

YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS PROJECT

Environmental Scan



**Nevada Department of
Health and Human Services**

**DIVISION OF WELFARE AND
SUPPORTIVE SERVICES**

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ACRONYM GLOSSARY

ACF Administration for Children and Families	GBHI Grants for the Benefit of Homeless Individuals
AMI Area Median Income	HCV Housing Choice Vouchers
ARP-HCY American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief—Homeless Children and Youth	HDX Homelessness Data Exchange
BCP Runaway and Homeless Youth: Basic Center Program	HIC Housing Inventory Chart
BIPOC Black, Indigenous, People of Color	HMIS Homeless Management Information System
CBOs Community-Based Organizations	HOPWA Housing Opportunities for Persons with Aids
CBT Cognitive Behavioral Therapy	HOTT Health Outreach to Teens
CCDF Child Care and Development Fund	HUD United States Department of Housing and Urban Development
CCP Coordinated Community Plan	HHS United States Department of Health and Human Services
CCRAA College Cost Reduction and Access Act	ICDBG Indian Community Development Block Grant
CDBG Community Development Block Grant	ICH Nevada Interagency Council on Homelessness to Housing
CE Coordinated Entry	IHBG Indian Housing Block Grant Program
CHINS Child in Need of Supervision Law	IHE Institution of Higher Education
CIS Communities in School	ISS Integrated Student Supports Model
CoC Continuum of Care	LEA Local Education Agency
CRA Community Reinforcement Approach	LGBTQ+/LGBTQIA+ Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning, Intersex, and Asexual. <i>The additional “+” stands for all other identities not encompassed in the short acronym.</i>
CSBG Community Services Block Grant	MGHP Runaway and Homeless Youth: Maternity and Group Home Program
CTE Career and Technical Education	MIECHV Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting
DBT Dialectical Behavior Therapy	M-V McKinney-Vento Act
DHHS Nevada Department of Health and Human Services	NHLC National Homelessness Law Center
DWSS Nevada Division of Welfare and Supportive Services	NNCoC Northern Nevada Continuum of Care
EHCY Education for Homeless Children and Youths Grant for State and Local Activities	NOFO Notice of Funding Opportunity
EHV Emergency Housing Vouchers	P3 Performance Partnership Pilots for Disconnected Youth
ES Emergency Shelter	PATH Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness
ESG Emergency Solutions Grants	PCWAs Public Child Welfare Agencies
ETV Education and Training Vouchers Program for Youths Aging out of Foster Care	PHAs Public Housing Agencies
FAFFY Financial Assistance to Former Foster Youth Program	PIT Point-in-Time
FFPSA Family First Prevention and Services Act	PREP Personal Responsibility Education Program
FUP Family Unification Program	PSH Permanent Supportive Housing
FYI Foster Youth to Independence Initiative	PYD Positive Youth Development
	RHY Runaway and Homeless Youth

ACRONYM GLOSSARY, CONT.

RNCoC Rural Nevada Continuum of Care

RRH Rapid Rehousing

SEA State Education Agency

SEI Social Entrepreneurs, Inc.

SMEs Subject Matter Experts

SMI Serious Mental Illness

SNAP Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

SNHCoC Southern Nevada Homelessness Continuum of Care

SOP Runaway and Homeless Youth: Street Outreach Program

TANF Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

TAY Transition Age Youth

TDHES Tribally-Designated Housing Entities

TIEH Treatment for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness

TH Transitional Housing

TLP Runaway and Homeless Youth: Transitional Living Program

UNLV University of Nevada, Las Vegas

USICH United States Interagency Council on Homelessness

VI-SPDAT Vulnerability Index - Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool

WIC Women, Infants, and Children Nutrition Program

WIOA Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

YAB Youth Advisory Board

YEH Youth Experiencing Homelessness

YHSI Youth Homelessness System Improvement Grant Program

YSI State Index on Youth Homelessness

YSO Youth Serving Organization

YRBSS Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS) has contracted with Social Entrepreneurs, Inc. (SEI) to conduct a study to better understand:

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

The two-year study is designed and conducted explicitly to include LGBTQ+ youth and to incorporate the voices of people with lived experience in study design and data collection activities. Study activities have been designed through the collaborative efforts of a Core Team, Steering Committee, Study Design Subcommittee, Data Collection Subcommittee, and other partners. More information on the study and key activities is available at <https://socialent.com/youth-experiencing-homelessness-study-2023-2025>.

One of the initial activities taking place is the completion of an **environmental scan**, which collects and summarizes information on best practices, current policies, funding opportunities, sources of prevalence data, and providers within each county/region in Nevada. These data collection activities serve to ground the study team and other engaged partners in the current state of youth homelessness and inform the structure and content of future study activities.

Structure and Purpose of This Brief

The brief provides a summary of environmental scan research conducted between October 2023 and February 2024. The purpose of this research was to:

- Document **foundational information** to establish a shared understanding of the impact of youth homelessness, as well as of those populations most at risk of experiencing homelessness.
- Collect and document **policies, practices, and strategies** from national sources, Nevada, and other jurisdictions as appropriate that discuss critical system components needed to identify and serve youth experiencing or at-risk of homelessness.
- Determine **sources of prevalence data** of youth experiencing homelessness within Nevada, as well as for the number of youth who fall into specific groups that are most at risk for experiencing homelessness.
- Identify **funding opportunities** that could provide services and supports to address youth homelessness, including opportunities that Nevada is and is not receiving.
- Identify the **organizations** within Nevada that serve youth experiencing or at-risk of experiencing homelessness at the county, regional, or state level; this research in particular is critical for identifying who should be engaged throughout the project to support statewide system mapping, gaps identification, service needs, and other activities.

Youth Experiencing Homelessness Environmental Scan

This brief is organized into sections that correspond to the bullets above, as well as Appendices with additional relevant information. Per the direction of the study Core Team and Steering Committee, the information included in this brief aligns with the populations of focus and research questions developed by the Study Design Subcommittee and provided for ease of reference in [Appendix D](#).

“LGBTQ+” is used throughout this document, with the intent that the “+” stands for inclusion of other identities not covered by this simple acronym. In some cases, slight variations (e.g., LGBTQ, LGBTQIA+) are used to align with the source material cited, or the name or mission of referenced organizations.

Methodology

The information provided in this brief was developed using an iterative process between SEI, the Steering Committee, and other engaged partners. SEI conducted outreach, and engaged in primary and secondary research, to develop the sections within this document. References for included information is provided in [Appendix F](#).

As sections were drafted, they were shared with Steering Committee members for feedback and input. Specifically, Steering Committee members were asked to review and amend the information provided in [Appendix A. Funding Sources](#), [Appendix B. Organizations Supporting Youth Experiencing or At-Risk of Homelessness](#), and [Appendix C. Sources of Prevalence Data](#).^a The SEI team then summarized the vetted information into the relevant sections within the body of the document. Steering Committee members were also asked to review the content within the [Policies, Practices, and Strategies to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness](#) section, and to provide additional insight into how Nevada, or regions within Nevada, has or has not adopted cited approaches. When the narrative cites “reviewers of this document”, it is referring to the context provided by the Steering Committee members.

The information provided throughout this document should be considered with the following limitations in mind:

- As noted above, this document is meant to provide a general overview of relevant information in order to ground the study team and other engaged partners in the current state of youth homelessness and inform the structure and content of future study activities. **This document is not the study**, although some content is expected to be leveraged in the final study report that will be developed in spring 2025.
- The landscape for this topic, both nationally and within Nevada, is constantly changing. Additional research and studies are being published; local providers are updating programming, opening new sites, or sometimes shuttering existing housing options; and policies are being implemented that could impact youth who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness. As such, this document should be viewed as a general snapshot and information guide, but not as a comprehensive summary of policies, providers, or data sets.

^a It was originally anticipated that this document would include estimates of prevalence data of youth experiencing homelessness in Nevada; however, given the limitations of existing data to accurately represent all identified study populations of focus, the Steering Committee requested that this document instead summarize sources of data with specific limitations noted.

FOUNDATIONAL INFORMATION

This section provides information that is critical for understanding the importance and breadth of this issue. It highlights the impact of youth homelessness both on youth as well as on communities and elevates populations that are at risk of experiencing homelessness.

The Impact of Youth Homelessness

The Impact on the Youth Themselves

In short, the impact of homelessness on youth is devastating. Suicide is the leading cause of death among youth experiencing homelessness (YEH), with studies indicating that between 20–68% of YEH report a lifetime suicide attempt, compared to 8% in the general youth population. Among YEH who have attempted suicide, an average of 6.2 attempts is reported.⁽¹⁾

The longer young people experience homelessness, the more likely they are to experience criminal victimization, sexual exploitation, labor and sex trafficking, trauma, declining health, and addictions.^{(2) (3) (4)} Many YEH have mental health challenges as both a cause and consequence of homelessness, with higher rates of depression and mood disorders than their stably housed peers.⁽¹⁾ The negative impacts on a youth's health make it even more difficult for them to exit homelessness.⁽²⁾ As summarized by Chapin Hall, every day that young person experiences the stress of housing instability represents a missed opportunity to support their healthy development and transition to a productive adulthood.⁽⁵⁾

High school students who had experienced homelessness were more likely to report having been raped, having attempted suicide, and having abused prescription drugs or alcohol. They were also more likely to miss school because of safety concerns, and to experience dating violence or bullying.⁽⁴⁾

Notably, research has also illustrated that YEH are not protected from the ill effects of homelessness when they are couch-surfing, sleeping in motels, or sharing accommodations. Compared to housed peers, these youth experience higher rates of:⁽⁶⁾

- depression, self-injury, and suicide attempts
- intimate partner violence
- food insecurity and lack of sleep
- early sexual activity and adolescent pregnancy
- sexual exploitation and trafficking
- labor trafficking
- substance use disorders

The Impact on Society

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 welfare systems. The main conclusions from these studies is that although the cost of ending youth homelessness is certainly high, the cost of *not* ending youth homelessness is notably higher.

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For example, a Minnesota study first calculated that the short-term cost to taxpayers of serving a YEH with the goal of achieving long-term housing stability is approximately \$12,800 per year, which they broke into 3 categories: basic needs, housing, and transformative services (e.g., job skills training, case management, behavioral health). Then, they calculated the long-term marginal cost to taxpayers when a youth remains housing unstable and disconnected from education and employment: approximately \$17,152 per year. Finally, they concluded that if just one in 16 of the youth served is able to achieve housing stability, the break-even point is reached—i.e., the total costs to taxpayers (during the lifetime of the cohort) is \$0. If one in five youth achieves housing stability, \$42 million in savings would be accrued during the lifetime of the cohort (n=1,451).⁽⁷⁾

Similarly, an Oregon study found if homelessness was ended for 25% of Oregon youth, the projected cost avoidance could total \$16.6 million annually, and if homelessness was ended for all youth, the projected cost avoidance could total \$66 million annually.⁽⁸⁾ Finally, a Southern Nevada study used HMIS and American Community Survey data, together with an online economic modeling platform ([IMPLAN](#)), to estimate the financial gap between homeless youth in Southern Nevada and other Southern Nevada youth. For each homeless youth, this annual financial gap was estimated to be \$162,186, which included earned income, value added (i.e., the overall wealth created by employment activity), and income tax revenue.⁽⁹⁾

Youth Most At-Risk of Experiencing Homelessness

As described in the Annie. E. Casey Preventing and Ending Youth Homelessness in America brief, “understanding the characteristics that make young people more likely to experience homelessness enables communities to target prevention and intervention strategies toward the youth most likely to need support.”⁽¹⁰⁾

Youth may run away or be forced from their homes due to family economic instability or a lack of financial resources, or due to family conflict related to:

- alcohol or drug use in the home
- parental abuse or neglect
- the youth’s sexual orientation or gender identity
- youth pregnancy⁽¹⁰⁾

Based on national data, youth most at risk for experiencing homelessness include the populations below; when available, information quantifying the increased risk faced by these subpopulations is noted in italics:⁽¹¹⁾ ⁽¹²⁾

- LGBTQ youth (*at 120% greater risk of homelessness*)
- Youth with less than a high school diploma or GED (*3.5 times more likely to experience homelessness*)
- Youth who are single parents (*twice as likely to have experienced homelessness*)
- Youth from specific racial or ethnic groups (*Black youth face an 83% increased risk than their White peers and Hispanic, non-White youth face a 33% increased risk*)

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- Youth from low-income households (*1.5 times more likely to experience homelessness*)
- Youth with a history of involvement with foster care (*approximately 12% to 36% of youth who age out of the foster care system become homeless*)
- Youth with a history of involvement with criminal or juvenile justice
- Youth with a history of involvement with behavioral health systems

As described in [Appendix D](#), a component of this study will be to explore how the characteristics of YEH in Nevada compare to national trends about the groups most at-risk of homelessness. Having this information will allow Nevada to align prevention and intervention strategies with youth that are most at risk of experiencing homelessness.

POLICIES, PRACTICES, AND STRATEGIES TO PREVENT AND END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

This section compiles nationally recognized policies, practices, and strategies for preventing and ending youth homelessness and highlights some of the ways that Nevada has—or has not—adopted these national approaches. During Nevada’s two-year study, more information will be gathered to assess to what extent and what manner Nevada should shift its policies, practices, and strategies.

Context for Reviewing this Section

This section is subdivided into four parts:

- [Developing a Policy Infrastructure to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness](#)
- [Engaging Youth and Elevating Their Voices](#)
- [Advancing Equity Using Tailored Strategies for At-Risk Groups](#)
- [Serving Youth Experiencing Homelessness and Ending Youth Homelessness](#)

Nationally recognized policies, practices, and strategies are presented in general text throughout this section. Three approaches are used to highlight the status of these policies, practices, or strategies within Nevada.

1. The blue call-out boxes throughout this section provide details about related efforts in Nevada, such as the ways in which policies, practices, or strategies have been adopted.
- 2.

In some instances, ***blue, bold, italicized text is used to easily identify if Nevada has or has not utilized the described policies, practices, and strategies.*** This approach is utilized when details are not provided in a blue call-out box.

3. The icon below, when placed in this section, indicates Nevada-specific information summarized by the State Index on Youth Homelessness (YSI). The YSI is produced by the National Homelessness Law Center (NHLC) to “provide a snapshot of some of the legal, systemic, and environmental barriers and complex challenges youth experiencing homelessness face and to support advocates, policymakers, and youth themselves by identifying problems and promising practices toward ending youth homelessness.”⁽¹³⁾ This information can be used to assess the presence or status of state laws, policies, and systems that could, if implemented, provide a smoother transition out of homelessness for Nevada youth.



When this icon is followed by reference to key elements that NHLC reports ***Nevada does or does not have in place***, subsequent bullets and content are based on YSI summaries. These summaries utilized data available at the time of publication, and may not represent the current or anticipated status of policies, systems, and laws in Nevada. Sources that informed NHLC’s determinations are available upon request to NHLC directly. The final study will utilize updated YSI reports as well as independent research to explore and or elaborate on these and other key elements that should be in place to support youth experiencing homelessness.

Developing a Policy Infrastructure to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness

The following strategies are recommended to develop a policy infrastructure to address youth homelessness. The order in which strategies are presented is not indicative of the order in which strategies could or should be implemented.

Unified Definition of “Youth Homelessness”

According to the National Network for Youth, “accurately defining homelessness [is] a first step towards ending youth homelessness.”⁽⁶⁾ Restrictive and differing federal definitions have contributed to:

- insufficient resources being available for housing and services,
- thousands of youth being turned away from services each year, and
- a lack of sustained effort to address youth homelessness.

Research indicates that youth homelessness is much more pervasive, and young people’s experiences of homelessness are more varied than previously recognized, including couch-surfing and staying in motels. Youth have been undercounted and underserved because federal definitions reflect the ways adults – and not youth – are likely to experience homelessness.⁽⁶⁾

Necessary first steps that states can take are 1) to align definitions of youth homelessness and to collect and 2) share data across systems regarding youth homelessness.

Specifically, the National Homelessness Law Center (NHLC) recommends that states:⁽¹⁴⁾



- have definitions of “youth,” “runaway,” “homeless child,” and “homeless youth” and establish the age of youth as encompassing persons older than 18, *which Nevada has done*; and
- have definitions of “sex” and/or “gender” that include gender identity and gender expression, *which Nevada has not done*.

Related Efforts in Nevada

- **Nevada Revised Statute (NRS):** [NRS 244.424](#), in relationship to approved youth shelters, defines runaway or homeless youth as a “youth who 1) Is under 18 years of age; and 2) lives in a situation described in 42 U.S.C. § 11434a(2)(B)(ii)-(iii) with or without the consent or knowledge of his or her parent, guardian or custodian.”
- **AB133:** Passed in 2019, [AB133](#) sets forth legislative findings that revised previous definitions related to runaway youth. It recognized that youth are a subpopulation of people experiencing homelessness with complex and distinct needs and indicates that counties and local organizations should identify and provide funding to reduce youth homelessness.

Unified Statewide Approach⁽¹⁴⁾

NHLC recommends that states have the infrastructure in place to support a collaborative, statewide approach to ending youth homelessness.

Key elements that NHLC reports *Nevada already has in place* include:

- a current state plan to end homelessness that includes a youth component and components that address particularly vulnerable youth,^b
- a state interagency council on homelessness,
- a statewide needs assessment that identifies groups at greatest risk for homelessness,
- a public awareness campaign regarding youth homelessness,
- supporting YEH's access to public benefits by explicitly allowing unaccompanied youth (without parental consent) to apply for health insurance coverage and consent to behavioral health treatment and diagnosis as well as treatment of sexually transmitted infections (STIs),
- developing TANF policies (which may not yet be implemented) that
 - subsidize childcare for eligible minors when employment or school is required,
 - allow for exemptions from family living or work/education requirements,
 - make Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients categorically eligible for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and allow homeless youth to use SNAP to buy restaurant or prepared meals,^c
- having systems in place to address proof of residency requirements to receive a state-issued identification card that precludes parental consent for youth to obtain an identification card,
- supporting youth opportunities and independence by giving minors contract rights or allowing them to enter into binding contracts for certain purposes and establishing a process for emancipation that allows for parental consent to be waived under certain circumstances.

Key elements that NHLC reports *Nevada does not have in place* include:

- a state plan component that specifically addresses LGBTQ+ youth,
- a state entity that focuses solely on youth homelessness,
- an explicit goal at the executive branch (governor) level to end youth homelessness,
- supporting YEH's access to public benefits by explicitly allowing unaccompanied youth (without parental consent) to consent to examination and treatment relating to a sexual assault.

^b Note that while the NHLC reports that Nevada's plan includes a youth component, a review of the current plan indicates that specific goals and priorities for youth are not included.

^c Note that while the NHLC reports that Nevada is developing TANF policies to allow homeless youth to use SNAP to buy restaurant or prepared meals, the USDA Restaurant Meals Program (RMP) is not currently active in Nevada. More information is available at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/retailer/restaurant-meals-program>.

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In their [2023 State Scorecard for Nevada](#), the Human Rights Campaign also reports that Nevada does not have statewide laws to address LGBTQ+ youth homelessness.

Related Efforts in Nevada

- **Existing Collaborations:** Nevada's three Continua of Care (CoC) meet twice yearly to coordinate and share information, while the Nevada Interagency Council on Homelessness to Housing (ICH) and its subcommittees meet regularly. Both convenings represent broad, multi-sector collaborative efforts that have discussed youth homelessness and may consider further creating a shared definition.
 - The ICH developed a Strategic Plan in 2022 that addresses eight strategic areas, although there are no goals or strategies specific to youth homelessness.
 - Each CoC develops Strategic and/or Action Plans to address homelessness in their respective geographic areas. In Northern and Southern Nevada there are youth-specific workgroups.
- **Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth's Statewide Movement to End Youth Homelessness:** The Movement is a collaborative, cross-sector effort to end youth homelessness that includes policy advocacy at the state level, annual Summits, awareness campaigns, and planning efforts. While the Movement began in 2017 focusing on Southern Nevada, it expanded statewide in 2023, holding the first-ever statewide youth homelessness summit, which will lead to a statewide plan to end youth homelessness. This effort will build upon its [2018 Southern Nevada Plan to End Youth Homelessness](#).
- **American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief – Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY) State Plan:** [This State Plan](#) was developed to use ARP-HCY funds to identify and provide homeless children and youth with wrap-around services to address the challenges of COVID-19, and to enable homeless children and youth to attend school and fully participate in school activities.

Engaging Youth and Elevating Their Voices

A review of national resources suggests a broad consensus that **engaging youth and elevating their voices is a key strategy in preventing and ending youth homelessness**. Youth can bring energy and new ideas, and their involvement creates a sense of ownership and greater acceptance of services and decisions. For youth, engagement can increase self-esteem, build connections, and develop skills. ^{(3) (10) (15) (16) (5)}

Culturally competent and effective outreach strategies are essential and may be needed to overcome youth distrust caused by past system failures. ⁽¹⁷⁾ To sustain engagement, states and other entities must promote inclusive decision-making and authentic collaboration and involve youth at all stages, from designing to implementing to evaluating. ⁽¹⁵⁾



A Youth Advisory Board (YAB) can be an effective strategy at various levels—for example, at a state-level, a YAB can inform youth homelessness policy, which the NHLC reports **Nevada does not have statewide**. At an organization-level, a YAB can help to design, implement, and evaluate programs. ⁽¹⁴⁾ To reduce barriers to engagement and retention in YABs, entities can:

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- offer cash, gift cards, transportation passes, and other incentives such as food at meetings;
- include a budget line item for incentives in all grant applications; and
- offer workforce and leadership skills-building to YAB members, as well as a structured pipeline for members to become employed at the organization.

Other strategies for meaningfully engaging youth include selecting youth as committee members for Continuum of Care (CoC) or Point-In-Time (PIT) count planning, as participants in PIT counts (i.e., people supporting or leading day-of count activities), and employing youth as peer specialists (or in other roles).⁽¹⁸⁾ Local providers in Nevada also noted that having voting seats for youth with lived experience on CoC Steering Committees or Boards could also support meaningful engagement with youth.

