Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP)
Lincoln, NE

Notice of Funding Opportunity
Request for Projects

Date Issued: April 8, 2022
Informational Public Meeting: April 12, 2022
Non-binding or required Letter of Intent due: April 15, 2022
Submission Deadline: May 11, 2022
[No late submissions will be considered]

Submit Non-Binding Letter of Intent and Proposals
y by email to: Lincoln.NE.CoC@gmail.com

AAQ (Ask A Question) Submissions: Lincoln.NE.CoC@gmail.com

AAQ postings: https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/City/Departments/Urban-Development/Housing
BACKGROUND

In September 2021, The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded $2.2 million to the City of Lincoln Continuum of Care for a two-year demonstration program aimed at building systems to end youth homelessness as part of the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP). YHDP will support a wide range of housing programs and supportive services specifically designed to be youth centered.

During the past 2 years, over 2,600 Lincoln youth aged 16 to 24 sought services to address a housing crisis or were experiencing homelessness. Last year in Lincoln, 476 youth under age 24 were reported to have experienced a homeless episode at an emergency shelter or in an unsheltered location.

Over the last several months, the Lincoln Continuum of Care has worked with community stakeholders including the Youth Homeless Action Initiative (YHAI), members of the Lincoln Homeless Coalition, and system partners including Lincoln Public Schools, the Department of Health and Human Services, and Lancaster County Juvenile Probation, to create a comprehensive community plan to end youth homelessness in the City of Lincoln. YHDP funding to the City of Lincoln Continuum of Care will continue after the end of the 2-year demonstration project and be a part of the annual HUD funding received by the city to meet the needs of youth 24 and under experiencing homelessness.

During the community planning process, a number of project types were identified as priorities for funding. These projects will build upon the current systems and initiatives in place, such as the All Doors Lead Home Coordinated Entry System, and target identified gaps in youth-specific programming within the Lincoln CoC. Implementation of these YHDP funded projects will support the community’s system-wide goals outlined in the Coordinated Community Plan, and ultimately prevent and end youth homelessness. Projects will be developed through this request for proposals and selection process, in which providers and partners will propose specific, innovative projects for YHDP funding.

https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/yhdp/
YHDP Shared Vision:

Through the achievement of our shared vision and mission, all youth and young adults will have equitable access to youth-driven resources to support their individualized needs of stable housing, access to education and employment opportunities, and a service system that emphasizes the importance of social-emotional well-being and permanent connections within the community.

Additionally, our community envisions a Continuum of Care and response system that eliminates disparities related to race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, or other identities.

The shared vision and mission will be accomplished through objectives and strategies identified through the Lincoln YHDP community planning process and stated in the Lincoln Coordinated Community Plan to End Youth Homelessness.

The Lincoln Coordinated Community Plan addresses the following goals:

All youth and young adults in Lincoln who are at risk of or currently experiencing homelessness:

1. Will have immediate access to safe and stable housing resources to meet their individualized needs
2. Will be provided opportunities designed to improve educational outcomes and employment opportunities as a pathway to achieving stability and self-sufficiency
3. Will be connected to supports designed to enhance a person’s social and emotional well-being
4. Will have access to trauma-informed interventions designed to reunify or strengthen familial or alternative permanent connections within the community
5. Will not encounter disparities or inequitable access to any of the YHDP resources or opportunities based on race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, or other identity
NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

The Lincoln Continuum of Care is seeking proposals from nonprofit service providers and governmental agencies to implement projects to serve unaccompanied homeless youth, age 24 and younger, in support of Lincoln’s Coordinated Community Plan to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness under the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP), funded by United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Applications are requested from eligible organizations1 for four (4) different project types to address a critical need for housing and supportive services for youth experiencing homelessness ages 18-24.

1. Joint Transitional and Rapid Rehousing
2. Coaching and Navigation Support Services
3. Rapid Response Assistance
4. Permanent Supportive Housing for Youth

Expansion and implementation of Coordinated Entry as well as Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) for unaccompanied youth under the age of 25 is also being funded through YHDP funds, and will be applied for by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Center on Children, Families, and the Law in their role as Coordinated Entry and HMIS Lead Agency, as described in the Lincoln Continuum of Care Governance Charter.

