NORTH DAKOTA COORDINATED COMMUNITY PLAN

Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program

April 29, 2022

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Prepared for the US Department of Housing and Urban Development

CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In September 2021, the state of North Dakota received the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) grant in the amount of $2 million to combat youth homelessness across the state. In response to receiving the award, the North Dakota Youth Action Board (YAB) in collaboration with the North Dakota Continuum of Care (ND CoC) formed the Core YHDP Planning Team to develop this Coordinated Community Plan (CCP) to prevent and end youth homelessness in the state.

The YAB, which is a collaborative of youth and young adults throughout the state who have experienced housing instability and/or homelessness, continues to grow. YAB has worked closely with the ND CoC, technical assistance providers, and other agencies across the state to develop this CCP and will continue to collaborate with adult partners and agencies in ND to implement the plan with the goal of preventing and ending youth homelessness.

The YAB will continue to be at the center of this process for years to come. It will advocate and collaborate with agencies across the state to ensure youth voices are heard. Young people will have a seat at every decision-making table in regard to Youth and Young Adult (YYA) homelessness and YHDP fund distribution. The resultant CCP outlines the ND YHDP's mission and vision, critical data on youth homelessness across the state, a needs assessment for North Dakota youth, and action steps that will be taken for the plan to come to fruition.

STATEMENT OF NEED AND RISK FACTORS

A youth homelessness needs assessment was conducted by the ND Department of Public Instruction (ND DPI) and Schoolhouse Connection for the first time in 2019 for the ND CoC, in coordination with Youthworks (ND's only Runaway and Homeless Youth Federal Grantee), and the YAB. North Dakota data that was collected in the ND Homeless Management Information System and the youth comparable database used by Youthworks shows that over 1,100 youth were engaged by the homelessness system in the state during 2021.

Understanding the depth of youth homelessness is challenging in a rural state. Of North Dakota's 53 counties, 42 are rural, and almost half of the state's population lives in rural communities, which lack housing and support services for vulnerable populations. North Dakota also has four rural American Indian Reservations (Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Nation, Spirit Lake Nation, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, Three Affiliated – MHA Nation, and Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa) and one Indian Service Area (Trenton).

In many cases, situations of youth homelessness occur as a result of an unhealthy relationship or experience of emotional, physical, psychological, sexual, or other type of abuse or trauma. Based on data collected for the 2019 needs assessment, five youth populations in the state were identified as being at higher risk of experiencing homelessness: BIPOC youth (54 percent), former foster youth (45 percent); youth formerly involved with the juvenile justice system (24 percent); youth who are survivors of trafficking (34 percent); and LGBTQia+ youth (24 percent).

BIPOC youth are overrepresented in nearly every at-risk category where statistics are maintained, including: out-of-school suspensions and expulsions, dropouts, arrests, juvenile probation, and foster or correctional care. Once in the system[1], they are at an increased risk for homelessness, teen pregnancy, and victimization. Data within the youth homeless population reveals that 38 percent of youth experiencing homelessness are Native American and another 16 percent represent other minority race groups.

While youth that are aging out of the child welfare system are educated about the resources that are available to them after discharge, including support services

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[1] In this plan, we use the term "system" broadly as reference to the entities that make up the child welfare, foster care, and juvenile justice systems, which are interconnected in many ways.

offered through the Chaffee Independent Living program, 41 percent of youth report becoming homeless within two years after exiting the foster system.

Youth homelessness providers in North Dakota collaborate regularly with the ND Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation as well as the Division of Juvenile Services (DJS). In ND, 21 youth households had a living situation of jail, prison, or juvenile detention facility. The Chaffee Independent Living program is also available for YYA that are under the custody of DJS.
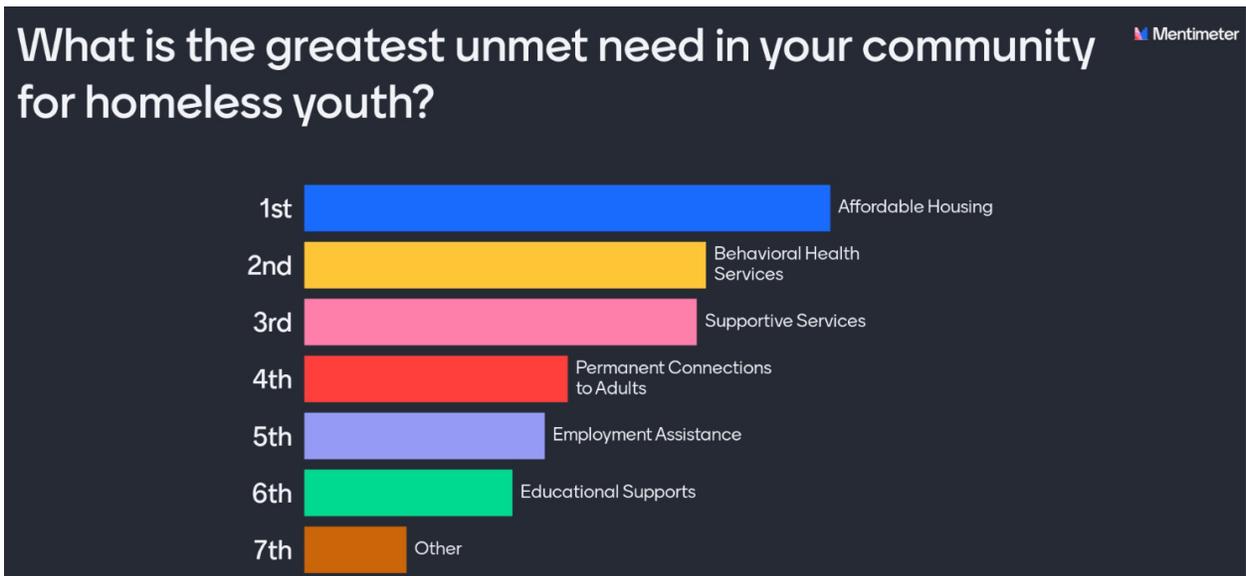
Youthworks, one of the primary youth homelessness service providers in North Dakota, administers an anti-trafficking program, which is touted as a best practice for rural areas, representing a key innovation as youth experiencing homelessness have high rates of victimization by trafficking. While it is reported that 34 percent of youth experiencing homelessness have also experienced trafficking, this is a suspected number as many don't report their status as survivors of human trafficking.

Of the youth experiencing homelessness in North Dakota in 2021, 51 percent identified themselves as female, 44 percent as male, and 5 percent as no single gender or transgender, according to the HMIS and comparable database data collected during calendar year 2021. The [Fargo-Moorhead (FM) 2020 State of Homelessness Report](#) identified that 4 percent of the youth served in the FM metro area reported being transgender and 2 percent reported being non-binary gender identities.

True Colors United, an advocacy organization and technical assistance provider focused on LGBTQia+ youth experiencing homelessness, found that 20-40 percent of all youth experiencing homelessness nationwide identify as LGBTQia+. Youthworks documented that 24 percent of youth in their Transitional Living Program (TLP) identified as LGBTQia+ in 2020.

Further, In 2021, data found that 15 percent of youth experiencing homelessness had a disabling condition.

As part of the listening sessions that were held during the development of the Coordinated Community Plan (CCP), community stakeholders were asked to identify unmet needs for youth experiencing homelessness. The results below depict numerous unmet needs, and the top three were identified in order as affordable housing, behavioral health services and supportive services.

