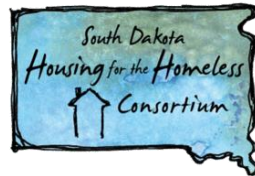


SOUTH DAKOTA

COORDINATED COMMUNITY PLAN

To end youth homelessness



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SHARED VISION:

Mission:

Empowering youth to advocate, educate, learn, use, and gain resources to create a positive change in the on-going homeless youth problems in our community.

Vision:

No youth or young adult in South Dakota is homeless or hungry. All YYAs deserve a safe, stable, decent, affordable, and reliable place to call home. South Dakota is working to be the place where all young people have access to healthy places to live and opportunities to reach their full potential. A thriving community understands the importance of housing and the vital role it plays on the over-all health of the population. Community partners in housing, child welfare, social services, employment/labor, transportation, government, food and nutrition, and education will work closely to ensure youth experiences of homelessness are rare and brief. The Coordinated Entry System should provide low barrier, individualized, and quick access to housing assistance and the services needed for youth to obtain housing stability through their own self-determined goals, ensuring any episodes of homelessness are measurably brief and non-recurring, and youth are connected to an array of services within the community, kin and/or other natural supports. Youth are to be provided with reasonable employment opportunities, with necessary tools and supports to obtain an education, provided independent living and relationship skills, and available social services to gain and maintain housing stability, food security, and emotional-social well-being to thrive independently. The key to non-recurring youth homelessness is encouraging the confidence to achieve youth goals and opportunities. South Dakota will develop youth-inspired innovative housing and service options specifically for homelessness and/or at-risk youth. Once South Dakota achieves this vision, we will continue to update and improve the homeless prevention and response system in collaboration with our partners based on feedback and information from the Youth Action Board, youth program participants, housing and service providers, Homeless Management Information System data, other data sources, and utilize emerging and tested best practices to meet the evolving housing needs of youth.

BACKGROUND

South Dakota is a state with variety in landscape, and culture. This Coordinated Community Plan considers the diverse nature of the state, and puts center the knowledge, experience, and ideas of the Youth Action Board (YAB). We have strived to describe how challenges such as the lack of affordable housing, physical distance, economic poverty, transportation, and gaps in supports and services combine to contribute to YYAs experiences of homelessness and increased risk.

Access to resources for YYAs experiencing homelessness and for those at risk, vary tremendously across the South Dakota Statewide Continuum of Care (SD-CoC), which is also known as the South Dakota Housing for the Homeless Consortium (SDHHC).

Included in the state are nine Federally Recognized Native American Tribes:

- Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe,
- Crow Creek Sioux Tribe,
- Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe,
- Lower Brule Sioux Tribe,

- Oglala Sioux Tribe,
- Rosebud Sioux Tribe,
- Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate,
- Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, and
- Yankton Sioux Tribe.

The geographic areas of Tribal Lands located in the state are immense, and there are approximately 12,000 square miles of tribal lands with multiple communities dispersed across them. The Tribal Lands in South Dakota have a larger geographic size than the entire state of Vermont. South Dakota remains one of the most rural states in the union.

There are essentially two urban areas within the state, located in the west is Rapid City and in the east is Sioux Falls. The YAB members have generally resided in Rapid City and so have many of the agencies that have been partnering and participating in the YHDP efforts. Rapid City is the cultural, service, and economic base for the area of the state that is described as West River (Missouri River). Organizations serving youth experiencing homelessness and at risk are generally located in the two described urban areas, and this is also where we have the largest share of available YYA data. American Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) have not been eligible to administer federal funding for the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) that may address community homelessness needs including emergency shelter funding. Tribes are now eligible for Continuum of Care Funding but, this has only been the case since the 2021 CoC NOFO, and no Native American Tribes or TDHEs in South Dakota currently administering CoC funds.



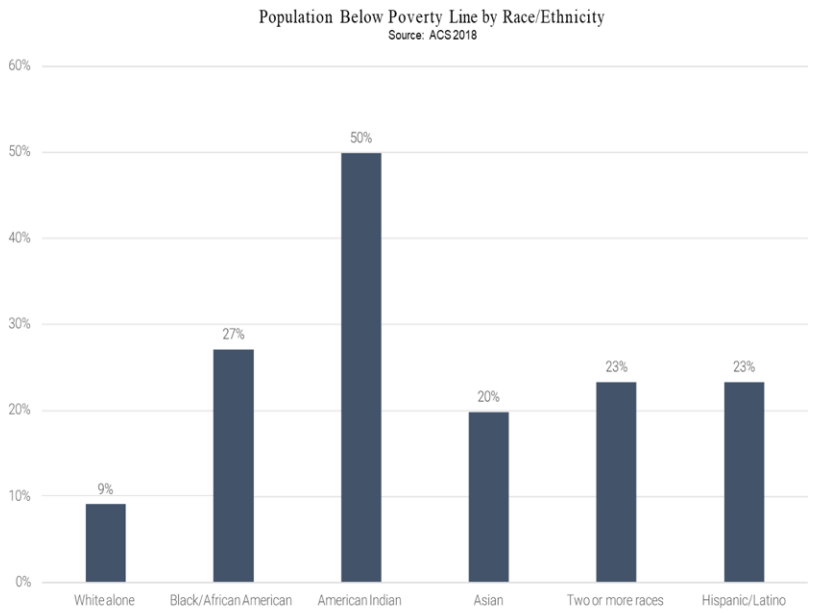
YYA CHALLENGES

YYAs experiencing homelessness and at risk in rural areas of the state often face obstacles that may look different from those encountered in Sioux Falls or Rapid City. The challenges associated

with distances between communities, are exacerbated by the ongoing extreme poverty, high unemployment, and lack of housing that remain evident in many Tribal Communities. Measuring the true scale of YYA homelessness and those at risk is an ongoing and difficult challenge. YYAs experiencing homelessness and at-risk face social, environmental, health, and economic conditions that put them at increased risk for other experiences including exploitation, human trafficking, physical and mental harm, substance use, and disease and illness. According to YAB members, a lack of stable affordable housing decreases a young person’s ability to perform important life functions such as acquiring and maintaining a job, recovering from substance abuse, enjoying healthy relationships, caring for children, and obtaining education. YAB members have discussed how homelessness can force youth to engage in survival strategies that are oftentimes dangerous and traumatizing.

YYA homelessness and unstable housing is a pervasive, yet frequently hidden challenge in South Dakota and it is imperative to distinguish the risk factors of youth homelessness. There are specific risk factors associated with YYA homelessness in South Dakota such as having been placed in the state or tribal foster care or child welfare and/or juvenile justice systems, having parents who've experienced homelessness, struggling with mental health and/or drug use or addiction, being a survivor of domestic abuse or human trafficking, identifying as LGBTQ+, lacking access to affordable and safe transportation, and living in economic poverty.

Population Below Poverty Line

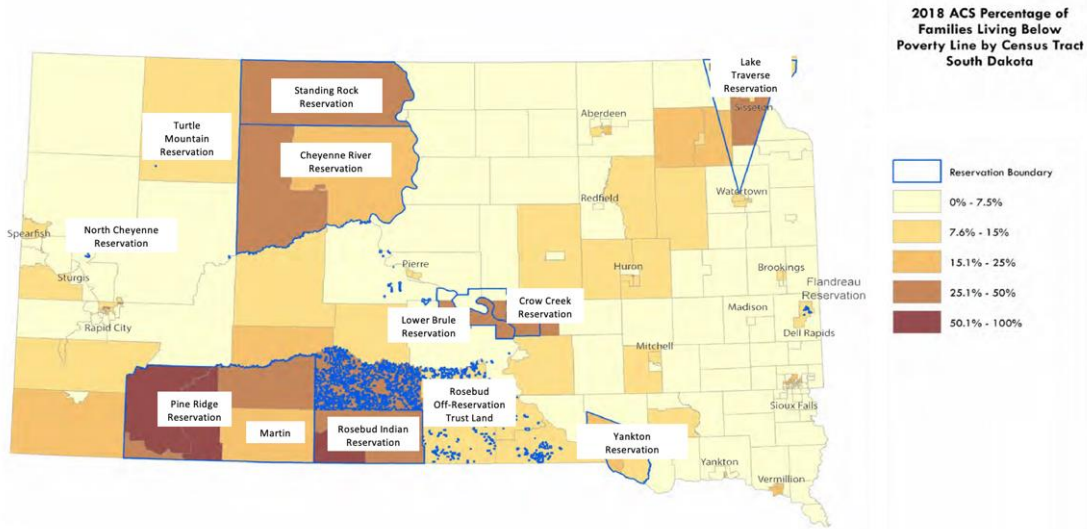


White residents comprise 82% of the State's population, but 9% of those who live below poverty line.

American Indians comprise 8% of population but 50% of those who live below poverty line. A disproportionate share of other racial/ethnic groups also live below the poverty line.

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Families Living Below Poverty Line

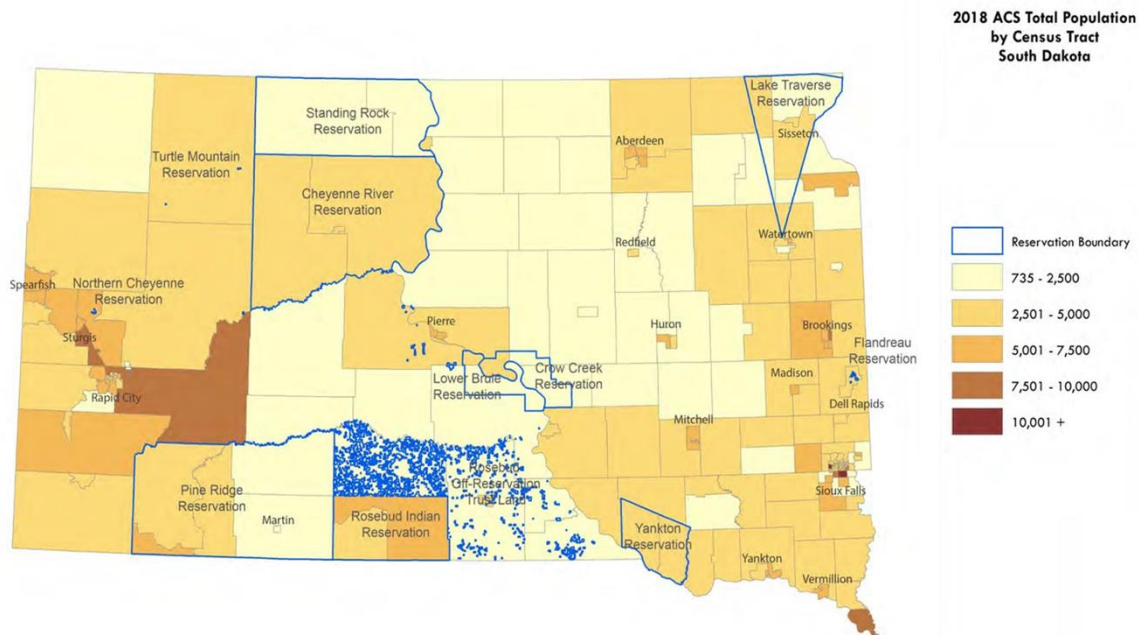


Based on census tracts, Reservations in SD have the highest percentages of families living below the poverty line*. Pine Ridge and parts of Rosebud Indian Reservation have the highest number of families living in poverty (above 50%).

*HUD defines extremely low-income households as households with incomes at or below 30% of AMI or households with incomes at or below the poverty line.

Prepared by: Corporate F.A.C.T.S., Inc.

SD Total Population



In 2018, SD's total population was 864,289. Rapid City has one of the highest populated areas in the state.

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STATEMENT OF NEED:

Unaccompanied Youth and Young Adults At-risk of Homelessness Needs Description:

YYAs who are unaccompanied and at-risk of homelessness are those we intend to identify and divert from homelessness. To accomplish this, we must address the following goals; increase YYA access to affordable and decent housing, support YYA educational needs, provide resources and opportunities for social and mental wellbeing, assist in job skills development and job readiness activities, assist in family reunification, and provide transportation assistance.

1. **Housing:** YYAs who are at risk of homelessness likely need supports and navigation assistance to be diverted from the specter of homelessness. These services may include family reunification assistance, navigation assistance to appropriate housing types, social and other wellbeing supports, limited financial assistance options, and mentoring. Addressing the needs of at-risk youth requires an effective and efficient Coordinated Entry System consisting of access, assessment, prioritization, and referral processes with individualized service planning to help young people choose and access the most appropriate options to meet their needs. YYAs need timely referral to highly trained and motivated service provider navigators that will work directly with youth to address immediate and other housing related needs and gaps.

