

2025

NEVADA

The background of the entire page features faint, light gray silhouettes of four diverse youth standing in a row, facing forward. They are positioned behind a semi-transparent gray band that contains the main title and subtitle.

Youth Experiencing Homelessness Statewide Study

Summary Report

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acknowledgements

This document represents the third and final in a series developed as part of a two-year study on youth homelessness in Nevada. It is the direct result of the collaboration and shared knowledge of people across the state who are deeply concerned about youth homelessness.

Its creation was made possible only through the extraordinarily generous contribution of time, effort, and resources from dozens of organizations and hundreds of individuals. Many played vital roles, including serving on committees; designing data collection tools; completing surveys; providing data; and organizing, financially supporting, hosting, and participating in focus groups, listening sessions, interviews, and community convenings.

To uphold confidentiality and anonymity, the names of most providers and individuals who participated in this project are not listed.

For everyone not thanked directly or by name in this or previous study documents: please know that your dedication and insights were and are instrumental in advancing efforts to address this critical issue that impacts so many young people in Nevada.



This study was overseen, informed, and supported by several groups made up of representatives from across the state with subject matter expertise on the topic. Note that some people who served on committees, particularly youth and people with lived experience of homelessness, made valuable contributions to this study but chose to remain anonymous and are thus not listed below.

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Other Key Partners

While many groups contributed to this study, we would like to formally recognize several organizations whose exceptional partnership and invaluable insights were essential to its success; without their contributions, this study would not have been possible.

Bitfocus provided data, consultation, and custom reporting for the study, working with study analysts to validate and refine data to paint a meaningful picture of youth experiencing homelessness in Nevada. The dedication and support from the Bitfocus team was instrumental in quantifying who has experienced homelessness and what pathways lead to success in Nevada, information never before understood for this population.

Eddy House staff participated on the Steering Committee, assisted in study design activities, made their facility available for multiples site visits, provided access to their staff and leadership team, shared financial information with the study team, and promoted and engaged youth who informed the study via two site visits throughout the study. The Eddy House staff and participants strengthened the report with real life examples and wisdom and made meaningful recommendations for the study.

The Nevada Department of Education (NDE) served on the Steering Committee as the responsible entity to administer McKinney-Vento grant funds and provided oversight and leadership for the study related to the McKinney-Vento program in Nevada. Members of NDE participated in monthly Steering Committee meetings, reviewed and informed study activities, reviewed project deliverables, and provided linkages to data, helped validate and interpret data, provided access to Nevada's McKinney-Vento liaisons across the state, and helped facilitate the liaison's review and validation of recommendations through a presentation by the study team at a statewide conference in February 2025.

The Nevada Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS) served as the responsible entity to administer grant funds and provide oversight and leadership for the study. Members of DWSS participated in monthly meetings, approved study activities, reviewed project deliverables, and provided resources to track legislation, translate documents, and resolve policy questions as needed. Their commitment to the study and its success has been evident throughout the project. Their guidance has been invaluable.

Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth (NPHY) was a critical partner in this study, offering invaluable insights through their dual expertise as both a direct service provider and a systems-level leader as the driver of the [Movement to End Youth Homelessness in Nevada](#). In addition to sharing agency-level information and actively participating in the Steering Committee and Research Design and Data Subcommittees, NPHY hosted community convenings and youth focus groups at their central campus, facilitated opportunities for the study team to gather essential community feedback at monthly Southern Nevada Youth Working Group meetings and the annual Nevada Youth Homelessness Summit, and provided pivotal guidance and input on the study's data analysis. Serving as a community connector and thought leader, their deep engagement and willingness to go above and beyond helped illuminate the complexities of youth homelessness and strengthened the study's impact. We are grateful for their collaboration and the ways this study will contribute to the Movement's important work.

Silver State Equality (SSE) played an instrumental role in the development and execution of this study. From the very beginning, Silver State Equality championed the study as a critical initiative, providing leadership and advocacy with policymakers to secure the necessary funding. Their unwavering commitment to advancing this work was evident in their active participation on both the Core Team and Steering Committee, where they played a pivotal role in shaping the study's direction. In addition, Silver State Equality facilitated connections to essential resources, ensuring the study had the support it needed at every stage. Their thorough review of all drafts of deliverables and insightful feedback significantly enhanced the study's implementation and overall impact. Their expertise, guidance, and dedication to this work have been instrumental to the design and implementation of the study, and their partnership made this study a success.



executive summary

Background and Introduction

Youth homelessness in Nevada is a critical issue that not only affects the individuals directly experiencing it but also has wide-reaching impacts on communities. Young people experiencing homelessness face numerous immediate and long-term challenges that significantly impact their well-being, development, and potential for future success. The lack of a secure and nurturing environment during their formative years can lead to significant emotional and psychological distress, and chronic health issues. The instability of homelessness also severely disrupts their education and employment opportunities, making it difficult for them to break the cycle of poverty. For communities, high rates of homelessness among youth can strain social services, healthcare, and educational systems, leading to increased costs and resource allocation challenges.

Addressing youth homelessness is a moral imperative and a critical component of community development and economic stability.

In 2023, the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services funded a two-year, exploratory study to better understand the prevalence, characteristics, and needs of youth at risk of or experiencing homelessness, referred to throughout as YEH. This report, the third in a series, offers a high-level overview of the study's findings and provides recommendations for effective interventions and resource allocation to address youth homelessness. It is designed to guide service providers, policymakers, and other stakeholders in Nevada, aiming to inform future efforts and support the goal of ending youth homelessness in the state.

Key Takeaways

Estimating the number of youth experiencing homelessness is difficult due to factors such as the transient nature of their living situations, lack of consistent reporting, stigma, and the hidden nature of youth homelessness, with many not accessing formal services or shelter systems. However, use of multiple approaches estimates that **between 2,868 and 33,433 young people aged 12-24 are experiencing unaccompanied homelessness in Nevada every year**, with the former number representing YEH who were tracked in Nevada's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) by participating providers and the latter using national prevalence data, which reports that 10% of young adults (18-25) and 3% of adolescents (13-17) across the country experience some form of homelessness unaccompanied by a parent or guardian each year.

Data shows that YEH have better outcomes when they are served by programs that are designed to meet their specific needs. However, the current housing supports system for young people in Nevada is not sufficient to serve the estimated number of YEH each year. Data from the 2024 housing inventory count shows that there are ~430 beds dedicated to this population available on any given night, but:

- The majority of these (72%) are emergency shelter and transitional housing, which, while a critical part of a homelessness service system, are short-to-medium term options, that, if not paired with permanent housing options, can become cyclical and keep individuals in a state of instability rather than providing a long-term solution. It is estimated that 1,000 additional permanent housing units are needed to address the housing needs of YEH in Nevada, with a focus on housing first models that have low barriers to entry.
- None of these beds are located in Nevada's 15 rural counties, which may have as many as 3,309 youth experiencing homelessness each year.

In addition to the need for youth specific housing, data also indicates the importance of supportive services and case management to wrap supports around youth in need. The needs of youth experiencing homelessness vary by individual, but common needs include basic needs, behavioral health services, transportation, employment and job training, financial literacy, and support to navigate and access services provided by the various systems that support youth. School aged youth also have all of the needs described above in addition to needs related to secondary and post-secondary educational attainment and life skills as they transition to young adulthood.

Addressing the Issue

By investing in comprehensive services and support for homeless youth, communities can mitigate these negative impacts and help young people achieve stable, productive, and fulfilling lives.

There are five overarching study recommendations that, if implemented together, will create a comprehensive, equity-driven, and sustainable system that effectively prevents and reduces youth homelessness in Nevada. They comprise:

- Promote, advocate for, develop, and fund programs that provide housing for youth while investing in rapid rehousing and early intervention models to foster long-term stability.
- Prioritize, fund, and track key initiatives to end youth homelessness, ensuring the provision of youth-specific resources and incorporating youth voice in implementation.
- Develop systems and policies that ensure access to financial resources for food, transportation, housing, and other basic needs, and implement a comprehensive support system to address individualized youth needs. This study notes that Nevada would benefit from expanding the investments made in addressing YEH by dedicating funding from the state to house YEH, intervening earlier to stop a lifetime cycle of homeless experiences.
- Adopt a multi-faceted service delivery system designed for and tailored to support YEH in overcoming barriers to accessing resources.
- Implement a specialized, equity-driven approach to address the needs of youth at disproportionate risk of homelessness by expanding access to essential services, reducing criminalization, and creating inclusive policies that support high-need and marginalized youth, including LGBTQ+, Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), first- or second-generation youth, youth exiting foster care, and pregnant and/or parenting youth.

Overarching Outcomes Proposition

Implementation of these recommendations would have significant, long-term benefits in Nevada including:

Long-Term Housing Stability: Youth will have access to safe, affordable, and supportive housing, preventing chronic homelessness and reducing reliance on emergency shelters.

Improved Mental and Physical Well-Being: Wraparound services, including mental health support, trauma-informed care, and peer mentorship, will foster resilience and personal growth.

Greater Financial Independence: Direct financial assistance, job training, and financial literacy programs will equip youth with the tools to achieve long-term self-sufficiency.

Higher Educational and Employment Outcomes: With targeted support in schools and post-secondary institutions, youth will have a clear path to academic success and career opportunities.

Reduced Criminalization and Justice System Involvement: Decriminalizing survival acts and expanding diversion programs will prevent youth from being trapped in the justice system.

More Equitable and Inclusive Support Systems: High-risk and marginalized youth will receive targeted resources tailored to their unique needs, closing systemic gaps.

Statewide Coordination and Accountability: A unified strategy with data-driven decision-making will ensure long-term effectiveness and continuous improvement in youth homelessness prevention.

In Spring 2024, the Children’s Advocacy Alliance (CAA) was awarded a grant to study the transitional housing needs of foster youth aging out of the child welfare system in Nevada. The resulting report cites four practice recommendations that align with the recommendations in this study as well as three policy recommendations that provide a specific pathway to address policy issues that were noted by participants in this study [1]. These are:

Practice Recommendations

1. Healing-Centered approaches incorporated into the housing structure
2. Strong connections with higher education and vocational options
3. Intentionally promoting autonomy and independence as a part of the housing program
4. Wrap around services and care coordination

Policy Recommendations

1. Incentivizing the acceptance of housing vouchers can provide more available housing options to transition aged youth (TAY)
2. Landlord Partnership Model to build relationships and mitigate landlord risk
3. Expanding Extended foster care in Nevada

The similarities in the recommendations in the CAA and this summary report highlight alignment that can simultaneously support YEH and individuals aging out of foster care—two populations with overlapping vulnerabilities and needs. By integrating and coordinating efforts, the state can maximize impact by

streamlining resources, reducing service duplication, and implementing holistic solutions that address root causes such as housing instability, lack of supportive services, and gaps in transitional planning.

Voices of People with Experience of Youth Homelessness

“Nevada needs a lot more resources for the homeless, especially for people moving out here. There are a lot of young people here. Some people move here with their families; some are kicked out by their families who move them out here.”

“If I had stayed with some members of my family, it would not have been safe. I would not have had a home. This is an unfortunate reality for a lot of people. It feels like killing yourself to stay quiet and stifle these things. Or do I face a world where I do not have any assets or money to get the help that I need.”

“Very rarely is it a matter of pulling yourself up from your bootstraps. [We] need to have people to help and lift you up.”

“My father passed away that’s why I am in my situation. I was stable at work, but my hours got cut, next thing you know you can’t make rent, that is the situation I am in. I had no safety net.”

“When you don’t have housing or somewhere safe to be, you are frequently victimized.”




background and introduction

The Impact of Youth Homelessness in Nevada

Youth homelessness represents a critical and complex challenge not only for the individuals directly affected but also for the broader communities in which they reside. Young people experiencing homelessness face numerous immediate and long-term challenges that significantly impact their well-being, development, and potential for future success. Without stable housing, these youth are at a higher risk of experiencing mental health issues, substance abuse, and chronic health problems. The instability of homelessness also severely disrupts their education and employment opportunities, making it difficult for them to break the cycle of poverty and homelessness. The lack of a secure and nurturing environment during these formative years can lead to significant emotional and psychological distress, further complicating their ability to integrate successfully into society.

For communities, the ramifications of youth homelessness extend beyond the individual level, affecting the social and economic fabric of the area. High rates of homelessness among youth can strain social services, healthcare, and educational systems, leading to increased costs and resource allocation challenges. Furthermore, communities with significant youth homelessness face greater difficulties in ensuring public safety and fostering a sense of community cohesion and well-being. The presence of disenfranchised youth can also impact local economies by reducing the available workforce and increasing the demand for emergency services.

Addressing youth homelessness is not only a moral imperative but also a critical component of community development and economic stability. By investing in comprehensive services and support for homeless youth, communities can mitigate these negative impacts and help young people achieve stable, productive, and fulfilling lives.

A graphic illustration on the left side of the page shows the silhouettes of a group of young people of various ethnicities and ages standing together. The silhouettes are in shades of blue and grey, creating a sense of community and diversity.

“It’s more common than people think for youth and families to go through the struggle with homelessness. It does not always look like what one would expect.”

— Person with Experience of Youth Homelessness

Understanding Youth Homelessness in Nevada

Recognizing that the first step in addressing a problem is developing a shared understanding of the issue, in 2023 the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS) embarked upon an exploratory study to better understand the:

- **prevalence, characteristics, and intervention needs** of youth experiencing or at-risk of experiencing homelessness in Nevada,
- **current system supports and financial structure** available to support youth experiencing homelessness in Nevada, and
- **system gaps** that need to be addressed to better serve Nevada's youth experiencing or at-risk of homelessness.

This study specifically sought to include and elevate the voices of people with experience, with a focus on people who are members of the LGBTQ+ community, as well as those who work within the field of homeless services.

How to Use this Report

This report is the third and final publication resulting from this study, following the *Youth Experiencing Homelessness Project Environmental Scan* released in spring 2024 and *Preliminary Statewide System Map and County Profiles* released in fall 2024. While the first two publications provided more in-depth analyses and detailed information, this report offers a concise, high-level overview of the study objectives with a focus on identifying effective interventions and recommendations for policy, program design, and allocating funding to address and reduce youth homelessness. Building on the previous publications, this report should be viewed as a complement to, rather than a standalone representation of, the full scope of the study. It is intended that this document be utilized by direct service providers and agencies in Nevada, Continuum of Care organizations (CoCs), advocacy groups, academic institutions, and policy makers to inform future work and support the end of youth homelessness in Nevada.

Considerations for Future Implementation in the Current Policy Landscape

It is important to acknowledge that the current climate and emerging policies may present challenges to the realization of some of the recommendations outlined in this report. The majority of work that informed this report, including the design of the study, data collection, and identification of recommendations, took place between July 2023 and January 2025, during a different policy environment than the one in which recommendations may be implemented. Youth who reviewed recommendations in February 2025 suggested that the environment has changed for youth, with more expressing fear and concern about the future due to the changed, and continuously changing, environment.

Shifts in federal policies regarding homeless and social services may impact the resources and frameworks available to support vulnerable youth, including LGBTQ+ individuals and youth of color. While these developments may influence the future landscape of youth homelessness interventions, it remains critical to continue striving for innovative, inclusive, and effective solutions. The need for collaboration and advocacy at local, state, and community levels will be more important than ever as we work to ensure that all young people, regardless of their background or identity, have access to the support they need to thrive.

approach and considerations

As described in the introduction, this study aimed to engage homeless service providers and youth with lived experience to understand the prevalence, characteristics, and intervention needs of youth homelessness in Nevada, assess current system supports and financial structures, and identify gaps to improve services for at-risk or homeless youth. This document is the third and final publication resulting from this study. The preceding two documents are described below and can be used in conjunction with this *Summary Report*; copies of the documents are available upon request by emailing dwsspublicinformation@dwss.nv.gov.

Youth Experiencing Homelessness Project Environmental Scan (released spring 2024)

The *Environmental Scan* collected and summarized information on best practices, current policies, funding opportunities, sources of prevalence data, and providers operating within each county/region in Nevada as pertains to youth homelessness. It also included the research questions developed by the Study Design Subcommittee as an initial activity; however, it should be noted that while these questions served to identify areas of exploration to guide study activities, they evolved over time and not all were addressed at the same level in the final analysis. The *Environmental Scan* served to ground partners and the study team in the current state of youth homelessness and to inform the structure and content of future study activities.

Preliminary Statewide System Map and County Profiles (released fall 2024)

The *Preliminary Statewide System Map and County Profiles* provided detailed information on the prevalence of youth homelessness, the services and supports that are available, and the funding streams being utilized to support this population in Nevada as a whole and within each of the state's 17 counties. The funding section of this *Summary Report* should be used rather than preceding reports due to additional, updated, and more nuanced data collected post publication of the *System Map*.

Both documents above include methodology sections that outline the approaches taken to produce them. A high-level overview of these activities, as well as additional study activities that took place during the study, are presented on the following pages.

Populations of Focus and Terminology Used in the Report

For the purposes of this study, youth experiencing homelessness is defined as young people aged 12-24 who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and are not part of a household with someone over the age of 25. This definition comprises:

- unaccompanied youth aged 12-24 who are the only member of their household,
- parenting and pregnant individuals aged 12-24, and
- youth in households where all members are aged 12-24, where a household is any grouping of people who reside together and share responsibility for housing costs and is not limited to people with a romantic or familial relationship. Individuals aged 12-24 who are “couch surfing” are not included in the household of the individuals they are temporarily staying with.

The term “YEH” is used throughout to refer to any individuals who meet the criteria above. Additionally, unless otherwise stated, minors refer to people under the age of 18, and transition aged youth or TAY refers to people aged 18-24.

Study Activities

The first year of the study, spanning from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, focused on foundational data collection and analysis to understand youth homelessness across Nevada. Key activities included an environmental scan (described on the previous page), finalization of the study design, and several data collection efforts.

First, in January 2024 the Study Design Subcommittee refined the study design, focusing on specific populations and research questions. The Data Collection Subcommittee then developed the methodology and tools for data collection that would be used throughout the remainder of year one as the study team collected relevant information directly from providers and people with lived experience of youth homelessness. These direct data collection activities took place between April and June 2024, with a focus on gathering information to support development of the *Preliminary Statewide System Map and County Profiles* document described on the prior page. These activities included:

Electronic Provider Surveys: An online survey was sent to over 100 service providers across Nevada to gather key information on services offered and funding utilized, and to identify organizations that should be included in subsequent in-person and virtual activities.

Regional Community Convenings: Over 100 providers participated in virtual or in-person convenings to discuss successes and challenges with identifying and engaging YEH, transitioning these youth out of homelessness and into housing, connecting these youth to support services, and leveraging funding. Outreach was conducted to representatives from all 17 Nevada counties, with convenings ultimately being held in 11 counties.

Interviews with McKinney-Vento Liaisons: McKinney-Vento liaisons are a critical part of the service system for YEH, and one-on-one virtual interviews were requested with the liaisons in each county in Nevada. These semi-structured interviews were conducted to explore how liaisons identify and engage YEH homelessness in their county, how they are collaborating with other providers to serve these youth and progress them to housing stability, and what is working well within the system as well as opportunities for improvement. Liaisons from six school districts participated in interviews, with some liaisons also attending community convenings.

Site Tours and Staff Focus Groups: Tours and focus groups were held at service provider locations to understand local systems and identify gaps. Tours prioritized providers who offer youth-specific housing or programming when possible; as limited organizations meeting these criteria operate in rural Nevada, in those counties tours were conducted at the primary housing providers. Approximately 90 staff from 14 organizations across nine counties attended staff focus groups, and tours were conducted in seven counties.

Youth Listening Sessions: Approximately 72 youth participated in sessions to provide feedback on the organizations, resources, and services that have been of most value as well as those that they could not access; the main ways that young people lose access to stable housing and how they gain housing stability; and recommendations for where and how to connect with other youth.

The second year of the study spanned July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, with data collection activities shifting focus to more specifically gather detailed data on funding, prevalence, and youth needs and to support development of recommendations that can be actioned to reduce the number of youth who experience homelessness annually. These activities included:

Funding Data Collection: The study team identified major providers serving YEH and conducted one-on-one meetings to better understand the types and amounts of funding being used to support youth housing stability. This was supplemented by collection and review of publicly available data and directly requested information on organizational funding (e.g., 990s and Housing Inventory Funding reports from HDX 2.0).

McKinney-Vento Prevalence Data: To supplement state-level data, the study team worked with McKinney-Vento liaisons in all 17 counties to gather information on the number of students served during the 2023-2024 academic year. This data included information on unaccompanied youth, based on both the McKinney-Vento definition and the study's more restrictive criteria.

HMIS Data Review: The study team collaborated with Bitfocus, the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) administrator for Nevada, and YEH providers to refine the methodology for developing HMIS custom reports. These reports, which cover the years 2021-2024 and were created by Bitfocus, were the primary source used to explore youth homelessness prevalence and characteristics. The methodology used to request, clean, and analyze these data are included in [Appendix B](#). As relevant, national prevalence estimates and other data (e.g., Census) were utilized in conjunction with HMIS data to explore the potential scope of the issue and identify groups more at risk of homelessness in Nevada.

Testing Issue Statements and Recommendations with Providers and People with Lived Experience: The study team drafted key issue statements based on year one findings summarized in the *Preliminary Statewide Systems Map and County Profile*. These were tested with providers via an electronic survey, with approximately 70 providers reviewing and providing feedback. They were also tested with young people with lived experience of homelessness via in-person surveys administered primarily by people who also had lived experience with homelessness; over 80 young people complete these surveys.

Following validation and refinement of issue statements based on feedback provided, the study team utilized research on best and innovative practices, as well as information provided directly by people with experience in Nevada's homelessness services system, to develop recommendations to address these issue statements. These recommendations were tested with providers with five regional convenings, with over 70 participants helping to prioritize and refine these draft recommendations. They were also tested and refined by young people with lived experience of homelessness via several virtual convenings; this latter activity ultimately led to the structure and format of the [understanding and addressing the issue](#) section of this report, with the development of five overarching issue statements and corresponding recommendations, and supporting strategies for actioning the recommendations.

Review and Finalization of this Summary Report: A draft of this report was shared with the Core Team in March 2025, and feedback received was incorporated before a subsequent version was shared with the Steering Committee on April 23, 2025. An iterative approach was used through June 2025 to refine and develop this final version of the document.

Considerations

Youth homelessness is a nuanced and complex issue. It is not a singular, one-size-fits-all phenomenon, and exploring this issue similarly cannot be done effectively through application of a rigid, singular framework. The study team sought to balance rigor in the development and application of data collection, analysis approaches, and tools with the need to center and prioritize the voices and experiences of people with lived experience.

As such, the following should be considered by readers when reviewing and interpreting the information provided in this report.

- This study utilized a broad definition of homelessness, including youth who are unsheltered, youth who are sheltered in non-permanent housing, and those who are housing unstable (i.e., those who are doubled-up or couch surfing). Not all organizations that serve, fund, or explore youth homelessness use the same definitions, and caution should be taken when comparing results to previous studies or generalizing the results of this study.
- The majority of organizations that serve YEH in Nevada were active participants in study activities, providing information, data, and input throughout the two-year project. However, some organizations that serve YEH, including some for whom this population is a primary part of their mission, were not able to participate in the study at the same level. Therefore, to support consistency in data inputs, sources that provided similar data for all organizations in Nevada (e.g., the HUD Housing Inventory Count, HMIS data exports, etc.) were used preferentially over information collected from only some organizations, whenever possible.
- There is no centralized system that tracks all instances of youth homelessness in Nevada. The systems with the most comprehensive data as of the time of this study were HMIS and Nevada Department of Education McKinney-Vento System. However, the study team did not have access to data that included personally identifiable information from these, or other, data management systems (e.g., child welfare systems, comparable databases for organizations serving people fleeing domestic violence, etc.). This limited the ability of the team to deduplicate across systems. It was determined that HMIS would serve as the primary means by which characteristics of YEH would be explored, and it would be supplemented by McKinney-Vento data.
- HMIS includes only those youth whose data is entered by a provider following an interaction or as part of service delivery. Therefore, YEH who did not interact with providers who utilize the homeless services system in Nevada during the timeframe covered by this report are not represented in the HMIS dataset. Unless otherwise noted, all data in the [scope of the issue](#) and [measuring success](#) sections is derived from the HMIS dataset. It should be noted that the study team heard feedback from some providers about challenges they experienced that could impact the quality of data entered to HMIS, and that the results presented in this report are reflective of the data available in HMIS as of January 2025.
- The available HMIS data was used to generalize and extrapolate findings to larger populations of YEH, with the aim of identifying patterns and trends that may reflect broader homelessness experiences and

disparities across diverse communities. The use of this data assumes that young people receiving services in HMIS are representative of the larger populations of young people experiencing homelessness in Nevada.

- The study's definition of YEH differs from the McKinney-Vento definition of "unaccompanied." Specifically, McKinney-Vento defines unaccompanied students as those not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian, whereas the YEH definition applies to youth who do not reside in a household with an individual over the age of 24.



“When I didn’t have a stable place to stay, I didn’t have a support system either...[a youth provider] helped.”

— Person with Experience of Youth Homelessness

scope of the issue

Estimating the Number of Youth Experiencing Homelessness in Nevada

Determining how many young people are experiencing unaccompanied homelessness in Nevada is challenging for a multitude of reasons. Unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness often remain "hidden" from service providers due to fears of separation from family or their environment, safety concerns, mistrust of authorities, and stigma. Their frequent mobility between temporary living situations, combined with privacy concerns, means they are often excluded from official counts and surveys. Additionally, varying definitions of homelessness and the use of multiple, disconnected data systems further complicate the identification and tracking of these youth, leading to underreporting and gaps in service provision. Prior publications associated with the study outline the variety of data sources explored as potential ways to develop prevalence and characteristics estimates. Based on the input of providers and other subject matter experts, it was determined that using HMIS and McKinney-Vento data, and prevalence estimates from other jurisdictions, was the best approach for exploring this issue in Nevada.

These datasets and approaches indicate that **between 2,868 and 33,433 young people aged 12-24 are experiencing unaccompanied homelessness in Nevada every year.**

YEH (12-24) in HMIS (2023)




2,868

This total represents only those individuals who were tracked in Nevada's HMIS, and is likely a significant undercount of the true number of young people who experienced homelessness annually in recent years.

Comparisons with other datasets help to illustrate the potential scope of this issue.

Potential number of YEH (12-24) using Chapin Hall estimation approach [2]



33,433

8,228 (12-17)
25,205 (18-24)

Chapin Hall reports that 10% of young adults (18-25) and 3% of adolescents (13-17) across the country experience some form of homelessness unaccompanied by a parent or guardian each year. In contrast, Nevada's 2023 HMIS data, paired with 2023 Census and Kids Count data, suggests that just over 1% of young adults (18-24) and less than 0.1% of adolescents (12-17) experience this type of homelessness in Nevada.

