



North Dakota-500 Statewide Continuum of Care

HUD Youth Homelessness Demonstration (YHDP) Program Request for Proposals

2022 Local Competition Packet Local Materials for Agencies Applying for YHDP Funding

SECTION I: OVERVIEW

Background

In July 2021, the North Dakota Continuum of Care (ND CoC) applied for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP). This HUD initiative, providing technical assistance as well as funding for planning and homeless assistance projects, to learn how communities can successfully approach the goal of preventing and ending youth homelessness by building comprehensive systems of care for young people and sharing that experience with communities around the country toward the same end. The population to be served by this program is youth experiencing homelessness, including unaccompanied and pregnant or parenting youth, where no member of the household is older than 24 years.

In September 2021, HUD awarded the ND CoC \$2.0 million under the YHDP initiative. A YHDP Core Team was formed, led by the ND CoC to manage the process of developing a Coordinated Community Plan (CCP) and to execute other YHDP requirements.

The Youth Action Board (YAB) is a group of leaders ages 14-24 with experience of homelessness and/or housing instability first established in 2017. Members represent youth who are disproportionately impacted, including LGBTQia+ youth, youth of color, parenting youth, young people with child welfare experience, and youth with disabilities. The YAB is supported and co-facilitated by youth and adult allies. The YAB makes program, policy, funding, and practice decisions for all activities to eradicate youth homelessness, including and beyond YHDP. Responsible, in collaboration with the YHDP Core Team, for ongoing YHDP oversight, improvement, community engagement, and updating the CCP annually.

The CCP was developed through listening sessions with regional coalitions and various special populations (Tribal entities, LGBTQia+, domestic violence/human trafficking, higher education, child welfare agencies, and juvenile justice). This plan lays out the vision, goals, and action plans to end youth homelessness, assessed the needs, service philosophy, and prioritizes and directs program implementation. It is expected that all applicants will read the CCP before applying for this grant.

YHDP Vision

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

Goals

1. **Stable Housing:** Create a "No Wrong Door" system for access to safe and accessible housing and services for all YYA – with an emphasis on LGBTQia+, non-binary gender identifying, Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), pregnant or parenting youth and young adults (YYA), survivors of human trafficking and/or exploitation and youth involved with foster care and/or the juvenile justice system – and involvement that is diverse and flexible and reflects their individual needs that leads to healthy, long-term, sustainable housing.
2. **Education:** Ensure YYA experiencing homelessness (especially LGBTQia+, non-binary gender identifying, BIPOC, pregnant or parenting YYA, survivors of human trafficking and/or exploitation, and youth involved with foster care and/or the juvenile justice system) have access to enroll and attend school/trade programs and secondary education and have the opportunity to succeed academically and socially.

3. Employment: Strengthen and improve the opportunity for North Dakota's YYA who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness – with an emphasis on LGBTQia+, non-binary gender identifying, BIPOC, pregnant or parenting YYA, survivors of human trafficking and/or exploitation, and youth involved with foster care and/or the juvenile justic system – to gain work experience and job training that will lead to skills for long-term and employment opportunities.
4. Overall Health and Well-Being: While immediate need of safe, secure, long-term shelter is critical for survival, the impact of homelessness – with an emphasis on LGBTQia+, non-binary gender identifying, BIPOC, pregnant or parenting YYA, survivors of human trafficking and/or exploitation, and youth involved with foster care and/or the juvenile justic system – is profound on them. Overall health and well-being is paramount, and becomes “core” that is interconnected and interrelated to their lives. Overall health and well-being becomes more important than anything else because it forms, shapes, and impacts self-worth and value.

Eligible Population and Documentation Requirement

YHDP funding can serve unaccompanied youth and pregnant and parenting youth through age 24 who are at risk of or currently experiencing homelessness under Category 1, 2, and 4 of HUD'S definition.