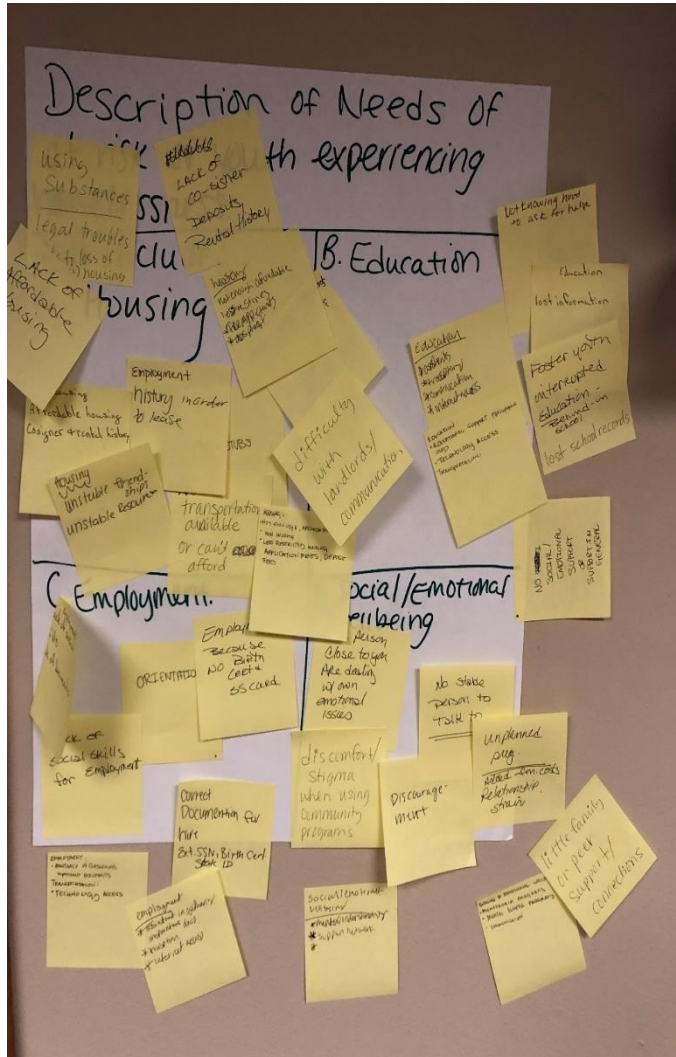
Some of the unmet needs for youth at risk of homelessness identified by the YAB members are: not enough affordable housing (low income) available for YYAs to access, current housing assistance options for YYA housing have too many restrictions and requirements to access, application fee/deposit fee assistance, substance usage may lead to legal problems and loss of housing, perceptions of discouragement from landlords towards YYA tenants make renting more difficult, landlord communication skills

development, lack of a lease co-signer, lack of rental history or issues with past rental situations, little or no employment history/pay stubs, no transportation is available or can't afford transportation, unstable friendships/relationships make roommate situations difficult, not having access to birth certificate or social security card information, and rent readiness training.

2. **Employment & Education:** Lower levels of educational attainment greatly increases the risk of experiencing poverty and homelessness due to limited higher education or technical-vocational training, and thus less employment options. At-risk YYAs may benefit from supports to complete high school or equivalency education that could lead into vocational or higher educational training. Other areas of support that can help maintain educational stability is tutoring, credit recovery to re-take classes, and highly individualized educational supports as needed. Engagement with employers such as mentor programs and skill training to increase employability and income opportunities are needed. The YAB members identified these other educational related needs; youth having exited foster care or lived with homelessness and housing insecurity typically have had interrupted periods of learning resulting in delays in learning, credits and transcripts have often been lost, youth reported not knowing how to ask for help to complete high school or GED, or how to apply for further schooling and financial aid. YAB also described a lack of transportation options and other supports making attending educational activities more difficult, as did a lack of access to technology and the internet.

Members of the YAB described many barriers associated with obtaining and keeping employment. The biggest obstacles mentioned were limited assistance to gather required documents (SSN, birth certificate, driver's license), lack of transportation to job interviews and the work site, services for assistance in development of social skills and coping skills required for most jobs (especially for service jobs that require large amounts of emotional labor), and skills to cope effectively and communicate with authority figures in the workplace.

3. **Social and Emotional Wellbeing:** The YAB identified these Social and Emotional Wellbeing specific needs: youth mentoring opportunities, youth centered mental illness treatment options, youth support groups, reducing the stigma of seeking assistance, pregnancy supports, stable mentors for YYAs to talk to when in crisis, youth training for rent-readiness and other skills to succeed as a tenant. YAB members described the need for youth specific crisis housing & drop in center with extended hours of operation providing services including technology and internet, electricity to charge devices, hygiene kits, laundry and bathing facilities, access to food (including breakfast) and food vouchers, wrap around services with navigation assistance for locating additional amenities and housing, warm hand-offs from trusted resources to other agencies and staff follow-up with the staff handing off to ensure the process occurs, training for agencies and service providers about bias, and program staff serving YYAs should resemble and be relatable to the youth they are serving. Connecting youth who are at-risk of homelessness with one or more caring adults is a primary need, particularly for youth who have higher vulnerabilities through experiencing family violence, human trafficking, stigma, and rejection including those that may be associated with gender and sexual identity, connecting YYAs with a positive social group and with caring adults are some of the important needs to address to divert YYAs from future homelessness.



The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) and Child Welfare information provide important information. The most recent YRBS reported that youth in South Dakota experience substance use struggles that may put them at-risk for homelessness. According to this survey, SD youth have higher than national average rates of binge drinking, misusing prescription drugs, using inhalants to get high, and using methamphetamine. YYAs with a history of abuse and neglect are at greater risk for homelessness. Child Welfare Data is provided by Child Protection Services (CPS) of the South Dakota Department of Social Services. CPS responded to more than 1,700 child abuse and neglect cases, including 116 for physical abuse, 45 for sexual abuse and 1,760 for physical neglect in FY 2019. In 2019, 1,500 children in SD were victims of child maltreatment, a 43% increase from 2015. CPS reports that about 60 foster youth leave the state foster care and child welfare system each year after reaching age 18.

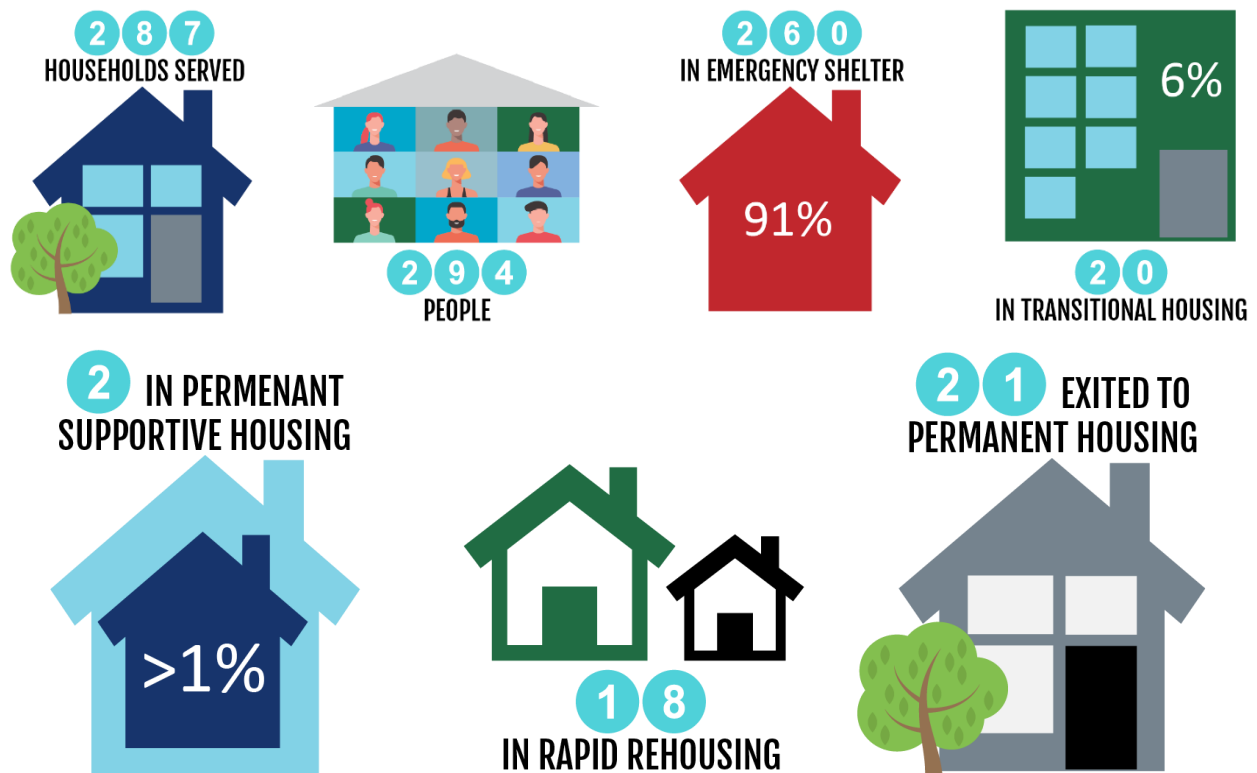
Based upon a variety of sources including U.S. Census, poverty, child welfare, and unemployment data, we estimate at least 10,000 unaccompanied youth and young adults are at risk of homelessness in South Dakota.

Unaccompanied Youth and Young Adults Experiencing Homelessness Needs Description:

The SD-CoC Longitudinal Systems Analysis (LSA) data report includes data from Federal Fiscal Year (FY) 2021, 10/01/2020 to 09/30/2021, and the following information is from this time period. There were 294 Unaccompanied Youth 18-24 years of age that accessed the South Dakota Homelessness System as recorded in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and 59% percent were male and 39% female, 1% transgender and 1% no single gender. American Indians represented 45% and Whites (non-Hispanic) 29%, Blacks 11%, White Hispanic Latinos 5%, Multiple Races 5%. 5% reported that they were currently fleeing DV and 16% were DV survivors. 87% reported that this was their first time homeless. 5% reported being continuously homeless and 6% were re-engaging from a temporary destination. Of all the Unaccompanied Youth served in South Dakota, only 19 of 294 were youth served in Rapid Rehousing and 2 youth were served in Permanent Supportive Housing. Most of the youth served were in Emergency Shelter or Transitional Housing, 282. Youth generally exited homelessness to temporary destinations 42% with only 17% of youth exiting to permanent housing. The unknown exit destinations were very high at 41%. Youth Households Prior Living Situations showed that 23% were on the streets, 26% were sheltered homeless, 5% were living in temporary settings, 13% were in institutions, and 30% had been in permanent housing. Youth receiving shelter or

transitional housing included 92% being served were in a city and only 8% reported being served in a rural area. There were 45 Child Only Households (COHs) served by the homelessness system in South Dakota in FY 2021 and 44 of these households were served in Emergency Shelter or Transitional Housing and 1 household was served in Rapid Rehousing. Child Only households were 57% female and 41% male with 1% identifying as no single gender. COHs were 48% Native American, 5% Black, 16% multiple races, 2% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, 32% white non-Hispanic, 5% white Hispanic and 7% were unknown race.

Adult Only Households 18-24 Years Old



LSA data for FY 2021 tells us that there have been very few Unaccompanied Youth Households in South Dakota exiting homelessness to permanent destinations. This is likely due to the fact there are no YYA targeted RRH projects in the state. Even with our extremely limited HMIS data, there appears to be a large unmet need for YYA permanent housing solutions.

The Point-In-Time (PIT) Count data for unaccompanied youth in South Dakota, like many rural states, remains an ongoing struggle to survey youth accurately. There are currently large gaps in the data we have on YYAs experiencing homelessness and at risk in the state. In 2021, the CoC completed a sheltered count only for PIT Count due to COVID-19. The Sheltered only Youth Count (18-24 years of age) was 88. In 2020 the Youth (18-24) PIT Count was 61 sheltered with an additional 21 Unsheltered Youth. Another source of youth data is the Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) Basic Center Emergency Shelter Program. There were 56 youth served via this program in Rapid City and 26 served via the program in Sioux Falls in the 2021 Calendar year.

The RHY Transitional Living Program (TLP) served 24 clients in Sioux Falls in calendar year 2021.

SD Statewide PIT Count (18-24 years old)

SD Statewide PIT Count (18-24 years old)	
2018	77
2019	72
2020	82
2021* (sheltered only)	88

There are other gaps in the youth centered response to homelessness, and this is particularly pronounced outside of the Sioux Falls and Rapid City areas. Currently there are two YYA street outreach (SO) programs operating in the state. YYA street outreach is occurring in Sioux Falls and Rapid City via the RHY Street Outreach Program. The Current Coordinated Entry (CE) System prioritization process, and a lack of youth centered Rapid Rehousing projects, likely have resulted in very few youths being prioritized for the limited permanent housing referral options available via CoC and ESG funding. YYAs may be highly vulnerable, yet the current CES Assessment tool, may not capture the true level of vulnerability present. The CES assessment and referral processes have sought to serve the highest risk most vulnerable populations based upon a set criterion and decision-making processes that may be resulting in few YYAs being referred for the extremely limited number of permanent housing solutions that have been generally targeted to folks experiencing homelessness with significant documented disabilities and households with children.

