

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)
2020 HUD Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) Competition
HI-501 Honolulu City and County**



Homeless

PARTNERS IN CARE

OAHU CONTINUUM OF CARE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

RFP Training, Questions, and Communications

To support all applicants in preparing their proposals the CoC will host a **mandatory** RFP information and Q&A session at the date and time indicated in the schedule. Outside of this session, all questions must be submitted by email only to points of contact by the RFP Questions Deadline.

Point of Contact

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SCHEDULE

RFP Released	March 27, 2020
RFP Informational Meeting	March 30, 2020
RFP Questions Answered on a Rolling Basis and Posted to the PIC Website	No additional questions after April 29, 2020
Proposals Due - Need to email cmcladdie@auw.org and sbaillie@auw.org to inform them when agency will be dropping off application.	April 30, 2020
Project Review and Ranking	May 13, 2020
Project Ranking Notification	May 14, 2020
Appeals Deadline	May 19, 2020
Appeals Review and Notification	May 20, 2020
Projects begin entering into e-snaps	June 1, 2020
E-Snaps Application Deadline	June 30, 2020
Contract signed with HUD	September 30, 2020
Projects begin operations	October – November 2020

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BACKGROUND

Partners in Care (PIC): PIC is the CoC for Oahu, Hawaii, which serves the City and County of Honolulu. PIC is a membership organization of homeless service providers, other professionals, units of local and state government, program participants, and other community representatives. PIC is also a planning, coordinating, and advocacy body that develops recommendations for programs and services to fill gaps in Honolulu's CoC. Membership of PIC is not required for submission of interest in response to this RFP. PIC works to:

- Promote community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness;
- Provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, state and local governments to re-house homeless individuals and families rapidly while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused to homeless individuals, families, and communities as a consequence of homelessness;
- Promote access to and effective use of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families; and
- Optimize self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

PIC develops policies and procedures conforming to the HUD requirements detailed in 24 CFR part 578.1 to designate an agency to serve as the Collaborative Applicant (CA) to support year-round CoC planning of homeless and homeless prevention housing and services.

Youth Homeless Demonstration Program (YHDP): The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded \$75 million to end youth homelessness in 23 local communities across the country. Honolulu was awarded \$3.8 million to plan and implement a youth homeless system on O'ahu.

The goal of the YHDP is to support communities in the development and implementation of a coordinated community approach to preventing and ending youth homelessness, and sharing that experience with and mobilizing communities around the country toward the same end. The population to be served by this demonstration program is youth experiencing homelessness, including unaccompanied and pregnant or parenting youth, where no member of the household is older than 24.

ELIGIBLE PROJECT TYPES

Please see project type descriptions in the Summary section herein. During the YHDP Competition, PIC will accept the following type of project proposals.

1. **Diversion** provides services to unaccompanied youth under the age of 25 with short-term supportive services to divert from homelessness. Helps youth find alternative housing solutions to crisis housing.

Key Components

- a. Connection to mainstream benefits and services.
- b. Support establishing and implementing a long-term housing stabilization plan.
- c. Assistance building or rebuilding family and community support networks.

2. **Guide On The Side** (Navigation and Long-Term Case Management) provides a consistent point of contact to help youth navigate different resources, systems of care, and needs (i.e. education, employment, health/mental health, etc.)

Key Components

- a. Careful matching of youth with their guide (Peer employment opportunities).
- b. Serve as an advocate for the youth.
- c. Will be trained in trauma-informed care (TIC), positive youth development (PYD), cultural competency, meeting sexual orientation and gender identity needs, and other guiding principles of effectiveness.

3. **Host Homes** are flexible (short or medium term), crisis response community-based settings that offer youth 24/7 immediate access to a safe alternative to shelter. Financial and support services to sustain host homes.

Key Components

- a. Robust training for hosts including TIC, PYD,
- b. Individualized training and support from program; comprehensive education; 24-hour question line for hosts.
- c. Program serves as intermediary to provide support to hosts, help meet youth needs, conflict mediation, case management, family reunification/strengthening with family of choice when safe and appropriate etc.

4. **Joint Transitional Housing & Rapid Rehousing (TH-RRH)** combines Transitional Housing (TH), a service-intensive, frequently congregate-care component, with Rapid Re-Housing (RRH), a scattered site independent living component. YYA can skip right to RRH if they choose, but have the option of starting in TH (if they are younger, coming out of foster care, or want more structure).