What is the greatest unmet need in your community for homeless youth? — Mentimeter

Rank	Need
1st	Affordable Housing
2nd	Behavioral Health Services
3rd	Supportive Services
4th	Permanent Connections to Adults
5th	Employment Assistance
6th	Educational Supports
7th	Other

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

In conjunction with the data that was collected in the 2019 needs assessment, listening sessions were conducted during the development of the CCP with over 40 individual youth and adult partners to analyze and interpret the data collected on YYA. A description of disparities identified through the assessment and listening sessions include race, gender and LBGTQia+ identities, and system involvement.

Racial Disparities

BIPOC youth in ND are overrepresented in nearly every at-risk category where statistics are maintained, including: out-of-school suspensions and expulsions, dropouts, arrests, juvenile probation, foster, and correctional care. Once in the system, they are at an increased risk for homelessness, teen pregnancy, and human trafficking/sexual abuse. Data within the youth homeless population reveals that 38 percent of youth experiencing homelessness are Native American and another 16 percent represent other minority racial groups. BIPOC youth represent 54 percent of ND youth experiencing homelessness.

Gender Identity and LGBTQia+ YYA

Of the youth experiencing homelessness in North Dakota in 2021, 51 percent identified themselves as female, 44 percent as male, and 5 percent as no single gender or transgender, according to the HMIS and comparable database data collected during calendar year 2021. True Colors United indicated that 20- 40 percent of all youth experiencing homelessness nationwide are LGBTQia+. Youthworks documented 24 percent of youth in their TLP program identified as LGBTQia+ in 2020.

Foster Care Involved

North Dakota youth in the foster care system face additional challenges including higher rates of incarceration, early parenting, homelessness, unemployment, and lack of access to mental and physical health care.

In 2019, there were 2,538 youth in the state foster care system, a 33 percent increase from 2010. Every year, approximately 1,000 youth leave through reunification with family, adoption or aging out of the system. Over the past decade, the ND Department of Human Services has tracked 17-year-old foster youth who are aging out of the foster care system and then follows up with them at ages 19 and 21. At one point, 40 percent of the respondents stated they had experienced homelessness and had to live in their car, on the street, or in a homeless or temporary shelter, despite over 60 percent stating that they were employed.

Juvenile Justice Involved

While minimal data is collected in North Dakota regarding the interconnection between youth homelessness and incarceration, a national study by the Urban Institute found that YYA who were incarcerated before the age of 18 experienced homelessness for the first time 9.8 years earlier than those who were incarcerated after the age of 24. For YYA incarcerated between the ages of 18 and 24, the study found that they experienced homelessness for the first time 5.1 years later.

McKinney-Vento

The 2021 Point-in-Time Count for North Dakota showed 183 youth experienced sheltered or unsheltered homelessness on a single night. Of this total, 50 were youth ages 18-24 in households without children, living without parents or guardians. While there was only one youth reported in the 2021 PIT as unaccompanied, it is suspected that this population is undercounted due to doubled up situations.

Data collected by ND DPI on McKinney-Vento students experiencing homelessness identified 2,688 students in the 2019-2020 school year as experiencing homelessness. Of this statewide total, 40 percent of the students were identified in Bismarck and Fargo area schools. The ND CoC recognizes the unique challenges faced by rural school districts in identifying and serving youth who are experiencing homelessness. Local data supports the 2020 Chapin Hall Voices of Youth (CHVOY) report focus group findings which indicate that, while rural homelessness is as prevalent as urban homelessness among youth populations nationally, there is an invisibility of rural homelessness caused by a lack of awareness, stigma, and distrust of public systems. This invisibility can be seen in ND DPI data where only 63 of 172 school districts reported student homelessness.

Unaccompanied Minors

For unaccompanied youth under 18, access to shelters without entering the system was identified as a goal by the group that studied the unmet needs. Legislation to address this need was not passed in 2021, but a study has been ordered by a ND legislative committee to further evaluate this issue.

Human Trafficking and Exploitation

It is estimated that 34 percent of youth that enter a Youthworks program have experienced human trafficking. Most youth (56 percent) identified in the FM 2020 State of Homelessness report stated that their current period of homelessness had been caused by an unhealthy relationship or experience of emotional, physical, psychological, sexual, or other type of abuse or trauma they experienced.

NUMERICAL ESTIMATES

Collecting accurate data about YYA experiencing homelessness in a mostly rural state like North Dakota is challenging. Several data sources were used to assess the scope and scale of youth homelessness across the state.

The 2020 Current State of Housing in North Dakota report examines the impacts of COVID-19 and housing challenges faced by vulnerable populations. The report states that in 2018, 27 percent of the state's young adults, or 19,000 young people, live in poverty. Young adults throughout the state are less likely to be eligible for public benefits and work in the lowest wage job sector, contributing to ongoing poverty rates. Higher poverty rates among YYA contributes to increased homelessness in the youth and young adult population throughout the state.

Foster care involvement is positively correlated with youth homelessness. In 2019, there were 2,538 youth in the state foster care system. This represents a 33 percent increase from 2010, demonstrating higher risk of homelessness for young people exiting those systems.

While the teen birth rate has declined significantly in the past two decades (61 percent decline between 1991 and 2020), there were 319 births to teens in the state of North Dakota in 2020. Continuum of Care data throughout the state shows that 42 parenting youth under the age of 25 were served by CoC programs in calendar year 2021.

The reports detailed below provide additional context for the depth of youth homelessness in North Dakota.
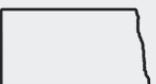
Point in Time (PIT) Count Data

HUD, as a part of the CoC process, requires an annual PIT survey be conducted on one given night every January. The 2021 PIT survey documented 548 persons in ND. Of those, 57 persons between the ages of 18-24 were sheltered and unsheltered. In total 50 young people were identified as experiencing homelessness in households without children, and 7 young people were experiencing homelessness in households with children.

The YAB has participated in the annual PIT and provided feedback to the ND CoC since their inception in 2016. Youth are more knowledgeable about locations that unsheltered youth may be located during the time of the PIT and actively outreached during the count. Despite the best efforts of the ND CoC and YAB, it is believed that the PIT survey drastically undercounts the number of youth experiencing homelessness in ND. Most youth experiencing homelessness are precariously housed

by "couch surfing," and do not seek support at area homeless shelters. Due to the extreme cold in January youth are less likely to be identified in an unsheltered count.

Department of Public Instruction (DPI) Data

A statewide total of 2,688 homeless students were identified in 2019-2020, with 40 percent of those identified in Bismarck and Fargo area schools. The ND CoC recognizes the unique challenges faced by rural school districts in identifying and serving youth who are experiencing homelessness. Local data supports the 2020 CHVOY report focus group findings which indicate that, while rural homelessness is just as prevalent as urban homelessness among youth populations, there is an invisibility of rural homelessness caused by a lack of awareness, stigma, and distrust of public systems. This invisibility can be seen in ND DPI data where only 67 of 188 school districts reported student homelessness. In contrast to the Category 1 data collected in the PIT count, ND DPI collects data based on the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness including students not eligible for Category 1 HUD support and youth experiencing homelessness with their families.

VISION

Together, we strive for a North Dakota without youth homelessness. By bringing together youth experience and stakeholder expertise, we envision a North Dakota where all youth are offered supportive services whenever needed. We look to abolish all forms of social injustice including racism, ableism, and adultism. We envision a community where youth homelessness is non-existent.

MISSION

The North Dakota Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program is committed to bringing experience and expertise to the table to end youth homelessness. By creating a community where YYA lead the conversation, we will make youth homelessness in North Dakota rare, brief, and non-recurring.

Values

Youth-Led Advocacy: The ND YHDP values the unique understanding of those who have experienced youth homelessness possess. We are committed to placing YYA with lived experience at the forefront of our conversation.

