

RHY Conference Presentation Federal Research and Resources to Support Transition-Age Youth

PRESENTERS

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Agenda

- Andrew Burwick, Mathematica. “Building Evidence in the Youth At-Risk of Homelessness Grant Program.”
- Ryan Jones, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) initiative.
- Caroline Crouse, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Overview of the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP) where more than 40 communities have partnered to end youth homelessness and information from the 100-Day Challenges to End Youth Homelessness
- Discussion

Building Evidence in the Youth At Risk of Homelessness Grant Program

What We've Learned about Services for Youth and Young Adults with Child Welfare Involvement

National RHY Grantees Training
November 18, 2020

Andrew Burwick, Rosalind Keith, and Cay Bradley
Mathematica



Overview

What is the Youth At Risk of Homelessness (YARH) grant program?

Features of YARH grantees' comprehensive service models

Implementation experiences and perceived benefits

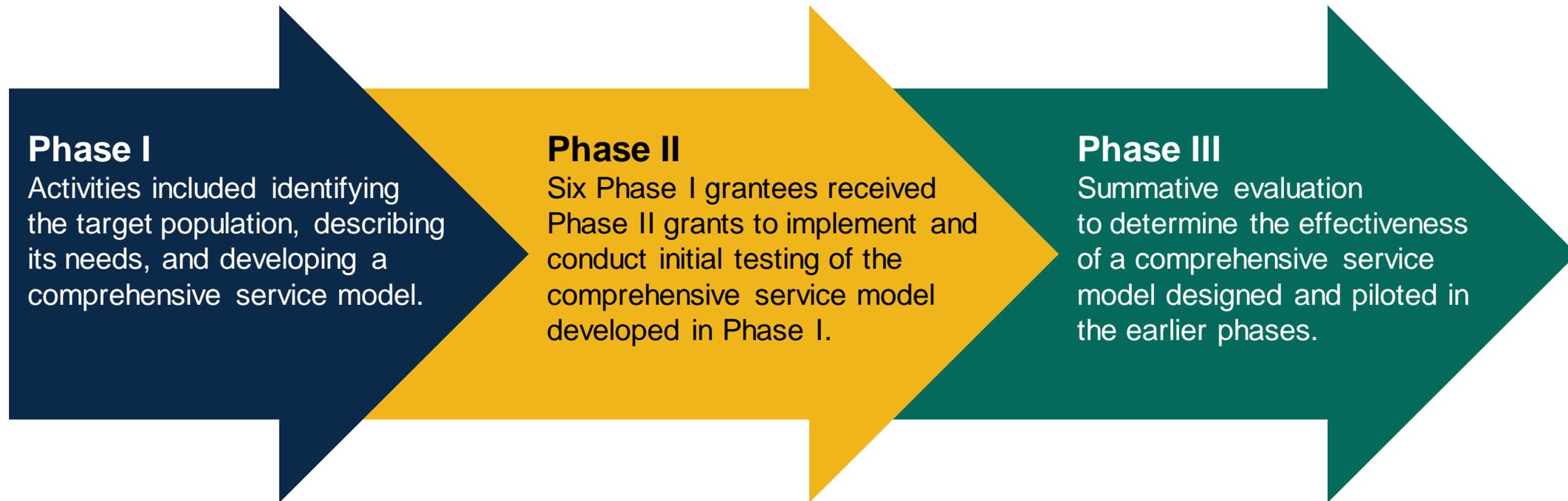
Next steps for YARH

What is YARH?

YARH has two main goals:

- **The first is to design comprehensive service models intended to prevent homelessness among youth and young adults involved in the child welfare system.**
- **The second is to test these models to build the evidence base on promising strategies that support these youth.**

A multi-phase grant program



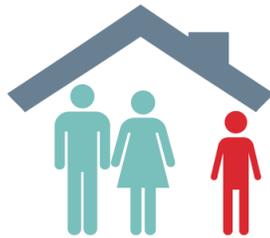
YARH focuses on building grantees' capacity to do the work.