Key Components

- a. Flexible, long-term subsidies to support transition into independent housing.
- b. Landlord recruitment, education, and incentives.
- c. Opportunities for shared housing/roommates.

5. **Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)** provides long-term, flexible rental subsidies for YYA experiencing homelessness and have disabilities/disabling conditions that affect their long-term ability to gain income/live independently without ongoing services.

Key Components

- a. Types of Programs
 - i. Scattered-Site Independent housing units.
 - ii. Group living sites for youth with higher level of needs/support.

- iii. Affordable dorm-style housing for students.
- iv. Wraparound supportive services.

6. Mobile Crisis Response can have or be supportive service elements connected to case management, drop-in centers, legal services, outpatient health services, substance abuse treatment, life skills training, and case management.

Key Components

- a. Provides 24-hour mobile access to basic needs and case management.
- b. Potential staffing to include peers and mental health clinicians.
- c. Engages with police to defer calls to mental health crisis team.

Projects for 1) planning and implementation of Coordinated Entry and 2) HMIS for unaccompanied youth under the age of 25 are also being funded through YHDP funds, and will be applied for by PIC in their role as the Collaborative Applicant, Coordinated Entry and HMIS Lead Agency, as described in the HMIS and Coordinated Entry Policies and Procedures.

FUNDING AMOUNT AND PROJECT TYPE ALLOCATIONS

\$3,686,000 million total in HUD YHDP funding is available. Grants will be for two years with the possibility thereafter of renewal annually through the HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) funding competition. The funds available will be allocated/awarded to eligible project types as follows (Amounts may be adjusted to maximize project budgets and projects).

Project Types	2-Year YHDP Total
Host Homes	\$25,000 - \$200,000
Joint Transitional Housing/Rapid Rehousing	\$93,000 - \$336,000
Mobile Crisis Response	\$200,000 - \$550,000
Diversion	\$250,000 - \$650,000
Permanent Supportive Housing	\$350,000 - \$850,000
Guide On The Side	\$450,000 - \$1,050,000
Coordinated Entry System	\$75,000 - \$150,000
Homeless Management Information System	\$100,000 - \$200,000
Total	\$3,686,000

All HUD Funds require a 25% match on all budget items, except leasing.

Eligible Applicants

Nonprofit organizations, state, 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.

Youth Target Population & Prioritized Subpopulations

Unaccompanied homeless youth under the age of 25, unaccompanied minor youth, Pregnant and Parenting Youth, Youth involved with Juvenile Justice and Foster Care Systems, LGBTQ, Youth Victims of Sexual Trafficking or Exploitation, Native Hawaiian/Micronesian Youth.

Additional Requirements

If selected, each project would be awarded for a minimum of two (2) years with the potential for future annual renewal through the HUD Continuum of Care Program competition.

Selected project applicants will be required to fulfill the following:

- Work collaboratively with the OYAB and YHDP community.
- Participate in initial and ongoing training on YHDP learning collaborative meetings with fellow YHDP projects.
- Submit an innovative project application to HUD via e-snaps that achieves the goals and objectives defined by the Coordinated Community Plan.
- Meet HUD eligibility and quality threshold requirements.
- Maintain consistent quarterly drawdowns of funds.
- Comply with program requirements in the HUD CoC Program Interim Rule, County CoC policies, FY2018 YHDP NOFA, and any HUD-approved waivers.
- Agree to participate in HMIS.
- Agree to participate in the Coordinated Entry System.
- Incorporate Positive Youth Development, Trauma Informed Care, and Cultural Humility.
- Comply with all HUD and local YHDP program reporting and evaluation requirements.
- Comply with HUD certification requirements (fair housing, environmental, etc.).

Questions, RFP Answers & Clarifications

Questions will be answered during the RFP Information Session. Additional questions or requests for interpretation must be submitted by email to cmcladdie@auw.org and piper@homebaseccc.org throughout the proposal drafting period until April 29, 2020.

A summary of questions and answers pertaining to this RFP, submitted through email and provided during the RFP Information will be published on the PIC [website](#) on a rolling basis.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Proposals must be received no later than Thursday, April 30, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. Completed proposals must include one (1) original hard copy, eight (8) copies of project proposal packets, and one (1) electronic PDF copy via flash drive to be considered. Each packet should have the type of project submission, required documents in order, with sections properly marked and proper binding (no binder clips). File names should be descriptive in the electronic copy. Applications that do not include both hard copies and electronic copies will not be considered.

