

2020 National Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) Grantees Training

RHY/BCP

Creation of a Host Home Model in Western Pennsylvania



TODAY'S AGENDA

- Western CoC of PA strategic plan
- Valley Youth House
- Bridge2Home Host Home Model Program
- Host & Youth Experience
- Q&A



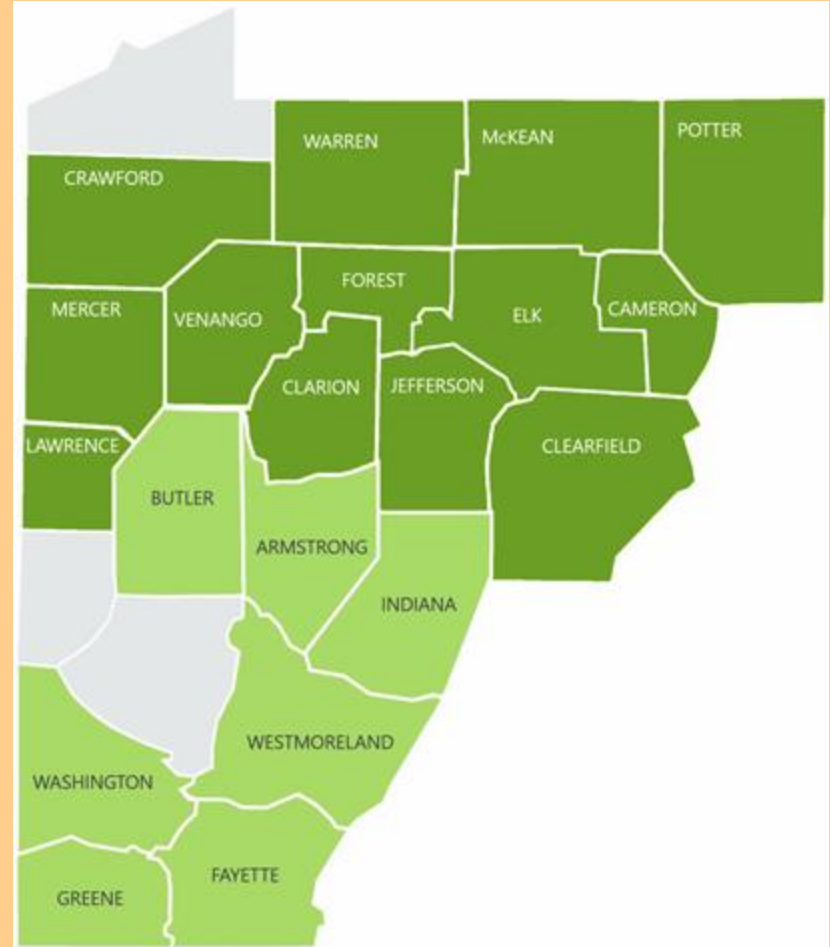
Western PA Continuum of Care Efforts to Reduce Youth Homelessness

Strategic Plan Goals

- 5-year plan 2017-2022
- Reduce youth homelessness by 50%
- Accuracy of numbers?