Expected Outcomes and Special Populations

New projects under this program will need to work with the United State Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) Youth Framework and be designed to meet the four core outcomes:

1. Stable Housing
2. Permanent Connections
3. Education/Employment
4. Social-emotional Well-being

Special populations warranting additional focus through this process are:

- LGBTQia+
- Minors
- Pregnant and parenting youth
- Justive involved youth
- Foster care involved youth
- Victims of human trafficking and exploitation
- Youth with a disability
- BIPOC

Eligible Applicants

Under the [CoC Program Interim rule](#), eligible applicants consist of nonprofit organizations, state and local governments, instrumentatlities of local governments, and public housing agencies. For-profit entities are not eligible to apply for grants or to be subrecipients of grant funds.

Detailed information on each of HUD's [Eligibility Requirements for Applicants of HUD's Grants Programs](#) is posted on HUD's Funding Opportunities Page.

Program Flexibility

YHDP projects may chose to take advantage of the special YHDP activities and other options listed in Attachment A. The options would not meet CoC program requirements but may be

used to carry out YHDP projects and either require notification or approval from the HUD Deputy Assistant Secretary.

Eligible Projects

YAB and the YHDP Core Team recommended the following eligible projects:

1. Transitional Housing-Rapid Rehousing Joint Component
2. Permanent Supportive Housing
3. System Navigation
4. Diversion and Rapid Rehousing
5. Homeless Management Information System (HMIS Lead Agency only)

YHDP funding can only be used for new projects or for adding new capacity to projects that meet the requirements in this RFP.

YHDP Project Requirements

Selected project applicants are required to meet the following requirements:

1. Complete full applications in HUD's e-snaps grant management system. If awarded, HUD will grant funds directly to applicants (recipients) for all YHDP funding.
2. All grant funds must be matched with an amount no less than 25 percent of the awarded grant amount (excluding the amount awarded to the leasing budget line item) with cash or in-kind resources.
3. Enter client data into HMIS or the ND CoC approved comparable database, collect HUD and local YHDP required data elements.
4. Participate in the annual Point-in-Time and Housing Inventory Counts, participate in the ND CoC, and comply with all ND CoC Policies and Procedures (unless there is a YHDP-specific alternative requirement).
5. Comply with program requirements per the HUD CoC Interim rule (unless there is a HUD-approved YHDP alternative requirement).
6. The recipients must collect and report data on their use of CoC program funds in an Annual Performance Report and any additional reports required by HUD.
7. Recipients of CoC funds are required to have a person with lived experience on their board/equivalent policy making body.
8. Participate in YHDP and national learning community by engaging in local YHDP training opportunities, participation in monthly national and learning community calls.
9. Selected projects are required to incorporate the YHDP guiding principles into service provision for all YHDP funded or sub-contracted service providers.
10. Selected applicants and partner agencies will need to become involved in the Coordinated Entry, Access, Referral, Entry, and Stabilization System (CARES), ND CoC's Coordinated Entry System, as a lead partner, assessment or access site, or housing provider.
11. All projects must follow the CARES Policy Manual and Prioritization Policy.
12. All projects must use the Housing First model.
13. All YHDP funded projects have/will create policies and protocols for training all housing 4 survivors of human trafficking and/or exploitation, and youth involved with foster care and/or the juvenile justic system.
14. Youth compensation

SECTION II: HOMELESS DEFINITION

Communities awarded funds under YHDP can serve unaccompanied youth under age 25, including pregnant or parenting youth, who meet Category 1, 2, or 4 of homelessness in HUD's Final Definition of Homeless. For more detailed guidance on determining the homeless status of youth and necessary documentation, please see [Determining the Homeless Status of Youth](#).

Category 1 – Literal Homelessness

Youth, including pregnant or parenting youth, in the following living situations:

- Shelter, including emergency shelter, transitional housing, or hotel/motel paid by government or charity;
- Street or other place not meant for human habitation (ex. car, garage, park, abandoned building); or
- An institution (ex., jail, hospital, juvenile detention) that the youth is exiting and where the youth was a resident for 90 days or less AND the youth resided in emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately prior to entering that institution.

