



Youth Homelessness System Improvement (YHSI) Grants

DECEMBER 19, 2023

Overview

- YHSI is a new grant opportunity through the Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs (SNAPS)
- YHSI application is designed to have applicants propose projects to be funded. There are eligible categories for funding, but HUD does not require any of the specific activities be conducted
- YHSI application is open to Tribes and TDHEs and does not require the Tribe or TDHE to partners with a CoC
- YHSI is focused on creating systems that will address youth homelessness; this NOFO prioritizes applications from broader geographic areas such as across several Tribes and Tribal areas

YHSI Goals

THE GOAL OF YHSI GRANTS IS TO
INCREASE STATE, TRIBAL, AND LOCAL
CAPACITY TO BETTER SERVE YOUTH
AND CREATE PROJECTS THAT ARE
RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF YOUTH
AT-RISK OF OR EXPERIENCING
HOMELESSNESS IN THE COMMUNITY.

Objectives

- ▶ Improve the capacity of youth with lived experience of homelessness to develop solutions to end youth homelessness
- ▶ Establish partnerships between systems that work with youth at-risk of or experiencing homelessness
- ▶ Create or improve processes to prioritize youth for housing and services based on the severity of their needs and on processes to connect youth to services and housing
- ▶ Improve data collection and use between systems that work with youth at-risk of and experiencing homelessness

Funding Available

Total Funding Available: \$50,000,000

- Per-project funding availability: \$200,000 to \$1 million

Funding Category	Maximum award
Planning and Partnerships	\$400,000
Data	\$300,000
Coordinated Entry	\$200,000
Racial & Gender Equity	\$200,000

Maximum amounts doubled for applications that cover geographic areas included in 2 or more CoCs or if the application geography covers the entire state. This could include Tribes that work across larger geographic areas. HUD is doing this to encourage partnerships and larger-scale systems that can assist a greater number of youth.

Eligible Applicants

- ▶ State, county, and local governments
 - ▶ Tribal Governments
 - ▶ Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs)
 - ▶ Non-profit Organizations
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- ▶ Funding and scoring incentives are offered for applications that cover a larger geographic area (e.g. state-wide projects)

Youth Action Board Definition/Discussion

- ▶ Youth- any person who has not yet reached their 25th birthday
 - ▶ Includes pregnant and parenting youth and unaccompanied youth
- ▶ Youth Action Board- A group of at least 3 youth that have leadership or voting power on the contents of this application and the proposed projects. At least two-thirds of the YAB members must be age 24 or younger and have lived experience of homelessness and should be representative of the youth population experiencing homelessness in the YHSI community

Planning and Partnership

- ▶ Developing community-wide or region-wide partnerships to better identify and understand the needs of youth at-risk of or experiencing homelessness, including the salaries of staff working on these partnerships
- ▶ Compensating Youth Action Board members for their work on the YHSI grant activities
- ▶ Costs associated with hosting local conferences associated with youth homelessness
- ▶ Engagement, training, and cross-community coordination of youth with lived experience for participation in YHSI grant activities
- ▶ Costs associated with cross-training and developing community-wide policies and best practices for preventing or quickly resolving youth homelessness

HMIS Data Definition/Discussion

- ▶ Homeless Management Information Systems- the single information system designated by the Continuum of Care to comply with the HMIS requirements prescribed by HUD.
- ▶ Does the YHSI NOFO require Tribes to use HMIS
 - ▶ No. Several of the categories of the Data section in the YHSI NOFO are directly related to HMIS, but there are several activities that don't necessarily require HMIS. However, moving towards HMIS will help open up future opportunities from HUD.
 - ▶ HUD is still working through what HMIS looks like in the context of Tribal data sovereignty.

Data

- ▶ Upgrading, customizing, and enhancing the HMIS to better collect and report data on youth
- ▶ Recruiting new participants to HMIS, including purchasing or leasing information technology and training
- ▶ Technical, legal, and planning costs associated with creating data matches or data integration between different data collection sources, such as HMIS and school district data
- ▶ Developing and implementing evaluation and analysis strategies related to youth homelessness

Coordinated Entry Systems Definition/Discussion

- ▶ Coordinated Entry Systems- a centralized or coordinated process designed to coordinate program participant intake assessment and provision of referrals. A centralized or coordinated assessment system covers the geographic area, is easily accessed by individuals and families seeking housing or services, is well advertised, and includes a comprehensive and standardized assessment tool.

Coordinated Entry Systems

- ▶ Development or improvement of a youth-specific assessment tool
- ▶ Creating a prioritization plan for youth experiencing homelessness within the larger CES
- ▶ Activities related to better understanding needs of youth experiencing homelessness within CES
- ▶ Developing and implementing an ongoing evaluation process for the CES

Racial and Gender Equity

- ▶ Costs associated with conducting a community-wide racial and gender equity analysis
- ▶ Costs associated with developing an evaluation framework for current and future projects serving youth experiencing homelessness, including outcomes related to racial equity and LGBTQIA+ equity

Required Application Materials

Required Attachments: Rating Factor Responses

15

Rating Factor	Points
Proposed Project Activities	40
Budget	10
Youth Involvement	20
Project Outcomes and Evaluation	15
Regional Approach	15
Total	100

Required Attachment: Budget

- ▶ A project budget, which could include:
 - ▶ Personnel including salaries and benefits of employees
 - ▶ Costs associated with consultants, contracts, and subgrantees
 - ▶ Travel
 - ▶ Equipment, including costs associated with hardware or software purchases
 - ▶ Supplies and materials
 - ▶ Other direct costs
 - ▶ Indirect costs

Required Attachments

- ▶ Geography statement of the area that the application covers
- ▶ Milestone Chart: A proposed milestone chart that identifies the total length of the proposed project (maximum of 30 months) as well as the milestones, deliverables, responsible organization, and dates for completion. This chart will be used for monitoring progress for awarded applications and may be modified if the project experiences delays. See Section II.D of this Notice for grant term information.

Required Attachments: Letters of Commitment

- ▶ Letter of Commitment from the YAB or equivalent group of youth who will be involved in the project
- ▶ Letters of Commitment from partner organizations-
 - ▶ If one Tribe is submitting the application but the activities cover two or more Tribes, a letter of commitment is required from each Tribe that is not the lead applicant

Potential Project Examples

- ▶ Support a Youth Action Board of Tribal Youth to lead work on ending youth homelessness
- ▶ Engage and hire youth with lived experience of homelessness for project activities
- ▶ Create an exit strategy for youth exiting the child welfare system to ensure they do not exit to homelessness or housing instability
- ▶ Conduct an in-depth needs assessment for youth and identify gaps in services and housing

What's Next?

- ▶ Apply for the YHSI grants NOFO on [Grants.gov](#)
- ▶ Check out the [YHSI webpage](#) for more info