Eastern & Western PA CoCs Youth Homelessness Systems Improvement Grant Project

Peer-to-Partnership Program Pilot Communities Request for Qualifications Webinar #2

January 16, 2025

Webinar Agenda

➔ YHSI Overview

➔ Peer-to-Partnership Pilot Overview

➔ County/Community Participation

➔ P2P Pilot Community Examples

➔ Application Submission Details

➔ Q&A

➔ Next Steps

Introductions

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What is YHSI (aka YEE-SHE or YES-EE)??

What is YHSI?

The Youth Homelessness Systems Improvement (YHSI) grant is an opportunity from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

In 2024 the Eastern and Western Continuums of Care (CoC) jointly applied for and successfully received $1.4 M to implement project activities created by the Youth Action Board (YAB), Advocates for Change (A4C), and the YHSI Core Team.

YHSI Purpose

YHSI project activities aim to improve and/or establish a youth homelessness response system in the 53-county region covering the Eastern and Western PA CoCs.

The highlight of the CoCs' YHSI Project is the Peer-to-Partnership (P2P) Pilot Program, designed to make youth homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring through the engagement of YYA in 10 pilot communities.

Additional Eastern & Western PA YHSI Project Activities

In addition to the P2P Pilot, the CoCs will conduct the following:

★ **Data Matching:** Cross-system data matches &/or data integration between different data systems (homeless response system, education, human services, etc.) to better understand the various pathways into homelessness and support improved targeting of resources.

★ **Cross-systems Needs/Gaps Analysis:** Analysis to identify some of the major system gaps/needs and help inform the work of the P2P Pilot Communities.

★ **Equity Analysis and Training:** Analysis to identify disparities and barriers that impact YYA experiencing homelessness/housing instability and inform P2P program cross-systems work. Related training materials will be developed.

★ **P2P Pilot Program Evaluation:** The evaluation will be ongoing with continuous quality improvement methods used throughout to help improve implementation of the Pilot.

★ **Coordinated Entry System (CES) Evaluations:** Evaluation of each CoC's CES will be conducted to determine improvements for better serving youth. The evaluation will look at how CES can better coordinate with other systems, including county-level systems, to improve YYA outcomes.

What is the Peer-to-Partnership Pilot Program?

Youth Action Board Truth & Value Statements

Values Statements:

1. A Gracious and Affirming Environment

2. Respectful Language

3. Authentic and transparent process

4. Working with the HAB or YAB is not a charity

5. Respect our expertise and experience

Truths Statements:

1. Everyone deserves a home

2. Homelessness is a system of oppression

3. Invisible disabilities are real

4. An open and inclusive environment is critical to our work

What is the P2P Pilot Program?

County-level youth-focused systems coordination pilot

To reduce youth homelessness by increasing youth-dedicated resources, bolstering cross-system collaboration at the county level, using strategies that center youth voice and expertise.

Soliciting 10 communities to host & support one youth for 24 months

Youth and young adults (YYA) with lived experience of homelessness will be matched and embedded in 10 counties across the CoCs' combined geography to work with service providers for 30 hours/week.

Coordinate with systems & to address pathways to homelessness

Identify strengths and gaps of the YYA response system, collaboratively creating a plan to reduce YYA homelessness, and implementing the agreed upon plan in the pilot county.

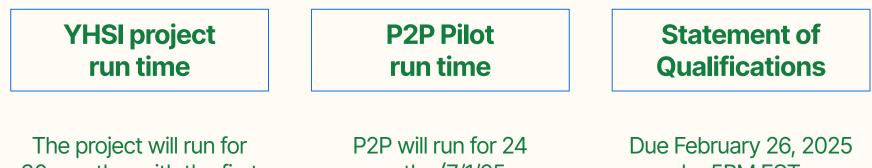## Collaborate w/management entity, YHSI Project Manager, & the YAB

The YYA will be recruited and paid by the management entity. Additional support will be provided by the YHSI Project Manager, the YAB, and the YHSI Core Team.