Category 2 – Imminent Risk of Homelessness

Youth, including pregnant or parenting youth, in the following living situations:

- In own housing, but being evicted within 14 days;
- A hotel or motel paid for by someone other than a government or charitable organization, including the youth, family, or friends where the youth cannot stay for more than 14 days (often due to lack of ability to continue paying); or
- With family or friends and being asked to leave within 14 days, which includes:
 - Youth staying with their biological parents, relatives, any individual they identify as family or a friend
 - Youth who are moving from one home to another “couch surfing” and cannot stay at their current home or “couch”
 - Youth who are in a legal guardianship

Additionally, youth must have no safe alternative housing, resources, or support networks to maintain or obtain permanent housing.

Category 4 – Fleeing Violence

Youth, including pregnant and parenting youth, fleeing or attempting to flee their housing or the place they are staying because of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions related to violence that has taken place in the house or has made them afraid to return to the house, including:

- Trading sex for housing;
- Trafficking;
- Physical abuse;
- Emotional abuse, such as threats, intimidation, and exposure to trauma;
- Family conflict that has caused a youth to feel physically or emotionally unsafe and unable to stay in their current living situation;*
- Financial abuse, such as controlling a youth's income or stealing a youth's identity in order to use their credit;

- Violence (or perceived threat of violence) because of the youth's sexual orientation or gender identity;
- Active drug/illegal substance use in the youth's current housing;
- Gang or neighborhood violence that is being directed to a youth in their home;** or
- Other illegal activity in the household that is putting a youth or a youth's child at risk.

Additionally, the youth must have no safe, alternative housing, resources, or support networks to maintain or obtain permanent housing.

*If youth are under the age of 18 you may be required to report family conflict resulting in abuse or neglect to the local child welfare agency. It is important to understand the mandatory reporting laws for child abuse and neglect in your local jurisdiction.

**Gang or neighborhood violence has to be directed at the youth in their home not just in the general community to be eligible under category 4.

SECTION III: HUD GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Additional information can be found in the YHDP Coordinated Community Plan.

Equity

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

Positive Youth Development

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

Trauma-Informed Care

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

Family Engagement

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

Housing First for Youth

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

1. Immediate access to permanent housing with no preconditions
2. Youth choice and self-determination
3. Individualized and youth-driven supports
4. Persistent engagement.

Unsheltered Homelessness

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

Youth Choice and Client-Driven Support

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

Social and Community Integration

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

Coordinated Entry

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

SECTION IV: OVERVIEW OF THE YHDP PROGRAM COMPETITION

IMPORTANT PROJECT APPLICATION DATES AND DEADLINES

- May 9, 2022 – YHDP Requests for Proposals Published
- May 20, 2022 – RFP Application Lab (10:30 a.m.)
- May 25, 2022 – RFP Application Lab (2 p.m.)
- June 8, 2022 – Project Applications submitted to ND CoC via PDF for ranking
- June 16, 2022 – Rating & Ranking Committee Meeting
- June 17, 2022 – Project Applicants notified of inclusion in YHDP Application
- June 20, 2022 – ND CoC Board vote on Rating & Ranking Committee recommendations
- June 21, 2022 – CoC Membership vote on Rating & Ranking Committee recommendations
- July 1, 2022 – Approved applications submitted to HUD in e-snaps

Deadline

June 8, 2022 @ 7 p.m. CST.

Funding

In September 2021, ND CoC was awarded \$2.0 million in the U.S. Housing and Urban Development's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program. Following is a potential breakdown of the available funding for this program:

- Joint Transitional Housing-Rapid Rehousing: \$800,000-\$1,000,000
- Supportive Services Only/System Navigation: \$300,000-\$425,000
- Rapid Rehousing: \$250,000-\$375,000
- Permanent Supportive Housing: \$150,000-\$200,000
- Homeless Management Information System (HMIS Lead Agency only): \$40,000-\$50,000

Application Process Overview and Project Selection

The YHDP Rating & Ranking Committee, comprised of subject matter experts, including YAB members, without YHDP funding related conflicts, will score the proposals, and make the final applicant selection recommendations to the ND CoC board and membership. YHDP projects will be selected through this competitive RFP and will need to work in consultation with the ND CoC to apply to HUD through e-snaps (HUD's grants management system). All project selections through this RFP will be made pending approval from HUD and may be amended based on HUD input.

HUD approved projects will be awarded for a two-year term with potential for renewal through future HUD CoC competitions as part of the ND-500 CoC.