Addressing unsheltered youth homelessness in South Dakota requires greater collaboration from the groups and organizations providing outreach, identification, guidance, and other important services to YYAs experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Addressing unsheltered youth homelessness also requires the development of YYA specific Coordinated Entry processes and ensuring quick access for YYAs in need to crisis housing options. Organizations include YAB, RHY & ESG Street Outreach, emergency shelters, law enforcement, 211 Helpline Center, transitional housing providers, permanent housing providers, child welfare, education, health care, Native American Organizations, organizations associated with LGBTQ+IA, CoC Coordinated Entry System, etc. need to collaborate more fully to ensure YYAs experiencing unsheltered homelessness are able to access the services available without experiencing stigma, discrimination, or other forms of mistreatment. Groups and organizations serving YYAs experiencing unsheltered homelessness do coordinate but, this coordination needs to be more organized, efficient, and purposeful to better address concerns with unsheltered YYAs. The Coordinated Entry and homelessness response system needs to better identify unsheltered YYAs, and better meet the immediate safety needs of unsheltered YYAs, by ensuring quick and safe access to immediate low barrier crisis housing options, diversion strategies, and support services based upon the wishes and goals of YYAs. The Coordinated Entry System needs to develop a streamlined and efficient youth process including expanding access to processes for addressing immediate safety concerns, and completing needs assessments, prioritizing, and referring YYAs to resources to address permanent housing needs, based upon the YYAs own personalized goals.

Outreach to address unsheltered homelessness also needs to include strategies for providing accurate and timely information for youth to seek assistance quickly with the fewest obstacles and for our partners to assist YYAs in accessing services. We are planning to develop

demonstration projects that include a Drop-In Center with an array of services and access to immediate crisis housing, YYA outreach, and to create additional youth specific Coordinated Entry Access Points including more outreach and services provider staff. We plan to expand the information being provided, and considering additional modes of communication like social media, to better ensure unsheltered YYAs are aware that assistance is available, youth may access, and how to access. We planning and creating the system and processes to identify unsheltered YYAs, respond more quickly and consistently to meet the immediate needs of unsheltered YYAs. The plan is for the YAB to continue to provide guidance, ideas, and information to help address unsheltered youth homelessness from the planning to implementation to review and improvement activities and stages.

The state's education statistics provide additional information. There were 2,015 homeless children enrolled in South Dakota public schools in the school year 2019-2020, and 79 were unaccompanied homeless children, 28 were migratory children or youth, 469 were children with disabilities, and 190 were Limited English Proficient students. Additionally, 64.5% of homeless students lived with another family; 19% lived in shelters, transitional housing, or awaiting foster care. 13.2% of the students were living in hotels or motels; and 3.3% were living unsheltered. In the school year 2018-2019, there were 1,907 homeless youth enrolled in South Dakota public schools, 4 were migratory children, 98 were unaccompanied homeless youth, 427 were students with disabilities, and 104 were Limited English Proficient students. 64.5% of the students were living with another family, however a significant number of youths were living in shelters, hotels, motels, or completely unsheltered. 17.7% of the youth lived in shelters, transitional housing, or awaiting foster care, 14.6% of youth were living in motels/hotels, and 3.2% of youth were living unsheltered.

Based upon the data and information available, we estimate that there are approximately 600 unaccompanied youth and young adults experiencing homelessness in South Dakota based upon HUD criteria for defining homelessness (Categories 1-4).

The YAB identified important gaps in services and housing for YYAs experiencing homelessness. YAB members identified a need for additional training for agencies and staff providing services and reported a desire to help provide staff training. YAB identified a need for youth advocacy and the need for a plan to address the stigma of youth homelessness. They also described the need for a youth specific crisis center in Rapid City, with extended hours of operation, including weekends and holidays, with trauma informed and knowledgeable caring staff that are relatable to the youth. The YAB describe an integrated crisis system that could combine a drop-in center with an array of services, highly trained navigation staff to ensure CE processes are efficient, crisis housing hotel room vouchers, transitional housing with services, and low barrier Rapid Rehousing.

To address these concerns, we will need to focus on the following needs:

1. **Housing:** The type of housing and supports appropriate to an individual depends on the age and level of vulnerability and needs of the YYA. The types of housing that have been identified as most needed in South Dakota by YAB and supported CoC data include; Rapid Re-housing (Youth have leases, low barrier, and optional supportive services), Joint Transitional Housing - Rapid Rehousing, decent and sanitary income based affordable housing, and host homes. YYAs in non-tribal communities may also benefit from host homes. Youth and young adults experiencing homelessness need a safe, decent, and stable home with the level of available support appropriate to help YYAs maintain housing.
2. **Employment & Education:** Critical for YYAs experiencing homelessness to obtain and maintain housing is the ability to complete education, go on to higher education or vocational training, and to gain and maintain employment. This may include completion of a GED, re-enrollment in high school, assistance applying for college or vocational programs, and employment readiness services. The YAB identified transportation assistance as a key need for employment and education goals. The South Dakota Department of Labor (DOL) provides various employment and educational related services for YYA success. Navigation assistance and warm handoffs to these services is essential.
3. **Social & Emotional Wellbeing:** For a young person who is experiencing homelessness, developing a positive social network by engaging with pro-social communities and developing stable relationships with caring adults is fundamental to the young person gaining and maintaining housing, overcoming obstacles, and succeeding in their educational, employment and other life goals.

YAB Members - "Having host homes available on tribal reservations will impact the community in a positive way."

"Host homes will be more comfortable than staying in a facility."

"Host homes would work better in a tribal community but would need a tie in from the tribal leaders."

"Having organizations advocate for host homes on tribal lands will show the tribes they are not alone, and it forms a connection between the areas which is very needed."

At-risk Pregnant or Parenting Youth

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, South Dakota has a teen birth rate that is higher than the national average and higher than that of nearly all the surrounding states. Minority populations in South Dakota, and Native Americans in particular, are significantly more likely to experience teen pregnancy. Native Americans in South Dakota are 10 times more likely to experience a teen birth than White residents. South Dakota has a teen birth rate of 19.2 per 1,000 females aged 15-19. This is higher than the national rate of 16.7 and higher than five of six surrounding states.

Based upon the information and data available for At-risk and Parenting Youth in South Dakota. We estimate that there are at least 500 at-risk pregnant or parenting youth in the state.

The specific needs of those who are at-risk of homelessness include:

1. **Housing:** Stable, affordable housing that is secure and appropriate for young children is a primary need of at-risk pregnant or parenting youth.
2. **Employment & Education:** For at-risk pregnant or parenting youth employment options must allow for quality childcare for young children, or at-risk pregnant or parenting youth need assistance finding appropriate childcare that is also affordable. Access to public benefits is also needed by this group to allow parents and children time and stability to

develop a strong bond and health family relationships. Parenting, life skills, relationship skills, are also important educational opportunities needed. Assistance applying to higher education or vocational programs to build skills to increase income and employment options is crucial. YAB members identified transportation assistance and quality childcare as key needs to employment and educational success for YYAs.

3. **Social & Emotional Wellbeing:** Particularly for first-time and young parents, finding positive social groups with other new parents, or seasoned parents, is critical to develop strong peer support during the many times difficult early years of being a parent. Peers can provide both practical support such as shared childcare and transportation, as well as emotional support through sharing stories and strategies for coping. Connections with caring adults is also needed to continue to receive the care the young parent needs, while learning to care for their own young children. For Pregnant or Parenting Youth at risk of homelessness, the need to rapidly find stable housing and other supports is critical to ensure the young children are safe and able to remain with their families.

Pregnant or Parenting Youth Experiencing Homelessness

Volunteers of America, Dakotas (VOAD) provides Transitional Living Program (TLP) services in Sioux Falls, South Dakota and operates a residential treatment program for pregnant and parenting woman. In FY20, VOAD's residential treatment program for pregnant and parenting women served 6 pregnant and/or parenting youth ages 16 to under 22 years of age and their young families who were experiencing homelessness. It is estimated nationally that about 1 in 5 young women experiencing homelessness will become pregnant (Thompson, et al. 2008).

Based upon the information and data obtained for Pregnant and Parenting Youth Experiencing Homelessness in South Dakota, we estimate that there are approximately 60 pregnant or parenting youth experiencing homelessness in the state (HUD Homelessness Categories 1-4).

To address these concerns, we will need to focus on the following needs:

1. **Housing:** Emergency shelter options to ensure immediate safety is the critical need for pregnant or parenting young people who are experiencing homelessness, and a swift transfer to safe transitional or permanent housing is important. Housing types must be appropriate for young children. Connection with home visiting and parent support programs is also needed.
2. **Employment & Education:** Once the individual or family is in safe housing, the education and employment needs of these young people are like those above including employment or educational attainment and childcare, parenting and family supports, and encouragement and connection to completing higher education and vocational programs.
3. **Social and Emotional Wellbeing:** These needs are the same as for those described above as at risk of homelessness. For the higher vulnerable young people who have been homeless and are pregnant or parenting, additional supports may be needed to address trauma, experiences being trafficked, behavioral health issues, or other concerns that can impede a person's ability to parent and may lead to instances of child abuse and/or neglect.

USICH SUBPOPULATIONS:

USICH and its partners have identified six subpopulations of youth that are particularly susceptible to homelessness. Each face a distinctive set of challenges in their pathways to becoming and

exiting homelessness. These populations include lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth; minors (under age of 18); pregnant and parenting youth; youth involved with juvenile justice; youth involved with child welfare system; and survivors of sexual trafficking and exploitation. Prevention, identification & engagement, and services need to be tailored to their specific needs. Listed below is highlighted data, challenges, and strategies that are specific to these subpopulations.

1. Pregnant & Parenting Youth Experiencing Homelessness in South Dakota

Making quality childcare more accessible to families experiencing homelessness is a top priority. Incorporate family reunification/mediation for young parents when safe and appropriate. Cross-reference Department of Social Services data to ensure that families experiencing homelessness are receiving all the benefits to which they are entitled and to understand benefit use patterns, family needs, and cost across systems.

2. Minors Experiencing Homelessness in South Dakota

The Department of Social Services is the state agency primarily responsible for providing services for any minor experiencing homelessness. However, many minors fear system involvement and go to great lengths to avoid this. Connecting a youth to services can be done through numerous pathways; schools, street outreach, drop-in centers, Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) providers, healthcare professionals, 211, and Coordinated Entry. Creating a process with each of these pathways and the child welfare system is critical.

3. Youth and Young Adult Survivors of Sex Trafficking in South Dakota

Approximately 1 in 5 homeless youth in the nation are survivors of trafficking. We also know that a little less than 4% of all adolescent's exchange sex for money, 28% of youth living on the street and 10% of those in shelters engage in what is described as 'survival sex' in exchange for food, shelter, or money. A study by Covenant House reported that about one in four youth experiencing homelessness is a survivor of sex trafficking, or had engaged in survival sex, and that 48% of those who engaged in a commercial sex activity, did so because they didn't have a safe place to live. A survey of 911 homeless young people interviewed in 13 cities, found that 56% of homeless transgender youth had been involved in the sex trade, and 27% of LGBTQ youth reporting experiences that fall into the definition of trafficking.

https://covenanthousestudy.org/landing/trafficking/?_ga=2.202796049.1004196397.1505745323-1994850347.1505745323). In South Dakota, the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally has been associated by law enforcement and victim advocates as a major Sex Trafficking event. Sex Trafficking advocates in South Dakota also report that the sex trafficking occurring in the rural portions of the state often includes the active involvement of older family members acting as agents in the selling or quid pro quo trade for drugs of their younger relatives. The Polaris Project reported that 25 human trafficking cases were reported in South Dakota in 2022 and that 58 calls were made from human trafficking victims in South Dakota to the national hotline.

In order to address homelessness for YYA victims of human trafficking in South Dakota, the South Dakota CoC is collaborating closely with three key partner agencies in particular, and with others that provide services to this population including outreach, emergency and transitional housing, permanent housing, and other services to victims of human trafficking including YYAs. Three agencies are center to our strategy and have also provided training to the SD-CoC membership on identifying and assisting human

trafficking victims, and on the prevalence and circumstances that trafficking victims have described. The CoC plans to continue the opportunities to train YYA providers on issues including serving victims of human trafficking. Call to Freedom is an organization that serves victims of human trafficking including YYAs. Call to Freedom is centered out of Sioux Falls, SD but, has a statewide network of partners including law enforcement and shelters that work to identify and serve YYA trafficking victims. The SD-CoC works closely with Maggie's Place, a human trafficking services agency that serves YYAs. Maggie's Place is located in Kyle, SD on the Pine Ridge Reservation and provides outreach services, emergency and transitional housing, and training. Much of Maggie's House efforts occur in Native American majority communities. Where All Women Are Honored, is also a Native American run agency that provides services in Rapid City and on the Pine Ridge Reservation that includes street outreach and emergency housing services for victims of human trafficking, including YYAs. Maggie's Place and Where All Women Are Honored also work closely with efforts addressing Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. The SD- CoC works with the three victim services providers described, as well as, other victim services providers across the state to ensure that YYA victims of human trafficking and other victims have safe access to permanent housing options via the statewide coordinated entry system.