Benefits of Participating in the P2P Pilot

P2P Pilot Communities will have the opportunity of receiving support and technical assistance tailored to their communities needs along with advance access to data analysis, reports, & training:

➤ Placement of a YYA in your community to help advance the local work and bring youth perspective

➤ Ongoing support and technical assistance from the YHSI P2P Project Manager for the duration of the Pilot

➤ Support implementing continuous quality improvement to ensure the effectiveness of the Pilot

➤ Access to templates and tools to help develop your community's plan

➤ Data analysis and reports related to cross-systems data matching and needs/gaps analysis, equity analysis, and Coordinated Entry evaluation

➤ Access to training and technical assistance from the CoCs and HUD

➤ Opportunity to collaborate and share successes, lessons learned, and best practices with other Pilot Communities

Dates, Dates, and More Dates!

YHSI project run time	P2P Pilot run time	Statement of Qualifications

The project will run for 30 months, with the first six months set aside for start up (1/1/25 - 6/30/25)

P2P will run for 24 months (7/1/25 - 6/30/27)

Due February 26, 2025 by 5PM EST

Let's talk about the communities/counties!

Can a portion of a county respond?

Yes, but the preference is for the work to occur at the county level

→ Attempt to include <u>at least</u> 2-3 county-level partners in the initial team

→ RFQ responses will be accepted from communities based in one or multiple municipalities (city, town, etc)

→ Counties that work together under a joinder contract/agreement may apply as a single "community"

→ If a community wishes to use the pilot to engage county-level partners, please explain in the submitted response

The county-wide team

Who can be on the team?

- ★ Youth Services Providers
- ★ Child Welfare System
- ★ Education
- ★ Juvenile Justice/Criminal Justice System
- ★ Human Services
- ★ Mental Health Providers
- ★ Drug and Alcohol Treatment

- ★ Housing Authorities or other Housing Providers
- ★ Libraries
- ★ Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Intervention
- ★ Community Based Organizations
- ★ Other community partners that are engaged in work that impacts Youth/Young Adults

What are the county responsibilities/expected deliverables?

➔ Host the YYA and provide supervision for 24 months and authentically engage with hired YYA to support systemic change

➔ Assemble the county-wide team of youth-serving system providers

➔ Develop and implement a community-wide plan to address youth homelessness in the community, including any specific issues the community has already identified and prioritized

➔ Participate in YHSI project activities, as needed, including: continuous quality improvement, cross-systems data matching, equity analysis, cross-systems needs/gaps analysis, CES improvement, Equity Training, HUD YHSI training and TA, etc.

➔ Provide info needed for reporting

➔ Participate in annual convenings of the P2P Pilot Communities to share information, discuss progress and lessons learned, review outcomes, etc

Do counties have to hire & pay the YYA?

The YHSI grant from HUD will cover the costs related to paying the YYA, along with other project activities.

The CoCs will be selecting a management entity that will hire a P2P Project Manager, recruit the 10 YYA, pay the YYA, onboard and train the YYA, and handle ongoing HR.

Each community is asked to designate a "host" agency where the YYA will be based.

Agencies in the community are expected to coordinate with the P2P Project Manager and the Management Entity to address community and/or agency questions/issues that arise.

Roles and responsibilities will be detailed in formal written agreements/MOUs.

Questions About P2P YYA

- While the RFQ states that the YYA will be contractors, a review of employment law may require the CoCs to change this in the RFQ.

  - The P2P project was designed so that the Management Entity would be responsible for payroll, HR, and supervision. However, the CoCs are currently researching information to answer questions that have been submitted regarding the employment structure between the YYA, the "host" agency and the Management Entity. As such, this structure may need to be reconsidered once additional information is obtained.

- The RFQ currently states that YYA will be hired as contractors, but based on what we learn this may need to be revised so that youth are hired as employees, with a contract that ends at the end of the YHSI grant period.

- A question came in regarding background checks for YYA placed in "host" agencies that are legally required to have background checks completed. The CoCs understand that agencies may have these requirements and will work with agencies as needed to ensure compliance with all state and federal requirements.