Mail or hand deliver proposal submissions to:
Partners In Care – Oahu Continuum of Care
200 North Vineyard Boulevard, Suite 210
Honolulu, HI 96817

All applications must be received in the PIC office by the deadline. Proposals submitted by email or fax will not be accepted. Late submissions will not be considered, including those

submitted late due to mail or delivery service failure. Supplemental documents or revisions after the Proposal Deadline will not be accepted. Will need to email cmcladdie@auw.org and sbaillie@auw.org to inform them when agency will be dropping off application.

If your organization is applying for more than one project type, each project requires a separate application.

Proposal Requirements

The proposal must address the following in no more than 15 pages (single-spaced, ragged right margin, times new roman 12 pt font, 1" margins):

- A. Cover Page.** Including organization name, date of submission, type of project and point of contact. (Not included in 15-page limit)
- B. Table of Contents.** (not included in 15-page limit)
- C. Proposal Narrative (15-pages)**
 - 1. Interest.** (1 page or less)
 - a. Summarize your understanding of the needs and challenges faced by youth experiencing homelessness as they relate to the type of project proposed.
 - b. Explain how this project aligns with your organization's mission.
 - 2. Organizational Experience.** (approximately 2-3 pages)
 - a. **History of Performance and Compliance.** Describe your organization's experience and past performance in providing housing, supportive services, referral or other services to unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness. Include in your organizational infrastructure and administrative/ financial capacity to effectively utilize federal funds and deliver the services as proposed.
 - b. **Collaboration and Knowledge of Community Resources.** Demonstrate organizational collaboration with other providers or agencies, as well as knowledge of community partners and resources serving unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness.
 - c. **Staff Qualifications and Experience.** Describe the experience of the person on staff who will provide staff supervision and management of project activities. Describe how skills and experience of existing or proposed staff will ensure success of the YHDP project, with a particular focus on how they will support youth choice and authentic youth engagement. Identify if existing staff will be assigned to this project or if staff will be recruited specifically for this project. Give a timeline for when staff will be available to implement project activities.
 - d. **Compliance with Fair Housing and Equal Access Requirements.** Indicate that the proposed project will be in compliance with applicable fair housing and civil rights requirements and provides equal access for program participants regardless of sexual orientation or gender identify, in compliance with federal law.

3. **Program Description**. (approximately 8-10 pages)

a. **Program Design Overview**. Provide an overview of the proposed project including –

- **Project goal/s**. – select from the following goals which are part of the Coordinated Community Plan
 - i. Drastically reduce the number of youth who experience first time homelessness or returns to homelessness.
 - ii. All youth who experience homelessness have access to safe and supportive housing and any needed wraparound services.
 - iii. All youth who experience homelessness have access to a diverse array of education and vocational training options that meet their needs and leads to sustainable employment that is meaningful and self-determined.
 - iv. All youth who experience homelessness have access to client-centered, culturally appropriate, and affordable or free services that support health and wellbeing.
 - v. All youth are connected to stable, caring, positive individuals who can guide and support them as they transition to adulthood.
- **Project performance outcomes** – Identify at least 1 and no more than 3 measurable performance outcomes that will be supported by your project. Examples of outcomes include:
 - ✓ Successful housing placement to or retention in a permanent housing destination.
 - ✓ Jobs and income growth for homeless individuals and families
 - ✓ Increased connection to mainstream services
- **Who will be served** – provide the number of youth that could be served on any given day, total unduplicated number of youth that you expect to serve over the grant period. Describe any eligibility criteria (i.e. age, gender, characteristics) and process for determining eligibility based upon HUD homelessness criteria.
- **Activities** - Describe the scope and nature of service/s to be provided, include information such as location, how youth would be identified, service components or flow including services to address barriers to access. Include details of start-up activities if needed.
- **Linkages** - Describe any linkages to other services or agencies that will support program implementation and service delivery. If any of these partners will receive YHDP funding via subcontract provide additional details on their scope of work.
- **Supportive Services** – The purpose of supportive services is to assist program participants obtain and maintain housing. Describe any supportive services that you propose to provide, including services that would be provided via linkage or

in-kind. Supportive services can include: case management; childcare; transportation; educational or employment services; access to health including mental health and substance abuse services; independent living skills; recreation; family engagement.

