**Introduction**

The Youth & Young Adult Coordinated Entry Process has been developed to create an effective response system to meet developmentally appropriate needs of those at risk of or experiencing homelessness between the ages of 16 and 24 years old. The goal is to help quickly connect young adults with available, age-appropriate services in rural Colorado, including homelessness services when necessary.

**Purpose**

Research shows that young people who enter into formal adult homeless systems are more likely to remain in systems of homelessness than any other populations. The current youth system provides options for shelter and housing that can keep youth from entering homelessness in the first place, though those are sometimes overlooked or unknown to community partners who primarily serve adults.

We want to do everything possible to avoid the youth entering into the adult homelessness system and to this end all avenues should be explored with the youth. This process, which is a youth-focused diversion and prevention, allows for those resources to be explored and other options to be identified before a youth enters the adult-focused homelessness system.

**Broad Overview of CES for Youth & Young Adults Policy and Process**

Youth partners, access points, and BoS Partners will follow this 3-step process when a youth presents for services, utilizing the remaining policy documents provided [10b.(Step 1), 10c.(Step2), and 10d.(Step3)].

Step 3: Community Services Linkage and/or Homelessness Intervention

Family Reunification

(Focus if safe, up to 22 years old)

Local Service Array & Care Management

Developmentally Appropriate Shelter/Housing

TAY-VI-SPDAT (Homelessness Intervention)

Step 2: Diversion & Prevention Interview

Tool completed with youth and provider (RC, BoS partner, Coordinated Youth System, etc.)

Assessment of Needs and Vulnerability

Identification / Connection to Basic Human Needs (BHN) Services

Step 1: Colorado's Adapted TAY-Triage Pre-Screen Risk Assessment with the Youth

(Including Introduction & Scorting Guide)

**Coordinated Youth Partners:** Collaborative Management Program (CMP), Colorado System of Care (COACT), Coordinated Detention Youth Continuum (CDYC, SB-94)

**Systems Focused Partners:** Child Welfare, McKinney-Vento (Youth), Non-Profits, BoS CoC