

Coordinated Community Plan to
**Prevent and End
Youth Homelessness**



in the
Southeastern Kentucky Promise Zone

December 21, 2017

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Introduction

“All youth in the Promise Zone will have a sense of belonging and a stable, permanent place to call home.”

–Vision Statement determined by community members at the first Promise Zone YHDP planning meeting

The **Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) Coordinated Community Plan for the Southeastern Kentucky Promise Zone** analyzes and addresses the unique demographic, social, economic, physical, and contextual factors impacting youth experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness in our rural community.

Departments and agencies across the federal government and other stakeholders often have different definitions for what constitutes homelessness. In general, for purposes of our plan, we consider homelessness to mean youth under 25 years old (and without an adult 25 years or older in their household) who are in one or more of the following situations:

1. **Literal homelessness**, which includes youth who are living in emergency shelters or other temporary programs such as transitional housing or youth who are living in places not meant for regular human habitation such as outside, in cars, tents, or abandoned buildings.
2. **Fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions relating to violence.**
3. **“Doubled up” or “couch surfing,”** which includes youth who may lose their housing in a matter of days due to eviction or being “kicked out” by family or friends, or youth who move from one couch to the next depending on who will let them stay.
4. **Generally at-risk**, which includes youth who are experiencing or likely to experience some form of housing instability due to circumstances such as family problems, unemployment or lack of sufficient income, substance use, criminal history, or other potentially vulnerable populations such as LGBTQ, youth involved with juvenile justice or foster care, or youth who are victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation.

Throughout our plan, we refer to unaccompanied and parenting youth who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness. **Unaccompanied youth** are youth “on their own” without children and not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian. **Parenting youth** are youth who are caring for one or more children.

Our plan is holistic in nature in that we are first concerned about youth experiencing or at-risk of experiencing homelessness, regardless of technical definitions or eligibility criteria. To develop a system-wide response that allows us to help youth who are homeless already and intervene early to prevent youth from becoming homeless in the first place, our plan incorporates specific action steps that can help youth where they are depending on their particular circumstances. Proposed projects included in our plan do take into account required eligibility criteria, as applicable, for the funding source.

The primary goal of our community plan is **to reduce the number of youth experiencing homelessness**, and to accomplish this, we have established five overarching approaches:

1. **Engaging Communities as Partners:** Youth homelessness cannot be successfully ended by one organization or stakeholder group. It takes all of us. We must plan and act as a community by involving partners from various stakeholder groups, including youth, to accurately determine the scale of youth homelessness and to design a coordinated, system-wide approach to ensure youth homelessness is rare, brief, and non-recurring.
2. **Listening to Youth:** Youth are the experts, especially those who have experienced homelessness or housing instability. Any plan that is about youth must purposefully include youth input and meaningfully involve youth throughout planning and implementation. Our community values our youth and understands young people are critical to this effort.
3. **Stopping Youth from Becoming Homeless in the First Place and Acting Swiftly to Get Them Stably Housed When They Do:** Through intentional prevention and diversion strategies and utilizing a coordinated entry system, we will quickly identify youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness, assess individual needs, and connect youth with appropriate interventions as rapidly as possible. We will increase the number of housing options, resources, and supportive services in the Promise Zone to serve youth who are experiencing or at risk for homelessness.
4. **Supporting Youth Transition to Successful Adulthood:** We understand that for youth to never return to homelessness, we must ensure they have access to resources and experiences that will help them succeed and develop a sense of belonging, including education, employment, and community-based activities. Using Positive Youth Development, we will provide opportunities for youth to build their resiliency to overcome obstacles. We will train caring adults to help youth quickly and appropriately.
5. **Enacting Continuous Improvement:** We will continually evaluate the effectiveness of the response system and make improvements. By expanding local, state, and national advocacy and policy efforts, we will more effectively address youth homelessness in the Promise Zone.

The outcomes for our plan are based on the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) Youth Framework to End Youth Homelessness. These outcomes are as follows:

1. **Stable Housing:** All youth will have a safe and reliable place to call home.
2. **Permanent Connections:** All youth will have ongoing, permanent connections to families, communities, schools, caring adults, and other positive social networks.
3. **Education/Employment:** All youth will have high performance in and completion of educational and training activities, and the ability to start and maintain adequate and stable employment.
4. **Social-emotional Well-being:** All youth will develop key competencies, attitudes, and behaviors that will equip them to succeed across multiple domains of daily life, including school, work, relationships, and community.

We will evaluate our community’s plan using Continuum of Care (CoC) **system-level performance measures** established by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Specifically, our plan will measure:

1. Length of time youth remain homeless
2. Percent of youth who return to homelessness
3. Percent of youth who exit to or retain permanent housing
4. Number of homeless youth
5. Employment and income growth for homeless youth
6. Number of youth who become homeless for the first time
7. Successful placement of youth from street outreach

In addition to these system-wide performance measures, we will work with HUD and other YHDP partners to establish additional youth-specific measurements.

To support our goals, outcomes, and measures, we will begin with a mapping process to count youth experiencing homelessness in our region, establish an infrastructure for tracking and coordinating youth housing and services, and advocate for coordinated entry participation among service providers and across counties. Finally, we will implement projects that support the vision of our community.

Sections of the plan are as follows: (a) community needs and gaps that contribute to youth homelessness; (b) vision, goals, approaches, and measures; (c) local and state partners; (d) list of projects; (e) governance structure; and (f) continuous improvement strategies.

To reduce the incidence of youth homelessness and ensure homelessness for youth is brief and one-time when it does occur, our community, the Southeastern Kentucky Promise Zone (“Promise Zone,” **Figure 1**), has developed this coordinated community plan to provide strategic direction and establish measurable benchmarks to track our progress. The Promise Zone is made up of eight rural counties in the heart of Appalachia all of which have been federally classified as experiencing persistent poverty. The entire region encompasses a 2,685 square-mile-area with a total estimated 2016 population of 203,488.¹ No population centers of 10,000 or more residents exist within the Promise Zone.

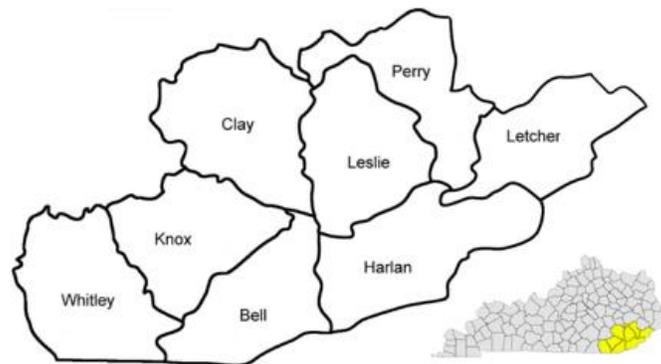


Figure 1. Kentucky Promise Zone Counties: Bell, Clay, Harlan, Knox, Leslie, Letcher, Perry, Whitley.

¹ United States Census Bureau QuickFacts. *Population estimates, July 1, 2016*. Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/map/US/PST045216#viewtop>.

Promise Zone Designation

Designated in 2014, the Southeastern Kentucky Promise Zone is the nation's first rural Promise Zone. The Promise Zone designation was created by former President Obama in 2013. Promise Zones are high poverty communities in which local communities work with the federal government to address priorities identified by the community. Priorities for the Kentucky Promise Zone include building a sustainable regional economy, improving educational outcomes, increasing access to affordable housing, and ensuring the availability and affordability of critical health services.

The Promise Zone designation could not have come at a more opportune time for the youth in southeastern Kentucky. Multi-generational poverty, an economy in crisis, and rampant substance abuse within the Promise Zone have created an environment where youth are at risk of homelessness and finding a way out of homelessness can be a great challenge in spite of a community that cares deeply about its people.

While some programs, initiatives, and partners working on youth homelessness or related efforts already exist, additional work is needed to ensure an effective and consistent system is in place to respond to the unique needs of youth who are experiencing or at risk of becoming homeless. To be successful, our response must be systemic. To achieve long-term housing stability, it is critical to provide youth with access to services and supports beyond those available through homeless and housing providers.

As part of HUD's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP), stakeholders in the Promise Zone have come together to build this system. This plan outlines strategies we will adopt in the Promise Zone for youth at-risk of or already experiencing homelessness and identifies stakeholders from a broad base of community partners including schools, non-profits, government organizations, faith-based organizations, and businesses, who have been galvanized in support of this coordinated community plan.

Data Collection and Analysis

In order to determine and prioritize the needs of youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness, we have examined both quantitative and qualitative data. Our data collection methods include:

- **Review of Archival Data:** Our primary sources of data were the Point-in-Time (PIT) Count, the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), and the Department of Education. These three data sources are described in detail in the Statement of Need. We also reviewed dependable sources of archival data that measure indicators of housing, neighborhood quality, and health and well-being (Robert Wood Johnson, Annie E. Casey Foundation KidsCount, US Census Data, and the American Community Survey), as well as educational achievement and progress (Kentucky Department of Education School Report Cards).
- **Surveys:** We examined reliable surveys conducted by our partners (school climate surveys) and conducted surveys (a community survey).
- **Focus Groups and Meetings:** During the coordinated community plan development period, open meetings and focus groups were organized and held throughout the Promise Zone. Data were collected about gaps in services and residents provided input on the strategies to address gaps in homelessness services in the region. The meetings were attended by 74 individuals from or serving in the Promise Zone.
- **Ethnographic Research:** We utilized ethnographic research, coordinated by cultural researchers, to ensure that we heard the voices of youth. The researchers conducted oral interviews with 45 residents in the region, including 28 youth. Consistent with the racial and socio-economic composition of our community, 93% (26/28) of the youth interviewees were Caucasian and 100% were classified low-income. The voices of these young people can be found in the quotes that appear throughout the Statement of Need.

Section I: Statement of Need

Our plan has been developed by making use of the limited quantitative data currently available: primarily homelessness data through the annual Point-in-Time (PIT) Count of persons meeting the HUD definition of literally homeless, data captured through the Kentucky Homeless Management and Information System (HMIS), and the Kentucky Department of Education. As a result, understanding the scale of the youth population currently experiencing homelessness or at-risk of becoming homeless is a challenge.

To supplement this quantitative data on youth currently experiencing homelessness, we also consider the significant risk factors present in the community that can cause increased numbers of youth to experience homelessness, as well as qualitative data collected from youth and other members of the community through direct interviews, focus groups, and open meetings.

Homelessness by the Numbers: What We Know

Point-in-Time Count Data

The Point-in-Time Count is an annual count of people who were identified as homeless over one 24-hour period in January. Individuals counted are those classified as literally homeless by HUD, which includes those living in temporary shelters as well as places not meant for human habitation (e.g., on the street, under a bridge, etc.) The number of **unaccompanied youth** and the number of **parenting youth** from the 2016 and 2017 Point-in-Time Counts are shown in **Table 1**. In 2017, seventeen (17) youth were between the ages of 18-24, with **the average age of 22** years old. Two minors ages 16 and 17 were identified.

Table 1. Number of Unaccompanied and Parenting Youth in the 2016 and 2017 Point-in-Time (PIT) Counts by County in the Promise Zone.

	2016		2017	
	Unaccompanied Youth	Parenting Youth	Unaccompanied Youth	Parenting Youth
Bell	-	-	1	-
Clay	-	-	-	-
Harlan	3	-	1	-
Knox	4	-	9	1
Leslie	-	-	-	-
Letcher	-	-	4	-
Perry	2	6	1	1
Whitley	1	-	-	-
Total	10	6	17	2

For the 2017 PIT, youth indicated a wide range of causes for their homelessness (see **Figure 2** on the next page). Over half of the youth indicated that one of the reasons that they were experiencing homelessness was due to eviction or failure to pay rent. The next two most frequently-cited reasons were family or personal problems and unemployment.

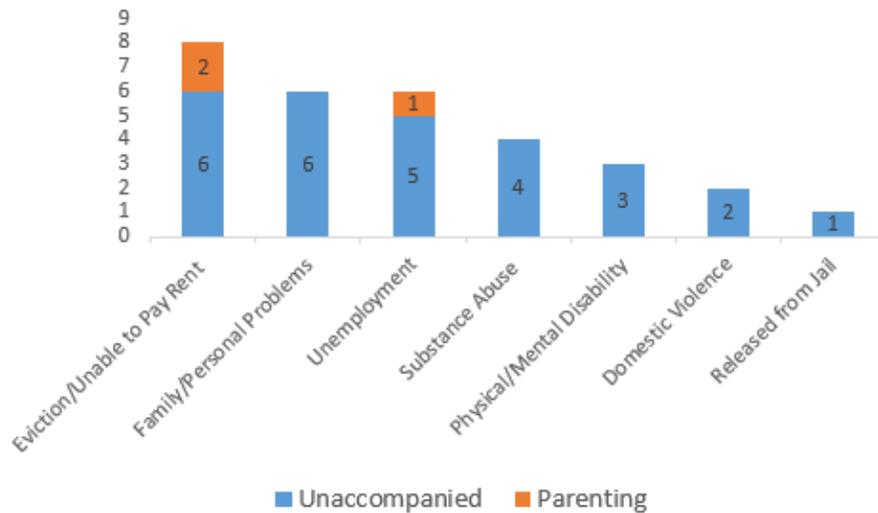


Figure 2. Causes of Youth Homelessness from the 2017 Point-in-Time Count as Self-Reported by Unaccompanied and Parenting Youth in the Promise Zone. Four (4) of nineteen (19) youth identified as experiencing homeless during the 2017 PIT did not know or did not provide a reason for their homelessness. Nine (9) persons reported more than one cause.

Fifteen youth, including the two minors, who were identified during the 2017 Point-in-Time Count in the Promise Zone stated they **were not currently enrolled in school or an educational program and were also unemployed**. The remaining four youth did not know or refused to provide information about their education and employment status. While the number of youth identified in the PIT is relatively low, the common thread is no current connection to school or work. For youth, social and emotional well-being can be positively impacted by meaningful and consistent connections to peers and mentors likely found in such environments.

HMIS Data

Data is currently collected using the Homeless Information and Management System (HMIS) by six agencies across our region. Two additional agencies are Victim Services Providers (VSPs). These two VSPs utilize an HMIS comparable database. All of these agencies are funded through either the Continuum of Care (CoC) or Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) programs, both of which require participation in HMIS or, for VSPs, a comparable database. Both the CoC and ESG programs are part of HUD.

Table 2 contains the number of youth experiencing homelessness served by ESG and CoC-funded projects participating in HMIS over two (2), one-year periods. Our community elected to use a two-year timeframe in order to determine the average number of youth experiencing homelessness we can expect to see with no changes to our current homelessness response system (e.g., full implementation of a coordinated entry system; increased collaboration with non-HUD-funded partners such as schools, the juvenile justice system, and mainstream service providers; and specific outreach to youth to increase awareness of youth-specific services). As shown in Table 2, **an average of 110 youth experiencing homelessness in the Promise Zone were served by HUD-funded homeless programs per year, including an average of 54 unaccompanied youth and an average of 56 parenting youth.**

Table 2. Total Youth Served by HMIS-Participating CoC and ESG-funded Programs per Year in the Promise Zone

Year	Total Youth	Unaccompanied Youth	Parenting Youth
Oct. 1, 2016 – Sept. 30, 2017	100	55	45
Oct. 1, 2015 – Sept. 30, 2016	119	53	66
Yearly Average	110	54	56

Except for agencies participating in HMIS or a comparable database for VSPs, data is not collected consistently by agencies serving persons experiencing homelessness that do not receive funding from HUD. While some efforts have been made to encourage non-ESG or CoC-funded agencies to participate in HMIS, at this time client-level data is only collected once a year during the annual Point-in-Time Count from organizations not using HMIS.

The information in **Table 3** shows the number of youth served by HMIS-participating organizations in the Promise Zone over the last two years. Funded through the CoC and/or ESG programs, these projects include a few emergency shelters (ES), Rapid Rehousing (RRH) programs providing tenant-based rental assistance, Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), which is for persons with disabilities, and Supportive Services Only (SSO) programs that do not provide housing assistance, but rather support services, such as but not limited to, employment assistance and job training, education services, transportation, life skills training, and legal services.

Table 3. Number of Youth Served by Specific HMIS Participating CoC and ESG-Funded Programs in the Promise Zone from October 1, 2015-September 30, 2017.

Note that while the organizations are located within the Promise Zone, some also serve individuals from outside the PZ.

Organization	Specific Programs	Total Youth Served	Unaccompanied Youth	Parenting Youth
Daniel Boone Community Action Agency	CoC SSO	99	31	68
Emergency Christian Ministries	CoC SSO	50	43	7
Harlan County Community Action Agency*	CoC PSH CoC SSO	7	1	6
KCEOC Community Action Agency	CoC RRH CoC SSO ESG ES	36	24	12
Kentucky River Community Care (KRCC)**	CoC RRH ESG-ES ESG RRH CoC PSH	27	9	18
Total	-----	219	108	111

*Harlan County Community Action Agency also has an ESG-funded RRH program, but no youth were served in that program over this two year timespan.

**KRCC has multiple CoC PH programs. All but one served youth during this two-year timespan.

Over the two-year time period, 62% of unaccompanied youth and 47% of parenting youth did not have cash income from any source (e.g., earned income from employment or unearned income such as disability) at program entry (**Figure 3**).

Encouragingly, 100% of parenting youth over the two-year time period had health insurance at program entry. In contrast, only 79% of unaccompanied youth reported having health insurance at program entry. (**Figure 4**).