- **Innovation** – Describe any innovative or unique characteristics of your project.
- b. Mainstream Resources.** Describe the project’s plan to connect youth to mainstream resources, such as health, social, and employment programs for which they are eligible. This should include a description of how the project will screen for eligibility for mainstream resources, plans to coordinate with mainstream systems and resources to make referrals, and staff training on mainstream resources for youth.
- c. Youth Involvement and Leadership.** Describe youth involvement in planning and designing the proposed project, as well as the organization’s plan for active involvement and leadership among youth in the project’s implementation, including employment opportunities and youth voice in the staff hiring process.
- d. Populations of Focus.** Describe how the project will serve vulnerable and often overrepresented youth experiencing homelessness in O’ahu, including youth of color, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) youth; pregnant and parenting youth; youth who have had involvement with juvenile justice and foster care systems; and victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation. This should include how considerations for populations of focus will be incorporated into the project’s identification methods, infrastructure considerations, housing and/or service-delivery.
- e. Cultural Competency.** Describe your organization’s methods of ensuring cultural competence at all levels of the organization. Address experience serving with cultural sensitivity people who are racially, ethnically and religiously diverse; who speak languages other than English; who have a range of physical and mental disabilities; who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender; and who are extremely low-income. Describe the diversity of your board and staff, your organization’s non-discrimination policies, and how you ensure that your staff meets the needs of clients with sensitivity toward clients’ varied cultural and life experiences.
- f. Alignment with United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) Youth Framework to End Youth Homelessness’s Core Outcomes** – Describe how your project supports one or more of the following outcomes
 - I. **Stable housing** includes a safe and reliable place to call home;
 - II. **Permanent connections** includes ongoing attachments to families, communities, schools, and other positive social networks;
 - III. **Education/employment** includes high performance in and completion of educational and training activities, especially for younger youth, and starting and maintaining adequate and stable employment, particularly for older youth;
 - IV. **Social-emotional well-being** includes the development of key competencies, attitudes, and behaviors that equip a young person to succeed across multiple domains of daily life, including school, work, relationships, and community.

g. Alignment with USICH Youth Guiding Principles – Describe how your project supports or operationalizes each of the following USICH Guiding Principles (as further defined in Attachment B):

- ✓ **Positive Youth Development**
- ✓ **Trauma Informed Care**
- ✓ **Youth Focused Housing First**
- ✓ **Youth Choice**
- ✓ **Individualized and Youth Driven Supports**
- ✓ **Family Engagement**
- ✓ **Social and Community Integration**

4. Implementation Plan. (approximately 2-3 pages)

- a. Provide a project implementation plan or Gantt chart that demonstrates how you will deliver activities and achieve your proposed outcome measures (i.e. results) and output measures (i.e. number of beds established, number of youth served). Include:
- Outcome or output measure
 - Activity or task required to achieve the outcome or output
 - Start and end date for the activity or task

Note: HUD expects to make award decisions by September 30, 2020, and projects will likely start a few months after that.

- b. **HUD Timeliness Standards:** If this project is dependent on securing a facility, or is dependent on a construction timeline, please explain how the project will secure proof of site control, match, environmental review, and the documentation of financial feasibility within 12 months of the announcement of the award.
- c. **Access.** The plan should ensure that the project is incorporated into Oahu's Coordinated Entry System. All applicants should ensure that the project or system is well advertised so that its availability is known to unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness.
- d. **Staff Training.** Describe any training or staff development activities that would be conducted as part of this project, and how this training will ensure that staff are ready to meet the needs of unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness.

D. Budget. (not included as part of 15 pages)

Costs should be reasonable, justified, and competitive. The budget must demonstrate the project is cost effective, with costs not deviating substantially from the norm in that locale for the type of structure or kind of activity.

- a. Provide an overview of the two-year project budget using an excel spreadsheet. Include

all costs including those that will be provided using in-kind or leveraged resources (which should be at least 25% of the total cost).

- b. Provide a separate 1- 2-page budget narrative that shows how budget costs were calculated and briefly explains how each item is needed to support project implementation. Describe the sources for the required 25% match. If sources are not secured describe plan for securing funding.

E-snaps Project Application

HUD requires that all applicants for YHDP funds submit an application through the web-based e-snaps system. Selected projects will be required to enter their applications into e-snaps after the competitive proposal and selection process is complete.

Project Budget Match Requirements

All eligible funding costs, except leasing, must be matched with no less than a 25% cash or in-kind contribution. No match is required for leasing. The match requirements apply to project administration funds, along with the traditional expenses – operations, rental assistance, supportive services, and HMIS. Match must be met on an annual basis.

