



**coordinated community plan  
to end youth homelessness**

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**lincoln, nebraska**

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# Youth Homeless Action Initiative Values

## City of Lincoln, NE Community Plan to End Youth Homelessness,

**Non-judgmental:** Interactions with YYA do not label or judge based on age, experiences, choices, background or age.

**Common decency & Creativity:** Allowing others space to process information, experiences, and to clarify beliefs and opinions.

**Diversity & Equality:** Welcoming and respecting people of ALL cultures.

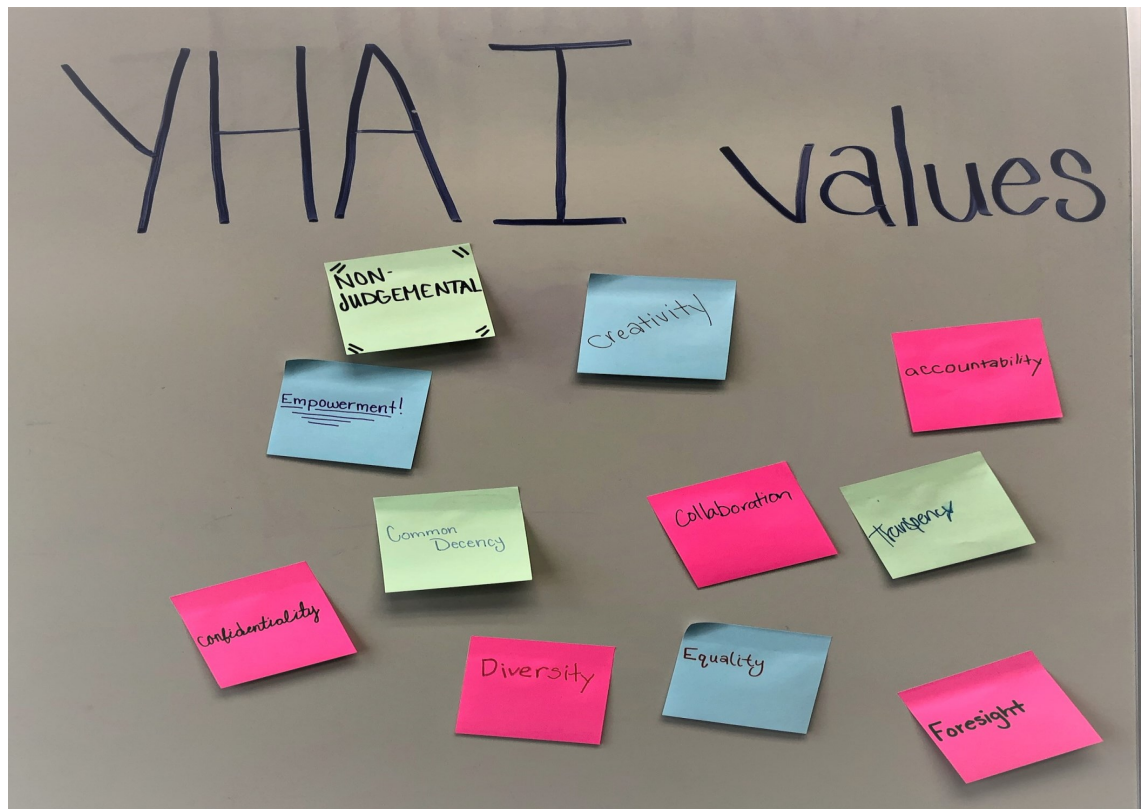
**Foresight:** Understanding needs and boundaries so that we can develop lasting, meaningful relationship in our work.

**Empowerment & Accountability:** Maintaining integrity and holding ourselves accountable for what we say we are going to.

**Collaboration:** Relationships we develop with stakeholders, peers, and professionals to work together as a unit

**Transparency:** Being straightforward with stakeholders and peers. Programs have clear rules and expectations, and staff are approachable and straightforward.

**Confidentiality:** Be respectful of others experiences, voice, and story. It is not yours to share; be trustworthy.



# introduction

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In March of 2020, the world changed. While the COVID-19 pandemic altered the course of service delivery for all populations, youth and young adults (YYA) at risk of or experiencing homelessness faced an immense number of barriers and challenges to finding stability. Education and employment were immediately disrupted, impacting access to meals, income, and their social networks. Pregnant or parenting youth faced hurdles with the extra burdens related to childcare and accessing healthcare. These challenges have only increased the need in our community for system collaborations and an increased capacity of youth-driven resources.

Throughout the entirety of the planning process for the Lincoln Coordinated Community Plan to End Youth Homelessness, stakeholders emphasized the importance of understanding these challenges and lessons learned from the past two years through implementing changes in existing policies and procedures, and with intentional design of YHDP funded programs.

Equity has remained at the forefront of conversation as a core value and goal for improvement within our systems of care. Members of the Youth Homeless Action Initiative and other YHDP community stakeholders held conversations, examined policies and procedures of cross-system programs, and conducted a deep dive into the outcomes of the current homeless system. Stakeholders also discussed what ending and preventing homelessness for ALL youth or young adults would look like. These steps were taken to strengthen the work of providing equitable opportunities for success and independence for all youth and young adults at risk of or experiencing homelessness in our community. One of the biggest areas for immediate improvement has been identified as spreading awareness and education as to what YYA homelessness and the existing homeless response system looks like for Lincoln, NE. Our local domestic violence provider has indicated an increasing number of referrals for services related to those fleeing gang violence.

The City of Lincoln is immensely grateful for the opportunity to build community capacity through dedicated resources, expanded eligibility and program flexibilities this Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program will provide. YHDP Stakeholders are committed to pushing our systems forward to a place of eliminating these barriers and disparities once and for all.

Our mission to end youth homelessness is to create for the City of Lincoln and the Lincoln Continuum of Care a service system in which for any youth or young adult that experiences or is at risk of homelessness, such occurrences are rare; when they do occur, they are of the briefest duration; and once ended they are non-recurring. The community will have accomplished this by having identified resources, plans, and built the capacity as a system to swiftly connect any youth or young adult to permanent housing solutions.

# shared vision

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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

# statement of need

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## Community Data on Youth Experiencing Homelessness

The City of Lincoln CoC conducted a youth experiencing homelessness needs assessment in the summer of 2021 and reassessed for the Coordinated Community Plan in February of 2022. The needs assessment was a mixed-method assessment. The needs assessment included analysis of HMIS data on homeless youth with services and/or homeless program entries or exits and Coordinated Entry assessments of youth presenting as homeless. The needs assessment incorporated youth homeless Point-in-Time data for the previous three years and homeless youth data from the Lincoln Public Schools homeless liaisons.

Youth-dedicated housing inventory, utilization, and geographic dispersion were examined as part of the needs assessment. In addition, an online survey of homeless system service providers was conducted focused on the effectiveness and gaps in the current youth services system, and a survey of formerly or currently homeless youth and youth serving on the Youth Action Board was conducted focused on lived experiences, their concerns about the current system, service needs, and their input on how to prevent and end future homelessness among this population.

HMIS data, including Point-in-Time (PIT) and All Doors Lead Home Coordinated Entry data, were used, and surveys of homeless system providers were made available to the entire service array represented in the CoC membership, including emergency shelters, all CoC providers (TH, RRH, PSH, outreach), all ESG providers, mental and behavioral health providers, victim service providers, runaway and homeless youth providers, and child welfare agencies. The needs assessment focused on any youth 24 years of age or younger who was or is currently in contact with the homeless system in Lincoln. Youth in HUD homeless categories one through four were included when data were available.