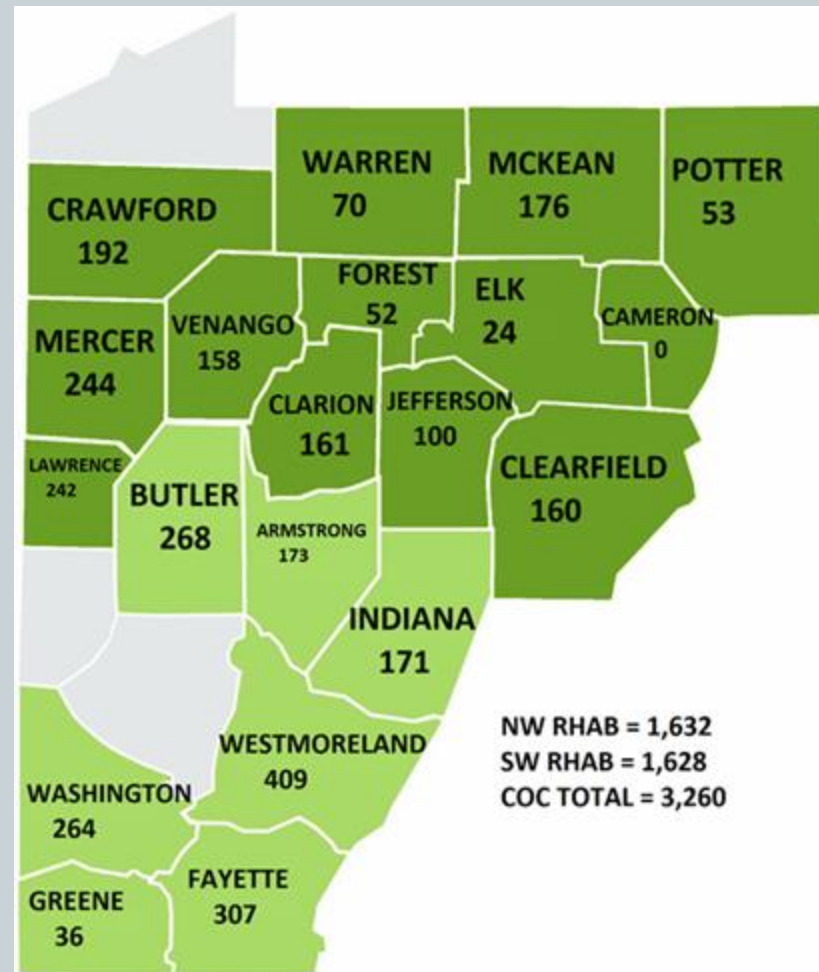
Geographic Area

- Covers 20 counties
- 74% of all municipalities have less than 2,500 residents
- 122 school districts
- 15,000+ farms, 2 million acres of farmland



