

EASTERN & WESTERN PA COCS YOUTH HOMELESSNESS SYSTEMS IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROJECT

PEER-TO-PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM PILOT COMMUNITIES/COMMUNITY PARTNERS REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS WEBINAR

*Presented by Framework Strategies for the
Eastern PA Coalition for Housing and the Housing Coalition of Western PA*

April 14, 2026



LOGISTICS FOR TODAY'S WEBINAR



You should be muted - if not, please mute when not talking to cut down on background noise



Today's virtual webinar will be recorded and shared



A PDF of this presentation will be posted to the YHSI webpage



Feel free to type in questions/comments in the chat box –
Framework staff will monitor the chat



When we have time for Q&A, please feel free to unmute to share
comments and ask questions

WEBINAR AGENDA

- YHSI Overview
- Peer-to-Partnership Pilot Overview
- P2P Pilot Implementation
- Application Submission Details
- Wrap Up, Next Steps, Final Q&A

INTRODUCTIONS

- Christy Rubenstein (she/her), Senior Associate, Framework Strategies
- Idelia Robinson-Confer (she/her), Junior Associate, Framework Strategies
- Leigh Howard (he/him), President, Framework Strategies

WHAT IS YHSI (AKA YEE-SHE OR YES-EE)??

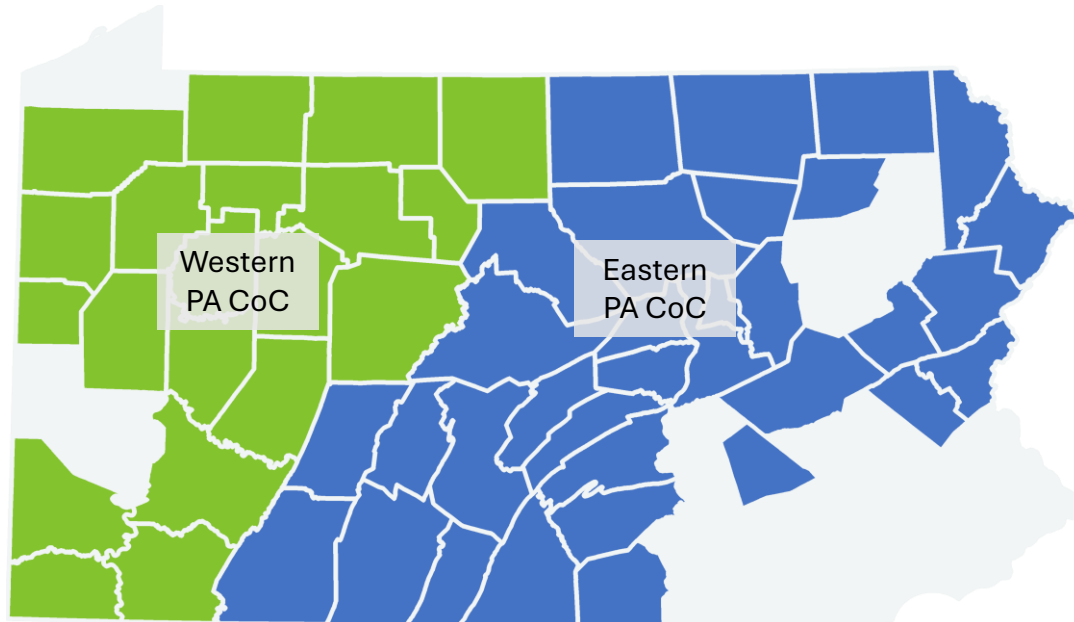
WHAT IS YHSI?

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 PA Continuums of Care (CoCs) 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 up to 10 YYA in pilot communities or with community partners.

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.
- ★ **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.

YOUTH ACTION BOARD TRUTH & VALUE STATEMENTS

VALUES STATEMENTS:

- A Gracious and Affirming Environment
- Respectful Language
- Authentic and transparent process
- Working with the HAB or YAB is not a charity
- Respect our expertise and experience

TRUTHS STATEMENTS:

- Everyone deserves a home
- Homelessness is a system of oppression
- Invisible disabilities are real
- An open and inclusive environment is critical to our work

WHAT IS THE PEER-TO- PARTNERSHIP PILOT PROGRAM?