Through the needs assessment, the following were identified:

- At-risk unaccompanied youth
  - Number of youth at risk of homelessness: 3,352 youth in 2,387 households, 965 children in youth-headed households (HMIS)
- Unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness
  - Single night count of youth: 45 (2022 Point in Time), 31 in 2020 PIT, 33 in 2019 PIT
  - 353 youth entered into the All Doors Lead Home Coordinated Entry System as literally homeless from March 2020 through February 2022
  - 81 unaccompanied youth under age 19 in 2018 (HMIS)
  - 373 youth identified in the Lincoln Public School system (EDFacts) 2021-2022 school year
- At-risk pregnant or parenting youth
  - 387 youth parenting/pregnant and 22 pregnant (HMIS)
- Pregnant or parenting youth experiencing homelessness
  - Estimated number of youth 85 parenting / pregnant (HMIS)

Over the course of the two-year period from March 2020 through February 2022, 3,352 were at risk of experiencing homelessness.

Over the same two-year period, 353 youth experienced homelessness in the City of Lincoln as defined by being in a shelter, in transitional housing, or sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation. Eighty-one (81) youth under the age of 19, unaccompanied minor youth, were identified during this time.

## Survey results

Homeless youth service providers indicate the primary factors contributing to Lincoln youth homelessness are the youth's overall support system and home environment (including parental substance use/mental health). Additional significant factors identified include domestic violence, youth mental health issues and substance use, child welfare, and juvenile justice system involvement. Housing affordability was also identified as one of the ten most significant factors.

The most important actions providers indicated that would help prevent future youth homelessness and reduce barriers include in order:

1. identify, create, develop, and expand the available affordable housing stock
2. education and communication related to exiting from juvenile justice and child welfare systems
3. increase availability of case management, education, and mental health/substance use and counseling services

Barriers identified by providers to ending homeless episodes for youth in the community focused on housing affordability, level of independent living skills of youth, and an inadequate support system. Rapid rehousing and transitional housing programs were equally identified by services providers as the type of housing/shelter needed in Lincoln, followed closely by increased permanent supportive housing availability.

Youth and young adults (YYA) with lived experience of homelessness indicated that additional support to help navigate their housing instability, assistance in identifying job opportunities, and education in a variety of areas including resources available and independent living skills, would help keep youth from entering homelessness.

The greatest challenges identified by YYA during their homeless episode were the basics of finding shelter, maintaining hygiene, and food security. YYA also identified that not being able to know who to trust and fighting against "just giving up" were severe challenges while experiencing homelessness.

## Housing Inventory and Housing Needs for Youth Experiencing Homelessness

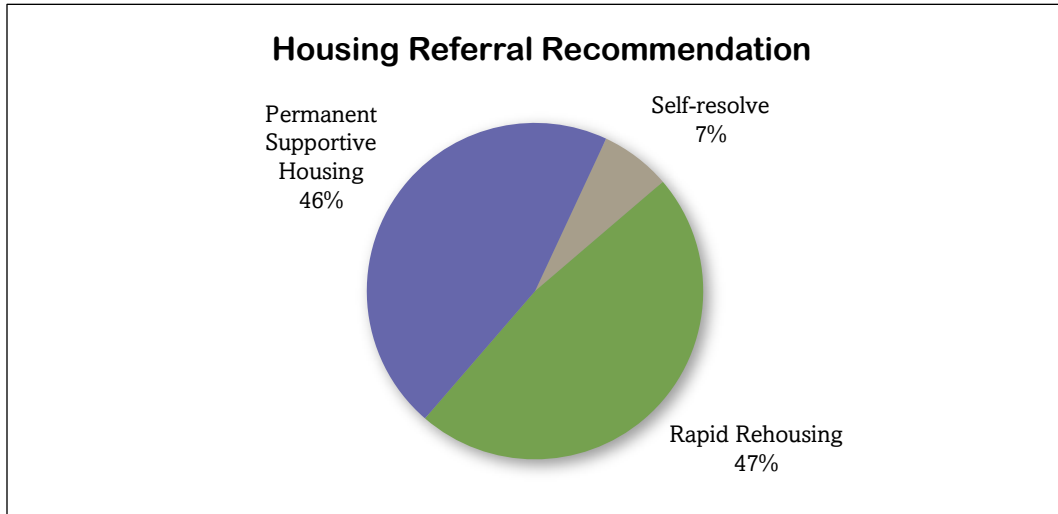
In Lincoln, there are currently 50 beds and 34 units of housing dedicated to unaccompanied youth under 24 years of age.

Youth Housing Inventory Count March 2022		
	Beds	Units
PSH	5	5
RRH*	11	8
TH#	34	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>34</b>

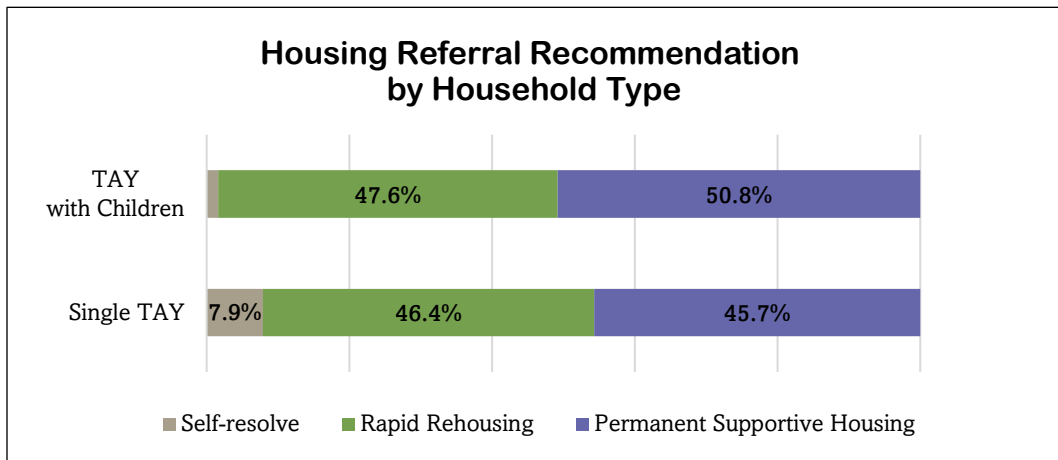
## Coordinated Entry Prioritization and Recommended Housing Solutions for Youth in Lincoln

The Lincoln All Doors Lead Home (ADLH) Coordinated Entry system utilizes a common assessment for all persons and a youth-specific assessment for those 24 and under who are identified as experiencing homelessness. The common assessment includes scoring for a range of vulnerability areas including health, safety, risk behaviors among others, and additional priority scoring is done based upon chronic status, fleeing domestic violence, veteran status, and length of time homeless.

ADLH utilizes priority scoring to help identify the most appropriate and effective housing solution for each youth. The general range of housing options is from Permanent Supportive Housing for those youth with the highest needs and barriers to housing stability through Rapid Rehousing to the lowest level of those that are likely to self-resolve their housing crisis.



Forty-eight percent (47.6%) of youth experiencing homelessness have a Rapid Rehousing program referral as their likely best solution to ending their housing crisis. Nearly the same percent 45.6% have priority scores that would indicate that Permanent Supportive Housing is the best type of housing program for their situation.



The type of housing recommendation by household type indicates similar recommendations but with somewhat more need for Permanent Supportive Housing for youth with children.

Lincoln Youth Housing Inventory Needs			
	Beds	Units	Est. Unit Need**
PSH	5	5	36
RRH*	11	8	30^
TH#	34	21	
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>69</b>



## Educational Findings and Needs

In the 2021-22 school year, 373 youth were identified in the Lincoln Public Schools system (EDFacts) meeting the Department of Education definition of homelessness which includes those temporarily living with family or friends.

Fifty-three percent (53%) of the youth experiencing homelessness who entered shelter or a housing program had obtained their high school diploma or GED. Significantly, 43% of those that had not achieved their high school degree had completed the 11th grade but not finished their degree.