Youth engagement requires planning and works best when it is fully understood and embraced by both the adult and youth communities involved. Two entities highlighted as using best practices to engage youth are [Way Home America](#) and [Point Source Youth](#).

Related Efforts in Nevada

- **Youth Workgroups:** As noted previously, in Nevada's Northern and Southern Continuum of Care (CoC) there are youth-specific workgroups convened to support the CoC's decision-making bodies and to incorporate the voice of people with lived experience.
 - In Southern Nevada, the Youth Working Group (YWG) provides oversight and implementation of systemic change for homeless youth service providers including coordination of strategic planning, policy and procedure development, youth system coordination and assessment evaluation. A subgroup of the YWG is the Young Adults in Charge, comprised of youth ages 16-24 working to empower youth voice via advocacy.
 - The Northern Nevada CoC has a Youth Subcommittee that considers issues related to youth experiencing homelessness including the Eddy House Youth Advisory Committee (YAC). The YAC was established in 2023 and serves as a means for youth with lived experience or currently experiencing homelessness to provide direct feedback to Eddy House regarding programs and services. It also aims to engage youth for guidance and suggestions for new and developing programs. This committee is open to all youth who are currently experiencing homelessness or have in the past. Participation is incentivized by gift cards given to the youth at each meeting. Youth are empowered to choose a specific focus or project and encouraged to have discussion, suggestions, and feedback for the given topic they have chosen.

Statewide Approaches to Collecting, Sharing, and Using Information to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness

One of the “Foundational Pillars” in the *Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness* is to “Use Data and Evidence to Make Decisions.” The U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) aims to “increase state and local capacity to ensure accurate counts of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, especially unaccompanied minors, youth and young adults... by leveraging existing federal resources, such as AmeriCorps volunteers and members” and to “identify more effective ways of collecting data on subpopulations that are historically undercounted, including... homeless youth...”⁽¹⁵⁾

States should invest in the systematic collection and utilization of information related to youth homelessness for several critical reasons:

- to better understand the scope of the issue so that programs and services are appropriately funded;
- to better identify and serve youth who are at-risk of or experiencing homelessness; states cannot engage and serve these youth without appropriate tools to identify them;
- to build an evidence base regarding how best to identify, engage, and serve youth who are at-risk of or experiencing homelessness.⁽¹⁷⁾

Data regarding YEH are often collected through point-in-time counts. While these data are helpful, additional tools are needed. In one study focused on rural youth, stakeholders reported that traditional counting methods severely underestimate the number of YEH due to the invisibility of rural homelessness, lack of community awareness, stigma, and distrust of public systems.⁽¹⁹⁾ States’ systems should routinely collect data at multiple points over time, across various sectors, and disaggregated by sexual orientation, gender identity, race and ethnicity.⁽⁵⁾

Related Efforts in Nevada

- **Youth-Specific Point in Time Counts:** In the Northern and Southern CoCs, a youth count is conducted as part of the annual unsheltered Point in Time Count mandated by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. In Southern Nevada, the youth count been conducted during school hours during which volunteers canvass public places to obtain a visual count of, and survey, unsheltered, unaccompanied youth. In Northern Nevada, the Youth Point in Time Count has been made a part of the PIT count with youth specific strategies for engagement.
- **School Point-in-Time Counts.** School district personnel also provide a count of homeless students to the Northern and Southern CoC as part of the annual point in time count. In the Rural CoC, this information has also been gathered from school districts, along with the number of students who are doubled-up, and students who are experiencing housing instability.

Related Efforts in Nevada, continued from previous page

- **Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Data:** Passed in 2021, Nevada [SB 109](#) requires governmental agencies to request data related to sexual orientation and gender identity or expression by January 1, 2024. Due to FY2024 HUD data collection standards, CoCs have implemented federal data collection standards to gather more inclusive information about sexual orientation and gender identity. More information is needed to understand how and if the implementation of these standards within CoCs satisfies the requirements of SB 109.
- **Statewide Homeless Management Information System (HMIS):** Every CoC is required by the Department of Housing and Urban Development to use an HMIS system. All three CoCs in Nevada utilize Bitfocus' Clarity System as the HMIS solution, which results in the availability of statewide demographic, service, and housing status data for people who have sought homeless services across the state. Access to the system is limited to organizations with licenses for the system; however, each CoC seeks to maximize the number of licenses available within their geographic area. In addition, all CoCs have adopted a shared adult and family assessment tool, the Community Housing Assessment Tool (CHAT), the results of which are entered into the HMIS as part of the coordinated entry process. However, youth-specific assessment tools and their use vary by CoC.

Alternative methods for identifying and counting youth experiencing homelessness or housing instability include universal screenings, administrative data linkages, and representative surveys, such as what was used in the Chapin Hall study.⁽⁵⁾ Another example, the Geelong Project for preventing youth homelessness—which began in Australia and is being piloted in King County, WA, among other places—uses a universal school-based screening for homelessness risk factors.⁽¹⁰⁾

Advancing Equity Using Tailored Strategies for At-Risk Groups

This section discusses promising practices for tailoring various prevention and intervention strategies to specific at-risk groups, including LGBTQ+ youth, youth who are pregnant or parenting, youth with foster care involvement, youth of color, and rural youth.

LGBTQ+ Youth

Among youth experiencing homelessness, an estimated 20–45% are LGBTQ+. Research suggests that family rejection, both actual and perceived, is the most common cause of homelessness for LGBTQ+ youth. Family rejection has also been linked to increased depression, suicidality, and substance use. Many of these youth have aged out of foster care or have fled the system to escape stigma, violence, and harassment. Further exacerbating disparities, many LGBTQ+ youth delay or avoid accessing healthcare and other services because of perceived and experienced discrimination and stigma. ⁽²⁾ ⁽²⁰⁾

While the federal [Equality Act \(H.R. 15\)](#), which prohibits discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity with respect to businesses, employment, housing, federal funded programs, and other settings, was reintroduced in Congress in June 2023, it has not passed and become law. Individuals who identify as LGBTQ+ currently lack consistent and explicit anti-discrimination protections across all states in key areas, including employment, housing, credit, education, public spaces and services, federally funded programs, and jury service. ⁽²¹⁾ However, Nevada has passed some legislation that provides protections to members of the LGBTQ+ community, including incorporation of the following language to the [Nevada Constitution](#): “Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by this State or any of its political subdivisions on account of race, color, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, disability, ancestry or national origin.”^d In their [2023 State Scorecard for Nevada](#), the Human Rights Campaign also reports that Nevada has statewide laws or policies present for both sexual orientation and gender identity regarding employment, housing, public accommodations, education, adoption, foster care, insurance, credit, colleges and universities, and non-discrimination for state employees.

Key components of an infrastructure to prevent discrimination against LGBTQ+ youth who are experiencing homelessness or housing instability include implementing LGBTQ+ affirming policies in organizations serving vulnerable youth—e.g., ensuring that outreach materials display images of LGBTQ+ youth coupled with messages that convey acceptance and community; and, at the state level:

- requiring ongoing training about sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, healthy sexual development, and other issues specific to LGBTQ+ youth for staff working with runaway youth and youth experiencing homelessness or housing instability;
- establishing protected class statuses based on sexual orientation and gender identity; and
- banning conversion therapy for minors on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity or expression. ⁽¹⁴⁾

^d Note that while the online version of the Constitution of the State of Nevada indicates that this proposed section would be effective November 22, 2022 if approved and ratified by the voters at the 2022 General Election, numerous other sources indicate that the language was approved in the 2022 General Election.



According to the NHLC State Index, Nevada has achieved the latter two components listed above, but not the first.

Programs designed to serve vulnerable youth are often ill-prepared or unsafe for LGBTQ+ youth due to institutional prejudice, lack of provider and foster parent training, and discrimination by adults and peers.⁽²⁾ Because of perceived and experienced discrimination among LGBTQ+ youth, the need for culturally competent, welcoming, and affirming services cannot be overstated.^{(2) (3) (20)} Several nationally recognized programs across the country have achieved success by developing rich programs specifically to serve this population:⁽²⁰⁾

Ruth Ellis Center in Highland Park, Michigan:

- Population served: LGBTQ+ youth of color who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness.
- Mission: Create opportunities for young people to develop their vision for a positive future, using a trauma-informed, positive strengths-based service model that embeds the concepts of racial equity and transformative justice.
- Programs and services include:
 - Drop-In Center, with a no-barrier entry policy, focused on building trust and addressing basic needs (e.g. food, laundry, clothes);
 - Health & Wellness Center that provides care tailored to the unique needs of LGBTQ+ youth (including hormone therapy);
 - In-house foster care and permanent supportive housing program specifically for LGBTQ+ youth;
 - Family Preservation Program; and
 - Training in LGBTQ+ cultural humility to partner agencies.
- Integrates research and evaluation into their programs and service using community participatory approach.

Health Outreach to Teens (HOTT) in New York, New York

- Population served: LGBTQ youth experiencing homelessness or housing instability.
- Part of a multi-site federally qualified health center.
- Has a youth-only mobile medical suite that travels throughout New York City.
- Provides transgender, mental health, and other care.
- Conducts regular needs assessments to stay up to date on where young people are staying and gathering.

MOZAIC in Columbus, Ohio

- Population served: LGBTQ+ youth of color.
- Part of a multi-site federally qualified health center; one of the largest LGBTQ+ and HIV health care organizations in U.S.

Youth Experiencing Homelessness Environmental Scan

- Wellness program and community drop-in center created by and for LGBTQ+ youth of color. Mozaic is “a place where instead of explaining yourself, you can just be yourself.”
- Health services focus primarily on HIV prevention, testing, and linkage to care. However, staff are also trained to link youth to essential support services, like gender-affirming medical care, housing, transportation, and food assistance.
- Range of educational, social, holistic health, and community-building programs to engage LGBTQ+ youth, including peer mentoring.

Youth Who are Pregnant or Parenting

This group of youth faces a two-way vulnerability: being pregnant or parenting increases youths’ risk of becoming homeless and being homeless increases youths’ risk of becoming pregnant. A Chapin Hall study found that, among young women (aged 18–25) who are experiencing homelessness, 43% are pregnant or a parent. While not all young parents who are homeless have custody of their children, the same study estimates that hundreds of thousands of children with young parents experience homelessness in the U.S. every year. ⁽²²⁾ About a quarter of families experiencing homelessness are headed by young parents. ⁽²³⁾

Regardless of age, most parents experiencing homelessness need assistance to find and maintain stable housing for themselves and their children. However, pregnant youth and young parents require additional services and supports that are tailored to their developmental needs. They may have little or no experience living on their own, may find themselves unprepared for the responsibilities of parenthood, and may still be working through the challenges associated with adolescence and early adulthood. A Chapin Hall research-to-impact brief highlighted several key approaches: ⁽²²⁾

Address the Sexual and Reproductive Health Needs of YEH

Pregnancy and parenthood are common among YEH. States and localities should consider adapting and tailoring existing evidence-based pregnancy prevention programs to the special needs of YEH. This could include:

- providing services in nontraditional settings, such as shelters and drop-in centers;
- ensuring services are trauma-informed and recognize that YEH are sometimes forced to engage in sexual behaviors as part of their survival strategy; and
- providing free or low-cost sexual and reproductive health care services, including contraception.

States and communities may be able to leverage the federal Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP). PREP funding is a formula grant program through the Family and Youth Services Bureau allocating funding based on the number of young people in each state. PREP grantees replicate or adapt evidence-based programs that educate youth about contraception and abstinence to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, and YEH are one of PREP’s target populations, ***but it is unclear if Nevada’s PREP focuses on YEH.***

Develop Two-Generation Programs

The federal government increasingly recognizes the need to connect young parents experiencing homelessness with two-generation programs that can address both their needs and the needs of their children. This commitment is seen, for example, in the [Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007](#) and the reauthorization and HHS guidance for the [Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program](#). States and localities should ensure that young parents and children experiencing homelessness are being served by these programs.

Two-generation programs require:

- integration with the CoC's coordinated entry process;
- [close collaboration](#) between homeless service providers and providers involved with early childhood, early intervention, education, and welfare;
- ensuring that young parents who are homeless receive the benefits they are eligible for, such as TANF and WIC. One study found that, among young parents experiencing homelessness who were living with at least one child, 36% reported ever receiving TANF and 64% reported ever receiving WIC.

Explore Opportunities for Family Reunification, Relationship Building, and Service Engagement

Becoming pregnant or becoming a parent often motivates YEH to seek support. States and localities should develop strategies to leverage this opportunity, such as providing [family engagement services](#).

Develop the Capacity to Serve All Young Parents Who Are Homeless

States and localities should develop the capacity to serve all young parents who are homeless regardless of their gender, age, marital status, or geographic location. One study noted that there are significant gaps in the availability of services for young parents who are homeless, particularly if those parents are minors or live in rural areas.

Another barrier identified were homeless service providers that only served single mothers or legally married couples, forcing other couples to choose between receiving services and maintaining important relationships. One evaluation found that about a quarter of the young mothers in a community-based supportive housing program left the program to move in with their boyfriends.

Youth with Foster Care Involvement

Among youth who exit foster care, between 31–46% experience homelessness by age 26.⁽¹⁵⁾ Importantly, aging out is not the only pathway from foster care to homelessness. In a Chapin Hall study, among YEH with foster care involvement, about half exited through reunification or adoption, rather than aging out.⁽²⁴⁾ Sadly, almost half of YEH with foster care involvement first experienced homelessness with their families, before entering foster care.

A review of nationally recognized strategies highlighted several key approaches to prevent and end homelessness among youth with foster care experience, discussed below.^{(10) (15) (24)} Overall, the high percentage of YEH who have been in foster care underscores the central role that child welfare systems can play in preventing and ending youth homelessness.

Support Youth Exiting Foster Care

States are allocated federal Chafee funds to support youth exiting foster care. This support should begin as far in advance as possible. Completing an assessment for factors known to put youth at higher risk of homelessness—and then coordinating developmentally appropriate services, such as money management, parenting skills, and job placement—can help youth transition successfully to stable housing.

Chapin Hall, a research and implementation institute based at the University of Chicago, states that “[o]ur findings suggest that the services and supports youth receive are either not effective or that youth are not receiving the services and supports they need.”⁽²⁴⁾ They also emphasize the need to provide Chafee-funded services to all eligible youth regardless of how they exit foster care. While the Chafee program is generally associated with youth aging out of foster care, some youth exiting foster care through reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship are also eligible for Chafee-funded services.

Assistance with housing is particularly critical to preventing homelessness among youth who have exited foster care. States can use up to 30% of their Chafee funding to help youth with housing. This support typically takes the form of help in finding an apartment, assistance with start-up costs, monthly rent subsidies, or emergency assistance. Research indicates that most states spend far less than 30% on housing support.

Another source of housing assistance for youth exiting foster care is the Family Unification Program (FUP), which serves both youth and families. Many communities have no FUP vouchers, and those that do may use them exclusively for families, without setting any aside for youth. Recent federal changes require CoCs to prioritize and refer eligible youth to FUP as part of their coordinated entry process. FUP vouchers are awarded through a competitive process to public housing agencies that administer the program in partnership with public child welfare agencies.

Related Efforts in Nevada

- The Chafee program is a formula funding program awarded to child welfare agencies in States and Tribes that provides funding to support youth/young adults in or formerly in foster care in their transition to adulthood. While states may elect to provide services for people up to age 23, Nevada does not do so. Activities and programs include, but are not limited to, help with education, employment, financial management, housing, emotional support, and assure connections to caring adults for older youth in foster care. Funds are administered by Nevada’s Independent Living Programs through the Nevada Division of Child and Family Services. These programs are available in Clark County, Washoe County, and to Rural Nevada through an agency located in Carson City.
- Only PHAs that have an existing Annual Contributions Contract with HUD are eligible. Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority is the only housing authority in Nevada to administer and receive FUP funding.

One program that supports youth exiting foster care that was highlighted by multiple resources is [Youth Village's LifeSet Program](#): ⁽⁵⁾ ⁽²⁵⁾

- Population served: youth aged 17–22 who are transitioning out of foster care.
- Locations: Youth Villages provides the program directly in nine states, and the model has been adopted by other organizations in eight other states—including *Nevada*—along with New York City and Washington D.C.
- The program is an intensive 6–12-month intervention that provides case management, 24/7 on-call support, and other support services. Youth meet at least weekly with a specialist wherever in a setting convenient to the youth.
- Outcomes: Compared to a randomly selected control group, LifeSet participants experienced a 22% decline in homelessness, a 30% decrease in violent relationships, and a 17% increase in earnings.

Decrease Entries Into Foster Care

Because a common pathway to youth homeless begins with family homeless, followed by foster care, decreasing family homelessness can decrease both entries to foster care and youth homelessness. Some states offer cash assistance or housing-related services to help families experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Families may also be eligible for FUP vouchers if their children are at risk of being placed in foster care or cannot be reunified due to a lack of adequate housing.

Historically, federal child welfare funding has only been for costs incurred *after* children have entered foster care. However, the Family [First Prevention Services Act \(FFPSA\)](#) now allows states to use federal funding to provide preventive services to the families of children at risk of foster care placement, providing another avenue for states to decrease entries to foster care.

Related Efforts in Nevada

- **Family First Prevention Services Act Prevention Plan:** Submitted in 2023, Nevada's Family First Prevention Services Prevention Plan outlines how Nevada will leverage its current infrastructure and resources "while leaving open opportunities to make significant modifications to the service array in the future." The full plan can be found [here](#).

Support Reunified or Adoptive Families

When youth exit foster care—through reunification or adoption—supports may be needed to help stabilize the family. FFPSA includes several provisions designed to support youth from re-entering foster care. These funds are in addition to the various federal and state funding streams that states already use to provide adoption support and preservation services. Child welfare agencies should also consider engaging in follow up activities to ensure that permanency has been achieved. For example, child welfare agencies could verify that adoptive families are continuing to care for and support their children for as long as adoption assistance payments are made.

Youth of Color ⁽²⁶⁾

Youth homelessness and housing instability disproportionately affects Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) individuals. Among youth aged 13 to 25, 11% of American Indian and Alaskan Indian youth, 7% of Black youth, and 7% of Hispanic youth experience homelessness during a year, compared to 4% of White, non-Hispanic youth. Black and Hispanic young people spend longer periods homeless than their White, non-Hispanic counterparts, which increases their risk of re-entering homelessness.

In addition, pre-existing disparities for young adults were amplified during the COVID-19 pandemic, contributing to alarming levels of housing insecurity, especially among Black and Hispanic people. A 2021 survey found that, among young adults, Hispanics were about twice as likely and Blacks almost three times as likely as Whites to have little or no confidence in their ability to pay next month's rent.

The intersection of different marginalized groups compounds inequities among youth of color, with Black youth identifying as LGBTQ+ experiencing especially high rates of homelessness: four times the prevalence of homelessness compared to their peers who identified as White, heterosexual, and cisgender.

When [engaging youth and elevating their voices](#), states and other entities should center the experiences on youth of color, along with other groups that are disproportionately impacted by homelessness and housing instability.

Rural Youth ^{(10) (19)}

While urban youth homelessness is often more visible, homelessness rates for youth in rural and nonrural areas are very similar. However, rural youth homelessness remains less visible and less studied, and rural youth must grapple with a more limited and dispersed services.

In addition, in one study, rural young adults reported experiencing racism from law enforcement, education, and child welfare systems, together with the criminalization of homelessness among youth of color. In this same study, various stakeholders acknowledged that rural LGBTQ+ youth— especially transgender youth— lack access to affirming supports.

Key resource gaps in rural areas include:

- transportation and technology,
- housing programs and resources,
- mental health and substance use services,
- safe spaces where youth can access system navigation support, and education, career, and youth development opportunities.

Rural communities also face barriers to engaging in authentic [youth collaboration](#) due to geographic, technological, and funding barriers.

Youth Experiencing Homelessness Environmental Scan

Strategies to support rural communities in preventing and ending youth homelessness include:

- guidance to help youth build authentic relationships that are safe, legal, and supportive;
- [allowing unaccompanied minors to consent to their own housing arrangements](#) and providing legal guidance to youth and their supporters; (Some states have laws that prohibit minors from staying with people who are not their legal guardians, which can push youth underground by criminalizing their living situation.)
- funding efforts to tackle systemic racism in public systems and to improve methods for measuring equity and inclusion;
- funding rural LGBTQ+-affirming housing programs, mental health services, and flexible supports, and connecting rural youth to broader LGBTQ+ communities;
- providing legal guidance to youth and their supporters;
- requiring and providing funding and technical assistance for rural youth action boards (YABs) that are empowered with meaningful roles and ensuring that rural areas are represented on regional and state YABs.

Serving Youth Experiencing Homelessness and Ending Youth Homelessness

Key Services for Youth Experiencing Homelessness

Identifying and Engaging YEH

Considerations when Engaging Youth

Youth's experiences with abuse, neglect, exposure to violence, and other forms of trauma can undermine the development of trusting relationships with adults—making peer specialists a critical resource. They are often uniquely qualified to engage and support YEH because of their experience facing similar challenges and their capacity to display authentic empathy and validation. Organizations should ensure that peer specialists receive trauma-informed care training and other professional development opportunities, fair pay and benefits, and career progression.

In addition to the identification strategies discussed previously, other methods for identifying and engaging youth experiencing homelessness include implementation of the following strategies.

Mobile (“Street”) Outreach ⁽³⁾

Outreach programs are often a first point of contact with YEH. Key features and promising practices include:

- using assertive outreach teams, who go where YEH keep themselves hidden, such as parks, cars, abandoned buildings, bus or train stations, parking lots, and public storage lockers.
- purposefully [engaging youth](#) using appropriate techniques
- having experience with LGBTQ+ youth and other groups with a high homelessness prevalence. Culturally competent staff and coordination with organizations serving the LGBTQ+ community is important.
- [employing formal cross-sector partnerships](#) to, for example, provide mobile healthcare, diverting youth from criminal justice involvement, or connecting youth who have experienced criminal victimization to appropriate criminal justice resources.

