

A COORDINATED  
COMMUNITY  
PLAN TO  
PREVENT AND  
END YOUTH  
HOMELESSNESS

NASHVILLE,  
TENNESSEE  
2019

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In March 2016, 17 agencies and organizations in Nashville–Davidson County formed a steering committee to create Nashville’s first community plan to address youth and young adult (YYA) homelessness for 18 – 24 year olds. Entitled The Key Action Plan, the plan sought to establish a shared vision for a long-term solution for Nashville, while also developing several near-term objectives that could be put into action within 12 – 18 months.

Despite the great work being done through the implementation of this plan and steering committee, there is still a great deal of work to be done. Together, our Continuum of Care (CoC) YYA Committee and Youth Action Board (YAB) have established the need to create a system that quickly and accurately identifies YYA experiencing homelessness or at-risk of homelessness and ensures a clear path towards permanent housing stability.

In July of 2018, Nashville–Davidson County was awarded one of 11 Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) grants. This grant allows the community to build upon the initial plan created in 2016 and create a new, more robust plan focused on preventing and ending homelessness for unaccompanied youth and young adults. Furthermore, it brings together the YYA committee and YAB to ensure the creation of a housing crisis resolution system that fully incorporates youth voice and evidence-based practices.

Leading this effort are two entities: the Homeless Impact Division of Metro Social Services, local lead for Coordinated Entry and the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS); and Oasis Center, a local nonprofit serving youth and young adults. Together these agencies also work closely with the Continuum of Care Collaborative Applicant, the Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency (MDHA), and the Continuum of Care Homelessness Planning Council (HPC- the CoC governing body) to ensure that the work of this grant and Coordinated Community Plan (CCP) align with the larger CoC strategic plan and housing crisis resolution system.

Additionally, the YYA Committee has met on a weekly basis to assist in the writing and structuring of the CCP. The YYA Committee is currently comprised of 11 agencies and at least two Youth Action Board members. Together they established a governance structure to assist in YHDP decision-making for the Coordinated Community Plan. Detailed information of the governance structure can be found in Appendix I and a detailed list of all YHDP partners can be found in Appendix II.

## VISION

During September 2018, the YYA Steering Committee and YAB worked to formulate the following vision statement to prevent and end youth homelessness in Nashville.

*We in Nashville/Davidson County envision a city in which no youth or young adult experiences the indignity and trauma of homelessness.*

*To achieve this end, we will prevent and end youth homelessness using a coordinated system of entry and assessment to a wide array of low-barrier housing options supported by individually tailored services that ensure that homelessness is rare, brief and a one-time experience. We will empower youth and young adults to define and achieve their own self-sufficiency through immediate and equal access to an affirming, culturally enlightened array of resources, opportunities, communities and care.*

*Ending youth homelessness does not mean that no youth or young adult in our city will ever experience a housing crisis again. Rather, it means having a response system in place that ensures that homelessness is prevented, whenever possible, and that a prompt, open response is available – including appropriate, youth-defined housing options – on those rare occasions when a youth does experience homelessness.*

## NEEDS ANALYSIS OF YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS EXPERIENCING AND AT-RISK OF HOMELESSNESS

### I. Definitions

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In this plan, we reference both “youth experiencing homelessness” and “youth at-risk of homelessness.” Definitions are provided below. While it is important to distinguish these populations for clarity and project eligibility, we recognize, if we are going to prevent and end youth homelessness, it is imperative to help all of these young people access safe and stable housing situations. Many of our system-wide strategies are geared toward that end.

Youth Experiencing Homelessness – Young people (including pregnant or parenting youth) who are between the ages of 10-24, not accompanied by a parent or guardian and who are experiencing literal homelessness according to the HUD category 1 or category 4 definitions.

Youth At-Risk of Experiencing Homelessness – Young people (particularly unaccompanied youth and including pregnant and parenting youth) ages 10–24 who are living in unstable or inadequate housing situations (e.g., temporarily doubled up, living in a hotel or motel) but not experiencing literal homelessness according to HUD category 1 or 4 definitions. This population also encompasses systems-involved youth ages 13 and up – specifically youth who are currently involved in the foster care system or have aged out, as well as youth involved in the juvenile justice system who are experiencing high risk indicators for homelessness.

## II. Systemic Factors Contributing to Youth Homelessness in Nashville

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While local in context, factors contributing to youth homelessness in Nashville are representative of well-documented findings and trends nationally. These include:

### Economic Factors

In recent years, Nashville has placed among the top 10 fastest growing major metropolitan areas in the U.S. and has produced one of the strongest economies since the end of the Great Recession. The city's rapid population and economic growth have brought about both opportunity and challenges, particularly for affordable housing. Nashville is among the hardest places in the nation to rent an apartment, as 95% of units are occupied and rental rates have risen 60 percent in six years.<sup>1</sup> The city's waitlist for Section 8 housing exceeds 10,000 people.<sup>2</sup> Nashville's affordable housing crisis has stark implications for YYA, particularly those who lack strong family supports and the education/training needed to compete for living-wage jobs. As finding housing becomes more difficult, many of these youth are driven into unstable living situations (e.g., doubling up.), adopt risky behaviors to survive (e.g., "survival sex"), and are pushed onto the streets.

The persistent discrepancy between wages and cost of living has exacerbated housing issues. According to the National Low-Income Housing Coalition, Nashville/Davidson County is the most expensive county in Tennessee to afford housing in relation to income. The report found that in order to reasonably afford (30% of income) the average one-bedroom apartment in Nashville (\$756 fair market rent), a person would need to earn \$30,243 per year. Yet, more than half of Davidson County residents *who are employed* earn less than \$28,296 a year.<sup>3</sup> While the unemployment rates in Nashville and Tennessee have decreased, over 21,000 youth, ages 16–24, are disconnected from both work and school.<sup>4</sup> Such conditions have contributed to precarious housing situations, as 36% of all renter

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<sup>1</sup> [tennessean.com/story/opinion/columnists/david-plazas/2017/02/26/dilemma-renters-nashville/98267702/](http://tennessean.com/story/opinion/columnists/david-plazas/2017/02/26/dilemma-renters-nashville/98267702/)

<sup>2</sup> [documentcloud.org/documents/1677657-nashvillenext-equitable-development-study.html](http://documentcloud.org/documents/1677657-nashvillenext-equitable-development-study.html)

<sup>3</sup> [nashville.gov/Portals/0/SiteContent/SocialServices/docs/cne/2015CNE-SurveyLink.pdf](http://nashville.gov/Portals/0/SiteContent/SocialServices/docs/cne/2015CNE-SurveyLink.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.brookings.edu/interactives/the-plummeting-labor-market-fortunes-of-teens-and-young-adults/>

households and 66% of low-income households in Nashville face rent burden (spending more than 30% of income on rent). These figures are drastically higher than the state rate of rent-burdened households at 22%.

### Social Factors

In Tennessee and other areas of the “Bible Belt,” LGBTQIA individuals continue to face disproportionate rates of discrimination, violence, and family and community rejection. Consistently, LGBTQIA youth are pushed into unstable housing situations after experiencing family rejection. Aligned closely with national statistics, local data (outlined below) suggests 15-30% of the homeless and unstably housed youth in Nashville identify as LGBTQIA.

### Geographic Factors

As an urban city in a rural state, YYA often come to Nashville in search of resources. At the intersection of three major interstates – I-65, I-24, and I-40 – and major railroad lines, Nashville is also easily accessible for youth traveling across state lines. Given the city’s reputation as “Music City” and as a “boomtown,” local providers cite that many youth spend their last dollars on a bus ticket to Nashville in search of opportunity, but with no long-term plans for a place to stay. Many of these young people end up on the street after their plans do not work out as expected.

Similarly, Tennessee’s – particularly Nashville’s – central and accessible location also increases the risk of human trafficking. Last year, 37.3% of trafficking cases reported in Tennessee involved minors.<sup>5</sup> In Tennessee, 94 teens a month are victims of trafficking, at the average age of 13.<sup>6</sup> Of homeless youth surveyed in the annual 2016-2018 Youth Counts, 13% reported experiencing some form of trafficking or sexual exploitation. As this information is largely under-reported due to its sensitive and dangerous nature, national research and local risk factors suggest it’s likely that upwards of 20-25% of homeless youth in Nashville have been/are in some form of sexual or labor trafficking situation.

### Other Factors

Of course, there are many additional factors contributing to youth homelessness, both systemic and personal. Other considerations cited by the YAB include: discrimination based on mental health status, youth pregnancy, lack of family support, fleeing a violent situation, criminal records, aging out of foster care, living with friends without being on a lease, and a lack of year-around post-secondary housing.

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<sup>5</sup> [humantraffickinghotline.org/state/tennessee](http://humantraffickinghotline.org/state/tennessee)

<sup>6</sup> [wkcrn.com/news/second-fastest-growing-crime-affects-94-children-in-tennessee-each-month/1077050206](http://wkcrn.com/news/second-fastest-growing-crime-affects-94-children-in-tennessee-each-month/1077050206)

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## UNNACCOMPANIED YOUTH AGES 10-17

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### III. Number of Youth Ages 10-17 Experiencing or At-Risk of Homelessness

In determining the number of youth, ages 10-17, in Nashville who are at-risk or experiencing homelessness, we looked at data from system providers like Metro Nashville Public Schools, the Juvenile Court, and Department of Children's Services. We considered this data alongside providers like Oasis Center, End Slavery TN, and Neighborhood Health as well as the Voices of Youth Count effort in Nashville. Collectively, each source contributed to a nuanced estimate of the scale of unaccompanied homelessness among minors in Nashville.

*Our efforts to compile and un-duplicate local data revealed an estimated 376 youth, ages 10-17, are experiencing unaccompanied homelessness in Nashville annually.*

See Appendix III for additional details on sources and methodology

Key findings from each data source are presented below. Unless otherwise indicated, estimates provided below are based on data gathered over a three-year period: 7/1/2015 to 6/30/2018.

#### JUVENILE COURT OF METRO NASHVILLE & DAVIDSON COUNTY

Over the three-year period, 444 individual youth had runaway petitions filed in the Juvenile Court. Nearly all (96%) were youth ages 13-18. About 22% of these youth had multiple runaway petitions.

#### TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES (DCS)

An average of 2,134 youth are in state custody every year in the Greater Nashville area. Nearly 57% of these youth are ages 13+. As youth near the point where they age out of DCS custody and programming, they are at a higher risk of experiencing homelessness.

DCS utilizes the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment to monitor risk of homelessness for youth currently in state custody. Youth are assessed on a scale from 0 (no/low risk) to 8 (highest risk) based on risk factors that include: Prior DCS custody, prior congregate care placements, runaway behavior, substance use, developmental factors/needs, school achievement, psychosis, trauma, supervision needs, and involvement with care.

Results from 742 youth in Nashville, ages 13-17, who took the CANS in fiscal year 2017-18 indicate: 80% of youth are demonstrating some risk of homelessness and approximately 20% of youth are demonstrating moderate/high risk of homelessness (score of 4 or more).

#### METRO NASHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS (MNPS)

MNPS reported an average of 3,157 homeless students annually as defined by the McKinney-Vento Education definition of homelessness. Of these young people, an average of 10% were experiencing literal homelessness while 90% were at-risk of homelessness (doubled up or hotel/motel).

*On average, MNPS served 152 unaccompanied youth annually, peaking at 199 unaccompanied youth during the 2017-18 school year.*

#### END SLAVERY TENNESSEE

Over the three year period 37 unaccompanied youth, ages 13-17, were served through End Slavery Tennessee, Nashville's primary provider for addressing the needs of survivors of human trafficking. All of these young people were unstably housed or experiencing literal homelessness at point of entry into the program.

#### NEIGHBORHOOD HEALTH

Neighborhood Health, a Federally Qualified Health Center, identified 169 homeless and unstably-housed youth, ages 10-17, who sought health services at local clinics. Of these youth, 15% were experiencing homelessness, 85% were at-risk of homelessness (doubled up, transitional, other). Unique among the providers, Neighborhood Health reported 27% of youth spoke Spanish as their primary language.

#### OASIS CENTER

Oasis Center's Emergency Shelter served 447 youth, ages 13-17, experiencing family crises. At their point of stay, all of these young people were considered unaccompanied. Assessment data further indicates: 25% were experiencing homelessness or risk of homelessness, 11% had currently run away from home, 96% were at risk of not being able to return home, and 94% had a history of runaway behavior.

#### VOICES OF YOUTH COUNT (VoYC)

Of the 112 youth in Nashville who completed the "Brief Youth Survey" of the VoYC initiative in 2016, 19% (21 individuals) were aged 13-17. Of these young people, 60% were experiencing homelessness and 40% were at-risk of homelessness (unstable housing).

#### IV. Education and Employment Needs: Youth Ages 10-17

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The Voices of Youth Count survey captured education and employment data for twenty 13-17 year olds experiencing homelessness or unstable housing. Among these youth, 60% had a high school diploma or GED, 70% were currently attending school, 80% were currently employed, and 32% were accessing income through public assistance benefits.

*The importance of finishing school cannot be understated. Chapin Hall's national Voices of Youth Count initiative found youth with less than a high school diploma or GED had a 346% greater risk of experiencing homelessness.<sup>7</sup>*

Additionally, educational interventions for homeless and at-risk youth must take into consideration needs of particular groups of students. Of the 3,000+ homeless students in MNPS, 14% are children with a disability (slightly higher than district-wide rate) and 5% are children who speak English as a second language.