4. LGBTQIA+ and Gender Non-Conforming Youth in South Dakota

The LGBTQ+ Family Connections Center is the only non-profit organization in South Dakota dedicated to the needs of this population, and has been an active and invested service provider since the beginning of YHDP Community Planning. Its Executive Director, Joe Barb, is a core YHDP team member and mentor for YAB. Ensuring that our prevention strategies, crisis response system, and housing interventions incorporate best practices specific to these populations, including linkages to support resources is a key strategy. We also need to increase coordinated outreach for LGBTQIA+ and gender non-conforming youth experiencing homelessness, unstable housing, or at risk of homelessness.

YAB member,
"When it comes to serving LGBTQ+ youth, youth mentors that are also LGBTQ+ are vital."

5. Juvenile Justice in South Dakota

The consequences of a juvenile record can limit access to stable housing, employment, and other needed resources and services. We need to build upon and refine our base of research and data to fully understand the scope and nature of the problem and to effectively target interventions. We have identified some strategies that appear promising. Integrating housing solutions into discharge planning from juvenile justice and child welfare systems, ensuring youth are not released into unsafe or unstable living situations that could lead to homelessness is an important goal. Ensuring discharge planning includes elements that will assist youth with maintaining housing and employment/educational connections. It is important to fill in the gaps in the current system so that youth have access to safe housing. Reducing barriers to housing for those with criminal records, including public housing policies that prohibit successful re-entry, disconnect families, and ultimately increase recidivism. Increasing coordination between juvenile justice providers and the homeless system is important.

Needs Assessment Summary:

We have worked to obtain and analyze data that includes information involving disparities in housing and services specific for homeless or at-risk YYAs. The findings have consistently

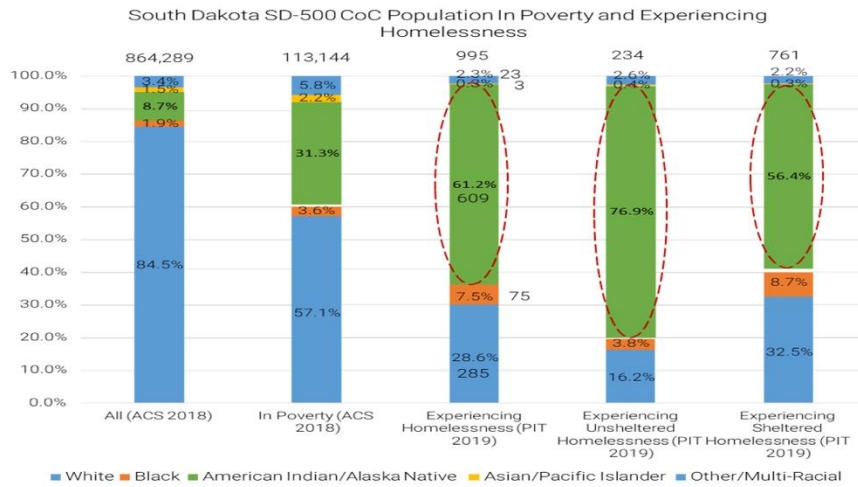
displayed that Native American and Black YYA South Dakotans experience homelessness at far greater rates than they represent in the general population. Native Americans were also generally found to be served less often in CoC funded Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) and Rapid Rehousing (RRH) than their white counter parts, according to 2017-2019 Annual Performance Reports (APR) Data for the CoC and ESG Funded projects administering these activities. There are no current CoC or Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funded YYA specific projects for Transitional Housing (TH), Rapid Rehousing (RRH), or Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) in the statewide CoC. YYAs are served in the current CoC and ESG RRH projects but, data shows this is extremely rare. There are vast areas of the state where there is no CoC or ESG funded housing or service projects. Many of these underserved areas include Native American Reservation Communities, where the most entrenched poverty and unemployment is evident. There are tribal agencies and groups serving youth experiencing homelessness in reservation communities. However, the data on these Tribal efforts is not readily available, as these efforts are not located in the HMIS. Tribes sometimes remain hesitant and concerned about sharing data about their members with the CoC. U.S. Census data (2018) and Point-In-Time data have consistently shown that Native Americans and Blacks in the state are experiencing poverty and homelessness at far higher rates than their total percentage of the population. According to 2018 Census data, Native Americans in South Dakota comprise 9% of the total population of the state but are 50% of those living below the poverty line. Native Americans are also more than 60% of the folks experiencing homelessness statewide and 77% of those experiencing unsheltered homelessness and 79% of the households with children that are experiencing unsheltered homelessness, Blacks represent about 2% of the state population, and 4% of those in poverty and 7.5% of those experiencing homelessness (2020 SD PIT Count).

The CoC Racial Equity Analysis Tool version 2.1 provided by HUD gives additional youth related needs and disparities information. The disparity by race is quite stark. For unaccompanied and parenting youth in the state experiencing homelessness, Black Youth represented 22%, Native American Youth represented 41%, and White Youth represented 34% counted in the PIT Count (2020). The Youth general total percentage of population for the state was Whites at 77%, Blacks 2%, and Native Americans 13% of the population (Census Data).

RACE	% of State Population	% Experiencing Homelessness	% Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness	% Experiencing Homelessness with children	% of people in living in Poverty
White	85%	29%	16%	14%	59%
Black	2%	8%	4%	4%	3%
Native American	9%	61%	77%	79%	30%
Other/Multi	4%	2%	3%	2%	6%

Homelessness by Race

PIT by Race



Based on Point in Time Data (PIT), American Indian/Alaska Natives experience a higher rate of homelessness than any other race. In 2019, American Indian/Alaska Natives represented 8.7% of the total population but 61.2% of homelessness persons (77% Unsheltered and 56% Sheltered).

Prepared by: Corporate F.A.C.T.S., Inc.

Unaccompanied Youth do appear to be accessing CE in greater numbers than in the past but, it is likely that many YYAs are still not aware of CE. For FY 2017 CES CoC Grant APR, 52

Unaccompanied Youth accessed CE statewide. For FY 2018 CES CoC Grant reporting, 91 Unaccompanied Youth accessed CE statewide. One of the important results of the youth survey (2019 SDHHC Youth Surveys), was that at-risk youth were generally not aware of the services and housing available via CE. Youth are accessing Coordinated Entry (CE) at rates that are far below the rate at which YYAs are experiencing homelessness in the CoC, based upon the quarterly reports from CE, 2021 and 2020 PIT Counts, and other data from HMIS LSA. Additional efforts need to be made to market Coordinated Entry to Youth Households. Additional referral options from CE, in more communities for youth specific projects need to be developed. Youth would very likely benefit from services from highly trained YYA CE navigators.

In September 2020, HUD Technical Assistance (TA) providers Corporate Facts and RKG Associates, Inc. teamed with the SD-CoC to develop an analysis to help prioritize and target ESG-CV funding to the highest needs areas, and historically underserved communities. The result was a comprehensive report that included data from various sources including ACS/Census, Bureau of Labor Statistics, HIC/PIT, LSA/Stella, HMIS, and COVID Data. The data analysis identified gaps in current programs serving populations and rural communities, gaps in the homelessness response system, it reinforced the racial disparities the CoC has been identifying, and it detailed geographies in the state with shortages of transitional housing, emergency shelter, permanent supportive housing beds. The report confirmed that most of the CoC and ESG funded housing services are in the two largest communities of the state. Most rural areas including Native American Communities, had few homelessness related housing and services present. Most of the housing and services identified in Native American Communities were for emergency shelter (ES) only. Some important conclusions that came from this study include Native Americans being a much smaller percentage of South Dakota's population, yet are experiencing poverty and extreme poverty, and homelessness at far greater rates than other racial and ethnic groups, unemployment rates are far greater in reservations areas as compared to the rest of the state, and much of the state has enjoyed extremely low rates of unemployment and even some of the lowest unemployment rates in the U.S. The situation is creating long-term wealth gaps, and perpetuating instances of homelessness and housing instability. Resources (CoC & ESG) have been targeted at population centers in the past, which do not necessarily align with reservation areas, or where Native Americans are most likely to be living. Native Americans are exiting to permanent destinations at lower rates than all other racial groups and have higher rates of returns to homelessness. Housing, services, and emergency shelter are less accessible in areas where Native American are most likely to live (Corporate Facts and RKG Associates, Inc. 2020).

Information about lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual (LGBTQIA+) and gender non-conforming youth in South Dakota has been extremely limited. Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago recently reported that LGBTQIA+ youth have more than double the risk of homelessness nationally as compared to non-LGBTQIA+ peers. South Dakota has a significant lack of data on LGTBQIA+ Youth experiencing homelessness or at risk. The LGBTQ+ Family Connections Center in Rapid City joined SD-CoC in 2021, and this partnership is resulting in the advancement of knowledge and understanding involving LGBTQIA+ Youth. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Two-Spirit and Queer (LGBTQ) youth experience homelessness at a higher rate compared to youth who identify as heterosexual and cisgender.

National findings reinforce growing evidence of the heightened risk of experiencing homelessness and other risk factors among LGBTQ+ youth. This often stems from a lack of acceptance that LGBTQ+ youth experience both in and out of the home. As an example, Williams Institute 2015, *Serving Our Youth*, not only indicated an over-representation for LGBTQ+ youth accessing services, but the report also found that youth of color were disproportionately overrepresented among the LGBTQ+ youth accessing homeless services. Key findings were that the primary

reason for homelessness for LGBTQ+ youth, as reported by providers, were that youth were forced out by parents or ran away due to sexual orientation, gender identity, and or gender expression (55.3% LGBQ, 67.1% Trans). Additional reasons for homelessness for LGBTQ+ youth, as reported by providers, were Harassment/Bullying (70% LGBQ, 90% Trans), Family Rejection (75% LGBQ, 90% Trans), Mental Health issues (65% LGBQ, 75% Trans), Physical, Emotional, or Sexual Abuse (60% LGBQ, 75% Trans), Alcohol or Substance Abuse (35% LGBQ, 40% Trans), Intimate Partner Violence (10% LGBQ, 25% Trans), Foster Care (22% LGBQ, 24% Trans), Sexual Exploitation/Trafficking (10% LGBQ, 20% Trans), and Juvenile Justice/Criminal Justice System Involvement (15% LGBQ, 20% Trans) (UCLA, 2015). Additional barriers LGBTQ+ youth face in South Dakota is that there are no provisions of state law explicitly addressing discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Gender non-conforming youth are more likely to experience unsheltered homelessness. Specific data on gender minorities is extremely limited in the State of South Dakota, although there is National Data that suggests a prevalence and needs strategy to ensure gender non-conforming youth have equal access to services. The National Alliance to End Homelessness “Demographic Data Project: Gender Minorities” report analyzed the 2018 Point-In-Time demographic data provided by HUD providing a better lens of understanding the unique challenges gender non-conforming youth face. The report finds that Transgender and gender non-binary individuals are more likely to be unsheltered than their peers, with 82% of gender non-binary adults being unsheltered, 56% of transgender adults being unsheltered, compared to 48% of cisgender adults.

Additionally, the study by the National Alliance to End Homelessness, “Supporting Homeless Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Youth” provides a national snapshot that shows 19 percent of gender non-conforming youth reported having been refused a home or apartment; 11 percent reported being evicted because of their gender identity/expression; 19 percent experienced homelessness at some point in their lives because they were transgender or gender non-conforming. Of those seeking access to homeless shelters, 55 percent trying to access a homeless shelter were harassed by shelter staff or residents; 29 percent were turned away from a shelter altogether; 22 percent were sexually assaulted by residents or staff; and 1.7 percent of the respondents were currently homeless, compared to only 1 percent of the general population. The study respondents were all adults, including 19 percent between the ages of 18 and 24.

National homeless population data clearly indicates that young people experiencing homelessness are most likely to be African-American, Latino/a, and/or lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual (LGBTQIA+). In South Dakota, we do know that young people experiencing homelessness are mostly likely to be Native American. A 2017 study by Chapin Hall of the University Chicago concluded that LGBTQIA+ youth have a 120% higher risk of becoming homeless compared to their peers. Unfortunately, LGBTQIA+ youth also face higher levels of hardship, as documented in a follow-up Chapin Hall study in 2018. Hardship was defined as experiencing higher rates of trauma, assault, exchanging sex for basic needs, and death. Nearly one in four young black men, ages 18 to 25, who identified as LGBTQIA+ reported homelessness within the 12 months prior to the survey. Youth who identified as black or multiracial had similarly high rates of homelessness, particularly if they also identified as LGBTQIA+. Given the disproportionately high numbers of LGBTQIA+ young people and youth of color who experience homelessness nationally, there is a strong rationale for putting them at the center of efforts to prevent and address youth homelessness in order to end youth homelessness overall.