Drop-In Centers ⁽³⁾

Similar to outreach programs, drop-in centers are another first point of contact with YEH. They provide an informal atmosphere to attract and engage YEH and can be an effective alternative to the adult shelter system for older YEH. Effective drop-in centers:

- foster a welcoming, safe, non-judgmental environment;
- have limited rules or requirements;

Youth Experiencing Homelessness Environmental Scan

- are located near places where YEH congregate or can easily access, such as near public transportation;
- purposefully [engage youth](#) using appropriate techniques;
- [coordinate](#) services through cross-sector partnerships*; and
- assess opportunity for [family engagement](#).

*Reviewers of this document also noted that providing after care services should be a component of effective drop-in centers.

Sheltering and Housing YEH ⁽³⁾ ⁽¹⁵⁾ ⁽⁵⁾

Effective housing supports for YEH embrace a [housing first approach](#) and are not stand-alone interventions; instead, these supports are typically paired with:

- purposefully [engaging youth](#) using appropriate techniques;
- [coordinating](#) services through cross-sector partnerships; and
- assess opportunity for [family engagement](#).*

*Reviewers of this document also noted that programs should consider inclusion of [Family Acceptance Project](#) programming and resources.

Coordinated Entry ⁽²⁷⁾ ⁽²⁸⁾

HUD requires all entities receiving CoC or Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) funding to implement a Coordinated Entry (CE) system to ensure effective and efficient processes for housing individuals experiencing or at-risk of homelessness. Some communities also choose to develop CE processes that are tailored to youth.^e

A key reason communities choose this option is to improve equity. In a 2021 [GAO report](#), homelessness service providers reported that their communities' CE systems systematically prioritize older over younger adults because, in accordance with HUD guidance, their systems give higher priority to those who have been homeless longer and who have documented disabilities.

Other reasons that communities may choose to develop youth-specific CE processes include:

- Tailoring the CE processes to different developmental and service needs of youth;
- Lowering the overall burden on youth to receive needed housing and supportive services; and
- Improving data collection to give communities 1) the power to make more efficient use of currently available, youth-appropriate beds and services and 2) the information to argue for new targeted youth-appropriate resources.

^e HUD allows separate CE process only across four specific groups: youth, families, individuals, and victims of domestic violence.

Youth Experiencing Homelessness Environmental Scan

Any youth-specific CE process should be developed collaboratively between CoCs and the communities' youth-serving providers. According to both HHS and HUD, one strategy for developing a system that is responsive to youths' needs is to ensure that runaway and homeless youth (RHY) providers participate in the CE design and that they are fully integrated into their community's CoC. Other key participants in developing a youth-specific CE process include YEH; child welfare systems, including independent living programs; McKinney-Vento liaisons; juvenile and adult justice systems; human trafficking providers; health providers; and early childhood providers for pregnant and parenting youth.

Below are strategies that communities have used to implement a youth-specific CE system across each of the four core CE elements: access, screening and assessment for housing and services, prioritization, and referral.

Access: Some examples of how communities can improve youths' access in their CE system include:

- having access points in locations frequented by youth who may be experiencing homelessness or housing instability—e.g., youth drop-in centers, youth emergency shelters, and schools;
- advertising through youth-friendly venues, such as social media, community centers, and schools;
- locating access points near public transit;
- establishing clear coordination protocols between youth service providers and access points;
- ensuring that access points are safe and inviting for youth; and
- ensuring that staff at access points are trained to meet the needs of vulnerable youth, including positive youth development and trauma-informed frameworks.

Screening and Assessment: Some communities (including Washington, DC, and Santa Clara County, CA) use a version of the VI-SPDAT (Vulnerability Index - Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool) that is tailored to transition-aged youth, the [TAY-VI-SPDAT](#). Some communities have:

- added questions to facilitate connections to mainstream resources, including, when appropriate, adult resources and youth-specific prevention resources, such as family reunification support;
- removed inappropriate questions, such as veteran status for those under age 18; or
- ensured that assessors are trained for interacting with and guiding youth;

Prioritization: This is critical because the homelessness crisis response system for youth is under-resourced. Prioritization strategies, which must be applied consistently, can reflect various vulnerabilities, including:

- the extent to which youth and children are unsheltered;
- risk of being victimized, including physical assault, trafficking, or sex work; or
- risk of continued homelessness; and
- other factors determined by the community and based on severity of needs.

Youth Experiencing Homelessness Environmental Scan

If a community uses an off-the-shelf assessment tool, it may capture some, but not all, the factors the community wants to prioritize. Communities can combine these additional factors with the assessment score to determine a prioritization ranking. For example, if a community decides that all pregnant and parenting youth should be considered at higher risk, then a pregnant or parenting youth with a moderate TAY-VI-SPDAT score would be ranked higher than youth with similar scores. One community (Hollywood, CA) uses a stratified prioritization system that reserves some of each available housing resource for youth. They also integrate their youth assessment tool into their HMIS to generate and manage their priority lists.

Referral: Ideally, a youth-centric CE process is designed to go beyond providing prioritized referrals to limited housing resources. The CE system should also establish processes to ensure that youth—regardless of how they were prioritized—are:

- quickly connected to emergency services, as needed, such as shelters or RHY Basic Center Programs, and
- connected to appropriate mainstream services, such as mental health services, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), and education-based supports.

Youth who *are* prioritized for referral(s) to limited housing resources should be informed about exactly which program(s) they are being referred to, what would be expected of them, and what they can expect from the program(s). In Houston, a youth can refuse three referrals before they are placed at the bottom of the prioritized list.

Emergency Housing

Youth shelters are often a first point of contact with YEH and provide an immediate and short-term alternative to the dangers of the streets. Whether they focus on minors or young adults often depends on funding and licensing. Key features and promising practices include: ⁽³⁾ ⁽¹⁴⁾



- allowing shelters to take in youth with a delay or waiver of notification requirements, which NHLC reports *Nevada does not do*;
- focusing on transitioning to stable housing;
- purposefully engaging youth using appropriate techniques;
- [supporting family connections](#), which can include providing phone cards, postcards, or postage and allowing overnight visits; and
- short-term financial interventions. In some cases, youth may only need short-term financial assistance to secure stable and independent housing.

Host Homes ⁽³⁾ ⁽⁴⁾

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

- Youth participate voluntarily—they are never “placed” in a home and the decision is driven by the youth;

- A significant investment is made in recruiting, screening, training, and supporting hosts;
- The service provider—rather than the host—offers [individualized case management](#) and [leverages formal partnerships](#) with schools, child welfare, justice, and behavioral and mental health service providers.

Transitional Housing ⁽³⁾ ⁽⁴⁾

Transitional housing is long-term but time-limited (typically up to 24 months) supportive housing for youth who are not ready to live independently. It includes a focus on developing life skills and staying in school or securing work. Having long-term, service-rich housing can give vulnerable youth the freedom to focus on overcoming trauma, continuing or re-starting their education, developing career-readiness, stabilizing, or addressing their health needs, and parenting their children (if applicable)—rather than focusing all of their energy on meeting basic needs.

Key features and promising practices include:

- a variety of housing configurations—e.g., congregate, clustered, or scattered;
- purposefully [engaging youth](#) using appropriate techniques;
- [coordinating](#) services through cross-sector partnerships;
- [involving youth](#) in creating house rules, program design, and activities; and
- beginning exit and stabilization planning early. (Many programs also provide aftercare case management for up to six months after exiting the program.)

The National Network for Youth indicated that transitional housing may be particularly suited to many youth, compared to other housing models such as rapid re-housing and permanent supportive housing. They noted, however, that transitional housing is under-resourced because federal funding prioritizes these latter housing models, and they encourage states and localities to braid together a variety of funding sources to support this housing model. There are two primary federally funded transitional housing programs: the HHS-funded Transitional Living programs and the HUD-funded Transitional Housing programs. ⁽⁴⁾

They note that [permanent supportive housing](#)—while an essential resource—is designed for individuals with disabilities and is not appropriate for many vulnerable youth, who may only need a time-limited program with a lower level of support. They also argue that [rapid rehousing](#) may not be an age-appropriate intervention for many youth because it focuses on temporarily subsidizing market-rate housing; may involve signing a lease, which could exclude minors; and could lead to eviction and/or negative credit histories, making it even harder to secure stable housing in the future. In other words, this resource argues that, for many youth, transitional housing may be a sufficient bridge to lifelong stability by giving them time to complete their education, prepare for and obtain living wage jobs, address health issues, and develop life skills.

This resource highlights two successful examples of transitional housing programs, as described on the following page.

[Covenant House International](#) has programs in 15 cities across the country. Results from a recent study found that:

- 73% of youth exited into stable housing;
- 69% of youth were employed or enrolled in school when they exited; and
- BIPOC youth exited to stable housing at a higher rate than their counterparts (74% vs. 69%) and had higher rates of employment at exit (64% vs. 60%).

[Cocoon House](#) serves YEH in Snohomish County, Washington, in a variety of ways, including a transitional program exclusively for 16- and 17-year-olds. Many transitional housing programs do not serve minors due to state licensing restrictions, the higher costs of staffing a program serving minors, and other challenges. Yet transitional programs can successfully serve minors and should be considered as part of a comprehensive service array. Researchers have found a particular lack of resources for minor parents and their families.

Permanent Supportive Housing for Youth ⁽³⁾ ⁽¹⁵⁾ ⁽⁵⁾

To be effective, the permanent (non-time-limited) supportive housing model must be tailored to be age- and service-appropriate for youth with complex needs. Key features and promising practices include:

- targeting youth with the highest needs;
- purposefully [engaging youth](#) using appropriate techniques;
- embracing a “moving on” culture that encourages youth, when and if they can, to move to independent or adult permanent supportive housing;
- developing strong formal operating partnerships among youth-serving organizations, affordable housing providers (such as public housing agencies, property owners, and housing developers), and coordinated community supports.

Rapid Re-housing ⁽³⁾ ⁽⁴⁾ ⁽¹⁵⁾

Rapid re-housing is a promising strategy for older youth with greater independent living skills who cannot reconnect to family or who need time to do so. RRH typically involves rental assistance, with the youth paying 30 percent of their income or less, and individualized case management lasts for up to 24 months with the goal of achieving long-term housing stability. Successful RRH programs continually recruit and support landlords and continually case manage toward long-term housing stability. RRH is best suited to individuals who are able to continue paying market-rate rent after the rental assistance ends and who are able to obtain a lease from a private landlord.

School-Based Interventions

Housing stability and education attainment are deeply interrelated. YEH don't go as far with their education, and youth who leave school are more likely to experience homelessness. A Chapin Hall national survey found that not completing high school is the greatest single risk factor associated with unaccompanied youth homelessness, even after accounting for race, sexual orientation, and household income. Racial and ethnic inequities cut across both outcomes. ⁽²⁹⁾

Youth Experiencing Homelessness Environmental Scan

Housing instability often results in moving from one school to another, which can disrupt routines and relationships and require students to adapt to new environments, curricula, teachers, and classmates. Additionally, graduation requirements and course offerings can vary from school to school, posing additional barriers. The stress and trauma of homelessness can also result in a negative feedback loop: causing behavioral issues and disengagement from school, which can lead to disciplinary measures, which can lead to further negative behaviors and weaker educational outcomes.⁽³⁰⁾

The McKinney-Vento (M-V) Act established the Education for Homeless Children and Youths (EHCY) Program, which is designed to help state education agencies ensure that YEH have equal access to the education provided to their peers. M-V requires school districts to identify YEH and connect them with educational and other supports. Each school district, regardless of whether it receives a M-V subgrant, must designate a district employee to be the “local homeless education liaison,” although the employee may only dedicate part of their time to this role.⁽³¹⁾

Funding and Staffing School Districts’ Homeless Program⁽³⁰⁾

A recent study by the Learning Policy Institute examined several school districts’ homeless programs that have been recognized for their efforts to provide high-quality services to YEH. One key component of their success involved blending funding from different sources to operate their District Homeless Programs, as summarized in the figure below. Across the districts, total funding ranged from \$128 to \$556 per student. (This only represents the budget for the homeless program itself; it does not capture expenditures related to the many services leveraged by the homeless program but provided by community-based organizations (CBOs) or by other school and district programs.)

Funding Source	Cincinnati (OH)	Polk County (FL)	Santa Fe (NM)	Spokane (WA)
Number of students experiencing homelessness	2,014	3,669	936	1,085
McKinney-Vento grant	\$672,352	\$125,000	\$68,003	\$51,782
Title I funding	\$250,043	\$276,846	\$125,515	\$165,511
State funding	-	-	\$175,648	\$156,910
District funding	\$37,693	-	-	-
Private grants	-	\$25,000	\$150,969	\$5,000
Other grants/donations	\$20,153	\$41,404	-	-
Total	\$980,241	\$468,250	\$520,135	\$379,203
Total expenditure per student experiencing homelessness	\$487	\$128	\$556	\$349
McKinney-Vento grant per student experiencing homelessness	\$334	\$34	\$73	\$48

Youth Experiencing Homelessness Environmental Scan

These District Homeless Programs employed between two and 11 staff in full- and part-time positions. In addition to liaisons, other roles included transportation coordinators, counselors, grant writers, school-level coordinators, and shelter-based coordinators. If additional dollars were available, program staff typically reported that they would hire additional liaisons and counselors. Staff had a wide range of roles and responsibilities, including:

- identifying students' assets and needs,
- building relationships with CBOs and schools,
- connecting students to services,
- training school staff, and
- developing transportation plans.

Participating districts identified inadequate and restrictive funding as a significant challenge, explaining that the level of support provided to a YEH is often not determined by the level of need, but instead by limited access to resources. For example, restrictions on the uses of McKinney-Vento and Title I funds limit districts' ability to directly address housing instability by, for example, paying a utility bill.

Identification of Students Experiencing Homelessness ⁽³⁰⁾

Because students experiencing homelessness face multiple, intersecting challenges that can interfere with their education, it is imperative for districts to identify these students so they can receive necessary supports. Districts face several challenges: youth may not divulge their homeless status due to fear, embarrassment, or a lack of knowledge about available supports and services. In addition, because YEHs' living arrangements are so precarious, this population changes frequently. Lastly, unaccompanied youth may be isolated from adults or other potential supports.

To overcome these challenges, districts in the Learning Policy Institute study—in addition to distributing “disclosure of homelessness” forms when students enter school—took steps to increase referrals from students themselves, staff, and external entities by:

- advertising available services to the public through posters, social media, podcasts, and radio ads;
- sharing information about available services with district- and school-run programs that serve vulnerable populations, such as food pantries;
- providing ongoing education to school staff to recognize signs that a student may be experiencing homelessness (e.g., routinely being late or skipping school*, falling asleep, exhibiting behavior changes, or grooming inconsistently) and understand what services are available to these students; and
- developing relationships with other organizations serving vulnerable families and youth, including CBOs, utility companies, motels, hotels, and shelters.

*Reviewers of this document also noted that, along with being late or absent, another sign to recognize is individuals that are leaving early, as students experiencing homelessness may have a job or need to return to a shelter early enough to sign or check back in.

School-Based Collaboration and Coordination ⁽³²⁾ ⁽²⁹⁾ ⁽³⁰⁾

The Learning Policy Institute study also highlighted a second key component of the District Homeless Program: leveraging partnerships and resources from their districts, schools, CBOs, and other governmental agencies. Staff reported that all district and school staff—from administrators to counselors to bus drivers—could support their homeless programs and described school teams as critical for identifying and supporting students.

The District Homeless Programs also partnered with a wide array of entities outside of the school system, such as shelters, food banks, health providers, housing authorities, and child welfare agencies. One study respondent stated, “We’re well connected in that way that we don’t have to do everything; we just have to know who does.” ⁽³⁰⁾

Study respondents identified unaccompanied youth as having distinct and acute needs and provided these youth specialized support, including embedding staff at youth shelters, training youth shelter staff on educational options for students, and providing youth prepaid cell phones.

In a University of Chicago report, two-thirds of RHY providers and youth serving organizations (YSOs) reported that they make education referrals for young people. However, just one in five youth indicated that they learned about education resources from providers. As summarized in the report, “this disconnect highlights the need for organizations to provide the right support at the right time and to be engaged in creative and ongoing ways.” ⁽²⁹⁾

In recent years, school-based service models have emerged—and built a growing evidence base—that leverage partnerships between schools and CBOs to better meet the holistic needs of students. These models aim to support youth early by addressing their underlying risks for homelessness, school dropout, and other adverse outcomes. Currently, the most referenced models include the following:

- The [Community Schools](#) model, which is supported by the federal, discretionary [Full-Service Community Schools Program](#) via 5-year grants. ***To date, Nevada has received one of these grants: UNLV’s Reinvent Schools Las Vegas – Community Schools Initiative.***
- [Communities in School \(CIS\)](#), which is based on the [Integrated Student Supports \(ISS\) Model](#). Common components of the ISS model include: 1) needs assessments, 2) coordination of supports for students, 3) integration of supports within schools, 4) community partnerships, and 5) data collection and tracking. Many consider ISS synonymous with, or an extension of, wraparound services (which are required by the [American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief – Homeless Children and Youth \(ARPA-HCY\)](#)). The [Nevada branch of CIS](#) served approximately 77,000 students in the 2021-2022 school year.

State-Level Policy Options

Several resources highlighted policy options for supporting YEH’s educational success. For example, policy options for augmenting funding to support YEH services include: ⁽³⁰⁾

- changing the primary funding formula for school districts by adding a weight for students experiencing homelessness;

- allocating additional funding to districts based on the number of enrolled YEHs; or
- providing grants to communities to coordinate services across CBOs that serve YEHs.

NHLC recommends that states support education for YEH by:

- explicitly allowing partial and alternative school credit accrual for homeless youth,
- promoting access to higher education for homeless youth,
- providing tuition waivers for foster youth, and
- providing cash incentives for youth who graduate high school or earn a GED. ⁽¹⁴⁾



According to the NHLC State Index, Nevada has adopted all but the last approach.

Lastly, Chapin Hall recommends that states identify and address the barriers to record sharing between school districts to facilitate YEHs' transitions among schools. ⁽²⁹⁾

Post-Secondary Education ⁽³³⁾ ⁽²⁹⁾

YEH face significant barriers all along the post-secondary pathway, from gaining entry, to securing financial aid, to degree completion. The federal [College Cost Reduction and Access Act \(CCRAA\)](#) includes several provisions to improve YEH's access to college. For example, it gives unaccompanied homeless youth "independent student status" so they can sign their own financial aid applications and so the level of aid they receive is based on their own income rather than their parents or guardians.

Securing financial aid, however, is only an initial step to degree completion. Compounding the many impacts that homelessness can have on youth—e.g., physical, mental, financial, and academic—many YEH also have not had educational role models and arrive at college with little confidence that they will succeed. A National Center for Homeless Education report profiled programs to support YEH—and other disadvantaged students—at three universities: ⁽³³⁾

- [Florida State University's \(FSU\) Center for Academic Retention and Enhancement](#),
- [Kennesaw State University's Campus Awareness, Resource, and Empowerment Center](#), and
- [University of Massachusetts Boston's Office of Urban and Off-Campus Support Services](#).

Common program components include:

- case management that focuses not only on academic needs, but also on physical, mental, and emotional needs;
- housing assistance, such as reducing housing deposits, allowing housing-related costs to be paid after financial aid has been disbursed, and providing alternate housing arrangements when dormitories are closed;
- meeting basic needs, such as operating a food pantry;*
- academic and career support;

- mental health support; and
- financial support.

*Reviewers of this document also noted that providing a meal plan free of charge, and an operational kitchen or kitchen components during winter and summer breaks, could support students experiencing homelessness in meeting their basic needs.

FSU's CARE program begins early in YEH's post-secondary pathway by offering alternative admissions. If CARE accepts an applicant, FSU automatically grants admission even if the applicant has lower academic achievements than typically required.

Chapin Hall also recommends that post-secondary institutions create a single point of contact for students experiencing homelessness and that they routinely collect information on applicants' and students' housing situations. The goal of the latter recommendation is not only to identify and serve those who need additional supports but also to help states understand and address the scope of need in their higher education institutions. ⁽²⁹⁾

The three institutions profiled in the National Center for Homeless Education report used a variety of approaches to fund and access resources: all programs leveraged existing campus resources (such as mental health services); some receive dedicated institutional funds; some solicited grants and private monetary and in-kind donations. Post secondary institutions can also apply for the federal, competitive grant [TRIO programs](#), which are designed to identify and provide services to students from disadvantaged backgrounds, including YEH. For example, the Student Support Services program—one of the eight TRIO programs—can help students secure housing during extended breaks when dormitories close. ⁽³³⁾

Workforce Interventions

Although career development and income are critical to long-term stability, evidence about how to help YEH achieve better employment outcomes is limited. In the context of increasingly unaffordable housing markets, young people need pathways to a sufficient income so they can remain housed and meet their basic needs. For now, communities have to rely on broader evaluations of youth employment programs, which may need to be adapted and tailored to meet the needs of young people experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity. Broader evaluations indicate that youth employment programs are most effective with the most vulnerable subpopulations—suggesting promising potential for youth experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity. Programs may need to combine workforce support with housing and other support services to increase their effectiveness. ⁽⁵⁾

YEH-Related Collaboration Requirements for Federally Funded Workforce Programs ⁽³⁴⁾

Many federally funded programs that support workforce development have collaboration requirements to improve access to services for YEH. (See related section: [Building and Sustaining Partnerships](#).) For example, states must develop their career and technical education (CTE) plan in consultation with State Coordinators for Homeless Education, and programs applying for CTE funding must consult with local agencies that serve YEH when developing their applications. YEH are considered a CTE "special population," which entitles them to supplemental supports.

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Similarly, when designing Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) youth programs, local Workforce Development Boards must collaborate with school districts and programs that serve YEH to ensure the participation of local eligible youth. For the federally funded Adult Education Program, YEH are considered individuals with barriers to employment whose participation and outcomes in adult education programs must be reported annually.

