



CHARLOTTE COUNTY (FL-602)
Coordinated Community Plan
to End Youth Homelessness

March 2022



Acknowledgements

The Youth Action Board and the Gulf Coast Partnership acknowledge the collaborative effort of those involved in the creation of the Coordinated Community Plan to End Youth Homelessness. Specifically, we would like to thank:

- ARAY – All Rainbow & Allied Youth
 - Banyai Evaluation & Consulting
 - CareerSource Southwest Florida
 - Charlotte Behavioral Health Care
 - Charlotte Community Foundation
- Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners
 - Charlotte County Homeless Coalition
 - Charlotte County Neighborhood Services
 - Charlotte County Public Schools
 - Charlotte County Sheriff's Department
 - Charlotte County Youth Action Board
 - Children's Network of Southwest Florida
 - City Council of Punta Gorda
 - Community Assisted and Supported Living
 - CSH - Corporation for Supportive Housing
 - Crossroads Hope Academy
 - Drug Free Charlotte County
 - Florida Department of Children and Families
 - Florida SouthWestern State College
 - Gulf Coast Partnership
 - Jesus Loves You Street Outreach
- Jewish Family & Children's Services of the Suncoast
 - Lutheran Services of Florida
- NCHE - National Center for Homeless Education
 - St. Vincent de Paul CARES
 - True Colors United
 - United Way of Charlotte County
- US Department of Housing and Urban Development
 - US Department of Veterans Affairs
- Virginia B. Andes Volunteer Community Clinic



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Introduction

The Charlotte County Continuum of Care (CoC) was one of 97 communities that applied for Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) and was one of only 33 communities awarded funding. Charlotte County will receive a total funding allocation amount of \$1,130,108 to be used for the YHDP. This document is the Coordinated Community Plan (CCP) for Charlotte County. It outlines the background of the community and the participatory plan to use those funds to help youth experiencing homelessness in Charlotte County.

The Charlotte County CoC is facilitated by the Gulf Coast Partnership (GCP). The GCP will serve as the fiduciary of the YHDP CCP. They will take the roles of facilitator, administrator, and reporter to ensure the success of the project.

This CCP is reflective of the participatory process engaged in to craft it. It was pulled together by the team at the GCP and supported by the stakeholders around Charlotte County, the Youth Advisory Board (YAB), and various technical assistance providers. Their effort and passion to support youth in our community are evident here.

This CCP starts by outlining the values and guiding principles for the work. Then the mission, vision, and goals for the plan are outlined and connected. Next, the context of Charlotte County is presented along with the related data and needs. The CCP then presents the plans and priorities for funding through the YHDP. Decision-making and accountability for the YHDP are discussed in the governance and continuous improvement sections of the CCP. The plan's support is demonstrated in the stakeholder chart and through the signatures of key stakeholders. Additional supporting information can be found in the appendix.

On behalf of Charlotte County, we appreciate the opportunity to support and improve our community through the YHDP and are proud of the work put in to create the CCP. Here we go!



The YAB

The Charlotte County Youth Action Board (YAB) is made up of amazing young advocates who are the subject matter experts regarding homelessness, system deficiencies, community strengths, and areas that need to be re-imagined. None of the projects as presented in this Coordinated Community Plan will be successful without ongoing collaboration between youth and agency project partners.



Alexander - Youth Action Coordinator



Daphnie – YAB Member



Hal – YAB Member



Macie & Malaya – YAB Member



Keelen – YAB Member



Sabryna – YAB Member



YHDP Partners

Partner Organization	Role	Involvement
ARAY	LGBTQ+ Youth Serving Org	YAB
CareerSource	WIOA Board	YHDP Core Team
Charlotte County Public Schools	Homeless Youth Liaison	YHDP Core Team
Charlotte County School Board	LEA	GCP-SC YHDP Core Team
Charlotte Community Foundation	Philanthropic Org	GCP-SC YHDP Core Team
Charlotte County Human Services	Local Government	GCP-SC, YHDP Core Team
Children's Home Society	Child Welfare	YHDP Core Team
Community Assisted & Supported Living	Affordable Housing	GCP-SC, YHDP Core Team
Department of Children & Families	State Child Welfare	GCP-SC, YHDP Core Team
Children's Network SWFL	Regional Child Welfare	YHDP Core Team
Crossroads Hope Academy	Child Welfare	YHDP Core Team
Department of Juvenile Justice	Juvenile Justice	YHDP Core Team
Department of Veteran Affairs	Federal Government	GCP-SC, YHDP Core Team
Drug Free Charlotte County	Non-Profit Youth Org	YHDP Core Team
Florida SouthWestern State College	Higher Education	YHDP Core Team
Gulf Coast Partnership/CoC	Continuum of Care	GCP-SC, CoC, HMIS, CE, YHDP
Healthy Start	Non-Profit Youth Org	YHDP Core Team
Homeless Coalition	ESG Recipient	GCP-SC, YHDP Core Team
Jewish Family & Children's Services	ESG Recipient	GCP-SC, YHDP Core Team
Jesus Loves You Street Outreach	ESG Recipient	GCP-SC, YHDP Core Team
Lutheran Services of SWFL	RHY Provider	GCP-SC, YHDP Core Team
The Patterson Foundation	Philanthropic Org	GCP-SC
United Way of Charlotte	Philanthropic Org	GCP-SC, YHDP Core Team
Virginia Andes Community Clinic	Health Care	GCP-SC
Youth Action Board	Youth with Lived Experience	YAB, GCP-SC, YHDP Core Team

YHDP Partner Involvement

Youth Action Board (YAB):

The YAB is a decision-making body of the CoC with the primary responsibility for the planning and implementation of a coordinated community approach to prevent and end youth homelessness. The YAB fluctuates with between 5-7 members. The YAB directs the CoC Stakeholders Council on all matters regarding youth, as the subject area experts and responsible body. The YAB drives efforts and serves as the primary voice and decision-makers in the planning and implementation.

YAB Objectives and Tasks (1) Lead in the creation of the Coordinated Community Plan to End Homelessness, (2) Lead in the creation of a Request for Proposals for potential partner funding, (3) Lead in the scoring and ultimate selection of funded YHDP partners, and (4) Review progress of implemented projects and evaluate for improvement.



The YAB is comprised 100% of youth under the age of 24, who have lived experience of homelessness, as well as youth who have experienced the multiple public systems including youth foster care, juvenile justice, fleeing domestic violence stalking, and/or sexual assault and trafficking, as well as youth who are at-risk of, or currently experiencing homelessness.

The YAB works intentionally to ensure that youth who have been historically underrepresented are present in the membership including special populations, racial and ethnic inequities, LGBTQ+, as well as teens who are pregnant or parenting. Youth representation, as selected by the Youth Action Board Members, are voting members on the CoC Stakeholders Council and all CoC Committees, including but not limited to, those committees whose work effects or intersects with the youth related objectives and tasks. Members of the YAB are encouraged to engage in as many other CoC Committees as they are able. Every CoC Committee has seats reserved for YAB Members to ensure not only their official recommendations are delivered, but that they are actively engaged in the conversation and planning processes.

YHDP Core Team:

The YHDP Core Team is made up of members of the GCP Stakeholders Council, members of the YAB, and people whose organizations or agencies play a vital role in the youth homeless response system. These include the Continuum of Care, CareerSource (the local workforce board), the Public School System (Local Education Agency), Colleges, Philanthropic Organizations, Local, State, and Federal Governments, Affordable Housing Providers, Homeless Services Providers, ESG Recipients, Runaway and Homeless Youth Serving Agencies, the Department of Juvenile Justice, Health Care Agencies, and the Public Child Welfare System.

Using a Collective Impact Framework, these partners came together through more than 10 virtual meetings and a two-day in person Youth Convening to brainstorm Needs, Data, Programing, and Policy to make recommendations for inclusion in the Coordinated Community Plan.

Gulf Coast Partnership Stakeholders Council (GCP-SC):

Continuum of Care Stakeholders Council has 26 designated “positions” nine (9) are Appointed Seats by Government Agencies, the remaining seventeen (17) seats are recruited per our CoC Governance Charter. The Stakeholders Council leads the decision-making of the CoC.

GCP-SC Objectives and Tasks (1) Governance Body ultimately responsible for Organization, (2) Structure, (3) Communication, and (3) Training. The GCP-SC supports the implementation of any youth plans or strategies, all project funding applications, and coordinates integration of youth activities with the greater homeless services system as recommended by the YAB. The Council is responsible for meeting the requirements of CFR§578.

CoC (HMIS, CE, YHDP):

The Gulf Coast Partnership is the Collaborative Applicant, HMIS Lead, and Coordinated Entry Lead for the Continuum of Care. The Gulf Coast Partnership acts as the fiscal agent and is responsible for performance monitoring for homeless services funding. The Gulf Coast Partnership is the YHDP Lead and facilitates the YHDP Strategic and Financial Planning, Conducting Needs Assessments, and Data Collection.



Guiding principles and values

The Charlotte County CCP is grounded in the guiding principles as outlined in the USICH 4 Core Outcomes of stable housing, permanent connections, education/employment, and social-emotional well-being.

Stable housing is the primary focus of the system supporting youth in Charlotte County. Quick placement into host families or rapid re-housing is emphasized. This means placement in hotels quickly, when necessary, which has been a key strategy as the stocks of affordable housing and landlords accepting youth has dwindled.