Focal populations and outcomes

Populations



Adolescents who enter foster care between ages 14 and 17

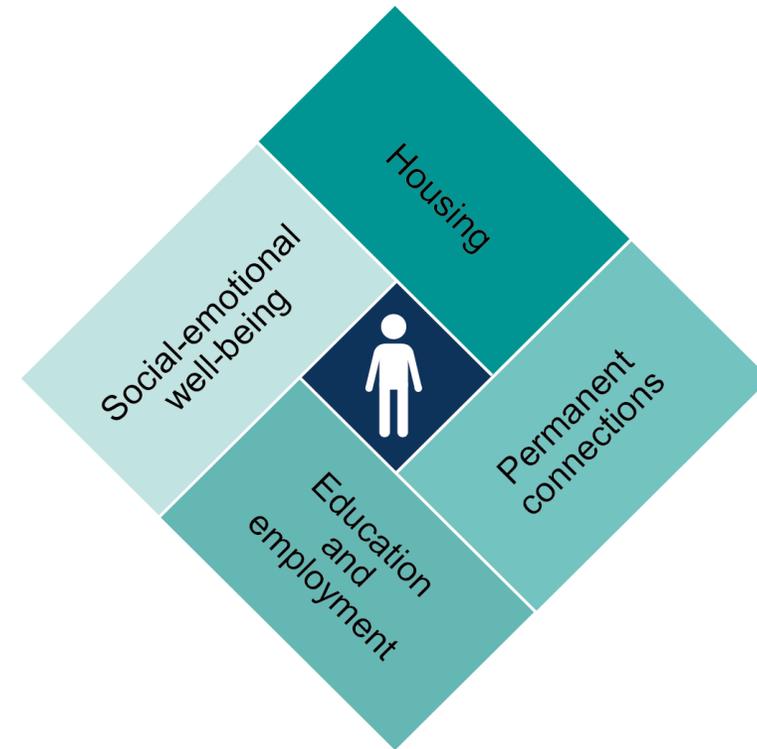


Young adults aging out of foster care



Homeless youth and young adults with foster care histories, up to age 21

Outcomes



YARH-2 process study

Explored grantees' experiences implementing their models

Especially factors that supported or hindered implementation

Multiple data sources

Grant applications and semi-annual reports

Evaluation technical assistance documents

Interviews with key stakeholders during site visits

Grantees' service models have components in common



Assessment and screening



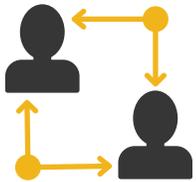
Helping youth identify and work toward goals



Recruitment and enrollment



Strengthening connections with natural and formal supports



Practitioners to support engagement



Referrals to community services



One-on-one meetings



Connecting youth to housing

Each grantee's service model has distinctive features



Delivery of a specific therapeutic model
(Dialectical Behavioral Therapy)



Practitioners with lived experience



Focus on engaging youth in a “coach-like” way



Focus on helping all youth apply for state housing vouchers



Adaptations of evidence-based models (High-Fidelity Wraparound and Achieve My Plan)

Lessons on preparing for implementation

Committed project leaders and established partnerships facilitated initial implementation

Continuous quality improvement processes helped grantees and partners identify and overcome challenges

Ongoing training and support for practitioners was important

Grant activities created a framework for specifying, communicating, and refining service models

Key takeaways on implementation

Incentives for participation and positive relationships with practitioners helped to engage youth

Practitioners faced challenges to helping strengthen youth's connections with natural and formal supports

Practitioners needed to address youth's immediate needs while focusing on long-term goals

Youth moving into housing needed opportunities to develop skills to maintain a home

Perceived benefits of grantees' service models

Models emphasized youth-centered approaches

Youth felt practitioners supported them, focused on their needs and goals, and helped them advocate for themselves

Therapeutic interventions helped youth understand their emotions and potential trauma triggers

Model implementation resulted in stronger relationships and learning among local child welfare entities

How will we continue to learn?