If Chapin Hall percentages are applied to Nevada demographic data, the number of young people experiencing homelessness each year in Nevada could be as high as 33,433.

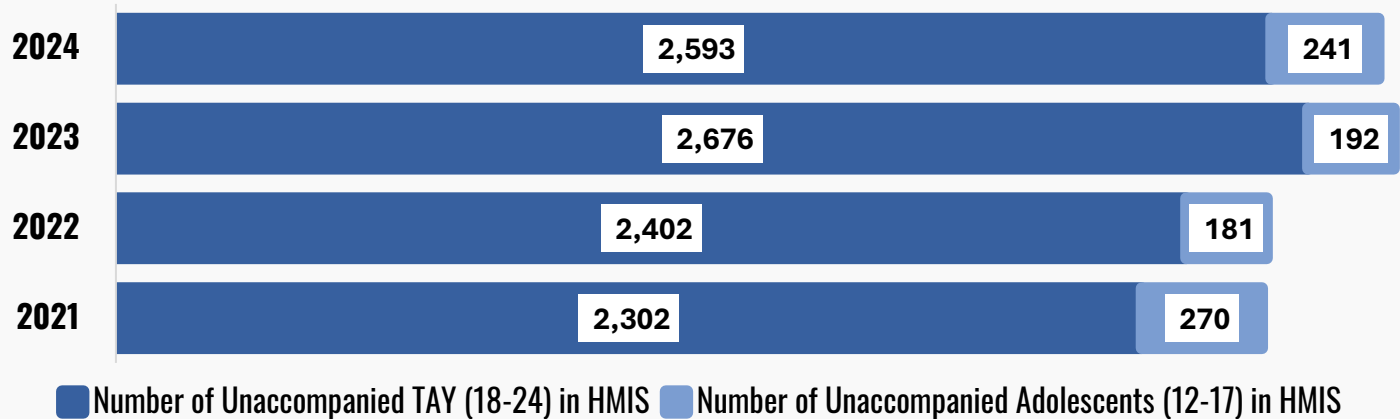
Characteristics of Youth Receiving HMIS Services

Unless otherwise noted, all data presented in this section utilizes the HMIS 2021-2024 dataset, with comparisons to other datasets provided as appropriate. The available HMIS data is being used to generalize and extrapolate findings to larger populations of YEH, with the aim of identifying patterns and trends that may reflect broader homelessness experiences and disparities across Nevada's diverse communities. Data presented in figures is also provided in tabular form in [Appendix C](#).

Age

7,807 unduplicated YEH received HMIS services during the period 2021-2024, averaging 2,714 people per year. As demonstrated in the figure below, the majority of these individuals were transition-aged youth aged 18-24. This is not unexpected, as there are very few homelessness service providers in Nevada who serve minors. In other words, these data do not indicate how many minors are experiencing unaccompanied homelessness each year, rather, these data illustrate how limited housing services are in Nevada for people under the age of 18.

Number of Unaccompanied Youth Receiving HMIS Services by Age



McKinney-Vento data and other prevalence estimates provide additional context for the number of minors who may be experiencing unaccompanied homelessness in a given year. In academic year 2023, McKinney-Vento liaisons from all 17 counties in Nevada reported that approximately 9% (758/8,267) of the students they served aged 12+ were experiencing unaccompanied homelessness per the McKinney-Vento definition; given the ages of students in K-12 programming, it is assumed that most of these individuals were likely minors. This means that almost four times more minors experiencing unaccompanied homelessness may have been engaged by McKinney-Vento liaisons than received HMIS services in a similar time period.

Additionally, as noted on the prior page, the Chapin Hall report estimates that ~3% of adolescents experience homelessness each year, which could be as many as **8,228 people aged 12-17 annually across Nevada**.

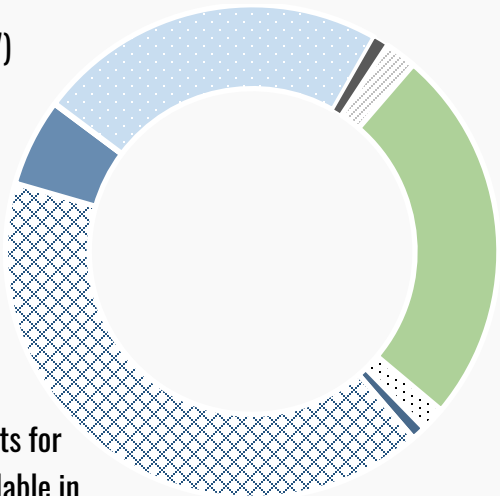
Race/Ethnicity

Three race/ethnicity categories account for almost 90% of all YEH receiving HMIS services: 41% of YEH identify as Black, 25% as White, and 23% as multi-racial. Due to changes in HMIS data standards which combined race and ethnicity, and the format of the data in the export, only people who selected “Hispanic” as their sole designation are included in the “Hispanic” category below, which likely substantially undercounts the number of YEH who identify as Hispanic. More information on the race/ethnicity data available for this study and its impact on the results provided here is available in [Appendix B](#).

The race/ethnicity distributions of YEH vary substantially across Nevada, which is provided, in part, to help providers better prepare to provide culturally congruent services to the people they serve. Note that the number of YEH within Clark, Washoe, and the rural counties in Nevada sums to more than 7,807 because 208 individuals received services in multiple regions. A comparison between HMIS and Census data for each geography indicates that **youth in Nevada (aged 15-24) who are either non-White or Hispanic have a higher risk of being homeless compared to White youth**, and this risk varies regionally. Annie E. Casey reports that, nationally, Black youth are at an 83% higher risk compared to other races, and Hispanic youth have a 33% greater risk compared to non-Hispanic youth [3]. While it is not possible to make a direct comparison, these national results are consistent with the Nevada findings.

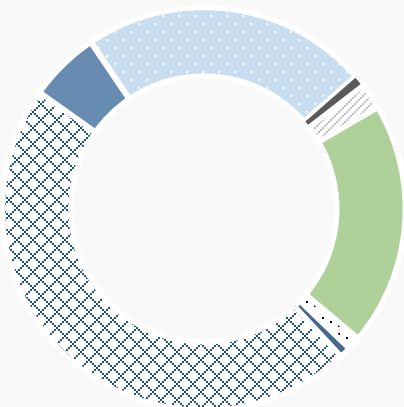
Number Percent of Unaccompanied Youth Receiving HMIS Services by Race/Ethnicity and Location (2021-2024)

Nevada (n=7,807)

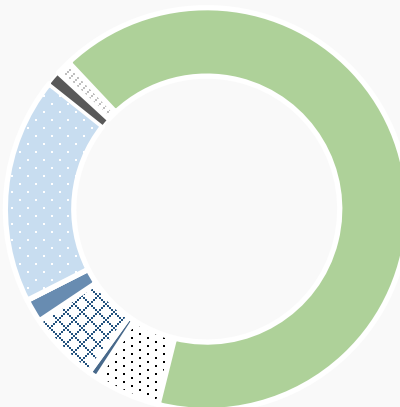


- American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous (n=126 / 1.6%)
- Asian or Asian American (n=73 / <1%)
- Black, African American, or African (n=3,186 / 40.8%)
- Hispanic/Latina/e/o only (n=448 / 5.8%)
- Middle Eastern or North African (n=3 / <1%)
- Multi-Racial (n=1,796 / 23.0%)
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (n=78 / 1.0%)
- Unknown (n=162 / 2.1%)
- White (n=1,935 / 24.8%)

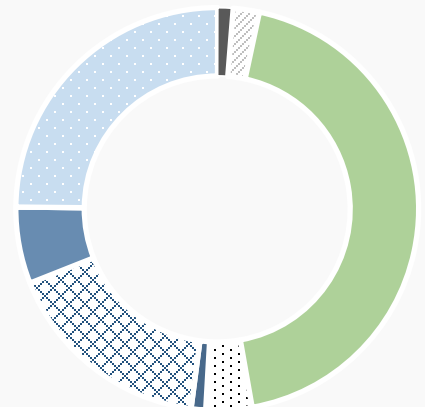
Numbers and percents for each region are available in [Appendix C](#).



Clark County (n=6,368)



Rural Counties (n=264)



Washoe County (n=1,383)

Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation

Gender Identity

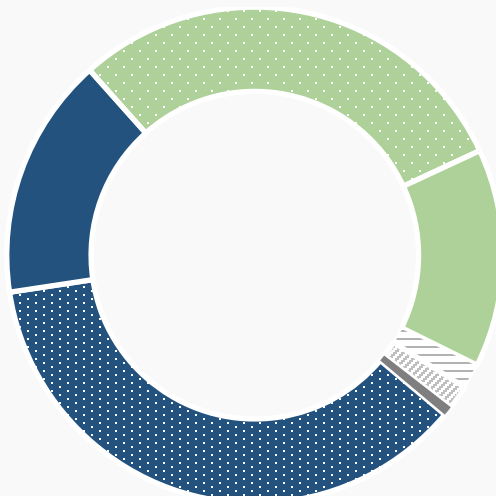
The current gender entry in HMIS is intended to capture how individuals self-identify across the following seven possible gender categories:

- Woman (Girl, if child)
- Man (Boy, if child)
- Culturally Specific Identity (e.g., Two-Spirit)
- Transgender
- Non-Binary
- Questioning
- Different Identity

Individuals can select multiple identities from the list above. As this is a required category, HMIS has a gender entry for 99.4% of YEH; for 0.6% of YEH, providers either did not provide gender information (0.32%) or selected one of the following: client doesn't know (0.05%), client prefers not to answer (0.12%), or data not collected (0.13%).

As demonstrated in the figure below, the vast majority of YEH selected either Woman/Girl or Man/Boy with no other gender selections. However, given the importance of understanding the rates at which members of the LGBTQ+ community are experiencing homelessness as young people, an additional, optional field was utilized to explore if any of these 96.2% of individuals are not cisgender. This “sex-assigned-at-birth” field was available for 32% of YEH in the HMIS dataset. Based on a comparison of gender identity and sex assigned at birth information, 31 YEH indicated only Woman/Girl or Man/Boy as their gender identity and also indicated a different sex at birth; these individuals are included in the transgender category within the figure. When sex at birth and gender identity are both known, 4.7% of YEH are not cisgender. Given this information, it is likely that some of the other individuals for whom sex-assigned-at-birth is not available (68% of the dataset) are also not cisgender, underscoring the importance of not making assumptions about a person's LGBTQ+ status based solely on their reported gender identity.

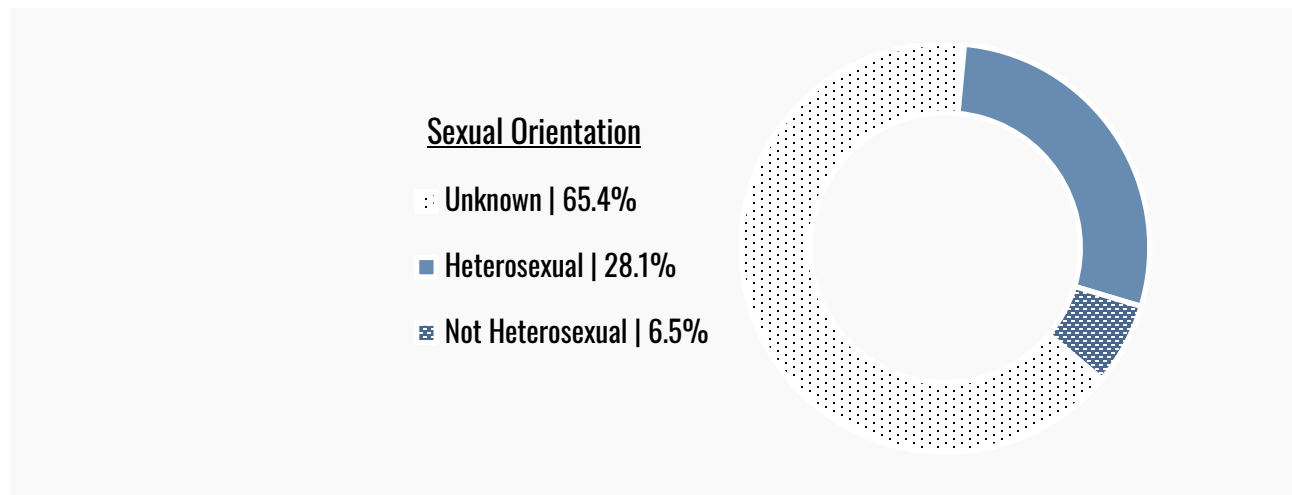
Gender Identity



- Man/boy (sex assigned at birth unknown) | 36.5%
- Man/boy (cisgender) | 15.8%
- Woman/girl (sex assigned at birth unknown) | 29.7%
- Woman/girl (cisgender) | 14.2%
- Transgender | 1.6%
- ▨ Non-binary/questioning/other | 1.6%
- Unknown | 0.6%

Sexual Orientation

Only Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) programs are required to capture information about individuals' sexual orientation, and for most YEH (65.4%), no sexual orientation information is recorded. When recorded, individuals self-identify by selecting one of the following options: Heterosexual, Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Questioning/Unsure, or Other; within the figure below, the latter five sexual orientation options have been combined under "Not Heterosexual." Among the 7,807 YEH in this study, HMIS explicitly indicates that 6.5% are not heterosexual; however, this is a minimum estimate given the large number of YEH for whom sexual orientation was not known. Among the 2,703 YEH who had this information collected, 18.7% indicated they were not heterosexual.



Combining Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation to Explore LGBTQ+ Representation

Establishing whether a person is a member of the LGBTQ+ community requires exploration of their gender identity, which in itself requires an exploration of the required gender identity field and the optional sex-assigned-at-birth field, and sexual orientation as reported in HMIS for all YEH. Specifically, identifying a youth as a member of the LGBTQ+ community requires establishing that they are not cisgender and/or not heterosexual. These relevant data were only available for 912, or 12%, of the 7,807 YEH in the HMIS dataset.

Using only these known data, a minimum of 687 (9%) of the 7,807 YEH in HMIS are LGBTQ+ and 225 (3%) are not. Given the large percentage of people for whom relevant data are not available (88%), **this is likely a significant undercount of the number of people in HMIS who are LGBTQ+** and limits the study's ability to explore whether LGBTQ+ individuals are more at risk of experiencing homelessness in Nevada. Among the 912 YEH who had this information available, 75% (687/912) identified as LGBTQ+—i.e., they provided information indicating they were not heterosexual and/or not cisgender.

Other Common Characteristics of Youth Experiencing Homelessness

HMIS provides important, but limited, information regarding several other YEH characteristics. Exploring the representation of people with these characteristics in HMIS is challenging because responses to these specific questions are either not asked or not required of all individuals. Given a significant amount of missing data to inform these questions, the findings below are rough estimates—and sometimes *minimum* estimates—for the proportion of YEH associated with the characteristic. However, all align with national data that reports that youth with these characteristics are at higher risk of experiencing homelessness than their peers without these experiences.

Pregnant or Parenting: Among the 7,807 YEH in this study, HMIS explicitly indicates that 10.1% (792) were pregnant or parenting. This estimation is based on household information and responses to a Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) program-required pregnancy-status question. Among the 731 YEH who had this RHY information collected (across seven agencies), **19.6% were pregnant or parenting.**

10.1-19.6%
were pregnant or
parenting

Foster Care Involvement: Among the 7,807 YEH in this study, HMIS explicitly indicates that 2.4% have foster care experience; however, this is a minimum estimate, one which is based on information about where the YEH resided prior to enrollment, where the YEH went after enrollment, and responses to an RHY-required question about youths' prior history with foster care. Among the 380 YEH who had this RHY information collected (across six agencies), **28.7% indicated foster care involvement.**

2.4-28.7%
with foster care
experience

Criminal and/or Juvenile Justice Involvement: Similarly, HMIS explicitly indicates that 6.0% (471) of the 7,807 YEH in this study have experience with either the criminal or juvenile justice system. This estimation is based on information about where the YEH resided before and after enrollment, as well as responses to an RHY-required question about youths' prior history with juvenile justice. Among the 378 YEH who had this RHY information collected (across six agencies), **12.7% indicated justice involvement.**

6.0-12.7%
with justice system
involvement

Behavioral Health Issues or Disabilities: Among all 7,807 YEH in the study, **58.3% (4,554) reported having a behavioral health challenge, disabling condition, or developmental issues.** Additionally, information about where YEH resided before and after enrollment indicates that 5.3% of YEH had inpatient stays for psychiatric or substance use disorders and 3.1% had inpatient stays in long-term care facilities, nursing homes, hospitals, or other residential non-psychiatric medical facilities.

58.3%
reported behavioral
health challenges,
disabling conditions, or
developmental issues

Domestic Violence Survivor: Among the 7,807 YEH in this study, HMIS explicitly indicates that 17.3% are domestic violence survivors; however, this is a minimum estimate because this information is not always collected. Among the 4,740 YEH who had this information available, **28.5% indicated they were survivors of domestic violence.** YEH who are survivors of domestic violence are also twice as likely to identify as woman/girl or non-cisgendered compared to YEH who are not survivors of domestic violence.


17.3-28.5%
had experienced
domestic violence

A Note on Intersectionality and Youth Homelessness in Nevada

Intersectionality refers to the interconnected nature of social categories such as race, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, and disability, which can create overlapping experiences of discrimination and disadvantage. For youth, these intersecting factors can significantly increase their vulnerability to homelessness. For example, a Black transgender youth from a low-income background may face discrimination based on both their race and gender identity, compounded by financial instability. This intersection of factors can limit access to resources like housing, employment, and supportive services, making it more difficult for them to escape or avoid homelessness.

Understanding intersectionality is crucial for addressing youth homelessness, as it helps highlight the diverse and layered needs of vulnerable populations.

Among the YEH in this study, **a minimum of 23.5% (or approximately 1,836) have intersecting identities that may increase their risk of experiencing homelessness**, and with more complete data, this proportion could be substantially higher. The vast majority of these YEH are non-White or non-Hispanic (94% or 1,728), with the other characteristics that most frequently put these youth at higher risk, from more to less frequent, being pregnant or parenting, identifying as LGBTQ+, having experience with the criminal or juvenile justice system, or having experience with inpatient stays for psychiatric or substance use disorders.



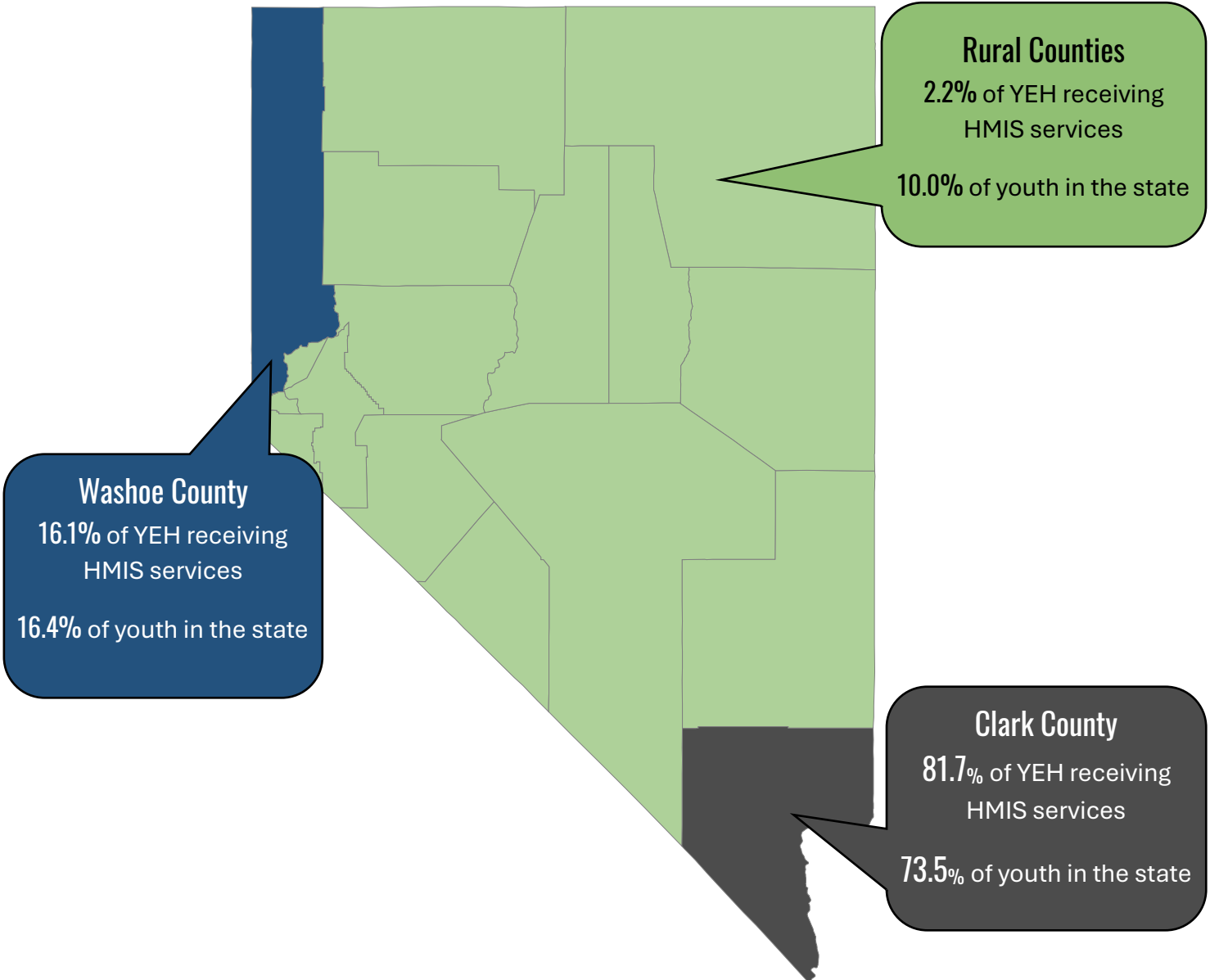
“[People with] intersectionality is another group [more likely to experience homelessness].”

— Community Convening Participant

Geographic Distribution

The vast majority of YEH (81.7%) received HMIS services in Clark County. When compared to the overall population of youth in Nevada, YEH are under-represented in rural counties, over-represented in Clark, and proportionately represented in Washoe. Note that this analysis excludes YEH who received HMIS services in multiple regions (2.6% of YEH) and, to align with available Census data, excludes YEH aged 12-14 (2.8% of the HMIS dataset).

Several factors could be driving these differences. One is that YEH from rural areas—as well as from other areas, both inside and outside of Nevada—may be more likely to seek and find services in Clark, where the majority of general, and youth-specific, homeless service providers are located. Another is that YEH may remain in rural counties but utilize informal supports that would not be tracked in HMIS. Finally, it is possible that YEH may be underrepresented in rural areas because these youth may be less likely to experience homelessness; however, **national research indicates that youth in rural areas are as likely as other youth to experience homelessness.**



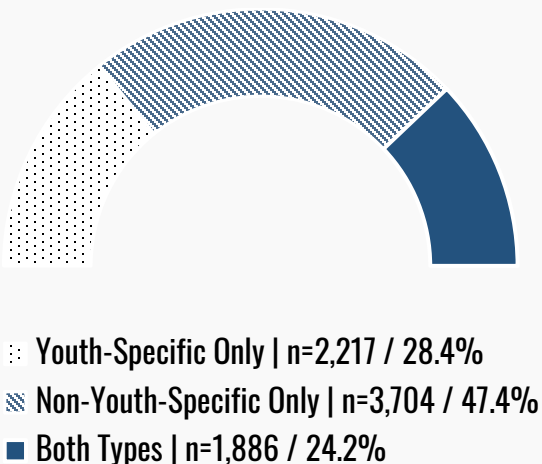
Types of Services Received

During 2021-2024, the 7,807 YEH included in the HMIS analysis had 21,810 enrollments with 82 agencies, with 56.4% having contact with only one agency and just over 40% having only one enrollment (i.e., they received HMIS services only once, although this enrollment may have lasted a substantial amount of time). A small portion of YEH were more frequent utilizers of HMIS services, with 6.6% (n=512) accounting for approximately one-quarter of all enrollments (6,052 out of 21,810). These frequent utilizers had an average of 12 enrollments with five agencies over the four-year period. Note that some individuals were removed from analyses that counted enrollments because they were not formally enrolled in any programs.

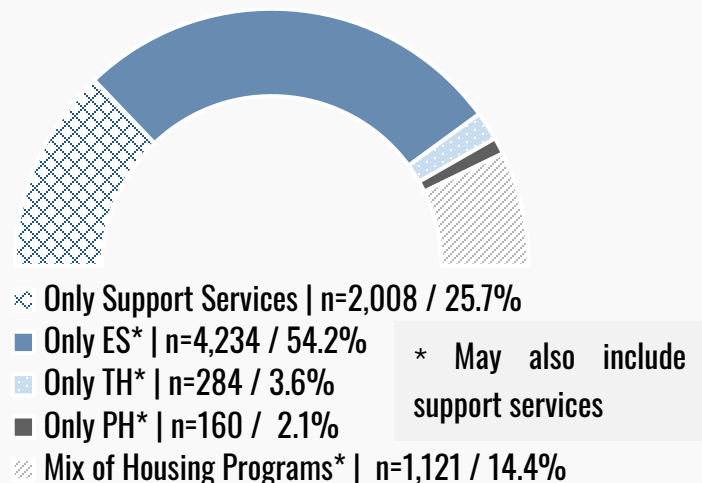
Of the 82 agencies that served YEH, 10 had youth-specific programs, and 7 of the 10 had *only* youth-specific programs that served YEH in this study. Six of these youth-specific programs operated in Clark and four in Washoe. Roughly 28% of YEH were only served by one of the youth-specific programs operated by the 10 agencies. Just over one quarter of YEH did not have contact with any HMIS housing services, and just over half had contact only with emergency shelter.

YEH were most likely to be served only by youth-specific programs while receiving transitional housing services (75.8%), and least likely while receiving support services (28.5%).

