



## **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development COC Tribal Consultation – September 15, 2022**

**Facilitated by  
Jemine Bryon**

**Speaker 1:** Welcome and thank you for joining today's conference, including Indian Tribes and Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program. Before we begin, please ensure you've opened the WebEx chat panel, using the associated icon on the bottom right corner of your screen. Please note that all audio connections are muted until the Q and A portion of the call. You are, however, welcome to submit written questions throughout the presentation and these will be addressed during Q and A.

To submit your questions in writing, select everyone from the drop down menu in the chat panel, enter your question in the message box provided, and send. As a reminder, this conference is being recorded. If you require technical assistance, please send a chat to the event producer. With that, I'll turn the conference over to Jemine Bryon, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Special Needs. Please go ahead.

**Jemine Bryon:** Good afternoon everyone. Thank you so much for joining us today for this consultation session on a really exciting program here at HUD, the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program. So next slide. So again, I'm Jemine Bryon. You'll be hearing from a number of other speakers. Norm Sochar, director for our SNAPs office, Neely Sony, who's the division director, heading our YHDP programs, Caroline Crouse who is the YHDP co-coordinator, and there's actually a few other amazing members of our team who will also present today. Next slide.

So just a bit of an overview. We're going to go through the programs that are available to you and to other potential grantees. We will talk today about the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program, which is a program that we've seen some really terrific success and are really excited about expanding this opportunity to tribal governments, tribal communities as well.

We're also going to be talking about a new initiative and NOFO that we will be issuing in upcoming months and it is the Youth Homelessness System Improvement Grant. So again, two distinct programs, but also all working towards combating youth homelessness in our country. We'll also go over the goals of consultation and then at the end we want to really pose some questions that we have in some particular areas of interest that we really would welcome input from you.

But I encourage you as we go through this presentation, please jot down any questions, put the questions in the chat. When we get to the question and

answer portion, the line will be opened up for you to also speak and pose your questions. It's an amazing team here from not only the Office of Special Needs, but also we have members from ONAP as well joining us today.

So what is YHDP? Next slide. So the Youth Homeless Assist Demonstration Program is a program focused on creating partnerships and learning from youth with lived experience. There's an intensive community planning process that is engaged and it's all geared towards a creation of housing and services projects to address the needs identified through the planning process.

To date, we've awarded \$298 million to 77 communities across the United States. This has been a really successful program in many of these communities and we actually are seeing evidence of youth homelessness numbers coming down. So we are right now in the process of evaluating applications for our round six of the YHDP program, and we anticipate announcing those awards valued at about \$72 million early this fall. And there will be a new NOFO made available, notice of funding opportunity, with another \$72 million in funding. And we will hopefully release that NOFO in early 2023.

I will be turning it over to Caroline Crouse. Yes. Caroline Ebony, I'm turning it over to Ebony or is it you, Caroline? I'm sorry.

Caroline Crouse: I think it's me.

Jemine Bryon: Okay. Sorry folks. Turn it to the Caroline Crouse for her to take us through the next few slides.

Caroline Crouse: Thanks, Jemine, and Ebony, feel free to jump in if you have additional thoughts as well. So the YHDP program, or the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program, as Jemine mentioned, is a demonstration program at HUD that offers concentrated funding on addressing and ending youth homelessness in the community. The program works in a way of bringing together a number of different stakeholders that work with youth who are at risk of homelessness or experiencing homelessness.

And one of the critical members of those partnerships that come together are youth with lived experience of homelessness to help drive and determine what needs to be done in the community to create this system. The program gives grants that can be up to a total of \$1 million per community and a maximum award of \$15 million. These are renewable funds and can be renewed in future COC competitions.

We do offer a lot of flexibility in the design of the program. So the projects are roughly based on the continuum of care program regulations and rules, but we do allow for communities to have special activities that will better address the needs of the youth in the community, including extended time in rapid

rehousing, extended supportive services and additional services that may be more attuned to the needs of youth.

We also provide a large amount of technical assistance that kind of wraps around the community as they develop their coordinated community plan and designs and implements projects addressed at youth homelessness. That technical assistance includes direct technical assistance as well as technical assistance specifically on data collection and reporting on how to integrate youth with lived experience into your project and helping build up the capacity of youth action boards. And finally, some work with education technical assistance providers to help integrate K through 12 and higher education work into the community response.

