Youth Homelessness System Improvement (YHSI) Grants

December 4, 2023

Purpose of Today's Webinar

- Share more about the YHSI Grant Opportunity available now
- Answer questions about the Notice of Funding Opportunity
- Share next steps!

YHSI Goals

The goal of YHSI grants is to increase state and local capacity to better serve youth and create projects that are responsive to the needs of youth at-risk of or experiencing homelessness in the community

What are the objectives of the YHSI grant?

- Improve the capacity of youth in the community
- Establish partnerships
- Improve the coordinated entry system in a community
- Improve data collection and use between systems that work with youth
- Assess, address, and improve equity and decrease disparities in the youth homeless response system

What funding is available?

Total Funding Available: $50M

Per project funding availability: $200,000 to $1M

Max Award doubles if application covers 2 or more CoCs or is statewide

Funding Category	Maximum Award
Planning & Partnerships	$400,000
Data	$300,000
Coordinated Entry	$200,000
Racial & Gender Equity	$200,000

Who is eligible to apply?

- State, county, and local governments
- Tribal governments
- Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs)
- Non-profit organizations

Funding and scoring incentives are offered for applications that cover a larger geographic area (e.g. statewide projects)

⭐Current and former YHDP recipients may receive YHSI grants

How is YHSI different from YHDP?

	YHDP	YHSI
Grant activities	Housing, Services, Planning, HMIS, Coordinated Entry	Planning & Partnerships, Coordinated Entry, Data, and Racial & Gender Equity
Grant length	24 months after 6-month planning period	30 months
Grant amount	$600,000-$15M	$200,000-$2M
Renewable funds	All funds, except planning and construction funds, are eligible for renewal under future CoC competitions	Not renewable
Eligible applicants	Limited to CoC collaborative applicants	Not limited to CoC collaborative applicants

Deeper Dive on Eligible Activities

Planning and Partnerships

- Developing community-wide or region-wide partnerships to better identify and understand the needs of youth at-risk of or experiencing homelessness
- Compensating Youth Action Board members for their work on the YHSI grant
- Costs associated with hosting local conferences
- Engagement, training, and cross-community coordination of youth with lived experience for participation in YHSI grant activities
- Costs associated with cross-training and developing community-wide policies and practices for preventing or quickly resolving youth homelessness
- System mapping and planning

Data

- Upgrading, customizing, and enhancing the HMIS to better collect and report data on youth
- Recruiting new participants to HMIS
- Technical, legal, and planning costs associated with creating data matches or data integration between different data collection sources, such as HMIS and school district data
- Developing and implementing evaluation and analysis strategies related to youth homelessness

Coordinated Entry Systems

- Establishment or improvement of youth-specific CES access points
- Development or improvement of a youth-specific assessment tool
- Creating a prioritization plan for youth experiencing homelessness within the larger CES
- Activities related to better understanding needs of youth experiencing homelessness within CES
- Developing and implementing an ongoing evaluation process for the CES
- Recruitment of additional projects to send and receive referrals from CES

Racial and Gender Equity

- Costs associated with conducting a community-wide racial and gender equity assessment
- Costs associated with conducting a needs analysis of youth experiencing homelessness, including the needs of youth subpopulations such as minors, BIPOC youth, LGBTQIA+, pregnant and parenting youth
- Costs associated with implementing policies, procedures, and cultural change associated with outcomes of a youth homelessness equity analysis
- Costs associated with developing an evaluation framework for current and future projects serving youth experiencing homelessness, including outcomes related to racial equity and LGBTQIA+ equity

Potential Project Examples

- Engage and hire youth with lived experience of homelessness for project activities
- Create a statewide exit strategy for youth exiting the child welfare system
- Work with local school districts to create a data-sharing agreement to identify youth experiencing homelessness
- Conduct a series of focus groups and surveys with youth and service providers to understand gaps in current CES
- Develop an awareness campaign on youth homelessness to recruit additional partners and YAB members

What are my next steps?

- Start talking to young people in your community - you need their ideas and support!
- YHSI NOFO Q&A Webinar - **Wednesday, December 6th from 2:30-4 PM ET**
- Participate in <u>Youth Collaboratory's webinar</u> next week to walk through the NOFO in more detail - **Monday, December 11th from 2-3:30 PM ET**
- Office of Native American Programs <u>YHSI webinar</u> on **Tuesday, December 19th from 2-3:30 PM ET.**
- Apply for the YHSI grants NOFO on <u>grants.gov</u> **due February 15, 2024**
- Check out the <u>YHSI webpage</u> for more information
- Ask HUD any other questions: <u>yhsi@hud.gov</u>

Questions?