In South Dakota there is limited statewide data on the number of LGBTQIA+ and gender non-conforming youth experiencing homelessness. SD-CoC has historically tracked gender, sexual orientation, and race data in HMIS. There may be additional barriers that deter these youth from

identifying themselves. Lower visibility of LGBTQIA+ populations, social stigma, discrimination, and, in many cases, experiences of rejection by their families of origin or licensed foster homes, may limit a youth's openness about their sexual orientation and add to the challenges of homelessness for this population.

These findings reinforce the need for targeted strategies to address the disproportionate risks for homelessness among LGBTQ+IA and gender non-conforming youth. In order to support the needs of LGBTQ+IA and gender non-conforming youth, ensuring discrimination-free equal access and inclusion in our state, cultural competency training, written welcoming standards, safety and security policies and procedures, with coordinated outreach should be adopted and implemented by participating service providers and partners.

If funded through the projects, the LGBTQ+ Family Connections Center is dedicated to providing CoC approved tools and training to support participating service providers and partners throughout the state, with CoC monitoring in place, to help ensure LGBTQ+IA and Gender Non-Conforming youth are afforded equal access to services, in a non-discriminatory environment.

To better serve youth experiencing homelessness and at risk in South Dakota considerable investment of targeted funding and technical assistance also needs to be made. Investment in the development of the capacity of organizations to administer federal and state funds with targeted technical assistance designed to develop organizational capacity is needed. Available affordable housing inventory has been at the critical stage in tribal areas of the state likely since the inception of the reservation system, and housing inventory shortages are also currently evident in many other areas. Affordable housing inventory across the state can be very difficult to locate, and there appears to be a large shortage of affordable housing, and Public Housing Authorities are currently reporting Section 8 vouchers are going unused in several communities, including Rapid City and Sioux Falls, due to an inability of the voucher holders to locate suitable units to rent. A shortage of affordable housing in the statewide CoC very likely increases youth homelessness. According to the National Low-Income Housing Coalition, for every 100 renter households considered extremely low income in South Dakota, there are only 49 affordable homes.

The capacity of organizations to serve youth in general, in rural areas, and tribal communities need to be more fully developed and this is particularly true for organizations serving the most physically remote populations. The administration of federal grants, including fiscal management and reporting can be a daunting task for organizations to undertake. The requirements of grant reporting, fiscal needs, regular use and need of technology including internet and computers, are all major challenges in serving youth in the most rural areas. Native Run organizations are generally more trusted and better equipped to provide culturally appropriate processes along with services offered to Native American YYAs experiencing homelessness and at risk.

It is not difficult to identify unmet needs of YYAs experiencing homelessness and at risk in a statewide CoC that has had very limited funding based upon a large and diverse rural geography to serve, with areas of extreme generational poverty, and with very few resources and agencies currently available to offer YYAs in need housing and related assistance. Surveys and interviews with at risk YYAs demonstrated that most youth are not aware of services that are available to them, or how they may access these services. In addition, it is very likely that there are little to no services available to YYAs in the communities where they are living. It is important to acknowledge the many times that the need for transportation assistance and options were voiced by the YAB members, as a critical part of any plans to address YYA homelessness. South Dakota

has attempted to use a combination of YAB knowledge, experience, insights (both qualitative and quantitative data), lessons learned, and an eye towards equity and inclusion to create the Statement of Need.

LIST OF PARTNERS AND A DESCRIPTION OF THEIR INVOLVEMENT:

The listed partners below have been involved throughout the planning process and are committed to implementing the action steps identified in the South Dakota coordinated community plan to achieve the goal of ending youth homelessness in our state. The YAB held a vital role in identifying goals, actions steps, gathering ideas, providing input, and making decisions on the coordinated plan. The YAB met three times a month plus the weekly TA calls to create a coordinated community plan that would benefit the homeless and at-risk youth in South Dakota.

PARTNER AGENCY/AFFILIATION	PARTNER'S NAME	INVOLVEMENT
Youth Action Board (YAB)	Taytum, Caroline, Jaxsyn, Dessa, Keeley, Alex, Jana, Hannah, Michael, Adriana, Perci, Trevin	YAB members, Participates in YAB meetings, participates in YHDP TA,
Rapid City Public Schools	Kristin Kiner	Participates in YAB meeting organization and support, participates in YHDP TA, Partner stakeholder for K-12 education, Coordinated Community Plan Team
Volunteers of America Northern Rockies, Director	Tara Wilcox	Participates in YAB meeting organization and support, participates in YHDP TA, provides advice/input, partner of housing services, ESG Grantee Representative
Black Hills Regional Homeless Coalition, Administrator	Christina Bodner	Participates in YAB meeting organization and support, participates in YHDP TA, YAB stipend administration, Coordinated Community Plan Team
South Dakota 500-CoC – SD Housing for the Homeless Consortium	Davis Schofield	CoC Lead/Administrator, YHDP Lead, Coordinated Community Plan Team
South Dakota Coordinated Entry System	Stephanie Marshal	Coordinated Entry System Administrator, Coordinated Community Plan Team
City of Rapid City	Lila Mehlhaff	Rapid City Human Services Coordinator, Mayor's Office
South Dakota Housing Development authority	Chas Olson	Director Rental Housing Development, Coordinated Community Plan Team

Maggie's House	Pauletta Red Willow	CoC Governing Board, CoC Native American Committee, Transitional housing provider, Human Trafficking Advocate
Lutheran Social Services South Dakota, Independent Living	Shirley Conrad, Roslyn Stevenson	Participates in YAB meeting organization and support, participates in YHDP TA, Coordinated Community Plan Team
LGBTQ+ Family Connections Center	Joseph Barb	Participates in YAB meeting organization and support, participates in YHDP TA, YAB food donation, Coordinated Community Plan Team
SD-CoC Policy and Advisory Committee (Governing Board), Former Public Housing Executive	Sherry Scudder	CoC Governing Board Representation, CoC Youth Committee
Lutheran Social Services South Dakota, RHY Street Outreach	Sherry Brodrick	Street Outreach Case Manager
Lutheran Social Services South Dakota, Senior Director, Children and Youth Services	Staci Jonson	Coordinated Community Plan Team, Participates in YAB meetings
Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Health Board-Connecting With Our Youth Program, Program Manager	Trivia Craddock	Coordinated Community Plan Team, Participates in YAB meetings
Rapid City Police Department Youth Outreach Team, Youth & Family Navigator	BayLee Dansby	Coordinated Community Plan Team, Participates in YAB meetings
SD-CoC Policy and Advisory Committee (Governing Board)	Alexandra Miller	CoC Governing Board Representation, Chair
CoC Governing Board Representation	Jamie Kirsch	CoC Governing Board Representation
SD-CoC Policy and Advisory Committee (Governing Board)	Anita Deranleau	CoC Governing Board Representation
South Dakota Housing Development Authority	Denise Albertson	ESG Administrator & HMIS Administrator
South Dakota Department of Social Services – Child Protection Services, Program Specialist	Eric Grover	Coordinated Community Plan Team, CoC Youth Committee

GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTION STEPS

We have adopted the current United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) criteria to end youth homelessness for our goals and objectives and in developing action steps to achieve them. Consistent with the USICH criteria, we incorporated Positive Youth Development and Trauma Informed Care in all aspects of our youth crisis system, focusing on youths' strengths and personal goals while providing services that are appropriate for youth who have experienced trauma, emphasizing youth choice throughout our system and providing individualized, client-driven supports.

YAB Members - "Walk through the process with youth mentors. Youth can be there to support other youth in this process."

"Having a LGBTQ+ youth mentor humanizes the experience for LGBTQ+ clients. It makes all the difference when you connect with people who do understand."

Goal 1: The Community Identifies All Unaccompanied Youth Experiencing Homelessness

Youth who are experiencing homelessness or housing instability are less visible than our adult homeless population and often avoid traditional homeless service programs such as adult shelters. Therefore, it's imperative that we practice youth-specific outreach and in-reach strategies to ensure we are identifying and engaging youth in need of services. Providing young people at risk of or facing homelessness with a welcoming and safe place to drop in with wrap-around services and resources to assist in overcoming obstacles and gain community is a way to engage in outreach and conversation.

Social and Emotional Well Being Objective 1.1: Increase youth to peer mentorship opportunities.

Action Step 1.1.1 Develop peer led social groups within housing and service programs that connects youths to others.

Action Step 1.1.2 Support tribal youth in connecting with peers and engaging in cultural practices that build community and sense of belonging.

Partners Responsible: YAB, Kristin Kiner, Christina Bodner, Staci Johnson, Joseph Barb, BayLee Dansby

Time Frame: 10/01/2022

HUD Key Principles: Equity, Youth Choice, Coordinated Entry, Trauma Informed Care, Family Engagement, Community Integration, Positive Youth Development

YAB Member; "It's important because it means I'm not alone. I don't have to be alone. A place I know I can turn to without feeling judged." "It's helpful knowing there's a place I belong and that's safe. Knowing we can go to be away from the world but still be able to find services if we need it."

Social/Emotional Well Being & Education/Employment Objective 1.2: Develop a drop-in community center with a variety of wrap-around services & resources.

Action Step 1.2.1 Obtain a location for a drop-in center with YHDP grant funding

Action Step 1.2.2 Collaborate with education/employment agencies to bring computers, job skill/interview training, GED services to support youth at the drop-in center

Action Step 1.2.3 Provide adequate staff to work the extended weekday and weekend hours, and provide youth with ongoing services for self-care, and social and recreational options with peers, and create opportunities for youth to meaningfully engage with their community including peer mentorship.

<p>Action step 1.2.4: Provide YAB with ongoing training on leadership, meeting facilitation, and community concepts and empower YAB to set goals for the future.</p> <p>Action Step 1.2.5: Further develop partnerships with school district and local universities and vocational schools to increase high school and advanced educational graduation rates.</p> <p>Action Step 1.2.6: Further develop partnership with Dept. of Labor to increase awareness in trade certificate programs, WIOA youth work programs, and develop employer based partnerships.</p>
<p>Partners Responsible: YAB, Staci Johnson, Tara Wilcox, Kristin Kiner, Lila Mehlhaff, Davis Schofield, Chas Olson, Dept. Labor Staff, Anita Duranleau, Kristin Kiner</p> <p>Time Frame: 10/01/2022</p> <p>HUD Key Principles: Equity, Youth Choice, Trauma Informed Care, Family Engagement, Community Integration, Positive Youth Development</p>

YAB Member: "Youth navigators could work on awareness campaigns and from focus work groups."

<p>Coordinated Entry Objective 1.3: Develop and implement marketing strategy to ensure youth are aware of coordinated entry system and increase youth access to CE.</p>
<p>Action Step 1.3.1 Develop a youth driven, youth focused publicity campaign around how to access services.</p> <p>Action Step 1.3.2 Support street outreach efforts with direct connection to coordinated entry.</p>
<p>Partners Responsible: Sherry Broderick, Stephanie Marshal, Shirley Conrad, Roslyn Stevenson</p> <p>Time Frame: 10/01/2022</p> <p>HUD Key Principles: Equity, Youth Choice, Trauma Informed, Community Integration, Positive Youth Development</p>

YAB Member: "We need to make sure it's a culturally sensitive place. Both indigenous people of color and LGBTQ. Marketing should be affirming. It needs to be clear and upfront."

<p>Objective 1.4: Improve Identification and referral of youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness to available resources.</p>
<p>Action Step 1.4.1: Develop a question list to help partners to screen youth at risk and experiencing homelessness and procedures for partners to assist youth access to coordinated entry.</p>
<p>Partners Responsible: Sherry Broderick, Stephanie Marshal, Roslyn Stevenson, Christina Bodner</p> <p>Time Frame: 10/01/2022</p> <p>HUD Key Principles: Equity, Youth Choice, Trauma Informed Care, Family Engagement, Community Integration, Positive Youth Development</p>

Goal 2: Use Shelter Diversion Strategies Whenever Possible and Provide Immediate Access to Low-Barrier Shelter to any Youth who Needs and Wants it

We plan to use a portion of the YHDP funding to provide Youth Navigators and financial assistance (i.e. security deposits, rental arrears, bus tickets home, etc.) to youth and young adults who could be diverted from the system with one-time financial help. If diversion is not possible, the household is placed into shelter or crisis transitional housing immediately. Youth Navigators, and crisis housing staff should encourage reunification with family as an option when youth and young adults are interested, and it is safe and appropriate.

YAB Member: “The emotional aspect of the diversion process should be youth-driven and the services piece should be adult led. If youth are to lead the diversion process as a mentor they need to be properly trained.”

Objective 2.1: Create Prevention and Diversion Strategies
<p>Action Step 2.1.1 Prioritize YHDP project funding that provide Youth Shelter Diversion & CES Youth Navigation</p> <p>Action Step 2.1.2 Provide Training to case managers and intake staff to explore diversion opportunities. Training should include Positive Youth Development (PYD), Trauma-Informed Care (TIC), and family engagement services. Staff should be trained in cultural awareness.</p>
<p>Partners Responsible: YAB, Stephanie Marshal, Christina Bodner, Davis Schofield, Tara Wilcox, Staci Johnson</p> <p>Time Frame: 10/01/2022</p> <p>HUD Key Principles: Equity, Youth Choice, Coordinated Entry, Trauma Informed Care, Family Engagement, Community Integration, Positive Youth Development</p>

YAB Member- “With proper training the youth should lead diversion conversations. Youth connect with other youth better than adults.”