So the questions that we're going to be asking later are going to be for the notice of funding opportunity that we hope to publish in early 2023. So those are what we're looking for, for additional ways that we can integrate the needs and address additional needs that may be for Native youth and for youth on reservations in order to improve the program.

This is just a map that shows where we've given out YHDP awards. They are based on roughly the continuum of care geography, although you can actually have less than the full geography of a continuum of care designated as a YHDP community. Continuums of care can be very small. It can be in just a specific local area such as Boston, or it can be as large as a whole state, including Montana received a YHDP.

There are three kind of stages of the YHDP. The first part is the application process to be designated a YHDP community. So for that, we ask that collaborative applicants respond to a notice of funding opportunity and say why they think their community should be a YHDP community and what work they're already doing to address youth homelessness for the community.

Once the applications under that NOFO are reviewed, then HUD will review those and announce the awarded communities and the total funding amounts for which they are getting funded. Then comes an intensive planning period that lasts approximately six months in which we ask communities to really create a YHDP team that has partners from across different stakeholders including child welfare agencies, juvenile justice, K through 12 education, higher education, youth with lived experience, many different partner stakeholders.

And in this process they analyze what the current system for responding to youth homelessness is and then what needs to be improved and how to make it better. And then finally, in order to address the needs that are identified in the coordinated community plan process, there's the project application, which is where the communities submit a project, submit project applications specifically to HUD, in order to address the needs that are identified in the coordinated community plan.

As I said before, the YHTP does allow for innovation with the projects beyond what's just generally allowed under the continuum of care rules does include some innovative projects that we feel like and communities have determined are specifically needed for youth, including looking at system navigators, including peer navigators for helping youth connect to different systems, host homes where youth may come and live with another family in order to get a safe place to live.

Working with joint transitional housing and rapid rehousing models so that there can be kind of a tiering of support and youth can get the level of support needed as they're ready. Partnerships across different agencies and extended time for time limited rental, which we sometimes refer to as RH plus, rapid rehousing plus. I'm going to turn it over to Neely at this point to talk about ... So that was the program that is currently in operation and we will have a NOFO available at the beginning of 2023. I'm going to turn it over to Neely Sony to talk about the other funding opportunity, the Youth System improvement grants.

Neely Sony:

Thanks, Caroline. I am glad that I got this slide to talk about because I'm super excited about the system improvement grant. This is a new funding opportunity for us that we are hoping to publish around spring of 2023, and today we are actually looking for some strategies, some ideas, and we would like to hear from you about how we could work on this funding opportunity. So in FY 2022, Congress approved 25 million for youth homelessness system improvement grants to support communities in establishing and implementing a response system for youth homelessness, or improving the current existing system. It is a one time fund. It cannot be used for housing or services.

Can you move to the next link please, Caroline? So this funding can actually be used for the below examples. So it can be used for youth collaboration in designing projects, implementations, as well as including the establishments of local youth advisory board. It can also assist with quality data collection, management and utilization evaluation. So really understanding the population of youth experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness in the community.

It can also be used for direct coordination and communication with service providers, including partnerships with tribal and cultural organizations in the community. It emphasizes on the cross system partnership as we do it for other YHGP and the YHGP NOFO that includes partnership with juvenile justice, child welfare, education system, employment services, and it also actually focuses on prevention and diversion strategies. I am actually going to be turning over to Norm for the next slide.

Norm:

Thank you very much Neely and thank you everyone for joining us. I want to talk a little bit about the background, sorry, of the Youth Homelessness Demonstration and our consultations. So in our previous consultations around youth homelessness, we've focused on the YHDP program because Congress

hadn't funded yet the youth homeless system improvement grants that Neely just talked about.

And over the course of these consultations, we've heard about some great budding partnerships with tribes including in Alaska, in Northern New Mexico and in Northwest Minnesota. So it's very exciting to see some progress in those areas. So I want to move on to the next slide. I wanted to recap some of the issues that have been raised in previous consultations.

