

# Prince George's County

## COORDINATED COMMUNITY PLAN



**My brain is cluttered  
My thoughts are loud  
Trying to find a Quiet place  
Somewhere out there in the clouds  
I've spent so long on the ground  
Flying feels unnatural  
But I was born with wings  
Growing them back is half the battle  
The other half is the aftermath of falling on my face  
But falling felt like flying at times I needed a taste  
Someday, I'll grow them back  
And I will never let them go  
I'll keep them hidden, until then I don't want them to show  
Then I'll stretch my wings  
Blossom like a flower  
Showers in the spring gives soil the power  
Loud and proud I fly, wings stretched out to say  
I was once stuck and static, but it's now time to make my way**

Last Update May 2020

Cover art done by **Alpha Kamara**, Designer, Prince George's County Department of Parks & Recreation. The bird depicted is the eastern bluebird, the official bird of Prince George's County, Maryland.

Cover poem written by **Dennis Mendizabal**, Prince George's County Youth Action Board Co-chair.

Words for the back cover and quotes throughout this report provided by **members of the Prince George's County Youth Action Board**.

# Acknowledgements

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This Coordinated Community Plan (CCP) was a true community effort by a diverse group of individuals, organizations, community leaders, and youth and young adults who gave so generously of their time, experience, expertise, resources, and passion to develop this CCP and ensure the Prince George’s County’s Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) provides the framework to effectively end and prevent all experiences of homelessness and housing instability for youth and young adults in our community. The level of enthusiasm for this project that was demonstrated from all areas of the community is a testament to the commitment the County continues to hold to ensuring that youth homelessness ceases to occur within our borders. From contributions to the original application that resulted in Prince George’s County being selected as one of the third round YHDP communities, to the many hours of brainstorming, strategizing, and sharing of experiences that went into the development of this aggressive Plan and accompanying projects, to the universal support of all participants—local, state, and federal—was, and remains, crucial to the success of this Plan and the efforts of Prince George’s County to end and prevent youth homelessness.

First and foremost, we would like to thank all the youth and young adults who have generously shared of their experiences and expertise in setting the priorities for and guiding the development of this Plan, including all of the Youth Action Board (YAB) members. Your voice is the most important part of this process and essential to making sure this Plan is effective and ensuring any experiences of homelessness by youth and young adults in Prince George’s County are rare, brief, and never happen more than once.

Additionally, we would like to thank the many community members, system partners, and service providers who have contributed significant time and thought to inform the development of this Plan as members of YHDP decision-making bodies, the YHDP Steering Committee, and working groups (a complete list of participating organizations is included in Appendix B). With your assistance, we will continue to develop and implement this Plan and create a coordinated system response that equitably addresses the needs of all youth and young adults experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability within our community. Thank you for committing a piece of your already busy schedules to craft, strategize, and review elements of this Plan to ensure it is comprehensive, multi-systemic, and sustainable.

We would also like to thank the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for providing our community with the opportunity to participate in the YHDP initiative; Homebase, the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP), the National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE), True Colors United, the Partnership Center, and Amanda Miller McKinney for their valuable consultation and technical assistance in development of this Plan; and our fellow YHDP communities, which have inspired us with their innovation and dedication to ending and preventing youth homelessness. Thank you to Prince George’s County Department of Social Services, Prince George’s County Parks & Recreation, Maryland Department of Housing & Community Development, and Prince George’s County Community College for their financial and in-kind contributions that helped make the planning process for this Plan possible, and to both the City of Bowie and Prince George’s County Office of the County Executive for their commitment to supporting YHDP within the County.

And, finally, thank you to everyone who commits to making this Plan a reality. **Only together can we end and prevent experiences of homelessness and housing instability for youth and young adults in our community.**

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# Executive Summary

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In Prince George’s County, 1,656 youth are experiencing homelessness and as many as 42,000 youth may be at risk. For the past decade, Prince George’s County has been working to address this crisis and to realize the **vision of a County where youth homelessness does not exist and all youth and young adults are healthy, strong, safe, stable, connected, and thriving**. A continuously committed and ever-growing group of stakeholders from across public and private service sectors have been working together on a variety of disparate initiatives to improve outcomes for youth and young adults experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness, focusing on the core outcomes identified by the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) for ending and preventing youth homelessness: **stable housing**, **permanent connections**, **education and employment**, and **social-emotional well-being**.<sup>1</sup>

Prince George’s County’s Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) is an opportunity provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for Prince George’s County to further these efforts and **create a comprehensive, youth-driven, coordinated system of care for youth experiencing homelessness** that is comprised of **programs that are safe, low-barrier, and affirming for youth**, and providing **services that are flexible, equitable, individualized, strengths-based, developmentally appropriate, and culturally humble**. The community plans to accomplish this through several key projects that will significantly grow the community’s capacity to rapidly and fully respond to the needs of youth experiencing homelessness:

-  Drop-in Center with a Mobile Component and Street Outreach
-  Transitional Housing Crisis Beds for Youth
-  Joint Transitional and Rapid Re-Housing for Youth
-  Joint Transitional and Rapid Re-Housing for Higher Education Students
-  Permanent Supportive Housing for Older Youth with Significant Somatic, Behavioral Health, or Intellectual Challenges
-  Youth-specific Emergency Shelter
-  Youth-specific Coordinated Entry
-  Host Homes for 18-24-year-old Youth
-  Data Warehouse
-  Telehealth Services Pilot

Implementation of the community framework and projects detailed in this Coordinated Community Plan (CCP), thoughtfully developed through collaboration of stakeholders, will substantially reduce the number of youth experiencing homelessness in Prince George’s County, and ensure that any experience of homelessness is rare, brief, and does not occur again. Together, **we can end youth homelessness** in Prince George’s County.

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<sup>1</sup>[https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset\\_library/Ending\\_Youth\\_Homelessness\\_Coordinated\\_Response.pdf](https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/Ending_Youth_Homelessness_Coordinated_Response.pdf)

# Vision, Goals, and Guiding Principles

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At the initiation of community planning efforts for Prince George’s County’s YHDP, community stakeholders came together to create the vision, goals, and guiding principles that would anchor the County’s YHDP planning and project development work. The vision, goals, and guiding principles are designed to align with the USICH’s Criteria and Benchmarks for Achieving the Goal of Ending Youth Homelessness,<sup>2</sup> and to guide Prince George’s County in achieving the benchmarks necessary to realize the County’s vision.

## Vision

**We envision a County where youth homelessness does not exist and all youth and young adults are healthy, strong, safe, stable, connected, and thriving.**

Ending youth homelessness does not mean that no youth or young adult will ever experience homelessness or housing instability. Rather, it means Prince George’s County will have a response system in place that ensures that homelessness is rare and prevented, whenever possible, and that an easily accessible, youth-friendly, and individualized response is consistently and promptly provided whenever a youth<sup>3</sup> does experience homelessness to make the experience as brief as possible and prevent it from occurring ever again.

## Goals

Prince George’s County will achieve this vision through a coordinated community response that utilizes a youth-specific system of entry and assessment to a wide array of low-barrier, youth-friendly housing options and supportive services that provide immediate and equal access to an affirming, culturally-enlightened array of resources, opportunities, communities, and care. Through this system, all youth:

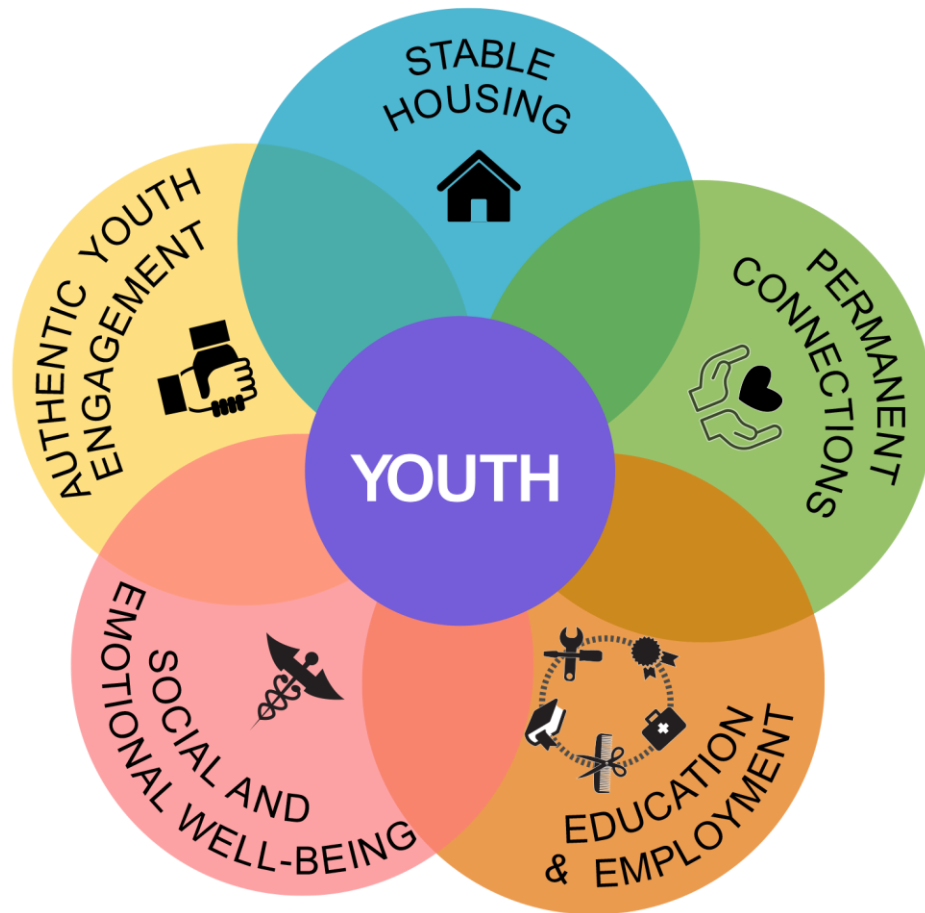
- Are respected and valued as equal partners in driving community change and are engaged and feel they belong in and are supported by the community (**authentic youth engagement**);
- Can access immediate and ongoing youth-appropriate housing support services that are low-barrier, welcoming, and inclusive (**stable housing**);
- Are supported in building, renewing, and strengthening connections to natural and community supports that will help them continue to thrive after exiting services (**permanent connections**);
- Have access to tailored and well-coordinated education and employment supports and opportunities that support youth in gaining the resources, knowledge, and skills to transition to a stable and thriving adulthood, achieve autonomy and self-sufficiency, and realize their full potential (**education/employment**); and
- Have access, through an integrated, youth-driven system of care, to tailored and well-coordinated community services that align with youths’ needs and support youth in meeting needs across domains in a youth-driven way (**social-emotional well-being**).

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<sup>2</sup>[https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset\\_library/Youth-Criteria-and-Benchmarks-revised-Feb-2018.pdf](https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/Youth-Criteria-and-Benchmarks-revised-Feb-2018.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Note that the term “youth” as used in this document refers to all youth and young adults under the age of 25.

**FIGURE 1 | PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY YHDP GOALS**



### **Guiding Principles**

All programs within Prince George's County's YHDP must align with the following core principles, which the community believes are critical to ensuring efforts will meet the needs of youth and young adults and be effective in ending and preventing youth homelessness in Prince George's County.

- Youth have a right to autonomy, self-efficacy, self-determination, and a sense of belonging;
- Youth voice, choice, and leadership is prioritized at all levels;
- All spaces are safe, accepting, and affirming;
- Barriers are reduced or eliminated wherever possible;
- Services are flexible, individualized, strengths-based, developmentally-appropriate, and culturally-humble;
- Building trust through authentic engagement is prioritized;
- Support is provided quickly and equitably;
- The community shares responsibility for meeting youths' needs and actively collaborates to ensure continuity of care;
- Data always drives continuous improvement; and
- Providers continuously pursue creative funding and operational strategies to improve efficacy and sustainability of services.

# Community Context

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Covering nearly 500 square miles within the Washington, D.C. Metro Area, the County's population of 912,756, of which 19.3% are ages 10-24, has representatives from 149 countries speaking 165 languages.<sup>4</sup> The County is comprised of 87.4% people of color (including 62.2% Black/African American, 18.5% Hispanic/Latinx, and 6.7% Asian/other).<sup>4</sup> Within overall moderate affluence there are deep pockets of poverty, under-education, and unemployment. The County is a mix of urban, suburban, and rural communities with diverse racial make-ups, with the majority of residents living inside the Capital Beltway. This poses unique challenges to creating an integrated system that effectively responds to the needs of all youth experiencing homelessness, but also provides opportunities to establish replicable models that are flexible and responsive to great economic, cultural, and geographic diversity.

Several factors drive the potential for homelessness among youth and young adults in the community. One factor is the high level of racial diversity in the County, as Blacks/African Americans have an 83% higher risk of homelessness and Hispanics a 33% higher risk.<sup>5</sup> The poverty rate among youth and young adults ages 10 to 24 is 24.5%, which is also a concerning factor, particularly when compared to the County's overall poverty rate of 9.3%.<sup>6</sup> The County's teen birth rate (19.3%) is higher than the state average (14.2%) and, of all births in the County, 23.1% were to mothers under age 25. The high school graduation rate for youth of color drops to 62.4% compared to the state's average of 89.1% for all youth. In addition, the rate of youth incarceration among youth experiencing homelessness is disproportionately alarming (over 30%).<sup>7</sup> Furthermore, 22% (6,175) of all youth living in the County's inner beltway communities are considered opportunity youth (i.e., not in school or working), which is double the rate for the Washington, D.C. Metro Area.<sup>8</sup> This number increases to 17,155 when including the entire County.<sup>9</sup>

Despite Medicaid expansion and the Affordable Care Act (ACA), only 86.3% of youth ages 18-24 are insured, dropping to 64% for unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness.<sup>10</sup> The majority of youth and young adults do not access the available services due to lack of insurance; stigma; lack of care coordination to facilitate transitions among and between pediatric and adult Systems of Care; lack of integration between primary and behavioral health services; low cultural and linguistic competency of health providers; lack of transportation and lack of social support.<sup>11</sup> The patient-to-provider ratio in the County is 1,483:1 (compared to a state average of 666:1), and the adult system services currently made available to youth 18 and older are not suited to youth and young adults<sup>12</sup>. Research indicates youth between the ages of 18 and 25 are still developing and have a different

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<sup>4</sup><https://data.census.gov/cedsci/profile?q=Prince%20George%27s%20County,%20Maryland&g=0500000US24033>

<sup>5</sup><https://voicesofyouthcount.org/brief/national-estimates-of-youth-homelessness/>

<sup>6</sup>[https://data.census.gov/cedsci/all?q=0500000US24033&tid=ACSDP1Y2018.DP05&hidePreview=false&vintage=2018&layer=VT\\_2018\\_050\\_00\\_PY\\_D1&cid=DP05\\_0001E](https://data.census.gov/cedsci/all?q=0500000US24033&tid=ACSDP1Y2018.DP05&hidePreview=false&vintage=2018&layer=VT_2018_050_00_PY_D1&cid=DP05_0001E)

<sup>7</sup><https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/42-youth-residing-in-juvenile-detention-correctional-and-or-residential-facilities#detailed/1/any/false/871,573,36,867,133,18,17,14,12,10/any/319,17599>

<sup>8</sup><http://measureofamerica.org/disconnected-youth/>

<sup>9</sup> Prince George's County Local Management Board, personal communication, 2018

<sup>10</sup><http://www.youthreachmd.com/content/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Youth-REACH-MD-Phase-II-Report.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> Prince George's County Health Department, personal communication, 2020

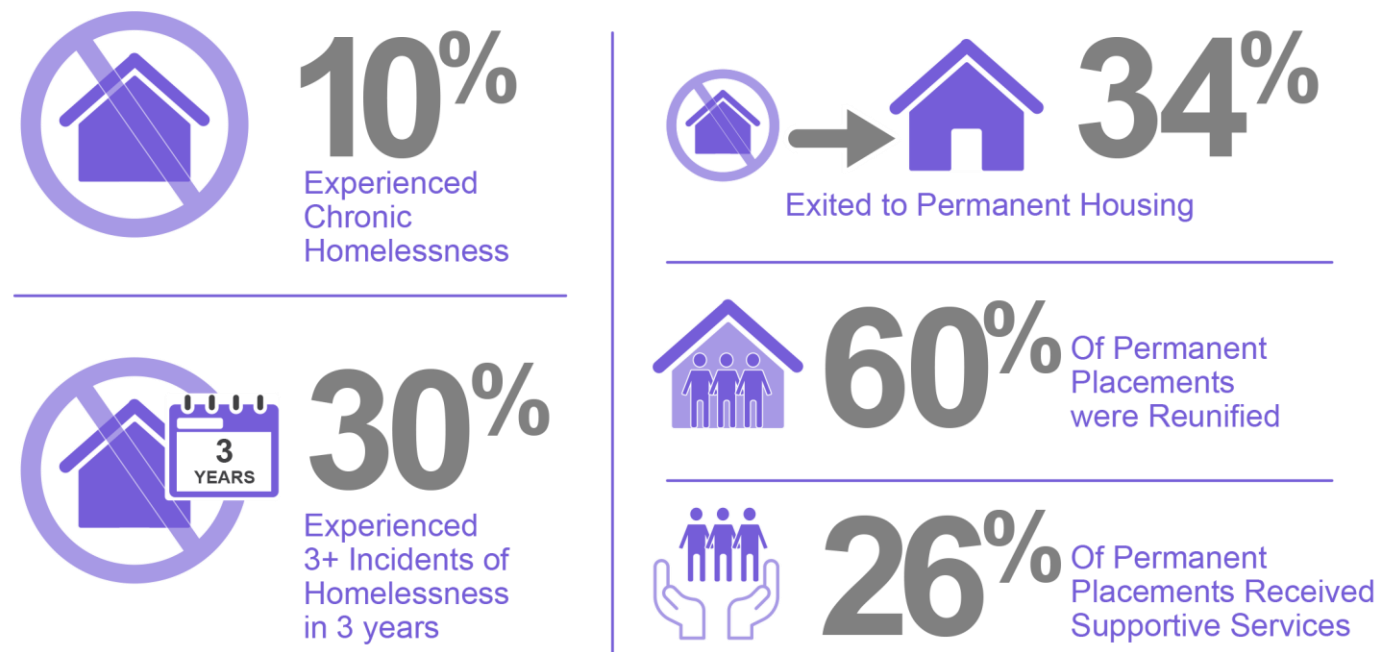
<sup>12</sup><https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Statistics-Trends-and-Reports/MedicareMedicaidStatSupp/2013>



behavioral profile and needs compared to adults over the age of 25.<sup>13</sup> All of the above-mentioned challenges are exacerbated for youth experiencing homelessness or housing instability due to their lack of stable housing systems.

Finally, Prince George’s County receives the greatest number of unaccompanied immigrant children of any jurisdiction in Maryland. The majority (84%) of these children are youth ages 13-17 originating primarily from three countries (Guatemala, 54%; Honduras, 26%; and El Salvador, 12%). Their average length of stay in the federal child welfare system is 60 days before being released to a “sponsor.” From October 2019 through March 2020 (6 months), 687 children were released in Maryland, of which 225 (33%) were to sponsors in Prince George’s County, which is the highest of any jurisdiction in Maryland and the seventh highest of any single county in the country.<sup>14</sup> For these youth their placement often disrupts, frequently just after reaching the age of majority, making them ineligible for any state child welfare support and resulting in increased intakes for these youth in the unaccompanied youth homelessness system.

**FIGURE 2 | PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY YOUTH SERVED BY THE EMERGENCY YOUTH SHELTER IN 2019**



While Prince George’s County has made significant strides and led the way in Maryland to address youth homelessness, the service system does not currently have the capacity to meet the complex and unique needs of youth experiencing homelessness in the County. Of the 116 youth and young adults who were served by the County’s emergency youth shelter in 2019, 10% were chronically homeless, another 30% reported at least three incidents of homelessness in the past three years, and only 34% exited the shelter into permanent housing, with only 60% of those placements being reunifications, and only 26% into placements that provide outside support

<sup>13</sup> Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine (2018). The Healthcare Needs and Rights of Youth Experiencing Homelessness. *Journal of Adolescent Health* 63, 372-375

<sup>14</sup><https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/resource/unaccompanied-alien-children-released-to-sponsors-by-county>

and services.<sup>15</sup> Youth histories of housing instability point to family needs for currently unavailable support in order to stabilize and keep youth housed.

## Prior Community Efforts to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness

In 2012, Prince George’s County Department of Social Services (PGCDSS) commissioned a study with Johns Hopkins University to investigate the nature and scope of unaccompanied youth homelessness to better estimate their number and needs. That foundational data was used to begin system planning for improved service delivery. Despite survey evidence of the grim realities for youth experiencing homelessness at that time, the County had zero capacity to house youth under 18 (minors), and shelter for young adults, ages 18-24, was only available as part of the adult homeless shelter system, with no programming to address the unique developmental needs of young adults. The Continuum of Care (CoC) subsequently designated unaccompanied young people, ages 13-24, as requiring specific, targeted attention, and began development of an integrated system of care to meet the immediate needs of youth and young adults to connect them with appropriate support systems and facilitate healthy transitions to adulthood. Since that time, the County has:

- Published the CoC’s *Ten-year Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness in Prince George’s County 2012-2021* with the unaccompanied youth and young adult sub-population identified as a priority, and establishing a companion priority for youth in other relevant County plans, including the Department of Housing and Community Development’s five-year Consolidated Plan,<sup>16</sup> the public school system’s McKinney-Vento Plan, and the Health Department’s Blueprint for a Healthier Community;
- Conducted six annual housing instability counts in an ongoing effort to better understand the scope, nature, and needs of youth and young adults experiencing homelessness;
- Created bed capacity for youth who are experiencing homelessness or are unstably housed (20 emergency, 4 host home, 16 transitional, and 8 rapid re-housing);
- Secured 60 Family Unification Program (FUP)-Youth vouchers (66 youth in this program have successfully graduated and 27 are still engaged), and created a pathway for certain child welfare involved youth to access the 435 FUP vouchers available to families when time-limited FUP-Youth vouchers are not appropriate;
- Joined the Maryland SB764/HB823 statewide task force to study housing and supportive services for unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness, which led to: the addition of two housing instability and homelessness questions to the State’s annual Youth Risk Behavior Survey of middle and high school students, establishment of “Youth REACH MD” (a statewide effort to regularly survey unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness), and State legislation creating a tuition waiver for youth experiencing homelessness and passing the Ending Youth Homelessness Act of 2018 funded in 2019 at \$1 million statewide;
- Established the first Homeless Youth Action Board in Maryland;
- Created the Safe Center in 2016 to provide crisis intervention services for trafficking survivors;
- Secured Maryland Governor’s Office of Crime Control & Prevention’s Bridge Program through Victims of Crime Act funds for housing subsidies for systems-connected youth;
- Launched AFFIRM, a skills and resources program for LGBTQ+ youth and their parents;
- Established the Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM) targeting Children in Need of Supervision (CINS) and Children in Need of Assistance (CINA) youth, which provided for: a structured system of information

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<sup>15</sup> Prince George’s County HMIS data for FY2019

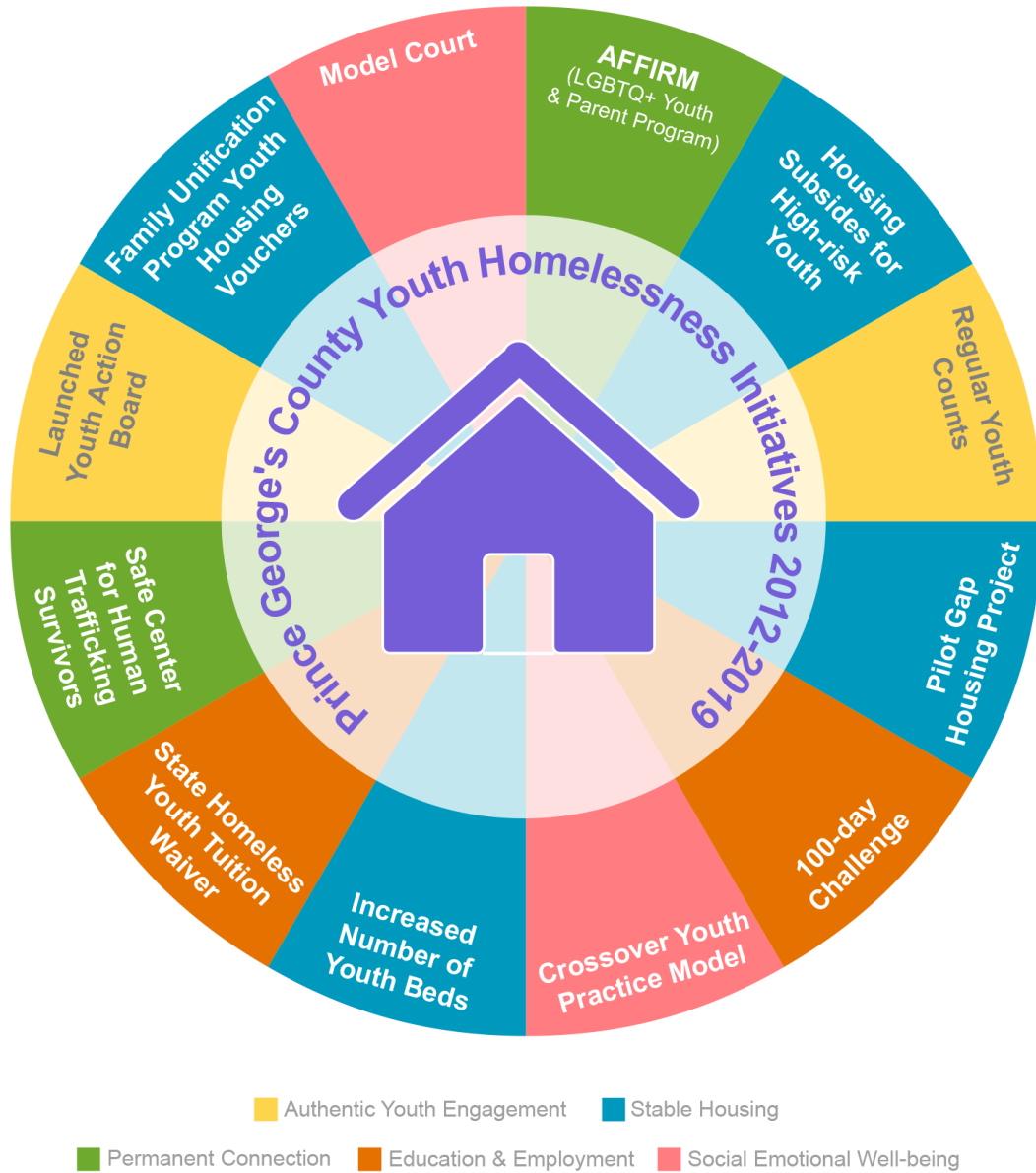
<sup>16</sup><https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/1039/Plans-Reports>

sharing, pre-court collaboration and joint case planning; a case consultation committee which guides Court recommendations and ensures that services are not duplicated; and the one child/one judge model, where the judge with original jurisdiction of the case presides over all subsequent hearings and makes one uniform recommendations. Since 2014, 137 youth have been identified through the model and 65% were diverted from formal court involvement;

- Launched a 100 Day Challenge to End Youth Homelessness to do a deep dive into the identification, connections, services, housing, and tuition waiver barriers impacting successful student outcomes in higher education, and to develop policies and practices that were innovative and solution-oriented. As a result, the project's Challenge Team successfully stabilized housing for 56 youth, 86% of which were enrolled or re-enrolled in school and/or employed. In addition, 100% (11) of the students experiencing homelessness who were identified by participating universities were housed, resulting in no returns to shelter for those students during the semester break;
- Launched a demonstration Gap Housing Pilot (15 beds) for college students;
- Executed an Administrative Order to establish the Circuit Court for Prince George's County Bridge From Youth Experiencing Success (YES) Committee to establish a center that assists with the successful transition of foster care youth, from exit to age 26;
- Selected as one of five pilot sites by the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) to explore Pathways to Transformative Healing for youth ages 16-24 who are experiencing homelessness, at risk of experiencing homelessness, or otherwise disconnected from services;
- Awarded a four-year SAMHSA System of Care expansion grant to develop a comprehensive, developmentally appropriate, behavioral health system for youth ages 16-24; and
- Appointed to the State legislative Workgroup to Study Shelter and Supportive Services for Unaccompanied Homeless Minors, which resulted in passage of Maryland Senate Bill 207, *Unaccompanied Minors in Need of Shelter and Supportive Services* in 2020, allowing for minors to consent to shelter.

Prince George's County has numerous lessons learned and identified needs and next steps required to continue improving efforts to address youth homelessness, ultimately eliminating it in the County (meaning that any instances of youth homelessness are rare, brief, and only one time, in accordance with the USICH framework to end youth homelessness). The YHDP will allow the CoC to build on this foundation of community collaboration and innovation to address youth homelessness, and to begin intensive work around specific goals and objectives that were identified or evolved during these initial efforts.

**FIGURE 3 | COUNTY INITIATIVES TO BUILD A SYSTEM OF CARE FOR YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS**



# Needs Assessment

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There are a number of data sources mined by the County in an attempt to understand, not only the actual number of youth and young adults currently experiencing homelessness, but also the greater number of opportunity youth<sup>17</sup> who are at risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability. The available data also begins to provide an understanding of the characteristics, range of experiences, and unique needs of both youth experiencing and youth at risk of experiencing homelessness and housing instability. This data informed the identification of the goals and objectives detailed later in this Plan.

## AT-RISK UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH = APPROXIMATELY 42,000<sup>18</sup>

Of the total number of youth ages 10-24 in Prince George's County, we can conservatively estimate that approximately 24% have at least one of the following risk factors for experiencing homelessness as an unaccompanied youth.

- LGBTQ+ Youth: Nationally, it is estimated that 10.5% of 13-18-year-old youth, and 9.6% of 19-24-year-old youth identify as LGBTQ+.<sup>19</sup> According to American Community 2018 one-year estimates, there are 57,990 youth ages 15-19 and 61,596 youth ages 20-24 years old in Prince George's County.<sup>20</sup> Therefore, approximately **12,002** youth likely identify as LGBTQ+ in the County.
- Students Leaving School Before Graduation: In 2018, the high school dropout rate in Prince George's County was 16.2%, or **1,571** of the 9,687 students within the graduation cohort.<sup>21</sup>
- Youth in Poverty: In Prince George's County, the poverty rate for youth ages 10-24 is 24.5%.<sup>6</sup> According to American Community 2018 one-year estimates, there are 175,711 youth between the ages of 10-24 in Prince George's County. Therefore, **43,049** youth and young adults are experiencing poverty in the County and at risk of experiencing homelessness. Of these individuals, **7,842** are receiving government cash assistance benefits.
- Independent Higher Education Students: At the beginning of the 2019-2020 academic year, the University of Maryland (UMD) identified **200** incoming students who experienced homelessness in the 12 months prior to matriculating to the University, representing 4% of the incoming class.<sup>22</sup> Assuming a similar rate each year across colleges in the County (Prince George's Community College, Bowie State University, and UMD), it is estimated that **1,917** higher education students in Prince George's County have a history of housing instability and may be at risk of homelessness during their education.
- Differently Abled Youth: Of the youth receiving government cash assistance, **2,889** are receiving disability income, **2,887** are receiving SSI and **101** are receiving SSA.

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<sup>17</sup> Opportunity youth are young people, ages 16 to 24, who are neither enrolled in school nor participating in the labor market. <https://aspencommunitysolutions.org/who-are-opportunity-youth/>

<sup>18</sup> Numbers in bold are included in the calculation of the estimated number of youth experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness in this section.

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Estimating-Number-of-LGBTQ-Youth-Who-Consider-Suicide-In-the-Past-Year-Final.pdf>

<sup>20</sup> <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=United%20States&g=0500000US24033&tid=ACSST1Y2018.S0101&hidePreview=true&moe=false>

<sup>21</sup> <https://reportcard.msde.maryland.gov/Graphs/#/Graduation/DropOut/1/6/3/1/16/XXXX>

<sup>22</sup> University of Maryland, College Park, Department of Parent and Family Affairs, personal communication, 2020

- Opportunity Youth: According to a Local Management Board survey conducted in 2018, there are **17,155** youth in Prince George’s County who are not enrolled in school or working, who would be at risk of experiencing homelessness.
- Juvenile Justice Involved: The Maryland Department of Juvenile Services reported that **622** youth from Prince George’s County were released in FY2019.<sup>23</sup>
- Child Welfare Involved: The average number of youth who emancipate from the child welfare system in the County annually is **43**, and approximately **450** additional youth are released to sponsors in the County from the federal foster care system.

### UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS = APPROXIMATELY **1,656**<sup>24</sup>

- Youth REACH MD identified **43** unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness in Prince George’s County over a two-week period in 2018, and an additional **138** unique unaccompanied youth who had accessed homeless services in the past year.<sup>25</sup>
- PIT Count identified **23** youth who were unaccompanied and experiencing homelessness in one night in 2018.
- McKinney-Vento liaisons identified 1,275 students experiencing homelessness during the 2018-2019 school year, including **118** unaccompanied youth. In addition, the Maryland Youth Risk Behavior Survey identified **157** students who had not slept at home at least one night in the last month due to being kicked out, running away, or being abandoned by their parents or guardians.<sup>26</sup>
- Department of Corrections liaisons identified 2,327 incarcerated youth in 2018, including **465** unaccompanied homeless youth (DSOM System).
- Institutions of Higher Education identified **76** students enrolled in local colleges during the 100 Day Challenge in 2019 who were literally homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness.
- Child Welfare: The Prince George’s County Department of Social Services reported that the number of AWOL youth in FY2019 was **61**.
- Police and other public safety liaisons reported 12-20 non-systems youth as having runaway every two weeks in 2018 representing the potential for more than **300** youth each year.
- Receiving Cash Assistance: Of all individuals receiving government cash assistance benefits in Prince George’s County, **275** are identified as under the age of 25 and experiencing homelessness.<sup>27</sup>

### AT-RISK PREGNANT OR PARENTING YOUTH = APPROXIMATELY **6,114**<sup>28</sup>

- In 2017, there were 567 births to mothers under the age of 20, of whom all are likely at risk of homelessness or housing instability, and another 2,259 born to mothers ages 20-24, of whom it would be expected that 24.5% (553) would be below the poverty level and likely at risk of homelessness or housing

<sup>23</sup>[https://djs.maryland.gov/Documents/DRG/Region\\_6.pdf](https://djs.maryland.gov/Documents/DRG/Region_6.pdf)

<sup>24</sup> Numbers in bold are included in the calculation of the estimated number of youth experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness in this section.

<sup>25</sup><http://www.youthreachmd.com/content/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/YRMD-2018-Report-Final.pdf>

<sup>26</sup><https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/ccdpc/Reports/Documents/2018%20YRBS%20YTS%20Reports/Prince%20George%27s/2018MDHS18%20Detail%20Tables.pdf>;  
<https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/ccdpc/Reports/Documents/2018%20YRBS%20YTS%20Reports/Prince%20George%27s/2018MDMS18%20Detail%20Tables.pdf>

<sup>27</sup> Prince George’s County Department of Social Services Family Investment Division, Personal Communication, 2020

<sup>28</sup> Numbers in bold are included in the calculation of the estimated number of youth experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness in this section.

instability.<sup>29</sup> In 2013, there were 737 births in which mothers were under the age of 20, and 2,398 births to mothers ages 20-24, of whom it would be expected that approximately 588 would be below the poverty level. Assuming a similar rate for 2014-2016, approximately 652 births to mothers under the age of 20 each year, and 571 to mothers experiencing poverty under the age of 25.<sup>29</sup> Together, it is estimated that on average 1,223 young mothers are at risk of homelessness and pregnant within a given year, and **6,114** young mothers would be pregnant or parenting a child under age five and at risk of housing instability or homelessness.

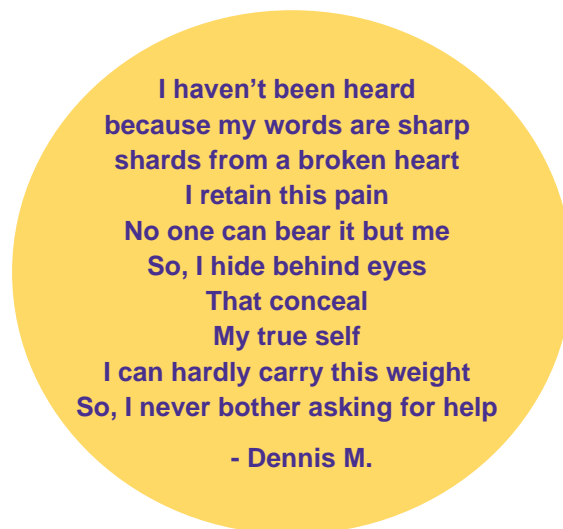
### **PREGNANT OR PARENTING YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS = APPROXIMATELY 177<sup>30</sup>**

- Youth REACH MD: 12% of youth experiencing homelessness that were identified and surveyed in Prince George’s County reported having children, which would be **147** youth of the estimated 1,224 youth identified as unaccompanied and experiencing homelessness.
- Child Welfare: **2** of the youth who were reported as AWOL by the County’s child welfare system were also pregnant or parenting.
- Receiving Cash Assistance: Of those receiving government cash assistance benefits in Prince George’s County who were identified as experiencing homelessness, **28** were identified as pregnant.<sup>25</sup>

These estimates demonstrate a significant and urgent need to provide target youth housing and supportive services within the County.

### **Demonstrated Needs**

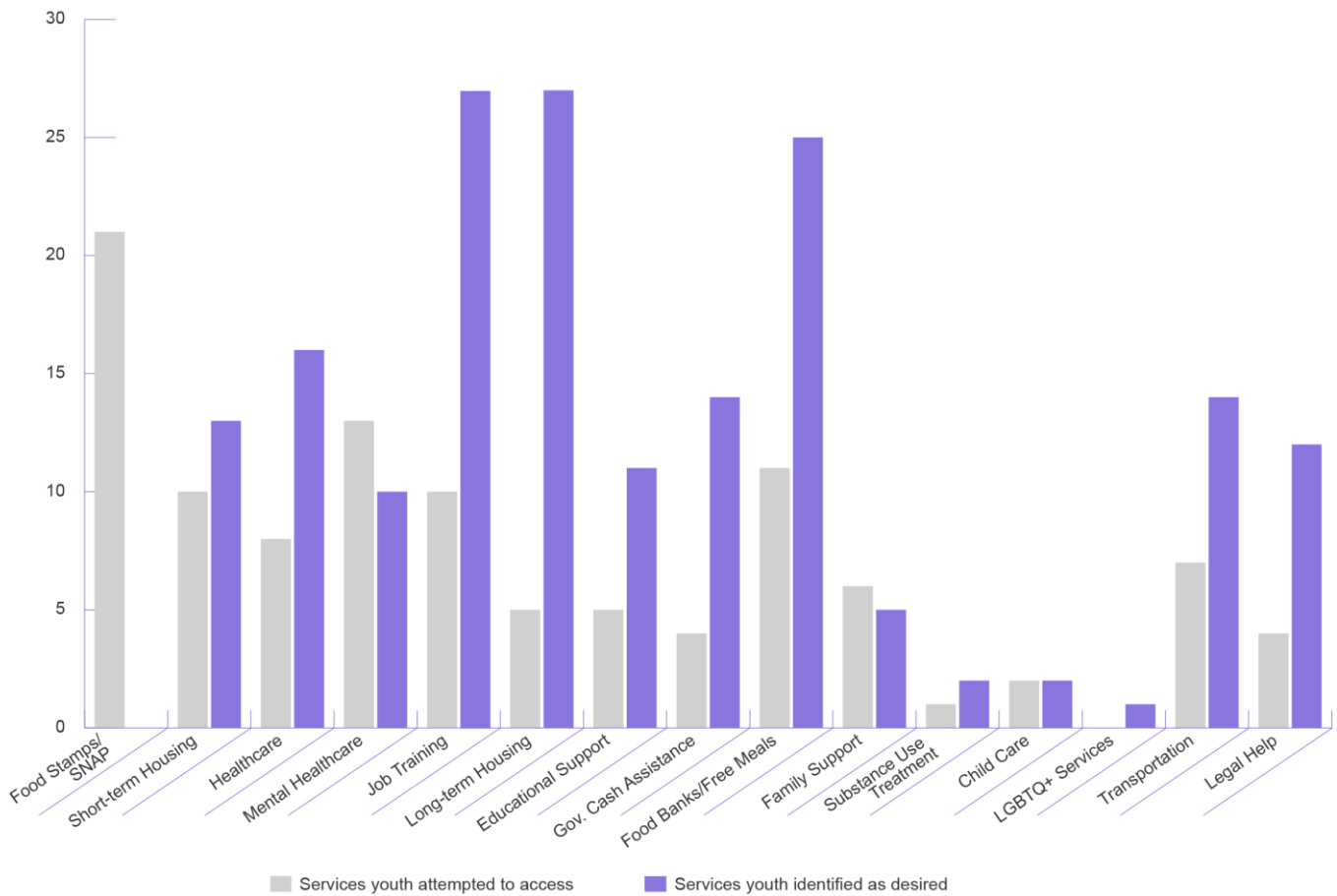
The results from the 2018 Youth REACH MD Survey in Prince George’s County demonstrates some significant areas of need. The graph below illustrates the discrepancies between services youth attempted to access in the past year and those the youth identified as services they wanted that would be helpful to them. It is clear that a few services are more easily accessed, but less desired, such as food stamps; however, several services are desired, but youth have not been able to access them at the same rate, particularly job training and long-term housing.



<sup>29</sup><https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/Archive/ViewFile/Item/3107>

<sup>30</sup> Numbers in bold are included in the calculation of the estimated number of youth experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness in this section.

**FIGURE 4 | PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY YOUTH REACH MD 2018 FINDINGS – SERVICES YOUTH TRIED TO ACCESS AND SERVICES YOUTH WANTED**



Of unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness who were surveyed in the 2018 Youth Count, only 14% reported receiving all the help they needed from local services and supports. The majority of youth cited a lack of transportation, waiting lists, a lack of required documentation, not qualifying for services, and/or not knowing where to go to access services as common reasons why they did not receive the help they needed. Below details some of the needs identified via Prince George’s County’s Youth REACH MD data more specifically regarding housing, education, employment, and social and emotional needs.

### Housing

Of unaccompanied youth who completed the Youth REACH MD survey in Prince George’s County in 2018, 37% reported staying in a shelter or motel within the last two months, followed by 33% staying with a friend, 28% staying with other family, and another 28% staying with immediate family within the last two months. Half

reported moving at least once in the past two months, with 19% reporting three or more moves within two months. This demonstrates the rapidly changing nature of the housing situation for youth experiencing homelessness, and the need for housing program options that are responsive to this.

**“You have to find housing. You have to have a job. Everything else comes before that.”**  
- R. K.



## Education

In the 2018 Youth REACH MD survey, 63% of unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness reported being currently enrolled in school. While 81% of the youth surveyed were age 18 or older, only 49% reported having a high school diploma or higher, 12% reported trying to access education support services in the past year, and 26% reported it would be helpful support to be able to access education services.

**“You want to go to school, but you have to make money; how can you focus on school and you have bills to pay?”**

**- Jasmine F.**

## Employment

While 81% of the youth surveyed were 18 or older, only 12% of unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness who were surveyed through Youth REACH MD in Prince George’s County in 2018 reported having a full-time job.

The majority (58%) reported family and friends as an income source, 33% reported having a part-time job, while 30% reported having no source of income. Twenty-three percent reported trying to access job training supports in the past year, and 63% of youth identified it as a needed support they would like to access, illustrating a significant discrepancy between the supply and demand for job training supports for youth in Prince George’s County.

**“A lot of people mess up on interviews...a job that you could have got, you lost.”**

**- DaeJanae D.**

## Social and Emotional Well-Being

In the 2018 Youth REACH MD count, unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness in Prince George’s County reported a number of experiences that might put their social and emotional well-being at risk:

- 14% identified as LGBTQ+, putting them at greater risk of physical and sexual victimization, suicide, and repeated episodes of homelessness than their non-LGBTQ+ peers experiencing homelessness<sup>31</sup>;
- 60% reported having left home because of fighting, abuse, or not feeling safe;
- 40% reported having left home because they were kicked out or told there wasn’t room for them;
- 21% reported staying in an unsheltered or high-risk location in the past two months (staying with a stranger, outside or in a vehicle, or inside an abandoned building);
- 33% reported obtaining income through the informal economy (under the table work, selling drugs, sex work, or panhandling);
- 14% reported ever being in the foster care system, of which 43% reported exiting care when they were 16 or older;
- 26% reported involvement with the juvenile and/or criminal justice system;
- 28% identified behavioral health treatment as a service that would be the most helpful to them right now; and
- 37% identified healthcare as a service that would be the most helpful to them right now.

<sup>31</sup>[https://www.lambdalegal.org/sites/default/files/gdtb\\_2013\\_20\\_youth\\_risk\\_data.pdf](https://www.lambdalegal.org/sites/default/files/gdtb_2013_20_youth_risk_data.pdf)

## Special Populations

There are several key special populations within Prince George’s County who require special consideration when developing services and interventions for youth experiencing homelessness to ensure programs are able to meet the needs of these special populations. The following details the information currently available on the needs of each of these identified populations.

“I stopped going into the programs because life happened, and it got tough.”  
- Daija R.

### Pregnant & Parenting Youth

As identified above, 12% of all unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness identified in the 2018 Youth REACH MD Youth Count reported being pregnant or having children.<sup>32</sup> Of these youth, all but one reported living with their children as their primary caregiver, and all were either staying at the house or apartment of a friend or at a shelter or motel. Most had moved four to six times in the past two months, and reported leaving their parent or guardians home because of abuse. All reported needing long-term housing, as well as reporting high levels of need for a number of other supportive services, including: SNAP benefits, cash assistance, job training, behavioral

health services, and transportation. This highlights a **need for long-term housing programs designed to provide supportive services particularly tailored to the needs of pregnant and parenting youth and their children, including access to childcare and early childhood education options for youth to be able to access other supportive services.**

“Single fathers don’t have as much resources and stuff as single women.”  
- Anonymous

### Racial and Ethnic Minority Youth

As highlighted earlier, a key characteristic of Prince George’s County is the demographic diversity of its population. In the most recent Youth REACH MD Youth Count, 63% of unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness in Prince George’s County identified as Black/African American, 21% identified as Hispanic/Latinx, 14% identified as multiracial, and 2% identified as Asian/Pacific Islander. No youth identified as White, Native American, or Other.

Due to this diversity, it will be important to recognize and respond to differing needs among each of these racial and ethnic groups. When examining the services accessed and identified needs of the two largest racial/ethnic groups from the Youth Count, Black/African American and Hispanic/Latinx, it is clear that the groups access very different services and identify differing needs. The majority of Black/African American youth were accessing shelter services, whereas the majority of Hispanic/Latinx youth were couch surfing among other family members. A majority of Black/African American youth tried to access SNAP benefits, whereas Hispanic/Latinx youth reported low levels of trying to access services across the board, and a majority reported not getting the help they needed because they didn’t know about available services and supports. Black/African American youth were more likely not to get the help they needed because they were put on a waitlist, didn’t have necessary documentation (e.g., a state-issued ID), or didn’t qualify for the services they were trying to access. A majority of both Black/African American youth and Hispanic/Latinx youth reported that long-term housing and SNAP benefits would be the most helpful supports. Black/African American youth also reported that job training, healthcare, and cash assistance would be helpful, whereas Hispanic/Latinx reported transportation assistance and legal services would be helpful. These differences all highlight (1) the **need for enhanced outreach strategies, particularly designed to reach youth in the Hispanic/Latinx community and others who may not be as easily identified and may be unaware of or afraid**

<sup>32</sup><http://www.youthreachmd.com/content/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/YRMD-2018-Report-Final.pdf>

to access available services and supports, (2) the need to ensure youth-serving programs are accessible and welcoming to all groups (e.g., through providing information and materials in other languages up front), as well as (3) the need for a comprehensive, diverse array of youth-friendly supportive services readily available, in conjunction with youth-driven, individualized assessment of needs and referrals so that youth are connected to the services that best meet their unique needs.

## LGBTQ+ Youth

Of all unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness identified in the 2018 Youth REACH MD Youth Count, 14% identified as LGBTQ+. However, stakeholders believe this is likely a significant undercount, both because national estimates have found that 20% to 40% of unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness tend to identify as LGBTQ+,<sup>33</sup> and there are limited LGBTQ+ youth services in Prince George’s County, making it difficult to identify and engage LGBTQ+ in a safe space. The youth who did identify as LGBTQ+ reported needs similar to those identified by other unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness. However, the limited number of LGBTQ+ youth identified in Prince George’s County, compared with national and even state estimates (17% of youth surveyed across the State identified as LGBTQ+)<sup>34</sup>, highlights the **need for safe spaces and services for youth who identify as LGBTQ+** within the County. National studies have also highlighted special needs for this population, including an increased **need for LGBTQ+-friendly behavioral health services** due to increased levels of experienced trauma and victimization.<sup>35</sup>

## Child Welfare Involved Youth

Of the unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness who were surveyed in the latest Youth REACH MD Youth Count, 14% identified as having been in foster care, of which 43% exited care when they were 16 years old or older. Two-thirds of those who surveyed with child welfare experiences reported moving multiple times over the prior two months, indicating a high level of housing instability.

“There is a lot more that they can do, because as you turn 21, they need to actually make sure that you are ready to do this. If you’re not, they need to direct you to some place that is going to give you that help.”

- Anonymous

“I’ve had good foster parents and bad ones—I needed to make sure they are in it for the right reasons and do the right thing when no one is looking.”

- Parris B.

These youth reported most commonly seeking out SNAP benefits and shelter; however, the majority reported wanting a broad variety of services: long-term housing, educational support, job training (requested by all), cash assistance, and SNAP benefits. The majority of the youth also reported having trouble accessing services due to a lack of required documentation, such as a state ID card or birth certificate. These results are likely due to the more substantial lack of a natural support network for youth who have been in foster care, and

highlights the **need to provide a more comprehensive and intensive array of supportive services, with a focus on building connections to natural community supports, in conjunction with housing for youth with foster care histories** to help address this gap.

<sup>33</sup><https://graphics8.nytimes.com/packages/pdf/national/20070307HomelessYouth.pdf>

<sup>34</sup><http://www.youthreachmd.com/content/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/YRMD-2018-Report-Final.pdf>

<sup>35</sup><https://www.chapinhall.org/wp-content/uploads/VoYC-LGBTQ-Brief-FINAL.pdf>;  
<https://graphics8.nytimes.com/packages/pdf/national/20070307HomelessYouth.pdf>

## Juvenile and Criminal Justice Involved Youth

Of the unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness who were surveyed in the 2018 Youth REACH MD Youth Count, 26% identified as having ever spent at least one night in either juvenile detention or jail. These youth reported very low levels of attempting to access supportive services, but almost all identified long-term housing as a desired support. The majority also identified educational support, job training, SNAP benefits, and cash assistance as other desired supports. This highlights a **need to ensure better awareness of and access to supportive services and long-term housing for youth exiting the juvenile and criminal justice systems.**

“I had to get locked up to get me a job.”  
- Anonymous

## Survivors of Human Trafficking

Maryland has been identified as a hot spot for human trafficking, particularly in areas such as Prince George’s County that are along Interstate-95, near Washington, D.C., and/or connected to major airports.<sup>36</sup> The National Human Trafficking Hotline alone identified 656 survivors of human trafficking in 2018, and of all cases identified nationally, 22% were under the age of 18.<sup>37</sup> This does not include additional cases identified through local or state police, the Maryland Departments of Juvenile Services and Human Services (which began screening for human trafficking in 2012<sup>38</sup> and 2013<sup>39</sup> respectively), or other responding organizations or agencies. The most recent data from these organizations identified an additional 396 survivors in 2014, of which 124 were minors.<sup>40</sup> Additionally, between June 2013 and March 2020, there were 80 reports of child sex trafficking made to the Prince George’s County Department of Social Services Child Protective Services Screening Unit, the most of any jurisdiction in Maryland except for Baltimore City.<sup>41</sup>

Due to the complex trauma often experienced by survivors of human trafficking, youth with these experiences often have a number of concurrent challenges and needs that must be addressed together with more intensive supportive services through a variety of service providers. These needs often include an immediate need for safe housing, healthcare services, mental health care, substance use treatment, support obtaining identification and other documentation, legal support, life skills training, and education assistance and/or job training.<sup>42</sup> This variety of complex, urgent needs highlights the **need for a comprehensive network of youth-friendly, trauma-informed supportive services that are low-barrier (including no barrier due to criminal involvement) and readily accessible through an extensive referral network and close collaboration among providers, housing supports and services that prioritize safety and anonymity**, reducing opportunities for recruitment, as well as the **need for training for provider staff on recognizing and meeting the complex needs of survivors of human trafficking.**

## Gang Involved Youth

There is a correlation between first experiences of youth homelessness and initial gang involvement.<sup>43</sup> One of the few studies examining this correlation found that 17% of homeless young persons have ever or currently identify

<sup>36</sup><http://www.mdhumantrafficking.org/maryland>

<sup>37</sup><https://humantraffickinghotline.org/state/maryland>

<sup>38</sup><https://djs.maryland.gov/Pages/Initiatives.aspx>

<sup>39</sup><http://marylandpublicschools.org/stateboard/Documents/07262016/TabG.pdf>

<sup>40</sup><https://static1.squarespace.com/static/53d105bae4b009be345a11ba/t/55eaff76e4b02963949669f3/1441464182867/2014+MD+Human+Trafficking+Scope+and+Services+Survey+FINAL.jpg>

<sup>41</sup>Child Sex Trafficking Victims Initiative at the University of Maryland Baltimore School of Social Work, personal communication, 2020

<sup>42</sup><https://www.rhyttac.net/assets/docs/Resources/HumanTraffickingBlueprint-508.pdf>;  
[https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/acyf\\_human\\_trafficking\\_guidance.pdf](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/acyf_human_trafficking_guidance.pdf)

<sup>43</sup><https://sswr.confex.com/sswr/2018/webprogram/Paper31077.html>

as a gang member and up to 46% have ever been affiliated with a gang member via a close friend, family member, or romantic partner, with both of these groups experiencing increased risk for negative outcomes.<sup>44</sup> Prince George's County Police Department Gang Unit data shows that contact was made with 427 youth with gang affiliation in the last five years, of which 7% were identified as experiencing homelessness.<sup>45</sup> Of the identified youth, 95% were male, 9% were identified as Black/African American, 89% were identified as Hispanic, and 1% were identified as White. The most commonly represented gangs are MS-13 and the 18<sup>th</sup> Street Gang.

Gang involved youth experiencing homelessness have additional needs for legal assistance, substance use and mental health treatment, and support with re-engaging in school and connecting with supportive services to reduce a need to depend on more risky subsistence strategies.<sup>44</sup> This highlights the **need for early identification and intervention with youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness to prevent potential gang involvement, a need to ensure there is an array of supportive services for which criminal involvement is not a barrier to accessing, and housing supports and services that prioritize safety and anonymity**, reducing opportunities for recruitment. For youth who may already be involved in gangs, it is **important that services be available in areas that are in neutral territory as much as possible, and case managers should consider gang territory and membership when referring to services**. The latest report from the Prince George's County Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Steering Committee established a number of goals to address these needs within the County, many of which are incorporated in the planned efforts detailed in this CCP, including developing and implementing policies and procedures to ensure collaboration across all sectors to more effectively address the gang problem; implementing a comprehensive gang model focused on community mobilization and awareness, collaboration and coordination, education, training, and employment programs, social intervention, and targeted gang enforcement and prosecution; providing supportive educational, employment, parenting, and other supportive services and case management in targeted communities and schools; partnering with allies to create a promotional campaign and a helpline to reach youth; and expanding Youth Opportunity Centers and other youth programming.<sup>46</sup>

## Immigrant Youth

In Prince George's County, a large proportion of the population is foreign-born, many with an unauthorized immigration status. This population has been significantly increasing in the County since 2012.<sup>47</sup> The Census identified that almost a quarter of Prince George's County residents were foreign-born (22.4%).<sup>48</sup> The Migration Policy Institute estimates there are 18,000 unauthorized immigrant youth in Prince George's County.<sup>49</sup> The most common countries of origin for foreign-born County residents are El Salvador (23%), Nigeria (8%), Guatemala (7%), Mexico (6%), and Jamaica (5%).<sup>50</sup> The most common languages reported spoken in Prince George's County by non-English speakers are Spanish (17.1%), followed by Yoruba, Twi, Igbo, or other West African languages (2.58%), and French or Cajun (1.49%).<sup>51</sup>

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<sup>44</sup><https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26897432>; <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0044118X03034004003>

<sup>45</sup> Prince George's County Police Department SID/Gang Unit Commander, personal communication, 2020

<sup>46</sup><https://pgccouncil.us/DocumentCenter/View/288/2013-Annual-Report-PDF?bidId=>

<sup>47</sup><http://www.regionalprimarycare.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/The-Healthcare-Landscape-in-Prince-Georges-County.pdf>

<sup>48</sup><https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/princegeorgescountymaryland/POP645218#POP645218>

<sup>49</sup><https://www.migrationpolicy.org/data/unauthorized-immigrant-population/county/24033>

<sup>50</sup>[https://d101vc9winf8ln.cloudfront.net/documents/29111/original/Immigrants\\_in\\_Prince\\_George\\_County\\_Maryland\\_2016.pdf?1538149572](https://d101vc9winf8ln.cloudfront.net/documents/29111/original/Immigrants_in_Prince_George_County_Maryland_2016.pdf?1538149572)

<sup>51</sup><https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/>

This increases the challenge of identifying youth who may be experiencing homelessness or housing instability as many may avoid being connected to service systems to avoid potential legal issues, as well as the ability to connect them with services and supports due to eligibility issues resulting from lack of U.S. citizenship. This highlights the **need for increased low- or no-barrier services** (particularly physical and behavioral healthcare services) **that can be accessed by with varying immigration statuses, particularly legal aid, broad access to translation services, and training of program staff on cultural humility and how to better understand the unique needs of immigrant youth.** Many of these youth may have entered the County with few or no natural supports, so **identifying community connections for immigrant youth** will also be critical to ensuring they have the ongoing natural supports they will need to be successful.

## Youth Under 18

Of the unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness who we identified via the 2018 Youth REACH MD Youth Count, 19% reported being under the age of 18. Of these, the majority reported couch surfing (i.e., staying with other friends or family) and fewer moves over the past two months—none had moved more than once or twice in the past two months—illustrating one of the challenges in finding and engaging minor-age youth experiencing homelessness. Almost all reported being currently enrolled in high school, identifying perhaps the most promising place to identify minor-age youth experiencing homelessness or housing instability. The majority of these youth reported leaving home because they chose to, rather than their parents forcing them to leave. They also reported very low levels of accessing services, but a majority reported that job training, SNAP benefits, and transportation were services that would be the most helpful. Together, this data highlights the **need to enhance identification of youth experiencing homelessness or housing instability in high schools and make supportive services, including food, transportation, and family reunification supports, readily available within the school setting, as well as provide specialized short- and long-term housing and supportive services to meet the unique needs of minors that provides safety and anonymity.**

**“People put themselves back in dangerous situations because they are underage and there are no types of assistance available for anyone under 18.”**

**- Jasmine M.**

## Differently Abled Youth with Significant Somatic, Behavioral Health, or Intellectual Challenges

Serious mental health disorders tend to become symptomatic during adolescence or early adulthood, including first episodes of psychosis, which can increase risk for homelessness.<sup>52</sup> Conversely, the experience of homelessness can increase the likelihood of behavioral health challenges, including depression and anxiety disorders, and substance use disorders, as a result of higher rates of traumatic experiences.<sup>52</sup> Together, research has shown that the prevalence of having a behavioral health condition among youth experiencing homelessness may be as high as four times the rate for their housed peers, including attempted suicide rates between 44% and 52%.<sup>53</sup> In Prince George’s County, youth ages 18-24 visited emergency departments 2,821 times due to substance use (40% of which were Medicaid recipients and 22% uninsured), and visited an emergency department 2,129 times due to a mental health condition (42% of which were Medicaid recipients and 13% uninsured).<sup>54</sup> Of the unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness who were identified via the 2018 Youth REACH MD Youth Count in Prince George’s County, 33% reported attempting to access behavioral

**“Don’t diagnose me with something I don’t have.”**

**- Daija R.**

<sup>52</sup><https://aspe.hhs.gov/system/files/pdf/257811/SMIProlongedYouthHomelessness.pdf>

<sup>53</sup><https://nhchc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/in-focus-behavioral-health-among-youth.pdf>

<sup>54</sup>Public Health Dashboard, Maryland Health Services Cost Review Commission and CRISP, Accessed 4/28/2020

health treatment services in the past year, and 28% reported wanting to access behavioral health treatment services.

Experiences of homelessness can also lead to or worsen issues related to somatic health. Youth experiencing homelessness are more likely than their housed peers to have sexually transmitted infections,<sup>55</sup> and over one-third of youth experiencing homelessness in Maryland have reported not having health insurance, limiting their ability to get adequate treatment for any health concerns and/or maintain treatment for any chronic conditions.<sup>56</sup>

Additionally, lack of sufficient nutrition and deprivation of other basic needs, combined with the chronic stress associated with homelessness, can have a significant impact as youth are still developing physically and intellectually.<sup>55</sup> This can contribute to or exacerbate intellectual and developmental challenges as well.

If not appropriately addressed early, these somatic, behavioral health, and/or intellectual challenges can result in prolonged homelessness that can become chronic.<sup>52</sup> While many youth do attempt to access supportive services, those with the most significant needs tend to be less likely to access services or be satisfied with the services received.<sup>57</sup>

Studies have shown that supportive networks increase protective factors for youth experiencing homelessness, reducing risk of behavioral health challenges by providing a sense of belonging and support, and reducing other health risks through holistic, youth-centered approaches to care that address the complex needs of youth experiencing homelessness.<sup>53, 58</sup> For differently abled youth with significant somatic, behavioral health, or intellectual needs or who were unable to access early intervention and treatment, supportive long-term housing options with comprehensive wraparound support services have shown positive health and well-being outcomes for youth.<sup>52</sup> This research highlights the **need for early identification of and interventions for youth who are differently abled with significant somatic, behavioral health, or intellectual needs through increased mental health awareness, a focus on connecting youth to relevant and appropriate supportive community networks and holistic supportive services to support initial engagement and treatment, and providing tailored permanent supportive housing options for youth who need more intensive levels of support.**

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Looking at the disparities and additional findings, it is clear that youth and young adults experiencing homelessness or housing instability are a diverse group with a range of antecedents to experiencing homelessness. They may have run away or been told by parents to leave, may have aged out of foster care or been discharged from institutions, or fled from abuse and domestic violence. They may have begun to be responsible for themselves and their children (becoming parents themselves), all before having the resources and skills to maintain critical housing stability. Despite these differences in circumstances, the commonality of certain identified needs (e.g., long-term housing, job training, educational supports, and behavioral healthcare) provide critical guidance that Prince George's County is utilizing to identify goals and objectives for the YHDP and determine which projects may be the most impactful for youth and young adults in the community.

