

Youth Homelessness System Improvement (YHSI) grants

NOFO presentation transcript

November 8, 2023

Speaker 0 00:00:00 Greeting. I'm Nili Soni. She/her division director for snaps. For today's webinar, Caitlin Morath, Caroline Crouse, and Jeanine Beasley will be joining me on November 8th, 2023. Today, HUD announced a new source of funding Youth Homelessness Systems Improvement grant, which is dedicated to youth at risk of and at risk of any experiencing homelessness. The goal, the goal of YHSI is to increase the capacity of communities to better, um, serve youth and create projects that are responsive to the needs of youth. At risk of experiencing homelessness in the community, it's an opportunity to either improve our existing response system for youth homelessness or establish and implement a new youth homelessness response system. Next slide, please. Um, I'm going to be talking over the objectives. So communities may either establish or improve the existing response system for youth homelessness through the following objectives. Improve the capacity of youth in the community, you know, which is basically developing peer support, uh, models including training, project design, and implementing and creating youth action board training opportunities, uh, which includes government rules, leadership and other skills.

Speaker 0 00:01:27 Um, committee training and outreach on how to work with youth and integrate youth leadership in authentic way. The next objective that we are looking is establishing partnership. So bringing together system partners who work with youth who are living in unstable housing. This could include partnership with tribes, cultural organizations in the community cater to schools, higher ed education services, as well as juvenile justice, child welfare and employment services welfare. Then improving the centralized and coordinated, um, assessment system, which is also known as the coordinated entry system. Improving the data collection and use between systems that work with youth address, experiencing homelessness, also addressing, um, and improving equity in youth homelessness response system. I'm going to be turning over to Caitlin.

Speaker 1 00:02:30 Thank you so much. Nili. We are thrilled to announce that \$50 million is being made available for the yes E grant nofo. Uh, we have four different fundings of, uh, available funding. Uh, so in thYHSI four categories, you can have multiple categories per project. Uh, a project could, for instance, cover planning and partnership and data. It could just cover coordinated entry. So there's an opportunity to mix and match to fit your community need per project. There is a maximum funding of \$1 million, and then you also see that per funding category, there is a maximum award amount associated with each of those categories. There's also a note at the bottom where if, uh, an applicant is covering a geographic area that includes two or more COCs, those maximum award amounts are doubled. Now that's a little bit confusing, so I'm going to give a few examples. An applicant could apply for \$200,000 for a project focused solely on coordinated entry, or they could apply for \$400,000 for our project focused on coordinated entry and equity. Or if an applicant is covering a geography that includes two or more COCs or an entire state, they could apply for that same coordinated entry and equity project. The total amount of that funding could go up to 800,000. Next slide.

Speaker 1 00:04:24 YHSI is a brand new program. It's important to note that applications are not just limited to the COC collaborative applicant. We're hoping to see engagement from multiple sectors that touch on the lives of youth in a combined effort to prevent and end youth homelessness. As you can see, uh, the funding incentives for applications that cover a larger geographic area, uh, exist in this nofo. We're really hoping to bring together various systems across geographic areas, across different, um,

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different systems that impact young people's lives to come together in the effort to prevent and end youth homelessness. Lastly, you can see here that YHDP recipients are eligible for YHSI, which brings us to our next slide. How are YSI and YHDP different? You can see on the slide, there's a lot of ways in which YSI and YHDP are different. Uh, first and foremost, the grant activities for YHSI, we are focused on collaboration and system building, but the funding is not eligible to be used for housing or services. And of course, housing and services are a big focus of YHGP. Secondly, it's the grant length. Yes, e grants are 30 months long. There is not the six month planning period as is associated with YHDP. The grant amounts themselves are different. We just went over, uh, those minimum and maximum funding amounts and then renewal. Yes, e grants are non-renewable and as mentioned before, uh, the eligible applicants for YHSI are not limited to COC. With that, I'm going to pass things on to Jeanine.

Speaker 2 00:06:32 Thanks so much, Caitlin. So now let's spend some time talking about our eligible, uh, funding categories. So for our YHSI grants, you can use, uh, funding for planning and partnership that can cover developing community-wide or regionwide partnerships to better identify and understand the needs of youth at risk of or experiencing homelessness. For compensating youth action board members for their work on the YHSI grant activities for cost associated with hosting local conferences, engagement training and cross community coordination of youth with lived experience for partnership in the YHSI grant activities cost associated with cross training and developing community-wide policies and best practices for preventing or quickly resolving youth homelessness and for systems mapping and planning. Next slide, please. Uh, now for our data category. For that you can use funding for upgrading, customizing, and enhancing the HMIS to better collect and report youth data for recruiting new participants to your HMIS for technical legal and planning costs associated with creating data matches or data integration between different data collection sources such as your local HMIS and a local school systems data developing and implementing evaluation and analysis strategies related to youth homelessness. Next slide please.