See Appendix A for detailed information for each project category

---

1 Eligible organizations for funding include: nonprofit organizations, states, local governments and instrumentalities of state or local government see 24 CFR 578.15 “Eligible Applicants”
Applicants must respond to this Notice of Funding Opportunity in the format and according to the schedule set forth in this announcement. If selected, each project would be awarded for two (2) years with the potential for future annual renewal through the annual HUD Continuum of Care Program competition.

All applicants must ensure that their proposed project(s):

1. actively incorporate youth voice and collaboration;
2. incorporate innovative and creative models and strategies;
3. further the goals and objectives of the community plan;
4. contain strategies for measuring effectiveness;
5. are responsive to wider community priorities for integrated care; and
6. comply the principles of Housing First.
7. participate in the All Doors Lead Home Coordinated Entry System.

An applicant may apply in partnership with one or more other organizations. Joint applications should submit an MOU reflecting the role of project partners and specify funding for each organization in the detailed budget. Collaboration is always encouraged.

Once selected as a Lincoln CoC YHDP funded project, all applicant(s) will be required to submit a complete project application to HUD via e-snaps, HUD's online grant management system, which achieves the goals and objectives defined by the Coordinated Community Plan and approved by the YHDP Planning Leadership, Youth Homeless Action Initiative (YHAI), and Lincoln CoC.
PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Format: Please limit narrative responses to the RFP to no more than fifteen (15) single spaced pages. 12 pt font. Cover page, table of contents and attachments are not counted towards page limit.

Deadline: Non-Binding Letter of Intent: April 15, 2022 by 5:00 pm CT.
Proposals: May 11, 2022 by 5:00 pm CT.
Late submissions will not be accepted.

Submission: Letter of Intent and Proposals MUST be submitted by email to Lincoln.NE.CoC@gmail.com.
DO NOT submit proposals by mail, fax or hand delivery. The email subject for proposals should be clearly labeled with the name of the project being applied for. Address submissions to Lincoln CoC YHDP Leadership

Proposal Components:

1. Cover Page. Including organization name, CoC project type applying for (see Appendix A), date of submission, and point of contact, contact information. (Not included in 15-page limit)

2. Table of Contents. (not included in 15-page limit)

3. Statements of Commitment
   a. Project will comply with program requirements as per the Lincoln Continuum of Care Written Standards, HUD Continuum of Care Program Interim Rule, FY21 YHDP NOFA and any HUD-approved alternative requirements.
   b. Project will comply with all HUD Continuum of Care and YHDP program reporting requirements including collection of HUD required data elements and RHYMIS performance measures using the HMIS.
   c. Project will participate in and only accept consumers through the All Doors Lead Home Coordinated Entry system.
   d. Project will participate as an active member of the Lincoln Continuum of Care
   e. Project will actively include youth participation in design and implementation stages.
   f. Project will engage in project design with members of the YHDP Leadership Team to operationalize project concept.
   g. Special Consideration: Rapid Response Assistance projects must utilize the Lincoln Prevention Assistance Common Fund.

4. Interest. Describe the special needs and challenges presented by youth and young adults at risk of or experiencing homelessness and explain why your organization is interested in and committed to serving this population. Interest should link the project activities to the mission and vision of the applicant organization and should include how the applicant will ensure that the project is consistent with the vision, goals, and objectives of the Lincoln CoC Coordinated Community Plan to Prevent and End Youth
5. Organizational Experience.

a. **History of Performance and Compliance.** Describe your organization’s experience and past performance in providing housing, supportive services, and referral services, especially to unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness. Include in this description your organizational infrastructure, including administrative financial capacity to effectively utilize federal funds and deliver the services as proposed. Specifically identify federal grants your agency has had in the past five years and whether the federal agency contracted with has any outstanding findings or concerns with respect to services offered or funds administered. If there are unresolved findings or concerns from a federal agency, please specify.

b. **Collaboration and Knowledge of Community Resources.** Demonstrate organizational collaboration with other providers or agencies, as well as knowledge of community partners and resources serving unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness.

c. **Staff Qualifications and Experience.** Describe the experience of the person/s on staff who will provide staff supervision and management of project activities. Describe how skills and experience of existing staff will ensure success of the YHDP project, with a particular focus on how they will support youth choice and authentic youth engagement. Identify if existing staff will be assigned to this project or if staff will be recruited specifically for this project. Give a timeline for when staff will be available to implement project activities.

d. **Compliance with Fair Housing and Equal Access Requirements.** Demonstrate that the program is in compliance with applicable fair housing and civil rights requirements and provides equal access for program participants regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, in compliance with federal law.