Entities applying to operate YouthBuild programs, which provide job training and educational opportunities for low-income youth who have dropped out of high school, must describe how they will work with school districts and YEH service providers to promote the referral of YEH and other eligible youth. Similarly, providers who operate Job Corps centers—residential education and vocational training programs for economically disadvantaged youth—must distribute information to schools, employment and training programs, and social service agencies that serve YEH and work with them to promote the referral of eligible applicants. Given that approximately 85% of centers provide year-round housing, Job Corps can be especially beneficial for youth struggling with housing instability.

An Example from the City of Los Angeles of a Workforce/Education Partnership ⁽³⁴⁾ ⁽³⁵⁾

Los Angeles' Economic & Workforce Development Department oversees 14 YouthSource Centers that serve youth (ages 14-24) who are not in school and not working (including YEH), supporting them to receive a high school diploma, to pursue higher education, or to find opportunities for paid internships, occupational skills training or job readiness programs.

YouthSource collaborates closely with the Los Angeles Unified School District—a partnership that is recognized nationally as a model for integrating workforce and educational services to reengage disconnected youth. (See related section: [Building and Sustaining Partnerships](#).) Prior to its collaboration with the School District, YouthSource had limited capacity to identify youth who could benefit from its services. At the same time, the School District could easily identify appropriate youth—e.g., youth who had dropped out of school or were at risk of dropping out—but it did not provide the relevant services at the scale needed.

The partnership, however, faced a significant legal barrier: [The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act](#) restricts the ability of schools to share information about students with other systems. A creative approach that respects students' confidentiality, as well as the law, allowed the partnership to thrive: The District co-located Pupil Services and Attendance Counselors at the YouthSource Centers.

District counselors also conduct extensive outreach—both individually and jointly with YouthSource staff—within District departments and CBOs to ensure that high-risk youth are informed about and referred to YouthSource Centers. In addition, the partnership sponsors a large-scale annual event, involving 1,000+ volunteers, to get the word out that youth who are out-of-school/out-of-work are valued and that resources and support are available to support them. The partnership is funded from a variety of sources, including both formula-based and discretionary federal workforce funding.

Serving Youth Involved in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems

Decrease YEH's Exposure to the Criminal Justice System

Laws that criminalize certain behaviors—such as sitting, lying down, asking for food, truancy, running away and curfew violations—can pull YEH into the criminal justice system. Several resources emphasize the need to curtail such laws and to focus instead on connecting YEH to the resources they needed to end their homelessness, such as housing, public benefits, and education. ^{(2) (10) (16) (14)} Criminal records can further marginalize vulnerable youth by impacting their access to benefits, housing, education, and employment. ⁽²⁾

In particular, states should take steps to ensure that youth and their families are not kicked out of their homes or denied housing because youth have been arrested or adjudicated. Public housing authorities, other housing programs, and landlords often have criminal background limitations that exacerbate vulnerable youths' housing instability.



NHLC details 15 specific actions that states can take to improve the legal environment for vulnerable youth. ⁽¹⁴⁾ ***It reports that Nevada has taken many of these actions, including:***

- not considering runaway youth as delinquents or status offenders;
- not having curfew laws;
- passing a Child in Need of Supervision (CHINS) law that:
 - prohibits mingling of CHINS youth taken into custody with delinquent youth;
 - does not explicitly authorize courts to force CHINS to undergo drug screening;

NHLC also details several recommended actions that Nevada has not taken:

- not considering truant youth as delinquents or status offenders;
- not explicitly allowing police to take runaway or homeless youth into custody or detain them in secure facilities;
- including language in the Child in Need of Supervision (CHINS) law that
 - provides opportunities for CHINS to receive diversion services without court involvement;
 - does not explicitly authorize courts to force CHINS to pay fines or restitution or to relinquish their driver's license or suspend driving privileges; and
 - allows YEH to request services independently under CHINS.

Support Youth Exiting Criminal or Juvenile Justice System ⁽¹⁴⁾

Like [youth exiting foster care](#), youth exiting the criminal or juvenile justice system are at a heightened risk of homelessness and housing instability. Many of the foster care strategies discussed above apply to this population as well.



For youth exiting the criminal or juvenile justice system, NHLC recommends that states provide transition planning that addresses custody post-discharge, ***which NHLC reports Nevada does. However, it reports that Nevada's transition planning does not include two other recommended practices: specifically addresses housing needs and providing transportation home after discharge.***

Healthcare Services, including Mental Health ⁽³⁶⁾ (5)

While YEH are in greater need of mental health services than many youths, as a marginalized and underserved population, they face significant access barriers. As the National Network for Youth summarized, one study found that among YEH who met the criteria of emotional distress, only 32% used mental health services; another study found that 57% of YEH did not seek mental health services because they didn't know where to go or how to initiate engagement. ⁽³⁶⁾ Access barriers for YEH may include:

- the inability to consistently access services in one location,
- lack of transportation,
- long waitlists,
- complex eligibility processes,
- stigma around mental illness or service use,
- providers who lack training in [culturally responsive services](#) for YEH,
- limited healthcare literacy,
- difficulty navigating the healthcare system, and
- lack of health insurance and limited knowledge of insurance options.

Strategies to improve mental health among YEH include:

- Embedding mental health services within YEH-serving organizations, such as drop-in centers and shelters.
- Technology-based treatment options: One pilot project, which yielded high engagement and satisfaction rates, gave YEHs phones with data plans that were preloaded with evidence-based youth-focused mental health apps; YEHs also had access to three phone-based therapy sessions.
- Using peer specialists: Research has identified a range of positive impacts among YEH, including increased coping, social connection, hope, and empowerment.
- Improved education and LGBTQ+ inclusive training for healthcare professionals.
- Improved education and training for youth-serving organizations on how to identify and evaluate the severity of a youth's suicidal ideation.
- Community Reinforcement Approach (CRA), a behavior therapy focused on treating addiction and preventing HIV, which showed increases in condom use and reductions in substance use and depression.
- Intensive mental health treatments, such as cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) and dialectical behavior therapy (DBT), showed reductions in symptoms associated with mental health problems.

Unlike many other types of interventions targeting YEH, mental health interventions have been reasonably well evaluated. Many evaluations show promising results, and most focused on complementing crisis services with individual counseling and treatment interventions aimed at improving youths' well-being. The evidence suggests that even a brief intervention can make a difference.

Key Techniques and Approaches for Serving Youth Experiencing Homelessness

Not every approach listed below is relevant or practical for every program, but this list can help guide communities when designing and implementing programs.

Using a Housing First Approach ^{(3) (37)}

A Housing First approach focuses on quickly connecting people experiencing a housing crisis to housing with no-to-low barriers to entry (discussed in more detail below) while also offering necessary (and voluntary) supports to maintain housing and prevent a return to homelessness.

No-to-Low Barriers to Accessing and Maintaining Services ^{(20) (37)}

Organizations should ensure that vulnerable youth can access and maintain services without having to meet burdensome criteria such as being free of all substance use or participating in treatment or services at prescribed levels. No-to-low barriers includes strategies to bring services and programs to locations where vulnerable youth congregate or can easily access.

To minimize transportation barriers, model programs provide bus passes or car service gift cards, conduct street outreach, offer services through mobile units, or establish drop-in centers near public transportation hubs. Finally, no-to-low barriers includes strategies to minimize or eliminate financial and scheduling barriers to accessing services, including free and no-referral walk-in services.

While many resources emphasize the need for no-to-low barriers, at least one resource noted—in the context of transitional housing—that “having rules and expectations ensures that all residents are able to accomplish their goals without unnecessary stress or chaos” and that youth “can benefit from having clear rules and structure, due to the nature of adolescent development.” ⁽⁴⁾

Using a Trauma-Informed Approach ^{(3) (10) (15) (38) (39)}

Trauma-informed care recognizes the prevalence and impact of trauma on individuals' lives. It is a framework that acknowledges the potential for trauma in the histories of clients and seeks to create an environment that promotes safety, trust, and healing.

Key elements of a trauma-informed approach include:

- empowering youth to make decisions about their own care and respecting their choices;
- peer support, including facilitating positive and healthy peer networks for youth;
- recognizing the resilience and potential for recovery;
- building trust over time through honest and open communication; and
- service providers' transparency and consistency.

Using a Harm Reduction Approach ⁽³⁾ ⁽³⁹⁾

Harm reduction aims to reduce the negative consequences associated with risky behaviors, like substance use or exchanging sex to meet basic needs. The primary goal is to prioritize the health and well-being of youth while minimizing the harm caused by risky behaviors.

Key strategies of a harm reduction approach include:

- pragmatism: meeting youth where they are without judgment
- minimizing risks
- reducing stigma
- providing youth with accurate and evidence-based information about the potential harms of their behaviors, empowering them to make informed choices
- ensuring that services are readily available when youth are ready to seek help

Using Individualized and Flexible Case Management and Service Delivery ⁽³⁾ ⁽⁵⁾

Effective case management with vulnerable youth includes persistent engagement even in the face of resistance. Case managers build trust by being persistent and predictable and by following through on any commitments they make. The intensity, duration, and types of support and services are customized and unique to each program, to the particular youth population being served, as well as to the individual being served.

Prioritizing Basic Needs ⁽³⁾ ⁽¹⁰⁾

When youth are in crisis, including experiencing homelessness, meeting their basic needs— clothing, food, water, hygiene items—is important. This can also include providing access to internet, phones, and lockers.

Developing and Maintaining Cultural Competence and Humility

In addition to ongoing training, model programs hire staff or recruit mentors who reflect the race/ethnicities, gender identities, sexual orientations, and ages of their clients. (20) As one example, mentoring programs with LGBTQ+ adults can provide LGBTQ+ youth support and affirmation they may not receive from their families. ⁽²⁾

Building and Sustaining Partnerships Within and Across Sectors ⁽³⁾ ⁽¹⁵⁾ ⁽³²⁾

Preventing and ending youth homelessness requires coordinated efforts within and across various sectors, including homeless response, education, child welfare, juvenile justice, and healthcare. Fragmentation forces vulnerable youth to navigate a disjointed and ineffective system, adding to their trauma.

Many organizations serving YEH have historically operated in silos due to limited time, varying working cultures, and different eligibility criteria. On the other hand, many communities have found that working together results in services that are more comprehensive and efficient and, in the long term, can lead to integrated systems of care. Successful collaborations rely on having a clear purpose and iteratively establishing and achieving concrete, attainable, and measurable goals. One approach that model programs have adopted is the co-location of a variety of services—e.g., health, behavioral health, and housing services—in one physical location.

Notably, several federal laws and funding sources require collaboration and coordination. For example, in addition to identifying and serving YEHs, programs funded by HUD, the [Individuals with Disabilities Education Act](#), or the [Runaway and Homeless Youth Act](#) must coordinate with school districts' homeless programs to ensure that youth receive information about available educational services. In addition, states were required, in their ARP-HCY state plan, to describe how they would collaborate with CBOs to increase identification of YEH among historically underserved populations and connect them to education-related support and wraparound services.⁽³²⁾

Building Authentic Connections⁽³⁾

Youth experience the best outcomes when they remain connected and housed with family whenever appropriate (or with other natural supports identified by the youth). Family engagement services are both a prevention strategy for at-risk youth and intervention strategy for YEH. These services help youth develop, maintain, or strengthen connections whenever safe and appropriate. Even when youth cannot return home, improved family relationships can have positive outcomes.

Key sources of conflict between youth and their families can include teen pregnancy, behavioral issues, sexual orientation, gender identity, and poverty. Key features and promising practices of family engagement services typically include:

- a comprehensive intervention, including assessment; individual, family, and group counseling; conflict resolution; coordination with behavioral, mental health, and substance abuse services; and securing income and health benefits to alleviate financial pressures;
- purposefully [engaging youth](#) using appropriate techniques; and
- developing a stability strategy to help the youth remain consistently connected to natural supports like friends, family, and teachers.

In the absence of positive family relationships, helping youth develop meaningful, permanent connections with caring adults is particularly critical.

SOURCES AND LIMITATIONS OF PREVALENCE DATA TO INFORM THE YOUTH HOMELESSNESS STUDY

Quantifying the prevalence of youth in Nevada that are experiencing homelessness, as well as exploring characteristics of individuals experiencing homelessness, is a key component of this study.

For the purposes of this study, **youth experiencing homelessness** (YEH) is defined as **young people aged 12-24 who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence**. 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^f where all members are aged 12-24.

As defined in Nevada's study, people lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence may fall into any of the following three categories:

1. **Unsheltered Youth:** youth sleeping in places not ordinarily designed for sleeping
2. **Sheltered Youth:** youth in non-permanent housing arranged by a housing provider
3. **Housing-unstable Youth:** youth that are couch surfing or doubled-up

As outlined in [Appendix C](#), there are numerous sources of data that can inform the prevalence of youth experiencing homelessness in Nevada. Unfortunately, none of these existing datasets include information on all individuals that fall within the population of focus of this study, either as a point in time estimate or through ongoing data collection activities. Specific limitations for each dataset are documented in [Appendix C](#); however, in brief:

- Datasets aligned with HUD data collection activities and reporting requirements primarily include only individuals that meet the HUD-definition of experiencing homelessness (i.e., categories one and two above). It should also be noted that HUD-mandated Point in Time counts are widely recognized to undercount the actual number of individuals experiencing homelessness.^{(40) (41)} Of particular relevance are issues specifically for counting youth; as noted by the National Alliance to End Homelessness:

Despite the fact that point-in-time counts are required to collect the number of unaccompanied youth under the age of 18, those numbers do not appear accurate, with many CoCs reporting that there are zero unaccompanied youth in their communities. Youth may be afraid or unwilling to enter individual shelters and communities typically have scarce resources, beds, and units dedicated to youth. This means that, in most communities, the

^f For the purposes of this study, 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.

required count of sheltered youth is more likely a count of beds available to youth as opposed to the number of youth who need shelter.

Even further complications arise in trying to identify the number of youth who are unsheltered. Youth are often not engaged with traditional homelessness assistance programs and congregate in different areas than older individuals experiencing homelessness. This makes unsheltered youth harder to find and therefore to count. ⁽⁴⁰⁾

- Datasets from K-12 educational institutions focus on school age children, and for the most part do not include transition age youth (TAY). Direct outreach to some Nevada institutions of higher education (IHE) also indicated that data collection activities across IHEs regarding the percentage of their enrollment that is experiencing homelessness is not consistent.
- Regional data collection activities can provide information for specific areas only and would need to be extrapolated to support state-wide estimates. This can be problematic when utilizing one geographic type (e.g., an urban area such as Las Vegas) to estimate the prevalence in a different geographic type (e.g., a rural area), particularly when seeking to extrapolate specific characteristics of individuals such as race, ethnicity, gender, etc. that differ between regions.

While exploring the datasets available that can inform YEH prevalence, regularly issued surveys that could be amended to collect relevant information were also sought. No surveys that currently engage all study subpopulations were identified, although the PIT Count survey and Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey are both existing surveys that could be revised to support a better understanding of this issue in Nevada.

The study team will develop a data brief in spring 2024 to utilize existing datasets to explore how they can be synthesized to estimate YEH prevalence in the state. This data brief will provide more information on estimated prevalence numbers, as well more specific limitations of each utilized source.

SUMMARY OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The table below provides an overview of the funding opportunities available to prevent youth homelessness and support individuals at risk of homelessness. It highlights opportunities being utilized as well as those not being accessed by Nevada organizations. For more information on these funding opportunities, see [Appendix A](#).

Current Funding Opportunities Utilized in Nevada

General Homeless and Housing Assistance Funding: Federal and state funding utilized in Nevada to specifically support all people at-risk of or currently experiencing homelessness.

- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
- Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)
- Continuum of Care (CoC)
- Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG)
- Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV)
- Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV)
- HOME Investment Partnerships Program
- Housing Opportunities for Persons with Aids (HOPWA)
- Indian Housing Block Grant Program (IHBG)
- IHBG—Competitive Grant Program
- Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICBDG)
- Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV)
- Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)
- Stability Vouchers
- Treatment for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness (TIEH)

Youth-Focused Housing and Homeless Assistance Funding: Federal and state funding utilized in Nevada to specifically support youth at-risk of or currently experiencing homelessness.

- Family Unification Program (FUP)
- Financial Assistance to Former Foster Youth
- Foster Youth to Independence Initiative (FYI)—non-competitive
- John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood (the Chafee program)
- Runaway and Homeless Youth: Basic Center Program (BCP)
- Runaway and Homeless Youth: Maternity and Group Home Program (MGHP)
- Runaway and Homeless Youth: Street Outreach Program (SOP)
- Runaway and Homeless Youth: Transitional Living Program (TLP)

Educational Funding for Youth At-risk or Experiencing Homelessness: Federal and state funding utilized by educational agencies in Nevada to specifically support youth at-risk of or currently experiencing homelessness.

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- American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief—Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY)
- Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)
- McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youths Grant for State and Local Activities (EHCY)
- Education and Training Vouchers Program for Youths Aging out of Foster Care (ETV)

Relevant Funding Opportunities Not Currently Utilized in Nevada

General Homeless and Housing Assistance Funding: Public funding available to support all people at-risk of or currently experiencing homelessness that may not be currently accessed in Nevada.

- Grants for the Benefit of Homeless Individuals (GBHI)

Youth-Focused Housing and Homeless Assistance Funding: Federal and state funding opportunities to specifically support youth at-risk of or currently experiencing homelessness that may not be currently accessed in Nevada.

- Foster Youth Independence Initiative—Competitive
- Performance Partnership Pilots for Disconnected Youth (P3)
- Youth Homeless Demonstration Program
- Youth Homelessness System Improvement Grant Program (YHSI)*

** A consortium of Nevada organizations applied for this funding in February 2024.*

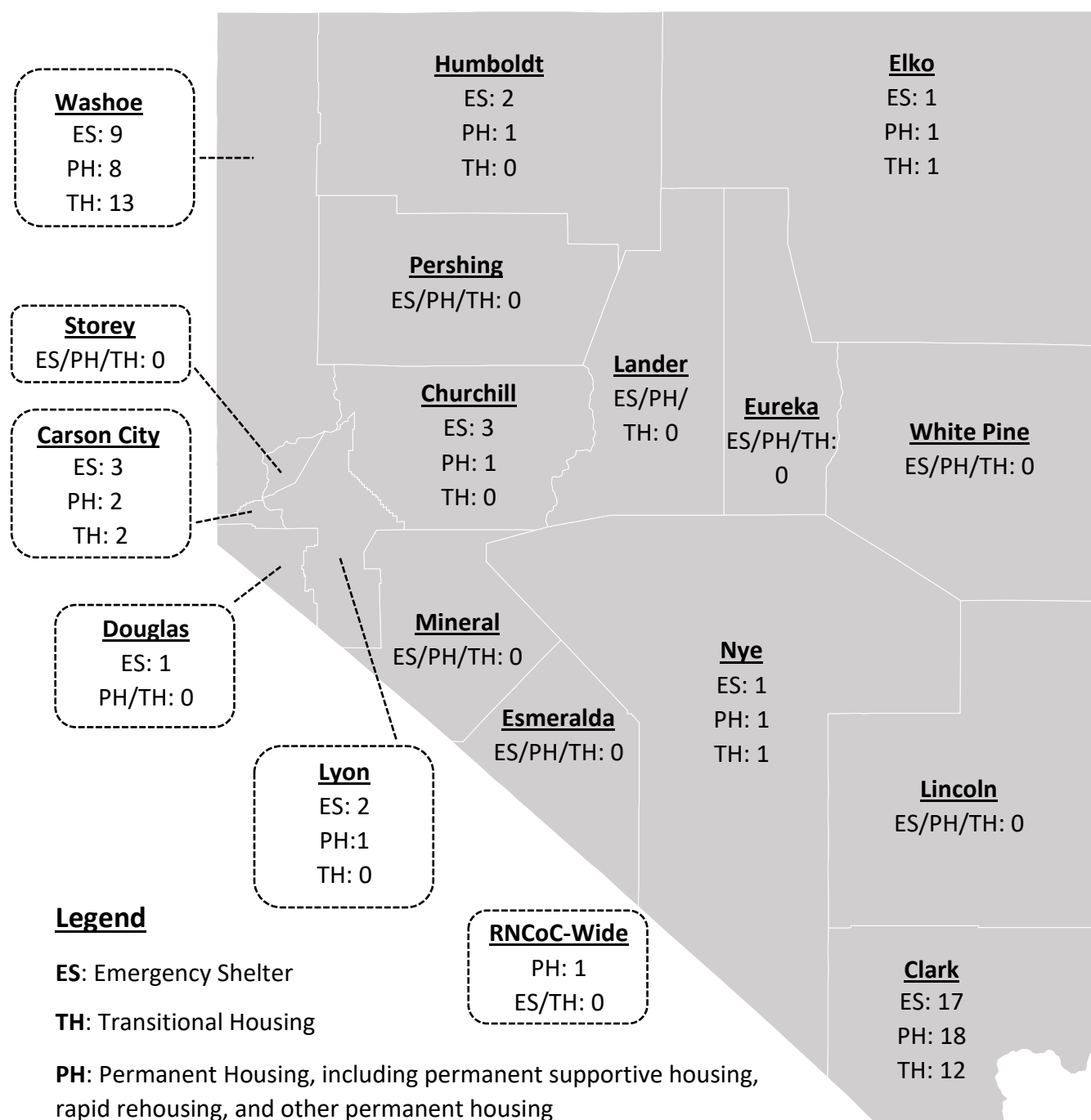
ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING YOUTH EXPERIENCING OR AT-RISK OF HOMELESSNESS

The purpose of this section is twofold:

