

SACHS Research Summary: Preventing Homelessness Among Transition Age Youth (TAY)

Prepared by:
Karissa Hughes, MSW and Joanne Chen, MA, CPC

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Executive Summary

Navigating the transition to adulthood can be awkward, angst-filled, and difficult for many young people. But for the population known as unaccompanied Transition Age Youth (TAY), this time period comes with many more possible challenges, including: surviving without a stable home and the emotional and moral support of family, peers, and/or a community network; coping with trauma/violence experienced prior to, during, and after homelessness; unemployment; criminal victimization; mental illnesses; substance abuse; and/or early parenthood.

In an effort to end the crisis of youth homelessness in this country by 2020, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) published a framework, calling for two actions:

1. To obtain better data on the numbers and characteristics of youth experiencing homelessness.
2. To strengthen and coordinate the capacity of federal, state, and local systems to fill existing service gaps and build new resources to help this highly diverse, mobile, and vulnerable population attain stable housing, permanent connections, education or employment, and social-emotional well-being.

We have made strides on both fronts since the release of this framework back in 2012. But there is still more work to be done.

To support the Southern Area Consortium of Human Services (SACHS) Directors in making informed policy decisions related to TAY homelessness, this research summary highlights:

- Information on the characteristics of the homeless TAY population (e.g., race/ethnicity, gender, sexuality, urban and rural settings) and risk factors for youth homelessness (e.g., family conflict, grief/loss, education levels, pregnancy/parenting, prior enrollment in foster care, behavioral health issues)
- Federal frameworks and models from the USICH, the Interagency Working Group on Ending Youth Homelessness, the National Alliance to End Homelessness, A Way Home America, and the National Network for Youth
- Recommended evidence-based practices (EBPs) and other promising strategies for addressing and preventing TAY homelessness over the long-term, such as:
 - Engaging and including TAY in the joint creation of developmentally appropriate, trauma-informed, culturally competent, strengths-based, and custom-tailored solutions
 - More flexible housing models/programs that cater to the needs of this mobile population (e.g., Housing First)
 - School services to support enrollment, retention, and completion (including at the post-secondary level)
 - Services that connect TAY with employment opportunities and help build financial knowledge and assets

- Trauma-informed behavioral health services to foster healing, development, and resiliency
- Assistance in strengthening/re-building family, peer, and community connections and supports
- Increased enrollment of young adults (18+) in the Extended Foster Care (EFC) program
- Strategic utilization of additional funding available to support, augment, and evaluate services for TAY experiencing or at-risk of homelessness
- Chapin Hall's Voices of Youth Count (VoCA) national research and policy initiative completed a systematic review of studies evaluating the effectiveness of 51 interventions that aim to address and/or prevent youth homelessness, and improve outcomes in seven specific areas:
 - Interventions to prevent youth homelessness
 - Shelter and housing interventions
 - Outreach interventions
 - Individual counseling and related interventions for youth homelessness
 - Family interventions
 - Economic and employment interventions
 - Non-housing case management and support
- Though a number of the intervention approaches/models reviewed show promising results (e.g., increased well-being, preventing homelessness, improved behavioral health, mitigating risk behaviors), researchers concluded that more rigorous studies (i.e., randomized evaluations) are still needed.
- Examples of localized housing programs in California and supplemental resources, including additional tools, reports/studies, and national and state organizations focusing on TAY homelessness.

I. Background

Defining the Population: TAY Experiencing Homelessness

- Although variably defined, the population known as “Transition Age Youth” or “Transitional Aged Youth” (TAY), typically refers to the span from older adolescence (e.g., 15-16 years of age) to young adulthood (e.g., 24-26 years of age). For the purposes of this report, TAY is used as an acronym to include vulnerable and unaccompanied youth and young adults within this primary age range (15-25 years old), unless otherwise noted.
 - TAY are navigating the developmental years of growing out of childhood and into adulthood and are at high risk of not successfully transitioning into independence due to the complexity of their needs, the lack of a strong support system and the many challenges they face (i.e., aging out of the foster care system, leaving psychiatric hospitals or juvenile/adult correctional facilities, mental health or substance abuse issues, experiencing homelessness).
 - The TAY population may also include those who are under age 21 and are currently in foster care, enrolled in extended foster care or justice-involved youth/young adults.
 - Within the TAY population exists a myriad of identities, experiences, and socio-economic levels from many diverse racial and ethnic communities and cultures.
- There is also no single definition of the terms “runaway youth” or “homeless youth.” However, both groups of youth share the risk of not having adequate shelter and other provisions and may engage in harmful behaviors while away from a permanent home.
 - To align with language in the *Runaway and Homeless Youth Act* (2008), in this report, the term “unaccompanied homeless youth or young adults” includes *individuals* primarily between 13-25 years old who are experiencing homelessness on their own (i.e., they are not accompanied by a parent, guardian or spouse, and are not a parent presenting with or sleeping in the same place as his or her children). This also includes a broad definition of homelessness to include the experience of sleeping in places in which people are not meant to live, staying in shelters, or temporarily staying with others (i.e., couch surfing) and not having a safe alternative.¹

Statistics on Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

- The growth of homelessness among youth and young adults, as well as their unique circumstances and needs, prompted the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban

¹ Samuels, G. M., Cerven, C., Curry, S., Robinson, S. R., & Patel, S. (2019). *Missed opportunities in youth pathways through homelessness*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. Retrieved from https://voicesofyouthcount.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/ChapinHall_VoYC_Youth-Pathways-FINAL.pdf

Development (HUD), to establish 2017 as a baseline year for tracking progress toward ending youth homelessness.

- The 2018 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) found nationally about 36,361 people were experiencing homelessness as “unaccompanied youth.”² This translates to about 30% of those experiencing homelessness being under age 25.
 - Just over half (51%) of unaccompanied homeless youth were unsheltered, a higher rate than for all people experiencing homelessness (35%).
 - Nearly 9 in 10 (89%) of unaccompanied homeless youth were between 18 and 24 years old.
 - Thirty-eight percent of unaccompanied homeless youth were women or girls, higher than of all individuals experiencing homelessness (28%).
 - One-third (34%) of unaccompanied homeless youth live in California, which is the highest percentage of unaccompanied youth in the nation.
 - In California, 80% of the state’s unaccompanied homeless youth (at 9,920 people) live in unsheltered locations.³ Without shelter, unaccompanied TAY have little or no access to the services they need to make a permanent transition off the streets and out of poverty.
- Solving homelessness among TAY is also a critical part of ending California’s larger homelessness crisis, because young people who experience homelessness are five times more likely than their peers to become homeless adults.⁴
 - Adolescence and young adulthood represent a key developmental window. Every day of housing instability and associated stressors represents a missed opportunity to support healthy development and transitions to stable adulthood.

Uniqueness of Homelessness Among TAY

- TAY are defined by a complex and critical stage of personal growth. Unfortunately, homeless TAY lack safety, stability and other basic life needs. Moreover, many TAY are unable to access systems, services and resources to support them.
- Reports across various systems show TAY experiencing homelessness are notoriously difficult to track, as they are a group that often stays hidden from view.
 - Homeless TAY are often found in groups in unsheltered locations, hiding out in cars and abandoned buildings, in motels, or couch-surfing with relatives,

² The Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) is a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) report Point-In-Time (PIT) count and Housing Inventory Count (HIC). At the time of this report, Jan. 2019 AHAR and PIT counts were not publicly available, so included 2018 data. Source: The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development. (2018). *HUD Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress*, 2018. Retrieved <https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/2018-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>

³ Ibid.

⁴ Administration for Children and Families (ACF). (2016). *Administration for Children and Families, Family and Youth Services Bureau Street Outreach Data Collection Report*. Retrieved from https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/fysb/data_collection_study_final_report_street_outreach_program.pdf

friends or strangers. TAY who struggle with homelessness are often in constant motion and it is not uncommon within a single week, for a young person to move from couch surfing, to a car, to the street.⁵

- Many TAY fail to approach shelters due to concerns of personal safety, with research noting TAY have higher rates of victimization in these settings.⁶
- Homeless TAY may have a lack of awareness that there are targeted programs and services available to them.
- Homeless youth under 18 may also avoid shelters and housing programs due to fear of entering the foster care system.
- TAY homelessness is unique due to the following distinct characteristics of developing young adults:⁷
 - They are still maturing physically, emotionally, psychologically and socially and thus are challenged to fully function within adult-oriented systems.
 - They enter homelessness with little or no work experience.
 - They often become homeless, before developing basic life skills, such as cooking, budgeting, housekeeping, job searching, etc.
 - They are often forced into leaving the education system prior to completion as a result of homelessness or experience academic gaps due to transiency and changing schools.
 - They experience high levels of criminal victimization, including sexual exploitation⁸ and labor trafficking.
 - They often distrust adults and societal systems due to the high prevalence of trauma, sexual and physical abuse, rejection and violence in their lives.
 - Particularly for those aging out of foster care or justice-involved youth, additional barriers to stable housing may include early parenthood, family instability, lack of a safety net, and poor independent living skills.
- TAY homelessness involves diverse experiences and circumstances. While the concept of homelessness might seem straightforward, it takes many forms in terms of situations, needs, and duration. These different circumstances require varying solutions. Effectively serving homeless TAY requires strategic thinking on ways to reach, engage, support, and house them.⁹

⁵ Whitbeck, L., Welch Lazowitz, M., Crawford, D., & Hautala, D. (2016). Administration for Children and Families Family and Youth Services Bureau Street Outreach Program: Data Collection Study Final Report. Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska–Lincoln. Retrieved from

https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/fysb/data_collection_study_final_report_street_outreach_program.pdf.

⁶ Tyler, K.A. and Beal, M.R. (2010). *The High-Risk Environment of Homeless Young Adults: Consequences for Physical and Sexual Victimization*. Sociology Department, Faculty Publications. Retrieved from: <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/sociologyfacpub/96>

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Note: There is a significant correlation between the populations of youth experiencing homelessness and commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC).

⁹ Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. (2017). *Voices of Youth Count: Missed Opportunities: Youth Homelessness in America*. Retrieved from <http://voicesofyouthcount.org/brief/national-estimates-of-youth-homelessness/>

Risk Factors for Young People Experiencing Homelessness

- Data on the paths and needs of TAY experiencing homelessness finds their situations are often defined by multiple risk factors, overlapping challenges, persistently unmet needs, problematic interactions with local systems, and many missed opportunities to intervene.¹⁰
- In a March 2019 report, the *Congressional Research Service* identified family conflict and family dynamics, a youth's sexual orientation, sexual activity, school problems, pregnancy and substance use as primary risk factors for youth homelessness. Also noted in the congressional report, females were more likely than males to run away, and among white, black and Hispanic youth, black youth had the highest rates of running away, with approximately half of youth running away before the age of 14.¹¹
- Similarly, the *Voices of Youth Count* by Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago (2017) on youth homelessness found (also see *Figure 1* below):¹²
 - The lack of a high school diploma or General Equivalency Diploma (GED) is the number one correlate for elevated risk of youth homelessness. Youth without such basic education credentials were found to be 4.5 times more likely to experience homelessness.
 - The second highest risk factor is having a child. More than one in three homeless young women were pregnant or parenting.
 - Certain populations—specifically, African American, Hispanic youth, American Indian and Alaska Native youth; and young people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender are statistically more likely to experience homelessness than their peers.
 - Estimated to make up around 7% of the general population of youth, LGBT youth make up an estimated 40% of the population of TAY experiencing homelessness.
 - Twenty-nine percent of homeless TAY report having substance misuse problems.
 - Sixty-nine percent of homeless youth report mental health problems.
 - Fifty percent of homeless youth have been in the juvenile justice system, in jail or detention.
 - Young people living in rural and urban communities experience homelessness at similar rates.¹³

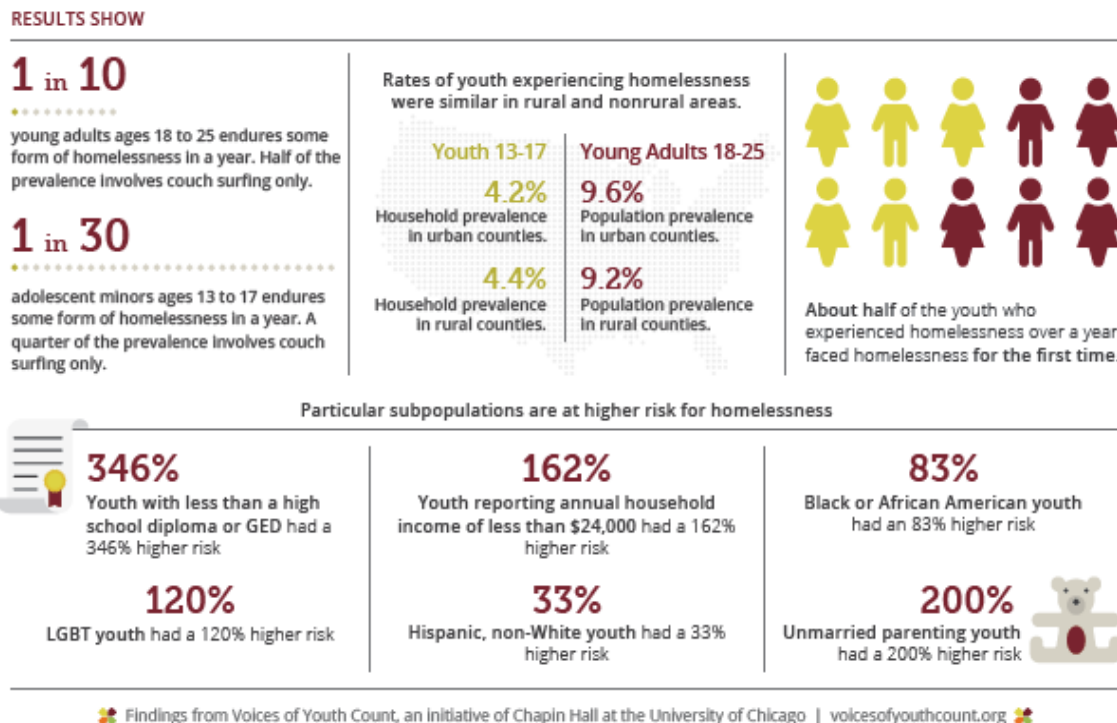
¹⁰ Bay Area Legal Aid. (July 2018). *Building a Safety Net for the Safety Net: Legal Aid in Partnership with Youth. [Insights from Youth Homelessness project]*. Oakland, CA: Author. Retrieved from <https://baylegal.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/2018-BayLegal-Youth-Homelessness-Project-Report.pdf>

¹¹ Congressional Research Service. (2019). *Runaway and Homeless Youth: Demographics and Programs*. Washington, DC: Author. Retrieved from <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/RL/RL33785>

¹² Morton, M.H., Dworsky, A., & Samuels, G.M. (2017). *Missed opportunities: Youth homelessness in America. National estimates*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. <https://voicesofyouthcount.org/brief/national-estimates-of-youth-homelessness/>

¹³ Ibid.

Figure 1: TAY Risk Factors for Homelessness¹⁴



- The age at which TAY first experience unaccompanied homelessness varies, but typically occurs largely in the teenage years. Over 50% of youth first experienced homelessness between the ages of 16 to 18, and another 21% became homeless during early adolescence, ages 13 to 15. Only 1% of youth reported a first-time experience of homelessness after age 21. Yet interviews with TAY suggest the beginnings of their housing instability occurred far earlier than the statistics imply.¹⁵
- The impact and prevalence of intimate partner violence among youth experiencing homelessness is also significant. According to the 2018 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count, 34% of 18 to 24-year-old youth experiencing homelessness in the region reported having been victimized by some type of intimate partner violence.¹⁶
- Human development also plays a role in higher rates of homelessness among TAY. Rational decision-making, inhibition, planning and reasoning are all stifled until young people mature, making young people biologically more likely to engage in high-risk behaviors, such as unsafe sexual activity and substance use, than more mature adults. Without safe and permanent homes and caring adults, runaway and

¹⁴ I Morton, M.H., Dworsky, A., & Samuels, G.M. (2017). *Missed opportunities: Youth homelessness in America. National estimates*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.

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

¹⁵ Samuels, G. M., Cerven, C., Curry, S., Robinson, S. R., & Patel, S. (2019). *Missed opportunities in youth pathways through homelessness*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. Retrieved from

https://www.chapinhall.org/wp-content/uploads/ChapinHall_VoYC_Youth-Pathways-FINAL.pdf

¹⁶ Homelessness Policy Research Institute. (2019). *Intimate Partner Violence Among Youth Experiencing Homelessness*. Retrieved from <https://socialinnovation.usc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Intimate-Partner-Violence-and-Youth-Literature-Review-Final.pdf>

homeless TAY are at an even greater risk of engaging in high-risk behaviors or putting themselves in unsafe situations.¹⁷

- By identifying the common experiences that lead to TAY becoming homeless, we can identify where, when, and with whom we need to intervene to prevent homelessness. Chapin Hall researchers conducted in-depth interviews with 215 young people (ages 13 to 25) in five locations.¹⁸ After gathering the unique stories of housing instability among young people, they identified four key findings that recognize the common shared experiences of homelessness among TAY:¹⁹
 - *Young people link the beginning of their homelessness to earlier disruptions of family and home, including family homelessness and entrance into foster care.*
 - Most youth said their first time homeless grew out of volatile or unsafe family contexts that, over time, erupted into parental rejection, getting kicked out, or fleeing family conflict.
 - Nearly one-quarter of participants (24%) experienced family homelessness with their parents.
 - Ninety-four of the 215 youth interviewed had foster care histories and 23% of all youth in the study had aged out of foster care. Forty-four percent identified entrance into foster care as the beginning of their housing instability.
 - *Young people name multilevel factors—critical conditions— that shaped how pathways through homelessness unfolded.*
 - “Critical conditions” are categorized into three groupings: personal (individual-level factors), relational (peer- and family-level factors), and structural (factors related to youth’s external environments, including service systems and communities). Addressing all three of these conditions is critical.
 - *Youths’ pathways through homelessness reflect geographic mobility (within city/town, county, state, multistate, multination) and fluidity in sleeping arrangements (shelters, couch surfing, streets, etc.).*
 - Youth described having to move frequently—and at times rapidly—from street to street and neighborhood to neighborhood. But their movement largely remained bounded within their own home states (69%); while most youth moved in and out of their hometowns (81%) many youth never traveled outside of their original counties (42%).

¹⁷ National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL). (2019). *Youth Homelessness Overview [Webpage]*. Retrieved from <http://www.ncsl.org/research/human-services/homeless-and-runaway-youth.aspx>

¹⁸ Locations where youth were surveyed included: Cook County, IL, Philadelphia County, PA, Travis County, TX, San Diego County, CA, and Walla Walla County, WA.

¹⁹ Samuels, G. M., Cerven, C., Curry, S., Robinson, S. R., & Patel, S. (2019). *Missed opportunities in youth pathways through homelessness*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. Retrieved from https://www.chapinhall.org/wp-content/uploads/ChapinHall_VoYC_Youth-Pathways-FINAL.pdf

- The pathways were impacted by youths' desires to manage or protect relationships tied to family, friends, and peers.
- *Youth pathways through homelessness are also characterized by significant personal losses; 35% of youth experienced the death of at least one parent or primary caregiver.*
 - Throughout their interviews, youth recalled surviving the loss of parents, caregivers, and extended family members.
 - For some, a parent's death was synonymous with the loss of physical home space, especially for youth living with single parents. Other times, the death of a young person's grandparents or siblings caused their parents to spiral back into an addiction or intensified a mental health issue.
 - None of these young people interviewed reported receiving support in addressing their grief/loss.