One challenge that has been raised is how challenging it is to engage young people experiencing homelessness generally. The challenge of the lack of affordable housing has been a fairly consistent theme, including the lack of funding for housing. The importance of self-governance and local determination of the best use of funds, that's really important. That message has come through loud and clear. And that the HUD requirements and YHDP requirements are very complicated and there's a lot to them. And so there's additional clarification and materials needed to help explain those.

And another message that's come through is that each tribe is unique and has their own sort of dynamics. And it's important not to just assume that what's true for one tribe is true for other tribes. Every tribe has its unique aspects. Let's go onto the next slide and I wanted to talk about the goals of today's session.

So the goal of today's session is to get a better understanding of the unique needs of tribal youth who are experiencing or who are at risk of homelessness. We want to better understand how youth action boards, which have been such a critical, as you've heard, such a critical part of the youth homelessness demonstration, how those youth action boards can work with tribal leadership.

We want to better understand the ways in which the homelessness response system needs to meet the unique needs of tribes and the unique needs of tribal youth. So next we're going to turn to several questions that we want to hear feedback about. If you want to provide feedback, you can go ahead and type it in the chat window as Tegan mentioned earlier, type it in the chat window. Please make sure the send to box says everyone. That way everyone can see that message. Or you can raise your hand and we'd be happy to hear from you live and in person.

So let's move on to the next slide and we can look at our first question or set of questions. So the question, what services and organizations are most critical in Indian country for assisting youth during a housing crisis? And the question related to that is what services or organizations need to be created or enhanced to better address tribal youth homelessness? So I'll pause there and again, please go ahead and type in the chat window or go ahead and raise your hand if you have a comment you'd like to make.

Speaker 1: Today's chat is interactive, so if you'd like to make a comment or ask a question, select everyone from the dropdown menu in the chat panel and then put your question or comment to the message box provided and send. You can also use the raise hand icon in WebEx to virtually raise your hand and you will be unmuted when it's your turn.

Norm: I know that nobody wants to jump in first. I will say that the purpose of today's session is really to hear from you. So if you have any comments or anything you'd like to share with us, we really would love to hear from you. And again, you have the choice of typing it in the chat window or just go ahead and hit that raise hand button and we'd love to open up your mic so we can have that conversation.

So we have a comment that hopefully you can see in the chat window, but I'll just read it out loud for everyone's benefit. The services and organizations that are most critical for Salt Tribe, I hope I'm pronouncing that correctly, for assisting youth during a housing crisis, is homeless shelters and vouchers to provide temporary housing and hotels. Great comment. Thank you very much.

And a follow up, the services or organizations that need to be created or enhanced to better address tribal youth homelessness for Salt Tribe is more homeless shelters across our service area. Thank you very much. Another comment. The difficulty I see for youth that are wards of the court, there are insufficient placements, and minors don't have to go to placements if they do not want to. This is from California. Great point.

Speaker 1: We do have a hand raise.

Norm: Great. Let's go to that please.

Kimberly Hampto...: Hi, my name is Kimberly Hampton. I am a board of director with, it's pronounced the Sioux Tribe of Chippewa Indians. We are up in the upper peninsula of Michigan for our service area. And the issues we run into, which I just heard another or saw another comment regarding children in foster care placements, things like that, we do have issues with homelessness just in general.

We have one homeless shelter located in Sioux St. Mary, which is anywhere from two to three hours away from our other end service area. So we have been looking at other avenues for homeless shelters. However, we run into the issue of existing buildings or funding to be able to do this kind of infrastructure. Additionally, we do have a large foster care system with children who cannot find, I guess, a placement in our own tribal agency foster homes.

So we have to usually end up what we call is borrowing beds from state of Michigan licensed homes. Another thing that we've ran into is children who are stuck in between placements who are dealing with mental health crisis. We

have those children that if they are not able to return either to their home with their families or back to their foster care placement or relative placement, they are stuck in emergency rooms until they have a placement in a bed.

Our nearest bed from our service areas are anywhere from four to six hours away. So these children are technically homeless, sitting in an emergency room waiting to get services.