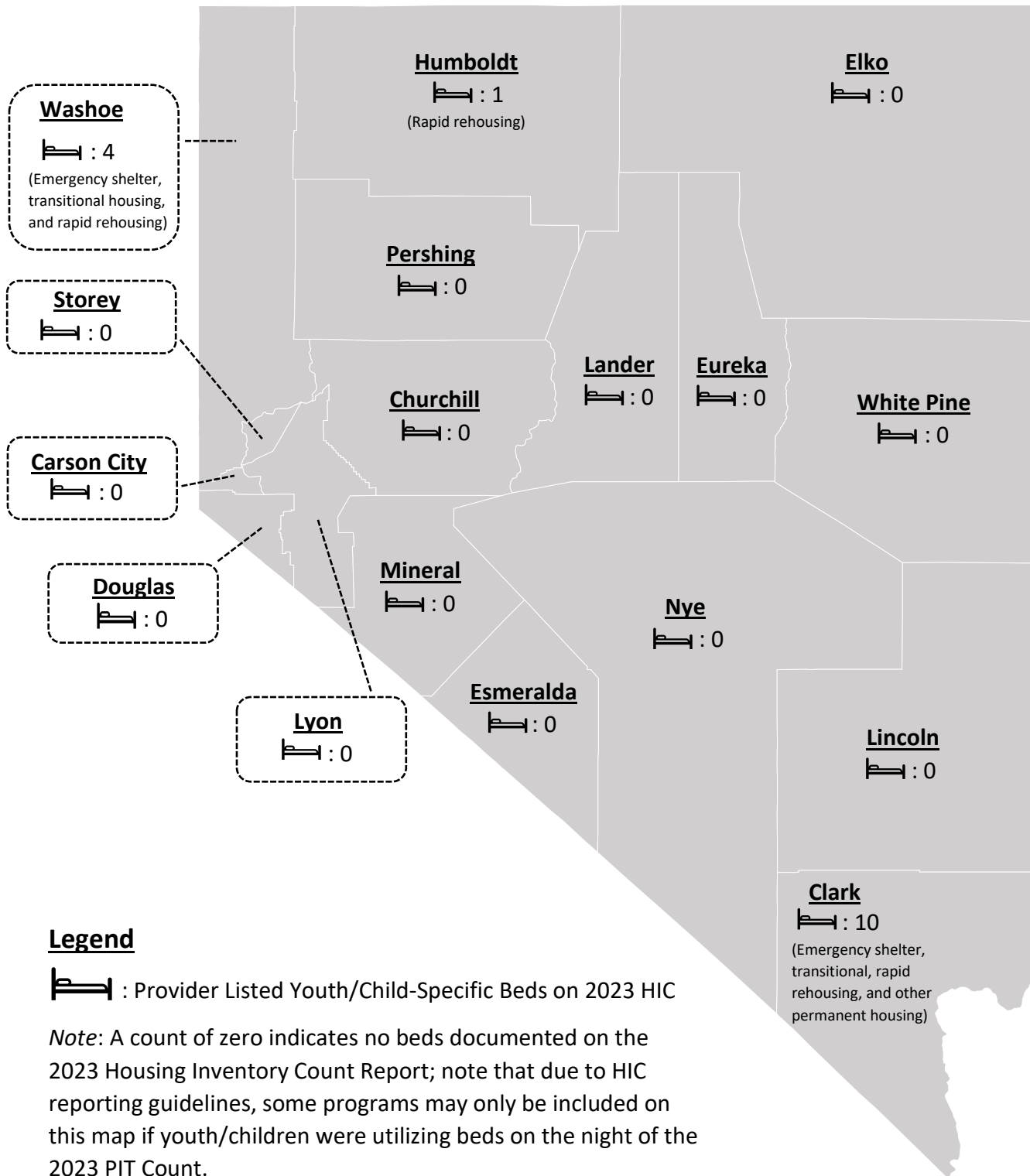
1. To provide an overview of the types, distribution, and prevalence of organizations that provide housing resources in Nevada, both generally to all people experiencing homelessness and specifically for youth experiencing homelessness, per the 2023 Housing Inventory Chart (HIC). ⁽⁴²⁾
2. To identify organizations that can serve as a starting point for outreach into communities in Nevada to support study activities, such as site visits and data collection, anticipated to take place in 2024. This list was developed prior to the finalization of the study's populations of focus and research questions, and therefore was not meant to be comprehensive of all providers that will be engaged during the study. Instead, it is focused on organizations that may have access to prevalence data, and/or that can serve as connection points for populations of focus considered by this study, specifically members of the LGBTQ+ community as this group was identified as being critical to engage early on in study development.

Additional data will be collected throughout the study to supplement this initial review.

NUMBER OF PROVIDERS WITH HOUSING SUPPORTS (EMERGENCY SHELTER, TRANSITIONAL HOUSING, AND PERMANENT HOUSING) LISTED ON 2023 HIC ⁽⁴²⁾



NUMBER OF PROVIDERS WITH YOUTH/CHILD-SPECIFIC BEDS LISTED ON 2023 HIC ⁽⁴²⁾



ADDITIONAL PROVIDERS OF NOTE

The following organizations represent organizations in Nevada that advocate for, and/or that may provide non-housing services, to youth experiencing homelessness. This list was developed prior to the finalization of the study's populations of focus and research questions, and therefore was not meant to be comprehensive. Instead, it is focused on organizations that may have access to prevalence data, and/or serve as connection points for the populations of focus considered by this study, specifically members of the LGBTQ+ community as this group was identified as being critical to engage early on in study development. This list serves as a starting point for outreach into communities in Nevada to support study activities, such as site visits and data collection, anticipated to take place during 2024.

More details, including provider descriptions, is provided in [Appendix B](#).

Statewide

- Children's Advocacy Alliance
- Nevada Department of Education, McKinney-Vento
- Nevada Homeless Alliance
- Nevada Housing Coalition
- Nevada Interagency Advisory Council on Homelessness to Housing
- Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy
- Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth

LGBTQ+

- ACLU of Nevada
- Silver State Equality

Washoe County

General

- Life Changes
- Nevada Youth Empowerment Project
- Monai Village
- Northern Nevada Continuum of Care (NNCoC)
- Northern Nevada HOPES
- Reno Sparks Gospel Mission
- Washoe County School District McKinney-Vento Liaison

LGBTQ+

- Our Center
- Spectrum Northern Nevada

Rural Nevada

General

- Rural Nevada Continuum of Care (RNCOC)
- McKinney-Vento Liaisons (All Rural counties)

- LGBTQ+ Pahrump Support Group (Allies Too!)
- Pahrump LGBTQIA and Friends
- Pahrump Proud
- PFLAG Carson City
- Rural Elko NV Gay Pride Official Group
- TICC, Trans in Carson City

Clark County

General

- Clark County School District McKinney-Vento Liaison
- Job Corps
- Olive Crest
- Project 150
- R.I.S.E. Homes
- Southern Nevada Homelessness Continuum of Care (SNHCoC)
- Street Teens
- The Embracing Project

LGBTQ+

- Bright Star Foundation
- Henderson Equality Center
- N. Las Vegas Equality Center
- The Center

APPENDICES

This document contains six Appendices, comprising:

[Appendix A. Relevant Funding Sources](#)

[Appendix B. Organizations Supporting Youth Experiencing or At-Risk of Homelessness](#)

[Appendix C. Sources of Prevalence Data](#)

[Appendix D. Study Populations of Focus and Research Questions](#)

[Appendix E. Evidence Base for Preventing Youth Homelessness](#)

[Appendix F. References](#)

APPENDIX A. RELEVANT FUNDING SOURCES

Section One | Funding Currently Utilized in Nevada

General Homeless and Housing Assistance Funding: The following table provides an overview of federal and state funding utilized in Nevada to specifically support all people at-risk of or currently experiencing homelessness. Youth (particularly those 18-24 who would be eligible for adult beds or children under 18 who are part of families) may benefit from these resources but are not specifically designated as the focus population for these funding opportunities. Funding specifically designed to support youth at-risk of or currently experiencing homelessness is included in a separate table beginning on page 61. All funding sources are federal unless otherwise noted.

Funding Opportunity	Funding Source	Description	Award Information
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)	Department of Housing and Urban Development	CDBG is a flexible formula grant program awarded to states, cities, and counties, and through the State CDBG program to other smaller units. Funds are spent on projects to develop suitable living environments, supply decent housing, and create economic opportunities.	Funding is received and disbursed by the State of Nevada through the Rural Community and Economic Development Division, as well as Clark County, Henderson, Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, City of Reno, and City of Sparks.
Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)	Administration of Children and Families	CSBG is a formula grant program awarded to states that then fund a network of local eligible entities, including migrant and seasonal farm worker organizations, tribes and tribal organizations, and Community Action Agencies (CAAs). Local entities provide services and activities addressing employment, education, income and asset building services, housing, nutrition, emergency services, and/or healthcare based on community needs assessments conducted by the local entities.	CSBG funds are awarded by the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services to 12 CAAs and county governments across the State of Nevada.
Continuum of Care (CoC)	Department of Housing and Urban Development	The CoC Program is designed to promote communitywide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness by providing funding for efforts by nonprofit providers and state and local governments. Funding is made available to CoCs through an annual NOFO and national competition. Each CoC must develop a collaborative application for the national	Nevada's three continua of care (the Northern, Southern, and Rural Nevada continua) annually apply for and are awarded funding that is distributed to local agencies and providers. The Southern Nevada CoC

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Funding Opportunity	Funding Source	Description	Award Information
		competition and also hold a local competition to distribute funds. Funds typically support permanent supportive housing, rapid rehousing, and coordinated entry. The FY2022 Special NOFO also supported street outreach and additional efforts to end unsheltered homelessness through a coordinated, community approach. Access to CoC-funded housing is based on priority order established by each CoC through a coordinated entry system.	was also funded through the FY 2022 Special NOFO; Northern Nevada also applied but was not funded.
Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG)	Department of Housing and Urban Development	ESG is a formula grant program through which funding is sub granted by jurisdictions to applicants to provide street outreach services, support the development and operation of emergency shelters for homeless individuals and families, and provide essential services to shelter residents. In addition, ESG funding can support rapid rehousing and homelessness prevention through rental assistance.	Funding is received and disbursed by the State of Nevada Housing Division, Clark County, Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, and Reno. ESG funding is distributed to providers across the three CoC's and in many of Nevada's 17 counties.
Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV)	Department of Housing and Urban Development	Originally made available through the American Rescue Plan, the EHV program required that Public Housing Authorities (PHAs), Continuums of Care (CoCs), and Victim Service Providers (VSPs) to develop collaborative partnerships and strategies that effectively address the needs of vulnerable populations in their communities. EHV assists individuals and families who are homeless, at-risk of homelessness, fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking, or were recently homeless or have a high risk of housing instability. An EHV may not be reissued when assistance for a family ends.	Each PHA in Nevada was provided with an allocation of vouchers to be issued by September 30, 2023. In October 2023, HUD notified PHAs that it is expected that PHAs utilize greater than 75% of these vouchers.
Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV)	Department of Housing and Urban Development	The HCV program is administered locally by public housing agencies (PHAs). Funding distributed to PHAs assists families with very low incomes, the elderly, and people with disabilities to afford decent, safe, and sanitary	There are three PHAs in Nevada administering HCVs, including the Reno Housing Authority, Nevada Rural Housing, and the

Youth Experiencing Homelessness Environmental Scan

Funding Opportunity	Funding Source	Description	Award Information
		housing in the private market. Since housing assistance is provided on behalf of the family or individual, participants are able to find their own housing, including single-family homes, townhouses and apartments. HCVs are not dedicated to people experiencing homelessness but do support people living below area median income (AMI).	Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority.
HOME Investment Partnerships Program	Department of Housing and Urban Development	HOME is a formula grant program to states and localities that is used to fund a wide range of activities including building, buying, and/or rehabilitating affordable housing for rent or homeownership or providing direct rental assistance to low-income people. HOME is the largest federal block grant to state and local governments designed exclusively to create affordable housing for low-income households. For funding distributed by the State of Nevada, funds may be allocated to local housing authorities to assist clients on their waiting lists for Section 8 Housing Vouchers. Other jurisdictions may be providing tenant-based rental assistance.	Funding is received and disbursed by the State of Nevada, Clark County, Henderson, Las Vegas, and Reno.
Housing Opportunities for Persons with Aids (HOPWA)	Department of Housing and Urban Development	HOPWA is a formula grant program providing funding to local communities, States, and nonprofit organizations for projects that benefit low-income persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families. Funds are available for tenant-based rental assistance, permanent housing, transitional and short-term housing, short-term rent, mortgage and utility assistance and supportive services.	Funding is received and disbursed by the State of Nevada and Las Vegas.
Indian Housing Block Grant Program (IHBG)	Department of Housing and Urban Development	IHBG is a formula funding program distributed annually and serving as a major source of housing assistance to Native Americans for the delivery of a range of affordable housing opportunities and housing-related activities to low- and moderate-income members of federally recognized Indian Tribes. Tribal sovereignty and tribal self-determination drive the IHBG program and the government-	Eligible IHBG recipients are federally recognized Tribes, Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs), and a limited number of State-recognized Tribes, including

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Funding Opportunity	Funding Source	Description	Award Information
		to-government relationship between the Federal Government and Tribes, recognizing that Tribes should make policy decisions and manage programs for their members and their communities are emphasized.	many in Nevada. ^g
IHBG— Competitive Grant Program	Department of Housing and Urban Development	The IHBG competitive grant program provides grants to eligible Indian tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) to carry out a range of affordable housing activities. Grant funds may be used to develop, maintain, and operate affordable housing in safe and healthy environments on Indian reservations and in other Indian areas, and carry out other affordable housing activities. Grant funds must be used to primarily benefit low-income Indian families.	Eligible applicants include Native American tribal governments (federally recognized) and Native American tribal organizations (other than federally recognized tribal governments). Reno-Sparks Indian Colony was awarded \$4.4 million to build 22 housing units in the FY2022 competition.
Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG)	Department of Housing and Urban Development	The ICDBG provides Indian tribes (and certain Indian organizations applying on behalf of tribes) with direct grants for use in developing viable Indian and Alaska Native Communities, including decent housing, a suitable living environment, and economic opportunities, primarily for people with low and moderate income. The program regulations provide for two categories of grants, Single Purpose and Imminent Threat. Single Purpose grants are awarded on a competition basis pursuant to the terms published in an annual Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). Imminent Threat allows the Secretary of HUD to set aside up to \$4 million of each year's allocation for the noncompetitive, first come-first served, funding of grants to eliminate or lessen problems which pose an imminent threat to public health or safety of tribal residents.	Eligible applicants for assistance include any Indian tribe, band, group, or nation which has established a relationship to the Federal Government as defined in the program regulations. In certain instances, tribal organizations may be eligible to apply. In FY2022, the Winnemucca Indian Colony was awarded \$1.9 million for economic development activities.

^g For a complete list of FY 2023 Allocations by Tribe and TDHE: <https://ihbgformula.com/final-allocation-forms-fy-2023/>

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Funding Opportunity	Funding Source	Description	Award Information
Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV)	Health Resources and Services Administration	MIECHV is a formula funding program distributed to states, territories, and tribal entities. The program supports communities to provide voluntary, evidence-based home visiting services to women during pregnancy and to parents with children up to kindergarten age. The program can serve families at risk of or experiencing homelessness and help to connect them to services and supports.	Funds are received by Nevada Department of Health and Human Services to support the Nevada Home Visiting Program in Carson City, Lyon, Mineral, Storey, Clark and Washoe Counties. Nye County also received ARP-MIECHV funding.
Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration	PATH is a formula grant program. Funds are distributed by the state to local public or nonprofit organizations for services for people with serious mental illness (SMI) experiencing homelessness, including outreach, case management, and services not supported through mainstream mental health programs.	Funding is received by the Division of Public and Behavioral Health and disbursed to the three PATH providers in the State: HELP of Southern Nevada, Project ReStart, and New Frontier.
Stability Vouchers	Department of Housing and Urban Development	In conjunction with the FY2022 Special CoC NOFO, Stability Vouchers were issued in 2022 through a non-competitive process. These vouchers are incremental Housing Choice Vouchers allocated to PHAs committed to partnering with the CoC and CoC-funded services. These vouchers were designed to reduce unsheltered homelessness and were available to individuals and families experiencing homelessness, at-risk of homelessness, fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and veterans.	These vouchers were awarded among selected communities who demonstrated a strategy to coordinate assistance with services available in the community. Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority is the only housing authority in Nevada to receive Stability Vouchers.
Treatment for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness (TIEH)	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration	TIEH is a competitive grant program. This funding is meant to increase access to evidence-based services, peer support, services that support recovery, and connections to permanent housing.	One organization in Las Vegas was awarded in FY 2023 and youth are one population of focus for this grantee (Vegas Stronger). Since FY 2018, no previous awards have been received by an organization in Nevada.

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Youth-Focused Housing and Homeless Assistance Funding: The following table provides an overview of federal and state funding utilized in Nevada to specifically support youth at-risk of or currently experiencing homelessness. All funding sources are federal unless otherwise noted.

Funding Opportunity	Funding Source	Description	Award Information
Family Unification Program (FUP)	Department of Housing and Urban Development	FUP is a competitive grant program through which public housing authorities (PHAs) that partner with Public Child Welfare Agencies (PCWAs) provide Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) assistance to two groups: 1) Families for whom the lack of adequate housing is a primary factor in the imminent placement of the family's child, or children, in out-of-home care; or the delay in the discharge of the child, or children, to the family from out-of-home care; and 2) Youth at least 18 years and not more than 24 years of age (have not reached their 25 th birthday) who left foster care, or will leave foster care within 90 days, in accordance with a transition plan described in Section 475(5)(H) of the Social Security Act, and are homeless or are at risk of becoming homeless at age 16 or older.	Only PHAs that have an existing Annual Contributions Contract with HUD are eligible. Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority is the only housing authority in Nevada to administer and receive FUP funding.
Financial Assistance to Former Foster Youth	NV State Funding Nevada Division of Child and Family Services	Nevada provides financial assistance to former foster youth through the passage of Assembly Bill 94, also known as the Financial Assistance to Former Foster Youth Program (FAFFY), through Nevada's Independent Living Programs. These programs provide a variety of services and may have special requirements.	FAFFY services are provided through Independent Living Programs available in Clark County, Washoe County, and to Rural Nevada through an agency located in Carson City.

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Funding Opportunity	Funding Source	Description	Award Information
Foster Youth to Independence Initiative (FYI)—non-competitive	Department of Housing and Urban Development	The non-competitive FYI funding makes Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) assistance available to Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) in partnership with Public Child Welfare Agencies (PCWAs). Under FYI, PHAs provide housing assistance on behalf of youth ages 18 to 24 who left foster care or will leave foster care within 90 days. As of March 2023, PHAs meeting a utilization threshold requirement may request assistance on a rolling basis under. If additional funding is made available for this purpose in future appropriations acts, HUD may continue to make awards.	These funds are only available to PHAs. As of August 2023, these vouchers are only administered by the Reno Public Housing Authority.
John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood (the Chafee program)	Administration for Children and Families	The Chafee program is a formula funding program awarded to child welfare agencies in States and Tribes that provides funding to support youth/young adults in or formerly in foster care in their transition to adulthood. While states may elect to provide services for people up to age 23, Nevada does not do so. Activities and programs include, but are not limited to, help with education, employment, financial management, housing, emotional support, and assure connections to caring adults for older youth in foster care.	Funds are administered by Nevada's Independent Living Programs through the Nevada Division of Child and Family Services. These programs are available in Clark County, Washoe County, and to Rural Nevada through an agency located in Carson City.
Runaway and Homeless Youth: Basic Center Program (BCP)	Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Family and Youth Services Bureau	The BCP is a competitive grant program that helps to create and strengthen community-based programs that meet the immediate needs of runaway youth and youth experiencing homelessness under 18 years old by providing up to 21 days of shelter, food, clothing, and medical care; individual, group, and family counseling; crisis intervention, recreation programs, and aftercare services. One of the goals of BCP is to reunite young people with their families or locate appropriate alternative placements.	Funds are awarded in three-year cycles. One organization in Northern Nevada was awarded for the 2023-2026 grant period, and one in Southern Nevada was awarded for the 2022-2025 grant period.

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Funding Opportunity	Funding Source	Description	Award Information
Runaway and Homeless Youth: Maternity and Group Home Program (MGHP)	Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Family and Youth Services Bureau	The MGH is a competitive grant program that provides support for pregnant and/or parenting youth experiencing homelessness between the ages of 16 and 22, as well as their dependent children. The MGH program provides similar services to the Transitional Living Program, as well as services that incorporate positive youth development and teach parenting skills, child development, family budgeting, and health and nutrition.	Funds are awarded in three-year cycles. There are two organizations, one in Northern Nevada and one in Southern Nevada that were awarded for the 2022-2025 grant period.
Runaway and Homeless Youth: Street Outreach Program (SOP)	Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Family and Youth Services Bureau	The SOP is a competitive grant program that supports work with youth experiencing homelessness, runaway youth, and street youth to help them find stable housing and services and to prevent the sexual exploitation and abuse of youth on the streets. The services include street-based education and outreach, access to emergency shelter, survival aid, treatment and counseling, crisis intervention, and follow-up support.	Funds are awarded in three-year cycles. There is one organization in Northern Nevada and one in Southern Nevada that were awarded for the 2023-2026 grant period.
Runaway and Homeless Youth: Transitional Living Program (TLP)	Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Family and Youth Services Bureau	The TLP is a competitive grant program that provides long-term residential services to youth experiencing homelessness between the ages of 16 and 22, including living arrangements for youth in host families, group homes, maternity group homes, and supervised apartments owned or rented by the program.	Funds are awarded in three-year cycles. One organization in Southern Nevada was awarded for the 2022-2025 grant period.

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Educational Funding for Youth At-risk or Experiencing Homelessness: The following table provides an overview of federal and state funding utilized by educational agencies in Nevada to specifically support youth at-risk of or currently experiencing homelessness. All funding sources are federal unless otherwise noted.