Speaker 2 00:08:09 We also have our coordinated entry or our CES category. For this category, you can use funds for establishment or improvement of youth specific CES access points for development or improvement of youth specific assessment tools for creating a prioritization plan for youth experiencing homelessness within your larger CES for activities related to better understanding needs of youth experiencing homelessness within your CES for developing and implementing an ongoing evaluation process for the CES and for recruitment of additional projects to send and receive referrals from the coordinated entry system. Next slide please. And our final category is for racial and gender equity. For those of you can use funds for cost associated with conducting a community-wide racial and gender equity analysis cost associated with conducting a needs analysis of youth experiencing homelessness, including needs of youth subpopulations such as minors, black, indigenous, and other youth of color, LGBTQIA plus and pregnant slash parenting youth for costs associated with implementing policy and procedures and cultural change associated with the outcomes of a youth homelessness equity analysis. And for costs associated with developing an evaluation framework for current and future projects serving youth experiencing homelessness included the outcomes related to racial equity and L-G-B-T-Q-I-A equity. And with that, I'm going to go ahead and turn the slides over to Caroline.

Speaker 3 00:10:02 Thanks, Jeanine. Um, so I'm going to go into what the required application materials are. Uh, I hope by this point in the presentation you're kind of have wheels spinning in your

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head of what kind of project you would be, would be most appropriate for the area or the, the systems in which you want to build. So the first part of the application is really going to be you telling us what you want to do and how much money you need to do that. So we need a project proposal from you, and that will include a description of all the activities that you are proposing and that will also have, um, should be corresponding to the activities that Jeanine just mentioned in her part of the presentation. In addition to having those categories and what will be performed, we also need to know what persons or groups will be involved in those activities, as well as what you expect to have for inputs and outputs for each activity.

Speaker 3 00:10:57 So what amount of data will you need? What kind of resources will you need for that, uh, activity. In addition, what we ask is for a milestone chart, and this is a proposal of how, what milestones you will be, um, trying to achieve through the proposal. Um, and need to identify the total length of the proposed project for a maximum of 30 months, as well as deliverables who the responsible organization will be and the dates for completion. Now that milestone chart, in addition to being part of your application, will be used for us, um, making sure that you're staying, um, on path for, um, having a successful project. So you will have to submit, um, if you are awarded, you'll need to submit, uh, biannual, um, reports based on that milestone chart, and there's more information in the NOFO about that process. Another required attachment is going to be your budget.

Speaker 3 00:11:53 And so for that budget, um, what we need to know is how much you are requesting for each part of the activity. Um, that can include the personnel. Um, so for instance, if you are, uh, a large part of your broad project is creating a, um, a board that will oversee youth homelessness, uh, efforts, including data matching and, um, and creating partnerships between organizations. If you are bringing personnel onto that, that would include the salaries and benefits of those employees or the hourly wages. Um, we also need to know if you're bringing in those as a consultant or an hourly worker, what that looks like. Um, also travel equipment. Um, there are a few forms online that you can use for a basis for that, and we will have those, uh, mentioned in, um, in the future q and a sessions. Um, but just know that in addition to knowing what you're going to do, we need to know how much you're proposing to, to spend on it, and that's how we will, uh, be able to see, um, to make sure that we're staying within the funding categories that, uh, that Caitlin and Jeanine spoke about.

Speaker 3 00:13:04 Another section of the required attachments are the letters of commitment. So as you saw earlier in the presentation, partnerships are a huge part of the YHSI. We really want the different silos and organizations that work on youth homelessness to come together and work together to better address, uh, the needs of youth in the area and to create cross system partnerships, um, that will be able to better identify and assist youth, uh, who are at risk of, uh, experiencing homelessness. So to that end, when you are applying, we ask that you actually have a letter of commitment, um, from any of your partner organizations that will be working with you. And that's not just we support an application, but rather a letter of we will be working on this project in these ways. Um, the more details you can give there, the better. But again, we want a firm commitment not just to a general statement of support, but rather, um, something that really commits to action.