6. Program Description. This section shall address:

a. **Program Design.** Establish the population to be served by this project, including a clear definition of eligibility for project applicants. Describe how the housing and supportive services that will be provided through the project, including the type, scale, and location of supportive services and the mode of transportation to those services. Explain how the program will be made accessible and appropriate for unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness. Describe any linkages to other services or agencies that will support program implementation and service delivery. Describe the geographic service area your project will include for housing and supportive services.

b. **Linkages to housing:** Describe how your project will address the crisis housing needs of participants. Describe how your project will assist youth in locating and securing permanent housing. Describe how you will maintain positive working relations with property owners (if applicable). Describe how your services will support long term housing stability. Provide your plan for in-home visitation as appropriate.

c. **Supportive Services:** Describe the range of supportive services for youth, which may include, but are not limited to, independent living skills (such as managing a budget, preparing meals, and understanding tenant rights and
responsibilities) and access to education and employment services, that will be included in the program design. Describe how, directly or through linkages, mental health and substance abuse services will be made available to clients.

d. **Mainstream Resources.** Describe the project’s plan to connect youth to mainstream resources, such as health, social, and employment programs for which they are eligible. This should include a description of how the project will screen for eligibility for mainstream resources, plans to coordinate with mainstream systems and resources to make referrals, and staff training on mainstream resources for youth.

e. **Youth Involvement and Leadership.** Describe youth involvement in planning and designing the proposed project, as well as the organization’s plan for active involvement and leadership among youth in the project’s implementation, including employment opportunities and youth voice in the staff hiring process.

f. **Populations of Focus.** Describe how the project will serve vulnerable and often overrepresented youth experiencing homelessness including but not limited to youth of color; LGBTQA+ youth; pregnant and parenting youth; youth who have had involvement with juvenile justice and foster care systems; and victims/survivors of labor or sexual trafficking and exploitation. This should include how considerations for population’s special needs and challenges will be incorporated into the project’s identification methods, infrastructure considerations, housing and/or service-delivery.

g. **Cultural Competency.** Describe your organization’s methods of ensuring cultural competence at all levels of the organization. Address experience serving with cultural sensitivity people who are racially, ethnically and religiously diverse; who speak languages other than English; who have a range of physical and mental disabilities; who are LGBTQA; and who are extremely low-income. Describe the diversity of your board and staff to be representative of the populations being served, your organization’s non-discrimination policies, and how you ensure that your staff meets the needs of clients with sensitivity toward clients’ varied cultural and life experiences.

h. **Housing First Approach.** Describe how you will use a “Housing First approach” in which assistance is offered and referrals made, including access to intensive, youth-focused case management and services, without preconditions and barriers to entry such as treatment or service participation requirements.

i. **Innovation.** Describe how your project is innovating, including how the proposed project addresses crisis or permanent housing in a way that is responsive to the needs of youth and can be sustained on a long-term basis. Projects are encouraged to utilize YHDP program flexibilities identified in the HUD YHDP NOFO Appendix A.

j. **Community Engagement.** Describe the extent to which the project demonstrates connections to existing community organizations for long-term support such as mainstream organization, services, clubs, and organizations, communities of faith, social and civic organizations.

7. **Alignment with HUD Principles and Prioritized Elements of the Lincoln Coordinated Community Plan.** Identify how this project will align with the HUD principles laid out in the YHDP NOFA and with the shared vision, goals, objectives,
and action steps of the Coordinated Community Plan to End Youth Homelessness. HUD principles that should be addressed by the applicant in this section include:

a. **USICH Framework:** Program demonstrates a commitment to the principles of the USICH Youth Framework to End Youth Homelessness published in 2012 and to its four core outcomes:

   a. *Stable housing* includes a safe and reliable place to call home;

   b. *Permanent connections* includes ongoing attachments to families, communities, schools, and other positive social networks;

   c. *Education/employment* includes high performance in and completion of educational and training activities, especially for younger youth, and starting and maintaining adequate and stable employment, particularly for older youth;

   d. *Social-emotional well-being* includes the development of key competencies, attitudes, and behaviors that equip a young person to succeed across multiple domains of daily life, including school, work, relationships, and community.

b. **Equity:** Program supports and aligns with community efforts in measuring and considering racial inequities and other disparities in the risks for, and experiences of homelessness in the community.

c. **Youth Choice.** Program promotes youth choice in terms of the kind of housing youth need and the extent and nature of supports and services they access, and promotes presenting alternative options for youth who avoid programs with barriers such as requiring sobriety or abstinence.

d. **Positive Youth Development and Trauma Informed Care.** Projects must incorporate Positive Youth Development (PYD) and Trauma Informed Care (TIC) models of housing and service delivery.