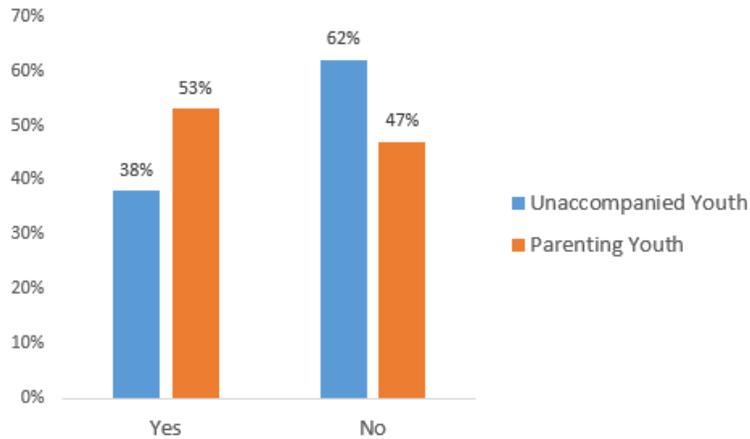


Figure 3. Promise Zone Youth with Cash Income from Any Source at Program Entry in HMIS-participating Projects (October 1, 2015-September 30, 2017)

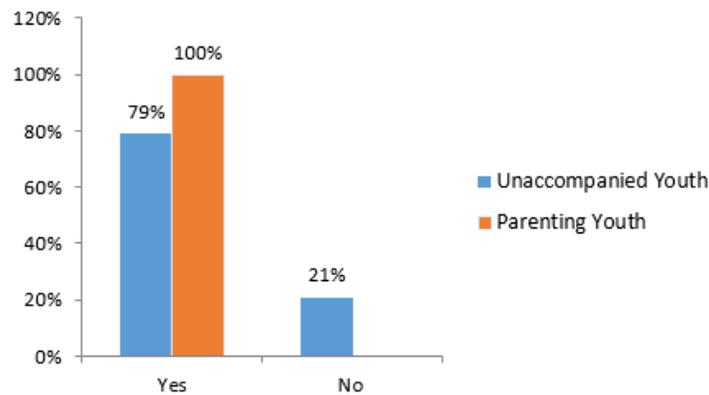


Figure 4. Youth with Health Insurance at Program Entry in HMIS-participating Projects (October 1, 2015-September 30, 2017)

An analysis of HMIS data shows that nearly all youth with health insurance were enrolled in Medicaid. Kentucky is a Medicaid-expansion state. Over the past several years, Kentucky committed significant resources to enrolling individuals and families in Medicaid as well as other insurance plans, including employing numerous health insurance “connectors” in local communities to help people enroll. At this time, Kentucky intends to withdraw from the Medicaid expansion at some point in the near future. As a result, some youth who have insurance now may no longer be able to afford the coverage, which could impact their utilization of health care. This is something our community will monitor closely.

It is our hypothesis that parenting youth are more likely to have health insurance—in this case through Medicaid—as a direct result of the health needs during pregnancy and after a child is born. While not all youth may be accessing sufficient prenatal care, it is likely that parenting youth were connected with the appropriate financial assistance for medical care when they did seek out health care during pregnancy or for their child after birth. It is our hypothesis that youth who are unaccompanied have less motivation to seek out health insurance as there may not seem to be as great of a need to do so as compared to a pregnant or parenting youth.

Figure 5 shows the percentage of youth who reported having non-cash benefits at program entry. Non-cash benefits include Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, a.k.a. “Food Stamps”), and Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Food Nutrition Services. **74% of parenting youth reported having non-cash benefits while only 36% of unaccompanied youth said they had non-cash benefits.** Of the non-cash benefits available to youth, almost all but the SNAP program requires the youth to be caring for a child under the age of 18. This presents an added barrier to unaccompanied youth attempting to exit homelessness or avoid experiencing it.

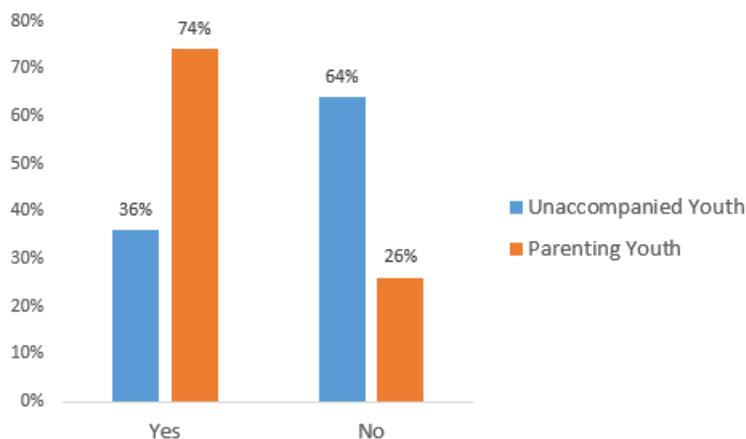


Figure 5. Promise Zone Youth with Non-Cash Benefits at Program Entry in HMIS-participating Projects (October 1, 2015-September 30, 2017)

In addition to having access to more non-cash benefit programs as a result of being in a household with children, parenting youth may be more likely to be connected with non-cash benefits than youth who are not accessing supportive services such as Medicaid or child care assistance. For example, in the past year, Kentucky has implemented an online benefit application system known as *Benefind*. *Benefind* allows people to sign up for Medicaid and the Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP), SNAPs, TANF, and Child Care Assistance through a single portal. Once you have entered the required personal information, you are informed of which benefits you are eligible to receive and are able to enroll. When you are enrolled in one or more of these programs, you are also likely to be working with a case manager who is able to connect you with other benefits. While parenting youth undoubtedly need assistance connecting with resources, we must consider added challenges unaccompanied youth may face in accessing all benefits they may be eligible for if they are not already engaging with a supportive services program.

Figure 6 shows where youth reported living immediately prior to entering an ESG or CoC-funded HMIS participating program. Because there are no shelters that serve unaccompanied minors and shelters are not available in every area of the Promise Zone for every demographic group (e.g. some are for women and children only), it can be very difficult to know how many youth may otherwise be accessing homeless services if they could. Most youth experiencing homelessness in the Promise Zone accessed an SSO program, which is able to serve persons who are at imminent risk of losing their housing, including “couch surfers” and persons in “doubled up” circumstances as well as people coming from emergency shelters, living outside, or fleeing domestic violence. The RRH and PSH programs available in the area are limited to serving people coming from emergency shelters, unsheltered situations, or who are attempting to flee domestic violence.

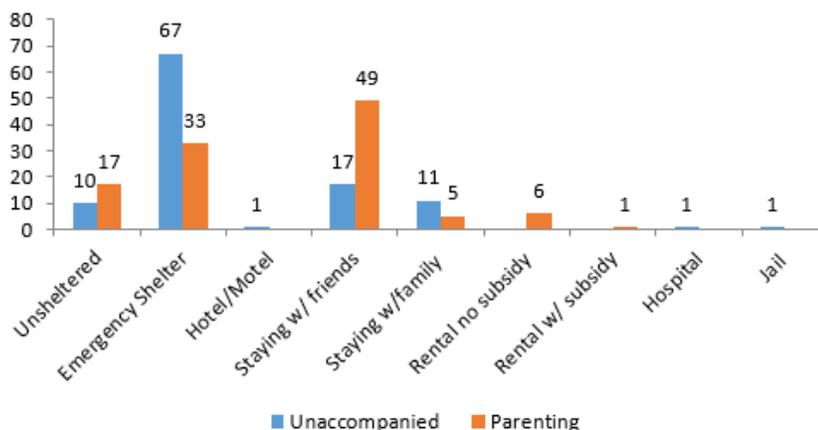


Figure 6. Living Status Prior to CoC and ESG-Funded Program Entry in the Promise Zone from October 1, 2015-September 30, 2017

Social and Emotional Well-Being of Youth

Information on the social and emotional well-being of youth, particularly as it relates to the development of key competencies, attitudes, and behaviors that equip a young person to succeed across multiple domains of daily life, including school, work, relationships, and community, is not readily available at this time. In an effort to try to get at this information, one of our partners, Kentucky River Community Care, reviewed responses to 55 VI-SPDATs that had been conducted for youth ages 18-24 that had applied for housing through their program. In response to the question **“Do you have planned activities, other than just surviving, that make you feel happy and fulfilled?” 28 responded yes and 27 (or 49%) responded no.** We already know from data previously discussed in this section that youth experiencing homelessness are most likely unemployed and, at least in terms of the youth identified during the Point-in-Time Count, are not participating in any type of school or educational program. This lack of connection and general feeling of unhappiness can lead to challenges with a person’s social and emotional well-being.

While the quantitative data is limited, we know from youth who have been interviewed as part of this initiative and from input from service providers that youth often say the reason for their homelessness or housing instability is related, at least in part, to family problems. Connection to family support is important to just about everyone, particularly school aged youth and young adults. Throughout all of our proposed projects, family reunification will be explored as an option if the youth desires this approach and it is safe to do so. Additionally, our community will use Positive Youth Development practices to

ensure youth are given opportunities to build their skills, strengths, and interests through engagement with other youth and the community. To learn more about the social and emotional well-being of youth, we plan to conduct a youth count in the late spring of 2018 as well as work with service providers to incorporate questions about social and emotional well-being into intake processes and ongoing case management.

Department of Education Data

There are nearly 34,800 children in grades K-12 attending public schools in the sixteen school districts in the Promise Zone.² Local school districts collect data on student homelessness; however, this information does not capture disconnected youth or drop-outs. Also, students who are experiencing homelessness may not be counted if they are able to keep the information regarding their living status private.

Nonetheless, many more young people are identified as experiencing homelessness using the Department of Education McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act's broader definition of homelessness: "individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence." For example, in addition to youth who may be literally homeless according to HUD's definition, the Department of Education includes students living in hotels or sharing housing with other families ("doubled up") or crashing at one friend's house one week and another friend's house the next ("couch-surfing"). These latter scenarios are considered homeless by the McKinney-Vento definition but might not be considered homeless by HUD's narrower definition. (Exceptions include if the individual is at imminent risk of losing their primary nighttime residence within 14 days or is fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence.)

Schools have a crucial role in identifying, preventing, and ending youth homelessness. A report on homelessness in Kentucky by Civic Enterprises and Hart Research Associates confirms that schools are uniquely positioned to end and prevent youth homelessness because they are connected with a large portion of the population and can serve "as the epicenter of supports and resources" that students and their families need.³

Given the various risks that are predictors of homelessness in the Promise Zone (e.g., generational poverty, lack of jobs, drug addiction, etc.), children who experience homelessness with their parents face a greater risk of staying or becoming homeless later in life, including in their transition-age youth years. There has been an upward trend in the numbers of students identified as homeless in the Promise Zone for the last five years (**Figure 7**, on the following page).⁴ County-specific numbers for the 2016-17 school year are shown in **Table 4** (on the following page). Despite the high number of students experiencing homelessness, only one school district of the 16 school districts in the Promise Zone has funding to providing direct services to youth experiencing homelessness via McKinney-Vento funding.

The number of unaccompanied youth (**Table 4**) is likewise considerably higher than the numbers from the other two datasets (HMIS and PIT). The McKinney-Vento definition of "unaccompanied youth" is "a youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian."

² Kentucky Department of Education. (2017). *District Report Card 2016-2017*. Retrieved from <https://applications.education.ky.gov/SRC/Default.aspx>.

³ Ingram, E. S., Bridgeland, J. M., Reed, B., & Atwell, M. (2016). *Hidden in Plain Sight: Homeless Students in America's Public Schools*. A report by Civic Enterprises and Hart Research Associates. Retrieved from <http://civicenterprises.net/MediaLibrary/Docs/HiddeninPlainSightOfficial.pdf>

⁴ Kentucky Department of Education. (2017). Homeless Student Counts by District and Grade. Retrieved from <https://education.ky.gov/federal/progs/txc/Pages/default.aspx>.

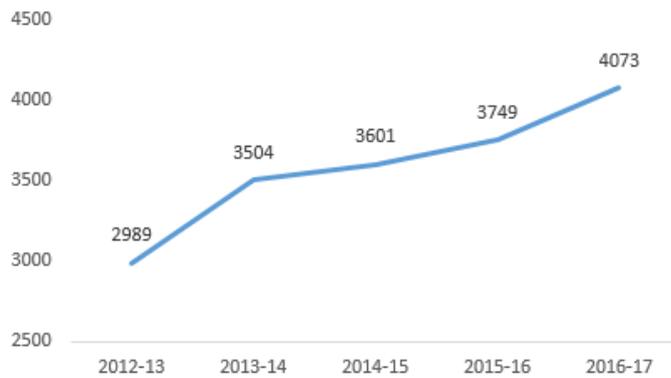


Figure 7. Five-Year Trend of the Numbers of Students Identified as Homeless in the Promise Zone Schools from 2012-13 through 2016-17. The number of students identified as experiencing homelessness in the Promise Zone has increased by 36.2% since the 2012-13 school year.

Table 4. Number and Percent of Students Reported as Homeless and Number of Unaccompanied Youth by County and School District in Promise Zone Schools (2016-17).

County	School District	Total Students Reported as Homeless	Percent of Students Reported as Homeless	Unaccompanied Youth
Bell	Bell County	512	18.8%	9
	Middlesboro Independent	137	11.7%	94
	Pineville Independent	6	1.2%	1
	TOTAL	655	14.9%	104
Clay	Clay County	324	10.4%	3
	TOTAL	324	10.4%	3
Harlan	Harlan County	1,109	28.7%	5
	Harlan Independent	182	26.5%	2
	TOTAL	1,291	28.3%	7
Knox	Barbourville Independent	6	0.9%	0
	Knox County	218	5.1%	135
	TOTAL	224	4.5%	135
Leslie	Leslie County	182	10.9%	20
	TOTAL	182	10.9%	20
Letcher	Jenkins Independent	5	1.1%	1
	Letcher County	390	12.8%	10
	TOTAL	395	11.3%	11
Perry	Hazard Independent	174	18.1%	8
	Perry County	571	14.6%	88
	TOTAL	745	15.3%	96
Whitley	Corbin Independent	61	2.1%	17
	Whitley County	187	4.6%	7
	Williamsburg Independent	9	1.2%	1
	TOTAL	257	3.3%	25
Grand Total		4,073	11.7%	401

The vast majority of students, including those in households with at least one adult 25 years or older, experiencing homelessness are “doubled up,” yet there are also significant numbers of students living in shelters and who are unsheltered (**Figure 8**).

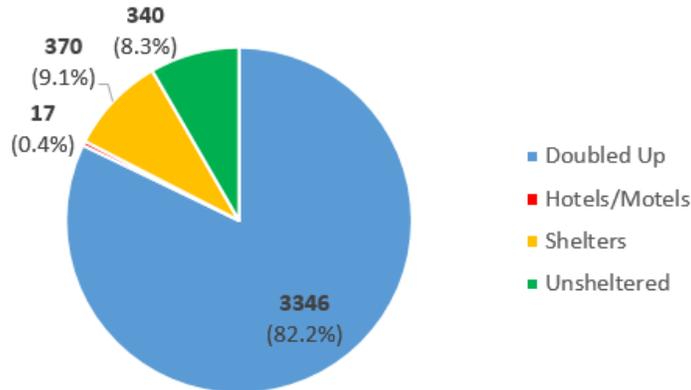


Figure 8. Living Status for Students Experiencing Homelessness in the Promise Zone, 2016-17 (n = 4,073)

For unaccompanied students, while the majority are still “doubled up,” there is a decrease in the proportion who are doubled up and an increase in those who are sheltered (**Figure 9**).

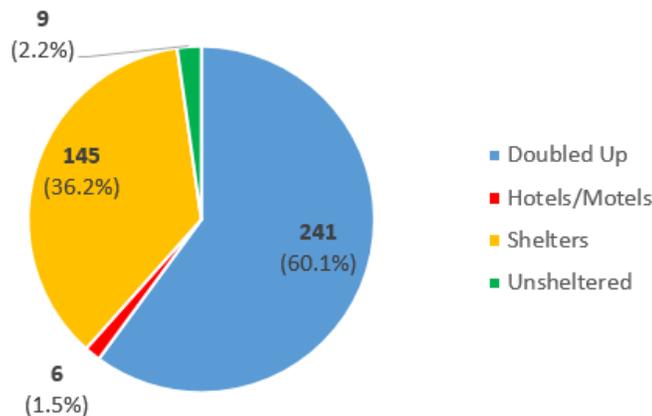


Figure 9. Living Status for Unaccompanied Students in the Promise Zone, 2016-17 (n = 401)

What We Don't Know Yet

At this time, we have information on the total number of unaccompanied youth in the K-12 public school system over the course of a full school year. What we really need to know is 1) how many unaccompanied youth are in need of housing and services right now (i.e., an “active list”) and how many we can expect to see every 30 days or so, and 2) how many youth defined as unaccompanied by the school system are pregnant or parenting. This will allow us to fully understand the inflow of youth who may need to access programs and services included in this plan at any given time and to be able to evaluate our progress in reducing the number of unaccompanied and parenting minors.

In addition, we do not know at the time how many students who are reported as homeless, but not considered unaccompanied, are in households headed by adults under the age of 25. This information could help us better understand the need for parenting youth (18-24) interventions.

Youth At-Risk of Experiencing Homelessness

There are a number of risk factors present in the Promise Zone that increase the risk of youth homelessness. These risk factors include multi-generational poverty, substance abuse, and the added challenges present in a rural community. To prevent youth homelessness before it occurs, not only must these challenges be identified and addressed, so too must young people who are at increased risk of experiencing homelessness. Therefore, we not only examine the environmental risk factors prevalent in our community, but also consider specific subpopulations of youth who are particularly vulnerable to experiencing homelessness. Not only must we be proactive to end youth homelessness when it occurs, we must also be proactive to keep it from occurring.

Multi-generational poverty is deeply embedded within the Promise Zone.

“People who are poor can’t just save up money, especially if they’re living paycheck by paycheck.” -19-year-old

In 1964, President Johnson declared his War on Poverty in Martin County, Kentucky, just two counties northeast of Letcher County. Despite this declaration, there has been little improvement in the economies of the region. The 2015 per capita market income average for the Promise Zone counties was \$15,261 as compared to a state average of \$29,051 and national average of \$39,778.⁵ The 2011-2015 average poverty rate in the Promise Zone was 31.2% as compared to a state rate of 18.9% and a national rate of 15.5%.⁶ The economic situation has become even grimmer as a result of job losses in the coal sector, the region’s primary economic driver.

Since January 2012, ongoing declines in Eastern Kentucky coal production, based on a reduced demand for Appalachian-mined coal and increased regulations on power plant emissions, have resulted in the loss of more than 10,000 coal-related jobs in the region.⁷ The number of residents employed in mining-related jobs in the Promise Zone counties has decreased by 69% in that same time period.⁸ These job losses and the corresponding hundreds of millions of dollars in wages lost from the local economy have had a ripple effect in the region’s overall jobs picture, leading to job losses in sectors outside coal.