Predicting Risk of Homelessness for TAY Exiting Foster Care

- Older youth who age out of foster care are at increased risk for several adverse adult outcomes, including homelessness, high unemployment rates, low educational attainment, and early or unintended pregnancies.²⁰
- The 2017 Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) national point-in-time study found 553,742 individuals were experiencing homelessness. According to the same meta-analysis, nationally 30% of adults experiencing homelessness had also been in foster care, creating a cycle that is often hard to break.²¹
 - Similarly, the results from Chapin Hall's (2017) Voices of Youth Count (VoYC) national survey on youth/young adult homelessness found 33% of homeless youth/young adults had been part of the foster care system at least once.
- Children in foster care face multiple factors that increase their risk of homelessness. Understanding the risk and protective factors impacting the likelihood of youth aging out of foster care and becoming homeless can help service providers target engagement strategies, interventions and resources accordingly.²²
 - Shah, et al. (2015) identified key risk and protective factors associated with homelessness in the 12 months after they age out of foster care (see *Figure 2*). Authors used a predictive model that involved input from subject matter experts, various data elements (including a study population of 1,213 youth

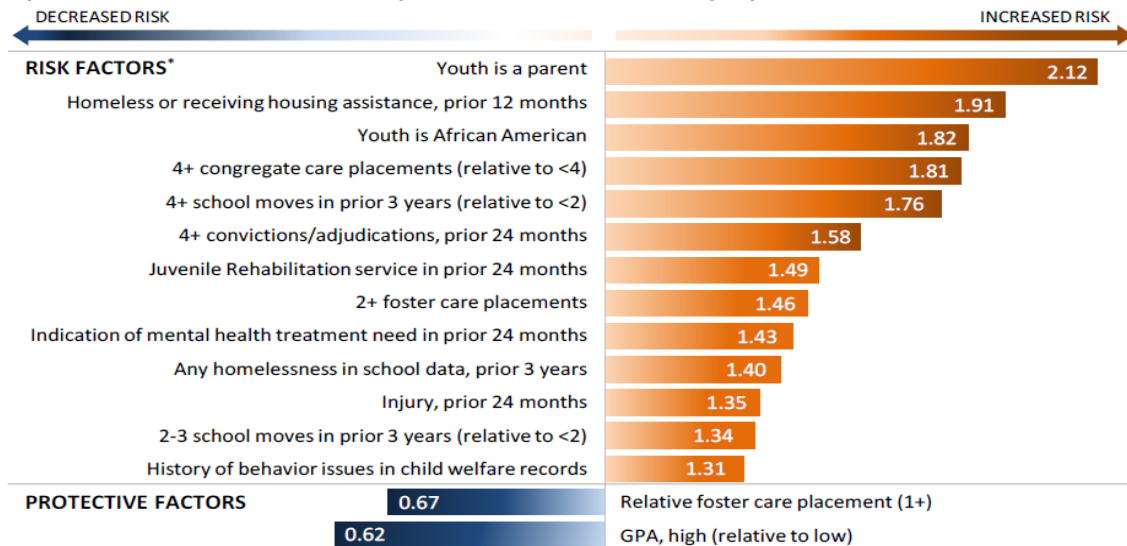
²⁰ Rosenberg, R., & Abbott, S. (2019). Supporting Older Youth Beyond Age 18: Examining Data and Trends in Extended Foster Care. *Child Trends*. Retrieved from https://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/ExtendedFosterCare_ChildTrends_June2019.pdf

²¹ California Child Welfare Co-Investment Partnership. (Summer 2018). Housing Insecurity and Child Welfare. *Insights: Vol. XV*. Retrieved from http://co-invest.org/wp-content/uploads/Insight_XV_FINAL_web.pdf

²² Ross, C. and Selekmán, R. (2017). Analysis Data on Youth with Child Welfare Involvement at Risk (2017). Analysis of Data on Youth with Child Welfare Involvement at Risk of Homelessness. *OPRE Report #2017-54*. Retrieved from https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/opre/yarh_analysis_of_data_2017_54_508_compliant.pdf

statewide who exited foster care at age 17 years-old or older and did not return to care), and a refinement of the current statistical model in Washington State.²³

Figure 2: Odds of Experiencing Homelessness after Aging out of Foster Care



*NOTE: 1) Disrupted adoptions are highly predictive of homelessness (Odds Ratio = 3.39), but the prevalence is extremely low (2 percent) and therefore not included in the above chart, 2) prior homelessness or housing assistance was based on data from ACES and HMIS and included permanent and permanent supportive housing, and 3) all factors are statistically significant at $p < .05$ except history of behavior issues in child welfare records ($p = .22$).

Importance of Safe and Stable Housing for TAY

- The array and availability of services and interrelated supports needed by young adults transitioning from foster care typically fall into six major service areas:²⁴
 - 1) Post-secondary education
 - 2) Employment and career development
 - 3) Financial capability
 - 4) Safe, stable, and affordable housing
 - 5) Health and mental health care; and
 - 6) Permanent relationships with supportive adults

Research identifies the importance of safe and stable housing for youth exiting foster care as foundational and associated with many positive outcomes for this population.

- From the six major service areas listed above, stable housing provides the foundation upon which people build their lives. Without a safe, affordable

²³ Shah, M., Liu, Q., Mancusco, D., Marshall, D., Felver, B., Lucenko, B. & Huber, A. (2015). *Youth at Risk of Homelessness Identifying Key Predictive Factors among Youth Aging Out of Foster Care in Washington State*. Olympia, WA: Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, Research and Data Analysis Division. Retrieved from <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/sites/default/files/SESA/rda/documents/research-7-106.pdf>

²⁴ Fryar, G., Jordan, E., & Devooght, K. (2017). *Supporting Young People Transitioning from Foster Care*. Retrieved from <https://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/SYPTFC-Findings-from-a-National-Survey-11.29.17.pdf>

place to live, it is almost impossible to achieve one's full potential. High rates of housing instability and homelessness exacerbate problems for youth exiting foster care, creating significant obstacles to healthy development and self-sufficiency.²⁵

- Generally, homeless TAY experience higher incidences of acute and chronic illnesses, depression and anxiety. They are also more likely than their housed peers to report suicidal ideation and suicide attempts.²⁶
 - A study in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania found unaccompanied homeless youth were 45% more likely to have considered suicide and almost five times more likely to have hurt themselves on purpose on one or more occasions in the prior year.²⁷
- Securing and maintaining a stable place to live provides TAY with a greater sense of security and confidence. Stability in housing supports youth in seeking and maintaining employment, attending college, accessing physical and mental health services, as well as building and maintaining strong interpersonal relationships.²⁸

Crisis of Homelessness Among College Students

- In 2017, the first national survey to assess the basic needs security (BNS)²⁹ of former foster youth in community colleges was conducted. More than 33,000 students at 70 community colleges in 24 states were surveyed. Researchers found that two in three community college students were food insecure, about half of community college students were housing insecure, and 13 to 14% were homeless.³⁰
 - Survey findings also noted the percentage of homeless community college students who were former foster youth was almost double (28%) that of non-former foster youth attending community college.
 - Students with children were also disproportionately likely to experience food and housing insecurity. Goldrick-Rab, et al. (2017) estimated that 63% of parenting students were food insecure and almost 14% were homeless, but only about 5% received any childcare assistance.

²⁵ Fryar, G., Jordan, E., & Devooght, K. (2017). *Supporting Young People Transitioning from Foster Care*. Retrieved from <https://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/SYPTFC-Findings-from-a-National-Survey-11.29.17.pdf>.

²⁶ Edidin, J. P., Ganim, Z., Hunter, S. J., & Karnik, N. J. (2012). The mental and physical health of homeless youth: A literature review. *Child Psychiatry and Human Development*, 43, 354–375.

²⁷ Perlman, S., Willard, J., Herbers, J., et al. (2014). Youth homelessness: Prevalence and mental health correlates. *Journal of the Society for Social Work & Research*, 5(3), 361–77.

²⁸ Children's Initiative for Fostering Futures Initiative. (2015). *Survey of San Diego County Extended Foster Care (EFC) Youth*. San Diego, CA: Author. Retrieved from <https://www.jitfosteryouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/2015-Study-of-SD-County-EFC-Youth-FINAL.pdf>

²⁹ BNS refers to the food, housing, and wellness security of students which have a direct impact on their mental-emotional-physical health, wellness, academic performance, professional development, and holistic success.

³⁰ Goldrick-Rab, S., Richardson, J., & Hernandez, A. (2017). *Hungry and Homeless in College: Results from a National Study of Basic Needs Insecurity in Higher Education*. Wisconsin HOPE Lab. Retrieved from <https://hope4college.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Hungry-and-Homeless-in-College-Report.pdf>

- There appears to be very little geographic variation in hunger and homelessness among community college students. Basic needs insecurity does not seem to be restricted to community colleges in urban areas or to those with high proportions of Pell Grant recipients, and is prevalent in all regions of the country.³¹
- While pursuing degrees despite enduring basic needs insecurity, college students are nonetheless striving to succeed. Neither financial aid nor employment is a sufficient buffer to prevent students from going hungry or even homeless—at least half of the food and housing insecure students in research studies received Pell Grants and/or were employed.³²
- While there are programs, services and financial aid that can support TAY pursuing degrees, these may not be reaching them because of insufficient information, eligibility requirements or other barriers.³³

II. National Frameworks/Models for Ending Youth Homelessness

The Federal Framework to End Youth Homelessness

- At the Federal level, a strong momentum to prevent and end youth/young adult homelessness through collaboration and coordination began in 2012. Ensuring robust inter-agency collaboration allows for the leveraging of multiple types of expertise to ensure an effective systemic response to TAY homelessness.³⁴
- The [*Federal Framework to End Youth Homelessness*](#)³⁵ is an ambitious plan with specific recommendations to support proven models of care. The Framework focuses on two complementary strategies:
 - A *data strategy*, to obtain better data on the numbers and characteristics of youth experiencing homelessness.
 - A *capacity strategy*, to strengthen and coordinate the capacity of federal, state, and local systems to act effectively and efficiently toward ending youth homelessness.
- Nationally, it calls on a coordinated community response to help youth achieve the outcomes most critical to their success: stable housing, permanent connections, education or employment, and social-emotional well-being (see *Figure 3*).

³¹Goldrick-Rab, S., Richardson, J., & Hernandez, A. (2017). *Hungry and Homeless in College: Results from a National Study of Basic Needs Insecurity in Higher Education*. Wisconsin HOPE Lab. Retrieved from <https://hope4college.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Hungry-and-Homeless-in-College-Report.pdf>

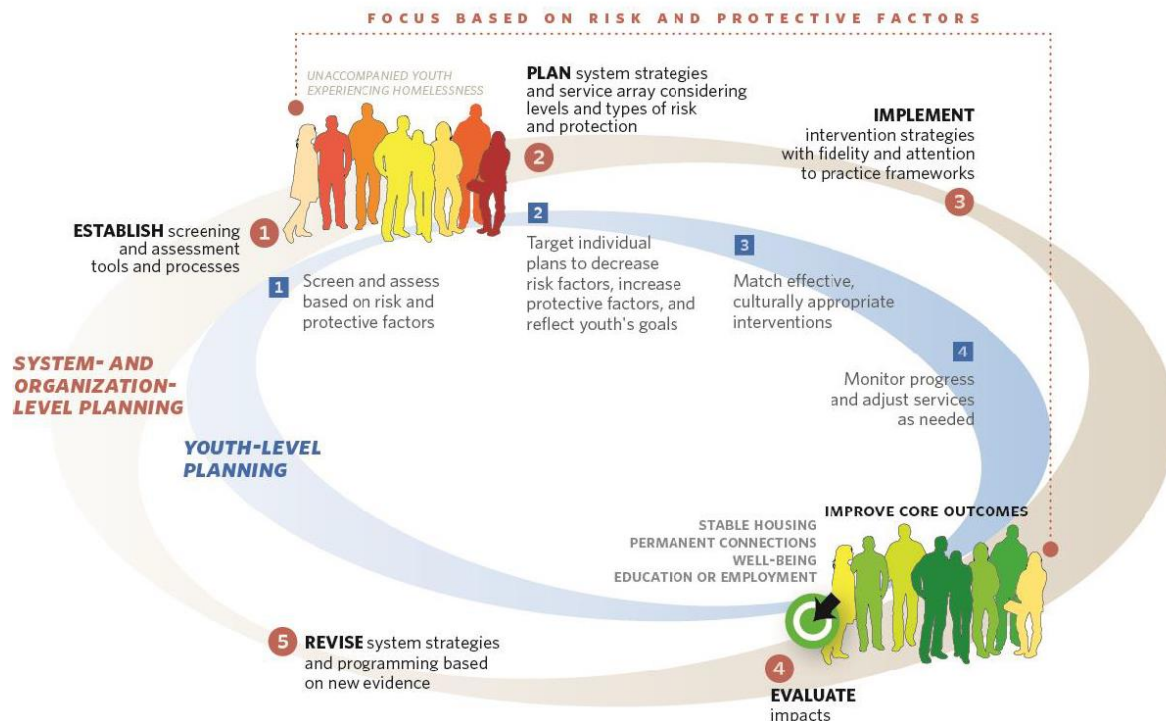
³² Carnevale, A. P., Smith, N., & Strohl, J. (2013). *Recovery: Job growth and education requirements through 2020*. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce.

³³ Duke-Benfield, & Saunders, K. (2016). *Benefits access for college completion: Lessons learned from a community college initiative to help low-income students*. Washington, D.C.: CLASP.

³⁴ United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. (2013). *Framework to End Youth Homelessness: A Resource Text for Dialogue and Action*. Retrieved from: https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/USICH_Federal_Youth_Framework.pdf

³⁵ Available at: <https://www.usich.gov/tools-for-action/framework-for-ending-youth-homelessness/>

Figure 3. Federal Unaccompanied Youth Intervention Model³⁶



- While many states are implementing innovative and coordinated systems to serve youth/young adults using the above Federal model, Colorado,³⁷ Minnesota,³⁸ and Washington³⁹ represent particularly successful examples of statewide leadership and resource coordination aligned with best practices, and a strong evidence base. Their work shows demonstrable progress toward the ultimate goal of preventing and ending youth homelessness.
- Building on the Federal Framework, to develop program models for serving TAY experiencing or at-risk of homelessness, communities should consider the [United States Interagency Council on Homelessness's](#) vision to build the comprehensive and [coordinated community response](#)⁴⁰ that young people need to end their homelessness forever. The concept of a "coordinated community approach" recognizes that individual organizations are not equipped to solve the community-

³⁶ Available at: <https://www.usich.gov/tools-for-action/framework-for-ending-youth-homelessness/>

³⁷ For more information on Colorado's efforts, please refer to the following: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B-vz6H4k4SESbW43bXRCc3hfODg/view>

³⁸ For more information on Minnesota's efforts please refer to the following: https://mn.gov/dhs/assets/2017-02-homeless-youth-act-report_tcm1053-280441.pdf

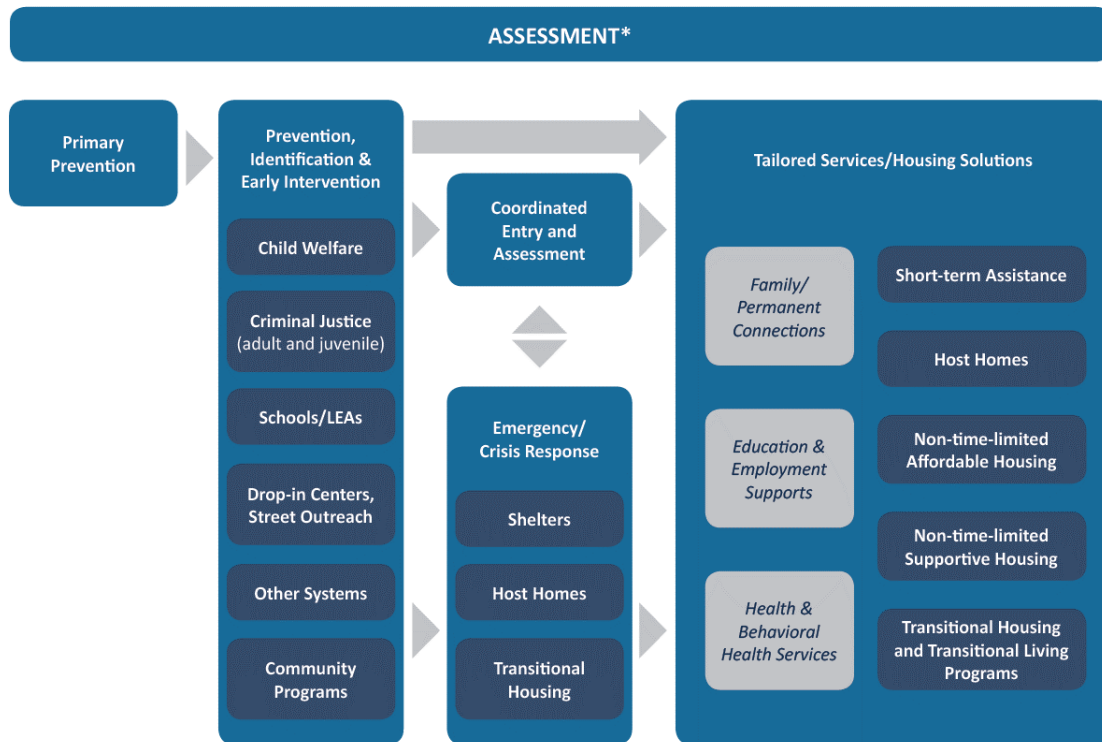
³⁹ For more information on Washington's efforts please refer to the following: <http://www.commerce.wa.gov/serving-communities/homelessness/office-of-youth-homelessness/>

⁴⁰ United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH). (2015). *Preventing and Ending Youth Homelessness A Coordinated Community Response*. Washington DC: Author. Retrieved from https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/Youth_Homelessness_Coordinated_Response.pdf

level challenge of youth homelessness by themselves. This shared vision for a community response (see Figure 4 below) is a defined model of care that includes:⁴¹

- Prevention, identification and early intervention
- Coordinated entry and assessment
- Emergency and crisis response
- Tailored services and housing solutions

Figure 4: Interagency Working Group on Ending Youth Homelessness-Proposed Model of Care to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness⁴²



*Throughout the provision of services, assessment will be ongoing.