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<sup>55</sup>[https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Scott\\_Hunter2/publication/224120419\\_The\\_mental\\_and\\_physical\\_health\\_of\\_homeless\\_youth\\_A\\_literature\\_review/links/00b7d52408a8c84bf1000000/The-mental-and-physical-health-of-homeless-youth-A-literature-review.pdf](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Scott_Hunter2/publication/224120419_The_mental_and_physical_health_of_homeless_youth_A_literature_review/links/00b7d52408a8c84bf1000000/The-mental-and-physical-health-of-homeless-youth-A-literature-review.pdf)

<sup>56</sup><http://www.youthreachmd.com/content/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Youth-REACH-MD-Phase-II-Report.pdf>

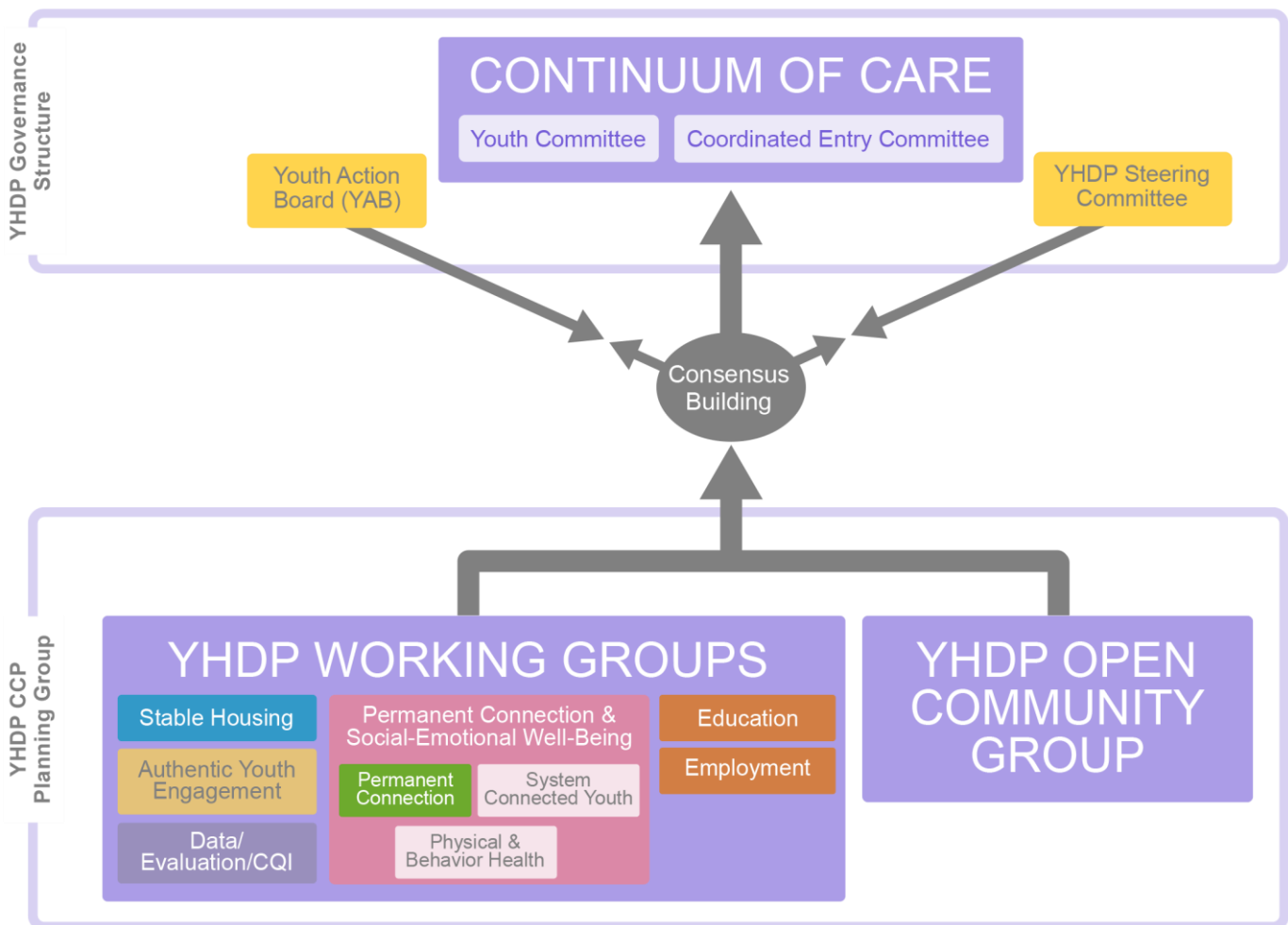
<sup>57</sup><https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2962540/>

<sup>58</sup>[https://www.jahonline.org/article/S1054-139X\(18\)30252-0/fulltext](https://www.jahonline.org/article/S1054-139X(18)30252-0/fulltext)

# Governance and Planning Structure

Prince George’s County has established a governance and planning structure that is designed to provide frequent ongoing opportunities for community-wide input into the planning process, while elevating the expertise of youth with lived experience and providing the maximum opportunity for community members with specific expertise to focus closely on key areas as part of working groups. This governance and planning structure will be revised after completion and approval of the CCP to be better adapted to support implementation, as many of the identified projects and activities within this Plan require expertise from multiple subject matter areas. Working groups will be temporarily absorbed into the YHDP Steering Committee until new working groups that align with the implementation priorities for projects and deliverables identified in the Plan are established. This will allow for the flexibility required for effective implementation and ensure youth voice and choice remains at the center of all activities, with the YHDP Steering Committee working closely with the Youth Action Board (YAB) throughout implementation, and will ensure youth and adult co-leads for all implementation working groups. The open community group will be absorbed into the CoC, which will oversee the overall progress of the YHDP.

**FIGURE 5 | YHDP GOVERNANCE & PLANNING STRUCTURE**





## YHDP Steering Committee

The YHDP Steering Committee is responsible for managing and developing the CCP timeline, objectives, submission, and administration. This committee is also responsible for overseeing implementation of the CCP after its approval and creating the YHDP implementation structure, as well as participating in the Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) process as described later in this Plan.

- Members: YAB Co-chairs; youth and adult co-chairs of each working group; the CoC lead; and the YHDP Project Manager.
- Meetings: Weekly on Thursdays with Technical Assistance Provider team.

## Youth Action Board

The YAB is the decision-making body of youth and young adults with lived experience of homelessness or housing instability. The YAB must approve the Plan and all project applications for Prince George’s County’s YHDP. The YAB is also tasked with providing direct input on all issues related to youth homelessness, offering insight and expertise throughout the YHDP planning and implementation processes, generating ideas for system innovation and improvement, and providing input and feedback on goals, objectives, and strategies for the Plan, as well as serving with the YHDP Steering Committee to oversee implementation and participate in the CQI process as described later in this plan.



- Members: local youth and young adults with lived experience. To be considered a voting member, individuals must attend a month of meetings and complete an application. Other youth are welcome to attend, but do not have voting privileges.
- Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, with additional meetings held as needed.



### Youth Action Board Mission & Vision

**Mission:** Prince George’s County YAB works to create safe environments that help support youth and young adults’ long-term goals, identify and connect youth to resources, and create more youth-led opportunities. PGC YAB is recognized publicly as a force to drive policy and practice for ending homelessness.

**Vision:** The Prince George’s County YAB envisions a world where there is no youth homelessness. A world in which there are safe, compassionate spaces for youth and young adults, and youth are healthy, strong, safe, and connected.



## Youth Action Board Core Values

**Education:** We, as a YAB, must educate ourselves and others on the aspect of homelessness and how it affects the daily lives of the youth in Prince George’s County.

**Trust:** “Without trust, there is no structure.” We must trust the process.

**Guidance:** We must guide one another into positivity and encourage each other that we are destined for greatness; provide guidance for other youth who may need it during their time of crisis.

**Respect:** Respect one another; lead one another into success and advocacy.

**Collaboration:** The YAB, the adult co-chairs and other adult supports must collaborate and meet on a common ground for what is best for the youth (homeless or on the verge of being homeless) in Prince George’s County.

**Awareness:** Become aware about the problems and the solutions that can be formed within the YAB; having a clear mind about everything around them.

**Support systems:** The support systems must really be passionate of the work they put into the youth and the YAB must be a support system for each other...we must create a “safe haven” where everyone is comfortable; The YAB should always be known as a judgement-free zone.

**Communication:** “Every voice is worth hearing; every concern is justified.”

**Advocacy:** Advocate for the YAB and what you believe is right at all costs; be the voice that speaks up for others that are not ready to speak.

## YHDP Working Groups

There are six, topic-based workgroups organized by member expertise and interest to ensure all USICH domains (stable housing, education and employment, permanent connections, and social and emotional well-being) are addressed within the Plan. Each working group has a youth lead (who may attend in person or remotely via video conference technology as needed to accommodate their schedule) and an adult lead, and meets weekly or bi-weekly as needed. Each working group is charged with analyzing data and local need, drafting strategies and action steps for the CCP, and proposing innovations and projects for their subject area within the CCP. All working groups are also responsible for meeting directly with the full YAB during the YAB’s regularly scheduled meetings to present draft findings and priorities and obtain YAB input and approval. Final proposals from the workgroups are then presented at YHDP Steering Committee for final review.

**Authentic Youth Engagement** – The purpose of this working group is to ensure that Prince George’s County efforts to prevent and end youth homelessness, including YHDP planning and implementation, are intentional, authentic, sustainable, and youth-driven.

“My dream is to help the world.”

- Rico S.

Membership Organizations: Homeless Persons Representation Project; Latin American Youth Center; Maryland Multicultural Youth Center; Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission; Prince George’s County Department of Social Services; True Colors United; YAB; and youth and young adults with lived experience.

**Stable Housing** – The purpose of this working group is to ensure that all youth in Prince George’s County are quickly connected to a safe and reliable place to call home.

Membership Organizations: Apartment & Office Building Association; City of Bowie; Employ Prince George’s WIOA; Fair Girls; Franklin Park at Greenbelt Station; Glenarden Housing Authority; Housing Authority of College Park; Housing Authority of Prince George's County; CDC Housing Initiative Program (HIP); CDC United Communities Against Poverty (UCAP); Housing Options & Planning Enterprises, Inc.; Maryland Department of Housing & Community Development; Maryland Multicultural Youth Center; National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI); Prince George’s County; Prince George’s Department of Social Services; Sasha Bruce Youthwork; Southern Management Corporation; St. Ann’s Center for Children, Youth, & Families; TM Associates Management; Youth Action Board

**“If you tell me something that will help me, then I will do it.”**  
- Jasmine M.

**Permanent Connections & Social-Emotional Well-Being** – The purpose of this working group is to ensure that all youth in Prince George’s County are supported in developing and fostering permanent connections, include ongoing attachments to chosen families, communities, schools, and other positive social networks and ensure that all youth in Prince George’s County are supported in the development of key competencies, attitudes, and behaviors that equip a young person to succeed across multiple domains of daily life, including school, work, relationships, and community.

*Team 1:* Fostering permanent connections to natural and community supports.

*Team 2:* Addressing the somatic, behavioral health, and other well-being needs of youth at risk of and experiencing homelessness.

*Team 3:* Focusing on the unique needs of system-connected youth that are or have been involved with the child welfare or juvenile justice systems, including through discharge and exit planning.

Membership Organizations: Affiliated Santé; The ARC of Prince George’s County; Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP); Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA); Department of Corrections; Department of Family Services; Fair Girls; Local Management Board; Governor’s Office of Children; Health Care Alliance; Healthcare Action Coalition; Homeless Persons Representation Project; Human Trafficking Taskforce; Local Behavioral Health Providers; Mary’s Center; Maryland Department of Juvenile Services; Maryland Multicultural Youth Center; National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI); National Center for Housing and Child Welfare (NCHCW); People Encouraging People; Prince George’s County; Prince George's County Health Department; Prince George's County Health Connect; Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation; Prince George's County Department of Public Works & Transpiration; Prince George's County Department of Social Services; Prince George's County District Courts' YES Initiative; Prince George's County Fire/EMS Mobile Integrated Health; Prince George's County Memorial Library System; OCI Behavioral Health; Sasha Bruce Youthwork; St. Ann’s Center for Children, Youth, & Families; Supporting and Mentoring Youth Advocates and Leaders (SMYAL); Youth Action Board

**Education** – The purpose of this working group is to ensure that youth in Prince George’s County have opportunities to enroll and succeed in educational opportunities, which can provide structure and support for youth at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

Membership Organizations: Adelphi/Langley Park Family Support Center; Bowie State University; First Generation College Bound; Judy Hoyer Family Learning Center/Cool Spring Elementary School; Latin American Youth Center/Maryland Multicultural Youth Center; Maryland Child Care Resource Network; Maryland College Application Campaign; Maryland State Department of Education; Maryland Family Network; Maryland Higher Education Commission; Maryland Head Start State Collaboration Office; National Center for Homeless Education; Prince George's Child Resource Center; Prince George's Community College; Prince George's County Department of Social Services' Community Schools Network; Prince George's County Public Schools; The Lourie Center for Children's Social & Emotional Wellness; University of Maryland College Park; Youth Action Board

**Employment** – The purpose of this working group is to ensure that Prince George's County provides youth with career opportunities that offer meaningful structure, development of life skills, motivation, living wage income, connections with caring adults, and a learning environment that support transitions into independent living.

Membership Organizations: Chick-fil-A; City of Bowie; Eckerd Connects; Employ Prince George's WIOA; Freestate Challenge Academy; Job Corps; Latin American Youth Center Workforce Investment for Successful Employment (WISE); Prince George's Community College Career Center; Prince George's County Department of Social Services' Community Schools Network; Starting with Today (SWT); Workforce Services-Out of School Youth; Youth Action Board

**Data/Evaluation/Continuous Quality Improvement** – The purpose of this working group is to ensure that all YHDP planning and implementation efforts are data-driven and that evaluation and CQI processes are in place to support Prince George's County's ongoing efforts to prevent and end youth homelessness.

Membership Organizations: County Stat; The Institute for Innovation & Implementation at the University of Maryland School of Social Work; The Partnership, Inc.; Prince George's County Department of Social Services; Prince George's County Health Department; Youth Action Board

## **YHDP Open Community Group**

The purpose of this group is to provide a space for all interested local stakeholders to review current system capacity, gaps, and barriers along with best practices to help design and co-create potential solutions to prevent and end youth homelessness. This group will provide input on CCP goals, strategies, and action steps to address identified needs.

- Members: stakeholders from the field of youth homelessness and related systems of care (See Appendix B for the comprehensive list of stakeholders).
- Meetings: October 2; December 16; February 3; March 9; and April 12.

# Community Framework

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Together, the goals, objectives, activities, and projects of Prince George’s County’s YHDP project, as articulated in this Plan, are designed to create a comprehensive, coordinated, and youth-driven system of care for youth and young adults that is undergirded by a youth-specific, coordinated system of entry and assessment to a wide array of low-barrier, youth-friendly housing options and supportive services that provide immediate and equal access to an affirming, culturally enlightened array of resources, opportunities, and care. This response system must be easily accessible (“no wrong door”), youth-driven, and provide an individually tailored response that meets each youth where they are and is responsive to their needs. Services offered through the system must be comprehensive and coordinated together create a system of care<sup>59</sup> in Prince George’s County for youth experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness that meets all youth needs to promote positive outcomes across life domains and reduce future risk of experiencing homelessness. Unique pathways and services for youth within identified YHDP special populations will also be developed. The system diagram below is a current map of this vision, which will continue to be revised over the course of YHDP implementation.

**“The type of environment you put someone in makes a difference.”**

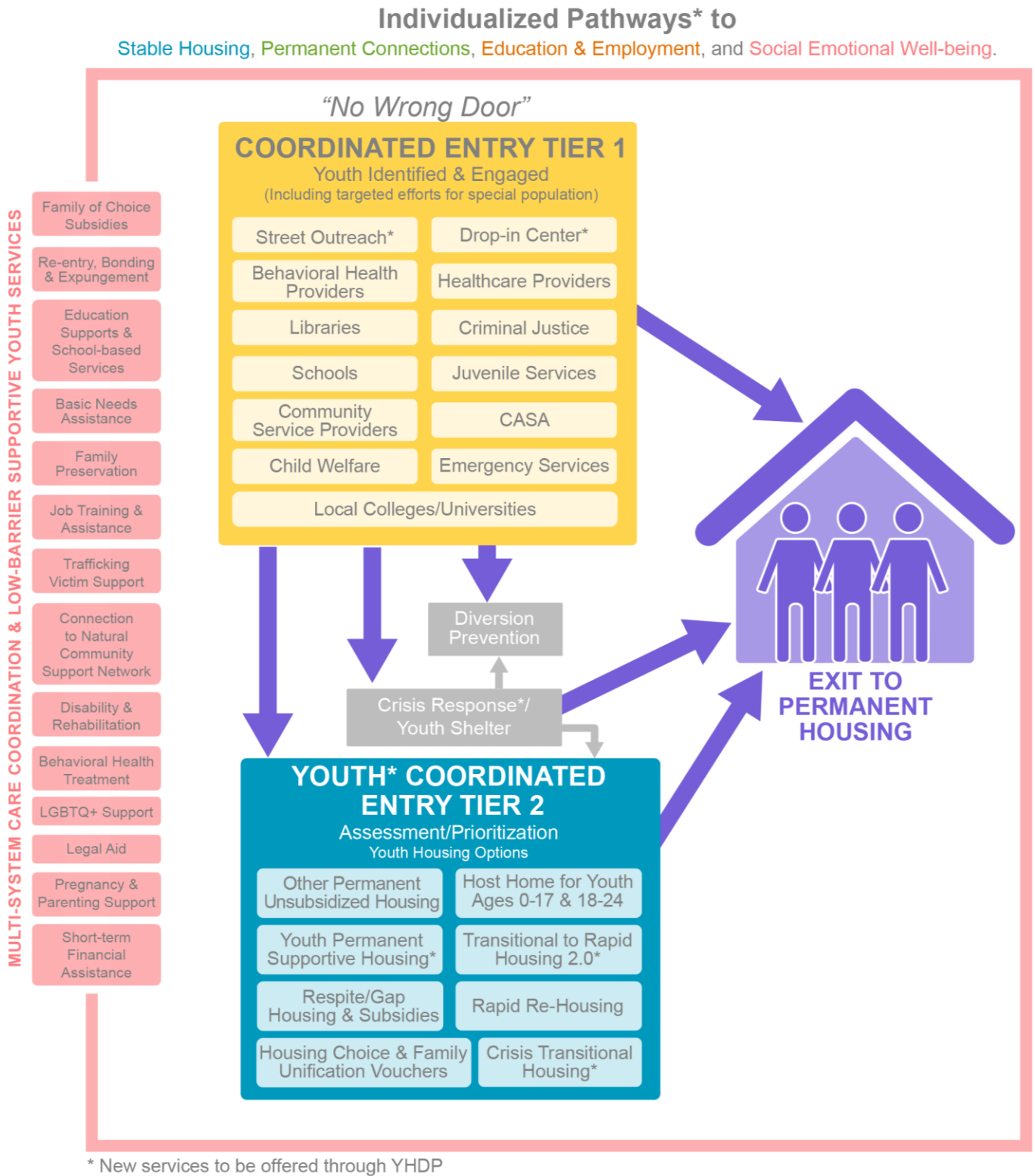
**- Dennis M.**

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<sup>59</sup> Originally developed to support youth with behavioral health needs within their community, a system of care is “a spectrum of effective, community-based services and supports for children and youth with or at risk for mental health or other challenges and their families, that is organized into a coordinated network.”

[https://gucchd.georgetown.edu/products/Toolkit\\_SOC\\_Resource1.pdf](https://gucchd.georgetown.edu/products/Toolkit_SOC_Resource1.pdf)

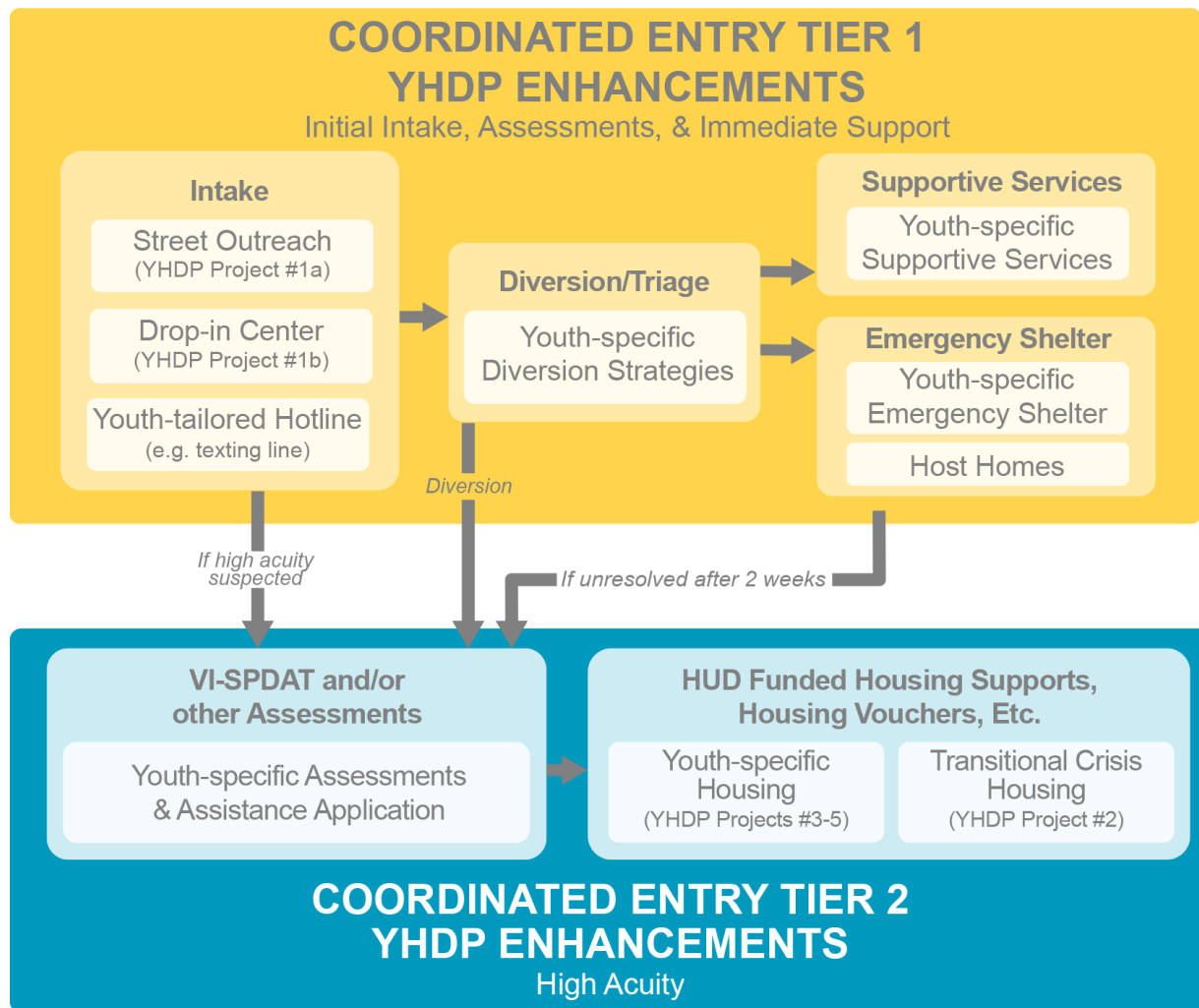
**FIGURE 6 | PLANNED YHDP YOUTH SYSTEM OF CARE**



Youth-specific coordinated entry will be a critical component of this system. The Prince George’s County CoC is currently working to revamp the County’s coordinated entry system. As part of this effort, and in conjunction with the YHDP projects and activities, the CoC will develop a youth-specific coordinated entry track that mirrors the County’s revised coordinated entry flow, but is designed specifically to meet the unique needs of youth, from how

initial outreach and intake is conducted, to how needs are assessed and youth are connected to services, to the identified services and supports to meet those needs. This will be developed by a youth-specific coordinated entry subcommittee that will work in collaboration with the YAB and the YHDP Steering Committee. More details on this are included as part of the coordinated entry objective, and the coordinated entry project in the following sections of this Plan. The figure below illustrates the Prince George’s County coordinated entry system that this work will mirror and adapt for youth and young adults, with anticipated adaptations noted.

**FIGURE 7 | PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY COORDINATED ENTRY SYSTEM WITH ANTICIPATED YOUTH ENHANCEMENTS**



**Youth Service Pathways Utilization and Gaps**

It is essential to ensure that the youth-specific system designed through the YHDP is able to meet the needs of all youth within the community. The following table outlines the common pathways youth are likely to take through the Prince George’s County system. Using the calculated numbers of youth experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness from the Needs Assessment, the needed capacity for each pathway is calculated and compared with current and projected capacity through the YHDP efforts. Remaining gaps are highlighted and will be revised and reviewed as part of the CQI process in order to focus on expansion of efforts over the course of the YHDP to reduce these system gaps.

**TABLE 1 | PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY SYSTEM MODELING**

ESTIMATED USAGE (% of total youth)	CURRENT NEED (all homeless youth)	PROJECTED NEED (homeless a& at-risk youth)	CURRENT CAPACITY FOR YOUTH	ESTIMATED CAPACITY TO BE ADDED VIA YHDP	REMAINING NEED
<b>1: CE1 &gt;&gt; Diversion/Prevention</b>					
25%	458	12,487	0	240	218
<b>2: CE1 &gt;&gt; Medical/Behavioral Health Step-down Crisis Housing &gt;&gt; CE2 &gt;&gt; PSH</b> <i>(for youth who are differently abled or with somatic or behavioral health needs)</i>					
5%	92	2,497	0	5	87
<b>3: CE1 &gt;&gt; Crisis Housing &gt;&gt; Permanent Housing*</b>					
20%	367	9,989	24	0	343
<b>4: CE1 &gt;&gt; Crisis Housing &gt;&gt; CE2 &gt;&gt; TH, TH/RRH &gt;&gt; Permanent Housing*</b>					
15%	275	7,492	4 (pregnant/parenting only)	20	251
<b>5: CE1 &gt;&gt; Crisis Housing &gt;&gt; CE2 &gt;&gt; PSH</b> <i>(for youth who are differently abled or with somatic or behavioral health needs)</i> >> Permanent Housing*					
5%	92	2,497	0	5	87
<b>6: CE1 &gt;&gt; CE2 &gt;&gt; TH/RRH</b> <i>(cluster apartment/master lease model with strong supportive services for special populations)</i> >> Permanent Housing*					
10%	183	4,995	4 (pregnant/parenting only)	15	164
<b>7: CE1 &gt;&gt; CE2 &gt;&gt; Flexible RRH with strong supportive services &gt;&gt; Permanent Housing*</b>					
10%	183	4,995	0	0	183
<b>8: CE1 &gt;&gt; CE2 &gt;&gt; PSH with strong supportive services</b> <i>(for youth who are differently abled or with somatic or behavioral health needs)</i>					
10%	183	4,995	0	5	178

\* Permanent Housing = family reunification with family of choice or other permanent stable housing, unsubsidized housing, FUP or FYI vouchers, Section 8, etc.

Crisis Housing = Youth-focused shelter or crisis Host Home

CE 1 = Coordinated Entry Tier 1: Initial Engagement and Support via Street outreach, Drop-in Center, or Hotline

CE2 = Coordinated Entry Tier 2: Assessment, prioritization, and placement in housing

PSH = Permanent Supportive Housing

TH = Transitional Housing

RRH = Rapid Re-Housing



## **YHDP Community of Practice**

In order to create a system of care for youth that is comprehensive, coordinated, and youth-driven, and in which service providers, systems, and other stakeholders collaborate together to provide services that are low-barrier, prioritize family and community engagement (including family of choice), provide immediate and equitable access, center around youth voice and choice, are integrated into the community, are individualized based on the needs of youth, meet the needs of the identified special populations, and employ best practices and principles of positive youth development and trauma-informed care, Prince George’s County will create a YHDP Community of Practice. All YHDP and youth-serving providers and systems will be expected to participate in the Community of Practice to ensure shared learning, collaborative service provision, and joint system improvement efforts. Members of the Community of Practice will meet regularly to review implementation progress and service impact, and strategize solutions and possible improvement efforts. Staff of member organizations will also attend all YHDP joint trainings as provided through the YHDP youth training academy that will be developed to support youth-serving providers as part of Prince George’s County’s YHDP (See the *Continuity of Care* objective in the *Goals, Objectives, and Action Steps* tables in the following section).

### **Poem #2 (Random Thought #2)**

**Happiness? How can I find that? Does that even exist?**

**Broken? Its pieces to my life that needs fixing there’s are days and nights I wonder why these scars are haunting me**

**Pain? Why don’t this pain just fade away somewhere far away.**

**Fear? Shouldn’t feel this much fear in this sin called “LIFE” but I do the scars that I have are permanently can’t see the hurt and pain these dark brown eyes and smile like there’s nothing wrong**

**Scars? Why do I even have them? Should I continue to hide them? Or embrace them?**

**Emptiness? Why do I still feel this empty on the inside?**

**Alone? Why do I still feel alone in this cold-hearted world? Or alone in this dark empty room? Lonely road dark nights of being alone on a lonely night feel with sorrow and pain**

**How can there be happy smiles behind all of these built up emotions can cause so much pain and guilt? From this pain that I’m suffering from**

**Scared? Am I scared of what’s coming my way? Or the thought of moving forward?**

**Too many lonely dark days, Will there be any sun shining and make me forget about the hurtful nights.**

**- Daija R.**

# Goals, Objectives, and Action Steps

Prince George’s County identified five system-level goals that are intended to guide the work of the community and provide overarching context for the YHDP-specific objectives and action steps that have been developed to address needs identified by the YHDP planning team, and which are detailed below (action steps in bold will be completed, at least in part, as part of one of the proposed YHDP projects discussed later in this document; all organization abbreviations utilized in this section are defined in Appendix C): *\*Associated with YHDP projects*

**TABLE 2 | AUTHENTIC YOUTH ENGAGEMENT**

**System Goal:** All youth are respected and valued as equal partners in driving community change and are engaged and feel they belong in and are supported by the community (authentic youth engagement).