Questions???

YHSI in Your Community

YHSI P2P Pilot Implementation

We know each county/community will have its own strengths and challenges. The P2P Pilot is designed to provide support, data, training and technical assistance from the CoCs while encouraging each community to create and implement strategies specific to their local needs.

- One of the main deliverables for each P2P Pilot Community will be the development of a community-wide plan to address youth homelessness within your local community.

- The P2P Pilot allows for flexibility so communities can identify specific issues and local priorities within their community's plan.

- Communities can use this process to enhance existing relationships among agencies and service providers that engage with youth AND/OR as a way to engage with agencies and providers that may be more reluctant to participate.

- Communities should think about the tasks that can be assigned to the hosted YYA to help advance the work on the plan and the other deliverables.

YHSI P2P Pilot Implementation Examples

Community A

- Team is led by a youth service provider who will "host" the youth.
- This "Host" service provider has identified one county agency and one homeless services provider willing to commit to participating.
- This team has worked together informally before but never on a plan such as this.
- The team discusses other potential partners but make little headway in convincing others to officially join the team in time for the P2P Pilot Communities SOQ to be submitted.

For the SOQ response, the team discusses & proposes the following:

- **Meetings:** They will meet for 2 hours every other week for the first 6 months and then reassess. They will meet at least once a month for 2 hours after that to work on developing the community plan.
- **Time Commitment:** Team partners commit to working at least 10 hours a month outside of meetings on this project.
- **Issues:** Youth experiencing or are at risk of homelessness avoid seeking out services so the community lacks data on the scope of the problem and youth input on potential solutions.
- **YYA Tasks Assignments:**
    - Developing materials for outreach & conducting outreach to prospective partners.
    - Developing an inventory of programs and resources serving youth in their county.
    - Gathering data related to youth outcomes that are connected to youth homelessness.
    - Developing tools to gather youth input.
    - Handling logistics for the team's meetings, such as creating agendas, ensuring there is a meeting space, taking/sharing meeting notes, etc.

YHSI P2P Pilot Implementation Examples

Community B

- Team is led by a county human services agency
- This "Lead" agency has identified another county agency, a youth provider, and a housing authority willing to commit to participating.
- The youth services provider has agreed to serve as the "host" agency for the YYA.
- Some members of the team have worked together under formal partnerships before.
- The team has identified other potential partners who are interested if the community is selected for funding but opt not to be included in the P2P Pilot Communities SOQ response.

For the SOQ response, the team discusses & proposes the following:

- Meetings: They will meet in-person for a half day (4 hours) every month to work on developing the community plan. They will report out on follow up tasks the week before the meeting.
- Time Commitment: The "Lead" and "Host" agencies commit to working at least 12 hours/month & the other agencies commit to working at least 6 hours/month each outside of meetings.
- Issues: Discharge planning practices for YYA exiting foster care and juvenile justice need to be improved to be more practical and effective.
- YYA Task Assignments:
  - Research related to discharge planning for foster care, juvenile justice, and institutional settings.
  - Gather data and develop reports related to youth outcomes that are connected to youth homelessness, particularly from "feeder" systems.
  - Set up, prepare for, and attend meetings with other potential system partners.
  - Organize logistics/materials for team meetings and follow up work.
  - Help to draft the community's plan.

YHSI P2P Pilot Implementation Examples

Community C

- Team is led by a county child welfare office
- This "Lead" agency has identified another county agency, a youth provider, and a housing authority willing to commit to participating.
- The child welfare office will also "host" the YYA.
- Some members of the team have worked together under formal partnerships before.