Additional Recommendations from a Collaborative of National Experts

- National experts, including the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, the National Network for Youth, the National Alliance to End Homelessness, and A Way Home America, came to a strategic alignment around specific strategies for communities to end youth homelessness.⁴³

⁴¹United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH). (2015). *Preventing and Ending Youth Homelessness A Coordinated Community Response*. Washington DC: Author. Retrieved from https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/Youth_Homelessness_Coordinated_Response.pdf

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ California Coalition for Youth. (2018). *A Call to Action: End and Prevent Youth Homelessness in California*. Sacramento, CA: Author. Retrieved from <http://calyouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/RHY-Hearing-Paper-January-2018.pdf>

- Built around four outcomes: stable housing, permanent connections, education or employment, and social-emotional well-being *communities must invest in the following:*
 - *Coordinated, system-wide efforts that engage multiple stakeholders across sectors*
 - *Data collection that captures the true scope of the issue and measures change over time*
 - *A robust continuum of services and interventions tailored to the diverse needs of youth experiencing homelessness*
 - *The authentic input of youth with lived experience on the decisions that impact their lives*
- If these components represent the framework, then *the service-level interventions undertaken by providers must include:*
 - *Prevention and early intervention to identify youth who are most at-risk of homelessness*
 - *Outreach and low-threshold drop-in and shelter programs to engage youth, keep them safe, and connect them with community resources*
 - *Service-rich housing programs based on a variety of models tailored to the diverse needs of youth, including:*
 - *Time-limited and non-time-limited*
 - *Congregate and scattered site*
 - *Rental subsidy*
 - *Host homes*
 - *Education/employment programs that support living-wage, career-track jobs*
 - *Exit and transition planning that supports each young person to achieve the greatest level of independence possible*
 - *Programs, services and housing that are specifically designed to effectively meet the needs of LGBTQ+ youth, youth of color and trafficked youth.*⁴⁴
- Based on the latest research and evidence of what works to prevent and appropriately respond to TAY homelessness, [The National Network for Youth](#)⁴⁵ took the proposed system to end youth homelessness a step further by incorporating “a youth-centric systems approach/continuum to end youth and young adult homelessness in America.” (For more information on youth-centric systems approach, refer to the below subsection on *Engaging TAY Experiencing*

⁴⁴ California Coalition for Youth. (2018). *A Call to Action: End and Prevent Youth Homelessness in California*. Sacramento, CA: Author. Retrieved from <http://calyouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/RHY-Hearing-Paper-January-2018.pdf>

⁴⁵ The *National Network for Youth* is a membership organization of service providers, state agencies, coalitions, advocates and individuals who work towards a vision of a world where vulnerable and homeless youth can escape the dangers of the streets and access safety, youth-appropriate services, hope, and healing. Website: <https://www.nn4youth.org/>

Homelessness, found in Section III.) A detailed infographic of the [National Network for Youth's Proposed System to End Youth and Young Adult Homelessness](#) is available as an additional resource to help communities with implementation (including prompts to identify strengths and gaps in the services they offer to young people experiencing homelessness).⁴⁶

III. Promising Practices and Strategies for Serving Homeless TAY

Engaging TAY Experiencing Homelessness

- Intentionally engaging and including TAY in the creation of solutions that impact their lives is essential.⁴⁷
 - Efforts to end TAY homelessness must include meaningful partnerships with young people as critical and resilient individuals with unique contributions to make to their communities and within their own lives.
 - Taking the voices of youth seriously requires service providers to listen to the consequences of the losses, disruptions, and instability that they survived earlier in childhood.
 - It is important to foster capacities of TAY for healthy decision-making and building skills to advance and ensure wellness and health through the relationships they choose into adulthood.⁴⁸
- The harm reduction model of care is a well-established component of homeless services and a principle of the "Housing First" approach (discussed further in the *Housing Services* subsection below).⁴⁹ "Meeting clients where they are," a key strategy of the harm reduction model, has been widely utilized by service providers working with TAY who are experiencing homelessness.⁵⁰
 - Employing this strategy successfully requires keeping the experiences of the young person in mind when engaging them and doing so in a way that makes them feel comfortable and valued.⁵¹

⁴⁶ For the *National Network for Youth's Proposed System to End Youth and Young Adult Homelessness* refer to: <https://www.nn4youth.org/wp-content/uploads/Proposed-System-Final-4-12-16.pdf>. More details are also available on the following National Network for Youth's webpage: <https://www.nn4youth.org/learn/proposed-system/>

⁴⁷ Samuels, G. M., Cerven, C., Curry, S., Robinson, S. R., & Patel, S. (2019). *Missed opportunities in youth pathways through homelessness*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. Retrieved from https://www.chapinhall.org/wp-content/uploads/ChapinHall_VoYC_Youth-Pathways-FINAL.pdf

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ Pauly, B. B., Reist, D., Belle-Isle, L., & Schactman, C. (2013). Housing and harm reduction: What is the role of harm reduction in addressing homelessness? *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 24(4), 284-290.

⁵⁰ Hishida, J. (2016, January). *Engaging youth experiencing homelessness: Core practices & services*. National Health Care for the Homeless Council. Retrieved from <https://www.nhchc.org/wpcontent/uploads/2011/10/engaging-youth-experiencing-homelessness.pdf>.

⁵¹ Homeless Policy Research Institute. (2018). *Best Practices for Working with Transition-Age Youth (TAY) Experiencing Homelessness*. Retrieved from <https://socialinnovation.usc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/TAY-Best-Practices-Literature-Review.pdf>

- The National Health Care for the Homeless Council (NHCHC) developed a guide of best practices for building relationships with TAY. The guide outlines six main components to relationship-building with youth populations:⁵²
 - *Trust*: It is gained through genuineness, consistency, dependability, and transparency.
 - *Safety*: When youth feel safe, they are more willing to voice opinions or fears, set boundaries, and form attachments.
 - *Respect*: Providers must attempt to view whole individuals, their perspectives, behaviors, expressed ideas, and experiences from a non-judgmental stance.
 - *Boundaries*: Identifying and remaining respectful of a person's boundaries is essential to the youth's sense of safety.
 - *Cultural Competency*: Providers should be aware of how their client's cultural framework informs their need for services.
 - *Power*: Youth gain power when they are asked to become part of the decision-making process and are not simply passengers on the journey.
- Furthermore, the National Network for Youth (NN4Y) developed the following *Principles of Services for Youth Experiencing Homelessness*.⁵³ The NN4Y advises that in order to provide an effective, youth-appropriate system to prevent and end youth and young adult homelessness, all support services and housing models should be designed and implemented according to the following five principles:
 - *Positive Youth Development (PYD)*: focuses on meeting youth at their own developmental stage and supporting positive growth, to ensure that young people have opportunities to contribute within the community and develop transferable skills and competencies through healthy interactions with adults and other youth.⁵⁴
 - *Trauma-Informed Care (TIC)*: provides services appropriate for youth who have experienced abuse and/or trauma. Moreover, it places an emphasis on the creation of appropriate settings and relationships within which a young person can heal.⁵⁵
 - *Cultural Competence*: refers to an ability to interact effectively with people of different ethnic, cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds, particularly in the context of human resources, non-profit organizations and government agencies.⁵⁶

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ National Network for Youth. (2017). Federal Policy Solutions to Prevent and End Youth and Young Adult Homelessness. *Proposed System Series, Vol. 1* Washington, DC: National Network for Youth. Retrieved from <https://www.nn4youth.org/wp-content/uploads/NN4Y-Policy-Brief-2017.pdf>

⁵⁴ National Resource Center for Youth Development. The University of Oklahoma OUTREACH. Retrieved from <http://www.nrcyd.ou.edu/youth-engagement/positive-youth-development>

⁵⁵ United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. (2010). *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*.

⁵⁶ Martin, M. & Vaughn, B. (2007). Cultural competence: the nuts & bolts of diversity & inclusion. *Strategic Diversity & Inclusion Management* magazine, pp. 31-36. San Francisco, CA: DTUI Publications Division.

- *Client-Centered Care*: is an approach to service provision rooted in an understanding of each client's needs and perspectives. Customized individual treatment "starts where the youth is at," allowing the client to identify strengths, clarify goals and set a path toward achievement.⁵⁷
- *Strengths-Based Services*: describes an assessment and treatment model that identifies individual core strengths across life domains. Additionally, it builds upon those strengths to overcome issues that youth believe are necessary to acquire positive change.⁵⁸
- Equipping communities with tools for engaging youth/young adults with lived experience of homelessness or housing instability in program planning (e.g., establishing a Youth Advisory Board), policy advocacy and mentoring others is key.
 - One promising program of [Jovenes](#) (a Homeless Youth Agency in Southeast Los Angeles, California) is *The College Success Initiative* which places Peer Navigators (formerly homeless community college students) on campus in order to provide outreach to homeless students (ages 18-25), assess them for their housing needs through Los Angeles's Coordinated Entry System, and help move them into housing by providing a rental subsidy that helps them afford apartments near their school.⁵⁹

Housing Services

*Housing First Models*⁶⁰

- Housing First models are increasingly dominating the landscape of homelessness interventions as an empirically supported, effective approach to interrupting housing instability.
 - Both a model and philosophy of practice, Housing First prioritizes ending physical homelessness by securing permanent housing as a platform for other supports, as TAY have concurrent needs that are also vital to their well-being and long-term stability.
 - Housing First also removes preconditions and barriers to entry (e.g., sobriety, treatment, or service participation requirements)
 - A report by the *U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development*, [Using a Housing First Philosophy When Serving Youth](#) (2017) further explains the Housing First approach, including the core principles of Housing First as they relate to TAY as well as recommended techniques to better serve them.

⁵⁷ Center for Health Training. (2003). *Fundamental skills for case managers, a self-study guide*. Oakland, CA: Center for Health Training.

⁵⁸ MacArthur, J., Rawana, E. P., & Brownlee, K. (2011). Implementation of a strengths-based approach in the practice of child and youth care. *Relational Child and Youth Practice*, 24(3), 6–16.

⁵⁹ For more information refer to: <https://www.jovenesinc.org/college-housing/>

⁶⁰ Samuels, G. M., Cerven, C., Curry, S., Robinson, S. R., & Patel, S. (2019). *Missed opportunities in youth pathways through homelessness*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. Retrieved from https://voicesofyouthcount.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/ChapinHall_VoYC_Youth-Pathways-FINAL.pdf

*Tailored Housing Services*⁶¹

- TAY experiencing homelessness need a variety of housing options with varying levels of supervision and independence. More independent youth may be immediately ready to move into their own housing units with temporary financial assistance and will require fewer services and check-ins with case managers. However, less independent youth may need more intensive support in learning life skills to be able to become self-sufficient.⁶²
 - a. *Transitional housing and transitional living* provide time-limited (typically 21-24 months) supportive housing for youth who are not ready to live independently. According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the transitional housing/ living model places an emphasis on developing life skills and enrolling in school or securing employment. Upon completion of the transitional stay, some programs may offer youth the option to assume the lease, a practice known as “transition-in-place.”
 - Providers have identified several promising transitional housing/living practices including:⁶³
 - *Codifying flexible time limits*
 - *Supporting housing choice and diversity through congregate and scattered site models - Focusing on education, employment opportunities and income supports*
 - *Case managing toward transition to permanent housing*
 - *Involve youth in creating house rules, program design, and planning activities*
 - *Supporting independence with adult mentors*
 - b. *Rapid Re-Housing (RRH)* is a Housing First model that allows TAY to quickly exit homelessness and move into their own housing units. This housing model is most effective for TAY who have greater independent living skills and cannot reconnect with family or need time to do so. This intervention has shown success on the individual level, helping people exit homelessness and not return to shelter.
 - TAY providers are using the same [core components](#) of RRH as adult RRH providers: housing identification, rent and move-in assistance,

⁶¹ Homeless Policy Research Institute. (2018). *Best Practices for Working with Transition-Age Youth (TAY) Experiencing Homelessness*. Retrieved from <https://socialinnovation.usc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/TAY-Best-Practices-Literature-Review.pdf>

⁶² Sloane, P., Radday, A., & Stanzler, C. (2012). *Improving outcomes for homeless youth*. Social Impact Research. Retrieved from <https://rootcause.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Improving-Outcomes-for-Homeless-Youth-Social-Issue-Report.pdf>

⁶³ Homeless Policy Research Institute. (2018). *Best Practices for Working with Transition-Age Youth (TAY) Experiencing Homelessness*. Retrieved from <https://socialinnovation.usc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/TAY-Best-Practices-Literature-Review.pdf>

and case management and services, but [tailoring each component](#) to where young people are in their life journeys.

- In 2017, the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) developed the [Rapid Re-Housing for Youth Toolkit](#) which compiles key lessons learned from NAEH partners about how they are implementing the RRH model for TAY. Key takeaways include:⁶⁴

- *RRH for youth requires purposefully embracing a client-driven, Housing First philosophy*
- *Landlord engagement is crucial to implementing a successful RRH for youth program*
- *Getting the services right is key for youth success in RRH*
- *RRH for youth requires flexibility—in case management style, in funding, and in outcome measures*

c. *Permanent supportive housing (PSH)* provides non-time-limited subsidized housing paired with intensive services for high need, typically disabled, transition-age homeless youth.⁶⁵ This housing model is often used for TAY with the most intensive service needs such as mental health, substance abuse disorders, or severe trauma – providing trauma-informed care, with voluntary comprehensive support services.⁶⁶

d. *Host homes* are a flexible and cost-effective model for TAY seeking stable housing and supports. This model offers a home-like, non- institutional environment rooted in community. Host homes are often an arrangement between screened volunteer community members and youth service providers. The service provider typically offers program coordination, host support, and case management services. Hosts may receive financial assistance to offset the cost of housing youth.⁶⁷

- Providers suggest that youth are often able to identify their own host homes: caring adults in their own social network who might be willing and able to provide long-term housing if they had access to additional supports to help them.⁶⁸

⁶⁴ Homeless Policy Research Institute. (2018). *Best Practices for Working with Transition-Age Youth (TAY) Experiencing Homelessness*. Retrieved from <https://socialinnovation.usc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/TAY-Best-Practices-Literature-Review.pdf>

⁶⁵ National Alliance to End Homelessness. (2015, December 29). *Ending homelessness for unaccompanied youth age 18-24*. Retrieved from <http://endhomelessness.org/wpcontent/uploads/2015/12/ending-homelessness-for-older-youth.pdf>

⁶⁶ United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. (2016, August). *Ending youth homelessness guidebook series: Promising program models*. Retrieved from <https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Ending-Youth-Homelessness-PromisingProgram-Models.pdf>

⁶⁷ Ibid.

⁶⁸ National Alliance to End Homelessness. (2015, December 29). *Ending homelessness for unaccompanied youth age 18-24*. Retrieved from <http://endhomelessness.org/wpcontent/uploads/2015/12/ending-homelessness-for-older-youth.pdf>

- Evidence has found host homes to be successful in providing housing to youth experiencing homelessness in rural and suburban areas where there is not a runaway and homeless youth program or center. A social services agency can recruit and train the families, and partner with schools, law enforcement, courts and/or the juvenile justice system to receive referrals of TAY who need a safe place to stay.⁶⁹

Feedback from Homeless TAY on Housing Interventions

- Henwood, Redline, and Rice (2018) conducted four focus groups with TAY (n=18) with the goal of incorporating their voice into the design of housing-led programs for TAY experiencing homelessness. The following three themes emerged:⁷⁰
 - a. *Personal responsibility and deservedness*
 - Youth stated that a primary consideration when allocating housing resources should be whether an individual shows initiative and has the motivation for self-betterment. This was based primarily on the idea that someone who desires self-betterment is likely to benefit more from housing.
 - b. *Rising and falling together*
 - Youth described their experiences “grouping up” as a survival strategy in which several youth who would not otherwise have been associated agree to stick together and support one another while homeless. Having such peers can improve safety and provide some social support while homeless but could also make it difficult to move on and access housing.
 - c. *Needing individualized support*
 - Most youth recognized a need for both therapy and ongoing support services as well as a need to tailor programs specifically to TAY. In addition, improved flexibility regardless of their specific needs related to things such as mental health or parenting were requested.

These findings also suggest that TAY preferences for housing and services are not necessarily consistent with the preferences of the homeless adult population and that youth may be looking for a more supportive housing environment.

⁶⁹ Morton, M. H., Dworsky, A., Samuels, G. M., & Patel, S. (2018). *Missed opportunities: Youth homelessness in rural America*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. Retrieved from <https://www.chapinhall.org/wp-content/uploads/Youth-Homelessness-in-Rural-America.pdf>

⁷⁰ Henwood, B. F., Redline, B., & Rice, E. (2018). What do homeless transition-age youth want from housing interventions? *Children & Youth Services Review*, 89, 1–5.

Education Services⁷¹

- Education plays a critical role in young people's ability to support themselves and their families, in attaining and maintaining a fulfilling career, in avoiding homelessness and in building a strong social network.⁷²
- According to the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), enrollment in school can have a significant impact on homeless TAY.⁷³ Schools can provide safety, stability, and a connection to community that can help mitigate the impact of homelessness. Additionally, a lack of education can impact the ability of TAY to remain in stable housing and secure employment once they exit homelessness. Research suggests that schools also provide an opportunity to assess and address the needs of homeless youth.⁷⁴
 - The USICH has developed strategies for increasing education enrollment for homeless youth including:⁷⁵
 - *Improve identification of children experiencing homelessness and ensure support for them to enroll in school.*
 - *Eliminate barriers to enrollment and provide seamless transitions to from early childhood education through elementary, secondary, and post-secondary education.*
 - *Improve access to and retention in early childhood education programs, elementary and secondary education, and post-secondary education.*
 - *Review existing federal, state, and local program policies, procedures, and regulations to identify mechanisms that could increase both access to and retention in high-quality programs. These mechanisms should help remove barriers and ensure early childhood-to-adulthood educational access, quality childcare, and early childhood education through elementary, secondary, and post-secondary education. Educate homelessness assistance providers about the laws, and the programs and practices under those laws, designed to increase access to early care and education, such as those carried out under*

⁷¹ Homeless Policy Research Institute. (2018). *Best Practices for Working with Transition-Age Youth (TAY) Experiencing Homelessness*. Retrieved from <https://socialinnovation.usc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/TAY-Best-Practices-Literature-Review.pdf>

⁷² Fryer, G., Jordan, E., DeVooght, K. (2017). *Supporting Young People Transitioning from Foster Care: Findings from a National Survey*. Bethesda, MD: Child Trends. Retrieved from <https://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/SYPTFC-Findings-from-a-National-Survey-11.29.17.pdf>

⁷³ United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. (2018, August 15). *Foster education connections*. Retrieved from <https://www.usich.gov/solutions/education/>

⁷⁴ Toro, P. A., Dworsky, A., & Fowler, P. J. (2007, March). *Homeless youth in the United States: Recent research findings and intervention approaches*. In National symposium on homelessness research.

⁷⁵ United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. (2018, August 15). *Foster education connections*. Retrieved from <https://www.usich.gov/solutions/education/>

Head Start, the McKinney-Vento Act's education subtitle, and the independent student provisions of the Higher Education Act.

Post-secondary Education: Innovative Strategies for TAY⁷⁶

- For many TAY experiencing homelessness, higher education provides a pathway to long-term future stability. However, college students who are housing insecure face many challenges and may require substantial support in order to retain stability.
 - Effective post-secondary educational strategies to provide innovations in both policy and practice, include the expansion of support programs that address TAY's academic, tuition, housing and social/emotional needs.
 - Researchers identified a need for integrated services tailored for homeless students on college campuses (e.g. academic support, financial aid services, housing services, and access to counseling).⁷⁷
 - Research also suggests it is important to create a designated safe and supportive place for students experiencing homelessness. A shared space allows for networks to form between peers as well as with school staff members. The space can also serve as a way for administrators to gather information about homeless students and further identify areas of need.⁷⁸
- Many states have shared areas of innovation and success in their post-secondary educational strategies for TAY and former foster youth, some examples are summarized below, organized by three main strategy areas:⁷⁹
 - a. *Supporting youth in planning for post-secondary success.*
 - In Connecticut, social workers assist youth to create a post-secondary education plan starting in the eighth grade. These plans are monitored throughout the youth's educational career and reviewed bi-annually.
 - In Washington State, the [Supplemental Educational Transition Planning \(SETuP\) Program](#) provides foster youth ages 14-18 with educational planning, information, and connections to other services. It provides coordination between high school counselors and foster youth to ensure they have an educational transition plan.
 - b. *Recruitment and retention support specifically created for TAY.*
 - Arizona's [Bridging Success](#) program is an on-campus recruitment and retention program for foster care alumni, in partnership with Arizona State University and the Maricopa Community Colleges.