OBJECTIVES	ACTION STEPS	TIMELINE	LEAD	PARTNER(S)
<b>OUTREACH.</b> Develop a county-wide public education and outreach campaign to let youth know what supports are available and engage youth in both accessing needed supports and driving system change.	1. Contract with a design company to develop and implement a media campaign and branding (including specific language and logo) in collaboration with the YAB, to include raising awareness of how to access services, what services are available, and reducing stigma around accessing services, especially mental health and substance use treatment services.	1. Jul. 2020 (Contract); Sep. 2020 (Launch)	1. PGCDSS	1. YAB; SOC Team; PGCPs; MMYC; Park and Planning; Radio One; PGCHD; FQHCs; CLASP; Health Care Alliance; IHEs; NAMI; other youth serving organizations
	2. Implement a plan to use technology (apps, texting programs, social media, web-based resources, etc.) to connect youth to resources and services.	2. Sep. 2020 and ongoing	2. PGCDSS	2. Same as above
	3. Expand school- and community-based outreach and identification of at-risk youth.	3. Jul. 2020 and ongoing	3. TBD	3. SOC Team; LMB; Safe Center; FQHCs; SMYAL; CASA; PGCPs; PGCDSS; UMD Terp Success; PGCC CARES; Bowie State; MSDE

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore the possibility of utilizing National Safe Place as part of the outreach and engagement strategy, assessing both fit and financial feasibility.</li> <li>Form youth-specific outreach teams utilizing peer navigators (to be completed via YHDP Project #1a)*</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jul. 2020</li> <li>Oct. 2020-Apr. 2021*</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PGCDSS</li> <li>TBD pending RFP*</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as listed in #1</li> <li>PGCDSS; Sasha Bruce; MMYC; SOC Team; HPRP; SMYAL; CASA; MNCPPC*</li> </ol>
<p><b>PEER ADVOCACY &amp; SUPPORT.</b> Develop and utilize peer navigators to provide advocacy and support for youth across the system of care.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a training and mentoring program for developing and supporting peer navigators who are equipped to help youth successfully navigate systems and self-advocate.</li> <li>Create peer navigator positions at service providers.</li> <li>Pursue Medicaid waiver to allow medical billing for peer navigator staff time in medical centers.</li> <li>Develop peer support groups, text lines, and after-school/lunch groups that connect youth with peer navigators.</li> <li>Conduct recurring workshops with the peer navigators to support them in supporting youth and driving system change (i.e., anti-oppression, leadership, &amp; advocacy strategies).</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nov. 2020-Sep. 2021</li> <li>Jul. 2021</li> <li>Jan. 2021</li> <li>Jun. 2022</li> <li>Mar. 2021</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MMYC; HPRP</li> <li>SOC Team</li> <li>SOC Team</li> <li>SOC Team</li> <li>PGC YHDP Team</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PGC YHDP Team; YAB; Health Care Action Coalition; MNCPPC; PGCDSS; LMB; SOC Team; Maryland Mentor; MMYC; NAMI</li> <li>CoC; YAB; Maryland Mentor; Health Care Action Coalition; SOC Team; LBHA; MNCPPC; all youth serving providers</li> <li>PGC Health Dept; PGCDSS; CLASP; FQHCs; hospitals; MDH</li> <li>Mobile Crisis; CCSI; PGCP; LMB</li> <li>YAB; Health Care Action Coalition; MNCPPC; HPRP; MMYC</li> </ol>
<p><b>YOUTH ACTION BOARD.</b> Create a strong, authentic, motivated, and self-directed Youth Action Board.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish standing meeting dates, times, and locations that accommodate youth’s schedules.</li> <li>Conduct regular YAB team building exercises to build trust and strengthen the team</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jan. 2020</li> <li>Oct. 2020 and ongoing</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>YAB</li> <li>MNCPPC</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MNCPPC; MMYC; PGCDSS</li> <li>MMYC; YAB; PGCDSS; library system; PGAHC; YAB; MNCPPC; LMB</li> </ol>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Establish a flexible funding source and structure for compensating youth for their time commitment (i.e., cash, gift cards, checks, smart trip cards, reloadable credit cards).</li> <li>4. Eliminate barriers to youth YAB meeting attendance and engagement (e.g., providing transportation and childcare, reconsidering meeting times and locations, providing sufficient monetary compensation, etc.).</li> <li>5. Actively inform YHDP planning and implementation.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Jun.-Sep. 2020</li> <li>4. Jun. 2020-Jun. 2021</li> <li>5. Jan. 2020 and ongoing</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. MNCPPC</li> <li>4. MNCPPC</li> <li>5. YAB</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. MMYC; YAB; PGCDSS; LMB</li> <li>4. MMYC; HPRP; GOCPYVS; the Maryland Youth Board</li> <li>5. PGC YHDP Team; MNCPPC; MMYC; SOC Team; youth-serving organizations</li> </ol>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Recruit youth for YAB to be involved and lead processes.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Mar.-Sep. 2020</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. YAB</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. SOC Team; PCWA; CoC; PGCPSS; RHYS and YHDP providers; MNCPPC; GOCPYVS; LBHA</li> </ol>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Create a Governance Structure for the YAB.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Mar. 2020</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. YAB</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. True Colors; MNCPPC; MMYC; PGCDSS</li> </ol>
<p><b>YOUTH-DRIVEN SYSTEM PLANNING.</b> Youth generate ideas for system innovation and provide input and feedback on strategies to reach goals/objectives, increasing involvement of youth in the development and design of services that target them, and 100% of youth serving providers in the county increase their capacity to competently and authentically engage youth.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Design and implement a systemwide strategy to ensure youth voice is embedded across services and systems decision-making bodies, including creation of youth advocate positions in the CoC and other youth-serving public systems for youth and young adults with lived experience to serve as leader members.</li> <li>2. Enact local policies that mandate youth-guided input, services integration and coordination, cultural and linguistic competence, and linkage to healthcare reform to improve accessibility and availability of services for TAY. Propose regulatory or legislative changes to appropriate parties.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Jun. 2020 and ongoing</li> <li>2. Proposed changes by Jan. 2021</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. CLASP and HPRP</li> <li>2. TBD</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. CoC Lead; YAB; SOC Team; PGCDSS; Healthcare Alliance; PGC YHDP Team; NAMI; LMB; RHYS and YHDP-funded providers; Maryland Mentor; Health Care Action Coalition; MNCPPC; MMYC; ARC of PGC; other County youth service providers</li> <li>2. SOC Team; OCS; YAB; MDH; LMB; HPRP; MD-ICH; Youth REACH MD; Hillside; GOCPYVS; PGCDSS; PGCHD; DHS; PGCPSS; DFS; MMYC; MNCPPC; MD DHCD; YHDP-funded providers</li> </ol>

	<p>3. Engage youth in participating in strategic planning and decision-making by creating voting positions for youth in all applicable leadership bodies, and eliminate barriers to youth participation (e.g., provide transportation and childcare, reconsider meeting times &amp; locations, provide sufficient compensation, etc.).</p> <p>4. All youth-serving providers in the County participate in mandatory authentic youth engagement training that is co-designed with youth (e.g., Advancing Youth Development Training).</p> <p>5. Design youth-centric professional education training programs (e.g., advocacy, legislative process) to support youth in actively engaging in efforts aimed at ending youth homelessness.</p> <p>6. Refine Grievance Policy to be more youth-centric. Establish process by which youth can raise grievances, when not comfortable or safe. This should include a review of the current surveys to examine youth interaction with systems, access to services, marketing campaigns, messaging, and existence of safe and affirming spaces for youth to share.</p> <p>7. Youth to partner with providers and organizations engaged in advocacy to ensure funding for behavioral health services; support testifying at budget hearings.</p>	<p>3. Jan. 2021 and ongoing</p> <p>4. Jan.-Jul. 2021</p> <p>5. Jan-Jul 2021</p> <p>6. Jan. 2021</p> <p>7. Oct. 2020 and ongoing</p>	<p>3. PGC YHDP Team</p> <p>4. TBD</p> <p>5. SOC Team and PGC YHDP Team</p> <p>6. YAB</p> <p>7. SOC Team</p>	<p>3. PGCDSS; MMYC; SOC Team; YAB; YHDP and CoC funded providers</p> <p>4. YAB; PGC YHDP; HD; Growth Connection; LLC; CLASP; SOC Team; Sasha Bruce; PGCDSS; MNCPPC; Crisis Response; PGCPs; youth serving organizations</p> <p>5. YAB; MSDE; HPRP; GOCPYVS</p> <p>6. CoC; PGC YHDP Team; LMB; SOC Team; AFFIRM Team; CASA; MNCPPC; PGCDSS; Higher Education; HPRP</p> <p>7. YAB; PGCDSS; CLASP; Health Care Action Coalition; PGC YHDP Team; HPRP</p>
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	<p>8. Review program and system policies and procedures to ensure they align with guiding principles of YHDP and support youth-friendly programs.</p>	<p>8. Sep. 2020 and ongoing</p>	<p>8. PGC YHDP Team and YAB</p>	<p>8. All stakeholders and partners</p>
	<p>9. Establish forum for youth in community to provide feedback about Parks and Recreation program offerings.</p>	<p>9. Jul. 2020</p>	<p>9. MNCPPC</p>	<p>9. YAB; MMYC; other youth</p>

**TABLE 3 | STABLE HOUSING**

**System Goal:** All youth in need can access immediate and ongoing youth-appropriate housing support services that are low-barrier, welcoming, and inclusive ([stable housing](#)).

OBJECTIVES	ACTION STEPS	TIMELINE	LEAD	PARTNER(S)
<p><b>YOUTH-SPECIFIC COORDINATED ENTRY.</b> Develop youth-specific coordinated entry, including priorities and processes for mapping youth to available resources with effective prevention and diversion available in real time, and culturally competent and affirming providers.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify high performing youth service providers (County-based and regional) and establish partnership agreements and steering committee.</li> <li>2. Design a youth-specific coordinated entry sub-flow as part of the CoC’s current coordinated entry project (modeling after D.C. and national best practices from NN4Y and Homebase), by establishing a coordinated entry youth sub-committee. Sub-committee will determine:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ How and why different youth are prioritized;*</li> <li>▪ Map out youth-specific resources and services;*</li> <li>▪ Refine outreach strategies to be more youth friendly;*</li> <li>▪ Create or update current coordinated entry policies and procedures for youth;*</li> <li>▪ Redesign the front end to improve equitable access by all youth including hotline, text/chat, and in person options;*</li> <li>▪ Create a youth-specific application form for assistance; and*</li> <li>▪ Create special pathways to address the unique needs of identified special populations to meet their unique needs (to be completed via YHDP Project #7).*</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. May 2020 and ongoing</li> <li>2. Oct. and ongoing*</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. PGCDSS</li> <li>2. CoC CE Team &amp; Homebase*</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. YAB; LMB; CoC UHY sub-committee; MD DHCD; GOC; WMCOG; NN4Y; YHDP stakeholders; The Institute/UMB SSW</li> <li>2. PGCDSS; PG DHCD; CoC; RHYS and YHDP providers; Coordinated Entry Committee; YHDP Steering Committee; CCSI; SOC Team; CASA; PCWA; YAB; MNCPPC; libraries; LBHA; Street Outreach; SMYAL; HPRP; LGBTQ+ Taskforce; LMB; Trafficking Taskforce; NASH; NAMI; ARC of PGC*</li> </ol>

	3. Establish multiple points of entry to support the needs of youth at various stages of readiness, age, and resourcefulness (to be completed via YHDP Project #1b).*	3. Jun. 2021-Jan. 2022*	3. TBD pending RFP*	3. PGCDSS; Coordinated Entry; CCSI; MNCPPC; RHYS and YHDP-funded providers*
<b>YOUTH-SPECIFIC HOUSING.</b> Create a continuum of youth-specific housing opportunities that are designed to meet youth where they are, assuring high-quality and developmentally appropriate housing is available.	1. Identify where current County housing and funding resources could be re-directed or leveraged to meet youth needs (e.g., constructing youth-specific housing) and make necessary program or policy changes to re-prioritize these resources for youth.  2. Identify local, state, and national allies for making youth a priority in housing funding.  3. Establish housing choice disregards for youth with recent criminal histories or other barriers.  4. Explore options for landlord tax credits and other incentives to house youth.  5. Increase the number and variety (to allow for varying lengths of eligibility) of youth housing vouchers, <b>add case management support for those receiving vouchers, and expand case management length for those receiving vouchers (to be completed via YHDP Project #3).</b> *	1. Jun. 2020 and ongoing  2. Jan. 2021 and ongoing  3. Jun. 2020-Jan. 2021  4. Sep.-Dec. 2020  5. Sep. 2020 and ongoing	1. PGCDSS and PGC DHCD  2. TBD  3. College Park Housing Authority  4. TBD  5. PGC YHDP Team	1. CoC Steering Team; MD DHCD; LMB; GOCPYVS; SOC Team; PCWA; City of Bowie; Housing Authorities of Prince George’s, College Park, and Glenarden; DFS; MNCPPC; CDCs and CHDOs; NCHCW  2. PGC and MD legislators; GOCPYVS; faith leaders; Collective Banking Group; PGC DHCD; Washington Regional Association of Grantmakers; MD DHCD; Community Foundation; Housing Authorities of Prince George’s, College Park, and Glenarden  3. Sasha Bruce; PCWA; DJS; PGCDSS; DOC; Housing Authorities of Prince George’s and Glenarden; NAEH  4. AOBA; Southern Management Corporation; DHCD; TM Associates; Prince George’s County Office of Finance; Sasha Bruce; NAEH; YAB  5. PGCDSS; PGC DHCD; MD DHCD; MDH; SOC and BHAG teams; YHDP providers; Housing Authorities of Prince George’s, College Park, and Glenarden; HUD TA provider; PCWA; LMB; YAB



6. Establish a Section 8 set aside for youth with wraparound support services for the length of time necessary to stabilize the youth (perhaps including in-home PRP or other services that are not time-limited) and explore options for creating project-based Section 8 housing (MOU for youth set asides completed).	6. Jan. 2020 and ongoing	6. PGCDSS and Housing Authority of Prince Georges	6. PGC DHCD; MD DHCD; LBHA; Housing Authorities of College Park and Glenarden; SOC Team; PCWA; CASA; PGC YHDP Steering Team; YHDP PSH providers
7. Extend rental assistance options for youth that are coupled with Maryland's tuition waiver.	7. Sep. 2020-Mar. 2021	7. PGCDSS	7. PGC DHCD; MD DHCD PGCC; Bowie State; UMD; MSDE; MHEC; YAB
8. Develop unsubsidized, income-based or other deeply affordable youth housing that can be accessed by immigrant youth and others who may not be able to access more traditional housing options.	8. Jan. 2021-Sep. 2021	8. TBD	8. PGCDSS; PGCDHCD; MD DHCD; MMYC; St. Ann's; LMB; Community Foundation; faith-based organizations; Collective Banking Group; Office of Strategic Partnerships
9. Expand residential treatment center options for youth who are differently abled with significant somatic, behavioral health, and/or intellectual support needs.	9. Jan. 2021-Sep. 2021	9. SOC Team Lead	9. PGCDSS; PGC DHCD; CLASP; BHAG; LBHA; MDH; SOC Team; FQHCs; hospitals
10. Examine existing Host Homes and youth emergency shelters to determine where the programs may need to be enhanced or expanded in light of the new state legislation giving minors the right to consent to shelter.	10. Jul. 2020	10. PGCDSS	10. MMYC; Sasha Bruce; St. Ann's; HPRP; YHDP-funded providers
11. Establish an endowment that we can be used for perpetual funding of youth housing supports and related YHDP priorities.	11. Oct. 2021	11. TBD	11. Community Foundation; faith-based organizations; Collective Banking Group; Office of Strategic Partnerships; PGCC; Bowie State; UMD; Kaiser Permanente; local banks and philanthropic orgs
12. Create youth-specific high acuity PSH leveraging PRP services and other Medicaid waiver expansion opportunities (to be completed via YHDP Project #5).*	12. Sep.-Dec. 2020*	12. TBD pending RFP*	12. PGCDSS; PGC DHCD; Housing Authority of Prince George's; YHDP Steering Committee; CoC; SOC Team; MDH; CLASP; FQHCs; ACT/TCM teams; YAB*
13. Designate youth-specific crisis medical and treatment beds (to be completed via Project #2).*	13. 13. Sep.-Dec. 2020*	13. TBD pending RFP*	13. PGCDSS; SOC Team; CLASP; FQHCs; hospitals; LBHA; behavioral health providers; ACT/TCM teams; YAB*

14. Create a supportive services program for youth as a companion to FUP-Youth and FYI Vouchers (to be completed via Project #3).*	14. Sep.-Dec. 2020*	14. TBD pending RFP*	14. PGCDSS; PCWA; Housing Authority of Prince George's; YAB*
15. Develop a youth-specific TH/RRH combination program with extended time limits (to be completed via YHDP Project #3).*	15. Sep. 2020-Mar. 2021*	15. TBD pending RFP*	15. PGCDSS; NAEH; YHDP Steering Team; HIP; CCSI; RHYS providers; YAB*
16. Develop a Host Homes program for 18–24-year-olds (to be completed via YHDP Project #8).*	16. Sep. 2020-Mar. 2021*	16. TBD pending RFP*	16. PGCDSS; NAEH; YHDP Steering Team; HIP; CCSI; RHYS providers; YAB; PCWA; DJS; Trafficking Taskforce; LGBTQ+ Taskforce*
17. Create off-campus single room occupancy and shared housing opportunities (to be completed via YHDP Project #4).*	17. Oct. 2020-Jul. 2021*	17. TBD pending RFP*	17. TM Associates; YAB; Southern Mgmt. Corp; MDDHCD; PGCC; Bowie State; UMD*
18. Create supportive gap/break housing for students ages 17-24 (to be partially completed via Project #4).*	18. Oct. 2020-Jul. 2021*	18. TBD pending RFP*	18. TM Associates; YAB; Southern Mgmt. Corp; PCWA; MDDHCD; PGCC; Bowie State; UMD*

**TABLE 4 | PERMANENT CONNECTIONS**

**System Goal:** All youth are supported in building, renewing, and strengthening connections to natural and community supports that will help them continue to thrive after exiting services (**permanent connections**).

OBJECTIVES	ACTION STEPS	TIMELINE	LEAD	PARTNER(S)
<p><b>“FAMILY” FINDING.</b> Train and coach all providers (including juvenile services and community providers) in principles of Family Finding adapted to the YHDP population, including a focus on identifying and supporting families of choice.</p>	<p>1. Identify trainers, adapt model, and conduct training and coaching.</p>	<p>1. Sep. 2020- Sep. 2021</p>	<p>1. PCWA</p>	<p>1. CoC; PGCDSS; DJS; All RHYS and YHDP-funded providers</p>
<p><b>FAMILY REUNIFICATION.</b> Provide family reunification and stabilization support for youth who may be able to stay or return home that is tailored to the unique needs of youth.</p>	<p>1. Train and coach all providers in family engagement and reunification best practices for the YHDP population, with a special focus on family reunification work with families of LGBTQ+ youth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Identify trainers and conduct training and coaching; and</li> <li>b. Identify family reunification and stabilization strategies utilized in child welfare that may be beneficial for supporting youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness due to family conflict.</li> </ul> <p>2. Create and utilize reunification/family stabilization teams to respond to in-home emergencies to mediate and eliminate the need for youth to become systems connected.</p>	<p>1. Jan. 2021 and ongoing</p> <p>2. Jul. 2021 and ongoing</p>	<p>1. Sasha Bruce and PCWA</p> <p>2. PCWA</p>	<p>2. PGC YHDP Team; YAB; Health Care Action Coalition; MNCPPC; PGCDSS; LMB; SOC Team; Maryland Mentor; MMYC; NAMI</p> <p>2. Same as above</p>

<b>COMMUNITY NETWORK SUPPORT AND SAFE SPACES.</b> Identify and develop supportive communities and safe spaces for youth and support youth in connecting with these as part of service provision.	1. Identify organizations with expertise and experience in successful authentic youth engagement strategies and train SOC and YHDP leadership and providers in authentic youth engagement.	1. Nov. 2020-Mar. 2021	1. TBD	1. YAB; CLASP; SOC Team; PCWA; NN4Y; True Colors; AFFIRM; CASA; AWAHA; Sasha Bruce; HPRP; Transformation Education Institute; Maryland Mentor; DNR Coaching & Consulting
	2. Secure free access to recreation and parks sites and gyms by partnering with MNCPPC to raise the maximum eligibility age for free passes from 18 to 24.	2. Jan.-Feb. 2021	2. Parks and Recreation	2. MNCPPC; YAB; HPRP
	3. Gather input from youth on communities commonly accessed, and establish structure for routine and continuous outreach to these communities (to be completed as part of YHDP Project #1a).*	3. Nov. 2020-Jan. 2021*	3. TBD pending RFP*	3. YAB; libraries; LMB; CoC Street Outreach; COPs units; MMYC; MNCPPC; PGCPS Community Schools Network; PGCDSS; fitness centers; PCWA; youth-serving orgs*
	4. Support libraries and community centers in extending operating hours with staff trained in identifying youth and young adults experiencing homelessness and connecting them to appropriate supports. Prioritize library branches located in economically disenfranchised and underserved communities (to be completed as part of YHDP Project #1b).*	4. Jan. 2021-Mar. 2022*	4. TBD pending RFP*	4. YAB; libraries; Park Police; County Executive and MNCPPC leadership*
	5. Provide mobile services for youth (to be completed as part of YHDP Projects #1a and 1b).*	5. Sep. 2020-Apr. 2021*	5. TBD pending RFP*	5. PGCDSS; CoC; Fire/EMS; Mobile Integrated Health; SOC Team; YAB; WIB; PGCC; FQHCs*

**TABLE 5 | EDUCATION/EMPLOYMENT**

**System Goal:** All youth have access to tailored and well-coordinated education and employment supports and opportunities that support youth in gaining the resources, knowledge, and skills to transition to a stable and thriving adulthood, achieve autonomy and self-sufficiency, and realize their full potential (education/employment).

OBJECTIVES	ACTION STEPS	TIMELINE	LEAD	PARTNER(S)
<b>K-12 EDUCATION.</b> Build stronger partnerships between the County’s homeless response system and Prince George’s County Public Schools to support K-12 completion for minors experiencing homelessness*	1. Hold ongoing meetings (topics to include: privacy/consent issues for minors, the role of coordinated entry, improved screening mechanisms, safe & supportive environment for self-identification, etc.) with local K-12, Community School Network, PCWA, and CoC leaderships to discuss how to improve school-based identification of unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness, build out cross-system referral protocol to connect identified youth with services across systems; task out next steps.	1. Oct. 2020 and ongoing	1. PGCDSS	1. PGCPSS; CoC; PGCDSS; MMYC; MSDE; YAB; Hillside Works; other K-12 service provider leaders
	2. Identify opportunities to use new Kirwin Commission Funding to expand educational support services for homeless youth.	2. Oct. 2020	2. PGCPSS and PGCDSS	2. CoC; MSDE; NCHE
	3. Train education staff in the services available across systems and how to access.	3. Jan. 2021- Jan. 2022	3. TBD	3. PGCPSS; PGCDSS; CoC; MSDE; libraries; Hillside Works; YAB; other K-12 leaders
	4. Improve supports for transitioning between schools at the same level [K-12 to K-12] and between levels [K-12 to post-secondary], establishing warm and meaningful transfers for students, and reducing loss of educational continuity.	4. Jan. 2021-Jan. 2022	4. TBD	4. PGCPSS; CoC; K-12 leaders; PGCDSS; MSDE; higher ed leadership; YAB

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Provide ongoing access to academic tutoring, school-based interventions for somatic, behavioral health, and intellectual challenges, and after-school programming geared to the needs of youth experiencing homelessness to support them in staying in and succeeding in school.</li> <li>6. Establish consistent Single Points of Contact (SPOC) at K-12 level for students experiencing homelessness; create and update SPOC directory.</li> <li>7. Develop materials and trainings to encourage SPOCs to collaborate with teachers to ensure students experiencing homelessness are referred for and receive evaluation for potential learning challenges.</li> <li>8. Develop materials and trainings to support guidance counselors and school social workers to provide appropriate education navigation support for youth experiencing homelessness.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Jan. 2021-Jan. 2022</li> <li>6. Jan. 2021-Jun. 2021</li> <li>7. Apr. 2021</li> <li>8. Apr. 2021</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. PGCPS and PGCDSS</li> <li>6. PGCPS McKinney-Vento Liaison</li> <li>7. PGCPS McKinney-Vento Liaison</li> <li>8. PGCPS McKinney-Vento Liaison</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. MD Out of School Time Network; CoC; MMYC; Hillside Works; LMB; PGCHD; SOC Team; FQHCs providing school-based health services; RHYS and YHDP-funded providers; other Community Schools Network providers</li> <li>6. PGCPS; PGCDSS; YAB; CoC; MMYC; Hillside Works; RHYS and YHDP providers</li> <li>7. PGCPS; PGCDSS; YAB; CoC; MMYC; Hillside Works; RHYS and YHDP providers</li> <li>8. PGCPS; PGCDSS; YAB; CoC; MMYC; Hillside Works; RHYS and YHDP-funded providers</li> </ol>
<p><b>CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION.</b> Build stronger partnerships between the County’s homeless response system and local career and technical education (CTE) programs at the secondary and post-secondary levels to support CTE pathway access and success for youth and young adults experiencing homelessness.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hold meetings with local (secondary and post-secondary level) CTE leaders and CoC leadership to establish strategies for increasing youth access to CTE and other needed supports (topics to include: leveraging new Perkins V homeless special populations requirements; CTE credit transfer issues; addressing barriers to CTE, including unnecessary enrollment requirements, high mobility and credit transfer, schedule issues, and afterschool jobs; cross-systems referral protocols, training of staff; and opportunities for connection to YHDP or other navigation/case management or drop-in center supports.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Feb. 2021 and ongoing</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. NCHE</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. YAB; PGCPS; PGCDSS; CTE and CoC leadership; PGCC; Perkins V Rep.</li> </ol>

	2. Strengthen CTE engagement based on Perkins V provisions at secondary level.	2. Feb. 2021 and ongoing	2. Perkins V Representative	2. YAB; CTE and CoC leadership; Perkins V representative; NCHE; PGCDSS; YHDP leadership
<b>HIGHER EDUCATION.</b> Increase engagement and strengthen partnership with higher education stakeholders to support successful transitions between K-12 and higher ed, and higher ed completion for youth by building on the work of the County's 100 Day Challenge to support intentional homeless response system and higher education partnerships that address key gaps	1. Convene all institutions of higher education that pick up where 100 Day Challenge left off to develop policies, practice recommendations, and strategies that solve for key issues that still need to be addressed (e.g., identifying youth, accessing the tuition waiver, and improving student supports).	1. Jan.-Aug. 2021	1. TBD	1. YAB; CoC; MSDE; MHEC; higher ed leaders; PGCDSS; YHDP leadership; HPRP
	2. Incorporate housing-related questions into IHE questionnaires to improve identification of youth and connect them to supports (Piloted at UMD for 2019-2020 school year).	2. Jan.-Mar. 2021	2. UMD	2. PGCDSS; HPRP; MHEC; NCHE; Schoolhouse Connection; The Institute/UMB SSW
	3. Train higher education staff to identify and refer youth; train homeless service system staff in housing interventions, education pathways, and supports available to youth.	3. Jan. 2021 and ongoing	3. TBD	3. PGCDSS; higher ed; HPRP; YHDP leadership; PGC DHCD; NCHE; Schoolhouse Connection; YAB
	4. Improve access to housing and other campus- and community-based needed supports through an effective cross-systems identification and referral protocol between higher ed and the homeless response system for higher ed students experiencing homelessness.	4. Jan. 2021 and ongoing	4. TBD	4. PGCDSS; higher ed staff; HPRP; YHDP leadership; PGC DHCD; NCHE; Schoolhouse Connection; YAB
	5. Build out campus-based networks of support, including establishing SPOCs at all higher education institutions for youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness.	5. Sep. 2020 and ongoing	5. UMD	5. PGCDSS; higher ed; Southern Mgmt. Corp; TM Associates; AOBA; YAB
	6. Create a flex fund for students to be able to get assistance with additional education costs (e.g. books, academic feeds, campus parking fees, meal plans, etc.).	6. Jan.-Dec. 2021	6. PGCDSS	6. CoC; PGC DHCD; MD DHCD; higher ed financial aid counselors; MHEC; YHDP providers; YAB; Community Foundation; Office of Strategic Partnership

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Provide supports for youth seeking higher education to apply to schools as independent students, complete their FAFSA (particularly addressing issues for youth who do not have parental tax information and/or have been wards of the state) and access the tuition waiver and other forms of financial assistance (e.g., grants, scholarships, work/study programs, etc.).</li> <li>8. Work to remove barriers to eligibility for and use of SNAP benefits for youth enrolled in a higher education institution.</li> <li>9. Collaborate with the Department of Education on technical corrections to FAFSA for identification of youth experiencing homelessness or housing instability.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Sep. 2020-Jun. 2021</li> <li>8. Oct. 2019 – Dec. 2021</li> <li>9. Aug. 2021</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. TBD</li> <li>8. PGCDSS</li> <li>9. HPRP</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. PGCDSS; higher ed financial aid counselors; First Generation College Bound; YAB; MHEC; MDSE; Schoolhouse Connections; NCHE</li> <li>8. MD DHS; YAB</li> <li>9. MSDE; NCHE; Schoolhouse Connections; MHEC; US ED; HUD TA</li> </ol>
<p><b>JOB TRAINING/READINESS.</b> Provide immediate access to opportunities to gain information, skills, and qualifications necessary to support rapid employment (i.e., tutoring, job readiness, testing, mentoring, on-the-job training, and paid internships).</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide diverse, youth-specific employment services and training opportunities that are short-term, interactive, project-based, and competency-based.</li> <li>2. Build a network (agencies, employers, services) of providers that offer opportunities to career pathways on a rolling basis.</li> <li>3. Provide training and support services that address common barriers to accessing employment (e.g., work attire and tools, education in soft skills and workplace ethics, managing ADA disclosure, transportation and child care assistance, improving literacy and numeracy, meeting drug screening requirements, etc.).</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Feb. 2021 and ongoing</li> <li>2. Oct. 2020-Jun. 2021</li> <li>3. Feb. 2021 and ongoing</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. PGCC College &amp; Career Center</li> <li>2. WIOA</li> <li>3. PGCC College &amp; Career Center</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. PGCDSS; YAB; Chick-fil-A; WIOA; MMYC; Hillside Works; Eckerd Connects; Trades Union leaders; CTE leaders; YAB; ARC of PGC; MD DORS</li> <li>2. Same as above</li> <li>3. Same as above</li> </ol>



	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Identify sources of legal support for youth to address employment access issues such as discrimination and discriminatory employment policies.</li> <li>5. Ensure all employment services are directly connected with the drop-in center(s) and TH and RRH programs.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Feb.-Jun. 2021</li> <li>5. Oct. 2020 and ongoing</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. HPRP</li> <li>5. YHDP Steering Team</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. PGCDSS; PGCC College &amp; Career Center; WIOA; EEOC; CoC; YAB; YHDP and RHYS providers</li> <li>5. Same as above.</li> </ol>
<p><b>EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.</b> Partner with local employers to foster a 500% increase in youth employers and increase employment opportunities, including long-term and career ladder opportunities, that are aligned with youth needs and provide parity for diverse youth, supporting continuous self-direction and life-long learning.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conduct a market analysis of employment sectors and businesses with low-level skill entry jobs with hands-on training and strong career ladder opportunities that are relevant in our community market.</li> <li>2. Engage in strategic recruitment of employers for youth, particularly for youth under the age of 18 and immigrant youth with varying types of documentation.</li> <li>3. Educate the business community about the needs of youth who may present with various levels/types of instability.</li> <li>4. Create a database of “quick connect” employers (and service providers) who will hire youth at the point of identification and are affirming.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. .Oct. 2020-Dec. 2020</li> <li>2. Jan.-Jun. 2021</li> <li>3. Oct. 2021 and ongoing</li> <li>4. Jan.-Jun. 2021</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. WIOA</li> <li>2. WIOA and EDC</li> <li>3. Chick-fil-A and EDC</li> <li>4. WIOA and Eckerd</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. PGCDSS; YHDP Steering Team; PGCC College &amp; Career Center; County Planning Office and County Summer Youth Initiative; ARC of PGC; MD DORS</li> <li>2. PGCDSS; PGCC College &amp; Career Center; PGCCPS; Southern Mgmt. Corp.; Chick-fil-A; MMYC; YAB; Hillside Works</li> <li>3. PGCDSS; YHDP Team; RHYS and YHDP-funded providers; PGCC College &amp; Career; PGCC Cares; UMD TERP Success; YAB</li> <li>4. PGCDSS; YHDP Steering; County Stat; Office of Planning; Hillside Works; Summer Youth Initiative; MMYC; Office of Strategic Partnership; YAB</li> </ol>

**TABLE 6 | SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING**

**System Goal:** All youth have access, through an integrated, youth-driven system of care, to tailored and well-coordinated community services that align with youths’ needs and support youth in meeting needs across domains in a youth-driven way (social-emotional well-being).

