



Colorado Balance of State Continuum of Care

Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) Colorado Balance of State Continuum of Care (CO BoS CoC)

Due Date: June 14, 2023 at 5pm MST

Application Process: All applicants need to complete the [YHDP Funding Cover Sheet](#) and complete [Program Application in e-snaps](#).

RFP Questions: BoSCoC@coloradocoalition.org

Attachments: [YHDP Funding Cover Sheet](#), [e-snaps instructions and application](#), [YHDP allowable waivers](#), [YHDP project scoring sheet](#).

Pre-application email (non-binding): We are requesting an email be sent to BoSCoC@coloradocoalition.org no later than June 2, 2023 at 5pm MST indicating your intent to apply. Please include a. name of organization applying b. subrecipients (if applicable) c. estimated amount of funding to be requested and d. project type.

Purpose and Background:

In late October 2022, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) conditionally awarded [the Colorado Balance of State Continuum of Care \(CoC\) a \\$2,975,969 Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program \(YHDP\) grant](#) to help communities serve youth under 25 years of age experiencing homelessness/housing instability. Before communities within the BoS CoC can receive funding from HUD, a Coordinated Community Plan (CCP) must be approved by HUD. This document will be posted on [our website](#) as soon as it has received final board approval.

The Coordinated Community Plan incorporates the following YHDP guiding values and principles:

- Lead with youth voice and choice.
- [USICH Framework](#)/4 Outcomes
 - Stable housing
 - Permanent connections
 - Education/employment
 - Well-being
- Focus on equity for special populations who are at elevated risk for homelessness, including young parents, LGBTQ youth, African American, Native and Hispanic youth, and those who have been involved in the foster care, criminal justice and behavioral health systems.
- Incorporate Positive Youth Development (PYD) and Trauma Informed Care (TIC) strategies to help build youth resilience and self-efficacy, and to understand the long-term impacts of trauma.
- Provide tailored, age-appropriate services that build on the strengths of each youth.
- Commit to a process for monitoring measurable outcomes and adjusting activities to achieve outcomes.
- Enhance the social well-being and permanent connections of youth by focusing on social supports and community integration.
- Decrease barriers to housing by using a Housing First approach, and use of a youth-specific coordinated entry system to match youth with the appropriate and preferred housing and service.

The BoS CoC formed a YHDP Core Team and engaged Spark Community Foundation (the CO Rural Collaborative for Homeless Youth) to manage the process of developing the coordinated community and support other YHDP requirements. Youth MOVE CO serves as a partner and youth action board. After an extensive planning process in collaboration guided by Youth MOVE CO and a statewide multi-stakeholder group, we determined that allocating YHDP

project funding towards Support Service Only (SSO) and Joint Component (TH-RRH) will most effectively assist us in achieving our goals in ending youth homelessness.

The awarded YHDP projects will be part of a coordinated housing continuum that ensures youth experiencing homelessness receive the assistance needed to rapidly obtain permanent housing.

Upon successful implementation of the coordinated community plan, eligible counties in the Balance of State CoC will have increased their capacity to effectively engage, divert and intervene in youth and young adult homelessness. Furthermore, community partners will communicate and coordinate across silos and counties to strengthen system supports for young people. In partnership with providers, youth will have opportunities to seek culturally competent services designed and informed by young people. Across the state, youth will experience increased access to safe housing, permanent connections, well-being, educational and employment support, and most importantly will be leaders in the state effort to end youth homelessness.

Eligible Applicants:

Eligible project applicants are nonprofit organizations, states, local governments, and instrumentalities of state and local governments. For-profit entities are not eligible to apply for grants or to be sub-recipients of grant funds.

Available Funding: A total of **\$2,678,372** is available for a two-year funding period. The funding will be allocated to an HMIS Project, a Youth-Led Project, and to the individual Support Services Only and Joint Component (TH-RRH) projects under this RFP which will cover the seven regions listed below under Eligible Localities.

Project Ranking: Projects will be reviewed by members of Youth Move Colorado and the Continuum of Care Project Ranking Committee. Projects will be reviewed to ensure that they meet threshold requirements set by Youth Move Colorado and the U.S Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). A final funding recommendation will incorporate individual project scores, as well as geographic coverage and project type.

Eligible Localities:

Projects must be located within the CO BoS CoC regions that fall within [eligible localities](#) below (Grand Valley, Roaring Fork/ Eagle Valleys, Western Slope, Southwest CO, San Luis Valley, Upper Arkansas Valley, and Northeastern Plains).

Eligible Populations:

Communities awarded funds under the YHDP can serve unaccompanied youth up to the age of 24, including pregnant and parenting youth, who meet Category 1, 2, or 4 of homelessness in [HUD's Final Definition of Homeless](#).

- Category 1 – Literal Homelessness
- Category 2 – Imminent Risk of Homelessness
- Category 4 – Fleeing Violence

Eligible Project Types:

Eligible Projects under the Youth Homeless Demonstration Program may utilize the below [HUD CoC Project Components](#)

Supportive Services Only (SSO)

These services may include:

- **Drop In and Outreach:** A safe space to offer basic needs assistance, connection to other systems, identify unaccompanied youth and young adults 24 years old or younger and offer diversion services.
- **Diversion/Navigation:** Assist young people to navigate complex systems and provide direct support to young people in finding safe and stable alternatives to shelter and other services. Diversion is the first step as youth engage with the coordinated entry system. The goal of this SSO opportunity is to incorporate youth driven innovation and/or Youth Peer Support to create a system that creates soft landings for youth and young adults.
- **Host Home/Kinship:** Support for family like settings as a safe alternative for shelter and transitional living.