⁷⁶ Fryer, G., Jordan, E., DeVooght, K. (2017). *Supporting Young People Transitioning from Foster Care: Findings from a National Survey*. Bethesda, MD: Child Trends. Retrieved from <https://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/SYPTFC-Findings-from-a-National-Survey-11.29.17.pdf>

⁷⁷ Hallett, R. E., & Freas, A. (2018). Community college students' experiences with homelessness and housing insecurity. *Community College Journal of Research and Practice*, 42(10), 724-739.

⁷⁸ Hallett, R. E., Westland, M. A., & Mo, E. (2018). A Trauma-Informed Care Approach to Supporting Foster Youth in Community College. *New Directions for Community Colleges*, 2018(181), 49- 58.

⁷⁹ Fryer, G., Jordan, E., DeVooght, K. (2017). *Supporting Young People Transitioning from Foster Care: Findings from a National Survey*. Bethesda, MD: Child Trends. Retrieved from <https://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/SYPTFC-Findings-from-a-National-Survey-11.29.17.pdf>

- Virginia's [Great Expectations](#) program is a nationally recognized program that helps Virginia's foster youth earn post-secondary credentials. It supports foster youth as they complete high school, gain access to a community college education, and transition successfully from the foster care system to living independently. It is available at 18 out of 23 Virginia Community Colleges.
- In New Jersey, the *New Jersey Foster Care (NJFC) Scholars Gap Housing Program* is limited to NJFC Scholars in good standing with their institution.⁸⁰ The program specifically aims to help students find housing for the gap months between school years and during the winter break. As many colleges do not let their students remain on campus while school is out and a number of foster and homeless youth have no place to go, this is a vital service that helps many NJFC Scholars retain housing security they need to focus on their studies.
- California also reports an extensive network of post-secondary resources, such as providing a support person for TAY in every community college.
 - In addition, the California UC and CSU systems the [Guardian Scholars](#) and [Renaissance Scholars](#) programs aim to ensure that "comprehensive, holistic support services" are provided to foster youth throughout their time in college. These programs help TAY access financial aid, housing, academic supports, mentoring, personal guidance and counseling, and supplemental support services like childcare and transportation.
 - In Los Angeles, California, the [Opportunity Youth Collaborative \(OYC\)](#) is a cross-sector, multi-agency effort (including public agencies, the nonprofit community, education systems, and employers) to improve education and employment outcomes for TAY. A team of Transition Navigators working alongside community partners, foster parents, mentors and volunteers, to help TAY make informed decisions about their education and careers, connects them with resources, and assists them in overcoming obstacles to education and employment goals.
 - In Oakland, California, the [b2b Learning Community](#) is a collaboration between [Beyond Emancipation \(B:E\)](#) (a nonprofit service provider) and Laney College Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS). The b2b Learning Community is a two-year program providing current and former foster youth enrolling at Laney College and provides continual coaching,

⁸⁰ For more information on the *New Jersey Foster Care (NJFC) Scholars Program* refer to:
<https://www.embrella.org/njfc-scholars-program/>

case management information and referrals, guidance on college and financial aid applications and issues, and academic counseling, education planning and support. Additional services provided include financial assistance, counseling, peer advising, a summer orientation session, cohort classes, internships, transportation and housing support.

c. *Funding or scholarship supports*

- In Delaware, an arrangement with Delaware State University allows two students per year to attend with year-round housing and financial supports that equate to minimal costs for their college completion. This program also includes university supports to assist TAY in their acclimation to college life.
- Nevada also offers a scholarship to in-state colleges or universities for youth who aged out of foster care and maintain a 2.0 GPA.
- [*America's College Promise*](#) programs provide support for students to attend, persevere in, and complete college based on where they live or where they attend school.⁸¹ It has grown from its first program 15 years ago to more than 320 programs in 47 states.⁸²
 - California has a unique College Promise model that provides financial support to its community colleges, enabling them to develop individual programmatic and institutional approaches that meet local student needs. Today, there are [130 active programs in California](#) — more than any other state. This is in addition to numerous other California State [financial aid offerings](#) that can benefit TAY in obtaining educational success.

Employment Services⁸³

- Employment can also play a key role in permanently ending homelessness for TAY. Finding a job can help youth gain confidence in their abilities, increase their sense of self-worth, and create independence through income generation.⁸⁴
- The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) states one of the most effective ways to support individuals as they move out of homelessness and

⁸¹ Rauner, M., & Lundquist, S. (2019). *College Promise in California: Recommendations for Advancing Implementation, Impact, and Equity*. San Francisco, CA: WestEd.

⁸² College Promise Campaign. (forthcoming, 2019). *College Promise Campaign 2018–2019 Annual Report*. Washington, D.C.

⁸³ Homeless Policy Research Institute. (2018). *Best Practices for Working with Transition-Age Youth (TAY) Experiencing Homelessness*. Retrieved from <https://socialinnovation.usc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/TAY-Best-Practices-Literature-Review.pdf>

⁸⁴ Corporation for Supportive Housing. (2013, November). *Best practices in serving youth*. Retrieved from https://d155kunxf1aozz.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Youth_T.pdf

into permanent housing is increasing access to meaningful and sustainable career training and employment pathways.⁸⁵

- Programs designed to connect TAY to employment opportunities must be accessible and responsive to their lived experience (including that many enter the workforce lacking work history, job training, or connections) and should also coordinate with housing and other interventions.
- The USICH outlines strategies for service providers to consider when designing employment programs:⁸⁶
 - *Coordinating employment services with housing and homeless assistance to ensure that job development and training strategies focus attention on people who are experiencing or most at risk of homelessness and support their long-term housing stability.*
 - *Review federal program policies to identify educational, administrative, or regulatory mechanisms that can be used to improve access to work support.*
 - *Identify ways the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and TANF programs can help people who are experiencing or most at risk of homelessness, including people with multiple barriers to employment.*
 - *Develop and disseminate best practices on helping people with histories of homelessness and barriers to employment enter the workforce, including strategies that take into consideration transportation, childcare, child support, domestic violence, criminal justice history, disabling conditions, limited work experience, and age appropriateness.*
 - *Improve system-wide coordination and integration of employment programs with homeless assistance programs, survivor assistance programs, and housing and permanent supportive housing programs.*
 - *Increase opportunities for work and support recovery for Veterans with barriers to employment, especially Veterans returning from active duty, Veterans with disabilities, and Veterans in permanent supportive housing.*

Trauma/Mental Health Services⁸⁷

- As stated in *Section I. Background*, many TAY experiencing homelessness have endured sexual or physical abuse, neglect, exposure to violence, the death of a parent/caregiver, or some other form of trauma. In fact, youth often cite one or more of these traumas as their reason for leaving home.⁸⁸ Consequently, TAY are often distrustful of adult authority figures and may be hesitant to engage with

⁸⁵ United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. (2018, August 15). *Build career pathways*. Retrieved from <https://www.usich.gov/solutions/jobs/>

⁸⁶ Ibid.

⁸⁷ Homeless Policy Research Institute. (2018). *Best Practices for Working with Transition-Age Youth (TAY) Experiencing Homelessness*. Retrieved from <https://socialinnovation.usc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/TAY-Best-Practices-Literature-Review.pdf>

⁸⁸ Martijn, C., & Sharpe, L. (2006). Pathways to youth homelessness. *Social Science & Medicine*, 62(1), 1-12.

service providers. In some cases, TAY may choose to avoid services altogether despite a need for those services.

- To effectively respond, programs designed for the TAY population should take a “trauma-informed” approach to ensure services are tailored to address the needs of this population.⁸⁹
 - Core to a trauma-informed approach is valuing youth’ perspectives and insights regarding unique needs for support in achieving their life goals.
 - Research suggests that trauma-informed care for youth leads to positive outcomes, such as improved self-esteem, healthier relationships, and an increased sense of safety.⁹⁰
 - Delivering staff training on trauma-informed care across programs and service systems is highly recommended.
 - When service providers are designing trauma-informed services for TAY they should:⁹¹
 - *Acknowledge the complex interpersonal and family-based trauma (including grief and losses associated with the death of family members) in the lives of TAY experiencing homelessness and recommend specific evidence supported practices to address it*⁹²
 - *Use practice models that are culturally attuned and effective in working with TAY who experience stigma and discrimination, especially LGBTQ+ and multiracial youth*⁹³
 - *Promote wellness and a therapeutic experience for TAY*
 - *Prevent crisis*
 - *Intervene at the early signs of a problem*
 - Adolescence and emerging adulthood usher in a time in a young person’s life where healthy relationships are critical to fostering growth and healing, especially from relationship-based traumas/losses that have occurred in their families.⁹⁴ In order to promote healthy development, service providers must address the interpersonal trauma, family conflict, and disruption that young people reported impacts their relationships, and shapes how they engage with people

⁸⁹Corporation for Supportive Housing. (2013, November). Best practices in serving youth. Retrieved from https://d155kunxf1aozz.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Youth_T.pdf

⁹⁰ Hopper, E.K., Bassuk, E.L., & Olivet, J. (2010). Shelter from the storm: Trauma-informed care in homelessness services settings. *The Open Health Services and Policy Journal*, 3(1).

⁹¹ Hodas, G. R. (2006). *Responding to childhood trauma: The promise and practice of trauma informed care*. Pennsylvania Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, 177.

⁹² Samuels, G. M., Cerven, C., Curry, S., Robinson, S. R., & Patel, S. (2019). *Missed opportunities in youth pathways through homelessness*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. Retrieved from https://voicesofyouthcount.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/ChapinHall_VoYC_Youth-Pathways-FINAL.pdf

⁹³ Ibid.

⁹⁴ Ibid.

who may be available as resources and supports (family, friends, peers, service providers).

- One recommendation is to add “relational skill development training” as a practice model to programs. Here, the aim is to help TAY make meaning of and develop skills to manage difficult/complex relationships and help them foster resilience as they engage or redefine relationships with others.⁹⁵
- The *Phoenix Rising Model* is one of the few trauma-informed interventions designed specifically for TAY based on an understanding of the [*Attachment, Self-Regulation, and Competency \(ARC\) Framework*](#) for use with homeless adolescents and young adults. The ARC framework emphasizes the importance of attachment, emotion regulation, and confidence building. This *Phoenix Rising Model* focuses on four main components:⁹⁶
 - Staff training and ongoing consultation
 - Trauma-informed milieu changes
 - Comprehensive risk counseling and services
 - Group activities (expressive art therapies and community-building)
- Many youth experiencing homelessness also face behavioral health challenges including depression, bipolar disorder, posttraumatic stress disorder, and substance abuse.⁹⁷
 - Given that substance use is tightly interwoven to youth homelessness, service providers working with this population should work to identify risk-reduction behaviors with clients rather than advocating for abstinence which might cause youth to avoid services altogether.
 - Homeless TAY might also find it difficult to address behavioral health issues if their basic needs (e.g., food, shelter) are not being met. This means service providers should be mindful of crafting behavioral health interventions that also address the basic needs of youth.⁹⁸

⁹⁵ Samuels, G. M., Cerven, C., Curry, S., Robinson, S. R., & Patel, S. (2019). *Missed opportunities in youth pathways through homelessness*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. Retrieved from https://voicesofyouthcount.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/ChapinHall_VoYC_Youth-Pathways-FINAL.pdf

⁹⁶ Homeless Policy Research Institute. (2018). *Best Practices for Working with Transition-Age Youth (TAY) Experiencing Homelessness*. Retrieved from <https://socialinnovation.usc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/TAY-Best-Practices-Literature-Review.pdf>

⁹⁷ Ibid.

⁹⁸ Kidd, S., Slesnick, N., Frederick, T., Karabanow, J., Gaetz, S. (2018). *Mental Health and Addiction Interventions for Youth Experiencing Homelessness: Practical Strategies for Front-line Providers*. Toronto: Canadian Observatory on Homelessness Press.

Family Connections⁹⁹

- Young people's relational systems are critical. Family systems are important for providing stability, safety, and nurturance across youth development, especially around identities that are stigmatized.¹⁰⁰
- According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH), family can be both the cause of a youth's homelessness and a possible solution. When safe and appropriate, family engagement or reunification can help TAY develop, maintain, or strengthen family connections. Reconciliation with family units is particularly important because research suggests that the majority of runaway youth return home at some point.¹⁰¹
 - When conducted effectively, family reunification lessens the likelihood of homeless recurrence among TAY.¹⁰²
 - Key features and promising practices of family engagement include:
 - *Standardized assessments upon reunification*
 - *Individual, family, and group counseling*
 - *Conflict mediation and resolution*
 - *Coordination with behavioral, mental health, and substance abuse services*
 - *Connection to community supports and activities*
 - *Respite or caregiver support as needed*
 - *Securing of income and health benefits*
 - Research findings also point to the critical role of peers in supporting often unmet needs of TAY for belonging, identity affirmation, and family kinship. Peers also offer social support and link each other to resources and information. Knowing its value, peer support strategies are being fostered and developed by several organizations serving homeless TAY.¹⁰³

⁹⁹ Homeless Policy Research Institute. (2018). *Best Practices for Working with Transition-Age Youth (TAY) Experiencing Homelessness*. Retrieved from <https://socialinnovation.usc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/TAY-Best-Practices-Literature-Review.pdf>

¹⁰⁰ Samuels, G. M., Cerven, C., Curry, S., Robinson, S. R., & Patel, S. (2019). *Missed opportunities in youth pathways through homelessness*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.

¹⁰¹ Milburn, N. G., Rosenthal, D., Rotheram-Borus, M. J., Mallett, S., Batterham, P., Rice, E., & Solorio, R. (2007). Newly homeless youth typically return home. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 40(6), 574-576.

¹⁰² Sloane, P., Radday, A., & Stanzler, C. (2012). *Improving outcomes for homeless youth*. Social Impact Research. Retrieved from <https://rootcause.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Improving-Outcomes-for-Homeless-Youth-Social-Issue-Report.pdf>

¹⁰³ Barker, S., & Maguire, L. (2017). Experts by Experience: Peer Support and its Use with the Homeless. *Community Mental Health Journal*, 53(5), 598-612.; Samuels, G. M., Cerven, C., Curry, S., Robinson, S. R., & Patel, S. (2019). *Missed opportunities in youth pathways through homelessness*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. Retrieved from https://voicesofyouthcount.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/ChapinHall_VoYC_Youth-Pathways-FINAL.pdf

Enrollment in Extended Foster Care (EFC)¹⁰⁴

- Older youth who age out of foster care are at increased risk for several adverse adult outcomes, including homelessness. Extended foster care (EFC) can lessen these risks by providing older youth more time to receive services, develop life skills, and establish permanent connections with supportive adults prior to leaving the foster care system.¹⁰⁵
- Currently, 45 states have policies that extend foster care eligibility past age 18, recognizing that continued support during the late teens and early twenties is critical to youth during a period of emerging adulthood.¹⁰⁶
 - Most peers of foster youth moving into their twenties, continue to receive extensive support from their families, in the form of financial help, housing, educational assistance, and emotional support. Thus, EFC can help close the gap between foster youth and their peers.¹⁰⁷
- In June 2019, with the support of the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative, Child Trends examined the relationship between EFC and young adult outcomes, as summarized in [Supporting Older Youth Beyond Age 18: Examining Data and Trends in Extended Foster Care](#). Child Trends research concluded EFC is associated with increased access to services and positive outcomes in adulthood for older youth ages 18 to 21.
 - Child Trends analysis of National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) found 65% of older youth in EFC through their 19th birthday receive services compared to only 35% of 18 to 19-year old's who left care at age 18.
 - Older youth still in care at age 19 and 21 have higher odds of being employed, being enrolled in school, and receiving educational aid when compared to their 19 and 21-year-old peers not in EFC. They also have lower odds of being disconnected (i.e., neither employed nor enrolled in school), being homeless, and having a child, compared to their peers who leave care before their 19th or 21st birthday
 - NYTD cohort of older youth still in care at age 19 have a 3.1x lower odds of homelessness compared to peers who leave before their 19th birthday.
 - NYTD cohort of older youth still in care at age 21 have a 2.7x lower odds compared to their peers who leave care before their 21st birthday (refer to *Table 1* on the following page for more details).

¹⁰⁴ Rosenberg, R., & Abbott, S. (2019). *Supporting Older Youth Beyond Age 18: Examining Data and Trends in Extended Foster Care*. Child Trends. Retrieved from https://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/ExtendedFosterCare_ChildTrends_June2019.pdf

¹⁰⁵ Ibid.

¹⁰⁶ Juvenile Law Center. (2018, May 31). Juvenile law center launches national extended foster care review. *Targeted News Service*. Philadelphia, PA: Juvenile Law Center. Retrieved from <https://jlc.org/news/juvenile-law-center-launches-national-extended-foster-care-review>

¹⁰⁷ Ibid.

Table 1: Young Adult Outcomes for Older Youth in EFC Compared To Youth Not In EFC¹⁰⁸

| | NYTD cohort 1 for age 19 | NYTD cohort 1 for age 21 |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Outcome Domain | Odds | Odds |
| Having a diploma/GED | 1.2x higher | No significant difference |
| Employment | 1.2x higher | 1.3x higher |
| School enrollment | 2.8x higher | 3x higher |
| Disconnectedness | 2.8x lower | 3x lower |
| Receiving educational aid | 1.9x higher | 1.4x higher |
| Homelessness | 3.1x lower | 2.7x lower |
| Young parenthood | 1.7x lower | 2x lower |

Results significant at the $p < .05$

These findings suggest by extending the safety net for these vulnerable youth/young adults, EFC is helping to connect TAY to resources that enable them to gain the skills needed for a successful transition to adulthood, including finding stable housing.

- EFC cannot replace a legal permanent family, but it is emerging as a valuable tool in supporting the success of older youth who do not achieve permanency as they become young adults.¹⁰⁹
 - Increased efforts to ensure eligible young people understand the power of EFC to support their self-identified goals, and can access, enroll, and receive its benefits to extend their safety net can be an essential element of reducing homelessness for the TAY population.¹¹⁰

Augmented State Funding for Homeless TAY¹¹¹

Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP)

- In California, the 2018-19 budget included a one-time investment of \$500 million to address homelessness. The funding created the [Homeless Emergency Aid Program \(HEAP\)](#).¹¹²
 - Eligible uses of HEAP funding were intentionally broad to encourage jurisdictions to fund programs that meet specific local needs that have been identified in their communities. Eligible activities under HEAP were those directly related to providing immediate emergency assistance to people

¹⁰⁸ Rosenberg, R., & Abbott, S. (2019). *Supporting Older Youth Beyond Age 18: Examining Data and Trends in Extended Foster Care*. Child Trends. Retrieved from https://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/ExtendedFosterCare_ChildTrends_June2019.pdf

¹⁰⁹ Ibid.

