



MID-WILLAMETTE VALLEY
HOMELESS ALLIANCE
MOVING TO END AND
PREVENT HOMELESSNESS

Youth Homeless Demonstration Program (YHDP) Marion-Polk Region Overview

On September 15, 2021, HUD announced that the Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance (“the Alliance”), the Continuum of Care (CoC) for the Marion-Polk region, was one of 33 communities across the nation to receive HUD funding through the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP). The Alliance secured \$3,691,542 to 1) engage critical stakeholders, including youth with lived experience of homelessness; 2) analyze the needs of youth at-risk of or experiencing homelessness in their community; and 3) determine specific actions and fund interventions to substantially decrease youth homelessness in the community.

Purpose

The YHDP is an opportunity to create an in-depth plan to prevent and end youth homelessness. To assist with the extensive planning process, as well as with YHDP project implementation, HUD provides extensive technical assistance. The goal of the YHDP is to support selected communities in the development and implementation of a Coordinated Community Plan (CCP) to prevent and end youth homelessness and share that experience to mobilize communities around the country toward the same end.

YHDP Goals:

- Produce Coordinated Community Plans
- Ensure youth-led governance
- Expand capacity & pilot new models
- Build national momentum
- Lead with equity
- Strengthen cross-system partnerships
- Prevent & end homelessness for youth and young adults

** Note: “Youth” is defined as individuals up to age 24 (has not reached their 25th birthday). “YYA” is often an acronym used and it stands for “youth and young adults” to better capture the full age range of youth.

Local YHDP efforts build on momentum from the region’s previous participation in the 100-Day Challenge initiative and the formation of a Youth Action Board within the CoC. This is the largest investment to date to specifically address youth homelessness. As a result, it is anticipated to see a reduction of chronic adult homelessness over time given that approximately 70% of local adults experiencing homelessness first experienced it as a youth.

Structure

YHDP is a community initiative that relies on participation from a wide range of sectors. At the center of it all is *Backbone*, the Alliance’s Youth Action Board, comprised of youth and young adults with direct experience with homelessness. *Backbone* and the other leadership groups moving the work forward are:

- **Backbone** – The Alliance’s Youth Action Board, which makes critical milestone decisions.
- **Core Team** – Alliance staff, Backbone leadership and Youth & Young Adult Subcommittee leadership. Meets regularly with technical assistance providers and moves the work forward by convening others and providing structure to the process.
- **Planning Team** – The place where the Coordinated Community Plan (CCP) is developed. Participants include community experts from various sectors, including youth with lived experience, who make sure the relevant information and input is embedded in the CCP.
- **Community Stakeholders** – Community members who provide information, insights, and feedback on local needs and priorities for the CCP. Stakeholders also help navigate barriers that may arise.

HUD requires participation from the following:

- Youth Action Board
- Health, mental health, and substance abuse agencies
- Juvenile and adult corrections and probation
- Law enforcement
- Housing authorities
- Early childhood development and childcare providers
- Public child welfare agencies
- Local and state government
- Runaway and homeless youth program providers
- Higher education
- Landlords
- Advocacy and philanthropic organizations
- Culturally specific organizations

Timeline

Starting September 15, 2021, communities have six months to convene stakeholders, conduct a community-based planning process, and submit a coordinated community plan (CCP). The CCP serves as the strategic plan for ending and preventing youth homelessness and must be approved by HUD prior to distributing project funding. The CCP is a holistic plan for the community and will include projects beyond what will be funded by HUD YHDP resources.

Data from a 2021 regional service assessment conducted by Oregon Department of Human Services will provide the basis for the region's CCP. The priorities identified within the CCP will provide the basis for distribution of YHDP funds.

Once the CCP is approved by HUD, the Alliance will release a request-for-proposal (RFP), and service providers within the Marion and Polk region can apply for YHDP dollars to fund projects aligning with the Coordinated Community Plan. The Alliance must submit its prioritized list of projects to HUD by July 1, 2022. Once approved, HUD will issue contracts for the successful projects.

After the initial two-year period, a portion of the original YHDP award amount (estimated to be \$1.6 million per year) will be available to the Alliance via the regular CoC funding competition. YHDP has a focus on both building and maintaining capacity to operate effective systems, making this a long-term funding stream.

There are three general phases to launch the local YHDP:

- Phase 1: Planning – Set community goals and objectives, solidify partnerships, decide governance structure, needs analysis, system modeling (September-December)
- Phase 2: Project Design – Complete the CCP, conduct local grant application process (January-June)
- Phase 3: Implementation – HUD issues contracts, providers implement new services, and the Alliance supports project management and continuous quality improvement (beginning September 2022)

Macro Timeline:

Year 1 = Planning and project identification (through June 2022)

Year 2 = Continued planning and project implementation (through June 2023)

Year 3 and beyond = YHDP fully integrated into CoC funding & monitoring process

Helpful Links

- HUD Exchange for YHDP: <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/yhdp/>
- Map of YHDP funded CoC's: <https://www.hudexchange.info/sites/onecpd/assets/File/Map-of-YHDP-Funded-CoCs.pdf>
- Alliance website: <https://MWVHomelessAlliance.org>

Marion-Polk YHDP Contacts

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