For an in-kind match, the applicant may use the value of property, equipment, goods, or services contributed to the project, provided that, if the applicant had to pay for such items with grants funds, the costs would have been eligible. If third party services are to be used as a match, the applicant and the third-party services provider that will deliver the services must enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) *before the grant is executed* documenting that the third party will provide such services and value towards the project. To be eligible for match, the cash or in-kind must be used for services that are eligible under the activities listed in 24 CFR 578 Subpart D.

HUD considers any matching funds above and beyond the minimum required amount to be leverage. Leveraging includes all funds, resources, and/or services that the applicant can secure on behalf of the client being served. While leveraging includes all cash matching funds, it is broader in scope, including any other services, supplies, equipment, space, etc. that are provided by sources other than HUD.

Project applicants that intend to use program income as match must provide an estimate of how much program income will be used for match.

PROJECT REVIEW & RANKING

Evaluation Process

The YHDP Rank and Review Committee and Youth Policy and Advisory Committee will evaluate proposals utilizing the YHDP Project Scoring Tool.

All applicants will be informed via email and in writing if their project was accepted or rejected as part of the YHDP. Funded projects will receive signed approval letters from the OYAB. All project applications are pending approval from HUD and may be amended per feedback from HUD. If you have any questions, please contact cmcladdie@auw.org.

Appeals Process

Applicants with projects not selected for funding may appeal the decision by the appeals

deadline in the timeline. A description of the appeals process and criteria will be provided with the Full Proposal format and scoring matrix.

Appeals must be submitted in writing to Partners In Care – Oahu Continuum of Care and received by Tuesday, May 19, 2020, mailed or delivered to 200 North Vineyard Boulevard, Suite 210, Honolulu, HI 96817. Appeals will be heard by two members of the original scoring committee and two new non-conflicted persons. The decision of the appeal panel is final.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

HMIS or Equivalent Participation Requirement

Project applicants, must agree to participate in the local CES and HMIS system.

Reporting Requirements

HUD requires recipients to submit performance and financial reports under OMB guidance and program instructions.

- **Reporting Requirements and Frequency of Reporting.** See the NOFA and award agreement for the reporting requirements, including content, method of data collection, and reporting frequency. Applicants should be aware that the share of their Federal award may be subject to post award reporting requirements as reflected in Appendix XII to Part 200-Award Term and Condition for Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters.
- **Performance Reporting.** All HUD funded programs, including this program, require recipients to submit, not less than annually, a report documenting achievement of outcomes under the purpose of the program and the work plan in the award agreement.

Resources

The following resources may be useful for the preparation of your application:

- **HUD Ask A Question** - <https://www.hudexchange.info/program-support/my-question/>
- **DUNS Number** - <https://www.grants.gov/applicants/organization-registration/step-1-obtain-duns-number.html>
- **System for Award Management (SAM)** - <https://www.grants.gov/applicants/organization-registration/step-2-register-with-sam.html>
- **24 CFR Part 578** Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH): Continuum of Care Program - https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/CoCProgramInterimRule_FormattedVersion.pdf
- **PIC Homeless Reports** - <https://www.partnersincareoahu.org/homeless-reports>

Terms, Acronyms, and Definitions Used in this RFP

Term	Definition
CA	Collaborative Applicant – the eligible applicant that has been designated by the CoC to apply for a grant for CoC planning funds on behalf of the Continuum. The Honolulu CoC (PIC) CA is AUW.
CES	Coordinated Entry System – PIC chosen process designed to coordinate program participant intake assessment and provision of referrals. A centralized or coordinated assessment system covers the geographic area, is easily accessed by individuals and families seeking housing or services, is well advertised, and includes a comprehensive and standardized assessment tool. All projects must participate in coordinated entry, and selection of program participants must be consistent with the CoC's Coordinated Entry process.
CoC	Continuum of Care 1. Federal Continuum of Care contract program stressing permanent solutions to homelessness. 2. 24 CFR Part 578 HEARTH definition - The group organized to carry out the responsibilities required under the CoC competition and that is composed of representatives of a cross-sector or entities and organizations. PIC is the CoC for Oahu, Hawaii, which serves the City and County of Honolulu.
e-snaps	The electronic grants management system used by HUD's Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs (SNAPS) is known as e-snaps.
HMIS	Homeless Management Information System
HUD	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
NOFA	Notice of Funding Availability from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
OYAB	Oahu Youth Action Board
PIC	Partners in Care - a membership organization of homeless service providers, other professionals, units of local and state government, program participants, and other community representatives. PIC is also a planning, coordinating, and advocacy body that develops recommendations for programs and services to fill gaps in Honolulu's CoC.
PH	Permanent Housing
PSH	Permanent Supportive Housing
RFP	Request for Proposal
RRH	Rapid Re-housing
TH	Transitional Housing
YHDP	Youth Homeless Demonstration Program
YYA	Youth and Young Adults