Norm: So that's really helpful. Thank you. So it sounds like there are a few dimensions to this. But can you talk about, actually it'd be helpful to understand, do you think the lack of services, is it a lack of program models or if programs were resourced up better, do you think there would be enough services and spaces for people? Or do you think there's work on both ends to be done? It sounds like there are program models that are a long distance away, so that's one issue. How much of this do you think is a need for we just need to stand up the programs that work versus we have them but they just don't have the capacity to serve, to meet the need?

Kimberly Hampto...: I would say we have the services. We have satellite offices throughout our service areas. However, we just do not have the resources available. We struggle. I mean we are in a huge housing crisis here anyway with a lot of families that are living in temporary locations because there's not enough housing. So we get into tribal youth being homeless either because they're homeless with their families or they're homeless because they've decided to step out on their own. We have some juvenile justice, or I guess in between workers, but we definitely need more ... even the foster care placements, we don't have enough licensed homes at all. So that's a part of it. Just having the space and also the funding to be able to put up additional housing units or additional homeless shelters.

Norm: Thank you, that's incredibly helpful.

Kimberly Hampto...: Yes. Thank you.

Norm: Thank you. We have some additional comments that have come in, one about the need for services to be immediate, which makes complete sense. We have a comment about building capacity for specific personnel. In other words, a youth coordinator who can provide trust with youth, providing a safe place, adding housing inventory, specifically for youth and young adults. Great comment there.

We have another comment about HUD's definition of homelessness not allowing for doubling up. People live doubled up more often than anything else as it relates to homelessness. Would definitely love to hear more about on those topics, either from you all who have posted the chat or anybody else. Another comment about hotel vouchers are great, but sometimes it's hard to find vacancies. Another great comment.

And the fact that many tribes are located in rural areas. So I sort of interpret that to mean that a lot of those services and resources are spread out, which makes that challenging. But if there are other aspects to that, I'd love to hear that as well. Why don't we go onto our next set of questions? But if people have more [inaudible 00:26:19]?

Speaker 1: We do have another hand raise.

Norm: Perfect, thank you.

Karen Shepherd: Hey, my name is Karen Shepherd with Showard Valley [inaudible 00:26:30] Indians. I think the difficulty when I made my statement regarding the foster youth also is there's funding if they're in the home with a family or adult relative, but in the situation where they don't have that, there's really not a lot of help for them. We have kids sitting down in the CPS office. They have a little back room where they could sleep in, but I mean they're not getting any of the nurturing needs they need met.

So it would be helpful if we had like somebody else had said, maybe a housing for youth. We're talking 16, 17, 18 where they have a choice on not going to specific placement. I didn't realize that it was such a situation until I recently became involved in one where there they had several placements and the youth kept saying, "No, I don't want to go there. No, I don't want to go there. No, I'm not going there."

And they're like, "We can't force them." So we don't know how much more to take it if we can't find anybody to take them in. And we basically leave it on the hands of the county instead of trying to work that out amongst ourselves sometimes because [inaudible 00:27:45] the wards of the court is their responsibility and it's not, it's all of ours. And we would like more resources to be able to have them closer, build something for them locally. They don't want to go four or five hours out of the area, they just won't. But that's just my thought on it. Thank you.

Norm: Thank you. That's a great insight and I think really, really helpful for us to think about going forward. Do we have any other hands up?

Speaker 1: Not at this time, no.

Norm: So let's go to our next question, but I just want to reiterate you are more than welcome to keep making comments on the first set of questions as well. So our second question is, are there youth led organizations in your area or your tribe, and how do they interact with tribal leadership? I think we're asking about obviously if they're homelessness related youth led organizations, that's great. But even if there are other types of youth led organizations, that would be great to hear about.



Speaker 1: All right. We'll go to the hands we have raises.

Norm: Great, thank you.

Kimberly Hampto...: Hi. So Kimberly Hampton again, border director with the Sioux tribe of Triple Indians. So years past, we used to have a tribal youth council where we would have children anywhere from 10 years all the way up to 18 years, come together with our youth education coordinators. They would meet after school, they would talk about the issues that they're each having, different areas that they could help.

When COVID hit, we led away from there just due to safety and health concerns. We now this school year have started back up with that. So we are still trying to recruit some additional youth. So that is the main thing we do have is what is our tribal youth council. So the group of children, we have children in a group and each of our little parts of our service areas. They all get together over Zoom usually once a year they all meet face to face.

