

# Ending Youth Homelessness

## Guidebook Series: *Promising Program Models*



### *Ending Youth Homelessness: Overview of this Guidebook Series*

This series of three guidebooks is designed for Continuum of Care (CoC) leadership and stakeholders to use as a direct, hands-on action plan in efforts to prevent and end youth homelessness, as they have been directed to ensure there is an effective and efficient system of care for all persons and households experiencing homelessness. The Guidebooks include suggested strategies, identification of promising practices, and considerations for CoCs and their partners that can be implemented immediately.

The guidebook topics include:

- **System Planning** - strategies for developing a youth homelessness system and leadership.
- **Mainstream System Collaboration** - strategies for engaging mainstream sectors such as child welfare, education, workforce, justice, housing, health, early childhood education, community organizations and mainstream benefits.
- **Promising Program Models** - promising strategies for youth-specific program models.



## OVERVIEW OF THIS GUIDEBOOK

Nationwide, there is a growing network of housing and service programs that are employing promising strategies to reach, engage, support, and house unaccompanied youth.

This Guidebook provides information on the following emerging program models:

- **Primary Prevention**
- **Identification and Engagement:** Mobile “Street” Outreach, Drop-In Centers, Family Engagement
- **Emergency and Crisis Response:** Youth Shelters and Emergency Services, Host Homes, Transitional Housing and Transitional Living
- **Tailored Housing and Services:** Rapid Re-Housing, Non-time-limited Supportive Housing

This Guidebook describes key features of these emerging program models, highlighting promising practices and possible funding sources in order to help communities plan, develop, and improve their own youth-appropriate services. These models are organized within the framework outlined in the Federal Partner’s [Preventing and Ending Youth Homelessness: A Coordinated Community Response](#).

A Federal Interagency Working Group developed a shared vision and the necessary program models that it will take to prevent and end youth homelessness. This requires a homeless youth system that provides stable housing,

permanent connections, education and employment, and well-being. The unified, collaborative response must include the following services and housing options.

With a well-coordinated and proportionate housing and service delivery system, communities can prevent and end youth homelessness.

See  
System Planning  
Guidebook



Primary  
Prevention

Identification  
and Engagement



Emergency and  
Crisis Response



Tailored Housing  
and Services



**Ending Youth Homelessness: Promising Program Models**

# OVERVIEW OF YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

With the launch of [Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness](#), the Federal Administration established goals to prevent and end homelessness, including ending youth homelessness by 2020. Communities across the country have made incredible progress toward reaching this goal and the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) and Federal Partners have increased efforts to focus and align available federal resources to help prevent and end youth homelessness.

## What does ‘youth’ mean?

While revolving around a flexible subpopulation, by using the word “youth” these Guidebooks address youth experiencing homelessness up to age 24 who are unaccompanied by a parent, guardian, or spouse, or who are with their own children.

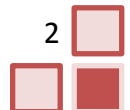
Youth homelessness is unique because young people are still developing. They are experiencing homelessness or are precariously housed for any number of reasons —abuse, family conflict, sexual identity, pregnancy or family poverty. They may be aging out of foster care. They may have become disconnected from family, school or work. They may be struggling with mental health and substance abuse disorders.



Youth who experience homelessness are especially vulnerable to criminal victimization, sexual exploitation, labor and sex trafficking or traumatic stress. As communities are creating systems of support for precariously housed youth and those experiencing homelessness they must take all of these different life experiences into account.

When creating a network of services and housing for youth there are guiding principles that should be incorporated. You may recognize some of these key guiding principles from the work that is being done in the adult and family systems. Interventions that support youth should adopt the following principles:

- Immediate accessibility
- Individualized, flexible, and choice-based
- Developmentally appropriate for youth
- Culturally competent
- Trauma-informed
- Based on the Housing First approach
- Employ Positive Youth Development (PYD) principles
- Emphasize family reunification and resiliency strategies



## PRIMARY PREVENTION

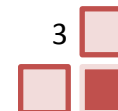
The best outcomes for youth happen when they remain connected and housed with family whenever appropriate (or with other natural supports as defined by the youth), and if this is not possible, then when they are supported in a planned transition to stable housing. Coordination with mainstream partners and early intervention can help prevent homelessness. Key features and promising practices of primary prevention include:

- **Encourage Family Resiliency:** Targeted counseling, caregiver support, conflict resolution, respite, and behavioral health services can resolve family conflict and build family resiliency so that youth can safely remain or return home. Securing income and health benefits can alleviate financial pressures on the family. Key centers of conflict include: teen pregnancy, behavioral issues, sexual orientation, gender identity, or stresses of poverty and income insecurity.
- **Support Foster Care Transitions:** Young adults aging out of foster care, or with histories of involvement with foster care, have high risk of homelessness. Support to progress successfully into a new community should be provided to transition-age youth (TAY) as far in advance of that move as possible. Completing an assessment for factors known to put youth at higher risk of homelessness — and then coordinating developmentally appropriate services, such as money management, parenting skills, and job placement — can help youth transition successfully to stable housing.