¹¹⁰ Bay Area Legal Aid. (July 2018). *Building a Safety Net for the Safety Net: Legal Aid in Partnership with Youth*. [Insights from Youth Homelessness project]. Oakland, CA: Author. Retrieved from <https://baylegal.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/2018-BayLegal-Youth-Homelessness-Project-Report.pdf>

¹¹¹ John Burton Advocates for Youth (Producer). (2019, September 18). *How THP-Plus Providers, Youth Shelters & Campuses Can Use New State Funding to Address Youth Homelessness* [Video Webinar]. Retrieved from <https://www.jbaforyouth.org/9-18-19-webinar/>

¹¹² For additional resources on HEAP refer to: <https://www.jbaforyouth.org/homeless-emergency-aid-program/>

experiencing homelessness or at imminent risk of homelessness, falling into three overarching categories: services, rental assistance or subsidies, and capital improvements.

- Communities were also required to designate a minimum of 5% of their HEAP funding to address youth homelessness. Statewide, this minimum was exceeded as a total of 10.3% of HEAP funding (\$51.6 million) was spent to address youth homelessness.
 - Shelter, transitional housing and Rapid Re-Housing were the most commonly utilized interventions for homeless youth (refer to *Table 2*).

Table 2: Statewide Interventions Funded with HEAP Set-Aside

| Interventions Funded with HEAP Youth Set-Aside | Percent of CoCs | Percent of Large Cities | Percent of All Jurisdictions | |
|--|-----------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Shelter | 36% | 29% | 34% | } Most common interventions for homeless youth |
| Transitional Housing | 32% | 14% | 28% | |
| Rapid Re-Housing | 16% | 43% | 22% | |
| Permanent Supportive Housing | 24% | 0% | 19% | |
| Navigation Center/Access Point | 20% | 0% | 16% | |
| Capital Improvements | 12% | 14% | 13% | |
| Case Management | 12% | 0% | 9% | |
| Host Homes | 8% | 14% | 9% | |
| Prevention Services | 8% | 0% | 6% | |
| Hotel Vouchers | 8% | 0% | 6% | |

- John Burton Advocates for Youth's [Youth Homelessness in California Report](#) (May 2019) describes the positive impacts the 5% youth set-aside in the HEAP has had so far. Two California examples are included below:
 - The [Bill Wilson Center](#) in Santa Clara County, used HEAP funding to both expand their Transitional Housing Program Plus (THP-Plus) and sustain their youth shelter.
 - Bill Wilson Center operates 97 beds of THP-Plus. The center received one million dollars (\$500,000 each year for two years) in HEAP funding from the City of San Jose. This funding enabled the creation of 20 beds of complementary program. Transition in Place (TIP) Funding also enabled BWC to subsidize housing for a minimum of 20 months and serve a population that does not meet the narrow THP-Plus eligibility criteria.
 - Bill Wilson Center also operates a runaway and homeless youth shelter with a moment in time capacity of 20 youth and total number of youth served annually at 200. The current shelter funding is at two million dollars annually but with CCR implementation, the shelter can no longer receive Title IV-E funding, resulting in loss of \$1.1 million. The City of San Jose

provided one-year grant of \$900,000 in HEAP funding to sustain the youth shelter.

- The Lutheran Social Services (LSS) of Northern California used HEAP funding to address homelessness among college students.
 - Before HEAP, LSS operated transitional housing, Rapid Re-Housing and scattered site permanent, supportive housing. Their programs served TAY, but there was no formal relationship with a local campus. LSS received a \$700,000 from HEAP, which allowed them to expand their scattered site permanent, supportive beds from 25 to 37. They used this expansion as an opportunity to forge a relationship with San Joaquin Delta College through their campus support program. LSS now receives direct referrals from the program coordinator on campus, who refers them to homeless students in one of their housing programs.

Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program (HHAP)

- Building on lessons learned from HEAP, the [*Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program \(HHAP\)*](#)¹¹³ was signed into law on July 31, 2019, by Governor Gavin Newsom. HHAP is a \$650 million one-time block grant in the 2019-20 State Budget that provides local jurisdictions with funds to support regional coordination and expand or develop local capacity to address their immediate homelessness challenges. Of this \$650 million, at least eight percent (\$52 million) is required to be dedicated to addressing homelessness among youth.
 - HHAP expands the HEAP funding and focuses on evidence-based best practices, regional coordination, and services specific to the needs of youth. These include:
 - *Rental assistance*
 - *Rapid Re-Housing*
 - *Operating subsidies in new and existing affordable or supportive housing units, emergency shelters, and navigation shelters*
 - *Incentives to landlords, such as security deposits and holding fees*
 - *Systems support to create regional partnerships and maintain a homeless services and housing delivery system*
 - *Hotel and motel conversions*
 - *Prevention and shelter diversion to permanent housing*
 - *New navigation centers and emergency shelters based on demonstrated need*

¹¹³ For additional resources on HHAP refer to: <https://www.jbaforyouth.org/hhapp/>

Additional Strategies

- *Help TAY build financial assets when in foster care.*¹¹⁴
 - Many non-minor dependents are woefully unprepared to handle their finances upon entering extended foster care. Counties must approach education around issues of financial security, budgeting, and approaches that will better prepare foster youth for what they will face at age 18 and beyond.
 - Child welfare agencies supporting youth in building financial assets can increase the housing options available to youths and provide them with a safety net should they experience a loss of income that might otherwise lead to homelessness. The [Jim Casey Opportunity Passport](#),¹¹⁵ which includes a matched savings account component, is an example of this type of asset-building program.
 - Children's Advocacy Institute also recommends there should be some meaningful standard assessment of a youth's understanding of basic finances and budgeting prior to approval for a Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP).¹¹⁶
- *Offer TAY online access points where they can quickly link to personalized housing options/resources.*
 - Programs and service providers should also be encouraged to connect with TAY experiencing or at risk of homelessness through social media channels and other digital methods.
 - For example, in New Jersey, the [Adolescent Housing Hub](#) (AHH or The Hub) is a real-time database designed to assist youth with placement in a transitional or permanent housing program. The AHH is managed by the Office of Adolescent Services under the Department of Children and Families. AHH services are available to eligible homeless youth, youth at risk for homelessness, and youth aging out of the child welfare system (ages 16-21). The service combs through their list of housing programs and matches a youth with the top three choices given the specifics of their case history. The service aims to eventually guide the youth to a more permanent residence.¹¹⁷
- *Avoid criminalizing survival behavior of homeless youth.*
 - Unaccompanied youth may be arrested or cited for reasons that are solely related to their homelessness. A 2017 report by the Coalition for Juvenile

¹¹⁴ Ibid.

¹¹⁵ For more information: <https://www.aecf.org/work/child-welfare/jim-casey-youth-opportunities-initiative/areas-of-expertise/opportunity-passport/>

¹¹⁶ Children's Advocacy Institute at the University of San Diego School of Law. (2013). *California's Fostering Connections: Ensuring That the AB 12 Bridge Leads to Success for Transition Age Foster Youth*. San Diego, CA: Author. Retrieved from http://www.cachildlaw.org/Misc/AB12_Report_Final.pdf

¹¹⁷ For more information on the Adolescent Housing Hub refer to: <http://www.performcarenj.org/youth/resources/adolescent-housing-hub.aspx>

Justice provides some examples and recommendations on how local governments can focus on ways to avoid criminalizing survival behavior.¹¹⁸

- For example, in Harris County, Texas the [TRIAD Prevention Program](#) is a partnership between the juvenile probation, child protection and mental health agencies. It offers 24-hour intake for youth (ages 10-17), and provides emergency shelter, evidence-based services, service referrals, and follow-up. The program serves youth who are alleged to have committed status offenses and certain misdemeanors, as well as youth in crisis.¹¹⁹
- *Facilitate cross-county sharing of lessons learned, promising programs and innovations in California.*
 - As all counties work to address TAY homelessness, sharing cross-county innovative and evidence-based homelessness interventions, lessons learned, and resources will increase statewide capacity to prevent and end future experiences of homelessness among young people.
- *Improve data collection and reporting on housing instability and homelessness on child welfare-involved families.*¹²⁰
 - With statistics linking family homelessness to TAY homelessness, enabling collection of more robust and disaggregated data on the occurrence and impact of housing instability and homelessness on child welfare involved families can support the development of better policies and programs for TAY.
 - One recommendation, add the ability to document housing instability and homelessness to the *Child Welfare Services-California Automated Response and Engagement System* (CWS-CARES), with reporting through the *Child Welfare Services/Case Management System* (CWS/CMS) to identify when homelessness is a contributing factor to a youth's removal and a barrier to permanency.
- *Promote social and emotional learning processes (e.g., self-management, social awareness, growth mindset and self-efficacy) as protective factors for promoting resilience among homeless and highly mobile TAY.*¹²¹

¹¹⁸ Pilnik, L., et al. (2017). *Addressing the Intersections of Juvenile Justice Involvement and Youth Homelessness: Principles for Change*. Washington, DC: Coalition for Juvenile Justice. Retrieved from <https://www.juvjustice.org/sites/default/files/ckfinder/files/FINAL%20Principles%20.pdf>

¹¹⁹ Ibid.

¹²⁰ California Child Welfare Co-Investment Partnership. (Summer 2018). *Housing Insecurity and Child Welfare. Insights: Vol. XV*. Retrieved from http://co-invest.org/wp-content/uploads/Insight_XV_FINAL_web.pdf

¹²¹ Baharav, H., Leos-Urbel, J., Obradovic, J., & Bardack, S. (2017). *The Educational Success of Homeless and Highly Mobile Students in San Francisco Unified School District*. Stanford, CA. John W. Gardner Center for Youth and Their Communities, Stanford Graduate School of Education. Retrieved from <https://gardnercenter.stanford.edu/sites/default/files/HMM%20Students%20in%20SFUSD%20Report.pdf>

- A growing body of research implicates the value of social and emotional learning processes for TAY,¹²² therefore targeted policies and interventions to develop such skills among foster youth and TAY are recommended.

IV. Voices of Youth Count Initiative: Evidence on Interventions/Programs for Addressing Youth Homelessness

- There has been significant growth over the last decade in evaluations of programs and practices to address youth/young adult homelessness.
- [Voices of Youth Count](#) (VoYC) is a national research and policy initiative (led by Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago) with a goal of bringing actionable evidence about what works and what does not in programming and services to ensure resources support the most effective solutions for ending unaccompanied homelessness among youth/young adults (ages 13 to 25).
 - In November 2019, VoYC completed a systematic evidence review summarizing the effectiveness of interventions to prevent youth homelessness, reduce its duration and effects, and promote sustainable improvements in youth well-being.¹²³ Chapin Hall researchers screened 3,937 potentially relevant studies, reviewing the studies to identify the ones that met all three of their inclusion criteria: *involved adolescents or young adults (generally ages 13 to 25), had samples of youth experiencing homelessness or youth homelessness as an outcome, and was not conducted in a developing country. Ultimately, they identified 62 studies that involved youth homelessness, which evaluated 51 programs.*¹²⁴ Next, they synthesized a broad base of evidence from the evaluations.¹²⁵

¹²² Cutuli, J. J., & Herbers, J. E. (2014). Promoting resilience for children who experience family homelessness: Opportunities to encourage developmental competence. *Cityscape*, 16(1), 113.; Durlak, J. A., Weissberg, R. P., Dymnicki, A. B., Taylor, R. D., & Schellinger, K. B. (2011). The Impact of Enhancing Students' Social and Emotional Learning: A Meta-Analysis of School-Based Universal Interventions. *Child Development*, 82(1), 405–432.; Moffitt, T., et al (2011). A gradient of childhood self-control predicts health, wealth, and public safety. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 108(7), 2693–2698.

¹²³ For full report refer to: Morton, M. H., Kugley, S., Epstein, R. A., & Farrell, A. F. (2019). *Missed opportunities: Evidence on interventions for addressing youth homelessness*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. Retrieved from <https://www.chapinhall.org/research/voices-evidence-review/>

¹²⁴ The full list of included studies, organized alphabetically by author, is available at https://voicesofyouthcount.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Chapin-Hall_VoYC_Citation-List-for-Youth-Homelessness-Evidence-Review.pdf

¹²⁵ Regarding study design for all studies, please note: All evaluations, even the most rigorous, have some risk of bias. Bias is especially likely when an evaluation lacks a credible comparison group to assess what would have happened without the intervention. Without such a comparison group, we can't know if changes occur (for example) because youth got older, they were already motivated to improve, or due to other influences in the young person's life. VoCA indicate evaluations as "high risk of bias" if they lack a "usual services" comparison or control group, or if the group was created without specific efforts (like statistical matching) to create comparable groups. Without similar comparison groups, findings are interpreted with additional caution. In some cases, it is necessary to rely on less rigorous studies to inform interventions while we await additional evidence.

- Program evaluations were grouped under the following seven intervention categories for addressing youth homelessness (although some programs focused on multiple interventions):
 1. *Interventions to prevent youth homelessness*
 - These do not target youth experiencing homelessness but aim to prevent homelessness from occurring
 - Involve identifying youth and children at risk for homelessness and delivering supports and services proactively before the point of crisis
 2. *Shelter and housing interventions*
 - Providing shelter, housing, or housing assistance are a key feature of the program
 3. *Outreach interventions*
 - Interventions that aim to find and connect youth experiencing homelessness with broader services
 4. *Individual counseling and related interventions for youth homelessness*
 - Non-housing, non-family-based interventions primarily focused on delivering therapeutic or health-related counseling or treatment to youth experiencing homelessness
 5. *Family interventions*
 - These explicitly engage youths' families in the program as a key focus
 6. *Economic and employment interventions*
 - Interventions designed to help youth experiencing homelessness to obtain or improve employment or income
 7. *Non-housing case management and support*
 - Non-housing interventions that involve case management or mentoring as a key program feature
- The evidence provided below (grouped by intervention category) includes only impact evaluations designed to assess measurable changes in outcomes due to specific programs and practices. Other kinds of evaluations, including assessments of program implementation, processes, or participant experiences, are not included in this report, but are summarized and available in the literature.¹²⁶

¹²⁶ The full list of included studies, organized alphabetically by author, is available at https://voicesofyouthcount.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Chapin-Hall_VoYC_Citation-List-for-Youth-Homelessness-Evidence-Review.pdf

Interventions to Prevent Youth Homelessness¹²⁷

- Prevention involves a range of policies and programs aimed at identifying youth and children at risk for homelessness and delivering supports and services proactively before the point of crisis.
 - Given the high prevalence of youth homelessness, and the associated trauma, strong prevention strategies and investments are key to addressing the challenge of homelessness overall.
- The table below summarizes evaluations of interventions aimed at preventing youth homelessness before it occurs.
 - Each of the prevention programs led to improvements in housing stability.
 - The more promising findings emerge from interventions that combine evidence-based targeting, youth-centered counseling, and tailored supports and services.

Included Studies of Prevention Interventions

| Description | Study design* | Results |
|--|---|--|
| YVLifeSet (Valentine et al., 2015; Skemer & Valentine, 2016) | | |
| Intensive case management and transitional support services for youth who had been in juvenile justice or foster care (18-24). | Randomized evaluation (n=1,322) | Improved housing stability, earnings, economic well-being, and mental health; no effects on condom use or substance use. |
| Behavior Analysis Services Program (BASP) (Clark et al., 2008) | | |
| A functional analytic intervention that uses data analytics to catch runaway behaviors among youth (12-17) in foster care early, understand behavioral patterns, and provide supports to prevent further episodes. | Matched comparison group evaluation (n=39) | Reduced percentage of days on runaway status. |
| The Geelong Project (MacKenzie & Thielking, 2013; MacKenzie, 2018) | | |
| A place-based collective impact intervention for preventing youth homelessness and early school leaving. It involves coordination between schools and community-based organizations to identify students (12-17) at-risk for homelessness and connect them and their families with tailored supports and services. | Non-randomized evaluation using administrative data to compare outcomes between participating and non-participating schools (n=106) | Reduced the number of students entering the homelessness system and early school leaving. |

- Evaluation of Youth Village's [YVLifeSet](#), a program offering case management and support services for youth who had transitioned out of juvenile justice or foster care, demonstrated a 6% reduction in youth experiences of homelessness during a

¹²⁷ Morton, M. H., Farrell, A. F., Kugley, S., & Epstein, R.A. (2019). *Evidence Summary: Interventions to Prevent Youth Homelessness*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. Retrieved from <https://www.chapinhall.org/wp-content/uploads/Evidence-Review-Brief.pdf>

12-month period (21% of youth in the program group experiencing homelessness versus 27% in the control group).¹²⁸

- YVLifeSet has a clearly defined logic model, specified assessment practices, a list of interventions customized to focus on each youth's particular needs (such as increasing emotional regulation, alleviating behavioral struggles, and strengthening cognitive processes; providing psychoeducation about trauma; and providing goal-directed, client-centered counseling for eliciting behavioral change), and a structured supervision and consultation model that ensures the specialists' adherence to the program model and provides intensive support to YVLifeSet specialists as they work with the young adults.¹²⁹
- Based on each young person's individual circumstances and needs, YVLifeSet specialists help young adults find and maintain employment, find affordable and safe housing, continue their education by applying for scholarships and pursuing state funding when available, accessing health care and organizing a support network.¹³⁰
- This program is currently being offered in 15 states, including California.
- Study limitations of prevention interventions:
 - To understand and address the root causes of homelessness, substantially more evidence is needed.
 - Broader, more structural policies and programs aimed at the underlying causes of homelessness—such as poverty, unaffordable housing markets, and systemic inequities—are likely needed to prevent homelessness for all youth.
 - Evaluating prevention is complex, however research can examine the impact of both policies and programs to prevent youth homelessness.

Shelter and Housing Interventions for Youth Homelessness¹³¹

- Shelter and housing interventions provide residential facilities or rental assistance along with other services.
- The table below summarizes evaluations of shelter and housing interventions for youth experiencing homelessness.
 - Evidence suggests that providing low-barrier housing with support services tailored to individual youth needs can lead to positive outcomes.

¹²⁸ Morton, M. H., Kugley, S., Epstein, R. A., & Farrell, A. F. (2019). *Missed opportunities: Evidence on interventions for addressing youth homelessness*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. Retrieved from <https://www.chapinhall.org/wp-content/uploads/Evidence-Review-Brief.pdf>

¹²⁹ For more information refer to: <https://www.cebc4cw.org/program/yvlifaset/detailed>

¹³⁰ For more information refer to: <https://www.cebc4cw.org/program/yvlifaset/detailed>

¹³¹ Morton, M. H., Farrell, A. F., Kugley, S., & Epstein, R.A. (2019). *Evidence Summary: Interventions to Prevent Youth Homelessness*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. Retrieved from https://voicesofyouthcount.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Chapin-Hall_VoYC_Evidence-Review_Shelter-and-Housing_2019.pdf

- Supportive housing interventions show promising results for increasing housing stability, but it is not known whether these results can be sustained since most of these evaluations did not continue to measure housing stability after youth exited the programs. This limits the understanding of how well these programs prepare young people for longer term stability without direct housing assistance.
- There is some evidence that transitional housing programs may support independent living in the long term, but the evidence is limited, and two evaluations showed many young people exiting programs before completion.