Upcoming YARH products

YARH-2 process study report and briefs

Lessons from the field about youth engagement and housing strategies

Other products building from grantee experiences

An episode of Mathematica's On the Evidence podcast

Find current products at the [YARH landing page](#) on the ACF Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE) website

For more information

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F Y I

FOSTER YOUTH
TO
INDEPENDENCE

2.0

**2020 National RHY Grantees
Training
November 18, 2020**



What is FYI?

- Launched [July 26, 2019](#).
- Program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that allows for Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) that partner with a public child welfare agency (PCWA) to request targeted Housing Choice Vouchers (HCVs) to serve eligible youth with a history of child welfare involvement that are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- Rental assistance and supportive services are provided for up to 36 months.





Purpose of FYI

- Address gaps in the availability of HUD's [Family Unification Program](#) for youth.
- Increase housing options for youth with a current or prior history of child welfare involvement that are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- Contribute to the federal goal of preventing and ending youth homelessness.
- Set youth on a path to self-sufficiency.





A New Notice

[Notice PIH 2020-28](#), published October 6, 2020.

- Allows HUD to utilize up to \$10 million appropriated for this purpose.
- Expand PHA eligibility to FUP-administering PHAs.
- Increases the number of vouchers a PHA may request.
- Allows FYI vouchers to continue to be available to serve eligible youth upon turnover.





Funding

- Up to \$10 million available.
- HUD will accept PHA requests for FYI vouchers on a rolling basis subject to the following conditions:
 - Funding remains available.
 - Notice remains in effect.



PHA Eligibility

FYI 1.0

- PIH Notice 2019-20
- PHAs with an ACC for HCVs that do not administer FUP

FYI 2.0

- PIH Notice 2020-28
- **All PHAs with an ACC for HCVs.**

- Partnership with a PCWA.
- Accept FUP-eligible youth referral.
- Determine HCV eligibility.
- Update administrative plan.



Youth Eligibility

A young person eligible to receive a FYI under the notice must meet **ALL** of the following requirements:

1. Has attained at least 18 years and not more than 24 years of age.
2. Left foster care, or will leave foster care within 90 days, in accordance with a transition plan described in section 475(5)(H) of the Social Security Act; and
3. Is homeless or is at risk of becoming homeless **(at age 16 or older)**.^{2.0}

A young person who meets the above requirements and is pregnant and parenting is also eligible.

*The above requirements are in addition to meeting all other HCV program requirements.





Partnership Agreement

- PHA applying for assistance must enter into a partnership agreement with a PCWA.
- HUD strongly encourages involvement of **State, local, philanthropic, faith-based organizations, and the CoC, or a CoC recipient it designates.** ^{2.0}
- Partnership agreement may be in the form of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or letters of intent between the parties.
- Full list of required elements are outlined in the notice and include:
 - Definition of FYI eligible youth
 - List of support services to be provided
 - Description of required PHA, PCWA, & (if applicable) other partner responsibilities





PCWA Roles and Responsibilities | No Changes

- Identify FYI-eligible youth.
- Develop a system of prioritization based on the level of need of the youth and the appropriateness of the intervention.
- Provide a written certification to the PHA that youth is eligible.
- Provide or secure supportive services for 36 months.

Supportive services may be provided by PHA, PCWA, or third-party.





Prioritization | No Changes

- PCWA is encouraged to have a prioritization strategy where demand may exceed supply.
- Prioritization should ensure that youth are prioritized for housing resources and related services based on need **AND** appropriateness of intervention.
- Youth still in care should consider permanency goals when exploring a referral.





Supportive Services | No Changes

- Must be provided for 36 months.
- Participation is optional, but strongly encouraged.
 - Basic life skills training
 - Housing counseling
 - Landlord support services
 - Employment and training
 - Education and career advancement services



Maximum Number of Vouchers

FYI 1.0

- 25 vouchers in a fiscal year

FYI 2.0

- 25 vouchers in a fiscal year, with ability to request additional vouchers with 90 percent or greater utilization (up to 50 in the fiscal year)

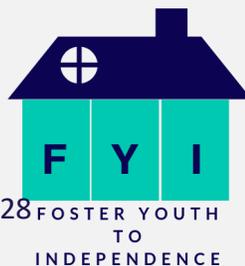
! REMINDER – It is a new fiscal year.