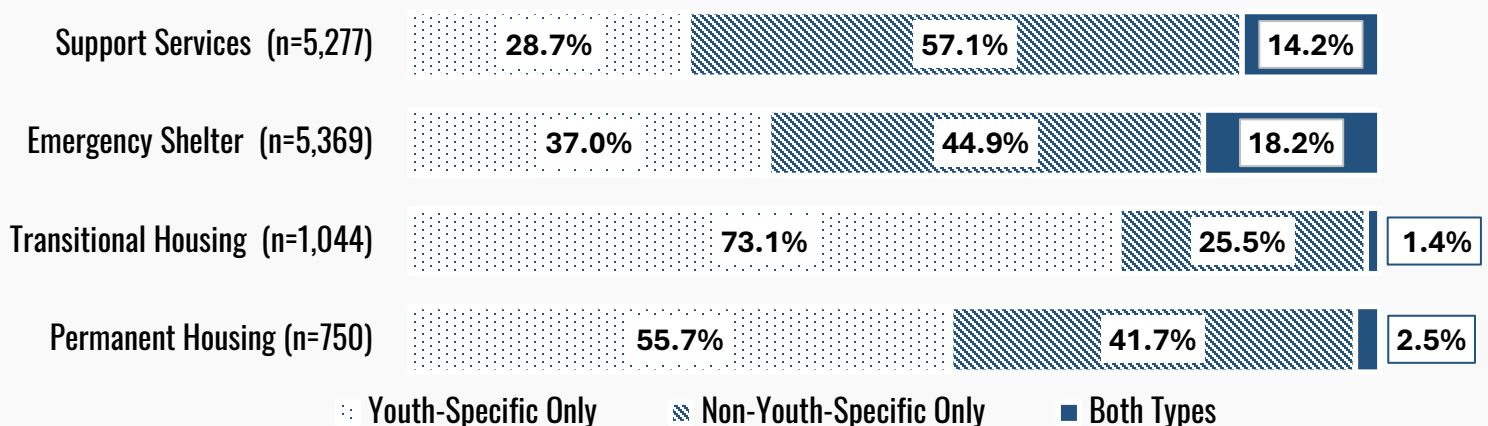
Percent of YEH Served by Program Focus



Percent of YEH Served by Services Accessed



Distribution of Key Services by Program Focus



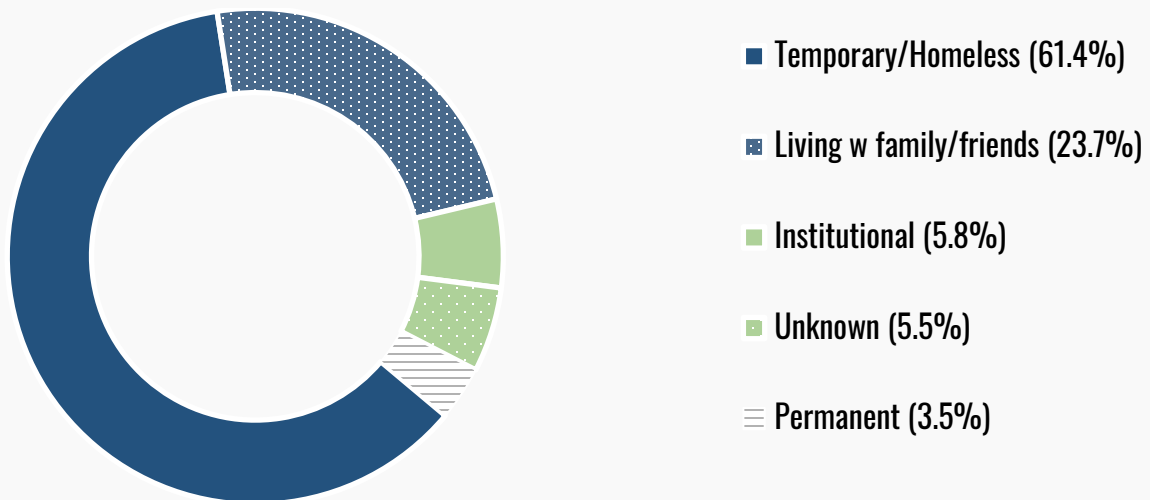
Prior Living Situation

For 80% of the 21,810 enrollments in the HMIS analysis, YEH were experiencing unaccompanied homelessness when they entered the enrollment.¹ For 61% of these enrollments, YEHs' prior living situation was considered temporary/homeless:

- 29% were places not meant for human habitation;
- 24% were emergency shelters, including hotels or motels paid for with an emergency shelter voucher;
- 4% were hotels or motels paid for without emergency shelter voucher; and
- the remaining 4% were in a mix of temporary arrangements, including transitional housing, Safe Haven stays, and halfway homes.

Compared to Clark and Washoe counties, the prior living situations of YEH from rural areas were far more likely to be places not meant for habitation (44%) and more likely to be hotels or motels paid for without emergency shelter voucher (15%).

Prior Living Situation by Enrollment



¹ For the remaining 20% of enrollments, YEH were either accompanied or not homeless when they entered the enrollment. These enrollments were included in the analysis to facilitate a more comprehensive picture of each YEH's experience with HMIS services. For example, this approach made it possible to determine whether YEH successfully remained in permanent housing after turning 25.

measuring success

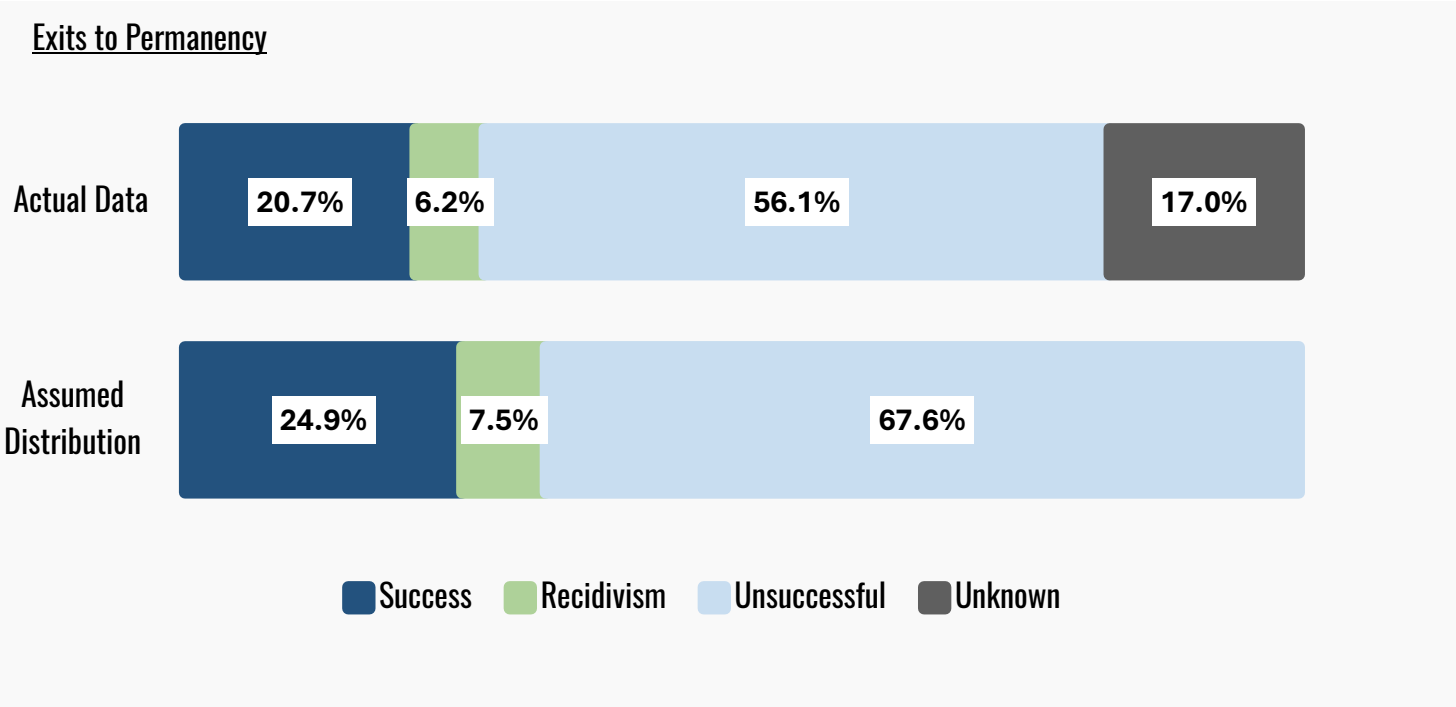
The HMIS data were also analyzed to explore trends in successful exits out of homelessness. While this research was not one of the original objectives of the study, it was conducted to support exploration of common pathways from housing instability (including homelessness) to housing stability in Nevada. More information on the approach used to calculate outcomes is available in [Appendix B](#).

Successful Exits to Permanency

Available data show that between 21% and 25% of YEH successfully exited to permanency, while between 56% to 68% had no known exit to permanency during the period covered by the study. This latter statistic indicates that between **4,379 and 5,279 young people who received HMIS services between 2021 and 2024 had no record of exiting to permanency by December 2024.**

The figure below illustrates the percentage of YEH who exited to permanency (**success**), who exited to permanency but returned to homelessness within six months (**recidivism**), who have no record of an exit to permanency (**unsuccessful**), and for whom relevant data was unknown (**unknown**). In this report, “success” means that the youth who had experienced unaccompanied homelessness had an enrollment that had either a project type or an exit destination indicating permanent housing, as described in [Appendix B](#).

The first bar includes all four potential outcomes, and the second presents the data with the assumption that the distribution of youth with an unknown outcome is the same as the distribution of youth with a known outcome. Sufficient information was available to calculate housing outcomes for 83% (or 6,482) of the 7,807 young people included in the HMIS dataset. A YEH’s outcome may have been unknown for several reasons, most typically because there was an insufficient window to determine the outcome (i.e., if the YEH’s first enrollment was towards the end of the study timeframe).



Success Rates by Utilization

YEH who were frequent utilizers of HMIS services (i.e., who had more than seven enrollments during the 2021-2024 time period) had substantially lower success rates compared to youth with 2-7 enrollments: 17.9% vs 30.2%. Approximately one-third of frequent utilizers had an exit to permanent housing but recidivated within 6 months. Notably, youth who only had one encounter with HMIS services also had a low success rate, 19.2%.

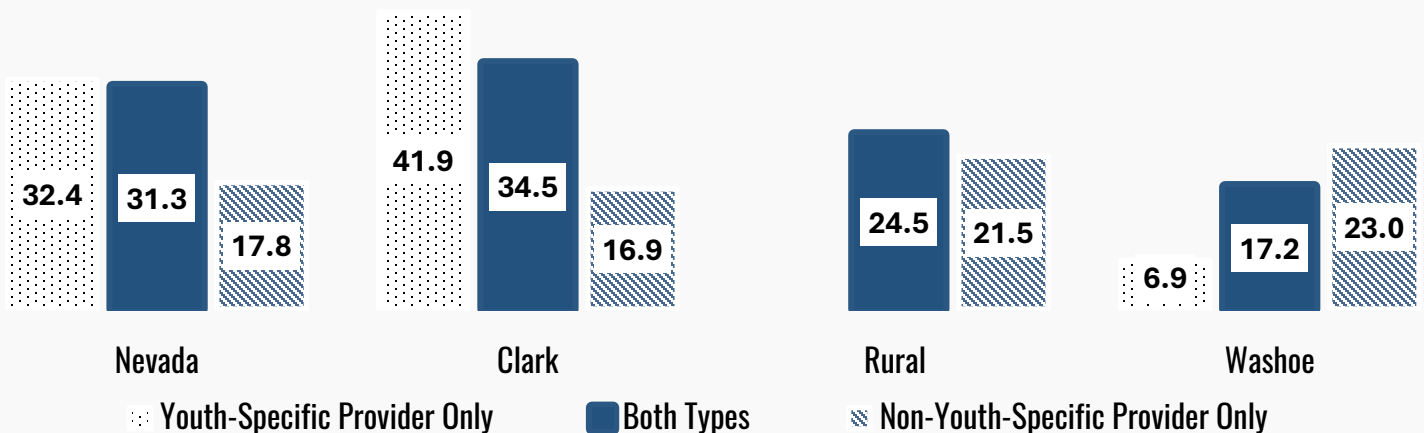
Success Rates by Program Type

YEH who only had contact with support services were far less likely to successfully exit to permanency than those who received direct housing supports. Those who only had contact with supportive services had a success rate of 12.7%, compared to those who only participated in emergency shelter services (20.6%), only transitional housing (27.7%), or mixed housing supports (48.7%). Note that people who only participated in permanent housing programs had a success rate of 93.5%, but that is due in part to placements in permanent housing being, by definition, a successful exit unless the youth recidivates back to homelessness.

Success Rates by Program Focus

As illustrated in the figure below, YEH who were served only by youth specific programs had success rates nearly double those of YEH only served by non-youth-specific programs.² In Clark County, YEH served only by youth-specific programs were even more successful. However, in Washoe County, this pattern appears to be reversed: YEH served only by non-youth-serving programs were nearly four times more successful than YEH served only by youth-serving programs. When examining success between regions, it is critical to note several factors. The first is that Clark County has distinct resources allocated locally to permanent housing programs for youth whereas the other 16 counties do not. Additionally, youth-serving providers in Washoe County reported inconsistent use of HMIS in previous years, which resulted in unreliable success rate data.

Success Rates of YEH by Focus of Program(s) In Which They Participated



² Note that rural counties did not have any youth-specific programs that provided services to YEH in HMIS between 2021 and 2024.

Variations in Success Rates Based on Personal Characteristics and Experiences

Success rates also varied by the demographics and personal experiences of young people receiving HMIS services.

Success Rates by Age

The success rate for exiting homelessness generally decreased as YEH's age at first enrollment increased. Minors, aged 12 to 17 at their first enrollment, had a notably higher rate of success (38%) compared to transition aged youth (24%).

Success Rates by Race/Ethnicity

The differences in success rates across race/ethnicity groups are substantial. The success rates of both Indigenous and Black YEH are more than twice that of Hispanic YEH, with this latter group of YEH facing both a disproportionate risk of entering homelessness and lower likelihood of exiting homelessness. YEH who identify as White and YEH whose race/ethnicity is unknown also have a notably lower rate of success compared to the other race/ethnicity groups. Note that the racial/ethnic category names in the figure have been shortened.

Success Rates by Parenting Status

YEH who are pregnant or parenting have higher success rates than YEH who are not: 48% compared to 22%.

Success Rates by System Involvement

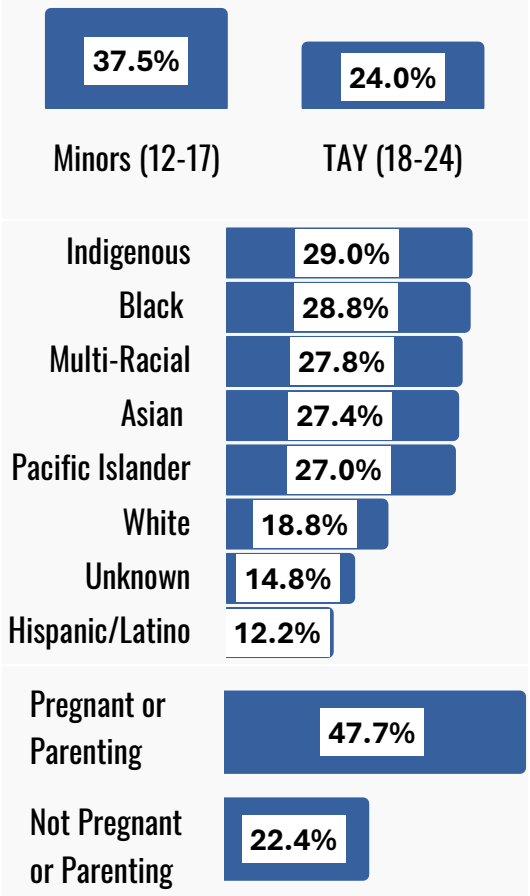
In general, YEH with a history of system or institutional involvement have somewhat lower rates of success than YEH without system involvement:

- People with criminal or juvenile justice involvement (22%) compared to people without (25%)
- People with experience in a facility for behavioral health (20%) compared to people without (25%)
- People with experience in other types of institutional settings (19%) compared to people without (25%)
- A notable exception is YEH with foster care involvement, where YEH with foster system involvement have slightly higher success rates than those without (28% v 25%). This may be related to the availability of foster-specific housing vouchers.

Success Rates by Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation

As described in the prior section, LGBTQ+ status can be established only for a small portion of YEH receiving HMIS-tracked services. As such, success rates for LGBTQ+ individuals are not presented or compared to other YEH.

Percent of YEH Who Exited to Permanency



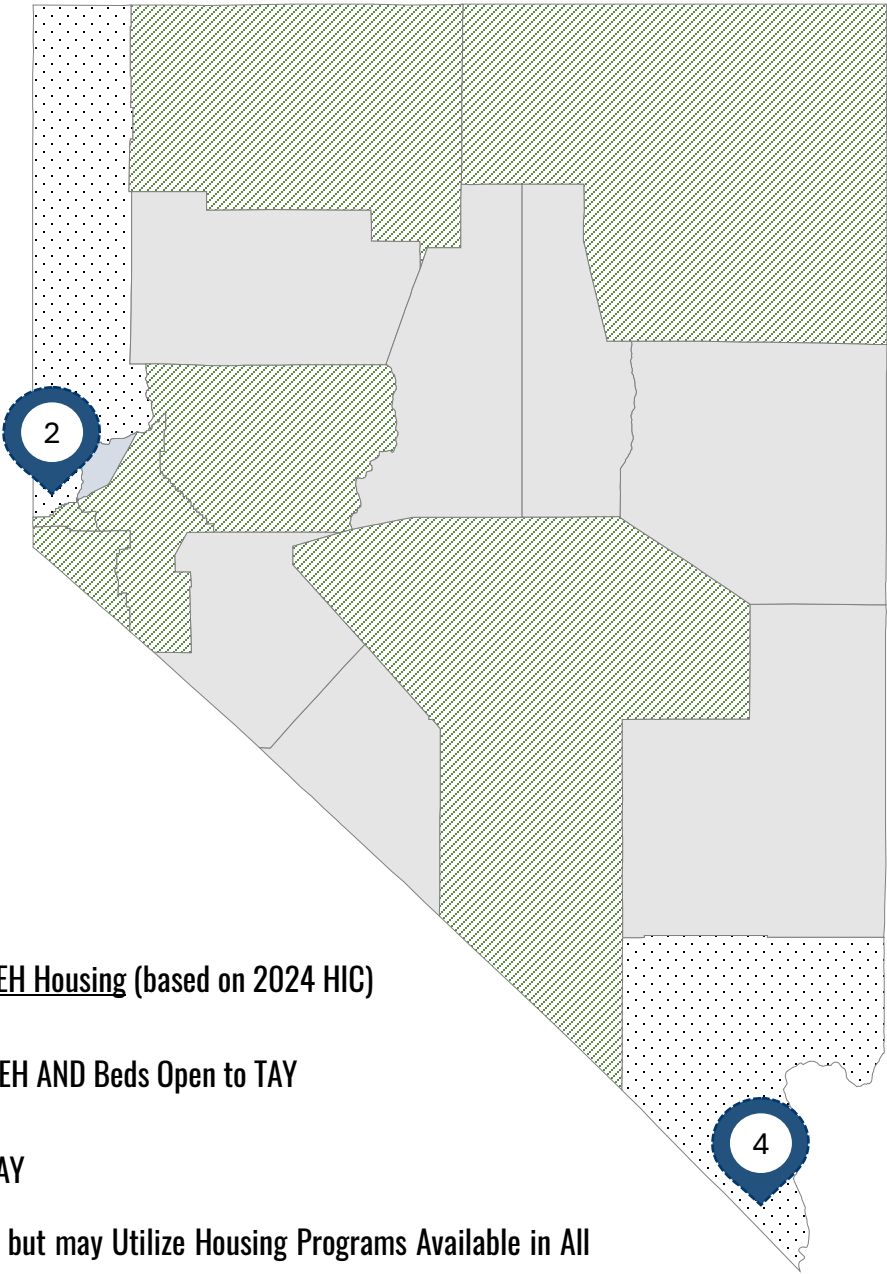
services and supports available

Dedicated Resources for Youth Experiencing Homelessness

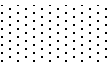
There are few organizations within the state of Nevada whose primary mission is to serve and house youth experiencing homelessness. The following page provides more information on these six organizations, showcasing the critical role they play in addressing the needs of YEH in Nevada. As represented by the blue markers on the map below, these organizations are primarily located in Clark County. Dedicated housing for YEH is also, for the most part, concentrated in the urban population centers in the state.

Additionally, and not mapped, all counties in Nevada also have a McKinney-Vento liaison whose services are available only to students enrolled in grades K-12 within their district. However, while liaisons are mandated to exist in each district, not all counties receive McKinney-Vento funds through a subgranting process due to a lack of eligible students in prior years, meaning that they may be limited in the support they can offer if or when a YEH does seek services.

Additional information about the housing inventory available to serve YEH in each county is available in [Appendix E](#).



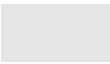
YEH-Serving Organizations and Dedicated YEH Housing (based on 2024 HIC)



County Has Beds Dedicated to YEH AND Beds Open to TAY



County Has Beds Available for TAY



County Has No Specific Housing but may Utilize Housing Programs Available in All Rural Counties

Youth Specific Provider Spotlights

While all organizations that provide housing to adults experiencing homelessness may serve a portion of the study population (i.e., people aged 18-24), the following organizations represent those that have a primary focus to serve youth experiencing homelessness.

Clark County (Las Vegas, Nevada)

The **Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth (NPHY)** is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing critical services, support, and advocacy for YEH in Nevada. NPHY offers a wide range of programs, including emergency shelter, transitional housing, and rapid rehousing, as well as a drop-in center, outreach, mobile crisis intervention, life skills training, and case management, aimed at helping young people achieve stability and self-sufficiency. Through its dual-pronged focus on direct services and advocacy, NPHY works to raise awareness of youth homelessness, break down systemic barriers young people face, and ensure that these vulnerable individuals receive the care and resources they need to grow and flourish.

St. Jude's Ranch for Children is a nonprofit organization committed to supporting at-risk youth and young adults in Nevada, with a focus on helping youth overcome trauma and build brighter futures. The organization provides a range of services, including emergency shelter, transitional housing, and drop-in center services. Their programs are designed to offer safe, supportive environments where young people can receive the necessary care and guidance while working toward independence. St. Jude's also provides specialized housing for young adults who are aging out of foster care as well as people who have experienced sex trafficking, helping them transition into self-sufficiency with the support of life skills training and case management.

HELP of Southern Nevada provides vital services to YEH through the **Shannon West Youth Center**, which offers emergency shelter, transitional housing, case management, and a range of supportive programs. The Center provides a safe environment where young people can access resources such as education, life skills training, employment assistance, and mental health services. By focusing on both immediate needs and long-term stability, the Shannon West Youth Center plays a crucial role in helping youth regain independence and work toward a brighter future.

Living Grace Homes also operates in Las Vegas, providing supportive housing and services for young women experiencing homelessness who are pregnant or parenting. Living Grace aims to empower young women and their children, helping them achieve stability, independence, and a brighter future through comprehensive services and guidance.

Washoe County

Eddy House is a nonprofit organization in Reno, Nevada, that provides shelter and housing services to YEH. They offer emergency housing, a transitional living program, case management, and other supports designed to help young people ages 18-24 gain stability and independence.

The **Nevada Youth Empowerment Project (NYEP)** also operates in Reno, Nevada, providing housing and other supports to young women experiencing homelessness.

Homelessness in Rural and Tribal Communities

Conversations with social and homelessness service providers across Nevada revealed that youth experiencing homelessness face similar challenges in both rural and tribal communities—a reflection of the fact that most of Nevada’s tribal communities are situated in rural areas. In rural and tribal communities, youth homelessness often takes on less visible forms, such as couch surfing or shared housing, and can vary significantly from one community to another. Young people in these communities may rely on extended family or informal networks for shelter due to a lack of formal housing providers that operate in their area. Youth aging out of foster care are especially vulnerable, and some youth may choose to leave their communities altogether in search of greater opportunity or support in urban areas.

In rural and many tribal communities, access to services is limited and often dependent on short-term funding or grants. Many communities lack shelters or housing programs specifically for young people, and available support services—like food pantries, emergency assistance, or out-of-community referrals—are often under-resourced or hard to access. In addition, youth face compounding barriers such as limited transportation or reduced employment opportunities. Consequently, youth often do not know where to turn, and some avoid seeking help due to stigma or fear of judgment in their communities.

While discussions with providers highlighted the similarities across rural and tribal communities, they also revealed some differences unique to each.

Tribal Communities

Unknown Prevalence: While some tribal areas reported little to no visible youth homelessness, others identified as many as 30-50 unaccompanied youth annually who lack stable housing.

Lack of Culturally Competent Care: There is a clear need for culturally relevant, youth-centered housing and support systems that address the unique challenges youth in tribal communities face and support their long-term stability and well-being.

Rural Communities

Strict Criteria: The acute shortage of housing has created a high-demand, low-supply environment where landlords and housing providers can be highly selective about who they rent to. This dynamic makes it extremely difficult for youth—especially those with limited income, poor credit history, or prior instability—to access stable housing.

Lack of Assistance for Minors: Rural providers report that they are largely unable to serve unaccompanied youth under 18 due to legal barriers like the need for parental consent, the inability of minors to sign leases, and fear of liability. Most housing and support programs are restricted to those 18+, leaving minors without access to shelter, services, or safe alternatives.

“If a tribal community had a shelter, or apartments for younger adults that would be helpful. Even if there were just one location where we could send them if they need help. We don’t have even one place.”

— Tribal Social Services Interview Participant

“There is nowhere for them to [go] in the community.”

— Rural County Community Convening Participant



Funding Costs and Opportunities to Address Youth Experiencing Homelessness

Addressing youth homelessness involves costs that can vary based on location, intervention type, and the level of services provided. Research suggests that while addressing youth homelessness requires upfront investment, it is often more cost-effective than the long-term economic and social costs associated with chronic homelessness. This section builds upon the current system supports detailed in the previous study publications and describes the financial structure that currently supports youth experiencing homelessness. Note that due to rounding, information throughout this section may not total to 100%.

Costs of Addressing Youth Homelessness—National Estimates

Youth homelessness remains a significant social issue, with both immediate and long-term consequences that can place a heavy burden on individuals and society. National data on the costs associated with addressing youth homelessness highlights the wide range of services required to assist homeless youth, from emergency shelters and crisis services to long-term housing and prevention programs. These interventions not only provide immediate relief but also help reduce the risk of continued homelessness, improving long-term outcomes for affected youth. Estimated costs vary based on factors such as geography and the needs of those being served.

There are a number of supportive services identified as necessary for youth to secure and maintain housing. The recommendations section that follows outlines both housing and supportive service needs. Needs vary by individual but common areas of need include basic needs for food and clothing, transportation, financial support and literacy, educational assistance, employment training and support, behavioral health and medical services, case management, and general life skills.

Emergency Shelters: Emergency shelter is a costly alternative to permanent housing. While it is sometimes necessary for short-term crises, too often it serves as long-term housing. The cost of an emergency shelter bed funded by HUD's Emergency Shelter Grants program is approximately \$8,067 more than the average annual cost of a federal housing subsidy (Section 8 Housing Certificate). The cost of providing emergency shelter to homeless youth varies significantly based on location, services offered, and shelter type. Estimated costs from two reports show the variability [4].

