plan is about to be built for HC and a day could be given to youth work.</p>	<p>Objective 1: Statewide public awareness of CES access points</p> <p>Objective 2: Statewide transportation and coordinated logistics for connecting youth across regions</p> <p>Objective 3: Develop effective communication framework that can be used across regions</p> <p>Objective 4: All regions have adult mentors and peer navigation/ support</p> <p>Objective 5: Assessment tool is youth-centered and asks questions that solicit accurate data</p>	<p>Action Step 1.1: Identify existing media and resource outlets (211, Social media, Flyers, etc) Who: Timeline:</p> <p>Action Step 2.1: Identify creative strategies to increase transportation resources within community orgs Who: Timeline:</p> <p>Action Step 3.1: Reform communication between organizations and clients (<i>Host Listening Sessions? What else..</i>) Who: Timeline:</p> <p>Action Step 4.1: Who: Timeline:</p> <p>Action Step 5.1: Who: Timeline:</p> <p>Action Step 6.1: Who: Timeline:</p> <p>Action Step 7.1</p>

	<p>Objective 6: New provider training for innovative ways to communicate with youth (Outreach strategy?)</p> <p>Objective 7: Organizations actively asking clients what they need now @ that specific moment that will help</p> <p>Objective 8: Identify legal/confidentiality barriers for cross system data and identify opportunities</p>	<p>Who:</p> <p>Timeline:</p>
<p>5. The community acts with urgency to swiftly assist youth to move into permanent or non-time-limited housing options with appropriate services and supports.</p> <p>N/A. Until our community has resources this has to be on the strategic plan. A strategic plan is about to be built for HC and a day could be given to youth work.</p>	<p>Objective 1: Create appropriate/sufficient housing programs.</p> <p>Objective 2: Create policies/processes to house youth within 14-30 days.</p> <p>Objective 3: Implement a No Wrong Door for access to housing and services.</p>	<p>Action Step: Create flexible program criteria to element barriers to quickly housing youth.</p> <p>Who:</p> <p>Timeline:</p> <p>Action Step: Hire/fund community navigator.</p> <p>Who:</p> <p>Timeline:</p> <p>Action Step:</p> <p>Who:</p> <p>Timeline:</p>
<p>6. The community has resources, plans, and system capacity in place to continue to prevent and quickly end future experiences of homelessness among youth.</p> <p>N/A. Until our community has resources this has to be on the strategic plan. A strategic plan is about to be built for HC and a day could be given to youth work.</p>	<p>Objective 1: Communities have a range of services to prevent and end homelessness.</p> <p>Objective 2: Bring in government support.</p>	<p>Action Step: Ensure there are resources and services available to include: public transportation, treatment services, public housing, job placement services, supportive housing, outreach, community navigator.</p> <p>Who:</p> <p>Timeline:</p> <p>Action Step:</p> <p>Who:</p> <p>Timeline:</p>

	<p>Objective 3: Support youth to build resiliency.</p>	<p>Action Step: Fund a life-skills navigator. Who: Timeline:</p>
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VALUES & PRINCIPLES CHART			
Region: Southeast Alaska (North)			
Next Steps at the Regional Level:			
	Value or Principle	What do these values and principles mean to your region?	How would you implement changes to embrace/operationalize these values?
1	<p>Focus on Specialized Populations – which may include LGBTQ youth, youth of color, AI/NA youth, or other sub-populations identified in your region</p> <p><i>*Plan must discuss the prevalence and needs of each special population and the strategies the community will use to engage and address homelessness for each special population</i></p>	<p>Recognizing diversity and embracing a multi-cultural approach to support the dignity, merit, and potential of each individual, valuing the uniqueness and their worth.</p> <p>YAS serves all youth population.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Consistency *Reliability *Confidentiality (Sitka is a small community where many of us know one another from different forms of association, or commonly of relation.) *Open-Mindedness *Dependability *Commitment *Acknowledging that our guiding principles may dictate behavior. 	<p>Provide mandatory staff training that includes the value of working with specialized populations and educate team on the imperative importance of balanced responsibilities to direct service, client involvement, enforcing and encouraging policies.</p> <p>Emphasize ways to better inform our community on our facilities services and social support networks.</p> <p>Host and support events that create safe, comfortable, inclusive, and engaging environments.</p> <p>Provide non-binary bathrooms and bedrooms to support an inclusive environment within our</p>