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.

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.

Soliciting 10 pilot communities or community partners to host & support one youth for 12-14 months

Youth and young adults (YYA) with lived experience of homelessness will be matched and embedded in/with up to 10 counties/community partners across the CoCs' combined geography to work with service providers for 30-40 hours/week.

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 (overseen by the management entity), the YAB, and the YHSI Core Team.

BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING IN THE P2P PILOT

P2P Pilot Communities/Community Partners 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/organization 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 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/Community Partners

APPLICANT TYPES

The P2P program will accept applications from the following:

Pilot Community

A team of identified and committed community partners that will work in a community to foster cross-sector collaboration and develop/implement a community plan to address youth homelessness in the community.

Community Partner-Local

Develop a community-level team of partners and stakeholders within a specified community to foster cross-sector collaboration and develop/implement a community plan to address youth homelessness in the community.


Community Partner-Regional/CoC

Develop a regional or CoC-wide cross-sector collaboration that can be leveraged in and/or applied at the county/community level to address youth homelessness. Work may focus on a specific issue related to youth homelessness but should involve cross-sector collaboration and be able to be implemented at the community/county level.

EXPECTED DELIVERABLES: ASSEMBLE COLLABORATIVE TEAM

- Assemble a collaborative team composed of community providers/partners from across sectors that engage with/serve YYA.
 - Team will work at or develop strategies/approaches that can be applied at the community/county level to identify the pathways into homelessness among YYA and the resources needed to prevent and end YYA homelessness/housing instability.
- Pilot Communities try to have 2-3 county-level partners in their initial team, can add more as the pilot progresses.
 - Community Partner can apply without identifying other specific partners. Should have a plan for engaging with other cross-system partners to advance county- or community-level work.
 - Preference is to assemble a team to take on county-level work. However, communities based in 1+ municipalities (city, township, borough, town) within a county may participate.
 - Counties that work together under a joinder contract/ agreement may apply as a single “community” and assemble a single team.
 - Community Partner may work at the regional or CoC level. Project should result in learnings/ strategies/ approaches can be implemented at the community/ county level.

STAKEHOLDERS THAT MAY WANT TO PARTICIPATE



Who can you engage to 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

EXPECTED DELIVERABLES: HOST YYA

- Host the YYA and provide supervision for 12-14 months and authentically engage with hired YYA to support systemic change

- Each Pilot Community must identify the organization in their group that will serve as the “host” agency.
- Community Partners that apply will be expected to serve as the “host” agency for the YYA.
- A Community Partner can apply to host multiple P2P YYA to work in different communities/counties.
- Hosting YYA will involve ongoing collaboration with the YHSI Project Manager and coordination with the Management Entity to ensure the P2P YYA receives an appropriate level of support and supervision.
 - Management Entity is the Community Action Association of Pennsylvania (CAAP)

EXPECTED DELIVERABLES: ADVANCE CROSS- SECTOR COLLABORATION

- Assist/participate in convening the community's team of service providers and representatives from youth-serving systems to collaborate/work with the P2P YYA to 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.
- For a Pilot Community (applying as a Community Team), the primary team will be assembled but can be expanded
- For Community Partners that will develop a county-level team (applying as a Community Partner-Local), must identify potential services providers and other partners to participate in planning efforts.
- For Community Partners working at the regional or CoC level (applying as a Community Partner-Regional/CoC), the Community Partner will be expected to identify and engage with a "team" of cross-sector organizations and stakeholders to participate in planning efforts.
 - Will develop a plan or strategies to address youth homelessness that can be implemented/applied at the community/county level.
- Plans will identify needs/gaps as well as strengths/assets within the community/county youth homelessness response systems and identify steps/strategies the community can/will take.
- The YHSI Project Manager will work with the community/team to identify useful tools and information to facilitate this process.