Innovation: The ND YHDP believes that creativity and ingenuity are key to ending youth homelessness. We value new and radical ideas to end the crisis.
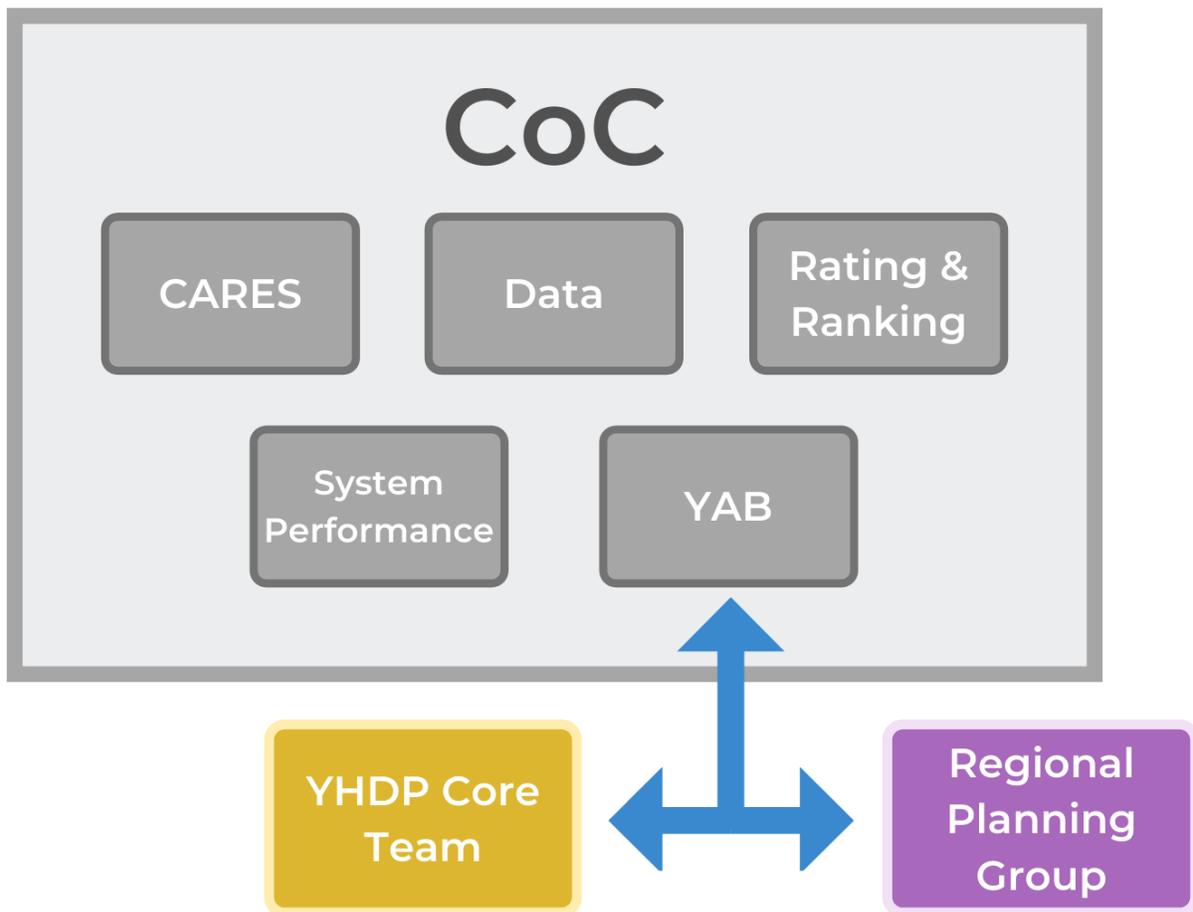
Collaboration: The ND YHDP knows that ending youth homelessness is a massive undertaking. We are committed to and value all individual and community partners, and welcome their support in solving the problem.

Intersectionality: Every person can provide a unique and valued perspective on such an emergency like youth homelessness. The ND YHDP believes that every voice has value, and no one group should ever be excluded from the conversation.

Compassion: We care for each and every youth experiencing homelessness. We believe that kindness, empathy, and humanity should be extended to each and every one of them.

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

To make our vision a reality, the Core Team established a statewide network of youth, youth advocacy organizations, service providers, and government agencies. The governance structure includes the ND CoC, YAB, YHDP Core Team, and Regional Planning Group. Provided below is an organizational chart followed by text descriptions of each entity and their decision-making process.

CoC: North Dakota Continuum of Care

The ND CoC has four standing committees to support the CoC in achieving its goals and responsibilities with at least one CoC Board member serving as liaison to each committee. The YAB will be the fifth standing committee. As a standing committee, the YAB will have two members on the CoC Board to vote on CoC governance decisions.

ND YHDP Core Team

The ND YHDP Core Team consists of systems partners including the ND CoC, Youthworks, the FM Coalition to End Homelessness, ND DPI, and justice and child welfare partners. Under the YAB's leadership this group helps guide key decisions related to the ND YHDP.

Regional Planning Group

This group will consist of stakeholders from each region in the state. Meeting with this group will promote a statewide strategy and approach to ending youth homelessness.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

The following chart outlines the partners who were involved in the development of the coordinated community plan.

Partners	Organizations identified	Description of involvement
CoC Board (required)	ND CoC Board	Project Lead
Youth Action Board (required)	ND Youth Action Board	- Direct strategy development and inform decision making - Strategic planning, recruitment, and provide input for and approve the CCP
Local and State Government (required)	- ND Department of Public Instruction - ND Department of Human Services - ND Housing Finance Agency - ND Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation	Program coordination, provide information/data for CCP
Public Child Welfare Agencies (required)	ND Department of Human Services	Program coordination, provide information/data for CCP
CoC Program Recipients	- Fargo Housing and Redevelopment Authority - Abused Adult Resource Center - Burleigh County Housing Authority - Prairie Harvest Mental Health - Red River Valley Community Action - Youthworks - Fraser, Ltd. - Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Center - YWCA Cass Clay	Provide information for CCP
ESG Program Recipients	- Abused Adult Resource Center - Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Center - Gladys Ray Shelter - Missouri Slope Areawide United Way - Youthworks - New Life Center - Northlands Rescue Mission - Presentation Partners in Housing	Provide information for CCP

Partners	Organizations identified	Description of involvement
	- Red River Valley Community Action - Safe Alternatives for Abused Families - Southeastern ND Community Action Agency - Turtle Mountain Mikinaak Ode Shelter - Project BEE - YWCA Cass Clay	
Runaway and Homeless Youth Program Providers	Youthworks	Participate in YHDP Core Team meetings, development of CCP, and housing provider
Juvenile and Adult Corrections and Probation	- ND Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation - Southwest District Court - ND Courts	Provide information/data for CCP
Local and State Educational Agencies	ND Department of Public Instruction	Participate in YHDP Core Team meetings, development of CCP, recruit LEA liaisons
Institutions of Higher Education	- ND University System - ND State University - University of ND	Provide information for CCP
Non-Profit Youth Organizations	Youthworks Pathfinder Services of ND	Participate in YHDP Core Team meetings, development of CCP, and housing provider
Organizations that serve culturally specific (BIPOC, people with disabilities, LGBTQ, etc.) communities	- NATIVE, Inc.	Provide information/data for CCP
Health, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Agencies	- Prairie Harvest Mental Health - Heartview Foundation - PATH Outreach	Provide information for CCP
Employment Agencies	ND Job Service	Provide information for CCP
Public Housing Authorities	- Grand Forks Housing Authority - Fargo Housing and Redevelopment Authority - Burleigh County Housing - Great Plains Housing Authority	Provide information for CCP

Partners	Organizations identified	Description of involvement
Affordable Housing Developers	Beyond Shelter	Provide information for CCP

HUD GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Equity

In 2020, racial disparity was brought to the forefront of issues for people experiencing homelessness. North Dakota's total population in 2020 was 779,094 individuals with over 260,000 under the age of 25. Our data tells us that while over 86 percent of our total population in North Dakota is white, over 54 percent of our youth experiencing homelessness identify as BIPOC.