The three-year average unemployment rate in our region for 2013-15 was 11.9% as compared to a state rate of 6.7% and national rate of 6.3%.⁹ Since people whose unemployment benefits have expired can no longer be tracked in unemployment statistics, actual unemployment is apt to be far higher than official statistics indicate. All the counties in the Promise Zone are designated as “distressed” by the Appalachian

⁵ Appalachian Regional Commission. *Data Reports: Socioeconomic Data Profile by County*. Retrieved from <https://www.arc.gov/data>.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Kentucky Department for Energy Development and Independence. *Kentucky Quarterly Coal Report (Q2-2017) and Kentucky Coal Facts – 12th edition (2011-2012)*. Retrieved from <http://energy.ky.gov/Pages/CoalFacts.aspx>.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Appalachian Regional Commission. *Data Reports: Socioeconomic Data Profile by County*. Retrieved from <https://www.arc.gov/data>.

Regional Commission.¹⁰ Distressed counties are those that rank in the worst 10% of the nation's counties as determined by the 3-year average unemployment rates, per capita market income, and poverty rates.

Substance abuse is creating unstable environments for our youth.

“The drug rate and stuff around here has got really bad, and parents will just start drugs and stuff and just drop their kids like a bad habit.” -19-year-old

The most frequently mentioned cause of youth homelessness in the region has consistently been substance abuse, both in community surveys and YHDP planning meetings. Youth and other community stakeholders have frequently stated that youth often become homeless because their mom and/or dad has a substance abuse problem that makes living at home unsafe, or at a minimum, unstable. Our part of Appalachia is known for its unique cultures and rolling landscapes, but it is also known as the nation's *painkiller belt*. Pharmaceutical opioids, which include OxyContin, Vicodin, Percocet and codeine, are the primary cause of resident drug overdose deaths. The rate of pharmaceutical opioid-caused overdose deaths at the national level in 2013 was 5.1 deaths per 100,000. Our rates were considerably higher, led by Bell County with an annual rate of 55.4 pharmaceutical opioid-caused deaths per 100,000 residents.¹¹

“Addiction is a disease. Mentally you have to overcome that. It's very hard. It's a struggle. And I'm scared now like whenever I go back out to the streets, that I'm going to go back into that life just because it's the way I was brought up, and it's what I'm used to.... I know the addict within me. I know that it's there....It's not a choice. Once you start using it, it becomes a disease. Your mind gets used to not dealing with the pain and suffering. If they were right in front of me, I would probably use them.” -24-year-old

¹⁰ Appalachian Regional Commission. *County Economic Status and Number of Distressed Areas in Appalachian Kentucky, Fiscal Year 2018*. Retrieved from https://www.arc.gov/images/appregion/economic_statusFY2018/CountyEconomicStatusandDistressAreasFY2018Kentucky.pdf.

¹¹ Slavova, S., Bunn, T. L., & Wei, G. (2015). Drug Overdose Deaths in Kentucky, 2000-2013. Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center. Retrieved from <http://www.mc.uky.edu/kiprc/projects/ddmarpdak/pdf/KyDrugOverdoseDeaths-2000-2013.pdf>

There is increased incidence of child abuse and neglect.

All of the Promise Zone counties have a higher percentage of children with reports of youth abuse and neglect that meet the criteria as compared to the state. **Table 5** represents the number of unduplicated children where a call of abuse or neglect that met the criteria was reported.^{12 13}

Table 5. Number and Percentage of Abuse and Neglect Reports by Promise Zone County (2016)

County	Number of Unique Children in Reports	Percent of Children in County with Report
Bell	608	10%
Clay	370	8%
Harlan	505	8%
Knox	833	11%
Leslie	189	8%
Letcher	603	12%
Perry	945	16%
Whitley	779	9%
Kentucky	75,710	7%

One-in-four youth ages 16-24 within the Promise Zone is disconnected.

There is a large percentage of disconnected youth (persons ages 16-24 who do not work or are not in school). In our community, the average percentage of disconnected youth is 28% as compared to the state rate of 16% and national rate of 14%.¹⁴ Youth who are disconnected are at a higher risk for experiencing homelessness. As indicated earlier in this plan, we know that none of the youth identified in the 2017 Point-in-Time Count reported that they were enrolled in school or employed.

Rural homelessness is often unseen and misunderstood.

In 2016, homelessness in Balance of State (BoS) or statewide Continuums of Care (CoCs), which are typically made up of multiple rural counties, comprised just 13.9% of all homeless cases according to “The 2016 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress,” but this is likely a significant underestimate due to the paucity of research devoted to rural homelessness and the “hidden” nature of homelessness outside large metropolitan centers. Nonetheless, the added complications associated with rural homelessness are well documented: There are less shelters, more “doubling up,” inadequate and substandard housing (and oftentimes a shortage of housing), lack of resources, increased distance to receive services, and economic insecurity with high unemployment rates. These “doubled up” and/or precarious living situations make identification particularly challenging.

There is a lack of safe and affordable housing options for youth.

An average of 15% of the population in the Promise Zone experience severe housing problems, as compared to the state rate of 14% and national rate of 9%.¹⁵ A severe housing problem means the unit

¹² Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky. Child Protective Services (CPS) and Child Domestic Violence (CDV) Reports in CY'16 by County. Retrieved from <http://www.pcaky.org>.

¹³ Kentucky Youth Advocates. 2016 Child population data. Retrieved from <http://kyyouth.org/kentucky-kids-count/countyprofiles/>

¹⁴ Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. Retrieved from <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/>.

¹⁵ Ibid.

has insufficient kitchen or plumbing facilities; the home is severely overcrowded (more than 1.5 persons per room); or the cost is burdensome to the household (monthly housing costs exceed 50% of income).

Not only does the region experience severe housing problems, there is also a shortage of available units, particularly for subsidized one-bedroom apartments. For example, in Letcher County, per a discussion with the Whitesburg Housing Authority, while there is a total of 104 units, none are vacant. Moreover, as of the beginning of July, there are 206 people on the waitlist, and some of these individuals have been on the waitlist since 2014. These housing shortages are not unique to Letcher County. The Harlan Housing Authority echoed this, estimating that the wait for one-bedroom apartments could last two years. In Middlesboro, a town in Bell County, the current wait for one-bedroom apartments is estimated to be a year.

Another complication was provided by the Cumberland Valley Regional Housing Authority which serves three Promise Zone counties: Knox, Whitley, and Harlan. While they may receive a referral from the homeless shelter for a section 8 voucher, the waiting list for vouchers is 3-6 months long. When a voucher becomes available, it is oftentimes not needed or they are unable to get in touch with the individual who requested it. Of note, none of the housing authorities in the region have priority points specific to youth.

There is no crisis housing specifically for youth and no crisis housing for unaccompanied or parenting minors.

Furthermore, emergency shelter options are limited within the Promise Zone and none are dedicated exclusively for youth. In fact, within the Promise Zone, there are no emergency, transitional, or permanent housing solutions that are tailored specifically for the unique needs of unaccompanied and parenting youth. No shelters are available for unaccompanied or parenting minors. **Table 6** represents the emergency shelter options in the Promise Zone.

Table 6. Number of Emergency Shelter Beds in the Community

County	Name of Organization	Number of Emergency Shelter Beds	Barriers/Restrictions
Bell	Lighthouse Safe Haven Shelter	36	Background checks No unaccompanied minors
Clay	Not Applicable	None	Not applicable
Harlan	Christ's Hands	No designated number of beds	Winter emergency shelter only. No registered sex offenders No unaccompanied minors
Knox	The Everlasting Arm	22	Valid ID, drug-test, warrant check, required church attendance No unaccompanied minors
Knox	KCEOC	17	Has been limited to women and children. Is expanding to include men. No unaccompanied minors
Leslie	Not Applicable	None	Not applicable
Letcher	Whitesburg Ministerial Alliance	No designated beds (cots)	One night stay only No unaccompanied minors
Perry	Corner Haven	23	Singles and couples without children only No unaccompanied minors
Perry	KRCC Emergency Solutions Grant Project	8	Background check No registered sex offenders
Perry	LKLP Safe House	15	Domestic violence victims only No unaccompanied minors
Whitley	Emergency Christian Ministries	21	No unaccompanied minors

There is limited coordination of efforts in the Promise Zone.

“If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.”

–African proverb quoted by one of the YHDP steering committee members at the end of first YHDP planning meeting

At this time, it is difficult to know at a system-level how many youth are actively experiencing homelessness at any given time. This is in part due to limited coordination of data collection. While partners make referrals between agencies regardless of funding sources, data is not currently shared across platforms to be able to establish accurate “by-name” lists of who is homeless at any given time so that appropriate planning and prioritization can occur.

Few of the organizations in our region have the ability to share data or coordinate activities, and there is no coordinated early warning or crisis response systems for youth in the community. For example, the school system collects data on students experiencing homelessness, but the specific information is not shared in real time with housing providers. Unless these same students present at an agency that is using HMIS, they are not being identified for quick access to appropriate housing interventions.

An end result of the limited coordination of efforts is that it is difficult to obtain an accurate number of youth experiencing homelessness in the Promise Zone, which impairs attempts to implement effective strategies and to accurately track progress. There has been no formal count of people experiencing homelessness in the Promise Zone outside of the once-a-year PIT count, and until now, no coordinated plan pertaining to youth homelessness to understand the full scale and scope of the issue in our community.

Additional Subpopulations

Pregnant and Parenting Youth

Pregnant and parenting youth struggle with childcare and the changes in family dynamics. They often feel isolated from peers and family members and may not have the necessary supports to continue with school or work. The additional demands of being a new parent can be overwhelming, particularly when coupled with housing instability. Young parents may be less hesitant to access services if they fear that their children will be taken away from them. Parenting classes can be particularly beneficial for youth who have had absent parents, either physically absent or emotionally absent. Young parent support groups can help to establish a support network. From discussions with public housing authorities that assign prioritization points for housing, none mentioned pregnancy as a category for prioritization. Childcare is a necessity, although accessibility to childcare is variable throughout the Promise Zone region and tends to be concentrated in the district centers.

“I moved out when I was 18 going on 19, and I was pregnant with my son, and I got my own place. I paid all the bills, I worked, I went to school, I took care of my son. I took care of my drug habit, my son’s dad’s drug habit. I picked up extra shifts to pay for everything. It was always me going non-stop because I was a functioning drug addict....When I went to jail for my very first time of age [at 19], we got kicked out of the apartment, and after that it was kind of here and there and everywhere.” -23-year-old

Furthermore, childcare may or may not be immediately available. Given the rurality of the region, there are limited childcare providers. The most common response from childcare providers regarding openings for care was “you can fill out an application.” Notably, age-eligible children whose families are determined to be experiencing homelessness are categorically eligible for Head Start and Early Head Start programs and consequently would be given the highest priority. Still if there are no spots available, as is often the case, there could be a wait of weeks or months before being accepted into a program. This wait can be

“You need diapers, children’s clothes, formula...I was able to get WIC, but my daughter drank more [formula] than what she was supposed to. It got so bad to where I just switched my daughter before she was even 12 months old off it to regular milk. \$2 a jug or \$30 a can. I can’t afford that. And then I got to where I was taking my food stamp card and paying for the formula, which was cutting down the food that my [older] son was eating, so that was a problem.”

-20-year-old

challenging and excruciating because unless an opening is projected, the length of time on the waiting list is unknown. It is recommended that you seek out childcare as soon as you know you are pregnant to get on the waiting list. However, if you do not know where you will be living, you cannot know where to put in an application. Based on 2015 data, 96% of children under the age of six experiencing homelessness in Kentucky were unserved by federally-funded early childhood education programs.¹⁶

Many childcare providers participate in Kentucky’s voluntary quality rating system, known as STARS for KIDS NOW. There are very few providers in the state that meet all of the requirements for the highest rating (4 stars),

and none are found in the Promise Zone. Of the 72 licensed childcare providers throughout the Promise Zone region, 27% have a rating of 3 stars.¹⁷ While there are services provided within and near the Promise Zone, these services may be inaccessible due to lack of transportation. Of the 72 providers, just 36% provide transportation. There are a couple of notable home visiting programs that can be initiated during pregnancy, including one from Head Start and another offered through the health department (HANDS). While these programs address the transportation issue since care comes to the client, there could still be hesitation in participating, particularly in cases of housing instability or homelessness. A comprehensive needs assessment will better elucidate the unique needs of this subpopulation.

In 2015, Kentucky had the sixth highest teen birth rate in the nation. However, there has been a marked trend downward in teen birth rates both nationally and at the state level. Kentucky’s teen birth rate is the lowest it has been in recorded history. Likewise, most of the Promise Zone counties have also experienced a significant decrease in teen births. Nonetheless, the rates within the Promise Zone are significantly higher than the national rate, and aside from Leslie County, considerably higher than the state level rate as well (**Table 7**, on the next page).¹⁸

¹⁶ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children & Families. (Jun. 2017). Early Childhood Homeless in the United States: 50-State Profile. Retrieved from https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ecd/epfp_50_state_profiles_6_15_17_508.pdf.

¹⁷ Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Department for Community Based Services. Child Care Provider Search. (2017). Retrieved from <https://prdweb.chfs.ky.gov/kicccpublic/providersearchpublic.aspx>.

¹⁸ Vital Statistics. Provided by Kentucky Department for Public Health.

Table 7. Numbers of Births and Birth Rate (per 1,000 females ages 15-19)

County	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		2015*		2016*	
	Births	Birth Rate												
Bell	65	67.8	58	64.7	61	78.7	50	65.2	49	64.2	42	56	52	69.6
Clay	54	66.3	48	63.9	43	60.1	45	70.3	35	58.7	35	60.1	32	57.3
Harlan	72	74.8	60	69.4	74	94.8	54	68.96	53	70.5	41	51.8	36	49.5
Knox	82	72	69	66.4	79	81.2	62	64.5	66	69.3	45	45.6	56	56.0
Leslie	30	85.2	17	51.5	27	93.4	16	59.7	16	61.3	18	69.2	8	30.0
Letcher	46	62.3	53	76.5	36	59.6	36	61.1	36	62.6	25	39.8	26	42.1
Perry	58	65.1	65	79.2	52	73.9	51	73.3	43	65.6	34	46.1	49	67.9
Whitley	99	67.3	107	76.8	79	58.6	85	65.6	53	41.5	65	48.8	49	37.9
Kentucky	6567	46.7	6055	43.1	5565	41.0	5,298	38.7	4764	34.5	4358	31.4	4184	30.0
US		34.3		31.3		29.4		26.6		24.4		22.3		20.3

The Kentucky Department for Public Health Adolescent Health Program has identified a number of risks related to teen pregnancy and parenting, including: less likely to graduate from high school, more likely to not receive prenatal care, nine times more likely to live in poverty, more likely to have a premature and/or low birth weight baby, increased infant mortality, and more likely for the children to experience abuse and neglect. Furthermore, the majority of children enter the welfare system. Given these risks and the additional environmental risk factors present in the Promise Zone, for the purposes of this plan, we consider all teen parents as “at risk of experiencing homelessness.”

The Adolescent Health Program’s “multi-pronged approach” integrates education, positive youth development, communication strategies, and access to health care. The impact of this program has included student empowerment and accountability (improved social and emotional well-being), improved work ethic (impacting school and work), and healthier decision-making. However, there have been a number of challenges identified through this program, including the disconnect between parents and teens, the lack of efforts to engage adolescent males, and a need for programs specifically designed for pregnant and parenting teens. Furthermore, the program has not addressed the potential housing needs of teen parents who are at increased risk of experiencing homelessness.

While research shows that teenage pregnancy can lead to higher rates of homelessness, being in poverty while parenting increases a youth’s risk of experiencing homelessness even more. Knowing the teenage birth rate for the Promise Zone tells us half of the story, but by using Medicaid as a proxy for poverty, we are able to see that the majority of teenage births were to mothers in poverty. Of the teenagers in the Promise Zone ages 15-17 who gave birth in 2015, 92% were on Medicaid. Of births to mothers ages 18-24, 79% were on Medicaid. These percentages are much higher than the state as a whole, as shown in **Figure 10** (on the next page).¹⁹

“I start thinking, ‘Okay, my two kids are here, and I’ve got to dress my kids, and I’ve got to do this, and I’ve got to do this.’ It’s just too much. By the time I think about all the things I’m going to have to go through to get out that door, I just want to lay in bed and not even go.”
-20-year-old

¹⁹ Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services. Vital Statistics Branch. Kentucky Data Center.

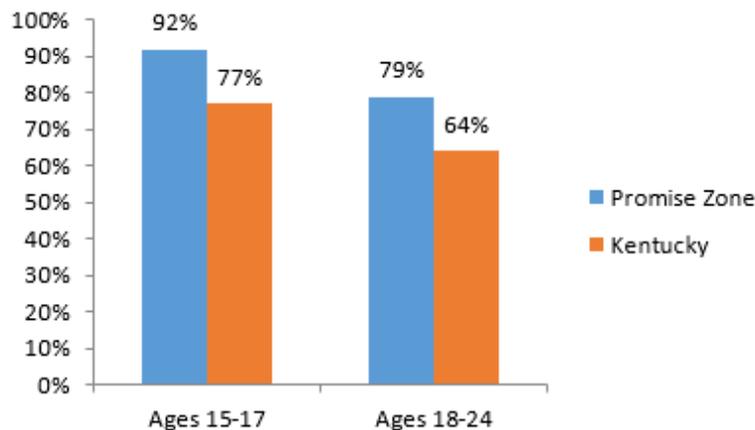


Figure 10. Percentage of Births Paid for by Medicaid for Ages 15-17 and 18-24

While there is no way to be certain how many pregnant and parenting youth will actually become homeless, we know that we see an average of 56 parenting youth each year in our existing homeless service system. **An analysis of HMIS data between 2015 and 2017 shows that the average age of parenting youth is 21.6 years old. The average age of children in the parenting youth household is 1.9 years old.** Using this information, we can conclude that the average age of parents when they give birth is around 19.7 years old, and, of course, this means the average age youth become pregnant is around 18. In 2016, there were 308 births to mothers ages 15-19. The majority of these births were to mothers on Medicaid, and we know from HMIS data that the vast majority of parenting youth experiencing homelessness over the past two years were enrolled in Medicaid. If youth become pregnant or give birth prior to age 18, it is highly unlikely that these youth would access current homeless service providers since no projects serve minors without an adult at this time. We believe it is highly likely that we will continue to see an average of approximately 50 parenting youth between the ages of 18-24 and if we increase our outreach, housing, and services to pregnant and parenting minors, which we plan to do, possibly another 25 youth would be in need of housing specifically.