For the SOQ response, the team discusses & proposes the following:

- Meetings: They will meet in-person for 2 hours per week to work on developing the community plan.
- Time Commitment: The "Lead"/ "Host" agency commits to working at least 4 hours per week, with the other agencies committing to the 2 hour weekly meetings, plus one hour per week to do follow-up from these meetings.
- Issues: Youth aging out of foster care, independent living programs and other child welfare settings lack access to housing upon exit/ discharge. The local Public Housing Authority is interested in applying for FYI or FUP vouchers, but the coordination between the organizations is not established.
- YYA Task Assignments:
  - Research FYI/FUP voucher expectation/ requirements. Brief working group.
  - Identify examples/ templates to be used to create the necessary agreements.
  - Set up, prepare for, and attend meetings with other potential system partners.
  - Organize logistics/materials for team meetings and follow up work.
  - Help draft the community's plan.

Questions???

Application Submission Details

Submitting an Application

- Entities within the Eastern and Western PA CoCs' combined 53-county geography can apply.
  - Eastern PA CoC counties: https://pennsylvaniacoc.org/balance-state/eastern-pa-coc
  - Western PA CoC counties: https://pennsylvaniacoc.org/balance-state/western-pa-coc

- Any entity can submit an application on behalf of a county.

- The Statement of Qualifications will ask for details on the organizations/agencies involved in the county's team for this pilot.
  - You will be asked to designate a "Host" agency
  - You will also be asked if a "lead agency" has been identified

- IMPORTANT NOTE: The agency/organization selected to be the Management Entity for the YHSI project cannot also act as the "Host" and/or lead agency for a county/community selected as a Pilot Community. If an agency applies to serve as the Management Entity (to be selected via a separate RFQ/RFP) and is also included as the "Host" and/or lead agency in a community's application to be a P2P Pilot Community, the community will need to indicate and provide adequate information about another agency/organization able to step into the "Host" and/or lead agency role if needed.

Submitting an Application

FORMAT:

- **Please limit your written statement of qualifications (SOQ) to no more than 15 single-spaced pages.**
- Please use Times New Roman 12-point font. Please number all pages. Please use margins no smaller than 0.5 inches from the edge.
- The written SOQ should use the section/lettering format provided to ensure all questions have been addressed.
- The written SOQ should be submitted in a single email as a single PDF document.
- Attachments are not counted toward the page limit but should be included as part of the single PDF document.

SUBMISSION DETAILS:

- Responses MUST be submitted by email to breauman@pa.gov.
- DO NOT submit RFQ responses by mail, fax or hand delivery.
- The email subject line should be: "YHSI P2P Pilot Communities RFQ Response: Community/County Name"
- Incomplete submissions will not be considered.

DEADLINE:

- RFQ responses must be received by 5:00 P.M. on 2/26/2025.
- Late submissions will not be considered.

RFQ Questions & Technical Assistance

- Questions about this RFQ and the SOQ requirements should be directed to Ciarra Johnson, CoC System Specialist, at ciarra@dma-housing.com.

- All questions should be submitted no later than 10:00 a.m. EST on Friday, February 21, 2025.

- Webinar recordings will be posted online at https://pennsylvaniacoc.org/yhsi
  - The recording for the December webinar has been posted already.

- Additional information about the RFQ, including any written Q&A, will be posted online at https://pennsylvaniacoc.org/yhsi

***Limited community-specific technical assistance is available.
Email Ciarra with your request before 2/7/25.***

Questions???

Next Steps

Fully read/review the YHSI P2P Pilot Communities RFQ

RFQ can be found here

Be sure you understand what the YHSI P2P Pilot is about.

Assemble your Community's Team!

Figure out which agencies/ organizations in your county want to participate in the Pilot.

Gather input from your team's community partners

Be sure to start working on the application early to ensure you are able to incorporate input from all partners.

Next Steps

Learn more about YHSI on our website.

Learn more at:
https://pennsylvaniacoc.org/yhsi

Email Ciarra with questions until February 21, 2025.

Limited community-specific technical assistance is available. Email Ciarra with your request before 2/7/25.

Email Ciarra at:
ciarra@dma-housing.com

Submit your application to be a Pilot Community!

All Applications are due
February 26, 2025 by 5PM EST

Thank you for attending!

The recording of this webinar & additional updates will be posted to
https://pennsylvaniacoc.org/yhsi