Appendix A
Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) Request for Proposal (RFP)
List of Prioritized Project Elements

These priority project elements were identified by key stakeholders, including members of the O’ahu Youth Action Board (OYAB), during the January 7th YHDP Stakeholder Meeting.

The following project can be incorporated across all program types:

- One-on-one, individualized case management/supports
- Team-based approach/service model (case conferencing that includes health, education, employment, and other individualized supports for client)
- Wraparound supports for food, mental health, employment, education, etc.
- Offer quick interventions with long-term follow-up
- Peer supports
- Insurance navigation
- Improved coordination between youth and adult systems of care
- Transportation services
- Low-threshold, low-and-no barrier child care
- Excursions and fun activities
 - Aina-based curriculums
 - Social opportunities (ex: dinners) with former participants to maintain connection, provide positive role models and examples of success for current participants
- Access to parenting support classes
- Low- or no-barrier access to housing and services
- Options for youth with active substance use disorders
- Inclusive of partners and pets
- Skills development/life skills classes
- Education and employment supports
- Provide homelike housing options and environments (ex: home-cooked meals)

In addition, YHDPs are expected to incorporate core principles of effective practices as defined by United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH). These principles are:

Positive Youth Development (PYD) – Youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness need to be able to experiment and try new things. They need to be able to fail and try again in a supportive environment without life-altering consequences. A PYD approach recognizes and serves this need. PYD practices to be included within YHDPs include:

- Youth/adult partnerships integrated within development, governance and decision-making processes.
- Opportunities for youth leadership and training and supports to build youth leadership skills and capacity.
- Affirmation of youth identity, including gender, sexual orientation and cultural identity.
- Services and supports that incorporate an understanding of the physical, cognitive, emotional and social needs of developing adolescents.

YHDP projects will be required to incorporate a PYD approach that is strengths-based, and which identifies and develops individual youth’s assets while simultaneously building protective factors and resiliency. Examples of PYD activities are:

- Youth Focused Housing First.

- Supportive services to work with youth to develop a plan and set personal goals.
- Connection to education, employment or entrepreneurial opportunities.
- Healthy recreational and social activities based on youth's interests.
- Education to support development of life skills.
- Mentoring, coaching to support development of personal connections.

Trauma Informed Care – Trauma refers to an experience that creates a sense of fear, helplessness, or horror, and overwhelms a person's resources for coping. Homelessness is a traumatic experience. Youth experiencing homelessness are under constant stress, unsure of whether they will be able to sleep in a safe environment or obtain a decent meal. In addition to the experience of being homeless, an overwhelming percentage of homeless youth have been exposed to additional forms of trauma, including family violence, physical abuse, neglect, loss of a parent or caregiver, and sexual assault.

Trauma Informed Care (TIC) involves understanding, anticipating, and responding to the issues, expectations, and special needs that a person who has been victimized may have. Ways in which a TIC approach can be incorporated into YHDP projects include:

- Screen and assess for trauma and develop individualized youth-centered service plans that are strengths-based.
- Emphasize physical and emotional safety through privacy, confidentiality, and mutual respect, welcoming and inclusive environments.
- Support youth choice, personal control over decisions that impact them and opportunities for self-advocacy.
- Address diversity (e.g., gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation).
- Help youth build skills and coping responses that help them navigate any future adverse experiences that could re-traumatize or trigger them, such as racial discrimination, homophobia, stigma relating to mental health, and child welfare and justice involvement.
- Incorporate access to evidence-based trauma-specific services, including treatments for mental disorders resulting from trauma exposure, that are designed to directly address the impact of trauma, with the goals of decreasing symptoms and facilitating recovery.
- Support identify protection, especially for youth who identify as LGBTQ or who are Native Hawaiian or Micronesian.