Washington, D.C. [5]

- Approximately \$44,200, with an interquartile range between \$41,500 and \$45,200 or a Daily Cost per Bed of approximately \$121. These figures include wraparound services such as food, transportation, and mental health support.

Los Angeles, CA [6] [7]

- Interim Housing Programs: Starting January 2025, the city will pay \$80 per bed nightly for interim housing beds.
- Inside Safe Program: This initiative, which provides hotel accommodations and comprehensive services, costs approximately \$567 per person per night.

Transitional & Supportive Housing: In Washington, D.C., transitional housing for homeless youth comes at a median annual cost of approximately \$60,700 per bed, or \$166 per day, with an interquartile range between \$42,600 and \$69,900. These costs encompass a range of wraparound services including food, transportation, and access to mental health care [5]. Similarly, in Sacramento, California, the city provides transitional housing through modular units known as “Tuff Sheds,” costing \$58,000 annually or \$159 per night per person. This program includes job training, individualized case management, 24/7 monitoring, and mental health support [8].

Experts emphasize that supportive and transitional housing investments lead to better housing stability, reduced emergency service use, and fewer interactions with the criminal justice system—ultimately generating public cost savings [9].

A primary source report that evaluates the value of prevention services for YEH is the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) study titled *Prevention Programs Funded by the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP)*. This comprehensive report, authored by Cunningham et al., documents the large-scale implementation of homelessness prevention efforts initiated in 2009 through the HPRP. The HUD HPRP report emphasizes the following impacts and values of prevention services, including for youth [10]:

- **Cost-Effectiveness:** Prevention is generally less expensive than emergency shelter and other crisis responses.
- **Housing Stability:** Many recipients of prevention services did not enter the homeless system afterward, suggesting interventions were effective at maintaining housing.
- **Early Intervention Matters:** Timely financial assistance, housing relocation, and stabilization services can prevent homelessness among at-risk populations, including youth.

A comprehensive report titled *Youth-Supportive Transitional Housing Programs as An Essential Resource for Addressing Youth Homelessness*, published collaboratively by Covenant House International, the National Network for Youth, and SchoolHouse Connection, provides valuable insights into the impact of supportive and transitional housing for YEH [11].

The report highlights that transitional housing programs offer young people a stable living environment for a significant period, coupled with case management and supportive services such as behavioral health services and educational and career development assistance. These programs serve as a bridge from homelessness to lifelong stability, particularly benefiting minors or young adults, including those who are pregnant and parenting.

An analysis by Covenant House International within the report found that among 564 young people who exited transitional housing programs in 15 U.S. cities over a 12-month period, 73% exited the program into stable housing and 69% were employed or enrolled in school when they left the program.

Furthermore, the research indicated that youth who stayed in the program longer were more likely to exit to stable housing and to be employed upon program completion [11]. Notably, youth who identify as Black, Indigenous, or People of Color (BIPOC) had higher rates of stable housing exits and higher rates of employment at exit, although they had lower rates of school enrollment. This finding is significant for achieving equity, given that BIPOC youth are disproportionately likely to experience homelessness.

Financially Addressing Youth Homelessness—Nevada

Based on available data, approximately \$20,690,804 was spent on HMIS housing services annually for YEH. Approximately half of the annual funding went towards emergency shelter, 29% went towards transitional housing, and the remaining 24% towards permanent housing.

Overall, and based on data for services tracked in Nevada’s HMIS, the estimated cost per enrollment was \$6,716, with an emergency shelter enrollment costing the least (\$3,412) and a permanent housing enrollment costing the most (\$20,014). For comparison, a recent report from the National Alliance to End Homelessness estimated annual costs for two types of permanent housing: \$8,486 for rapid re-housing and \$20,115 for supportive housing [12]. These figures are typically drawn from reports released **between 2020 and 2023**, with slight variation depending on location and specific program models.

- The **\$8,486** figure for **rapid re-housing** represents a relatively low-cost, short to medium-term intervention aimed at quickly moving individuals or families out of homelessness and into stable housing, with limited support services.
- The **\$20,115** figure for **supportive housing** reflects a higher level of investment, as it includes both long-term housing and intensive services (e.g., case management, mental health care), often geared toward individuals with complex needs or chronic homelessness.

This analysis is based on a subset of HMIS projects for which it was possible to estimate the amount of annual funding based on publicly available records and on conversations and documentation from providers and funders. As illustrated in the table below, funding estimates were available for 56% of emergency shelter enrollments, 72% of transitional housing enrollments, and 84% of permanent housing enrollments. Note that the column headers ending in an asterisk (*) are specific to the subset of HMIS projects for which it was possible to estimate the amount of annual funding allocated across all sources considered in Nevada.

Program Type	Funding*	Enrollments*	Cost Per Enrollment*	Percent of Enrollments with Funding Estimates	Total Funding (Extrapolated)	% of Total Funding
Emergency Shelter	\$5,473,085	1,604	\$3,412	56%	\$9,762,154	47%
Transitional Housing	\$4,335,054	268	\$16,175	72%	\$5,984,962	29%
Permanent Housing	\$4,163,106	208	\$20,014	84%	\$4,943,688	24%
All	\$13,971,245	2,080	\$6,716	60%	\$20,690,804	100%

Financial Investments in Housing Youth Experiencing Homelessness in Nevada

Available evidence suggests that most YEH enrollments for housing and shelter were funded by local, or local and state, funds rather than federal funds. Federal funding plays a somewhat larger role with transitional and permanent housing than with emergency shelter.

Type of Funding	Percent of All Enrollments (n=2,987)	Percent of ES Enrollments (n=2,425)	Percent of TH Enrollments (n=294)	Percent of PH Enrollments (n=268)
Federal only	19%	16%	16%	46%
Federal plus State and/or Local	12%	11%	30%	1%
State only	3%	1%	3%	22%
State and Local	12%	14%	2%	1%
Local only	54%	57%	49%	30%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%

Sources of funding vary substantially by region. In Clark County, the funding was disproportionately local funding. In fact, nearly all local funding—including both public and private—was for housing services in Clark County. In Washoe County, the funding was disproportionately state and local funding. In rural counties, which had a small number of housing and shelter-related enrollments, nearly all funding was federal.

Type of Funding*	Percent of Enrollments: Clark County (n=2,345)	Percent of Enrollments: Washoe County (n=612)	Percent of Enrollments: Rural Counties (n=30)
Federal only	15%	31%	87%
Federal plus State and/or Local	12%	11%	10%
State only	4%	0%	3%
State and Local	0%	57%	0%
Local only	68%	1%	0%
Totals	100%	100%	100%

In addition to federal, state, and local public funds, a review of 990s (a publicly available document that details financial activities for tax-exempt charitable organizations) showed that private funders play an important role in funding housing-related services for youth. Specifically, a review of 990s for 13 agencies who serve YEH in Nevada (and, often, other individuals) indicated that 21% of funding came from private funding (\$54 out of \$250 million).

“Out here, there is no specific funding for this population, aside from McKinney-Vento. We have RRH for literal homelessness...I don’t think we run into a lot of youth [who meet the definition of literally homeless]. It is hard to help someone in that situation. There are no resources.”

— Rural Nevada Staff Focus Group Participant

As illustrated in the table below, when federal funding was reported, emergency shelter was primarily funded via Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG), while transitional and permanent housing enrollments were mostly funded via Continuums of Care (CoC) funding.

Federal Funding Category ³	Percent of Enrollments (n=930)	Percent of ES Enrollments (n=672)	Percent of TH Enrollments (n=134)	Percent of PH Enrollments (n=124)
Emergency Solutions Grants	67%	90%	0%	18%
Continuum of Care	19%	0%	69%	72%
Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY)	12%	10%	31%	0%
Veterans Affairs (VA)	1%	<1%	1%	6%
Emergency Housing Vouchers	1%	0%	0%	4%
Totals	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

The 2024 *Preliminary Statewide System Map and County Profiles* produced as part of this study identified funding sources to support YEH housing services. The table below illustrates the seven funding sources that were used to support YEH in 2024. Note that the Housing Inventory Chart (HIC) column indicates which of these funding sources are explicitly listed as one of the 40 options that providers may select from in the HIC; providers can also manually identify other funding sources.

Funding Source	Used to Serve YEH in 2024	In HIC
Continuum of Care	Yes	Yes
Emergency Housing Vouchers	Yes	Yes
Emergency Solutions Grants	Yes	Yes
HOME Investment Partnerships Program	No	Yes
Housing Choice Vouchers	No	No
Housing Opportunities for Persons with Aids	No	Yes
Indian Housing Block Grant Program	No	No
Runaway and Homeless Youth— <i>youth specific</i> YEH were supported by three subprojects of the RHY program in 2024: Transitional Living, Maternity Group Home Program, and the Basic Center Program	Yes	Yes
Stability Vouchers	No	No
Veterans Affairs	Yes	Yes
Nevada's Affordable Housing Trust Fund <i>State source</i>	Yes	No

³ The funding sources listed have distinct criteria for what can be funded and who is eligible for funding. This criteria may limit the type of services funded and for whom.

The *System Map* also identified five sources that were not being utilized in Nevada as of July 2024. They include two resources that are not specific to, but that could be used to support, YEH: Grants for the Benefit of Homeless Individuals and Continuum of Care Builds. The other three, competitive funding opportunities not applied for or awarded in Nevada as of July 2024, were specific to YEH: the Foster Youth Independence (FYI) Initiative, the Performance Partnership Pilots for Disconnected Youth (P3), and the Youth Homeless Demonstration Program (YHDP) opportunity; however, the Southern Nevada Homelessness Continuum of Care applied for and was awarded a YHDP grant of \$8,548,153 in October of 2024.

Funding Opportunities in Nevada

Addressing youth homelessness requires a multifaceted funding approach, combining federal, state, local, and private resources. While federal programs provide substantial support, states also play a crucial role in financing initiatives tailored to the specific needs of YEH. State funding is an opportunity for Nevada to address YEH.

Funding Sources for Youth Homelessness

States typically allocate funds through various channels to combat youth homelessness. The channels listed below are not currently funding sources in Nevada but have been used in other states. Examples include:

State General Funds: Many states designate portions of their general budgets to support housing and homelessness programs, including those targeting youth. These allocations may fund emergency shelters, transitional housing, and supportive services.

State Housing Trust Funds: Some states have established housing trust funds financed through dedicated revenue sources, such as real estate transaction fees or taxes. These funds often support affordable housing initiatives and can include provisions for homeless youth.

Grants and Contracts: State agencies may offer grants or contracts to non-profit organizations and local governments to deliver services to homeless youth. These can encompass outreach programs, counseling, education, and job training services.

Funding Needs in Nevada

As illustrated above, just over two-thirds of YEH served in Nevada had no record of achieving housing permanency. In other words, the study identified at least 4,379 youth who entered homelessness with no evidence that they exited into a stable housing situation. This translates to roughly 1,095 YEH per year. Further, this number could be as high as 12,000 YEH, recognizing that HMIS services only reach a fraction of the youth who experience homelessness.

This study found that Nevada needs more permanent housing options, particularly options that are tailored to youth, and youth need accelerated, no-to-low barrier access to permanent housing.

This study estimates that a permanent housing enrollment for a youth costs \$20,014. Adding 1,000 youth-focused permanent housing options would cost an estimated \$20 million a year and would be an important step to eliminating youth homelessness. As discussed in the *Environment Scan*, the first document produced by this project, several studies have assessed the cost of youth homelessness on society and on taxpayers, taking into account components such as lost earnings, lost tax payments, and public expenditures on criminal justice, healthcare, and social service systems. The main conclusion from these studies is that, although the cost of ending youth homelessness is high, the cost of not ending youth homelessness is notably higher. Monitoring key youth homeless metrics related to prevalence and success rates is critical to ongoing alignment of funding priorities.

The National Alliance to End Homelessness published a fact sheet in 2022 that noted, “There is a large evidence base demonstrating that Housing First is an effective solution to homelessness. Consumers in a Housing First model access housing faster and are more likely to remain stably housed, and systems see many benefits when using the Housing First model. Providing access to housing generally results in cost savings for communities because housed people are less likely to use emergency services, including hospitals, jails, and emergency shelter, than those who are homeless. One study found an average cost savings on emergency services of \$31,545 per person housed in the course of two years. Another study showed that a Housing First approach can cost up to \$23,000 less per consumer per year than a shelter program. Housing First is not only cost efficient, but it also reduces the trauma households face due to homelessness [13].”

Braiding Funding to Address Youth Experiencing Homelessness


States utilize a combination of funding sources to address youth homelessness, tailoring their approaches to regional needs and resources. While federal funding has historically provided a foundation, state-level initiatives are crucial for implementing targeted and effective interventions.

In Nevada, the greatest investment in addressing homelessness for youth is through local funding initiatives in Clark County. This study’s funding analysis suggests that private funders, including the hospitality industry, play an important role in funding housing-related services for youth. The use of local funding, which is largely limited to Clark County, has made a significant contribution to housing YEH. Leveraging lessons learned and approaches in use in Clark County as appropriate across the state could serve to strengthen the service and housing delivery system in Nevada. This in turn could positively impact success rates in achieving housing permanency for Nevada’s youth.

Federal funding is the second greatest source of resources for YEH, and as noted earlier in this report, is subject to the priorities of the federal government. Therefore, additional state investments, such as to the Housing Trust Fund, can and may be critical to making any significant gains in housing YEH, particularly if the state investment focused on permanent housing.

Leaders from across Nevada, from both the public and private sectors, need to collaborate on an ongoing basis to discuss how to leverage more public—as well as private—funding for youth-specific permanent housing. Leaders must consider both how to increase current funding levels, as well as shifting existing funding towards permanent housing.

Note that as of the time of this report, the Nevada Legislature was considering AB366, which aims to reduce homelessness by providing stable housing and supportive services to vulnerable populations (including unaccompanied youth) through establishment of a permanent account in the State General Fund to fund the Nevada Supportive Housing Development program.

Three light blue silhouettes of people standing together. On the left is a man with curly hair, in the middle is a woman with long hair, and on the right is a man with short hair. They are all facing right.

“We changed our whole infrastructure, we stacked and front-loaded services up front, and with all of that savings, we invested back in our system and doing something different. Our county is recognizing that it is cheaper to house in Transitional Housing rather than detention. You have to take an honest look and use data to drive decisions. It is important to get out of the box.”

— Community Convening Participant

understanding and addressing the issue

Since July 2023, this study has been conducted to better understand the experiences of youth facing homelessness in Nevada. This statewide effort brought together a diverse group of service providers and youth participants to gather valuable insights into the challenges and needs of this vulnerable population, which have been synthesized under these five areas:

- There is a lack of housing and shelter specifically available for young people experiencing homelessness in Nevada.
- Leadership, funding, and infrastructure at the state level are needed to create viable pathways to end youth homelessness.
- Youth experiencing homelessness need access to resources, support services, and education, to achieve long-term self-sufficiency.
- It can be hard for youth experiencing homelessness in Nevada to find help and support that meets their unique needs.
- Certain populations are more at risk of experiencing homelessness.

This research also led to the development of five key recommendations that were developed and/or vetted by youth and providers to address each of these major challenge areas:

- Promote, advocate for, develop, and fund programs that provide housing for youth while investing in rapid rehousing and early intervention models to foster long-term stability.
- Prioritize, fund, and track key initiatives to end youth homelessness, ensuring the provision of youth-specific resources and incorporating youth voice in implementation.
- Develop systems and policies that ensure access to financial resources for food, transportation, housing, other basic needs, and implement a comprehensive support system to address individualized youth needs.
- Adopt a multi-faceted service delivery system designed for and tailored to support youth experiencing homelessness in overcoming barriers to accessing resources.
- Implement a specialized, equity-driven approach by expanding access to essential services, reducing criminalization, and creating inclusive policies that support high-need and marginalized youth, including LGBTQ+, BIPOC, first- or second-generation youth, youth exiting foster care, and pregnant and/or parenting youth.

The following section delves into these recommendations and aligned strategies that can be implemented to improve services for Nevada's youth who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness. A list of all strategies, by key recommendation area, is summarized on page 82.

There is a lack of housing and shelter specifically available for young people experiencing homelessness in Nevada.

The Critical Need for Housing and Shelter for Youth Experiencing Homelessness in Nevada

Youth experiencing homelessness in Nevada face staggering challenges in securing stable and safe housing. Across the state, these young individuals encounter systemic barriers that prevent them from accessing affordable, youth-specific housing options.

The Housing Crisis for Youth in Nevada

YEH face immense barriers in accessing stable housing due to economic and systemic barriers. Data from youth and providers in Nevada and national studies indicate that:

- Market-rate housing is unaffordable, even for youth who work full-time at minimum wage.
- Low-income and subsidized housing programs are extremely limited for youth, have long waiting lists, and are insufficient to meet demand.
- Funding and landlord restrictions create obstacles, such as prohibiting rental assistance for individual rooms, which could be a viable option for youth seeking housing stability. Barriers specific to youth, such as limited credit history, lack of co-signers, and age restrictions, further prevent youth from securing housing resources.

Nevada also has unique regional challenges related to stigma, transportation, lack of infrastructure, and a general lack of services specific to youth, which may be due to volume or lack thereof in rural communities. Most counties lack sufficient youth-specific housing programs, and across the state, critical shortages exist in the following areas [14]:

Emergency shelter and housing programs that accept minors: Some YEH are under 18 and not involved in the foster care system or accompanied by a parent or relative. For those youth, there are very few shelters and housing programs designed to accommodate them. Rural counties reported having no emergency housing for this population, including shelter beds or motel vouchers.

Transitional housing and independent living options: Youth often need structured transitional housing to bridge the gap between homelessness and full independence, but Nevada has too few such programs. Transitional housing does not require a lease, which makes it more viable for some youth.

Permanent housing: Long-term stability requires options for youth who need ongoing housing support due to disabilities, trauma, or other challenges.

Foster care transition supports: Many youth exiting the foster system lack adequate transition resources, leaving them vulnerable to homelessness.

Housing for pregnant or parenting youth: Young parents experiencing homelessness need specialized housing support to provide a stable environment for their children.

Affordable Housing: Nevada has the #1 most extreme shortage of available, affordable rental units for extremely low-income renters and has for many years.

To address the lack of housing and shelter for youth, Nevada should:

Promote, advocate for, develop, and fund programs that provide housing for youth while investing in rapid rehousing and early intervention models to foster long-term stability.

The Path Forward

Every young person deserves a safe place to call home—without it, they face a cycle of instability that is nearly impossible to break. By prioritizing housing and shelter solutions, Nevada can ensure that its most vulnerable youth have a chance at a stable, hopeful future.

Addressing the urgent housing needs of YEH in Nevada requires a multipronged approach, including increased investment in youth-specific housing programs, policy reforms to remove restrictive funding barriers, and expanded transitional and supportive housing options.

Research into best and innovative practices for increasing housing supports for youth identified multiple strategies that can be used to achieve this recommendation. These were reviewed, refined, and augmented by providers and people who experienced homelessness as a youth. **By implementing these seven strategies, policy and decision-makers at all levels can increase the housing supports available for youth.**

Support legislation and funding for Host Home initiatives offering voluntary housing and services for YEH.

Host Homes provide a community-driven, compassionate, and cost-effective solution that offers immediate relief and long-term stability for these vulnerable youth. Host Homes are a model of care in which community members open their homes to young people in need of temporary housing. Unlike traditional shelters or institutional housing, Host Homes create a warm, family-like environment where youth can receive individualized support [15, 16]. Hosts are typically volunteers who undergo thorough screening and training to ensure they can provide a safe, stable, and nurturing space.

This approach is particularly beneficial for young people who may not thrive in larger shelter environments. Host Homes offer a more personalized and less intimidating setting, helping youth build trusting relationships with caring adults while maintaining connections to their communities, schools, and employment opportunities. This is particularly relevant for LGBTQ+ youth and for youth in rural Nevada who don't have access to shelters.

Advocate for and notify the public about youth-specific emergency shelters, monitor and, as warranted, expand funding for existing shelters.

It is estimated that there are as many as 33,432 young people who experience homelessness each year in Nevada. Although it is not possible to estimate how many of these young people may need emergency shelter on a given night, Nevada's inventory of approximately 173 dedicated youth beds in emergency shelters, all of which are located in the Reno-Sparks or Las Vegas areas, is not likely to be sufficient to meet the demand for emergency and immediate housing across the state.

Emergency shelter beds serve a critical role in the housing continuum as both a potential initial point of entry and as a way to protect young people from entering dangerous situations, such as living in an unsheltered situation or with people who are targeting them for nefarious purposes. Vouchers for emergency shelter solutions are needed in rural Nevada.

Providers and youth in Nevada agree that not only are more shelter beds needed during emergencies, but in the short-term, the public needs to know what shelter is available and how to access it. There was broad based agreement that more funding for shelters are needed, but youth emphasized the need to monitor shelters and ensure that they are serving youth appropriately as a condition of expanded funding. Youth cited concerns that shelters be safe, supportive, and tailored to the needs of youth.



“I have seen more YEH in the last few years than I ever before and their needs are magnified.”


— Rural Community Convening Participant

Regulate for safety and allow regulated shelters to immediately serve minors by delaying or waiving parental notification requirements and granting third-party temporary guardianship, as necessary.

National research supports policies that allow immediate shelter access for minors experiencing homelessness while delaying or waiving parental notification when necessary. This approach reduces harm, increases safety, and improves long-term outcomes for vulnerable youth. States that have implemented such measures have reported increased shelter utilization and reduced youth victimization. Providers and youth both supported this strategy as a way to ensure youth are safely housed in an emergency housing situation. It is important that states have regulations to ensure safety and to prevent victimization of youth, particularly when housed in an adult serving shelter. However, youth in this study strongly recommended that steps be taken to ensure the safety of youth in both adult and youth serving shelters.

States with flexible parental notification laws have seen improved service engagement without significant legal complications. Some states allow third-party guardianship in cases where minors lack a safe alternative, which can help youth access critical services like healthcare and education. Programs that offer low-barrier access to shelter and services increase engagement with supportive resources, including education, healthcare, and counseling.

Delaying parental notification does not significantly increase family separation but allows time for trained professionals to work toward family reunification or alternative safe placements. Studies indicate that requiring parental consent or notification often prevents minors from seeking help, especially in cases of family conflict, abuse, or neglect.



NRS 244.421-429 (commonly called Nevada’s “Right to Shelter” law) was passed in 2001 and allows youth shelters to provide necessary services to runaway and homeless minors with immunity from civil liability.

There is a liability in working with minors...there were insurance and liability and parental rights issues and vulnerability to lawsuits/litigation that providers were worried about and this may have discouraged folks from providing services and shelter...”

— Rural Community Convening Participant

Fund and supply at least 1,000 additional permanent housing units in Nevada for youth.

Permanent housing, which includes both rapid rehousing (RRH) and permanent housing (PH) with support services, is also referred to in research studies as supportive housing. Permanent housing is a proven intervention that combines affordable housing with tailored support services, aiming to assist individuals experiencing homelessness, including youth, in achieving housing stability and improved well-being. One RRH program indicated that 65.5% of participants had successful RRH outcomes for youth who had experienced homelessness [17].

The results from a literature review of a number of studies of housing interventions notes that,

“The studies about emergency shelters indicated emergency crisis shelters provide short-term benefits for youth including access to employment, education, housing, mental health services, permanent connections, health care, and legal support as well as establishing relationships and/or contact with family members, and decreasing substance use over the long term. Although the programs provided youth with short-term support, research examining the long-term impacts of emergency crisis shelters was inconclusive.

The results from studies about supportive housing programs indicated they provided youth with feelings of stability which enabled youth to focus on their needs or goals. Overall, youth who entered supportive housing programs described increases in their happiness, improvements in mental and physical health, and decreased rates of substance use. Additionally, youth also described forming positive staff and peer relationships. Research about supportive housing programs suggested that youth may benefit immediately from entering supportive housing programs.

TLPs may also contribute to youths’ positive educational, employment, and housing outcomes and help youth foster positive relations with staff. The research supports increasing access to permanent housing for youth experiencing homelessness and notes the benefits of transitional housing. Such programs lead to higher rates of stable housing, reduced reliance on emergency services, and improved mental health and economic outcomes [18].”

Consumers in a Housing First model access housing faster and are more likely to remain stably housed. This is true for both permanent supportive housing (PSH) and rapid re-housing programs. PSH has a one-year housing retention rate of up to 98 percent. Studies have shown that rapid re-housing helps people exit homelessness quickly—in one study, an average of two months—and remain housed. A variety of studies have shown that between 75 percent and 91 percent of households remain housed a year after being rapidly re-housed [13].

A pivotal study titled “Housing First for Homeless Youth with Mental Illness,” published in *Pediatrics*, evaluated the impact of the Housing First model on youth aged 18 to 24 years. The study found that youth who received Housing First interventions were stably housed for 65% of the study period, compared to 31% for those receiving treatment as usual [19]. This significant improvement underscores the effectiveness of the Housing First approach in enhancing housing stability among homeless youth with mental illness.

Finally, an evaluation by Point Source Youth of rapid rehousing programs in cities like Baltimore, Atlanta, Detroit, and New York found that after one year: [93]

- Employment among participants increased from 56% to 85%.
- The percentage of youth feeling safe where they slept rose from 65% to 85%.
- Stress related to finding a place to sleep dropped from 40% to 2%.
- The proportion identifying as homeless decreased from 82% to 15%.

The [Funding Costs and Opportunities](#) section of this report notes that Nevada needs additional permanent housing units to address youth homelessness. According to the HUD *Issue Brief on Housing Models for Serving Youth Experiencing Homelessness*: Learning from HUD’s Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (2022), permanent housing should be customized to account for the unique needs of youth which can address challenges common for YEH by providing stable housing and access to services such as education, employment training, and behavioral health care. “Moreover, providers strongly suggest that the options need to be tailored to youth’s specific needs and not reflect implementation of adult models [15].”



“Stability is important – we need more permanent housing, especially for children who are underage. Otherwise children just get put into the system and the system is too full right now.”

— Person with Experience of Youth Homelessness

Fund and mandate support services for formerly unhoused youth, including wraparound care, mental health supports, and peer mentoring.

Providers participating in the study and other research indicate that funding and mandating support services for youth as they are accessing shelter or housing—such as wraparound care, mental health supports, and peer mentoring—improves long-term stability, reduces homelessness recurrence, and enhances well-being. Programs that provide flexible, trauma-informed, and youth-led services show the highest success rates in preventing future homelessness.

The Chapin Hall Voices of Youth Count study found that comprehensive, youth-centered services are needed and were identified by young people as essential. These services organized around four major themes: a) housing; b) jobs and education; c) informal support (individual, family, peer, and structural); and d) personal changes. Youth clearly conveyed that structural supports—housing, jobs, and education—are critical foundations to ending the instability these youth face. But alone, these foundations were insufficient to ensuring the end of their instability [45].