Permanent connections are recognized as an important factor in the social and emotional well-being of people, as well as a component of social capital. The CCP looks to foster these connections through the development of partnerships and collaboration between providers and the elevation of the youth voice through the YAB. Providers and staff look to become trusted individuals for youth experiencing homelessness, as well as maintain and foster healthy family and community connections where possible.

Education and employment are important for Charlotte County in the development of the CCP. Charlotte County was selected to receive special technical assistance to support the development of education-specific tiers in their system. Leaders of the YHDP also joined the national cohort on education for the project. K-12 education is a major partner in supporting youth in Charlotte County and have played a pivotal role in the development of the CCP. Special considerations to keep youth in school and in employment have been in the proposed goals and project areas, pay particular attention to ensuring youth participants in the project have ample time and considerations for their employment and education.

Social-emotional well-being of youth is paramount among the drivers of the Charlotte County YHDP. We recognize that Southwest Florida overall has a lack of mental health providers, so extra steps to ensure youth get the care they need is necessary. Additionally, considering the high proportion of at-risk youth and youth experiencing homelessness that are LGBTQ+, efforts to be inclusion and sensitive to their needs is pivotal. Planks in the system modeling plan include efforts to better identify safe partners for LGBTQ+ and training in trauma-informed care that will support the overall social-emotional well-being of youth.

To make progress on our most challenging issues, we must cast a shared vision and move together to create it. Through the process of creating the Coordinated Community Plan, the YHDP Stakeholders established a shared vision and guiding values to pave the way.

This plan is guided by the USICH Opening Doors “**Framework to End Youth Homelessness**.” Opening Doors is the nation’s first comprehensive strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness, and the accompanying “Framework to End Youth Homelessness” was added as an amendment in 2015. The Framework offers the following guidance:

“Intervention strategies should strengthen the protective factors in which a youth is lacking and reduce the risk factors with which a youth is burdened.”



The framework prioritizes outcomes in stable housing, permanent connections, education or employment, and social and emotional well-being.

There are eight evidence-based practices and valued principles that are central assumptions of the Plan, and all work emanating from the Plan is expected to incorporate them. They include:

- Harm Reduction,
- Trauma-informed Care,
- Positive Youth Development,
- Housing First,
- Culturally Responsive Services,
- Racial Equity,
- Authentic Youth and Young Adult Engagement,
- Multi-system Approaches

Charlotte County’s YAB, CoC, and YHDP Core Team are committed to incorporating the USICH Framework into all systems and projects implemented under YHDP.

Figure – Values

Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project

YAB VISION

An equitable community where young people have a safe place to call home

YAB VALUES

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Compassion <li style="padding-left: 40px;">✓ Inclusion <li style="padding-left: 80px;">✓ Boundaries ✓ Adaptive <li style="padding-left: 40px;">✓ Humility <li style="padding-left: 80px;">✓ Empathy ✓ Connection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Authenticity <li style="padding-left: 40px;">✓ Advocacy <li style="padding-left: 80px;">✓ Equity ✓ Understanding <li style="padding-left: 40px;">✓ Responsive <li style="padding-left: 80px;">✓ Service ✓ Respectful
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Shared Vision

In Charlotte County, we have come together to support youth experiencing homelessness. We will achieve this through defining and improving our support systems for youth experiencing homelessness. Ultimately, we want youth experiencing homelessness to be safe with stable housing as quickly as possible.



Both the YAB and the YHDP Core Team went through a series of exercises to further define and refine our shared vision and mission. Here are the results of those discussions with their refined vision and mission for this work.

YAB Vision: an equitable community where young people have a safe place to call home

YHDP Vision: an equitable, sustainable, clear, and coordinated system of support for youth experiencing homelessness

The YHDP vision was synthesized from the brainstorm session on the ideal system lead by the technical assistance providers at CSH and True Colors United. In the next Figure, some additional ideas from that brainstorming session are displayed, capturing the essence of the conversion of the YHDP stakeholders.

Figure - Vision brainstorm sample



Mission

The activities of the work related to the YHDP are guided by three separate but linked missions. The YAB established a mission for their group and work that will guide them through the process of advising and selecting projects to support youth experiencing homelessness. The GCP has a longstanding mission to address homelessness at large in our community. The YHDP Core Team's mission focuses on youth experiencing homelessness. Each mission is detailed below.

YAB Mission: achieve transformational change and be the voice for the voiceless. We value relationships of mutual respect, service to others, and unwavering support of youth and young adults experiencing homelessness.

GCP Mission: facilitate community-wide initiatives to understand community needs, identify and implement best practices to meet those needs, and to raise the quality of life for all residents.

YHDP Mission: Prevent and End Homelessness for Youth and Young Adults.

To connect the visions, missions, goals, and activities of the various component of the YHDP, and integrated theory of change has been created.



Statement of Need

Figure - Data and Needs Chart

Population	Data Source(s)	Estimated Number of Youth	Needs: Housing, Education & Employment, Social and Emotional Wellbeing
At-risk unaccompanied youth*	Homeless Prevention Enrollments	40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth needs not prioritized Prevention and diversion support outside of schools
Unaccompanied youth experiencing homeless*	GCP (19-20, 18-19, 19-20) + CCPS (19-20)	130	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need for Safe & Supportive Host Homes Transportation and Health Needs Youth needs not prioritized Support continuing, completing education
At-risk pregnant or parenting youth*	Estimated based on HMIS, 21 PIT, HMIS (18-19, 19-20) + CCPS (19-20)	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to childcare Education support Access to trauma-informed care
Pregnant or parenting youth experiencing homeless*	Estimated based on HMIS, 21 PIT, HMIS (18-19, 19-20) + CCPS (19-20)	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to childcare Education support Access to trauma-informed care
LGBTQ+ and gender non- confirming youth**	Estimated 30% based on HMIS data	39	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification of safe and supportive organizations for (LGBTQ+) youth
Victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation**	Estimated 5% of DCF court cases	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to trauma-informed care
Minors (young people under the age of 18)**	CCPS (19-20)	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urgent Need for Emergency (Immediate Safety) Beds/Units for Youth (12-17) Non-Homeless Students are Outperforming Homeless Students Academically, in Attendance

*HUD Threshold Requirement

**Subpopulations known to be particularly vulnerable in how they experience homelessness. The identified needs of these subpopulations may be distinct from the general population of youth.



It should be noted that between 2014 and 2019 the CoC strongly prioritized Veterans and chronically homeless persons, not unaccompanied homeless youth (UHY). Until the last two years, there has been very little funding focused on UHY. There is still much information to be gathered about the UHY population.

Since January of 2019 community agencies have spent approximately \$340,000 on services such as shelter stays, rapid re-housing, transportation, hotels, and case management services for UHY ages 18-24.

USICH Four (4) Core Outcome Areas

1. Stable housing includes a safe and reliable place to call home.

Stable housing is a growing issue in Charlotte County. It is a struggle to get the exact number of youths in need of housing. Charlotte County is served by programs in other counties making it difficult to determine how many youths are receiving services at any point in time and how many youth would seek services. There are very limited services offered in our CoC specifically for youth. The RHY Shelters in neighboring Lee and Sarasota Counties have the regional resources for those services, which rarely reach our community. The UHY programs through the public schools provide a wide range of case management supports which have been propped up by a few churches and civic organizations for material needs. In recent years, the CoC has funded two providers to provide RRH and SO services specifically to include UHY and allocated half the time of our SOAR Case Manager to assist with benefits.

It was a challenge to identify the number of pregnant and parenting at-risk and homeless youth in Charlotte County. This is due in part to the fact that there is only one small hospitals with a maternity department and many Charlotte County babies are born in neighboring communities.

There is limited housing capacity in the homeless service sector overall in Charlotte County, leading to even more limited resources dedicated to youth.

The percentage of all homeless beds (non-DV) in HMIS: ES = 25.20% (63 beds);
PSH = 31.60% (79 beds);
RRH = 34% (85 beds); and
TH = 9.6% (24 beds).

There is a total of 3.6% (9 beds) dedicated youth beds in HMIS.

Of the total number of beds in HMIS, there are a total of 34 (12.78%) beds for HH/w children.

The FY21 FMR in Charlotte County for a 2br. unit is \$1,067. These rents have been raising quickly over the past year because of the housing boom across Florida. The number of available rentals has dropped as property owners cash in on the high real estate prices, putting further pressure on renters.

In the 20-21 school year, Charlotte Schools identified 396 homeless children and 69 unaccompanied youth, who are on couches, cars, tents, or other places not meant for human habitation.

The current population of Charlotte County includes 19,415 youth ages 10-24. Of these it is projected that 19.9% or 3,864 youth and young adults ages 10-24 are living in poverty.



There is no one size fits all solution to helping homeless youth; different youth have varied and diverse housing needs and the funding that supports them should reflect this reality. Funding youth housing in the way that fits them, and their context best is how we plan to help UHY succeed.

2. Permanent connections include ongoing attachments to families, as defined by youth, schools, communities, and other positive social networks.

The needs of youth at-risk and experiencing homelessness in our community is great as are the threats to their physical safety and mental wellbeing.

Additionally, there is a need in Charlotte County to address to social-emotional well-being and the permanent connections of youth. According to the sampling from HMIS data, 15 unoused youth were identified as fleeing domestic violence. Two unoused youth were identified as fleeing sex trafficking. Five unoused youth were identified as being involved with the foster care - child welfare system.