- **School-Based Prevention:** Local homeless liaisons in school districts — or Single Points of Contacts at colleges — can identify youth who may be at risk and help keep them in school while coordinating community supports and stable housing. Schools are an important place where youth can engage with positive adult role models who can offer support that the family may not.
- **Leaving Juvenile Justice or Adult Correctional Systems:** A significant number of at-risk youth are involved with the juvenile justice or adult correctional systems. Formal collaboration with law enforcement, diversion programs, probation officers, and after care programs can help identify at-risk youth early and support better outcomes.

### Making It Work: Primary Prevention

- Assess for protective and risk factors early using developmentally appropriate tools
- Use Positive Youth Development to build strengths and resiliency
- Formally coordinate with mainstream partners to support at-risk youth
- Help at-risk youth build and maintain healthy adult relationships
- Prioritize high-risk populations, like LGBTQ youth and pregnant or parenting teens
- Offer TAY services before and after aging out of foster care



# IDENTIFICATION AND EARLY INTERVENTION

## A. Mobile (“Street”) Outreach

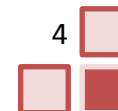
Outreach programs are often a first point of contact with unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness and are especially effective at engaging youth who are hiding. Key features and promising practices of mobile “street” outreach include:

- **Assertive Outreach:** Assertive outreach teams go to the places where youth keep themselves hidden, such as parks, cars, abandoned buildings, bus or train stations, parking lots, and public storage lockers. To find youth, outreach teams draw on informal community contacts such as baristas, public librarians, and sanitation workers.
- **Build Trust:** Regularity, predictability, and follow-through are critical to program success.
- **Trauma-Informed Care:** Workers are trained to provide trauma-informed care with an emphasis on meeting youth where they are.
- **Experience with LGBTQ Youth:** Given the prevalence of homelessness among LGBTQ youth, culturally competent staff and coordination with organizations serving the LGBTQ community is important.
- **Meet Basic Needs:** Teams carry supplies to meet basic needs — clothing, food, water, hygiene items — and offer a hotline for youth to call for help or emergencies.

### Making It Work: Mobile “Street” Outreach

- Educate the community to be part of the solution
- Establish safety protocols for staff and collaborate with law enforcement
- Build trust through reliability and follow-through
- Meet basic needs first then move on to critical service connections
- Include youth in program planning and implementation

- **Employ Formal Partnerships:** Outreach programs field mobile medical vans or partner with health centers to provide basic primary health and dental care, including testing for HIV, STDs, and TB. Counseling and advice regarding substance abuse and other health risk behaviors are delivered using a harm reduction model. Outreach programs may work closely with law enforcement through Police Homeless Outreach Teams, especially for youth who have experienced criminal victimization, sexual or labor exploitation.





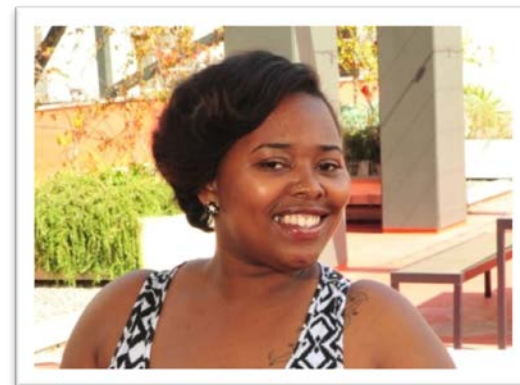
## B. Drop-In Centers

Drop-in centers are a first point of contact and provide an informal atmosphere to attract and engage youth who are homeless, thus an effective alternative to the adult shelter system for older unaccompanied youth. Key features and promising practices of drop-in centers include:

- **Low- or No-Barrier:** Foster a welcoming, safe, non-judgmental environment, with limited rules or requirements, conveniently located near public transportation whenever possible.
- **Meet Basic Needs:** Provide easy access to food, laundry, shower, and clothes. Provide access to internet and phones, and lockers for storage of belongings. Regularly visiting medical staff can provide optional basic healthcare and first aid.
- **Trauma-Informed Care:** Despite the informal atmosphere, staff is trained and ready to provide crisis intervention, conflict resolution, and counseling services. It is especially important that staff be trained or have access to services specifically for LGBTQ youth, who are disproportionately represented among youth who are experiencing homelessness.
- **Positive Youth Development:** Staff is trained to develop the youth's competence, confidence, character, caring, connection, and contribution ("6 Cs").
- **Youth Focused:** Create a positive and healthy peer network for youth, access to caring adults, and engage in youth-centered programming.
- **Service Coordination:** Operate as a central hub for services, such as medical, dental, behavioral health care, substance abuse treatment, housing search support, and advocacy. Staff can help with documentation and facilitates school re-engagement or connection to adult basic education or workforce development programs. Drop-in centers operate in tandem with mobile "street" outreach programs, family engagement services, emergency shelters, and transitional housing.

### Making It Work: Drop-In Centers

- Choose easy and low-key access locations
- Place high importance on feeling safe and welcome
- Provide easy access to education, work, and mental health/substance abuse recovery programs when ready
- Peer support and activities offer meaningful structure
- Include youth voices in programming
- Continually assess opportunity for family engagement



## C. Family Engagement

Family engagement services help youth develop, maintain, or strengthen connections whenever safe and appropriate so that they can remain or return home. Even for those who cannot return home, transitions between communities work best if supported by family relationships and repairing the relationship has indirect positive outcomes. Family engagement services can be a component of a housing-focused project or can be a stand-alone service.