Programs that integrate housing with supportive services as described above, see greater long-term housing stability; youth who receive wraparound care have better employment outcomes and higher rates of self-sufficiency. On-site or easily accessible mental health services significantly reduce symptoms and improve engagement in education and employment. Trauma-informed care and low-barrier mental health interventions increase service retention and effectiveness. Peer mentors with lived experience are particularly effective in encouraging youth to stay engaged with services and avoid re-entering homelessness [20]. Programs like Youth Villages' LifeSet have demonstrated that structured mentoring and case management improve education, employment, and housing stability [21].

Invest more in early intervention models, such as family reunification for youth.

Research consistently shows that investing in early intervention models, such as family reunification, significantly reduces long-term homelessness, improves youth well-being, and lowers overall system costs [22]. By providing timely support before youth become chronically homeless, these strategies prevent further instability and increase the likelihood of long-term success.

Research from around the world is validating the efficacy of many early intervention policies, program areas, and practices, which have proven their value within community responses to youth homelessness and have shaped coordinated plans or strategies aimed at shifting the trajectory of young people's lives. Early intervention strategies should be enhanced to keep young people 'in place' in their communities, where they can receive support from friends, family, and other natural supports. These early intervention efforts can divert young people from entering emergency shelters and mainstream homelessness services, help them stay in school, improve their wellness and social inclusion, and help repair difficult relationships with family or other natural supports, if safe, appropriate, and desired by the young person [22].

In Canada, the Family Reconnect Program has shown that many participants renew contact with family members, leading to improved housing stability and mental health outcomes. Data from this program indicate that out of 126 youth served, 37 returned to family, 22 moved to private housing, and 17 transitioned to supportive housing, suggesting that approximately 59% of participants achieved stable housing through family reconnection or supportive placements.

Family intervention models, such as the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Administration for Children and Families' Family and Youth Services Bureau's Family Unification Program (FUP), are designed to assist youth in foster care with securing housing. The primary purpose of FUP for Youth (FUPY) is "to subsidize housing for young people ages 18 to 24 who left foster care at age 16 or older and have not yet secured adequate housing." HUD awards FUP vouchers to public housing agencies (PHAs) that partner with public child welfare agencies (PCWAs) and continuums of care (CoCs) to administer FUP (for families and young people) [23].

Research shows that this approach leads to greater housing stability, increased self-sufficiency, and improved mental health outcomes for LGBTQ+ youth, as they receive both the immediate housing and long-term support necessary for successful reintegration into society [24].

Provide housing navigators and support for youth transitioning from temporary to permanent housing.

Housing navigators and structured transition support has been identified by providers and youth as a key component necessary to help YEH move from temporary to permanent housing. Achieving permanent housing has been linked to greater success rates for youth achieving stable housing [25]. Housing navigators provide personalized assistance, guiding youth through housing searches, lease agreements, and independent living skills, while also connecting them with essential services. Studies indicate that these supports significantly improve housing stability, employment, and overall well-being for youth exiting homelessness.

The First Place for Youth program combines housing, education, employment and life skills support including housing navigators. In fiscal year 2024, they served 550 youth across six California counties through My First Place, and 97% achieved stable housing as they exited the program. Programs that integrate housing navigators report higher rates of lease retention and lower eviction risks, as navigators help youth build relationships with landlords, secure deposits, and understand lease agreements [26].

Programs providing life skills training, financial literacy education, and rental assistance navigation aim to help youth maintain stable housing. The Youth Homeless Demonstration Project funded youth receiving post-housing support services for youth to increase employment rates and self-sufficiency through that assistance [15]. Housing navigators aim to help youth secure income through employment or benefits, which is crucial for long-term housing stability.

Leadership, funding, and infrastructure at the state level are needed to create viable pathways to end youth homelessness.

The Critical Need for Leadership, Funding, and Infrastructure in Nevada to End Youth Homelessness

States that have successfully addressed youth homelessness often benefit from strong leadership at the state level, sufficient and sustainable funding, and an organized infrastructure that supports youth across multiple areas of their lives.

Nevada currently lacks the necessary infrastructure, leadership, and funding to effectively address youth homelessness. There is no dedicated state entity or unified approach across state divisions or county agencies to prevent and end youth homelessness, and no clear executive-level commitment to tackle the issue. Additionally, key initiatives and sufficient funding for youth-specific resources are not in place, and state-funded programs lack comprehensive policies for accessible, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive services. The absence of systematic data collection further hampers the ability to understand and address youth homelessness in a coordinated and impactful way.

Nevada has McKinney-Vento liaisons in each school district across Nevada. In addition, three Continuums of Care (CoCs) operate within Nevada covering Clark County, Washoe County, and the 15 remaining counties that comprise the balance of the state. The McKinney-Vento program is supported by the Nevada Department of Education, while the CoCs are operated through jurisdictions and counties in Nevada. The Division of Welfare and Supportive Services provides administrative support to the Interagency Council on Homelessness to Housing. The Council is responsible for collaborating with federal, state, and local agencies to develop the Nevada Housing Crisis Response System, establish a strategic plan to address housing insecurity, and increase awareness on issues related to homelessness.

Youth homelessness is a concern for the CoCs and the Council but not its primary focus. Similarly, the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) addresses support needs for YEH but does not serve as a direct housing resource for the youth they serve. Coordination and strategic direction rely largely on the nonprofit sector and the work of NPHY, which informs and works with the Nevada Department of Education, the Continuum of Care, and the Council, but is not empowered to direct resources, build or manage infrastructure, or coordinate leadership across existing state and local systems.

Infrastructure needs identified through the study include policies and legislation to remove barriers to housing across the state, a revised coordinated entry system in all jurisdictions to prioritize youth, the establishment of a universal data system to track outcomes related to success for YEH, funding to support a continuum of housing options, and the need for a state entity to plan, track, and publicize progress and issues related to YEH.

Addressing youth homelessness is a complex issue that requires coordinated efforts in **leadership, funding, and infrastructure** to create lasting solutions. Research and case studies consistently show that

these three elements are critical to the success of statewide efforts to combat homelessness among young people. Below is a breakdown of how each factor contributes to an ideal system for addressing this issue.

Leadership

Effective leadership is vital in ensuring that youth homelessness is not only addressed but eradicated. Leaders at the state level must prioritize the issue and mobilize resources across various sectors, including education, housing, healthcare, and social services. Leadership provides direction, sets clear goals, and brings stakeholders together to work collaboratively. Successful programs often have a committed champion or leadership team that drives policy reform, secures resources, and creates systems to prevent youth homelessness. Additionally, states like California and Massachusetts have implemented state-level strategies, driven by leadership, that have focused on policies that create pathways for stable housing, mental health services, and job opportunities [27, 28]. In Nevada, existing cross-sector partnerships, such as through the Movement to End Youth Homelessness, could be leveraged to support state leadership activities.

Funding

Adequate funding is crucial to create and maintain programs that provide immediate shelter, long-term housing, and supportive services for homeless youth. The Annie E. Casey Foundation emphasizes that coordinated efforts by funders and policymakers are essential to provide comprehensive support to YEH. The Annie E. Casey Foundation Research on Improving Outcomes for Homeless Youth highlights that investment in programs that assist youth to exit homelessness have the potential to yield high returns for youth and their communities [29, 3].

The National Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, which provides federal funding for youth homelessness programs, has supported a variety of services that include emergency shelter, street outreach, and transitional living programs [30]. Other states including California [31], Washington [32], and Oregon [33] have enacted and funded services for YEH, which complements the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act and which could ensure additional funding and services specifically for YEH.

A report by the National Low Income Housing Coalition underscores the importance of investing in affordable housing as a critical component of reducing homelessness [14]. Without dedicated state funding, many state and local governments cannot implement or sustain successful intervention programs for youth. Nevada does not have any dedicated funding specific to addressing YEH.


Infrastructure

Statewide infrastructure ranging from data collection systems to community services and housing programs ensures that resources are available, accessible, and effective for YEH. The Chapin Hall Voices of Youth Count issued a research brief on *Missed Opportunities: Youth Homelessness in America*. This brief outlines five recommendations, which include infrastructure needs essential in preventing youth homelessness and supporting those who are homeless [2].


Infrastructure includes:

- Coordinated entry systems that ensure homeless youth are quickly connected to appropriate services.
- Housing-first models that prioritize stable housing before other services, which have been proven to be effective in various states.
- Interagency collaborations between departments of education, social services, and housing that address the unique needs of homeless youth.

The evaluation of the HUD Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program published by HUD found that states participating in the demonstration program had challenges with infrastructure including engaging providers, engaging youth, defining roles, and collecting and reporting data [34].



Clark County has had a coordinated entry process tailored to youth since 2017. They are revamping the process to make it more equitable, youth-centered, trauma-informed, effective, and efficient. Clark County serves the majority of youth in the state and their coordinated entry system has been operational the longest, serving the most youth. The other two coordinated entry systems in the state are monitoring the changes Clark County is developing.



“Our community and local resources come together to create ways to support individuals, but it is not enough; we desperately need more support [with] funding, resources, staffing.”

— Provider Focus Group Participant

To address the lack of statewide leadership, funding, and infrastructure, Nevada should

Prioritize, fund, and track key initiatives to end youth homelessness, ensuring the provision of youth-specific resources and incorporating youth voice in implementation.

The Path Forward

Addressing the long-term systems issues in Nevada to meet the needs of youth experiencing homelessness requires a multipronged approach, including increased investment in youth-specific housing programs, policy reforms to remove restrictive funding barriers, and expanded transitional and supportive housing options. Research on state leadership and funding for addressing youth homelessness highlights that comprehensive, coordinated, and well-funded statewide strategies are critical to achieving meaningful outcomes. States that adopt clear mandates, establish dedicated entities, set measurable goals, and incorporate community input are more likely to make sustainable progress in preventing and ending youth homelessness.

Multiple strategies can be used to achieve this recommendation. The following strategies were reviewed, refined, and augmented by providers and people who experienced homelessness as a youth. **By implementing these five strategies, policy and decision-makers at all levels can develop a statewide infrastructure positioned to end youth homelessness.**

Mandate no-to-low barrier housing and services by removing strict criteria, improving accessibility, and reducing obstacles.

Youth are more likely to remain housed and stable when they can access housing without preconditions like sobriety, employment, or education. These policies to promote access help prevent the cycle of homelessness and allow youth to focus on long-term stability through supportive services like mental health care, education, and job training.

Research consistently supports the notion that removing strict eligibility criteria for housing and services leads to better outcomes for YEH. Policies like those adopted through the Housing First model have been shown to reduce entry barriers and provide immediate stability, which is essential for youth who may face additional challenges such as trauma, legal involvement, or lack of documentation, such as birth certificates, social security cards, student or state identification cards, as noted by both youth and providers throughout the study [35, 36]. The National Alliance to End Homelessness has demonstrated that low-barrier approaches result in better housing retention, reduced mental health symptoms, and fewer incidents of substance abuse and criminal justice system involvement [35].

Create a unified approach and statewide plan, incorporating Model State Statutes and waivers, to prevent and end youth homelessness; establish a dedicated state entity, set goals, and ensure regional input; and publicize statewide approaches to communities across Nevada.

States with a unified approach and comprehensive plan can streamline services, minimize duplication, and reduce barriers to access. For example, creating an integrated statewide plan that connects housing services with education and healthcare increases the likelihood that youth will receive all the support they need to remain stable.

A unified, state-level approach is crucial to addressing youth homelessness effectively. The HUD-funded Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program highlights that states that coordinate across agencies (e.g., housing, education, and child welfare) achieve better outcomes [15]. For example, the California Coalition for Youth has unveiled a comprehensive 5-year plan aimed at reducing and ultimately eliminating youth homelessness by 2029. Over the past five years, California has invested nearly \$476 million to tackle youth homelessness. These funds have been directed toward innovative programs and services that provide immediate shelter, long-term housing, and wraparound support [37].

Establishing a dedicated state entity, such as a standalone office focused on youth homelessness, has been identified by youth and providers throughout the study as important. One example is seen in Washington's Homeless Youth and Young Adult Services, which is essential for prioritizing youth needs [32] [38]. The incorporation of regional input through mechanisms like local homeless youth councils ensures that state plans are informed by local realities and specific regional needs.


States with a dedicated entity focused on youth homelessness are able to coordinate services and direct funding toward initiatives that directly address youth-specific needs. Additionally, ensuring regional input helps tailor programs to reflect the diverse challenges faced by homeless youth across different communities, leading to more effective interventions and better service delivery. For example, between 2016 and 2022, homelessness among people ages 12–24 in Washington decreased by 40% from nearly 24,000 to just over 14,000, according to the report by the state Office of Homeless Youth — which was created in 2015 — and A Way Home Washington [39, 40]. This reduction was attributed, in part, to emergency cash grants administered by the state entity.

Publicizing statewide approaches and implementing Model State Statutes can lead to greater opportunities for YEH as issues that impact many, if not all, YEH are addressed to promote access to services. This includes statues around education, employment, income supports, access to health care, housing and services, and vital documents essential for establishing youth as the authority on their lives. This visibility also ensures that YEH are aware of services they might not otherwise know about, thus improving access to housing and support services [41].

Establish a state-level Youth Advisory Board.

Involving youth in the policymaking process increases the likelihood that services will be relevant, accessible, and beneficial. Youth who have a voice in the design of programs also feel more empowered, which can improve engagement with services and enhance program outcomes.

The creation of a state-level *Youth Advisory Board*, as seen in states like Minnesota and Oregon, is a best practice for ensuring that policies are youth-centered and reflective of their lived experiences, with research from other states showing that youth participation in decision-making leads to more effective policies and programs [42]. This includes paying youth for their time and providing logistical support and training to members to assist them in being successful in their roles. This finding is consistent with lessons learned in working with the Nevada Youth Advisory Group throughout the two year study.



NPHY, via an \$800,000 federal grant, is currently collaborating with all three CoCs and many other entities to create a statewide Youth Advisory Board and to develop a statewide Nevada Plan to End Youth Homelessness.

Provide mandatory trainings and set standards for state programs to be trauma-informed, age-appropriate, culturally sensitive, and gender-responsive.

State programs that incorporate mandatory, ongoing training for staff ensure that youth receive high-quality, responsive care. Training programs focused on making services trauma-informed, age-appropriate, culturally sensitive, and gender-responsive are vital for addressing the diverse needs of YEH. The Chapin Hall report emphasized an opportunity to strengthen an array of statutory areas—such as RHYA and HEARTH Act—by incorporating in each the importance of using data and tailoring outreach, staff recruitment or development, and service models mindful of race and ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, and pregnancy or parenting status. Providers who are trained in these areas are better able to engage youth and provide effective, individualized care. Youth emphasized the importance of staff training in listening sessions to review recommendations [15].

Develop and implement a plan to enhance data collection on youth homelessness and fund a YEH study every five years.

A review of literature for this study underscores the importance of robust data collection and analysis to understand the scope of youth homelessness and assess the effectiveness of interventions [15, 43]. A number of reports and meta-analyses noted the lack of longitudinal, outcome data, or noted that evaluation of modalities often did not apply directly to youth as defined by the study. The U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness has recommended that states adopt consistent and comprehensive data collection mechanisms, particularly those that capture youth-specific experiences and needs [44].

States that invest in enhanced data collection can better monitor trends, track outcomes, and make data-driven decisions to allocate resources effectively. Regular studies, like this one, allow policymakers to assess long-term progress and adjust strategies accordingly. Because youths' circumstances change so significantly between the ages of 12 to 24, youth in Nevada who reviewed these strategies requested that the recommendation incorporate a study of youth every five years.

Youth experiencing homelessness need access to resources, support services, and education, to achieve long-term self-sufficiency.


The Critical Need to Assist Youth in Nevada in Accessing Resources to Achieve Self-Sufficiency

Homeless youth face profound and overlapping challenges that inhibit their ability to succeed academically, enter the workforce, and achieve long-term stability. Research shows that without access to basic needs like money, healthcare, support with education, career planning, and employment, these young people are at significant risk for long-term disadvantage [15, 45]. These circumstances are all deeply interconnected and impact young people in profound ways. Providing comprehensive support services, including financial assistance, educational resources, career guidance, and healthcare, is essential to help youth overcome these barriers and break the cycle of homelessness.

Lack of Access to Money, Credit, and Housing

Homeless youth often lack the financial means to meet their basic needs, including food, shelter, transportation, and clothing. Without steady income or financial support, they struggle to save money, build credit, or pay for housing. According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, young people who experience homelessness are often unable to build the financial foundation necessary to secure stable housing and transition to independence [46, 47]. Without access to money, they may rely on unsafe or temporary living situations, further exacerbating their risk of exploitation and vulnerability.

Homeless youth often miss opportunities to learn financial literacy, which leaves them ill-equipped to manage financial responsibilities in adulthood. Without the ability to build credit, securing long-term housing, car loans, or even some job opportunities becomes a major hurdle.




“We need to break some of the cycles when they are in the youth system because they don’t have the support services...it’s not just about housing, it’s about how do we plant those seeds for success and help them move on.”

— Community Convening Participant

Educational Challenges – Catching Up on Credits, Graduation, and Career Planning

Youth experiencing homelessness face significant barriers in education. They often switch schools frequently, experience gaps in their education, and struggle to maintain their academic performance. According to a report from The Institute for Children, Poverty, and Homelessness, homeless youth are more likely to fall behind in school, have higher dropout rates, and face difficulty staying on track to graduate [48, 45, 47]. Frequent school changes can disrupt learning, while also impacting their emotional and mental health. Youth.gov emphasizes that homeless youth often need additional support services to catch up on credits, plan for graduation, and make post-graduation plans, such as career exploration or attending college [49]. These supports include tutoring, counseling, stable housing, and strong school-enrollment policies.

For many homeless youth, pursuing higher education seems like an insurmountable challenge due to issues with acceptance, financial aid, and the ability to stay enrolled until they complete a degree. A 2018 report from The National Center for Homeless Education indicates that homeless students face significant barriers to higher education, including difficulties in applying for college and accessing financial aid [50]. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid can be a particular barrier because homeless youth often lack the documentation needed to prove their living situation or family income. According to the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth, even once they are accepted, homeless students often struggle with retention and graduation [51]. They may face difficulties with housing stability, transportation, and balancing the demands of education while managing their trauma or emotional challenges.

A graphic on the left side of the page shows the silhouettes of a group of young people of various ethnicities and ages standing together. The silhouettes are in shades of blue and grey.


“Some youth aren’t positioned to succeed after graduating high school. They haven’t learned life skills from home or from school, such as completing taxes, paying bills, etc.”

— Person with Experience of Youth Homelessness


Lack of Access to Resources, Financial Resources, Support Services, and Education Prevent Long Term Self-Sufficiency for Youth in Nevada

Many homeless youth do not have a steady income source, making it difficult to meet basic needs such as food, clothing, and hygiene, let alone pay for housing. Providing access to income (through job training, employment opportunities, and financial assistance programs) helps youth build financial stability and develop essential life skills. Without steady income, it is hard for youth to save money for future housing, emergencies, or long-term financial security.

They also may lack financial literacy skills, making it harder for them to budget or manage money effectively. Financial support and education can empower youth to manage their finances, providing long-term benefits in terms of independence and reducing reliance on public assistance. Homeless youth often lack a credit history, making it difficult to secure housing, obtain loans, or even open a bank account. Programs that help youth establish credit history can open doors to future financial opportunities, such as renting an apartment or securing a loan for education or transportation. Youth who have steady income and a credit history will be better positioned to secure housing and avoid the cycle of homelessness.



In 2023, Nevada passed Assembly Bill 274 (AB274), which mandates financial literacy instruction within public high school economics curricula, which could help to support financial literacy. However, this law currently reflects an unfunded mandate, with implementation of programming falling to schools that may not have sufficient resources available to support implementation.



“The case manager did a lot to try to get me to a better place in life – they [are] always there for [me] when I need help.”

“...case managers...just the way they treat you is whether you feel accepted or not. If you feel safe with a person, then [you’ll] feel you’ll be able to move on...comfortable enough to get into a better place.”

— People with Experience of Youth Homelessness

To address insufficient access to resources, services, education, and stability, Nevada should

Develop systems and policies that ensure access to financial resources for food, transportation, housing, and other basic needs, and implement a comprehensive support system to address individualized youth needs.

The Path Forward

Housing alone is not sufficient for supporting youth to achieve stability and permanency. Multiple strategies can be used to achieve this recommendation. The following strategies were reviewed, refined, and augmented by providers and people who experienced homelessness as a youth. **By implementing the following strategies, policy and decision-makers at all levels can increase the supportive service network available for youth experiencing homelessness.**

Remove barriers to financial sustainability for youth experiencing homelessness.

Establish a Direct Cash Transfer (DCT) or Guaranteed Basic Income (GBI) Program for youth at risk for or experiencing housing instability.

DCT and GBI programs provide immediate financial relief for youth, helping to alleviate the financial pressures associated with housing instability. These programs allow youth to use funds for immediate needs such as rent, food, and transportation, which can prevent eviction or homelessness. Cash transfers can help reduce homelessness and housing instability by providing financial relief, especially when youth face challenges like unemployment or underemployment [52, 53]. The financial cushion provided by cash transfers allows individuals to meet their basic needs, thus preventing them from falling deeper into poverty and homelessness.

The financial stability provided by direct cash transfers can have a significant positive impact on mental health as well. Homeless and housing-insecure youth often face stress, anxiety, and depression due to their unstable living conditions. A draft from USC's Homeless Policy Research Institute found that GBI programs reduced income instability, improved mental health, and resulted in higher rates of full-time employment. These programs reduce stress and anxiety related to financial instability [54]. Youth participants reported feeling less stressed about their immediate future, and many saw improvements in their overall well-being [52].

For YEH, basic needs such as food, clothing, transportation, and shelter are often difficult to meet without consistent income. Direct cash transfers provide flexible resources that allow youth to use the funds where they are most needed. These resources are particularly important because they enable youth to make decisions that suit their individual circumstances, rather than being limited to specific services that may not always align with their immediate needs.

Research from the Chapin Hall report suggests that providing cash transfers to homeless individuals allows them to address urgent needs such as purchasing food, paying for transportation, and securing temporary housing [52]. Federal programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) assists with purchasing food; however, it does not help with other needs outside of food and is only a supplement for food expenses.

Cash transfers can provide youth with the financial freedom to focus on their education or job search without the constant pressure to meet basic needs. This can lead to better educational outcomes and higher employment rates in the long run, which is critical for breaking the cycle of homelessness. One of the significant benefits of cash transfers and GBI programs is the potential to reduce the likelihood of youth returning to homelessness. By providing a stable source of income, these programs can help youth avoid entering a cycle of chronic homelessness and create long-term pathways to stability.

Provide beginner-friendly and incentivized financial counseling to youth regarding credit, housing program eligibility, banking, procuring and managing student loans, etc. including in schools, especially for youth experiencing homelessness.

Providing beginner-friendly and incentivized financial counseling to all youth in educational settings and particularly to youth at risk of or experiencing housing instability has multiple benefits, including increased financial literacy, improved housing stability, better access to student loans and financial aid, enhanced employment outcomes, and improved mental health. Youth who participated in the study strongly encouraged “beginner-friendly and financially incentivized” financial counseling. These programs not only address immediate financial needs but also equip youth with the tools they need for long-term financial independence, which is crucial for breaking the cycle of homelessness.

Banking education is particularly important for youth, as it helps them understand how to manage their money in an institutional setting, build savings, and avoid costly financial mistakes, such as overdraft fees or payday loans. This is crucial for housing stability, as having a bank account can simplify the process of paying rent and managing utility bills.

Providing financial counseling can help youth understand eligibility requirements for various housing programs, including subsidized housing, rapid rehousing, and permanent supportive housing. Many housing programs have stringent requirements related to income, savings, and credit history.


Financial literacy resources in schools have been identified as a crucial tool for supporting YEH. These programs can help youth develop essential skills for managing money, as well as understanding credit, saving, and navigating housing and educational costs, which are often significant barriers for homeless youth. Financial literacy resources in schools provide homeless youth with essential tools for managing their finances, navigating housing and financial aid programs, and securing a stable future.

Financial literacy programs can increase a student's ability to qualify for housing programs, grants, and other financial support resources that they might otherwise struggle to access. For homeless youth, gaining these skills can lead to greater independence and reduce the likelihood of returning to homelessness.

Remove barriers to housing and supportive services in school settings.

Appropriate funding for schools to provide direct financial or housing assistance to students at risk of homelessness based on the number of students experiencing homelessness.

Direct financial assistance and housing support help stabilize students' living situations, which allows them to focus on their education. Furthermore, targeted funding ensures that schools can implement effective programs tailored to the unique needs of homeless students, leading to improved academic achievement, reduced absenteeism, and higher graduation rates. A report from the Learning Policy Institute noted that, "findings point to the lack of funding as one of the primary barriers to providing students experiencing homelessness with the education that they are entitled to and need. Because the most effective way to mitigate the negative effects of experiencing homelessness on students is to prevent it, policymakers should ensure that financial resources are available to communities and schools to help keep students and their families housed [55]."



Legislation for Nevada to adopt and enforce educational protections for students experiencing homelessness that may be eliminated at the federal level was introduced in the 2025 legislative session (AB494).


Universally screen for risk of housing instability in schools (e.g., within the multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS) model). Universal screening for housing instability within an MTSS framework enables early identification of youth who may be at risk of homelessness. By identifying these students early, schools can provide timely interventions that help prevent housing instability from escalating into homelessness, reducing the academic, social, and emotional challenges that often accompany housing crises. Screening youth for risk of housing instability within school settings, especially when integrated into frameworks like MTSS, has been shown to yield positive outcomes for both identifying at-risk students early and providing targeted interventions. MTSS is a proactive, layered approach that provides academic, behavioral, and social-emotional support, and integrating housing instability screening ensures that schools can offer necessary resources to stabilize students' housing situations before they develop into more serious crises.

A report titled, "Addressing Social Influencers of Health and Education Using a Multi-Tiered System of Supports Framework" notes that "research confirms that implementing prevention and health promotion programs, as well as delivering services in schools, improves access and reduces barriers to services, increases utilization and follow-up, reduces stigma, and is associated with a host of positive health and education outcomes." The report suggests including screening for housing insecurity as an important social influencer of health and education (SIHE).

Offer or expand mental health resources in schools, especially for YEH.

The SchoolHouse Connection notes that, “despite their heightened risk for self-harm and suicide, children and youth experiencing homelessness face barriers to accessing mental health services: high mobility, lack of transportation, and lack of connectivity can prevent them from getting the help they need. If students experiencing homelessness are not identified by schools, they miss out on critical protections and services — including mental health services [56].”