Additionally, BIPOC youth are overrepresented in nearly every at-risk category where statistics are maintained, including: out-of-school suspensions and expulsions, dropouts, arrests, juvenile probation, and foster or correctional care, putting them at an increased risk for not only homelessness, but also teen pregnancy and victimization.

The ND CoC, in partnership with the West Central Minnesota CoC and the White Earth Tribe in Minnesota, created a new Housing Prioritization Tool to address racial disparities in our prioritization process and updated our Prioritization Policy. The tool was piloted in December 2021 and began full implementation in March 2022. Since the tool is so new, we are unable to identify where racial disparities remain in our system, but we will evaluate the results of the new tool at the six and twelve month marks and annually thereafter. Furthermore, the ND CoC will be working to develop relationships with tribal entities within the next year to address racial disparities in our system.

Positive Youth Development

North Dakota's approach to positive youth development involves engaging young people through relationship development, person-centered planning, and a focus on their futures.

Providers will be trained and supported to use a strength based approach with young people, their families, and other formal and informal key players. Providers and navigators will build relationships and respect young persons' relationships with family members and other formal and informal key players.

Conversations with young people will focus on future planning and goal setting and include prevention planning for high-risk behaviors and situations. Services will be offered to enhance young person competencies to assist them in achieving greater self-sufficiency and confidence, and to connect with and sustain natural supports in the community.

Trauma-Informed Care

The ND CoC recognizes that the experience of trauma should be considered both a cause and consequence of homelessness and that trauma-informed care should be a part of every process, action step, and goal because the system can be traumatizing at every level. Trauma-informed relationships start as soon as youth are referred, with service providers seeking to obtain only the information that is relevant to a young person's eligibility.

When youth consent to receiving services, service providers focus on building relationships with youth. North Dakota service providers recognize that youth who are experiencing homelessness more than likely have histories of trauma that do not need to be detailed in order for them to qualify for, or receive, services. Young people will be involved in the development and implementation of ND YHDP programs to promote a trauma-informed understanding of service provision. A trauma-informed approach to the work means that young people are in control of their own experiences, and North Dakota providers are committed to embodying those values at youth agencies.

Family Engagement

For youth services throughout North Dakota, providers will use a broad definition and understanding of family guided by youth choice. ND YHDP projects will support reconnection with family, as defined by youth (calls, visits, mediation, locating family, etc.), invite youth to establish family engagement goals as part of individual plans, and train on how to establish boundaries with family and friends.

Projects will implement two/multi-generation models that work to improve economic security, improved relationships, connections to employment, and education pathways. The experiences of pregnant and parenting youth, including parenting fathers, will be centered in engaging families in service provision. Navigators and case managers will build robust connections to family mediation and reconciliation support services to reduce and negotiate family conflict.

Housing First for Youth

The ND CoC practices a Housing First model of care that follows four core principles of practice for youth:

1. **Immediate access to permanent housing with no preconditions**: Youth should be provided with access to safe and secure permanent housing that meets their needs as quickly as possible.
2. **Youth choice and self-determination**: Housing First is a person-centered approach that promotes choice regarding housing and service options, while maintaining high expectations for youth.

3. **Individualized and youth-driven supports**: All youth are different. Once housed, the level of service offered will depend on the unique needs and choices of the youth. Non-time limited supports provide a practical, person-centered approach that assists in helping youth maintain their housing independently.
4. **Persistent Engagement**: Staff should utilize an assertive style of case management, and continuously attempt to engage youth, even if youth are resistant to services.

All ND CoC members (funded and non-funded) are expected to follow the Housing First model that includes the core principles. Agencies that apply for CoC funding must provide their policy and follow the Housing First philosophy to be funded in North Dakota. This practice will carry over to the ND YHDP Request for Proposals process, requiring YHDP recipients to adhere to the Housing First for Youth philosophy.

Unsheltered Homelessness

In North Dakota, providers understand that not all young people are sheltered or will present to services for shelter or housing. Especially in more rural parts of the state, street, virtual, and place-based outreach will focus on engaging unhoused YYA. Youth outreach workers will co-locate with other youth service organizations and schools to reach youth not engaged with outreach or housing providers.

This will include supportive services at drop-in spaces that offer lockers, showers, laundry facilities, food/kitchen, computer access, and opportunities for social engagement, a social worker, or access to external services. Through locating outreach and navigation staff at critical locations throughout the state, North Dakota providers will better understand the scope of unsheltered homelessness throughout the state and develop strategies to better serve young people living in those situations.

Youth Choice and Client-Driven Support

Youth Choice is Youth Voice (speaking on behalf of oneself). North Dakota believes in the power and potential of all young people and supports their power of self-determination to identify their needs. YYA will be instrumental in developing their individual plans of care - which includes giving them ultimate decision-making authority. Service providers will make certain that youth choices are heard and applied to help them achieve self-sufficiency.

ND YHDP-funded agencies commit to developing individualized and client-driven supports based on the unique identities and cultures of YYA and built upon the strengths, competencies and desires of each individual served. Agencies will participate in regular training and support to establish and maintain individualized and client-driven supports.

CES policies, transitional housing standards, and permanent housing program standards will be co-created with young people to promote buy-in to ND YHDP programs and ensure that youth are leading the implementation of programs designed for them.

Social and Community Integration

As a statewide CoC, it is critical that meaningful opportunities for social and community integration are provided in both densely-populated centers of the state and more rural communities. By leveraging youth system navigators, ND YHDP will provide services and activities that support access to natural supports and engagement in meaningful activities through connection to community.

Navigators will make connections to affirming, culturally relevant community activities. Transportation assistance will be widely provided to connect young people to their communities and make services and supports more widely-accessible.

Coordinated Entry

As one of the nation's most rural states, ND faces continual systemic, financial, and intellectual challenges translating urban best practices and federal expectations into workable rural solutions. Implementing a coordinated entry system that scaled the geopolitical barriers of a two-state micro region (Fargo, ND and Moorhead, MN) and met the needs of the ND CoC required a major collaboration of service providers and community leaders across regional systems that were often deeply isolated. In ND, this process began three years in advance of the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) mandate for coordinated entry via a unique partnership between the ND CoC, West Central Minnesota (MN) CoC, the Fargo-Moorhead (FM) Coalition to End Homelessness, and the White Earth Nation (MN). The group (then chaired by Youthworks Assistant Executive Director) created a joint coordinated entry system covering more than 60 counties and 80,000 square miles. Meetings were held to seek solutions for referrals and data collection across an area that uses two separate Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS).

In the FM area, an innovative cross-border housing prioritization process was created when no other multi-state models were found across the country. A governance structure was put into place for policy, evaluation/monitoring, and oversight of the joint venture. A staff position was created to coordinate the moving parts across the vast prairie miles and assist local communities with implementation. With the great diversity of systems, stakeholders, and priorities, this collaborative venture required systemic changes across the ND CoC in service provision, methodology, and philosophy, utilizing the most up-to-date best practices. In some areas it generated new systems where a homeless response system was lacking. In 2021, the process began to create a new tool to replace the VI-SPDAT and in March 2022 the Housing

Prioritization Tool was implemented across both CoCs. The Prioritization Policy was updated to reflect the changes in the new tool and youth is one of the categories used for prioritization. The ND CoC continues to work on coordinated entry across the state, looking for new and innovative ways to improve the system.

