**CES for Youth & Young Adults**

**Step 2:** **Diversion & Prevention Interview**

*Initial Assessment*

Youth Name: Date:

Site Lead: Site:

Follow the process below when responding to young adults presenting for services, between the ages of 16-24 years old.

***Goal of the Diversion & Prevention Interview***

The goal of this interview is to get a better understanding of why the youth is presenting for services in their own words and potentially assist them in diverting from more intensive services; or help to prevent them from requiring those services in the first place. By helping the youth feel more comfortable and exploring what’s brought them to you for services, you should be able to reveal more in-depth resource options and safe places for the youth to stay AND/OR help them return safely home if that seems like the best choice. Additionally, this information will help with Step 3, which focuses on coordinating with your local CMP, CYDC, COACT and BoS CES partners. Aside from more well-known local services, these partners are a great way to assist you in youth in linking with and leveraging additional local/statewide support specific to young adults.

**Diversion and Prevention Definitions**

**Diversion** is intended to reduce entries into the homeless response system and direct youth to other assistance and services to reduce the risk of homelessness and help them reunify or maintain safe and stable housing.

**Prevention** is intended to prevent youth who may be at risk of homelessness and find themselves temporarily experiencing housing instability. These youth might need assistance to stay in their current living situation, or assistance with linkages to short-term shelter and/or other appropriate resources.

***2: Active Listening***

**Find a safe place to talk and Invite the youth to tell their story about their current situation.** 



***3: Explain Your Local Youth or Multi-Focus Programs (If Any)***

Let the youth know about local programs, services, and supports that your agency or any local sites have available to assist them. Remind them that if they are under the age of 18 you will need to coordinate with other system partners to make sure you are provided the most appropriate and adequate services. Additionally, if they are under 18, requesting shelter, and there are no safety concerns that might require Child Welfare involvement; you will need to reach out to their parent(s) or legal guardian to let them know they are safe, receiving services and receive permission to serve. The CO Rural Collaborative and their local site leads can assist with this step.

***4: Strengths Exploration***

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| Over the past 6 months, what have you been able to do to help yourself and/or how have others been helping you? | Identify when you have been a support to others. | What were things like for you when things were going better? | Who are your friends, allies, and family members? |
| What have your living arrangements been? | | What are some supports and services that you think would be helpful? | |