Included Studies of Shelter and Housing Interventions

| Description | Study design* | Results |
|--|--|--|
| At Home/Chez Soi (Kozloff et al., 2016) | | |
| A “housing first” intervention for adults with mental illness—24-month rental subsidy with wrap-around services tailored to need—evaluated with young adults (18-24). | Randomized evaluation (n=156) | Improved housing stability; reduced employment; no effects on a range of wellbeing and service utilization outcomes. |
| Community Unity Project (CUP) (Duncan et al., 2008) | | |
| One-year residential transitional housing program for young mothers (18-21) with life skills classes, counseling, GED or vocational training, and parenting classes. | Pre-post evaluation, no comparison group (n=145)* | No overall discernable improvements in outcomes. |
| Transition House (Jones, 2011) | | |
| A transitional housing program for former foster youth (17-19) unlikely to return to their biological families and lacking a permanency plan. Included education, independent living, and programming in a supervised environment. | A non-randomized evaluation comparing youth who chose to participate in transitional housing to those who chose other living arrangements (n=106)* | Improved housing stability, but youth in other living arrangements more likely to live independently at follow-up; reduced unemployment, substance use, and criminal justice contacts; no effects on savings or independent living skills. |
| Daybreak’s transitional housing program (Pierce et al., 2014) | | |
| Transitional housing for homeless youth (18-21) involving progression from more to less structured living arrangements and a range of programs and services tailored to youth needs. | Pre-post evaluation, no comparison group (n=174)* | Improvements in a range of measures of positive connections, education, employment, and wellbeing. More positive outcomes associated with longer involvement (18 months). |

| Description | Study design* | Results |
|---|---|---|
| Bridge, Inc.'s Independent Living Demonstration Project (Upshur, 1986a; 1986b) | | |
| A structured 6-8 month pilot residential program for homeless youth (16-17) with counseling, goal setting, and support for activities such as assistance finding jobs and pursuing education. | A non-randomized evaluation comparing youth in the independent living program to those in other living arrangements (n=31)* | Improved self-concept, stable living, and education and employment outcomes; reduced defensiveness; no significant changes in personal control. |
| Phoenix Youth Programs' supportive housing (Kisely et al., 2008) | | |
| Supportive housing—involving semi-independent living with residential supervision, counseling, and support—for homeless youth (16-24). | Post-test-only comparison between youth that used supportive housing and those who only used drop-in center services (n=45)* | Improvements in stable housing, education, and general health; reductions in emotional problems and substance use; no significant differences for employment. |
| New York/New York State-Initiated Third Supportive Housing Program (NY/NY III) (Lim et al., 2017) | | |
| Program for former foster youth (18-25) including affordable housing and access to supportive services, including case management, job training, education support, and connections to health services. | A matched comparison evaluation of eligible youth who participated in supportive housing to those who did not using administrative data (n=895) | Improved housing stability and reduced STI rates. |

- Two years after starting a Housing First program in Canada ([At Home/Chez Soi](#)), which included rental assistance plus wraparound services, the average percentage of days stably housed was 66% for young adults in the intervention group compared to 48% for the control group over the last six months.¹³²
 - Mental Health Commission of Canada conducted the world's largest trial of Housing First (HF - At Home/Chez Soi) in five Canadian cities and found:¹³³
 - Housing First can be effectively implemented in Canadian cities of different size and different ethno-racial and cultural composition.
 - A total of 2,148 individuals were enrolled in the study across all five sites and, of those, 1,158 received the HF intervention and 990 were randomized to treatment as usual TAU.
 - Across all cities, HF participants obtained housing and retained their housing at a much higher rate than the TAU group. In the last six months of the study, 62% of HF participants were housed all of the time, 22% some of the time, and 16% none of the time; whereas 31% of TAU participants were housed all of the time, 23% some of the time, and 46% none of the time.

¹³²Morton, M. H., Kugley, S., Epstein, R. A., & Farrell, A. F. (2019). *Missed opportunities: Evidence on interventions for addressing youth homelessness*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. Retrieved from <https://www.chapinhall.org/wp-content/uploads/Evidence-Review-Brief.pdf>

¹³³ For more information refer to: https://www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/attachments/mhcc_at_home_report_national_cross-site_eng_2.pdf

- Cost Savings: Over the two-year period following study entry, every \$10 invested in HF services resulted in an average savings of \$21.72.
- Quality of life and community functioning improved for HF and TAU participants, and improvements in these broader outcomes were significantly greater in HF, in both service types. Symptom-related outcomes, including substance use problems and mental health symptoms, improved similarly for both HF and TAU.

Outreach Interventions for Youth Homelessness¹³⁴

- Outreach is a set of activities in which service providers send staff or volunteers directly into the community—often to the streets—to engage individuals who might not otherwise access supports and services.
 - Outreach is a key component of the service continuum for youth experiencing homelessness.
 - Models and approaches involve providing youth with basic supplies, information, and skills, often oriented toward harm reduction, and connecting them with related supports to help them find shelter or housing and exit homelessness.
- The table below summarizes evaluations of outreach interventions for youth experiencing homelessness.
 - Findings indicate that youth receiving the service linkage to a drop-in center versus crisis shelter had a higher number of service linkages overall and greater improvements in some substance use and HIV-related outcomes.
 - Drop-in centers are often characterized by low-demand programming and few behavioral restrictions.¹³⁵
 - Youth preferred drop-in centers over crisis shelters.
 - Participants in outreach programs, irrespective of the connection, reported decreased substance use and depression along with increased self-efficacy and general physical and mental health.

¹³⁴ Morton, M. H., Farrell, A. F., Kugley, S., & Epstein, R.A. (2019). *Evidence Summary: Interventions to Prevent Youth Homelessness*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. Retrieved from: https://voicesofyouthcount.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Chapin-Hall_VoYC_Evidence-Review_Outreach_2019.pdf

¹³⁵Guo, X., & Slesnick, N. (2017). Reductions in Hard Drug Use Among Homeless Youth Receiving a Strength-Based Outreach Intervention: Comparing the Long-Term Effects of Shelter Linkage Versus Drop-in Center Linkage. *Substance Use & Misuse*, 52(7), 905-915.

Included Studies of Outreach Interventions

| Description | Study design* | Results |
|--|--|--|
| Strengths-based outreach and advocacy (SBOA) plus youth drop-in linkage (Slesnick et al., 2016; 2017; Guo & Slesnick 2017) | | |
| Six months of advocacy within a strengths-based outreach program designed to assist youth experiencing homelessness (14-24) to access needed services. Linkages were made to a youth drop-in center. | Randomized evaluation comparing two types of service linkages; effectively a pre-post evaluation with no service-as-usual comparison for the assessment of the outreach intervention (n=79)* | Improved substance use, social-emotional well-being, and service connection outcomes. |
| Strengths-based outreach and advocacy (SBOA) plus shelter linkage (Slesnick et al., 2016; 2017; Guo & Slesnick 2017) | | |
| Six months of advocacy within a strengths-based outreach designed to assist youth experiencing homelessness (14-24) to access needed services. Linkages were made to a youth drop-in center. | Randomized evaluation comparing two types of service linkages; effectively a pre-post evaluation with no service-as-usual comparison for the assessment of the outreach intervention (n=79)* | Improved substance use and social-emotional well-being outcomes, but improvements were generally greater with the drop-in linkage group (above). |

- Study limitations for outreach interventions:
 - The overall gains noted above imply benefits related to strength-based outreach and advocacy irrespective of the type of service connection. However, because these studies lacked a control group it cannot be ruled out the possibility that these improvements were due to factors other than the intervention.
 - Very little research examines the effectiveness of outreach services intended to engage young people who experience homelessness and connect them to services and supports.

Individual Counseling and Related Interventions for Youth Homelessness¹³⁶

- Individual counseling and treatment interventions typically involve non-housing, non-family-based interventions primarily focused on delivering therapeutic or health-related counseling or treatment to youth experiencing homelessness.
 - These interventions complement crisis services, such as drop-in centers, shelters, or street outreach.
- The table below summarizes evaluations of Individual counseling and treatment interventions for youth experiencing homelessness.

¹³⁶ Morton, M. H., Farrell, A. F., Kugley, S., & Epstein, R.A. (2019). *Evidence Summary: Interventions to Prevent Youth Homelessness*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. Retrieved from: https://voicesofyouthcount.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Chapin-Hall_VoYC_Evidence-Review_Individual-Counseling-and-Treatment_2019.pdf

- These evaluations showed promising results for therapeutic and counseling interventions complementing crisis services.
- Brief motivational interventions¹³⁷ tended to yield short-term improvements in attitudes concerning risk behaviors and some aspects of social-emotional wellbeing.
- More intensive health risk reduction interventions tended to focus on HIV and substance use behaviors, and all showed at least some success.

Included Studies of Individual Counseling and Related Interventions

| Description | Study design* | Results |
|--|--|--|
| Brief interventions | | |
| Brief motivational intervention (BMI) (Peterson et al., 2006; Baer et al., 2007) | | |
| A brief feedback and motivational intervention for substance use among homeless adolescents (14-19). | Randomized evaluations (two evaluations; n=285, n=117) | First evaluation: reduced illicit drug use at one-month follow-up; effects faded by 3-month follow-up. Second evaluation: no effects on drug use, but improved service utilization at 1-month follow-up; effects faded by 3-month follow-up. |
| AWARE (Tucker et al., 2017) | | |
| A group-administered motivational interviewing brief intervention to reduce risk behaviors among homeless young adults (18-25). | Randomized evaluation (n=200) | Reduced alcohol use and unprotected sex; improved attitudes related to drug and condom use. |
| Project SAFE (Bender et al., 2016) | | |
| A group-administered brief risk detection skills intervention among homeless youth (18-21). | Randomized evaluation (n=97) | Randomized evaluation (n=97) |
| A brief, street-based intervention for homeless female youth (Rew et al., 2016) | | |
| A brief street-based group intervention to increase psychological capital and health outcomes among homeless young women (18-23). | Partially randomized evaluation (n=80) | Improved safe sex self-efficacy; other psychological capital outcomes (e.g., hope, resilience) improved for both treatment and control groups. |
| Becoming a Responsible Teen (BART) (Carmona et al., 2014) | | |
| A brief HIV prevention and substance abuse treatment group intervention for youth (14-20) administered along with either the Community Reinforcement Approach, Motivational Enhancement Therapy, or case management. | Pre-post evaluation, no comparison group (n=270)* | Increased condom use and reduced sex partners. |
| Nurse-led brief HIV/AIDs prevention Hepatitis Health Promotion (HHP) intervention (Nyamathi et al., 2012; 2013) | | |
| A brief 3 session nurse-led interactive group intervention for homeless youth (15-25). | Pre-post evaluation, no service-as-usual comparison group (n=154)* | Reduced alcohol and drug use. Improved HIV, HBV, and HCV-related knowledge, and psychological wellbeing. |

¹³⁷ For an introduction to BMI, please review: https://www.utep.edu/lahdr/_Files/research/Brief-Motivational-Interventions_-An-Introduction.pdf

Artist-led brief Art Messaging (AM) program (Nyamathi et al., 2012; 2013)

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| A brief 3 to 4 session art faculty-led group intervention for homeless youth (15-25) using different forms of art to address health-related topics. | Pre-post evaluation, no service-as-usual comparison group (n=154)* | Reduced alcohol and drug use. Improved HIV, HBV, and HCV-related knowledge. |
|---|--|---|

Brief intervention (BI) to reduce alcohol use and sexual risk (Thompson et al., 2017)

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| A brief motivational intervention (BI) to reduce both alcohol use and sexual risk behaviors among homeless young adults (17-22) vs. a brief educational comparison (EC) intervention involving sharing normative information. | Pre-post evaluation, no comparison group (n=210)* | Improved mental health, employment, and housing stability. No improvements in education. |
|---|---|--|

Drug Prevention in Youth (Fors & Jarvis, 1995)

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| A group-administered, peer-led drug abuse risk reduction program for runaway and homeless youth (12-17). | Non-randomized evaluation comparing youth in shelters assigned to peer-led, adult-led, and non-intervention groups. Shelters self-selected into the intervention group.* | Improved knowledge and intention outcomes related to substance use, but not actual substance use outcomes. |
|--|--|--|

More intensive health-risk reduction treatment

Community Reinforcement Approach (CRA) (Slesnick 2013a; 2013b; Guo et al., 2014)

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| A comprehensive cognitive-behavioral intervention for the treatment of substance abuse problems, including with people with co-occurring disorders (evaluated with runaway adolescents, 12-17). | Pre-post evaluation, no service-as-usual comparison group (n=61)* | Reduced substance use but not depressive symptoms. |
|---|---|--|

Community Reinforcement Approach (CRA) plus HIV prevention (Slesnick et al., 2007; Slesnick & Kang, 2008b; Gafsky et al., 2011)

| | | |
|---|-------------------------------|--|
| CRA (see above) plus 4 sessions that covered AIDS education and assessment of risk, risk reduction, and skills practice with street-living youth (14-22). | Randomized evaluation (n=180) | Reduced substance use and depression and increased social stability. |
|---|-------------------------------|--|

Community Reinforcement Approach (CRA) plus mentoring (Bartle-Haring et al., 2012)

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| CRA (see above) plus 12 mentoring sessions with homeless youth (14-22). | Pre-post evaluation, no comparison group (n=48) ² * | Reduced problem consequences associated with substance use. |
|---|--|---|

Project Legacy (Minority AIDS Initiative, 2013)

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| A group-administered HIV risk prevention motivational intervention for homeless young adults (18-24). | Pre-post evaluation, no comparison group (n=288)* | Improved attitudes and knowledge related to HIV and safe sex, along with social hope about future work and social support. |
|---|---|--|

More intensive mental health treatment

Cognitive behavioral therapy for trauma in street children (CBT-TSC) (Shein-Szydlo et al., 2016)

| | | |
|--|-------------------------------|--|
| 12 weekly cognitive behavioral therapy sessions with trauma-related treatment adaptations for street adolescents (12-18) reporting at least moderate PTSD in Mexico. | Randomized evaluation (n=100) | Reduced a broad range of mental health symptoms. |
|--|-------------------------------|--|

Cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) (Hyun et al., 2005)

| | | |
|--|------------------------------|--|
| Cognitive behavioral group therapy for runaway adolescents in South Korea. | Randomized evaluation (n=27) | Reduced depression and increased self-efficacy; no effects on self-esteem. |
|--|------------------------------|--|

Youth Education in Spiritual Self-Schema (YESSS) program (Grabbe et al., 2012)

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| A mindfulness meditation intervention to enhance resilience among homeless youth (17-23) at high risk for mental health problems and substance abuse. | Pre-post evaluation, no comparison group (n=39)* | Increased spirituality, mental wellness, psychological symptoms, and resilience; no changes in impulsiveness. |
|---|--|---|

Traumatic incident reduction (TIR) (Descilo et al., 2010)

| | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------|
| A trauma resolution method conducted with urban at-risk youth and unaccompanied minor refugees (11-18). | Pre-post evaluation, no comparison group (n=31)* | Reduced post-traumatic stress. |
|---|--|--------------------------------|

Relationship-based group intervention (McCay et al., 2011)

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| A six-session program focused on strengthening relationships that would guide, support, and nurture street-involved youth (16-24) in Canada. | Non-randomized evaluation comparing youth who chose to participate in the intervention to those who chose not to (n=15).* | Improved social connectedness; no significant between-group differences for hopelessness, self-esteem, resilience, suicidality, or substance abuse. |
|--|---|---|

Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) (McCay et al., 2015)

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| A 12-week behavioral therapy involving both individual- and group-based sessions conducted with high-risk street-involved youth (16-24) in Canada. | Non-randomized evaluation comparing youth who chose to immediately participate to the wait-list (later start) (n=139). | Reduced mental health symptoms and improved resilience, self-esteem, and social connectedness. |
|--|--|--|

- [Community Reinforcement Approach \(CRA\)](#)¹³⁸
 - CRA uses an operant perspective that is based on the belief that environmental contingencies can play a powerful role in encouraging or discouraging behavior.
 - CRA also integrates and conceptually links behavioral and cognitive intervention strategies to the ecological, multi-causal formulation of youth problem behaviors.
 - CRA is multisystemic in that it directs intervention to intra- and interpersonal change as well as to social contexts that influence behavior.

¹³⁸ Slesnick, N., Prestopnik, J. L., Meyers, R. J., & Glassman, M. (2007). Treatment outcome for street-living, homeless youth. *Addictive behaviors*, 32(6), 1237–1251.

- *Project Safety Awareness for Empowerment (SAFE)*¹³⁹
 - A mindfulness-based, cognitive, skill-building intervention, provided in a group format, with six to eight youth per group, and administered in six iterations (or cohorts).
 - The manualized intervention was adapted from curricula used in a previous intervention trial with adolescents exposed to violence; the trial sought to prevent revictimization in dating relationships among girls involved in child welfare. The intervention focused on detecting danger cues in interpersonal relationships, using mindfulness-based interventions to help youth learn to notice and respond to internal, interpersonal, and environmental risk cues.
 - Components of this particular intervention included teaching youth about risks associated with prior experiences of violence or abuse; introducing the concept of mindfulness; focusing attention to internal, interpersonal, and environmental cues (Day 1); problem solving (Day 2); developing assertiveness skills; and asking for help (Day 3).
- Study limitations of individual counseling and treatment interventions:
 - Rigorous replication studies with longer follow-up periods are needed to understand how well these interventions work in different contexts and for youth with different characteristics.
 - More research is also needed into which youth choose to participate and remain engaged in these types of interventions to inform better targeting and implementation models.

Family Interventions for Youth Homelessness¹⁴⁰

- Family interventions involve both young people and their family members and usually include a counseling component.
 - Sometimes family interventions are intended to shore up the family unit as a source of safe, stable housing for youth, along with related supports. In other cases, that might not be possible or appropriate, but family members can still provide emotional and instrumental support.
- The table below summarizes evaluations of family interventions for youth experiencing homelessness, not including housing-related services.
 - Although the evidence base is small and still emerging, research suggests that family interventions can strengthen the connections and well-being of youth experiencing homelessness.

¹³⁹ Bender, K. A., DePrince, A., Begun, S., Hathaway, J., Haffeejee, B., & Schau, N. (2018). Enhancing Risk Detection Among Homeless Youth: A Randomized Clinical Trial of a Promising Pilot Intervention. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 33(19), 2945–2967.

¹⁴⁰ Morton, M. H., Farrell, A. F., Kugley, S., & Epstein, R.A. (2019). *Evidence Summary: Interventions to Prevent Youth Homelessness*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. Retrieved from https://voicesofyouthcount.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Chapin-Hall_VoYC_Evidence-Review_Family-Interventions_2019.pdf

- All three randomized trials found positive program effects, including on risky or unhealthy behaviors.
- Randomized evaluations of home-based therapy (Ecologically-Based Family Therapy (EBFT)) and office-based therapy (Functional Family Therapy (FFT)) both showed reductions in youths' alcohol and drug use.