Funding Opportunity	Funding Source	Description	Award Information
American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief—Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY)	Department of Education	ARP-HCY funding was allocated to states to allow state and local education agencies (SEAs and LEAs) to identify homeless children and youth, to provide homeless children and youth with wrap-around services to address the challenges of COVID-19, and to enable homeless children and youth to attend school and fully participate in school activities. Funds were released in two separate disbursements (ARP Homeless I and ARP Homeless II). 25% of funding are used for State-level activities and 75% are distributed to LEAs.	Released in 2021, funding was distributed by formula and remains available until September 30, 2024, with the deadline for drawdown being January 31, 2025.
Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)	Administration of Children and Families	The CCDF is a formula funding program under the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act. States use CCDF to support families' access to child care, including enrollment of children experiencing homelessness in childcare services, training on identifying and serving families and children experiencing homelessness, and specific outreach efforts. CCDF services must be provided to children experiencing homelessness while their families take any necessary action to comply with health and safety requirements, and states must coordinate CCDF services and collect child-level data.	Funds are administered by the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services. The program is offered through the Las Vegas Urban league and The Children's Cabinet.

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Funding Opportunity	Funding Source	Description	Award Information
McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youths Grant for State and Local Activities (EHCY)	Department of Education	EHCY is a formula grant program that supports an office for coordination of the education of homeless children and youths in each state, which gathers comprehensive information about homeless children and youths and the impediments they must overcome to regularly attend school. Funding also helps SEAs ensure that children experiencing homelessness have equal access to public education. States must make competitive subgrants to LEAs to facilitate the enrollment, attendance, and success in school of homeless children and youths.	Funds are awarded in a three-year cycle. The most recent cycle was 2022-2025. Grants are awarded to LEAs in alignment with the number of students experiencing homelessness in the LEA, the needs indicated by the LEA, as well as the quality of their plan.
Education and Training Vouchers Program for Youths Aging out of Foster Care (ETV)	Administration for Children and Families	ETV is a formula grant program provided to states to fund youth who have aged out of the foster care system and who are enrolled in college, university and vocational training programs. Students may receive up to \$5,000 a year based on their cost of attendance. They must enroll before their 21st birthday and may continue to receive support until age 23. Funds may be used for tuition, dorm fees, books, student loan repayments and qualified living expenses.	Funds are administered by the Division of Child and Family Services. Funding may be awarded to one agency to provide services statewide or two separate agencies to provide services in the North and South regions of Nevada. Currently, the ETV program is operated by The Children's Cabinet and Clark County Social Service.

Section Two | Relevant Funding Opportunities Not Currently Utilized in Nevada

General Homeless and Housing Assistance Funding: The following table provides an overview of public funding available to support all people at-risk of or currently experiencing homelessness that may not be currently accessed in Nevada. Youth (particularly those 18-24 who would be eligible for adult beds or children under 18 who are part of families) may benefit from these resources but are not specifically designated as the focus population for these funding opportunities; funding opportunities specifically designed to support youth at-risk of or currently experiencing homelessness are included in a separate table beginning on page 62. All funding sources are federal unless otherwise noted.

Funding Opportunity	Funding Source	Description	Award Information
Grants for the Benefit of Homeless Individuals (GBHI)	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration	GBHI is a competitive grant program with the goal of helping communities expand and strengthen treatment and recovery support services for individuals (including youth and families) experiencing homelessness who have substance use disorders or co-occurring mental and substance use disorders. Funds support: 1) substance use disorders or co-occurring mental and substance use disorders treatment and other recovery-oriented services; 2) coordination of housing and services that support the implementation and/or enhance the long-term sustainability of integrated community systems that provide permanent housing and supportive services; and 3) efforts to engage and connect clients who experience substance use disorders or co-occurring disorders to enrollment resources for health insurance, Medicaid, and mainstream benefits programs.	Grants are awarded for up to 5 years to community-based public and private nonprofit entities. States are not eligible to apply. Up to \$500,000 is available per award. In FY 2023, up to 32 awards were anticipated. Previously awarded applicants as well as TIEH awardees may not be eligible for the funding.

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Youth-Focused Housing and Homeless Assistance Funding: The following table provides an overview of federal and state funding opportunities to specifically support youth at-risk of or currently experiencing homelessness. All funding sources are federal unless otherwise noted.

Funding Opportunity	Funding Source	Description	Award Information
Foster Youth Independence Initiative—Competitive	Department of Housing and Urban Development	The competitive FYI funding (see previous entry regarding non-competitive FYI funding in the Federal Funding Utilized section) makes housing assistance available for young adults between 18 and 24 years old who left foster care or will leave foster care in the next 90 days and are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The application requires the submission of an MOU with the Public Child Welfare Agency, with collaboration with other key partners strongly encouraged.	Only PHAs with an existing contract with HUD for Housing Choice Vouchers are eligible. There is a cap on the number of vouchers that can be requested based on the size of the PHA's existing Housing Choice Voucher program. Funding is highly competitive.
Performance Partnership Pilots for Disconnected Youth (P3)	Department of Education	P3 provides important opportunities to improve access to Federal programs and their effectiveness in addressing the needs of disconnected youth. Disconnected youth are defined as "individuals between the ages of 14 and 24 who are low income and either homeless, in foster care, involved in the juvenile justice system, unemployed, or not enrolled in or at risk of dropping out of an educational institution." It gives the Departments of Education, Labor (DOL), Health and Human Services (HHS), and Justice (DOJ), the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (collectively, the Agencies) authority, provided certain conditions and requirements are met, to waive federal statutory and regulatory requirements that inhibit access to assistance and effective service delivery for disconnected youth.	P3 was reauthorized for FY 2023 for programs administered by all of the six Agencies, and the Agencies could select up to 10 pilots. In FY 2023, applicants proposed funds from at least one of the six Agencies. The type of award is a "flexibility" award rather than the award of funds. The lead applicant must be a state, local, or tribal government entity, represented by a chief executive, such as a governor, mayor, or other elected leader, or the head of a state, local, or tribal agency.

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Funding Opportunity	Funding Source	Description	Award Information
Youth Homeless Demonstration Program	Department of Housing and Urban Development	The goal of the Youth Homeless Demonstration Program (YHDP) is to support selected communities in the development and implementation of a coordinated community approach to preventing and ending youth homelessness. The population to be served by this demonstration program is youth experiencing homelessness, aged 24 and under, including unaccompanied youth and pregnant or parenting youth who are experiencing homelessness. The YHDP requires the development of a Youth Action Board and the development of a coordinated community plan (CCP) by a CoC. Once the CCP is approved by HUD, only projects aligned with and listed in the CCP are awarded funding.	Seven rounds of funding have been open since 2016 and are announced via a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). In FY 2022, approximately \$60,000,000 was available under the NOFO and 17 CoCs were awarded.
Youth Homelessness System Improvement Grant Program (YHSI)	Department of Housing and Urban Development	The YHSI is a competitive grant program designed to support selected communities in either improving existing or establishing and implementing a response system for youth homelessness. Grants focus on systemic change to either improve or create response systems for youth homelessness by funding projects that create and build capacity for Youth Action Boards; collect and use data on at-risk youth and youth experiencing homelessness; develop strong leaders within a community; and improve the coordination, communication, operation, and administration of homeless assistance projects to better serve youth, including prevention and diversion strategies.	<p>HUD expects to make 35 awards, ranging from \$200,000 to \$2,000,000. Eligible applicants include state, county, city, special district and Native American tribal governments, as well as public and Indian housing authorities, Native American tribal organizations and tax-exempt non-profit organizations.</p> <p><i>Note: A consortium of Nevada organizations applied for this funding in February 2024.</i></p>

APPENDIX B. ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING YOUTH EXPERIENCING OR AT-RISK OF HOMELESSNESS

Statewide Organizations

This section describes statewide organizations that advocate on behalf of and/or provide services to individuals at-risk of or experiencing homelessness. LGBTQ+ youth at risk of or experiencing homelessness are a confirmed priority population of the study, and organizations that support LGBTQ+ youth are also included as their engagement may support future data collection and study activities.

Organization Name	Organizational Description	Areas of Focus/Services Provided
ACLU of Nevada	The ACLU of Nevada is the state affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union, the nation's largest civil liberties and civil rights organization. The ACLU works to defend and advance the civil liberties and civil rights of all Nevadans via an integrated advocacy model that uses public engagement, public policy, and strategic litigation for the betterment of our community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocates for homeless youth and related issues Provides "Know Your Rights" materials related on topics such as "unsheltered in Nevada," "transgender and gender-diverse students," and "Las Vegas camping ban."
Children's Advocacy Alliance	The Children's Advocacy Alliance (CAA) builds consensus around priorities and leverages their collective strength toward real changes in policy and practice to ensure that every child has a chance to thrive.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAA advocates in the areas of Health, Child Welfare and Equitable Access, School Readiness and Early Childhood System, and Economic Well-Being. They work to educate the community on issues that impact children, government and policy advocacy, civic engagement, disseminating up-to-date and evidence-based research, and centering impacted communities through story sharing and coalition building.

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Organization Name	Organizational Description	Areas of Focus/Services Provided
Nevada Department of Education, McKinney-Vento	The McKinney-Vento Law was enacted in 1987 to remove common barriers children and youth experiencing homelessness often encountered from being unhoused. In order to ensure students have the best possible outcomes, it is critical for them to have access to all of the services and supports that are available in school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires youth experiencing homelessness to be immediately enrolled with or without academic and non-academic student information/records, e.g., health, residency, special education, or guardianship. • Supports youth experiencing homelessness with clothing, transportations, dues/fees to participate in clubs/after-school activities, and other situational academic needs. • Collaborates to share information, inform/collaborate on policies and procedures, support/develop leadership opportunities for students, destigmatize homelessness, and other efforts that proactively address youth homelessness. • Collects, analyzes, and interprets academic and non-academic data to inform proactive planning, strategies, and policies to maximize current, and build new, systems of support for youth experiencing homelessness.
Nevada Homeless Alliance	The Nevada Homeless Alliance brings people together to advance solutions to homelessness by partnering closely with federal, state, and local government, business, philanthropic, civic, faith-based organizations, and people who are currently experiencing homelessness and those who have in the past.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect people experiencing homelessness to local service organizations who provide housing, healthcare, employment support, legal aid, and basic care services. • Advocacy. • Training on evidence-based practices to homeless service providers. • Provider networking events/working groups.

Youth Experiencing Homelessness Environmental Scan

Organization Name	Organizational Description	Areas of Focus/Services Provided
Nevada Housing Coalition	The Nevada Housing Coalition empowers organizations to be part of the solution to our affordable housing crisis in Nevada through accurate data, sustainable programming, and purposeful collaboration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raises awareness and builds the capacity of our communities to create high-quality, dignified, and attainable housing for all Nevadans. • Develops strategies and goals to address Nevada's affordable housing shortfall through community action and policy changes.
Nevada Interagency Advisory Council on Homelessness to Housing	The Council is responsible for collaborating with state and local agencies to promote cooperation among federal, state, and local agencies; develop a strategic plan to combat housing insecurity; increase awareness of issues related to homelessness; collaborate with and request the assistance for experts in reducing housing insecure populations; and report progress on the state-wide efforts on homelessness to housing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration between agencies and organizations that work to alleviate the stresses of housing insecurity across the state.
Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy	The Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy (NICRP), located within the School of Public Health at the University of Nevada Las Vegas, is a not-for-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to improving the lives of children through research, advocacy, and other specialized services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NICRP provides a variety of services to both public and private agencies and organizations serving children in an effort to enhance the quality, availability and effectiveness of programs and services in Nevada. The services provided by NICRP include: Bill Draft Request Tracking, Grant Development, Legislative Advocacy, Legislative Bill Tracking, Legislative Briefing Book, Policy Analysis & Briefs, and Training & Education.

Youth Experiencing Homelessness Environmental Scan

Organization Name	Organizational Description	Areas of Focus/Services Provided
Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth	The mission of NPHY is to end youth homelessness and its wide-ranging, devastating impact – for each youth encountered and the community as a whole.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leading the Movement to End Youth Homelessness in Nevada through systems level-advocacy (<i>direct services provided are summarized in the Clark County section below</i>).
Silver State Equality	As Nevada’s statewide LGBTQ+ civil rights organization, Silver State Equality brings the voices of LGBTQ+ people and allies to institutions of power in Nevada and across the United States, striving to create a world that is healthy, just and fully equal for all LGBTQ+ people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing disparities in LGBTQ+ health and well-being through education and advocacy.

Organizations Within the Northern Nevada Continuum of Care Area (NNCoC) | Washoe County

This section describes organizations within **Washoe County** that advocate on behalf of and/or provide services to individuals at-risk of or experiencing homelessness. LGBTQ+ youth at-risk of or experiencing homelessness are a confirmed priority population of the study, and organizations that support LGBTQ+ youth are also included as their engagement may support future data collection and study activities.

This first table includes organizations that are not listed on the 2023 Housing Inventory Chart (HIC) Report, so are not known via the HIC to operate emergency shelter, transitional housing, or permanent housing programs. See areas of focus/services provided for specifics of each organization.

Organization Name	Organizational Description	Areas of Focus/Services Provided
Life Changes	Life Changes, Inc. is a Level II Sober Living Home that is staffed with an on-site house manager, Peer Recovery Support Specialists and services are provided in a residential, home style environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Healing Home is offered to SilverSummit Healthplan members who are in need of housing and wraparound services when healing from a medical situation. The member must not need a higher level of clinical care than what home health care can provide. Services are available for both men and women. New Beginnings Prisoner Reentry Program. Domestic violence and human trafficking home for HealthPlan of Nevada members.^h

^h In November 2023, Catrina Peters noted in an email that Life Changes may have transitional housing beds that should be further evaluated.

Organization Name	Organizational Description	Areas of Focus/Services Provided
Nevada Youth Empowerment Project (NYEP)	NYEP gives homeless young women (18-24) in the Reno area a chance to reroute their lives through a structured program that provides housing and basic needs, life skills training, opportunities to practice new life skills, and the support and love of a family.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They have a second program Sander house that has 5 beds that aren't reported in HMIS.
Monai Village	Monai Village envisions building a place where youth in transition can break the cycle of homelessness, have a sense of community, build trust, responsibility, and independence while earning their education to have a real chance at success.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No current housing provided.

Youth Experiencing Homelessness Environmental Scan

Organization Name	Organizational Description	Areas of Focus/Services Provided
Northern Nevada Continuum of Care (NNCoC)	The NNCoC is one of three CoCs within Nevada. All three organize efforts made by local governments, non-profits, and key partner groups to end homelessness in their region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote communitywide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness. Provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, and state and local governments to quickly rehouse homeless individuals and families while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused by homelessness. Promote access to and effect utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families. Optimize self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness.
Northern Nevada HOPES	Offers comprehensive medical care with extensive wraparound services that support overall well-being. Case managers connect patients with meals, clothes, shelter, education and other resources that enhance stability, reduce stress, and improve health outcomes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a non-congregate shelter that has a time limit as well as a Housing for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program.
Our Center	To maintain a safe, empowering, and supportive center for the LGBTQ+ community and allies that addresses advocacy, education, and services. Our Center seeks to build, connect, and strengthen the LGBTQ+ community through community building, arts and culture programming, and inclusive activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides northern Nevada's LGBTQ+ community with access to advocacy, support, educational programs, services and resources. Produce and present programming for the entire LGBTQ+ community and constituencies, which means supporting, creating, and funding programs like the GSA Consortium, TransYouth Support Group, Transparenting Group, Women Who Brunch, and Senior Coffee Time.

Youth Experiencing Homelessness Environmental Scan

Organization Name	Organizational Description	Areas of Focus/Services Provided
Spectrum Northern Nevada	Mission is to create safe and accepting social networks and events for members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Questioning (LGBTQ) community and their advocates in Northern Nevada. Also linked to a private Facebook group: "TINN—Trans in Northern Nevada".	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports social opportunities, diversity education, and community service.
Reno Sparks Gospel Mission	The Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission provides healing and hope for people struggling with homelessness, hunger, poverty, abuse and addiction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe shelter with 130 beds for men and women. • Also provides addiction recovery, community services, and food and hunger services.
Washoe County School District McKinney-Vento Liaison	The McKinney-Vento Law was enacted in 1987 to remove common barriers children and youth experiencing homelessness often encountered from being unhoused. In order to ensure students have the best possible outcomes, it is critical for them to have access to all of the services and supports that are available in school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires youth experiencing homelessness must be immediately enrolled with or without academic and non-academic student information/records, e.g. health, residency, special education, or guardianship. • Supports youth experiencing homelessness with clothing, transportations, dues/fees to participate in clubs/after-school activities, and other situational academic needs. • Collaborates to share information, inform/collaborate on policies and procedures, support/develop leadership opportunities for students, destigmatize homelessness, and other efforts that proactively address youth homelessness. • Collects, analyzes, and interprets academic and non-academic data to inform proactive planning, strategies, and policies to maximize current, and build new, systems of support for youth experiencing homelessness.

Youth Experiencing Homelessness Environmental Scan

This second table includes organizations that are listed on the 2023 Housing Inventory Chart Report (i.e., organizations that operated emergency shelter, transitional housing, or permanent housing programs).

- Note that the Organizational Description is for the organization as a whole and not necessarily specific to the housing programs described in the 2023 HIC Housing Programs column.
- The number of youth beds are those listed as being dedicated to housing homeless youth age 24 and younger on the 2023 HIC Report; organizations that are noted as not offering youth-specific beds may still serve individuals within the 12-24 population in non-dedicated beds. **A total of 94 child-only or youth beds were listed in the 2023 HIC Report for the NNCOC.**
- The 2023 HIC Housing Program data is included to provide a general sense of the number of HUD-reported child-only and youth dedicated beds available or utilized (in the case of RRH programs); additional data will be collected later in the project to supplement this initial review.

Organization Name	Organizational Description	2023 HIC Housing Programs
Bristlecone Family Services	Provides comprehensive addiction and mental wellness treatment and recovery services using a mental health, case management approach with a full continuum of services including transitional living/housing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offered transitional housing and emergency shelter. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No youth/child-specific beds noted.
Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada	Provides “Battle Born Housing Plus,” a sober community for low-income individuals who need wraparound services to address their needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offered permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No youth/child-specific beds noted.
City of Reno Housing Authority	Provides housing subsidies to low-income families and former foster youth. Smart Start program that provides teens with opportunities for leadership development, academic and social growth and financial literacy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offered permanent supportive housing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No youth/child-specific beds noted. • 15 FYI vouchers are administered by RHA and Eddy House and HSA place the youth and serve as the entry point.
Domestic Violence Resource Center	Provides free services for people experiencing family violence such as access to support groups, housing options and legal referrals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offered emergency shelter and transitional housing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No youth/child-specific beds noted.

Youth Experiencing Homelessness Environmental Scan

Organization Name	Organizational Description	2023 HIC Housing Programs
Eddy House	Eddy House is a daytime drop-in center and overnight shelter for homeless, runaway, foster, and other at-risk youth. Eddy House works with youth to develop life and job skills necessary for sustainable independence with the goal of ending youth homelessness in Northern Nevada.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered emergency shelter and transitional housing. Offered youth-specific beds. In the 2023 HIC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ES= 33 youth/child-specific beds in 1 shelter. TH= 35 youth/child-specific beds across 2 programs.
Empowerment Center	Provides safe housing and support for women who struggle with addictive disorders through a transitional living facility that offers wraparound services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered transitional housing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No youth/child-specific beds noted.
Health Plan of Nevada Northern Nevada	Owns and manages public housing and rental properties for low-income households; provides housing subsidies for 15 former foster youth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered permanent supportive housing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No youth/child-specific beds noted.
Hosanna Home	Provides care in a Christian home for homeless women in transition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered transitional housing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No youth/child-specific beds noted.
Nevada Youth Empowerment Project	Gives homeless young women (18-24) a chance to reroute their lives through a structured program that provides housing and basic needs, life skills training, opportunities to practice new life skills, and the support and love of a family.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered transitional housing. Offered youth-specific beds. In the 2023 HIC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TH= 5 youth/child-specific beds in 1 program.
Northern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services (NNAMHS)	NNAMHS is a comprehensive, community-based behavioral health system for adult consumers that offers inpatient and outpatient services, including residential programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered permanent supportive housing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No youth/child-specific beds noted.

Youth Experiencing Homelessness Environmental Scan

Organization Name	Organizational Description	2023 HIC Housing Programs
Nation's Finest Veterans Services – Reno, NV (formerly listed as Northern Nevada Veterans Resource Center)	Serves veterans throughout Northern Nevada with two primary programs: the VA's Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program, and Washoe County Veteran Service Officer (VSO) Program. SSVF Program has the capability to rapidly re-house homeless veteran families and individuals – it also prevents veteran families from entering homelessness by assisting with utility bills, rental payments, and other issues of stability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered emergency shelter and rapid rehousing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No youth/child-specific beds noted. The Veterans Administration locally administers a pretty substantial HUD-VASH program that is PSH.
ReStart	Provides a variety of different housing services such as emergency shelter and housing assistance programs meant to prevent homelessness or get those quickly into the right housing solution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No youth/child-specific beds noted.
Safe Embrace	Largest and most inclusive safe house in the Reno-Sparks area with a 90-day emergency shelter and two housing programs that provide rental assistance to individuals and families experiencing domestic violence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered emergency shelter, transitional housing, and rapid rehousing. Offered youth-specific beds. In the 2023 HIC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RRH= 14 youth beds across 5 programs.
Step 1	Provides supportive, transitional housing to low- or no-income adult men.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered transitional housing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No youth/child-specific beds noted.
Steps to New Freedom	<i>Not available online</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offers transitional housing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No youth/child-specific beds noted.
The Children's Cabinet	Provides Safe Place counseling and case management and can also provide temporary shelter.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered emergency shelter. Offered youth-specific beds. In the 2023 HIC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ES= 7 youth/child-specific beds at 1 shelter.
Vitality Unlimited NN	Provides veterans housing, transitional living for men 18+, and affordable housing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered transitional housing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No youth/child-specific beds noted.