## Examining Equity

To measure and consider racial inequities and other disparities, the City of Lincoln CoC has conducted an extensive analysis of HMIS data examining disparities among those persons experiencing homelessness and their system involvement and outcomes.

Youth of color are over-represented among youth experiencing homelessness in Lincoln compared to their representation in the population. Twenty-two percent (22.1%) of youth experiencing homelessness were Black, 4.8% American Indian, and 11% Multi-Racial. All percentages are higher than the youth population in Lincoln overall. Sixty percent (60.4%) and 1.1% of youth experiencing homelessness were White and Asian respectively. Hispanic youth were also overrepresented (13.3%) among youth experiencing homelessness in Lincoln. Homeless System Performance Measures for racial and ethnic minorities have not been found to differ. Referrals to the All Doors Lead Home Coordinated Entry system are identical to representations in the populations; there is no significant difference in length of time homeless by race or ethnicity and exits to permanent housing are no different by race.

Race		
	Frequency	Percent
American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous	17	4.8
Asian or Asian American	4	1.1
Black, African American, or African	78	22.1
Multi-Racial	39	11.0
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	2	.6
White	213	60.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Ethnicity		
	Frequency	Percent
Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x)	47	13.3
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latin(a)(o)(x)	306	86.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Gender		
	Frequency	Percent
Female	238	67.4
Male	109	30.9
A gender other than singularly female or male (e.g. non-binary, genderfluid, agender, culturally specific gender)	1	.3
Transgender	5	1.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Age		
	Frequency	Percent
16	1	.3
17	26	7.4
18	53	15.0
19	60	17.0
20	31	8.8
21	53	15.0
22	41	11.6
23	51	14.4
24	37	10.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Household Type		
	Frequency	Percent
Household with Children	63	17.8
Households with only Children <18	1	.3
Single TAY 18 - 24	267	75.6
Single Child 17 and <	22	6.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### Additional Disparities

Forty-eight percent (48%) of youth self-reported one or more disabling conditions. These included 35% reporting a mental health disability condition, 13% reporting a substance use disability, 6% a developmental disability, and 4% a physical disability.

Eight percent (8%) of youth indicated that they were currently fleeing a domestic violence situation that resulted in them being homeless.

# special populations

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If a program isn't inclusive, it might in effect be exclusive. Therefore, the impact of placing unique emphasis on these populations makes youth with various identities feel more comfortable accessing and receiving services.

The entire community of Lincoln is committed to recognizing the following special populations of youth at risk of or currently experiencing homelessness and the associated need for identification and engagement strategies, infrastructure considerations, and housing and service-delivery approaches that are responsive to their specific needs.

## LGBTQA+ and Gender Non-conforming Youth

According to True Colors United, nationally, LGBTQA+ and gender non-conforming youth are overrepresented among the homeless population, representing roughly 40% of the population of youth experiencing homelessness, and are at a much higher risk of experiencing homelessness compared to heterosexual and cisgender youth. While sexual or gender identity is not the only reason cited for conflict in a home, it is one of the most commonly reported reasons that LGBTQA+ young adults identified for leaving a home of origin.

LGBTQA+ youth are at risk of experiencing ongoing discrimination and challenges, including the ability to locate a safe and welcoming shelter option that will accept them without any barrier or preconditions.

### **Strategies the YHDP Community will adopt to address homelessness among LGBTQA+ Youth:**

- Train community partners and agencies on the needs and best practices related to serving LGBTQA+ and gender non-conforming youth, such as visible signs of inclusion within an agency
- Ensure all materials and resources utilize trauma-sensitive and inclusive language
- Provide additional inclusion training to all homeless and shelter services providers
- Increase community resources for immediate, safe, and welcoming crisis housing
- Create formalized partnerships with LGBTQA+-friendly organizations to provide ongoing community supports and resources and explore options for a specialized liaison position
- Emphasize the need for understanding and recognition that intersectional identities are important

## Pregnant and Parenting Youth

Youth experiencing homelessness experience higher rates of pregnancy and parenthood than youth not experiencing homelessness. During the summer of 2021, the Lincoln CoC conducted a youth homelessness needs assessment which found the estimated number of parenting/pregnant youth to be 85.

In addition to the adverse outcomes associated with any youth experiencing homelessness, pregnant youth are less likely to have access to and receive prenatal care and are at a higher risk of delivering prematurely and of having low-birth weight infants. Parenting youth and their children experiencing homelessness remain at higher risk for multiple adverse outcomes associated with their housing instability, including lack of access to reliable postpartum (emotional and physical) and infant health care. Parenting youth often lack sustainable

connections with family and community support, and the stable, healthy environments conducive to healthy child development.

### **Strategies the YHDP Community will adopt to address homelessness among pregnant and parenting youth:**

- Utilize supports, such as Family Thrive framework, that address the whole family unit to include the youth as a young adult, the youth as a parent, and the needs of children
- Assist pregnant and parenting youth in accessing and applying for mainstream benefits designed to support that population, including but not limited to W.I.C. and Medicaid
- Support parenting youth through the process of identifying daycare or night care options for children so parents can attend educational or employment obligations

## **Unaccompanied Minors**

From March 2020 through February 2022, 22 unaccompanied minors were entered into the Lincoln All Doors Lead Home Coordinated Entry System, making up 6.2% of the entire population of young adults. The current availability of housing resources for unaccompanied minors (under 18) in Lincoln is limited to one Runaway and Homeless Youth program through CEDARS. Although the State of Nebraska recognizes 19 as the age of majority for young adults, Lincoln YHDP stakeholders have committed to assisting YYA with increased access to nontraditional education and employment programs and more permanent connections to prevent long-term instances of housing instability.

### **Strategies the YHDP Community will adopt to address homelessness among unaccompanied minors:**

- Utilize increased school-based opportunities for McKinney-Vento qualified students through the American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief – Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY)
- Expand education of alternative educational programming available
- Educate community partners, such as law enforcement, on the availability and eligibility of RHY programming
- Employ coaching strategies to work with minor youth and their families, when appropriate, to support reunification
- Connect or provide resources to families to support them if youth are able to stay in their home (in-home family support, other diversion supports, mediation, etc.)
- Expand paid internship/apprenticeship opportunities for high school youth to pursue interests

## **Youth Involved in the Justice System**

Although research on the interaction between justice system involvement and homelessness is relatively limited, the studies that do exist suggest that youth experiencing homelessness are at increased risk of involvement in the juvenile justice system and youth in the juvenile justice system are at increased risk of experiencing homelessness. Youth exiting the juvenile justice system face many of the same challenges that adults exiting corrections do. Under statute in Nebraska, a juvenile justice involved youth is only offered the opportunity for their juvenile record to be automatically sealed if they are discharged successfully. If a YYA is discharged unsuccessfully or with their probation revoked, having a visible juvenile record could increase barriers for finding employment or housing.

### **Strategies the YHDP Community will adopt to address homelessness among youth involved in the Justice System:**

- Increase and improve partnerships between homeless system (YHDP) providers and the Nebraska State Office of Probation
- Develop cross system (juvenile justice, Child Welfare, CoC) data sharing capabilities to assist with identification and service provision to at-risk youth and to provide data for further research in the understanding of the cross-system experience of homeless youth
- Provide educational opportunities to the Judicial Branch on availability of community-based housing system resources (including Coordinated Entry, coordinate with juvenile justice local offices)
- Develop a diversion program that decriminalizes homelessness and “survival crimes”
- Ensure that detention is never used as a solution to homelessness
- Explore policies that disproportionately increase risk of justice-involved youth entering homelessness

### **Youth with Child Welfare Experience**

Youth and young adults who had experience in the child welfare system had an increased risk of housing, educational, and social-emotional instability. Disruptions to the home environment during childhood or adolescence limit the ability to develop unconditional support networks that are vital to keep them safe and stable as they transition into adulthood. Youth who have experienced the foster care system are more likely to experience homelessness and housing insecurity than their peers nationwide. Through the Nebraska Department of Health in Human Services, YYA in Lincoln who have been involved with the child welfare system due to no fault of their own, have the opportunity to engage in a voluntary independent living program, Bridge to Independence (B2i). B2i offers support on a voluntary basis only until youth reach the age of 21. However, about 20% of youth choose not to enroll in the program. YHDP offers an opportunity to assist YYA who have experienced the foster care system and have either aged out at 21, disengaged from the independent living programs, or do not enter the state-sponsored independent living program to find permanent housing and stop the cycle of living disruptions.