**8. Project Implementation Plan:** Applicants should also identify and discuss the prioritized innovative project elements established in the Coordinated Community Plan that will be incorporated into the project, as well as any innovative project elements not listed in the Coordinated Community Plan. This section shall address:

a. **Timeline.** Include a timeline for project implementation including the hiring of staff, proposed project start date, project evaluation, and benchmarks for project outcomes. Proposed process measures can be included as well as outcome measurements. Note: HUD expects to be under contract with agencies by end of September 2022, and projects will likely start a few months after that.

b. **HUD Timeliness Standards:** If this project is dependent on securing a facility, or is dependent on a construction timeline, please explain how the project will secure proof of site control, match, environmental review, and the documentation of financial feasibility within 12 months of the announcement of the award.
c. **Access.** The plan should ensure that the project is incorporated into All Doors Lead Home Coordinated Entry System. All applicants should ensure that the project or system is well advertised so that its availability is known to unaccompanied youth at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

d. **Staff Training.** Describe any training or staff development activities that would be conducted as part of this project, and how this training will ensure that staff are ready to meet the needs of all subpopulations of unaccompanied youth at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

e. **Budget.** Provide a clear budget for the project that supports the housing, services, and staff proposed. Costs should be reasonable, justified, and competitive. The budget must demonstrate the project is cost effective with costs not deviating substantially from the norm in that locale for the type of structure or kind of activity.

f. **Match.** Describe the resources in support of this project, either from in-kind and/or external resources, which will cover the required 25%.
NOFO SELECTION PROCESS

The Lincoln YHDP Rank and Review team will evaluate proposals utilizing the YHDP Project Scoring Tool [See Appendix C]. Prior to the Rank and Review evaluation, the Youth Homeless Action Initiative will conduct their own independent pass/fail review of project applications.

All applicants will be informed via writing if their project was accepted or rejected as part of the Lincoln Continuum of Care YHDP. All project applications are pending approval from HUD and may be amended per feedback from HUD.

An appeal may be filed by any agency applying for a new project that claims it has been adversely affected by the outcome.

The appeals process is a two-step process: First, the City of Lincoln-Urban Development Department, acting as the Collaborative Applicant for the Lincoln Continuum of Care, will conduct an informal review on behalf of the CoC Governing Body to settle technical and/or procedural matters expeditiously. In this role, the Collaborative Applicant will resolve technical matters during the informal review process. If the informal review of the appeal does not satisfy the concerns of the appellant, the matter will advance to a formal appeal process conducted by the Lincoln CoC Governing Body.

An appeal shall be requested no later than June 1, 2022.

AAQ Submissions: Lincoln.NE.CoC@gmail.com
AAQ Responses will be posted: https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/City/Departments/Urban-Development/Housing