HMIS data also indicated that 6 females were identified as parenting youth. Four male UHY were identified as being Veterans. Thirty-one UHY reported having a physical or mental health disabling condition.

The YAB's needs assessment identified a need for safe and supportive host homes. Multiple youth who were interviewed expressed struggles with general population

“I was absolutely terrified of having to go to a shelter when I became homeless. Thankfully, a family was nice enough to take me into their home and gave me a place to stay. It gave me a sense of family and connection that I had not felt in years. It helped heal some of my trauma and gave me the support I desperately needed to finish school.”

Providing funding to loving host families who can provide both safe housing and support to UHY is so important.

3. Social-emotional well-being refers to the social and emotional functioning of homeless youth. This area includes the development of key competencies, attitudes, and behaviors that equip a young person experiencing homelessness to avoid unhealthy risks and to succeed across multiple domains of daily life, including school, work, relationships, and community.

The suicide rate in the county is 24 per 100,000 compared to the Florida rate of 14 per 100,000. In 2009 the county reported 363 verified cases of child maltreatment. In 2019, that number grew to 744 verified cases, representing a 105% increase.

Charlotte County is ranked 2nd highest in rates of children experiencing abuse and 3rd highest in rates of children experiencing neglect out of Florida's 67 Counties.

Opioid misuse is an ongoing struggle in the county. The largest group of people misusing opioids are those aged 20-30, the same age in which most babies are born, child welfare and



substance abuse have a direct relationship. Not only does this contribute to the rise in kids in foster care but 52% of the babies admitted to the NICU in our community were Substance Exposed Newborns.

Some Factors contributing to youth homelessness in the community as identified by the YAB's needs assessment. The initial evaluation of contributing factors came directly from the Youth Action Board's personal experiences, coupled with interviews and surveys by YAB Members and organization staff.

The second layer of this determination was based on analysis of the available data. The most prominent factors contributing to youth homelessness in our community are: *32% of transition aged youth (18-24) entering homelessness identified domestic violence, human or sex trafficking, abuse, and trauma as a significant factor and *52% of transition aged youth (18-24) entering homelessness reported having a significantly limiting physical or mental health diagnosis. As stated previously, our County is a suburban area cradled between the two larger metro areas of Sarasota and Fort Myers. Services for UHY under the age of 18 are offered regionally by larger multi-county agencies. DCF, the organization that licenses shelters and homes for services to "children" has not licensed an agency in our county to provide services to youth without the presence of their legal guardian. This limitation has made it difficult to collect accurate data on the needs of under 18 youth. Based on foster care out of home placement rates, high unemployment, and other social factors, it is reasonable to believe the major factors in homelessness for youth under the age of 18 are very similar (abuse, trauma, neglect, and disabilities).

4. Education or 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.

The YAB's needs assessment noted non-homeless students are outperforming homeless students academically. Attendance and academic progress of students experiencing homelessness compared to that of their non-homeless counterparts shows the significant barriers to advancing educational goals and moving on to more stable futures. Resources are needed to ensure the physical safety, shelter, food security, basic needs, and stable homes for UHY.

Transportation and health needs make completing education and maintaining employment a challenge in Charlotte County. Charlotte County is vast in land area and not pedestrian friendly. The community does not have a built environment that encourages walking or biking, and the heat adds to the difficulty of getting to any necessities such as stores, school, childcare, or work. It was identified as a major concern of all the members of the YAB as well as other UHY interviewed that struggling to afford transportation, medical care, food, housing, and technology makes school or work even more difficult. Because the community doesn't address these basic necessities, youth feel forced into many unsafe situations such as sex work and survival sex.

Special Populations Impact

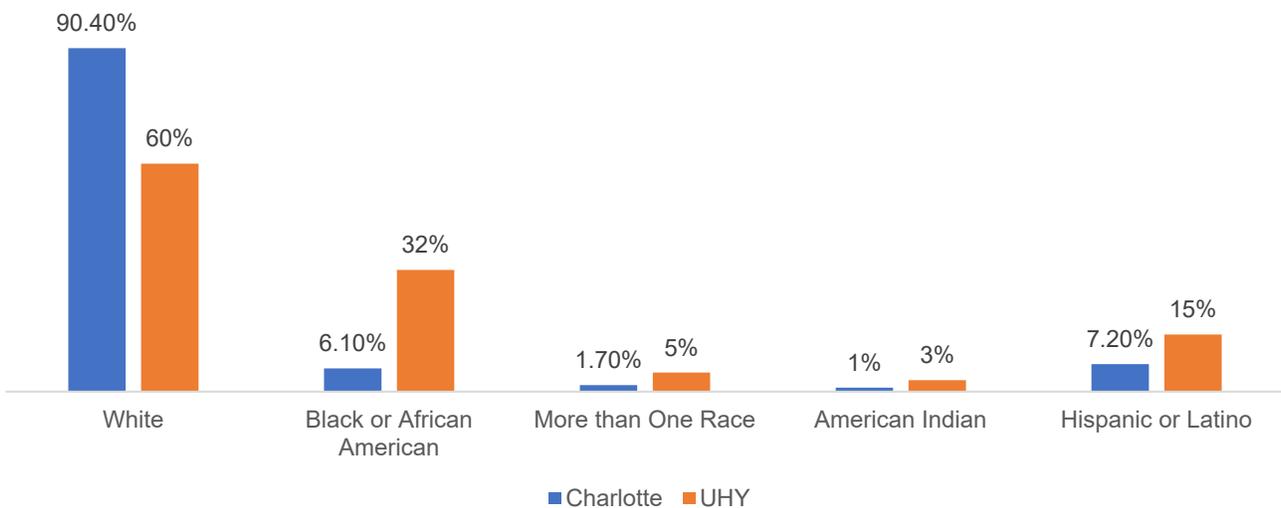


In any discussion of Charlotte County Florida, it is important to understand its unique demographics and special populations. Charlotte County is a popular retirement destination and the second oldest county in the US. More than 40% of the population is aged 65+ compared to the overall percentage of Americans age 65+ at 14.5%. Since retirees are a majority of the population, appetites and demands differ from communities with a younger demographic. Aging residents do not participate in the workforce, have school aged children, or seek out family focused amenities. These factors influence the overall culture of the community, often limiting discussion and investments in youth-focused areas.

Race/ethnicity

Charlotte County is not a racially diverse community. This lack of diversity makes it difficult to implement progressive social changes to service delivery systems and it takes a toll on our youth. There is a clear difference disparity between the race of the entire population and of UHY. Charlotte’s population is: 90.4% (60% UHY) White, 6.1% (32% UHY) Black or African American, 1.7% (5% UHY) More than One Race, <1% (3% UHY) American Indian, and 7.2% Hispanic or Latino (15% UHY). Figure illustrates the comparison and how BIPOC youth are over-represented among the unhoused.

Figure - Unhoused Youth vs General Population demographics



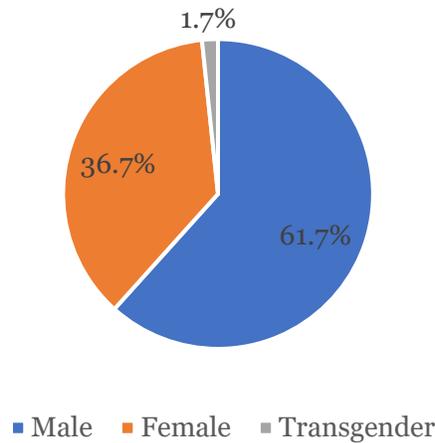
LGBTQ+/Gender non-conforming

Based on Coordinated Entry Data collected from 1/19 – 7/21 – 60 UHY (age 18+) were identified as in need of services in the CoC. The following is an analysis of the self-disclosed information relating to just those 60 UHY. Gender: 37 male, 22 female, 1 transgender male, LGBTQ+ Status: 2 identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (or questioning). Figure shows the breakdown by gender of unhoused youth in Charlotte County. There are challenges to obtaining accurate information about LGBTQ+ and gender non-conforming youth because of the risk and nuance with self-reporting identity, especially in the coordinated entry intake process. Some youth may not self-identify because they are worried about potential social or family consequences of being identified. The YAB has significant representation of



LGBTQ+ and gender non-conforming youth, which will help provide leadership in this area. Data presented at the stakeholder planning meeting from local advocacy organization ARAY, estimated 30-40% of youth experiencing homelessness being LGBTQ+. Interestingly, conversation and estimates among the YAB members themselves put the figure higher, some even estimating as high as 80%. This further indicates under-reporting of LGBTQ+ and gender non-conforming youth in homeless data and additional consideration in the area for support.

Figure - Gender of unhoused youth



Minors

Annually, around 20 minors become unaccompanied homeless youth in Charlotte County. Most of these minors will have connections and identification through the K-12 school district and child welfare system, including organizations such as Lutheran Services and Department of Child and Families support minors. There are few services in Charlotte County for youth experiencing homelessness and those serving minors are no exception.