YAB Member: “With proper training the youth should lead diversion conversations. Youth connect with other youth better than adults.”

Objective 2.2: Provide integrated services that serve youth and families before homelessness occurs, and prevent recurrences of homelessness.
<p>Action Step 2.2.1: Incorporate rapid resolution/diversion efforts</p> <p>Action Step 2.2.2: Boost availability and accessibility to parenting supports</p> <p>Action Step 2.2.3: All youth will design transportations plans to meet their individual needs.</p>
<p>Partners Responsible: YAB, Stephanie Marshal, SD Dept. Labor Staff, Lila Mehlhaff, Eric Grover</p> <p>Time Frame: 10/01/2022</p> <p>HUD Key Principles: Equity, Youth Choice, Coordinated Entry, Trauma Informed Care, Family Engagement, Community Integration, Positive Youth Development</p>

Goal 3: Use Coordinated Entry Processes to Link all Youth Experiencing Homelessness to Housing and Services that are Tailored to Their Needs:

Work with partners to create simplified/accelerated access to mainstream systems for at-risk youth or youth experiencing homelessness. Work with partners to expedite admissions review and intakes for youth experiencing homelessness with relevant agencies. Expand Coordinated Entry System (CES) access points to better serve youth. When a young adult utilizes coordinated entry and is experiencing a housing crisis, CES Youth Navigators should work with the individual to help identify any resources that might be able to resolve their crisis immediately. They also assess if there are any safety concerns, such as suicidal thoughts, trafficking, or domestic violence, and will respond accordingly with a call for emergency assistance or warm handoff to appropriate service providers. CES Navigators aim to divert the young adult from shelter by accessing other housing solutions. If diversion is not possible, the household is placed into shelter immediately. Youth navigators and other providers should assist young adults with securing safe shelter, following through on referrals, navigating the system, and eliminating barriers to housing. The most vulnerable, highest need young adults are prioritized for housing services based on their assessment scores and case conferencing.

YAB Member: “Educating youth on the assessment and what it’s used for is important. Being open and transparent is best.”

Coordinated Entry Objective 3.1: Work to assure CES processes meet the needs of youth.
Action Step 3.1.1 Review TAY-Vi-SPDAT and consider alternative assessment tools and options. Action Step 3.1.2 Review prioritization and referral criteria for youth with and consider high vulnerabilities Action Step 3.1.3 Establish youth case conferencing procedures
Partners Responsible: Stephanie Marshal, Denise Albertson, Davis Scofield, Christina Bodner, YAB, Alex Miller, Jamie Kirsch Time Frame: HUD Key Principles: Equity, Housing First, Youth Choice, Coordinated Entry

Coordinated Entry Objective 3.2: Develop processes, policies, and procedures for allocating youth diversion and rapid exit funds.
Action Step 3.2.1: Ensure assessment processes gather needed information to identify needs and regarding connections to supportive adults and family. Action Step 3.2.2 Provide trainings for coordinated entry system on Trauma Informed Care (TIC) and Positive Youth Development (PYD)
Partners Responsible: Stephanie Marshal, Denise Albertson, Davis Scofield, Christina Bodner, YAB, Chas Olson Time Frame: 10/01/2022 HUD Key Principles: Equity, Housing First, Youth Choice, Coordinated Entry

Goal 4: Swiftly Assist Youth to Move into Permanent or Non-Time-Limited Housing Options with Appropriate Services and Supports.

We plan to create new Rapid Re-Housing and Joint Transitional Housing – Rapid Rehousing Projects utilizing the Principles of Housing First, ensuring no- or low- barrier access to housing resources. Ensuring safety and confidentiality for special populations is also a priority. Collaborate

with YAB to develop an individualized Rapid Re-housing approach that works for South Dakota’s rural and urban youth with high vulnerabilities. For the YHDP funded programs and other state funded homeless programs for youth, we will require providers to adhere to HUD’s four core principles of Housing First for youth: 1) Immediate access to permanent housing with no preconditions, 2) Youth choice and self-determination, 3) Individualized and youth-driven supports and 4) Persistent engagement.

YAB Members- “The youth housing project is important to me because it means I’m not alone and there is someone I can turn to that can help me with housing anytime I need it.”

“It’s always good to have the services available if a youth wants them.”

“Leaving case management up to youth choice is a better option.”

Stable Housing Objective 4.1: Increase the number of Rapid Rehousing (RRH) units and expand existing services and rental assistance specifically for youth. Young Adult Flexible Rapid Rehousing.

Action Step 4.1.1 Prioritize YHDP project funding to increase RRH units.
 Action Step 4.1.2: Work with youth to define culturally appropriate RRH models, and the comprehensive services to be offered as voluntary services.

Partners Responsible: YAB, CoC, Chas Olson, Sherry Scudder
 Time Frame: 10/01/2022

HUD Key Principles: Equity, Housing First, Youth Choice, Coordinated Entry

YAB Member- “It’s about the self-determination and having better access that is youth focused to better serve. The option for case management and youth choice is great.”

Stable Housing Objective 4.2 Create short-term crisis transitional housing. Short-term Crisis Housing – Transitional Housing Program

Action Step 4.2.1 Prioritize YHDP funding for youth-specific crisis housing options.
 Action Step 4.2.2 Leverage existing resources to expand opportunities to provide crisis housing.
 Action Step 4.2.3 Provide, diversion, mentoring options, education, employment options, transportation, access to healthcare to help resolve the immediate crisis.

Partners Responsible: YAB, Davis Schofield, Tara Wilcox, Staci Johnson, Lila Mehlhoff, Christina Bodner
 Timeframe: 10/01/2022

HUD Key Principles: Housing First, Youth Choice, Coordinated Entry

YAB Member- “Seeing a waiting list when you really need help is intimidating and makes me want to turn away.”
 “The longer you wait, the worse the situation can get.”

Stable Housing Objective 4.3: Develop suitable housing stock for youth that is available in the diverse mostly rural communities of South Dakota.

Action Step 4.3.1 Work with YAB, South Dakota Housing development Authority, Tribal Housing Authorities, and community partners to evaluate and respond to the distinct housing needs of rural areas, tribal areas, and urban areas in South Dakota.

Action Step 4.3.2 Work with YAB and community partners to evaluate and respond to the distinct housing needs of rural areas, tribal areas, and urban areas in South Dakota.

Partners Responsible: Chas Olson, YAB, Sherry Scudder

Time Frame: 10/01/2022

HUD Key Principles: Equity, Housing First, Youth Choice, Coordinated Entry

Goal 5: The Community has Resources, Plans, and System Capacity in Place to Continue to Prevent and Quickly end Future Experiences of Homelessness Among Youth

Using findings from our system mapping projects, data review, YAB interviews, youth surveys, and other planning efforts we are targeting our YHDP funding to the interventions we believe will have the most effective impact in reducing YYA homelessness. We strive to build upon existing resources to create a range of services and housing options that will meet the needs of all youth. We are using data to predict the evolving housing needs of youth, creating additional service/housing capacity, opening access to existing units, and ensuring programs are youth-friendly and providing developmentally appropriate services for young adults. The CoC's Youth Committee will continue to track system performance and resources to identify evolving gaps in services and housing interventions. We are ramping up efforts to further collaborate with state systems, such as child welfare, which are already partners, to prevent homelessness for youth exiting their system. Frequent review of data and performance measures is the backbone to achieving and sustaining an effective end to youth homelessness. We are working to enhance our current data reporting for youth and incorporate ongoing quality improvement processes into our work to ensure we have the adequate resources and strategies to achieve our goals.

YAB Member: "I would feel more safe talking to another youth. I wouldn't feel as judged. Having a place where cultural connections can be made will make indigenous youth feel at home. When you connect to your culture and ancestors you learn that you are never truly alone. It makes you feel like you are not alone when dealing with your intergenerational trauma."

Social and Emotional Well Being Objective 5.1: Increase the role of community partners in improving the social and emotional well-being of youth at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

Action Step 5.1.1 Identify key community partners such as the community mental health provider, faith-based organizations, Native American organizations, Tribal Governments, and local businesses and invite their direct involvement to support youth homelessness efforts.

Partners Responsible: YAB, SD-CoC Native American Committee, SD-CoC Youth Committee, Christina Bodner, Pauletta Red Willow, Trivia Craddock

Time Frame: 10/01/2022

HUD Key Principles: Equity, Youth Choice, Coordinated Entry, Trauma Informed Care, Family Engagement, Community Integration, Positive Youth Development

ELIGIBLE POPULATIONS YHDP

Category 1: Literal Homelessness

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

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

Category 2: Imminent Risk of Homelessness

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

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

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

Category 3: Homeless under other Federal Statutes

Youth, including pregnant and parenting youth, who do not qualify as homeless under the other 3 Categories but meet ALL of the below criteria:

- Are homeless under other federal statutes including the Runaway & Homeless Youth Act (see “Other Federal Definitions of Homeless” section for further guidance);
- Have not had their own place with a lease, ownership interest or occupancy agreement in the last 60 days;
- Have moved two or more times in the last 60 days;
AND
- Can be expected to have continued housing instability because of a disability, substance use addiction, history of domestic violence or child abuse, or two or more barriers to employment.

Category 4: Fleeing Violence

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

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

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

INTEGRATING POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT (PYD), TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE (TIC), AND SOCIAL INTEGRATION/PERMANENT CONNECTIONS

Integrating Positive Youth Development (PYD), Trauma-Informed Care (TIC), and Social Integration/Permanent Connections into South Dakota's youth and young adult systems to end homelessness is an important goal. In each part of our system, from entry to exit, we will include components of trauma-informed care, positive youth development, and social integration/permanent connections. Each of these practices will also be emphasized in the YHDP RFP. Selected awardees will be required to present their plans for continuous quality improvement that would include how youth and young adults will be part of program design and an integral part of how CQI occurs. Below are the systems-level, front-door, and program elements that will be included to assure PYD, TIC, and Social Integration/Permanent Connections will be fostered throughout our community plan.

Positive Youth Development is grounded in empowering youth to believe in themselves and their capacity to have a meaningful impact in their communities and relationships. The approach focuses on educating and engaging young people in taking initiative, problem-solving, and demonstrating compassion within productive activities rather than highlighting any maladaptive coping mechanisms, negative behaviors, or pathologies. Programs that incorporate PYD, work to develop youths' confidence, character, connections, competence and caring, leading to youth contributions. In the spectrum of programs and services, the emphasis should be placed on helping youth develop and grow. Closely related is the concept of social integration, or the process by which youth experiencing a housing crisis or homelessness are incorporated into social structures such as their community, jobs, and relationships. Developing prosocial supports for youth experiencing homelessness can provide protective factors to help reduce problem behaviors, improve mental health, increase links to employment, housing and services, and build healthy coping mechanisms.

For youth entering the homeless response system, youth-specific South Dakota Coordinated Entry Staff and other providers strive to identify early, and build upon, existing prosocial support networks. Each youth exiting our housing programs should have permanent connections, stable, positive relationships with family, friends, and others who will be there for the youth when needed. In addition, every aspect within the service system should reflect a deep understanding of trauma and how a youth's exposure to traumatic stress can influence their cognitive, biological, and emotional functioning as well as impact their relationships and identity development.

Service delivery should be shaped to recognize and appreciate each youth's resiliency and strengths, while understanding that change might be difficult and not always follow an upward trajectory. Below is an outline of the plan to integrate these elements into the components of our community system to end youth homelessness. It is also important to note our intention to integrate these concepts within each activity and to partner with each youth as a unique individual. Programming should be driven by the needs of the youth and not the system, agencies, or organizations. YAB members report that crisis housing and other interventions should have

provisions for ensuring the projects and activities are LGBTQ aware and not restrictive and that real efforts and options need be made for housing choices that are pet-friendly.

To be eligible for South Dakota YHDP Coordinated Community Plan funding agencies must agree to these Guiding Principles:

1. Respect and support young people in identifying their own goals. Be open minded, respectful, and value youth voices.
2. Collaborate, work in concert with, and actively engage with all the coordinated entry system processes including but not limited to; case conferencing, referral processes, and attending and participating in trainings. 3.) Support youth choice in where they live, the housing setting in which they choose, and the geographic locations that youth choose. 4.) Provide voluntary services with the ability to opt-out of programing or services and that does not preclude youth from accessing housing or services. 5.) Establish low barrier access to services and housing processes and commit to Housing First Principles. 6.) Acknowledge historical trauma and support youth where they choose. 7.) Directly engage with existing community partners to ensure that services and supports available are engaged based upon youth choice. 8.) Involve the lived experience of youth in program design. 9.) Commit to maintaining high quality data and data reporting, obtaining qualitative data from youth participant focus groups, and participate in Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) activities. 10.) Aid youth in transportation options. The YAB has identified transportation related needs as a critical gap in current services.