NEW PROJECTS

Transitional Housing-Rapid Rehousing Joint Component

TH-RRH combines transitional housing (TH), a service-intensive, frequently congregate-care component, with rapid rehousing (RRH), a scattered-site independent living component. Youth have the option to stay in transitional housing for up to 24 months (2 years) and rapid rehousing for up to 36 months (3 years). If young people are enrolled in these projects by their 25th birthday they are eligible for the full duration of services available through the programs. Youth can skip right to RRH if they choose, but have the option of starting in TH (if they need crisis housing or want more structure).

The experience of housing stability is not linear. This means that housing stability doesn't happen the same way for each young person, and there may be times where a transitional housing model in a congregate setting may be a better option to support a young person, while other times rapid rehousing with a lease in a young person's name is the better option.

In North Dakota CoC, we want projects that are flexible and meet the short-and-long-term needs of young people. This means we want young people to be dually-enrolled in transitional housing and rapid rehousing and have the option of moving among and between both options.

Permanent Supportive Housing

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) provides long-term, flexible rental subsidies for youth experiencing homelessness and have disabilities/disabling conditions that affect their long-term ability to gain income/live independently without ongoing services.

PSH programs will allow young people who may have higher barriers to housing (criminal records, disabling conditions, etc.) to have more access to voluntary supportive services alongside housing. The services are designed to build independent living and tenancy skills and connect people with community-based health care, treatment and employment services. There is no time limit for enrollment in PSH projects.

System Navigation

The goal of the system navigation project is to support youth and their case managers through the process of obtaining permanent housing. The goal of the housing navigators is not to duplicate the work of case managers, but instead to

assist youth and young adults (YYA) in making sure all elements of their case plan are actually carried out by lowering barriers to accessing housing and services. Additionally, navigators will be specialists in educating young people about their options, whether those options are within the "system" or not. Phone, web, and app-based technology will also be implemented to create anonymous access points for young people who may feel uncomfortable or unsafe accessing more traditional access sites.

Specifically, a housing navigator will help YYA enroll in all housing and services to which they have been referred, check in with YYA to make sure they remember and can make all appointments, and, critically in this large rural state, help YYA address transportation needs. Navigators will be able to provide transportation directly if needed. While transportation will be a major service provided, navigators will also be able to provide YYA with access to childcare, food and other basic needs.

Navigators will be located in each of the eight regions of the ND CoC to reach as many YYA experiencing homelessness as possible. Navigators will be placed at strategic locations in each of the ND CoC's eight regions, with a particular emphasis on locating youth in schools and drop-in centers. There will be a focus on hiring youth and young adults with lived experience in homelessness for these roles. Peer navigators will be able to reflect on their own experience navigating the homeless services system to help other YYA get connected to services through the state's coordinated entry system.

Diversion and Rapid Rehousing

Rapid rehousing is intended to rapidly resolve a young person's experience of homelessness. In some cases, a young person's experience of housing insecurity and/or homelessness can be resolved with diversion services. Diversion is a strategy that prevents homelessness for people seeking shelter by helping them identify immediate alternate housing arrangements and, if necessary, connecting them with services and financial assistance to help them return to permanent housing.

The ND CoC plans to align flexible funding that can be dedicated to diversion efforts for young adults. This means that young people will have access to supportive services (food, transportation, education/employment supports, utility deposits). Young people who engage with diversion services will also have the option of rapid rehousing rental assistance support. This includes moving assistance, first and last month's rent and short-to-medium-term rental assistance if needed.

By locating rental assistance alongside housing counseling and diversion-focused case management, the ND CoC will fund projects that have the goal of supporting young people to have a wide variety of service and housing support. These projects

will allow providers to meet the individualized needs of young people presenting for assistance.

HMIS

HMIS is a local information technology system used to collect data on individual youth experiencing homelessness or those at risk of homelessness, including any access to services or housing. A portion of YHDP funds will be used to develop the HMIS system in North Dakota to track how young people are accessing services and determine if the community is meeting goals for ending youth homelessness.

G O A L S

The North Dakota YHDP planning committee followed the United States Interagency Council of Homelessness (USICH) elements of the Youth Framework to End Youth Homelessness to identify Goals. The Goals, Objectives, and Action Steps will impact on-going policy; create a "navigator system" design; and determine Plan performance. All goals and action steps are carried out with inclusive participation of Youth (under 18) and Young Adults (18-24); (especially LGBTQia+; non-binary gender identities; BIPOC; pregnant or parenting YYA; victims of human trafficking and exploitation; youth involved with foster care; and youth involved with juvenile justice.

North Dakota is the 19th largest state (70,698 square miles) and is the tenth most rural state. North Dakota has tribal land home to Fort Berthold Reservation, Spirit Lake Nation Reservation, Standing Rock Sioux Reservation, Turtle Mountain Reservation, and the northern portion of the Sisseton Reservation. North Dakota's population 2022 states demographics are: White: 87 percent, Native American: 5 percent, Black/African American: 3 percent, and two or more races: 3 percent. The YHDP has selected to follow the eight regions of the ND CoC in the state to develop housing programs to reach as many YYA experiencing homelessness as possible.

North Dakota held 12 listening sessions between February 2 and March 24, 2022 that included: seven regional coalitions (Region 1 did not participate); topic sessions that included: Tribal, trafficking/domestic violence/sexual assualt; LGBTQia+; higher education, and juvenile justice/child welfare. Comments and suggestions from the listening sessions were reviewed and included in the ND YHDP Coordinated Community Plan using the four USICH elements:

1. Stable Housing,
2. Education,
3. Employment, and
4. Overall Health and Well-Being.

G O A L 1:
Stable Housing

Intent of goal: Create a "NO Wrong Door" system for access to safe and accessible housing and services for all YYA – with an emphasis on LGBTQia+, non-binary gender identifying, BIPOC, pregnant or parenting YYA, survivors of human trafficking and/or exploitation and youth involved with foster care and/or the juvenile justice system – and involvement that is diverse and flexible and reflects their individual needs that leads to healthy, long-term, sustainable housing.

Objective 1.1: Build and maintain a comprehensive working network throughout the state that includes: State government, Tribal governments, housing and service providers, and local municipalities to be actively engaged with the ND YHDP.

Action Steps	
1.1.1	Coordinate places of service through many agencies/programs by inter-agencies working together to create "one-stop-shops" for access to safe rapid and/or long-term housing.
1.1.2	Develop equitable geographic distribution for rural supportive service-areas.
1.1.3	Inter-agency solutions of program policies, regulations, and requirements that conflict or prevent unattended minors seeking safe shelter. ● Critical inter-agency coordination must include juvenile justice and foster care.
1.1.4	The working network must include decision-making authority members from Housing Authorities, ND Department of Health (Vital Statistics), Social Services (Medicaid, Child Protection, Foster Care/Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), Food Stamps), Behavioral Health (Mental/Substance Abuse), Education, Juvenile Services, and Transportation.
1.1.5	The "working network" will authentically listen to and collaborate with YYA (especially LGBTQia+, BIPOC, pregnant or parenting YYA, and youth experienced with the foster care system and juvenile justice involvement).
1.1.6	Use the current Coordinated Entry System (CES) and share with other programs/systems to reach the highest level of impact on those needing services.