		<p>*Being sensitive to youth’s reluctance due to confidentiality concerns living in a small community where affiliation may inhibit uncomfortable emotions.</p> <p>*Valuing place-based knowledge.</p> <p>*Using cultural and gender inclusive practices.</p> <p>*Maintaining an open-door policy.</p> <p>*Emphasizing our vision through our programming, hiring, recruiting of resource families and all we do to serve our youth and community.</p> <p>*Offering services driven by client choice to provide, empowerment, integrity, and community connection.</p>	<p>program for staff and clients.</p> <p>Prepare client applications that include gender identity choices, ethnicities, and races. Clients are always asked for preference of names and pronouns.</p> <p>Engage with community cultural clubs and activities that focus on the restoration and importance of the Alaska Native culture. Introducing and enhancing the experience of native art, cooking, and educational aspects. Embed culturally appropriate activities into programming.</p>
	<p>Positive Youth Development/Trauma-Informed Care</p> <p><i>*Plan must describe how PYD and TIC will be integrated into the youth homeless response system.</i></p>	<p>Connection/Relationship based practices.</p> <p>Restorative practices.</p> <p>Ensuring youth have a leadership role in creating life goals and areas of focus.</p> <p>Meeting youth where they are and never giving up.</p> <p>Utilizing Trauma Informed Care.</p>	<p>Ensure youth leadership in developing programming and in affirming their lives.</p> <p>Maintain no wrong door approach.</p> <p>Train staff in areas such as Adverse Childhood Experiences, trauma sensitive practices, self-care, cultural inclusion, and awareness.</p>
3	<p>Family Engagement</p> <p><i>*Your CCP must identify at least one strategy designed</i></p>	<p>Building family engagement for youth who wish to reunify with their families.</p>	<p>Introduce youth to various resources in the community such as job centers, behavioral health supports, community</p>

	<i>to strengthen, stabilize, or reunify families.</i>	Expanding a positive support system beyond family to include, friends, mentors, and the wider community.	<p>outreach services, and peer support groups.</p> <p>Educate and empower parents to exercise patience understanding.</p>
4	<p>Immediate Access to Housing with NO Preconditions</p> <p><i>*The CCP states at least one strategy to offer youth immediate access to safe, secure, and stable housing without preconditions.</i></p>	Maintaining no preconditions to providing services for any youth who are homeless or at risk of being homeless.	Spread the message of our TLP youth to the local teen center, religious affiliates/centers, schools and the community.
5	<p>Youth Choice</p> <p><i>*Plan identifies how youth will be provided choice on which providers and interventions to engage with.</i></p>	<p>Distinguishing how youth engagement on specific strategies is a key concept to their success.</p> <p>Educating youth on what providers and services are available.</p> <p>Identifying what form of intervention will aide in the development of self-acceptance, validation to their specific needs and valuing their opinion.</p>	<p>Be mindful to develop trust with youth so they are confident in our validation to unconditional acceptance and provide an environment that they can safely express vulnerability and what their actual needs are.</p> <p>Provide supportive connections and education on the services provided and the purpose of each.</p> <p>Assist client in identifying goals and work with the client to create steps toward completing those goals.</p> <p>Emphasize client desires, needs, and goals they want to accomplish in the program when creating treatment plans</p>

6	<p>Individualized and Client Driven Support</p> <p><i>* Plan identifies how the system responds to the different needs for service type, intensity, and length of support.</i></p>	<p>Respecting differences by supporting clients where they are developmentally and helping them to set specific goals to target their needs.</p>	<p>Some youth need to be in the program for the entire 18 months while others need 4 months. Each youth has a tailored treatment plan for the services they need.</p>
7	<p>Social & Community Integration</p> <p><i>*The CCP identifies how the system will offer meaningful opportunities for participation in community activities and support.</i></p>	<p>Engaging clients with the community to connect them with resources and any other programs that will help them be successful.</p>	<p>Provide pamphlets on upcoming events in the community and offer transportation.</p> <p>Keep an updated list of activities for each month and provide positive encouragement toward participation.</p> <p>Facilitate client acquisition of tickets for musical and other cultural events in the community.</p>
8	<p>Coordinated Entry</p> <p><i>*Your CCP must address how your CoC will ensure that your coordinated entry process is youth inclusive and appropriate.</i></p>	<p>Maintaining fair and equal access to all services for all clients without prejudice or preconditions.</p> <p>TLP program coordinator and case manager meeting with clients during intake to assess their particular needs and to work on daily targeted goals.</p>	<p>Emphasis on exploring with client the interventions and tactics that were successful and what did not work well.</p> <p>Review experiences and ways to evolve and grow from them.</p> <p>Treat everyone with respect and dignity.</p> <p>Advocate for clients.</p> <p>Inform clients of their rights and how they can advocate for themselves.</p>

<p>9</p>	<p>Equity</p> <p><i>*CCP's must address how the community is measuring and considering racial inequities and other disparities in the risks for, and experiences of, homelessness in the community.</i></p>	<p>Ensure needs are met with equity for all youth, regardless of their race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status such as disability, age, marital and family status, sexual orientation and gender identity, health status, place of residence, economic and social situation.</p> <p>Promote solution-focused goals for all clients from the beginning.</p>	<p>Conduct surveys.</p> <p>Promote all voices in open forums.</p> <p>Create safe spaces for clients to share their concerns, needs and fears.</p>
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