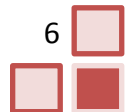
Key features and promising practices of family engagement include:

- **Comprehensive Intervention:** Services typically include assessment; individual, family, and group counseling; caregiver support; conflict mediation and resolution; respite care; coordination with behavioral, mental health, and substance abuse services; and connection to community supports and activities. Additionally, securing income and health benefits should be secured.

- **Build Strength:** Casework practices approach youth and families with genuineness, empathy, and respect. Staff actively listens, includes the voices of youth and their families, and uses a strength-based approach to partner with them. Cultural competency and the ability to pace expectations are also important.
- **Aftercare:** Successful programs provide support to stay connected with the youth and family following a housing choice and offer respite or caregiver support as needed to build resiliency and reconnection. Aftercare may be offered even in cases where the youth is staying in transitional, supportive housing or with extended family or friends.
- **Stability:** Remaining consistently connected to natural supports like friends, family, and teachers results in positive outcomes such as stability in life and improved capacity to develop healthy relationships, thus preventing the recurrence of homelessness. Services that create an individualized housing stability strategy help youth move forward with their lives in a safe and planned way.

### Making It Work: Family Engagement

- Prefer family reunification when safe and appropriate
- Use strength-based approaches
- Be culturally competent
- Know family systems and homelessness
- Provide aftercare
- Connect youth and family to community supports and services



# EMERGENCY & CRISIS RESPONSE

## A. Youth Shelters and Emergency Services

Youth shelters are a first point of contact with unaccompanied youth, and provide an immediate and short-term alternative to the dangers of the streets. Hours of operations can vary (24 hours/day or evening to morning) and crisis shelters may focus on younger youth under 18 or young adults ages 18-24 depending on funding and licensing.



Key features and promising practices of youth shelters and emergency services include:

- **Youth Focus:** To attract youth who would otherwise choose to couch-surf or sleep on the streets, youth shelters are low- or no-barrier programs with easy access. Youth shelters provide a connection to a community of peers, which can encourage awareness and acknowledgement of needing help.
- **Safety and Harm Reduction:** Focus on youth feeling and being safe and use a harm reduction model with screening for safe behaviors rather than substance use rules.

Ending Youth Homelessness: Promising Program Models

### Making It Work: Youth Shelters

- Centralize the mission on Youth
- Make safety paramount
- Utilize low- or no-barriers and a harm reduction model
- Integrate family engagement services
- Provide peer support and community connections
- Include youth in programming design

- **Support Family Connection:** Offer opportunities for youth to connect to families, e.g., providing phone cards, postcards or postage, overnight visits, etc. This helps staff see if and when youth are interested in engaging with their families so that reunification conversations may begin.
- **Individual Case Management:** In addition to meeting immediate basic needs, on-site staff provides crisis intervention, assessment, and individual case management. This may include connections to schools, caring and trusted adults, health care providers, and youth development organizations.
- **Focus on Transition to Stable Housing:** The goal is quick exit planning by engaging and stabilizing youth through case management and counseling services, family reunification, or transition to other stable and safe environments. This may also include transitional supports for shelter graduates.
- **Short-Term Financial Intervention:** In a few cases, youth may only need short-term or one-time financial assistance in order to secure stable and independent housing. This can be combined with a mentoring adult to co-sign a lease and encourage soft skills support as needed.



## B. Host Homes

Host homes are a flexible and cost-effective model for providing stable housing and supports. Host homes offer a home-like, non-institutional environment rooted in the community. Key features and promising practices of host homes include:

- **Host Recruitment:** Host homes are an arrangement between community members who act as volunteer hosts and a youth service provider. Hosts provide safe shelter and food. The service provider offers program coordination, host support, and case management services. Informal community networks (such as faith-based and LGBTQ networks) or a community advisory council can support host recruitment. Hosts may receive financial assistance to defray the costs of hosting the youth or to compensate for loss of rental income.
- **Supporting Hosts:** Hosts are screened (background check, 2-3 interviews and references) and receive training and ongoing support, especially with boundary-setting, managing expectations, conflict mediation, and cultural competency. Youth are typically accountable to case managers, not hosts. Programs may create support groups among hosts.
- **Positive Youth Development:** Case management and services are individualized and focus on problem-solving, skill-building, communication, and goal-setting. Setbacks and mistakes are tolerated. Youth participate voluntarily and are never “placed” in a home. The matching process should be driven by the youth with support from the case manager.



- **Flexible Model:** Host homes are effective in urban, suburban, and rural settings. Host homes may be used as short-term emergency shelter allowing youth to remain in their community, as respite care combined with family engagement services or as transitional housing. This model may work especially for unaccompanied youth who can build long-term and authentic relationships with caring adults.
- **Formal Partnerships:** Successful programs involve formal partnerships with schools, child welfare, justice, and behavioral and mental health service providers in order to collaboratively support youth.