LGBTQ Youth

“I’ve never had anyone bully me to my face, but I keep hearing kids say I’m getting bullied, so I assume there’s people saying stuff about me behind my back.” -18-year-old

Within the Promise Zone, there is currently limited data regarding the numbers of youth experiencing homelessness who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ). Nationwide, it is estimated that LGBT youth make up around 7% of the total youth population, but comprise approximately 40% of young people experiencing homelessness²⁰. The director of the youth drop-in centers in the region estimates that of all the youth served in the centers who have experienced

²⁰ “40% of Youth Experiencing Homelessness Identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgender.” True Colors Fund. Retrieved from <https://truecolorsfund.org/our-issue/>.

homelessness that close to 50% are LGBTQ. This too may be an underestimate, however, as young people may not disclose this information given the pervasive stigma still present in the community, risk of rejection by family and friends, and tangible fears for personal safety.

“In terms of LGBT, they don’t agree with homosexuality, but they preach about loving them regardless, and they preach hate the sin, not the sinner, but they actually follow through with that. Like they won’t talk bad about you behind your back....My church has helped me out a lot.” -18-year-old

In recent Point-in-Time Count surveys, gender identity has been asked of persons identifying as homeless. No persons in the Promise Zone, including among youth, identified as transgender or not identifying as male, female, or transgender. In the 2017 Point-in-Time Count, questions about sexual orientation were added for the first time. Of the 19 youth reported, 14 identified as heterosexual, 4 did not know or refused to say, and one responded “I’d rather not say.” Youth were then asked, “Has anyone ever made you leave your home or have you felt like you had to leave your home because of your sexual orientation or gender identity?” All who identified as heterosexual responded no. The remaining 5, including the person who responded “I’d rather not say” either did not know or refused to say.

Going forward, sexual orientation and gender identity questions will be included in all projects funded through the YHDP as well as any future youth counts our community undertakes. In addition, we will incorporate training for education and service providers on how to assist LGBTQ youth in a culturally competent and sensitive manner.

Minors under the age of 18

“Youth under the age of 18 have absolutely no rights. Even if you are independent.”

-19-year-old

Minors have limited rights and struggle to obtain identification or access mail, health benefits, or vital records without the consent of a guardian. In one interview, a seventeen-year old recounted how he had injured his hand, but no one would take him to see a doctor without permission from his legal guardian, his mother who lives out of state. After three days of pain, he was finally able to go to the hospital where he learned he had shattered his knuckle. Another youth interviewed suggested that teachers need to be trained to recognize the signs of homelessness and know how to respond.

“I was still afraid when I was underage. I was still afraid to talk to people. I didn’t want my sister to go to foster care. I didn’t want to go to foster care...” -19-year-old

Kentucky statute mandates reporting of dependent, abused or neglected minors. Consequently, an unaccompanied minor experiencing homelessness, per state law, is required to be reported to DCBS. As a result, service providers are often reluctant to serve minors. Therefore, minors are often afraid to ask for help for fear of being reported to the state. We will work with our Department for Community Based Services (child welfare agency) to better understand the reporting requirements regarding minors to determine if there are interventions that can be used for youth who do not want to return home, but the circumstances do not necessarily rise to the level of needing DCBS involvement through the foster care system.

“I know I was a teenager, but I also know that I was not a grown-up then. Even if I’m not a child and I’m not a grown-up, you still regardless, you still [have to] have somebody that is going to be there to let you know that they care, that they love you, and that they’re going to be there if you need ‘em.” -23-year-old

Youth in Foster Care

“Most of the time, in my experience, going to a small town, foster kids get a bad rap....”

-18-year-old

While the number of youth aging out of foster care appears low (**Table 8**), there are high numbers of youth in out-of-home care (**Table 9**).²¹ The number of youth in out-of-home care in Kentucky has risen substantially over the last several years. This is likely due to several factors, including the drug epidemic and changes to Kentucky law regarding kinship care. Per DCBS, there are currently 58 youth (ages 16-20) from the Promise Zone in out-of-home care. A recent bill, the Fictive Care Bill, went into effect on June 29. This bill allows a nonrelative with emotional attachment to the youth to be an approved placement. The

Table 8. Youth Aging Out of Foster Care (Jan- Dec 2016), provided by DCBS

County	Recommitted	Did Not Recommit
Bell	0	Less than 5
Clay	Less than 5	0
Harlan	Less than 5	3
Knox	Less than 5	5
Leslie	2	2
Letcher	Less than 5	3
Perry	Less than 5	2
Whitley	Less than 5	10

Table 9. Children in Out-of-Home Care (2014-2016)

County	Rate per 1000 children ages 0-17
Bell	12.4
Clay	104.0
Harlan	19.6
Knox	41.4
Leslie	23.2
Letcher	24.2
Perry	48.6
Whitley	42.5
Kentucky	41.1

²¹ Kentucky Youth Advocates. *Kentucky Kids Count 2017 County Data Book*, p. 46-49. Retrieved from <http://kyyouth.org/kentucky-kids-count/>.

John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program provides federal dollars to states to equip older foster youth with the skills, supports and resources to be self-sufficient upon leaving care. Kentucky utilizes these funds to provide a variety of services focused on education attainment, employment, financial literacy, and career exploration. These federal dollars also provide Education Training Vouchers to former foster youth participating in a post-secondary program as well as a Room & Board Program for aged-out youth at risk of homelessness. In addition, Kentucky Statute also provides the Tuition Waiver for Foster and Adopted Youth to attend any public state institution. Youth do not have to extend their commitment to utilize these benefits and are eligible for all of them if they were in foster care on their 18th birthday. However, many of them are still ill-prepared to fully take advantage of these resources, in particular their education benefits.

Kentucky does afford foster youth the opportunity to extend their commitment until their 21st birthday. Youth who choose to leave at 18 have until their 19th birthday to change their mind and request to be return to care. Youth who extend their commitment are provided housing and support services. However, many youth are hesitant to extend their commitment and decide to leave at 18. Very few youth in the Promise Zone recommit at 18 (**Table 8**, on previous page). Youth who decide to leave often find it difficult to successfully live on their own. The situation is made even more difficult as many youth leave care without a high school diploma. Youth in the Promise Zone may also be less hesitant to extend their commitment as most of the available placements for older foster youth are in other parts of the state. Youth often state that they leave at 18 in order to move back to their home region to be close to their family.

“[I was] left to my own devices without any knowledge of the world whatsoever, I mean transitioning from boot camps to foster homes, etc. to having an apartment of my own with no job, no positive outlook for any future whatsoever, trying to make it on my own....” -19-year-old

HMIS Foster Care Date

Of youth who were served by HMIS participating agencies in the Promise Zone between October 1, 2015 and October 1, 2017, 11% reported having been in foster care at some point in the past. Prior experience in foster care is not required to be collected on each client. Of the 216 youth clients served during this two-year period, prior placement in foster care was only collected from 155 clients.

Youth in Juvenile Justice

Youth involved with juvenile justice do not always have access points to return to school or work. One youth in prison stated the jail offered GED programs for males, but not for females. Many of the youth in prisons that were interviewed reported childhood insecurity, parental neglect, or abuse and ended up in foster care.

“My social worker said if I get into one fight, I’m back in boot camp. And so I asked her, ‘What if two or three kids are fighting me, attacking me, and I can’t get to someone?’ And she’s like, ‘You’ve just got to get to someone.’ I’m like, ‘So if three kids are jumping me, and I hit one of them, I’m still going to boot camp.’” -18-year-old

The jails release inmates at midnight. Many have no place to go when released or no transportation to get anywhere once released. There are minimal resources for persons who will be homeless upon their release from

prison. Only one prison in the Promise Zone has a process to support people who could experience homelessness upon their release from jail. Almost universally, the youth inmates interviewed reported that what they need to overcome homelessness is jobs and access to education. Many also need drug rehabilitation. However, there was limited integration among the prisons, schools, and community agencies that would support the needs the youth mentioned.

“When you have pending felonies or any kind of pending charges, no one wants to hire you because they assume they’re going to lose you because you’re going to go to prison or something.” -23-year-old

Victims of Sexual Trafficking and Exploitation

Youth who are experiencing homelessness are at risk for molestation and exploitation. The National Center for Homeless Education includes homelessness as one of several red flags that could indicate possible victimization and specifically highlights the vulnerability of unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness to sexual trafficking.²²

There have been an increasing number of incidents of human trafficking of children throughout Kentucky since reporting was initiated statewide in 2013, including the Cumberland and East Mountain regions where the Promise Zone counties are located.²³ Moreover, 8.1% of high school students (13.0% of females, 3.2% of males) surveyed throughout the state for the 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) indicated that they have been forced to have sex.²⁴

At one of the detention centers where interviews were conducted, one of the inmates wanted to tell her story. She had a difficult youth that involved foster care and substance abuse and was in the detention center on drug-related charges. She

explained how predators seek out women like herself: “They know you’re an addict. They know you’re needing, you’re homeless, no money....That’s the first thing they’re going to do....” A jailer reinforced this by explaining that predators will seek out women when they are released from prison.

“I got molested one time when I fell asleep somewhere at somebody’s house....For two years that person kind of lured me, thinking it would be safe to come here, and the first time I came there to stay something happened to me, so....I can’t just sleep anywhere....I wear almost everything in my closet [describes all the layers]....I think it’s so I know that when I do fall asleep somewhere that nobody can’t take them layers off without me knowing there’s something coming off....That’s why I put all these layers on.”

-22-year-old

²² National Center for Homeless Education. (2014). Sex trafficking of minors: What schools need to know to recognize and respond to the trafficking of students. Retrieved from <https://nche.ed.gov/downloads/briefs/trafficking.pdf>

²³ Kentucky Department for Community Based Services. 2016 Human Trafficking Report. Retrieved from <http://chfs.ky.gov/NR/rdonlyres/C897015F-DFFB-4CC4-B475-37D553C76189/0/HumanTraffickingReport2016FINAL.pdf>

²⁴ Kentucky Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey Results, Kentucky High School Survey, QN19. Retrieved from <https://education.ky.gov/curriculum/CSH/Documents/YRBS%20High%20School%20Summary%20Tables.pdf>.

Minorities

Racial disparities and overrepresentation of minorities among people experiencing homelessness has been noted in many urban settings, but has received very little attention in rural communities. While non-Caucasian students represented just 3.8% of the total numbers of students throughout the Promise Zone in the 2015-16 school year, African American students, students of two or more races, and Hispanic students were disproportionately represented among students identified as being homeless (**Figure 11**).²⁵

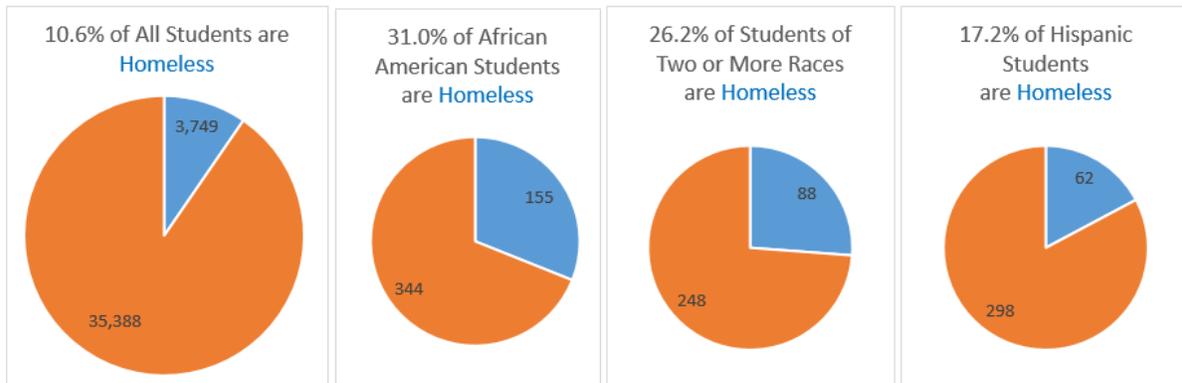


Figure 11. Minority Groups are Disproportionately Represented in the Homeless Count Using the McKinney-Vento Definition of Homelessness. The graphs here represent data from the Department of Education for the 2015-2016 school year.

²⁵ Kentucky Department of Education School Report Card. 2015-2016 District Report Cards. Retrieved from <https://applications.education.ky.gov/SRC/Default.aspx>.

Section II: Vision, Goals, and Objectives

Our vision for our coordinated community plan is ***all youth in the Promise Zone will have a sense of belonging and a stable, permanent place to call home***. We believe a well-coordinated collaboration of partners working with youth and families to implement strategies while closely monitoring and evaluating results will improve the outcomes of at-risk youth and those already experiencing homelessness. **The overarching goal of our coordinated plan is to reduce the number of youth experiencing homelessness.**

Stakeholders in our region are committed to helping youth succeed as they transition to adulthood and beyond. To this end, our community is committed to the core outcomes outlined in the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) Youth Framework to End Youth Homelessness. These outcomes are aligned with our vision, goals, objectives, and action steps, and provide the basis for our plan.

As stated by USICH, our overarching outcomes are as follows: **(1) Stable Housing**—all youth will have a safe and reliable place to call home; **(2) Permanent Connections**—all youth will have ongoing, permanent connections to families, communities, schools, and other positive social networks; **(3) Education/employment**—all youth will have high performance in and completion of educational and training activities, especially for younger youth, and starting and maintaining adequate and stable employment, particularly for older youth; and **(4) Social-emotional Well-being**—all youth will develop key competencies, attitudes, and behaviors that will equip them to succeed across multiple domains of daily life, including school, work, relationships, and community.

In addition to these four core outcomes, our community is also committed to addressing the following principles: **special populations, positive youth development, trauma informed care, family engagement, immediate access to housing with no preconditions, youth choice and individualized and client-driven supports, social and community integration, and coordinated entry**. **Table 10** provides an outline of how our plan incorporates the principles.

Table 10. Summary of Principles and How They Are Addressed in the Plan

Principle Addressed	Description of Principle as It Relates to the Plan
Special Populations	Our plan includes specific strategies to address the unique needs of youth who are often at a greater risk of experiencing homelessness and have unique needs that should be considered and appropriately addressed in order for youth to have better outcomes as they transition into adulthood. These populations are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning Youth; Minors (youth under age 18); Pregnant and Parenting Youth, Youth Involved in the Juvenile Justice and Foster Care Systems, Victims of Trafficking and Exploitation, and Minorities. A description of specific strategies we will use to address the unique needs of these youth is included in Table 11 .
Positive Youth Development	The purpose of Positive Youth Development (PYD) is to increase the likelihood for youth to have more positive outcomes while in adulthood. PYD builds on the strengths and assets of youth while connecting them with positive experiences, relationships, and environments that can build resiliency to help overcome adversity now and in the future. Adherence to the principles of PYD is particularly important for the social and emotional well-being of youth. Therefore:

Principle Addressed	Description of Principle as It Relates to the Plan
<p>Positive Youth Development (cont.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All YHDP-funded projects will be required to incorporate PYD into their program design and implementation. Through the RFP process that will be utilized to allocate YHDP funding to specific projects, applicants will be required to outline specific plans for PYD. • PYD training will be provided to all stakeholders in the Promise Zone, including partners not directly funded through YHDP. Trainings will include strategies to meaningfully engage disconnected youth and youth who may need additional supports and culturally sensitive engagement opportunities such as LGBTQ youth and/or minorities. <p>Specifically, PYD incorporation in the Promise Zone includes, but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing youth engagement opportunities for youth to be heard, such as through involvement with the Youth Advisory Board or YHDP project-specific leadership opportunities. • Providing youth opportunities to advocate on their own behalf at a project level and a community level. • Providing youth with opportunities to serve as peer mentors, program advisors, or program staff when appropriate. • Providing opportunities for youth to participate in small group activities based on their individual interests. • Ensuring youth have opportunities to regularly connect with caring adults, including outside of their families • Allowing youth to set their own goals.
<p>Trauma Informed Care</p>	<p>Trauma Informed Care (TIC) is an evidenced-based practice that teaches service providers how to provide appropriate, quality care and interventions to persons who have experienced trauma. The experience of homelessness can be traumatic in and of itself. So too can being a victim of exploitation, violence, and other forms of abuse. TIC helps providers understand the triggers and vulnerabilities of trauma survivors so needs can be anticipated, appropriate interventions utilized, and the chances of the youth being re-traumatized are reduced. Therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All YHDP-funded projects will be required to incorporate TIC into their program design and implementation. • TIC training will be provided to all stakeholders in the Promise Zone, including partners not directly funded through YHDP.
<p>Family Engagement</p>	<p>Family engagement is a fundamental strategy incorporated throughout our plan to both prevent and end homelessness among youth. Therefore, our YHDP-funded projects and partners will always:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider and pursue, when appropriate, reunification with family as a permanent housing option before youth enter the homeless response system (crisis housing, rapid rehousing, etc.) and as a safe and sustainable option for exiting homelessness. • Connect youth with existing family engagement services provided through community-based organizations including schools and the juvenile justice system, including family counseling. • Connect family members with resources, such as substance use recovery programs, mental health treatment, employment services, that will strengthen the stability of the youth’s home environment.