▪Joint Component (TH-RRH)

A joint transitional housing-rapid rehousing project combines a transitional housing option and rapid rehousing supports in the same project. In transitional housing, young adults typically live in housing that is leased or owned by the project, in which they have access to case management, services, and resources for stability and well-being. Currently within the BoS transitional living and rapid rehousing is also offered through a host home model.

Transitional housing may be in a single building or location, or it may be in multiple or scattered sites within the community. Transitional housing may provide resources and services on-site or off-site. Participation in services must be optional and voluntary for all participants, whether they are receiving transitional housing or rapid rehousing support. When a young adult determines that they are ready to transition to their own housing in the community, the full scope of rapid rehousing assistance must be provided by the joint TH-RRH project.

YHDP allows for rapid rehousing assistance to last up to 36 months, but both the length and amount of assistance should be responsive to the individual needs of participants. Young adults may choose to stay in transitional housing before locating and securing a unit with rapid rehousing assistance, or they may choose to bypass the transitional housing component and participate in rapid rehousing from the beginning. This project type provides flexibility and participant choice within a single project, to ensure continuity of support.

Unranked Project Types:

Youth Led Project (YLP-SSO)

The intent of the Youth Led Project is to institutionalize youth with lived experience of homelessness into positions across the state. This concept was created by Youth MOVE CO, the Youth Action Board of the Balance of State (BoS), who will guide the use of youth peer support and hope that this will be embedded into all regions and projects created by the HUD Youth Homeless Demonstration Program (YHDP) dollars. These positions will leverage the existing lived experience AmeriCorps VISTA program of Youth MOVE CO and will open up opportunities for young people with lived experience to do three things:

- Deliver service activities, like street outreach, navigation and/or youth peers support using the helping relationship continuum and
- Guide and support the full implementation of the Youth Coordinated Entry System of the BoS and
- Participate in YHDP youth fellowships, continuous quality improvement efforts, statewide leadership and decision-making bodies of YHDP and other state leadership groups.

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

Funds under this component may be used only by the CoC HMIS Lead Agency (Colorado Coalition for the Homeless or the State of Colorado Division of Housing) for leasing a structure in which the HMIS operates, for operating the structure in which the HMIS is housed, and/or for covering other costs related to establishing, operating, and customizing a CoC's HMIS. Other recipients and subrecipients may not apply for funds under the HMIS program component, but may include costs associated with contributing data to the CoC's HMIS within their project under another program component.

Project Requirements:

Selected applicants are required to:

- Participate in activities guided by Youth MOVE Co and implement programs that incorporate Trauma Informed Care (TIC) and Positive Youth Development (PYD) Models of housing and services delivery. See [Threshold Requirements Check List](#).
- Enter client data into the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), participate in the annual homeless counts in the BoS regions, participate in the BoS Youth Coordinated Entry Process.
- Have a plan for implementation of the program within 3 months of the award.
- Follow all HUD CoC regulations found in the [2017 HUD CoC Interim Rule](#) and the [YHDP FY 2022 Appendix A](#) along with other Federal Funding Guidelines. This overview of [YDHP waiver types](#) may be helpful.
- Agree to participate in an initial training and then ongoing YHDP learning collaborative meetings with fellow YHDP projects that will meet at least every other month. Given that these are demonstration projects, the learning collaboratives will bring YHDP providers together to share best practices, monitor progress on the

implementation of these best practices, and provide regular learning opportunities through training in PYD, TIC, and Social/Permanent Connection development.

- Agree to participate to support the Coordinated Community Plan and work in coordination with other local providers to end youth homelessness.
- Participate in the continuous improvement plan guided by the Center for Policy Research.

Match Requirement:

HUD requires all YHDP applicants to contribute a 25% match on all budget items, except leasing. [Match](#) is actual cash or in-kind resources (or a combination of the two) contributed to the grant. All costs paid for with matching funds must be for activities that are eligible under the CoC Program, even if the recipient is not receiving CoC Program grant funds for that activity. In-kind match is the value of any real property, equipment, goods, or services contributed to a CoC Program grant that would have been eligible costs under the CoC Program if the recipient/sub-recipient was required to pay for such costs with CoC Program grant funds. Match may be from public or private resources. Match waiver samples ([1](#), [2](#)) provided by HUD TA.

Additional Reporting and Evaluation Requirements:

Applicants are responsible for complying with all HUD Continuum of Care and YHDP reporting requirements. Modified programs specific to BOS's YHDP projects are being created within HMIS. Given that this is a demonstration program, projects may be required to track additional information outside of HMIS. In addition, all YHDP projects will participate in the continuous improvement plan guided by the Center for Policy Research.

Equity in Services

BIPOC and LGBTQIA2+ youth are overrepresented among homeless youth, compared to the general population, because of structural racism, trauma and abuse, family rejection, and poverty.

Reviewers will prioritize funding requests from organizations that demonstrate they can adequately address the unique needs of these overrepresented populations, remove barriers, and provide services that are affirming, accessible, and responsive to youth who are marginalized because of their race, ethnicity, gender identity, or sexual orientation. Grantees will be required to utilize emerging research and best practices for addressing the needs of these communities.

Period of Performance

The period of performance of any contract resulting from this RFP is tentatively scheduled to begin on or about November 1, 2023 and to end on October 31, 2025. The contract will be for a two-year period. Successful projects will be eligible for renewal on an annual basis as part of the annual HUD BoS CoC Competitive process.

Please submit any questions related to this RFP to BoSCoC@coloradocoalition.org and consider attending the offered Technical Assistance Webinars/Q&A Sessions.