LIST OF NEW PROJECTS:

Youth Drop-in Center, Out Reach & Services Project

Shelter Diversion, Rapid Exit, Out Reach, & Youth Navigation Services

(Support Services Only)

Estimated Total Funding Amount: \$600,000

Youth Drop-in Center & Services Array Project, Location Served; Rapid City, Funding Amount: \$500,000

The targeted population for the diversion, and rapid exit components of the project are unaccompanied 18–24 year-old individuals experiencing literal homelessness, imminent homelessness, at risk of homelessness, or fleeing domestic violence (HUD Homeless Categories 1, 2, 3, and 4). We anticipate serving approximately 70 - 80 youth with this portion of the project funding. The Shelter Diversion project funding will be used by youth-specific staff and CES Youth Navigators to support the housing options identified through the diversion conversations. Diversion will be used to connect unaccompanied youth with safe and supportive housing. The model will build upon existing support networks to support creative problem solving through promoting supports for emotional and social well-being. Model will utilize mentoring options for minimizing entry into the homeless response system. Dedicated diversion funding would be used to provide limited financial assistance, such as utility deposits, moving costs, transportation assistance, family reunification services, food, among other expenses. This will be an important coordinated entry access point. Through the YHDP project funding, we will create a flexible diversion fund that is centrally administered administrated via Coordinated Entry. The funding will be disbursed through our established coordinated entry system, which means youth-specific staff

and Youth Navigators will make funding decisions on a regional level. All staff will be required to participate in youth diversion training to gain access to the fund. This YHDP diversion project funding, in conjunction with YHDP funded HMIS upgrades and Youth Navigators, will assist in creating a more formalized diversion program for young adults. This program will include financial assistance for youth, more accurate tracking of need and performance outcomes, and a uniformed structure that provides increased quality assurance. Navigators will allow us to provide a single point of contact for youth to aid with navigating complex systems in addition to their own housing and other needs (health care, SNAP, Medicaid, work force programs, educational programs, etc.). Navigators will be integral for supporting community partners to meet the needs of youth who may not be present in the existing services programming. Project needs to have plans to assist with transportation needs of youth.

The targeted population for the Drop-in Center portion of the project is 16-24 year old individuals experiencing literal homelessness, imminent risk of homelessness, fleeing domestic violence, at risk of homelessness (HUD Homeless Categories 1, 2, 3, and 4). We anticipate serving approximately 80-100 youth via this portion of the project. This would be an important access point for coordinated entry and includes toilets, showers, laundry facilities, food, and food vouchers, telephone, access to internet & technology, job search and training assistance, warm referrals to community resources, healthcare, education opportunities, trauma informed staff, and Youth Navigator services. The Youth Action Board describes a youth homeless response system that is more personalized and caring, with in-person assistance from consistent staff who are available, relatable, knowledgeable, responsive, properly trained, non-judgmental, and supportive. A safe, consistent, place and space that is not just available during the Monday to Friday week but on weekends and holidays too. There needs to be plans to assist with transportation needs of youth. This is place that could provide dedicated space for the YAB including assisting issues with technology.

Statewide Coordinated Entry System (Coordinated Entry Support Services Only) Estimated Funding Amount: \$100,000

All youths accessing housing and services will be assessed, prioritized, and referred via the coordinated entry system. We anticipate there will be considerable costs associated with development of the coordinated entry system, training, and ongoing management and administration of CE processes.

Crisis Transitional Housing (TH) - Young Adult Flexible Rapid Rehousing (PH-RRH) TH-RRH Project

Estimated Funding Amount: \$1,429,000
Location Served: Rapid City, CES Region 1

The targeted population for this (TH-RRH) project is unaccompanied young adults 18-24 years old who are literally homeless or fleeing domestic violence. We anticipate serving approximately 70 - 80 youth over a two-year period. Consistent with a Housing First approach that enables youth to choose services. Project Staff would proactively offer participants services and persistently attempt to engage youth. These programs will only accept eligible young adults referred through the Coordinated Entry System (CES) prioritization process, serving the most vulnerable youth first, through a progressive engagement approach. Housing Navigators will assist youth with searching for an apartment based on where they wish to live and negotiating with landlords to

obtain scattered-site, private-market units with lease in their own name. Program staff will build relationships with landlords to provide options to youth with high barriers and to mitigate issues before they escalate. Shared apartments will be available, subject to youth choice with case managers providing services to help prevent or mediate roommate conflicts. Programs will provide move-in and flexible rental financial assistance. Sufficient case management capacity, more intensive than older adult programs, is necessary, with an ideal ratio of no more than 1:10. Case managers will provide more intensive services for the first three months while youth stabilize but, will be based on youth choice and need. Program staff will employ positive youth development, trauma-informed, and harm reduction practices to serve youth participants, believing that every youth can succeed utilizing their own strengths. Services and connections to mainstream resources will be tailored to individualized needs. Projects need to have plans to assist with transportation needs of youth.

Based on their experiences, the YAB members advocated to utilize a portion of the YHDP funding for crisis housing specifically targeted to unaccompanied young adult individuals needing an immediate safe place to stay. The crisis housing will utilize low- or no-barriers to admission and a harm reduction and positive youth development model. There will be meaningful collaboration with youth on the physical design, ongoing programming, and crisis housing rules. YAB were most concerned about crisis housing that is safe; offers privacy, bathrooms, cooking, and sleeping areas; has sufficient storage capacity for personal belongings; and if applicable has staff who are respectful, relatable, well trained, and knowledgeable. Adequate staffing ratios and screening for safe behaviors will ensure all youth feel a sense of security. Staff will be trained on cultural competency, fair housing laws, trauma-informed care, among other key practices to ensure youth participants are treated in a non-judgmental, supportive way. The RFP will be open to a range of other crisis housing options: congregate or non-congregate crisis transitional housing, shared apartments, multi-bedroom homes, motel vouchers, among other inventive options. Case management will assist youth with meeting basic needs as well as provide individually tailored guidance and support to youth as they focus on quickly obtaining permanent housing. Opportunities for family connections and linkages to community resources will be provided. Providers with experience serving this population and administering housing programs, as well as the capacity to administer a federal grant program, among other factors, will be competitively selected based on their application score. Project staff will employ positive youth development, trauma-informed, and harm reduction practices to serve youth participants, believing that every youth can succeed utilizing their own strengths. Projects need to have plans to assist with transportation needs of youth.

[Young Adult Transitional Housing \(TH\) – Rapid Rehousing \(RRH\) TH-RRH Project](#)

Estimated Funding Amount: \$645,000

Location Served: Sioux Falls, & CES Regions 2, 3, & 4

The targeted population for this program is unaccompanied young adult individuals 18-24 years old who are literally homeless or fleeing domestic violence. We anticipate the YHDP funding will enable us to serve approximately 30-40 youth over the two-year period. The program will provide youth in immediate crisis access to short-term, low barrier, safe crisis housing. Youth will be offered navigation services to connect youth with support services and an expedited path to permanent housing via RRH. Youth will be offered both crisis housing and rapid rehousing assistance. Participants will be provided up to 24 months of assistance across both TH and RRH. This model will allow us to better partner with addiction and mental health providers and will incorporate harm reduction and housing first policies. Project staff will employ positive youth development, trauma-informed, and harm reduction practices to serve youth participants,

believing that every youth can succeed utilizing their own strengths. Projects need to have plans to assist with transportation needs of youth.

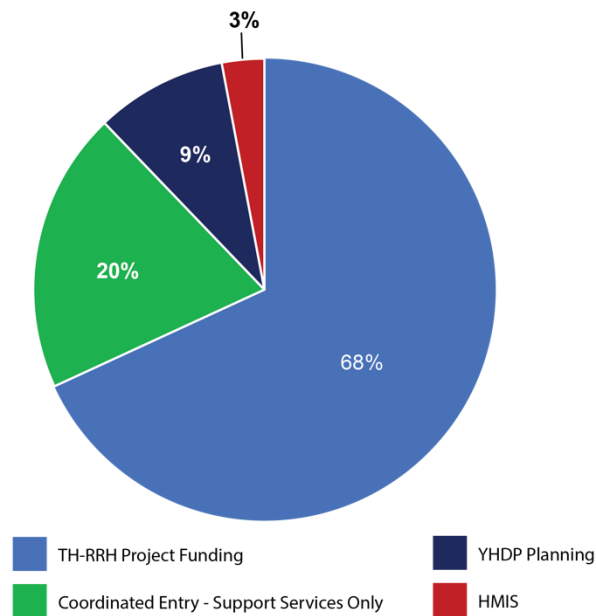
Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

Estimated Funding Amount: \$90,310

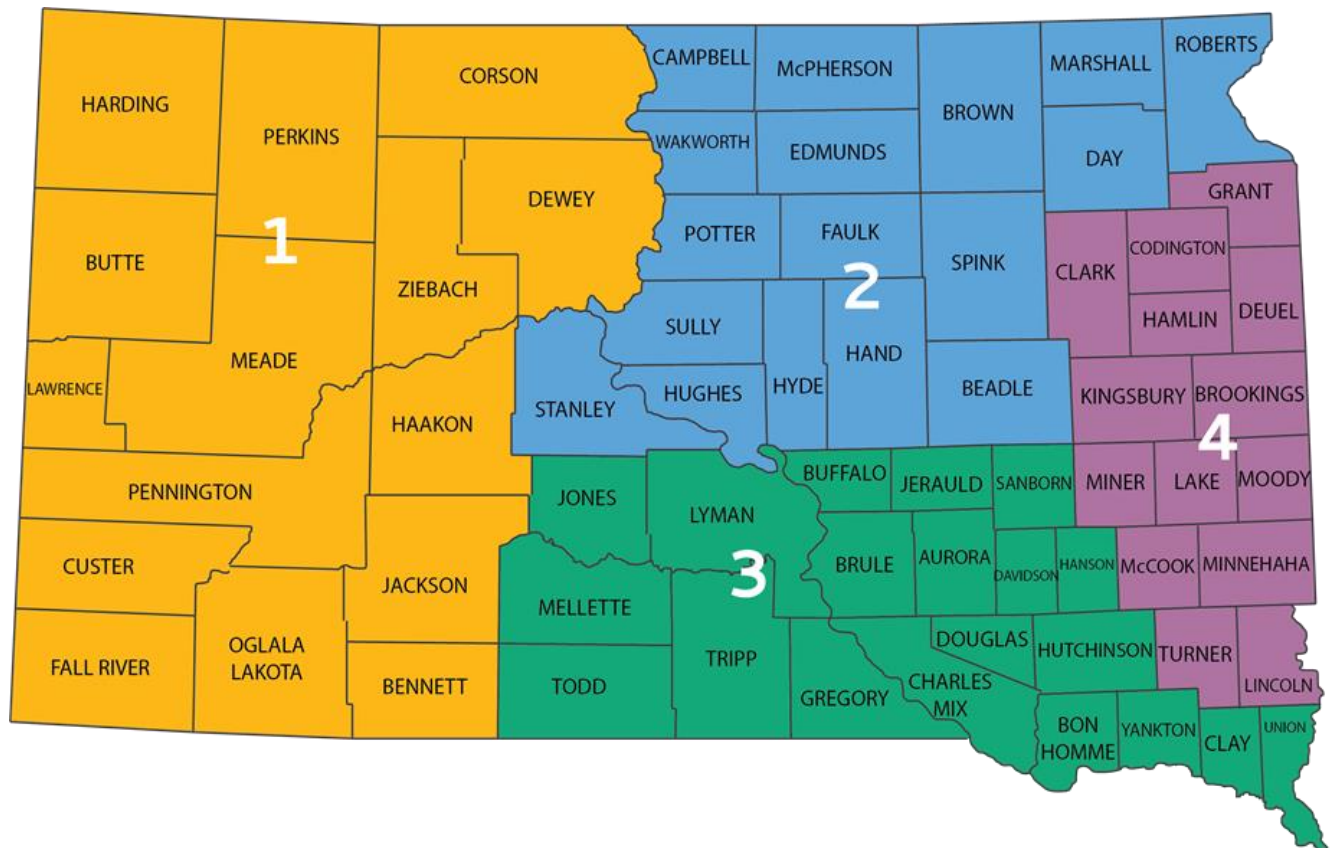
All funded YHDP Projects will utilize HMIS for data management and reporting. We anticipate there will be considerable costs associated with development of the HMIS including HMIS build out, training for project staff, data quality assurances, increased data storage needs, and the ongoing management and administration of HMIS processes.