OBJECTIVES	ACTION STEPS	TIMELINE	LEAD	PARTNER(S)
<b>CONTINUITY OF CARE.</b> Develop systemwide processes and procedures to ensure youth are able to maintain consistent care across providers and systems as the youth’s needs change over time.	1. Align eligibility criteria and definitions across the child and adult systems to reduce gaps and cliffs for youth currently accessing services.	1. Apr. 2020-Dec. 2021	1. Will rotate based on topic area	1. PGCDSS; CoC; SOC Team; CLASP; HPRP; USICH; MDH; DHCD; DHS; LBHA; GOCPYVS; PGC DHCD; Public Justice Center; PCWA; WIOA; DPW&T; Housing Authority; ARC of PGC
	2. Create a transition process for youth to safely transition to adult services.	2. Jan. 2021	2. SOC Team	2. LBHA; PGCDSS; PGCHD; FQHCs; hospitals; CLASP; MDH; Health Care Alliance; MD Health Connection; Mt. Sinai Adolescent Center
	3. Form a YHDP Community of Practice of all YHDP and community youth-serving providers and systems that meets regularly to ensure sharing learning and collaborative service provision, and joint system improvement efforts.	3. Oct. 2020 and ongoing	3. YHDP Steering Team	3. All YHDP and other youth serving providers
	4. Create youth quality of care standards to inform trainings and practice expectations of providers (both universal and by service type).	4. Jun. 2020-Feb. 2021	4. YHDP Steering Team	4. LBHA; CLASP; SOC Team; YAB; All RHYS and YHDP-funded providers; LMB; GOCPYVS; HPRP; PGC DHCD; SMYAL; GOC; LGBTQ+ Taskforce; Trafficking Taskforce; NASH; PCWA
	5. Ensure case managers, peer navigators, and others serving youth have access to a continuum of youth-appropriate service providers with a proven track record to which they can refer who can meet youth needs	5. Feb. 2021	5. YHDP Steering Team	5. YAB; PGCDSS; CoC; SOC Team; DJS; PCWA; PGCP; LBHA; CASA; other youth-serving system leaders

	<p>6. Geomap existing providers (somatic, behavioral health, and others) in relation to where young people live or places, they frequent, and develop strategies to relocate providers or develop new providers in underserved areas</p>	<p>6. Oct.-Dec.2020</p>	<p>6. Planning Office; SOC team</p>	<p>6. CoC; MDH; LBHA; YAB; somatic and behavioral health providers; hospitals; PGCHD; CLASP; County Stat</p>
	<p>7. Implement a universal intake, assessment tool, triage system of referrals, and discharge planning process across the network of providers.</p>	<p>7. Jan.-Sep. 2021</p>	<p>7. YHDP Steering Team</p>	<p>7. PCWA; DJS; DOC; hospitals; CoC; YAB; Coordinated Entry Workgroup; The Institute/UMB SSW; Homebase; RHYS and YHDP-funded providers</p>
	<p>8. Create/Increase communication pathways among providers and systems to coordinate care and integrate service systems (particularly for holistically serving youth who are differently abled with significant somatic, behavioral health, and/or intellectual challenges) where possible through coordination and co-location.</p>	<p>8. Feb. 2021-Sep. 2021</p>	<p>8. SOC Team</p>	<p>8. CoC; Healthcare Alliance; CLASP; PGCDSS; hospitals; FQHCs; LBHA; MDH</p>
	<p>9. Identify strategies to improve the continuity of care across the DC-MD line and the youth and young adult age-span (e.g., reciprocity agreements, service contracts across DC and MD, dual Medicaid eligibility)</p>	<p>9. Jan.-May 2021</p>	<p>9. TBD</p>	<p>9. PGCDSS; PGC and DC CoC and YHDP Steering Teams; HMIS; PGC and DC PCWAs; DHS; MDH; DC Health Link; PGC and DC YHDP teams</p>
	<p>10. Identify key training topics and sources of training to support development and maintenance of core competencies identified in this plan, implementing a youth training academy for all youth service providers.</p>	<p>10. Jan. 2020 and ongoing</p>	<p>10. YHDP Steering Team</p>	<p>10. YAB; CLASP; SOC Team; PCWA; NN4Y; True Colors; AFFIRM; CASA; AWHA; HPRP; Sasha Bruce; Maryland Mentor; Transformation Education Institute; Safe Center; The Institute/UMB SSW</p>
	<p>11. Establish a special certification at Maryland BSW and MSW programs to ensure a workforce with expertise in supporting youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness.</p>	<p>11. Apr. 2021 for curriculum approval; Aug. 2021 for implementation</p>	<p>11. The Institute/UMB SSW</p>	<p>11. MD BSW and MSW programs; Regional SW Grand Challenges Homelessness Council</p>

<p><b>FOSTER TRUST BETWEEN YOUTH AND PROVIDERS.</b> Grow the number of high-quality providers trusted by youth by 200% (as shown through increased rate of returning visitors).</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify strong providers that have a track record of youth returning for a second visit to use as models.</li> <li>2. Grow the number of providers that can provide trusted, high-quality, and equitable services to all YHDP identified special populations by identifying effective models, implementing these, and training and coaching providers.</li> <li>3. Pursue a Medicaid waiver to allow medical billing for peer navigator staff.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sep. 2021</li> <li>1. Jun. 2021</li> <li>2. Feb. 2021</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. SOC Team</li> <li>2. SOC Team</li> <li>3. SOC Team</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. YAB; PGCHD; PGCDSS; CoC; UMD; County Stat; HMIS</li> <li>2. Mary Center; MMYC; Casa de Maryland; La Clinica del Pueblo; CASA; SMYAL; AFFIRM; LGBTQ+ Taskforce; Trafficking Taskforce; HUD and SAMHSA TA; DNR Coaching &amp; Consulting</li> <li>3. PGCDSS; LBHA; YHDP leadership; CLASP; MDH; CSH</li> </ol>
<p><b>DROP-IN CENTER(S).</b> Create a Drop-in Center(s) as a low barrier access point for youth to receive services</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify the locations and models for drop-in centers likely to be the most successful in the County, including mobile, school/campus-based, and/or co-located centers within libraries, parks and recreation centers or other community spaces (to be completed via YHDP Project #1b).*</li> <li>2. Ensure effective needs assessment process is always conducted within the drop-in center as youth are engaged and quickly and appropriately referred to the appropriate services (to be completed via YHDP Project #1b).*</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Nov. 2020*</li> <li>2. Sep. 2020 and ongoing*</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10. TBD pending RFP*</li> <li>11. TBD pending RFP*</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. MNCPPC; libraries; YAB; PGCDSS*</li> <li>2. PGCDSS; The Institute/UMB SSW; HMIS; LBHA; SOC Teams; libraries; MNCPPC; Coordinated Entry Workgroup*</li> </ol>
<p><b>RESOURCE SUPPORT.</b> Create a collection of readily available and easily accessible resources to meet youths' basic needs; address barriers to accessing supportive services, education, and employment, to enable them to better access and engage in supportive services, and fosters independence.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Transportation:</b> Explore partnership with Lyft, United Way, Hop Skip Drive expansion, partnerships with the local DPW&amp;T and Metro to provide free passes to youth, and partnerships with car dealerships</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Oct. 2020-Jan. 2022</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. TBD</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. DPW&amp;T; MDOT; MVA; DC Transportation Authority; LEA; Transit Police; YAB</li> </ol>

	<p>2. <b>Phone and Internet:</b> Identify internet service providers who offer low-income service plans and include a service array of providers, as well as wireless providers who have immediate access to technology hardware (phones) for youth who express this need</p> <p>3. <b>Identification and Documentation:</b> Review existing cost waivers to access to basic documents (birth certificates, social security cards, photo IDs, passports, immigration papers) and explore opportunities to expand these waivers, establish a flex fund to cover additional costs, identify strategies for obtaining alternative identification documentation to support accessing replacement documentation, and establish a protocol with MVA to support youth access to drivers licenses and IDs.</p> <p>4. <b>Food:</b> Identify ways to use SNAP for meal plans, establish expeditors to process emergency SNAP benefits, establish a fund to mirror food benefits for foreign-born without documentation and/or minors, establish food alternatives for youth ineligible for SNAP, and explore meal swap programs (exchanging unhealthy food for healthy food).</p> <p>5. <b>Financial stability:</b> Explore options to provide financial literacy information and access to bank accounts and credit generating opportunities..</p> <p>6. <b>Wellness:</b> provide wellness, mindfulness, and other wellness supports and groups.</p>	<p>2. Oct. 2020-Jan. 2022</p> <p>3. Oct. 2020-Jan. 2022</p> <p>4. Oct. 2020-Jan. 2022</p> <p>5. Oct. 2020-Jan. 2022</p> <p>7. Oct. 2020-Jan. 2022</p>	<p>2. TBD</p> <p>3. TBD</p> <p>4. TBD</p> <p>5. HIP</p> <p>5. MNCPP</p>	<p>2. PGCDSS; CoC; PGCOIT; Wireless and Internet Service Providers; YAB</p> <p>3. PGCHD; Vital Records; MVA; SSA; HPRP; MD ICH-Youth workgroup</p> <p>4. PGCDSS; DHS; CAFB; PGPCS; YAB; MMYC; higher ed leaders; community-based food pantries; Schoolhouse Connection; NCHE</p> <p>5. YAB; SEED; UCAP; PGC Community Federal Credit Union; HomeFree-USA; EDC; Centro De Apoyo Familiar; HOPE Inc.</p> <p>5. Libraries; NAMI; CCSI; YAB; Joe’s Emporium; Mt. Sinai Adolescent Center; PGCAHC; fitness centers; PGCHD</p>
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<p><b>BY-NAME LIST.</b> Develop a real-time by-name list of youth experiencing homelessness to be reviewed during regular case conferencing meetings to identify high system users and implement a system to better coordinate their care</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maintain a by-name list of youth across systems and service providers who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and conduct regular case conferencing with all applicable systems and service providers to address needs of identified youth.</li> <li>2. Develop a real-time documentation tool with app and text-based mobile options that will allow community agencies and providers to input data pertaining to youth experiencing homelessness (to be completed via YHDP Project #9).*</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Jul. 2020 and ongoing</li> <li>2. Jan. 2021-Sep. 2021*</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Coordinated Entry Team</li> <li>2. TBD pending RFP*</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. CoC; SOC Team; YHDP Team; all RHYS and YHDP-funded providers; all impacted youth providers</li> <li>2. CoC; PGCDSS; PGCPD; SOC Team; PGCHD; DOC; Fire/EMS Mobile Integrated Health; Youth REACH MD; HMIS lead; Wellsky; County Stat; Office of Planning; EOC Command Center; Youth Outcomes Project*</li> </ol>
<p><b>CROSS-SYSTEM DATA PLATFORM AND SYSTEM/SERVICE QUALITY.</b> Develop a cross-system data platform that brings together data from across multiple systems and that incorporates all identified measures from across all applicable systems to monitor effectiveness of interventions and services for youth.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 1. Map out available data across systems and compare with data needed; identify strategies to fill gaps.</li> <li>2. Identify universal data elements to be collected across systems to form a common core data set to be utilized systemwide.</li> <li>3. Develop and execute a plan to begin to collect any needed data not currently available.</li> <li>4. Put data sharing agreements in place with applicable departments, agencies, and organizations.</li> <li>5. Design and implement a systemwide continuous quality improvement (CQI) to regularly review services utilization and outcomes, including equity and outcomes for all identified special populations, and revise services or systems as needed as a result of this review</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Jul. 2020-Sep. 2020</li> <li>2. Jul. 2020-Sep. 2020</li> <li>3. Oct. 2020 and ongoing</li> <li>4. Oct.-Dec. 2020</li> <li>5. Oct. 2020-Aug. 2021</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Institute/UMB SSW</li> <li>2. The Institute/UMB SSW</li> <li>3. The Institute/UMB SSW</li> <li>4. PGCDSS</li> <li>5. The Institute/UMB SSW</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. YAB; PGCDSS; DHS; MSDE; DHCD; MDH; Housing Authority of Prince George's; DJS; Optum; HMIS; DOC; SOC Team; PGCPD; County Stat; MD THINK; Office of Planning; Motorola</li> <li>2. YAB; PGCDSS; PCWA; HMIS; SOC Team; PGCPD; DJS; DOC; County Stat; Office of Planning</li> <li>3. All impacted system representatives</li> <li>4. All impacted system leaders</li> <li>5. MD THINK; MSDE; PGC DHCD; HMIS; DJS; PGCDSS; MDH; County Stat; Office of Planning; YAB; YHDP Steering Team</li> </ol>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Utilize the CQI process to identify service needs and gaps and work to address these gaps through program improvements, policy, and/or legislation.</li> <li>7. Contract with system builder to design and construct the data system that will produce youth-specific outcome reports (to be completed via YHDP Project #9).*</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Oct. 2020 and ongoing</li> <li>7. Mar.-Jun. 2021*</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. CoC Steering Committee</li> <li>7. TBD pending RFP*</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. The Institute/UMB SSW; YAB; HMIS; all impacted data partners; YHDP Steering Team</li> <li>7. YHDP Steering Team; PGCDSS; YAB; HMIS; County Stat; SOC Team*</li> </ol>
<p><b>CHILD CARE AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.</b> Build stronger partnerships between the County's homeless response system and local childcare and early childhood education providers to support access to and programs for pregnant and parenting youth and young adults experiencing homelessness.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Build out specific cross-systems identification and referral protocols to connect youth-headed families experiencing homelessness to pregnancy and parenting supports available across the system and increase provider knowledge of available ECE/homeless system supports.</li> <li>2. Explore ways to assist with accessing childcare vouchers and provide parenting youth with immediate access to affordable childcare options, including youth who are enrolled in higher education, youth with newborns, and youth with non-traditional work hours (e.g., overnight).</li> <li>3. Create an information-sharing/awareness campaign for a young parent audience to increase awareness of available supports.</li> <li>4. Explore options for providing youth-tailored prenatal care and parenting education</li> <li>5. Eliminate barriers for pregnant and parenting youth to attend in-person trainings and meetings (e.g., providing transportation, childcare, etc.).</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Feb. 2021 and ongoing</li> <li>2. Sep.-Dec. 2020</li> <li>3. Feb. 2021 and ongoing</li> <li>4. Apr. 2021</li> <li>5. Jan.-Sep. 2021</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. TBD</li> <li>2. St. Ann'</li> <li>3. TBD</li> <li>4. TBD</li> <li>5. TBD</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. PGCDSS; PGCPs pre-K; YHDP Steering Team; WIC; Child Care Resource Center; Judy Hoyer Family Learning Center; Child Locate; other ECE leaders</li> <li>2. PGCDSS; YAB; MHEC; Child Care Administration</li> <li>3. PGCDSS; ECE Leaders; CoC; St. Ann's; HHSE Public Affairs team</li> <li>4. PGCDSS; PGCPs; MNCPPC; MMYC; St. Ann's; Child Care Resource Center; PGCHD; WIC; pregnancy centers</li> <li>5. PGCDSS; PGCPs; MNCPPC; St. Ann's; MMYC; Child Care Resource Center; Judy Hoyer Family Learning Center; fitness centers</li> </ol>

<p><b>BEHAVIORAL AND SOMATIC HEALTHCARE.</b> Increase (20% over baseline) timely, on-demand, convenient access to a broad array of somatic and behavioral health services in a range of youth-friendly settings.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Eliminate barriers to obtaining health insurance and accessing physical and behavioral healthcare services through a designated health insurance navigator.</li> <li>2. Establish ACT and TCM teams for youth.</li> <li>3. Extend adult-tiered case rate structure for PRP to include 16 &amp; 17-year-olds.</li> <li>4. Develop youth-specific medical necessity criteria for mobile treatment services.</li> <li>5. Expand eligibility for mobile crisis and stabilization services, including an extension to age 25</li> <li>6. Expand SOAR to create a SOAR youth initiative.</li> <li>7. Design and implement a system to conduct daily mental health check-ins with youth utilizing school counselors, peer support groups, text line, etc.</li> <li>8. Ensure integration of behavioral and physical health services and require behavioral health to be part of every health interaction, including sanctions to respond to parity violations.</li> <li>9. Develop strategies or flexible funding and balanced payer model in conjunction with increased Medicaid and private insurance billing strategies to provide free or very low-cost access to basic health services (medical, dental, vision, prescription) and behavioral healthcare that is driven by need rather than funding (e.g., Mt. Sinai’s Adolescent Center in NY).</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Jul. 2020 and ongoing</li> <li>2. Apr. 2021</li> <li>3. Feb. 2021</li> <li>4. Jan. 2021</li> <li>5. Feb. 2021</li> <li>6. Jan. 2021</li> <li>7. Sep. 2021 and ongoing</li> <li>8. Feb. 2021</li> <li>9. Jan. 2021 and ongoing</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. TBD</li> <li>2. SOC Team</li> <li>3. MDH</li> <li>4. CLASP</li> <li>5. MDH and SOC Team</li> <li>6. MDH and SOC Team</li> <li>7. SOC Team</li> <li>8. SOC Team</li> <li>9. TBD</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. PGCDSS; Prince George’s County Health Connect; PGCHD; FQHCs</li> <li>2. CoC; YAB; PGCPs school-based MH expansion; iMind; MDH; PEP; FQHCs</li> <li>3. CLASP; CoC; SOC Team</li> <li>4. SOC Team; LBHA; CoC; PGCDSS; PEP; MDH; FQHCs; SAMHSA TA</li> <li>5. LBHA; CoC; PGC; PGCDSS; CLASP; SAMHSA</li> <li>6. PGCDSS; CoC; SOAR Lead; MDH; SAMHSA</li> <li>7. PGCPs; PGCDSS; Mobile Crisis; CLASP; RHYS and YHDP-funded providers; LMB; all other youth providers</li> <li>8. PGCHD; FQHCs; CLASP; PGCDSS; Health Care Alliance; Mt. Sinai Adolescent Center; MD Health Connection; YAB</li> <li>9. Same as above</li> </ol>
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10. Increase the number of providers in the County that offer partial hospitalization, inpatient treatment, mobile treatment, mobile crisis, and peer navigation services through workforce development, recruitment, and funding.	10. Jan. 2021 and ongoing	10. SOC Team	10. Adventist Hospital; Affiliated Santé; Doctor's Hospital; PGCHD; CoC; somatic and behavioral health providers
11. Expand community access to school-based supports for somatic, behavioral health, and intellectual needs.	11. Sep. 2020-Sep. 2021	11. PGCPs	11. SOC Team; PGCHD; PGCDSS; FQHCs; hospitals; NAMI
12. Make youth who are differently abled with significant somatic, behavioral health, or intellectual challenges a state and local priority for RRP beds and increase the number of RRP beds available for youth in the County by 500%.	12. Jan. 2021-Jun. 2021	12. MDH	12. PGCDSS; CLASP; NAMI; SOC Team; CoC; LBHA; YAB; LBHA; somatic and behavioral health providers; hospitals
13. Increase the number of Medicaid providers serving youth and youth providers who accept private insurance	13. Jan-Jun. 2021	13. SOC Team	13. PGCDSS; CoC; MDH; LBHA; YAB; FQHCs; YAB; somatic and behavioral health providers; hospitals
14. Eliminate gaps in insurance coverage for youth because of age cut offs and moves across the DC-MD line.	14. Jan. 2021 and ongoing	14. SOC Team and MDH	14. PGCDSS; LBHA; PGCHD; FQHCs; hospitals; CLASP; MD Health Connection; Mt. Sinai Adolescent Center
15. Increase mental health education by providing county-wide Youth Mental Health First Aid Training on a regular basis.	15. Oct. 2020 and ongoing	15. LBHA and BHA	15. NAMI; SOC Team; PGCPs; YAB; CoC
16. Provide suicide prevention programs and other behavioral health prevention support programming.	16. 2021 and ongoing	16. SOC Team	16. NAMI; CCSI; MDH; PGCPs; CLASP; PGCDSS-AFFIRM; LBHA; Affiliated Santé
17. Identify community health staff/peer navigators to assist with behavioral health, medical, disability, and SDOH coordination and support services.	17. Sep. 2020 and ongoing	17. TBD	17. PGCDSS; CoC; PGCHD; CLASP; MDH; SAMHSA; NAMI; YAB; LBHA; FQHCs; hospitals; PGCPs school-based MH expansion; somatic & behavioral health providers

	18. Increase access to existing telehealth services by expanding state telehealth access options and developing real-time, app- and text-based mobile treatment options for youth (to be completed via YHDP Project #10).*	18. Apr. 2020 (legislation), Jun. 2021 (initial implementation)*	18. SOC Team*	18. PGCHD; FQHCs; CLASP; YAB; MDH; PGCDSS*
<b>COORDINATION AND CONTINUITY OF CARE FOR SYSTEM(S)-INVOLVED YOUTH.</b> Reduce negative outcomes for youth involved in the child welfare, juvenile services, and/or adult corrections systems, or at risk of being so involved, by implementing a universal, youth-driven, team approach to case management and transition and/or discharge planning that uses trauma-focused tools to address the needs of the youth.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prevent system involvement for at-risk youth through ACE interface trauma and resilience training for providers and prioritized access to mobile support services for youth at risk of system involvement.</li> <li>2. Refine the Crossover Youth Practice Model to improve reach and effectiveness, especially with youth who first come into contact with juvenile services.</li> <li>3. Assess pathway between juvenile services and child welfare and improve policies for case coordination, transition, and discharge</li> <li>4. Expand Juvenile Court’s Emancipation Checklist beyond child welfare cases to also include juvenile services cases.</li> <li>5. Gather information on the procedures and tools used for case management (LSCMI and RNR tools-Department of Corrections and MCASP tool-Department of Justice), transition, and discharge planning from all systems and identify alignments and gaps (and explore opportunities for streamlining).</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Nov. 2020 and ongoing</li> <li>2. Nov. 2020</li> <li>3. Oct. 2020</li> <li>4. Jul. 2020</li> <li>5. May -Dec. 2020</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. SOC Team</li> <li>2. PCWA and DJS</li> <li>3. PCWA and DJS</li> <li>4. PCWA and DJS</li> <li>5. TBD</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. DJS; PCWA; CoC; PGCPs school-based MH expansion; NAMI</li> <li>2. Circuit Courts; YAB; FC Youth Board</li> <li>3. DOC; Circuit Courts; YAB; FC youth board; CASA</li> <li>4. Circuit Courts; CASA</li> <li>5. PGCDSS; DJS; CASA; CoC; YAB; PCWA; DOJ</li> </ol>

	<p>6. Evaluate Foster Parent and group home recruitment and licensing process to include youth evaluation and conduct additional reviews and ongoing evaluations of foster parents and group home providers to ensure efficacy and fit.</p> <p>7. Increase the number of facilitators available to conduct team transition planning meetings in order to begin youth-led planning at 14 years old for child welfare connected youth.</p> <p>8. Design and implement a cross-system team approach to service, transition, and discharge planning for system-involved youth to transition to adult service network</p> <p>9. Ensure transition and discharge planning begins at least six months before any system exit prior to age 18 and require that community service providers are identified and engaged in the transition plan for the same six months prior to discharge.</p> <p>10. Utilize flex funds (e.g., Family First, Family Reunification, or Family Preservation in child welfare) to divert youth, promote permanence, and provide follow up case management to all systems connected youth for 18 months to ensure stability.</p>	<p>6. Jan. 2021 and ongoing</p> <p>7. Oct. 2020</p> <p>8. Jun 2021</p> <p>9. Jan. 2021</p> <p>10. Jan. 2021</p>	<p>6. PCWA</p> <p>7. PCWA</p> <p>8. PCWA and DJS</p> <p>9. PCWA and DJS</p> <p>10. PCWA and DJS</p>	<p>6. CoC; YAB; FC Advisory Board; DJS; CASA; DHS; NCHCW</p> <p>7. Same as above</p> <p>8. Same as above</p> <p>9. Circuit Courts; community providers; CASA</p> <p>10. CoC; YHDP Steering Team; CASA; YAB; FC Advisory Board</p>
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# YHDP Projects

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While Prince George’s County has been aggressive in finding non-traditional funding resources, local resources simply do not support the expansions needed to fill the identified gaps. The CoC, with multiple partners, is pursuing a number of innovation interventions to fill the gaps, which are described below. Together, these projects, in conjunction with the other supportive activities identified above, are designed to create a comprehensive, coordinated, and youth-driven system of care for youth and young adults that is low-barrier, and prioritizes family and community engagement (including family of choice), immediate access, youth voice and choice, individualized support, social/community integration, and key principles of positive youth development and trauma-informed care. Access to each of these projects will be handled through development of a youth-specific system of coordinated entry and assessment as described above. As detailed in each project description, all projects will also be designed to meet the needs of YHDP identified special populations and ensure equity in access and outcomes across groups, which will be monitored through regular review of process and outcome data through a CQI process (described later in this Plan).

**“You feel like nobody cares. You need the services that show, ‘Yes we do care. We are going to be here for you. We are going to help you get through this.’ That means a lot.”**

**- Anonymous**

Early in the YHDP planning process, the committees and workgroups comprising the governance and planning structure identified several key priorities for Prince George’s County’s YHDP projects in order to achieve the vision and goals:

- A low-barrier access point for youth to receive supportive services and be connected to shelter, housing, and crisis beds;
- Intensive case management and supportive services for youth accessing housing vouchers;
- Youth-specific housing options with flexible lengths of stay and a case management focus on supporting youth in maintaining education and employment;
- Youth-specific housing options with extended lengths of stay and a focus on trauma-informed care to meet the needs of higher acuity youth stepping down from hospitalization and systems-involved youth;
- Host homes for older youth (18+), especially targeting needs of LGBTQ+ and immigrant youth; and
- Long-term housing that leverages PRP and Medicaid for youth who are differently abled with significant somatic, behavioral health, or intellectual challenges.

The final projects described below are designed to address these priorities and other identified youth needs.

## Requirements and Core Components of All YHDP Projects

When developing each of the projects described in this section, the YHDP workgroups identified a series of universal requirements that all YHDP projects should meet. Potential providers for each project will be required to demonstrate that they can meaningfully meet all of the following as part of their response to the request for proposals:

- ✔ All projects must work collaboratively with the YAB, the YHDP governance structure, and the local CoC.
- ✔ All projects must participate in the YHDP project community of practice learning collaborative and required community of practice trainings, including trainings on YHDP identified special populations.
- ✔ All projects must be low-barrier, safe, judgment-free, culturally-competent, equitable, and affirming.
- ✔ All projects must be youth-driven, intentionally incorporate youth voice and collaboration in planning and providing services, developing and evaluating programs and services and staff hires, and provide opportunities for employment and leadership positions for youth.
- ✔ All project staff will serve as positive and stable adult figures and must be compassionate, trauma-informed, strengths-based and intentionally help young people build on their strengths and develop the competencies that they want and need.
- ✔ All project case managers will have sufficient training and demonstrate competency in supporting youth and young adults in transitioning to adulthood and choosing and understanding various pathways and available resources for each of those pathways.
- ✔ All projects will respect family of choice as a viable option for reunification, mentoring, and other supports for the youth they serve.
- ✔ All projects must expose youth to benefits, supportive services, and opportunities to grow financially, educationally, physically, and mentally and to become their best authentic self.
- ✔ All projects will employ or otherwise provide peer navigators as an available resource for all youth.
- ✔ All projects will demonstrate real caring and passion for serving youth.
- ✔ All projects will maintain a diverse staff that is representative of the community and demonstrates cultural humility.
- ✔ All projects must participate in the County's coordinated entry system, including the youth-specific sub-flow, once developed.
- ✔ All projects must collect and submit process and outcome data into the County's HMIS data system, as well as collect any supplemental data necessary for the YHDP CQI process and evaluation.
- ✔ All projects must collaborate with all applicable community supports, such as libraries, parks and recreation, and other potential community supports for youth.

**“But if you're young, it's like you need more time. You need more time to finish your goals and basically grow into the programs.”**

**- Jasmine M.**

In addition to the universal project requirements, there are several foundational elements of youth services and programs that have been identified by YHDP stakeholders as best practices for successfully engaging and effectively and respectfully supporting youth and young adults. These include: providing individualization of services and youth choice throughout, grounding in positive youth development, employing trauma-informed care, utilizing youth-focused family engagement strategies that include engagement of chosen family, and providing meaningful connections to the community and

other natural supports. Proficiency or capacity to build proficiency in each of these areas will be required of all service providers selected to provide any YHDP project described later in this section. Expectations within each of these areas are described in more detail below.

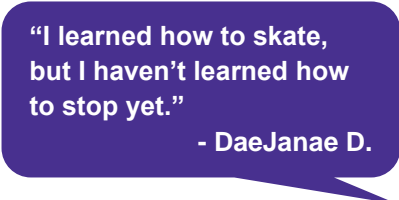
## Individualization & Youth Choice

Several identified elements of effective youth programs revolve around the importance of enabling youth choice and an individualized approach to services. Research has found that effective programs for youth are flexible, provide youth with a sense of independence, and value youth voice in decision-making.<sup>60</sup> By meeting youth where they are and allowing youth choice in service referrals and participation, youth are able to grow critical self-determination, decision-making, and planning skills that are critical to future success. At the program level, this means an emphasis on relationship and trust building<sup>61</sup> that builds a partnership with the youth through creation of safe spaces and utilization of strengths-based, individualized assessment approaches with workers who are trained in fostering youth voice and supporting them in driving their service plan through a youth-selected and youth-led team. This can be supported by ensuring staff have lived experience or work closely with peer navigators who have lived experience. Youth programs that effectively partner with youth, rather than providing services and supports to or for youth,<sup>62</sup> have demonstrated greater effectiveness and ability to improve youth outcomes (much of this evidence is from evaluation of programs utilizing a positive youth development framework, which is key to fostering individualization and youth choice, as discussed further below).<sup>63</sup>

It is also important that youth choice be a driving factor at the various administrative levels of the program and service system.<sup>64</sup> As described above, the Prince George's County YAB will play a key role in this; however, it is equally important that programs see their role in ensuring youth leadership throughout by having youth involved in all program, policy, and planning decisions, and maintaining an active connection with the YAB. It is also important that programs regularly collect, review, and respond to youth feedback through participation in the systemwide CQI process as well as by conducting program-level youth satisfaction surveys.

## Positive Youth Development

Positive Youth Development (PYD) is defined by the Interagency Working Group on Youth Programs as “an intentional, pro-social approach that engages youth within their communities, schools, organizations, peer groups, and families in a manner that is productive and constructive; recognizes, utilizes, and enhances young people’s strengths; and promotes positive outcomes for young people by providing opportunities, fostering positive relationships, and furnishing the support needed to build on their leadership strengths.”<sup>65</sup> PYD was one of the first approaches identified for working effectively to support youth and young adults experiencing homelessness or housing instability. A 2007 report to Congress, *Promising Strategies to End Youth Homelessness*, identified the Administration for Children & Families’ PYD approach that promotes prevention of youth homelessness by addressing some of the root causes of youth homelessness and promoting youth resiliency in overcoming challenges that may be risk factors (e.g., adverse childhood experiences or trauma).<sup>66</sup> PYD also promotes youth agency by involving them as equal partners in interventions and programs, and focusing on their strengths that can be utilized to achieve their goals.<sup>65</sup>



**“I learned how to skate, but I haven’t learned how to stop yet.”**

**- DaeJanae D.**

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<sup>60</sup><https://youth.gov/youth-topics/effective-programs-transition-age-youth>

<sup>61</sup><https://nhhc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/engaging-youth-experiencing-homelessness.pdf>

<sup>62</sup><https://goc.maryland.gov/authentic-youth-engagement/>

<sup>63</sup><https://youth.gov/youth-topics/effectiveness-positive-youth-development-programs>

<sup>64</sup><https://youthmovenational.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/WHWHNationalFINAL.pdf>

<sup>65</sup><https://www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/adolescent-development/positive-youth-development/what-is-positive-youth-development/index.html>

<sup>66</sup>[https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/fysb/youth\\_homelessness.pdf](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/fysb/youth_homelessness.pdf)

Research has shown that programs incorporating the principles of PYD are able to successfully achieve positive outcomes for youth, reduce disparities, and have robust and sustainable impacts.<sup>67</sup> All of the programs designed below will be expected to incorporate core elements of PYD into the program design to help ensure programs achieve long-lasting, positive outcomes for youth to prevent future experiences of homelessness or housing instability for youth. These principles include:

- Be proactive in promoting protective factors;
- Complement efforts to prevent risky behaviors and attitudes and support efforts to address negative behaviors;
- Acknowledge and further develop or strengthen youth assets;
- Enable youth to thrive and flourish by preparing them for a healthy, happy, and safe adulthood;
- Involve youth as active agents who are valued and encouraged to participate in service;
- Instill leadership qualities in youth through supporting their active participation and contributions;
- Engage youth in civic activities to involve them in their schools or broader communities; and
- Involves every aspect of the community in supporting youth.<sup>68</sup>

### Trauma-informed Care Principles

Experiences of trauma, particularly complex trauma—the interaction of multiple and different traumatic experiences—are unfortunately common for youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness. These traumatic experiences can both increase risk of experiencing homelessness, and increase somatic, behavioral health, intellectual, and other challenges that may make it more difficult for youth to effectively exit homelessness and maintain stable housing and long-term positive outcomes.<sup>69</sup>

“What did I do to deserve this?”

- Dennis M.

As a result, the Family and Youth Services Bureau has recognized Trauma-informed Care (TIC) as a key tool for Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs. TIC is defined by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration as “a strengths-based service delivery approach that is grounded in an understanding of and responsiveness to the impact of trauma, that emphasizes physical, psychological, and emotional safety for both providers and survivors, and that creates opportunities for survivors to rebuild a sense of control and empowerment.” Trauma-informed Care incorporates six core principles:

- Safety;
- Trustworthiness and transparency;
- Peer support and mutual self-help;
- Collaboration and mutuality;
- Empowerment, voice, and choice; and
- Cultural, historical, and gender issues.<sup>69</sup>

As with PYD, all of the programs outlined in the next section will be expected to incorporate core principles of TIC into the program design to help ensure programs appropriately recognize and respond to the experiences of youth and take them into account as part of all case management and clinical practices to increase opportunities for youth success in programs and to improve the sustainability of positive youth outcomes over time.

<sup>67</sup><https://www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/adolescent-development/positive-youth-development/index.html>

<sup>68</sup><https://youth.gov/youth-topics/positive-youth-development/key-principles-positive-youth-development>

<sup>69</sup><https://rhyclearinghouse.acf.hhs.gov/news/2019/03/runaway-and-homeless-youth-mental-health-and-trauma-informed-care>

## Family Engagement (Including Family of Choice)

Family conflict is a known driver of youth homelessness<sup>70</sup>, and so ensuring all programs to address youth homelessness are designed to engage family and resolve family conflict is key to ensuring youth experiences of homelessness are rare, brief, and one time only. Furthermore, as youth are transitioning into adulthood, having a supportive network of natural supports is key to ensuring youth are able to navigate new experiences and systems (e.g., maintaining a first job or first apartment) and achieve positive education, employment, health and well-being, and housing outcomes.<sup>70</sup> In some cases, these supports will include individuals who are chosen, rather

**“Sometimes things slip through our hands and we still need somebody to help and cover us. Because it’s really easy to get caught back up into peer pressure and just go in the opposite direction of where we need to be.”**

**- Anonymous**

than biological, family. It is important for programs to recognize the import role both biological and chosen family can play in providing resources and supports for youth at this critical time, even after youth exit formalized services, and capitalize on it as a way to support youth.