Mental health services in schools can help improve emotional well-being, reduce behavioral issues, enhance academic performance, and prevent chronic absenteeism. Integrating trauma-informed care and social-emotional learning into school-based mental health services provides a holistic approach to supporting homeless youth in overcoming the challenges they face. Access to mental health services in schools helps address these issues early, promoting emotional stability and better behavior. School staff might consider implementing policies and practices for housing, insurance, legal needs, and health and mental health services for students experiencing unstable housing [57].



“Another resource that is missing is mental health help. Youth have gone through mental health struggles, but resources and help were not really stressed to them. [They] need...healthy outlets to express how they feel.”

— Person with Experience of Youth Homelessness

Consider students' circumstances stemming from experiencing homelessness when determining whether and how to impose disciplinary actions.

Advocates emphasize that disciplinary actions for students experiencing homelessness should consider their unique circumstances, including the trauma and instability they face. These students often experience stress, mental health challenges, and behavioral issues related to their housing instability, which can impact their behavior in school.

The Voices of Youth Count study by Chapin Hall reported that youth experiencing homelessness often display behavioral problems linked to trauma and instability [58]. The study advocates for schools to recognize the underlying causes of these behaviors and to implement trauma-informed approaches rather than relying on punitive disciplinary actions. Trauma-informed practices in schools help educators understand the impact of homelessness and other traumas on students' behavior. When school disciplinary policies are trauma-informed, they can help address the root causes of behavioral issues and offer support instead of punitive measures.

Enhance transitions between schools, implement Community Schools Model, and offer protections for YEH in public settings.

Youth experiencing homelessness often face frequent school transitions due to unstable living situations. These transitions are disruptive to their education, leading to gaps in learning, social isolation, and emotional distress. Smooth transitions provide continuity in education for homeless youth.

The McKinney Vento Act ensures that students experiencing homelessness have the right to immediate school enrollment, regardless of missing documents or residency, and to remain in their school of origin even if their family moves. The Act also provides for free transportation and support for academic success [59]. However, it's not always effectively implemented or experienced in practice due to factors like lack of awareness, inadequate training for school personnel, poor communication between school districts, and insufficient funding [55].

YEH may move multiple times during a school year, which can negatively impact academic progress, relationships, and mental health. The Community Schools Model provides a holistic, integrated approach to addressing the educational, social, and emotional needs of students. By connecting students to community resources, the model helps stabilize their home lives, which in turn improves their ability to focus on learning.

YEH may face heightened discrimination and exclusion in public settings, which can exacerbate their struggles. Legal protections such as nondiscrimination policies, access to shelter, and anti-bullying protections in schools can help safeguard their rights and improve their overall well-being.

Provide a cash incentive for youth who graduate high school or earn a GED.

Research suggests that providing cash incentives to homeless youth who graduate high school or earn a high school equivalency can offer significant benefits, such as increased graduation rates, reduced financial barriers, improved mental health, and long-term socioeconomic mobility [60]. These incentives

can range from \$1,000 to 2,500. For example, the "Opportunity NYC" program offered up to \$1,000 for high school graduation.

As of May 2025, Nevadaworks, the Workforce Development Board serving Northern Nevada, offers cash incentives to participants in its Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth Program who achieve significant educational milestones [61].

Consider the Equitable Education Achievement Act from the American Bar Association (ABA) Model State Statutes for added YEH protections.

The Equitable Education Achievement Act from the ABA Model State Statutes provides a framework for protecting the educational rights of YEH. While there may not be direct studies on the implementation of this specific act, research supports many of the principles underlying this type of legislation, particularly in ensuring equitable access to education, stability, and legal protections for youth at risk of or experiencing homelessness. One of the primary goals of the Equitable Education Achievement Act is to protect the educational stability of YEH.

Legal protections, such as those proposed in the Equitable Education Achievement Act, are critical for ensuring that YEH do not face discrimination or additional barriers to education. Many states still lack sufficient legal safeguards to ensure that YEH receive the same opportunities as their housed peers. Research by the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty highlights that, while federal protections under the McKinney-Vento Act provide essential legal rights, many youth are still unaware of their rights or face challenges accessing necessary resources [62]. A needed strategy is to ensure that McKinney Vento youth are aware of their essential legal rights. State-level statutory protections, like those proposed in the ABA's model, can reduce barriers to education by ensuring that youth are informed of their rights and have consistent access to support services. Moreover, adding protections for YEH within state statutes promotes systemic changes to ensure educational equality, addressing long-standing issues like discrimination and exclusion.

NPHY is partnering with global law firm Baker McKenzie to develop a *Homeless Youth Handbook*, joining 13 other states that have already created state-specific guides that provide homeless youth with information about their rights, responsibilities, and resources in every major aspect of their lives.

"The Youth Bill of Rights to provide more autonomy in certain situations is good."

— Community Convening Participant

Remove Barriers to Post Secondary Education for YEH.

Prioritize funding for campus housing for youth with current or past homelessness and ensure housing stability for YEH with dorm access, free meals, kitchens, and affordable break housing.

U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has noted that lack of housing is a barrier to success for youth attending college who are housing insecure [63]. Housing insecurity, often in tandem with related issues such as food insecurity, acts as a barrier for student success. A policy recommendation in the Hope Survey Report notes that since 2005, HUD public and assisted housing programs and the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) have contained rules that prevent the vast majority of college students under age 24 from receiving support, based on the mistaken assumption that all college students have access to on-campus housing or are otherwise financially supported by their family. The report calls for Congress to remove a damaging policy routinely included in the HUD appropriations bill, which denies housing access to students, and pass the Housing for Homeless Students Act, which would allow students to live in LIHTC housing if they've experienced homelessness within the last seven years. Access to campus housing and nutritious meals can improve the academic performance of homeless students. The Hope Study also calls for students to have access to free or affordable meals and break housing during school vacations, as they are more likely to remain enrolled and focused on their academic goals [64]. The HUD *Barriers to Success: Housing Insecurity for U.S. College Students* report notes that, “many college students struggle to find adequate, affordable housing options near their campus, and at least 56,000 college students are homeless.” The report goes on to state that recent studies found a statistically significant relationship between students' housing and retention from their first year to second year of college which impacts educational outcomes [63].

Mandate homelessness liaisons at post-secondary institutions to assist students experiencing homelessness.

Homelessness liaisons play a critical role in identifying students who are experiencing homelessness and connecting them with appropriate resources. Making homeless liaisons available at post-secondary institutions could assist students in applying for and receiving financial aid, accessing housing support, and remaining in school long term.


Exempt unhoused students from tuition and/or fees.

Tuition exemptions and fee waivers are powerful tools in reducing the financial burden for homeless students, enabling them to pursue and complete their education without the added stress of unaffordable costs. This is particularly crucial given that homeless students often lack family support and have limited access to private financial resources.

One study noted that, “educational training vouchers (ETVs) are another strategy used to support the educational outcomes of youth at risk of homelessness to pursue postsecondary education. ETVs increase the enrollment and success in postsecondary educational programs of youth in foster care and those who have aged out of care [65, 66]. A policy that states have used for youth in foster care and those who experience homelessness care is a tuition waiver program designed to reduce the financial burden of

postsecondary education and promote access [67]. Evidence shows tuition waivers contribute to student retention and graduation [68].”

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is a form that students in the U.S. fill out to determine their eligibility for financial aid for college, including federal grants (like the Pell Grant), federal student loans, work-study opportunities, and some state and institutional aid [69]. It usually requires income information from a parent or guardian. Homeless youth often don't have contact with or support from parents. If they cannot get parental information, their application is marked “incomplete” *unless* they qualify as “independent”. Youth must prove they’re “unaccompanied and homeless” to qualify as independent which requires documentation from school liaisons, shelters, or social workers. Many don’t have that paperwork or don't know who to ask. Homeless youth may not have access to the internet, a stable mailing address, or a way to track and submit documents. FAFSA is largely digital and requires follow-up. Fear of system involvement can also prevent youth from seeking help or disclosing their housing status.



Legislation to exempt unhoused students from tuition and fees was introduced in 2023 (AB 217) and was reintroduced again in 2025 (AB 397). Youth who have experience in the foster system, a population that often overlaps with YEH, are already eligible for tuition and fee waivers in Nevada.

It can be hard for youth experiencing homelessness in Nevada to find help and support that meets their unique needs.

The Critical Need for A Service Delivery System that Addresses Challenges Youth Experiencing Homelessness Face

The optimal service delivery system for youth experiencing homelessness should be a comprehensive, integrated, and youth-centered approach that addresses the multifaceted challenges homeless youth face. It should focus on providing holistic, trauma-informed services that support youth in overcoming immediate barriers to housing, food, education, healthcare, and employment, while also promoting long-term self-sufficiency and stability. A service system that is flexible, accessible, and youth-friendly is essential to meeting the unique needs of this vulnerable population.

While each youth's needs are different in Nevada, provider and youth voiced feedback indicated strategies needed in Nevada to remove barriers to services. By improving access to vital documents, expanding minors' rights, offering financial education, and providing essential resources such as Know Your Rights materials, these strategies address some of the multifaceted challenges faced by homeless youth. Furthermore, training providers and dedicating resources to support emancipation empower homeless minors to navigate complex systems and secure the housing, healthcare, and services they need. Ultimately, these strategies create pathways for stability and independence, enabling homeless youth to break free from the cycle of homelessness and achieve long-term self-sufficiency.

Providers and youth with lived experience noted throughout the study that YEH often lack essential documents such as birth certificates, Social Security cards, and identification, which are necessary to apply for housing, healthcare, or government assistance programs. These missing documents are a significant barrier to obtaining housing and services. Legal barriers preventing minors from being able to sign a lease or contract for housing, coupled with the high cost of housing, often leave YEH stuck in temporary shelters or on the streets. The *Preliminary Statewide System Map* identified that restrictions on minors' ability to sign leases, coupled with a lack of affordable housing options, leave many homeless youth unable to secure stable living situations [70].

According to The National Health Care for the Homeless Council, homeless people often face unmet medical needs, as they lack access to regular healthcare, mental health services, and treatment for substance abuse issues [71, 72]. Unaddressed health conditions can impair their ability to attend school, maintain employment, participate in secure housing, and access services.

Throughout the study, youth and providers agreed that many YEH, particularly those with a history of abuse or neglect, need emancipation to gain legal independence from their parents or guardians. However, the process of seeking emancipation can be difficult to navigate without legal support or resources.

To address barriers faced by young people experiencing homelessness, Nevada should

Adopt a multi-faceted service delivery system designed for and tailored to support youth experiencing homelessness in overcoming barriers to accessing resources.


The Path Forward

Developing a system that centers youth needs and eliminates barriers to services is critical for addressing youth homelessness. Multiple strategies can be used to achieve this recommendation. These were reviewed, refined, and augmented by providers and people who experienced homelessness as a youth. **By implementing these six strategies, policy and decision-makers at all levels can reduce barriers to services for YEH.**

Consider Model State Statutes to improve youth access to vital documents, benefits, and affordable housing.

By reducing bureaucratic hurdles and improving access to documents, application of American Bar Association Model Statutes can significantly decrease the barriers that homeless youth face in accessing housing, healthcare, and educational benefits. This streamlined access helps them stabilize their living conditions and ensures they can benefit from public programs designed to support them.

Vital documents such as birth certificates, social security cards, and identification are fundamental for YEH to access a wide range of services, including financial aid, housing, healthcare, and employment. According to the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, many homeless youth are unable to obtain basic identification, and research consistently shows that without these documents, youth often face significant barriers to securing housing and services. By implementing Model Statutes that streamline the process of acquiring these documents, youth can more easily apply for the resources they need.



In 2019, Nevada passed Assembly Bill 363 (AB 363), which removed barriers for unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness to receive free original or duplicate state identification cards or driver's licenses and birth certificates.

In 2023, AB 135 was also passed to break down additional barriers to accessing identification documents by YEH.

Nevada Assembly Bill 220 (AB220), introduced in the 2025 legislative session, proposes establishing a program under the Department of Health and Human Services to issue identification cards to Nevada residents experiencing homelessness. While the bill does not explicitly target youth, it could benefit homeless youth who lack standard identification, facilitating access to essential services such as healthcare, education, and housing.

Consider Model State Statutes to expand minors' rights, enabling unhoused minors to secure housing, health insurance, and mental health and other care independently.


Allowing minors to access services without requiring parental consent is essential, particularly in cases where they are estranged from their families or lack parental support. This expansion of rights removes legal barriers, allowing youth to make decisions and seek support independently. By ensuring minors have the legal ability to access housing and healthcare, this strategy facilitates their ability to stabilize their lives and pursue self-sufficiency.

The National Network for Youth suggests that expanding minors' rights would help address gaps in services that currently prevent them from seeking medical care, housing, and education independently [73].

In 2021, Nevada passed AB 197, which ensures unaccompanied minors are able to consent to healthcare, including mental health care.

Establish public-private partnerships to help YEH build credit, secure their financial future, and stay connected with service providers.

When youth are more financially stable, they are better able to access housing, educational loans, and other opportunities that require demonstration of financial responsibility. Public-private partnerships that focus on building credit and financial independence for homeless youth are essential to securing their financial future. These partnerships ensure that youth are connected to the resources they need to build a secure financial future, which is key to breaking the cycle of homelessness. A number of public-private partnerships are highlighted by Funders Together who promote these partnerships as an effective way to prevent and end homelessness [74].




“[I need] something to help increase credit score. Helping with previous mishaps like debt, especially when it is not my own fault. I have debt because of my mom. [I need] help on how to fix the history of financial abuse.

— Person with Experience of Youth Homelessness

Provide resources to youth-friendly Know Your Rights materials.

Know Your Rights (KYR) materials are essential for helping homeless youth understand their legal protections and rights. Providing KYR materials empowers youth by informing them of their legal rights and how to access resources. This knowledge equips them to advocate for themselves and navigate systems that might otherwise be difficult to understand or navigate, such as public education, health services, and housing applications.

Youth in the Nevada study expressed that some are unaware of their entitlements, such as the right to education, shelter, and healthcare, which leaves them vulnerable to exploitation and prevents them from accessing services. The American Bar Association sponsors a Homeless Youth Legal Network which works to educate lawyers about youth experiencing homelessness' legal rights and advocates for educating youth and providers about their legal rights [75].



As noted in the prior section, organizations in Nevada are partnering with global law firm Baker McKenzie to develop a *Homeless Youth Handbook*, joining 13 other states that have already created state-specific guides that provide homeless youth with information about their rights, responsibilities, and resources in every major aspect of their lives.

Train providers across the state about what rights minors do (and do not) have.

Training ensures that service providers are knowledgeable and proactive in connecting homeless youth to the services they are entitled to. This reduces gaps in service provision, ensuring that homeless youth can access housing, education, and healthcare more effectively, which is crucial for their long-term stability. Providers may be unaware of the specific rights that homeless minors have, such as the right to shelter, school attendance, and healthcare, which often leads to missed opportunities for assistance [76, 73]. Minors often face barriers simply because service providers do not understand the legal nuances of youth rights. Rights of note in Nevada include:

1. Access to Healthcare Without Parental Consent

Under Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) §129.030, minors living independently can consent to their own medical, dental, behavioral, and mental health services without parental approval, provided they can demonstrate they are living apart from their parents or guardians.

Assembly Bill 197 (2021) expanded this access, allowing unaccompanied homeless minors to receive care from a broader range of licensed healthcare providers, including nurse practitioners, social workers, and mental health therapists [77].

2. Educational Rights Under the McKinney-Vento Act

The federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act ensures that homeless youth in Nevada have the right to:

- Immediate enrollment in school without typical documentation (e.g., proof of residency, immunization records).
- Transportation to and from their school of origin.
- Access to free school meals, extracurricular activities, and academic support services.
- Assistance from a designated local liaison to help navigate enrollment and access services.

3. Obtaining Vital Records

Legislation such as AB 363 and AB 197 have made it easier for homeless youth to obtain essential documents like birth certificates by waiving certain fees and removing notarization requirements.

Dedicate more resources to supporting minors with emancipation.

Supporting emancipation—the legal process by which a minor gains independence from their parents—can provide homeless youth with the legal authority to make decisions about their housing, healthcare, and employment. Research shows that minors who are emancipated can access a wider range of services and make more independent decisions, which is essential for their long-term stability.

Under Nevada law, minors aged 16 or 17 can petition for emancipation if they meet the following criteria:

- **Living Situation:** They are married or living apart from their parents or legal guardian.
- **Residency:** They reside in the county where they are filing the petition.
- **Financial Independence:** They can demonstrate the ability to support themselves financially.

These criteria make it difficult for YEH to achieve emancipation. The filing fee for emancipation in Clark County is \$270, which can be prohibitive for homeless youth. While fee waivers are available, demonstrating financial independence is a requirement for emancipation, creating a paradox for applicants.

Certain populations are more at risk of experiencing homelessness.

The Critical Need for Serving Youth Most at Risk of Experiencing Homelessness

Youth experiencing homelessness face disproportionate challenges, and certain populations are more likely to experience homelessness than others. Based on a review of qualitative and quantitative data, there are youth in Nevada that more frequently experience homelessness; these include youth who are non-White or Hispanic, pregnant or parenting, and youth with foster care or criminal or juvenile system involvement.

These trends reflect those seen nationally, where data indicate that some groups of youth are particularly vulnerable to homelessness, including people of certain racial and ethnic groups, LGBTQ+ youth, foster youth, and youth with disabilities.

Data from this study also indicates that in Nevada, some subpopulations are more successful in exiting homelessness. In some cases, groups most likely to experience homelessness have higher rates of exiting to housing permanency, such as pregnant and parenting youth, and people of certain racial or ethnic groups. This may indicate that the provision of specific, targeted programming which then elevates identification and engagement of these youth is supporting their exits from homelessness.

“I think our LGBTQ+ youth have other barriers, if their parents kick them out, it follows them and they can’t find stability. We have no programs that focus on these youth. We don’t have therapists locally that specialize in some of the issues that arise...When you add cultural components about not seeking help and not telling what is going on. It makes it really difficult to get the families willing to work with us, accept services and talk about what is really going on. We have families who will disown kids and that’s it.”

— Community Convening Participant



To address the needs of youth at disproportionate risk of homelessness, Nevada should implement a specialized, equity-driven approach by expanding access to essential services, reducing criminalization, and creating inclusive policies that support high-need and marginalized youth, including LGBTQ+, BIPOC, first- or second-generation youth, youth exiting foster care, and pregnant and/or parenting youth.

The Path Forward

To prioritize youth at higher risk of experiencing homelessness, Nevada can establish systems that identify at-risk youth early, such as school-based outreach programs, community health services, and partnerships with youth-serving organizations. This should include identifying warning signs such as family instability, school absenteeism, or involvement in the juvenile justice system. Implementation is recommended to include investing in programs that strengthen families and prevent youth from entering the child welfare or foster care system such as family counseling, parenting education, and financial support for families in crisis.

Nevada can also work to implement services that are culturally responsive, especially for youth who are Black, Indigenous, or People of Color (BIPOC). This includes offering services that are culturally and linguistically appropriate, trauma-informed, and reflect the unique challenges faced by these communities. It should also ensure that LGBTQ+ youth have access to safe spaces and support services that affirm their identity.

Expanding youth-focused housing programs like rapid rehousing and transitional living programs is also needed. These should be specifically designed for high-risk populations, such as youth exiting foster care or youth in the juvenile justice system, and provide stable housing options, case management, and support, as the supportive services needed by high-risk youth must be trauma-informed, culturally appropriate, and adequate to address complex needs of the youth. For example, it is clear in Nevada that whatever youth serving system is supported must provide mental health services and substance use treatment tailored for populations at increased risk of homelessness. Many youth at risk of homelessness struggle with untreated trauma, mental health conditions, or substance abuse, and addressing these issues early is essential.

Finally, establishing outreach programs that specifically target high-risk youth who may be disconnected from traditional systems (such as schools, foster care, or juvenile justice) is critical in supporting youth at

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high-risk for experiencing homelessness. This can include mobile outreach teams and drop-in centers where youth can access basic needs like food, showers, and safe spaces.

Nevada should develop centralized data systems to track youth homelessness and collect additional demographic information, ensuring that information about high-risk youth is coordinated across systems (e.g., child welfare, juvenile justice, mental health, housing, education). This allows for better targeting of resources and early intervention when youth are identified as being at risk of homelessness.

Implementing a specialized, equity-driven approach to address youth homelessness requires a multi-faceted strategy that expands access to essential services, reduces criminalization, and creates inclusive policies. Discrimination, systemic inequities, family rejection, and lack of support systems are among the major factors contributing to the vulnerability of these youth. Understanding these disparities is essential for developing targeted interventions and policies to reduce youth homelessness and improve long-term outcomes for these vulnerable populations.

Multiple strategies can be used to achieve this recommendation. The following strategies were reviewed, refined, and augmented by providers and people who experienced homelessness as a youth. **By actioning the following eight strategies, policy and decision-makers at all levels can support youth at disproportionate risk of homelessness.**

Ensure high-need YEH access behavioral health and housing services, leveraging resources like Medicaid.

Ensuring that high-need youth experiencing homelessness access both behavioral health and housing services is critical to addressing their immediate needs and supporting long-term stability. Leveraging resources like Medicaid and other public assistance programs can help overcome barriers to accessing care and support services.

Medicaid is a powerful tool for ensuring that homeless youth access essential behavioral health and housing services. Medicaid can be used to cover a wide range of health services, including mental health care, substance use treatment, and counseling services. Expanding Medicaid eligibility and ensuring it is easily accessible to YEH is critical.

Nevada is embarking on a Children's Behavioral Health Transformation Project using Medicaid to increase access to critical services. YEH should be a priority for these services. Medicaid for Youth Homelessness and Housing highlights that Medicaid is crucial in offering homeless youth both preventive care and mental health services. Additionally, Medicaid covers housing support services like housing navigation, case management, and assistance with securing permanent housing, which directly support the housing stability of YEH. Medicaid expansion provides funding for mental health care and behavioral interventions that are necessary for youth to stabilize and address trauma associated with homelessness. As the National Alliance to End Homelessness noted, "Cutting Funding for Medicaid Will Increase Homelessness [78]."


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Ensuring that YEH are enrolled in Medicaid is a critical step to accessing both behavioral health and housing services. Many YEH are eligible for Medicaid but may face barriers to enrollment, such as lack of identification or not understanding the application process. The Nevada Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS) typically requires the following documents for Medicaid applications:

- **Proof of Identity:** If proof of identity cannot be verified through DWSS system interfaces, this must be verified by documents such as government-issued ID, school ID, or birth certificate.
- **Proof of Nevada Residency:** This can include a customer's statement, lease agreement, utility bill, or other allowable documents.
- **Proof of Income:** If proof of income cannot be verified through DWSS system interfaces, this must be verified by documents such as pay stubs or an employer statement.
- **Social Security Number (SSN):** If social security number cannot be verified through DWSS system interfaces, this must be verified by documents such as an SSN card or proof of application for an SSN card.

Youth have reported difficulty in navigating systems to secure such documentation. Creating youth-friendly enrollment processes and ensuring caseworkers or liaisons assist youth through the application can increase Medicaid uptake and access to services. Having navigators or social workers dedicated to assisting homeless youth with the Medicaid enrollment process increases participation and access to care. Navigators and social workers need to implement specific strategies to reach certain populations at greater risk of homelessness for this strategy to be effective.

Ensuring that behavioral health services are culturally and linguistically appropriate and specifically tailored to the needs of YEH can improve access and effectiveness. Culturally competent services take into account the diverse backgrounds, experiences, and trauma histories of YEH, including those from racial/ethnic minority groups, LGBTQ+ youth, and youth with disabilities.



DWSS staff are regularly positioned at key homeless provider organizations in Nevada to assist people with SNAP/TANF/Medicaid eligibility. This includes organizations who serve YEH such as Eddy House, NPHY, the Shannon Homeless Youth Center, the CARES campus, and the Courtyard. Also, DWSS staff can assist with the completion of the application over the phone.

Additionally, in the 2025 Nevada Legislative Session, AB 516 aims to revise provisions related to Medicaid coverage for certain health services provided to children at schools.

Diversify vulnerable youth from the justice system by decriminalizing survival acts and minor offenses.


Research on the impact and efficacy of diverting vulnerable youth from the justice system by decriminalizing survival acts and minor offenses suggests that such strategies can significantly reduce youth homelessness and improve overall outcomes for youth. This approach is rooted in the understanding that many homeless youth engage in survival acts, such as panhandling, loitering, or sleeping in public spaces, which are often criminalized, further entrenching them in the justice system and exacerbating their vulnerabilities. By decriminalizing these acts and focusing on alternative interventions, such as diversion programs and restorative justice, youth can avoid further stigmatization and legal entanglements, which could otherwise increase their risk of homelessness and reduce their chances of successfully transitioning to stable housing and productive lives.

The Coalition for Juvenile Justice, National Network for Youth, and National League of Cities published a report that advocates for the decriminalization of survival acts, arguing that criminalizing homelessness and minor offenses not only leads to legal barriers but also limits access to essential services [79]. Youth who are arrested or incarcerated often lose access to resources such as housing programs, mental health care, and education, which are critical to ending homelessness.

Diverting youth from the criminal justice system through decriminalization and offering community-based alternatives like youth diversion programs leads to better long-term outcomes. When youth are diverted to services such as housing support, job training, and mental health care, their chances of escaping homelessness increase, and recidivism rates decrease [80].

Enhance reentry planning for youth exiting juvenile justice with improved in-system and aftercare services.

Enhancing reentry planning for youth exiting juvenile justice systems, especially those experiencing homelessness, is crucial for reducing recidivism and improving long-term outcomes. Reentry is a critical period for youth, as they transition from detention or incarceration back to their communities. Without proper planning and aftercare services, youth who experience homelessness are at a higher risk of returning to the justice system, re-entering homelessness, or falling into other detrimental situations such as substance abuse, mental health challenges, and lack of educational or employment opportunities. Proper reentry planning—especially in the form of mentorship, family reunification services, employment training, and housing support—can significantly reduce recidivism. The Back on Track Report shows that providing housing first strategies in reentry plans can help youth successfully reintegrate into their communities and reduce the likelihood of reoffending [81].




DWSS staff conduct targeted outreach at some jails in Nevada to assist people with establishing Medicaid eligibility.

Limit criminal background checks in housing to support YEH.

Limiting criminal background checks in housing to support youth experiencing homelessness is an important strategy to help this vulnerable population access stable housing. While youth in Nevada supported this strategy, they also noted that it was important to prevent youth in housing situations from being co-housed with someone who could victimize them, and that some access to information about violence or predatory behavior is necessary to ensure safety.

The Juvenile Law Center notes that juvenile records can prevent youth from accessing public housing [82]. Limiting or restricting background checks can increase housing access and improve outcomes for youth exiting homelessness, particularly for those with histories of involvement in the justice system. Limiting a background check to exclude non-violent offenses such as shoplifting, loitering, or trespassing, particularly as they are related to the experience of homelessness, may more adequately portray the criminogenic risk of an individual, rather than stigmatizing them for offenses linked to their survival as a minor. At the same time, youth who participated in the study noted the importance of ensuring the safety of other youth, particularly in a shelter situation. Thus, including the history of violence was identified by the youth in this study as important information to consider.