#### V. Social-Emotional Needs: Youth Ages 10-17

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Program assessment data captured on 409 youth entering Oasis Center's Emergency Shelter provide key insight into the social-emotional needs of youth experiencing homelessness and unstable housing. At entry assessment, youth reported:

- 78% - Feeling sad or depressed
- 33% - Self-harm behaviors
- 56% - Grief or loss issues
- 20% - Being hospitalized for mental health needs
- 54% - Diagnosis with mental health issues

*51% of unaccompanied minors staying in Oasis Center's Emergency Shelter reported thinking about committing or previously attempting to commit suicide.*

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<sup>7</sup> [http://voicesofyouthcount.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/ChapinHall\\_VoYC\\_1-Pager\\_Final\\_111517.pdf](http://voicesofyouthcount.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/ChapinHall_VoYC_1-Pager_Final_111517.pdf)

## UNNACCOMPANIED YOUNG ADULTS AGES 18-24

### VI. Number of Youth Ages 18-24 Experiencing or At Risk of Homelessness

Similar to the under-18 population, we consulted a host of data sources from providers and annual surveys, along with the CoC's HMIS and CES, to determine the size, scope, and impact of homelessness among youth ages 18-24. This effort was complicated by data sharing limitations of our local HMIS and the fact that several large homelessness providers do not enter data into HMIS/CES. Yet, we took steps to reasonably un-duplicate this data and arrive at an annualized number (see Appendix IV for methodology).

*Careful efforts to compile and un-duplicate local data suggest an estimated 1,094 unaccompanied youth, ages 18-24, are experiencing literal homelessness in Nashville annually.*

See Appendix IV for additional details on sources and methodology

A summary of data sources is presented in Table 1 below, followed by key findings from each source. Unless otherwise indicated, the data below comprises the most recent three-year period (7/1/15 to 6/30/18),

Table 1 – Summary of 18-24 Year Olds Experiencing and At-Risk of Homelessness

7/1/15 to 6/30/18 Data Source	# of Youth	% Experiencing Homelessness	% At-Risk of Homelessness
Coordinated Entry System	323	64%	34%
HMIS – Program Data <sup>1</sup>	951	39%	34%
Rescue Mission (At Entry)	1,767	100%	-
Rescue Mission (Prior to Entry)	1,767	32%	52%
Oasis Center – Outreach Program	590	58%	41%
Neighborhood Health	409	34%	66%
Davison County Sheriff's Office	484	100%	-
Room In The Inn	451	100%	-
Point-In-Time Counts <sup>2</sup>	90	80%	20%
Voices of Youth Count <sup>3</sup>	86	64%	36%
Winter Warming Shelters <sup>2</sup>	355	100%	-

Table Notes:

1 – Data not collected or not known for 23% of youth

2 – Average of last three years (PIT) and last two years (warming shelters)

3 – 24 hour point-in-time count in 2016

### COORDINATED ENTRY SYSTEM (CES)

323 unaccompanied YA, ages 18-24, were entered into the CES. At the point of initial entry, 64% of youth were experiencing homelessness and 34% were at-risk of homelessness.

### HMIS

Over the three-year period, 951 unaccompanied YA, ages 18-24, were entered into HMIS as a result of accessing local services. At point of initial program entry, 39% of YA were experiencing homelessness and 34% were at-risk of homelessness. Of the at-risk youth, 6% were living in systems placements. A key point to address moving forward: Housing status data was not collected or not known for 23% of youth.

### NASHVILLE RESCUE MISSION (NRM)

*The Nashville Rescue Mission, an adult shelter, served 1,767 young adults from July 2015 to June 2018 - that's triple the number served by any other single provider.*

Prior to staying at the NRM, 32% of youth were experiencing homelessness and 52% of youth were at-risk of homelessness, including 9% coming from systems placements.

### OASIS CENTER

Nashville largest provider for homeless youth served 590 unaccompanied YA via street outreach, a drop-in center, case management, and winter shelter services. Based on data collected for 238 youth at program entry, 58% of YA were experiencing homelessness and 41% were at-risk of homelessness.

### NEIGHBORHOOD HEALTH

Neighborhood Health clinics served 409 young adults experiencing unstable housing. Data collected at intake indicates 34% of youth were experiencing homelessness and 66% were at-risk of homelessness.

### DAVIDSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE (DCSO)

DCSO identified 484 young adults were homeless at the point of their arrest. All of these youth were noted as staying at shelter providers (e.g., Nashville Rescue Mission, Room In The Inn), and thus experiencing literal homelessness.

### ROOM IN THE INN

451 young adults were served through Room In The Inn, primarily via congregational shelters. All of these youth were experiencing literal homelessness.

### POINT-IN-TIME COUNT (PITC)

Over the past three years, an average of 90 youth, ages 18-24, have been identified each year through the PITC. On average, 80% of youth were experiencing homelessness, including 22% of youth who were unsheltered and 58% who were staying in emergency shelter. An average of 20% were living in transitional housing (considered “at-risk”).

### VOICES OF YOUTH COUNT (VoYC)

86 YA completed the “Brief Youth Survey.” Among these respondents, 64% were experiencing homelessness and 36% were at-risk of homelessness.

### SPOTLIGHT: WINTER WARMING SHELTERS

During the 2016-17 and 2017-18 winter seasons, three providers – Launch Pad, Oasis Center, and Room In The Inn – collaborated to provide youth-specific warming shelters from November 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup>. These agencies offered shelter on separate nights of the week to ease capacity strains and avoid duplication. As part of this effort, the Nashville Rescue Mission also contributed data on the number of 18-24 year olds served each night.

Data among these four sources was unduplicated, providing a snapshot of the number of youth accessing shelters and how they navigated between the various providers.

- 357 YA accessed shelter during the 2016-17 winter season
- 353 YA accessed shelter during the 2017-18 winter season

2017-18 winter season data shows how youth navigated the provider system. Interestingly, the three youth-specific shelters follow a similar trend, while the adult shelter presents nearly the opposite.

#### Oasis Center (79 YA served)

- 84% of youth stayed at Oasis plus other shelters
- 16% of youth stayed at only Oasis

#### Launch Pad (95 YA served)

- 80% of youth stayed at Launch Pad plus other shelters
- 20% of youth stayed at only Launch Pad

#### Room In The Inn (116 YA served)

- 80% of youth stayed at Room In The Inn plus other shelters
- 20% of youth stayed at only Room In The Inn

#### Nashville Rescue Mission (236 YA served) – *not a youth-specific shelter*

- 21% of youth stayed at the Rescue Mission plus other shelters
- 79% of youth stayed at only Rescue Mission

## VII. Additional Housing Need Indicators: Young Adults Ages 18-24

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Additional data collected for 18-24 year olds sheds light these young persons' duration and experiences of homelessness. Combined with the education/employment and social-emotional wellbeing data outlined in the following sections, these indicators illustrate a range of experiences. In doing so, the data suggests there is no "one size fits all" approach, but rather that a range of service options – from diversion to permanent housing – are necessary. The housing data, in particular, presents a need to increase interventions (i.e. rapid rehousing units) that can resolve homelessness more quickly – note that 50% of youth VI-SPDAT respondents have been experiencing homelessness longer than a year.

### [Last time in Stable, Permanent Housing](#)

Of 52 YA who completed the TAY-VI-SPDAT from September 2017 to August 2018, 50% reported their last time in stable, permanent housing was more than a year ago.

Similarly, of the 123 YA who completed the VI-SPDAT from July 2015 to June 2018, 47% indicated it was more than a year ago since their last time in stable, permanent housing.

Oasis Center's data provides even more granularity. Based on intake assessment of 130 YA from January 2018 to September 2018:

- 13% reported less than a week ago
- 12% reported one week to one month ago
- 32% reported one to three months ago
- 12% reported four to six months ago
- 10% reported one to two years ago
- 8% reported two years or longer ago

### [Number of Times Homeless in Past Three Years](#)

The VI-SPDAT and Oasis Center captured data on occurrences of homelessness.

*Of the 123 YA who completed the VI-SPDAT, 54% had just one experience with homelessness while, on the high end, 36% of YA had experienced homelessness more than four times in the past three years.*

Oasis reported somewhat similar findings. Of 130 YA who completed entry assessments from January to September 2018, 27% were experiencing homelessness for the first time, while 30% indicated four or more experiences of homelessness in the past three years.

## VIII. Education and Employment Needs: Young Adults Ages 18-24

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Table 2 below outlines survey data collected from the 2016, 2017, and 2018 Youth Counts (a youth-specific magnet event held in conjunction with the local Point In Time Count) and the 2016 Voices of Youth Count (VoYC) in Nashville.

A significant portion of YA experiencing or at-risk of homelessness lack sufficient education and training needed to compete for living wage jobs and achieve economic self-sufficiency. Data suggests less than half of youth are currently employed and approximately 40-60 percent do not have a high school diploma or equivalency.

*More specifically, VoYC data suggests 38% of homeless and unstably housed youth in Nashville are “disconnected” (neither working nor in school), compared to only 13% of all 16-24 year olds in Davidson County.*

Table 2 – Education and Employment Indicators of Young Adults

Education/Employment Indicator	Youth Counts (n=106)*	Voices of Youth Count (n=82)
High School Diploma/GED	66%	43%
Currently in School	10%	10%
Currently Employed	41%	46%
Some type of college education	8%	Not collected
Some type of postsecondary credential	6%	Not collected

*\*Duplicated*

## IX. Social-Emotional Needs: Young Adults 18-24

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The VI-SPDAT and TAY-VI-SPDAT assessments include two scales that illustrate the social-emotional needs of homeless and unstably housed youth.

The Wellness scale includes indicators of physical and mental health and substance use. The Socialization and Daily Functioning scale considers factors like meaningful daily activity, self-care, social relationships, and abuse/trauma.

Tables 3 and 4 below summarize the risk levels of young adults on these two scales. Findings suggest upwards of 60-80% of youth have moderate or high risks related to their social-emotional health.

**Table 3 – Wellness Risk Levels of Young Adults**

Risk Level*	VI-SPDAT (n= 131)	TAY-VI-SPDAT (n= 52)
No Risk	14%	17%
Low Risk	40%	33%
Moderate Risk	46%	37%
High Risk	0%	13%

\*Wellness Scoring:

No Risk: VI-SPDAT (0); TAY-VI-SPDAT (0)

Low Risk: VI-SPDAT (1-2); TAY-VI-SPDAT (1)

Moderate Risk: VI-SPDAT (3-4); TAY-VI-SPDAT (2-3)

High Risk: VI-SPDAT (5-6); TAY-VI-SPDAT (4-5)

**Table 4 – Socialization and Daily Functioning Risk Levels of Young Adults**

Risk Level*	VI-SPDAT (n= 131)	TAY-VI-SPDAT (n= 52)
No Risk	5%	10%
Low Risk	27%	6%
Moderate Risk	29%	69%
High Risk	39%	15%

\*Socialization/Daily Functioning Scoring:

No Risk: VI-SPDAT (0); TAY-VI-SPDAT (0)

Low Risk: VI-SPDAT (1); TAY-VI-SPDAT (1)

Moderate Risk: VI-SPDAT (2); TAY-VI-SPDAT (2-3)

High Risk: VI-SPDAT (3-4); TAY-VI-SPDAT (4-5)

## UNNACCOMPANIED PREGNANT & PARENTING YOUTH AGES 13-17

While limited data is available, we estimate approximately 5-10% of unaccompanied females under the age of 18 are pregnant or parenting. We currently lack data to estimate the percent of under 18 at-risk or homeless males who are parenting.

By comparison, the annual pregnancy rate for all females ages 15-17 in Nashville/Davidson County is less than 1%.<sup>8</sup>

A summary of data sources for pregnant and parenting minors is presented in Table 5 below, followed by a summary of housing, education/employment, and social-emotional needs based on available data from various sources.

Unless otherwise indicated, data below comprises the period from 7/1/15 to 6/30/18.

Table 5 – Summary of Pregnant and Parenting Data for 13-17 Year Olds

7/1/15 to 6/30/18 Data Source	Total N	% Pregnant or Parenting
End Slavery Tennessee	81	14%
Oasis Center – Emergency Shelter <sup>1</sup>	252	8%
Neighborhood Health <sup>3</sup>	81	0%
Voices of Youth Count <sup>3</sup>	19	0%

Table Notes:

1 – Only females presenting as currently pregnant

2 – Only females who are currently pregnant or were pregnant at some point in the past

3 – Encompasses ages 10-17

### X. Housing Need Indicators: Pregnant & Parenting Youth Ages 13-17

From 7/1/15 to 6/30/18, 20 currently pregnant females entered Oasis Center’s Emergency Shelter for teens ages 13-17. These homeless and at-risk youth represent 8% of all females who received services at the Shelter during this time frame. Among them:

- 45% had currently run away or were otherwise experiencing homelessness
- 55% were at-risk of homelessness, including not re-unifying with their family
- 75% reported a history of runaway behavior

<sup>8</sup>Based on analysis of CDC natality data and American Community Survey data)

## XI. Education/Employment Needs: Pregnant & Parenting Youth Ages 13-17

Of the 20 pregnant females staying at the Oasis Emergency Shelter, just one youth (5%) was not attending school. All others were in grades 8-11. However, 45% of these young women reported significant struggles in school or academic achievement. These findings were consistent regardless of housing status (homeless or at-risk).

## XII. Social-Emotional Needs: Pregnant & Parenting Youth Ages 13-17

Intake assessment data of the 20 pregnant females staying at the Emergency Shelter suggest a need for high levels of social-emotional support. For instance, 70% of youth reported feeling sad or depressed, 40% reported suicidal ideation or attempted suicide, and 30% indicated self-harm practices, and 25% had a mental health diagnosis. Again, we see these needs reported similarly between homeless and at-risk youth.