Total YHDP Project Budget	\$2,764,310
YHDP Planning Grant 1 – Awarded	\$140,000
YHDP Planning Grant 2	\$140,000
Total YHDP Allocation	\$3,044,310

YHDP Budget



SD Coordinated Entry Region Map



GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE:

South Dakota Housing for the Homeless Consortium (SDHHC) – SD-500 CoC is the custodian of the YHDP initiative. The YAB works with the CoC in implementing the YHDP initiative. SDHHC is in the process of electing youth to serve on the SD CoC Governing Board.

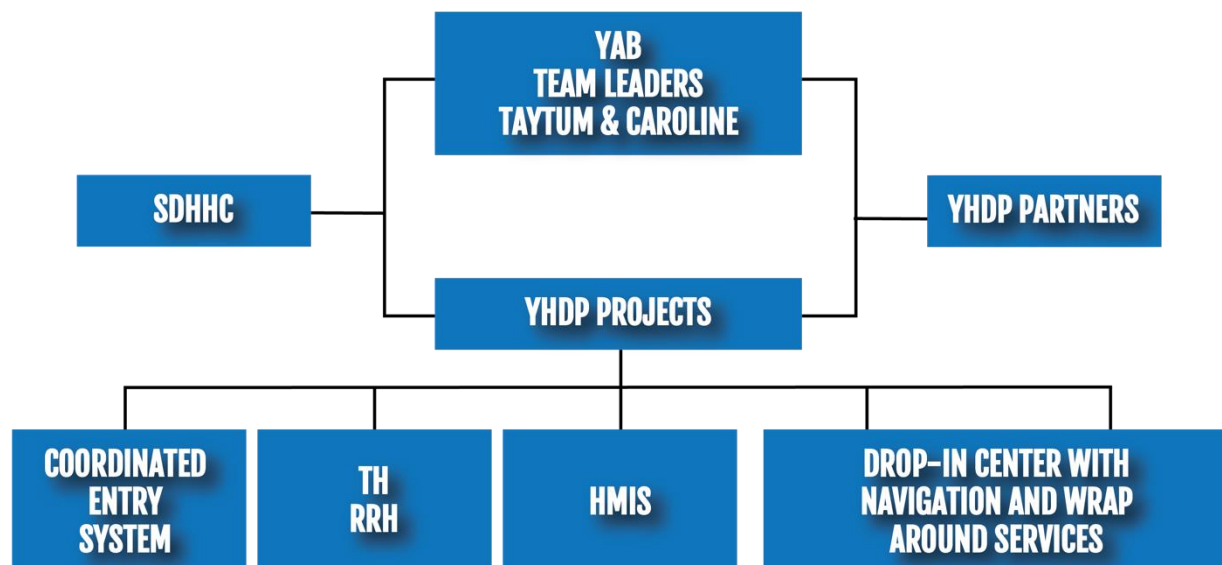
The YAB has developed roles and responsibilities that encompass their shared values and represent their collaboration skills. Some of these values are: be respectful, kind, and constructive, be prepared for each meeting, and share the floor. The youth also developed shared goals for the board: YAB leads will co-facilitate meetings, a member will take meeting minutes, recruit new members to the team, and educate the community and state on youth issues as they pertain to homelessness, housing instability, and food insecurity.

The YAB members adopted a cooperative and consensus governance model where its members make consensual decisions as a group of peers and all members have an equal vote, equal responsibility, and equal liability. Currently, Taytum and Caroline serve as co-leads during YAB meetings. They have taken on the responsibility of co-facilitating the meetings and typing materials needed for the YHDP community plan. When decisions are being made, all YAB members in attendance get a vote. An email and text will be sent out to all YAB members not in attendance with a date to submit a vote.

The process for YHDP Request for Proposals and selection of projects will comprise of at least four YAB members and three CoC/PAC members. There will be a total of seven votes with the

majority vote being with the YAB. Each YAB member may select a YAB mentor to help support them through this process. The YAB mentors do not have voting power in the selection of projects. The CoC Lead will be responsible for releasing YHDP funding opportunity, identifying grant and proposal reviewers, and supporting the use of specific YHDP relevant ranking criteria with the YAB. CoC Lead will serve as mentor but, will not have a vote in the final project selections for YHDP funding.

YHDP ORGANIZATION CHART



CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CQIP)

To ensure compliance with USICH outcomes, HUD key principles, and South Dakota’s vision for ending youth homelessness, we will clarify what youth homelessness will look like in the state because of the South Dakota Coordinated Community Plan. As a result of the interventions described in this plan, we will see youth experiencing homelessness have safe, quick, and reliable access to housing which will in turn lead to less reoccurring homeless experiences. South Dakota’s CQIP will be accomplished in this way; 1.) Leadership Development - YAB members will be supported and mentored to increase the youth voice and participation in all aspects of project design, implementation, and evaluation. 2.) System Analysis – Data will be reviewed at least twice yearly to identify persistent gaps and barriers and consider the relocation of resources to make processes and programming more efficient. 3.) Quantitative data collection – Data from project annual performance reports, HMIS, youth participant surveys, and agency participant surveys will be analyzed quarterly. 4.) Qualitative data collection – Data will be obtained quarterly from youth focus groups made up of youth that have participated in a funded program. This will obtain feedback and provide opportunities for youth to help improve the system. 5.) Data Driven oversight of projects – This will ensure that essential services and timelines are on target. This includes CoC monitoring of projects and funded projects will be required to provide quarterly spending reports to ensure resources are being efficiently used.

YAB Member: “There’s always room for improvement. We need to do a better job of making sure everyone is mentally and emotionally ok at the end of the day.”

SUPPORT LETTERS



LssSD.org

April 5, 2022

Letter of Commitment Implementing South Dakota's YHDP Coordinated Community Plan
Youth Homeless Demonstration Program (YHDP)

On behalf of LSS of South Dakota, a Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) Grantee through the Administration for Children and Family (ACF), Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB), we are pleased to provide a letter of commitment supporting South Dakota's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP) Coordinated Community Plan (CCP) and the goal of ending youth homelessness in South Dakota.

LSS of South Dakota is a ACF/FYSB/RHY Basic Center Program and Street Outreach Program Grantee.

Respectfully,



Amy Witt, CSW-PIP
Vice President, Children & Youth Services

705 East 41st Street, Suite 200, Sioux Falls, SD 57105-6048 | Phone: 605-444-7500 | 800-568-2401 | Fax: 605-444-7540

LICENSED BY THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA – A UNITED WAY AGENCY – ACCREDITED BY THE COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION



CITY OF RAPID CITY
RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA 57701-2724

Office of the Mayor
300 6th Street
605-394-4110
E-mail: mayorsoffice@rcgov.org

Office of the Mayor, The City of Rapid City, South Dakota

Letter of Commitment Implementing South Dakota's YHDP Coordinated Community Plan
Youth Homeless Demonstration Program (YHDP)

On behalf of the city of Rapid City, we are pleased to provide a letter of commitment supporting South Dakota's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP), Coordinated Community Plan (CCP) and the goal of ending youth homelessness in South Dakota.

The city of Rapid City is committed to assist and collaborate with community stakeholders in their efforts to make homelessness in the future both brief and rare; and this includes those young adults that will be helped by this grant and its objectives. As well, I have dedicated a representative from my office who will attend Youth Action Board (YAB) meetings to assist in the work being done to address and prevent youth homelessness.

Only through community partnerships with entities such as those listed above, will we make a lasting impact on homelessness.

Steve Allender
Mayor of Rapid City

Date

South Dakota Department of Social Services (SD DSS), Division of Child Protection Services (CPS)
Letter of Commitment Implementing South Dakota's YHDP Coordinated Community Plan
Youth Homeless Demonstration Program (YHDP)

On behalf of the State of South Dakota's Department of Social Services (DSS), we are pleased to provide a letter of commitment supporting South Dakota's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP) Coordinated Community Plan (CCP) and the goal of ending youth homelessness in South Dakota.

The SD DSS, Division of Child Protective Services (CPS) is the public child welfare agency responsible for the care, custody, and placement of children in foster care and is responsible for the provision of services and support to young adults who have transitioned from foster care to independent living upon reaching the age of 18. CPS will continue to share aggregate data that does not contain identifying information. Data requests will be coordinated with the CPS Independent Living Specialist.



Sara Sheppick, Assistant Division Director
Child Protection Services, SD Department of Social Services
Date 3-15-2022



Pam Bennett, Division Director
Child Protection Services, SD Department of Social Services
Date 3/15/2022




Virgena Wiesler, Chief of Children and Family Services
SD Department of Social Services
Date 3/28/2022

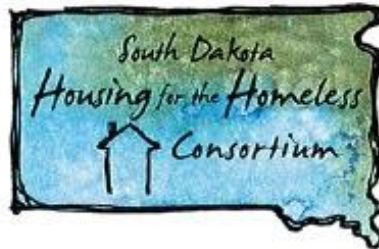
Volunteers of America, Dakotas
Letter of Commitment Implementing South Dakota's YHDP Coordinated Community Plan
Youth Homeless Demonstration Program (YHDP)

On behalf of Volunteers of America, Dakotas, a Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) Grantee, we are pleased to provide a letter of commitment supporting South Dakota's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP) Coordinated Community Plan (CCP) and the goal of ending youth homelessness in South Dakota.

Volunteers of America, Dakotas is a RHY Maternity Group Home Program and Transitional Living Program Grantee.



Chris Sandvig, LAC
Axis 180 Director
Volunteers of America, Dakotas
3201 S. Theodore Ave.
Sioux Falls, SD 57106
Date 4-5-22



SD-500 CoC

South Dakota Housing for the Homeless Consortium

Letter of Commitment Implementing South Dakota's YHDP Coordinated Community Plan

Youth Homeless Demonstration Program (YHDP)

On behalf of the Governing Board of SD-500 CoC – South Dakota Housing for the Homeless Consortium, we are pleased to provide a letter of commitment supporting South Dakota's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) Coordinated Community Plan (CCP) and the goal of ending youth homelessness in South Dakota.

Dan Schofield

Davis Schofield, Continuum of Care Administrator
South Dakota Housing Development Authority
P.O. Box 1237
Pierre, SD 57501
davis@sdhda.org

4-6-2022

Date



SOUTH DAKOTA YOUTH ACTION BOARD

CONTACT

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Caroline	Paige
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Keeley	Macey
Adreyme	Ariana
Chandler	Mia
Chad	Mikeal
Olivia	Haven
Perci	Jada
Julianna	Tanner
Trevin	Ashley
Alicia	Cionna
Aleesia	Grace
Layne	Adriana

Teen UP/RCAS
 Attn: Kristin Kiner
 Rapid City, SD 57702
 Kristin.kiner@k12.sd.us
 605-310-4400

VOA - Rapid City
 Attn - Tara Wilcox
 BH Regional Homeless Coalition
 111 New York St.
 Rapid City, SD 57701

US HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT

HUD - YHDP SELECTION COMMITTEE • 451 7TH ST., S.W. •
 WASHINGTON, DC 20410

4-12-22

Dear US Housing & Urban Development,

As members of the Youth Action Board (YAB), we are excited about the future opportunities and collaborations our board can bring to the Rapid City community and State of South Dakota (SD). The YAB is confident we are bringing much needed change with the development of the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP) Coordinated Community Plan (CCP).

SDHHC has supported our development over the prior year and has demonstrated their commitment to incorporate our youth voices and ideas. On behalf of the SD YAB, we are pleased to provide a letter of commitment supporting the YHDP CCP and the goal of ending youth homelessness in SD.

Sincerely,

South Dakota Youth Action Board



SOUTH DAKOTA YOUTH ACTION BOARD

Signatures of Youth Action Board members present at the 4-12-22 Letter of Support Meeting:

Caroline Busch 21
Printed Name Age

Caroline Busch
YAB member Signature

Kyle Chapman 23
Printed Name Age

Kyle Chapman
YAB member Signature

Adriana Young 16
Printed Name Age

Adriana Young
YAB member Signature

Trevin Hutchinson 15
Printed Name Age

Trevin
YAB member Signature

Ciona Dunlap 16
Printed Name Age

Ciona Dunlap
YAB member Signature

Scott Snyder 16
Printed Name Age

Scott
YAB member Signature

Haven Beau Eagle 18
Printed Name Age

Haven
YAB member Signature

Ashley Eagle Tail 18
Printed Name Age

~~_____~~ Ashley Eagle Tail
YAB member Signature



SOUTH DAKOTA YOUTH ACTION BOARD

Signatures of Youth Action Board members present at the 4-12-22 Letter of Support Meeting:

Jada Robideau 14
Printed Name Age

Jada Robideau
YAB member Signature

Juliana Steidley 15
Printed Name Age

Juliana Steidley
YAB member Signature

Percy Erath 19
Printed Name Age

Support given via virtual meeting
YAB member Signature

Lillian Ashworth 22
Printed Name Age

Support given via virtual meeting
YAB member Signature

Jaxsyn Claymore 18
Printed Name Age

Support given via virtual meeting
YAB member Signature

Wheley Bad Warrior 23
Printed Name Age

Support given via virtual meeting
YAB member Signature

Printed Name Age

YAB member Signature

Printed Name Age

YAB member Signature

Resources

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