A graphic on the left side of the page shows the silhouettes of a group of young people of various ethnicities and genders standing together. The silhouettes are in shades of blue and grey.

“...some people have misdemeanors and can’t move in. Waiving some criminal history would be helpful to get housing.

— Person with Experience of Youth Homelessness

Adopt a unified statewide approach to support LGBTQ+ youth at risk of homelessness, using Model State Statutes (MSS).

Adopting a unified statewide approach to support LGBTQ+ youth at risk of homelessness, particularly through leveraging Model State Statutes, is an effective strategy for addressing the unique vulnerabilities faced by this population. Research consistently shows that LGBTQ+ youth are disproportionately affected by homelessness due to factors such as family rejection, discrimination, and stigmatization, which can be exacerbated by lack of legal protections and inadequate state support systems [83]. Model State Statutes that enforce protections against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity can ensure that LGBTQ+ youth have equal access to shelter, healthcare, and mental health services, which are critical for addressing their homelessness and trauma [84].

A study by the National Coalition for the Homeless found that many LGBTQ+ youth have been abused at homeless shelters, especially those meant for adults, while many others avoid shelters altogether, leading to increased risks of victimization, harassment, or re-traumatization [83]. States that adopt inclusive policies in their shelter systems, including non-discriminatory intake procedures, can provide safer environments for LGBTQ+ youth and make shelters more likely to be utilized by those in need of housing and support. This can prevent youth from engaging in survival behaviors that put them at risk of further harm, including trafficking or substance abuse.

By adopting a unified statewide approach that incorporates these elements into Model State Statutes, states can better support LGBTQ+ youth at risk of homelessness by:

- Providing legal protections that prevent discrimination and create pathways to housing.
- Supporting emancipation to allow youth to live independently and access essential services.
- Mandating cultural competency training to ensure that services are appropriate and affirming for LGBTQ+ youth.
- Creating inclusive shelters that offer safe and supportive environments for LGBTQ+ youth.
- Improving access to mental health care and health services, ensuring LGBTQ+ youth receive comprehensive, supportive care tailored to their needs.

Explore culturally competent approaches to support housing stability among LGBTQ+ youth.

Research on supporting housing stability for LGBTQ+ youth highlights several approaches that aim to address the unique challenges faced by this population, particularly due to discrimination, family rejection, and limited access to safe, affirming spaces. These approaches include providing inclusive housing policies, reimagining shelter services, fostering partnerships between service providers, offering mental health and legal support, and ensuring the integration of LGBTQ+ cultural competency in housing services. Below are several key strategies that research emphasizes as innovative and effective in supporting housing stability for LGBTQ+ youth:

Inclusive Housing Policies and Non-Discriminatory Shelter Access

According to True Colors United, LGBTQ+ youth experiencing homelessness often face discrimination in shelters [85]. The Williams Institute noted that, “LGBT youth and adults face challenges in accessing homeless shelters and services, such as harassment and violence, staff who are not equipped to appropriately serve LGBT people, and sex-segregated facilities in which transgender people are housed according to their sex assigned at birth (which leads many transgender people to go unsheltered instead) [86].”

Many shelters have policies that do not accommodate the unique needs of transgender or non-binary youth, leading to victimization, exclusion, or retraumatization. The National LGBTQ Task Force also found that shelters and housing programs are more likely to turn away LGBTQ+ youth, particularly those who are transgender or gender non-conforming. The implementation of LGBTQ+-inclusive shelter policies is one approach identified in the research. These policies include non-discriminatory intake procedures, staff training on LGBTQ+ issues, advocacy for host homes and cooperative housing, and the adoption of gender-neutral housing options. This creates a safe, supportive environment where LGBTQ+ youth are not forced to hide their identity or face harassment and are more likely to utilize shelter services [87].

Rapid Rehousing (RRH) and Housing First Approaches

The National Alliance to End Homelessness highlights the Housing First and Rapid Rehousing models as effective strategies for homeless youth [88, 13]. The Housing First model focuses on providing permanent housing without preconditions, such as sobriety or employment, and then offers supportive services tailored to the needs of individuals. Creating youth-centered solutions for LGBTQ+ youth including Host Home Programs, Direct Transfer Programs, and Rapid Re-Housing is also recommended. For LGBTQ+ youth, this approach is critical because it removes barriers like discrimination that may otherwise prevent them from accessing housing [89].

Youth-Led Peer Support Programs

LGBTQ+ youth who are facing homelessness often benefit from peer mentorship provided by other LGBTQ+ youth who have navigated similar struggles. These programs help build community connections, provide emotional support, and assist in navigating housing and social services.

Peer-led mentorship and support programs, where LGBTQ+ youth with lived experience work alongside others who are newly experiencing homelessness, provide an empathetic space for shared experiences. These programs also help youth learn about available resources, legal protections, and the application process. The connection to others with shared experiences can foster a sense of belonging and resilience, reducing the likelihood of returning to homelessness.

Integration of Mental Health Services with Housing Support

The Trevor Project states that 28% of LGBTQ youth reported experiencing homelessness or housing instability at some point in their lives — and those who did had two to four times the odds of reporting depression, anxiety, self-harm, considering suicide, and attempting suicide compared to those with stable

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housing [90]. Integrating mental health services with housing programs is a highly effective strategy. By offering mental health counseling, trauma-informed care, and support for substance use in tandem with housing support, providers can address the emotional and psychological challenges that often hinder LGBTQ+ youth's ability to maintain stable housing.

Long-Term Supportive Housing with Transition Assistance

Long-term supportive housing is crucial because it provides individuals with disabilities, those experiencing homelessness, or facing other vulnerabilities with stable, affordable housing and essential support services. This approach significantly improves housing stability, health outcomes, and overall well-being while reducing reliance on costly crisis services like emergency rooms and hospitals. Transitional housing programs that include lifelong case management and individualized support plans tailored to LGBTQ+ youth's needs offer critical long-term stability [91]. These programs are often designed to teach life skills, provide educational support, and offer job training or internships to help youth build a career and financial independence.

Innovative approaches to supporting housing stability for LGBTQ+ youth focus on providing inclusive policies, immediate housing solutions, peer support, mental health integration, and long-term assistance. These strategies not only improve access to housing but also reduce discrimination, support emotional well-being, and foster self-sufficiency. LGBTQ+ youth benefit from an integrated, comprehensive approach that addresses their housing, mental health, and social needs, ensuring they are equipped to succeed in the long term.

Prioritize support for high-risk youth, like BIPOC youth, through tailored state agency programs.

Studies, from Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago, show that,

“The risks of homelessness and housing instability are not equally shared among young people; Black and Hispanic youth are at greatest risk. Black and Hispanic young people spend longer periods of time homeless than their White, non-Hispanic counterparts, increasing their risk of re-entering homelessness after exiting. The challenge of youth homelessness and housing instability is more pronounced among BIPOC youth ages 13 to 25, with 11% of American Indian and Alaskan Indian youth experiencing homelessness during a year, 7% of Black youth, and 7% of Hispanic youth relative to 4% of White, non-Hispanic youth. The intersection of different marginalized identities compounds inequities among youth of color, with Black youth identifying as LGBTQ experiencing especially high rates of homelessness and adversity [92].”


There are ways to prioritize support for high-risk youth, such as youth who are BIPOC, through tailored state agency programs to prevent youth homelessness. These strategies focus on addressing the unique challenges that BIPOC youth face, such as systemic discrimination, lack of access to culturally relevant services, and barriers to housing, education, and employment.

Prioritizing and providing trauma-informed care that recognizes the impact of historical, interpersonal, and systemic trauma is crucial for vulnerable youth populations. Services should be designed to address

trauma that may result from experiences of abuse, neglect, discrimination, or institutionalization. This approach includes mental health services, crisis intervention, and coping skills training that acknowledges past trauma and helps youth build resilience. Developing mentoring programs for high-risk youth can significantly reduce their chances of experiencing homelessness. Programs that provide positive role models and guidance help youth build life skills, navigate educational and employment opportunities, and cope with stressors. Mentorship is particularly effective for BIPOC youth and LGBTQ+ youth who face additional challenges due to discrimination or isolation.

Consider Model State Statutes that address the needs of youth at disproportionate risk of homelessness.

Model State Statutes developed by groups like the American Bar Association (ABA) provide frameworks for addressing the needs of YEH, including those who are at disproportionate risk of homelessness. These groups include LGBTQ+ youth, youth aging out of foster care, youth of color, youth involved in the juvenile justice system, youth with disabilities, and other populations who have historically been marginalized by systems. Nevada can create a more inclusive and supportive environment that reduces homelessness and promotes long-term stability for vulnerable youth; more details on potential statutes to be considered is available in [Appendix D](#).



“[We] need more stable housing for people who aren’t pregnant and people who are men, especially Black men...They stereotype Black men. It’s hard for [my partner] to keep a job because they don’t give the resources that they would to a white man. Same for a black woman. They make Black people work harder.

— Person with Experience of Youth Homelessness

summary of recommendations

Addressing youth homelessness in Nevada requires a multipronged and cross-sector approach.

Research into best and innovative practices identified multiple strategies that can be used to address youth homelessness in the state. These strategies, which were reviewed, refined, and augmented by providers and people who experienced homelessness as a youth, are summarized below by key recommendation area. **By implementing these strategies, policy and decision-makers at all levels can help to end youth homelessness in Nevada.**

Promote, advocate for, develop, and fund programs that provide housing for youth while investing in rapid rehousing and early intervention models to foster long-term stability.

- Support legislation and funding for Host Home initiatives offering voluntary housing and services for YEH.
- Advocate for and notify the public about youth-specific emergency shelters, monitor and, as warranted, expand funding for existing shelters.
- Regulate for safety and allow regulated shelters to immediately serve minors by delaying or waiving parental notification requirements and granting third-party temporary guardianship, as necessary.
- Fund and supply at least 1,000 additional permanent housing units in Nevada for youth.
- Fund and mandate support services for formerly unhoused youth, including wraparound care, mental health supports, and peer mentoring.
- Invest more in early intervention models, such as family reunification for youth.
- Provide housing navigators and support for youth transitioning from temporary to permanent housing.

Prioritize, fund, and track key initiatives to end youth homelessness, ensuring the provision of youth-specific resources and incorporating youth voice in implementation.

- Mandate no-to-low barrier housing and services by removing strict criteria, improving accessibility, and reducing obstacles.
- Create a unified approach and statewide plan, incorporating Model State Statutes and waivers, to prevent and end youth homelessness; establish a dedicated state entity, set goals, and ensure regional input; and publicize statewide approaches to communities across Nevada.
- Establish a state-level Youth Advisory Board.
- Provide mandatory trainings and set standards for state programs to be trauma-informed, age-appropriate, culturally sensitive, and gender-responsive.
- Develop and implement a plan to enhance data collection on youth homelessness and fund a YEH study every five years.

Develop systems and policies that ensure access to financial resources for food, transportation, housing, and other basic needs, and implement a comprehensive support system to address individualized youth needs.

- Remove barriers to financial sustainability for YEH.
- Remove barriers to housing and supportive services in school settings.
- Remove Barriers to Post Secondary Education for YEH.

Adopt a multi-faceted service delivery system designed for and tailored to support youth experiencing homelessness in overcoming barriers to accessing resources.

- Consider Model State Statutes to improve youth access to vital documents, benefits, and affordable housing.
- Consider Model State Statutes to expand minors' rights, enabling unhoused minors to secure housing, health insurance, and mental health and other care independently.
- Establish public-private partnerships to help YEH build credit, secure their financial future, and stay connected with service providers.
- Provide resources to youth-friendly Know Your Rights materials.
- Train providers across the state about what rights minors do (and do not) have.
- Dedicate more resources to supporting minors with emancipation.

Implement a specialized, equity-driven approach by expanding access to essential services, reducing criminalization, and creating inclusive policies that support high-need and marginalized youth, including LGBTQ+, BIPOC, first- or second-generation youth, youth exiting foster care, and pregnant and/or parenting youth.

- Ensure high-need YEH access behavioral health and housing services, leveraging resources like Medicaid.
- Divert vulnerable youth from the justice system by decriminalizing survival acts and minor offenses.
- Enhance reentry planning for youth exiting juvenile justice with improved in-system and aftercare services.
- Limit criminal background checks in housing to support YEH.
- Adopt a unified statewide approach to support LGBTQ+ youth at risk of homelessness, using Model State Statutes (MSS).
- Explore culturally competent approaches to support housing stability among LGBTQ+ youth.
- Prioritize support for high-risk youth, like BIPOC youth, through tailored state agency programs.
- Consider Model State Statutes that address the needs of youth at disproportionate risk of homelessness.



appendix a. references

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appendix b. quantitative data methodology

This appendix provides a more detailed description of how quantitative data was collected, cleaned, analyzed, and synthesized.

HMIS Data Analysis

Primary Data Source: Nevada's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

Bitfocus, who operates Nevada's HMIS, created a dataset for the YEH study on January 15, 2025, by exporting all enrollments in HMIS that met the following criteria:

- The enrollment overlapped with the analysis timeframe, January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2024 (4 years)
- The household included an individual who was no older than 24 years of age on January 1, 2021, and no younger than 12 on December 31, 2024
- The enrollment was associated with the following project types:⁴
 - Emergency shelter (ES),
 - Street outreach (SO),
 - Transitional housing (TH),
 - Permanent housing (PH),
 - Homelessness Prevention,
 - Services Only, and
 - Drop-in-Center (DIC) for one provider⁵

Bitfocus did not share personally identifiable information—such as names, dates of birth, or social security numbers—with SEI. Instead, they provided a unique identifier for each client and provided the client's age at two points in time, on the start date of the enrollment and on January 1, 2021. Based on this information, the analysis calculates a single age for each client for each calendar year.

The Bitfocus dataset included information about youth both who did and did not meet the YEH study criteria. See the [Finalizing the YEH HMIS Dataset](#) section below for details about how this dataset was restricted to include only youth who met the study criteria. This two-step approach to developing the YEH HMIS dataset was chosen to facilitate a more comprehensive picture of each YEH's experience with HMIS services. For example, this approach made it possible to determine whether YEH successfully remained in permanent housing after turning 25. As another example, this approach provided information about

⁴ Based on conversations with providers, the HMIS project type was changed to Homelessness Prevention for two projects, in one case from emergency shelter and in another from transitional housing.

⁵ This DIC data was provided in a separate dataset that had a somewhat different structure than the main dataset, and this data was treated somewhat differently in the code. One difference is that clients are not formally enrolled in the DIC; instead, the records in HMIS reflect individual drop-in services that are provided to clients. Therefore, certain data from enrollment fields were not available for these clients.

YEH’s experiences during periods, if any, when they were accompanied by an adult(s) aged 25 or older, which allowed a more complete understanding of the circumstances under which YEH achieved permanent housing or recidivated.

Considerations for Race/Ethnicity and Gender Identity Fields

Race/Ethnicity

The HMIS data standard regarding race and ethnicity changed in October 2023 from collecting these characteristics separately to collecting them together. As before, individuals can select as many choices as they identify with; however, now race categories are listed together with Hispanic/Latina/e/o. One provider reported that an unintended outcome of this new system is that far fewer clients identify as Hispanic; prior to this change, approximately 30% of this provider’s clients identified as Hispanic; this has dropped to approximately 5% after the change.

An additional limitation of the race/ethnicity information received from Bitfocus was that it did not include raw race/ethnicity data. Instead, it identified all individuals who select more than one entry as “Multiple Races”—i.e., the data does not distinguish between people who are Hispanic and One or More Race vs people who are Non-Hispanic and Multiple Races. The Hispanic information presented in the report is for individuals who *only* selected Hispanic, which likely substantially undercounts the YEH who identify as Hispanic.

Gender Identity

During the study timeframe, three different data standards were in effect for gender identity, as shown in the table below, which impacted the ability to provide definitive information about this important characteristic. The table also indicates how prior values were mapped to updated data standards. During the earliest data standard shown, individuals could only select one value; however, for the later data standards, individuals could select from as many values as applied to their identity.

January 1, 2021, through September 30, 2021	October 1, 2021, through January 31, 2024	February 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024
Female	Female	Woman (Girl, if child)
Male	Male	Man (Boy, if child)
Trans Female	Transgender	Transgender
Trans Male	Transgender	Transgender
Gender Non-Conforming	A gender other than singularly female or male	Non-Binary
	Questioning	Questioning
		Culturally Specific Identity (e.g., Two-Spirit)
		Different Identity (with text box to add detail)

Throughout the study timeframe, the following mutually exclusive values were also gender options: client doesn't know, client prefers not to answer, or data not collected. Note that the optional sex-assigned-at birth field was also used as described in other parts of this report to explore gender identity of YEH.

Impact of Changes to HMIS Data Standards

These changes to the HUD data standards, along with the retroactive adjustments made to previously collected data, may have significant implications for race/ethnicity and gender reporting among individuals experiencing homelessness. These updates, which were informed by specific mapping guidance provided by HUD to all HMIS vendors, were designed to improve the accuracy and inclusivity of the data, enabling more detailed and consistent reporting. However, the process of retroactively re-categorizing past data may lead to discrepancies or inconsistencies in historical records, especially for individuals whose racial, ethnic, or gender identities were recorded under outdated or broader categories. As a result, this could potentially affect the interpretation of trends in homelessness, particularly concerning the identification of disparities across different racial, ethnic, and gender groups. While the revised standards are intended to offer a more comprehensive understanding of homelessness, the transition period could present challenges in ensuring data continuity and comparability across years.

Finalizing the YEH HMIS Dataset

Several steps were taken to determine which youth in the HMIS dataset met the study criteria; to determine which youth were YEH:

- The youth must be associated with either
 - an emergency shelter, street outreach, transitional housing, or DIC enrollment, or
 - a permanent housing, homelessness prevention, or services only enrollment with one of the following values for the “Prior Living Situation” field:
 - Emergency shelter including hotel or motel paid for with emergency shelter voucher
 - Host Home shelter
 - Host Home (non-crisis)
 - Hotel or motel paid for without emergency shelter voucher
 - Place not meant for habitation (e.g., a vehicle an abandoned building bus/train/subway station/airport, or anywhere outside)
 - Residential project or halfway house with no homeless criteria
 - Safe Haven
 - Transitional housing for homeless persons (including homeless youth)
- and, the household must not be associated with any adults over the age of 24,
- and, the youth's age at some point during the enrollment must be between 12 and 24 years of age.

Estimating the Number of Youth Experiencing Homelessness in Nevada

The number of YEH in Nevada was estimated using two methods and reported separately for adolescents (12-17) and young adults (18-24). The first method relied only on the HMIS dataset. Because this represents only those individuals who were tracked in Nevada's HMIS, the prevalence estimate is likely a significant

undercount of the true number of young people who experienced homelessness annually in recent years. For this method, prevalence rates were reported separately for each year, 2021 through 2024.

The second method, which was reported for 2023, relied on:

- national prevalence rates from Chapin Hall for young adults (18-25) and for adolescents (13-17), which were multiplied times
- population estimates for Nevada in 2023 from Census.gov for young adults (18-24) and from Kids Count for adolescents (12-17). Census.gov could not be used for both population estimates because Census.gov groups 10- through 14-year-olds together, while the HMIS dataset excludes 10 and 11-year-olds.

All Census.gov data referenced in the methodology is from the American Community Survey 5-year estimates, 2019–2023: Table B01001 (Sex by Age dataset).

Characteristics of YEH Receiving HMIS Services and Type of HMIS Services Received

Using the HMIS dataset, descriptive statistics were used to characterize YEH and the services they received. With the exception of the characteristic of age (described above), distributions were calculated using the full YEH population from across the full study timeframe (2021-2024).

For some characteristics, the HMIS data included complete or nearly complete information: race/ethnicity, gender identity, geographic location, and the types of services received. For the latter, YEH are characterized according to

- whether they were served only by youth-specific programs, only by non-youth-specific programs, or by both, and
- whether they were served by only support services, only emergency shelter, only transitional housing, only permanent housing, or a mix of housing programs, with all housing categories possibly also including support services.

Given the sizeable geographic variation in race/ethnicity distributions, these were presented separately for each major geographic region in Nevada (i.e., Clark, Washoe, and rural).

For some characteristics, large amounts of data were missing for fields that could be used to better understand disproportionately amongst young people who are experiencing homelessness: sex assigned at birth, sexual orientation, parenting and pregnancy status, foster care involvement, criminal/juvenile justice involvement, and health issues. In most cases, data were incomplete because data fields are optional or are only required for certain programs (e.g., Runaway and Homeless Youth programs). In other cases, information is incomplete because no dedicated data field exists and partial information was gathered through a tailored algorithm.

For two characteristics (race/ethnicity and geographic location), the distribution for the YEH population was compared to distribution for the overall population in Nevada using Census data to determine whether certain subgroups of YEH were disproportionately likely to become homeless. To align with Census age

groupings, these analyses were restricted to 15-to-24-year-olds, which represented 97% of the HMIS dataset. To conduct this analysis for race/ethnicity, the categories were collapsed to either 1) non-White or Hispanic or 2) White, and the results were presented in terms of percent higher risk:

$$1 - \left(\frac{\% \text{ YEH who are nonWhite or Hispanic}}{\% \text{ YEH who are White}} \right) / \left(\frac{\% \text{ Nevadans who are nonWhite or Hispanic}}{\% \text{ Nevadans who are White}} \right)$$

This risk was calculated for Nevada overall and separately for the three geographic regions.

Measuring Success

To assess how often YEH successfully exit homelessness, the analysis characterized each YEH as one of the following:

- **Successfully Exited Homelessness:** The YEH enters permanent housing and does not reenter homelessness for 6 months following the enrollment’s exit date. In this analysis, “enters permanent housing” means either that the enrollment’s exit destination indicated the client was entering permanent housing⁶ or that the enrollment’s project type was permanent housing.
- **Recidivated:** The YEH enters permanent housing but reenters homelessness within 6 months.
- **Unsuccessful:** The YEH does not enter permanent housing during the 4-year timeframe, and the start of their first (homeless, unaccompanied) enrollment was more than 6 months from the end of the 4-year timeframe.
- **Unknown:**
 - The YEH enters permanent housing but there is an insufficient window to determine recidivism. That is, the exit date of the enrollment was within 6 months of (or past) the 4-year timeframe
 - The YEH does not enter permanent housing, but there was insufficient time to do so: the start of their first (homeless, unaccompanied) enrollment was less than 6 months from the end of the study timeframe
 - The only type of HMIS records the YEH had were Drop-in-Center records, which do not include exit destination information

Note that the enrollments that indicate that YEH entered permanent housing do not need to be either unaccompanied or homeless enrollments. For example, if HMIS indicates first that a youth is unaccompanied and homeless and then indicates that the youth entered permanent housing with an adult over 24 years of age, the analysis considers this successfully exiting unaccompanied homelessness. For

⁶ That is, the exit destination was one of the following: moved from one HOPWA funded project to HOPWA PH, owned by client with no ongoing housing subsidy, owned by client with ongoing housing subsidy, rental by client with no ongoing housing subsidy, rental by client with ongoing housing subsidy, staying or living with family for a permanent tenure, or staying or living with friends for a permanent tenure.

recidivism, the analysis requires that the enrollment is associated with homelessness, but not with being unaccompanied.

The analysis calculated how the success rate among YEHs varied by various characteristics:

- **Utilization:** 1 enrollment, 2-7 enrollments, or 8 or more enrollments
- **Service type:** only support services, only emergency shelter, only transitional housing, only permanent housing, or a mix of housing programs
- **Program type:** served only by youth-specific programs, only by non-youth-specific programs, or by both; this comparison was done overall and separately by geographic location
- **Age:** Adolescents (12-17) vs TAY (18-24)
- **Race/ethnicity**
- **Pregnant or parenting** or not
- **Criminal or juvenile justice involvement** or not
- Experience in a **facility for behavioral health issues** or not
- Experience in **any type of institutional setting** or not
- Experience with **foster care involvement** or not
- **LGBTQ+** or not LGBTQ+

Funding Data Analysis

Types of Funding Used to Provide YEH Housing Services

Several analyses were conducted to inform the data included in the [Funding Costs and Opportunities](#) section. The first analysis focused on estimating the distribution of the types of funding used for YEH housing/shelter enrollments. Distributions were calculated overall, by type (ES, TH, and PH) and by region (Clark, Washoe, and rural). Funding types were categorized as follows, note that local funding may refer to either public or private funding:

- Federal only
- Federal plus State and/or Local
- State only
- State and Local
- Local only

This analysis relied on merging the HMIS dataset with point-in-time Housing Inventory Count (HIC) information from January 2024. The HIC funding information was supplemented through conversations with several YEH housing providers who validated HIC information and added new information, particularly related to local and state funding.

When populating the HIC for each HMIS program, providers select from a pre-populated list of 40 federal funding sources commonly used to support these types of programs (e.g., “CoC-TH – Continuum of Care Program (CoC) – Transitional Housing”). Providers can select multiple sources of funding for a given program. In addition, providers can select “Other federal funding sources not listed above” and use a text field to specify other funding sources. Notably, this text field was primarily populated by responses that were clearly not federal sources—e.g., “Local County Funding.” All “other” responses were grouped into one of the funding types listed above. This analysis also calculated the distribution of the federal funding categories for the HMIS programs that reported federal funding.

The second analysis focused on estimating the level of private funding for YEH services through review of FY2022/23 990s from 13 YEH service providers. Total revenues were extracted from Part I, Line 12 and public revenues were extracted from Part VIII, Line 1e; private funding was estimated as the difference between these two values.

The third analysis focused on estimating the level of funding for YEH housing services, overall and by type (ES, TH, and PH), as well as the cost per enrollment, overall and by type. The analysis started with a list of HMIS housing programs that served YEH in 2023 or 2024, along with the associated HIC funding information. Funding amounts were added to this initial data through the following sources:

- One funder of YEH housing providers (who is also a direct YEH provider),
- Three other YEH housing providers,
- Publicly available funding information regarding federal funding sources (i.e., RHY, CoC, and VA).

The analysis attempted to align the funding amounts provided with the most appropriate timeframe from the HMIS datasets. In several cases, the SEI team requested and received funding amounts from YEH service providers for CY2023. One provider supplied funding amounts for their 2023/24 fiscal year (Jul 1, 2023, through Jun 30, 2024). For the federal sources, the analysis used the federal FY23/24 (Oct 1, 2023, through Sept 30, 2024).