### Making It Work: Host Homes

- Ensure the host home is a youth-driven choice, not a placement
- Continue long-term efforts and education for host recruitment
- Provide hosts with training and ongoing support
- Use intensive and flexible case management
- Explore questions of host liability and licensure
- Integrate social activities and community

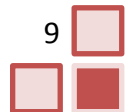
## C. Transitional Housing and Transitional Living

Transitional Housing and Transitional Living is time-limited (up to 21-24 months) supportive housing for youth who are not ready to live independently. This model has a focus on developing life skills and staying in school or securing work. Key features and promising practices of transitional housing and transitional living programs include:

- **Variety of Housing Configurations:** Possible housing types include: congregate housing with overnight staff (especially for youth under 18 or those who find structure helpful), clustered units with or without a supervisor on-site, or scattered site apartments or shared units in which a youth may hold the lease.
- **Individualized and Flexible Service Delivery:** Intensity, duration, and array of services are customized and unique to each transitional housing program and youth population. Many programs are finding great success in implementing a housing first approach offering low barriers and voluntary services. Programs use positive youth development focusing on skills-building, leadership and community involvement. Programs tend to have low- or no-barriers to entry and to stay in the program.
- **Vulnerable Populations:** Provide specialized services and community supports for vulnerable sub-groups, such as pregnant and parenting teens, youth with mental and behavioral health difficulties, youth fleeing domestic violence or trafficking situations, transition-aged youth, those leaving juvenile justice, or LGBTQ youth.

### Making It Work: Transitional Housing & Transitional Living

- Codify flexible time limits
  - Support choice and diversity through congregate and scattered site models
  - Use PYD and developmentally appropriate services
  - Focus on education, employment opportunities and income supports
  - Encourage peer support and building trusted community
  - Case manage toward transition to permanent housing
  - Involve youth in creating house rules, program design, and planning activities
  - Support transition to independence with adult mentors
- **Forge Community Connections:** While in the program, youth are provided with services such as health and mental health services, support groups, life skills training, substance abuse treatment, employment, vocational, and educational services. Programs facilitate intentional and trusted community but also connect youth with community-based services that they can remain connected to once they leave the program.
  - **Exit Planning:** Requires formal partnerships with housing search staff and permanent housing providers and begins early to support a transition to independent living as soon as a youth can make an informed choice and feels ready. Many programs also provide aftercare case management for up to six months upon exit from the program.



## TAILORED HOUSING AND SERVICE SOLUTIONS

### A. Rapid Re-Housing (RRH)

Rapid re-housing is a promising strategy for older youth with greater independent living skills who cannot reconnect to family or who need time to do so. RRH can be offered as part of a suite of possible housing and service options that includes host homes and family engagement services. Key features and promising practices of rapid re-housing programs include:

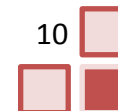
- **Housing First Approach:** Projects utilize a Housing First approach that provides immediate access to stable housing, low-barriers to entry and to keep assistance, and voluntary but persistent services, with high expectations and high levels of engagement.
- **Age Appropriate and Individualized Case Management:** Services are intensive (daily or 2-3 times per week) and may continue even after youth appear to have stabilized. Case managers (with a ratio of 8 or 10:1) foster independent living skills (budgeting, cooking, basic maintenance, setting boundaries, etc.), support youth with lease obligations, and coordinate clinical supports as needed. Case managers help mediate problems, and allow mistakes and learning in a supported environment.
- **Cultivate Landlord Base:** Requires a trained and dedicated staff or partnership with a housing organization to cultivate

and maintain relationships with property owners, (co)sign and oversee leases, oversee tenant move-ins, and handle the rent payment process.

- **Long-Term Housing Stability:** RRH time frame is up to 24 months with the goal of achieving long-term housing stability. Rental assistance is structured with youth paying 30 percent of their income or less, building savings as income increases. Apartments should be appropriate for independent life beyond rental assistance. This can include a roommate in high rent areas or use of tenant-based rental assistance, if secured. Alternatively, youth can be supported to find other independent affordable housing, to reunify with family or to secure non-time-limited supportive housing, if needed.

#### Making It Work: Rapid Re-Housing

- Continually recruit and support property owners
- Use a Housing First approach
- Case manage intensely, especially at start
- Prepare for setbacks
- Offer voluntary but persistent developmentally appropriate services
- Integrate education, job training, and access to community services
- Build social and community connections
- Ensure services are relevant to needs and goals
- Support transition to independence with adult mentors



## B. Non-time-limited Supportive Housing

Non-time-limited youth supportive housing is a specialized age- and service-appropriate version of permanent supportive housing for youth with complex needs. Key features and promising practices of non-time-limited supportive housing include:

- **Highest Needs:** Target youth experiencing homelessness likely to have the highest service needs — mental health, substance abuse disorders, trauma — such as LGBTQ youth, who experience trauma and mental health disorders at higher rates than their heterosexual peers. Age range is typically 18 to 24 years old.