### **Strategies the YHDP Community will adopt to address homelessness among youth involved in the child welfare system:**

- Provide education and outreach to youth partners in the Lancaster County Juvenile Court system, such as Guardian ad Litem, CASA volunteers, and DHHS caseworkers on availability of youth-specific housing resources available in the community
- Increase transition case planning with DHHS case workers who have a youth currently in the foster care system with an Independent Living Permanency objective who are not eligible for Bridge to Independence
- Formalize partnerships with NE DHHS, the Lincoln Continuum of Care, and the public housing authority to expand voucher opportunities specifically made available to youth who have child welfare experience, such as the Foster Youth to Independence Voucher Program

### **Victims/Survivors of Sex or Labor Trafficking and Exploitation**

Youth who run away from home are at considerable risk of homelessness and victimization, including through sex and labor trafficking. Nationally, studies suggest that up to 41% of homeless youth are victims of sex or labor trafficking. According to the National Human Trafficking Hotline, 72 unique situations of potential human trafficking were reported in Nebraska in 2020. Of those 72 instances, 49 were for sex trafficking and 12 were for labor trafficking. Youth experiencing sex or labor trafficking are at higher risk for negative outcomes, including suicide and substance use. Additional risk factors for sexually exploited and runaway

youth are the condition of being moved to new communities and having a lack of social capital to ask for assistance to be removed from their current circumstance.

**Strategies the YHDP Community will adopt to address homelessness among youth experiencing sex or labor trafficking and exploitation:**

- Provide ongoing education of eligibility and availability of YHDP resources to nontraditional community partners
- Expand access to immediate, low barrier, and safe crisis housing
- Work with regional trafficking task forces to help identify and provide treatment services for victims of sex or labor trafficking experiencing homelessness
- Connect with local sex or labor trafficking prevention organizations to educate and implement best practice programming

## **Undocumented YYA Neighbors**

Undocumented neighbors, specifically youth or young adults, can experience high levels of acculturative stress from immigration-related issues such as separation from family, accessing educational opportunities, or securing stable employment at a living wage. One of the most significant stressors for undocumented neighbors can be the fear of deportation, which can impact daily lives and may be a constant concern. Due to limited housing availability for undocumented neighbors, many are forced into unsafe or unpredictable living conditions. Youth or young adults who are unaware of available resources may enter an unsafe doubled up situation or put themselves at higher risk for exploitation by landlords. Long-term housing stability may also be threatened without the ability to establish a strong rental history or access other mainstream resources.

**Strategies the YHDP Community will adopt to address homelessness among undocumented YYA neighbors:**

- Expand coordinated entry access points to community partners who have strong and lasting relationships with undocumented neighbors
- Provide education to YHDP grantees and community partners on the ability to accept undocumented neighbors into Continuum of Care programming
- Strengthen exit strategies from the program by expanding housing options through landlord or property manager relationships
- Increase access to legal resources related to housing justice and immigration needs
- Increase immediate access to educational and employment services
- Increase access to medical and mental health care through eligible expenses under YHDP programming
- Provide sponsors, coaching, or other community-based supports to improve stability outcomes for undocumented YYA

# guiding principles

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The following principles are required aspects for all Lincoln YHDP funded projects. These principles will be integrated in direct coordination with members of the YHAI and are supported by all YHDP stakeholders as key components of the holistically designed system to end and prevent youth homelessness in Lincoln.

## Coordinated Entry for Youth

The All Doors Lead Home Coordinated Entry System is an individualized and client-driven response designed to prioritize most vulnerable populations for housing services tailored to their needs. The ADLH Coordinated Entry System uses a “no wrong door” approach for eligibility, access, and assessment.

The ADLH Coordinated Entry System was designed with several guiding principles in mind, such as the importance of limiting the re-traumatization from multiple assessments and emphasizing the need for individualized and client-driven supports. A YYA who has been identified as being at risk of or experiencing homelessness completes either the TAY CE Assessment, if presenting as a single, or the Family CE Assessment, if they are pregnant or parenting. Youth are then placed on the by-name list in order of priority. YYAs are offered a housing opportunity any time one becomes available. To ensure the correct response for service type and intensity, the by-name list is reviewed during case conferencing on a weekly basis. Client choice is recognized by allowing a youth to decline a housing offer if it does not best suit their needs without losing their placement on the by-name list. The ADLH CE System recognizes the flexibility needed when working with the transition-age youth population and allows a youth to remain on the by-name list for 90 days without contact. If the 90-day no contact period has passed and the youth then re-engages with a provider, a new CE referral can be made.

YHDP Stakeholders have identified several objectives to expand and enhance the coordinated entry system to better meet the individualized needs of the youth and young adults in our community. This will be accomplished through efforts to bolster access points to include more youth-focused providers as well as provide education and outreach into other points of contact for youth, such as the education, child welfare, and juvenile justice systems. System navigation supports have also been identified as an area for expansion.

For further information on All Doors Lead Home Coordinated Entry policies and procedures, please refer to the [Coordinated Entry Manual](#).

## Housing First

Housing First is a programmatic and systems approach that prioritizes providing housing to people experiencing homelessness quickly without preconditions or service participation requirements, thus ending their homelessness and serving as a platform from which people can pursue personal goals and improve their quality of life. This approach is guided by the belief that people need basic necessities of food, shelter, clothing, before they can most effectively focus on further improvement such as obtaining employment or attending to substance use or mental health recovery.

## Positive Youth Development

Positive Youth Development (PYD): generally includes the development of competence, confidence, character, connection, and caring, leading to youth contributions. It is an intentional, prosocial approach that

engages youth within their communities, schools, organizations, peer groups, and families in a manner that is productive and constructive and recognizes, utilizes, and enhances young people's strengths. This framework promotes positive outcomes for young adults by providing additional opportunities, fostering positive relationships, and furnishing the support needed to build on their leadership strengths.

## Trauma-Informed Care

Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) is an approach grounded in and directed by a thorough understanding of the effects of trauma and prevalence of these experiences in persons who seek and receive services. The use of trauma-informed care allows programs and their staff to work with youth to understand the impact of trauma on their lives and to gain skills to reduce intergenerational trauma and prevent further negative outcomes.

## USICH Youth Framework and Four Core Outcomes

In 2013, The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) released the Framework to End Youth Homelessness in 2013. The aim of the framework was to provide communities a clear understanding of the scale and nature of action required to prevent and end youth homelessness.

### Four Core Outcomes for Youth and Young Adults:

1. **Stable housing:** a safe and reliable place to call home
2. **Permanent connections:** ongoing attachments to families, communities, schools, and other positive social networks
3. **Education/employment:** 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
4. **Social-emotional well-being:** 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



# goals for ending youth homelessness in lincoln

## Goal 1: Stable Housing

All youth and young adults in Lincoln who are at risk of or currently experiencing homelessness will have immediate access to safe and stable housing resources to meet their individualized needs.