Justice involved

According to the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Kids Count Data Center, Florida had 2,001 youth (underage 21) residing in juvenile detention, correctional and/or residential facilities. More than half of those being BIPOC youth, which is out of proportion to the general population. Youth arrests in Charlotte County have been on the decline since 2016, moving from a high of 458 arrests then to 245 arrests in 2021 (Florida Department of Juvenile Justice). It's a challenge to know exactly how many youth experiencing homelessness in Charlotte County are justice involved because of irregular tracking. This challenge is further compounded by a lack of Charlotte County-dedicated services for justice involved youth. Most justice involved youth go to facilities in Lee or Sarasota counties depending on service and availability. Helping to support justice involved youth will be an important consideration for the YHDP, especially the additional burden of traveling outside of the county,



Foster Care involved

According to research conducted by CSH in the 2021 Florida Assessment of Housing for Special Needs and Homeless Populations, there were 748 child welfare involved families and 119 youth aging out of foster care in need of supportive housing in the Tampa Bay region that Charlotte County is a part of. Many more in the region would be considered homeless and in need of affordable housing. Considering Charlotte County makes up 3.4% of the population of the Tampa Bay region outlined in the CSH research, we estimate that 25 child welfare involved families and 4 youth aging out of foster care need supportive housing. It is estimated that 16% child welfare involved families and youth aging out of foster care need supportive housing. Based on that it is estimated that in Charlotte County that 156 child welfare involved families and 25 youth aging out of foster care are in need of affordable housing and diversion and prevention supports.

Victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation

Florida ranks #3 in the United States for reported human and sex trafficking. Our Region of SW Florida Ranks #1 in the State for reported cases sex trafficking. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children estimate that 1 in 6 runaways were likely sex trafficking victims and 86% of those victims were in the care of social services when they went missing. Annually, around 20 youth who experience homelessness in Charlotte County are victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation. This estimate comes from calculating 5% of DCF court cases in our circuit (proportionate to our share of overall cases) related to trafficking. This indicates that supporting youth who have been trafficked or exploited is a major consideration in Charlotte County. There has been a rise in organizations seeking to support this population around the region and a growing understanding of the need in this area. Trauma-informed care is advocated across the system, in addition to tailored support for these youth.



Goals, Objectives & Action Steps

Based on the participatory process the stakeholders engaged in from the end of 2021 through the beginning of 2022 a series of goals, objectives, and actions have been established.

Shared Vision: An equitable, sustainable, clear, and coordinated system of support for youth experiencing homelessness where young people have a safe place to call home.

Goal 1: The community identifies all unaccompanied youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness (USICH)
Objective 1.1: Better identify youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness
<p>Action Step 1.1.1: Engage school district to identify youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness who have aged out or dropped out of school.</p> <p>Action Step 1.1.2: Strengthen relationships, policies, and referral practices between the CoC, Child Welfare, Juvenile Justice, Mental Health, and LGBTQ+ serving organizations to identify youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness.</p> <p>Action Step 1.1.3: Engage Early Child Education, Head Start, Hospitals, and Pediatricians to identify and refer youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness.</p>
Partner(s) Responsible: GCP/YAB/LEA/PCW/DJJ
Timeframe: 10/1/2022 – 9/30/2024 (Ongoing)
USICH Core Outcomes: *Stable Housing, *Education, *Social-Emotional Well-Being
Other Implementation Principles: PYD, TIC, Family Engagement, Coordinated Entry, Individualized and Client Driven Support, Youth Choice, Unsheltered
Objective 1.2: Retool and expand outreach and access points to make services more visible and accessible to youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness
<p>Action Step 1.2.1: Train partner agencies to serve as access points and resource hubs for youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness</p> <p>Action Step 1.2.2: Formalize and standardize forms for referral, intake, assessments, etc.</p> <p>Action Step 1.2.3: Develop accessible online repository for information on resources for youth experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>Action Step 1.2.4: Develop a provider “YAB Certification” or “YAB Accreditation” program to denote agencies who have achieved a high level of training and competency in: Inclusion, Equity, Adulthood, Trauma Informed Care, etc.</p>
Partner(s) Responsible: GCP/YAB/ARAY
Timeframe: 10/1/2022 – 9/30/2024 (Ongoing)
USICH Core Outcomes: *Stable Housing *Social-Emotional Well-Being
Other Implementation Principles: TIC, Family Engagement, Coordinated Entry, Individualized and Client Driven Support, Youth Choice, Unsheltered, Housing First



Goal 2: The community uses prevention and diversion strategies, and otherwise provides immediate access to low-barrier crisis housing and services to any youth who needs or wants it (USICH)

Objective 2.1: Develop upstream prevention and diversion strategies to assist youth at-risk of homelessness or family separation before it occurs

Action Step 2.1.1: Scale efforts to prevent youth with foster care involvement from becoming homeless

Action Step 2.1.2: Develop youth navigator program to provide prevention and diversion supports for youth

Action Step 2.1.3: Engage family self-sufficiency programs to target services for pregnant and parenting youth who are at high risk of homelessness

Action Step 2.1.4: Scale efforts to prevent youth with juvenile justice involvement from becoming homeless

Partner(s) Responsible: GCP/YAB/DJJ/PCW/County Human Services

Timeframe: 10/1/2022 – 9/30/2024 (Ongoing)

USICH Core Outcomes: *Stable Housing *Social-Emotional Well-Being

Other Implementation Principles: TIC, Family Engagement, Coordinated Entry, Individualized and Client Driven Support, Youth Choice, Unsheltered, Social & Community Integration, Housing First

Objective 2.2: Expand inventory of options to ensure youth have immediate access to safe crisis housing of their choice

Action Step 2.2.1: Develop a Host Home “YAB Certification” or “YAB Accreditation” program to denote Host Home Families who have achieved a high level of training and competency in: Inclusion, Equity, Adulthood, Trauma Informed Care, etc.

Action Step 2.2.2: Develop host family incentive strategy and recruit host families

Action Step 2.2.3: Increase the allocation of funding designated to provide immediate hotel stays in lieu of congregate general population options.

Partner(s) Responsible: GCP/YAB/ARAY/CoC

Timeframe: 10/1/2022 – 9/30/2024 (Ongoing)

USICH Core Outcomes: *Stable Housing *Social-Emotional Well-Being

Other Implementation Principles: PYD, TIC, Family Engagement, Individualized and Client Driven Support, Youth Choice, Unsheltered, Social & Community Integration, Housing First



Goal 3: The community uses coordinated entry processes to effectively link all youth at risk and experiencing homelessness to housing and services solutions that are tailored to their needs (USICH)

Objective 3.1: Ensure youth served by the homeless services system receive consistent, high-quality support in their transition to stable housing

Action Step 3.1.1: Engage the YAB in a convening with the CoC to retool the CE System to better reach, serve, and support youth.

Action Step 3.1.2: Continue to support Charlotte County’s Neighborhood Services implementation of Homeless Prevention Coordinated Entry and Master Case Management System.

Action Step 3.1.3: Continue to support CoC’s implementation of Domestic Violence/Human Trafficking Coordinated Entry and Master Case Management System.

Action Step 3.1.4: Continue to support CoC’s Youth and Special Populations Coordinated Entry and Master Case Management System.

Partner(s) Responsible: GCP/YAB/CoC

Timeframe: 10/1/2022 – 9/30/2024 (Ongoing)

USICH Core Outcomes: *Stable Housing, *Permanent Connections, *Social-Emotional Well-Being

Other Implementation Principles: PYD, TIC, Family Engagement, Coordinated Entry, Individualized and Client Driven Support, Youth Choice, Unsheltered, Social & Community Integration, Housing First

Goal 4: The community acts with urgency to swiftly assist youth to move to permanent or non-time-limited housing options with appropriate services and supports (USICH)

Objective 4.1: Increase number of housing providers accepting youth

Action Step 4.1.1: Develop youth rapid rehousing program to expedite housing placements, services referrals, and supports for youth

Action Step 4.1.2: Recruit host families willing to provide longer term housing placements.

Action Step 4.1.3: Engage CoC Landlord Engagement Program to develop a youth risk mitigation fund and to recruit new landlords dedicating rental units to youth

Partner(s) Responsible: GCP/YAB/YHDP Core Team/CoC

Timeframe: 10/1/2022 – 9/30/2024 (Ongoing)

USICH Core Outcomes: *Stable Housing, *Permanent Connections, *Education/Employment, *Social-Emotional Well-Being

Other Implementation Principles: PYD, TIC, Family Engagement, Individualized and Client Driven Support, Youth Choice, Unsheltered, Social & Community Integration, Housing First



Goal 5: The community has resources, plans, and system capacity in place to continue to prevent and quickly end future experiences of homelessness among youth (USICH)

Objective 5.1: Increase number and capacity of agencies serving youth experiencing or at-risk of homelessness

Action Step 5.1.1: Work with YAB and partners to develop youth serving agency staff retention practices

Action Step 5.1.2: Work with YAB and partners to develop youth serving agency staff training policies and schedules

Action Step 5.1.3: Work with YAB and partners to develop youth serving agency evaluation and client satisfaction monitoring processes

Partner(s) Responsible: GCP/YAB/CoC

Timeframe: 10/1/2022 – 9/30/2024 (Ongoing)

USICH Core Outcomes: *Stable Housing, *Permanent Connections, *Education/Employment, *Social-Emotional Well-Being

Other Implementation Principles: PYD, TIC, Individualized and Client Driven Support, Youth Choice, Social & Community Integration, Housing First



Goal 6: The community supports all youth at risk and experiencing homelessness to achieve educational completion and career pathways that are tailored to their needs

Objective 6.1: Reduce barriers for youth and young adults in accessing and successfully completing career and education goals

Action Step 6.1.1: Implement a mentorship model for youth in long-term educational programs with prevention/diversion supports.