Included Studies of Family Interventions

| Description | Study design* | Results |
|---|---|---|
| Ecologically-Based Family Therapy (EBFT) (Slesnick & Prestopnik, 2009; Slesnick & Prestopnik, 2005; Slesnick et al., 2013a; 2013b; Guo et al., 2014) | | |
| Therapeutic intervention for substance abusing adolescents (12-17) and their family members. 12 home-based (or office-based) family therapy sessions and 2-4 individual HIV prevention sessions | Randomized evaluation (n=119) | Reduced alcohol and drug use. No significant effects on family or adolescent functioning compared to control. |
| Functional Family Therapy (FFT) (Slesnick & Prestopnik, 2009) | | |
| A family intervention for dysfunctional youth (11-18) with disruptive, externalizing problems. Typically 12-14 sessions over 3 months. | Randomized evaluation (n=119) | Reduced alcohol and drug use. No significant effects on family or adolescent functioning compared to control. |
| Support To Reunite, Involve, and Value Each Other (STRIVE) (Milburn et al., 2012) | | |
| Aims to reduce sexual risk behaviors, substance use, and conduct problems among newly homeless teens by improving their and parent problem-solving and conflict resolution skills. 5 sessions. | Randomized evaluation (n=151) | Reduced sexual risk behaviors, alcohol use, hard drug use, and delinquent behaviors; increased marijuana use. |
| On the Way Home (OTWH) (Trout et al., 2012) | | |
| 12-month transition support program for youth (13-17) following a stay in out-of-home care, and their families and schools. | Randomized evaluation (n=44) | Improved placement and school stability. |
| Home Free Program (HFP) (Harper et al., 2015) | | |
| Call center-based family reunification intervention for runaway youth (14-20) and their families. | Pre-post evaluation, no comparison group (n=107)* | Decreased family conflict; improved family dynamics and youth health outcomes. |
| Family Reconnect Program (FRP) (Winland et al., 2011) | | |
| Family and individual counseling for at-risk and homeless youth (14-24) and their families. | Pre-post evaluation, no comparison group (n=169)* | Improved housing stability and family relationships. |
| Multisystemic Therapy for emerging adults (MST-EA) (Davis et al., 2015) | | |
| Home- and community-based therapy and mentoring (6-16 months long) designed for young people (17-26) with multiple co-occurring problems and extensive systems involvement. | Pre-post evaluation, no comparison group (n=41)* | Reduced mental health symptoms, justice system involvement, and associations with antisocial peers. |

- [Ecologically-Based Family Therapy \(EBFT\)](#)¹⁴¹
 - Target population includes substance-abusing runaway adolescents (ages 12-17) and their family members who are willing to have the adolescents live in their homes.
 - The treatment was developed to address immediate needs, to resolve the crisis of running away, and to facilitate emotional re-connection through communication and problem-solving skills among family members.
 - The intervention includes family systems techniques such as reframes, relabels, and relational interpretations; communication skills training; and conflict resolution, but also therapeutic case management in which systems outside the family are directly targeted.
- [Functional Family Therapy \(FFT\)](#)¹⁴²
 - Target population ranges from at-risk pre-adolescents to youth with moderate to severe problems such as conduct disorder, violent acting-out, and substance abuse.
 - FFT has been applied to a wide range of problem youth and their families in various multi-ethnic, multicultural contexts.
- [Support to Reunite, Involve and Value Each Other \(STRIVE\)](#)
 - Targeting newly homeless youth, the STRIVE program was initially developed and implemented as a five-session, family-based behavioral intervention model to address family conflict and promote positive family-child interactions. STRIVE sessions took place with families while youth were still in shelters and/or being served by community agencies, as well as when they transitioned back to the home.
 - STRIVE is currently being adapted for adolescents who are re-entering communities from the juvenile justice system.
- [On the Way Home \(OTWH\)](#)¹⁴³
 - Target population includes middle and high school students (ages 12-18) with, or at-risk for, emotional and behavioral disorders transitioning from residential placements back into the home and community school settings and their caregivers.
 - The program modifies and integrates three interventions: Check & Connect, [Common Sense Parenting](#), and homework support to address the educational and family-based transition challenges most common for school-aged youths. Services are provided by a trained Family Consultant in the family home, school, and community, and primary objectives are to promote youth home stability and prevent school dropout. Consultants are

¹⁴¹ For more information refer to: <https://www.cebc4cw.org/program/ecologically-based-family-therapy/detailed>

¹⁴² For more information refer to: <https://www.cebc4cw.org/program/functional-family-therapy/>

¹⁴³ For more information refer to: <https://www.cebc4cw.org/program/on-the-way-home-otwh/>

supervised by a licensed mental health practitioner (e.g., professional counselor, social worker).

- Study limitations for family interventions:
 - None of the studies assessed stable housing or permanent connection outcomes, despite that family interventions are often considered for these purposes with runaway and homeless youth—especially for early intervention.
 - Significant more investment is needed into more and better research and evaluation on the potential contributions of family interventions to youth housing stability and permanent connections.

Economic and Employment Interventions for Youth Homelessness¹⁴⁴

- Economic and employment interventions typically involve a range of components such as vocational training, career services, apprenticeships, and financial services and assistance.
 - Career development strategies among youth experiencing homelessness is an important effort toward sustained exits from homelessness and the ongoing ability to thrive.
- In the context of increasingly unaffordable United States housing markets, new pathways are needed to obtain enough income that enable young people to secure their basic needs.
 - Employment and training programs may be key pathways for a young person to make adequate income to survive and thrive.
- The broader research to date (not specific to youth experiencing homelessness) suggests that youth employment programs can be effective with vulnerable youth.
 - This suggests promising potential for improved outcomes should interventions be contoured to youths' unique needs.
- The table below summarizes evaluations of economic and employment interventions for youth experiencing homelessness.
 - There are no rigorous randomized or statistically matched non-randomized evaluations comparing employment programs to usual community services for youth experiencing homelessness.
 - There are two studies assessing effects of employment programs, each with mixed or inconclusive results.
 - One study suggested positive effects of IPS on youth having worked at all after 20 months, but not on average weekly hours or earnings.
 - Another study showed no employment related progress associated with either IPS or SEI.

¹⁴⁴ Morton, M. H., Farrell, A. F., Kugley, S., & Epstein, R.A. (2019). *Evidence Summary: Interventions to Prevent Youth Homelessness*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. Retrieved from https://voicesofyouthcount.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Chapin-Hall_VoYC_Evidence-Review_Economic-and-Employment-Interventions_2019.pdf

Included Studies of Economic and Employment Interventions

| Description | Study design* | Results |
|--|--|---|
| Social Enterprise Intervention (SEI) (Ferguson, 2008; 2012b; 2017; 2018; Ferguson et al., 2013) | | |
| A program offering vocational and small business training and clinical services referrals to homeless young adults (18-24). | A non-randomized evaluation comparing participants to youth at another agency that did not provide the intervention (n=28).* Pre-post evaluation, no service-as-usual comparison group (n=72)* | Improved life satisfaction, family contact, peer support, and depressive symptoms; no improvement in employment outcomes. Reduced living in a shelter. |
| Individual Placement Support (IPS) (Ferguson, 2017; 2018; Ferguson et al., 2012; 2013) | | |
| Individualized and long-term support through integrated vocational and clinical services, adapted for homeless young adults (18-24). | A non-randomized evaluation comparing participants to youth at another agency that did not provide the intervention (n=36).* Pre-post evaluation, no service-as-usual comparison group (n=72)* | One study showed increased rate of having ever worked but not weekly hours worked or income. Another study showed no improvement in any employment-related outcomes. Improved some aspects of social-emotional well-being. Reduced living in a shelter. |

- *Social Enterprise Intervention (SEI)* and *Individual Placement Support (IPS)* were both delivered over a 20-month period and included a combination of classroom-based and experiential vocational learning along with mental health services.
 - The *Social Enterprise Intervention (SEI)*¹⁴⁵ is one example of a social investment approach that aims to impact homeless youths' mental health status, social support, functional outcomes, and service use by substituting their street behaviors with income-generating alternatives and providing clinical services.
 - There are four stages in the SEI model:
 - 1) *Vocational skill acquisition* is a 4-month course in which youth receive technical training and education concerning specific vocational skills.
 - 2) *Small-business skill acquisition* is a separate 4-month course that focuses on business-related skills needed to start a social enterprise, such as accounting, budgeting, marketing and management.
 - 3) *Social enterprise formation and distribution* is the 12-month phase in which participating youth establish a social enterprise in a supportive, empowering, and community-based setting.
 - 4) *Clinical services* are the mental health component provided by the SEI clinician and/or case manager, which is woven throughout all stages over 20 months.

¹⁴⁵ Ferguson K. M. (2013). Using the Social Enterprise Intervention (SEI) and Individual Placement and Support (IPS) models to improve employment and clinical outcomes of homeless youth with mental illness. *Social work in mental health*, 11(5), 2945–2967.

- *Individual Placement and Support (IPS)*¹⁴⁶ is a model of supported employment for people with serious mental health issues (e.g., schizophrenia spectrum disorder, bipolar, depression). IPS supported employment helps people living with behavioral health conditions work at regular jobs of their choosing. Although variations of supported employment exist, IPS refers to the evidence-based practice of supported employment. Mainstream education and technical training are included as ways to advance career paths.
- Study limitations of economic and employment interventions:
 - Very few studies assess the effects of economic and employment interventions with youth experiencing homelessness. The evidence base on youth employment programs for this population is inconclusive.

Non-housing Case Management and Support for Youth Homelessness¹⁴⁷

- Non-housing case management and support interventions involve casework, mentoring, and/or youth development programming as key features, without including shelter or direct housing assistance.
 - These interventions complement shelter and housing programs by engaging youth who are housed but at risk for housing instability and other adverse outcomes.
- The table below summarizes evaluations of non-housing case management and support interventions for addressing youth homelessness
 - Intensive case management—involving high frequency engagement over multiple months or longer—generally yielded positive results.
 - Four evaluations of non-housing case management and support interventions showed positive results for housing stability outcomes despite the absence of a specific housing intervention.
 - [YVLifeSet](#) reduced rates of homelessness after 12 months.
 - Promotor Pathway Program reduced shelter use after 18 months.
 - The iTEAM program was associated with a reduction in the number of days homeless after six months.
 - Each improvement in housing stability-related outcomes was accompanied by improvements in other areas, such as mental health and employment.
 - Each intervention also had a lack of significant effects on some outcomes.

¹⁴⁶ For more information refer to: <https://ipsworks.org/index.php/what-is-ips/>

¹⁴⁷ Morton, M. H., Farrell, A. F., Kugley, S., & Epstein, R.A. (2019). *Evidence Summary: Interventions to Prevent Youth Homelessness*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. Retrieved from https://voicesofyouthcount.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Chapin-Hall_VoYC_Evidence-Review_Case-Management-and-Support_2019.pdf

- Exceptions to the trend in positive overall results were the Houvast and YP4 case management and support programs, which had no effects on a wide range of outcomes.
- Taken together, this evidence suggests that intensive, youth-centered case management targeting youth at-risk for homelessness can improve key outcomes for youth experiencing or at-risk for homelessness.

Included Studies of Non-housing Case Management and Support

| Description | Study design* | Results |
|--|---|---|
| YVLifeSet (Valentine et al., 2015; Skemer & Valentine, 2016) | | |
| Intensive case management and transitional support services for youth who had been in juvenile justice or foster care (18-24). | Randomized evaluation (n=1,322) | Improved housing stability, earnings, economic well-being, and mental health; no effects on condom use or substance use. |
| Promotor Pathway Program (PPP) (Theodos et al., 2016) | | |
| Intensive case management, mentorship, and advocacy for homeless and other vulnerable transition-age youth (16-24). | Randomized evaluation (n=476) | Improved housing stability, positive connections, and education. No overall effects on employment or earnings or social-emotional well-being. Reduced births, but increased fights and substance use. |
| Project Passage (PP) (Cauce et al., 1994) | | |
| An intensive mental health case management program for homeless youth (13-21), which also included flexible funds to support basic needs. | Randomized evaluation (n=115) | Reduced aggression and improved satisfaction with quality of life; no effects compared to control group on other mental health outcomes. |
| Houvast (Krabbenborg et al., 2016) | | |
| A strengths-based intervention for homeless young adults (17-26) based on shelter staff training in the Netherlands. | Randomized evaluation (n=251) | No effects on a range of outcomes related to positive connections, education, employment, or well-being. |
| YP4 (Borland et al., 2013) | | |
| Case management, navigation, and linked services for homeless young adults (18-35) in Australia. | Randomized, intervention and comparison groups had significant baseline differences (n=445) | No effects on a range of outcomes related to housing stability, positive connections, education, employment, or well-being. |
| Partnerships for Youth Transition (PYT) initiative (Haber et al., 2008) | | |
| Multisite SAMHSA demonstration of transition support programs with various models of coordinated strategies and activities for homeless and other vulnerable transition-age youth (14-21). | Pre-post evaluation, no comparison group (n=193)* | Improved education, employment, and well-being related transitional outcomes. |

| Description | Study design* | Results |
|---|---|--|
| Case management and Community Reinforcement Approach (CRA) (Slesnick et al., 2008) | | |
| Case management with CRA, a comprehensive cognitive-behavioral intervention for the treatment of substance abuse problems, including with people with co-occurring disorders, evaluated with homeless youth (14-24). | Pre-post evaluation, no comparison group (n=172)* | Improved mental health and number of days housed; reduced substance use. |
| My Treatment Empowerment for Adolescents on the Move (iTEAM) (Powell et al., 2016) | | |
| A comprehensive LGBTQ affirming system-of-care approach to providing intensive case management, substance abuse and mental health treatment, linkages to housing, and other support services to homeless youth (15-24). | Pre-post evaluation, no comparison group (n=210)* | Improved mental health, employment, and housing stability. No improvements in education. |

- *Promotor Pathway Program (PPP)*¹⁴⁸
 - The target audience includes youth ages 14 to 24 with a multiplicity of challenges, such as lack of education, homelessness, trauma, substance abuse, and court involvement.
 - This long-term, evidence-based client management intervention model allows Promotores to work on a one-on-one basis with each youth to remove barriers, proactively encourage participation in a broad set of Latin American Youth Center (LAYC) services, and connect youths to other needed resources within the community so they may make a successful transition to adulthood.
 - LAYC has created the [Promotor Pathway National Network](#) to scale and replicate this innovative model across the country.
- *Project Passage Intensive Case Management*¹⁴⁹
 - Focuses on the Seattle Homeless Adolescent Research Project, a research demonstration program that aims to evaluate an intensive mental health case management program for homeless adolescents.
 - Youths were assigned to an intensive mental health case manager, who helps the adolescent access the various service systems that he or she needs, including mental and physical health, residential, vocational, educational, and income maintenance.
- Study limitations of non-housing case management and support interventions:
 - Despite these encouraging results the size of impacts is limited.
 - While percentages decreased, many participants still experienced housing instability at study end.

¹⁴⁸ For more information refer to: <https://www.layc-dc.org/what-we-do/promotor-pathway-model/>

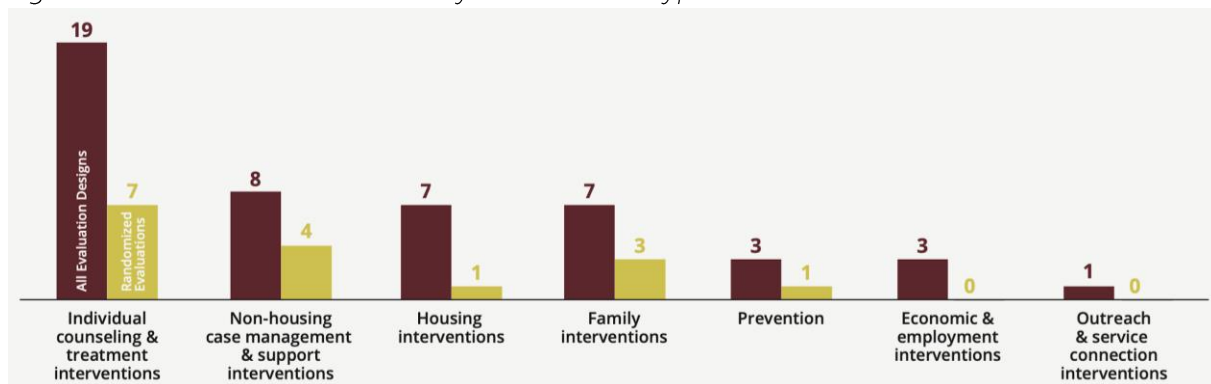
¹⁴⁹ Cauce, A. M., Wagner, V., Sy, J., Weeden, K., Blanchard, T., Morgan, C. J., Moore, E., Wurzbacher, K., & Tomlin, S. (1994). Effectiveness of intensive case management for homeless adolescents: Results of a 3-month follow-up. *Journal of Emotional and Behavioral Disorders*, 2(4), 219-227.

- Many of these youth likely need additional supports and services, such as housing or economic assistance, to overcome the complex challenges they face.

Summary of VoYC Systematic Evidence Review Findings and Implications

- In summary **the** VoYC's systematic evidence review on interventions/programs for addressing youth homelessness found:
 - A small evidence-base (researchers only found a few evaluations of approaches to prevent youth from experiencing homelessness in the first place) suggests that youth homelessness is preventable.
 - Rental assistance and supportive housing programs show promising results.
 - Most evaluations focus on interventions that address well-being and risk behaviors and show positive results.
 - There is little evidence on interventions that help youth experiencing homelessness achieve better employment outcomes.
 - Family-based interventions show positive results for behavioral health, but better evidence is needed on their effects on housing stability and family connections.
 - There is an alarming mismatch between investments in interventions and their evaluation. Few evaluations assess what works to help youth transition from homelessness to housing stability.
- *Figure 5* below shows the total number of VoYC systematic evidence review evaluations by intervention type as well as a sense of the limited scope of the evidence-base for solutions to youth homelessness (including a limited number of randomized evaluations).
 - As shown, individual counseling and treatment interventions were the most commonly evaluated, and there were very few rigorous evaluations of shelter, housing or prevention programs for youth.

Figure 5. Number of Evaluations by Intervention Type¹⁵⁰



¹⁵⁰ Note: Some evaluations are included in more than one intervention category.; Source: Morton, M. H., Kugley, S., Epstein, R. A., & Farrell, A. F. (2019). *Missed opportunities: Evidence on interventions for addressing youth*

Critical gaps in the evidence remain as to what interventions can most effectively prevent youth homelessness, reduce its duration and effects, and promote sustainable improvements in youth well-being.

- The following areas have especially limited evidence:
 - *Prevention*
 - *Prominent housing models*
 - *Employment and economic support interventions*
 - *Interventions tailored to specific subpopulations*
 - *Outreach interventions*
 - *Service delivery models for rural communities.*
- Funders should place greater priority on investing in more and better evaluations to address these knowledge gaps. Organizations and communities can strengthen their leadership by collaborating with researchers and more rigorously evaluating their programs, practices, and innovations.

V. Examples of Localized Housing Programs in California for TAY¹⁵¹

- [County of Los Angeles-Department of Mental Health \(DMH\) Transition Age Youth \(TAY\) Division \(Enhanced Emergency Shelters for TAY and TAY Navigation Team\)](#) - Los Angeles (LA), CA: The DMH TAY Division provides an array of mental health and supportive services for the following priority populations (ages 16-25):
 - TAY struggling with substance abuse disorders
 - TAY who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness
 - TAY aging out of the children's mental health, child welfare, or juvenile justice systems
 - TAY leaving long-term institutional care
 - TAY experiencing their first episode of major mental health issues

Two unique TAY Division programs include:

- [TAY Navigation Team](#) - The TAY Navigation Team consists of a TAY System Navigator, which is a master's level clinician, and a housing specialist. Each TAY navigation team is assigned to each service area. The TAY Navigation Team's primary role is to assist Seriously Emotionally Disturbed (SED) and Severe and Persistently Mentally Ill (SPMI) youth by navigating them through the various human services systems in order to achieve effective linkages to needed mental health, housing, and other essential services.

homelessness. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. Retrieved from <https://www.chapinhall.org/wp-content/uploads/Evidence-Review-Brief.pdf>

¹⁵¹ Please note the examples below are not all-inclusive and there are numerous other housing programs/models in the State of California to serve TAY experiencing or at-risk of homelessness.