An examination of evidence-based family interventions found that six interventions showed promise in connecting and/or reconnecting youth with family and resolving family conflict for youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness or housing instability: Ecologically-based Family Therapy, Functional Family Therapy, Multidimensional Family

Therapy, Multisystemic Therapy, Treatment Foster Care Oregon, and Support to Reunite, Involve, and Value Each Other (STRIVE).<sup>70</sup> All of these models share some critical common elements: having both home- and community-based components, clinical services in conjunction with parent training, weekly sessions over three to six months, delivery by specially trained master’s or doctoral clinicians, and a focus on reconnection, prevention, and/or reconnection instead of reunification.<sup>70</sup>

For each of the projects described in the next section, an expectation will be set that programs include common elements of these successful family engagement efforts with youth. While these models have not been designed to address the needs of LGBTQ+ youth or racial and ethnic minority youth, and have not explored the possibilities of collaborating with schools and conducting appropriate screenings,<sup>70</sup> providers will be encouraged to explore ways to build upon the current evidence to identify adaptations to evidence-based models or identify new promising practices based in the core elements to improve family engagement in supporting youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

## Meaningful Community Connection

Initially identified through longitudinal research on outcomes for youth who aged out of the child welfare system, connection to community and natural supports (sometimes referred to as “relational permanency”) is critical to ensuring youth have the necessary support network to achieve positive outcomes over time.<sup>71</sup> This initial research has led to a broader realization that, for transition age youth, a network of community connections and natural supports is vital to ensuring they have the ongoing support they need to establish themselves and achieve independence, leading the USICH to establish permanent connections as one of the four core outcomes for ending youth homelessness.<sup>72</sup> Effective youth programs must ensure that they establish support for youth that will continue beyond a youth’s exit from the program.

**“This is our community.”**  
**- Anonymous**

<sup>70</sup><https://aspe.hhs.gov/system/files/pdf/205401/FamilyInterventions.pdf>

<sup>71</sup><https://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/SYPTFC-Findings-from-a-National-Survey-11.29.17.pdf>

<sup>72</sup>[https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset\\_library/Ending\\_Youth\\_Homelessness\\_Coordinated\\_Response.pdf](https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/Ending_Youth_Homelessness_Coordinated_Response.pdf)



A program can achieve this by:

- Having youth identify natural supports to be included in their service or treatment plan;
- Collaborating with youth to identify and engage or re-engage natural and community supports, including fictive kin, families of choice, and supportive community groups (e.g., religious organizations, community sports leagues, etc.);
- Identifying (in collaboration with youth) and maintaining connections to a variety of natural community connections with whom they can connect interested youth (e.g., libraries, community centers, etc.), and working with these community organizations to support maintaining a safe space for youth; and
- Addressing any barriers to youth connecting with and engaging in community activities and groups (e.g., purchasing required equipment, covering any fees to participate, and assisting in providing transportation and child care).

To ensure any experience of homelessness is one time only, supporting youth connections to natural and community supports is critical and a necessary component of all YHDP projects. During implementation, each project will be monitored to ensure they are successfully meeting all project requirements and the foundational elements described above through the CQI process described later.

**“You have to be good at communicating. That’s because if she’s relaying all the stuff to make it to me and I’m absorbing it but I’m not acting upon [it], then that’s not effective.”**

**- Anonymous**

## **YHDP Funded Projects**

The following projects were identified by the Prince George’s County YHDP workgroups as HUD-funding eligible projects most critical to achieving the vision and goals of Prince George’s County’s YHDP:

- Project 1 (a-b): Drop-in Center with a Mobile Component and Street Outreach;
- Project 2: Transitional Housing Crisis Beds for Youth;
- Project 3: Joint Transitional and Rapid Re-Housing for Youth;
- Project 4: Joint Transitional and Rapid Re-Housing for Higher Education Students; and
- Project 5: Permanent Supportive Housing for Older Youth with Significant Somatic, Behavioral Health, or Intellectual Challenges.

## PROJECT 1 (A-B) | DROP-IN CENTER WITH A MOBILE COMPONENT AND STREET OUTREACH

**HUD PROJECT TYPES:** (a) Supportive Services – Outreach; (b) Supportive Services – Services Only

**Number OF PROJECTS TO BE FUNDED:** 1 each of outreach and supportive services (with strong preference for providers who can jointly offer both)

**POSSIBLE HUD WAIVERS:**

- Expanded use of supportive service funds;
- Provide moving expenses more than one time to a program participant; and
- Use project administrative funds to attend conferences and training that are not HUD sponsored or HUD approved, provided that the subject matter is relevant to youth homelessness.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** This project is a combination of two projects to develop a no barrier drop-in center or centers and service connector hubs where all youth can meet basic needs and readily access resources, referrals, and support services they need. This project includes increasing capacity to outreach and engage youth within the

“I’ve seen people sleep in laundry rooms or in the hallways of buildings.”  
- Anonymous

community, including mobile (RV)-based services operating on schedule and in partnership with the drop-in locations. The drop-in center(s) will be safe, affirming, youth-driven, and developmentally appropriate places for all youth and young adults under the age of 25 experiencing homelessness. Drop-in Center services will be available on a consistent basis, include new and proven strategies to meet the unique needs of YHDP identified priority special

populations, and will be delivered through a combination of two seamlessly connected projects:

**Project 1a: Outreach.** This portion of the Drop-in Center program will conduct targeted street outreach for youth. It should be staffed by peer navigators with lived experience and other trained staff, and include provisions for providing immediate youth-centric mobile behavioral health services, and connecting youth with the Drop-in Center services and other youth-friendly services within the community.

“At the libraries and the benches at night.”  
- Parris B.

**Project 1b: Supportive Services.** This portion of the project will provide drop-in center services through a variety of access points, including case management services provided by staff who initially engaged youth via Project 1a-Outreach, and who will continue with the youth until they achieve permanent housing. This should include:

“They are outside, wandering around wondering where to go just to sleep peacefully.”  
- DaeJanae D.

1. A single fixed location that serves as the **primary** central hub for basic needs resources, referrals, and support services for youth experiencing homelessness;
2. “Quick connect” satellite drop-in sites in identified recreation centers, libraries, and/or health centers to provide easy and immediate linkages regardless of where a youth resides; and
3. Mobile (RV)-based services operating on schedule and in partnership with the drop-in locations for enhanced services.

These joint projects are divided to support effective financial, project, and data management, but must operate seamlessly as one program for youth (strong preference for providers who can jointly offer both). Proposed direct services to be provided (or provided through connection to and collaboration with other community providers) under this joint project include, but are not limited to:

- Comprehensive needs and strengths assessments;
- Case management;
- Peer navigation;
- Family mediation and reunification and Family Finding (including identifying and connecting with family of choice);
- Resource development and connections to community networks and partners;
- Mainstream benefits and Medicaid/healthcare enrollment;
- Employment assistance and job training programs;
- Medical and behavioral health services;
- Housing navigation and good tenancy skills;
- Education support, including assistance with FAFSA applications (K-12 and higher ed);
- Legal services;
- Pregnancy and parenting supports and childcare/early childhood education access;
- Obtaining IDs and documentation;
- Laundry and shower facilities;
- Mail management and storage;
- Basic needs provision;
- Life skills training;
- Transportation; and
- Flex funds to address emergency needs as they arise.

**HOW THIS PROJECT WILL SUPPORT SPECIAL POPULATIONS:** The Drop-in Center, including all sub-projects and components, will be youth-driven, with youth being central to the development and design, and will include youth voice and collaboration in developing and evaluating programs and services, hiring staff, and opportunities for employment and leadership positions within the center serving as peer navigators, board members, etc. The Center will also create opportunities for young people to engage in community change (this can include opportunities for volunteering, advocacy, and connecting to other programs and community organizations).

The Center will be a low-barrier, safe and affirming place, with no restrictions based on immigration status, alcohol or substance use, pregnancy or parenting status, criminal history, etc. The staff will receive training on trauma-informed approaches, Youth Mental Health First Aid, and issues specific to all YHDP identified special populations.

The Center will be open to all youth and not just serve “high-risk,” but be able to recognize the specific needs of all young people. The Drop-in Center and staff will be strengths-based and intentionally help young people build on their strengths and develop competencies that they want and need. The intake process will utilize motivational interviewing – asking young people what happened to them, rather than what is wrong with them. All youth who come to the Drop-in Center will be given a choice of the next steps they want to take to get the proper resources based on their individual situation. To do this, youth will work in collaboration with staff and adult allies to identify their needs and what services they would like. Service referral or program participation will not be required to be in the space. More intensive wraparound services will be available for youth who need higher levels of support (e.g., youth who are survivors of human trafficking, who are differently abled with significant somatic, behavioral health, and/or intellectual challenges, or who are or were system-involved). Staff will provide warm hand offs for referrals, and minimize youth having to share information and experiences multiple times, reducing potential re-traumatization. Youth privacy and safety will always be prioritized.

The Drop-in Center will utilize the new bill HB 206/ SB207: Unaccompanied Minors in Need of Shelter and Supportive Services that was recently passed in Maryland to provide services to youth under the age of 18. In addition, the Drop-in Center should provide unique spaces for younger youth to engage with peers their own age, and connect youth to age-appropriate supports, as well as family reunification counseling services, but will not make family reunification services a requirement of accessing any services.

The Center staff will provide family re-engagement supports and work with the young people and the identified family members to resolve conflict. The staff will also be respectful of the young person’s family of choice, which may include extended family members (aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents) or other supportive adults, mentors, or friends.

The Center will provide opportunities for connection with other young people for community and friendship building, connecting young people to mentors and supporting adult allies, community organizations, etc.

**“Their only shelter is to go to school, because that’s where they’re going to get a meal, that’s where they’re going to be able to interact with people..., but once they leave school, they’re basically on their own.”**

**- Anonymous**

The Drop-in Center will be designed as a judgment-free safe space. No discrimination within the Drop-in Center on the basis of an individual’s race or ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation, country of origin, religion, or any other characteristic will be tolerated. Staff will be trained on the unique needs of all YHDP special populations. Affirming services will be available for LGBTQ+ youth, including gender neutral facilities, access to health services, and access to resources for legal name/gender change. Translation services (including ASL) must be available for all youth as needed, and youth will be connected to immigration and other legal clinics as needed and desired.

The Drop-in Center will be designed to allow for the youth to stay with their children. Connections to pregnancy and parenting supports, including prenatal and pediatric care, and early childcare and education, will be provided through cross-systems referral protocols and training of Drop-in Center staff about available pregnancy and parenting supports. Drop-in Center supports to meet basic needs will include meeting the needs of babies and children (clothes, cribs, bottles, toys, etc.).

Youth who are or were involved with the child welfare, juvenile justice, or criminal justice systems will be welcome and will be informed about and supported in connecting to any special services available to them (e.g., after-care services) if the youth is interested. The Drop-in Center connects with these systems to be included in transition planning for youth who are re-engaging with or exiting these systems.

## PROJECT 2 | TRANSITIONAL HOUSING CRISIS BEDS FOR YOUTH

**HUD PROJECT TYPE:** Crisis Transitional Housing (Crisis TH)

**Number OF PROJECTS TO BE FUNDED:** 1

**POSSIBLE HUD WAIVERS:**

- Allow youth to maintain initial eligibility for assistance;
- Reevaluate a program participant's resources and support networks less than annually, provided the program participant continues to receive assistance from the program;
- Expanded use of supportive service funds; and
- Use project administrative funds to attend conferences and training that are not HUD sponsored or HUD approved, provided that the subject matter is relevant to youth homelessness.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** This program will provide crisis beds for immediate placement of high acuity youth needing more intensive somatic or behavioral health or other higher intensity, stabilizing supports, and/or who cannot be safely accommodated through the existing system, as identified by the call center, street outreach or at drop-in center hubs. These beds are intended to be offered as a Medicaid reimbursable service for no more than 30 days. For continuity, care coordination will be provided through collaboration with Project 1b.

Proposed direct services to be provided (or provided through connection to and collaboration with other community providers) under this project include, but are not limited to:

- Comprehensive needs and strengths assessments;
- Intensive case management;
- Family mediation and reunification and Family Finding (including identifying and connecting with family of choice);
- Resource development and connections to community networks and partners;
- Mainstream benefits and Medicaid/healthcare enrollment;
- Intensive medical and behavioral health assessment and treatment services;
- Case coordination and transition planning to appropriate step-down programs;
- Housing navigation;
- Education support;
- Legal services;
- Pregnancy and parenting supports and childcare access;
- Obtaining IDs and documentation;
- Laundry and shower facilities;
- Mail management and storage;
- Basic needs provision;
- Life skills training;
- Transportation; and
- Flex funds to address emergency needs as they arise.

**HOW THIS PROJECT WILL SUPPORT SPECIAL POPULATIONS:** All programs will be a low-barrier, safe and affirming place, with no restrictions based on immigration status, alcohol or substance use, pregnancy or parenting status, criminal history, etc. No discrimination within the program on the basis of an individual's race or ethnicity, gender

or sexual orientation, country of origin, religion, or any other characteristic will be tolerated. Staff for this program will have training in trauma-informed approaches, youth-specific needs, and available resources and supports, including for all YHDP special populations, and have experience working with youth and young adults. Staff will provide warm hand offs for referrals, and minimize youth having to share information and experiences multiple times, reducing potential re-traumatization. Youth privacy and safety will always be prioritized. Translation services (including ASL) must be available for youth for whom English is a second language, and youth will be connected to immigration and other legal clinics as needed and desired.

Youth who are parenting will be supported in remaining with their child(ren), and connected to appropriate services, including on-site family services. In accordance with the newly passed Maryland law allowing minor-age youth to consent to shelter and supportive services, all programs will also provide services for minor-age youth as appropriate.

Youth who are or were involved with the child welfare, juvenile justice, or criminal justice systems will be welcome and will be informed about and supported in connecting to any special services available to them (e.g., after-care services) if the youth is interested. The program will make efforts to connect with these systems, as well as the Drop-in Center and County shelter services, to ensure any youth within these systems are identified and connected to the program as needed.

This project is specially designed to meet the needs of YHDP identified special populations who may need more intensive levels of support to stabilize prior to being able to move to a more traditional housing support option, particularly those who may be stepping down from a somatic or behavioral health treatment center. As with all other YHDP services, these services will be individualized to meet the needs of each youth.

## PROJECT 3 | JOINT TRANSITIONAL AND RAPID RE-HOUSING FOR YOUTH

**HUD PROJECT TYPE:** Joint Transitional and Rapid Re-Housing(TH/RRH)

**Number OF PROJECTS TO BE FUNDED:** 1 or more

**POSSIBLE HUD WAIVERS:**

- Extension of Rapid Re-Housing time limitation to 36 months;
- Allow youth to maintain initial eligibility for assistance;
- Reevaluate a program participant’s resources and support networks less than annually, provided the program participant continues to receive assistance from the program;
- Utilize Habitability Standards in 24 CFR 576.403(c) instead of Housing Quality Standards in 24 CFR 578.75 for medium-term assistance (up to 36 months) to allow for more rapid placement;
- Use rent reasonableness standard instead of fair market rent for leasing;
- Waive two-month limitation on security deposits;
- Provide moving expenses more than one time to a program participant;
- Expanded use of supportive service funds;
- Request funds for both rental assistance and leasing in the same project, with an assurance that the funds would not be used for the same individual or family and not in the same unit;
- Provide up to 24 months of services after transitional housing or rental assistance ends; and
- Use project administrative funds to attend conferences and training that are not HUD sponsored or HUD approved, provided that the subject matter is relevant to youth homelessness.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** This project will provide for up to four years of housing assistance using a combination of TH and/or RRH models for youth and young adults in safe, affirming, youth-driven, and developmentally-appropriate housing for unaccompanied youth and young adults under the age of 25 experiencing homelessness (including minor-age youth). These services can be provided in a private home, shared apartment, school dormitory, single room occupancy (SRO), and/or scattered site environment supported by caring staff focused on rapid transition to independence with supports, and will be delivered through a combination of two project components: 1-2 years of TH and/or 1-3 years of RRH, not to exceed four years total.

**“I don’t feel that two years is long enough for somebody to even be okay. They may be okay in the program, but that’s because the program is there. But what happens after the program?”**

**- Jasmine F.**

Specific programs within this project type may seek to serve all youth (with program designs including specific strategies to meet the unique needs of all YHDP identified special populations) OR may propose a unique project targeting one or more of the YHDP identified special populations. This project will also serve youth with housing vouchers (i.e., FUP or FYI) through the RRH component in order to provide youth with needed case management and other supportive services to maintain their housing.

Direct services to be provided (or provided through connection to and collaboration with other community providers) under this project include, but not limited to:

- Comprehensive needs and strengths assessments;
- Case management;

- Peer navigation;
- Family mediation and reunification and Family Finding (including identifying and connecting with family of choice);
- Resource development and connections to community networks and partners;
- Mainstream benefits and Medicaid/healthcare enrollment;
- Employment assistance and job training programs;
- Medical and behavioral health services;
- Housing navigation and good tenancy skills;
- Education support, including assistance with FAFSA applications (K-12 and post-secondary);
- Legal services;
- Pregnancy and parenting supports and childcare/early childhood education access;
- Obtaining IDs and documentation;
- Mail management;
- Basic needs provision;
- Life skills training;
- Transportation;
- Flex funds to address emergency needs as they arise and to pay for unit damages; and
- Transition/exit planning.

**HOW THIS PROJECT WILL SUPPORT SPECIAL POPULATIONS:** All programs will be a low-barrier, safe and affirming place, with no restrictions based on immigration status, alcohol or substance use, pregnancy or parenting status, criminal history, etc. No discrimination within the program on the basis of an individual’s race or ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation, country of origin, religion, or any other characteristic will be tolerated. Staff for this program will have training in trauma-informed approaches, youth-specific needs, and available resources and supports, including for all YHDP special populations, and have experience working with youth and young adults. Staff will work closely with peer navigators to support youth in their service plan development and identifying and connecting with needed services as much as possible.

All programs will provide more comprehensive, and youth-specific wraparound services and peer navigation (perhaps in conjunction with the Drop-in Center) for youth as needed. Programs within this project will give the youth a choice of the next steps they want to take and which of the available housing options youth would like to access to get the proper resources based on their individual situation. More intensive wraparound services will be available for youth who need higher levels of support (e.g., youth who are survivors of human trafficking, who have significant somatic, behavioral health, and/or intellectual challenges, or who are or were system-involved). Staff will provide warm hand offs for referrals, and minimize youth having to share information and experiences multiple times, reducing potential re-traumatization. Youth privacy and safety will always be prioritized. Translation services (including ASL) must be available for youth for whom English is a second language, and youth will be connected to immigration and other legal clinics as needed and desired.

Youth who are parenting will be supported in remaining with their child(ren), and connected to appropriate services, including on-site family services. In accordance with the newly passed Maryland law allowing minor-age youth to consent to shelter and supportive services, all programs will also provide services for minor-age youth as appropriate.



Youth who are or were involved with the child welfare, juvenile justice, or criminal justice systems will be welcome and will be informed about and supported in connecting to any special services available to them (e.g., after-care services) if the youth is interested. The program will make efforts to connect with these systems, as well as the Drop-in Center and County shelter services, to ensure any youth within these systems are identified and connected to the program as needed.

Program staff will provide family re-engagement supports and work with the young people and the identified family members to resolve conflict; however, participation in family reunification services will not be a requirement for participation in the program. The staff will also be respectful of the young person's family of choice, which may include extended family members (aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents) or other supportive adults, mentors, or friends.

## PROJECT 4 | JOINT TRANSITIONAL AND RAPID RE-HOUSING FOR HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS

**HUD PROJECT TYPE:** Joint Transitional and Rapid Re-Housing (TH/RRH)

**Number OF PROJECTS TO BE FUNDED:** 1

### POSSIBLE HUD WAIVERS:

- Allow youth to maintain initial eligibility for assistance;
- Reevaluate a program participant's resources and support networks less than annually, provided the program participant continues to receive assistance from the program;
- Use Habitability Standards in 24 CFR 576.403(c) instead of Housing Quality Standards in 24 CFR 578.75 for medium-term assistance (up to 36 months) to allow for more rapid placement;
- Provide moving expenses more than one time to a program participant;
- Extension of RRH time limitation to 36 months;
- Use rent reasonableness standard instead of fair market rent for leasing;
- Waive two-month limitation on security deposits;
- Expanded use of supportive service funds;
- Request funds for both rental assistance and leasing in the same project, with an assurance that the funds would not be used for the same individual or family and not in the same unit;
- Provide up to 24 months of services after transitional housing or rental assistance ends; and
- Use project administrative funds to attend conferences and training that are not HUD sponsored or HUD approved, provided that the subject matter is relevant to youth homelessness.

"No one ever really sat down and helped me focus in class... I don't even know what you're talking about because you learned that in elementary school, and I didn't."

- Anonymous

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** This project will provide for up to four years of housing assistance for unaccompanied youth and young adults under the age of 25 experiencing homelessness who are *pursuing higher education* in safe, affirming, youth-driven, and developmentally-appropriate housing, inclusive of short-term gap housing based on student needs. Transitional housing staff will include graduated former higher education students with lived experience (peer navigators) serving as onsite Resident Advisors who will be selected through a competitive process in partnership with local universities. TH services will be provided for 1-2 years followed by additional 1-3 years of RRH services to support youth transition to a more permanent housing option not to exceed four years total in the program. This can be provided in a shared apartment, school dormitory, SRO and/or scattered site environment supported by caring staff focused on rapid transition to independence with supports, and attainment of a higher education degree.

Proposed direct services to be provided under this project (or provided through connection to and collaboration with other community providers) include, but are not limited to:

- Needs and strengths assessment;
- Case management;
- Peer navigation;
- Basic needs provision (including food supplements and meal plan assistance);
- Life skills training;
- Mainstream benefits and Medicaid/healthcare enrollment;

- Education support, including tutoring, graduation monitoring, and assistance with FAFSA and other grant/scholarship applications\*;
- Resources development and connections to community networks and partners;
- Transportation;
- Medical and behavioral health services (campus-based and community);
- Pregnancy and parenting supports and childcare/early childhood education access;
- Housing navigation and good tenancy skills;
- Landlord/tenant mediation;
- Obtaining IDs and documentation;
- Mail management;
- Flex fund to address emergency needs as they arise and to pay for unit damages; and
- Transition/exit planning.

*\*A key focus of support services should be on educational supports and care coordination with identified single points of contact (SPOC) at all universities and colleges to remove barriers to student learning and educational success.*

**HOW THIS PROJECT WILL SUPPORT SPECIAL POPULATIONS:** This program will be a low-barrier, safe and affirming place, with no restrictions based on immigration status, alcohol or substance use, pregnancy or parenting status, criminal history, etc. No discrimination within the program on the basis of an individual’s race or ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation, country of origin, religion, or any other characteristic will be tolerated. Staff for this program will have training in trauma-informed approaches, youth-specific needs, and available resources and supports, including for all YHDP special populations, and have experience working with youth and young adults, particularly within higher education. Staff will work closely with peer navigators who have completed higher education and points of contact at each institution of higher education within the County, and any out-of-state institutions if attended by youth within the program, to support youth in their service plan development and identifying and connecting with needed services as much as possible.

The project will provide more comprehensive, youth-specific wraparound services (perhaps in conjunction with the Drop-in Center) for youth as needed, with a focus on educational assistance and supports, including supporting FAFSA applications, utilization of applicable tuition waivers, providing supports to obtain necessary education materials (e.g., books, lab materials, etc.), and connecting youth with available campus resources and community connections (e.g., study groups, extracurricular activities) based on their needs and interests. More intensive wraparound services will be available for youth who need higher levels of support (e.g., youth who are survivors of human trafficking, who have significant somatic, behavioral health, and/or intellectual challenges, or who are or were system-involved). Staff will provide warm hand offs for referrals, and minimize youth having to share information and experiences multiple times, reducing potential re-traumatization. Youth privacy and safety will always be prioritized.

Youth who are parenting will be supported in remaining with their child(ren), and connected to appropriate services. Youth who are or were involved with the child welfare, juvenile justice, or criminal justice systems will be welcome and will be informed about and supported in connecting to any special services available to them (e.g., after-care services) if the youth is interested. Translation services (including ASL) must be available for youth for whom English is a second language, and youth will be connected to immigration and other legal clinics as needed and desired.

## PROJECT 5 | PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING FOR OLDER YOUTH WITH SIGNIFICANT SOMATIC, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, OR INTELLECTUAL CHALLENGES

**HUD PROJECT TYPE:** Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)

**Number OF PROJECTS TO BE FUNDED:** 1 or more

**POSSIBLE HUD WAIVERS:**

- Allow initial leases less than one year but greater than one month;
- Use rent reasonableness standard instead of fair market rent for leasing;
- Waive two-month limitation on security deposits;
- Provide moving expenses more than one time to a program participant;
- Expanded use of supportive service funds;
- Use project administrative funds to attend conferences and training that are not HUD sponsored or HUD approved, provided that the subject matter is relevant to youth homelessness; and
- Reevaluate a program participant's resources and support networks less than annually, provided the program participant continues to receive assistance from the program.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The purpose of this project is to provide safe, affirming, youth-driven, and developmentally-appropriate, non-time limited housing assistance for unaccompanied youth and young adults ages 18-24 experiencing homelessness who are identified as differently abled with significant somatic, behavioral health, or intellectual challenges (reference HUD guidelines for all categories) and unable to sustain themselves without subsidized housing and intensive on-site wraparound support services. The project will consist of a targeted long-term housing program with intensive on-site wraparound services and case management provided by highly trained and supportive staff that is flexible and individualized. The program can be either site-based or scattered-site, and provided in a group home, shared apartment, SRO and/or other environment. The program should leverage Psychiatric Rehabilitation Program (PRP), Medicaid and other medical reimbursement opportunities to meet youths' needs and will also be expected to provide case management and other supportive services to youth matched with vouchers to help them maintain their housing.

**“Instead of paying hospital bills, I just use home remedies.”**

**- Daija R.**

Projects may seek to serve all youth who are differently abled (using relevant HUD definitions) OR may propose a unique project targeting one or more of the following priority sub-populations:

1. Youth with significant behavioral health needs;
2. Youth with severe somatic health needs; and/or
3. Youth with significant intellectual challenges.

Proposed direct services to be provided (or provided through connection to and collaboration with other community providers) under this project include, but are not limited to:

- Comprehensive needs and strengths assessments;
- Intensive case management;
- Peer navigation;

- Family mediation and reunification and Family Finding (including identifying and connecting with family of choice);
- Resource development and connections to community networks and partners;
- Mainstream benefits and Medicaid/healthcare enrollment;
- Transportation;
- Supportive job training programs and opportunities;
- Access to supportive services for individuals who are identified as differently abled;
- Intensive medical and behavioral health treatment and services;
- Medication management;
- Education assistance and support including assistance with FAFSA applications (K-12 and post-secondary);
- Legal services;
- Pregnancy and parenting supports and childcare/early childhood education access;
- Obtaining IDs and documentation;
- Life skills training;
- Housing navigation and good tenancy skills;
- Landlord/tenant mediation; and
- Flex fund to address emergency needs as they arise and to pay for unit damages.

**HOW THIS PROJECT WILL SUPPORT SPECIAL POPULATIONS:** All programs will be a low-barrier, safe and affirming place, with no restrictions based on immigration status, alcohol or substance use, pregnancy or parenting status, criminal history, etc. No discrimination within the program on the basis of an individual’s race or ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation, country of origin, religion, or any other characteristic will be tolerated. Staff for this program will have training in trauma-informed approaches, youth-specific needs and available resources and supports, including for all YHDP special populations, and have experience working with youth and young adults. Staff will work closely with peer navigators to support youth in their service plan development and identifying and connecting with needed services as much as possible.

“How can I manage school, work, and my mental health without breaking down?”

- Jasmine M.

This project is specially designed to meet the needs of YHDP identified special populations who may need more intensive levels of support due to significant somatic, behavioral health, or intellectual challenges; consequently, a significant emphasis of this program will be on the provision of more intensive wraparound services. As with all other YHDP services, these services will be individualized to meet the needs of each youth, and programs within this project will give the youth a choice of the next steps they want to take to get the proper resources based on their individual situation. Staff will provide warm hand offs for referrals, and minimize youth having to share information and experiences multiple times, reducing potential re-traumatization. Youth privacy and safety will always be prioritized.

Youth who are parenting will be supported in remaining with their child(ren), and connected to appropriate services, including on-site family services. In accordance with the newly passed Maryland law allowing minor-age youth to consent to shelter and supportive services, all programs will also provide services for minor-age youth as appropriate. Translation services (including ASL) must be available for youth for whom English is a second language, and youth will be connected to immigration and other legal clinics as needed and desired.

Youth who are or were involved with the child welfare, juvenile justice, or criminal justice systems will be welcome and will be informed about and supported in connecting to any special services available to them (e.g.,

after-care services) if the youth is interested. The program will make efforts to connect with these systems, as well as the Drop-in Center and County shelter services, to ensure any youth within these systems are identified and connected to the program as needed.

Program staff will provide family re-engagement supports and work with the young people and the identified family members to resolve conflict; however, participation in family reunification services will not be a requirement for participation in the program. The staff will also be respectful of the young person's family of choice, which may include extended family members (aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents) or other supportive adults, mentors, or friends.

### **Non-YHDP Funded Projects**

The following five projects were identified as additional critical efforts prioritized for future funding identification to ensure Prince George's County is equipped to meet the goals and objectives as outlined in this Plan, and so are included below:

- Project 6: Youth-specific Emergency Shelter;
- Project 7: Youth-specific Coordinated Entry;
- Project 8: Host Homes for 18-24-year-old Youth;
- Project 9: Data Warehouse; and
- Project 10: Telehealth Services Pilot.

## PROJECT 6 | YOUTH-SPECIFIC EMERGENCY SHELTER

**Number OF PROJECTS TO BE FUNDED:** 1 or more

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** This project will provide emergency shelter options for youth via an expansion of current emergency shelter services in Prince George’s County with a focus on parenting youth (inclusive of all genders). Youth-specific shelter services will assess for and address somatic, behavioral health, and/or intellectual challenges, and provide youth-driven support services, including the following (some may be provided in collaboration with other community providers):

“Every two hours I had to run around so I [didn’t] freeze.”  
– Parris B.

- Comprehensive needs and strengths assessment;
- Case management;
- Peer navigation;
- Family mediation and reunification and Family Finding (including identifying and connecting with family of choice);
- Resource development and connections to community networks and partners;
- Benefits enrollment;
- Medicaid/healthcare enrollment;
- Employment assistance and job training programs;
- Medical and behavioral health services;
- Housing navigation;
- Education assistance, including assistance with FAFSA applications (K-12 and post-secondary);
- Legal services;
- Pregnancy and parenting supports and childcare/early childhood education access;
- Obtaining IDs and documentation;
- Laundry and shower facilities;
- Mail management;
- Storage;
- Basic needs provision;
- Life skills training;
- Transportation;
- Respite; and
- Flex fund to address emergency needs as they arise.

**HOW THIS PROJECT WILL SUPPORT SPECIAL POPULATIONS:** The youth-specific emergency shelter program will give the youth a choice of the next steps they want to take to get the proper resources based on their individual situation. Staff for this program will have training in youth-specific needs and available resources and supports, including for all YHDP special populations, and experience working with youth and young adults. Youth who are parenting will be supported in remaining with their child(ren) and connected to appropriate services. All youth-specific shelter programs will be designed as low- or no-barrier safe spaces for youth, that are distinct and separate from the adult spaces, and will provide more comprehensive and youth-specific wraparound services and peer navigation (perhaps in conjunction with the Drop-in Center) for youth as needed. In accordance with the newly passed Maryland law allowing minor-age youth to consent to shelter and supportive services, all youth-

specific emergency shelters will also provide services for minor-age youth, that is separate from the older youth and young adult services to ensure safety and comfort of the youth. The program will also maintain connections with the child welfare, juvenile justice, and criminal justice systems, and other adult shelter service providers in Prince George's County to ensure any youth within these systems are identified and connected to a youth-specific shelter as needed. Translation services (including ASL) must be available for youth for whom English is a second language, and youth will be connected to immigration and other legal clinics as needed and desired.