PA Department of Education

ECYEH indicates 3,260 youth experiencing homelessness in 2018

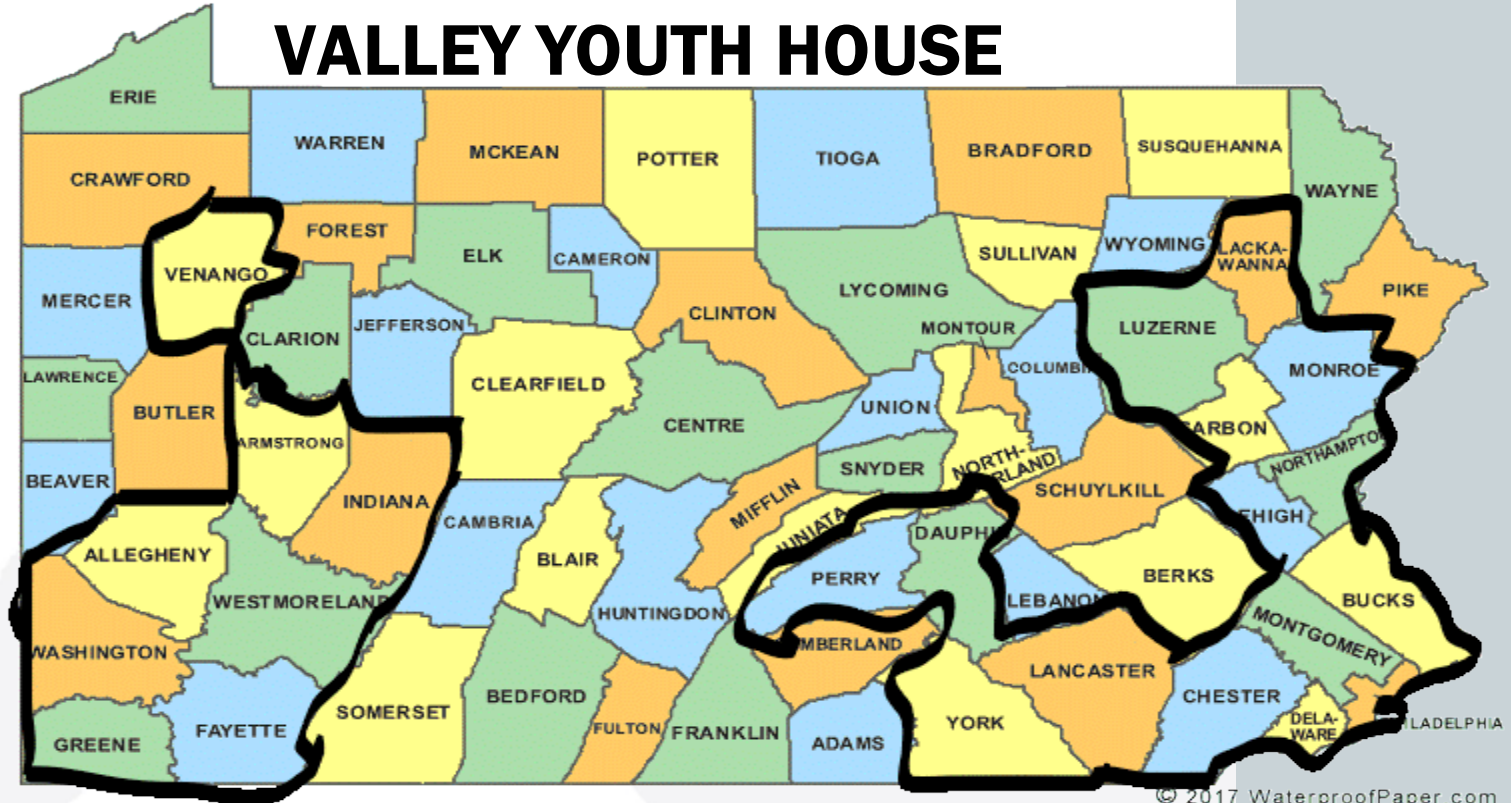




Bridge2Home Host Home Program

Operates in 23 counties

VALLEY YOUTH HOUSE



About Valley Youth House

At Valley Youth House we envision a world in which every young person belongs to a nurturing community

Divisions:

- Prevention/ Intervention
- Behavioral Health
- Shelters
- Independent Living
- Street Outreach
- LGBT+ supports
- Camp Fowler



About Bridge2Home

- Funding
 - Home4Good
 - Children and Youth Agencies
 - Runaway Homeless Youth (RHY)
- Where (Currently)
 - Armstrong, Indiana, Fayette, Greene, Venango, Washington, & Westmoreland counties and launching in Allegheny County
- Who it serves
 - Youth aged 16-20 in 7 counties & Allegheny 18-24
 - Youth under age of 18 with RHY funding for 21 days or less

BUILDING A FOUNDATION

- Marketing and education
- Host Home continuum
 - Host recruitment
 - Youth selected Hosts
- Youth engagement
- Youth application/referral process
- Community partnership development



ELIGIBILITY for HOST HOME MODEL

Host Homes: Allegheny, Armstrong, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Washington, Venango and Westmoreland with possible further expansion

- In 7 Counties school aged 16 to 20 (matched as young as 14 & old as 21)
- In Allegheny County Youth/Young Adults (YYA) ages 18-24
- Voluntary participation
- Under 18 parent/guardian must provide permission
- Appropriate for home-like setting

Runaway Homeless Youth (RHY) Funding:

- RHY funding will serve under 18 for emergency 21 days or less
- RHY funding parents must be notified within 72 hours of entry

Host - Services

Hosts

- Recruit, screen, train, and support hosts
- May be recruited or youth may have already self-selected
- Formalize and support relationship
- A few days/respite/emergency sheltering to long-term
- Mediate any Conflicts -24/7 on call

Financial Support

- Food, Transportation etc. funds
- Flex fund (i.e. a bed)
- Limited funds for any damages

Youth-Services

- Individual case management – hands on by Housing Stability Coach
- Reconciliation with parents/legal guardians/longterm resource
- Host and Youth agreement
- Transition/Service plan - focus on housing stability/permanency
- Housing, employment, education, life skills, mental and physical wellness
- Referrals to other services
- Harm reduction approach
- Plan to enter Coordinated Entry to access additional options

CHALLENGES & BARRIERS

- Host Home recruitment
- Decrease in Volunteerism
- Misunderstanding the model
- Large Geographic area/Transportation
- Learning curve
- Lack of resources & natural supports to resolve housing instability in 21 days or less

WHAT MAKES IT WORK?

