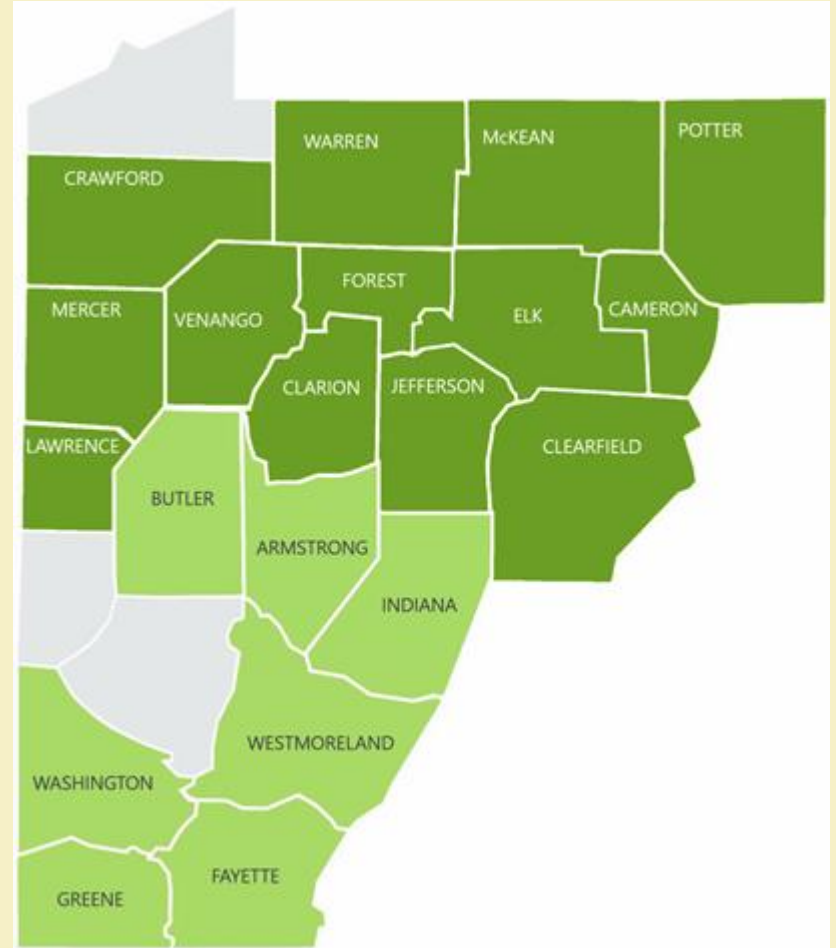




Western PA Continuum of Care Efforts to Reduce Youth Homelessness

Geographic Area

- Covers 20 counties
- 74% of all municipalities have less than 2,500 residents
- 122 school districts
- 15,000+ farms, 2 million acres of farmland