Objective 1.1. Identifies all unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness		
Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeframe
On-going education and outreach to community providers surrounding youth homelessness definitions	All YHDP Stakeholders	Ongoing
Identify all unaccompanied youth who are doubled up or couch-surfing and considered homeless under any federal definition	Lincoln CoC and YHDP Funded Projects	Ongoing
Identify all unaccompanied youth who are unsheltered, in shelter, or in transitional housing	Lincoln CoC and YHDP Funded Projects	Ongoing
Implement youth focused by-name list and case conferencing sessions	Lincoln CoC	Fall 2022
Collaborate with YHAI members to identify known locations to ensure all unsheltered youth are identified	YHAI, Lincoln CoC and Youth-Focused Street Outreach Provider	Summer 2022

Objective 1.2 Increase housing inventory and diversify program type to meet the individualized needs of each YYA in the community		
Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeframe
Increase Permanent Supportive Housing program inventory and capacity within community	Lincoln CoC and YHDP Funded Projects	Fall 2022
Provide immediate access to low-barrier crisis housing through implementation of Joint TH-RRH model utilizing available flexible requirements	Lincoln CoC and YHDP Funded Projects	Fall 2022
Support landlord liaison services specifically related to YYAs	YHAI, Lincoln CoC, Lincoln Homeless Coalition, YHDP Funded Projects	Fall 2022

<b>Objective 1.3 Develop resource capacity to prevent and divert youth from experiencing homelessness</b>		
<b>Action Steps</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Develop rapid response programming to support rental assistance and additional resources necessary to prevent youth homelessness for those at immediate risk	Lincoln CoC and YHDP Funded Projects	Fall 2022
Design, train, and implement best practice diversion programming across all access points including shelter	Lincoln CoC and YHDP Funded Projects	Fall 2022
Enhance partnership with Lincoln Housing Authority to expand voucher availability for YYAs, such as FYI or EHV programming	Lincoln CoC, YHDP Funded Projects, Lincoln Housing Authority	Ongoing
Develop and implement a landlord mitigation fund	Lincoln CoC	Fall 2022

<b>Objective 1.4 Expand youth-focused resources to support the identification of housing and long-term stabilization of housing crisis</b>		
<b>Action Steps</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Require all YHDP Project Participants to facilitate access to and eliminate barriers in place to completing Rent Wise courses	YHDP Funded Projects	Fall 2022
Provide opportunity for Coaching services for all youth referred to the All Doors Lead Home list	Lincoln CoC and YHDP Funded Projects	Fall 2022
Develop youth-focused housing navigation specialists	Lincoln CoC and YHDP Funded Projects	Fall 2022

## Goal 2: Education and Employment

All youth and young adults in Lincoln who are at risk of or currently experiencing homelessness will be provided opportunities designed to improve educational outcomes and employment opportunities as a pathway to achieving stability and self-sufficiency.

Objective 2.1 Support on-going community partnerships and McKinney-Vento programming for local school districts		
Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeframe
Provide outreach and education on McKinney-Vento identification	Lincoln Public Schools, Lincoln CoC, YHDP Funded Projects	Ongoing
Expand McKinney Vento verification process for community-based providers and organizations to increase identification	Lincoln Public Schools, YHAI, YHDP Funded Projects	Summer 2022
Support prioritization of behavioral health services specifically for youth at risk of or experiencing homelessness in school-based setting	Lincoln Public Schools, YHAI, Lincoln CoC	Summer 2022
Increase availability of youth-serving agencies to provide housing related resources within Community Learning Centers	Lincoln Public Schools and YHDP Funded Projects	Fall 2022

Objective 2.2. Explore alternative education and employment options and resources for youth		
Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeframe
Create or identify alternate funding streams for fees or related equipment necessary for employment opportunities	Summer 2022	Summer 2022
Convene youth-focused community career fairs	YHAI, Lincoln Homeless Coalition Youth Subcommittee	Fall 2022 and Ongoing
Increase awareness and prioritization for McKinney-Vento verified youth to access alternative high school programming	YHAI, Lincoln CoC, YHDP Funded Projects, Lincoln Public Schools	Fall 2022
Expand paid internship/apprenticeship opportunities for HS youth and college youth to pursue interests	Lincoln CoC, YHAI, YHDP Funded Projects, Lincoln Public Schools	Fall 2022

**Objective 2.3 Build a network of resources that can support and assist youth in navigating their educational, vocational, and employment goals**

<b>Action Steps</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Ensure planning, programming, and goal setting is a youth-led and a client-centered approach	YHAI, Lincoln CoC, YHDP Funded Projects	Summer 2022
Expand formal partnership with Education Quest to provide free college planning services	Lincoln Homeless Coalition Youth Subcommittee and Lincoln CoC	Summer 2022
Explore educational- and employment-focused peer-mentorship opportunities	Lincoln CoC, YHDP Funded Projects, NCFE-CYI	Fall 2022
Formalize partnership with Graduation Pathways programming and community partners, such as Southeast Community College	Lincoln Public Schools and The HUB	Fall 2022
Provide awareness and support for YYA to access First Gen Nebraska through the University of Nebraska-Lincoln	YHDP Funded Projects and NCFE-CYI	Fall 2022

### Goal 3: Social and Emotional Well-Being

All youth and young adults in Lincoln who are at risk of or currently experiencing homelessness will be connected to supports designed to enhance a person's social and emotional well-being.

Objective 3.1 Explore alternative case management models for youth		
Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeframe
Explore successful peer-support models of case management	Lincoln CoC and YHDP Funded Projects	Fall 2022
Utilize available flexible requirement to allow YHDP project recipients to employ YHDP enrolled youth	YHDP Funded Projects	Fall 2022

Objective 3.2 Expand quality trauma-informed care approaches amongst service providers		
Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeframe
Expand access and implementation of Youth and Family Thrives programming	Lincoln CoC, YHDP Funded Projects, NCFE-CYI	Fall 2022
Increase access to Reaching Teens Toolkit	Lincoln CoC, YHDP Funded Projects, NCFE-CYI	Fall 2022
Provide opportunities to Askable Adults Matter Initiative	Lincoln CoC, YHDP Funded Projects, NCFE-CYI	Summer 2022
Coordinate cross-training between Housing System and Behavioral Health System on trauma-informed approaches	Lincoln CoC	Ongoing

Objective 3.3 Improve access to existing mainstream resources		
Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeframe
Formalize partnership with Medicaid and Long-Term Care to increase access to Medicaid for those at risk of or experiencing homelessness	Lincoln CoC and Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services	Summer 2022
Create system-wide rapid response programming to assist with eligible out-patient medical costs	Lincoln CoC and YHDP Funded Projects	Fall 2022
Identify qualified mental health practitioners within the community for specialized populations	Lincoln Homeless Coalition Youth Subcommittee	Summer 2022
Increase referrals to SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR) for assistance in securing SSI/SSDI and track through HMIS	Lincoln CoC and Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services	Immediate

**Objective 3.4 Provide meaningful social and community integration opportunities for participation in community activities**

<b>Action Steps</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Engage and outreach with non-traditional community partners, such as cultural centers	Lincoln CoC and YHDP	Ongoing
Increase outreach opportunities at community rec centers	Youth-Focused Street Outreach Providers	Immediate
Partner with Lincoln Public Libraries to support programs for YYA to check out passes for community organizations, such as the Lincoln Children’s Museum	Lincoln CoC and Lincoln City Libraries	Summer 2022
Establish sharing protocols for youth focused community programming updates	Lincoln Homeless Coalition Youth Subcommittee	Immediate

## Goal 4: Permanent Connections

All youth and young adults in Lincoln who are at risk of or currently experiencing homelessness will have access to trauma-informed interventions designed to reunify or strengthen familial or alternative permanent connections within the community.