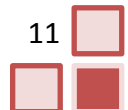


- **Housing First:** Use a harm reduction and trauma-informed care approach, with voluntary comprehensive support services. On-site staff engages youth at their own pace and tailors services to their individualized needs. Services address the physical, socio-emotional, intellectual, and life skills development of youth on a pathway to independence.

- **Non-Time-Limited:** There are no time limits. This model includes a “moving on” culture that encourages youth, when and if they can, to move to independent or adult permanent supportive housing. Youth pay 30 percent of their income in rent and holds the lease. Access to tenant-based rental assistance and adult permanent supportive housing is critical to supporting transitions as youth become ready.
- **Housing and Service Operating Agreements:** Youth Supportive housing requires strong formal operating partnerships among youth-serving organizations, affordable housing providers (such as public housing agencies, property owners, and housing developers), and coordinated community supports. Models may be scattered site — using tenant-based or project-based rental assistance, project-based units, or a sponsor-based set-aside within a mixed-population building — or may be developed as a single site rental building.

### Making It Work: Non-Time-Limited Supportive Housing

- Utilize for youth with the highest needs
- Train staff in trauma-informed care and harm reduction
- Individualize and pace services to meet youth where they are
- Foster a “moving on” culture for youth who are ready
- Establish formal operating agreements between service providers and property managers/owners
- Work with a youth advisory council to foster peer community and inform programming and activities



## ENGAGING YOUTH

Youth engagement is the practice of meaningfully involving youth in decisions that affect them, their peers, and their communities. Young people are an integral part of organizations' and communities' work and their voices help shape the future. Youth can bring energy and new ideas to challenges, and their involvement creates a sense of ownership, accountability, and greater acceptance of services and decisions. For youth, engagement increases self-esteem, builds connections, develops skills, and fosters philanthropy.

There are many different ways of engaging youth, including:

- Speaker Panels to planners and practitioners — cultural competence training
- Youth Advisory Boards for specific programs and the system

- Advisors or committee members for CoC and/or Point-In-Time count planning
- Participation in CoC Point-In-Time counts
- Participation in staff interviews
- Youth employed as peer mentors, peer specialists or program staff
- Staffing of information tables at conferences and meetings
- Youth-to-youth panels of speakers
- Leaders in community and cultural activities
- Youth-to-youth outreach approaches

Youth engagement requires planning. It is important to explore the full spectrum of possibilities and find the best fit for the system, organization, program, and youth being served. Youth engagement works best when it is fully understood and embraced by the adult and youth communities involved.

See  
System Planning  
Guidebook





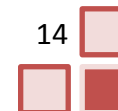
## PROGRAM FEATURE HIGHLIGHTS

This information is not intended to represent a complete service description, but rather to highlight what is working for some programs and further an important dialogue on ending youth homelessness.

Program Type	Sponsor and Project	Project Highlight
Primary Prevention	<b>Lighthouse Youth Services,</b> <a href="#">Safe and Supported</a> , Cincinnati, OH	County-wide initiative to prevent homelessness for LGBTQ youth through formal collaboration among youth-serving organizations, improving the quality of interventions and connecting youth to resources.
	<b>The Montrose Center,</b> <a href="#">NEST</a> , Houston, TX	City-wide collaborative led by a steering committee and involving over 60 organizations to prevent homelessness among LGBTQ youth.
	<b>Youth Villages,</b> <a href="#">YVLifeSet</a> , national model currently in use in TN, FL, GA, MA, MS, NC	A comprehensive service model for helping youth in foster care successfully transition to the responsibilities of adulthood through services, family engagement and building support systems.
Mobile “Street” Outreach	<b>Larkin Street Youth Services,</b> <a href="#">Street Outreach Program</a> , San Francisco, CA	Focus on hidden and LGBTQ youth. A <a href="#">Youth Advisory Board</a> advises the programming.
	<b>Sojourners Care Network,</b> <a href="#">Sojo Street Outreach Program</a> , Appalachian, OH	Focus on rural area outreach. Utilize Safe Space program to educate and involve community.
	<b>Lutheran Social Services,</b> <a href="#">StreetWorks Collaborative</a> , Twin Cities, MN	Collaboration among twelve youth-serving organizations, sharing best practices to most effectively reach and engage youth who are homeless.
Drop-In Centers	<a href="#">Tumbleweed Center for Youth Development</a> , Phoenix, AZ	Youth resource centers operate in conjunction with a youth-run T-shirt printing company providing youth work experience and screen printing skills.
	<a href="#">Bridge Over Troubled Waters</a> , Boston, MA	Interface with job training and paid internships via community action program agency. Street outreach program uses a mobile medical van.
	<a href="#">YouthCare’s Street Outreach &amp; Drop-in Centers</a> , Seattle, WA	Drop-in centers assist youth with access to education, housing services and employment training programs.