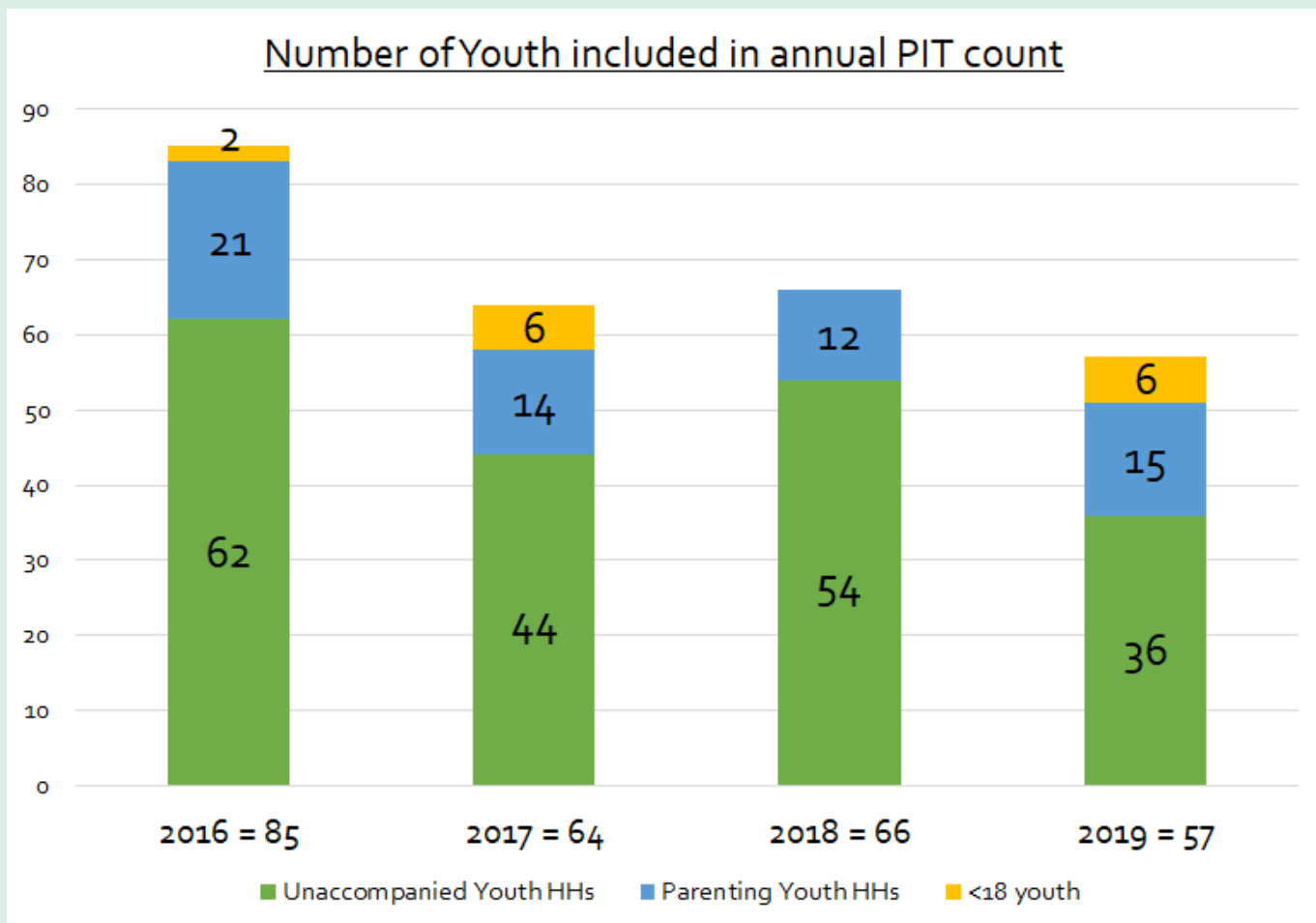


Strategic Plan Goals

- 5-year plan 2017-2022
- Reduce youth homelessness by 50%
- Accuracy of numbers?