Speaker 3 00:14:02 Similarly, we need a letter of commitment from the Youth Action Board or an equivalent group of youth who will be involved in the project. Now, I do want to clarify, we are saying

Youth Homelessness System Improvement (YHSI) grants

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equivalent group of youth because we anticipate that some of these projects will not necessarily be, we hope that they will not be combined confined to a single COC that may have a youth action board, but hopefully they will be larger, including cross COC collaborations and statewide uh, efforts. And it may be that you don't need to create an act like an official YAB for that. It could be a con, um, a convening of yas from different areas or different partners. So, um, what we do want to stress is that we need the expertise and leadership of youth with lived experience throughout the YHSI. Um, and so we do need a letter of commitment that will indicate how you will have youth with lived experience be, uh, leading this project.

Speaker 3 00:14:55 And then there are additional, um, required attachments as well. Um, there is a section in the NOFO that goes through all the required attachments, and I believe we are working on a checklist so you can kind of just check off which ones you have so that everyone has all the required materials, but as, uh, some other ones I did want to mention specifically are a geography, geography statement that says what area the application covers. Uh, we need that by county or geocode. Um, and if you have any questions about that, you can always ask a question on that. Um, but essentially we're trying to understand how or what the area is that will be covered geographically by your, um, community, or sorry by your proposal. Uh, we need a narrative, um, that addresses how you are advancing racial equity, uh, through this project. And then we also need a disclosure, disclosure of other government assistance received so that we don't have duplicative spending.

Speaker 3 00:15:53 And then finally, and this is probably where you'll spend a large amount of your time, is the rating factor responses. So this is where, and there's a little overlap here. So, um, the largest category you'll see, um, for the points of the proposed project activities, and those are the, actually the ones I discussed include, uh, a lot of those questions include the project proposal, what you're going to do, the milestone chart, and we discussed those earlier as well as the budget. Um, so some of these are kind of just reflective of the required materials that you'll send for your project proposal. Others talk about how you're going to make sure that you have, um, a, a lot of youth involvement and leadership, uh, as well as project how you're going to be measuring your success. One more thing I do want to point out is that we do have 15 points for the region or for having a regional approach.

Speaker 3 00:16:41 And that includes a larger geographic area than just, uh, within one COC. And it also includes additional points for, um, covering areas that have not been, uh, served by COCs in the past. I want to make sure that people understand that what we are trying to do is a system change that is a larger process. We are looking at kind of statewide or, uh, a confederacy of, or not confederacy, but um, a group of tribal, uh, of tribes that may be coming together to, um, really improve or, um, implement systems change, um, to better address youth homelessness. So with that, I'm going to turn it back to Caitlin to Rappa up, up.

Speaker 1 00:17:26 Thank you Caroline. So I'll say it again. YHSI is a brand new program and it's an opportunity to use funds in new and creative ways. We've listed a few examples on this slide to jumpstart your thinking. Uh, but we know that preventing and ending youth homelessness is a community-wide effort. And it takes more than just the folks who are currently engaged in the homelessness crisis response. I challenge you to think about innovative ways to fully engage across sectors and silos and to build new systems together. So perhaps that looks like a regionwide assessment that identifies gaps in services and housing for youth. Or maybe that means creating a statewide

Youth Homelessness System Improvement (YHSI) grants

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interagency council that is focused on preventing and ending youth homelessness and collaborating on, uh, tangible steps, uh, to take together. There's really a lot of endless opportunities here and we are excited to see what you all come up with because you all know best how to serve your communities. This is an opportunity to expand thinking and collaboration like never before. So what's next?

Speaker 1 00:18:54 Next slide, please. Uh, the first thing that I would recommend if you haven't done it already is to read our nofo. The YHSI NOFO is live on grants.gov. Uh, then you start talking with other folks in your community. Applications are due February 15th, 2024. So you have time to have conversations and really come up with a coalition approach to these applications. And then finally visit the YHSI webpage on HUD dot gov for more information. Uh, you heard Caroline mention some resources that'll be posted there already or soon. And then we'll also have upcoming q and a sessions so that you all are able to ask HUD questions based on your understanding from this webinar and from your reading of the nofo. So with that, I want to thank you for your time and attention today. Thank my fellow presenters and again, really look forward to reading the applications that come in to response to the YHSI nofo. Thank you all with that. We are done with today's webinar.

Speaker 4 00:20:06 That concludes our conference. Thank you for using event services. You may now disconnect.