

FMCoC YHDP Preparation

December, 2022

Overview

This summary is based on the requirements of the FY 2021 Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP) NOFA that was published on March 24, 2022.

Expected Future YHDP NOFAs

Although we cannot know if or when the next YHDP NOFAs will be released, they are likely to contain many of the same components as the previous application cycles. As a result, there are steps that one can take to help ensure you are well prepared once the NOFA is released. Below is a summary of areas to focus work on prior to the NOFA release if you have not already done so or if they are not existing already.

Preparation Area: Build Leadership Capacity

In the past, HUD awarded significant points to applicants that demonstrated they had the necessary leadership in place to effectively manage the development of a coordinated community plan to prevent and end youth homelessness.

- Demonstrate how the CoC addressed challenges for youth at risk of or experiencing homelessness resulting from the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Demonstrate an initiative outside of applying for grant funds that was led by the YAB or youth in the community. Example: designing a youth count or creating a peer partnership program.
- Demonstrate how the YAB decision making process is integrated into the larger CoC and how recommendations from the YAB are implemented.
- Demonstrate that there is a written plan or strategy in place to end youth homelessness. It should include: the organizations or agencies that helped to develop the plan and should have at least two youth specific strategies to address homelessness.
- Demonstrate how the CoC structure will support the lead agency. Identify names of committees with the number of members, current committee objective, and current youth relevant task.
- Demonstrate how the CoC includes direct youth participation, either through a Youth Action Board or youth participation in committee meetings or planning and feedback events. Specifically describe how youth are prepared, debriefed and otherwise supported for participation.

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Preparation Area: Demonstrating Community Need

The Fresno Madera Continuum of Care (FMCoC) will need to demonstrate a high need in the community based on the number and needs of the community's youth experiencing homelessness.

- Demonstrate that a recent youth homelessness needs assessment was conducted by the CoC, which should include:
 - Name of the lead and partnering agency involved
 - How youth were involved
 - Description of disparities identified through the assessment, including race, gender, LGBTQ+ status, system involvement, and health disparities
 - Explanation of key findings including the number and types of youth appropriate housing units and number of youths experiencing homelessness
- Description of at least one youth focused intervention that is not currently operating in the community OR that could be improved and the current barriers
- Description of community factors that are currently contributing to youth homelessness
- Description and assessment of the disparity in the FMCoC's homeless response system. How will the FMCoC address those disparities? Specifically describe how the FMCoC is addressing needs of transgender, gender non-conforming, and non-binary youths

Preparation Area: Collaboration

Demonstrate strong current community-wide partnerships that are working to prevent and end homelessness.

- Indicate whether the Coordinated Entry process incorporates youth, and if so, how.
- Describe how the CoC works with education providers in the community. The response should include a specific initiative.
- Describe if other youth leadership bodies exist in the FMCoC and share how they engage on youth homelessness.
- Describe how the FMCoC assesses and provides information about connection to health insurance coverage and available health services.
- Specifically describe how the CoC works with: child welfare (foster care), justice systems (juvenile and adult) and institutions of mental and physical health.
- Procure a letter of support for the application from a Public Child Welfare Agency (PCWA)

Preparation Area: Youth Collaboration

Ensure a compliant Youth Action Board (YAB) is in place: A group of at least 3 youth with voting power on policy decisions of the CoC, particularly on policies that relate to preventing and ending

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youth homelessness. At least two-thirds of the YAB members must be age 24 or younger and have lived experience of homelessness and should be representative of the youth population experiencing homelessness in the community. The YAB must be a formal committee within the CoC.

- Be able to describe the mission and vision of the YAB.
- Be able to describe the structure and work of the YAB:
 - How long it has been in existence?
 - How many members does the YAB have? If attendance at meetings extends beyond the membership, state the attendance at the most recent three meetings.
 - How often does the YAB meet?
 - How are youth and young adults with lived experience recruited for membership in the YAB?
 - Describe the decision-making structure of the YAB; and
 - How is the YAB integrated into CoC-wide work (i.e. beyond issues solely dealing with youth homelessness)
- Consider how youth will be compensated or incentivized to participate in the YAB or other aspects of the youth homelessness system
- Describe how the YAB membership is reflective of the population of youth and young adults experiencing homelessness
- Provide a letter of support from the YAB

Preparation Area: Data and Evaluation Capacity

In the past, HUD awarded significant points to applicants that could demonstrate the existence of a functioning Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) that facilitated in the collection of information on homelessness using residential and other homeless services and effective performance measures.

Gathering data and improving data quality can be time consuming so this may be something to review and analyze in advance.

See page 34-35 for a detailed list of required/suggested measures and questions from 2021.

Note that how youth providers are regularly monitored is required.

Major Takeaways in Preparation of YHDP

- Engage youth that is reflective of those who are at risk or currently homeless and establish a YAB that will be compensated and integrated into the CoC
- Create a youth focused needs assessment that clearly defines need and metrics utilized
- Establish relationships with current youth providers and formalize partnerships

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Other Resources

- [Prior YHDP Application Debriefs](#)
- [Building Blocks of a Youth System](#)
- [YHDP Foundations & Beyond: Coordinated Community Plan](#)
- [Building Your Youth Planning Team](#)