**Number OF PROJECTS TO BE FUNDED:** 1

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** This project will develop a youth-specific coordinated entry sub-flow as a parallel for the County’s broader coordinated entry system flow (see Figure 7). This project will establish a youth-specific coordinated entry system using regional and national best practices to specifically meet the unique needs of youth, from how initial outreach and intake is conducted, to how needs are assessed and youth are connected to services, to the identified services and supports to meet those needs. It will also include effective prevention and diversion practices for youth, and focus on ensuring culturally humble and affirming practices for youth are utilized across the coordinated entry system.

“Before I even went to jail, I didn’t get no food stamps, but when I came out of jail, I had food stamp-all types of other stuff.”

– Anonymous

This project will be led by a to-be-established coordinated entry youth sub-committee as part of the CoC’s current coordinated entry improvement project, in collaboration with the YAB and YHDP Steering Committee. The sub-committee will determine:

- How and why different youth are prioritized;
- Map out youth-specific resources and services;
- Refine outreach and hotline response strategies to be more youth-friendly;
- Create or update current coordinated entry policies and procedures for youth;
- Redesign the front end to improve equitable access by all youth including hotline, text/chat, and in person options;
- Create a youth-specific application form for assistance; and
- Address the unique needs of identified special populations to meet their unique needs.

**HOW THIS PROJECT WILL SUPPORT SPECIAL POPULATIONS:** A key focus of this project will be to ensure equitable access to housing and supportive services for all youth in need, with a particular emphasis on ensuring the system meets the needs of youth within the YHDP identified special populations. Involvement of the YAB will also help to ensure the developed system is youth-driven. All steps within the coordinated entry system flow and connecting services will be low-barrier, strengths-based, safe and affirming, with no restrictions based on immigration status, alcohol or substance use, pregnancy or parenting status, criminal history, etc.

All coordinated entry staff will also receive training in trauma-informed approaches, Youth Mental Health First Aid, and issues specific to all YHDP identified special populations. All youth coming into contact with the coordinated entry system will be given a choice of the next steps they want to take through close collaboration with staff.

## PROJECT 8 | HOST HOMES FOR 18-24-YEAR-OLD YOUTH

**Number OF PROJECTS TO BE FUNDED:** 1 or more

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** This project will expand on the current host homes program for minor-age youth experiencing homelessness to provide emergency shelter for unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness

“Somebody who wouldn’t mind coming to look for you when you are in trouble, or basically a constant friend. That really helps, because it shows you that somebody really cares.”

– Anonymous

between the ages of 18 and 24 through a Host Home model that will house youth for a maximum of 21 days in safe, affirming, youth-driven, and developmentally appropriate housing. The program will particularly focus on serving youth who identify as LGBTQ+, recent immigrants, youth exiting the child welfare or juvenile justice systems, or are enrolled in higher education and are in need of gap housing during school breaks. Youth in the program will be supported by caring staff focused on rapid transition to independence with supports.

Direct services to be provided (or provided through connection to and collaboration with other community providers) under this project include, but not limited to:

- Comprehensive needs and strengths assessments;
- Case management;
- Peer navigation;
- Family mediation and reunification and Family Finding (including identifying and connecting with family of choice);
- Resource development and connections to community networks and partners;
- Benefits enrollment;
- Medicaid/healthcare enrollment;
- Employment assistance and job training programs;
- Medical and behavioral health services;
- Housing navigation and good tenancy skills;
- Education assistance, including assistance with FAFSA applications (K-12 and post-secondary);
- Legal services;
- Pregnancy and parenting supports and childcare/early childhood education access;
- Obtaining IDs and documentation;
- Basic needs provision;
- Life skills training;
- Transportation;
- Flex funds to address emergency needs as they arise; and
- Transition/exit planning

**HOW THIS PROJECT WILL SUPPORT SPECIAL POPULATIONS:** All programs will be a low-barrier, safe and affirming place, with no restrictions based on immigration status, alcohol or substance use, pregnancy or parenting status, criminal history, etc. No discrimination within the program on the basis of an individual’s race or ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation, country of origin, religion, or any other characteristic will be tolerated. This project should be specially designed to meet the needs of key YHDP identified special populations most likely to need emergency

housing: youth who identify as LGBTQ+, recent immigrants, and youth exiting the child welfare or juvenile justice systems.

The host home program will give the youth a choice of the next steps they want to take to get the proper resources based on their individual situation. Staff for this program will have training in trauma-informed approaches, youth-specific needs, and available resources and supports, including for all YHDP special populations, and experience working with youth and young adults.

All programs will provide more comprehensive, and youth-specific wraparound services and peer navigation (perhaps in conjunction with the Drop-in Center) for youth as needed. More intensive wraparound services will be available for youth who need higher levels of support (e.g., youth who are survivors of human trafficking, who have significant somatic, behavioral health, and/or intellectual challenges, or who are or were system-involved). Staff will provide warm hand offs for referrals, and minimize youth having to share information and experiences multiple times, reducing potential re-traumatization. Youth privacy and safety will always be prioritized.

The program will make efforts to connect with the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, as well as the Drop-in Center and County shelter services, to ensure any youth within these systems are identified and connected to the program as needed.

Program staff will provide family re-engagement supports and work with the young people and the identified family members to resolve conflict; however, participation in family reunification services will not be a requirement for participation in the program. The staff will also be respectful of the young person's family of choice, which may include extended family members (aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents) or other supportive adults, mentors, or friends.

## PROJECT 9 | DATA WAREHOUSE

**Number OF PROJECTS TO BE FUNDED:** 1

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Key metrics and outcome measures from across youth-serving systems (e.g., housing, education, health, child welfare, juvenile services, corrections, etc.) will be combined in a central repository. This will be designed by an outside IT contractor to include production of data dashboards and a real-time, by-name list to support improved and sustainable continuous quality improvement and case conferencing efforts.

**HOW THIS PROJECT WILL SUPPORT SPECIAL POPULATIONS:** When selecting data metrics to be included in the data warehouse, special attention will be paid to ensure that data will be collected to allow for examination of the successful systemwide identification of, services accessed by, and outcomes of all demographic groups and special populations. Outcome equity across different demographics and special populations will be monitored through the regular review of data and case conferencing, and a plan will be made to address any disparities as part of the CQI process described below.

## Project 10 | Telehealth Services Pilot

**Number OF PROJECTS TO BE FUNDED:** 1

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** This project will capitalize on new Maryland legislation expanding eligibility of telehealth services for Medicaid billing in order to expand access to behavioral healthcare. This project will: (1) make significant improvements to the behavioral health section of the pghealthzone.org website to include fixing broken links/functionality, the addition of a FAQs section, definitions of key terms/services, provider quality dashboard/indicators, improved user interface, mobile optimization, and possible creation of an interactive app; (2) design and implement a major marketing campaign to increase awareness of the website/new app to include social media, radio/TV adds, stickers, and posters; and (3) roll out one or more telehealth apps that includes screening, therapy by text, outcomes/provider accountability features, and daily monitoring/check-in capability. Through these efforts, all youth with unmet behavioral health needs or at risk of developing behavioral health challenges will receive daily check-ins from a caring, trained adult, and increased timely, convenient access to broad array of behavioral health services in a range of youth-friendly settings. To ensure youth-friendly services, all staff providing these services should be trained/skilled in positive youth development framework, authentic youth engagement, trauma-informed approaches, culturally-responsive practice, disability awareness, prevention focus, wellness focus, behavioral/physical health integration, and addressing the social determinants of health.

**HOW THIS PROJECT WILL SUPPORT SPECIAL POPULATIONS:** All staff providing services will be trained in the unique needs of all YHDP identified special populations, and be aware of specific resources available to meet the needs of these groups, and efforts will always be made to connect youth with appropriate resources, both natural and professional, within their community. Access, engagement, and referrals to additional services will all be driven by youth choice and individualized to the needs of each youth.

# Continuous Quality Improvement and Evaluation

This Plan is designed to integrate and align all major youth-serving systems to form a comprehensive, coordinated, and youth-driven system of care for youth and young adults that tests and produces viable and replicable models of care, as illustrated in the theory of change below. A critical element of supporting this collaboration and system building is the collection and utilization of data to monitor progress and modify interventions to ensure they result in positive outcomes for youth and young adults. To accomplish this, Prince George’s County plans to develop a multi-system data warehouse, a robust continuous quality improvement (CQI) process that includes development and review of a by-name list, and a comprehensive evaluation plan to ensure the goals and objectives of the Plan are being met.

**FIGURE 8 | PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY YHDP THEORY OF CHANGE**



Through the collaboration of all major service systems, providers, and community stakeholders and a concerted focus on increased data collection, sharing, and a co-owned process for data-driven decision-making utilizing a common core data set, the community will increase its capacity to identify and track the number of outcomes

realized by youth and young adults at risk of or experiencing housing instability or homelessness. It is expected that this process will increase identification and referral of youth and young adults, and create a larger, stronger, more deeply integrated system of care for youth that decreases and prevents youth homelessness in Prince George’s County.

As part of implementation, the YHDP governance structure will determine data metrics to be collected via the data warehouse or as part of the CQI process or evaluation efforts, which will form a common core data set to be utilized across all YHDP projects and activities. All data metrics collected will be determined in collaboration with the YAB to ensure the items being measured accurately capture important metrics of success across all four USICH core outcome areas (stable housing, education/employment, permanent connections, and social-emotional well-being). Data currently available across systems will be mapped out and identified gaps will be the focus for initiation of additional metrics. In analyzing the data, an emphasis will be placed on examining equity of access and positive outcomes across all demographic groups and special populations. Youth voice, both collected through surveys and other tools, as well as in contextualization of the data will be prioritized in both data collection and reporting.

## Data Warehouse Development

A variety of data sources currently exist across youth-serving systems and service providers, including child welfare, juvenile services, social services, housing and homelessness services, the health department, the local school system, and others. Bringing individual level data from across these systems into a central repository or data warehouse will enable Prince George’s County to better understand youth service utilization across systems and provide a more robust map of the youth needs, and when combined with service delivery data, will provide the County with the ability to continuously assess effectiveness of YHDP projects and activities. Combining data from across systems in real time will also allow for better identification of youth who may be at risk of or currently experiencing homelessness and support a swift response to addressing their needs through regular case conferencing with all youth-serving systems and service providers participating.

### Data Warehouse Goals

- Serves as a data repository for all youth-serving systems
- Enables real-time data sharing and data-matching
- Supports identification of youth across systems
- Produces a live by-name list that can be utilized for regular case conferencing across providers
- Employs GIS technology to identify geographic areas to target services
- Utilizes data dashboards to easily and regularly assess youth needs and program effectiveness.

The data warehouse will build upon an existing County multi-system data sharing agreement currently utilized to support case management for individual, adult, high-system utilizers, as well as other existing data-sharing partnerships within the community (e.g., the community school network partnership and the DJS-MSDE data-sharing partnership). A statewide data-sharing effort that combines child welfare and juvenile services data is also currently being deployed throughout Maryland (CJAMS)<sup>73</sup> and may provide another useful data-sharing relationship. Building upon existing data sharing agreements that support these current partnerships, additional agreements will be put into place, with the development of the data warehouse providing a mechanism for

<sup>73</sup><http://dhs.maryland.gov/mdthink/cjams/>

organizations and agencies to share information across systems, including consistent data collection and data sharing.

The first step in creating this data warehouse will be to identify all existing or easily developed sources of data across all relevant systems, generating a data matrix. Any gaps in the matrix can then be addressed through addition of new data metrics to be collected systemwide as part of forming a common core data set for YHDP. Once the appropriate data is identified, the data warehouse will be built by an outside contractor, and will be designed to provide data dashboards of key system metrics and service utilization, a real-time, by-name list of youth currently at risk of or experiencing homelessness, and other tools to support data-informed decision-making through the CQI process.

## **Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI)**

The YHDP Governance Structure will utilize the developed data warehouse to engage in regular data monitoring and decision-making through a CQI process to assess the effectiveness of innovations, ensure projects are meeting all YHDP project requirements and foundational elements (as described earlier), and support data-informed program and system improvements designed to improve effectiveness of outcomes, to ensure continued progress towards achieving the goals and objectives of this Plan, and guarantee improved outcomes for youth in Prince George's County.

The CQI process will be grounded in the Results-Based Accountability (RBA) framework. RBA is a model for data-driven decision-making to address challenges in achieving the desired outcomes.<sup>74</sup> This is done by first identifying specific, measurable, desired outcomes within the four USICH outcome areas (stable housing, education/employment, permanent connections, and social and emotional well-being), then reviewing the longitudinal data related to the desired outcome to identify possible factors that may be able to “turn the curve,” (i.e., positively impact that desired outcome to help meet certain benchmark goals). This is done by asking a series of questions about what factors the stakeholders believe currently contribute to the observed outcome data, and what interventions or strategies could be used to turn the curve. Information from the youth by-name list, once developed, and by-name list case conferencing process will be utilized as a possible source of identified barriers and possible solutions. These theorized strategies to turn the curve can then be tested using the complementary Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) model as developed by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement and illustrated in Figure 9.<sup>75</sup> The PDSA model will provide a structure for testing and refining elements of the proposed projects within this Plan. Within the PDSA cycle, the YHDP and CoC Steering Teams and the YAB will receive process and outcome data monthly from the evaluation team, which they will review, in collaboration with the evaluation team, as part of their regular meetings to assess the change in outcomes as a result of the identified intervention element being tested and identify any possible program adjustments to policy or practice that should be considered for examination through a PDSA cycle. It is a critical component of this process that all governance structure groups participate in this process to ensure both population (i.e., community) accountability via the YAB and community stakeholders, and performance (i.e., program and/or system) accountability in accordance with the RBA model, and ensure consistent involvement of youth and community stakeholders in the process of implementing and revising the community plan.<sup>74</sup> These groups will also be encouraged to review all outcomes data with special consideration towards whether observed changes in outcomes are seen equitably across all

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<sup>74</sup><http://raguide.org/index-of-questions/>

<sup>75</sup><http://www.ihl.org/resources/Pages/HowtoImprove/default.aspx>

demographic groups and YHDP special populations, and the evaluation team will present data in such a way as to support examination of the data from an equity lens.

**FIGURE 9 | THE PLAN-DO-STUDY-ACT PROCESS**



Results of the PDSA cycle will determine whether the proposed strategies to turn the curve and improve outcomes are successful. If the strategies are successful, any applicable revisions, modifications, and/or enhancements to the CCP, the theory of change or logic model, the implementation plans for the identified projects, and/or program, system, and/or County policies and procedures will be made to sustain the desired change. If the tested strategy is not successful or does not have a large enough impact to reach the desired outcome benchmarks on its own, the groups will return to the prompts within the RBA model to determine additional strategies to then be tested through a PDSA cycle.

As interventions are successfully refined through this CQI process, the focus of the CQI process will turn towards any necessary elements to support sustainability of the interventions. Lessons learned will be shared externally with local, state, and federal stakeholders to further support sustainability and replication of successful strategies in other contexts.



## Evaluation

A comprehensive evaluation plan, including final selection of process and outcome measures, will be developed by the lead evaluator when they are brought on for the implementation stage of Prince George’s County YHDP. Foundational outcome measures will include the standard CoC performance measures for all homeless programs, as well as the HUD identified YHDP measures utilized by Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs. In order to ensure that all USICH core outcome areas (stable housing, social and emotional well-being, education/employment, and permanent connections) are evaluated, the evaluation team will also consider the addition of the measures identified as aligning with the USICH core outcome areas for youth homelessness in the Youth Outcomes Project.<sup>76</sup> Additional process and outcome measures will also be added as needed to ensure a comprehensive evaluation of the effectiveness of all YHDP activities and projects. Proposed measures to be reviewed by the evaluation team and YHDP governance groups in the creation of the evaluation plan may include:

“We should measure if college students and high school students have a place to go.

– DaeJanae D.

- **OUTREACH and ENGAGEMENT:** Number of trained competent youth outreach workers; youth identification and referral rates; Number of developmentally appropriate services connectors; rate of youth utilization of those connectors; and time spent homeless;
- **STABLE HOUSING:** Number of shelter diversions; average length of stay in shelter; number of exits to stable housing; recidivism rate; Number of developmentally competent PSH, TH-RRH, RRH and treatment beds;
- **EDUCATION:** Number of youth enrolled in school; utilization of the Maryland tuition waiver and other school subsidy opportunities; Number of school drop-outs due to housing; Number of youth advancing to the next education level;
- **PERMANENT CONNECTIONS:** Number of reunifications with biological family or family of choice; Number of natural supports per youth; Number of institutional discharges to homelessness;
- **SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING:** Number of youth reporting personal/emotional well-being, life satisfaction and self-competency following homelessness; Number of youth using substances; Number of repeat runaways; Number of developmentally competent physical and behavioral health providers; Number of connections to and utilization frequency of recreational/community resources;
- **EMPLOYMENT:** Number of youth demonstrating readiness to work; Number of youth employed; average length of job retention; Number of employers ready to hire youth on demand;
- **YOUTH SATISFACTION:** program satisfaction surveys, focus groups and interviews to assess how youth perceive system changes and ensuring those changes are meeting their needs; and
- **PERFORMANCE& SYSTEM MEASURES:** network analysis assessing the number, variety, and strength of connections among providers and systems over time; program assessment of youth-friendliness; cost-benefit analysis of interventions implemented.

Once measures are selected, the evaluation team will work with the YHDP governance groups, as well as all youth-serving systems and service providers to implement data collection procedures and protocols that align with their system and program operations. The evaluation will then regularly collect and report out on data findings to inform the CQI process. The evaluation team will be expected to collaborate with the YAB, CoC, and the YHDP Steering Team as part of data analysis to inform interpretations of the data.

<sup>76</sup><https://youthcollaboratory.org/youth-outcomes-project-release>

# Looking Forward: What's Next?

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Over the past decade, Prince George's County has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to addressing the crisis of youth homelessness within its community. The momentum the community has fostered over the years to increase capacity to address this issue is inspiring and has enabled our community to come together to take this next step to further elevate our efforts through the opportunity provided by HUD's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program. This program has already fostered bringing new energy and resources to and engaging new partners in supporting and expanding our local efforts and driven the collective creation of this comprehensive plan to end and prevent youth homelessness within our community.

This YHDP CCP is a manifestation of the ongoing commitment of community members, system partners, service providers, and youth and young adults in Prince George's County's to continue to build upon community efforts to end and prevent youth and young adult homelessness. Together, all of the voices captured in this CCP offer a true reflection of our community's belief in a better system to serve youth who are experiencing homelessness and housing instability.

This plan is designed to be a roadmap for the next steps our community must take to reach our goal of ending and preventing youth and young adult homelessness and will serve as a tool to drive our community to realize our shared vision to implement a comprehensive, coordinated, and youth-driven system of care for youth and young adults. The proposed projects and activities within this Plan are designed, through the collective input and decision-making of a wide variety of community voices and partners, to build upon the strong foundation Prince George's County has established in addressing youth homelessness and to more fully achieve the envisioned innovative, fully comprehensive, coordinated, youth-driven system of care to prevent and end all experiences of youth and young adult homelessness within the County.

As we have already learned as a community, ending youth homelessness requires tremendous dedication and drive from many community stakeholders to enact change. As we've proven in the recent successful completion of our A Way Home America 100 Day Challenge—when we act as a community with urgency, in collaboration with our young people, and are willing to try new innovations and use data to drive solutions, we can make substantial progress and bring about profound changes to the lives of youth and young adults. It is this community collaboration and drive that we must now muster again to realize the vision and goals reflected in this Plan. To succeed, we need the voices, energy, and championship of all policymakers, service providers, businesses, and community stakeholders. Much like the heavily collaborative planning process, implementation must be carried out with an all-hands-on-deck approach. Prince George's County is rich with subject matter experts and systems leaders whose participation will be essential as we move forward. Youth and young adults with lived experience of homelessness will continue to play a central role as we use this Plan to transform our existing systems and create a sustainable end to youth homelessness in Prince George's County.

Now the hard work of implementation begins, and together, we will take the next steps towards implementing this Plan as a community, leveraging our local strengths while addressing our needs, and further deepening efforts to collaborate across systems as a foundation to implementing the projects and activities described in this Plan. This Plan is designed to be a living and ever-evolving document, guiding the community as we continue to innovate and expand our understanding about what is making an impact and where refinements or additional resources are needed.

The YHDP Steering Committee will be responsible for ensuring the implementation of this Plan, revising the Plan as needed to ensure all activities and projects detailed within this Plan are achievable, effective, and sustainable, and identifying and pursuing any additional funding, resources, or partners necessary to implement the strategies outlined within the Plan. The YAB will work hand-in-hand with the YHDP Steering Committee throughout this process, jointly leading the implementation efforts. Nurturing the growth of YAB leadership, not just within the realm of YHDP activities, but throughout the community as a whole, will be a cornerstone of this Plan, and stands as representations of our community's commitment to true and authentic youth engagement and our guarantee of **NOTHING ABOUT THEM, WITHOUT THEM.**

Implementation will begin with the YHDP Steering Committee meeting in collaboration with the YAB forming a governance structure fully aligned with this Plan to drive implementation, with key stakeholders identified as responsible for implementing each strategy, and continually refining the timeline for implementation of each of these strategies based on identified priorities and capacity.

Progress on implementation, updates to the plan, and realized impacts and outcomes of these community efforts will be regularly shared with the community through the quarterly CoC public plenary sessions, a webpage on the Prince George's County website that will disseminate YHDP plans, materials, and other information, as well as publicly available annual action plans and progress reports. This will enable the community to hold the YHDP Steering Committee accountable to achieving the goals set out within this Plan and ensure meaningful progress towards ending and preventing youth homelessness in Prince George's County.

### Responsibilities of the YHDP Steering Committee and YAB in Overseeing Implementation

1. Prioritize plan activities and strategies for implementation.
2. Review and modify the YHDP governance structure.
3. Identify key stakeholders for implementation.
4. Pursue needed additional funding, resources, or partnerships.
5. Continually review and revise the Plan strategies and timeline as new information is available.
6. Regularly update the community on progress and outcomes of these efforts.

**"Every Voice is Worth Hearing;  
Every Concern is Justified."**

**- Youth Action Board**




# Appendix A: Plan Approval

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## Youth Action Board:

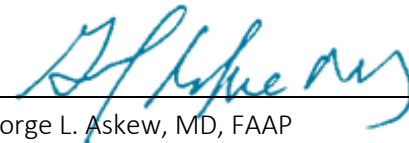
  
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Daejanae D.  
Co-chair, Prince George's County Youth Action Board

5/5/2020  
Date

  
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Dennis M.  
Co-chair, Prince George's County Youth Action Board

5/5/2020  
Date

## Local Government:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
George L. Askew, MD, FAAP  
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Health, Human Services, and Education  
Prince George's County Office of the County Executive

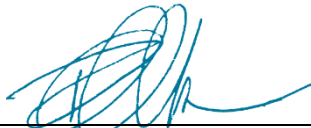
5/6/2020  
Date

## Public Child Welfare Agency:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gloria Brown Burnett  
Director, Prince George's County Department of Social Services

5/7/2020  
Date

## Continuum of Care:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Renee Ensor Pope  
Continuum of Care Co-chair, MD-600 Continuum of Care

5/6/2020  
Date

# Appendix B: Partners & Roles

PARTNER GROUP	ORGANIZATION	DESCRIPTION OF INVOLVEMENT
CoC Board	Homeless Services Partnership	Unaccompanied homeless youth specific advocacy, system planning, data mining, performance measurement, direct services, and funding/leveraging
Youth Action Board	Prince George's County Youth Action Board (YAB)	<b>Co-chair all YHDP Workgroups</b> ; advocacy, outreach, policy/project development & validation of youth voice throughout the plan
	Youth Collaboratory	<b>YHDP Technical Advisor for the Authentic Youth Engagement Workgroup</b>
Local Government Agencies	Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission (M-NCPPC)/ Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation	<b>YHDP Co-chair of Authentic Youth Engagement Workgroup</b> ; outreach, engagement, and system planning for social-emotional well-being
	Prince George's County Library System	Outreach, engagement and system planning for social-emotional well-being
	Prince George's County Department of Social Services (PGCDSS)	<b>YHDP Lead</b> ; youth identification, outreach and engagement, funding to support the community planning process, TH and RRH for youth, mainstream benefits and technical assistance
	Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW-T)	Transportation assistance
	Prince George's County Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)	Funding, legislation, and unaccompanied youth housing (ESG, FUP, CDBG, HOME, and other Vouchers)
	Prince George's County Department of Family Services and Local Management Board	Funding, policy development, and technical assistance (focus sub-population disconnected youth)
	Prince George's County Arts & Humanities Council (PGCAHC)	Education, artistic programs for youth
	Prince George's County Fire/Emergency Medical Services	Mobile integrated health services
	Maryland Health Connection/Prince George's County Health Connect	Affordable and accessible healthcare coverage; education and enrollment assistances
	Local Municipality	City of Bowie
State Government Agencies	Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (MDHCD)	Funding, policy development, legislation, and technical assistance
	Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC)	Education policy development, tuition assistance, and system planning
	Maryland College Application Campaign (MCAC)	Comprehensive planning state program for youth; support with FAFSA, Maryland tuition waivers, grants and scholarship opportunities
	Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE)	Education policy development and system planning

PARTNER GROUP	ORGANIZATION	DESCRIPTION OF INVOLVEMENT
	Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services (GOCPYVS)	<b>YHDP Co-chair of the Permanent Connections &amp; Social-Emotional Well-Being (PCSEW) Workgroup</b> ; research, policy recommendations, legislation, funding (unaccompanied homeless youth and opportunity youth)
	Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS)	Funding, policy development, child welfare integration, legislation, and technical assistance
	Maryland Department of Health (MDH)	Funding, policy development, Medicaid waivers, legislation, and technical assistance
<b>Public Child Welfare Agency</b>	Prince George's County Department of Social Services (PGCDSS)	Provision of child welfare services, care coordination for crossover cases, and system planning and Family First Act Coordination (foster care youth)
<b>Local and State Law Enforcement and Judges</b>	Prince George's County Police Department	Identification and engagement, public safety planning, and data sharing
	Prince George's County Office of the Sheriff	Identification and engagement, public safety planning, and data sharing
	Specialty Courts	Unaccompanied homeless youth case consultation, diversion, and system planning
	Circuit Court	Family division child support, paternity, juvenile delinquency, child custody and divorce, YES Initiative
<b>Early Childhood Development and Child Care Providers</b>	Judy Hoyer Family Learning Center	School readiness through early childhood care, education, family support, and health programs
	Maryland Family Network (MFN)	Advocacy/development of strong system of quality childcare, early education, and family support
	Maryland Head Start State Collaboration Office	Early care & education; partnerships for positive outcomes and results for children and families
	Prince George's County Child Resource Center	Family support services, training, and technical assistance to childcare providers, parents, and human services workers
	Lourie Center for Children's Social & Emotional Wellness	Social and emotional health; early intervention, education, research and training; Head Start provider
	Office of Childcare, Department of Education	Early education and childcare for strong foundation; preparation for kindergarten
	Adelphi/Langley Park Family Support Center	Education, family literacy, career planning training, parent/child activities
<b>Local and State Educational Agencies</b>	National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE)	<b>YHDP Technical Advisor for the Education Workgroup</b>
	Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS)	<b>YHDP Co-chair for the Education Workgroup</b> ; McKinney Vento Homeless Education Services, data sharing, and system planning
	Community Schools Network	Student and family support services to promote academic success
	Maryland Freestate ChalleNGe Academy	Academic, job, and life skills trainings; residential and post-residential programs for continuing education, technical school, or entry-level employment
<b>Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs</b>	Sasha Bruce Youthwork, Inc.	<b>YHDP Chair of the Housing Workgroup</b> ; unaccompanied youth shelter, advocacy, system planning (sub-population focus: minors and all transition-age youth)
	St. Ann's Center for Children, Youth and Families	Unaccompanied youth shelter, advocacy, system planning (sub-population focus: minors and parenting youth)
	Maryland Multicultural Youth Center (MMYC)	<b>YHDP Co-chair of the Authentic Youth Engagement Workgroup</b> ; YAB technical assistance and training, unaccompanied youth host homes, advocacy, and system planning (sub-population focus: immigrant youth)

PARTNER GROUP	ORGANIZATION	DESCRIPTION OF INVOLVEMENT
Juvenile and Adult Corrections and Probation	Department of Corrections (DOC)	Unaccompanied homeless youth case consultation and system discharge planning (sub-population focus: incarcerated youth)
	Department of Juvenile Services (DJS)	Unaccompanied homeless youth case consultation and system discharge planning (sub-population focus: juvenile justice connected youth)
Health, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Agencies	Prince George's County Health Department and Local Behavioral Health Authority (LBHA)	Somatic and behavioral health services, HIV services, SOC lead, funding, policy development, Medicaid waivers, legislation, and technical assistance
	La Clinica del Pueblo (FQHC)	Somatic and behavioral health services
	Mary's Center (FQHC)	Somatic and behavioral health services
	Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)	<b>YHDP Technical Advisor for the Somatic &amp; Behavioral Health Sub-Workgroup</b>
	Growth Connections, Inc.	<b>YHDP Co-chair for the Somatic &amp; Behavioral Health Sub-Workgroup</b> ; youth treatment services (sub-population focus: LGBTQ+)
	Prince George's Health Care Alliance	Unaccompanied homeless youth social determinants of health, care coordination, community health worker outreach and engagement, gap identification, and fund development
	Affiliated Santé Group	Crisis response, outpatient substance abuse and mental health services, individual and group counseling, and other behavioral health support
	QCI Behavioral Health	Mental health mobile, outpatient services, and other behavioral health support
WIOA Boards & Employment Agencies	Economic Development Corporation	Unaccompanied homeless youth employment assistance, paid internships, curriculum design, and system planning
	Eckard Connects	Unaccompanied homeless youth employment training, intensive supportive services, career counseling, placement, and 12-month follow-up services
	MMYC Workforce Investment for Successful Employment (WISE)	Job readiness, life skills training, job placement services, retail certification, GED preparation, and support services for youth
	Job Corps	Education and vocational training program; job readiness for youth
	Chick-fil-A	<b>YHDP Co-chair of the Employment Workgroup</b> ; employment, mentorship/ training program for youth
Landlords and Affordable Housing Developers	Franklin Park at Greenbelt Station	Unaccompanied homeless youth housing
	Southern Management Corporation	Unaccompanied homeless youth housing
	Apartment and Office Building Association (AOBA)	Unaccompanied homeless youth housing
	TM Associates	Unaccompanied homeless youth housing
Public Housing Authorities & Associations	Housing Authority of Prince George's County	FUP, Housing Choice, and public housing
	Glenarden Housing Authority	FYI, Housing Choice, and public housing
	College Park Housing Authority	FYI, Housing Choice, and public housing
Institutions of Higher Education	Bowie State University	Education, tuition assistance, campus housing, and system planning

PARTNER GROUP	ORGANIZATION	DESCRIPTION OF INVOLVEMENT
	University of Maryland, College Park (UMD)	Education, tuition assistance, campus housing, and system planning
	Prince George's Community College (PGCC)	<b>YHDP Co-chair for the Education Workgroup; YHDP Co-chair for the Employment Workgroup;</b> education, tuition assistance, workforce development, and system planning
<b>Community Development Corporations / Community Housing Development Organizations</b>	United Communities Against Poverty, Inc.	Affordable housing development and unaccompanied youth housing preferences and creative leasing opportunities
	Housing Initiative Partnership, Inc.	Affordable housing development and unaccompanied youth housing preferences and creative leasing opportunities
<b>Advocacy, Research, and Philanthropic Organizations</b>	Homebase	<b>YHDP Technical Advisor to the YHDP Lead</b>
	Human Trafficking Taskforce	Advocacy, system planning (sub-population focus: trafficking victims)
	National Center for Housing and Child Welfare (NCHCW)	Research, advocacy, and legislation (sub-population focus: systems-connected youth)
	Prince George's Health Care Action Coalition	System planning and policy development (with an equity focus)
	Greater Washington Community Foundation	Funding and program development
	National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)	Behavioral health advocacy and system planning
	Maryland Interagency Council on Homelessness – Youth & Young Adult Work Group	Research, policy recommendations, legislation, cross-system collaboration, and funding
	Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments	Research and advocacy
<b>Faith Based Institutions</b>	First Baptist Church of Glenarden	Unaccompanied homeless youth funding, advocacy, and system planning
<b>Nonprofits and Organizations Serving Special Youth Populations</b>	Support, Advocacy, Freedom, & Empowerment (SAFE) Center	Crisis Intervention, advocacy, system planning; provides survivor-centered and trauma-informed services (sub-population focus: trafficking victims)
	Fair Girls (formerly FAIR Fund)	Advocacy, intervention, and holistic care (sub-population focus: trafficking victims)
	The ARC of Prince George's County	Advocacy, system planning (sub-population focus: differently abled)
	Supporting and Mentoring Youth Advocates and Leaders (SMYAL)	Advocacy, system planning, unaccompanied youth housing, and RRH (sub-population focus: LGBTQ+)
	House of Ruth	Advocacy, system planning, unaccompanied youth RRH (sub-population focus: survivors)
	Homeless Persons Representation Project (HPRP)	Advocacy, legislation, system planning, YAB training and technical assistance, and UHY legal services
	DNR Coaching & Consulting, LLC	Advocacy and unaccompanied homeless youth life coach
	People Encouraging People, Inc.	Unaccompanied homeless youth outreach, engagement, behavioral health evaluations, care coordination, bridge housing, RRH and PSH, psychiatric rehabilitation, and system planning (sub population focus: behavioral health)