Principle Addressed	Description of Principle as It Relates to the Plan
Immediate Access to Housing with No Preconditions	<p>As discussed in our needs section, currently there are no permanent housing options specifically designated for youth in our Promise Zone region. In addition, there is currently no crisis housing specifically targeted for youth under age 24. The existing emergency shelters do not serve unaccompanied or parenting minors. Some, but not all of the existing Continuum of Care and Emergency Solutions Grant-funded projects are considered low-barrier. Therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All YHDP-funded projects will be required to implement low-barrier access with no preconditions (e.g., projects will not set conditions such as requiring youth to have income, requiring sobriety or completion of a substance use treatment program prior to entry, and having a criminal record, which is especially important for youth who have been in juvenile justice or the adult justice system). • YHDP funding will be used to create at least two new crisis housing options and at least two new rapid rehousing options. • Youth will be quickly connected with low-barrier, permanent housing through a coordinated entry system. • YHDP funding will be used to create at least two youth system navigator positions to assess the individual needs of youth and connect them with the appropriate resources as quickly as possible.
Youth Choice, Individual and Client-Driven Supports	<p>Similar to the principles of Positive Youth Development, youth choice and involvement in selecting their own supports are also fundamental to our youth-centered community plan. We know there is not a one-size-fits-all solution for preventing and ending youth homelessness. Therefore, the supports offered to youth will be individualized to meet their specific and unique needs and circumstances. Our response system will be flexible to respond to the varying degrees of need among youth. Specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth will always be allowed to choose the housing and support services they want to access. • All programs will be voluntary. • Utilizing a Housing First approach and a progressive engagement model, youth will not be required to participate in any services in exchange for housing support, but will be offered a wide range of services to support their immediate basic needs as well as ensure long-term housing stability and social and emotional well-being.
Social and Community Integration	<p>As previously stated, in addition to all youth in the Promise Zone having a stable, permanent place to call home, it is our vision that all youth have a sense of belonging as well. A sense of belonging is important for a person’s overall social and emotional well-being. Specific strategies include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultivation of YHDP Youth Advisory Board • Empowering youth to take on community leadership positions such as serving on boards and committees. • Empowering youth, especially those served through the YHDP, to serve as peer mentors and program advisors or staff, when appropriate. • Adding additional youth drop in centers where youth can connect with peers with shared experiences as well as caring adults. • Encourage youth to participate in community activities that align with their interests such as sports leagues, faith-based youth groups, and other experiences offered by non-homeless system organizations that can foster the youth’s sense of belonging.

Principle Addressed	Description of Principle as It Relates to the Plan
Coordinated Entry	To end youth homelessness in the Promise Zone, we are committed to quickly identifying youth in need of help and connecting them with the best resources available to meet their needs and choices. As noted in our needs section, it can be very challenging for youth to know where and how to access resources. It can also be very difficult for caring members of the community to know where to refer youth they know are in need. This is why we have included the goal (Goal 3) of establishing a coordinated entry system that quickly connects all youth experiencing homelessness to housing and services solutions based on their individual needs and choice with accompanying objectives and action steps in Table 12 .

Among youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness, several subpopulations of youth are often disproportionately represented. Given the unique circumstances and vulnerabilities of each of these populations, special attention and culturally appropriate responses are needed. Our community has developed targeted strategies (**Table 11**) to address their specific needs. Notably, many young people fall into several of these subpopulations; they are not mutually exclusive.

Table 11. Specific Strategies for Each Youth Subpopulation

Subpopulation	Strategies
Youth in Foster Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve transition planning for youth exiting the foster care system through enhanced partnerships with DCBS Independent Living Coordinators (components should include housing, education, employment, mental and physical health, and connections to caring adults, mentors, and opportunities to connect with peers support networks). • Educate youth who have exited the foster care system to take advantage of supports they are entitled to such as rental vouchers through the Chafee Room and Board Program, tuition assistance, training vouchers, the right to request to return to care until their 19th birthday, and the benefits of extending their commitment until 21 years old (which includes housing assistance and supports). • Provide youth who have been involved with the foster care system leadership opportunities to improve the system. • Provide additional supports, such as employment mentoring, to increase the number of youth from the Promise Zone participating in the Fostering Success program (10-week program providing employment at DCBS).
Youth in Juvenile Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve transition planning for youth exiting the juvenile justice system through enhanced partnerships with transition/aftercare services (components should include housing, education, employment, mental and physical health, legal issues, and connections to caring adults, mentors, and opportunities to connect with peers support networks). • Increase collaboration between juvenile justice, DCBS, and the education and housing sectors. • Provide law enforcement with tools to support youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness. • Provide youth who have been involved with the juvenile justice system leadership opportunities to improve the system. • Involve schools, churches, and community groups in prevention efforts to keep youth from entering the juvenile justice system in the first place. • Partner with KET to pilot the Fast Forward online GED program at one or more of the detention centers in the Promise Zone.
LGBTQ Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with True Colors and utilize resources provided by the National Alliance on Ending Homelessness and other LGBTQ service and advocacy organizations to ensure best practices are in place to address the specific needs of LGBTQ youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Encourage agency participation in the 40 to None Network. • Include voluntary sexual orientation and gender identity questions in all projects (e.g., intake) funded through the YHDP as well as any future youth counts.

<p>LGBTQ Youth (cont.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require and ensure all YHDP-funded projects as well as other HUD- funded programs adhere to HUD’s Equal Access and Gender Identity Rules. • Provide training on HUD Equal Access and Gender Identity Rules. • Provide cultural competency training to YHDP-funded projects, schools, services providers, health care providers, law enforcement, and other stakeholders to ensure LGBTQ youth are treated with respect and sensitivity and are free from harassment and provided with safe, supportive environments. • Ensure youth are only connected with health and mental health providers that have been trained on the specific health needs of LGBTQ youth and who do not demonstrate homophobic attitudes. • Engage faith-based organizations in a dialogues about reactions to LGBTQ and foster a community of support for all youth. • Carry out a focus group to better ascertain issues of concern for LGBTQ youth, as well as to identify risk and protective factors. • Connect youth and their families with support networks and resources. • Ensure all marketing and outreach materials include non-discrimination language and conveys that programs and services are provided in an environment and manner that is welcoming and safe for all youth, including LGBTQ youth.
<p>Minors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarify existing state laws related to minors relating to their rights and the provision of services to minors who are not in state care. • Establish a formal host home program that allows youth to select the families of their choice. • Work with schools, including the DCBS-funded Family and Youth Resource Centers as well as McKinney-Vento Liaisons, to quickly identify youth experiencing homelessness and those at-risk and connect them with system navigators (to be funded through the YHDP program) and the coordinated entry system.
<p>Pregnant and Parenting Youth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the unique needs of pregnant and parenting youth are addressed by providers (connect with health departments and child care providers) utilizing a two-generation approach, meeting the needs of both parent and child. • Connect pregnant and parenting youth with federally-funded early childhood education programs to support their children and assist youth with enrolling children in school as well as linking children to available resources to support their well-being. • Connect pregnant and parenting youth to health care resources, including mental health to help youth with postpartum depression and other parenting-related stressors. • Provide parenting-skills services and link youth to peers who are also pregnant and/or parenting for support and mentorship. • Distribute the Administration for Children and Family’s “Self-Assessment Tool for Early Childhood Programs Serving Families Experiencing Homelessness” to all childcare providers in the Promise Zone and provide training to utilize this tool. • Complete a comprehensive needs analysis to better elucidate the unique needs of pregnant and parenting youth.
<p>Victims of Sex Trafficking and Exploitation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner with the Southeast Human Trafficking Task Force to increase the number of safe zones throughout the Promise Zone. • Increase the number of sex trafficking trainings offered throughout the Promise Zone and incorporate this training into existing events and programming to reach a larger audience. Encourage hotels in the Promise Zone to sign the pledge developed by Kentucky’s attorney general to have their staff complete an online human trafficking training. • Work with local law enforcement on how to quickly connect youth who are victims of sex trafficking and exploitation with appropriate resources. • Ensure all YHDP-funded projects as well as other housing and service providers in the Promise Zone utilize Trauma Informed Care (TIC) practices that are sensitive to the unique circumstances of youth who have been victims of sex trafficking and exploitation.

Minorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine why minorities are disproportionately represented among youth experiencing homelessness in the Promise Zone and determine what programs, outreach, and education changes are needed.
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The strategies included in this plan are based on our needs assessment and analysis. We identified gaps and weaknesses that were discussed throughout the region. For each gap, solutions have been proposed and are integrated in our plan. Our methodology involved collecting data; analyzing data; sharing data at community meetings; determining our vision, goals, outcomes, and approaches; and developing a continuum of strategies. The goals, objectives, and action steps we propose to undertake are shown in **Table 12**.

Table 12. Goals, Objectives, and Action Steps

Goal	Objective	Action Steps	Responsible Partners
<p>1. Identify all unaccompanied youth, including parenting youth, experiencing or at-risk of homelessness.</p> <p><i>Measure:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in the total number of youth actively experiencing homelessness <p><i>Note: This goal and related action steps are closely related to establishing a coordinated entry system outlined in more detail under Goal 3.</i></p>	<p>1.1: Determine the number of youth actively experiencing homelessness at any given point in time.</p>	<p>A. Create and continuously update a real-time, “active” (aka “by-name”) list of all youth currently experiencing homelessness in all eight counties of the Promise Zone.</p> <p>B. Identify entry points to establish who will provide information for the active list (e.g., schools, homeless service providers, youth drop-in centers, churches, mainstream service providers)</p> <p>C. Determine what privacy considerations and/or limitations there are related to including minors on an active list. If necessary, establish a separate active list for minors.</p> <p>D. Establish protocols to protect the privacy of all youth included on the active list.</p>	<p>A. Kentucky Housing Corporation (KHC), Coordinated Entry Lead (Kentucky River Community Care—KRCC)</p> <p>B. KHC, KRCC, Partners for Education (PFE), Schools, System Navigator Positions</p> <p>C. Department for Community Based Services (DCBS), Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), KHC, KRCC</p> <p>D. KHC, KRCC</p>
	<p>1.2: Determine the number of youth at-risk of experiencing homelessness at any given point in time.</p>	<p>A. Identify who will contribute information for the number of youth at-risk of homelessness (e.g., schools, homeless service providers, youth drop-in centers, churches, mainstream service provider, justice and child welfare systems)</p> <p>B. Decide how this at-risk population interacts with the active list of youth actively experiencing homelessness established as part of Objective 1.1.</p> <p>C. Coordinate with the foster care system to determine the number of youth set to “age out at least 90 days in advance.</p> <p>D. Coordinate with the juvenile justice system to determine the number of minor youth set to “age out” at least 90 days in advance.</p>	<p>A. DCBS, DJJ, Faith-based organizations, KHC, KRCC, PFE, Schools, System Navigator Positions</p> <p>B. KHC, KRCC</p> <p>C. DCBS, KRCC, System Navigator Positions</p> <p>D. DJJ, KRCC, System Navigator Positions</p>

Goal	Objective	Action Steps	Responsible Partners
<p>1. Identify all unaccompanied youth, including parenting youth, experiencing or at-risk of homelessness.</p> <p><i>Measure:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in the total number of youth actively experiencing homelessness <p><i>Note: This goal and related action steps are closely related to establishing a coordinated entry system outlined in more detail under Goal 3.</i></p>	<p>1.2: Determine the number of youth at-risk of experiencing homelessness at any given point in time.</p>	<p>E. Determine what privacy considerations and/or limitations there are related to including minors. If necessary, establish a separate active list for minors.</p> <p>F. Establish protocols to protect the privacy of all youth included on an at-risk active list.</p> <p>G. Provide training to schools and other providers on how to identify and engage youth who are at-risk of experiencing homelessness.</p>	<p>E. DCBS, DJJ, KHC, KRCC</p> <p>F. KHC, KRCC</p> <p>G. PFE, Schools</p>
	<p>1.3: Understand the community-wide scale and characteristics of youth experiencing homelessness.</p>	<p>A. Conduct a “Youth Count” separate from the annual K-Count (Point-in-Time Count) in late spring 2018. Targeted outreach to youth will be included as part of the K-Count in January. The Youth Count will be conducted over a period of several days as opposed to one 24-hour period used for the K-Count.</p> <p>B. Determine the specific methodology, including survey instrument that will be used to conduct the youth count (e.g., Voices of Youth Count, True Colors Fund, etc.).</p> <p>C. Include youth in every aspect of the youth count, including planning and conducting the count.</p> <p>D. Add any person identified during the youth count to the active list and quickly connect them with the appropriate resources.</p> <p>E. Evaluate the information gathered from the youth count to determine what adjustments may be needed to the coordinated community plan and implementation.</p>	<p>A. Community Action Agencies, PFE, Steering Committee, Youth Advisory Board (YAB)</p> <p>B. PFE, Steering Committee, YAB</p> <p>C. PFE, Steering Committee, YAB</p> <p>D. KRCC, PFE, Steering Committee, YAB</p> <p>E. KHC, PFE, Steering Committee, YAB</p>

Goal	Objective	Action Steps	Responsible Partners
<p>2. Prevent and divert youth from experiencing homelessness whenever possible and provide immediate access to low-barrier crisis housing and services whenever youth need it.</p> <p><u>Measure:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in the total number of youth who become homeless for the first time • Reduction in the total number of youth experiencing unsheltered homelessness 	<p>2.1: Establish a system-wide process to prevent and divert youth from becoming homeless.</p>	<p>A. Meet with local Department of Community Based Services (DCBS, KY child welfare agency) staff working with minors in foster care and Juvenile Justice staff every 30 days to plan together for youth that will likely need assistance obtaining and maintaining housing.</p> <p>B. Coordinate with the foster care system to ensure youth who have already aged out of foster care are connected to benefits they are eligible to receive that already exist (e.g., Chafee Room and Board program [i.e., housing voucher], tuition assistance, education training voucher, etc.)</p> <p>C. Provide training to schools and mainstream service providers on how to identify and connect at-risk youth to the Youth System Navigator (YHDP-funded Project).</p> <p>D. Increase resources through YHDP funded projects and connections to family support interventions provided by existing partners, including reunification, when it is desired by the youth and safe to do so.</p> <p>E. Collaborate with the DCBS on appropriate interventions the community can implement (e.g., familial or friend host homes of their choosing, temporary crisis housing) to assist youth under 18 who cannot or chose not to live with their parent(s)/guardian(s) due to conflicts, but are not otherwise being served by DCBS due to substantiated abuse and neglect.</p>	<p>A. DCBS, DJJ, System Navigator Positions</p> <p>B. Community Action Agencies, DCBS, KRCC, System Navigator Positions</p> <p>C. PFE, System Navigator Positions</p> <p>D. Family and Youth Resource Centers, KHC, KY Department of Education, PFE</p> <p>E. DCBS, KHC, PFE,</p>
	<p>2.2: Ensure an adequate supply of low barrier, crisis housing options is immediately available for all youth whenever needed.</p>	<p>A. Create additional crisis housing capacity for youth, including for minors, by providing temporary financial resources to host homes as well establishing a minimum of eight new crisis housing units for youth between the ages of 18-24 (YHDP-funded Project).</p> <p>B. Work with existing crisis housing providers to adopt low-barrier, Housing First approaches.</p> <p>C. Develop a process to regularly track the inflow of youth entering crisis housing and to track the number of youth who were not able to enter crisis housing when they needed it.</p> <p><i>Note: It is the community's goal to never turn anyone away from crisis housing, but we want to ensure we are carefully monitoring if and why this happens in order to make appropriate adjustments if needed.</i></p>	<p>A. KHC, Promise Zone (PZ) Nonprofit Organizations</p> <p>B. KHC, PZ Housing Providers, Steering Committee</p> <p>C. KHC, KRCC</p>

Goal	Objective	Action Steps	Responsible Partners
<p>3. Establish a coordinated entry system that quickly connects all youth experiencing homelessness to housing and services solutions based on their individual needs and choice.</p>	<p>3.1: Create access points, including non-traditional locations, where youth in need are identified and connected to the coordinated entry system.</p>	<p>A. Establish access points where youth will be connected with the coordinated entry system.</p> <p>B. Working with the Youth Advisory Board, establish non-traditional (i.e., non-service provider) access points such as movie theaters, shopping centers, and other locations frequented by youth least likely to present at a social services agency.</p> <p>C. Promote the coordinated entry system, including access points, through traditional advertisement methods, social media, and other communication channels commonly used by youth that are identified with input from the Youth Advisory Board.</p> <p>D. Develop targeted outreach strategies for youth identifying as LGBTQ, youth under 18, victims of sexual trafficking, parenting and pregnant youth, and racial and ethnic minorities to ensure equal access to housing and services.</p>	<p>A. KHC, KRCC, PFE, Steering Committee, System Navigator Positions, YAB</p> <p>B. PFE, YAB</p> <p>C. KRCC, Steering Committee, YAB</p> <p>D. PFE, Steering Committee, YAB</p>
	<p>3.2: Establish and implement youth-specific standardized assessment practices for youth experiencing homelessness across the Promise Zone.</p>	<p>A. Adopt the TAY-VI-SPDAT as the assessment tool to determine the best housing intervention and services intervention for youth who are experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>B. Develop a standardized process for assessing youth who are at-risk of homelessness, but can be diverted from entering the homeless response system entirely.</p> <p>C. Provide regular training to people who will conduct the assessments.</p>	<p>A. KHC, KRCC, PFE, System Navigator Positions</p> <p>B. KHC, KRCC, PFE</p> <p>C. KHC, KRCC, System Navigator Positions</p>
	<p>3.3: Establish prioritization policies and procedures that consider the unique circumstances of youth and prioritizes those with the most severe service needs and vulnerabilities for limited housing resources.</p>	<p>A. Determine prioritization criteria to be used in addition to the TAY-VI-SPDAT "score" that considers unique experiences and vulnerabilities (e.g., chronically homeless, length of time homeless, victimization, pregnant or parenting, etc.).</p> <p>B. Ensure youth are prioritized for all housing in which they are eligible, including programs not specifically targeted for youth. (e.g., youth between the ages of 18-24 will be placed on the prioritization list that is used for all persons experiencing homelessness, regardless of age, in the full service area in which the Promise Zone is located. Youth will not be limited to housing funded through the YHDP).</p> <p>C. Work with the group of stakeholders responsible for coordinated entry implementation for the full service area for all persons experiencing homelessness to determine if youth should be prioritized at the top of the non-youth specific list.</p>	<p>A. KHC, KRCC, PFE, Steering Committee</p> <p>B. KHC, KRCC, System Navigator Positions</p> <p>C. KHC, KRCC, Steering Committee</p>