Partner(s) Responsible
ND CoC, YAB, regional coalitions, State and Tribal government/entities, juvenile justice systems, public child welfare agencies, nonprofit agencies, youth providers, city government

Timeframe
Two years

HUD Key Principles**	
☑ Equity	☑ Positive youth development
☑ Trauma-informed care	☑ Family engagement
☑ Housing first	☑ Youth choice
☑ Community integration	☑ Coordinated entry

Objective 1.2: Collect specific detailed community housing program services to identify: (1) communities with service gaps or conflicts; and (2) programs that could be replicated in other communities that cover all eight regions in the state.

Action Steps

1.2.1	Create a detailed Program Service List by region that clearly identifies and outlines gaps and strengths and where/who provides services.
	    a. In addition to the gaps/conflicts identified, these specific gaps/conflicts *must* be addressed.
	        ● Lack of YYA seeking shelter for fear of foster care
	        ● Youth doesn't have guardian to sign for services and/or documentation
	        ● Lack of emergency shelter and resources for youth under 18
	        ● Critical safety issues between YYA (trafficking)
	        ● Lack of resources and assistance for single fathers

1.2.2	Programs chosen by YYA to be considered for replication will provide direct Technical Assistance and Planning Advice through hands-on or Zoom training.

Partner(s) Responsible

ND CoC, YAB, regional coalitions, State and Tribal government/entities, public child welfare agency, youth providers

Timeframe

One year

HUD Key Principles**

☑ Equity	☐ Positive youth development
☑ Trauma-informed care	☑ Family engagement
☑ Housing first	☑ Youth choice
☐ Community integration	☐ Coordinated entry

Objective 1.3: Establish a "take-action" Landlord-Housing committee that engages rental property owners to participate in equitable short-term and long-term permanent housing solutions and address concerns and problems relating to the voice and direction from YYA regarding homelessness.

Action Steps

1.3.1	Select committee members from diverse housing projects/programs to gain a full spectrum of input (i.e., those that rent to homeless, those that absolutely don't, and those that may rent if certain issues were addressed).

1.3.2	Establish goals and timelines based on safe rapid and permanent housing that show progress and changes that are shared with the public.
1.3.3	Complete a survey of all those participating to determine the need or desire to continue as a standing statewide committee.
1.3.4	Establish a Landlord Relations program that would include safe, rapid, and permanent housing choices for inclusive YYA.

Partner(s) Responsible

ND CoC, YAB, landlords, housing providers, youth providers, juvenile justice, public child welfare agency, public housing authorities, Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs), non profit entities

Timeframe

Two years

HUD Key Principles**

☑ Equity	☑ Positive youth development
☑ Trauma-informed care	☐ Family engagement
☑ Housing first	☑ Youth choice
☑ Community integration	☐ Coordinated entry

Objective 1.4: Develop a list of "documentation" barriers *required* by landlords, agencies, or programs for YYA to secure safe housing.

Action Steps

1.4.1	Expand the use of the CES and the ND CoC approved HMIS or comparable database to include State/Tribal agencies for YYA seeking shelter, rentals, or any housing assistance/program.
1.4.2	Collect and assess documents required by landlords and community housing programs from YYA to be able to secure a safe place to live.
1.4.3	Develop a secured cross-check system for housing programs and/or landlords to use for verification to provide quick rapid homeless services.
1.4.4	Explore potential solutions to the challenges presented by the need for documentation for youth to be housed rapidly.

Partner(s) Responsible

ND CoC, YAB, youth providers, housing providers, Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs), public housing authorities, landlords, public child welfare agency, non profit entities, ND Department of Health, ND Department of Public Instruction, ND Department of Human Services, ND Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, higher education institutions, Tribal and public schools

Timeframe
One year

HUD Key Principles**	
☑ Equity	☑ Positive youth development
☑ Trauma-informed care	☐ Family engagement
☑ Housing first	☑ Youth choice
☑ Community integration	☑ Coordinated entry

Objective 1.5: Explore the feasibility of replicating Habitat for Humanity or Tiny Home models for families experiencing homelessness; or remodeling "empty spaces" (e.g., old schools, strip malls that are out of business).

Action Steps	
1.5.1	Identify building limitations and/or requirements related to the Tiny Homes and Habitat for Humanity programs (eligibility criteria) that could be modified to allow services for YYA and families experiencing homelessness.
1.5.2	Meet with local contractors for advice and consultation regarding ideas that would be feasible using existing structures for transformation into safe, rapid, and permanent housing.
1.5.3	Create a **My Place – My Space** housing program that uses community members to teach YYA home "care" skills (e.g., personal finance, cleaning, repair, up-keep, stress-coping skills, etc). ● Include box stores (e. g., Menards, Home Depot, Ace Hardware) to get involved.

Partner(s) Responsible
ND CoC, YAB, affordable housing developers, youth providers, city government (planning and zoning), businesses (stores)

Timeframe
Three years

HUD Key Principles**	
☐ Equity	☑ Positive youth development
☑ Trauma-informed care	☑ Family engagement
☑ Housing first	☑ Youth choice
☐ Community integration	☑ Coordinated entry

G O A L 2:
Education

Intent of goal: Ensure YYA experiencing homelessness (especially LGBTQia+, Non-binary gender identities,, BIPOC , pregnant or parenting YYA, survivors of human trafficking and/or exploitation, and youth involved with foster care and/or the juvenile justice system)have access to enroll and attend school/trade programs and secondary education and have the opportunity to succeed academically and socially.

Objective 2.1: Review trainings and education for homeless liaisons and vital district personnel on homeless resources, interventions, and best practices.

Action Steps

2.1.1	Review Public and Tribal Schools Homeless Education programming. ● Review current trainings to evaluate for best practices ● Review current trainings to evaluate compliance with state and federal policies and procedures ● Establish an evaluation cycle for training
2.1.2	Ensure Public and Tribal School Homeless Education trainings include Positive Youth Development (PYD) and Trauma-Informed Care (TIC). ● Review current trainings to evaluate compliance with state and federal policies and procedures ● Establish an evaluation cycle for trainings
2.1.3	Collect data regarding Public and Tribal School Homeless Education trainings to include: trainings completed, participant feedback, and measurable "impact of change" resulting from training sessions. ● Create and implement a data collection process for training feedback
2.1.4	Create a more formal Homeless Education Training that is approved and endorsed by YYA and implemented no later than December 2024.
2.1.5	Expand access to entities needed for essential documentation when applying for employment, social services, driver's license, etc.

	• Create pathways to better assist YYA when collecting necessary documentation

Partner(s) Responsible
ND CoC, YAB, ND Department of Public Instruction, Early Education, Public and Tribal Schools

Timeframe
Develop trainings within one year; ongoing training thereafter

HUD Key Principles**	
☑ Equity	☑ Positive youth development
☑ Trauma-informed care	☐ Family engagement
☐ Housing first	☐ Youth choice
☐ Community integration	☐ Coordinated entry

Objective 2.2: Continue to build a formal relationship with ND TRIO Programs to coordinate partnerships within 3-5 of the 8 regions in North Dakota..	
Action Steps	
2.2.1	Establish connections between TRIO, district homeless liaisons, and ND University System (NDUS) institutions for YYA regarding program applications, education options and resources, and requirements. • Establish points-of-contact for entities involved to communicate • Establish points-of-contact for YYA to communicate with
2.2.2	Create an After Action Review/Summary Information to assist other regions in establishing relationships. • Establish procedures for future relationship building
2.2.3	Record stories of successful YYA educational opportunities to be shared throughout the informational public campaign objective developed by YYA.