Objective 4.1 Improve and expand connections to current community-based resources		
Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeframe
Provide education and encourage collaboration between CoC and ESG providers with central navigators so youth engaged in the CoC have access to community-based supports and services (e.g. Opportunity Passport™, Youth Leadership, etc.) and CYI-involved youth have access to housing supports via the CoC	YHAI, Lincoln CoC, YHDP Funded Projects, NCFE-CYI	Ongoing
Expand education and outreach to support local school personnel with connecting to youth-focused resources	Lincoln Public Schools, YHAI, Lincoln CoC, YHDP Funded Projects	Ongoing
Provide additional youth-focused support and outreach to Lincoln City Libraries	Youth-focused Street Outreach providers	Immediate

Objective 4.2 Develop resources and programming that holistically engage youth		
Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeframe
Explore youth identified advocate programming	Lincoln Homeless Coalition Youth Subcommittee	Summer 2022
Develop youth initiated mentoring program	YHAI, Lincoln CoC, YHDP Funded Projects, NCFE-CYI	Fall 2022
Explore trauma-informed approaches to family finding programming	Lincoln Homeless Coalition Youth Subcommittee	Ongoing
Empower youth to establish their identified familial units or informal supports	All YHDP Stakeholders	Ongoing
Create pathways for unfounded DHHS intakes for older youth to make cross-system referrals to YHDP resources	NE-DHHS, Lincoln CoC, YHDP Funded Projects, NCFE-CYI	Fall 2022
Provide a trauma-sensitive training to providers surrounding best practices for family unification efforts	Lincoln CoC, Local Advocacy Organizations, NCFE-CYI	Fall 2022

<b>Objective 4.3 Create long-term sustainability for Youth Homeless Action Initiative (YHAI)</b>		
<b>Action Steps</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Encourage community engagement by promoting lived experience involvement in decision-making positions within organizations	YHAI, Lincoln CoC, YHDP Funded Projects, NCCFF-CYI	Immediate
Lead planning and promotion of youth-focused community activities (i.e. career fair)	YHAI, Lincoln CoC, YHDP Funded Projects	Summer 2022
Increase YHAI recruitment activities	YHAI, Lincoln CoC, YHDP Funded Projects	Immediate
Create informational guides/resources for recruitment and awareness opportunities	YHAI, Lincoln CoC, YHDP Funded Projects	Immediate
Research alternative funding opportunities to support YHAI compensation model	YHAI, Lincoln CoC, YHDP Funded Projects	Fall 2022
Participate in peer-coaching/support trainings	YHAI, Lincoln CoC, YHDP Funded Projects, NCCFF-CYI	Ongoing



## Goal 5: Equity

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

Objective 5.1 Expand access to legal resources		
Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeframe
Expand ongoing partnership with Tenant Assistance Project through University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Law to assist with Eviction Prevention	Lincoln CoC, YHDP Funded Projects and Tenant Assistance Project	Summer 2022
Formalize connections to child welfare resources for older youth through Children's Justice Clinic	Lincoln CoC and UNL-CCFL	Summer 2022
Identify legal representation and best practices for assisting youth to seal juvenile court records	Lincoln CoC, YHDP Funded Projects, Legal Aid of Nebraska	Summer 2022

Objective 5.2 Training and accountability practices for adult partners to provide equitable services and opportunities		
Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeframe
Trainings are provided or created in partnership with agencies with expertise in highly vulnerable populations	Lincoln CoC and all interested YHDP Stakeholders	Fall 2022
Ensure materials and resources are available in accessible formats for all populations	Lincoln CoC and all interested YHDP Stakeholders	Immediate
Provide community-wide training and implementation of screening tool focused on identifying victims of trafficking	Lincoln CoC, YHDP Funded Projects, NCFE	Fall 2022
Promote and encourage broader trainer capacities for Rent Wise courses in the community	Lincoln CoC, YHDP Funded Projects, Lincoln Homeless Coalition PLACE Subcommittee	Summer 2022
Provide ongoing trainings for YHDP project recipients on tenants' rights and related content	Lincoln CoC, YHDP Funded Projects, YHAI, Lincoln Homeless Coalition PLACE Subcommittee	Ongoing

<b>Objective 5.3 Expand accessibility and variety of Coordinated Entry access points</b>		
<b>Action Steps</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Explore phased assessment strategies which could include online referrals for Coordinated Entry	Lincoln CoC and Coordinated Entry Lead	Summer 2022
Provide ongoing education to community partners surrounding homelessness in Lincoln, specifically tailored to YYA networks	All YHDP Stakeholders	Ongoing
Further develop and establish formal partnerships between All Doors Lead Home Coordinated Entry and youth serving agencies outside of the traditional housing crisis service system	Lincoln CoC and Lincoln Homeless Coalition Youth Subcommittee	Immediate

<b>Objective 5.4 Ensure resources allocated are done so through an equity lens</b>		
<b>Action Steps</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Conduct comprehensive youth diversion, shelter, and housing system modeling to refine needed resource allocations to inform YHDP RFP	Lincoln CoC and YHDP Lead Planning Team	Immediate
Improve geographic dispersion of youth-focused housing programming and supportive services	Lincoln CoC and YHDP Funded Projects	Summer 2022
Create community-wide common fund for financial or alternative flexible resources to be accessible to all youth regardless of with which agency YYA is predominantly connected	Lincoln CoC, Lincoln Homeless Coalition, YHDP Funded Projects	Fall 2022

# proposed yhdp funded interventions

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Joint Transitional-Rapid Rehousing	
<b>Summary</b>	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.
<b>Needs Met</b>	Increase capacity for low-barrier and trauma-informed crisis housing for youth and provide additional Rapid Rehousing capacity.

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

Coaching and Navigation	
<b>Summary</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>Housing Navigation programming provides needed support in accessing housing. This can include assistance in applying for specific housing opportunities, transportation to housing appointments, as well as educating young adults on lease responsibilities and their rights as a tenant. Housing Navigators will also work with landlords to identify available units and maintain positive community collaborations.</p>
<b>Needs Met</b>	Provide additional supportive services for youth and allow for real youth choice in identifying what case management option best suits their needs.

Rapid Response Assistance	
<b>Summary</b>	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short-term rental assistance and security deposits</li> <li>• Assistance with moving costs which can include relocation</li> <li>• Housing search and counseling including application fees and landlord mediation</li> <li>• Legal Services</li> <li>• Transportation</li> <li>• Utility deposits</li> <li>• Case management</li> </ul>
<b>Needs Met</b>	<p>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).</p>

HMIS	
<b>Summary</b>	<p>HMIS projects are to provide system development, training, infrastructure, software, report development and measurement to the CoC, the YHDP implementation, and funded projects.</p>
<b>Needs Met</b>	<p>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.</p>

Coordinated Entry	
<b>Summary</b>	<p>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.</p>
<b>Needs Met</b>	<p>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.</p>

# governance structure

The City of Lincoln has been approved as the Collaborative Applicant of the Lincoln Continuum of Care. As the Collaborative Applicant, the City of Lincoln has elected to partner with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Center on Children, Families, and the Law for planning and coordination for YHDP activities including the completion of the Coordinated Community Plan and request for applications process. The City of Lincoln has also supported CEDARS as the facilitating agency for the Youth Homeless Action Initiative. These entities make up the YHDP Lead Planning Team.

The YHDP Planning team is responsible for building community capacity and organizing stakeholder participation. The Lincoln CoC and YHDP Planning Team operates on an open invitation policy. Any interested stakeholder is invited to participate in planning and provide feedback in decision making. The overall approval of the Coordinated Community Plan and YHDP project type breakdown and allocation amount will be approved by the Lincoln CoC. The Lincoln CoC functions by majority vote for the first round of a decision. If there is an objection or potential conflict of interest for a decision, the CoC Governing Body would convene.