HUD Exchange Continuum of Care

HUD YHDP Resources
# Appendix A: Project Description

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Permanent Supportive Housing</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Summary</strong></td>
<td>Permanent Supportive Housing programs are to provide indefinite leasing or rental assistance and supportive services for youth ages 19-24 with long-term disabilities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Needs Met</strong></td>
<td>Increase the capacity of housing opportunities in the CoC for youth with long-term disabilities that prohibit success in other time-limited housing opportunities.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Coaching and Navigation</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Summary</strong></td>
<td>Coaching is a strengths-based case management approach that includes collaboration, youth empowerment, family, and community engagement as the core values and strategies. This approach is youth-driven and focuses on preparing the young adults to identify their individualized goals as they transition to adulthood.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Needs Met</strong></td>
<td>Provide additional supportive services for youth and allow for real youth choice in identifying what case management option best suits their needs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Rapid Response Assistance</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Summary**                      | Interventions of this type are designed to provide short-term financial assistance to either maintain youth in current housing or rapidly re-house. Support can include:  
  • Short-term rental assistance and security deposits  
  • Assistance with moving costs which can include relocation  
  • Housing search and counseling including application fees and landlord mediation  
  • Legal Services  
  • Transportation  
  • Utility deposits  
  • Case management |
| **Needs Met**                    | This type of intervention serves the community by functioning as both a diversion and prevention program targeted towards youth at imminent risk of homelessness (category 2). |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Joint Transitional-Rapid Rehousing</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Summary</strong></td>
<td>Joint TH-RRH programs will be designed to allow for immediate access to low-barrier crisis housing in a transitional capacity, while individualized and client-driven permanent housing solutions are identified.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Needs Met</strong></td>
<td>Increase capacity for low-barrier and trauma-informed crisis housing for youth and provide additional Rapid Rehousing capacity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HMIS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>HMIS projects are to provide system development, training, infrastructure, software, report development and measurement to the CoC, the YHDP implementation, and funded projects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Needs Met</td>
<td>Expansion of the HMIS is a required program type to provide needed system development, training, and CQI measurement and to provide ongoing support to the increase in CoC-funded programs and allow for the expansion of the HMIS and the All Doors Lead Home Coordinated Entry system to the wider service system.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coordinated Entry</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>The All Doors Lead Home Coordinated Entry system is a “no wrong door” system that identifies, diverts, assesses, prioritizes, develops housing plans, and makes referrals for persons at risk of or experiencing homelessness in Lincoln.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Needs Met</td>
<td>The addition of new YHDP projects requires additional staffing and system development to prioritize and case plan for all youth at risk of or experiencing homelessness.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Expansion and implementation of Coordinated Entry as well as Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) for unaccompanied youth under the age of 25, will be applied for by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Center on Children, Families and the Law in their role as Coordinated Entry and HMIS Lead Agency, as described in the Lincoln Continuum of Care Governance Charter*
## Number of Projects and Expected Funding Amounts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YHDP CoC Project Component / Type</th>
<th>Project $ Est. Range</th>
<th>Expected # of Funded Projects</th>
<th>Estimated # of Youth HH Served Per Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSH</td>
<td>$300,000 - $400,000</td>
<td>1 to 2</td>
<td>20-25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint TH-RRH</td>
<td>$200,000 - $240,000</td>
<td>1 to 2</td>
<td>20-30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rapid Response</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coaching/Navigation</td>
<td>$150,000 to $175,000</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HMIS / Coordinated Entry</td>
<td>$110,000</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix B: Prioritized Elements for Housing Models

- **Shared housing models:** Inclusion of pilot programs for roommate matching, host homes, and peer-led supportive housing that incorporate youth choice that respond to housing market constraints. Renting rooms in under-occupied homes.

- **Serving the most vulnerable youth:** Prioritized, low-barrier entry for the most vulnerable youth as identified by the coordinated entry system

- **Innovative adoption of Housing First principles:** This includes the absence of barriers to entry and service participation requirements, and provision of targeted, intensive supports to ensure housing success

- **Transition planning:** Immediate/ongoing transition planning from entry through placement; may include housing navigation support and links to adult or other ongoing supportive housing

- **Innovation in education and employment:** Links to demonstrated, flexible, youth-led and -appropriate education and/or employment support

- **Youth-centered case management:** Adoption of principles of flexible, youth-centered case management focused on the individualized needs of youth, which may include making connections to schools, caring and trusted adults, health care providers, and youth development organizations.

- **Employ Positive Youth Development principles:** Use Positive Youth Development to build strengths and promote resiliency and to provide services with a focus on skills-building, leadership, and community involvement.

- **Trauma-informed care approach:** Staff are trained to provide trauma-informed care, including crisis intervention, conflict resolution, counseling services and specialized services for populations of focus that are responsive to their histories of trauma.

- **Foster permanent connections:** Provide services for the development and strengthening of ongoing attachments to biological and chosen family and other positive social relationships. Services may include reunification, crisis intervention, or family finding services; mentoring programs; and family engagement services, including counseling, mediation services and parental support center.

- **Promote social and community integration:** Offer meaningful opportunities for community involvement, engagement and leadership for youth, including access to community-based activities, neighborhood events, and volunteer opportunities.
• **Immediate and ongoing access to age-appropriate mental-health treatment:** Onsite or mobile case management and/or behavioral health treatment and supports, including substance treatment and peer-led supports

• **Innovative links to other systems of care:** Housing with direct, innovative links from other systems (child welfare, juvenile and adult court, adult probation, educational institutions, healthcare) and targeted services for those subpopulations

  • **Targeted subpopulation housing and services:** Housing with targeted community and peer supports for identified subpopulations within the coordinated community plan