Action Step 6.1.2: Build stronger connections to a full array of post-secondary education pathways, including degree and non-degree credentials through local colleges, technical schools, and the Workforce Development Board.

Action Step 6.1.3: Scale up supports for youth over 18 who need a high school credential and integrate systems to ensure Charlotte County's K-12 schools are comfortable and barrier-free for students.

Action Step 6.1.4: Hold a higher education convening to bring partners increase awareness of, and responses to, housing insecurity on campus.

Action Step 6.1.5: Develop career development programming with youth interest and choice at the forefront leading to high-skill, high-wage opportunities whenever possible.

Action Step 6.1.6: Build stronger connections for youth to access alternative career and educational paths including Job Corps, AmeriCorps, and the United States Military.

Partner(s) Responsible: GCP/YAB/YHDP Core Team/CoC

Timeframe: 10/1/2022 – 9/30/2024 (Ongoing)

USICH Core Outcomes: *Stable Housing, *Permanent Connections, *Education/Employment, *Social-Emotional Well-Being

Other Implementation Principles: PYD, TIC, Individualized and Client Driven Support, Youth Choice, Social & Community Integration



Framework for YHDP Funded Projects

During the planning phase, there were a number of innovative project ideas collected from the YAB, YHDP Core Team, and GCP Stakeholders. Possible strategies and projects were reviewed against community need, additional resources, and gaps in the service array and prioritized the following three project types, presented in order of priority, along with anticipated funding levels for the first year.

Intervention	Anticipated First Year Funding Availability
Project 1: Supportive Services Only (SSO) - Outreach Diversion, Outreach, Youth Services Navigation	\$75,000 - \$125,000
Project 2: Supportive Services Only (SSO) Diversion, Outreach, Youth Services Navigation	\$125,000 - \$200,000
Project 3: Rapid Rehousing (RRH) Tenant or Site-Based Assistance and Housing Stability Case Management Services	\$300,000 - \$400,000
Project 4: Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Data Quality and Analysis	\$10,000

Project 1: SSO – Outreach

Projected Cost (1 year)	\$75,000 - \$125,000 (Cost does not include 25% matching funds)
Core Elements of the Project	Outreach and Virtual Access Outreach staff including mobile outreach to unsheltered locations and/or in-reach at community locations to connect youth with housing and other community resources for youth experiencing and at risk of homelessness. A remote access point that can be reached by phone, text, social media, discord server, etc. to connect young people with housing and urgent resources and supports.
Length of Assistance	One (1) – Ten (10) Days
Target Population	All Unaccompanied Youth Ages 14-24 All Pregnant/Parenting Youth Ages 14-24 All Unaccompanied Youth Fleeing DV/HT (Categories 1, 2, 4)



Projected Number of Youth to be Served (annually)	68
USICH Core Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stable Housing, • Permanent Connections, • Education/Employment, • Social-Emotional Well-Being
Desired Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition to the outcomes listed, the YAB will be developing additional measures. • 75% of youth will have shorter stays in emergency/crisis housing as compared to median length of stay for general population emergency shelter
USICH Benchmarks Addressed	<p>Goal 1: The community identifies all unaccompanied youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness.</p> <p>Goal 2: The community uses prevention and diversion strategies, and otherwise provides immediate access to low-barrier crisis housing and services to any youth who needs or wants it.</p> <p>Goal 3: The community uses coordinated entry processes to effectively link all youth at risk and experiencing homelessness to housing and services solutions that are tailored to their needs.</p> <p>Goal 5: The community has resources, plans, and system capacity in place to continue to prevent and quickly end future experiences of homelessness among youth.</p>
Innovative Strategies to be built into implementation	Use of digital platform accessible to youth, such as a discord server
Is the project anticipated to be funded with YHDP funds?	Yes
Will the project seek any CoC program flexibilities through the waiver notification or approval process?	<p>Yes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payments of up to \$1,000 per month for families that provide short-term housing under a host home model in order to offset increased costs • Payment of program participants costs for insurance and registration of personal vehicles if necessary to reach medical care, employment, childcare, or other eligible services
Is the project still feasible, if waivers are applied for but not granted?	<p>Yes</p> <p>The CoC will make every effort to fully implement the project if waivers are not granted. Due to severe housing shortage and complete lack of public transportation, there would be an additional burden without waiver approval.</p>



Project 2: SSO

Projected Cost (1 year)	\$125,000 - \$200,000 (Cost does not include 25% matching funds)
Core Elements of the Project	<p>Diversion</p> <p>Youth Navigator position(s) at various set and drop-in locations (colleges, high schools, libraries, malls, etc.) to assist in the identification, diversion, and connection to housing and maintenance of housing as well as supportive services and family reunification for youth experiencing and at risk of homelessness.</p> <p>Payments of up to \$1,000 per month for families that provide housing under a host home model in order to offset increased costs.</p>
Length of Assistance	Three (3) – Six (6) Months
Target Population	<p>All Unaccompanied Youth Ages 14-24</p> <p>All Pregnant/Parenting Youth Ages 14-24</p> <p>All Unaccompanied Youth Fleeing DV/HT (Categories 1, 2, 4)</p>
Projected Number of Youth to be Served (annually)	26
USICH Core Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stable Housing, • Permanent Connections, • Education/Employment, • Social-Emotional Well-Being
Desired Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition to the outcome listed, the YAB will be developing additional measures. • 75% of youth will be diverted from entering the homeless services system.
USICH Benchmarks Addressed	<p>Goal 1: The community identifies all unaccompanied youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness.</p> <p>Goal 2: The community uses prevention and diversion strategies, and otherwise provides immediate access to low-barrier crisis housing and services to any youth who needs or wants it.</p> <p>Goal 3: The community uses coordinated entry processes to effectively link all youth at risk and experiencing homelessness to housing and services solutions that are tailored to their needs.</p> <p>Goal 5: The community has resources, plans, and system</p>



	capacity in place to continue to prevent and quickly end future experiences of homelessness among youth.
Innovative Strategies to be built into implementation	Use of digital platform accessible to youth, such as a discord server
Is the project anticipated to be YHDP funded?	Yes
Will the project seek any CoC program flexibilities through the waiver notification or approval process?	Yes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payments of up to \$1,000 per month for families that provide short-term housing under a host home model in order to offset increased costs • Payment of program participants costs for insurance and registration of personal vehicles if necessary to reach medical care, employment, childcare, or other eligible services
Is the project still feasible, if waivers are applied for but not granted?	Yes The CoC will make every effort to fully implement the project if waivers are not granted. Due to severe housing shortage and complete lack of public transportation, there would be an additional burden without waiver approval.



Project 3: Rapid Rehousing (RRH)

Projected Cost (1 year)	\$300,000 - \$400,000 (Cost does not include 25% matching funds)
Core Elements of the Project	Up to 36 months of housing first, low-barrier, tenant, sponsor, or project based rental assistance and services. Youth will have their own lease and the program will offer a deep array of optional services for youth to choose.
Length of Assistance	Twelve (12) – Thirty-Six (36) Months
Target Population	All Unaccompanied Youth Ages 18-24 All Pregnant/Parenting Youth Ages 18-24 All Unaccompanied Youth Fleeing DV/HT (Categories 1, 2, 4)
Projected Number of Youth to be Served (annual)	18-20
USICH Core Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stable Housing, • Permanent Connections, • Education/Employment, • Social-Emotional Well-Being
Desired Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition to the outcomes listed, the YAB will be developing additional measures. • 75% of participants are employed or enrolled in an educational program at least part-time at exit • 85% of program participants exit to a permanent housing destination
USICH Benchmarks Addressed	<p>Goal 3: The community uses coordinated entry processes to effectively link all youth at risk and experiencing homelessness to housing and services solutions that are tailored to their needs.</p> <p>Goal 4: The community acts with urgency to swiftly assist youth to move to permanent or non-time-limited housing options with appropriate services and supports.</p> <p>Goal 5: The community has resources, plans, and system capacity in place to continue to prevent and quickly end future experiences of homelessness among youth.</p>
Innovative Strategies to be built into implementation	Host Homes, Youth Centered RRH
Is the project anticipated to be YHDP funded?	Yes



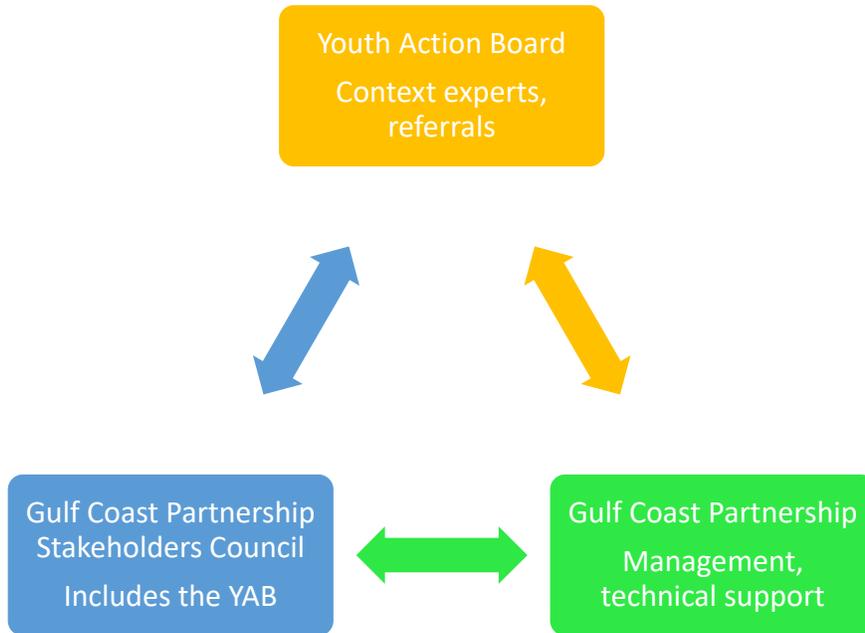
Will the project seek any CoC program flexibilities through the waiver notification or approval process?	Yes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sponsor or project based rental assistance • Shared Housing • Long Term Host Homes • Fair Market Rent • 36 Month Length of Service • Less than 12-Month Lease Requirement • Security Deposits for units in an amount not to exceed 2 months of rent • Payments of up to \$1,000 per month for families that provide long term housing under a host home model in order to recruit long term hosts to the program.
Is the project still feasible, if waivers are applied for but not granted?	Yes The CoC will make every effort to fully implement the project if waivers are not granted. Due to severe housing shortage, it will be very difficult to be successful in identifying housing for youth without waiver approval.