## UNNACCOMPANIED PREGNANT & PARENTING YOUNG ADULTS AGES 18-24

*While sources vary, we estimate approximately 30% of at-risk or homeless females, ages 18-24, are parenting or pregnant and 10% of males are parenting. For comparison, the annual pregnancy rate for all 18-24-year-old females in Nashville/Davidson County is 3.6%.<sup>9</sup>*

Table 6 – Summary of Pregnant & Parenting (P/P) 18-24 Year Olds

7/1/15 to 6/30/18	Total N	% Pregnant or Parenting	% P/P Females	% P/P Males
Voices of Youth Count <sup>1</sup>	82	23%	42%	14%
Youth Count <sup>2</sup>	34	19%	29%	13%
CES (TAY-VI-SPDAT)	51	24%	42%	13%
CES (VI-SPDAT) <sup>3</sup>	84	18%	18%	N/A
Rescue Mission <sup>3</sup>	685	39%	39%	N/A
Oasis Street Outreach	119	11%	22%	2%
Neighborhood Health <sup>4</sup>	236	17%	17%	N/A
End Slavery Tennessee	66	19%	19%	0%

Table Notes:

1 – Only includes 18-25 year olds (0 13-17 year olds identified as pregnant/parenting)

2 – Average of annual surveys from 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018

3 – Data for females only

4 – Data only includes females who are currently pregnant or were pregnant sometime in the past

<sup>9</sup> Based on analysis of CDC natality data and American Community Survey data).

### XIII. Housing Needs: Pregnant& Parenting (P/P) Young Adults Ages 18-24

#### VI-SPDAT

Among the 84 females who took the VI-SPDAT over the three-year period, 15 females (17.9%) responded as being currently pregnant. Responses from these 15 young women indicated 93% were experiencing homelessness, and 7% were at-risk. 73% of pregnant females had been without stable housing for more than one year.

#### TAY-VI-SPDAT

Among the 51 young adults who were assessed with the TAY-VI-SPDAT, 12 youth (males and females) responded as being pregnant or parenting. Of these young people, 92% were experiencing homelessness, 8% were at-risk, and 50% had been without stable housing for longer than a year.

#### YOUTH COUNT

Approximately 19% of youth surveyed in the Youth Count events from 2015 to 2018 were pregnant or parenting (29% of females and 13% of males). Among all pregnant and parenting youth, 50% were experiencing homeless and 50% were at-risk of homelessness.

*Nearly 20 points higher than all youth, 68% of pregnant and parenting young adults reported a history of foster care, including nearly all (92%) of the pregnant or parenting youth who were experiencing homelessness.*

Moreover, the 2018 Youth Count survey captured barriers to accessing permanent housing. Among pregnant and parenting young adults, 43% said they were currently experiencing homelessness as a result of violence and 71% cited lack of income as a critical barrier.

### XIV. Education/Employment Needs: Pregnant & Parenting Youth Ages 18-24

Annual surveys from the 2015-2018 Youth Count events provide the most complete picture of pregnant and parenting youth's education and employment needs.

Among 13 pregnant and parenting youth experiencing homelessness, 77% had a high school diploma or equivalency but just 8% had any type of post-secondary experience. Only 23% of youth were still in school, while half were currently employed.

Similarly, among the 13 pregnant and parenting youth who were at-risk of homelessness (e.g., couch surfing, living in a motel), 77% earned their high school diploma or equivalent. While a higher percentage had some type of post-secondary experience (38%), just one youth (8%) was still in school and only 33% were employed.

Pregnant and parenting youth are experiencing high levels of disconnection from work or school. Like the education/employment needs of all homeless and unstably housed young adults in Nashville (see Table 2, page 13), these rates signal the need for heavy re-engagement strategies to help youth build capacity for self-sufficiency.

## XV. Social-Emotional Needs: Pregnant & Parenting Young Adults Ages 18-24

### VI-SPDAT

Social-emotional and wellness needs are captured on the two domains below for 15 pregnant females who completed the VI-SPDAT from 7/1/15 to 6/30/18.

On the Wellness scale, all pregnant youth demonstrated at least some risk, with 64% of pregnant YA experiencing homelessness having the highest level of risk based on factors like physical/mental health and substance use.

Likewise, all youth demonstrated at least some level of risk on the Socialization and Daily Functioning scale. More than a quarter (28%) of pregnant youth experiencing homelessness showed the highest level of risk based on considerations like meaningful daily activities, social relationships, and self-care.

*Overall, 67% of homeless and at-risk pregnant YA scored at the highest level of need on the VI-SPDAT, demonstrating potential need for permanent supportive housing (high level of support).*

### TAY-VI-SPDAT

Similar data was captured for 12 pregnant or parenting young adults (males and females) who completed the TAY-VI-SPAT from September 2017 to August 2018.

On the Wellness scale, 46% of pregnant/parenting YA scored a moderate or high risk, while 59% demonstrated a moderate risk on the Socialization and Daily Functioning scale.

Overall, 42% of pregnant and parenting YA scored 8 or higher (highest need) on the entire TAY-VI-SPDAT, demonstrating a need for “long term housing with high service intensity.”

### YOUTH COUNT

Surveys from 2015–2018 found that, among pregnant and parenting youth, 57% of those experiencing homelessness and 33% of those at-risk had some type of disabling condition. The 2018 survey provides further granularity. Among five homeless pregnant and parenting youth, 80% reported post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and 60% reported chronic health conditions. While just a sample size of two, 50% of at-risk pregnant and parenting youth reported PTSD and 50% reported severe mental illness.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The YYA Committee and Youth Action Board have agreed on the following Guiding Principles that direct Nashville's approach to preventing and ending youth homelessness.

Our Guiding Principles include a commitment to:

1. The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness Youth Framework and the Four Core Outcomes.
2. Responding to the needs of special populations
3. Positive Youth Development and Trauma-informed Care
4. Family engagement
5. Immediate access to housing with no preconditions
6. Youth choice
7. Individualized and client-driven supports
8. Social and community integration
9. Coordinated entry
10. Inclusion and equal treatment

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### Guiding Principle 1: Adopt the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) Youth Framework and the Four Core Outcomes

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Nashville/Davidson County is committed and working to implement the principles of the 2012 USICH Framework to End Youth Homelessness and its four core outcomes:

Outcome #1 - Stable housing includes safe housing and a reliable place to call home.

Outcome #2 - Permanent connections include ongoing attachment to families, communities, schools and other positive social networks.

Outcome #3 - Education/employment includes high performance in and completion of education and training activities especially for younger youth, and starting and maintaining adequate and stable employment particularly for older youth.

Outcome #4 - Social-emotional well-being includes the development of key competencies, attitudes, and behaviors equipping a young person to succeed across multiple domains of daily life, including school, work, relationships, and community.

All four core outcomes are incorporated into our Goals, Action Steps, and Outcomes.

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## Guiding Principle 2: Respond to the Needs of Special Populations

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As we work to prevent and end homelessness for all young people, we recognize the extent and impact of homelessness is particularly significant for populations like youth who identify as LGBTQIA, youth who are involved in the foster care and juvenile justice system, and youth who are victims of sexual exploitation and trafficking. Each of these populations – among others – are disproportionately represented among homeless and unstably housed youth, and their unique sets of challenges require tailored interventions.

The impact of homelessness on special populations and specialized strategies are detailed below.

### A. Youth Who Identify as LGBTQIA

#### Impact

National data from Chapin Hall's *Voices of Youth Count* initiative suggest that LGBTQ young people are 120% more likely to experience homelessness than non-LGBTQ peers.<sup>10</sup> While it's estimated that approximately 7% of youth in the United States identify as LGBTQ<sup>11</sup>, various research suggests upwards of 20-40% of youth experiencing homelessness identify as LGBTQ.<sup>12</sup>

Local data sources tell a similar story, reflecting the scale and impact of LGBTQIA youth homelessness in Nashville.

Youth Count – A three-year average of survey responses finds that 36% of youth identified as LGBT and 10% of youth identified as transgender or gender non-conforming.

*15% (8 of 52) of youth who responded to the TAY-VI-SPDAT pointed to issues of rejection, indicating that their homelessness was "because of conflicts around gender identity or sexual orientation"*

Oasis Center – Over the last three fiscal years, 17% (88 of 524) of youth, ages 18-24, served through Oasis Center's Street Outreach Program identified as LGBTQ, with specifically 3% of youth identifying as transgender.

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<sup>10</sup> <http://voicesofyouthcount.org/brief/national-estimates-of-youth-homelessness/>

<sup>11</sup> <https://truecolorsfund.org/our-issue/>

<sup>12</sup> <https://youth.gov/youth-topics/runaway-and-homeless-youth/lgbt>

Voices of Youth Count – Of the 112 YYA who took the VOYC survey, 16% (18 of 122) identified as LGBTQ and 3% specifically identified as transgender or gender non-conforming.

### Strategies

To serve youth who identify as LGBTQIA with competent and intentional care, we will promote and apply the following strategies:

- Support projects that adopt and enforce open and affirming practices, policies, and environments.
- Due to an increased risk of bullying, harassment, and abuse, project staff will be trained to detect signs of mental and physical abuse, prevent harassment and discrimination, affirm young people's differences, and respond quickly and appropriately to verbal, physical, and emotional threats.
- When possible, projects will maintain gender-neutral facilities to protect the physical and emotional security of transgender youth.
- Connect LGBTQIA YYA to community services designed specifically to meet their needs (e.g., Oasis Center's *Just Us* program for LGBTQIA teens)
- Include methods for building a network of caring adults, especially for LGBTQIA youth who have faced family rejection and have limited adult social supports.
- Support and endorse LGBTQIA youth voice at program and systems levels, promoting opportunities for youth collaboration and youth-led advocacy.
- Work with systems and service agencies including child welfare, youth providers, and schools to ensure the needs of LGBTQIA youth are recognized and met appropriately. This includes connecting providers with resources, enhancing methods for collecting LGBTQIA specific data, and assisting with LGBTQIA competency training for all staff.

## B. Minors

### Impact

Findings from Chapin Hall's *Voices of Youth Counts* survey suggest across the United States, 1 in 30 youth under the age of 18 experience homelessness annually. Their young age brings about a unique set of challenges, both legally and developmentally. For instance, states like Tennessee require parental consent or involvement of the child welfare system for a minor to access shelter or housing services. This often increases reluctance to access shelter, which, in turn, can lead to a greater risk for victimization and trafficking.<sup>13</sup> In Tennessee, nearly 40% of trafficking case involve minors.<sup>14</sup> Additionally, Tennessee state

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<sup>13</sup> [schoolhouseconnection.org/state-laws-to-support-youth-experiencing-homelessness/](https://schoolhouseconnection.org/state-laws-to-support-youth-experiencing-homelessness/)

<sup>14</sup> [humantraffickinghotline.org/state/tennessee](https://humantraffickinghotline.org/state/tennessee)

law also does not allow minors to consent themselves for routine medical and dental health care. Often, denying care leads to long-term health problems, medical emergencies, and added public health costs when minor issues go untreated.

Local data on unstable housing/homelessness for youth under 18 comes from major systems (schools, juvenile justice, and foster care), healthcare providers, youth serving organizations, and the Voices of Youth Count initiative.

Metro Nashville Public Schools (MNPS) – Over the past three school years, MNPS reported an average of 3,157 homeless students annually. Of these youth, an average of 152 youth was unaccompanied.

Neighborhood Health – From 7/1/15 to 6/30/18, Neighborhood Health served 169 youths ages 10-17 that were experiencing homelessness or in unstable housing situations.

Oasis Center – From 7/1/15 to 6/30/18, the Oasis Emergency Shelter – serving youth ages 13-17 – housed 447 youth experiencing family crisis situations. At their point of stay, all of these young people were considered unaccompanied. Assessment data at program enrollment indicates that 23% (101 of 447) of youth were experiencing homelessness or imminent risk of homelessness, and 10% (48 of 447) of youth had run away from home.

Voices of Youth Count – Of the 112 respondents, 21 (19%) were youth ages 13-17. Only 70% of these young people were currently attending school.

Relevant indicators from the local Juvenile Court and TN Department of Children's Services are included in the section on systems-involved youth below.

### Strategies

Together with the Department of Children's Services, school systems, law enforcement, the juvenile justice system, and youth providers, we commit to coordinating specific pathways that best meet the needs of minors at risk of or experiencing homelessness. Strategies to do so include the following:

- Develop system-specific protocols for rapidly and accurately identifying minors at risk of or experiencing homelessness.
- Create a network of communication and support among law enforcement, schools, juvenile justice, youth-providers, and DCS to address the needs of minors promptly and efficiently.

- Refine methods of tracking youth at risk of or experiencing homelessness to strengthen data collection around this special population and ultimately provide more informed care.
- Integrate client-driven, individualized care and client feedback relevant to minors within systems, projects, and providers.
- Promote projects and programs that prioritize family reunification, whole family supports, and therapeutic support as opposed to increased system involvement.

## C. Pregnant and Parenting Youth

### Impact

Pregnancy and parenthood are common among youth and young adults experiencing homelessness. Nationally, an estimated 44% of homeless and unstably housed females, ages 18-25, are pregnant or parenting and 18% of males in the same age category are parenting. Available local data suggests approximately 30% of Nashville's homeless and unstably housed females, ages 18-24, are pregnant or parenting, and approximately 10% of males are parenting. While data is less available among the under-18 population, we estimate approximately 5-10% of female minors are pregnant or parenting, which aligns closely with national data.

The pregnancy rates of homeless females in Nashville are nearly 10x higher than the annual pregnancy rate for all youth and young adults in Nashville/Davidson County.

Few providers in Nashville are equipped specifically to support the needs of young families experiencing homelessness. Moreover, our current shelter system makes it hard for male and female couples to stay together with a child. These housing challenges, compounded with stressors of child birth and providing for a child, point to substantial vulnerabilities facing young parents.

Local indicators include:

Voices of Youth Count – Of 107 respondents (ages 13-25) 19% identified as pregnant or parenting. This includes 29% of females ages 18-25 and 11% of males ages 18-25. No females or males under age 18 were pregnant or parenting. Moreover, 54% of parenting females and 50% of parenting males reported having custody of their child(ren).

Youth Count – A three-year average of survey data finds that 19% of YA, ages 18-24, reported being pregnant or parenting. This includes 33% of females and 11% of males.