They obviously work together on different adding cultural activities for our youth, adding even just different educations, even if they all need counseling, things like that. They can tell us what they feel where our areas are lacking, and then what they will do is they will present reports to us board of directors, or we obviously are welcome to join their youth council meetings when they have them.

So I personally do attend our youth council meetings in my area. That way I'm able to speak with them and then it seems it's just one step that makes things go a little smoother. That way I can bring it to the rest of the board and look for those additional fundings on situations that they would like.

Norm: That's great. Thank you for sharing that example. I wonder if you could, if you don't mind, if you could talk about the degree to which you think the youth council is sort of, that their needs are met or that their views are not utilized or their views are taken into account in ongoing decision making and programming and policy and all those other areas where they're making recommendations.

Kimberly Hampto...: Yes. So specifically in my area, due to COVID, we have not had a powwow here in the past two years. So that is one area that they had spoken with me about that they would all like to be able to do that and get involved in our cultural activities. So I myself went and sought additional funding. That way we would be able to have a powwow. We are not scheduled to have one until September of 2023, but I do have the tribal youth council, tribal elders, tribal members, and other tribal leaders working with all of us to plan this. So that is one way.

Another way is some of them were expressing when they were younger, they remember working on some of our native drums, and that was kind of shied away because we had a couple of our elders who had passed away who led

those groups. So I, as well with another board of director, we went and we sought out a certain individual who we knew would be good at it. And this past Wednesday, so yesterday, they had their first youth drum session after school. So we heard their need to be involved in powwow and to be involved in the drums. We also are working with our youth education coordinator in getting some of our youth regalia made as they have the desire to be dancing in our powwows.

Norm: That's great, thank you. Thank you for sharing that.

Kimberly Hampto...: Yes, thank you.

Norm: We do have a couple other comments that have come in, I think about the previous question, about additional service needs in the area. One on landlord engagement or mitigation funding available to landlords in the case of loss or damage to housing units. Another one is that many children do not know how to live on their own. There's a need for basic skills such as even taking out the garbage or what hoarding means. That's helpful. Thank you. Do we have anyone else with their hands up wanting to join in?

Speaker 1: I'm not showing any other hands raised at this time.

Norm: Okay. We'll give everyone a couple more minutes to collect their thoughts. And if you have more comments about youth led organizations or about the services we talked about previously, please go ahead and either raise your hand or type it in the chat window. All right, why don't we jump to our next question? Thank you. So the last question we had teed up is who or what organization do tribal youth experiencing homelessness on or off a reservation, who do they turn to for assistance? And the related question is how can HUD assist these organizations?

We had another comment come in about [foreign language 00:36:19]. I'm sure I'm not pronouncing that correctly. [inaudible 00:36:23] in Minneapolis. That would be a good place to research for youth providers. Thank you very much for that. We can follow up with that. And if you have some suggestions or comments about who or what organizations, tribal youth experiencing homelessness, are turning to for assistance, please go ahead and share in the comments or feel free to raise your hand.

And Karen has come in with a comment, "In our area they go to their schools or the tribes. The tribes do not have enough affordable housing and sometimes they get referred to the tribal lead designated housing entities." And we have another comment about how people go to the tribal councils. I would love to hear about the experience when young people go to tribal councils for assistance, if somebody wanted to share how that works and how that looks, I'd be delighted to hear about that.

We have a comment coming in. Our youth turned to our youth education coordinator and her two assistants as they have offices in our schools. These individuals point people to our social services department to work with our case workers. Thank you. Do we have any hands up?

Speaker 1: I'm not sure any hands are raised at this time.

Norm: Okay, we have a couple more comments that have come in. I sit on our tribal council. I have not had a youth come to the tribal councils. They are probably served directly from tribal office staff. The tribe does not have specific resources. A suggestion for HUD, that HUD can assist by providing additional funding. And another comment that other members of the community that may or may not be family members of the youth, I think referring to where young people are turning for assistance.