Project 4: HMIS	
Projected Cost (1 year)	\$10,000 (Cost does not include 25% matching funds)
Core Elements of the Project	Youth specific HMIS system components such as adding youth-specific data standards, YHDP Program Evaluation, YHDP Reporting
Target Population	All Unaccompanied Youth Ages 14-24 All Pregnant/Parenting Youth Ages 14-24 All Unaccompanied Youth Fleeing DV/HT (Categories 1, 2, 4)
USICH Core Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve data quality and system capacity to identify and assist youth experiencing homelessness
Desired Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train Users on HMIS YHDP Project Workflows • Trend and Data Analysis with YAB and YHDP Leadership at least Quarterly • Create separate YHDP projects, reports, and pull data for evaluation and monitoring
Innovative Strategies to be built into implementation	Work with YAB and YHDP Core Team to implement an inclusive and equitable Coordinated Entry Prioritization Tool
Is the project anticipated to be YHDP funded?	Yes



Governance Structure

Figure - YHDP Governance Model



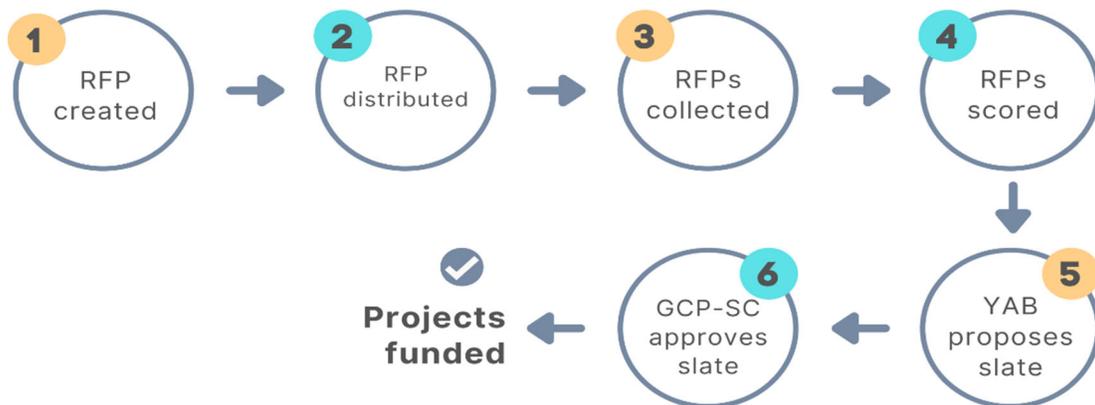
The Charlotte County Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP) will be governed by the GCP Stakeholders Council (GCP-SC) and the YAB. All active YAB members in good standing are invited to participate in the GCP-SC as full voting members.

The YAB can make proposals to the GCP-SC for consideration and adoption. Adoption of YHDP proposals will occur at the GCP-SC by 50% plus one approval as outlined in their organizing documents. Any proposal related to the YHDP not originating in the YAB must be recommended by the YAB for GCP-SC consideration.

All proposals from the YAB will be voted on as presented, without substantive changes or amendments. Any amendments must be sent back to the YAB for consideration and approval.



Figure - YHDP Funding Process



The funding process for YHDP begins with a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the YHDP projects prioritized by the CCP for YHDP funding. The RFP will be created by the YAB with facilitation by the GCP.

Charlotte County CoC members and relevant community stakeholders can apply for funding through the RFP Process to be eligible to receive project funding through this open and transparent process. The YAB and GCP staff will score the RFPs. The assessment score for the RFPs will be based on a rubric that will be made available as part of the RFP packet.

The YAB will make a recommendation for the proposals based on RFP scores and any related consideration as determined by the YAB. The YAB will send a slate of project proposals to the GCP-SC for consideration and approval. Any GCP-SC member who is conflicted by Employment, Family Connection, or Board Membership must recuse themselves from the slate approval process and discussion.

If any issue arises with the approval of the proposals by the GCP-SC, the slate will be sent back to the YAB with a statement as to why the slate or certain applicants were not approved. The YAB will then reconsider the slate and make another recommendation to the GCP-SC. The process will continue until there is a full approved slate of proposals between the GCP-SC and the YAB.

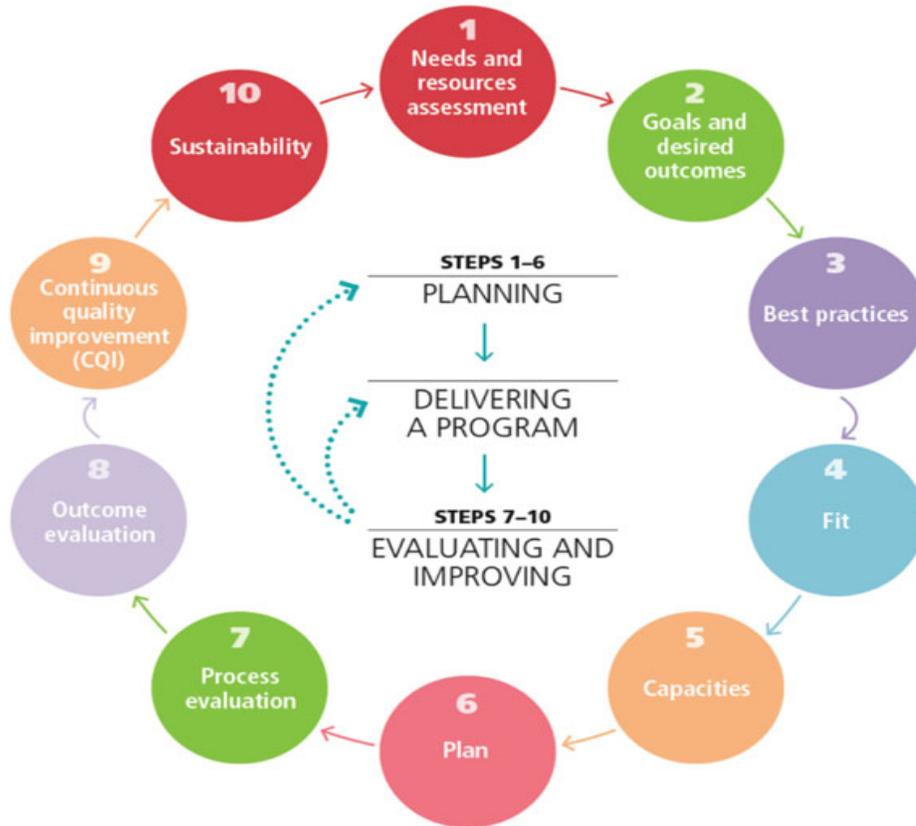
Continuous Quality Improvement

The GCP will be responsible for managing and distributing YHDP funds, compliance and reporting, facilitation of the project including communications, scheduling, meeting organization and leadership. The GCP will also be tasked with partner relations, communication with CoC, and supporting monitoring and evaluation led by the YAB.



Projects will be monitored and evaluated to ensure they are connected the projects to the mission, vision, and goals of the CC-YHDP using the Getting To Outcomes (GTO) framework. The YAB will lead the evaluation with project partners using GTO. Specific tools, timelines, and processes will be selected by the YAB for implementation of CQI.

Figure - GTO Framework



According to GTO (RAND), CQI takes advantage of what you have learned over time from your evaluation to improve the program for the future without starting over from the beginning. It puts the investment made in evaluation to work by using the results to make changes and understand their effects. It keeps programs fresh and a good fit for participants, organizations, and community. Although it began in manufacturing, CQI is becoming a part of routine operations in many health and social services organizations and can be applied across all programs.

YHDP project leads will be part of a continuous improvement process providing regular reports to the YAB, CoC, and HUD, facilitated by the GCP. Written midterm and annual reports will be expected as part of the process.

CQI will operate through consensus while collaborating on project implementation. Interpersonal and other conflicts during planning meetings, communications, will be mediated by the GCP. Conflicts will be addressed by the group with discussions facilitated by the GCP. Through following the GTO process, CC-YHDP will be able to make quality improvements in the structure through the development of an agile and learning culture among YHDP partners.