- The TAY System Navigators promote mental health activities that are conducted at a variety of sites, including the LA County Children's Court, Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and Probation Department, local colleges, and non-branded community-based organization that serve TAY. In addition, TAY System Navigators provide clinical consultations to these departments and organizations while outreaching and engaging TAY that are referred.
- Serving as integral members of the TAY Navigation Team, Housing Specialists work closely with individuals' clinician/ clinical team to assist with housing retention efforts and facilitate communication among the involved parties. They assist SED/SPMI TAY with completing applications for rental subsidies and prepare consumers for interviews with prospective property owners or housing managers. The Housing Specialist acts as an advocate and negotiator for consumers with poor credit and poor housing histories while establishing a professional relationship with property owners and managers. For TAY, this is a critically needed service, as many have little or no history of living independently.
- [Enhanced Emergency Shelter Program \(EESP\)](#) - Serves the immediate and urgent housing needs of the SED/SPMI TAY population (age 18-25 years). The goal of this program is to ensure availability in all eight service areas and to ensure countywide coverage and geographic accessibility. The primary objective of this program is to provide temporary shelter for TAY clients in a supportive housing environment for up to 36 nights while pursuing the long-term goals of secure, permanent housing.
- [Jovenes](#)- Los Angeles, California. Jovenes helps youth (ages 18-25) end their cycle of homelessness by offering a Continuum of Care that helps youth exit the streets and move into permanent housing as fast as possible. They focus on not only their needs for housing, but also healthcare, education, employment and trauma recovery. Jovenes provides short-term housing solutions through: emergency shelter and transitional housing; Rapid Re-Housing; a 14-unit complex called the Progress Place Apartments (where TAY share an apartment with a roommate, receive mental health counseling through the Department of Mental Health, and pay 30% of their income in rent); My Home-Mi Casa (partnered with Genesis LA to purchase and rehab single family homes and duplexes in Boyle Heights and East LA and converted them into permanent affordable housing for homeless youth and families); and work with leading non-profit developers to create set-aside units dedicated to youth in affordable housing complexes. Jovenes also provides a Family Reconnection program helps youth and families who are interested in reconciling go through a structured series of conversations and agreements to determine if a

young person can safely move back into their home and leads a *College Success Initiative* to provide support to and create homes for homeless students.

- [Meadow Glen Apartments](#) - Modesto, California. Built in 2014, Meadow Glen Apartments were the first targeted permanent supportive housing development for former foster youth in the Central Valley. The Stanislaus County Affordable Housing Corporation, City of Modesto, and the Housing Authority of the County of Stanislaus assembled the \$6.7 million in development costs through a range of federal loans and inter-agency transfers. Meadow Glen provides 33 units (24 one-bedroom and 9 two-bedroom apartments) with case management and supportive services provided by Aspiranet, a large multi-service agency. Meadow Glen provides rental assistance to qualified homeless young adults or youth out of foster care, between age 18-28.
- [Sanctuary House](#) - Santa Rosa, California. Sanctuary House is Community Support Network's home for TAY. This supportive seven-bed home is for youth who struggle with trauma and/or addiction who are either homeless or in danger of becoming homeless. Sanctuary House offers TAY a safe living environment with structured programming to support them as they gain and strengthen life skills for independence. They accept referrals from anywhere. Potential residents must: be 18-24 years old; qualify as homeless; have a mental health diagnosis and earn \$1,442/month or less upon entry. Residents pay rent at 30% of income.
 - The program offers mentoring, transportation to appointments, emotional and physical health, trauma and addiction recovery, nutrition, and assistance with going back to school and finding employment. Trauma-informed staff work one-on-one with residents to create individualized plans for setting and meeting goals, learning positive coping skills, recovering from addictions, finding meaningful employment or attending college, and finally becoming participating and contributing members of the community.
- [TLC Child and Family Services Transitional Housing](#) - Sebastapol, California. TLC offers three housing programs (THP, THPP and THP Plus) that give TAY, ages 16-24, the opportunity to learn critical life skills and receive support from professional staff while living independently in Sonoma County. All three programs support youth in securing housing, learning the skills necessary for independent living, and connecting with resources in their local communities. TLC partners with landlords and homeowners to provide safe apartments and homes throughout Sonoma County. TLC also recruits in the community for host homes (with a room or an apartment for rent)-the owner will house a young adult as a tenant who is supervised by professional staff as they learn to live on their own.
- [Social Advocates for Youth: Tamayo Village](#) - Santa Rosa, CA. Tamayo Village is a single site, mixed-population housing program for former foster youth and other vulnerable young adults. Rather than full apartments, youth have personal rooms, but shared kitchen, bathroom, and living areas. Tamayo Village provides significant

onsite programming, including employment services, educational supports, and peer mentorship.

- [San Diego Youth Services TAY Academy](#) - San Diego, CA: TAY Academy is a safe, inclusive, youth-led center for TAY. The TAY Academy provides trauma-informed services and is a centralized hub for resources and services relating to job-readiness training, case management, education, mental health and housing for TAY (ages 14-25), including foster youth, former foster youth, out-of-home probation youth and homeless and runaway youth. TAY Academy serves youth at more than 100 community locations throughout San Diego County. San Diego Youth Services also provides additional homeless housing and support services including street outreach, transitional housing continuum, and a youth emergency shelter.
- [First Place for Youth](#) - Oakland, California. First Place for Youth serves foster kids ages 18-20 who are enrolled in Extended Foster Care, as well as youth ages 18-24 who were in foster care on their 18th birthday and have since experienced homelessness. First Place for Youth welcomes all clients, regardless of previous arrests, incarceration or substance use.
 - Participants in their *My First Place* program are housed in a fully subsidized shared apartment for the duration of their stay in the program. Their First Place team works with them to learn the skills for independent living, from grocery shopping and doing laundry to paying bills and being a good neighbor. With a safe and stable place to call home, they can focus more fully on reaching their goals.
 - First Place for Youth also has Education and Employment Specialists to support TAY to succeed in school, build job skills, explore career paths and obtain employment. Their staff also provide education and guidance to help participants develop a better understanding about what mature, responsible choices look like in personal and professional relationships, money management, and health and wellness.
- [Youth Moving On](#) - Pasadena, California. A program of Hillside, Youth Moving On provides youth who were formerly in foster care and probation affordable quality housing and numerous support services to help them transition successfully to adulthood. Youth learn skills for lasting independence and fulfillment through: healthy connections with supportive adults; workforce development to eliminate barriers to meaningful employment; weekly life skills classes that encourage community and critical thinking, teach coping skills, problem-solving and promote healthy lifestyle; career and education counseling plus scholarships; money management training; linkage to other resources and service providers in LA; and the *Youth Moving On Peer Resource Center*, a safe, welcoming environment to serve youth in need, ages 16-25.

- [The Dream Center](#) - Los Angeles, California. The Dream Center serves as a resource center focused on finding solutions to homelessness, hunger, and the lack of education through residential and community outreach programs. It serves as a shelter and short-term housing complex located on a renovated former hospital campus for various homeless populations (e.g., individuals, veterans, families, TAY). This program supports young adults (ages 18-24) by providing the resources for educational learning and job training, along with a supportive community and mentorship to guide them on the path toward independent living and permanent housing. Besides food, showers, clean clothes and shelter, other resources are also available, including classes and tutoring for a GED, money management courses and on-site vocational training.
- [Encompass Community Services](#) - Santa Cruz, California. Provides an array of programs and services including counseling, skills building, a drop-in center, and subsidized supportive housing to TAY. The Transitional Voucher Program (TVP) is a joint program of Encompass Independent Living Program (ILP) and the Santa Cruz Housing Authority. Through TVP, the Housing Authority provides Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers to a small number of participants, ages 18-24, in ILP. The Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher allows ILP participants to secure private housing in the community and receive federal assistance in paying their rent for up to 36 months. To help participants be successful in their new housing and ultimately transition to paying for housing on their own, ILP Coordinators provide counseling, support, and empowerment to TVP participants in accessing resources and learning new skills.
- [Sanctuary Youth Shelter, Sanctuary Transitional Shelter, Safe Place Sanctuary Outreach to the Streets \(SOS\)](#) - Fresno, California. Sanctuary operates a 24-hour emergency shelter for runaway, homeless, exploited or otherwise displaced youth (ages 12-17). Youth are provided food, clothing, crisis intervention, case management, counseling, and family reunification (when appropriate). Sanctuary Youth Shelter is the only self-referral emergency shelter between Bakersfield and Stockton and is recognized as a Safe Place.
 - In addition, Fresno's Sanctuary Transitional Shelter operates an overnight shelter for homeless or otherwise displaced youth and young adults (ages 18-24) and a daytime drop-in center. This shelter provides housing support, counseling and supportive services, and employment and education services as well as food, laundry services, showers, recreational activities and life skills.
 - The Safe Place program provides youth 12-17 years of age access to immediate help and safety through a network of community Safe Place sites that open the doors to at-risk youth.

VI. Additional Tools for Addressing Homelessness Among TAY

- [The Next Step Tool](#)
The Next Step Tool for Homeless Youth, is a version of the VI-SPDAT for youth and young adults aged 24 and below. The Next Step Tool, was created by OrgCode and Community Solutions and is also known as the TAY-VI-SPDAT stands for the Transition Age Youth-Vulnerability Index-Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool. The tool is intended to both predict which youth are most likely to experience long-term homelessness, essentially on a trajectory to becoming chronically homeless adults, and determine who is currently the most vulnerable and at risk in order to support youth in ending their homelessness. The Next Step Tool should be used in the place of the VI-SPDAT for all youth and young adults under the age of 24 as a more accurate assessment of their vulnerability considering the distinct aspects of this specific population and prioritize these clients for youth-specific homeless services and housing.
 - ❖ [Webinar: Administering the Next Step Tool](#)
 - ❖ [Handout: When to administer the Next Step Tool](#)
 - ❖ [Handout: Administering the Next Step Tool](#)
- [Children's Bureau: National Youth in Transition Database \(NYTD\)](#)
Collects information on youth in foster care, including sex, race, ethnicity, date of birth, and foster care status. It also collects information about the outcomes of those youth who have aged out of foster care. This information allows ACF to track which independent living services states provide and also assess the collective outcomes of youth.
 - ❖ [NYTD Services and Outcomes Reports](#) summarize findings from State NYTD data submissions compiled by the Children's Bureau.
- [National Alliance to End Homelessness \(NAEH\): Toolkit on Rapid Rehousing for Youth](#)
Providers around the country are finding that Rapid Re-Housing can be an effective intervention to help young people experiencing homelessness. Through the Alliance's Rapid Re-Housing for Youth Learning Community and Practice Knowledge Project, this Toolkit includes some key lessons learned from innovative providers about how they are implementing the model for youth.

The Toolkit is broken into several topic areas: (1) Housing First; (2) Overview of Rapid Re-Housing; (3) Core Component 1: Housing Identification; (4) Core Component 2: Rent and Move-In Assistance; (5) Core Component 3: Rapid Re-Housing Case Management and Services; and (6) Rapid Re-Housing as a Systems Approach to Ending Youth Homelessness.
- [Foster Care Transition Toolkit](#)
The U.S. Department of Education (ED), in partnership with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), and youth and practitioners involved in the child welfare system, developed this toolkit to help youth access the resources needed to successfully transition into adulthood, secure safe and stable housing and continue on to postsecondary education, and meaningful careers.

- [John Burton Advocates for Youth: Case Management Check-in Guide](#)
This Guide is for case managers working for housing programs or other community-based providers to help guide check-ins with their youth who are enrolled in college, week by week. The guide outlines pertinent topics to raise at specific times throughout the semester, moving case managers from asking “how’s school going?” to asking targeted questions at just the right time, building trust, and providing timely reminders, support and referrals to resources.
- [Project Life: Housing](#)
Provides questions to help youth determine if they are prepared to find stable, affordable housing after aging out of foster care. The page also describes different types of housing resources that may be available to youth.
- [Alliance for Children’s Rights and Children’s Law Center \(CLC\) of California: Know Before You Go](#)
Know Before You Go started as a collaboration between the Alliance for Children’s Rights and the Children’s Law Center after California extended foster care to age 21. The Alliance and CLC joined forces to create the *Know Before You Go* campaign to educate and support young adults transitioning from foster care to independence.
 - [Housing for Extended Foster Care](#)
Know Before You Go discusses housing for youth who remain in foster care in California under the EFC program and provides information on where youth can live and what assistance is available to youth who extend care.

VII. Additional Reports/Studies on TAY Homelessness

- [National Voices of Youth Count Reports on Youth/Young Adult Homelessness](#)
Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago (2015-Current)
Voices of Youth Count (VoYC) is a national research and policy initiative (led by Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago) designed to fill critical gaps in the nation’s knowledge about unaccompanied homelessness among youth/young adults (ages 13 to 25). VoYC has conducted [the most comprehensive examination](#) to date of youth homelessness. Currently, VoYC by Chapin Hall has published nine seminal reports on youth experiencing homelessness. The goal is to bring actionable evidence about what works and what does not in programming and services to ensure resources support the most effective solutions for ending youth homelessness. Various excerpts from VoYC reports are included in this summary of the research.
- [Improving Outcomes for Homeless Youth](#)
Social Impact Research (2012)
Investment in programs to help youth exit homelessness and build positive lives presents a significant opportunity for social impact. Drawing on current research and interviews with experts representing government, academia, nonprofits, and foundations, this report provides an overview of the issue, populations affected, approaches to address, and investment recommendations.

- [Too Big to Ignore: 10 Years Later](#)
John Burton Advocates for Youth (JBAY) (2019)
This is a five-year policy agenda to address homelessness among California's youth. This publication marks the ten-year anniversary of the 2009 release of [Too Big to Ignore: Youth Homelessness in California](#), a previous policy agenda developed by JBAY and California Coalition for Youth. The 2019 policy agenda was developed based on in-depth interviews with 44 experts in the field, and covers four areas: resources and funding streams, adjacent systems and access to services, K-12 and post-secondary interactions and interventions, and strengthening the current homeless response system for homeless youth.
- [Child Welfare Information Gateway Webpage Support Services for Youth in Transition: Housing](#)
Includes State and local examples across the country which provide strategies to help transitioning youth locate and maintain safe and affordable housing,
- [Using a Housing First Philosophy When Serving Youth](#)
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (2017)
Explains the Housing First approach, which focuses on quickly connecting people experiencing a housing crisis to permanent housing without preconditions and barriers to entry (e.g., sobriety, treatment, or service participation requirements). The document describes the core principles of Housing First as they relate to youth and techniques to better serve youth.
- [Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative®](#)
The Annie E. Casey Foundation (2018)
A national and state-based effort that believes every young person leaving foster care should have the family connections, opportunities and support needed for a successful transition to adulthood. Provides various tools and resources with the goal to increase opportunities for young people who are in or transitioning from foster care.
- [Supporting Young People Transitioning from Foster Care: Findings from a National Survey](#)
Child Trends (2017)
In the report, states were asked to report a primary area of strength and a primary area in which they could do better in supporting young people transitioning from foster care. Twenty-one states responded that housing was a primary area in need of improvement or an area in which their state is actively working to improve, specifically through providing transitional and/or affordable housing.
- [Bay Area Legal Aid Youth Justice Project \(YJP\)](#)
Bay Area Legal Aid's Youth Justice Project (YJP) provides disadvantaged youth and adolescents with holistic supports, services, and legal representation. Since 2007, BayLegal has provided legal support and representation to youth ages 14 to 24 from across seven Bay Area counties. Youth Justice Project cases have an outstanding 95% success rate. These youth who successfully receive housing, medical, education support and more through advocacy by BayLegal are significantly less likely to be repeat offenders.

- [Aged Out/Cast Out: Solutions to Housing Instability for Aging Out Foster Youth in New York](#)

Columbia Law School, Adolescent Representation Clinic (ARC) (2016)

Offers straightforward solutions to the continuing crisis of housing instability for youth aging out of foster care. The report is inspired and informed by the stories of young people represented by the ARC.

- [Intimate Partner Violence Among Youth Experiencing Homelessness](#)

Homelessness Policy Research Institute (2019)

According to the 2018 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count, 34% of 18-24 year old youth experiencing homelessness in the region reported having been victimized by some type of intimate partner violence. Report includes details on the impact and prevalence of intimate partner violence among youth experiencing homelessness, an area that warrants increased attention from service providers, policymakers, and researchers.

- [Mental Health Among Youth Experiencing Homelessness](#)

Homelessness Policy Research Institute (2019)

Data from the homeless count shows that approximately one in five youth experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles reported having a serious mental illness, and evidence from a range of studies suggests even higher prevalence of mental health challenges among youth experiencing homelessness. Report includes details on the findings of researchers and practitioners on the prevalence and impacts of mental health challenges for youth experiencing homelessness and examines ideas for interventions targeting this vulnerable group.

VIII. Online Resources Focusing on TAY Homelessness

National Organizations/Websites

- Family and Youth Services Bureau's (FYSB) Runaway and Homeless Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center (RHYTTAC) (<https://www.rhyttac.net/>)
- National Center for Housing and Child Welfare (NCHCW) (<http://www.nchcw.org/>)
- National Alliance to End Homelessness (<https://endhomelessness.org/>)
- National Network for Youth (<https://www.nn4youth.org/>)
- National Clearinghouse on Homeless Youth and Families (<https://rhyclearinghouse.acf.hhs.gov/>)
- A Way Home America (AWHA) (<http://awayhomeamerica.org/>)
- SAMHSA Homelessness Programs and Resources (<https://www.samhsa.gov/homelessness-programs-resources>)

- National Runaway Safeline
(<http://www.1800runaway.org>)
- The National Center on Homeless Education
(<http://center.serve.org/nche/>)
- National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth
(<http://naehcy.org>)
- SchoolHouse Connection¹⁵²
(<https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/>)
- The Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH)
(<https://www.csh.org/>)
- American Bar Association-Homeless Youth and the Law Initiative
(https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_services/homelessness_poverty/initiatives/homeless_youth_andthelaw/)
- United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) (<https://www.usich.gov/>)
- United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
(<https://www.hud.gov/>)

California Organizations/Websites Focusing on TAY Homelessness

- State Resources to Address California's Homeless Crisis
(https://www.bcsd.ca.gov/hcfc/documents/heap_funding_matrix.pdf)
- California Coalition for Youth (CCY)¹⁵³
(<http://calyouth.org/>)
- California Homeless Youth Project
(<http://cahomelessyouth.library.ca.gov/>)
- John Burton Advocates for Youth-Housing
(<http://www.jbaforyouth.org/housing/>)
- Homeless and Housing Strategies for California (<https://homelessstrategy.com/>)
- Conrad N. Hilton Foundation-Homelessness
(<https://www.hiltonfoundation.org/priorities/homelessness>)
- The Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative
(<http://homeless.lacounty.gov/>)

¹⁵² SchoolHouse Connection is a national non-profit organization working to overcome homelessness through education via strategic advocacy and practical assistance in partnership with early childhood programs, schools, institutions of higher education, service providers, families, and youth.

¹⁵³ Note: CCY also operates the California Youth Crisis Line, a statewide, toll-free, 24-hour, confidential hotline (1-800-843-5200) available to teens and young adults ages 12-24 and/or any adults supporting youth. The California Youth Crisis Line is an immediate, reliable and free link between youth and local services.

OUR WHY: **REVOLUTIONIZE
THE WAY PEOPLE
WORK TO ENSURE
THE WORLD IS A
HEALTHIER PLACE.**



6505 Alvarado Road, Suite 107; San Diego, CA 92120 | (619) 594-3546

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