The members of the Lincoln CoC Governing Body are as follows:

- The Collaborative Applicant, Nebraska Homeless Assistance Trust Fund representative, HMIS Lead, one ESG-funded agency representative, one CoC-funded agency representative, and one Youth Action Board representative
- The Chair of the Lincoln CoC Steering Committee shall be appointed by the Lincoln Homeless Coalition.
- Agency Representation: One ESG and one CoC representative shall be a voting member of the Lincoln CoC Governing Board. The ESG and CoC shall rotate on an annual basis alphabetically from the member list.

## Lincoln Continuum of Care for the Homeless

City of Lincoln Representative (Collaborative Applicant)	Nebraska Homeless Assistance Trust Fund Representative	UNL Center on Children, Families, and the Law Representative (HMIS Lead)	One ESG-funded Agency Representative	One CoC-funded Agency Representative	Youth Homeless Action Initiative Representative (Youth Action Board)
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# plan for continuous quality improvement

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The Lincoln Continuum of Care, YHAI members, and YHDP Community Partners understand the importance of continuous quality improvement and evaluation and the key role evaluation efforts play to achieve the desired system outcomes to end youth homelessness in our community.

The Lincoln YHDP Performance and Evaluation Workgroup will develop both system and programmatic level evaluation plans, benchmarks, methods, measures, reporting elements and timelines based upon the goals outlined in the Coordinated Community Plan and project designs.

Following the governance structure of the Lincoln CoC, the workgroup is open to any interested party. Key members will include YYA with lived experience, the HMIS and Coordinated Entry lead organization, YHDP project recipients, and other system stakeholders such as ESG recipients and philanthropic partners. The workgroup will incorporate the USICH Ending Youth Homelessness Benchmarks and the Lincoln CoC System Performance Measures as well as those developed out of the CCP.

This will be accomplished through the utilization of HMIS and Coordinated Entry data systems to the fullest extent possible and will continue to integrate system partners' (Department of Education, Department of Health and Human Services, and Division of Probation) data sets into comprehensive CQI and evaluation data sets. The ability to share data across these different complex systems will allow us to examine the cross-system data sets to assist in identifying cross-system needs that are not easily identified within a single data system.

The Lincoln YHDP Performance and Evaluation Workgroup will measure and assess effectiveness using the following YHPD Performance Measures:

- Number of unaccompanied youth experiencing unsheltered homelessness
- The length of time youth remain homeless
- The extent to which youth who leave homelessness return to homelessness
- Overall reduction in the number of homeless youth
- The number of individuals and families who become homeless for the first time
- Successful housing placement to or retention in a permanent housing destination

Additionally, performance measures developed for NDHHS Runaway and Homeless Youth efforts, including changes in social and emotional well-being, perception of safety, permanent connections, school enrollment or graduation, and employment status will be collected by projects receiving YHDP CoC funding.

A major emphasis throughout the efforts, both CoC and non-CoC funded strategies and programs described in our CCP, is the expansion of data collection system capacity and data-quality through the expansion of HMIS utilization and Coordinated Entry access among the larger youth serving community in Lincoln, Nebraska, in order to comprehensively identify and assist all youth at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

# yhdp community partners

Partner Type	Partner's Name	Involvement
Youth Action Board	Youth Homeless Action Initiative	<p>Youth with lived experience of housing instability have established the Lincoln YHDP YHAI and have been an instrumental part of the planning process since the first Lincoln YHDP application in 2019.</p> <p>YHAI members assisted with the application and CCP planning process through workgroup participation and regular YHAI meetings. YHAI members will give final approval of the Lincoln YHDP CCP and participate in review for YHDP funded projects.</p>
Continuum of Care and Emergency Solutions Grant Program Recipients	CenterPointe, CEDARS, Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach, Friendship Home, Community Action Partnership of Lancaster and Saunders Counties, Region V Systems, Fresh Start, Family Service Lincoln	<p>Lincoln CoC and ESG program recipients were invited to be partners in the YHDP process since the application stage and were subsequently invited to participate in the CCP planning sessions.</p> <p>CoC providers understand the responsibility of the CoC to approve the CPP and the projects created and to assist with the continuous quality improvement of the plan and projects moving forward during implementation.</p>
Local and State Government	The City of Lincoln Urban Development Department	The City of Lincoln Urban Development Department is the Collaborative Applicant for the Lincoln CoC and therefore serves as the primary point of contact for the CoC. The Lincoln UDD understands its role as the collaborative applicant and the lead planning entity.
	Lincoln City Council Members	Elected officials of the Lincoln City Council are members of the Lincoln Homeless Coalition and have participated in YHDP through the application feedback sessions as well as in planning for the CCP. City Council members have assisted the process by listening to information on needs and helping to identify strategies to meet the community goals.

	Lancaster County Human Services	Lancaster County Human Services is a member of the Lincoln Homeless Coalition and has participated in YHDP through the application feedback sessions as well as in planning for the CCP. This organization has assisted the process by providing information on needs and identifying strategies to meet the community goals.
Public Child Welfare Agencies	Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services-Children and Family Services	<p>Representatives from DHHS-CFS are members of the Lincoln Homeless Coalition and have participated in YHDP through the application feedback sessions as well as in planning for the CCP. DHHS-CFS staff have assisted the process by listening to information on needs and helping to identify strategies to meet the community goals.</p> <p>DHHS will continue to partner with the CoC and YHDP stakeholders to educate teams on the efforts in place to prevent youth from discharging from their systems of care into homelessness.</p>
Juvenile Probation	Juvenile Services Division Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation	<p>Representatives from Juvenile Probation are members of the Lincoln Homeless Coalition and have participated in YHDP through the application feedback sessions as well as in planning for the CCP. Probation staff have assisted the process by listening to information on needs and helping to identify strategies to meet the community goals.</p> <p>DHHS will continue to partner with the CoC and YHDP stakeholders to educate teams on the efforts in place to prevent youth from discharging from their systems of care into homelessness.</p>
ESG Program Distributor	The City of Lincoln Urban Development Department	The City of Lincoln Urban Development Department is the ESG Program Distributor and the CoC Collaborative Applicant and is a member of the YHDP planning lead team.
Local Law Enforcement	Lincoln Police Department	A representative from the Lincoln Police Department is a member of the Lincoln Homeless Coalition and currently serves as the Chair of the coalition. LPD has participated in YHDP through the application feedback sessions as well as in planning for the CCP. This organization has assisted the process by providing information on needs and identifying strategies to meet the community goals.
Local Educational Agency and Early Childhood Development	Lincoln Public Schools	Lincoln Public Schools has been an integral member of the YHDP planning process and has provided a letter of support for ongoing collaborations.



		<p>LPS, as the only public school district in Lincoln, has provided the number of identified homeless youth and families in their schools as well as opening their doors to community partners to provide needed services for those populations.</p> <p>In addition to serving students in K-12, LPS provides early childhood services including early interventions for birth-three.</p>
Runaway and Homeless Youth Program Provider	CEDARS	<p>CEDARS is a member of the Lincoln Homeless Coalition and has participated in YHDP through the application feedback sessions as well as in planning for the CCP. This organization has assisted the process by providing information on needs and identifying strategies to meet the community goals.</p> <p>CEDARS serves as the facilitator for the Youth Homeless Action Initiative.</p>
Nonprofit Youth Organizations	The HUB Central Access Point for Young Adults	<p>The HUB is a member of the Lincoln Homeless Coalition and has participated in YHDP through the application feedback sessions as well as in planning for the CCP. This organization has assisted the process by providing information on needs and identifying strategies to meet the community goals.</p>
	Central Plains Center for Services	<p>Central Plains Center for Services is a member of the Lincoln Homeless Coalition and has participated in YHDP through the application feedback sessions as well as in planning for the CCP. This organization has assisted the process by providing information on needs and identifying strategies to meet the community goals.</p>
Employment Agencies	American Job Center, Lancaster and Saunders Counties	<p>The American Job Center is a member of the Lincoln Homeless Coalition and has participated in YHDP through the application feedback sessions as well as in planning for the CCP. This organization has assisted the process by providing information on needs and identifying strategies to meet the community goals. The American Job Center will play an integral role in connecting YYA in Lincoln with employment opportunities.</p>
Institutions of Higher Education	University of Nebraska-Lincoln	<p>The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Center on Children, Families, and the Law (CCFL) is the Lincoln CoC HMIS and Coordinated Entry Leads as well as a partner in planning.</p> <p>As an organization, CCFL has assisted with the coordination and facilitation of the YHDP application and CCP planning process. CCFL will</p>