Youth Experiencing Homelessness Environmental Scan

Organization Name	Organizational Description	2023 HIC Housing Programs
Volunteers of America	Provides a variety of homeless assistance programs in Northern Nevada. One appears to be the ReStart program outlined in a separate row above.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered emergency shelter and transitional housing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No youth/child-specific beds noted.
Washoe County	To lead the community to build a system that is capable of housing people experiencing homelessness, so that it's rare, brief, and non-reoccurring. Operates several housing and homeless services initiatives, including: Built for Zero, Nevada Cares Campus Emergency Shelter and Safe Camp, Our Place, Northern Nevada Continuum of Care, Street Homeless Outreach, and Community Homelessness Advisory Board, in addition to a shelter census dashboard.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered emergency shelter, permanent supportive housing, emergency housing vouchers, and other housing programs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No youth/child-specific beds noted.
Well Care Northern Nevada	Well Care programs offer the full continuum of care. Well Care strives to improve access to the resources needed to meet clients' needs including prescription medications, outpatient counseling, MAT, intensive case management, housing, transportation and many other services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered emergency shelterⁱ and transitional housing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No youth/child-specific beds noted.
Westcare	Provides a Homefront independent living program for homeless Veterans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered transitional housing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No youth/child-specific beds noted.

ⁱ As of December 2023, the emergency shelter program is no longer operational.

Organizations Within the Rural Nevada Continuum of Care Area (RNCoc) | 15 Rural/Frontier Counties

This section describes organizations within **Carson City, Churchill, Douglas, Elko, Esmeralda, Eureka, Humboldt, Lander, Lincoln, Lyon, Mineral, Nye, Pershing, Storey, and White Pine counties** that advocate on behalf of and/or provide services to individuals at-risk of or experiencing homelessness. LGBTQ+ youth at-risk of or experiencing homelessness are a confirmed priority population of the study, and organizations that support LGBTQ+ youth are also included as their engagement may support future data collection and study activities.

This first table includes organizations that are not listed on the 2023 Housing Inventory Chart (HIC) Report, so are not known via the HIC to operate emergency shelter, transitional housing, or permanent housing programs. See areas of focus/services provided for specifics of each organization.

Organization Name	Organizational Description	Areas of Focus/Services Provided
Rural Nevada Continuum of Care (RNCoc)	The RNCoc is one of three CoCs within Nevada. All three organize efforts made by local governments, non-profits, and key partner groups to end homelessness in their region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote communitywide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness. Provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, and State and local governments to quickly rehouse homeless individuals and families while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused by homelessness. Promote access to and effect utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families optimize self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness.
Carson City Health and Human Services; Churchill County Social Services; Douglas County Social Services; ElkoFISH; Nevada Outreach Training Organization; Eureka County Senior Center; Frontier Community Action Agency; Lincoln County; Lyon County Human Services; Consolidated Agencies of Human Services; Community Chest, Inc; White Pine County Social Services		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These organizations have supported recent PIT count activities as county leads and may serve as sources of information for other organizations within their region that should be engaged in the study.

Youth Experiencing Homelessness Environmental Scan

Organization Name	Organizational Description	Areas of Focus/Services Provided
All school districts in the counties that comprise the RNCoc have a McKinney-Vento Liaison: <i>Carson City, Churchill, Douglas, Elko, Esmeralda, Eureka, Humboldt, Lander, Lincoln, Lyon, Mineral, Nye, Pershing, Storey, and White Pine</i>	The McKinney-Vento Law was enacted in 1987 to remove common barriers children and youth experiencing homelessness often encountered from being unhoused. In order to ensure students have the best possible outcomes, it is critical for them to have access to all of the services and supports that are available in school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires youth experiencing homelessness must be immediately enrolled with or without academic and non-academic student information/records, e.g. health, residency, special education, or guardianship. Supports youth experiencing homelessness with clothing, transportations, dues/fees to participate in clubs/after-school activities, and other situational academic needs. Collaborates to share information, inform/collaborate on policies and procedures, support/develop leadership opportunities for students, destigmatize homelessness, and other efforts that proactively address youth homelessness. Collects, analyzes, and interprets academic and non-academic data to inform proactive planning, strategies, and policies to maximize current, and build new, systems of support for youth experiencing homelessness.
TICC, Trans in Carson City	A contact person and phone number is provided online, but no other information is available.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social/support group.
PFLAG Carson City	A phone number is provided online, but no other information is available.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PFLAG is a national LGBTQ family and ally organization with a chapter in Carson City.
Pahrump LGBTQIA and Friends	A phone number is provided online, but no other information is available.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social activities, resources, peer support, and networking, open forum.
Pahrump Proud	This group's goal is to connect with the LGBTQIA+ community in Southern Nevada, and offer support, resources, and inclusive events year round.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community building and inclusive events.

Youth Experiencing Homelessness Environmental Scan

Organization Name	Organizational Description	Areas of Focus/Services Provided
LGBTQ+ Pahrump Support Group (Allies Too!)	This Facebook group was created to provide a safe space for the LGBTQ+ community along with their allies, friends and family in Pahrump. Everyone is welcome.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The group meets once per month in person, and host a community service activity quarterly. Each monthly meeting will have a specific topic and potential guest speaker.
Rural Elko NV Gay Pride Official Group	The purpose of this Facebook group is in developing new LGBTQIA events and growing the annual Elko Pride Festival in Elko, Nevada.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This page is for open communication between the public and Rural America Pride Corp, a registered and licensed Nevada Non-Profit Organization.

This second table includes organizations that are listed on the 2023 Housing Inventory Chart Report (i.e., organizations that operated emergency shelter, transitional housing, or permanent housing programs).

- Note that the Organizational Description is for the organization as a whole and not necessarily specific to the housing programs described in the 2023 HIC Housing Programs column.
- The number of youth beds are those listed as being dedicated to housing homeless youth age 24 and younger on the 2023 HIC Report; organizations that are noted as not offering youth-specific beds may still serve individuals within the 12-24 population in non-dedicated beds. **A total of four child-only or youth beds were listed in the 2023 HIC Report for the RNCoc.**
- The 2023 HIC Housing Program data is included to provide a general sense of the number of HUD-reported child-only and youth dedicated beds available or utilized (in the case of RRH programs); additional data will be collected later in the project to supplement this initial review.

Organization Name	Organizational Description	2023 HIC Housing Programs
RNCoc-wide		
Nevada Rural Housing Authority	Promotes, provides, and finances affordable housing opportunities for all rural Nevadans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered permanent supportive housing, and other permanent housing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No youth/child-specific beds noted.
Carson City		
Carson Advocates to End Domestic Violence	Advocate for and empower those impacted by domestic and sexual violence by providing crisis intervention, shelter, and supportive and preventive programs while increasing public awareness to break the pattern of violence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered emergency shelter. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No youth/child-specific beds noted.

Organization Name	Organizational Description	2023 HIC Housing Programs
Carson City Health and Human Services	Carson City Health and Human Services aims to protect and improve the quality of life for our community through disease prevention, education, and support services. Offers housing programs, including the Nevada Housing/ Welfare Set-Aside for one time assistance to a low-income household that will be able to sustain the household after the assistance is granted, Shelter Plus Care permanent housing for chronically homeless persons with disabling conditions, and low-income housing trust fund to rehouse homeless individuals and families.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered emergency shelter, permanent supportive housing, rapid rehousing, and transitional housing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No youth/child-specific beds noted.
Carson FISH	FISH meets the temporary and emergency needs of community members who are currently experiencing hunger, homelessness, and underemployment. Offers a temporary 90-day men's, women's and family shelter, and emergency shelter (Nov-March).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered emergency shelter and transitional housing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No youth/child-specific beds noted.
Nation's Finest	Supports America's military veterans and their families with a comprehensive approach to housing, health, and employment that helps them achieve self-sufficiency and reach their full potential.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered rapid rehousing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No youth/child-specific beds noted.

Youth Experiencing Homelessness Environmental Scan

Organization Name	Organizational Description	2023 HIC Housing Programs
Churchill County		
Churchill County Social Services	Churchill County Social Services provides an array of housing assistance to transition individuals and families into permanent housing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered emergency shelter and rapid rehousing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No youth/child-specific beds noted.
Churchill Domestic Violence Intervention	Helps adult victims of domestic violence and their children with services including emergency shelter, shelter program, safety planning, and referrals to resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered emergency shelter. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No youth/child-specific beds noted.
The Lighthouse	Provides men's emergency shelter services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered emergency shelter.^j <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No youth/child-specific beds noted.
Douglas County		
Douglas County Social Services	Douglas County Social Services offers a wide range of programs and services to meet the diverse needs of the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered emergency shelter. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No youth/child-specific beds noted.
Elko County		
Elko FISH	Provides for the needs of individuals seeking urgent or supplemental assistance, including case management, Samaritan House Emergency Shelter, and more.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered emergency shelter and transitional housing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No youth/child-specific beds noted.
Vitality Unlimited	Vitality Unlimited provides behavioral healthcare, housing and community service. Continuum of Care apartments are available in Elko.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered permanent supportive housing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No youth/child-specific beds noted.

^j While not included in the 2023 HIC, this program is still active.

Youth Experiencing Homelessness Environmental Scan

Organization Name	Organizational Description	2023 HIC Housing Programs
Esmeralda County		
		No housing programs listed in Esmeralda County in the 2023 HIC.
Eureka County		
		No housing programs listed in Eureka County in the 2023 HIC.
Humboldt County		
Frontier Community Action Agency	The focus of the non-profit Frontier Community Action Agency is on helping individuals gain self-sufficiency as well as providing short term grant money to pay bills in a crisis. Provides rental/housing assistance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offered emergency shelter, permanent supportive housing, and rapid rehousing. • Offered youth-specific beds. In the 2023 HIC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ RRH= 4 youth/child-only beds at 1 program.
Winnemucca Domestic Violence Services	WDVS offers several different housing plans for those in need of shelter including Emergency Shelter, Short Term Housing, Standard Temporary Housing, and Optional Extended Housing Program. All housing is based on availability and grant funding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offered emergency shelter. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No youth/child-specific beds noted.
Lander County		
		No housing programs listed in Lander County in the 2023 HIC.
Lincoln County		
		No housing programs listed in Lincoln County in the 2023 HIC.
Lyon County		
Lyon County Human Services	Provides housing stabilization services and supports are for individuals who are experiencing homelessness, at-risk of homelessness, or are seeking other housing options, such as home ownership. Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offered emergency shelter and rapid rehousing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No youth/child-specific beds noted.

Youth Experiencing Homelessness Environmental Scan

Organization Name	Organizational Description	2023 HIC Housing Programs
	include case management, individualized goal planning, and confidential screening and assessment.	
Lyon Domestic Violence Intervention	Helps adult victims of domestic violence and their children with services including emergency shelter, shelter program, safety planning, and referrals to resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered emergency shelter. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No youth/child-specific beds noted.
Mineral County		
		No housing programs listed in Mineral County in the 2023 HIC.
Nye County		
Nevada Outreach Training Organization (NOTO)	NOTO has several programs that serve the needs of the community with “No to Abuse” providing comprehensive continuum of needed psycho-social and prevention education programs and services to men, women and children who are victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered emergency shelter and transitional housing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No youth/child-specific beds noted.
Nye County Health and Human Services	Nye County Health and Human Services offers various emergency services depending on the availability of grant funds. Services offered may include: assistance for food, transportation costs for medical appointments and/or supportive services, rent, utilities, rent/utility deposits, medication, child care, hygiene kits.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered rapid rehousing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No youth/child-specific beds noted.
Pershing County		
		No housing providers listed in Pershing County in the 2023 HIC.

Youth Experiencing Homelessness Environmental Scan

Organization Name	Organizational Description	2023 HIC Housing Programs
Storey County		
		No housing providers listed in Storey County in the 2023 HIC.
White Pine County		
		No housing providers listed in White Pine County in the 2023 HIC.

Organizations Within the Southern Nevada Homelessness Continuum of Care Area (SNHCoC) | Clark County

This section describes organizations within **Clark County** that advocate on behalf of and/or provide services to individuals at-risk of or experiencing homelessness. LGBTQ+ youth at-risk of or experiencing homelessness are a confirmed priority population of the study, and organizations that support LGBTQ+ youth are also included as their engagement may support future data collection and study activities.

This first table includes organizations that are not listed on the 2023 Housing Inventory Chart Report, so are not known via the HIC to operate emergency shelter, transitional housing, or permanent housing programs. See areas of focus/services provided for specifics of each organization.

Organization Name	Organizational Description	Areas of Focus/Services Provided
Clark County School District McKinney-Vento Liaison	The McKinney-Vento Law was enacted in 1987 to remove common barriers children and youth experiencing homelessness often encountered from being unhoused. In order to ensure students have the best possible outcomes, it is critical for them to have access to all of the services and supports that are available in school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires youth experiencing homelessness must be immediately enrolled with or without academic and non-academic student information/records, e.g., health, residency, special education, or guardianship. Supports youth experiencing homelessness with clothing, transportations, dues/fees to participate in clubs/after-school activities, and other situational academic needs. Collaborates to share information, inform/collaborate on policies and procedures, support/develop leadership opportunities for students, destigmatize homelessness, and other efforts that proactively address youth homelessness. Collects, analyzes, and interprets academic and non-academic data to inform proactive planning, strategies, and policies to maximize current, and build new, systems of support for

Youth Experiencing Homelessness Environmental Scan

Organization Name	Organizational Description	Areas of Focus/Services Provided
		youth experiencing homelessness.
Bright Star Foundation	Bright Star Foundation works to provide stable, affordable, and inclusive housing, and economic support to vulnerable people (especially in consideration of age, race, disability, HIV status, class, and other marginalized statuses) who identify as LGBTQIA+, located in the southwest, Nevada, California, Utah, Arizona, Oregon and New Mexico.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevents and alleviates homelessness in the LGBTQIA+ community through Project Safe Home and working with existing nonprofits to reduce homelessness in the LGBTQIA+ community.
Henderson Equality Center	Henderson Equality Center is a community supported organization to engage, empower, enrich, and advance the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, allies and queer community of Henderson, NV by providing a safe space, pursue resources and providing courses focus on educational, social, support, skill building and job assistance classes for at-risk, low-income LGBTQ youth and adults.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offers education programs, a food pantry, social and support groups, scholarship funds, and a wellness clinic.
Job Corps	Job Corps provides free career training and education for 16- through 24-year-olds, including to youth experiencing homelessness or youth at risk of experiencing homelessness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In addition to career training, Job Corps also helps individuals earn their high school diploma or the equivalent and a driver's license. Job Corps also provides in-depth career planning, on-the-job training, job placement assistance, housing, food, health and dental care, a biweekly basic living allowance, and basic uniforms and equipment for career training.

Organization Name	Organizational Description	Areas of Focus/Services Provided
N. Las Vegas Equality Center	North Las Vegas Equality Center is a community supported organization to engage, empower, enrich, and advance the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, allies and queer community of North Las Vegas, NV by providing a safe space, pursue resources and providing courses focus on educational, social, support, skill building and job assistance classes for at-risk, low-income LGBTQ youth and adults.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offers education programs, a food pantry, social and support groups, scholarship funds, and a wellness clinic (located in Henderson, NV).
Olive Crest	Olive Crest is dedicated to preventing child abuse by strengthening, equipping, and restoring children and families in crisis... One Life at a Time.®	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides services and housing to aged out foster youth that would be considered transitioning out of foster care with no housing plan. They also provide services to current foster youth.

Youth Experiencing Homelessness Environmental Scan

Organization Name	Organizational Description	Areas of Focus/Services Provided
Project 150	Provides free support and services to homeless, displaced, and disadvantaged high school students so they can remain in school, graduate, and build bright futures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High school students with a valid ID may receive 10 outfits per month, hygiene products, school supplies and additional food. • Life skill and workforce readiness workshops. • Provides family meal bags. • Special Events (Scholarship Luncheon, Prom Closet, Holiday Meals, Back to School Shopping, etc.).
R.I.S.E. Homes	R.I.S.E Homes is a 501 C3 Nonprofit Organization. Our mission is to create a Reliable, Inspiring, Supportive, and Empowering environment for young adults to succeed. We believe that opening the doors of transitional living and housing stability are the first steps towards providing a better future. We are dedicated to meeting the needs of our community by providing a safe living environment along with wrap around services to assist our youth on their journey to independence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primarily serve youth 17-24 who have aged out of foster care. • Provide transitional housing and wrap-around services that include: internet, utilities, monthly food delivery, furniture, haircuts, individual and group behavioral counseling, transportation, Laptops for schooling, case management, life skills training, and job placement. • Currently has 4 homes: 1 female home and 3 male homes primarily located in North Las Vegas. • Provide temporary emergency shelter and rental assistance to stabilize families in hotels/motels as they transition into permanent housing.

Youth Experiencing Homelessness Environmental Scan

Organization Name	Organizational Description	Areas of Focus/Services Provided
Southern Nevada Homelessness Continuum of Care (SNHCoC)	The SNHCoC is one of three CoCs within Nevada. All three organize efforts made by local governments, non-profits, and key partner groups to end homelessness in their region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote communitywide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness. Provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, and State and local governments to quickly rehouse homeless individuals and families while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused by homelessness. Promote access to and effect utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families. Optimize self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness.
Street Teens	Street Teens is dedicated to assisting homeless, abandoned, and at-risk youth in the Las Vegas area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offers a variety of free resources for ages 12-21, including a “store room” with food, hygiene items, and clothing, a “jean room” with an assortment of clothing for job interviews and work, a computer room, and laundry room.
The Center	<p>The Center brings together programs, resources, and services to meet the needs of our community and the community around us.</p> <p>We function as the heart and home of the LGBTQIA+ community by making connections, delivering programs, and providing a safe space for health and wellness, social services, arts and culture, advocacy, and community building.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programming includes HIV services/linkage to care, community engagement, inclusive programming, senior services, youth and family services, recovery support groups, and community groups.

Youth Experiencing Homelessness Environmental Scan

Organization Name	Organizational Description	Areas of Focus/Services Provided
The Embracing Project	The Embracing Project (TEP) promotes peace and healing for youth survivors of violence, sexual exploitation, and sex trafficking, through the development of specialized programs, trauma-informed care, and unconditional support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transitional Housing – TEP is the sole provider of drop-in services for Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) in the entire greater Las Vegas area. Provides a drop-in center and mentoring programs.

This second table includes organizations that are listed on the 2023 Housing Inventory Chart Report (i.e., organizations that operated emergency shelter, transitional housing, or permanent housing programs).

- Note that the Organizational Description is for the organization as a whole and not necessarily specific to the housing programs described in the 2023 HIC Housing Programs column.
- The number of youth beds are those listed as being dedicated to housing homeless youth age 24 and younger on the 2023 HIC Report; organizations that are noted as not offering youth-specific beds may still serve individuals within the 12-24 population in non-dedicated beds. **A total of 430 child-only or youth beds were listed in the 2023 HIC Report for the SNHCoC.**
- The 2023 HIC Housing Program data is included to provide a general sense of the number of HUD-reported child-only and youth dedicated beds available or utilized (in the case of RRH programs); additional data will be collected later in the project to supplement this initial review.

Organization Name	Organizational Description	2023 HIC Housing Programs
Catholic Charities	Provides homeless shelter up to long-term support, including a men's emergency night shelter, a "Renewing Hope Program for Men," housing navigation center with case management services and single-occupancy apartments for individuals 18 and older.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered emergency shelter and rapid rehousing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No youth/child-specific beds noted.

Youth Experiencing Homelessness Environmental Scan

Organization Name	Organizational Description	2023 HIC Housing Programs
Chicanos Por La Causa	<p>CPLC builds stronger, healthier communities by providing the political and economic empowerment to people to learn the skills and develop the resources necessary to become self-sufficient.</p> <p>Provides Housing counseling & education services, homeless resource center, housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS and W Gas Energy share utility assistance program.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered rapid rehousing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No youth/child-specific beds noted.
City of Las Vegas	<p>The city is focused on the Courtyard Homeless Resource Center, where people experiencing homelessness can access resources (i.e., medical, housing and employment) all in one place. The MORE outreach team provides mobile intervention and outreach services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered emergency shelter and transitional housing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No youth/child-specific beds noted.
Clark County Social Services	<p>The County and community partners support various housing and shelter programs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered emergency shelter, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, and rapid rehousing. Offered youth-specific beds. In the 2023 HIC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RRH= 1 youth/child-specific bed at 1 program.
Family Promise	<p>Helps at-risk and homeless families with children achieve sustainable housing and independence with programs such as the day center where staff conducts needs assessments and referrals, an emergency shelter for families with minor children, a family stabilization and prevention program that provides rental assistance and childcare while the parent is job searching, bridge housing, and volunteer community groups.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered emergency shelter. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No youth/child-specific beds noted.

Youth Experiencing Homelessness Environmental Scan

Organization Name	Organizational Description	2023 HIC Housing Programs
HELP of Southern Nevada	<p>Assists families and individuals throughout Southern Nevada to overcome barriers and attain self-sufficiency through direct services, training, and referral to community resources.</p> <p>All of these programs provided safe and stable housing, basic needs/food, intensive case management, person centered case plan, housing stability plan, education assistance, employment assistance, assistance in transitioning to own apartment, addiction and mental health services, health and wellness, financial literacy, activities of daily living and supportive services.</p> <p>The Youth Street Outreach Program provides outreach services to homeless youth between the ages of 16-22, who have been subjected to or are at risk of sexual abuse, prostitution, sexual exploitation, and trafficking. The dedicated youth workers build positive relationships, move them into safe, stable housing, and ultimately help the youth achieve independence and self-sufficiency. This program enhances and increases prevention and intervention efforts focused on sexual exploitation and all forms of human trafficking.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offered emergency shelter, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, and rapid rehousing. • Offered youth-specific beds (not including Shannon West, as described below). In the 2023 HIC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TH= 14 youth/child-specific beds across 2 programs ○ RRH= 42 youth/child-specific beds across 3 programs.^k • Maternal Group Home is for pregnant or parenting females between the ages of 18-24. At capacity this program can house up to 6 females and her children. This is a shared housing model. • The Brighter Beginnings Program houses pregnant or parenting youth ages 18-21 in scattered site shared housing units. They can be housed for up to 18 months while receiving case management and life skills.