Goal	Objective	Action Steps	Responsible Partners
<p>3. Establish a coordinated entry system that quickly connects all youth experiencing homelessness to housing and services solutions based on their individual needs and choice.</p>	<p>3.4: Develop referral policies and procedures that support client-driven solutions, promote youth choice, and ensure equal access to all housing options for which a youth would qualify, including non-youth-specific resources.</p>	<p>A. Establish policies for all YHDP housing programs (excluding crisis housing) to require the coordinated entry system as the only referral source to fill vacancies.</p> <p>B. Establish written policies whereby all YHDP housing projects utilize a low-barrier, Housing First model that includes not “screening out” youth on actual or perceived barriers (e.g., having too little or no income, current or history of substance use, criminal background, etc.).</p> <p>C. Ensure all YHDP programs comply with equal access and non-discrimination laws.</p> <p>D. Align all referral policies with the KY Balance of State Continuum of Care Coordinated Entry Policies and Procedures.</p>	<p>A. KHC, KRCC, PFE, Steering Committee</p> <p>B. KHC, KRCC, PFE, Steering Committee, YAB</p> <p>C. KHC, PFE</p> <p>D. KHC, KRCC</p>

Goal	Objective	Action Steps	Responsible Partners
<p>4. Swiftly move youth into permanent or non-time-limited housing options with effective services and supports to ensure long-term housing stability and overall well-being.</p> <p><i>Measure:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in the length of time it takes to move from literal homelessness to permanent housing • Reduction in the total number of youth returning to homelessness after exiting to permanent housing • Increase in income from program entry to program exit or annual follow-up 	<p>4.1: Increase the availability of safe, affordable, permanent housing options specifically for youth within the Promise Zone.</p>	<p>A. Create at least two new Rapid Rehousing (RRH) programs using YHDP funds for youth between 18-24 years old to serve approximately 12 households at any given time (YHDP-funded Project).</p> <p>B. Work with the Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) in the Promise Zone to develop Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) and/or public housing preferences for youth experiencing homelessness and/or exiting a YHDP program. Priority will be placed on parenting youth, but all youth experiencing homelessness will be proposed.</p> <p>C. Include housing through family preservation or reunification as an option when the youth wants it and it is safe to do so.</p>	<p>A. KHC, PFE, PZ Nonprofit Organizations, Steering Committee</p> <p>B. KHC, PFE, PZ Nonprofit Organizations, Steering Committee</p> <p>C. Family and Youth Resource Centers, PFE, PZ Nonprofit Organizations</p>
	<p>4.2: Ensure all youth experiencing homelessness have access to services and support networks that address their individual causes of homelessness and remove barriers to stable housing.</p>	<p>A. Provide regular training to staff working with youth on the availability of and processes for connecting youth with support services that already exist in the community (e.g., Youth who have aged-out of the foster care system are eligible to receive certain housing, education, and employment assistance).</p> <p>B. Require all YHDP projects to utilize Positive Youth Development (PYD), Trauma Informed Care (TIC), and progressive engagement practices in the provision of services. Projects will be asked to submit plans on how they will incorporate these practices when applying for YHDP-funding. Funded projects will be required to incorporate these practices into their policies, procedures, and administration plans.</p> <p>C. Develop a monitoring plan to ensure projects are utilizing PYD, TIC, and other USICH principles.</p> <p>D. Provide regular training to all programs in the Promise Zone, included those funded outside of the YHDP, on effective TIC and PYD utilization.</p> <p>E. For parenting youth, ensure services are available for the youth parent (e.g., parenting skills, transportation, assistance with enrolling in mainstream benefits available for families with children, including K-TAP (TANF); as well as services for the child (e.g., child care, health care benefits, connection to school McKinney-Vento liaison).</p>	<p>A. KHC, PFE, Steering Committee, YAB</p> <p>B. KHC, PFE, , Steering Committee, YAB</p> <p>C. KHC, PFE, Steering Committee, YAB</p> <p>D. KHC, PFE, Steering Committee, YAB</p> <p>E. KHC, PFE, Steering Committee, YAB, YHDP Funded Projects</p>

Goal	Objective	Action Steps	Responsible Partners
<p>4. Swiftly move youth into permanent or non-time-limited housing options with effective services and supports to ensure long-term housing stability and overall well-being.</p> <p><i>Measure:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in the length of time it takes to move from literal homelessness to permanent housing • Reduction in the total number of youth returning to homelessness after exiting to permanent housing <p>Increase in income from program entry to program exit or annual follow-up</p>	<p>4.2: Ensure all youth experiencing homelessness have access to services and support networks that address their individual causes of homelessness and remove barriers to stable housing.</p>	<p>F. Work closely with comprehensive care centers to ensure swift availability of behavioral and mental health services as well as substance use treatment for all youth experiencing homelessness in need of such services when identified at initial assessment or through progressive engagement.</p> <p>G. Require all YHDP-funded projects to provide transportation, educational, and employment services to youth in their programs either directly or through a community partner when such a need is identified at initial assessment or through progressive engagement.</p>	<p>F. KHC, KRCC, YHDP Funded Projects</p> <p>G. KHC, PFE, Steering Committee, YAB</p>

Goal	Objective	Action Steps	Responsible Partners
5. Build a sustainable, community-wide youth homelessness response system with the resources, know-how, and capacity to prevent and quickly end future experiences of homelessness among youth.	5.1: Increase collaboration and coordination between housing providers, youth service systems, education and workforce organizations, mainstream service providers, and other community members.	A. Establish formal partnerships through memorandums of understanding with stakeholders for transition planning, coordinated entry, and connection to services in order to prevent and end youth homelessness.	A. DCBS, DJJ, KHC, PFE , Schools
	5.2: Ensure meaningful youth participation in all planning, implementation, and evaluation activities.	<p>A. Empower Youth Advisory Board to guide all efforts relating to addressing homelessness among youth in the Promise Zone.</p> <p>B. Reduce barriers to participation by providing various methods to contribute (e.g., in-person, online listening, and phone listening sessions, social media, online surveys, collaboration on online documents through platforms such as Google Docs).</p> <p>C. In addition to the Youth Advisory Board, include youth on the YHDP Steering Committee.</p> <p>D. Invite youth to participate on all committees formed as part of the YHDP initiative.</p>	<p>A. PFE, YAB</p> <p>B. PFE, YAB</p> <p>C. PFE, Steering Committee, YAB</p> <p>D. PFE, Steering Committee, YAB</p>
	5.3: Secure sufficient resources beyond YHDP funding to support an effective youth homelessness response system now and for years to come.	A. Establish a resource and sustainability committee to determine what resources are needed beyond HUD funding through YHDP and to seek out this additional funding.	A. KHC, PFE , Steering Committee
	5.4: Incorporate youth-centered , culturally competent approaches to service delivery across all housing and service providers, including programs not exclusively targeted for youth.	<p>A. Listen to youth! Provide opportunities for youth to voice their needs, opinions, and suggestions through one-on-one conversations, listening sessions, project-based youth advisory committees and other avenues recommended by youth.</p> <p>B. Require all YHDP-funded projects to include Positive Youth Development (PYD) and Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) in their program design and implementation.</p> <p>C. Provide PYD and TIC trainings for all providers in the Promise Zone, including non-funded housing providers and other service providers.</p>	<p>A. KHC, PFE, Steering Committee, YAB</p> <p>B. KHC, PFE, Steering Committee</p> <p>C. PFE, Steering Committee, YAB</p>

Goal	Objective	Action Steps	Responsible Partners
<p>5. Build a sustainable, community-wide youth homelessness response system with the resources, know-how, and capacity to prevent and quickly end future experiences of homelessness among youth.</p>	<p>5.4: Incorporate youth-centered, culturally competent approaches to service delivery across all housing and service providers, including programs not exclusively targeted for youth.</p>	<p>D. Provide cultural competency trainings for all providers in the Promise Zone, including non-funded housing providers and other service providers, especially relating to LGBTQ, minorities, and other cultures that may require specific awareness and sensitivity.</p> <p>E. Work with the school system to determine why minorities are reported as homeless at higher rates than their white peers even though minorities account for a much smaller population of all students in K-12 and develop strategies to address this racial disparity.</p>	<p>D. PFE, Steering Committee, YAB</p> <p>E. PFE, Schools, Steering Committee, YAB</p>

Section III: List of Partners

The overall aim of our Promise Zone designation is to improve the quality of life for all residents in the Zone. The Promise Zone leaders adopted goals that include increasing access to affordable, energy efficient housing, improving economic opportunities, and increasing educational outcomes. The goals for the Promise Zone are found in Appendix A. Interconnected with the Promise Zone goals, but not directly addressed in the strategic plan is the issue of youth homelessness, a subject that has only recently garnered attention in the region, perhaps due to the elusiveness of rural homelessness.

Despite these multilayered challenges, as members of the Promise Zone community we have demonstrated the commitment and community-wide momentum needed to tackle youth homelessness. There is a strong sense of community as well as a deep sense of urgency to invest in the youth in our Promise Zone counties, particularly the most vulnerable of youth, including those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. This willingness to cooperate between local agencies is the sort of collaborative approach needed to prevent and end youth homelessness in our towns.

The coordinated community plan has been greatly informed by leveraging our local Promise Zone stakeholders, and throughout the state. We spent the planning period intensively gathering data, reviewing research and best practices and developing a plan of projects. The project plan, included herein, includes a continuum of solutions to ensure positive outcomes for homeless youth as well as goals to ensure that we continue to build strong partnerships, leverage resources, and improve systems. **Table 13** represents existing service providers within our community,

We integrated planning activities into regular meetings facilitated within each community (school district meetings, community alignment meetings, Shaping Our Appalachian Region listening sessions, and steering committee meetings). Additionally, multiple demonstration program meetings were convened throughout the region for the specific intent of understanding community concerns and beliefs about youth homelessness. Further, the plan includes a strong youth voice. In collaboration with local cultural researchers, we hosted youth listening sessions throughout the region to better inform agencies about the perceptions of youth regarding homelessness and to ensure the views of youth were addressed. The cultural researchers also conducted individual interviews with youth experiencing homelessness to determine what services and supports youth perceived to be the most beneficial given the circumstances which led to his or her situation.

With input from students, educators, partners, and policy-makers, we developed a proactive response to youth homelessness. Efforts focused on identifying activities that yield the most immediate and promising results and support a foundation for long-term program sustainability. Partners in the plan have experience replicating effective, evidence-based and research informed programs. Together we will ensure services proposed in Section IV of this plan are delivered with fidelity and in compliance with applicable regulatory requirements.

Table 13. List of Partners and their Involvement

Partners	Partner's Name	Involvement
a. CoC Program Recipients	Balance of State CoC Board (comprised of 13 representatives, 9 of which are CoC Program Recipients)	Provides overarching vision and guidance to YHDP lead agency and steering committee; approves plan and project applications
	Harlan County Community Action Agency	Provides general input on plan; steering committee
	Homeless and Housing Coalition of Kentucky (HHCK)	Provides general input on plan; steering committee
	KCEOC Community Action Agency	Provides general input on plan; steering committee; partner on proposed YHDP project
	Kentucky River Community Care (KRCC)	Provides general input on plan; steering committee chair; proposed YHDP project; project work group; member of KY YHDP delegation for SAMHSA Youth Forum
	Lighthouse Safe Haven	Provides general input on plan
	Emergency Christian Ministries	Provides general input on plan
	Daniel Boone Community Action Agency	Provides general input on plan; partner on proposed YHDP project
b. Youth Advisory Boards	YAB	BoS CoC lead agency; HMIS lead; steering committee; member of KY YHDP delegation for SAMHSA Youth Forum
c. Local and State Government	State Government	Provides youth voice; approves plan; member of KY YHDP delegation for SAMHSA Youth Forum. Two members will serve on steering committee, one will act as co-chair.
	Perry County Fiscal Court (representative is economic coordinator for county)	Five state government partners are listed within specific partner categories throughout this chart
	Local Government YHDP Committee*	Provides general input on the plan
d. Public Child Welfare Agencies	Kentucky Department for Community Based Services (DCBS)	Provides general input on the plan; approves plan; provides data and content specific to minors, foster youth, and trafficking; steering committee; approves plan; member of KY YHDP delegation for SAMHSA Youth Forum

e. ESG Program Recipients	Kentucky Housing Corporation (ESG Recipient for State)	See partner category (a)
	LKLP Community Action Agency (ESG Subrecipient)	Provides general input on the plan
	Daniel Boone Community Action Agency (ESG Subrecipient)	See partner category (a)
	Harlan County Community Action Agency (ESG Subrecipient)	See partner category (a)
	KCEOC (ESG Subrecipient)	See partner category (a)
	KRCC (ESG Subrecipient)	See partner category (a)
f. Local and State Law Enforcement and Judges	Knox County Detention Center	Provides general input on plan; partner on proposed YHDP project
g. Early Childhood Development and Child Care Providers	KCEOC Head Start	See partner category (a)
h. Local and State Educational Agencies	Kentucky Department of Education	Provides data
	Harlan County Schools	Provides general input on plan; proposed YHDP project
	Knox County Schools	Provides general input on plan
	Leslie County Schools	Provides general input on plan; steering committee
	Whitley County Schools	Provides general input on plan; steering committee
i. Runaway and Homeless Youth Program Providers	Not Applicable (No RHY programs in PZ)	Not Applicable (No RHY programs in PZ)
j. Non-profit Youth Organizations	Harlan County Boys and Girls Club	Provides general input on plan; proposed YHDP project
	Kentucky Youth Advocates	Provides data; steering committee
k. Juvenile and Adult Corrections and Probation	Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice	Provides general input on plan and content specific to juvenile justice; steering committee
l. Health, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Agencies	Kentucky Department of Behavioral Health	Provides data and general input on plan; member of KY YHDP delegation for SAMHSA Youth Forum
	Kentucky Coalition Against Domestic Violence	Provides general input on plan
	Kentucky Department for Public Health	Provides general input on plan; provides data and content specific to health, pregnant and parenting youth, and trafficking; member of KY YHDP delegation for SAMHSA Youth Forum
	KRCC	See partner category (a)
	WellCare	Provides general input on plan; steering committee
m. WIOA Board and Employment Agencies	Bell-Whitley Community Action Agency	Provides general input on plan and content specific to workforce development

n. Landlords	Barbourville Urban Renewal & CDA, Cumberland Valley Regional Housing Authority	Provides local data regarding affordable housing
	KCEOC	See partner category (a)
	KRCC	See partner category (a)
	Middlesboro Housing Authority	Provides local data regarding affordable housing
	Pineville Housing Authority	Provides local data regarding affordable housing
	Whitesburg Housing Authority	Provides local data regarding affordable housing
o. Public Housing Authorities	Barbourville Urban Renewal & CDA, Cumberland Valley Regional Housing Authority	See partner category (n)
	Kentucky Housing Corporation	See partner category (a); KHC also serves as PHA for areas of the PZ without their own PHA providing Housing Choice Vouchers
	Middlesboro Housing Authority	See partner category (n)
	Pineville Housing Authority	See partner category (n)
	Whitesburg Housing Authority	See partner category (n)
p. Institutions of Higher Education	Berea College	YHDP lead
	Commonwealth Educational Opportunity Center (CEOC)	Provides general input on the plan; steering committee
	Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS)	Provides general input on the plan
	Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA)	Provides general input on the plan
	Union College	Provides general input on the plan
q. Community Development Corporations	Bell-Whitley Community Action Agency	See partner category (m)
	Christian Outreach to Appalachian People (COAP)	Provides general input on the plan
	Daniel Boone Community Action Agency	See partner category (a)
	Harlan County Community Action Agency	See partner category (a)
	KCEOC	See partner category (a)
	Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation	Provides general input on plan; increases local government support
	LKLP	See partner category (e)
r. Affordable Housing Developers	Barbourville Urban Renewal & CDA, Cumberland Valley Regional Housing Authority	See partner category (n)
	Federation of Appalachian Housing Enterprises (Fahe)	Provides general input on plan
	Middlesboro Housing Authority	See partner category (n)
	Pineville Housing Authority	See partner category (n)
	Whitesburg Housing Authority	See partner category (n)

s. Local Advocacy, Research, and Philanthropic Organizations	Kentucky Youth Advocates	See partner category (j)
	Homeless and Housing Coalition of Kentucky (HHCK)	See partner category (a)
	Meridzo Ministries	Provides general input on the plan
	Southeast Kentucky Human Trafficking Taskforce	Provides content specific to trafficking
	St. Ann Mission (Clay)	Provides general input on the plan
t. Privately Funded Homeless Organizations	Christ's Hands (Harlan)	Provides general input on the plan
	Emergency Christian Ministries (Whitley)	Provides general input on the plan
	Good Samaritan House (London)	Provides general input on the plan
	Lighthouse Safe Haven Shelter (Bell)	Provides general input on the plan

*The eight-county Promise Zone region has an existing advisory board which includes a government representative from each of the Promise Zone counties. This advisory board will serve as the local government committee for the YHDP, along with any other local government officials who would like to participate.

Section IV: List of Projects

During the planning period, the project coordinator and members of the Steering Committee collaborated to develop the coordinated community plan. The following is a brief summary of activities that informed the plan:

- 74 people from in and around the Promise Zone actively participated in the needs assessment process through meetings and focus groups led by the project coordinator;
- The project coordinator participated in a Homeless Summit in the Promise Zone. The Summit engaged 134 community members—school leaders, youth, civic leaders, business leaders, and supportive services organization. After a day of examining data illustrating the depth of the homeless problem, one participant said, “.....we need to do more to protect our youth.” The coordinated plan draws on data, and the expertise and commitment of stakeholders to strengthen efforts and ensure youth are supported.
- During the coordinated community plan development period, we met with 35 youth from the region, sometimes in groups, other times individually. Their input on barriers and strategies were invaluable in development of the community plan. Youth shared a common theme of instability in the home as a leading cause of homelessness. In-school youth pointed out the FRYSC as being a valuable resource. Our plan to increase McKinney-Vento subgrants and training in the schools stems directly from the youth responses related to having access to services and knowing what resources might be available to support them.

