

Projects to be developed for YHDP Funding

HOST HOME PILOT

Priority Areas, Project Type, Housing Type

Primary Area: Housing Continuum

Other Areas: Permanent Connections, Employment and Education, Prevention and Diversion

Project Type: Host Homes

Housing Type: Scattered Sites

Program Description/Elements & Service Components

Description: Housing option for youth that includes a homelike alternative to shelter and transitional housing. This pilot program will be designed based on successful models in other areas of the country. Host home families will be recruited, trained, and supported. The pilot will focus specifically on outreaching to LGBTQ+, ethnic minorities, pregnant or parenting youth, and other vulnerable youth preferring a home-based private setting with adult support to group shelter or being on their own in transitional housing. Length of stay and financial support models will be researched through established programs.

Service Components: Integrated, individualized support connected to housing and transition to independent living addresses housing stability, life skills, health, social and emotional wellbeing, education, employment and permanent connections into adulthood. Support includes continuous relationship with a team including case manager and peer housing and service navigator.

Opportunities for Innovation

The Host Home model is a new and innovative intervention for Santa Cruz County. There are some families that currently provide host homes informally. One idea is to seek input from these families to determine what has and hasn't worked and work with these families to serve as our first 'official' host homes (ensuring the same training and support that would be provided to other host home families).

An innovative idea is to develop a housing support and navigation team that includes peer navigators. Each housing project will have its own support/navigation team and each of these teams will come together to form a cohesive YHDP housing support and navigation group that will share responsibilities and resources across projects.

Another innovative idea is to work with Cities and the County to decrease the threshold for building Auxiliary Dwelling Units (ADUs) and provide incentives for individuals that build ADUs to house homeless YYA.

As part of these efforts to expand housing options for youth, a youth landlord outreach and advocacy work group will be formed for YHDP housing projects.

Meeting the Need

- 588 unaccompanied youth and young adults experiencing homelessness in Santa Cruz County (26% of entire homeless population).
- Among unaccompanied youth and young adults, 98% who are under age 18 and 99% of those between the ages of 18-24 are unsheltered.
- The majority of homeless YYA (87% under 18 and 77% ages 18-24) reported that they were living in Santa Cruz at the time they most recently became homeless.
- Santa Cruz County is rated as the second least affordable housing market in the nation.
- Local YAB members have expressed a need for a range of youth-specific flexible housing options, not a “one size fits all” approach.

Interim Outcomes

Housing Outcomes:²⁶

- Decreased length of time between engagement, temporary shelter, and transitional or permanent housing.
- Decreased annual number of YYA returning to homelessness from housing.
- Increased number of YYA reporting that they have a permanent connection with at least one adult for a safe, stable relationship, guidance, and emotional support.

Host Home Outcomes:

- 90% of YYA participants remain in housing during the program.
- 80% of YYA participants exit to independent living situation.

²⁶ Baseline and percentage decreases/increases will be established at the start of project period.

Target Populations

- **Ages:** 18-24
- **Priority Outreach Subpopulations:** LGBTQ+, Ethnic Minorities, Pregnant or Parenting

Number to be served

- **Number to be served annually through HUD YHDP Funding:** 15
- **Number served annually through other sources:** 17
- **Total number served annually:** 32

Number of Projects & Potential Agencies

Number of Projects to be funded by HUD YHDP: 1

Potential Agencies: Will be determined through the Invitation for Innovative Proposals process.

Will be a local social service non profit agency with experience and expertise in providing support and case management to homeless youth and young adults and YYA subpopulations.

Estimated Cost & Waivers

Estimated Cost: \$200,000 over two-year period: Staff; Move in Costs; Family Costs.

Waivers: Waivers may be required for family costs.

TRANSITIONAL AND RAPID RE-HOUSING OPTIONS

Priority Areas, Project Type, Housing Type

Primary Area: Housing Continuum

Other Areas: Permanent Connections, Employment and Education, Prevention and Diversion

Project Type: Transitional Housing Plus and Rapid Rehousing 2.0

Housing Type: Scattered Sites and Shared Housing

Program Description/Elements & Service Components

Description: Transitional Housing Plus (TH Plus) Service rich, fully subsidized, time limited rental housing for a period of time that is based on youth need (up to 24 months without a waiver). Includes both single units (studio apartments) and rooms in shared houses, possibly master leased. TH Plus serves as an option for those YYA who need more time and support regarding tenant requirements such as negotiating and managing their own lease, paying monthly rent and utilities. TH Plus may be linked to Rapid Rehousing and other housing options as needed and appropriate.