^k Kim Moore stated that for Youth TH RRH, 12-to-24-month transitional housing / rapid rehousing focused on homeless youth 18-24. The youth can be single, couple or families.

Youth Experiencing Homelessness Environmental Scan

Organization Name	Organizational Description	2023 HIC Housing Programs
Shannon West Homeless Youth Center (SWHYC)	Operated by HELP of Southern Nevada, the Shannon West Homeless Youth Center (SWHYC), provides safe and stable housing, basic needs/food, intensive case management, person centered case plan, housing stability plan, education assistance, employment assistance, assistance in transitioning to own apartment, addiction and mental health services, health and wellness, financial literacy, activities of daily living and supportive services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At capacity SWHYC can house 130 youth between the ages of 16-24. • In the 2023 HIC, SWHYC has: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ES= 104 youth/child-only beds across 6 programs. ○ OPH= 6 youth/child-only beds at 1 program ○ TH= 28 youth/child-only beds at 1 program.
HELP USA	Provides housing related veteran services through the Genesis and Bonanza Grant Per Diem Housing (GPD) program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offered transitional housing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No youth/child-specific beds noted.
HopeLink of Southern Nevada	Provides housing programs for individuals and households with dependent children experiencing homelessness and a Diversion program with case managers to divert families and individuals away from homelessness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offered emergency shelter and rapid rehousing. • Offered youth-specific beds. In the 2023 HIC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ RRH= 11 youth/child-specific beds at 1 program.
Houses Helping Humans	Houses Helping Humans (HHH) is a Sober Living Residential Program that supports recovering addicts on the road to their recovery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offered transitional housing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No youth/child-specific beds noted.
Jewish Family Service Agency (JFSA)	JFSA has several programs designed to combat a variety of immediate needs including financial assistance and Food Pantry Services. The Tzedakah Department provides modest financial assistance with rent or utility bills for Jewish individuals confronting a temporary financial crisis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offered rapid rehousing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No youth/child-specific beds noted.

Youth Experiencing Homelessness Environmental Scan

Organization Name	Organizational Description	2023 HIC Housing Programs
Las Vegas Rescue Mission	Provides emergency shelter (14 nights for single individuals and 30 days for those with children).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered emergency shelter. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No youth/child-specific beds noted.
Living Grace Homes	Provides support for homeless, pregnant, and parenting young women, including rental or transitional housing programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered emergency shelter and transitional housing. Offered youth-specific beds. In the 2023 HIC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ES= 10 youth/child-specific beds at 1 program. TH= 8 youth/child-specific beds at 1 program.
Lutheran Social Services of Nevada	Provides temporary rental assistance to individuals who are at-risk of homelessness or currently experiencing homelessness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered rapid rehousing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No youth/child-specific beds noted.
Nation's Finest	Helps Nevada veterans in Laughlin get the services, benefits, and quality of life they deserve. Website lists housing resources that are available to veterans in need.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered rapid rehousing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No youth/child-specific beds noted.
Nevada Partners	Nevada Partners' Housing Program aims not only to promote home ownership, but also to create informed home buyers who can stay in their homes. Nevada Partners Positive Youth Impact programs help motivate and support youth to achieve their maximum potential through a holistic programmatic approach. The program assists youth (16-24 years of age) to build a strong educational foundation to ensure graduation from high school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered rapid rehousing. Offered youth-specific beds. In the 2023 HIC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RRH= 1 youth/child-specific bed at 1 program.

Youth Experiencing Homelessness Environmental Scan

Organization Name	Organizational Description	2023 HIC Housing Programs
Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth	Provides multi-pronged emergency intervention efforts to meet young people where they are by addressing their immediate survival needs and building trusting relationships to get them off the streets for good.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered emergency shelter, transitional housing, and rapid rehousing. Offered youth-specific beds. In the 2023 HIC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ES= 8 youth/child-specific beds at 2 shelters. RRH= 12 youth/child-specific beds at 1 program. TH= 30 youth/child-specific beds across 3 programs.
SAFE House	Provides 24-hour emergency shelter for those seeking refuge from interpersonal violence/ domestic violence with services available for singles, individuals from LGBTQIA2+ community, women and their children, and men and their children. Also provides housing resources and financial assistance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered emergency shelter. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No youth/child-specific beds noted.
Safe Nest	Provides confidential emergency shelter to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking, including children and pets and through “Operation Fresh Start” provides survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking with financial assistance in the form of rent, utility subsidies, child care assistance and more.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered emergency shelter. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No youth/child-specific beds noted.
Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services	SNAMHS is a behavioral health system that consists of Rawson-Neal Psychiatric Hospital, a civil inpatient psychiatric hospital, and Stein Forensic Facility, a forensic inpatient hospital; and four outpatient community mental health clinics. Housing and residential programs are provided.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered emergency shelter and permanent supportive housing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No youth/child-specific beds noted.

Organization Name	Organizational Description	2023 HIC Housing Programs
Southern Nevada Community Health Improvement	Southern Nevada CHIPS works to improve the health and happiness of our community, providing the right service to the right person, at the right time. Through a number of programs, Southern NV CHIPS helps navigate clients from oversaturated service access points, to access points that better fit their needs, in their environment, while keeping in mind the many barriers that vulnerable community members face when they access services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered transitional housing and permanent supportive housing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 RRH youth/child-specific beds in one program.
Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority	Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority constantly seeks innovative ways to provide its services and to be a model steward of the public trust. Since its formation on January 1, 2011, Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority has served the population of Clark County, including the cities of Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, and Henderson, Nevada.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered VASH vouchers (to help find and sustain permanent supportive housing). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No youth/child-specific beds noted.
St. Jude's Ranch for Children	Provides a variety of housing options for transition aged youth 18-24 years old experiencing homelessness or at risk of being homeless.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered transitional housing and rapid rehousing. Offered youth-specific beds. In the 2023 HIC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RRH= 110 youth/child-specific beds across 5 shelters. TH= 37 youth/child-specific beds across 2 programs.
The Just One Project	Community Connect case managers offer individualized client-centered case management to people who need resources for sustainable permanent housing. They help reduce the imminent risk of returning to homelessness. All services range from meeting individuals' immediate needs to long term goal attainment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No youth/child-specific beds noted.

Youth Experiencing Homelessness Environmental Scan

Organization Name	Organizational Description	2023 HIC Housing Programs
The Salvation Army	Provides a day resource center and emergency lodge night shelter, vocational programs and food bags and emergency hygiene kits.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered emergency shelter, transitional housing, rapid rehousing, and permanent supportive housing. Offered youth-specific beds. In the 2023 HIC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RRH= 5 youth/child-specific beds at 1 program.
The Shade Tree	<p>Provides safe shelter and resources to homeless and abused women and women with children in crisis.</p> <p>Offers a Betterment Community Project which is a bridge, employment and training program.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered emergency shelter. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No youth/child-specific beds noted.
United States Veterans Initiative	Offers the Transition in Place program, designed to help veterans move into permanent housing as quickly as possible; the Supportive Housing Program (SHP), which provides permanent housing opportunities for veterans who need ongoing support; and the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program, which assists low-income families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless in finding safe and affordable transitional or permanent housing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, rapid rehousing, and other permanent housing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No youth/child-specific beds noted.
Well Care Services	Provides patients with comprehensive and integrated health care focused on behavioral health. For housing, provides community based living arrangement housing program, transitional independent living, and medical housing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered emergency shelter. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No youth/child-specific beds noted.

Youth Experiencing Homelessness Environmental Scan

Organization Name	Organizational Description	2023 HIC Housing Programs
Westcare	Offers a full continuum of care based on the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) treatment criteria for addictive, substance related, and co-occurring conditions. Provides transitional housing through 4 th Street Transitional Living program for men and the Las Vegas Transitional Living for women and children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered emergency shelter. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No youth/child-specific beds noted.

APPENDIX C. SOURCES OF PREVALENCE DATA

This appendix describes the data sources that are known to contain information on the prevalence of youth experiencing homelessness in Nevada as well as housing resources available to support youth experiencing homelessness. When available, hyperlinks to the datasets are embedded in the Document/Dataset Name. Limitations are provided to illustrate which study populations of focus are included in the dataset.

Youth Experiencing Homelessness

Document/Dataset Name	Data Source/Org	Type(s) of Data Included	Limitations on Populations Included
<u>Preventing and Ending Youth Homelessness in Nevada</u>	Annie E. Casey Foundation	National prevalence data to support extrapolation or comparison with Nevada populations that are at-risk of experiencing homelessness.	Data is not Nevada specific.
HMIS Exports	Bitfocus <i>This information would need to be provided by each CoC or directly from Bitfocus as the study team does not have direct access.</i>	Regularly updated data source that could be used to view trends on the number of beds utilized for the youth population within each CoC.	Limited to HMIS participating organizations, and primarily includes data on individuals and beds that meet the HUD definition of experiencing homelessness. However, street outreach information could also be used to support exploration of or connection with additional populations.
HDX HIC Exports	HDX/Each CoC <i>This information would need to be provided by each CoC as the study team does not have direct access.</i>	Point in Time data that can be used to view trends on the number of beds available for the general and the youth population within each CoC as well as provider names; also provides more up to date information than what is available via public HUD sources.	Only includes data on beds available to individuals that meet the HUD definition of experiencing homelessness (i.e., <u>the inner two circles on the populations of focus graphic</u>).

Youth Experiencing Homelessness Environmental Scan

Document/Dataset Name	Data Source/Org	Type(s) of Data Included	Limitations on Populations Included
<u>2022 Housing Inventory Count Report for Nevada</u>	HUD	Point in Time data that can be used to view trends on the number of beds available for the youth population for Nevada.	Only includes programs/beds that meet the HUD definition of experiencing homelessness.
<u>2022 CoC Dashboard Reports for each CoC</u> <i>2023 and possibly 2024 data is expected to be available during the timeframe covered by this study.</i>	HUD	Provides an overview of Point in Time Count and Housing Inventory Count for each CoC.	Only includes individuals that meet the HUD definition of experiencing homelessness (i.e., <u>the inner two circles on the populations of focus graphic</u>).
<u>2023 Housing Inventory Count Reports for each CoC</u> <i>2024 and possibly 2025 data is expected to be available during the timeframe covered by this study.</i>	HUD	Point in Time data that can be used to view trends on the number of beds available for the general and the youth population within each CoC.	Only includes individuals that meet the HUD definition of experiencing homelessness (i.e., <u>the inner two circles on the populations of focus graphic</u>).
<u>2023 Northern Nevada Point in Time Count Summary Table</u> <i>2024 and possibly 2025 data is expected to be available during the timeframe covered by this study.</i>	NNCoC	Point in Time prevalence data that can be used to view trends.	Only includes individuals that meet the HUD definition of experiencing homelessness (i.e., <u>the inner two circles on the populations of focus graphic</u>).

Youth Experiencing Homelessness Environmental Scan

Document/Dataset Name	Data Source/Org	Type(s) of Data Included	Limitations on Populations Included
Enrollment for Nevada Public Schools	NV Department of Education	Includes enrollment data for all public schools in Nevada, including by certain characteristics such as “homeless” (i.e., individuals meeting the Title IX definition of homeless children and youths).	Only includes information on school age children, and would have limited information for TAY. Public data does is aggregated and does not support crosstabs by characteristics, and some data is masked. Data also does not allow for a breakout by age or unaccompanied status, key limitations for its use within this study. More specific data would need to be provided by NDE to support inclusion in the study.
2023 Rural Nevada Point in Time Count Report <i>2024 and possibly 2025 data is expected to be available during the timeframe covered by this study.</i>	RNCoC	Point in Time prevalence data that can be used to view trends.	Only includes individuals that meet the HUD definition of experiencing homelessness (i.e., the inner two circles on the populations of focus graphic).
2023 Southern Nevada Point in Time Count Infographic <i>2024 and possibly 2025 data is expected to be available during the timeframe covered by this study.</i>	SNHCoC	Point in Time prevalence data that can be used to view trends.	Only includes individuals that meet the HUD definition of experiencing homelessness (i.e., the inner two circles on the populations of focus graphic).
National Youth in Transition Data Snapshots	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services	Survey data for young people receiving independent living services, including having experienced homelessness over the prior two years.	Limited to individual receiving independent living services that opted to participate in follow-up services for their cohort.

Youth Experiencing Homelessness Environmental Scan

Document/Dataset Name	Data Source/Org	Type(s) of Data Included	Limitations on Populations Included
<u>Voices of Youth Count</u>	University of Chicago, Chapin Hall	National prevalence data to support extrapolation or comparison with Nevada populations that are at-risk of experiencing homelessness.	Data is not Nevada specific.
<u>Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey</u> <i>Most recent published data is for 2021; 2023 results are not yet available.</i>	UNR School of Public Health	Responses to questions 87 (high school), and 58 (middle school) speak to housing instability and homelessness over the prior 30 days.	Public data is available only in aggregate and does not support crosstabs by characteristics, and does not provide information on unaccompanied status, a key component of this study.
<u>Washoe County Housing and Homeless Services Community Dashboard</u>	Washoe County	Information from HMIS participating organization in Washoe County.	Does not provide data by both age and types of homelessness experienced; does not appear to provide data for unaccompanied children under age 18.

APPENDIX D. STUDY POPULATIONS OF FOCUS AND RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Population of Focus

For the purposes of this study, **youth experiencing homelessness** (YEH) is defined as **young people aged 12-24 who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence**. This definition comprises:

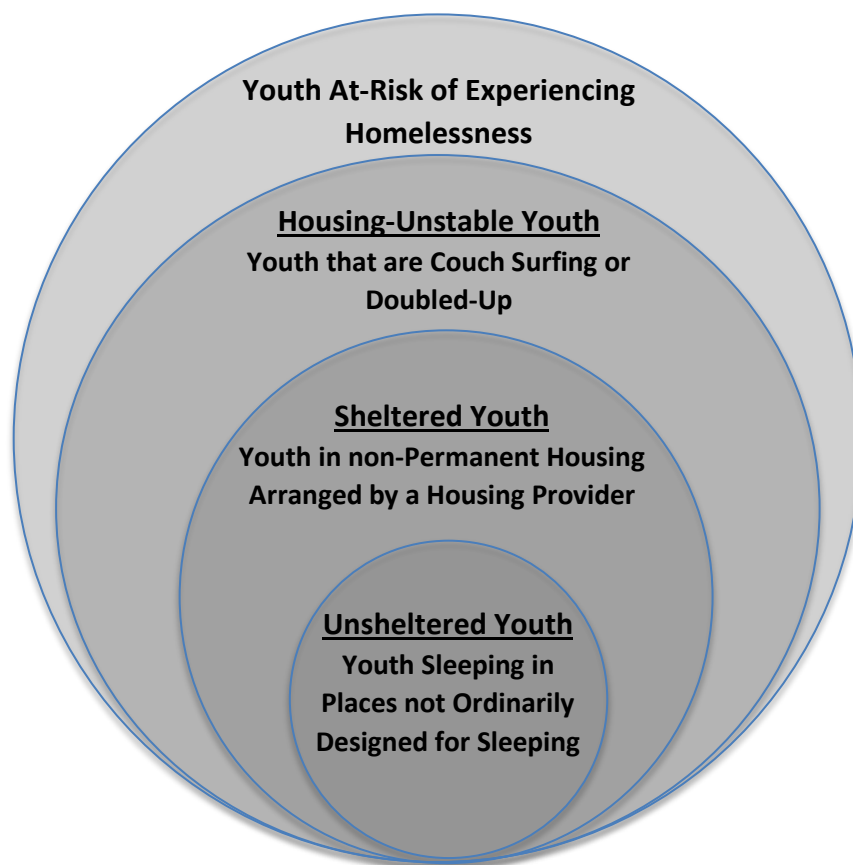
- unaccompanied youth aged 12-24 who are the only member of their household,
- parenting and pregnant individuals aged 12-24, and
- youth in households¹ where all members are aged 12-24.

The definition explicitly does not include individuals aged 12-24 that are part of a household with an adult 25 or older.

The other population this study will explore are youth aged 12-24 who are at risk of experiencing homelessness. This study will utilize national trends regarding YEH to understand which groups of youth are most at risk of experiencing homelessness. It also aims to quantify how trends in Nevada compare to national trends to better understand which youth in Nevada are most at risk. The study will explore how the characteristics of youth in Nevada that fall within the first three circles of the graphic below compare to national data; in other words, how the characteristics of youth in Nevada that **lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence** align with or differ from national trends.

All groups anticipated to be engaged through this study are illustrated in the figure on the following page; the types of data available to explore the number, characteristics, and experiences of each of these groups will differ. The definition of YEH includes youth who are unsheltered, sheltered in non-permanent housing, and those who are housing unstable.

¹ For the purposes of this study, 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.



Research Questions

The following research questions were identified as important to explore through this study by the Study Design Subcommittee, Core Team, and Steering Committee. The importance of understanding the role that prevention activities play in ending youth homelessness in Nevada was acknowledged during development of these questions. The final study will include information on this topic that is gathered from existing research and best practices, but prevention will not be a focus of data collection activities or a primary area of inquiry.

Understanding and Serving Youth Experiencing Homelessness

Description of Youth Experiencing Homelessness

- What is the prevalence of youth experiencing homelessness in Nevada?
- What are the characteristics of YEH (e.g., gender identity, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, educational level, income, background, and engagement in other systems such as foster care or criminal or juvenile justice) in Nevada? How does this compare to national trends about the groups most at-risk of homelessness?
- What are the common pathways to youth homelessness in Nevada?
- What is the impact of ending youth homelessness?

Youth Perspective

What are the perspectives of youth who have experienced homelessness in Nevada?

- What resources do they/did they need most but did not have access to?
- What resources do they or did they have access to but chose not to access? Why didn't they access them?
- What role did families play in supporting exits from homelessness?

Provider Perspective

- What strategies and tools are in place to identify, assess, and characterize YEH in Nevada?
- What are providers' perspectives on how well they are identifying, engaging, and serving YEH? What do they view as the most important factors contributing to their success? What do they view as the most important factors impeding their success?

Housing Resources

- What are the occupancy, vacancy, and waitlist rates for the housing resources that specifically target YEH in Nevada? Is the housing inventory in Nevada sufficient to serve the estimated number of youth experiencing homelessness?
- What are the number and types of housing resources (e.g., emergency shelter beds, transitional housing units, etc.) that specifically target YEH in Nevada?
- To what extent do youth access housing resources that are targeted to people experiencing homelessness but not specifically to youth in Nevada?

Identifying and Serving YEH

- What strategies and tools are in place to support Nevada YEH in obtaining stable housing?
- What are common pathways from housing instability (including homelessness) to housing stability in Nevada?
- What are the number and types of (non-housing) resources available to serve YEH in Nevada? *Note that exploration of this question will be limited to non-housing resources that are specifically designed to support YEH in obtaining housing stability.*

Policy Infrastructure

- Which policies that don't currently exist are needed to support the goals of preventing and ending youth homelessness?
- To what extent and in what manner has the state government or local governments established policies that support the goals of preventing and ending youth homelessness?
- What funding streams are being utilized in Nevada to support ending youth homelessness?
- What public funding streams are not being utilized or not in existence here in Nevada?

APPENDIX E. EVIDENCE BASE FOR PREVENTING YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

As noted in the [Introduction and Background](#) section, as well as [Appendix D](#), prevention activities play an important role in ending youth homelessness. However, the final study will include information on this topic that is gathered from existing research and best practices, and prevention will not be a focus of data collection activities or a primary area of inquiry. As such, information relevant to prevention has been provided in this Appendix rather than within the body of this document.

Building an Evidence Base for Preventing and Ending Youth Homelessness ^{(15) (5) (24)}

The evidence base regarding preventing and ending youth homelessness remains limited. For example, few evaluations directly assess what works to help youth transition from homelessness to housing stability. While the need for a national research agenda is critical, states and localities can also contribute to building an evidence base by developing systems to answers fundamental questions, such as:

- Who is accessing services and programs (and who isn't and why)?
- How long does it take youth to access services?
- How long does it take youth to exit homelessness?
- Who is reentering homelessness (and why)?

Some examples of where the evidence base is limited or non-existent include:

- Pathways to homelessness and strategies to prevent homelessness among youth with foster care involvement who were reunified or adopted. Most studies have focused on youth aging out of foster care; however, evidence suggests that, among YEH with foster care involvement, about half exited through reunification or adoption, rather than aging out. ⁽²⁴⁾
- Interventions that help YEH achieve better employment outcomes.
- Factors that predict participation in mental health treatments and lower suicide rates among YEH.

Preventing Youth Homelessness ^{(3) (10) (15) (5) (22) (43)}

National leaders consider a focus on prevention to be important for two key reasons: First, the longer young people experience housing instability, the more likely they are to face greater levels of adversity and traumatic experiences, which impacts their long-term well-being. ⁽¹⁰⁾ Second, a small but important evidence base suggests that youth homelessness *is* preventable. ⁽⁵⁾

The prevention programs that have shown promising results share similar strategies:

- identifying youth at risk for homelessness and housing instability—for example, using universal school-based screenings for homelessness risk factors;
- targeting resources to youth who are at the greatest risk to ensure a more equitable and effective

response;⁽¹⁰⁾

- intervening proactively before the point of crisis; and
- using [individualized case management](#) as a primary intervention.⁽³⁾

Key tools for intervening early include encouraging family resiliency, [strategies tailored to specific at-risk groups](#), and [school-based interventions](#).⁽²⁹⁾ Because schools have nearly universal access to youth, they hold the greatest potential for robust prevention efforts. Schools are also key because of the close, two-way link between housing stability and educational success: Both are essential ingredients for young people's social and economic mobility, and obtaining one without the other is exceedingly challenging. Dropping out of school and homelessness frequently occur together.

School-based systems to identify and address underlying risk factors can help prevent both homelessness and school dropout. Common risk factors include mental health difficulties, family conflict, social isolation, structural racism, trauma, and poverty. The evidence also suggests that prevention measures during middle and high school years are particularly important.

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