The coordinated community plan was designed to support data collection activities, increase awareness of youth homelessness in the Promise Zone, and ensure all agencies providing direct services or supports to homeless youth have the skills and resources necessary to:

- Provide positive youth development and trauma-informed care
- Encourage family resiliency and unification
- Ensure special populations (foster care or juvenile justice transitions, or LGBTQ) are supported
- Build trust and advocate for youth choice
- Identify safe, emergency shelter options

The best outcomes for youth will happen if they are connected to and supported by a coordinated effort of cross-sectional partners. We have constructed a unified, coordinated response to address the varied contextual needs of unaccompanied homeless youth in our region. The key projects and promising practices identified as a result of our planning are found in **Table 14**. These projects and practices will be implemented by many different organizations in the region to support efforts to promote healthy family dynamics and offer an array of interventions to address the specific needs and choices of youth encountering homelessness.

Table 14. List of Projects

PROJECT #1: PREVENTION/DIVERSION			
Project Type/Budget/Timeframe	Project Description	Target Population	Desired Outcomes
<p>Number of Projects: 2 (1 project for Leslie, Letcher, and Perry counties; 1 project for Bell, Clay, Harlan, Knox, and Whitley counties)</p> <p>CoC Component Type: Supportive Services Only (SSO)</p> <p>Anticipated 2-year Budget per project: \$150,000-\$175,000</p> <p>Grant Timeframe: 2 years, renewable</p> <p>A Request for Proposals (RFP) will be issued in January. Applicants will have at least 30 days to submit proposals. Successful applicants will be selected in February with project applications submitted to HUD shortly thereafter. The grant will be administered by a non-profit with experience serving vulnerable youth and/or individuals experiencing homelessness.</p>	<p>This project incorporates limited stipends (food and transportation) with intensive Housing Stabilization services (Case Management, Employment Assistance, Education Assistance, Legal Services, and Utility Deposits) to assist clients to avoid the primary homeless shelter and service system. By residing in a Host Home of the youth's choosing (safe, stable environment that the client is already comfortable with) clients at imminent risk of homelessness (Category 2) can stabilize and access case management and other services that will assist them with obtaining permanent housing, including independent living options upon service termination.</p> <p>This program is targeted specifically for school-aged minors who are not able to live at home with their parents or guardians, but also do not rise to the level of needing to be in the care of the state child welfare system. Youth between the ages of 18-24 who are at imminent risk of homelessness (Category 2) are also eligible for this project.</p>	<p>Population Served: Unaccompanied and Pregnant/Parenting Youth under age 18; Unaccompanied and Pregnant/Parenting Youth between the ages of 18-24 at Imminent Risk of Homelessness.</p> <p><i>HUD Homeless Definition:</i> Categories 1, 2, and 4</p> <p>Number of Youth Households Served: 10-15 individuals at a point in time per project</p> <p>Anticipated Timeframe for Youth: 6-9 months</p>	<p>The desired outcome is to prevent youth, primarily minors, from becoming literally homeless. This will be accomplished through early identification of youth at-risk of homelessness or already experiencing unsheltered homelessness and swiftly connecting them with resources. By providing resources to host homes of the youth's choosing, the youth can reside in a safe environment with people he/she is comfortable with while a long-term solution is identified.</p> <p>Measurements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in the total number of youth who become homeless for the first time • Reduction in the total number of youth experiencing unsheltered homelessness

PROJECT #2: OUTREACH/SYSTEM NAVIGATION

Project Type/Budget/Timeframe	Project Description	Target Population	Desired Outcomes
<p>Number of Projects: 2 (1 project for Leslie, Letcher, and Perry counties; 1 project for Bell, Clay, Harlan, Knox, and Whitley counties)</p> <p>CoC Component Type: Supportive Services Only (SSO)</p> <p>Anticipated 2-year Budget per project: \$130,000-\$150,000</p> <p>Grant Timeframe: 2 years, renewable</p> <p>A Request for Proposals (RFP) will be issued in January. Applicants will have at least 30 days to submit proposals. Successful applicants will be selected in February with project applications submitted to HUD shortly thereafter. The grant will be administered by a non-profit with experience serving vulnerable youth and/or individuals experiencing homelessness.</p>	<p>This project will ensure quick identification of homeless (Category 1 or 4) or at-risk youth (Category 2) that would not generally present through the traditional homeless service entry points. Schools, mainstream service providers (health care, SNAPs, workforce programs, Head Start), law enforcement, and foster care and juvenile justice systems will work with the system navigator to connect youth to the coordinated entry system or to prevention/diversion resources.</p> <p>Through intensive community marketing and engagement, the rural outreach staff will be well versed in non-traditional locations where youth may present as well as making sure that the communities have easy access to the outreach staff on an as-needed basis. Outreach staff will not only meet the client “where they are” but also conduct a client centered assessment to identify immediate needs.</p> <p>Outreach/Navigation staff will be based out of existing Youth Drop In centers or other established service providers in the area. System navigation services will also ensure clients are included in the coordinated entry processes for their geographic area. System Navigators will work with youth, as needed, until they are connected through a warm handoff with the appropriate resource/housing solution. Funds may also be requested to support a youth drop-in center.</p>	<p>Populations Served: Unaccompanied and Pregnant/Parenting Youth under age 18; Unaccompanied and Pregnant/Parenting Youth between the ages of 18-24</p> <p><i>HUD Homeless Definition:</i> Categories 1, 2, and 4</p> <p>Number of Youth Households Served: 15-20 individuals at a time per project</p> <p>Anticipated Timeframe for Youth: Less than 1 month for youth who are quickly transitioned to host homes or permanent housing; if funds are used to support a youth drop-in center, youth could access the center indefinitely.</p>	<p>From a system level, the desired outcome for this program is to build and support a community-wide coordinated response system for youth at-risk of already experiencing homelessness. The navigator position is to literally assist community partners in knowing “what to do” when they encounter a youth in need of help. The position is also intended to reach youth who may not be presenting at existing homeless services programs.</p> <p>From a client-level, the desired outcome is to prevent youth from becoming homeless in the first place, to ensure youth have immediate access to housing support through the coordinated entry system, and ultimately for youth to be connected to the best intervention for their individual needs to quickly end the youth’s housing instability.</p> <p>Measurements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in the total number of youth who become homeless for the first time • Reduction in the total number of youth actively experiencing homelessness

PROJECT #3: CRISIS HOUSING

Project Type/Budget/Timeframe	Project Description	Target Population	Desired Outcomes
<p>Number of Projects: 2 (1 project for Leslie, Letcher, and Perry counties; 1 project for Bell, Clay, Harlan, Knox, and Whitley counties)</p> <p>CoC Component Type: Transitional Housing (TH)</p> <p>Anticipated 2-year Budget per project: \$240,000-\$260,000</p> <p>Grant Timeframe: 2 years, renewable</p> <p>A Request for Proposals (RFP) will be issued in February. Applicants will have at least 30 days to submit proposals. Successful applicants will be selected in March with project applications submitted to HUD shortly thereafter. The grant will be administered by a non-profit with experience serving vulnerable youth and/or individuals experiencing homelessness.</p>	<p>This project will provide youth specific crisis (i.e. emergency) housing to both unaccompanied (UA) and parenting youth (PY) who are literally homeless. The purpose is to get youth into safe, age-appropriate housing as quickly as possible while working on client identified needs to assist in obtaining permanent housing and sustaining the housing once it is accessed.</p> <p>Some clients will be assisted using a Host Home model where the host home will be assisted via a stipend (for food and transportation expenses) and others who are not able to identify a host family or choose to live independently will be placed in agency-owned and operated crisis units or units master-leased in the community.</p> <p>A broad array of supportive services will be available to the client based on specific needs/barriers to be addressed. Services will include: case management, transportation, food, child care assistance, housing counseling, education and employment assistance, legal services, utility deposits, and moving costs.</p> <p>The project is intended to serve 10 households (14-16 persons) experiencing literal homelessness at a point in time.</p>	<p>Population Served: Unaccompanied and Pregnant/Parenting Youth between the ages of 18-24</p> <p><i>HUD Homeless Definition:</i> Categories 1 and 4</p> <p>Number of Youth Households Served: 8-10 at a point in time (including supportive services for up to 6 months after exiting the transitional housing program) per project</p> <p>Anticipated Timeframe for Youth: 1-6 months. The goal would be to move youth in less than 1 month into permanent housing. It is anticipated that the period of time youth remain enrolled in this program may last longer if family reunification is pursued and/or if supportive services continue to be provided.</p>	<p>Measurements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in the total number of youth experiencing unsheltered homelessness

PROJECT #4: PERMANENT HOUSING

Project Type/Budget/Timeframe	Project Description	Target Population	Desired Outcomes
<p>Number of Projects: 2 (1 project for Leslie, Letcher, and Perry counties; 1 project for Bell, Clay, Harlan, Knox, and Whitley counties)</p> <p>CoC Component Type: Rapid Rehousing (RRH)</p> <p>Anticipated 2-year Budget per project: \$250,000-\$300,000</p> <p>Grant Timeframe: 2 years, renewable</p> <p>A Request for Proposals (RFP) will be issued in February. Applicants will have at least 30 days to submit proposals. Successful applicants will be selected in March with project applications submitted to HUD shortly thereafter. The grant will be administered by a non-profit with experience serving vulnerable youth and/or individuals experiencing homelessness.</p>	<p>This project will provide rapid rehousing assistance to youth experiencing literal homelessness (Categories 1 and 4) and those at risk of becoming homeless (Category 2). Youth will be assisted with locating and obtaining housing appropriate to their needs. The project will follow a tenant based rental assistance model where the client contributes to the rent if income is present. A focus will be placed on obtaining the housing quickly, as well as developing skills and income necessary to remain stably housed. A broad array of supportive services will be available to the client based on specific needs/barriers to be addressed. Services will include: case management, transportation, life skills, child care assistance, housing counseling, legal services, education and employment assistance, utility deposits, and moving costs.</p>	<p>Population Served: Unaccompanied and Pregnant/Parenting Youth between the ages of 18-24</p> <p><i>HUD Homeless Definition:</i> Categories 1, 2 and 4</p> <p>Number of Youth Households Served: 10-15 at a point in time (including supportive services for up to 6 months after rental assistance ends) per project</p> <p>Anticipated Timeframe for Youth: Up to 24 months. It is anticipated that rental assistance will be needed for approximately 12 months, but services will continue to be provided, as needed, for an additional 6 months after rental assistance stops to ensure long-term housing stability and overall social and emotional wellbeing.</p>	<p>Measurements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in the length of time it takes to move from literal homelessness to permanent housing • Reduction in the total number of youth returning to homelessness after exiting to permanent housing • Increase in income from program entry to program exit or annual follow-up

PROJECT #5: PLANNING

Project Type/Budget/Timeframe	Project Description	Target Population	Desired Outcomes
<p>Number of Projects: 1</p> <p>CoC Component Type: Planning Grant</p> <p>1 Year Budget: \$135,000</p> <p>Grant Timeframe: This grant has already been approved by HUD. This grant will end in November 2018.</p>	<p>The purpose of this project is to help facilitate the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the YHDP within the eight-county designated Demonstration Community within the 118-county KY BoS CoC. Kentucky Housing Corporation (KHC), the collaborative applicant for the KY Balance of State CoC will sub-award these planning funds to Partners for Education at Berea College (PFE) who is serving as the lead agency for the YHDP. In partnership with KHC, PFE is charged with carrying out the required planning and implementation activities required of YHDP communities including developing a community-wide process/system for preventing and ending youth homelessness that will include diverse stakeholders such as housing providers, mainstream agencies, schools, faith-based organizations, etc.</p> <p>Funds will be used to organize and facilitate community meetings, committee meetings, determine the scale of youth homelessness, conduct gap analyses, develop YHDP projects that are responsive to USICH principles, assist with the development of project applications, conduct counts of youth experiencing homelessness, monitor progress and participate in ongoing evaluation activities, among other related activities. The funds will be used to recruit and build meaningful partnerships with stakeholders that are not yet fully engaged on existing committees and in the overall coordinated effort to prevent and end youth homelessness. Funds will also be used to engage youth in all aspects of the YHDP.</p>	<p>This project is a system-level initiative and will not serve youth directly.</p>	<p>Through this project, the Promise Zone will build a sustainable system to prevent and end youth homelessness.</p>

Section V: Governance

Existing CoC Structure

The Kentucky Balance of State Continuum of Care (KY BoS CoC) consists of 118 counties (all counties except Jefferson and Fayette, which include the large metropolitan areas of Louisville and Lexington, respectively). The KY BoS CoC is made up of a diverse stakeholders from across the CoC's 118-county area. These stakeholders are referred to as the CoC's "full membership."

Due to the large and dispersed geographic area included in the BoS, the CoC is divided into six regions for purposes of overall planning and communication purposes. The KY BoS CoC is governed by a board elected by the full membership. The board consists of 13 members. Each of the six regions elects two representatives to serve on the board. In addition to regional representatives, the board includes one representative who is currently experiencing homelessness or has previously experienced homelessness.

The eight counties of the Promise Zone all fall within the 31-county CoC Region 5 in the southeastern part of the state. Current board members representing region 5 are Jackie Long from Mountain Comprehensive Care Center, which serves counties adjacent to the Promise Zone and Sharon Hendrickson from Kentucky River Community Care, which serves multiple counties within the Promise Zone. These individuals will serve as liaisons between the KY BoS CoC board and the YHDP.

The KY BoS CoC has two standing committees, both of which will have a role in the YHDP. The Performance Measure and Quality Improvement Committee will be directly involved with the YHDP by providing guidance on appropriate indicators and benchmarks to measure progress, especially as part of the demonstration's evaluation process. The Coordinated Entry Committee will oversee the development and implementation of the coordinated entry system throughout the CoC and will assist the YHDP in establishing youth-specific coordinated entry policies and processes.

The CoC also has two ad hoc committees that will provide direction for the YHDP. A member of the Family and Youth Homelessness Committee will work to align statewide efforts with the YHDP. The Governance and Bylaws Revision Committee will incorporate the Youth Advisory Board into all CoC activities regarding youth homelessness.

Proposed Governance Structure for the YHDP

The governance structure for our coordinated community plan is designed to promote transparency, facilitate collaboration with members and consultation with stakeholders, maximize engagement of the community in project activities, and to establish a formal decision-making process. The governance structure is represented in **Figure 12** on the next page.

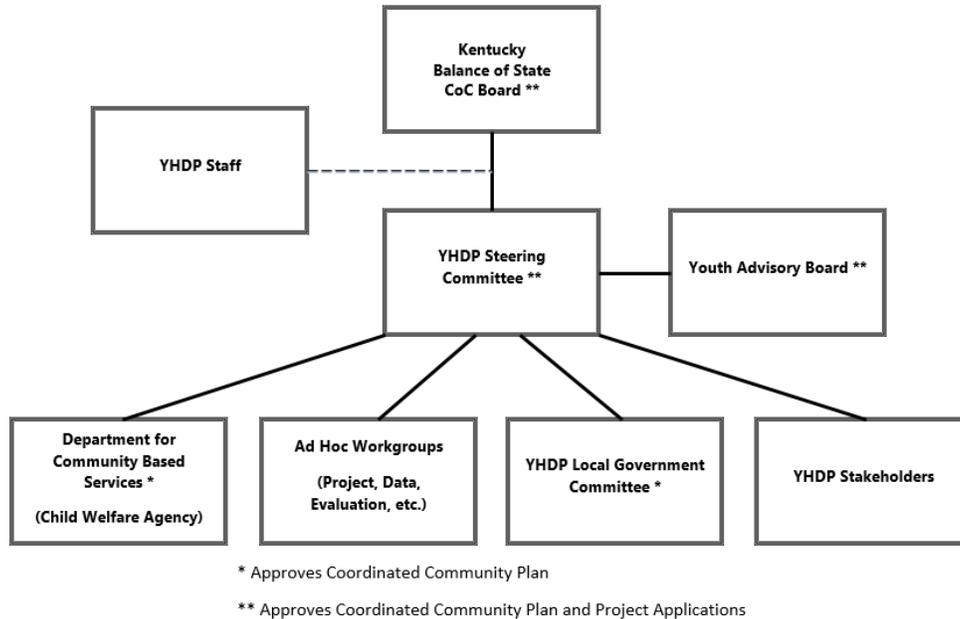


Figure 12. Promise Zone YHDP Governance and Decision-Making Structure

KY BoS CoC Board: The role of the KY BoS CoC Board is to provide an overarching vision for preventing and ending youth homelessness across the CoC, including in the YHDP community; to provide guidance to the lead YHDP lead agency and YHDP Steering Committee; and, in partnership with the steering committee and Youth Advisory Board, to create a review and oversight process for project applications and implementation.

YHDP Staff: Partners for Education at Berea College (PFE) is the lead agency for the YHDP. PFE is engaging partners and facilitating all aspects of the planning, implementation, and evaluation process in the PZ. PFE has convened and monitored activities of the steering committee as well as meetings for the Youth Advisory Board. A designated project coordinator, Kate Tran, is overseeing the work of PFE in collaboration with executive director, Dreama Gentry, JD, and associate executive director, Penny Jordan, EdD. Kentucky Housing Corporation (KHC) is the lead planning agency and collaborative applicant for the KY BoS CoC. KHC will provide support to PFE through the duration of the YHDP. KHC is also assisting the KY BoS CoC Board to ensure all components of project applications are complete and consistent with the YHDP coordinated community plan, BoS policy priorities, and HUD regulations and policies prior to submission to HUD via e-snaps (HUD’s electronic application submission platform) for review and consideration.

YHDP Steering Committee: The role of the steering committee is to provide direction and oversight for the YHDP initiative that ensures inclusion of a wide variety of community stakeholders. The committee has led the development of the coordinated community plan. Specifically, the committee has ensured that the plan contains all elements required of YHDP communities per HUD guidance; considered input and recommendations received from all YHDP stakeholders; and ensured proposed projects are aligned with the coordinated community plan. The plan and project proposals have been approved by the committee. The committee will be comprised of no less than 18 members and no more than 22 members. Representation from each of the eight Promise Zone counties are included. A representative from

Kentucky's child welfare agency, the Department of Community-Based Services (DCBS), serves on the steering committee. In addition to participating in all of the activities of the committee, the representative will coordinate the approval of the plan by DCBS as required by HUD. A charter for the steering committee is found in Appendix B. The steering committee membership as of December 21, 2017 is identified in **Table 15**.