  • **Innovation in identifying and measuring outcomes:** Demonstrated, outcomes-based furtherance of goals and objectives outlined in the community plan

  • **Creative service models:** Service models that create incentives for client participation by acknowledging and supporting youth needs (for example, employment training programs that compensate youth for time spent at case management or mental health appointments as well as for time spent at work)

  • **Expansion of housing options and supply:** Creative engagement with community residents and landlords and increase youth access to housing through new housing models specifically targeted toward youth needs.
### YHAI Scoring Factors for YHDP Grant Applications

**THRESHOLD REVIEW**

*Youth Action Homeless Initiative will be assessing the identified priority components on the following scale:*

1-Extremely Poor  2- Bad  3- Average  4- Good  5 - Excellent

*Projects with a score below 25 are deemed ineligible for further review and project selection*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Up to 5 points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Compliance with Fair Housing and Equal:</strong> Project demonstrates that the program is in compliance with applicable fair housing and civil rights requirements and provides equal access for program participants regardless of sexual orientation or gender identify, in compliance with federal law.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cultural Competency:</strong> Describe organization’s methods of ensuring cultural competence at all levels of organization. Address experience serving with cultural sensitivity people who are racially, ethnically, and religiously diverse. Describe your organization’s non-discrimination policies, and how organization ensures staff meet the needs of clients’ with varied cultural and life experiences.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Populations of Focus:</strong> Applicant clearly describes how the project will serve youth populations including youth of color, LGBTQA youth, pregnant or parenting youth, undocumented neighbors, victims of labor or sexual trafficking, and youth who have had involvement with the child welfare or juvenile justice systems.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Supportive Services:</strong> Project adequately describes the range of supportive services for youth, which may include, but are not limited to, independent living skills (such as managing a budget, preparing meals, and understanding tenant rights and responsibilities) and access to education and employment services, that will be included in the program design. Describe how, directly or through linkages, mental health and substance abuse services will be made available to youth enrolled in programming.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Youth Involvement and Leadership:</strong> Describe youth involvement in planning and designing the proposed project, as well as the organization’s plan for active involvement and leadership among youth in the project’s implementation, including employment opportunities and youth voice in the staff hiring process.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Housing First Approach:</strong> Program demonstrates how it will implement a “Housing First approach” in which assistance is offered and referrals made, including access to intensive, youth-focused case management and services, without preconditions and barriers to entry such as treatment or service participation requirements.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Equity:</strong> Program supports and aligns with community efforts in measuring and considering racial inequities and other disparities in the risks for, and experiences of homelessness in the community</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Youth Choice: Program promotes youth choice in terms of the kind of housing youth need and the extent and nature of supports and services they access and promotes presenting alternative options for youth who avoid programs with barriers such as requiring sobriety or abstinence.

Positive Youth Development and Trauma Informed Care: Projects must incorporate Positive Youth Development (PYD) and Trauma Informed Care (TIC) models of housing and service delivery.

Staff Training: Describe any training or staff development activities that would be conducted as part of this project, and how this training will ensure that staff are ready to meet the needs of all subpopulations of unaccompanied youth at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

FULL REVIEW SCORED CRITERIA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Maximum Available Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Applicant Organizational Experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1a</td>
<td>Demonstrates an understanding of the special needs and challenges presented by homelessness for unaccompanied youth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1b</td>
<td>Clearly explains why the organization is interested in and committed to serving this population.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1c</td>
<td>Organization has well-documented experience and positive past performance in providing housing, supportive services, and/or referral services, especially to unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1d</td>
<td>Demonstrate organizational collaboration with other providers or agencies in Lincoln and knowledge of community partners and resources serving unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1e</td>
<td>Staffing and staff experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>· experience of managerial staff who will provide supervision and management of project activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>· experience of case management staff including how skills and experience of existing organization staff will ensure success of the YHDP projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>· case management staff to youth ratio for proposed project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fiscal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>--------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1f</td>
<td>Describe organization’s methods of ensuring cultural competence at all levels of organization. Address experience serving with cultural sensitivity people who are racially, ethnically, and religiously diverse. Describe your organization’s non-discrimination policies, and how organization ensures staff meet the needs of clients’ with varied cultural and life experiences.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Fiscal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2a</td>
<td>The project budget provided is clear and easy to understand. The budget reflects sound, adequate allocation of resources, matching the program components including staffing costs, and operating costs. The budget supports the services proposed and is competitive with other proposals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2b</td>
<td>Projects must be cost effective, with costs not deviating substantially from the norm for the type of activity and location.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Program Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3a</td>
<td>Project applicant clearly articulates an understanding of the Lincoln YHDP Coordinated Community Plan and connection between the proposed program and the YHDP CCP Shared Vision, USICH Four Core Outcomes, the HUD YHDP principles, and the project component objectives identified in CCP.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3b</td>
<td>Project applicant clearly articulates the program design proposed including clear definition of eligibility for project applicants. Clear description of how the housing or supportive services will be provided through the project including the type, scale, and geographic scope/location of housing/service provision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3c</td>
<td>Project applicant describes how the project will address crisis housing needs, how the project will assist youth in locating and securing permanent housing. Housing program applicants should also describe how the development of positive relations and the retention of property owners will be accomplished.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3d</td>
<td>Applicant clearly describes how the project will serve youth populations including youth of color, LGBTQ youth, pregnant or parenting youth, victims of sexual trafficking, and youth who have had involvement with the child welfare or juvenile justice systems.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Applicant clearly describes how the project will serve youth populations through connection to mainstream resources and processes through which connections are made. Applicant clearly describes (if applicable) the range of support services the project will provide or connect you with including mental health and substance abuse services, family engagement, education, and employment.