Planning Process

The planning process has been an iterative process including the YAB, the GCP-SC, the GCP administrators, and federal technical assistance. The GCP administrators were charged with coordinating meeting and stakeholders and ultimately pulling together the Coordinated Community Plan for the stakeholders.

Once Charlotte County was selected for YHDP, the GCP administrators began communications with the YAB and the GCP-SC on how to move the project forward. Federal technical assistance began working with the YAB and the GCP administrators in the Fall of 2021.

The YAB worked together to develop their governance structure, as well as their values, mission, and vision. In early 2022, the federal technical assistance providers began to provide training virtually to the YAB and the GCP-SC in preparation for the development of the Coordinated Community Plan. A two-day in-person convening for stakeholders was held at the end of January 2022. Leading up to the convening, several virtual meetings were held to develop the mission, vision, and ideal system.

The in-person convening focused on data and developing the ideal system. Following the convening, additional virtual meetings were held to develop the YHDP governance model and organizational structure between the YAB and the GCP-SC. Drafts of the CCP were then presented to the YAB and GCP-SC, which includes YAB members as voting members, for approval and submission.

Priorities and Programs

Through the participatory process with stakeholders, some strengths in the existing system include a strong partnership with the school, high number of people entering system through coordinated entry, and collaboration between stakeholders. Prominent challenges in the existing system include lack of clarity around services available, transportation, availability of affordable housing, low number of crisis beds available for youth, lack of tailored services for trafficked youth/LGBTQ+ youth.

With technical assistance from True Colors United and Corporation for Supportive Housing, Charlotte County Stakeholders engaged in a participatory process to cast a vision for an ideal support system for youth experiencing homelessness and prioritize project areas for the YHDP. Agency and related partners, as well as the YAB participated in a series of exercises in person and through virtual sessions to outline the system and develop project areas. Here are the results of those participatory sessions.

The system pathways for youth ages 18-24 experiencing homelessness in Charlotte County. Stakeholders chose to stay away from transitional housing because they prioritized expedited paths to housing, such as rapid re-housing



This Figure shows the estimated utilization of each pathway in the ideal system for youth ages 18-24 experiencing homelessness in Charlotte County. An estimated 20% of youth would use rapid re-housing only. While 40% would most quickly from crisis housing to rapid re-housing. Another 20% would be supported through diversion programs. This clearly prioritizes diversion and rapid re-housing as preferred methods of support.

Figure - Ideal system pathways for youth ages 18-24

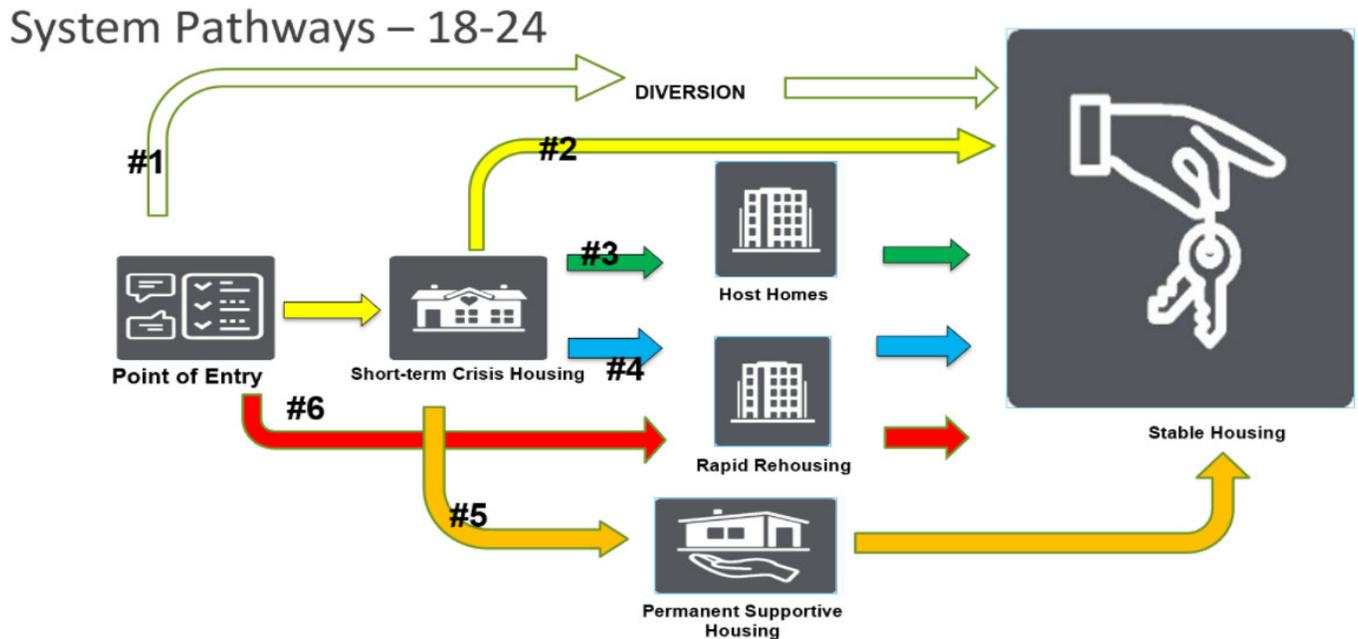


Figure - Pathway utilization percentages in ideal system

Pathway Utilization

<i>Pathway 1</i>	Diversion Only	20%
<i>Pathway 2</i>	Crisis Housing Only	5%
<i>Pathway 3</i>	Crisis to Host Homes	10%
<i>Pathway 4</i>	Crisis to Rapid Rehousing	40%
<i>Pathway 5</i>	Crisis to Permanent Supportive Housing	5%
<i>Pathway 6</i>	Rapid Rehousing Only	20%

Figure breaks down this project utilization estimates further. Of the youth ages 18-24 engaging with diversion, 45% would access mobile outreach or navigation, 35% would use a drop-in center, and 20% would access resources for diversion virtually. When it comes to youth ages 18-24 needing crisis housing, an estimated 80% would need shelter and 20% would leverage host homes.



Figure - Projected project utilization in ideal system

Project Utilization

Front Porch	Description	Percent	
Mobile Outreach and/or Navigation	Program with staff that are deployed into the community: this may include mobile outreach to unsheltered locations and/or in-reach with navigators assigned to community locations (schools, libraries, etc.). Programs connect youth with community resources with goals of prevention, diversion, harm reduction, and connection to housing. May include coordinated entry, youth navigators, family reunification.	60%	45%
Drop-in Center	A place where youth can “drop in” and be provided with low-barrier services, including connection to housing resources, basic necessities, case management, and more. May include coordinated entry, youth navigators, family reunification.	30%	35%
Virtual/Hotline	An remote access point that can be reached online or by phone and connect young people to housing resources and more.	10%	20%
Crisis Housing	Description	Percent	
Shelter	Safe and affirming space that bring youth inside and connects them to long term housing solutions. May be funding as a Transitional Housing project under YHDP.	90%	80%
Host Homes	Short-term, family-based settings that can offer youth a safe alternative to shelter with financial assistance and supportive services. May include options to live with existing people in their network or an unknown (but well-vetted and trained) volunteer host.	10%	20%

Figure shows the projected average lengths of stay on each pathway in an ideal system supporting youth ages 18-24 experiencing homelessness. There is an emphasis on moving youth through crisis housing to more stable rapid re-housing as quickly as possible.

Figure - Projected average lengths of stay on each pathway in ideal system

Length of Stay - 18 - 24 year olds						Consensus
Service Strategies	Diversion	“Front Porch” (outreach, drop-in, virtual)	Crisis Housing (shelter, host homes)	Host Homes	Rapid Rehousing	Permanent Supportive Housing
	Av Mo/Per.	Av Mo/Per.	Av Mo/Per.	Av Mo/Per	Av Mo/Per	
Pathway 1: Diversion Only	6 mo					
Pathway 2: Crisis Only		1 week	21 days			
Pathway 3: Crisis to Host Homes		1 week	21 days	12 mo		
Pathway 4: Crisis to Rapid Rehousing		1 week	21 days		24 mo	
Pathway 5: Crisis to Permanent Supportive Housing		1 week	2 mo			Permanent
Pathway 6: Rapid Rehousing Only		1 mo			19-36 mo	



It is estimated that each year 130 youth in Charlotte County experience or at risk of experiencing homelessness. Figure shows the breakdown of these youth ages 18-24. Given consideration to potential under reporting in HMIS, there is a near equal amount of youth entering the system through coordinated entry and in prevention programs. The next largest group of youth experiencing homelessness each year is those that have been trafficked. It is also estimated that there are another 20 youth under 18 that become unaccompanied minors experiencing homelessness.

Figure - Charlotte County Annualized number youth ages 18-24

Charlotte County Annualized Number (18-24)

Data Source (Average from 2020 and 2021)	Number of People
Coordinated Entry System Enrollments in HMIS	30
Estimate of Under-Reporting in Coordinated Entry	8
Public School Data: Unaccompanied Homeless Youth (sheltered and unsheltered)	7
Homeless Prevention Enrollments in HMIS (30% included)	40
Public School Data: Unaccompanied Homeless Youth (doubled up; 20% included)	16
Domestic Violence Program Enrollments in HMIS	9
Human Trafficking Data (5% of DCF Circuit 20 included)	20
TOTAL ANNUALIZED NUMBER (18-24)	130

Based on estimated local costs for services, each project type and its costs are outlined. Permanent supportive housing is the most expensive among them at approximate \$25,000 per person per year.