Table 15. YHDP Steering Committee Membership

Name	Organization
Janet Jackson	Bell-Whitley Community Action Agency (Bell)
Sharee St. Louis Smith	CEOC (Clay)
Donna Pace	Harlan County Community Action Agency (Harlan)
Adrienne Bush	Housing and Homeless Coalition of Kentucky
Beverly Isom	KCEOC (Knox)
Becki Patton	Kentucky Department for Public Health
Lorraine Wilbur	Kentucky Department of Community Based Services
Arlena Centers	Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice
Shaye Rabold	Kentucky Housing Corporation
Patricia Tennen	Kentucky Youth Advocates
Bailey Richards	KRCC
Angie Bush	KRCC (Letcher)
Kendra Bailey	Leslie County Schools (Leslie)
Dreama Gentry	Partners for Education at Berea College
Morgan Kirk	WellCare (Perry)
Meleesha Hooper	Whitley County Schools (Whitley)
Brittany Bolin	Youth Advisory Board Member
Jaley Caudill	Youth Advisory Board Member

Youth Advisory Board: The Youth Advisory Board (YAB) will consist of at least three members, age 24 and younger, at least 2/3 of whom have experienced homelessness. There are currently five active members. Our recruitment goal, however, is to have a youth representative from each of the eight Promise Zone counties. County-level organizations have and will continue to recommend youth to serve on the YAB. The purpose of the YAB is to ensure youth voice, guidance and governance for the development and implementation of the coordinated community plan. The YAB will establish their own charter.

Local Government Advisory Committee: The Promise Zone includes numerous local governments, including 8 fiscal courts led by a county judge executive and 17 cities/towns with a mayoral form of government. In an effort to include as many local governments as possible in the YHDP, the plan has been presented to the Promise Zone Advisory Council, an already-established group which includes local government representation throughout the Promise Zone. The Promise Zone Advisory Council will provide input throughout each phase of the YHDP, and local government representatives from each county have approved the plan (see Section VII).

Ad Hoc Subcommittees and Workgroups: Ad hoc subcommittees and workgroups will be comprised of no less than three (3) members to address specific areas of focus such as community engagement, data/evaluation, and project design as well as HUD principles and/or issues identified during continuous

improvement activities. Recommendations requiring community decisions and/or actions that arise from these groups will be brought to the steering committee.

Promise Zone Community Stakeholders: Promise Zone community stakeholders will remain connected throughout the project through partner meetings, Partners for Education Promise Zone results meetings, and listening sessions. These community stakeholders have and will continue to provide input on strategies, support engagement of other community members, serve on continuous improvement efforts, provide counsel to the steering committee, and advance the project activities.

Section VI: Continuous Quality Improvement

We have developed and will implement a continuous improvement and assessment model (**Table 16**) to refine services, assess coordinated entry activities, evaluate gaps within the plan, and implement strategies to support the cohesiveness of the coordinated community plan. This model ensures that partners are not working in a vacuum, that feedback is utilized to improve accessibility and outreach, and that our plan meets the needs of youth experiencing homelessness.

Table 16. Components of Continuous Quality Improvement

Procedure	Improvement
<p>Steering Committee: The advisory committee will communicate at least monthly, initially for purposes of planning for the YHDP, but ultimately to monitor the delivery of projects, review reports and data, and provide project oversight.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The steering committee will determine additional stakeholders to engage, review services funded by the YHDP, advocate for additional services to be implemented by community stakeholders, collaborate with stakeholders to introduce coordinated activities, and perform ongoing resource mapping. • The committee will establish Ad-Hoc committees as appropriate to address specific issues arises during the planning process.
<p>Youth Advisory Board (YAB): The YAB will communicate at least monthly, with monthly input provided to the committee.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YAB recommends new services and suggests services that may no longer be needed. • The steering committee will make adjustments based on youth feedback.
<p>Annual Listening Sessions: The annual review for the YHDP will be incorporated into the annual listening sessions that take place separately in each Promise Zone county.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of the annual review, modifications and updates will be made to the plan as appropriate. • County representative will ensure that all assets and resources within the county are current and up-to-date.
<p>Review by the CoC: The CoC Performance Measurement and Quality Improvement Committee and the Family and Youth Homelessness Committee will review efforts of the YHDP on a regular basis.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The CoC committees will provide feedback to the advisory committee and the information will be incorporated into practice.
<p>PFE PZ Results Team: PFE convenes a monthly meeting of staff working in the PZ to discuss activities and opportunities in the region. This team will discuss the YHDP and offer input regarding challenges, barriers, and successes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The results team will share input regarding the YHDP with the steering committee.
<p>Partner Meetings: Members of the steering committee will periodically present the status of the coordinated community plan at regularly scheduled partner meetings.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Partners will assess information and offer feedback to the steering committee for consideration and improvement efforts.
<p>Ad Hoc Subcommittees: Subcommittees will be established as appropriate to address targeted or focused challenges identified during planning and will be comprised of experts in the area of concern.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ad Hoc subcommittees will review materials and data and provide recommendations to the CoC, steering committee, YAB, or other stakeholders as appropriate.

Section VII: Signature Pages

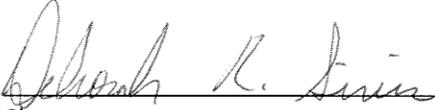
Signatures for the following can be found in the next pages:

- KY Balance of State Continuum of Care
- Youth Advisory Board
- Child Welfare Agency (Kentucky Department of Community Based Services)
- Local Government

Signature Page

Kentucky Balance of State Continuum of Care

The signature below attests to the approval and support for the Kentucky Promise Zone's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program's Coordinated Community Plan by the Kentucky Balance of State Continuum of Care (KY BoS CoC). The KY BoS CoC pledges to continue the efforts to prevent and end youth homelessness in the Promise Zone.

<u>Deborah K. Sivils</u>	<u>BOS CoC Board Chair</u>
Name (print)	Title
<u></u>	<u>12/19/2017</u>
Signature	Date

Signature Page

YHDP Youth Advisory Board Members

The signatures below attest to our approval and support for the Kentucky Promise Zone's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program's Coordinated Community Plan. We pledge to continue the efforts to prevent and end youth homelessness in the Promise Zone.

Brittany Bolin

Brittany Bolin

12-12-17

Date

Jaley Caudill

Jaley Caudill

12/19/17

Date

Tevin Shouse

Tevin Shouse

12-12-2017

Date

Carrie Smith

Carrie Smith

12-14-17

Date

Ryan White

Ryan White

12-12-17

Date

Signature Page

Public Child Welfare Agency

The signature below attests to the support and approval for the Kentucky Promise Zone's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program's Coordinated Community Plan by the Kentucky Department for Community Based Services (DCBS). DCBS pledges to continue the efforts to prevent and end youth homelessness in the Promise Zone.

<u>Joseph L. Hamilton, Jr.</u> Name (print)	<u>Deputy Commissioner</u> Title
<u></u> Signature	<u>12-18-17</u> Date

Signature Page

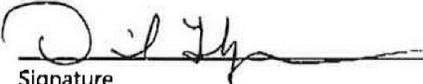
Local Government

The signatures below attest to our approval and support for the Kentucky Promise Zone's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program's Coordinated Community Plan. We pledge to continue the efforts to prevent and end youth homelessness in the Promise Zone.

JIMMY SIZEMORE Co. Judge EXECUTIVE LESLIE
Name (print) Title County

 12-08-17
Signature Date

David Thompson Mayor Knox
Name (print) Title County

 12/12/17
Signature Date

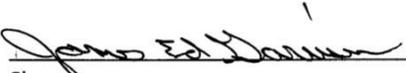
Don Mastey Judge Executive Harden
Name (print) Title County

 12-12-17
Signature Date

John W. Johnson Co. Judge Clay
Name (print) Title County

 12-13-2017
Signature Date

James Ed Garrison Mayor Clay
Name (print) Title County

 12-13-2017
Signature Date

Signature Page

Local Government (cont.)

The signatures below attest to our approval and support for the Kentucky Promise Zone's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program's Coordinated Community Plan. We pledge to continue the efforts to prevent and end youth homelessness in the Promise Zone.

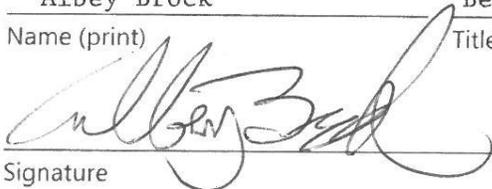
Pat White, Jr. Judge Executive Whitley
Name (print) Title County

 12/12/17
Signature Date

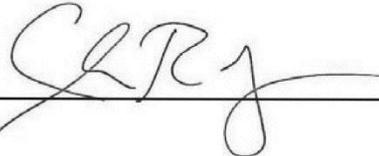
Roddy Harrison Mayor City of Williamsburg
Name (print) Title County

 12/11/2017
Signature Date

Albey Brock Bell County Judge Executive Bell
Name (print) Title County

 12-11-17
Signature Date

Clarence Bo Green City Council - Middlesboro Bell
Name (print) Title County

 December 12, 2017
Signature Date

Signature Page

Local Government (cont.)

The signatures below attest to our approval and support for the Kentucky Promise Zone's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program's Coordinated Community Plan. We pledge to continue the efforts to prevent and end youth homelessness in the Promise Zone.

Toedl DePriest Mayor of Jenkins Letcher
Name (print) Title County

Toedl DePriest Dec 11 2017
Signature Date

Bennie McCall City Administrator Letcher
Name (print) Title County

Bennie McCall 12/11/2017
Signature Date

Charisty Phipps city clerk Letcher
Name (print) Title County

Charisty Phipps 12-11-17
Signature Date

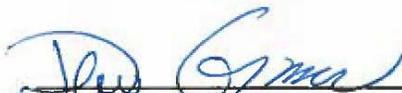
Signature Page

Local Government (cont.)

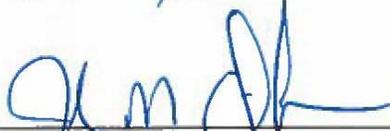
The signatures below attest to our approval and support for the Kentucky Promise Zone's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program's Coordinated Community Plan. We pledge to continue the efforts to prevent and end youth homelessness in the Promise Zone.



Jimmy R. Lindon, Mayor, Hazard, Kentucky



Dew Gorman, City Commissioner, Hazard, Kentucky



John M. Quillen, City Commissioner, Hazard, Kentucky



Happy Modelini, City Commissioner, Hazard, Kentucky



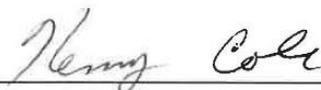
Susan Brotherton, City Commissioner, Hazard, Kentucky



Scott Alexander, Judge Executive, Perry County



Ronald Combs, District 2 Magistrate, Perry County



Kenny Cole, District 3 Magistrate, Perry County

Appendix A: Promise Zone Strategic Plan

The eight counties that make up the community for this coordinated community plan are part of the Southeastern Kentucky Promise Zone, the nation's first rural Promise Zone. The purpose of the project is to engage these communities in a collaborative, comprehensive process aimed at improving the overall quality of life in the region. Below are the cross-cutting strategic goals identified by members of the Promise Zone community for the overall initiative. More information about the Promise Zone is available here: <http://www.kypromisezone.com/>

Southeastern Kentucky Promise Zone Strategic Goals

GOAL 1

Build a sustainable regional economy that benefits all persons regardless of county of residence. Implement a regional community and economic development plan that mobilizes shared resources.

GOAL 2

Collaborate to assure geographically comprehensive and affordable access to high speed broadband/Internet and cell phone service throughout the Promise Zone.

GOAL 3

Seek competitive advantages based on natural, built, economic and human capital by coordinating the diversification of the economic base of the region.

GOAL 4

Assure geographic and affordable access to post-secondary education and workforce training for youth and adults in the region through enhanced pre-K through adult education.

GOAL 5

Coordinate programs to assure the availability and affordability of critical health services, particularly drug and alcohol treatment and rehabilitation services within the counties.

GOAL 6

Increase access to affordable, energy efficient and quality houses for individuals and families of all ages and income levels.

GOAL 7

Expand transportation access within the region.

GOAL 8

Revitalize the downtowns in the region as retail and residential centers.

GOAL 9

Increase recreational, arts and community engagement opportunities for youth and adults.

GOAL 10

Expand and diversify the pool of community leaders in the region and create opportunities for them to be engaged in civic dialogues and decision-making.

Appendix B: Steering Committee Charter

Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program Steering Committee Charter

Goal of the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program:

To prevent and end youth homelessness.

I. Purpose of the Charter

This charter sets out the composition, roles, responsibilities, and committee structure of the Steering Committee for the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) for the Southeastern Kentucky Promise Zone.

II. Purpose of the YHDP Steering Committee

The purpose of the Steering Committee is to create a collaborative, inclusive, community-based process and approach to planning and managing the YHDP coordinated community plan.

III. Steering Committee

A. Roles and Responsibilities of Steering Committee

The Steering Committee is the lead decision-making body responsible for managing community planning, coordination, and continuous improvement efforts to ensure that the system of homeless services and housing rapidly ends youth homelessness. Specific responsibilities of Steering Committee members include:

- Providing overall direction and leadership for the planning, implementation, and oversight of YHDP;
- Leading strategic planning and goal-setting;
- Aligning and coordinating homeless assistance and supportive services;
- Requesting data for planning and seeking out data resources;
- Establishing priorities for and making recommendations to HUD about the approval of YHDP funding;
- Establishing system and program outcomes for continuous improvement efforts;
- Establishing sub-committees and task groups as needed to address YHDP issues;
- Receiving reports and recommendations from sub-committees and task groups;
- Facilitating connections with other stakeholders who can add to our collective impact;
- Providing input to the Balance of State CoC on strategy, community engagement and shared measurements of success;
- Serving as an advocate for the collective impact effort in the community;
- Identifying and implementing the most appropriate strategies to accomplish the collective outcomes; and
- Approving the Coordinated Community Plan on behalf of the Promise Zone.

B. Members of the Steering Committee

The membership of the Steering Committee consists of up to 22 and no less than 18 designated seats as outlined in the table. Each Steering Committee member must have the approval of the organization they represent.

Organization
(1) Bell-Whitley Community Action Agency (Bell, Whitley)
(1) Commonwealth Educational Opportunity Center
(1) CRCC (Bell, Clay, Harlan, Knox, Whitley) – currently vacant
(1) Daniel Boone Community Action Agency (Clay) – currently vacant
(1) Harlan County Community Action Agency (Harlan)
(1) Housing and Homeless Coalition of Kentucky
(1) KCEOC (Knox)
(1) Kentucky Coalition Against Domestic Violence – currently vacant
(1) Kentucky Department of Community Based Services
(1) Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice
(1) Kentucky Department for Public Health
(1) Kentucky Housing Corporation
(1) Kentucky Youth Advocates
(1) KRCC (Leslie, Letcher, Perry)
(1) K-12 School Representative
(1) LKLP (Leslie, Letcher, Perry) – currently vacant
(1) Local Government Representative – currently vacant
(1) Partners for Education at Berea College
(1) WellCare
(2) Youth Advisory Board representatives

C. Selection of Steering Committee Members

- Each Steering Committee member that is a named organization selects or appoints its representative(s) to the committee.
- The Youth Advisory Board selects the members that will represent the youth on the steering committee.
- In addition to representatives from the organizations listed above, other individuals passionate about ending youth homelessness are eligible to join.
- The Steering Committee can add new members by a majority vote of the existing members.

D. Terms

- The term of service is for the duration of the YHDP program.
- If a member is unable to attend a meeting, someone from that same organization should attend in the member’s absence whenever possible.
- Members that fail to attend regularly scheduled meetings shall be subject to removal from the Steering Committee by vote of the Committee if they attend less than 75% of meetings.
- The Steering Committee will require the appointing and electing agencies to appoint a substitute in the event of the removal of a member of the Steering Committee.

E. Steering Committee Meetings, Quorum and Voting: The Steering Committee shall meet at least monthly during the “Planning Phase,” and at least quarterly thereafter (additional virtual meetings may be scheduled as needed). A quorum will be one-half plus one of the seats on the Steering Committee. In the event that all seats are not filled at any given time, a quorum will be one-half plus one of the total number of seats filled. The vote of a majority of members present and voting at a meeting at which a quorum is present is enough to constitute an act of the Steering Committee.

F. Conflicts of Interest

Steering Committee members with actual or perceived conflicts of interest must identify them as they arise. Individuals with a conflict of interest may participate in all discussion but should abstain from voting on any issue in which they may have a conflict. No member of the Steering Committee shall vote upon any matter which shall have a direct financial bearing on the organization that the member represents or sits as a board member on the organization. This includes all decisions with respect to funding requests submitted for the YHDP.

G. Compensation of Members

Steering Committee members will receive no compensation for their duties.

H. Leadership of the Steering Committee

There will be Co-chairs of the Steering Committee – one member elected by the Steering Committee and one representative of the Youth Advisory Board. These co-chairs will serve for the duration of the YHDP program. The responsibilities of the co-chairs are:

- Presiding at all meetings of the Steering Committee and working with the YHDP lead staff to set the agenda
- Providing oversight to the development and execution of the policies and programs of the YHDP, subject to the direction of the Steering Committee

I. Lead Agency

The lead agency for the YHDP is Partners for Education at Berea College. The lead agency serves as a liaison with the Balance of State Continuum of Care and will perform a variety functions, such as:

- Coordinating/facilitating workgroups
- Giving all notices of meeting dates, times and locations
- Taking minutes of the meetings and keeping the minutes as part of the YHDP records
- Coordinating needs/gaps assessments
- Collecting and reporting data related to the YHDP
- Preparing collaborative coordinated community plan for the YHDP in conjunction with all relevant stakeholders
- Supporting and identifying technical assistance and training for YHDP Steering Committee members
- Building awareness
- Recruiting stakeholders

J. Reporting

- Proceedings of all Steering Committee meetings are documented in minutes by the YHDP Lead staff.
- Minutes of all meetings are circulated and approved at the subsequent meeting. Once approved, minutes are made available electronically to the Steering Committee.
- Minutes will be maintained by the Lead Agency.