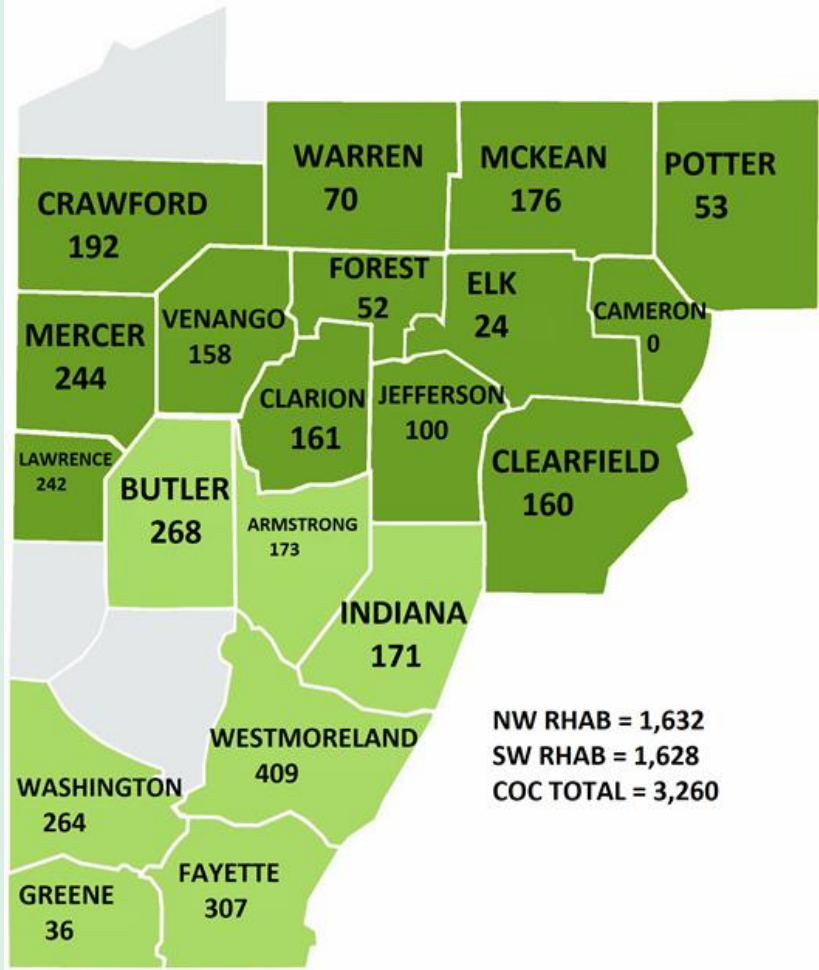


PIT



PA Department of Education

- ECYEH indicates 3,260 youth experiencing homelessness in 2018



Youth Committee Decisions

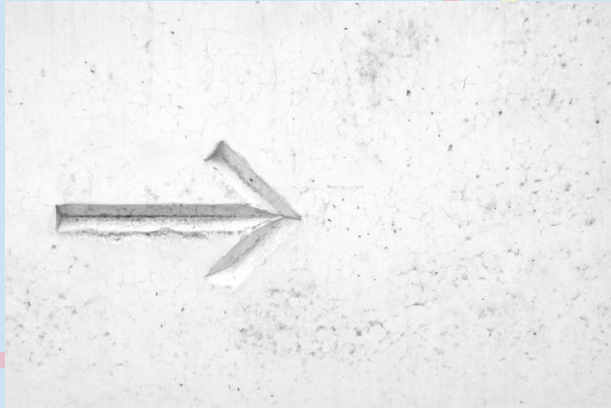
- What next?
- How to best serve youth
- How to fund the program
- Who to run the program



Success and Moving Forward

- Youth Action Board
- Youth Count
- Positioning CoC to apply for YHDP in 2020
- Creating a continuum for youth

- Obtaining flexible funding
- Formalize permanency
- Increase awareness and advocacy



Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project

- HUD designed the YHDP funding to reduce the number of youth experiencing homelessness by funding communities to implement new and innovative housing and service projects
- HUD plans to release a 4th round of the YHDP funding competition in 2020

- Each CoC:
 - can be awarded between \$1 million and \$15 million
 - collaborates with the Youth Action Board, local child welfare agencies
 - plans and implements a Coordinated Community Plan to address youth homelessness

Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project

The CoC needs:

- An active Youth Action Board
- Collaboration with all 20-county CYS agencies
- Stakeholder chart
- Youth Systems map



Youth Count Purpose

The Youth Count will improve the Western CoC's ability to build rapport and identify youth experiencing homelessness or housing instability, to better understand the scope of youth homelessness and housing instability and to better understand the housing and service needs of youth. The information will help the CoC to make data-driven decisions regarding how to allocate resources to meet youth where they are by creating a continuum of services for youth and moving youth into permanency.