Program Type	Sponsor and Project	Project Highlight
Family Engagement	<a href="#">Huckleberry House Family Support Program</a> , Columbus, OH	Therapists are masters' level clinicians and offer flexible hours. Operates in conjunction with Huck House and a 24-hour crisis hot-line for youth 12-17 who have run away or are in crisis.
	<a href="#">Families First</a> , Atlanta, GA	Targets children and youth in families facing chronic economic, social or health challenges so that they will succeed in stable homes. Also offers a Family Violence Intervention Program.
	<b>Ozone House</b> , <a href="#">Safe Stay Program</a> , Ann Arbor, MI	Two- to three-week residential counseling program for youth feeling unsafe or fleeing family conflict; combined with individual and family therapy and life skills training.
Youth Shelters and Emergency Centers	<a href="#">Ali Forney Center</a> , New York, New York	Serves LGBTQ youth 16-24 years. Emergency housing program is hosted in small homelike environments supervised by staff during operating hours.
	<a href="#">Y2Y Harvard Square</a> , Cambridge, MA	This shelter is staffed by a student workforce via community service and is a program of a university affiliated nonprofit. Only operates through winter months.
	<b>Covenant House</b> , <a href="#">Safe Haven</a> , Washington, DC	Emergency housing for homeless single and parenting young people, ages 18 to 24.
Host Homes	<b>Avenues for Homeless Youth</b> , <a href="#">GLBT Host Home Program</a> , Twin Cities, MN	Provides LGBTQ youth who are experiencing homelessness with homes and support. Advisory Council includes youth and former hosts.
	<a href="#">Community Action Partnership of Western Nebraska</a> , Western Nebraska	Host homes program in rural Nebraska; stipends provided.
	<b>Alternative House</b> , <a href="#">Homeless Youth Initiative</a> , Fairfax, VA	HYI is a coordinated program with the Local Homeless Liaison to help unaccompanied youth complete high school. HYI offers host homes and, for some youth, rental assistance funded with TLP, to provide stable housing.
Transitional Housing	<b>Bill Wilson Center</b> , <a href="#">Transitional Living Program</a> , Santa Clara, CA	Emphasis on self-direction and self-determination. Serves young parents with children in shared housing program; also operate TAY Inn for at-risk transition-aged youth experiencing mental health challenges.



Program Type	Sponsor and Project	Project Highlight
Transitional Housing	<b>Lighthouse Youth Services,</b> <a href="#">Life Skills and Housing Options for Young Adults</a> , Cincinnati, OH	Services focus on developing life skills. Offered with alternative rapid re-housing scattered site option for more independent youth.
	<b>Valley Youth House,</b> <a href="#">Maternity Group Home program</a> , Philadelphia, PA	Housing, life skills, parenting, on-site health clinic and case management for 16 to 22 year old homeless and parenting or pregnant teens and their children.
Rapid Re-Housing	<b>The Link,</b> <a href="#">Rapid Re-Housing Program</a> , Minneapolis, MN	Units for young adults 18-24 years old and their children; uses CoC program so youth must meet HUD definition of homelessness
	<b>Valley Youth House,</b> <a href="#">PRIDE</a> , Philadelphia, PA	Case planning, life skills counseling, rental assistance, and support services for LGBTQ youth ages 18 to 21.
	<b>First Place,</b> <a href="#">My First Place Program</a> , Oakland, CA	Provides current and former foster youth an opportunity to develop a sense of permanency. Emphasis on authentic adult relationships; independent living skills; positive youth development.
Non-time-limited Supportive Housing	<b>Edwin Gould Academy,</b> <a href="#">Edwin Gould Residence</a> , East Harlem, NY	Targets youth aging out of foster care 18-25; includes 15 units for parenting young adults.
	<b>Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative,</b> <a href="#">Nicollet Square</a> , Minneapolis, MN	42 studio apartments for homeless youth 16-21; partnership between on-site service provider and a nonprofit affordable housing provider.
	<b>West End Residences HDHC,</b> <a href="#">True Colors Residence</a> , New York, NY	2 projects of 30 units each w/ PBV harm reduction and trauma informed care for formerly homeless LGBT youth (18-24). Harm reduction model for youth with active substance abuse disorder; fosters a “moving on” culture rather than time limits to residency.

## POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCES

The table below outlines possible funding sources for each of the different program models mentioned in this Guidebook.

### Eligible Uses Key

S = Services

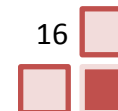
O = Operations (leasing, facility, supplies, etc.)

RA = Rental Assistance (short, medium, TBRA, PBRA)

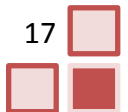
C = Capital (acquisition, rehabilitation, construction)

RP = Real Property

Possible Funding Source	Program Model								
	Primary Prevention	Mobile Outreach	Drop-In Centers	Family Engagement	Youth Shelter and Emergency Services	Host Homes	Transitional Housing	Rapid Rehousing	Non-Time Limited Supportive Housing
Administration for Children and Families (ACF)									
FYSB - Runaway and Homeless Youth									
<a href="#">Street Outreach Program</a>		S, O	S, O						
<a href="#">Basic Center Program (BCP)</a>			S, O	S	S, O	S		S	
<a href="#">Transitional Living Program (TLP)</a>						S, O	S, O, RA	S, O, RA	
<a href="#">Maternity Group Homes for Pregnant and Parenting Youth (MGH)</a>				S			S, O		
Children's Bureau									
<a href="#">Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program</a>	S			S					
<a href="#">John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program</a>	S			S		S	S	S	S