All applications should be submitted together in one digital (PDF format) document to Shawnel Willer, ND CoC coordinator, smwiller@nd.gov by June 8, 2022 at 7 p.m. CST. Submitted applications should include, in this order:

1. Project application from e-snaps
2. Threshold requirements (attached to email from ND CoC)
3. Most recent financial audit report
4. Proof of 501(c)(3)
5. MOU between applicant and subgrantee (if applicable)

If you have any questions related to the application, please contact Shawnel Willer.

All applicants will go through a threshold review to ensure the projects application and applicant meets all the thresholds outlined in Thresholds Requirements document. Applicants who do not pass the threshold will not be further reviewed under the competition.

The ND CoC reserves the right to accept or reject any and all proposals in full or in part and to suggest potential collaborations. The decisions of the YHDP Rating & Ranking Committee are final and not subject to appeal.

Eligible Projects

The ND CoC, in collaboration with YAB and YHDP Core Team, has prioritized the following project types. All projects must follow guiding principles in Section III. All applications must meet current HUD requirements. Alternative requirements might be submitted at the same time through e-snaps but it may not be approved by HUD.

1. Transitional Housing-Rapid Rehousing (TH-RRH) Joint Component

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

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

The ND CoC wants projects that are flexible and meet the short- and long-term needs of young people. This means we want young people to be dually-enrolled in TH and RRH and have the option of moving among and between both options.

2. Permanent Supportive Housing

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

PSH programs will allow young people who may have higher barriers to housing (criminal records, disabling conditions, etc.) to have more access to voluntary supportive services alongside housing. The services are designed to build independent living and tenancy skills and connectg people with community-based health care, treatment, and employment services. There is not time limit for enrollment in PSH projects.

3. System Navigation

The goal of system navigation is to support youth and their case managers through the process of obtaining permanent housing. The goal of the housing navigators is not to duplicate the work of case managers, but instead to assist YYA in making sure all elements of their case plan are actually carried out by lowering barriers to accessing housing and services. Additionally, navigators will be specialists in educating young people about their options, whether those options are within the system or not. Phone, w eb, and app-based technology will also be implemented to created anonymous access points for young people who may feel uncomfortable or unsafe accessing more traiditional access sites.

Specifically, a housing navigator will help YYA enroll in all housing and services to which

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

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

4. Diversion and Rapid Rehousing

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

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

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

5. Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

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

Scoring Criteria

Scoring Criteria (each line item has a maximum of 10 points)	
Does your agency's mission/vision/values align with that of the ND YHDP as detailed in the Coordinated Community Plan? <i>(e-snaps application section 3b)</i>	
Experience with proposed project type and homeless population, especially with youth. <i>(e-snaps application section 2b)</i>	
Experiencing using state/federal funds, leveraging other funding and in good standing. <i>(e-snaps application section 2b)</i>	
Demonstrates that applicant has the organizational infrastructure and administrative/financial capacity to deliver the services as proposed. <i>(e-snaps application section 2b)</i>	

Collaborate with other community partners and knowledge of existing resources. (<i>e-snaps application section 3b</i>)	
Program design includes provision of appropriate housing and supportive services and type, scale, and location of the supportive services fit the needs of the program participants. Program design is fully described, accessible, and appropriate to the project proposed and fits the needs of the target population. (<i>e-snaps application section 4a</i>)	
Program demonstrates understanding and ability to implement Housing First for Youth principles as described in the Coordinated Community Plan. (<i>e-snaps application section 3b</i>)	
Has a quality staffing plan sufficient to implement proposed activities. (<i>e-snaps application section 6</i>)	
Proposed services are adequate to support the target population. (<i>e-snaps application section 4a</i>)	
Have a continuous quality improvement plan that incorporates youth voice. (<i>Threshold requirements document, Q10</i>)	
Costs are reasonable, competitive, and activities are eligible. (Rating & Ranking Committee might tentatively approve a project with suggested budget changes.) (<i>e-snaps application section 6</i>)	
Total Points	
YAB Bonus (Each YAB representative has 10 bonus points total across all projects.)	