PARTNER GROUP	ORGANIZATION	DESCRIPTION OF INVOLVEMENT
	Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) & LGBTQ+ Taskforce	<b>YHDP Chair of the Systems Connected Sub-Workgroup</b> ; advocacy and system planning (sub-population focus: LGBTQ+ and systems-connected youth)
	First Generation College Bound	Advocacy, system planning, and unaccompanied homeless youth educational support (sub-population focus: immigrant youth)
	Housing Options & Planning Enterprises, Inc.	Housing counseling and financial literacy
	Starting With Today, Inc.	Mental and financial well-being trainings for youth
	Community Crisis Services, Inc.(CCSI)	Unaccompanied homeless youth hotline, assessment, diversion/prevention, and crisis intervention
<b>Data and Performance Measurement</b>	The Institute for Innovation & Implementation (The Institute) at the University of Maryland School of Social Work	<b>YHDP Co-chair of the Data Workgroup</b> ; research, Youth REACH MD, data collection, performance measurements and CQI, training, and curriculum development
	Prince George's County Stat	Research, data collection, performance measurements, and CQI
	The Partnership, Inc.	<b>YHDP Technical Advisor to the Data Workgroup</b>

# Appendix C: Key Acronyms and Definitions

ACRONYM	DEFINITION
100 Day Challenge	A challenge to house 50 youth (18-24) in 100 days. Prince George’s County successfully housed 56 young adults and participated in this challenge in 2019. <a href="https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/100-Day-Challenge-Summary-Prince-Georges-County-MD.pdf">https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/100-Day-Challenge-Summary-Prince-Georges-County-MD.pdf</a>
ACA	Affordable Care Act The Affordable Care Act was signed into law in March 2010. It was designed to extend health insurance coverage to millions of uninsured Americans. <a href="https://www.healthcare.gov/where-can-i-read-the-affordable-care-act/">https://www.healthcare.gov/where-can-i-read-the-affordable-care-act/</a>
ACT	Assertive Community Treatment An evidence-based practice that improves outcomes for people with severe mental illness who are most at risk of psychiatric crisis and hospitalization and involvement in the criminal justice system. <a href="https://www.centerforebp.case.edu/practices/act">https://www.centerforebp.case.edu/practices/act</a>
AFFIRM	A child welfare initiative serving systems connected LGBTQ+ youth and young adults and their caregivers that focuses on validating and affirming the full range of LGBTQ+ identities and experiences. <i>Prince George’s County Department of Social Services</i>
AOBA	Apartment Office Building Association A leading membership organization representing commercial office building and multi-family residential real estate in the Washington, D.C. area. <a href="https://www.aoba-metro.org/about-aoba">https://www.aoba-metro.org/about-aoba</a>
ARC of PGC	The ARC of Prince George’s County A nonprofit that provides support, understanding, and opportunities for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. <a href="https://www.thearcofpgc.org/">https://www.thearcofpgc.org/</a>
AWHA	A Way Home America A national initiative to build the movement to prevent and end homelessness among young people. <a href="https://awayhomeamerica.org/about/">https://awayhomeamerica.org/about/</a>
BHAG	Behavioral Health Advisory Group A sub-committee of the Prince George’s County Healthcare Action Coalition focused on access to integrated behavioral healthcare services through a resilient behavioral health workforce who provide continuous high-quality, personalized and culturally-sensitive care. <a href="https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/1631/Healthcare-Action-Coalition">https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/1631/Healthcare-Action-Coalition</a>
CAFB	Capital Area Food Bank The largest hunger relief in the Washington metro area working to solve hunger and its companion problems: chronic undernutrition, heart disease, diabetes, and obesity through partnerships with over 450 community organizations in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia. <a href="http://dhr.maryland.gov/tag/capital-area-food-bank/">http://dhr.maryland.gov/tag/capital-area-food-bank/</a>
CASA	Court Appointed Special Advocate, Prince George’s County, Inc. A volunteer-based organization that partners with the juvenile court to improve the lives of children living in foster care who have suffered from abuse and neglect. <a href="https://pgcasa.org/about/">https://pgcasa.org/about/</a>
CDC	Community Development Corporation A nonprofit organization incorporated to provide programs, offer services and engage in other activities that promote, revitalize, and support community development. <a href="https://www.communityoutreachcdc.org/copy-of-about-us">https://www.communityoutreachcdc.org/copy-of-about-us</a>
CCSI	Community Crisis Services, Inc. A nonprofit, one-stop calling center for information and compassionate assistance for those in crisis. CCSI is accessible 24 hours a day, 365 days a year for anyone facing crisis and personal turmoil. <a href="https://www.communitycrisis.org/">https://www.communitycrisis.org/</a>
CES	Coordinated Entry System A coordinated process designed to coordinate program participant intake, assessment, and provision of referrals. <a href="https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/23018/2018--Coordinated-Entry-and-Order-of-Priority-Policy">https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/23018/2018--Coordinated-Entry-and-Order-of-Priority-Policy</a>
CHDO	Community Housing Development Organization Private nonprofit, community-based organization that has staff with the capacity to develop affordable housing for the community it serves. <a href="https://www.hud.gov/sites/documents/19790_CHDO.PDF">https://www.hud.gov/sites/documents/19790_CHDO.PDF</a>

<b>CINA</b>	Children in Need of Assistance	Children (under age 18) are deemed to be "in the need of assistance" if there is apparent abuse (physical, sexual, emotional) or neglect by a caretaker. (Law: <u>Md. Code, Courts and Judicial Proceedings § 3-801</u> ) <a href="http://dhs.maryland.gov/maryland-legal-services-program/children-in-need-of-assistance/">http://dhs.maryland.gov/maryland-legal-services-program/children-in-need-of-assistance/</a>
<b>CINS</b>	Children in Need of Supervision	A juvenile justice diversion program for youth ages 13-18 designed to interrupt pre-delinquent behavior patterns and redirect youth in a positive direction to prevent them from entering or progressing further into the juvenile justice system. <a href="https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/2988/Children-in-Need-of-Supervision">https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/2988/Children-in-Need-of-Supervision</a>
<b>CLASP</b>	Center for Law and Social Policy	A national, nonpartisan, anti-poverty nonprofit organization based in Washington D.C. that advocates for policies aimed at improving the lives of low-income people. <a href="https://www.clasp.org/">https://www.clasp.org/</a>
<b>CoC</b>	Continuum of Care	Local planning body responsible for coordinating the full range of homelessness services in a geographic area, which may cover a city, county, metropolitan area, or an entire state. <a href="https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/">https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/</a>
<b>COP</b>	Community Oriented Policing	A community-based program that dedicates police officers to reducing crime and enhancing the quality of life in neighborhoods. <a href="https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/faq.aspx?qid=105">https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/faq.aspx?qid=105</a>
<b>CSH</b>	Corporation for Supportive Housing	Federal technical assistance provider focused on advancing solutions that use housing as a platform for services to improve the lives of the most vulnerable people, maximizing public resources, and building healthy communities. <a href="https://www.csh.org/about-csh/">https://www.csh.org/about-csh/</a>
<b>CTE</b>	Career and Technical Education	Programs of study that have strong collaborative relationships with business, industry, and post-secondary education and consist of multi-year sequence of course work, career guidance, and work-based learning experience prior to leaving high school. <a href="https://www.pgcps.org/career-technical-education/">https://www.pgcps.org/career-technical-education/</a>
<b>CYPM</b>	Crossover Youth Practice Model	The CYPM is a nexus between research and best practices that outline systemic changes youth-serving systems can make to improve their ability to serve youth. <a href="https://cijr.georgetown.edu/our-work/crossover-youth-practice-model/">https://cijr.georgetown.edu/our-work/crossover-youth-practice-model/</a>
<b>DFS</b>	Department of Family Services	A County agency responsible for providing assistance to some of Prince George's most vulnerable citizens – children, families, victims of domestic violence, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, veterans, and seniors. <a href="https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/1628/Family-Services">https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/1628/Family-Services</a>
<b>DHCD</b>	Department of Housing and Community Development	A County agency responsible for expanding access to a broad range of quality housing, and to creating safe, well planned, attractive residential communities which enable families to become stable and self-sufficient. <a href="https://www.handhousing.org/hand-member-directory/pgdhcd/">https://www.handhousing.org/hand-member-directory/pgdhcd/</a>
<b>DHS</b>	Department of Human Services	Maryland's umbrella agency for 24 local departments of social services that assist people in economic need, provide preventive services, and protect vulnerable children and adults. <a href="http://dhr.maryland.gov/about-dhs/">http://dhr.maryland.gov/about-dhs/</a>
<b>DOC</b>	Department of Corrections	A County agency responsible for providing a safe, secure, and humane environment for pre-trial and sentenced offenders. <a href="https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/151/Corrections">https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/151/Corrections</a>
<b>DJS</b>	Department of Juvenile Service	Executive agency whose primary task is to appropriately manage, supervise, and treat youth who are involved in the Juvenile Justice System in Maryland. <a href="https://www.icarol.info/ResultDetails.aspx?org=2046&amp;agencynum=170941">https://www.icarol.info/ResultDetails.aspx?org=2046&amp;agencynum=170941</a>
<b>DPW&amp;T</b>	Department of Public Works and Transportation	County agency responsible for Prince George's County roadways, transportation infrastructure, sidewalks, storm water management facilities, and 3,000 acres of grassy area. <a href="https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/2287/About-Us">https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/2287/About-Us</a>
<b>ECE</b>	Early Childhood Education	Educational program that serves children in their preschool years, before they are old enough to enter kindergarten. <a href="https://www.preschoolteacher.org/what-is-early-childhood-education/">https://www.preschoolteacher.org/what-is-early-childhood-education/</a>
<b>ESG</b>	Emergency Solutions Grant	Program that provides homeless persons with basic shelter and essential supportive services. <a href="https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/1107/Emergency-Solutions-Grant">https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/1107/Emergency-Solutions-Grant</a>

<b>FQHC</b>	Federally Qualified Health Centers	Community-based healthcare providers that receive funds from the HRSA Health Center Program to provide primary care services in underserved areas. <a href="https://www.hrsa.gov/opa/eligibility-and-registration/health-centers/fqhc/index.html">https://www.hrsa.gov/opa/eligibility-and-registration/health-centers/fqhc/index.html</a>
<b>FUP</b>	Family Unification Program	The FUP provides the child welfare system with the resources necessary to prevent family separation due to homelessness and to prevent homelessness among aging-out youth. <a href="https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/993/Rental-Assistance-Services">https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/993/Rental-Assistance-Services</a>
<b>GOCPYVS</b>	Governor's Office on Crime Prevention Youth and Victim Services	The office that advises the Governor on criminal justice, youth, and survivor strategy. <a href="https://goc.maryland.gov/goc/">https://goc.maryland.gov/goc/</a>
<b>HCVF</b>	Housing Choice Voucher Program	Enables low-income families to rent an apartment, condominium, townhouse, or single-family unit in Prince George's County. <a href="https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/993/Rental-Assistance-Services">https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/993/Rental-Assistance-Services</a>
<b>HIP</b>	Housing Initiative Partnership	A nonprofit developer and counseling agency based in Prince George's County, dedicated to revitalizing neighborhoods. <a href="https://hiphomes.org/wp/">https://hiphomes.org/wp/</a>
<b>HMIS</b>	Homeless Management Information System	A software application that captures client-level information over time relating to the characteristics and needs of men, women, and children experiencing homelessness. <a href="https://www.hud.gov/">https://www.hud.gov/</a>
<b>HPRP</b>	Homeless Persons Representation Project	A legal services and advocacy organization that provides free legal services, including advice, counsel, education, representation, and advocacy, for low-income persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. <a href="http://www.hprplaw.org/who_we_are/what_we_do">http://www.hprplaw.org/who_we_are/what_we_do</a>
<b>HUD</b>	Housing and Urban Development	United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. <a href="https://www.hud.gov/">https://www.hud.gov/</a>
<b>IHE</b>	Institutions of Higher Education	Institutions of Higher Education provide education beyond the secondary level, and include community colleges, four-year colleges or universities, career and technical institutes, or other institutions providing post-secondary programs of study. <a href="https://www2.ed.gov/programs/eai/faq.html#question4">https://www2.ed.gov/programs/eai/faq.html#question4</a>
<b>LGBTQ+</b>	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning	A definition pertaining collectively to people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and to people with gender expressions outside traditional norms, including non-binary intersections and those questioning their gender identity or sexual orientation, and their allies. <a href="https://www.hrc.org">https://www.hrc.org</a>
<b>LBHA</b>	Local Behavioral Health Authority	Organizing body that plans, manages, and monitors the Public Behavioral Health Response System in Prince George's County. <a href="https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/2834/Local-Behavioral-Health-Authority-LBHA">https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/2834/Local-Behavioral-Health-Authority-LBHA</a>
<b>LMB</b>	Local Management Board	A collaborative body charged with identifying priorities and targeting jurisdictional resources for planning implementing and monitoring child and family services. <a href="https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/1635/Children-Youth-Families-Division">https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/1635/Children-Youth-Families-Division</a>
<b>MDH</b>	MD Department of Health	Maryland government agency that regulates healthcare providers, facilities, and organizations, and manages direct services to patients. <a href="https://www.mhaonline.org/advocacy/regulatory/mdh">https://www.mhaonline.org/advocacy/regulatory/mdh</a>
<b>MDOT</b>	Maryland Department of Transportation	Maryland government agency that is charged with developing a statewide coordinated and balanced approach to transportation. <a href="http://www.mdot.maryland.gov/newMDOT/">http://www.mdot.maryland.gov/newMDOT/</a>
<b>MSDE</b>	Maryland State Department of Education	This department develops and implements standards and policy for education programs from pre-kindergarten through high school. <a href="http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/about/Pages/default.aspx">http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/about/Pages/default.aspx</a>
<b>MHEC</b>	Maryland Higher Education Commission	Maryland's higher education coordinating board responsible for establishing statewide policies for Maryland's public and private colleges and universities. <a href="https://financialaid.umbc.edu/types-of-aid/maryland/">https://financialaid.umbc.edu/types-of-aid/maryland/</a>

<b>MMYC</b>	Maryland Multicultural Youth Center	A branch of the Latin American Youth Center established to provide Prince George’s County with multi-cultural, comprehensive, and innovative programs that address youths’ social, academic, and career needs. <a href="https://serviceyear.org/mmycac/">https://serviceyear.org/mmycac/</a>
<b>MNCPPC</b>	Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission	A bi-county agency serving Prince George’s and Montgomery counties that provides quality recreation programs, facilities, and services for residents and visitors. <a href="https://www.mncppc.org/185/Parks-Recreation">https://www.mncppc.org/185/Parks-Recreation</a>
<b>MVA</b>	Motor Vehicle Administration	Maryland government agency that administers vehicle registration and driver licensing. <a href="https://mva.maryland.gov">https://mva.maryland.gov</a>
<b>NAEH</b>	National Alliance to End Homelessness	A nonpartisan organization committed to preventing and ending homelessness in the United States. <a href="https://endhomelessness.org/">https://endhomelessness.org/</a>
<b>NAMI</b>	National Alliance on Mental Illness	The nation’s largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness. <a href="https://www.nami.org">https://www.nami.org</a>
<b>NASH</b>	National Alliance for Safe Housing	A national technical assistance provider focused on ensuring that survivors of domestic and sexual violence have a full range of safe housing options. <a href="https://www.nationalallianceforsafehousing.org/">https://www.nationalallianceforsafehousing.org/</a>
<b>NCHCW</b>	National Center for Housing and Child Welfare	An organization that links housing resources and knowledge to child welfare agencies to improve family functioning, prevent family homelessness, and reduce the need for out-of-home placement. <a href="https://www.nchcw.org/about-us">https://www.nchcw.org/about-us</a>
<b>NCHE</b>	National Center for Homeless Education	U.S. Department of Education's technical assistance and information center for the federal Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Program. <a href="https://nche.ed.gov/">https://nche.ed.gov/</a>
<b>NN4Y</b>	National Network for Youth	A public education and policy advocacy organization dedicated to the prevention and eradication of youth homelessness. <a href="https://nn4youth.org/about/">https://nn4youth.org/about/</a>
<b>PCWA</b>	Public Child Welfare Agency	Division of the Department of Social Services responsible for ensuring children are safe from neglect, physical or sexual abuse. <a href="https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/1647/Child-Protective-Services">https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/1647/Child-Protective-Services</a>
<b>PEP</b>	People Encouraging People	A nonprofit behavioral healthcare corporation dedicated to providing life-transforming rehabilitation and support services to people who are differently abled or disadvantaged. <a href="http://www.peponline.org/">http://www.peponline.org/</a>
<b>PGAHC</b>	Prince George’s Arts and Humanities Council	An independent nonprofit organization established to create a world-class cultural environment where diverse, high-quality arts and humanities programs are available for all Prince George’s County residence and visitors. <a href="https://www.pgahc.org">https://www.pgahc.org</a>
<b>PGCC</b>	Prince George’s Community College	Local community college that aligns its programs and resources with student and community needs and offers more than 200 academic and career training programs. <a href="https://www.pgcc.edu/about-pgcc/history--mission/">https://www.pgcc.edu/about-pgcc/history--mission/</a>
<b>PGCC CARES</b>	Prince George’s Community College-CARES	A campus-based office that provides services that enable students to realize their academic goals including course completion, graduation, transfer, and/or entry into the workforce. <a href="https://www.pgcc.edu/student-life-support-services/wellness-center/pgcc-cares/">https://www.pgcc.edu/student-life-support-services/wellness-center/pgcc-cares/</a>
<b>PGCHD</b>	Prince George's County Health Department	Local government agency committed to protect the public's health, assure availability of and access to quality healthcare services, and promote individual and community responsibility for the prevention of disease, injury, and disability. <a href="https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/1588/Health-Services">https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/1588/Health-Services</a>
<b>PGCPS</b>	Prince George's County Public Schools	Large public school district responsible for meaningful and challenging K-12 educational programming. <a href="https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/25099/Glossary-and-Acronyms">https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/25099/Glossary-and-Acronyms</a>
<b>PGCOIT</b>	Prince George’s County Office of Information Technology	Provides technological support to all agencies, departments, and branches of the County government. <a href="https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/639/Information-Technology">https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/639/Information-Technology</a>

<b>RHYS</b>	Runaway and Homeless Youth Service	Service that supports street outreach, emergency shelters, and longer-term transitional living and maternity group home programs to serve and protect these young people. <a href="https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/programs/runaway-homeless-youth">https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/programs/runaway-homeless-youth</a>
<b>SAMHSA</b>	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration	Agency that leads public health efforts to improve the lives of individuals living with mental and substance use disorders, and their families. <a href="https://www.samhsa.gov/">https://www.samhsa.gov/</a>
<b>SEED</b>	Sowing Empowerment and Economic Development, Inc.	A HUD approved housing counseling agency. <a href="http://www.pghealthconnect.org/about/">http://www.pghealthconnect.org/about/</a>
<b>SMYAL</b>	Sexual Minority Youth Assistance League	Organization dedicated to supporting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning youth as they journey from adolescence into adulthood. <a href="https://lgbtq.dc.gov/page/sexual-minority-youth-assistance-league-smyal">https://lgbtq.dc.gov/page/sexual-minority-youth-assistance-league-smyal</a>
<b>SOAR</b>	SSI/SSDI, Outreach, Access and Recovery	Program designed to help states and communities increase access to Supplemental Security Income/Social Security Disability Insurance (SSI/SSDI) benefits for people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and have a serious mental illness, medical impairment, and/or a co-occurring substance use disorder. <a href="https://www.samhsa.gov/">https://www.samhsa.gov/</a>
<b>SOC</b>	System of Care	Grant for expansion and sustainability of comprehensive community mental health services. <a href="https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/Archive.aspx?ADID=1555">https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/Archive.aspx?ADID=1555</a>
<b>SSA</b>	Social Security Administration	Federal government agency that administers Social Security and other social insurance programs consisting of retirement, disability, and survivors benefits. <a href="https://www.ssa.gov/agency/">https://www.ssa.gov/agency/</a>
<b>UCAP</b>	United Communities Against Poverty	A nonprofit CDC and community action agency providing shelter, food, and neighborhood revitalization in Prince George's County. <a href="https://www.ucappgc.org/about-us">https://www.ucappgc.org/about-us</a>
<b>UMB SSW</b>	University of Maryland, Baltimore School of Social Work	Graduate school of social work whose mission is to develop practitioners, leaders, and scholars to advance the well-being of populations and communities and to promote social justice. The Institute for Innovation & Implementation is the training arm which provides technical assistance, translational research, and evaluation. <a href="https://www.ssw.umaryland.edu/about-the-ssw/mission--outcomes/">https://www.ssw.umaryland.edu/about-the-ssw/mission--outcomes/</a> <a href="https://theinstitute.umaryland.edu/about-us/">https://theinstitute.umaryland.edu/about-us/</a>
<b>UMD</b>	University of Maryland, College Park	Institute of higher education located in College Park, MD. <a href="https://www.umd.edu/">https://www.umd.edu/</a>
<b>US ED</b>	United States Department of Education	An agency of the U.S. federal government that establishes policy for, administers, and coordinates most federal assistance to education to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access. <a href="https://www2.ed.gov/about/landing.jhtml">https://www2.ed.gov/about/landing.jhtml</a>
<b>USICH</b>	United States Interagency Council on Homelessness	Coordinates the federal response to homelessness by partnering with 19 federal agencies, state and local governments, advocates, service providers, and people experiencing homelessness to achieve the goals outlined in the first federal strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness. <a href="https://www.usich.gov/about-usich/">https://www.usich.gov/about-usich/</a>
<b>WIOA</b>	Work Innovation Opportunity Act	Signed into law on July 22, 2014, WIOA is designed to help job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the labor market and to match employers with the skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy. <a href="https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/wioa/about">https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/wioa/about</a>
<b>WIC</b>	Women Infants and Children	Provides supplemental food, healthcare referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and postpartum women, and to infants and children up to age five who are found to be at nutritional risk. <a href="https://www.fns.usda.gov/wic">https://www.fns.usda.gov/wic</a>

<b>YAB</b>	Youth Action Board	Advisory board comprised of youth and young adults under age 25 who have been at risk of or experienced homelessness. The YAB collaborated with HUD, Prince George's County CoC, and YHDP stakeholders to create the Coordinated Community Plan. <a href="https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/YHDP-Lessons-Learned.pdf">https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/YHDP-Lessons-Learned.pdf</a>
<b>YHDP</b>	Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project	HUD sponsored innovation designed to reduce the number of youths experiencing homelessness. Prince George's County was selected in Round Number 3. <a href="https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/yhdp/">https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/yhdp/</a>

# Appendix D: Youth Action Board Members & Expressions

## Youth Action Board Roster

- DaeJanae D., *Co-chair*
- Daija R.
- Dennis M., *Co-chair*
- Jasmine F.
- Jasmine M.
- M. B.
- Michael M.
- Parris B.
- R. K.
- Rico S.

## Youth Action Board Member Expressions

The Prince George’s County’s Youth Advisory Board is a dynamic group. The following is a compilation of their profound expressions along with highlights of their accomplishments and successes.

### DaeJanae D.

My name is DaeJanae D. and I was formerly homeless. I was kicked out by my mother in 2015 while I was attending the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. I was fortunate to find a haven at the facility called Promise Place in Capitol Heights, Maryland, for the duration of my college career and while working at the House of Delegates in Maryland. After graduating with my Bachelor of Arts, I learned that I was expecting. I then transitioned into St Anne’s in Hyattsville, Maryland. During this time, I was working at Wegmans and searching for another job. I had my daughter, Noelle, at 27 weeks, and I am truly grateful and blessed by the assistance of the staff and residents being there for me during my complications. With everything that happened to me, I started advocating for youth experiencing homelessness with Sasha Bruce Youthwork in 2018 and the Maryland Youth Homelessness Symposium in 2019. I am currently in the Master’s program for Public Relations at the University of Maryland Global Campus. I am also currently the Prince George’s County Youth Action Board Co-chair and Youth Advocate for the Department of Social Services.

### Daija R.

Hello, my name is Daija R. I have been a participant of the Latin American Youth Center/Maryland Multicultural Youth Center (MMYC) workforce since 2015. Before I started MMYC, I was a former student at Parkdale High School located in Riverdale, Maryland. When I started at Parkdale High School, I had to jump through hoops and hurdles to get my education completed. I was already at a disadvantage just starting my high school experience. Being placed a grade behind affected me on so many levels. I was going to graduate late. On the contrary to my peers, I did not want that to happen. So, I tried doing credit recovery and that did not work out. That is when I decided to take the GED route and I passed one section of the GED test. The workforce program helped me improve in my skills that I was struggling in and help build up my confidence and communication skills. To relax and relieve stress, I write what I feel. Below is one of my poems.

Welcome to my lonely life  
Welcome to My Lonely Life...

I thought by now I’ll feel somewhat okay, as time goes by my heart stop beating and became numb and frozen.  
I’ll never imagine losing someone close to me, I’m slowly fading away from the inside out.  
I don’t smile the same, but one thing that will remain the same is me, Daija.



## Dennis M.

My name is Dennis M. I am 23 years old and I am a Prince George's County native and resident. At the age of 18, I had the honor to serve my community as an AmeriCorps member for two years. I was able to accumulate over 1,800 community service hours. As an AmeriCorps member, I was tasked to be a tutor/mentor for at-risk youth in local Prince George's County Public Schools. We organized community events, food banks, and backpack giveaways. I was still a young man with no direction. I had no idea what I wanted to do with my life and I was still figuring out the man I wanted to become. However, I knew in my heart that I wanted to spend my life serving others. I decided to make community service my career.

I was hired by the Latin American Youth Center as the Lead Youth Developer after serving the two years as an AmeriCorps member. As Lead Youth Developer, I managed the Youth Engagement After-School program at William Wirt Middle School. I was able to create curriculums and lead classes of 20 plus youth. I taught hip-hop, chess, life skills, health, and fitness. Through hard work and dedication, I was hired as the Case Manager for the Host Homes program at the Latin American Youth Center in 2019. My job is to get youth off the streets and into host homes. I also get the opportunity to work with them one-on-one, teaching them life skills, connecting them to resources, including therapy, and being someone they can count on 24/7.

My service did not stop at work. I felt like there were more people that needed help. I was fortunate enough to try-out and make the Special Olympics DC United Unified Soccer team. I was selected as a 2016 MLS Special Olympics Unified All-Star and traveled to San Jose to play in the All-Star game along with a Special Olympics athlete and my coach. I am now the assistant coach for the Special Olympics DC United Unified Soccer Team. Since the age of 19, I have been hosting local artist showcases with the help of local businesses, for youth in the area who do not normally have the platform to perform their art. Most recently, I organized a block party in which local artists performed including a GoGo band named Reaction Band. The block party was organized to stand in solidarity with #DontMuteDC, which is an effort to preserve GoGo music and culture, to raise money for local nonprofit, after-school programs, and to collect hygiene donations for those who were affected by Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico. Now as the co-chair of the Youth Homeless Demonstration Program, my role is to serve on the Youth Action Board which consists of youth who have experienced homelessness. We work together with the Department of Social Services to figure out what to do with \$3 million to end youth homelessness in Prince George's County for good. I have always been an advocate for those who have not had the chance to advocate for themselves. It is my life goal to leave a long-lasting impact on my community.

## Jasmine F.

My name is Jasmine. I am 19 years old and a member of the Prince George's County Youth Action Board. I am a growing hair stylist and I have a lot of ambition and motivation to do anything I put my mind to. I advocate for the youth that go through homelessness and let them know that there is positivity and hope out there for them. One of my favorite quotes is:

*"It's not important what we have, but what we love and enjoy is an important part of happiness."*

## Jasmine M.

My name is Jasmine M., I am 18 years old, and I am a member of the Prince George's County Youth Action Board. In addition to being a part of the YAB, I am a high school senior (graduating in May), and I have gotten been accepted to Bowie State University for the Fall 2020 semester. I advocate for youth who need a voice to talk about what needs to be changed in the system. I also advocate for underage youth who need more reliable services in Prince Georges County. The quote I always go by is:

*"We need to prove that our sensitivity to those in need is stronger than our greed."*

## Michael M.

My Name is Michael M. I am currently a resident at Promise Place. I believe that the youth of today have a voice. They just need enough power to get the word out to the adults and the community. I recently went to Annapolis to advocate for the minors right to consent bill. I felt like I truly made a difference for all the youth in the Maryland area and I finally had a voice to share my concerns and suggestions to the legislators. A quote I live by is:

*“Keep your head up no matter how dark times are; there is always a light at the end of the road.”*

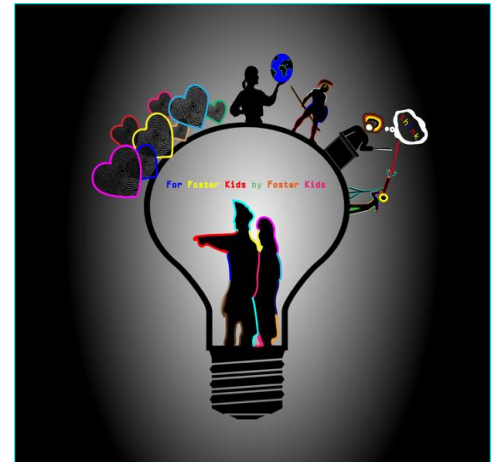
## Parris B.

My name is Parris B. and I am 20 years old. I am a member of the Prince George’s County Youth Action Board. I would like to focus and advocate for youth experiencing homelessness and the proper resources to independently and sustainably help them take care of themselves. I recently went to Annapolis to advocate for the minors right to consent bill. I felt like I had an equal voice to share my concerns and suggestions to the legislators without being judged. I want all the youth to feel the way I felt at the moment all the time.

## Rico S.

*“The best way to invent the future, is to invent it.”*

At five years old, a child was taken into the foster care system for neglect. Moving around from shelter to home to home, the child had no sense of guidance. Fueled by Frosted Flakes and a keen sense of awareness, this child was chosen to be the prodigy of his family. At 9 years old, this child was adopted. Following adoption, the child was badly abused almost every day by a traumatized man who hadn’t cared for the child. Five years later, finally the child broke free of the exaggerated disciplinary matters and went back into foster care. Having little guidance and even less hope, the child spun out of control.



Moving from home to home, not accepting authority figures or even themselves, although intelligent, the child’s future did not seem bright. Missing two years of high school and being moved between six different high schools, hope was almost lost. After living in a group home in Baltimore City, running track and field, and winning the City championship, and being offered an opportunity to attend college, the youth had a choice: Stay a child and possibly lose everything, or become a man and attend college.

My name is Rico S. (formally Recko Edward Calhoun), CEO of Foster Kids United and a business information system major hailing from the illustrious Bowie State University. At 20 years old, I stand to create a system, a system that is meant to bring change for the future. This system will help our youth channel their inner potential, while filtering out the unnecessary baggage that life tries to weigh on us. With a system that focuses on directly improving not only the youth, but also creating a sustained ecosystem for the youth to adapt and thrive in is what Our Kids United is all about.



**“We envision a County where youth homelessness does not exist and all youth and young adults are healthy, strong, safe, stable, connected, and thriving.”**



Angela D. Alsobrooks  
County Executive