TAY-VI-SPDAT – From September 2017 to August 2018, 24% of young adults (ages 18–24) who took the TAY-VI-SPDAT reported being pregnant or parenting. This includes 42% (8 of 19) of females and 13% (4 of 30) of males. Among all pregnant and parenting youth, 17% demonstrated lesser needs, 41% demonstrated moderate needs, and 42% demonstrated highest needs for support based on the comprehensive TAY-VI-SPDAT risk score.

End Slavery Tennessee (ESTN) – From 7/1/15 to 6/30/18, ESTN served 103 homeless or unstably housed YYA (ages 13–24) experiencing sexually exploitative or human trafficking situations; 17% of these youth were pregnant or parenting, including 18% of youth ages 18–24 and 10% of youth ages 13–17. No males were reported as parenting.

Neighborhood Health – From 7/1/15 to 6/30/18, 12.3% (39 of 317) of homeless or unstably housed females, ages 10–24, were pregnant (currently or at some time in the past). All were ages 18–24.

*Over the past three years, the Nashville Rescue Mission served 685 females, ages 18 – 24. 39% were parents or pregnant or both, including 33% who identified as parenting and 11% identified as pregnant. Of those who were currently pregnant, 47% (36 of 77) were also already parents.*

Oasis Center (18–24 year olds) – Oasis Center’s *Street Outreach* began tracking parenting/pregnancy data for all youth in January 2018. From January – September 2018, 166 youth ages 18–24 first came to Oasis Center and 146 YA completed an intake assessment. Pregnancy/parenting data is available for 119 youth and indicates that 10.9% (13 of 119) identified as pregnant or parenting, including one male and twelve females.

Oasis Center (under 18 year olds) – Of the 252 females, ages 13–17, who entered the Oasis Emergency Shelter from 7/1/15 to 6/30/18, 8% identified as currently pregnant

### Strategies

Pregnant and parenting youth experience increased risks, challenges, and needs when navigating homelessness or unstable housing conditions. For the health and safety of parent and child, we must provide additional supportive services that cater to the specific needs of pregnant and/or parenting youth. To do so, will utilize the following strategies:

- Enhance pathways for rapid identification of pregnant/parenting youth,
- Increase emphasis on re-housing pregnant/parenting youth safely and quickly, as well as connecting them with other wraparound services and follow-up support.

- Work with community partners to connect youth to educational supports like classes for childbirth, parenting classes, life skills, and financial literacy.
- Collaborate with healthcare providers to deliver necessary prenatal care and clinical support  
Ensure access to basic needs items and childcare supplies, and make quality childcare and early education more accessible to parenting youth experiencing homelessness or unstable housing.

## D. Youth Involved with the Juvenile Justice and Foster Care Systems

### Juvenile Justice – Impact

Youth without stable housing often have increased contact with the juvenile justice system as a result of running away, truancy, and other status offenses. Homelessness also increases the likelihood of police contact for issues like trespassing or theft when youth struggle to meet their basic needs. Other times, youth are released into unstable housing or the child welfare system, as families may not let youth return home. Local indicators that illustrate the overlap between homelessness and justice involvement include:

Juvenile Court of Metro Nashville & Davidson County – Of the court-involved youth who completed an assessment with the Court from 7/1/15 to 6/30/18, 108 had identified housing assistance needs. Approximately 83% of these youth were ages 13 and up.

Additionally, 444 individual youth had runaway petitions filed in the Court. Nearly all (96%) were youth ages 13-18. About 22% of these youth had multiple runaway petitions.

TAY-VI-SPDAT – From September 2017 to August 2018, 19% (10 of 52) of youth ages 18-24 reported they were incarcerated before the age of 18

Oasis Center – Over the past three years, 34% (137 of 406) of youth, ages 13-17, staying in the *Oasis Emergency Shelter* have reported involvement in the juvenile justice system. Additionally, 4% of youth reported being charged with a felony (current or prior) and 29% reported having current charges.

Voices of Youth Count – 50% (53/107) of YYA respondents (ages 13-25) reported they had spent time in juvenile detention, jail, or prison, including 25% (5 of 20) of under 18 respondents and 56% (46 of 82) of 18-25 year-old respondents

Youth Count – An average of 40% of youth over the past three years reported they had spent time in juvenile detention

## Juvenile Justice – Strategies

Strategies tailored for serving youth involved in the juvenile justice system include:

- Support training and education for Juvenile Justice employees and law enforcement employees around youth experiencing homelessness or at-risk youth and special populations in order to increase competent care and prevent unnecessary justice system involvement and detention
- Provide connections between the justice system and available community supports to ensure appropriate interventions for youth released into homelessness and prevent unnecessary detention of homeless youth
- Provide interventions for families of court-involved youth to support reunification/mediation and therapeutic supports to prevent further court-involvement or homelessness
- Expand access to diversion programs that promote principles of Positive Youth Development (PYD) and Trauma Informed Care (TIC), precluding further court involvement and supporting community re-entry

## Foster Care – Impact

Foster care involvement is among the key predictors of youth homelessness. State data from the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) Survey – which measures outcomes of youth transitioning out of foster care – indicates 20% of 19 year olds and 26% of 21 year olds have experienced homelessness after leaving the foster care system.<sup>15</sup> Chapin Hall’s *Voices of Youth Count* survey found 29% of homeless and unstably housed youth had foster care involvement. Local data is even more troublesome. Based on sources below, we estimate approximately 35% of youth experiencing homelessness in Nashville have had involvement in the foster care system. Specific indicators include:

Tennessee Department of Children’s Services (DCS) – An average of 2,134 youth are in state custody every year in the Greater Nashville area, including Davidson County (average of 931) and immediately surrounding counties (average of 1,203). Approximately 57% of these youth are ages 13+, putting them at a higher risk of experiencing homelessness.

DCS utilizes the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment to monitor eight risk factors for homelessness for youth currently in state custody.

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<sup>15</sup> [https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/nytd\\_data\\_brief\\_5.pdf](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/nytd_data_brief_5.pdf)

The assessment data summarize the average score of 742 youth, ages 13-17, who took the CANS in fiscal year 2017-18. The scale ranges from 0 (no/low risk) to 8 (highest risk), with youth receiving a point for each demonstrated risk factor.

Table 7: CANS - Risk Factors of Homelessness

Average Risk Score	# of Youth	% of Youth
Less than 1	146	20%
1 to 1.99	157	21%
2 to 2.99	150	20%
3 to 3.99	146	20%
4 to 4.99	76	10%
5 to 5.99	54	7%
6 to 6.99	9	1%
7 to 7.99	2	0.3%
8	2	0.3%

An average of 174 youth age out of state custody every year in the Greater Nashville area, including Davidson County (83 youth) and immediately surrounding counties (91 youth).

Of the aged-out youth who are eligible for Extension of Foster Care Services, just 42% accept these benefits. The average retention for extension of foster care is 196 days.

Juvenile Court of Metro Nashville & Davidson County – Over the past three fiscal years, 835 youth involved in foster care were involved in the Juvenile Court. Of these young people, 96% were ages 13-18; 78% were ages 16-18, representing the highest risk for homelessness.

Oasis Center – Over the last three fiscal years, 32% (222 of 524) of youth, ages 18-24, served through Oasis Center’s Street Outreach Program reported foster care history.

Voices of Youth Count – 32% of respondents (35 of 112) reported foster care history, including 5% (1 of 20) of under 18 year olds and 37% (31 of 83) of 18-25 year olds.

Youth Count – On average over the past three years, 50% of youth, ages 18-24, have reported foster care history.

### Foster Care – Strategies

Strategies tailored for serving youth involved in the foster care system include:

- Coordinate care between DCS, community partners, and youth providers to create pathways for youth prior to release that ensure no young person is released from state care into homelessness
- Enhance data collection and sharing among DCS and CoC providers to better track homeless youth with foster care involvement and identify necessary preventions, gaps in services, and quantify the need
- Provide PYD- and TIC-based care for clients who identify as currently or formerly involved with the foster care system

## **E. Victims of Sexual Trafficking and Exploitation**

### Impact

Nationally-focused studies from the University of Pennsylvania and Loyola University New Orleans suggest nearly 20 percent of young adults experiencing homelessness are victims of trafficking. Findings also suggest LGBTQIA youth are disproportionately affected, accounting for over a third of trafficking victims. Victims of trafficking and exploitation have faced severe trauma. They are often times reluctant to disclose information about their situations and require special supportive service linkages, many of which they have been deprived of, including medical and dental services, mental health services, educational and vocational services, legal assistance, and safe housing.

National estimates combined with local data suggest it's likely that 20-25 percent of youth experiencing homeless in Nashville have experienced sexual or labor trafficking. Data sources include:

End Slavery Tennessee – From July 2015 to June 2018, End Slavery Tennessee served 103 YYA with experiences of sex trafficking and exploitation. This includes 37 youth under age 18 and 66 youth ages 18-24. All youth were homeless or at-risk.

Oasis Center – Over the past three years, 17% of youth, ages 13-17, staying in the Oasis Emergency Shelter were victims of sexual abuse and 15% were victims of sexual assault (i.e., victimized by some one of their peer age group who does not live in the same household.)

Over the same time period, 3% of young adults, ages 18-24, served through Oasis Center's Street Outreach Program identified as victims of sex trafficking.

VI-SPDATs – While not asked directly, several items on the VI-SPDAT and TAY-VI-SPDAT are indicators of sexual trafficking and victimization. A summary of questions and responses for youth ages 18-24 is included below:

Question: *“Does anybody force or trick you to do things you do not want to do?”*

VI-SPDAT “Yes” Responses: 29%

TAY-VI-SPDAT “Yes” Responses: 25%

Question: *“Do you ever do things that may be considered to be risky, like exchange sex for money, run drugs for someone, have unprotected sex with someone you don't know, share a needle, or anything like that?”*

VI-SPDAT “Yes” Responses: 19%

TAY-VI-SPDAT “Yes” Responses: 25%

Question: *“Has your current period of homelessness been caused by an experience of emotional, physical, psychological, sexual, or other type of abuse, or by any other trauma you have experienced?”*

VI-SPDAT “Yes” Responses: 57%

Youth Count – On average, 13% of youth over the past three years reported having experienced some form of sexual exploitation or trafficking.

### Strategies

Victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation experience intense trauma and vulnerability that must be addressed with sensitivity, responsive care and wraparound supports. Due to the large overlap among LGBTQIA and minor populations (with the average trafficking victim being 13 years old), we must be prepared to consider the needs for these special populations simultaneously. Our strategies to care for victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation include the following:

- Train staff who work with homeless youth in how to identify, approach, and care for victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation, with emphasis on trauma-informed care and harm-reduction techniques
- Place special emphasis on client safety by securing safe housing for both short-term and long-term periods, safety planning, collaborating with local law enforcement, and providing access to legal assistance

- Address the higher health risks of this population by ensuring access to a variety of health services, including medical care, dental care, mental healthcare, prenatal care, childcare, and drug rehabilitation
- Connect clients to local specialized supportive services for trafficking victims (such as End Slavery Tennessee and Epic Girl), and coordinate care with those providers.

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### Guiding Principle 3: Positive Youth Development and Trauma-informed Care

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The community of Nashville recognizes the severe impact and significance of trauma and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) experienced by the youth we aim to serve through Nashville’s CCP. To begin healing and working toward self-sufficiency, we must promote consistent trauma-informed, culturally-competent care focused on mitigating future harm, improving youth’s wellbeing, and increasing permanent connections.

*Positive Youth Development (PYD), Trauma-Informed Care (TIC), and other evidence-informed practices form the basis of how we develop and deliver services. This framework is infused throughout project design and implementation, and is critical to helping Runaway Homeless Youth (RHY) build protective factors and reduce risk factors.*

The following guiding principles of PYD and TIC are woven into the actions and services of both the YHDP governance board and selected projects:

- Prioritize clients’ feelings of physical and psychological safety.
- Support transparency in operations and decisions, and build trusting and supportive relationships amongst clients, staff, and the families of those served.
- Value youth voice and choice by: a) taking an individualized, client-driven approach; b) focusing on youth as individuals; and c) identifying and reinforcing strengths.
- Avoid judgement or advice-giving that can shut down learning processes, and instead collaborate with youth to develop alternative, positive approaches.
- Actively move past cultural stereotypes and biases, offer culturally competent responsive services, and recognize and address historical trauma.
- Connect clients with opportunities to develop new skills, engage in productive activities, and deepen support networks.
- Present opportunities for youth to set goals, determine action items, and take the lead in both personal and community settings.

To establish and maintain this framework throughout Nashville’s CCP-related projects and processes, we will provide training in PYD and TIC to all program staff, monitor implementation, and offer methods for clients to assess the application of PYD and TIC in

services. We will also work to integrate standards of PYD and TIC at a systems level, including youth voice and choice in decision-making processes and collaborations with community partners.

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#### Guiding Principle 4: Family Engagement

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Currently our community has several focused efforts to strengthen family engagement, understanding that the best outcome for youth and young adults is that they never have to experience a housing crisis.