- Host training
- Philosophy
- Continuum of host term commitment
- Intensive support
- “With/watch/confirm approach”
- Listen to the youth – voice and choice
- Advocacy
- Relationship based
- Opportunities to practice skills
- Youth/Host education for transition (ie: Coordinated Entry)



Bridge2Home DATA May 2019 –October 2020

of Referrals/Completed Applications~ 37 from May 8, 2019 to October 1, 2020

Other calls/referrals triaged to other community resources with no completed applications

Average Youth age at referral is 17 yrs 6 months

Average Length of Stay 7 months

RHY: 9 less than 21 day events

of Matches of Youth with Host ~ 14

Exits: 9

Eight (8) Safe Exit to Job Corps., Natural Parent/ family member, & Shared Housing
One (1) Less than a Safe Exit could not confirm stable housing, Youth uncooperative after turning 18 With a total of 9 exiting the program.

Pending Matches: 4

Some **POSITIVE OUTCOMES**

- Five (5) youth/young adults obtained and sustained employment.
 - Two (2) graduated from high school with honors and were accepted and started college (Westmoreland County Community College and California University).
 - One (1) youth/young adult who graduated with honors was named Student of the Year by local Chamber of Commerce.
 - One (1) youth/young adult was the homecoming queen
 - One (1) Transgender (male to female) youth/young adult was successful in legally changing her name
-

Host Homes in Action

Introducing Michel a Host with
Bridge2Home Host Home Program

&

Nevaeh, 1 of 3 Youth Michel has been matched with

Impactful Video from the first Host and Youth Match

Take a look!

<https://youtu.be/JLVLvMuFKsU>

<https://youtu.be/OfTucWw45Fc>

How is Bridge2Home handling COVID-19?

- Referrals and applications for Youth who would benefit from the program are being taken and processed virtually and when necessary an in-person interview will be scheduled. PPE safety precautions and social distancing will be practiced.
- Host applications are always welcomed and encouraged to meet the need of applications.
- Information on how to obtain an application can be found at <https://www.valleyyouthhouse.org/programs/transitional-housing/bridge2home-host-homes/>
- The application process can begin by having the packet mailed. Any questions will be answered via the phone, text or emails. Potential match interviews can be setup practicing safe social distancing or by a virtual meeting.

Q&A



References

Point Source Youth Host Home Handbook <https://www.pointsourceyouth.org>

Western CoC of PA/Diana T. Myers & Associates

<http://www.dma-housing.com/resources/boscoc/western-pa-coc/>

Pennsylvania Department of Education PEC Policy Department For more information
email Policy Department: policy@pec-cares.org

Ending Youth Homelessness Guidebook Series: Promising Program Models

Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs, Office of Community Planning and Development, U.S.
Department of Housing and Urban Development

Voices of Youth Count <https://voicesofyouthcount.org>

Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago *Missed Opportunities: Youth Homelessness in America*

Criteria and Benchmarks for Achieving the Goal of Ending Youth Homelessness

United States Interagency Council on Homelessness

https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/USICH_Federal_Youth_Framework.pdf

Safe Place for Youth (S.P.Y.) <http://www.safeplaceforyouth.org/> or www.nationalsafeplace.org



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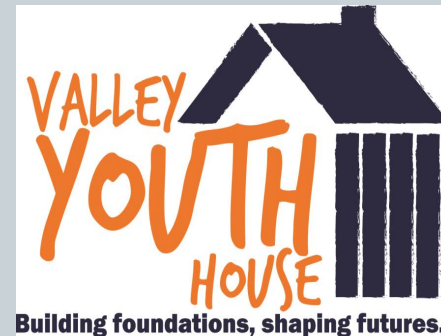
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<https://www.valleyyouthhouse.org/programs/transitional-housing/bridge2home-host-homes/>

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