		continue with the coordination of planning, project design, implementation, and providing valuable assistance for the continued quality improvement aspect.
	University of Nebraska- College of Law	The Tenant Assistance Project provides free legal resources to persons facing eviction in Lancaster County. TAP has committed to establishing formal partnerships with YHDP-funded agencies to provide additional access to legal resources for youth facing evictions and connecting them with homeless prevention resources.
Local Philanthropic Organization	Nebraska Children and Families Foundation	Nebraska Children and Families Foundation is a member of the Lincoln Homeless Coalition and has participated in YHDP through the application feedback sessions as well as in planning for the CCP. This organization has assisted the process by providing information on needs and identifying strategies to meet the community goals.
	United Way of Lincoln/Lancaster County	United Way of Lincoln/Lancaster County is a member of the Lincoln Homeless Coalition and has participated in YHDP through the application feedback sessions as well as in planning for the CCP. This organization has assisted the process by providing information on needs and identifying strategies to meet the community goals.
Local Advocacy Organization	Nebraska Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence	Nebraska Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence is a member of the Lincoln Homeless Coalition and has participated in YHDP through the application feedback sessions as well as in planning for the CCP. This organization has assisted the process by providing information on needs and identifying strategies to meet the community goals.
	Nebraska Appleseed	Nebraska Appleseed is a member of the Lincoln Homeless Coalition and has participated in YHDP through the application feedback sessions as well as in planning for the CCP. This organization has assisted the process by providing information on needs and identifying strategies to meet the community goals.
	Collective Impact Lincoln- Civic Nebraska	Civic Nebraska is a member of the Lincoln Homeless Coalition and has participated in YHDP through the application feedback sessions as well as for the CCP. This organization has assisted the process by providing information on needs and identifying strategies to meet the community goals.

Culturally Specific Organizations	Legal Aid of Nebraska UPLIFT Project	<p>UPLIFT is a community-based project that seeks to provide legal education and services in partnership with centers that serve specific client populations.</p> <p>UPLIFT works directly with three community centers: the Good Neighbor Center, the Asian Community and Cultural Center, and El Centro de las Americas.</p> <p>In addition to on-going legal support, UPLIFT has committed to providing education and outreach to underserved communities in coordination with the Lincoln YHDP efforts.</p>
	OUTNebraska	<p>Representatives from OUTNebraska have participated in the YHDP process by attending the large stakeholder convening and significantly participating in subsequent workgroups. This organization has assisted the process by providing information on needs and identifying strategies to meet the community goals.</p>
	PFLAG	<p>Representatives from PFLAG have participated in the YHDP process by attending the large stakeholder convening and significantly participating in subsequent workgroups. This organization has assisted the process by providing information on needs and identifying strategies to meet the community goals.</p>
Community Development Corporation	Nebraska Investment Finance Authority	<p>The Nebraska Investment Finance Authority is a long-standing partner of the Lincoln CoC and has supported the YHDP process through on-going system level planning and providing a platform to share information with community partners.</p>
Public Housing Authorities	Lincoln Housing Authority	<p>The Lincoln Housing Authority is a member of the Lincoln Homeless Coalition. LHA has partnered with the Lincoln CoC and Coordinated Entry System to support move-on strategies for those experiencing homelessness, including YYA who qualify for YHDP resources, through programs such as FYI or EHV.</p>
Health, Mental Health, and Substance Use Agencies	CenterPointe, Inc.	<p>CenterPointe is a member of the Lincoln Homeless Coalition and has participated in YHDP through the application feedback sessions as well as in planning for the CCP. This organization has assisted the process by providing information on needs and identifying strategies to meet the community goals.</p>

Landlords		The Lincoln Emergency Rental Assistance program is run in collaboration through the All Doors Lead Home Coordinated Entry System. Through this programming, providers and CE staff have worked with local landlords and youth in need of rental and utility assistance in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Instances of successful partnerships for ERA have opened the doors to additional landlords willing to cooperate with Continuum of Care and other homeless services programs, including future YHDP-funded programs.
Affordable Housing Providers		The Lincoln CoC has participated in planning for additional resources from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 aimed at increasing or preserving affordable housing units. One of the proposed plans is to allocate one possible funding stream to the capital purchase of units to be dedicated for use by YYA in need of immediate, low-barrier, crisis housing through YHDP programming.
Others	Lincoln City Libraries	Representatives from the Lincoln City Libraries are members of the Lincoln Homeless Coalition and participate in many of the subcommittees, including the CoC and Downtown System and Outreach. Lincoln City Libraries has participated in YHDP through the application feedback sessions as well as for the CCP. This organization has assisted the process by providing information on needs and identifying strategies to meet the community goals.
	Lincoln Children’s Museum	Representatives from the Lincoln Children’s Museum are members of the Lincoln Homeless Coalition and participate in the Downtown System and Outreach subcommittee. This organization has assisted the process by providing information on needs and identifying strategies to meet the community goals.
Privately Funded Homeless Organizations	People’s City Mission	People’s City Mission is a rescue mission providing emergency shelter to all populations, including the dedicated ‘safe place’ which offers youth in crisis access to immediate help and safety.  PCM representatives have assisted the process by providing information on needs and identifying strategies to meet the community goals.

# signatures from official representatives

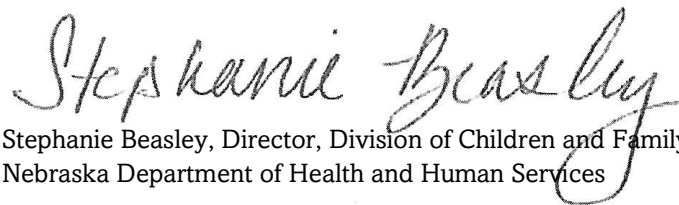
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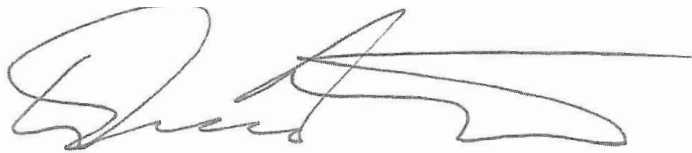
Representative, Lincoln Youth Homeless Action Initiative



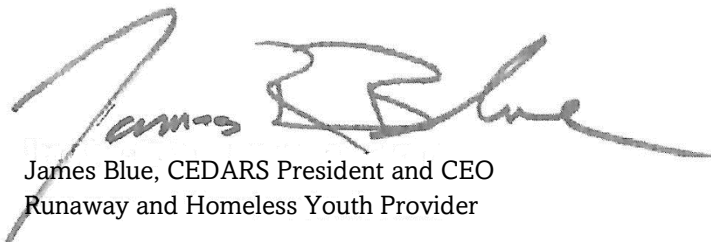
Bradd Schmeichel, City of Lincoln Urban Development Department  
Collaborative Applicant, Lincoln Continuum of Care



Stephanie Beasley, Director, Division of Children and Family Services  
Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services



Dan Marvin, City of Lincoln Urban Development Department Director  
Representative, Local Government Agency



James Blue, CEDARS President and CEO  
Runaway and Homeless Youth Provider

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