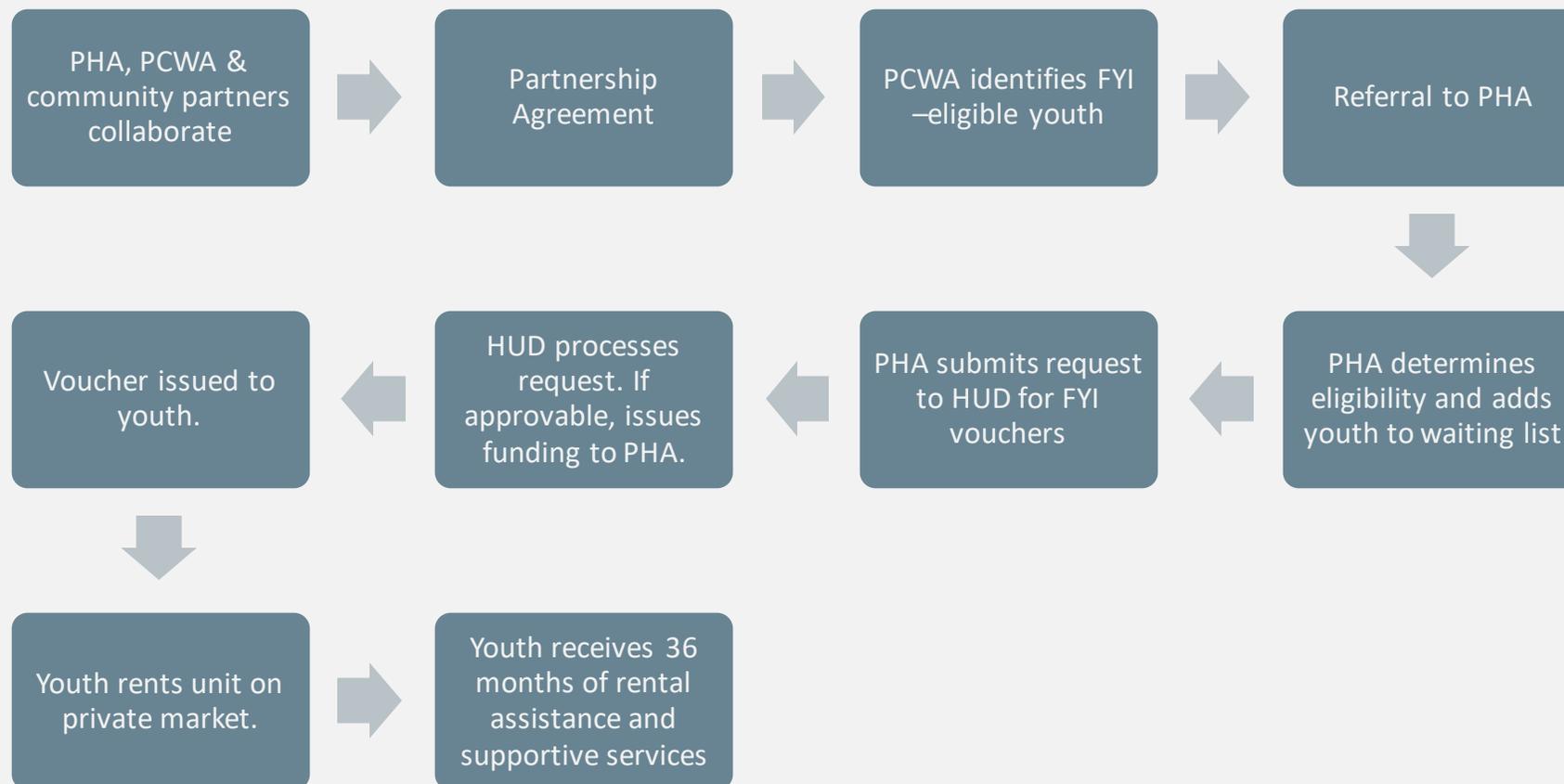
Application Process

- PHA ED or CEO email to FYI@hud.gov requesting **FYI vouchers**.
- Content of email request is detailed in section 14 of Notice PIH 2020-28.
- For PHAs that administer FUP, email must include a certification that the PHA with a FUP utilization of at least 90 percent at the time of the request.