Youth Focused Housing First – Youth Focused Housing First (YFHF) is an adaptation of Housing First that addresses the needs of developing adolescents and young adults. YFHF does this by providing youth with access to housing that is safe, affordable and appropriate, and the necessary and age-appropriate supports that focus on health, well-being, life skills, engagement in education and employment, and social inclusion. Housing First and YFHF rejects the idea that housing should only be available to people who are sober or drug free, or conditional upon taking part in specific services (i.e. counseling).

All YHDP housing interventions must adhere to Housing First Principles, such as -

- No preconditions for housing, such as a requirement for clean and sober living or minimum income requirements.
- Use of intake processes that are person-centered and flexible
- Provide youth choice on the type and extent of services they want to participate in and the location and type of housing they receive.
- Provide access to support and linkages to services to help youth recover from trauma, build life skills, connect to education or employment, establish healthy connections with peers, family and mentors (including Ohana and chosen family), and create strong linkages with any needed community resources.

Individualized and Youth-Driven Supports – While we can recognize shared experiences and common characteristics among youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness on Oahu, we can also see that every youth has their own unique personality, set of circumstances and preferences. The YHDPs will provide youth a range of services that are voluntary, individualized, culturally appropriate, and accessible, and that address an array of needs to support housing stability, mental and physical health needs, education, employment, and life skills.

Youth Choice – Incorporating a youth choice approach means that youth can choose to engage in services, or not. This philosophy is also central to Housing First – to provide access to the supports individuals and families based upon choice, and not require participation as a condition for receiving housing. What service providers think a youth may want or need, may not be accurate or may not reflect a good understanding of where the youth is at. The experience of trauma often involves abuse of power, and youth who have been abused and exploited can feel helpless and without control. Forcing a youth to do something he or she is not ready for and doesn't want to do, no matter how well intended, could retraumatize them and hinder their progress. Other elements are:

- YHDP projects will be required to incorporate Youth Choice as a service policy that will allow youth to exercise choice in all the following –
 - Goals and priorities
 - Housing location and type
 - Supportive services and programs they access
- Projects are encouraged to incorporate training in evidence-based practices such as Motivational Interviewing and Stages of Change.

Family Engagement – Strategies that strengthen family and which establish healthy boundaries between youth and other family members are critical to preventing homelessness. Family engagement strategies have potential to support outcomes relating to housing stability as well as permanent connections. Family engagement can be YHDP projects through the following approaches:

- Use a broad definition and understanding of family, guided by youth choice, that includes extended Ohana, foster families or chosen family.
- Activities that support reconnection, reconciliation or reconciliation with family. During community meetings, youth provided examples such as providing pre-paid phone cards so that youth can make long distance calls to family who live off island, mediation or counseling services, and help with locating family members.
- Invite youth to establish a family engagement goal as part of their individual plans when possible (i.e. when youth feels that this is a safe and desirable option) and to consider how family engagement can support long term housing stability as well as social and emotional wellbeing.
- Incorporate training on how to establish boundaries with family members (and friends) as part of preparing youth who are housed within TH/RRH or PSH programs.
- Development of short-term crisis housing models that can provide the opportunity for youth and parents to have a break from each other.
- Locating shelters and housing programs and host home sites in locations across Oahu to allow youth to maintain ties to existing social supports and avoid school disruption, and it provides greater opportunity to engage in family intervention.

Social and Community Inclusion – An important function of the YHDPs is to help youth establish permanent connections and build supportive social networks. It is anticipated that these connections and networks will result in improved outcomes in areas such as education, employment and housing stability. Social inclusion will be promoted through helping youth build strengths, skills and relationships that will enable them to participate in their community, in education and employment. YHDP strategies will include:

- Providing housing opportunities that are located within community and within close physical

- proximity to services and resources.
- Assessment of social and community inclusion strengths and needs, and incorporation of goals relating to community resources, social networks, and permanent connections as part of individualized plans.
 - Provide opportunities for social and cultural engagement in order to develop positive social relationships and enhance social inclusion, particularly for Native Hawaiian, Micronesian, LGBTQ, pregnant and parenting youth.
 - Services and activities that support access to natural supports such as family, friends, partners, neighbors and peers.
 - Opportunities for engagement in meaningful activities through connection to education and employment.
 - Incorporation of mentoring and peer-based interventions well as connection to social, recreational, leadership and civic engagement activities that open avenues for positive connections to peers and adults.
 - Use of technology and social media to help youth connect to supports and networks, combined with harm-reduction training or coaching in responsible use of technology.