Targeted Counties

- Westmoreland
- Butler
- Fayette
- McKean
- Crawford
- Washington
- Mercer
- Lawrence
- Clearfield
- Mercer
- Venango



GOAL -
participation
from all
counties

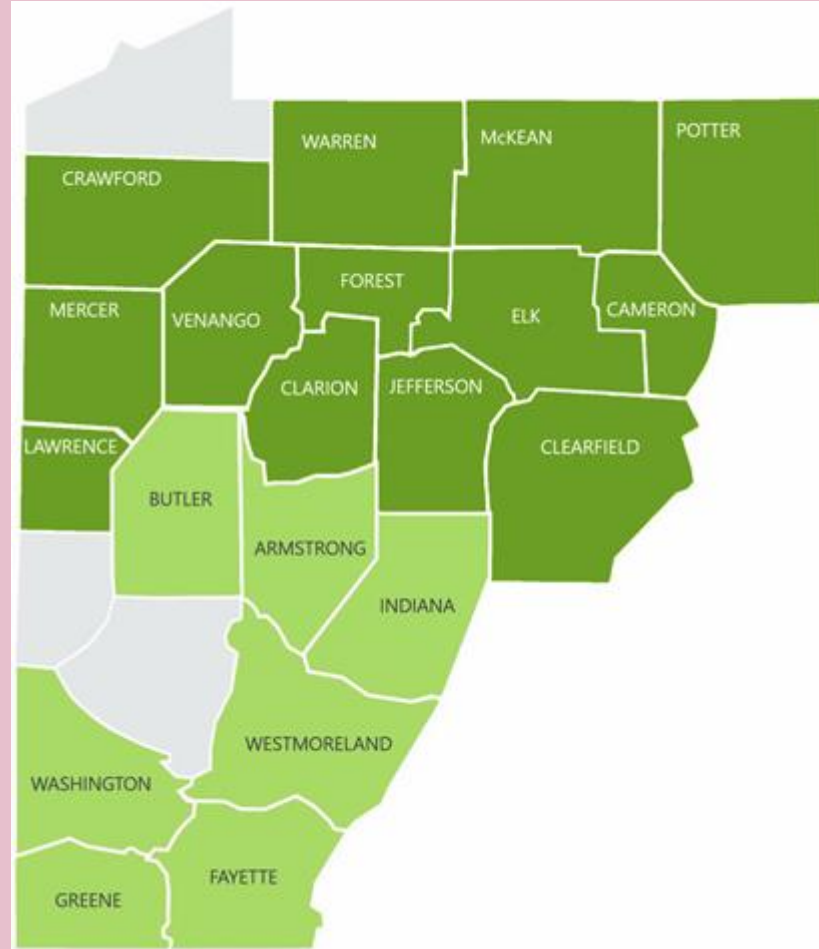
Youth Count Regions

Region 1: Washington, Westmoreland, Greene,
Fayette - Woody

Region 2: Lawrence, Butler, Mercer, Crawford,
Venango - Tim

Region 3: Armstrong, Indiana, Clarion, Jefferson,
Clearfield

Region 4: Warren, Forest, Elk, Cameron, McKean,
Potter



Definition for the Count

- US Department of Health and Human Services
 - Runaway and Homeless Youth Act
- US Department of Education
 - McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
- US Department of Housing and Urban Development
 - The Homeless Emergency and Rapid Transition to Housing Act

Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHY)

The RHY Act (42 USC 5701 § 387) defines “homeless youth” as individuals who are not more than 18 years of age if seeking shelter in a Basic Center Program, or not more than 21 years of age or less than 16 years of age if seeking services in a Transitional Living Program, and for whom it is not possible to live in a safe environment with a relative, and who have no other safe alternative living arrangement.

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 USC 11302) defines children and youth as homeless if they “lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence,” including sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reasons; living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or campgrounds due to lack of alternative accommodations; living in emergency or transitional shelters; and living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar places.

The Homeless Emergency and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH)

An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; is living in a place not meant for human habitation, in emergency shelter, in transitional housing, or is exiting an institution where they temporarily resided. The primary change from existing practice is that people will be considered homeless if they are exiting an institution where they resided for up to 90 days (previously 30 days), and were homeless immediately prior to entering that institution;

An individual or family who is losing their primary nighttime residence, which may include a motel or hotel or a doubled-up situation, in 14 days (previously seven days) and lacks resources or support networks to remain in housing;

Unaccompanied youth and families who are homeless under other federal statutes (such as the education definition or the RHY Act definition) who have experienced a long-term period without living independently in permanent housing, have experienced persistent instability as measured by frequent moves, and can be expected to continue in such status for an extended period of time due to chronic disabilities, chronic physical health or mental health conditions, substance addiction, histories of childhood abuse, the presence of a disability, multiple barriers to employment, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against an individual or a family member;

Individuals and families who are fleeing, or are attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or a family member.