Partner(s) Responsible
ND CoC, YAB, ND Department of Public Instruction, ND University System

Timeframe
6 months

HUD Key Principles**

☑ Equity	☑ Positive youth development
☐ Trauma-informed care	☐ Family engagement
☐ Housing first	☑ Youth choice
☑ Community integration	☐ Coordinated entry

Objective 2.3: Explore programs that assist YYA in school participation (activities, attendance, and academic supports.

Action Steps

2.31	Research/review program models that have proven to increase attendance and school participation. • Utilize various models to establish an initiative for North Dakota • Gather data regarding youth experiencing homelessness school participation to help understand barriers
2.3.2	Meet with district administrators to discuss the program model • Discuss benefits of utilizing the model • Discuss implementation techniques districts can use for the model
2.3.3	Develop a plan designed by YYA to address the barriers and increase participation in "school program" services.

Partner(s) Responsible

ND CoC, YAB, Public and Tribal school administrators

Timeframe

1 year

HUD Key Principles**

☑ Equity	☑ Positive youth development
☑ Trauma-informed care	☑ Family engagement
☐ Housing first	☑ Youth choice
☑ Community integration	☐ Coordinated entry

Objective 2.4: Increase housing and homeless resources for YYA entering or attending institutions of higher education who are at-risk or experiencing homelessness

Action Steps	
2.4.1	Connect with NDUS housing administrators ● Establish relationships with district homeless liaisons/point-of-contact ● Explore opportunities for YYA to utilize unfilled residence hall/apartment openings ● Explore work-release programs that would benefits the institution(s) and YYA (e.g., YYA = Resident Assistant, assisting with residence hall issues and receives free room and board OR YYA assists with building maintenance and receives free room and board) ● Establish policies and procedures for YYA in unfilled openings ● Establish resources for students experiencing housing insecurities
2.4.2	Collaborate with district homeless liaisons ● Establish relationship with housing administrators ● Assist with creating policies and procedures for YYA in unfilled openings ● Assist with establishing resources for students experiencing housing insecurities

Partner(s) Responsible
ND CoC, YAB, ND Department of Public Instruction, ND University System housing administrators, Public and Tribal school homeless liaisons

Timeframe
2 years

HUD Key Principles**	
☑ Equity	☑ Positive youth development
☑ Trauma-informed care	☐ Family engagement
☑ Housing first	☑ Youth choice
☑ Community integration	☐ Coordinated entry

Objective 2.5: Increase the number of YYA engaged in Career and Technical Education (CTE) by 25 percent.

Action Steps	
2.5.1	Provide training to school counselors/teachers for use of CTE courses as drop-out intervention ● Work with CTE to recruit youth experiencing homelessness into programs ● Establish financial assistance and other supports to encourage YYA to enroll in CTE programs

	• Facilitate enrollment when applicable
2.5.2	Increase CTE program awareness • Collaborate with counselors/teachers to provider CTE training and assistance • Establish effective outreach with stakeholders and partnering entities

Partner(s) Responsible

ND CoC, YAB, ND Department of Public Instruction, ND University System, Public and Tribal school counselors/teachers/homeless liaisons

Timeframe

1 year

HUD Key Principles**

☐ Equity	☑ Positive youth development
☑ Trauma-informed care	☐ Family engagement
☐ Housing first	☑ Youth choice
☑ Community integration	☐ Coordinated entry

G O A L 3:
Employment

Intent of goal: Strengthen and improve the opportunity for North Dakota's YYA who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness – with an emphasis on LGBTQia+, non-binary gender identifying, BIPOC, pregnant or parenting YYA, survivors of human trafficking and/or exploitation and youth involved with foster care and/or the juvenile justice system – to gain work experience and job training that will lead to skills for long-term work and employment opportunities.

Objective 3.1: Collaborate with the CTE to provide services to YYA experiencing homelessness to gain job related work skills.

Action Steps

3.1.1	Develop on-site services at multiple homeless program centers and/or homeless shelters that carry-out the CTE Mission - "working with others to provide all North Dakota citizens with the technical skills, knowledge and attitudes necessary for successful performance in a globally competitive workplace".
3.1.2	Work directly with YYA who are experiencing or experienced homelessness to develop a plan to provide foundation skills needed to enter, re-enter, and/or advance in the workforce.

| 3.1.3 | Through input from YYA who are experiencing or experienced homelessness, help eliminate community work barriers to "on-the-job" training or entry jobs; such as transportation to work site, cost of work gear (uniforms, hard-hats, steel toe boots, etc.) |

Partner(s) Responsible

ND CoC, YAB, ND Department of Career and Technical Education

Timeframe

1 year

HUD Key Principles**

☑ Equity	☑ Positive youth development
☑ Trauma-informed care	☐ Family engagement
☐ Housing first	☑ Youth choice
☑ Community integration	☐ Coordinated entry

Objective 3.2: Establish working relationships with North Dakota Job Service to work with YYA experiencing homelessness to develop work skills and career preparation.

Action Steps

3.2.1	Explore options for working with "With Stride Career Prep" that is committed to preparing teens for their future by providing skills and resources. Prepare a Summary Report of program options and opportunities.
3.2.2	Explore options for working with Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) that is committed to on-the-job training for dislocated and/or low income individuals. Prepare a Summary Report of programs options and opportunities.
3.2.3	Work with ND Job Service to explore offering Work Fair Days at shelters and/or Homelessness Programs to aid YYA in job preparation and job openings.

Partner(s) Responsible

ND CoC, YAB, ND Job Service

Timeframe

6 months

HUD Key Principles**

	☑ Equity	☑ Positive youth development
	☑ Trauma-informed care	☐ Family engagement
	☐ Housing first	☑ Youth choice
	☑ Community integration	☐ Coordinated entry

Objective 3.3: Require work and job training staff to complete professional training development workshops regarding how to assist YYA experiencing homelessness.

Action Steps

3.3.1	Evaluate formal training requirements, value of current trainings, and what can be improved.
3.3.2	Evaluate the need for homelessness education training that would be conducted annually for ND Job Service employees who are in job placement positions.
3.3.3	Training requirements must include Positive Youth Development (PYD) and Trauma-Informed Care (TIC).
3.3.4	Collect data and evaluate the training completed: responses from participants, and measure "impact of change" cases that resulted from training sessions.

Partner(s) Responsible

ND CoC, YAB

Timeframe

1 year to develop an annual training (required for YHDP-funded agencies)

HUD Key Principles**

	☑ Equity	☑ Positive youth development
	☑ Trauma-informed care	☐ Family engagement
	☐ Housing first	☐ Youth choice
	☐ Community integration	☐ Coordinated entry

G O A L 4:
Overall Health and Well-Being

Intent of goal: While immediate need of safe, secure long-term shelter is critical for survival; the impact of homelessness on YYA – with an emphasis on LGBTQia+, non-binary gender identifying, BIPOC, pregnant or parenting YYA, survivors of human trafficking and/or exploitation and youth involved with foster care and/or the juvenile justice system – is profound on them. Overall health and well-being is paramount, and becomes "core" that is interconnected and interrelated to their lives. Overall health and well-being becomes more important than anything else because it forms, shapes, and impacts self-worth and value.

Objective 4.1: The Plan is dedicated to providing YYA experiencing homelessness with a voice; all goals and objectives listed in this document have a core basis of having the voice of the YYA heard, valued, and honored.