And that, I think, is a really important resource is other family and relatives or acquaintances or other resources in the community. So I want to open it up a little more broadly at this point. So we obviously had some questions that are targeted at different parts of the network of resources in a community and how they can be bolstered or what's missing and where the gaps are. We'd love to hear suggestions about what is needed to prevent and end youth homelessness, and if you have suggestions about steps that HUD can take or just general suggestions, we'd love to hear about those.

When we're talking about youth, we're talking about both underage youth, so youth that are up to age 18 perhaps, and also what some people call transition age youth. So youth from basically from about age 18 to age 24. So we'd love to hear about both of those groups of young people. And so if you have suggestions for what kinds of resources, what kinds of policies, those kinds of things, we'd love to hear about those, or any experiences you think that you've seen youth in your area have that you think it would be helpful for this discussion.

Another really important comment. Young people turn to other youth. They want to stay together. So that that's a really important insight. Thank you. Transition age youth 18 to 24 struggle. Is there are not enough housing options available? When renting, they often do not have the credit needed to qualify for renting. We have another comment that youth many times are solving problems themselves and with their peers. They are not always reaching out to our trusted adults.

And another comment, it's incredible how similar these are, but another comment about how more often than not they are staying with friends. Housing options are necessary for displaced youth. There is not enough options for them or options that are managed safely. It's a great comment. Just want to check in quickly to see if we have anyone with their hand up.

Speaker 1: I'm not showing any hands raised at this time.

Norm: Thank you. We have a couple more comments that have come in. Could HUD provide high school youth with budgeting education as well as job exploration? That would help youth in the transition stage once they reach 18. We have another comment. Tribal youth experiencing homelessness do not know where to turn for help and are sometimes difficult to reach. And another comment about youth drop-in centers and shelters where there are no expectations other than to be a youth. It's a nice way to phrase that. Thank you.

Just want to remind everyone, you're welcome to comment on any topic you think is relevant here or if you have a question, welcome to ask a question. Not certain that we'll be able to answer it, but we'd be happy to try. But again, these comments have been really, really helpful and we'd love to hear more of your thoughts about these things. And also even if it's something that somebody has already commented on, again, one of the things we recognize is every tribe is unique and it's helpful to know from your tribe's perspective how true these things are as well.

Okay. It sounds like people have finished seeing the stuff they're ready to say. We are always welcome to hear new comments. I wonder if Neely or Caroline, I don't know which of you would know the answer to this, but if one of you could talk about, oh this is perfect, thank you. If you have additional comments or questions, or you think of something after the session ends, or anything you'd like to share with us, we have a mailbox [youthdemo@hud.gov](mailto:youthdemo@hud.gov) and we'd love to hear from you.

We get a lot of great suggestions through that mailbox. We have some other resources. I think we lost our PowerPoint here. Let's get it back. Thank you very much. We have some other resources we want to share. They're listed here. You can really just search for YHDP on Google or your search engine of choice. It's pretty easy to pull up these resources, but feel free to check out those resources when you go and see those resources and you see things that are missing, please feel free to share that with us as well, because we are always looking to try and find better ways to communicate and try to produce materials that are helpful to people who are doing this great work of trying to end youth homelessness in tribal areas.

So with that, I think we're going to wrap up. I want to thank Jemine and Neely and Caroline and everyone else who presented on the call, and I very much want to thank everyone who participated in the webinar. We very much value your partnership and we are eager to do more and better in this space as we learn how to make the YHTP program work better for tribes and in tribal areas. So thank you very much.

We have a question about whether we can get a recording from the webinar. We will distribute the recording. I don't actually remember how that gets distributed. I don't know if someone on the call chat or somebody else happens

to know how we'll distribute the recording. If you do happen to know, please feel free to jump in, but we will get the recording out for everyone. Does anybody happen to know how we share the recording? Do we post it or do we email it out?

Caroline Crouse: I believe that the recording will be posted on the ONAP page code talk and I will put the URL for that in the chat box, and I think we will also post it to the YHDP page.

Norm: Great. Thank you very much, Caroline, and thank you for reminding us about that. And with that, I want to wish everyone a great rest of the day and thank you again for joining us, and look forward to having more conversations in the future. And that ends the session today. Thank you.

Speaker 1: Hi, that concludes our conference. Thank you for using event services. You may now disconnect.