- The original Key Action Plan written in 2016 utilized a 2016 study of federal Street Outreach Programs, to provide guidance on an objective related to family reunification. The study found that 29.5% of youth reported having the option of returning home. Because Nashville’s Traveler’s Aid resources lacked the capacity to assist everyone needing travel assistance, the Key Action Plan obtained private funding designated for Traveler’s Aid to reconnect YYA with their families as appropriate, and desired by youth seeking assistance.
- Emergency Shelter is provided for 13-17 year-olds who need a safe place to stay. During the time in shelter, a plan is created to help youth return to a safe home.
- The Davidson County Juvenile Court, under the leadership of Judge Sheila Calloway, has worked hard to create a trauma-informed, culturally responsive and restorative court that seeks to maintain the family environment whenever possible, and to separate children from family only when necessary in the interest of the child’s welfare or the public’s safety. To do this, they have built programming, created grants, and developed partnerships geared towards prevention of problems, promoting positive potential, and pursuing fairness and hope for parents and children in Davidson County.
- Metro Nashville Public Schools offer a wide range of programs and services to ensure students are fully supported, in and out of the classroom. The school social workers provide counseling services, coordinate support groups, act as family advocates with school personnel and connect families with community resources and services. Additionally, MNPS has identified four key areas of programming, which include family engagement.
- The Tennessee Department of Children’s Services provides training, onsite program consultation, Community Cafés, and the Parent Leadership Team, to work with state and local organizations to infuse parent voices in program and policy decisions. Their Parent Leadership Initiative develops leadership skills in parents, giving them the essential tools to advocate for their own children and “the voice” to speak on behalf of other families at local, regional, and state levels. Partnering with

parents in program planning impacts both community practice and policy and provides a network of families supporting families.

Proposed action steps to increase family engagement efforts include: stronger partnerships between our Systems Partners (DCS, Juvenile Justice, and public schools) and the Coordinated Entry System to ensure all YYA requiring this assistance are identified; creation of financial and supportive prevention and diversion services; LGBTQ specific education, support and mediation for parent/guardians; faith-based community education to better support parents to understand their children who believe differently from them; and mediation for families.

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### Guiding Principle 5: Immediate Access to Housing with no Preconditions

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Many homeless housing and service providers in the Nashville-Davidson County community are hesitant to shift to a model of housing without preconditions.

*Currently, we do not have any YYA specific housing programs without preconditions.*

To help the community prepare for the YHDP project grants which will require housing without preconditions, and to build an array of crisis and permanent housing options without preconditions into the future, we are currently undergoing intensive technical assistance to be able to implement this principle across the CoC Youth and Young Adult Committee, landlords, and affordable housing developers, geared towards alleviating fears and concerns about adapting to this model.

Two housing projects in Nashville, TN, with high fidelity with the Housing First standards have been and are willing to participate in conversations with our YYA committee and other potential candidates for YHDP funds to help usher this practice forward. Additionally, several meetings have been held with the YYA Committee, landlords and housing developers to provide technical assistance and begin taking actionable steps to move the community in the direction of offering low-barrier housing opportunities aligned with the Housing First philosophy.

*One of the first steps identified as needed by landlords and developers is to create a landlord mitigation fund that will cover damages as well as lost rent for tenants or roommates who move out with little notice.*

Additionally, the YYA Committee, Youth Action Board, and the CoC Performance Evaluation Committee will be working together to assess providers to determine their current level of

fidelity towards the Housing First model by using the HUD Housing First Standards Assessment Tool. Conducting such assessments will open conversation and allow for recommendations to improve current projects, as well as provide readiness for the YHDP project application process and grant agreements.

The assessments will also create a baseline of understanding to pinpoint where our community requires more education and support as the CoC incorporates this best practice for housing individuals who experience homelessness – not only into YHDP projects but also into the fabric of the broader community strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness.

To ascertain the effectiveness of YHDP-funded housing projects that pose no preconditions for youth and young adults at-risk of or experiencing homelessness, regular monitoring and evaluation will be incorporated into the 2-year terms of all funded projects. Results are anticipated to demonstrate how Housing First can work in Nashville, and highlight the necessary components (landlord engagement, increased support services, etc.) that ensure it works.

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### Guiding Principle 6: Youth Choice

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It is our belief that self-determination leads to empowerment. Each individual will have different needs and have a unique experience within the youth crisis response system.

In order to better inform our CoC and the YYA Committee, the YAB has provided guidance on what it means for their choice to be incorporated into the youth crisis response system:

#### YAB STANDARDS FOR YOUTH VOICE AND CHOICE

- Control over when and how to tell their story to others
- Individualized Case Management – Not always being required, frequency and individualized goals
- Making their own decisions through the YYA Committee employing active listening, careful language, not showing disappointment or disapproval, and affirmation that it is the youth’s decision to make
- Ownership of their own space – choice of housing and household composition
- Opportunities for feedback that are not only listened to but also incorporated
- Trust

The YYA Committee and CoC Homelessness Planning Council will work to incorporate feedback from the YAB and other YYA specific forums into service design and leadership.

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## Guiding Principle 7: Individualized and Client-Driven Supports

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To end youth homelessness in Nashville, we must prioritize client voice and choice within every component of the solution we create—from development, to implementation, to evaluation and continued improvement.

With that in mind, our initial Coordinated Community Plan takes into account the individual needs of all youth, including special populations, who are currently experiencing or at-risk of homelessness.

*Within the services and programs we propose, youth retain the power of choice—deciding, based on their personal needs, which services they access, for how long, and to what extent.*

As we move forward, youth voice will remain at the forefront of all review processes. Using client feedback, individual progress data, overall data, and input from our Youth Action Board, we will advance the CCP with informed, client-driven improvements and solutions.

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## Guiding Principle 8: Social and Community Integration

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Integrating PYD practices into Nashville’s community serving YYA individuals experiencing homelessness will entail working with each YYA to transition into healthy and productive adulthood by offering a variety of services, supports and opportunities for social and community integration.

Understanding that each individual’s path towards older adulthood and community integration is different, Nashville-Davidson County will build upon existing opportunities of engagement by utilizing youth voice through the YAB and other forums and by researching and incorporating best practice models.

### AT A MINIMUM, AREAS OF FOCUS WILL INCLUDE:

- Grow Nashville’s current opportunities for supportive employment, including the evidence-based Individual Placement and Support (IPS) model of supported employment.
- Create housing programs that incorporate social and community integration beyond the typical supports of employment and education to allow YYA to learn more about their own areas of interests: hobbies, volunteer opportunities, and relationships.
- Include peer specialists as part of YHDP programs and systems.
- Build upon existing programs that provide mentorship and access to continuing education.

- Create connections to YYA workforce development and college access programs
- Create opportunities for job development skills, partnerships between different agencies to help YYA be more successful
- Providing opportunities for individuals with shared experiences to connect through social activities
- Provide classes and educational opportunities for developing life skills
- Creation greater access to food resources. For example, community gardens and community cooking classes
- Accessible health services: physical health, affordable counseling services

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### Guiding Principle 9: Coordinated Entry

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Nashville-Davidson County’s Coordinated Entry System (CES) uses goals set forth by USICH as a foundational building block and is guided by the following principles:

- All housing and services utilize a “housing first”/low-barrier approach to serve all populations;
- Provide the right amount of support, at the right time, to the right person;
- Divert as many persons as possible who may be at risk of homelessness by connecting them to mainstream resources;
- Promote person-centered practices – including, but not limited to, Motivational Interviewing and Trauma Informed Care;
- Create an open, transparent system that allows for thoughtful decision making and open communication;
- Engage in continuous quality improvement efforts; and
- Consistently utilize a common database to evaluate and analyze needs and gaps in services.

The current CES intentionally incorporates youth by providing a YYA specific physical access point to be entered into CES—located at our city’s YYA specific drop in center, available Monday through Friday from 8:00a to 4:00p. Individuals can also enter CES through YYA specific street outreach workers, any CS access point, or any community outreach workers.

Our community uses a YYA specific housing triage tool, the Transition Aged Youth Vulnerability Index-Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (TAY-VI-SPDAT).

*Our CES definition for youth and young adult literal homelessness is more flexible and includes any YYA who does not have a key to a safe and stable residence.*

Even with these youth specific elements, it is clear to the CoC that other work is needed in order to ensure Nashville's CES is youth appropriate. Several action steps have been identified to meet our CCP's goal to effectively link all youth experiencing homelessness to housing and services solutions that are tailored to their needs through the use of the CES.

Some identified steps include:

- Utilizing the community's CES Coordinators to enter YYA utilizing the city's youth winter shelter;
- Maintaining a YYA by-name list and conducting YYA specific care coordination meetings;
- Creating a specific prioritization path for YYA specific programs; and
- Working with the Youth Action Board to determine most appropriate access points for CES entry.

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### **Guiding Principle 10: Inclusion and Equal Treatment**

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Led by the Youth Action Board, we have formally adopted the following statement of inclusion and equal treatment of all young people served throughout our coordinated crisis response system:

*The Nashville Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project is committed to providing all youth and young adults with an environment of respect and dignity. No young person will be denied services or equal treatment based on their race, ethnicity, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, national origin, disability, family structure, or health diagnosis.*

# GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ACTION STEPS

Goal 1: Identify all unaccompanied youth and young adults experiencing homelessness in Nashville-Davidson County.

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Objective 1.1: Build HMIS capacity to ensure as many youth as possible are entered in the system

Action Steps:

- A. Enter guest data from the following shelters into HMIS: RITI, Nashville Rescue Mission, Launchpad (winter months) – Through building staff capacity, HMIS capacity to collect data, or with assistance from Nashville’s CES Coordinators

Action Step Owner: Homeless Impact Division

Timeline for Completion: Process will be complete by January 2020 and ongoing thereafter

- B. Develop YYA Systems Provider Partnerships to identify unsheltered, sheltered, doubled up and at-risk youth and enter them into HMIS. Partners include Health Centers, Women Infants and Children (WIC) offices, the Nashville Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) office, School Systems, Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare

Action Step Owner: Homeless Impact Division

Timeline for Completion: Partnerships developed by January 2020

- C. Bolster street outreach efforts and coordination specifically for YYA including bilingual capacity for New Americans and sign language capacity

Action Step Owner: Oasis Center and Homeless Impact Division

Timeline for Completion: July 2020

- D. Create a system to broadcast current drop-in center hours and offerings

Action Step Owner: Youth Action Board Coordinator

Timeline for Completion: January 2020

**Goal 1 Outcome: Creation of two quality by-name lists (based on the Built For Zero Quality By-Name List Scorecard): One for youth and young adults between ages 18 to 25 and another for those under the age of 18 who are experiencing homelessness and those who are at risk of homelessness**

Goal 2: Prevent and divert homelessness whenever possible and otherwise provide immediate access to low-barrier crisis housing and services to any youth who needs and wants it.

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### Objective 2.1: Create robust prevention and diversion program for Nashville

#### Action steps:

- A. Identify all resources that currently offer prevention and/or diversion assistance.

Action Step Owner: CoC YYA Committee

Timeline for Completion: March 2019

- B. Develop a diversion and prevention financial assistance program dedicated to youth and young adults that includes help with deposits, arrears, utilities, first month's rent, and transportation in case of reunification or out-of-town stable housing environment.

Action Step Owner: CoC YYA Committee

Timeline for Completion: March 2019

- C. Determine and create diversion entry points, referral process, and data collection.

Action Step Owner: RFP Diversion Project Awardee

Timeline for completion: October 2019

- D. Provide supportive services – case management, housing navigation, employment services and supports for individual with or without employment, and links to education.

Action Step Owner: RFP Diversion Project Awardee

Timeline for Completion: Begin by October 2019, ongoing thereafter

- E. Develop a conflict mediation program to reunify families and assist with landlords or friends.

Action Step Owner: RFP Diversion Project Awardee

Timeline for Completion: Begin by October 2019, ongoing thereafter

<h3>Goal 2 Outcome 1: Creation of Nashville's first large-scale prevention and diversion program for YYA</h3>
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### Objective 2.2 Expand Extension of Foster Care to include employment categories

#### Action Steps:

- A. DCS to finish analysis of financial and system requirements

Action Step Owner: Department of Childrens Services (DCS)

Timeline for Completion: December 2019

- B. Determine funding sources and include Youth Villages (EFC case management provider)

Action Step Owner: CoC YYA Committee and DCS

Timeline for Completion: February 2020

### Objective 2.3: Fund and create YYA low-barrier, year-round crisis housing geared toward rapid re-housing

#### Action Steps:

- A. Work with the YAB to design a process for developing reimagined crisis housing

Action Step Owner: YAB Coordinator and YAB

Timeline for Completion: July 2019

- B. Determine lead agency to operate through community dialogue or bid process

Action Step Owner: CoC YYA Committee and Methodist Church

Timeline for Completion: July 2019

- C. Secure funding for building and ongoing operations

Action Step Owner: YYA Committee-determined lead agency

Timeline for Completion: July 2021

### Objective 2.4: Fund and create a Host Homes Program for 17-24 year-old youth

#### Action Steps:

- A. Engage in discussions with DCS to determine legal options for youth under 18

Action Step Owner: Oasis Center

Timeline for Completion: April 2019

- B. Create, fund and select organization to run program

Action Step Owner: YYA Committee & YAB

Timeline for Completion: October 2019

### Objective 2.5: Fund and create reimagined transitional housing program

#### Action Steps:

- A. Collaborate with YAB to develop ideal transitional housing product

Action Step Owner: YAB Coordinator

Timeline for Completion: May 2019

- B. Apply for HHS TLP Grant or Secure Other Funding

Action Step Owner: Oasis Center

Timeline for Completion: July 2020 (earlier if awarded TLP)

**Goal 2 Outcome 2: Establishment of Nashville's first year-round crisis response system**

Goal 3: Effectively link all youth experiencing homelessness to housing and services solutions that are tailored to their needs through the use of the Coordinated Entry System.