Action Steps

4.1.1	The YAB will be represented on every committee, review team, and group (all inclusive) outlined in this document.
4.1.2	The YAB will be involved in all decisions regarding report findings, goal setting, and plan development.
4.1.3	The YAB will be instrumental and key in the public campaign for community awareness - telling their stories.
4.1.4	Develop a Youth Navigation/Peer Support system that includes a YAB member from each of the eight regions that includes representation from all the youth categories listed throughout this plan.
4.1.5	YYA voice and values from different cultures, customs, and beliefs will be honored, valued, and respected and specific acknowledgement of the Native American Tribal Land communities and the overall project will be respectful of holistic care and transitional support for YYA from Reservation life to other lands.

Partner(s) Responsible

ND CoC, YAB

Timeframe

Ongoing

HUD Key Principles**

☑ Equity	☑ Positive youth development
☑ Trauma-informed care	☑ Family engagement
☑ Housing first	☑ Youth choice
☑ Community integration	☑ Coordinated entry

Objective 4.2: Advocate mainstream providers (e.g., healthcare facilities, youth programs, transportation services) as community partners to collect current housing status at intake of unaccompanied YYA experiencing homelessness at key points of contact.

Action Steps

4.2.1	Identify and create a community Mainstream Providers workgroup to provide input and advice on how to collect housing status through their services at intake that is fair and impartial to capture information at key points of contact.
4.2.2	Explore and develop language of "how" mainstream providers can ask/gather housing status at intake with direct input from the YAB and community members. Provide Motivational Interviewing training.
4.2.3	Collect and process the findings and determine feasibility to continue.
4.2.4	Create an Information Collection Packet for pilot field testing in 3-4 test sites for three months.
4.2.5	Evaluate process and results and prepare a formal report that details further action. Key points of contact will provide services for community connections and immediately work with shelter and other assistance programs throughout the community.

Partner(s) Responsible

ND CoC, YAB, healthcare facilities, ND Department of Human Services, nonprofit agencies, youth providers

Timeframe

1.5 years

HUD Key Principles**

☑ Equity	☐ Positive youth development
☑ Trauma-informed care	☑ Family engagement
☑ Housing first	☑ Youth choice
☑ Community integration	☐ Coordinated entry

Objective 4.3: Engage grassroots community members (e.g., churches, YWCA/YMCA, 4-H, Boy/Girl Scouts, Libraries and Senior Citizen program , after school programs(inclusive of private, public, for-profit, and nonprofit) to support and act with urgency in solving YYA homelessness.	

	Action Steps
4.3.1	Establish a Community Support workgroup to discuss creative ideas, supportive plans etc.of ways to provide social support and inclusion of YYA experiencing homelessness and their families to support a positive transition into the community as a contributing member.
4.3.2	Offer social activities to support and strengthen trust and good relationships with other youth and adults in the community.
4.3.3	Mentorship Opportunity to learn social and communication skills through community programs and activities.

Partner(s) Responsible

ND CoC, YAB, faith community, nonprofit organizations, local social clubs

Timeframe

1.5 years

HUD Key Principles**

☑ Equity	☑ Positive youth development
☑ Trauma-informed care	☑ Family engagement
☐ Housing first	☑ Youth choice
☑ Community integration	☐ Coordinated entry

Objective 4.4: Develop and create avenues for accessible and reliable transportation services to: school, appointments/medical care, community resources, and work.	

	Action Steps
4.4.1	Create a Transportation Team to work with YYA experiencing homelessness and their families to review current services in each of the eight regions in the state and prepare a Report of Findings and a Report of Recommendations.
4.4.2	Create the survey document based on input from YYA who are experiencing or experienced homelessness that will standardize transportation service questions in metro, mid-size, and rural communities.

4.4.3	Prepare official Report of Findings and official Report of Recommendations for the state, broken down by region with regional recommendations.
4.4.4	Connect with Indian Health Services (IHS) to learn about the IHS - Community Health Representative (CHR) transportation program that provides rides for appointments and other community needs. (Replicate concept).
4.4.5	Work with school systems to review bus routes and modify for pick-ups at shelters, motels (rentals); survey and explore "student-share-rides"; explore innovative program ideas that involve and encourage elders to provide transportation to school, appointments, etc. (e.g., senior citizen to senior high transports).

Partner(s) Responsible

ND CoC, YAB, youth providers, Public and Tribal school transportation providers, IHS

Timeframe

Two years

HUD Key Principles**

☑ Equity	☐ Positive youth development
☑ Trauma-informed care	☑ Family engagement
☐ Housing first	☑ Youth choice
☑ Community integration	☐ Coordinated entry

Objective 4.5: Through the Department of Vital Records, plan to potentially negotiate an option where unaccompanied minors could have access to vital records via vetted contacts (McKinney-Vento liaisons, shelter providers, etc.)

Action Steps

4.5.1	In connection with Action Step 1.1.4, connect with Legal Aid to advise on legal issues and concerns regarding allowing YYA to access their vital records for protected purposes, such as securing safe housing.
4.5.2	Explore alternate avenues for assistance to reduce or remove legal barriers to accessing personal data.
4.5.3	Explore community, political, and/or legal programs and individuals that are interested in supporting the effort of allowing YYA to secure their own vital records information.

Partner(s) Responsible

ND CoC, YAB, ND Coalition for Homeless People, youth providers, public child welfare agencies, ND Department of Health

Timeframe
1.5 years

HUD Key Principles**	
☐ Equity	☐ Positive youth development
☑ Trauma-informed care	☐ Family engagement
☑ Housing first	☐ Youth choice
☑ Community integration	☑ Coordinated entry

Objective 4.6: Develop an aggressive state-wide (community based) public campaign (**HOME** - **H**elp; **O**pportunity; **M**entor; **E**ngage) to inform/educate, engage and enable community members to be part of the YYA homelessness solutions – that educates and embraces best practices.

Action Steps	
4.6.1	Develop a community environment that is informed and solution-focused = Community meetings, (1) supports best practices, (2) creates innovative methods of change, and (3) is solutions-focused.
4.6.2	Teach and educate the public about best practices and how to empower YYA experiencing homelessness to help be the solution (peer mentors).
4.6.3	Positive connections with other community youth and positive adults and peer mentors to build strong relationships and resiliency to overcome adversity.

Partner(s) Responsible
ND CoC, YAB, local businesses, youth providers, nonprofit organizations, Public and Tribal schools

Timeframe
Two years

HUD Key Principles**	
☐ Equity	☑ Positive youth development
☑ Trauma-informed care	☐ Family engagement

☐ Housing first	☑ Youth choice
☑ Community integration	☐ Coordinated entry

Objective 4.7: Through all 4 core categories (Stable Housing - Education - Employment - Social/Emotional Well-Being, the collection of accurate data is critical and necessary.

Action Steps

4.7.1	Evaluate current valid data and identify areas of shortfall that would be critical in advancing the Plan. ● Evaluation of data: current relevance; where/how data is used; data "value" (collection of relevant).
4.7.2	Assess conducting a Summer Youth Point-In-Time (PIT) Count that collects critical data, i.e. couch-surfing, doubled-up, etc. ● Recommended PIT collection strongly includes large rural areas. ● Coordination and execution of the PIT project will be led by the ND CoC and YAB.
4.7.3	Compile accurate reports of data relating to legal documents required (demographics) in order to determine the best solution(s) to helping YYA meet the requirements when seeking shelter/housing.
4.7.4	Research and establish a Quality Data Collection Process (team) to measure specific information and enable the YHDP to: (1) answer relevant questions, (2) develop programs, and (3) evaluate outcomes.

Partner(s) Responsible

ND CoC, YAB, HMIS Lead Agency, youth providers

Timeframe

Two years

HUD Key Principles**

☑ Equity	☐ Positive youth development
☑ Trauma-informed care	☐ Family engagement
☑ Housing first	☐ Youth choice
☑ Community integration	☐ Coordinated entry