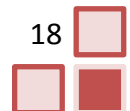
Possible Funding Source	Program Model								
	Primary Prevention	Mobile Outreach	Drop-In Centers	Family Engagement	Youth Shelter and Emergency Services	Host Homes	Transitional Housing	Rapid Rehousing	Non-Time Limited Supportive Housing
Office of Community Services									
<a href="#">Community Services Block Grant</a>			S, O		S, O	S	S, O	S, RA	S, O
Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)									
<a href="#">Project for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)</a>		S	S		S				
<a href="#">Cooperative Agreement for the Benefit of Homeless Individuals (CABHI)</a>		S	S		S		S	S, O, RA	S, O
<a href="#">Grants for the Benefit of Homeless Individuals - Services in Supportive Housing (GBHI-SSH)</a>		S	S		S			S	S
Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA)									
<a href="#">Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) CARE</a>		S	S		S				
<a href="#">Federal Home Visiting Program</a>	S					S	S	S	S
Housing and Urban Development (HUD)									
<a href="#">Emergency Solutions Grant</a>		S	S, O		S, O, RA, C		S	S, RA	
<a href="#">Title V</a>					RP				
<a href="#">BRAC Property Disposition</a>					RP		RP		RP
<a href="#">Continuum of Care (CoC) Program</a>		S					S, O, RA, C	RA, O, S	S, O, RA, C
<a href="#">Tenant-based vouchers (TBV)</a>								RA	RA
<a href="#">Project-based vouchers (PBV)</a>								RA	RA
<a href="#">Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)</a>		S	S, O		S, O, RA, C		S, O, RA, C	RA	S, O, RA, C





Possible Funding Source	Program Model								
	Primary Prevention	Mobile Outreach	Drop-In Centers	Family Engagement	Youth Shelter and Emergency Services	Host Homes	Transitional Housing	Rapid Rehousing	Non-Time Limited Supportive Housing
<a href="#">Family Unification Program (FUP)</a>								RA	RA
<a href="#">HOME</a>								RA	RA, C
<a href="#">Community Development Block Grant Program</a>			C, O		C, O		C, O		C
<a href="#">Rural Housing Stability Assistance Program (RHSP)</a>					O, RA, C		O, RA, C	RA	O, RA, C
Other Housing and Services Funding									
<a href="#">Title I, Part A Education funding</a>					S	S	S	S	S
<a href="#">Low Income Housing Tax Credits</a>									C
<a href="#">Federal Home Loan Banks</a>									C
<a href="#">National Housing Trust Fund</a>									C
Medicaid									
<a href="#">Home and Community-Based State Plan Option (1915(i))</a>								S	S
<a href="#">Health Homes State Plan Option</a>								S	S
<a href="#">Rehabilitation and Targeted Case Management Services (state-by-state)</a>							S	S	S
<a href="#">Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT)</a>	S		S		S	S	S	S	S

*Note: Private funders such as [United Way](#), [Urban League](#), community foundations, state and local philanthropy can provide significant support to programs especially services and operations.*



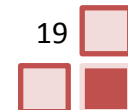
# RESOURCES

## Program Development and Design Resources:

- [Youth Report to Congress Federal Program Serving Youth Experiencing Homelessness](#): Document providing a comprehensive overview of key federal program areas and analyzes the opportunities for them to better coordinate to serve youth experiencing homelessness.
- [A Way Home Canada Website](#): Website that is an exhaustive resource with multiple tools and references that can be instructive for planners of new programs.
- [Who is Doing Well? A Typology of Newly Homeless Adolescents](#): A journal article advises planners of new programs on how to effectively match resources to adolescent groups.
- [A Safe and Decent Place to Live: Towards a Housing First Framework for Youth](#): Guidance from the Canadian Youth Network assists planners of new programs to adopt a housing first approach.
- [Youth Transitional Housing Toolkit](#): Toolkit from the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness outlining recommended practices for the design of transitional housing for youth.
- [At the Intersections: A collaborative report on LGBTQ youth homelessness](#): Report from the True Colors Fund and the National LGBTQ Task Force helps planners of new programs ensure cultural competence and relevance for LGBTQ youth.
- [Youth Status Report Series](#): The Covenant House Institute produced reports to inform service delivery and advocacy efforts, specifically with regard to program development; fundraising initiatives; legislative recommendations; and raising awareness among local, state, and federal officials. The findings can play a pivotal role in determining priorities and developing strategies. They provide a comparative analysis of 24 indicators of well-being.
- [No Strings Attached: Helping Vulnerable Youth with Non-Time-Limited Supportive Housing](#): March 2016 brief from the Corporation

for Supportive Housing discusses non-time-limited supportive housing with a focus on the outcomes of True Colors Residence, a New York City program.