Figure - Estimated costs per person by project area

Charlotte County Cost Estimates (per person)

Project Type	Cost
Diversion	\$4,000
Outreach	\$2,500
Drop In	\$2,500
Virtual Access Point	\$2,500
Shelter	\$5,100
Crisis Host Homes	\$2,500
Long-Term Host Homes	\$10,000
Rapid Rehousing	\$20,000
Permanent Supportive Housing	\$24,000
HMIS (not included in system model)	\$10,000

Based on the estimated number of youth in each pathway in our ideal system, the costs for each project type are demonstrated. The estimated costs are the total for all served each year and do not include existing funds allocated in these areas.

Through a priority voting process, the YHDP stakeholders decided to prioritize projects related to - rapid re-housing and supportive services.

Figure - Projected ideal system costs for youth ages 18-24



Cost Projections for Proposed System - 18-24 ONLY				
Project Type	Estimated Cost per Household	Total Households Served Annually	Total PIT System Inventory Needs	Total System Cost for 18-24
Diversion	\$4,000	26	13	\$104,000
Access Point	see below	104	3	\$260,000
<i>Outreach</i>	\$2,500	47	1	\$117,500
<i>Drop-In</i>	\$2,500	36	1	\$90,000
<i>Virtual/Hotline</i>	\$2,500	21	1	\$52,500
Crisis Response (ES, HH)	see below	78	5	\$356,200
<i>Shelter</i>	\$5,100	62	4	\$316,200
<i>Crisis Host Homes</i>	\$2,500	16	1	\$40,000
<i>Host Homes</i>	\$10,000	13	13	\$130,000
Rapid Rehousing	\$20,000	78	78	\$1,560,000
PSH	\$24,000	7	7	\$168,000
TOTAL				\$2,578,200
HH Expected to Present Annually				130

Based on the system modeling activities and the outlined goals and objectives, the following tables detail the proposed project areas that could be funded to build and flesh out the ideal system for supporting youth experiencing homelessness in Charlotte County.



Definitions and Commonly Used Acronyms

ARAY: All Rainbow and Allied Youth is a 501(c)3 corporation whose mission is to create a place of support, and provide information, advocacy, and resources in Charlotte County for our Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, plus youth of all races, nationalities, and incomes.

BIPOC: BIPOC stands for Black, Indigenous, and people of color

CoC: Continuum of Care, a community-based homeless assistance program planning network.

CE: Coordinated Entry is a standardized method for connecting individuals and families experiencing homelessness to the resources available in a geographic area.

CIS: Community Information System (see HMIS below)

DCF: State of Florida Department of Children & Families

DJJ: State of Florida Department of Juvenile Justice

DV: Domestic Violence

GCP: Gulf Coast Partnership, CoC, HMIS, and CE Lead Agency

HT: Human Trafficking (Sex, Labor, or Commercial)

LEA: Local Educational Agency

LGBTQ+: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual

GCP-SC: Charlotte County's Homeless Advisory Board, a public/private partnership formed to oversee efforts to eliminate homelessness and improve the well-being of homeless individuals and families.

HMIS: Homeless Management Information System, an information technology system used to collect client-level data and data on the provision of housing and services to homeless individuals and families and people at risk of homelessness.

Host Home: A private home associated with a host home program that volunteers to host youth in need of temporary housing. Host homes offer youth a safe alternative to shelters on either a short- or long-term basis and are paired with supportive services provided by a service agency.

Housing First: A homeless assistance approach that prioritizes providing permanent housing to people experiencing homelessness, thus ending their homelessness, and serving as a platform from which they can pursue personal goals and improve their quality of life. This approach is guided by the belief that people need basic necessities like food and a place to live before attending to anything less critical, such as getting a job, budgeting properly, or attending to substance use issues. Additionally, Housing First is based on the theory that client choice is valuable in housing selection and supportive service participation, and that exercising that choice is likely to make a person more successful in remaining housed and improving their life.



HUD: [United States Department of] Housing and Urban Development

HUD Homelessness Categories:

Category 1, Literal Homelessness: Individuals and families who live in a place not meant for human habitation (including the streets or in their car), emergency shelter, transitional housing, and hotels paid for by a government or charitable organization.

Category 2, Imminent Risk of Homelessness: Individuals or families who will lose their primary nighttime residence within 14 days and have no other resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing.

Category 3, Homeless Under Other Statutes: Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age, or families with children and youth, who do not meet any of the other categories but are homeless under other federal statutes, have not had a lease and have moved two or more times in the past 60 days and can be expected to remain unstable due to special needs or barriers.

Category 4, Fleeing Domestic Violence: Individuals or families who are fleeing or attempting to flee their housing or the place they are staying because of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions related to violence that has taken place in the house or has made them afraid to return to the house, including trading sex for housing, trafficking, physical abuse, violence (or perceived threat of violence) because of the youth's sexual orientation, and who lack resources or support networks to maintain or obtain permanent housing.

MI: Motivational Interviewing is a clinical approach that helps people with mental health and substance use disorders and other chronic conditions make positive behavioral changes to support better health.

PCW: Public Child Welfare Agency

PYD: Positive Youth Development, An intentional, prosocial approach that engages youth within their communities, schools, organizations, peer groups and families in a manner that is productive and constructive; recognizes, utilizes, and enhances young people's strengths; and promotes positive outcomes for young people by providing opportunities, fostering positive relationships, and furnishing the support needed to build on their leadership strengths.

Pregnant or Parenting Youth: Individuals who are age 24 years or younger who are pregnant or who are the parents or legal guardians of one or more children who are present with or sleeping in the same place as that youth parent, and where there is no person over age 24 years in the household.

PSH: Permanent Supportive Housing, long-term housing with supportive services for homeless individuals with disabilities.

Prevention and Diversion Program: Mobile, flexible, and individualized services that result in youth obtaining and maintaining safe, stable housing before entering an episode of homelessness.

RHY: Runaway and Homeless Youth



RRH: Rapid Re-housing, A program model that assists individuals or families who are experiencing homelessness to move as quickly as possible into permanent housing and to achieve stability in that housing through a combination of rental assistance, housing search and supportive services.

Shared Housing: Long-term living arrangement between two unrelated people who choose to live together as a way of sharing costs and building a community of support.

SO: Street Outreach

SOAR: SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery

SSO: Supportive Services Only

TAY: Transition-Age Youth Individuals between age 18 and 24 years.

TIC: Trauma-Informed Care, an approach that recognizes the widespread impact of trauma and understands potential paths for recovery; recognizes the signs and symptoms of trauma in clients, families, staff, and others; responds by fully integrating knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures, and practices; and seeks to actively resist re-traumatization.

UHY: Unaccompanied Homeless Youth are persons who are age 24 years or younger, who are not part of a family with children and who are not accompanied by their parent or guardian during their episode of homelessness. This also includes two or more youth aged 24 years or younger who are presenting together as a family without children.

WIOA Board: Local Workforce Development Area Board (CareerSource)

YAB: Youth Action Board, a group of youth included in CoC decisions, particularly on policies that relate to preventing and ending youth homelessness. Each YAB member is age 24 years or younger and YAB members are homeless or formerly homeless.

YHDP: Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program, a HUD initiative to help communities end youth homelessness through innovative strategies.

Youth: A person who is under the age of 25 years.



Signatures

The signatures below attest to the approval and support of the Charlotte County Coordinated Community Plan to End Youth Homelessness. We agree to work collaboratively with our partners to implement a comprehensive system to prevent and end youth homelessness, including the goals and objectives outlined in the plan.

Signature _____ Date _____
Alexander Cabbage
Youth Coordinator, Youth Action Board

Signature _____ Date _____
Hal Trejo
Liaison, Youth Action Board

Signature _____ Date _____
Sabryna Fickler
Member, Youth Action Board

Signature _____ Date _____
Daphnie Toussaint
Member, Youth Action Board

Signature _____ Date _____
Keelen O'Grady
Member, Youth Action Board

Signature _____ Date _____
Macie Callahan
Member, Youth Action Board



Signatures

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Signature _____ Date _____

Name _____

Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners



Signatures

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Signature _____ Date _____

Name _____

Charlotte County Public Schools



Signatures

The signatures below attest to the approval and support of the Charlotte County Coordinated Community Plan to End Youth Homelessness. We agree to work collaboratively with our partners to implement a comprehensive system to prevent and end youth homelessness, including the goals and objectives outlined in the plan.

Signature _____ Date _____

Name _____

Child Welfare, Department of Children & Families



Signatures

The signatures below attest to the approval and support of the Charlotte County Coordinated Community Plan to End Youth Homelessness. We agree to work collaboratively with our partners to implement a comprehensive system to prevent and end youth homelessness, including the goals and objectives outlined in the plan.

Signature _____ Date _____

Name _____

Child Welfare, Children’s Network of SWFL



Signatures

The signatures below attest to the approval and support of the Charlotte County Coordinated Community Plan to End Youth Homelessness. We agree to work collaboratively with our partners to implement a comprehensive system to prevent and end youth homelessness, including the goals and objectives outlined in the plan.

Signature _____ Date _____

Name _____

Lutheran Services, RHY Provider



Signatures

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Signature _____ Date _____

Angela Hogan, CEO, Gulf Coast Partnership

Continuum of Care (FL-602)