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**Objective 3.1: Expand community buy-in to CES**

**Action Steps:**

- A. Work with YAB to determine most appropriate access point for CES entry  
Action Step Owner: CES Program Manager and YAB Coordinator  
Timeline for Completion: June 2019
  
- B. Require all YHDP funded projects to receive referrals through CES, assuring entry into HMIS  
Action Step Owner: YYA Committee  
Timeline for Completion: May 2019

**Objective 3.2: Develop CES capacity**

**Action Steps:**

- A. Assess need to fund housing navigation services with YHDP grant funding and implement if necessary  
Action Step Owner: YYA Committee and Homeless Impact Division  
Timeline for Completion: Active and Ongoing
  
- B. Assess need to fund CES Coordinator services for harder to reach YYA access points and implement if necessary  
Action Step Owner: YYA Committee and Homeless Impact Division  
Timeline for Completion: July 2019
  
- C. Utilize CES Coordinators at youth winter shelter  
Action Step Owner: CES Coordinators  
Timeline for Completion: Active and Ongoing

### Objective 3.3: Ensure CES meets needs of YYA

#### Action Steps:

- A. Provide ongoing quarterly CES-specific training for outreach specialists and Housing Navigators to ensure the use of the correct assessment tool for YYA's experiencing homelessness  
Action Step Owner: CES Program Manager  
Timeline for Completion: Active and Ongoing
- B. Create YYA-specific prioritization path for YYA specific programs  
Action Step Owner: CES Program Manager and YYA Committee  
Timeline for Completion: December 2019
- C. Conduct YYA-specific care coordination meetings once YHDP funded projects begin  
Action Step Owner: CES Program Manager and YHDP Coordinator  
Timeline for Completion: Commencing October 2019 and ending at completion of projects

**Goal 3 Outcome: Nashville has a robust coordinated entry system that links youth and young adults with the tailored resources they need.**

**Goal 4: Swiftly assist youth to move into permanent or non-time-limited housing options with appropriate services and supports**

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### Objective 4.1: Develop the optimal housing models for Nashville to end youth and young adult homelessness

#### Action Steps:

- A. Conduct youth forums for input on housing needs  
Action Step Owner: Youth Action Board and YAB Coordinator  
Timeline for Completion: December 2018
- B. Assess current level of YYA need and available housing options, as well as gauge youth satisfaction with available options & solicit ideas for improvement  
Action Step Owner: Youth Action Board and YAB Coordinator  
Timeline for Completion: January 2019
- C. Research innovative, cost-effective, best practice housing options for YYA  
Action Step Owner: Youth and Young Adult Committee  
Timeline for Completion: January 2019

- D. Model out the scale of each type of housing option needed based on community assumptions, adjusting model as need changes  
Action Step Owner: Youth and Young Adult Committee  
Timeline for Completion: December 2018
- E. Model out service levels needed and available service options with current data  
Action Step Owner: Youth and Young Adult Committee  
Timeline for Completion: December 2018
- F. Update housing and service models as new information becomes available to ensure continued availability of necessary housing units and service options  
Action Step Owner: YYA Committee  
Timeline for Completion: Ongoing
- G. Develop a youth-focused/youth-driven publicity campaign around how to access services once the coordinated community plan is developed.  
Action Step Owner: YYA Committee and Youth Action Board  
Timeline for Completion: October 2019

**Goal 4 Outcome 1: Grounded in youth voice, Nashville understands the scope and scale of housing and service options needed to make youth and young adult homelessness rare, brief and one-time.**

**Objective 4.2: Determine projects that need to be funded**

**Action Steps:**

- A. Based on research, assessment, and youth input, propose specific projects for YHDP funding  
Action Step Owner: YYA Committee and Youth Action Board  
Timeline for Completion: January 2019
- B. Identify funding and service resources for non-YHDP funded projects identified as needed  
Action Step Owner: YYA Committee  
Timeline for Completion: Initial assessment by March 2019

**Goal 4 Outcome 2: Youth and young adults in Nashville have at their disposal a variety of low-barrier housing options at a scale sufficient to create a crisis response system capable of housing sheltered and unsheltered youth within 90 days from the point of identification and ensuring that few youth experience homelessness at any given time.**

**Objective 4.3: Develop training protocol to ensure all projects are grounded in the guiding principles of housing with no preconditions, Positive Youth Development and Trauma Informed Care**

**Action Step: Provide on-going training and support for all youth and young adult serving entities in the above approaches**

**Action Step Owner: YYA Committee and Homeless Impact Division**

**Timeline for Completion: 30 days following project awards**

**Goal 4 Outcome 3: Youth and young adults are welcomed by service providers who share the same guiding principles, and who are “in tune” with YYA sensibilities.**

**Goal 5: As a community, have resources, plans and system capacity in place to continue to prevent and quickly end future experiences of homelessness among youth and young adults.**

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**Objective 5.1: Understand the scale and scope of resources and capacity needed**

**Action Steps:**

- A. Evaluate data at least quarterly to determine additional projects or increase in scale of existing projects**

**Action Step Owner: YHDP Coordinator**

**Timeline for Completion: Initial evaluation 90 days following project commencement**

- B. Monitor returns to homelessness to understand total inflow**

**Action Step Owner: YHDP Coordinator**

**Timeline for Completion: Ongoing for duration of project**

- C. Build partnerships with schools, child welfare and juvenile justice systems and health care providers to prevent and divert youth from homelessness**

**Action Step Owner: YHDP Coordinator and Project Awardee**

Timeline for Completion: Ongoing

**Objective 5.2: Secure funding resources for additional support needed**

**Action Step: Identify funding sources and solicit**

Action Step Owner: YYA Committee

Timeline for Completion: Ongoing

**Outcome 5: Nashville has the capacity to keep the number of youth and young adults experiencing homelessness less than the average number of YYA being connected with**

## Strategic Framework

The YYA Committee and YAB have identified two overarching project types that will be developed using YHDP funds. These focus on Diversion and Short/Medium-Time Limited Housing and are outlined in Tables 8 and 9 below.

Table 8: Diversion Project Framework

Program Type:	Diversion	Approx. \$700,000 - \$800,000 <i>Cost includes 25% matching funds</i>
Length of Assistance:	Up to 6 months	
Populations Served:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaccompanied Youth, under 18 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preg./parenting Youth, under 18 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaccompanied Young Adults, 18-24 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preg./parenting Young Adults, 18-24	
Categories of Optimal Provider Characteristics:	Knowledge of continuum of services across CoC; Experience or knowledge of homelessness and homeless service agencies; Partnerships with agencies such as DCS, JJ, etc; Experience or willingness to participate in trainings for conflict management and mediation. Experience or willing to participate in trainings related to LGBTQIA, cultural competency, Domestic Violence and Trafficking, Positive Youth Development and Trauma Informed Care.	
Program Description/ Elements:	<p>Outreach strategy (i.e., plan to identify/connect with YYA needing assistance – how will YYA learn about and access diversion services?)</p> <p>Continuum of services to connect to and/or retain safe and stable housing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Comprehensive individualized needs assessment (initial/ongoing)</li> <li>▪ Housing related search and/or housing and credit counseling services</li> <li>▪ Case Management, including               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Conflict resolution/mediation (including family-focused support)</li> <li>○ Connection to other resources and supportive based on individualized needs (including the following):                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Education services</li> <li>▪ Employment assistance and job training</li> <li>▪ Legal services</li> <li>▪ Life skills training</li> <li>▪ Mental health services</li> <li>▪ Outpatient health services</li> <li>▪ Substance abuse treatment services</li> <li>▪ Mainstream benefits</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Financial Assistance (including the following):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Rental application fees</li> <li>○ Utility deposits</li> <li>○ Food</li> <li>○ Transportation</li> <li>○ Childcare</li> </ul>	

	<p>Short-Term Crisis Host Homes across the community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ This can include connecting to current emergency shelters in the community.</li> </ul> <p>In partnership with the homeless response system, Juvenile Justice, and Department of Children’s Services, there will be a coordinated care response for youth under the age of 18.</p> <p>Participation in the Homeless Management Information System and enter data into the Coordinated Entry System Project.</p> <p>Participation in the Coordination Entry System (e.g., accepting referrals, participating in care coordination meetings)</p> <p>Adherence to best practices and guiding principles of the CCP, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ TIC and PYD</li> <li>○ Housing First</li> <li>○ Client- and data-driven support</li> <li>○ Progressive engagement approach</li> </ul>
<p>Desired/ Expected Outcomes:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reduce # of YYA seeking emergency shelter options</li> <li>▪ Clients served by diversion services are avoiding homelessness</li> <li>▪ Fewer households are becoming homeless due to diversion services/overall decrease in YYA homeless population</li> <li>▪ Fewer households are seeking detainment of their youth under 18 due to familial differences</li> <li>▪ More households are remaining together with youth under 18 due to mediation provided by diversion services</li> <li>▪ More 18-24 are linked with positive permanent connections</li> <li>▪ There will be an increase in resource connection for those households served by diversion services</li> <li>▪ Better data that indicates percentage of successful diversion</li> </ul>
<p>Timeframe for Project Selection Process:</p>	<p>A Request for Proposal (RFP) will be released on April 1, 2019. Applicants will have 30 days to submit the application to be considered for a grant award. After the 30 day allotted time, the Performance and Evaluation Committee of Nashville/Davidson County’s Continuum of Care as well as members of the Youth Action Board, will have 2 weeks to review, rate, and rank the projects based on the rating/ranking protocol. Once the ranking has been determined the ranking will be given to the YAB for approval. After YAB approval, the ranking will be given to the Homelessness Planning Council for final approval on June 12, 2019. Announcements of the grant winners will be given by June 15, 2019.</p>

Table 9: Short/Medium-Time Limited Housing Project Framework

<b>Program Type:</b>	<b>STL/MTL Housing—RRH &amp; Shared Housing (HH)</b>	<b>Approx. \$1.3m to \$1.5m</b> <i>Cost includes 25% matching funds</i>
<b>Length of Assistance:</b>	Up to 36 months and intermittent	
<b>Populations Served:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaccompanied Youth, under 18 <input type="checkbox"/> Preg./parenting Youth, under 18 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaccompanied Young Adults, 18-24 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preg./parenting Young Adults, 18-24	
<b>Categories of Optimal Provider Characteristics:</b>	Knowledge of continuum of services across Nashville/Davidson County; Experience working with runaway and homeless youth populations; experience delivering RRH or housing-related services; Organizational capacity (financial, leadership, governance); Experienced or willing to participate in trainings related to LGBTQIA cultural competency, Domestic Violence and Trafficking, Positive Youth Development and Trauma Informed Care.	
<b>Program Description/ Elements:</b>	<p>Prioritization and referrals through Coordinated Entry System</p> <p>Case management model that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Reasonable case manager: client ratio</li> <li>○ Comprehensive individualized needs assessment (initial/ongoing)</li> <li>○ Connection to other resources and supportive services based on individualized needs (including the following):               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Employment and training</li> <li>▪ Educational services</li> <li>▪ Social-emotional supports</li> <li>▪ Child care</li> <li>▪ Transportation</li> <li>▪ Mental health support</li> <li>▪ Substance use treatment</li> <li>▪ Specific assistance for special populations including YYA who identify as LGBTQIA and victims of DV and trafficking</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Peer support and community-building efforts</li> <li>○ Follow-up and aftercare supports</li> <li>○ Assistance with roommate matching</li> </ul> <p>Dedicated landlord outreach and relationship management</p> <p>Comprehensive evaluation and continuous improvement plan</p> <p>Financial Assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Projects must demonstrate a plan for determining financial assistance methods/amounts based on client need (e.g., using a self-sufficiency assessment tool)</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Provided up to 36 months and available intermittently (waiver needed)</li> <li>○ Supportive services available up to 6 mos. after rental assistance ends</li> </ul> <p>Adherence to best practices and guiding principles of the CCP, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ TIC and PYD</li> <li>○ Housing First</li> <li>○ Client- and data-driven support</li> <li>○ Progressive engagement approach</li> </ul>
Desired/Expected Outcomes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Housing retention/permanency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ in program</li> <li>○ post program</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Income gains</li> <li>▪ Employment/Education outcomes (e.g. placements or outputs)</li> <li>▪ Engagement in services and community-building activities</li> <li>▪ Safe exits</li> <li>▪ Financial literacy/health</li> <li>▪ Permanent connections to caring adults</li> <li>▪ Programs prevent homelessness recurrence (system measure)</li> </ul>
Timeframe for Project Selection Process:	<p>A Request for Proposal (RFP) will be released on April 1, 2019. Applicants will have 30 days to submit the application to be considered for a grant award. After the 30 day allotted time, the Performance and Evaluation Committee of Nashville/Davidson County's Continuum of Care as well as members of the Youth Action Board, will have 2 weeks to review, rate, and rank the projects based on the rating/ranking protocol. Once the ranking has been determined the ranking will be given to the YAB for approval. After YAB approval, the ranking will be given to the Homelessness Planning Council for final approval on June 12, 2019. Announcements of the grant winners will be given by June 15, 2019.</p>

*While a significant addition to our CoC's crisis system response for YYA, the above two project types alone will not prevent and end youth homelessness in Nashville. Beyond YHDP dollars, we will need to leverage additional funds to create more interventions that address the entire scope of the issue. Crossroads Campus' new affordable housing project represents one key example of other projects that will be developed and funded outside of YHDP. This project is outlined in Table 10 below.*

Table 10: Non-YHDP Project Spotlight – Crossroads Campus

<p><b>Crossroads Campus</b>  <i>Affordable Housing, Employment, and Support Services for Young Adults Facing Homelessness</i></p>		<p><b>Development Costs:</b>                  Approx. \$6 million</p> <p><b>Operating Costs:</b> Approx.                  \$950,000 annually</p>
Length of Assistance :	Anticipated Average LOS: 2 years	
Populations Served:	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaccompanied Youth, under 18 <input type="checkbox"/> Preg./parenting Youth, under 18 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaccompanied Young Adults, 18-24 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preg./parenting Young Adults, 18-24	
Program Description/ Elements:	<p>Create and manage 20 to 25 units of affordable housing for young adults                  Provide paid job-training/transitional employment for 15 to 20 young adults through social enterprise and employment partnerships</p> <p>Comprehensive needs assessment at intake and ongoing</p> <p>Case management to address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Education</li> <li>▪ Employment</li> <li>▪ Housing</li> <li>▪ Legal services</li> <li>▪ Life skills and financial literacy</li> <li>▪ Mental and physical health</li> <li>▪ Substance abuse treatment</li> <li>▪ Benefits</li> </ul> <p>Humane education</p> <p>Community building and mentoring</p> <p>Follow up and after care supports</p> <p>Work readiness assessment at intake and ongoing for job-training program participants</p> <p>Competency-based job skills tracking for job-training program participants</p>	
Desired/ Expected Outcomes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Safe Exits</li> <li>▪ Housing retention: in program and post program</li> <li>▪ Job placement/retention: in program and post program</li> <li>▪ Income gains: in program and post program</li> <li>▪ Education/vocational training placements/graduations</li> <li>▪ Connection to community/support systems</li> </ul>	

## Quality Improvement Process

The CoC Homelessness Planning Council, YYA Committee, and YAB will work with community partners to implement and monitor progress of the YHDP grant and funded projects. To do so, we will establish desired outcomes at program and system levels, and track progress through regularly collected data, solicited feedback, and systematic reports. We will utilize all information garnered to collectively assess development and make any necessary adjustments to the CCP to achieve long-term outcomes and goals.