- [Catalog of Permanent Supportive Housing Programs for Transition Age Youth](#): Catalog of programs provides a profile and descriptive details about specific permanent supportive housing programs for youth, and the programs' sponsors.
- [Serving Homeless Families and Youth](#): An overview of HUD's family and youth programs.
- [Family and Youth Services Bureau Website, Assessment Tools for Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs](#): A list presenting various screening and assessment tools to help determine the best interventions and services for different youth in care.
- [Becoming Adults: One-Year Impact Findings from the Youth Villages Transitional Living Evaluation](#): An MDRC publication from May 2015 discussing the results of the Youth Villages Transitional Living Evaluation.
- [Resource Guide for the Youth Engagement Toolkit](#): Provides in-depth information about youth engagement, as well as practical strategies for engaging youth. 2013. Ministry of Children and Family Development, Province of British Columbia.
- [Housing and Outreach Strategies for Rural Youth](#): A document with best Practices from the Rural Youth Survey (National Alliance to End Homelessness)
- [A Safe and Decent Place to Live: Towards a Housing First Framework for Youth](#): An article from the "Homeless Hub: Research Matters, Finding Solutions to Homelessness".
- [Community-Wide Prevention of LGBTQ Youth Homelessness](#): HUD report summarizing lessons and recommendations of the LGBTQ Youth Homelessness Prevention Initiative.
- [What is a Host Home?](#): A blog on National Alliance to End Homelessness, which features a slide show by Avenues for Homeless Youth in Minneapolis.



- [Webinar: Host Homes for Homeless Youth](#): National Alliance to End Homelessness webinar features two programs in Minnesota and Nebraska.
- [Voices of Youth Count](#): An effort to link evidence and action by capturing the experiences of runaway and homeless youth.
- [The Intersection of Youth Homelessness and Pregnancy and Parenting](#): A brief from the National Network for Youth on pregnant and parenting unaccompanied youth.
- [Practice, Policy, and Research Recommendations on Transition to Adulthood](#): A brief from the National Network on Youth Transition discussing the Transition to Independence (TIP) model for young adults experiencing emotional and/or behavioral difficulties.
- [9 Evidence-based Guiding Principles to Help Youth Overcome Homelessness](#): Developed by the Homeless Youth Collaborative on Developmental Evaluation.
- [Housing for Homeless Youth, National Alliance to End Homelessness, Youth Homelessness Series, Brief No. 3](#): This brief outlines a spectrum of youth housing models that connect affordable housing, self-sufficiency services, and positive youth development approaches.
- [The Practice Knowledge Project](#): An initiative of the National Alliance to End Homelessness, the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), and Funders Together to End Homelessness, to capture information from diverse homeless youth practitioners about effective strategies.
- [Bricks, Mortar, and Community: The Foundations of Supportive Housing](#): A paper identifying a set of core components for supportive housing programs serving pregnant and parenting teens, and case studies of programs meeting these standards.
- [Connections Between Trafficking and Homeless Youth](#): A Blog Post and information article by Katherine Chon, Director, Office on Trafficking in Persons (OTIP) on the ACF's Family Room Blog.
- [HHS ASPE Report on Family Intervention Strategies for Youth Experiencing or at Risk of Homelessness](#) summarizing existing

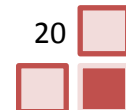
evidence and common elements from 49 different interventions (prevention, reunification, reconnection) and what is most effective.

### Family Engagement Resources

- [Youth Villages' YVLifeSet](#): A program that works not only with former foster youth and other vulnerable young people but also with their support systems to help ensure a more successful transition.
- [Family Intervention for Unaccompanied Youth](#): A paper focusing on lessons providers have learned as they have undertaken family intervention with youth and their families.
- [Casey Life Skills](#): A free tool that assesses the behaviors and competencies youth need to achieve their long term goals.
- [Creating and Sustaining Effective Respite Services](#): A guide funded through the Children's Bureau discussing the need and best practices of respite services.
- [Family Finding model](#): Includes methods that can be used to locate and engage relatives of children currently living in out-of-home care.

### Resources on Working with Property Owners

- [Establishing and maintaining landlord partners](#): A resource from USICH that includes a short two-page guide for landlords on the SSVF and HUD-VASH programs.
- [Landlord Liaison Project](#): The Landlord Liaison Project of King County, Washington, creates incentives for landlords to relax screening criteria for people experiencing homelessness who have barriers to accessing permanent housing.
- [Landlord benefits of working with homeless providers](#): A checklist on how to advertise your program to potential landlords.
- [Landlord outreach plan resources](#): The second of five short modules the NAEH Center for Capacity Building has developed on rapid re-housing. This module discusses how to locate housing by developing and maintaining landlord relationships.



## Additional Community Examples by Program Models

*Programs listed here are not mentioned in the guidebook but may serve as helpful examples.*

### Prevention

- [LGBTQ Youth Homelessness Prevention Initiative](#)
- [National Runaway Safeline](#)

### Mobile “Street” Outreach

- [Bellefaire JCB](#), Cleveland, OH
- [National Safe Space](#)

### Drop-In Centers

- [Tile Project](#), Seattle, WA
- [Barista](#), Seattle, WA
- [Zine employment training program](#), Seattle, WA
- [YouthLink’s Opportunity Center](#), Minneapolis, MN

### Host Homes

- [NAEHCY Host Home Start-up Checklist](#)

### Rapid Rehousing

- [Report on Formative Evaluation Findings, June 2010 to March 2012](#)
- [Northwest Youth Services](#), Bellingham, WA

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