ADDITIONAL EXPECTED DELIVERABLES

- Participate in other YHSI project activities, as needed, including: continuous quality improvement, cross-systems data matching, cross-systems needs/gaps analysis, CES improvement, HUD YHSI training and TA, etc.
- Provide information and data regarding project activities for the purpose of reporting back to HUD. It is anticipated that a reporting template or survey will be used to collect this information.
- Participate in YHSI convenings of the P2P Pilot Communities/Community Partners to share information, discuss progress and lessons learned, review outcomes, etc.

YHSI FUNDING & YYA COSTS

- The YHSI grant from HUD will cover the costs related to paying the YYA, along with other project activities.
- The CoCs have selected CAAP as the 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. “Community partner” applicants will be serving as the “host” agency.
- Host agencies may request up to \$7500 for costs related to hosting a YYA.
- 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.

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

MANAGEMENT ENTITY (CAAP) RESPONSIBILITIES

- Recruit and act as employer of YYA and P2P Project Manager. This will include collecting timesheets, paying salaries, and providing benefits.
- Coordinate/provide onboarding and training for P2P Pilot staff.
- Handle HR issues, such as addressing performance issues and conducting employee evaluations.
- Ensure the P2P Project Manager and P2P YYA fulfill their duties and responsibilities.

P2P PROJECT MANAGER RESPONSIBILITIES

- Oversee the cohort of P2P YYA and act as a liaison among the P2P YYA, Pilot Communities/Community Partners, and Management Entity.
- Disseminate information to Pilot Communities/Community Partners.
- Collecting data and information from each Pilot Community/Community Partner on progress in meeting deliverables.
- Implementing pilot-wide and cohort-wide programming and technical assistance.

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

COMMUNITIES/COMMUNITY PARTNERS RESPONSIBILITIES

- Engage in the P2P Pilot and ensure deliverables are met.
 - Host agency: Host the P2P YYA on-site, provide daily supervision and support, and verify hours worked by P2P YYA.
 - Lead agency: Coordinate activities among community partners and ensure project deliverables and pilot reporting requirements are met.
 - The lead agency/organization can be the same agency/ organization that will serve as the P2P YYA “Host”, but it can also be a different agency/ organization.

P2P YYA RESPONSIBILITIES

- Assist the Pilot Community/Community Partner in advancing their efforts to improve the youth homelessness response system.
- Assist in data collection and reporting.
- Track and report hours
- Participate in onboarding and ongoing training,
- Participate in cohort-wide and pilot-wide activities.

TIMELINE

Date	Activity
4/7/2026	P2P Pilot Communities/Partners RFQ Released
4/14/2026	Informational webinar on the RFQ
4/23/2026	Pilot Communities/Partners RFQ Question Period Closed at 10:00AM EST
04/30/2026	Pilot Communities/Partners RFQ Responses Due (by 5:00PM EST)
4/30/2026-5/1/2026	Internal review of Pilot Communities/Partners submissions for eligibility
5/1/2026-5/7/2026	Pilot Communities/Partners Review and Selection Process: YHSI Core Team to review submitted proposals
5/8/2026	Pilot Communities/Partners Notification
5/13/2026	YHSI P2P Pilot Program officially starts in selected Pilot Communities
5/1/26-7/1/26	Recruitment, employment, onboarding of P2P staff (Project Manager and YYA)
6/30/2027	YHSI project end date

QUESTIONS???



YHSI IN YOUR COMMUNITY

YHSI P2P PILOT IMPLEMENTATION

- We know each county/community/community partner 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/community partner 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 plans/strategies to address youth homelessness at the local level.
- The P2P Pilot allows for flexibility so communities/partners can identify specific issues and local priorities within their plan.
- Communities/Community Partners 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/Community Partners 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.

WHAT WOULD YYA DO?