Definition Consideration

Participant Eligibility. Projects funded through this NOFA must have the following eligibility criteria for program participants. References to paragraphs of the definition of homelessness refer to the paragraphs listed under the definition of "homeless" in 24 CFR 578.3. All projects must participate in coordinated entry, and selection of program participants must be consistent with the CoC's Coordinated Entry process. As provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019, youth aged 24 and under must not be required to provide third-party documentation that they meet the homeless definition in 24 CFR 578.3 as a condition for receiving services funded under this NOFA. Additionally, any youth-serving provider funded under this NOFA may serve unaccompanied youth aged 24 and under (or families headed by youth aged 24 and under) who have an unsafe primary nighttime residence and no safe alternative to that residence. HUD interprets "youth-serving provider" as a private nonprofit organization whose primary mission is to provide services to youth aged 24 and under and families headed by youth aged 24 and under. HUD interprets "living in unsafe situations" as having an unsafe primary nighttime residence and no safe alternative to that residence. These youth-related requirements supersede any conflicting requirements 13 of 81 under this NOFA or the CoC Program rule. Any youth-serving provider funded under this NOFA may serve unaccompanied youth aged 24 and under (or families headed by youth aged 24 and under) who have an unsafe primary nighttime residence and no safe alternative to that residence.



Street Homelessness and Couch Hopping

- Youth who couch hop typically move every 3-4 months
- Is couch hopping always safer?



Survey Tool



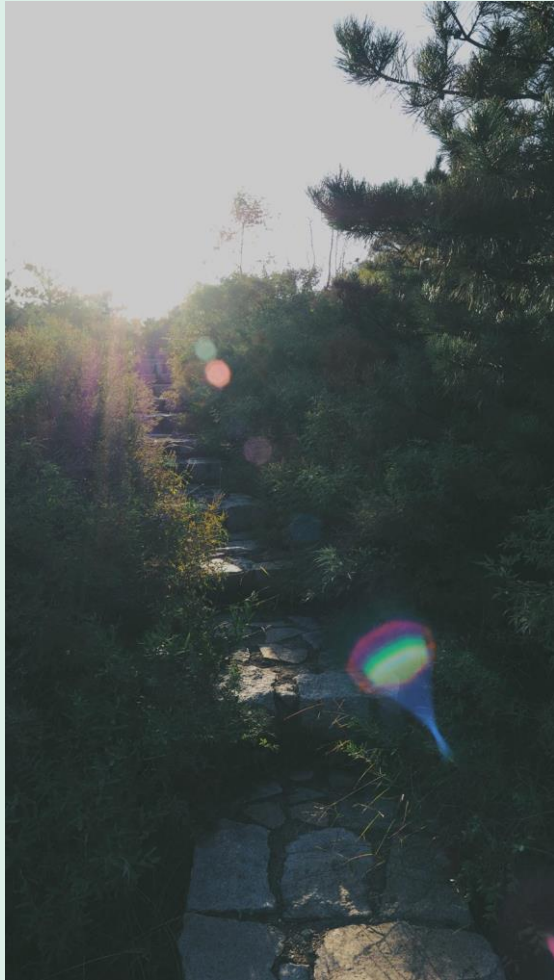
Who and how to engage

- Discuss at your table:
 - Who do you normally engage?
 - Who else could you engage?
 - How would you get new agencies involved?
- How can we help?



Meeting Youth Where They Are

- How to help youth who want to stay on the street
- What to do when there are no youth housing resources
- How to get youth to take survey
- What to do if youth are being trafficked



Next Steps

- YAB approval of script and survey
 - Survey IRB approval
- Youth focus groups in the four regions
- Collection of county level resources
 - SOP visits to two regions
- Engaging other partners and gathering volunteers
 - Media blast to raise awareness in February
 - Face-to-face training early April

Thank You!



Contact Information

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