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3e</td>
<td>Applicant clearly describes how the project will serve youth populations through connection to mainstream resources and processes through which connections are made. Applicant clearly describes (if applicable) the range of support services the project will provide or connect you with including mental health and substance abuse services, family engagement, education, and employment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Implementation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4a</th>
<th>Applicant includes a timeline for project implementation, including hiring of staff, proposed start date.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4b</td>
<td>Applicant clearly articulates the project outcomes as specified in project component and expectation of achieving specified benchmarks. Applicant briefly outlines process for determining outcome measurement.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Innovation

| 5 | Applicant clearly states how the proposed project addresses crisis or permanent housing in a way that is responsive to the needs of youth and can be sustained on a long-term basis. |

### Community Engagement

| 6 | Applicant describes the extent to which the project demonstrates connections to existing community organizations for long-term support including mainstream organization, services, clubs, and organizations, communities of faith, social and civic organizations. |

### Total Score Maximum

|   | 105 |
Appendix D: HUD YHDP NOFO- PROGRAM FLEXIBILITIES

The following YHDP activities may be exercised by YHDP recipients with notice to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Special Needs, subject to requirements governing grant agreement amendments at 24 CFR 578.105:

(1) YHDP housing projects may have leases for a minimum term of 1 month under rental assistance budget line items.

(2) YHDP recipients may use leasing, sponsor-based rental assistance, and project-based rental assistance in Rapid Rehousing projects.

(3) Up to 10 percent of the total YHDP funding made available to the community may be used for planning grants. As outlined in I.C.9 of this Appendix, planning grants are nonrenewable.

(4) In addition to the eligible costs listed in 24 CFR 578.59(a), YHDP recipients may use project administrative funds to support costs associated with involving youth with lived experience in project implementation, execution, and improvement.

(5) Recipients of YHDP funds can use project administrative funds to attend conferences and trainings that are not HUD-sponsored or HUD-approved, provided that the subject matter is relevant to youth homelessness.

(6) YHDP recipients may employ youth who are receiving services, including housing, from the recipient organization. Recipients that utilize this special YHDP activity must maintain documentation that discloses the nature of work that the youth does, and that the youth is not in a position that creates a conflict of interest.

(7) YHDP recipients may use habitability standards in 24 CFR 576.403(c) rather than Housing Quality Standards in 24 CFR 578.75 for short or medium term (up to 24 months) housing assistance. Recipients implementing this special YHDP activity must keep documentation of which standards are applied to the units and proof that the units complied with the standards before assistance is provided for every unit funded by YHDP.

(8) YHDP recipients may provide moving expenses more than one-time to a program participant.

(9) YHDP recipients may provide payments of up to $500 per month for families that provide housing under a host home and kinship care model in order to offset the increased costs associated with having youth housed in the unit.