### YYA COMMITTEE & YAB

Partners from the YYA Committee & YAB will combine to create a YHDP monitoring board, staffed by the YHDP Coordinator at the Nashville Homeless Impact Division of Metro Social Services, which will regularly examine feedback and data provided by youth and providers to assess progress on a project level in relation to CCP goals. On a quarterly basis, they will collectively determine project effectiveness, offer further assistance, resolve project-related issues, and amend the YHDP Coordinated Community Plan as necessary.

The YHDP monitoring board will assign selected projects/providers to workgroups. Workgroups will be responsible for communicating with their assigned providers, collecting data, and reporting out to the entire monitoring board on assigned projects. Workgroups will work with providers to select a point of contact (aka YHDP correspondent), create performance measures and goals, and determine best methods for tracking benchmarks.

As a collective, the YHDP monitoring board will perform the following:

1. Review project reports, assess progress, and determine next steps forward—adding, removing, and amending services as necessary;
2. Conduct third party surveys of individuals participating in YHDP funded projects
3. Establish small workgroups as necessary to address targeted or focused challenges identified during planning, enlisting the aid of experts when appropriate;
4. Examine overall progress towards key objectives and goals of YHDP CCP based on project outcomes and local data;
5. Review and adjust Coordinated Community Plan as necessary based on findings from program level/system level assessments;
6. Present status of Coordinated Community Plan at community partner meetings, including the CoC Membership Meetings, presenting further opportunity for community input.
7. Publish/report results through the Metropolitan Homeless Impact Division; and

8. Continue engagement with system leaders and community partners, keeping them informed of YHDP project status, goals, challenges, and revisions.

## YOUTH VOICE

To prioritize and incorporate youth voice and choice, selected projects must include methods for consistently soliciting and reporting youth feedback. This feedback will be instrumental to all YHDP governing decisions—informing us of potential gaps in services, influencing modifications of current projects, and shaping future project development.

## PROVIDERS

Providers will work with the YHDP monitoring board to establish desired project outcomes and methods for monitoring progress towards achieving those outcomes. Providers will designate a staff member to serve as the YHDP correspondent, responsible for acting as a liaison between the provider and YHDP monitoring board. Providers will then track and report data (including youth feedback) relevant to projects commissioned by YHDP to the YHDP monitoring board on a quarterly basis. Reporting will include their project's progress, successes, barriers to implementation, and additional needs. When necessary, the monitoring board will work with providers to offer further assistance and address challenges as they arise.

## COC HOMELESSNESS PLANNING COUNCIL

The CoC Homelessness Planning Council will be provided evaluations and revisions of the YHDP Coordinated Community Plan at least annually and provide assistance and ongoing support to the YYA Committee and YAB as needed.

## Appendix I – Nashville YHDP Governance Structure

	<b>Approved By</b> Davidson County Continuum of Care Youth and Young Adult Committee	<b>Title</b> Continuum of Care (CoC) Youth and Young Adult Committee Scope and Purpose	<b>Effective Date</b> October 22, 2018
<b>Authority</b> The Nashville Davidson County Homelessness Continuum of Care (CoC) Council; Homeless Impact Division	<b>Approved Date</b> October 22, 2018	<b>Related Standards</b> Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (Public Law 115-13); Nashville Davidson County Continuum of Care Charter (Approved 05/17/2018); TN-504: CoC Charter; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	<b>Revised Date</b>

### PURPOSE:

To describe the roles of responsibility and the governance herein for the Davidson County Continuum of Care (CoC) Youth and Young Adult Committee, a committee of the Continuum of Care (CoC) Planning Council.

### DEFINITIONS:

**Coordinated Community Plan (CCP):** Written coordinated community plan or strategy to prevent and end youth homelessness.

**Continuum of Care (CoC) Homelessness Planning Council:** The Nashville Davidson County Continuum of Care (CoC) Homelessness Planning Council (Planning Council) is the governing body of the CoC Youth and Young Adult Committee. (*Refer to TN-504: CoC Charter Revised and Adopted on 05/17/2018*).

**Continuum of Care (CoC) Youth and Young Adult Committee:** The designated committee responsible for creating the coordinated community plan (CCP) for Round Two YHDP grant planning and implementation Nashville and Davidson County site.

**Individual:** A member of the CoC Youth and Young Adult Committee. This includes persons who are experiencing homelessness or who have experienced homelessness, community member(s), or agency representative(s).

**Metro:** The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County.

**United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH):** Authorized by congress to coordinate the federal response to homelessness and creating a national partnership at every level of government and with the private sector to reduce and end homelessness in the nation while maximizing the effectiveness of the federal government in contributing to the end of homelessness.

# Appendix I – Nashville YHDP Governance Structure

**Work Groups:** A unit of individuals within the CoC Youth and Young Adult Committee who engage collaboratively to develop the Community Coordinated Plan.

**Youth Homeless Demonstration Project (YHDP):** Supports selected communities in the developing and implementation of a coordinated community approach to prevent and end youth homelessness. Funding is made available through the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (Public Law 115-13).

**YAB:** Youth Action Board. This board consists of a group of youth (< 18 years of age) and young adults (18-25) who are or have experienced housing instability or homelessness. This group provides input to the CCP, assists with the creation and execution of project applications, scoring methods, and in scoring proposals. The YAB has an equal and respected voice, and participates in all decision making aspects of the CCP process.

## CONTINUUM OF CARE (COC) YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT COMMITTEE

### **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of the Continuum of Care (CoC) Youth and Young Adult Committee is to create and implement a coordinated community plan (CCP) supported by a data driven statement of needs, key community partnerships, and shared values and principles. The CCP will include a shared vision to end homelessness; goals, objectives, and actions; list of YHDP funded projects; governance structure for decision making purposes and a continuous quality improvement (CQI) processes.

### **VISION:**

*We in Nashville/Davidson County envision a city in which no youth or young adult experiences the indignity and trauma of homelessness. To achieve this end, we will prevent and end youth homelessness using a coordinated system of entry and assessment to a wide array of low-barrier housing options supported by individually tailored services that ensure that homelessness is rare, brief and a one-time experience. We will empower youth and young adults to define and achieve their own self-sufficiency through immediate and equal access to an affirming, culturally enlightened array of resources, opportunities, communities and care.*

*Ending youth homelessness does not mean that no youth or young adult in our city will ever experience a housing crisis again. Rather, it means having a response system in place that ensures that homelessness is prevented, whenever possible, and that a prompt, open response is available – including appropriate, youth-defined housing options – on those rare occasions when a youth does experience homelessness.*

### **SHARED VALUES AND PRINCIPLES:**

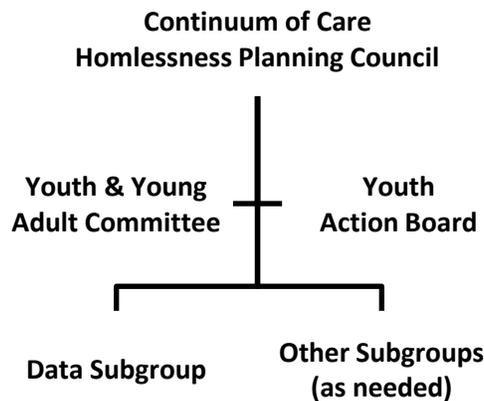
- 1. USICH Youth Framework and Four Core Outcomes**
- 2. Special Populations – LGBTQIA, Minors, Pregnant and parenting youth, Youth involved with juvenile justice and foster care systems, Victims of sexual trafficking and exploitations**
- 3. Positive Youth Development and Trauma Informed Care**
- 4. Family Engagement**
- 5. Immediate access to housing with no preconditions**
- 6. Youth Choice**
- 7. Individualized and client-driven support**
- 8. Social and Community Integration**

# Appendix I – Nashville YHDP Governance Structure

## 9. Coordinated entry

### **ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:**

The Continuum of Care (CoC) Homelessness Planning Council exercises guidance and oversight for the CoC Youth and Young Adult Committee. The CoC Youth and Young Adult Committee, Youth Action Board, and Community Agency members work voluntarily and collaboratively to plan and implement the Coordinated Community Plan (CCP) required by the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Subcommittees of the YYA and/or YAB will be created as needed.



### **MEMBERSHIP COMPOSITION:**

Composition of this committee must include at least one individual from the YHDP Grant Lead Applicant Agency and Collaborative Applicant(s). Membership is open to the community. Membership is voluntary and can be withdrawn at any time. Actions of this committee comply with Metro Davidson County’s anti-discrimination policies and applicable rules and the Nashville Davidson County Homelessness Continuum of Care Charter (Revised and adopted on 05/17/2018). This committee has at minimum a representative(s) from the following community agencies, including but not limited to the following categories:

1. Youth Action Board
2. CoC Collaborative Applicant
3. Child Welfare
4. Local Government
5. Youth providers
6. Homelessness Associations
7. Education
8. Justice
9. Workforce

### **VOTING PRIVILEGES:**

Each agency retains one vote. Youth Action Board (YAB) members retain individual votes. To maintain voting privileges, individual member(s) (agency) must attend fifty (50%) percent of the membership meetings. Absentee votes may occur through a proxy with written, electronic, or pre-selected

## **Appendix I – Nashville YHDP Governance Structure**

representation. Minimally, a quorum is required to fulfill a vote, which is 6 of the 11 member agencies and 1 member of the YAB

### **DECISION-MAKING PRACTICE:**

For all matters that require a consensus decision between the Youth and Young Adult Committee and the YAB, including how YHDP funds will be used, coordinated votes are held. In the YYA Committee, these matters are introduced by motion; require a second, and majority vote to implement. Before or after the YYA Committee, the YAB will hold a vote according to their governance structure.

The two entities must come to consensus with their votes in order for the matter to be passed.

### **INDIVIDUAL ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Individual members are responsible to attend at least fifty (50%) of scheduled meetings, and participate in at least one (1) work group.

### **MEETING STRUCTURE:**

Committee meetings are open to the public. Meetings are informally structured to be collaborative, respectful of different systems, accountable and transparent to promote intentional conversation on ending youth homelessness. Collaborative conversations are encouraged to respect different views and culture.

### **MINUTES:**

At a minimum, meeting minutes are recorded on voting matters before the committee.

### **AGENDA ITEMS:**

At a minimum, agenda items are forwarded to the committee members a week prior to the scheduled meeting and posted publically.

### **REVIEW:**

This policy is reviewed and modified as needed.

### **FORMS:**

None.

## Appendix II – Nashville YHDP Partners

<b>Partner Type</b>	<b>Partner's Name</b>	<b>Involvement</b>
CoC Program Recipient, Landlord, Public Housing Authority, Affordable Housing Developer	Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency (MDHA)	As the collaborative applicant, MDHA has been part of all CoC Youth and Young Adult (YYA) Committee meetings, Technical Assistance (TA) for YHDP, and submitted the YHDP Planning Grant Application.
CoC Program Recipient, ESG Program Recipient, Landlord	Room in the Inn	Participates on the CoC Youth and Young Adult Committee and has provided YYA winter shelter data towards our efforts to define Nashville's need.
CoC Program Recipient, ESG Program Recipient	Safe Haven Family Shelter	Holds a seat on the CoC Homelessness Planning Council (CoC Governance Board) and has participated in several in-person YHDP TA sessions, Recipient of the CoC Coordinated Entry System (CES) grant
Youth Advisory Board	Nashville's Youth Action Board (YAB)	The YAB has been involved in the creation of the YHDP vision, goals, system modeling, YHDP technical assistance, identifying how youth choice will be integrated into the crisis response system, the CoC Youth and Young Adult Committee, and reviewing the Coordinated Community Plan Draft.
Local and State Government	Metropolitan Homeless Impact Division (MHID)	The lead agency for YHDP, HMIS Lead, and CES Lead for the community
Local and State Government	Nashville Mayor's Office	Provides support to MHID and YHDP as needed while monitoring grant progress
Local and State Government, Public Child Welfare Agencies	Tennessee Department of Children's Services (DCS)	Participates in weekly CoC Youth and Youth Adult committee meetings and YHDP TA sessions
Local and State Government	Tennessee Housing Development Agency (THDA)	Participated in initial YHDP meetings and provides housing development support and advice in regards to potential projects as needed.
Local and State Educational Agencies	Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools	The Mckinney-Vento liaison participates in weekly CoC Youth and Youth Adult Committee meetings and participates in YHDP TA Sessions.
ESG Program Recipients, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Agencies, Landlord	Park Center	Participates in weekly CoC Youth and Young Adult committee meetings, participates in YHDP TA sessions, and attended the SAMHSA YHDP conference in August