Working with the lead agency and the county's local P2P collaboration/team, the P2P YYA will undertake the following kinds of activities:

- Assess current trends, challenges, and successes related to youth homelessness within the county, identify existing community resources, and advocate for additional supports to help prevent and address housing instability among youth.
- Provide feedback and recommendations, informed by lived experience, to help identify and address pathways into homelessness and to improve system responses.
- Collaborate with local youth homelessness service providers, community partners, and the project manager to support project activities and ensure project goals are met.
- Collaborate with the Youth Action Board, individuals with lived experience, and community stakeholders to increase engagement within the Continuum of Care.
- Participate in both in-person and virtual community meetings, training, and cross-agency planning sessions related to youth homelessness and systems coordination.
- Work with the lead agency to coordinate and manage meeting logistics, including scheduling, securing meeting locations, coordinating announcements, and documenting meeting minutes and action items.
- Support early implementation of the community plan by coordinating follow-up actions, tracking progress, and identifying implementation barriers.
- Communicate regularly with the project manager/supervisor regarding project progress, priorities, and implementation needs.
- Participate in ongoing training and professional development related to systems engagement, youth homelessness, and cross-system collaboration.
- Other duties as assigned.

YHSI P2P PILOT IMPLEMENTATION EXAMPLES

Example A: Community Team

- Team is led by a county human services agency
- This “Lead” agency has identified another county agency, a youth provider, 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:

- **Issues:** Discharge planning practices for YYA exiting foster care and juvenile justice need to be improved to be more practical and effective.
- **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 outside of meetings.
- **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

Example B: Community Team

- 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:

- **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.
- **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.
- **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.

YHSI P2P PILOT IMPLEMENTATION EXAMPLES

Example C: Community Partner- Local

- A community action agency has decided to apply as a Community Partner – Local and “host” the YYA.
- This agency has relationships with various organizations that may be willing to participate in a cross-sector collaborative effort.
- The agency 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 agency proposes the following:

- **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.
- **Time Commitment:** The Community Partner agency commits to working at least 8 hours per week.
- **Meetings:** One of the first tasks for the YYA will be to help engage with other organizations to encourage participation in this effort and develop a meeting schedule.
- **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

Example D: Community Partner-Regional/CoC

- A policy agency has decided to apply as a Community Partner – Regional/CoC and “host” 2 YYA.
- This agency has relationships with various organizations, both state and local, that may be willing to participate in a collaborative effort across the two CoCs.
- Each YYA will be tasked with working on CoC-wide strategies, perhaps assigned by CoC or topic areas.

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

- **Issues:** The agency has heard of some promising practices to address youth homelessness in various Eastern and Western PA CoC counties and localities. They would like to research these strategies and others to identify how they develop cross-sector collaborations to replicate them in other counties. They also want to see how data from various systems can be used to target these strategies.
- **Time Commitment:** The Community Partner agency commits to working at least 15 hours per week directly on this project.
- **YYA Task Assignments:**
 - Conduct research on promising local practices being used in PA and nationally.
 - Connect with community organizations and agencies to gather information about promising practices.
 - Set up, prepare for, and attend interviews and meetings with/among partners.
 - Assemble data on programs that appear to be promising and across the two CoCs regarding youth homelessness.
 - Organize logistics/materials for meetings and follow up work.
 - Write up information related to promising practices and how they could be implemented by other counties/communities in the CoCs.



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>
- Entities outside of the CoC geography can apply but the work must take place in the CoC's geography
- 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

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 Name/County Name/Community Partner Name”
- Incomplete submissions will not be considered.
- **DEADLINE:** RFQ responses must be received by 5:00 P.M. on 4/30/2026. Late submissions will not be considered.

STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS COMPONENTS FOR PILOT COMMUNITIES

- A. General Project & Community Information
- B. Community/County Partners
- C. “Host” Organization & Community Capacity
- D. Goals & Outcomes
- E. Community/Community Partner Approach
- F. Community/Organization Experience
- G. Key Staff Qualifications and Experience
- H. Written Commitments
- I. Approach to Deliverables
- J. Additional Information

RFQ QUESTIONS & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- Questions about this RFQ and the SOQ requirements should be directed to Idelia Robinson-Confer at idelia@framework-strategies.com
- All questions should be submitted no later than 10:00 a.m. EST on Thursday, April 23, 2026.
- Webinar recordings will be posted online at <https://pennsylvaniacoc.org/yhsi>
- Additional information about the RFQ, including any written Q&A, will be posted online at <https://pennsylvaniacoc.org/yhsi>

QUESTIONS?



WRAP UP & NEXT STEPS



NEXT STEPS



QUESTIONS – LAST CALL!

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING!

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