FYI Process – New Request





Summary of Available Resources

[FYI Webpage](#)

- FAQs
- FYI 2.0 Notice
- Sample MOU
- Sample request
- Program overview

FYI@hud.gov

- Partners/public can submit questions
- PHAs submit requests for FYI vouchers



Continuum of Care and Youth Homelessness Demonstration

NOVEMBER 18, 2020

Number of Youth Experiencing Homelessness- 2019

Total Homeless	429,303	
Homeless Unaccompanied Youth (Under 25)	35,038	8.16%
Homeless Unaccompanied Children (Under 18)	3,976	0.93%
Homeless Unaccompanied Young Adults (Age 18-24)	31,062	7.24%
Parenting Youth (Under 25)	7,564	1.76%
Parenting Youth Under 18	59	0.01%
Parenting Youth Age 18-24	7,505	1.75%
Children of Parenting Youth	9,779	2.28%
Total Unaccompanied Youth (Under 25)	45,578	10.62%

Youth-centered Resources

	Total Beds	Youth Beds	%
Emergency Shelter	291,837	6,501	2%
Safe Haven	2,266	24	1%
Transitional Housing	95,446	8,922	9%
Permanent Supportive Housing	369,293	4,008	1%
Rapid Re-Housing	112,961	3,667	3%
Other Permanent Housing	39,854	588	1%
Total	911,657	23,710	3%

Continuum of Care Program

Each year, HUD competitively awards ~\$2 billion to approximately 400 CoCs across the country

CoCs allocate that funding to nonprofit organizations, States and local governments, and Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) within their jurisdiction to fund specific projects

Permanent Housing

Community-based housing without a limit on length of stay

- Permanent Supportive Housing
- Rapid Re-Housing

Transitional Housing

Time-limited housing with supportive services, with a goal of moving household to permanent housing within 24 months

Other Eligible Activities

- Coordinated Entry Systems
- Supportive services
- Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

CoC Requirements

Have regular meetings open to the public at least semi-annually (24 CFR 578.7)

Invite new members to join at least once per year (24 CFR 578.7)

Conduct a biennial point-in-time count of people experiencing homelessness in the CoC's defined geographic area

Implement a Coordinated Entry System that provides an initial, comprehensive assessment of the needs of individuals and families for housing and services.

Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP)

What YHDP requires

Creating a comprehensive plan to address youth homelessness in the community

- Needs assessment, including housing, education and employment, and social and emotional well being
- Diverse group of stakeholders participating
- Addressing core principles, including Housing First, Positive Youth Development, and Trauma-Informed Care

Developing partnerships with RHY providers, child welfare, education, juvenile justice, and many others

Developing innovative projects to address youth homelessness, including diversion, host homes, RRH, youth navigators, etc.

What communities gain

In-depth technical assistance to help develop the coordinated community plan and projects

Enhanced ability to ask for waivers of regulatory and statutory requirements under the CoC program

Concentrated funding to focus on addressing and ending youth homelessness in the community

- Funding can be renewed as a CoC project at the end of the two-year YHDP projects

Innovative projects

System navigators, including youth navigators

Joint TH-RRH

Rapid Rehousing for 36 months

Diversion

Partnerships with PCWAs, Higher Education, Justice

Upcoming funding

HUD is combining funding from FY 2019 and FY 2020 Appropriations

- Round 4 (FY 2019): \$75 million for up to 25 communities, 8 of which must be rural
- Round 5 (FY 2020): \$70 million for up to 25 communities, with a priority for communities with substantial rural populations in up to 8 locations

Discussion & Closing