(10) YHDP grant funds may be used for the following if they are necessary to assist program participants to obtain and maintain housing. Recipients and subrecipients must maintain records establishing how it was determined paying the costs was necessary for the program participant to obtain and retain housing and must also conduct an annual assessment of the needs of the program participants and adjust costs accordingly.
(a) Security deposits for units in an amount not to exceed 2 months of rent;
(b) The costs to pay for any damage to housing due to the action of a program participant, which may be paid while the youth continues to reside in the unit. The total costs paid for damage per program participant may not exceed the cost of two-months’ rent.
(c) The costs of providing household cleaning supplies to clients.
(d) Housing start-up expenses for program participants, including furniture, pots and pans, linens, toiletries, and other household goods, not to exceed $300 in value per program participant.
(e) The one-time cost of purchasing a cellular phone and service for program participant use, if necessary for the participant to obtain or maintain housing
(f) The cost of internet in a program participant’s unit.
(g) Payment of rental arrears consisting of a one-time payment for up to 6 months of rent in arrears, including any late fees on those arrears.
(h) Payment of utility arrears of up to 6 months per service.
(i) Up to three months of utilities for a program participant, based on the utility costs schedule for the unit size and location.
(j) In addition to transportation costs eligible in 24 CFR 578.53(e)(15), a recipient may pay gas and mileage costs for a program participant’s personal vehicle for trips to and from medical care, employment, childcare, or other services eligible under this section.
(k) Legal fees, including court fees, bail bonds, and required courses and equipment.
(l) Program participant’s past driving fines and fees that are blocking a young person from being able to obtain or renew a driver’s license and impacting their ability to obtain or maintain housing. Additionally, recipients may pay for program participants costs for insurance and registration for personal vehicles, if the personal vehicle is necessary to reach medical care, employment, childcare, or other services eligible under this section.

Under the conditions specified below, YHDP recipients may make use of the following built-in exceptions to this NOFO’s requirements, subject to approval by the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Special Needs and requirements governing grant agreement amendments at 24 CFR 578.105:

(1) A recipient may provide up to 36 months of Rapid Rehousing rental assistance to a program participant if the recipient demonstrates (1) the method it will use to determine which youth need rental assistance beyond 24 months and (2) the services and resources that will be offered to ensure youth are able to sustain their housing at the end of the 36 months of assistance.

(2) YHDP recipients may continue providing supportive services to program participants for up to 24 months after the program participant exits homelessness, transitional housing or after the end of housing assistance if the recipient demonstrates:
   1) the proposed length of extended services to be provided;
   2) the method it will use to determine whether services are still necessary; and
   3) how those services will result in self-sufficiency and ensure stable housing for the YHDP program participant.
YHDP recipients may continue providing supportive services to program participants for up to 36 months after the program participant exits homelessness, if the services are in connection with housing assistance, such as the Foster Youth to Independence initiative, or if the recipient can demonstrate that extended supportive services ensures continuity of case workers for program participants.

(3) Recipients will not be required to meet the 25% match requirement if the applicant is able to show it has taken reasonable steps to maximize resources available for youth experiencing homelessness in the community.

(4) Rental assistance may be combined with leasing or operating funds in the same building, provided that the recipient submits a project plan that includes safeguards to ensure that no part of the project would receive a double subsidy.

(5) YHDP recipients may provide payments of up to $1000 per month for families that provide housing under a host home and kinship care model, provided that the recipient can show that the additional cost is necessary to recruit hosts to the program.

(6) In addition to the specific activities authorized above or in 24 CFR part 578, other innovative activities to reduce youth homelessness may be carried out using YHDP funds, provided that the recipient can demonstrate that the activity meets the following criteria:
   a) The activity is supported by both the Youth Action Board and the Continuum of Care, as evidenced by letters of support from each organization;
   b) That activity will be testing or likely to achieve a positive outcome in at least one of the four core outcomes for youth experiencing homelessness (stable housing, permanent connections, education/employment, and well-being);1
   c) The activity is cost effective; and
   d) The activity is not in conflict with fair housing, civil rights, or environmental regulations.

In order to receive any of the exceptions listed directly above, Project Applicants must submit a request to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Special Needs at the time of or prior to the project application submission. Project Applicants (or recipients) may also request any of the exceptions listed in I.C.1(b) after projects are approved; however, the recipient cannot make use of the exception until notified that HUD has received and approved the request. In addition to HUD approval, if a grant amendment is required by 24 CFR 578.105, the recipient cannot make use of any requested exceptions until HUD has signed the grant amendment. Requests should be emailed to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Special Needs at youthdemo@hud.gov and, if made prior to or at the time of project application submission, the request should also be attached to the project application. Project applicants can obtain a copy of the McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act (“the Act”) and 24 CFR part 578 on HUD.gov.