In the [funding table](#) in the Funding Costs and Opportunities section, each column was calculated as follows:

- **Funding:** This sums, by program type, the funding gathered by the sources listed above. These funding sources are from three different timeframes (CY23, FY23/24, and FFY23/24).
- **Enrollments:** This sums, by program type, the enrollments associated with the timeframe that matches the funding source.
- **Cost Per Enrollment:** Funding / Enrollments
- **% of Enrollments with Funding Estimates:** Enrollments / (Weighted averages of the total enrollments from the three timeframes). This analysis effectively creates a “blended” year by using a weighted average.
- **Total Funding (Extrapolated):** Funding / (% of Enrollments with Funding Estimates)

For one provider’s budget, about half of their funding was private, unrestricted funding that they used to support all programs as needed. The analysis used what was known from all other funding information regarding cost per enrollment by program type to distribute those funds across the various HMIS programs for this organization.

appendix c. data tables

This appendix provides the data presented in the [scope of the issue](#) and [measuring success](#) sections in tabular format to support accessibility and access to the raw data.

Number of YEH Receiving HMIS Services by Age Group and Year

Year	Number of YEH Aged 18-24	Number of YEH Aged 12-17	Total Number of YEH (12-24)
2021	2,302	270	2,572
2022	2,402	181	2,583
2023	2,676	192	2,868
2024	2,593	241	2,834

Various Estimates of the Number of YEH Aged 12 to 17

Source of Estimate	Estimated Number of YEH (12-17)
HMIS (2023)	192
McKinney-Vento (2023/2024)	758
Chapin Hall	8,228

Percent of YEH Receiving HMIS Services by Race/Ethnicity and Location (2021-2024)

Note that the number of YEH within Clark, Washoe, and the rural counties in Nevada sums to more than 7,807 because 208 received services in multiple regions.

Race/Ethnicity	Nevada N=7,807	Clark N=6,368	Washoe N=1,383	Rural N=264
Black, African American, or African	40.81%	46.75%	16.92%	5.68%
White	24.79%	19.52%	43.89%	65.91%
Multi-Racial	23.00%	23.01%	24.87%	18.18%
Hispanic/Latina/e/o only	5.74%	5.68%	6.15%	1.89%
Unknown	2.08%	2.09%	2.10%	1.14%
American Indian Alaska Native or Indigenous	1.61%	1.07%	3.69%	5.30%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	1.00%	0.94%	1.23%	1.14%
Asian or Asian American	0.94%	0.90%	1.16%	0.76%
Middle Eastern or North African	0.04%	0.05%	0.00%	0.00%
Totals	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Percent of YEH Aged 15-24 Receiving HMIS Services, by Race/Ethnicity and by Location (2021-2024), Compared to the Percent of Overall Population of Youth Aged 15-24

Race/Ethnicity	Percent of YEH Nevada Aged 15-24 N = 7,411	Percent of Youth Nevada Aged 15-24 N = 373,375	Percent of YEH Clark County N=6,150	Percent of Youth Clark County N=274,506	Percent of YEH Washoe County N=1,377	Percent of Youth Washoe County N=61,399	Percent of YEH Rural Counties N=263	Percent of Youth Rural Counties N= 37,470
White and Not Hispanic	25.15%	33.59%	19.79%	27.28%	44.08%	48.44%	65.40%	55.44%
Hispanic or Not White	74.85%	66.41%	80.21%	72.72%	55.92%	51.56%	34.60%	44.56%
Totals	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Percent of YEH Receiving HMIS Services by Gender Identity (2021-2024)

Gender Identity	Percent of YEH N=7,807
Man/boy (sex assigned at birth unknown)	36.50%
Woman/girl (sex assigned at birth unknown)	29.67%
Man/boy (cisgender)	15.79%
Woman/girl (cisgender)	14.23%
Transgender	1.63%
Non-binary/questioning/other	1.56%
Unknown	0.61%
Totals	100.00%

Percent of YEH Receiving HMIS Services by Sexual Orientation (2021-2024)

Sexual Orientation	Percent of YEH N=7,807	Percent of YEH with Known Sexual Orientation N=2,703
Unknown	65.38%	
Heterosexual	28.14%	81.28%
Not Heterosexual	6.48%	18.72%
Totals	100.00%	100.00%

Criteria for Estimating LGBTQ+ Identity by Combining Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Data (2021-2024)

LGBTQ+	Gender Identity and Sex Assigned at Birth Combined		Sexual Orientation	Number of YEH
Yes	Non-Cisgender	or	Non-Heterosexual	687
No	Cisgender	and	Heterosexual	225
Unknown	Unknown	and	Heterosexual	1,959
Unknown	Cisgender	and	Unknown	2,078
Unknown	Unknown	and	Unknown	2,858
			Totals	7,807

Percent of YEH Receiving HMIS Services by Various Characteristics (2021-2024)

HMIS provides important, but limited, information regarding several other YEH characteristics. Given a significant amount of missing data to inform these questions, the findings below are rough estimates—and sometimes minimum estimates—for the proportion of YEH associated with the characteristic. For some characteristics below, we estimate the percentage of YEH by considering only the YEH who had the information collected; often these YEH were served by RHY programs, which have additional data collection requirements.

Other Common Characteristics	Minimum Percent of YEH N=7,807	Other Estimated Percent of YEH
Pregnant or Parenting	10.1%	19.6% (N=731)
Foster Care Involvement	2.4%	28.7% (N=380)
Criminal and/or Juvenile Justice Involvement	6.0%	12.7% (N=378)
Behavioral Health Issues or Disabilities	58.3%	-
Inpatient Stays for Psychiatric or Substance Use Disorders	5.3%	-
Inpatient Stays in Long-Term Care Facilities, Nursing Homes, Hospitals, or Other Residential Non-Psychiatric Medical Facilities	3.1%	-
Domestic Violence Survivor	17.3%	28.5% (N=4,740)

Percent of YEH Aged 15-24 Receiving HMIS Services, by Location (2021-2024), Compared to the Percent of Overall Population of Youth Aged 15-24

Geographic Region	Percent of YEH receiving HMIS Services N= 7,411	Percent of Youth N= 373,375
Clark County	81.7%	73.5%
Washoe County	16.1%	16.4%
Rural Counties	2.2%	10.0%
Totals	100.0%	100.0%

Percent of YEH Receiving HMIS Services by Program Focus (2021-2024)

Program Focus	Percent of YEH N=7,807
Youth-Specific Only	28.40%
Non-Youth Specific Only	47.44%
Both Types	24.16%
Totals	100.00%

Percent of YEH Receiving HMIS Services by Service Type (2021-2024)

Support Services	Percent of YEH N=7,807
Only Support Services	25.72%
Only Emergency Shelter	54.23%
Only Transitional Housing	3.64%
Only Permanent Housing	2.05%
Mix of Housing Programs	14.36%
Totals	100.00%

Percent of YEH Receiving HMIS Services by Program Focus and Service Type (2021-2024)

Program Focus	Percent of YEH Receiving Permanent Housing N=750	Percent of YEH Receiving Transitional Housing N=1,044	Percent of YEH Receiving Emergency Shelter N=5,369	Percent of YEH Receiving Support Services N=5,277
Youth-Specific Only	55.7%	73.1%	37.0%	28.7%
Non-Youth Specific Only	41.7%	25.5%	44.9%	57.1%
Both Types	2.5%	1.4%	18.2%	14.2%
Totals	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Percent of Unaccompanied Homeless Enrollments for YEH in HMIS by Prior Living Situation (2021-2024)

Prior Living Situation	Percent of Enrollments N=17,490
Temporary/Homeless	61.4%
Living with Family/Friends	23.7%
Institutional	5.8%
Unknown	5.5%
Permanent	3.5%
Totals	100.00%

Number of Unaccompanied Homeless Enrollments for YEH in HMIS by Prior Living Situation and Location (2021-2024)

Prior Living Situation Category	Prior Living Situation Subcategory	Number of YEH Enrollments Nevada	Number of YEH Enrollments Clark	Number of YEH Enrollments Washoe	Number of YEH Enrollments Rural / Multiple
Institutional	Detention facility	358	262	90	6
Institutional	Substance use treatment facility	220	170	47	3
Institutional	Residential non-psychiatric medical facility (including long-term)	195	159	34	2
Institutional	Residential psychiatric facility	145	117	27	1
Institutional	Foster care setting	89	75	14	-
Living w family/friends	Family	2,098	1,702	366	30
Living w family/friends	Friends	2,055	1,654	371	30
Permanent	Rental by client no ongoing housing subsidy	463	387	65	11
Permanent	Rental by client with ongoing housing subsidy	110	94	14	2
Permanent	Owned by client (with and without ongoing housing subsidy)	46	34	11	1
Temporary/ Homeless	Place not meant for habitation	5,112	4,192	784	136
Temporary/ Homeless	Emergency shelter (including hotel/motel paid for with emergency shelter voucher)	4,125	3,035	1,063	27
Temporary/ Homeless	Hotel/motel paid for without emergency shelter voucher	706	508	153	45
Temporary/ Homeless	Transitional housing	464	239	215	10
Temporary/ Homeless	Other (e.g., halfway house)	336	216	119	1
Unknown		968	682	285	1
	Totals	17,490	13,526	3,658	306

Percent of YEH Receiving HMIS Services by Type of Exit (2021-2024)

Type of Exit out of Homelessness	Percent of YEH N=7,807	Percent of YEH with Known Type of Exit N=6,476
Successful: Exit to Permanent Housing without Recidivism	20.7%	24.9%
Recidivism: Exit to Permanent Housing with Recidivism	6.2%	7.5%
Unsuccessful: No Record of Exit to Permanent Housing	56.1%	67.6%
Unknown: For example, insufficient window to determine recidivism	17.0%	
Totals	100.0%	100.0%

Success Rates of YEH Receiving HMIS Services by Focus of Location and Location (2021-2024)

Program	Nevada	Clark	Washoe	Rural
Youth-Specific Provider Only	32.4%	41.9%	6.9%	-
Both Types	31.3%	34.5%	17.2%	24.5%
Non-Youth-Specific Provider Only	17.8%	16.9%	23.0%	21.5%

Success Rates of YEH Receiving HMIS Services by Various Personal Characteristics and Experiences (2021-2024)

Characteristic or Experience	Success Rate
Number of Enrollments	
2-7 enrollments	30.2%
1 enrollment	19.2%
>7 enrollments (“frequent utilizer”)	17.9%
Program Types	
Permanent Housing	93.5%
Mixed Housing Supports	48.7%
Transitional Housing	27.7%
Emergency Shelter Services	20.6%
Support Services Only	12.7%
Age Group	
Minors (12-17)	37.5%
TAY (18-24)	24.0%
Race/Ethnicity	
American Indian Alaska Native or Indigenous	29.0%
Black, African American, or African	28.8%
Multi-Racial	27.8%
Asian or Asian American	27.4%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	27.0%
White	18.8%
Unknown	14.8%
Hispanic/Latina/e/o only	12.2%
Pregnant/Parenting Status	
Pregnant or Parenting	47.7%
Not Pregnant or Parenting	22.4%
Criminal or Juvenile Justice Involvement	
No	25.1%
Yes	21.6%
Inpatient Stays for Psychiatric or Substance Use Disorders	
No	25.2%
Yes	20.2%
Experience with Other Types of Institutional Settings	
No	25.1%
Yes	18.8%
Foster Care Involvement	
Yes	28.1%
No	24.8%

appendix d. model state statutes

This section summarizes the types of Model State Statutes that can be utilized by Nevada to create a more inclusive and supportive environment that reduces homelessness and promotes long-term stability for vulnerable youth. Additional details, including the draft language for the statutes themselves, is available in the [Model State Statutes: Youth and Young Adult Homelessness](#) book, developed by the American Bar Association's Commission on Homelessness and Poverty and Homeless Youth Legal Network, in collaboration with the National Network for Youth, National Homelessness Law Center, SchoolHouse Connection, True Colors United, Community Legal Services Philadelphia, Arizona Legal Women and Youth Services, Legal Counsel for Youth and Children, and Homeless Persons Representation Project.

Model State Statutes on Housing for Youth at Risk of Homelessness

One of the most important areas for youth at risk of homelessness is ensuring access to housing. Model State Statutes often include provisions that allow unaccompanied minors (youth without parental guardianship) to enter into housing contracts or lease agreements independently. This removes barriers that prevent youth from accessing housing options due to age restrictions or parental consent requirements. This statute helps YEH, particularly LGBTQ+ youth, youth aging out of foster care, and youth in the juvenile justice system, who may not have stable family support. It ensures that they can find stable housing and avoid situations like staying in shelters or being at the mercy of unstable, unsafe living conditions.

Model State Statutes Expanding Minors' Rights

Some states have adopted model statutes that expand the legal rights of minors in various critical areas, such as healthcare, education, and housing. For instance, certain statutes allow youth, especially LGBTQ+ youth and youth in foster care, to consent to medical care, including mental health and substance abuse treatment, without requiring parental consent. This is crucial for LGBTQ+ youth who may have been rejected by their families or whose families are not able or willing to provide appropriate care. Expanding the rights of minors to consent to healthcare and seek support services independently is key in ensuring that youth can access the medical, psychological, and emotional care they need to avoid homelessness or achieve stability.

Model State Statutes Addressing Juvenile Justice-Involved Youth

Model State Statutes also include provisions to improve reentry planning for youth exiting the juvenile justice system. This includes ensuring access to housing, education, and employment opportunities. Statutes that mandate improved aftercare services for youth exiting juvenile detention or the justice system are designed to help youth reintegrate successfully into the community and avoid homelessness. Youth involved in the juvenile justice system are at increased risk of homelessness, and effective reentry planning can reduce recidivism and prevent homelessness. By providing tailored support, these statutes aim to create a smoother transition and help youth build stable futures.

Model State Statutes on Expanding Access to Education

Model State Statutes often provide protections that ensure homeless youth can continue their education. The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, which has been incorporated into many state laws, requires states to provide immediate enrollment and transportation assistance for homeless youth to ensure they have access to education despite housing instability. Access to education is a key factor in breaking the cycle of homelessness. Research indicates that homeless youth who remain in school are more likely to achieve long-term stability and self-sufficiency. By ensuring education is not interrupted by homelessness, these statutes increase the chances of youth obtaining employment and escaping homelessness.

Model State Statutes Protecting LGBTQ+ Youth

Model State Statutes advocate for anti-discrimination laws that prevent discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression in areas like housing, education, and healthcare. These statutes are particularly important for LGBTQ+ youth, who are disproportionately affected by homelessness due to family rejection, bullying, and violence. Providing legal protections and safe spaces for LGBTQ+ youth helps prevent family rejection and discrimination, both of which are primary drivers of homelessness among this population. By ensuring that youth have access to housing, education, and healthcare without fear of discrimination, these statutes significantly improve the outcomes for LGBTQ+ youth.

Model State Statutes for Youth Aging Out of Foster Care

Model State Statutes that support youth aging out of foster care often provide for extended care or transitional housing programs that assist youth after they turn 18. These statutes may mandate that states offer continued support services such as case management, education, employment services, and housing assistance. Youth aging out of foster care are at high risk of homelessness due to a lack of family support and the absence of stable housing options. Extended services and housing programs ensure that these youth are not left without the support they need to transition into adulthood.

Model State Statutes Supporting Youth Financial Literacy and Credit Building

Model State Statutes can also incorporate financial literacy programs designed to help youth build credit, savings, and financial independence. Providing financial education and support helps youth who are at risk of homelessness understand how to manage their finances, build credit, and eventually access housing. Youth who have financial independence are less likely to experience housing instability.

Model State Statutes Addressing Minor's Rights to Housing

Model State Statutes can include provisions that allow unaccompanied minors (youth under 18) to access housing, sign leases, and enter into contracts independently without the need for parental consent. This is particularly crucial for LGBTQ+ youth and youth in the foster care or juvenile justice systems, who may have been estranged from their families or face discrimination. Expanding minors' rights to sign housing contracts allows youth to have greater control over their housing stability, reducing the likelihood that they will experience homelessness. Ensuring minors can access housing independently also addresses the gap in services for youth who are not supported by families.

Model State Statutes Supporting Youth with Disabilities

Statutes can ensure that youth with disabilities have access to specialized housing, healthcare, and education services. This includes ensuring that public housing and shelters provide accommodations for youth with physical or mental disabilities. Youth with disabilities are often at a higher risk of homelessness due to the lack of appropriate services. Providing tailored support and accommodations is key to reducing homelessness among this population.

appendix e. 2024 housing inventory count

This appendix summarizes the 2024 Housing Inventory Count data provided by each Continuum of Care (CoC) directly, which is a point-in-time inventory of provider programs within a CoC that provide beds to people experiencing homelessness (or, for permanent housing projects, were homeless at entry). These data are reflective of a specific point in time (January 25, 2024) and are presented to support a better understanding of the beds dedicated to or available for YEH in Nevada. These data were used to inform the [services and supports](#) and [understanding and addressing the issue](#) sections of this report. Note that the total number of “dedicated youth beds” has been removed from the total number of “any available beds” to avoid duplication. The number of youth beds are those listed as being dedicated to housing homeless youth aged 24 and younger on the 2024 HIC Report, and the number of beds that are children only are dedicated to people under the age of 18.

† These organizations serve individuals and families that are experiencing domestic violence.

†† These organizations serve veterans.

Clark County						
	Emergency	Shelter	Transitional	Housing	Permanent	Housing
	Dedicated Youth Beds	Beds Possibly Open to but Not Dedicated to Youth	Dedicated Youth Beds	Beds Possibly Open to but Not Dedicated to Youth	Dedicated Youth Beds	Beds Possibly Open to but Not Dedicated to Youth
*SNV - COVID 19	—	1,149	—	—	—	—
Caridad	—	—	—	—	—	3
Catholic Charities - Residential Services	—	435	—	—	—	51
CCSS - Crisis Stabilization	—	100	—	94	—	16
CCSS - EHV	—	—	—	—	—	586
CCSS - Healthy Living	—	1	—	—	—	133
CCSS - LINK	—	42	—	—	—	—
CCSS - STAR RRH	—	2	—	—	1 (0 child-only beds)	76

Clark County						
	Emergency	Shelter	Transitional	Housing	Permanent	Housing
	Dedicated Youth Beds	Beds Possibly Open to but Not Dedicated to Youth	Dedicated Youth Beds	Beds Possibly Open to but Not Dedicated to Youth	Dedicated Youth Beds	Beds Possibly Open to but Not Dedicated to Youth
Chicanos Por La Causa, Inc. (CPLC)	—	—	—	—	—	27
City of Las Vegas Flexible Housing	—	—	—	15	—	—
City of Las Vegas Housing Stabilization	—	82	—	—	—	—
City of Las Vegas Recuperative Care Center	—	38	—	—	—	—
Clark County Social Service	—	17	—	—	—	217
Family Promise of Las Vegas	—	102	—	—	—	—
HELP of Southern Nevada ^{††}	—	12	14 (0 child-only beds)	—	14 (0 child-only beds)	337 (includes 1 veteran bed)
HELP USA ^{††}	—	—	—	150 (all are veteran beds)	—	—
Hopelink	—	142	—	—	—	511
HOSN Shannon West Youth Center	112 (includes 1 child-only bed)	—	14 (0 child-only beds)	—	6 (0 child-only beds)	—
Houses Helping Humans	—	—	—	14	—	—
Jewish Family Service Agency	—	—	—	—	—	27
Las Vegas Rescue Mission	—	353	—	—	—	—
Living Grace Homes, Inc.	4 (0 child-only beds)	4	8 (0 child-only beds)	—	—	—
Lutheran Social Services of Nevada	—	8	—	—	—	125

Clark County						
	Emergency	Shelter	Transitional	Housing	Permanent	Housing
	Dedicated Youth Beds	Beds Possibly Open to but Not Dedicated to Youth	Dedicated Youth Beds	Beds Possibly Open to but Not Dedicated to Youth	Dedicated Youth Beds	Beds Possibly Open to but Not Dedicated to Youth
Mobile Crisis Intervention Team (MCIT)	—	54	—	—	—	—
Nation's Finest-SN ^{††}	—	—	—	—	—	15 (all are veteran beds)
Nevada Partners Inc.	—	—	—	—	—	27
Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth	8 (includes 5 child-only beds)	—	30 (includes 5 child-only beds)	—	7 (0 child-only beds)	—
S.A.F.E. House [†]	—	52	—	—	—	—
SafeNest [†]	—	186	—	—	—	50
Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services	—	—	—	—	—	8
Southern Nevada CHIPS ^{††}	—	—	—	—	2 (0 child-only beds)	101 (includes 2 veteran beds)
Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority ^{††}	—	—	—	—	—	1,531 (includes 1,531 veteran beds)
St. Jude's Ranch	—	—	21 (0 child-only beds)	8	86 (0 child-only beds)	23
The Just One Project	—	—	—	—	—	56
The Salvation Army ^{††}	—	361 (includes 53 veteran beds)	—	153 (includes 42 veteran beds)	—	335 (includes 187 veteran beds)
The Salvation Army - Horizon Crest	—	—	—	—	—	12
The Shade Tree	—	260	—	—	—	—

Clark County						
	Emergency	Shelter	Transitional	Housing	Permanent	Housing
	Dedicated Youth Beds	Beds Possibly Open to but Not Dedicated to Youth	Dedicated Youth Beds	Beds Possibly Open to but Not Dedicated to Youth	Dedicated Youth Beds	Beds Possibly Open to but Not Dedicated to Youth
United States Veterans Initiative - Las Vegas ^{††}	—	—	—	182 (includes 132 veteran beds)	—	259 (includes 259 veteran beds)
Well Care Services	—	140	—	—	—	—
WestCare SN ^{††}	—	8 (all are veteran beds)	—	—	—	—

Rural Counties						
	Emergency Shelter		Transitional Housing		Permanent Housing	
	Dedicated Youth Beds	Beds Possibly Open to but Not Dedicated to Youth	Dedicated Youth Beds	Beds Possibly Open to but Not Dedicated to Youth	Dedicated Youth Beds	Beds Possibly Open to but Not Dedicated to Youth
All Rural Counties						
Nation's Finest-RN ^{††}	—	—	—	—	—	43 (including 43 veteran beds)
Nevada Rural Housing Authority ^{††}	—	—	—	—	—	230 (including 119 veteran beds)
Vitality Unlimited - BOS	—	—	—	—	—	6
Carson City						
Advocates to End Domestic Violence [†]	—	15	—	—	—	—
Carson City Health & Human Services	—	15	—	14	—	10
The FISH Emergency Referral Services Program	—	31	—	34	—	—
Churchill						
Churchill County Social Services	—	3	—	—	—	4
Churchill DVI [†]	—	4	—	—	—	—

Rural Counties						
	Emergency Shelter		Transitional Housing		Permanent Housing	
	Dedicated Youth Beds	Beds Possibly Open to but Not Dedicated to Youth	Dedicated Youth Beds	Beds Possibly Open to but Not Dedicated to Youth	Dedicated Youth Beds	Beds Possibly Open to but Not Dedicated to Youth
Douglas						
Douglas County Social Services	—	6	—	—	—	—
Elko						
Elko Friends In Service Helping	—	20	—	3	—	4
Esmeralda – No Beds						
Eureka – No Beds						
Humboldt						
Frontier Community Action Agency <i>Note that this organization is no longer operational</i>	—	3	—	3	—	32
Lander – No Beds						
Lincoln – No Beds						
Lyon						
Lyon County Human Services	—	1	—	—	—	2
Mineral – No Beds						

Rural Counties						
	Emergency Shelter		Transitional Housing		Permanent Housing	
	Dedicated Youth Beds	Beds Possibly Open to but Not Dedicated to Youth	Dedicated Youth Beds	Beds Possibly Open to but Not Dedicated to Youth	Dedicated Youth Beds	Beds Possibly Open to but Not Dedicated to Youth
Nye						
Nevada Outreach Training Organization	—	—	—	5	—	—
Nye County Health and Human Services	—	—	—	—	—	4
Pershing – No Beds						
Storey – No Beds						
White Pine – No Beds						

Washoe County						
	Emergency	Shelter	Transitional	Housing	Permanent	Housing
	Dedicated Youth Beds	Beds Possibly Open to but Not Dedicated to Youth	Dedicated Youth Beds	Beds Possibly Open to but Not Dedicated to Youth	Dedicated Youth Beds	Beds Possibly Open to but Not Dedicated to Youth
Bristlecone Family Services	—	—	—	26	—	—
Catholic Charities Northern Nevada	—	—	—	—	—	7
CCNN - Human Services	—	—	—	—	—	—
City of Reno Housing Authority^{††}	—	—	—	—	—	305 (includes 280 veteran beds)
Domestic Violence Resource Center[†]	—	23	—	48	—	—
Eddy House	45 (0 child-only beds)	—	35 (0 child-only beds)	—	—	—
Health Plan of Nevada - Northern Nevada	—	—	—	—	—	18
Hosanna Home	—	—	—	5	—	—
Karma Box Project	—	50	—	—	—	—
Life Changes, Inc.^{††}	—	5 (includes 5 veteran beds)	—	7 (includes 7 veteran beds)	—	—
Nation's Finest-NN^{††}	—	—	—	20 (includes 20 veteran beds)	—	59 (includes 59 veteran beds)

Washoe County						
	Emergency	Shelter	Transitional	Housing	Permanent	Housing
	Dedicated Youth Beds	Beds Possibly Open to but Not Dedicated to Youth	Dedicated Youth Beds	Beds Possibly Open to but Not Dedicated to Youth	Dedicated Youth Beds	Beds Possibly Open to but Not Dedicated to Youth
Nevada Youth Empowerment Project	—	—	14 (<i>0 child-only beds</i>)	—	—	—
Northern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services	—	—	—	—	—	15
Reno Sparks Gospel Mission	—	—	—	38	—	—
Restart Homeless Services	—	—	—	—	—	122
Safe Embrace [†]	—	10	—	10	—	10
Step 1	—	—	—	20	—	—
Steps to New Freedom ^{††}	—	—	—	13 (<i>includes 13 veteran beds</i>)	—	—
The Children's Cabinet, Inc.- RHY	4 (<i>includes 4 child-only beds</i>)	—	—	—	—	—
The Empowerment Center	—	—	—	34	—	—
Vitality Unlimited – NN ^{††}	—	—	—	30 (<i>includes 30 veteran beds</i>)	—	—
Volunteers of America	—	633	—	45	—	—
Washoe County Housing and	—	—	—	—	—	64

Washoe County						
	Emergency	Shelter	Transitional	Housing	Permanent	Housing
	Dedicated Youth Beds	Beds Possibly Open to but Not Dedicated to Youth	Dedicated Youth Beds	Beds Possibly Open to but Not Dedicated to Youth	Dedicated Youth Beds	Beds Possibly Open to but Not Dedicated to Youth
Homeless Services						
Washoe County Human Services Agency	—	430	—	—	—	143
Well Care Northern Nevada	—	—	—	35	—	—
Westcare NN ^{††}	—	—	—	20 (includes 20 veteran beds)	—	—