## Appendix II – Nashville YHDP Partners

ESG Program Recipients, Non-profit youth organization, Runaway Homeless Youth Program Provider	Oasis Center	Co-leads the process to create the Coordinated Community Plan, Assisted with drafting the Coordinated Community Plan, participates in all YHDP technical assistance including phone calls, e-mail communication, in-person meetings, and the SAMHSA conference, Chairs the CoC Youth and Young Adult Committee, provided funding through foundations for the Youth Action Board until the YHDP Planning Grant began, and provides regular reporting to the CoC Homelessness Planning Council regarding the YHDP implementation progress.
Local and State Law Enforcement and Judges	Nashville Juvenile Justice Center	Participates in weekly CoC Youth and Young Adult Committee meetings, participates in YHDP TA sessions, drafted the Governance document for the CoC Youth and Young Adult Committee
Early Childhood Development and Child Care Providers	TBD	The Youth and Young Adult Committee is still working to establish a relationship with this type of partner
Non-Profit Youth Organization, Landlord, Affordable Housing Developer, Privately Funded Homeless Organization	Crossroads Campus	Participates in weekly CoC Youth and Young Adult Committee meetings, participates in YHDP TA sessions
Non-Profit Youth Organization, Privately Funded Homeless Organization	Launchpad	Participates in weekly CoC Youth and Young Adult Committee meetings, participates in YHDP TA sessions, assists with Youth Action Board coordination
Non-Profit Youth Organization, Landlord, Affordable Housing Developer	Monroe Harding	Participates in weekly CoC Youth and Young Adult Committee meetings, participates in YHDP TA sessions
Juvenile and Adult Corrections and Probations	TBD	The Youth and Young Adult Committee is still working to establish a relationship with this type of partner
Health, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Agencies	Mental Health Cooperative	Participates in weekly CoC Youth and Young Adult Committee meetings, participates in YHDP TA sessions
WIOA Boards and Employment Agencies	TBD	The Youth and Young Adult Committee is still working to establish a relationship with this type of partner
Landlord, Affordable Housing	Urban Housing Solutions	Participates in weekly CoC Youth and Young Adult

## Appendix II – Nashville YHDP Partners

Developer, Community Development Corporation		Committee meetings, participates in YHDP TA sessions
Institution of Higher Education, Local Advocacy, Research and Philanthropic Organizations	Vanderbilt University	Participates in YHDP in-person TA sessions, holds a position on the CoC Homelessness Planning Council, and assists with the YHDP data workgroup
Institution of Higher Education	Tennessee State University	Has attended some CoC Youth and Young Adult Committee meetings and expressed willingness to collaborate where best suited for the implementation of YHDP

## Appendix III -- Determining the annual number of youth, ages 10-17, who have runaway or are experiencing unaccompanied homelessness

### summary of Data Sources:

Provider	Description of youth served	Date range used to gather data	Total youth served (annual)
Juvenile Court of Metro Nashville	Youth brought to Juvenile Court with runaway petitions	7/1/15 to 6/30/18	148 <sup>1</sup>
Metro Nashville Public Schools	Youth identified as “unaccompanied” by MNPS	2017-18 school year	127
Oasis Center’s Emergency Shelter	Youth identified as currently homeless or runaway	7/1/17 to 6/30/18	40
Department of Children’s Services	Youth who have substantiated cases of abandonment	November 2017- October 2018	60
End Slavery Tennessee	Youth victims of trafficking or sexual exploitation who are experiencing homelessness	7/1/15 to 6/30/18	12 <sup>1</sup>

Table Notes:

1 – Three year average

### Annualized Number Estimate

By the nature of who is counted by each of the providers above, there is not likely to be much duplication in the total numbers. For instance, runaway youth brought to Juvenile Court are likely a separate population from the unaccompanied youth identified by MNPS. We are able to estimate some overlap, however, based on available data and reasoned assumptions. These include:

Last fiscal year, 8.6% and 4.9% of youth who came to Oasis’s Emergency Shelter were referred by the Juvenile Court and Metro Nashville Public Schools, respectively. We assume, then, that six youth from the 40 runaway and homeless youth are duplicated in the Juvenile Court and MNPS totals.

Additionally, based on conversations with the MNPS Homeless Education Program Coordinator, we assume approximately 10% of the school-aged youth (5 of 49) in DCS custody for abandonment cases are MNPS students counted in the district’s unaccompanied population.

Thus, our estimate – based on the data sources above – is that **376 youth, ages 10-17, are experiencing unaccompanied homelessness in Nashville annually.**

$148 \text{ (Juvenile Court)} + 127 \text{ (MNPS)} + 34 \text{ (Oasis)} + 55 \text{ (DCS)} + 12 \text{ (End Slavery)} = 376$
--

## Appendix IV Determining the annualized number of youth, ages 18-24, experiencing homelessness

### 1) First, we estimated the unduplicated total number of youth served by the Rescue Mission, Oasis Center, Room In The Inn, and Launch Pad – the largest providers serving YA.

Rescue Mission	
567 YA	
Unduplicated	Duplicated
453	113

Oasis Center	
323 YA	
Unduplicated	Duplicated
65	258

Room In The Inn	
150 YA	
Unduplicated	Duplicated
30	120

Launch Pad	
95 YA	
Unduplicated	Duplicated
19	76

#### Step 1: Totaled the unduplicated column

$$453 + 65 + 30 + 19 = 568 \text{ unduplicated individuals}$$

#### Assumptions

- 20% of youth served at the NRM also accessed services at Oasis, RITI, or Launch Pad; 80% were served only at the NRM.
- 80% of youth served by Oasis, RITI, and Launch Pad also accessed services at the NRM; 20% were served only by those respective agencies.
- Above statements are based on patterns identified in the 2017-18 Warming Shelter data shared between these four agencies.

#### Step 2: Totaled the number of unique individuals in duplicate column

Start with:  $113 + 258 + 120 + 76 = 567$  duplicated individuals

Of the 567 duplicated youth, we assume:

- 46% (261) accessed two providers  $\rightarrow 261/2 = 130$  unique individuals
- 39% (221) accessed three providers  $\rightarrow 221/3 = 74$  unique individuals
- 15% (85) accessed four providers  $\rightarrow 85/4 = 21$  unique individuals
- Above %s based on patterns identified in 2017-18 Warming Shelter data

$$130 + 74 + 21 = 225 \text{ unduplicated individuals}$$

**Subtotal:  $568 + 225 = 793$**

### 2) Next, we estimated how many youth in HMIS were not counted in the providers above. HMIS encompasses all youth entered in the Coordinated Entry System as well as additional providers.

HMIS 494 YA
----------------

#### To find the unduplicated total:

- Start with 494 YA active in HMIS in 2017
- Subtracted 198 youth who have "Emergency Shelter" listed as their residence prior to entry. These youth are likely counted in providers noted above.
- Subtracted 130 youth who were entered into HMIS by Oasis Center in 2017 (80% of 162 new clients)

$$494 - 198 - 130 = 166 \text{ unduplicated individuals}$$

**Subtotal:  $793 + 166 = 959$**

## Appendix IV Determining the annualized number of youth, ages 18-24, experiencing homelessness

3) We then estimated the unduplicated number for Neighborhood Health, who had the next largest number of youth served.

Neighborhood Health  
136 YA

### To find the unduplicated total:

- Start with 136 YA (three-year annual average; 409/3)
- Subtracted 38 youth who had "Emergency Shelter" listed as their current living situation (based on the three year percentage of 27.6%). These youth are likely counted in the providers listed in step 1 or in HMIS.
- Subtracted 29 youth who had "Transitional" housing listed their current living situation (based on the three year percentage of 21.8%). These youth are likely counted in HMIS.
- Subtracted 20 youth, who Oasis Center staff estimated were served by Oasis and Neighborhood Health.

$$136 - 38 - 29 = 49 \text{ unduplicated individuals}$$

Subtotal:  $793 + 166 + 49 = 1,008$

---

4) We then focused on youth involved in the child welfare and school systems.

DCS  
76 YA who aged out of  
foster care in Davidson  
County in FY18

### To find the unduplicated total for DCS

- Start w/ 76 youth who aged out of foster care in Davidson Co. in FY18
- Assume approx. 25% of these youth will become homeless within the first year of aging out ( $.25 \times 76 = 19$  individuals) based on nat'l estimates
- From 19, we subtracted 5 youth identified in HMIS and by the NRM as living in a foster care home immediately prior to accessing services.

$$(76 \times .25) - 5 = 14 \text{ unduplicated individuals}$$

MNPS  
199 unaccompanied youth  
in 2017-18 school year

### To find the unduplicated total for MNPS

- Start w/ 199 unaccompanied youth in MNPS in 2017-18
- Assume 44% (88 individuals) are students in grades 11 or 12 (based on 2018-19 school year estimates) and approximately 57% (50 individuals) of these 88 youth are ages 18+.
- We assume these youth are likely only being served by MNPS

$$199 \times .44 \times .57 = 50 \text{ unduplicated individuals}$$

Subtotal:  $793 + 166 + 49 + 14 + 50 = 1,072$

---

5) Lastly, we added 22 youth (three year average; 66/3) who were served by End Slavery Tennessee, assuming these youth were likely only accessing services at that agency.

**Total:  $793 + 166 + 49 + 14 + 50 + 22 = 1,094$**

## **Appendix V – Signature Pages**

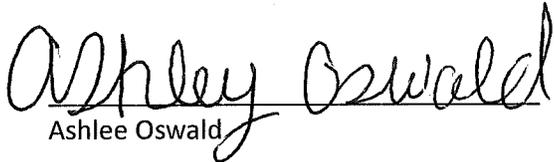
Signatures representing the following entities that support Nashville’s CCP can be found on the next pages:

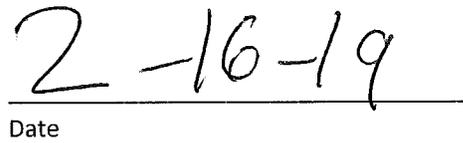
- Youth Action Board
- Nashville-Davidson County Continuum of Care Homelessness Planning Council
- Tennessee Department of Children’s Services
- Metro Government of Nashville-Davidson County

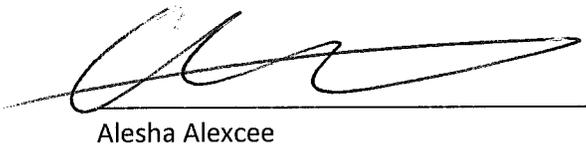
**Appendix V - Signature Pages**

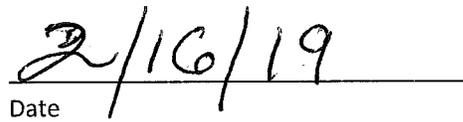
**Youth Action Board**

The signature below attests to the approval and support for the Nashville Coordinated Community Plan to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness of 2019. The signatories pledge to continue the efforts to prevent and end youth homelessness in Nashville-Davidson County.

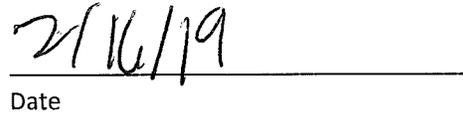
  
Ashlee Oswald

  
Date

  
Alesha Alexcee

  
Date

  
Jonathan Clark

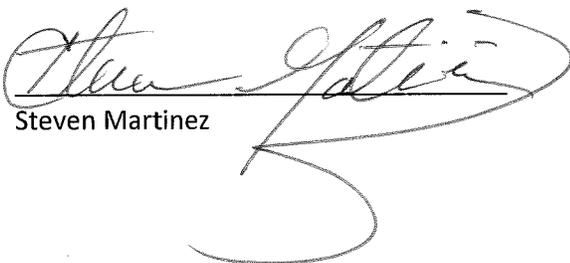
  
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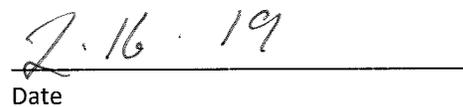
  
Matt Franklin

  
Date

  
Robin McAllister

  
Date

  
Steven Martinez

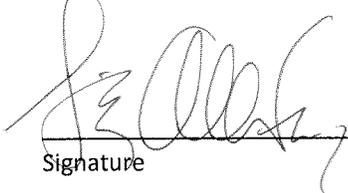
  
Date

## Appendix V - Signature Pages

### Nashville-Davidson County Continuum of Care Homelessness Planning Council

The signature below attests to the approval and support for the Nashville Coordinated Community Plan to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness of 2019. The Nashville-Davidson County Continuum of Care pledges to continue the efforts to prevent and end youth homelessness in the Nashville-Davidson County CoC.

Liz Allen Fey  
Name (print)

  
Signature

Chair  
Title

Feb 13, 2019  
Date

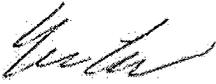
## Appendix V - Signature Pages

### Public Child Welfare Agency

The signature below attests to the approval and support for the Nashville Coordinated Community Plan to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness of 2019. The Tennessee Department of Children Services (DCS) pledges to continue the efforts to prevent and end youth homelessness in the Nashville-Davidson County CoC.

Michael Leach  
Name (print)

Deputy Commissioner  
Title

  
Signature

2-15-19  
Date

## Appendix V - Signature Pages

### Local Government

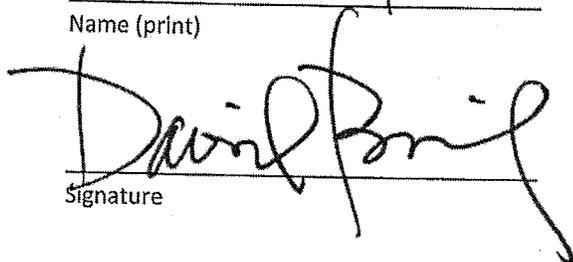
The signature below attests to the approval and support for the Nashville Coordinated Community Plan to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness of 2019. The Office of the Mayor on behalf of Metro Government of Nashville & Davidson County pledges to continue the efforts of local government to prevent and end youth homelessness in the Nashville-Davidson County CoC.

David Briley

Name (print)

Mayor

Title

A large, stylized handwritten signature of David Briley in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

Signature

2/20/2019

Date