



## **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development COC Tribal Consultation – September 7, 2022**

**Facilitated by  
Jemine Bryon**

**Facilitator:** Welcome and thank you for joining today's conference, Including Indian Trials in Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program. Before we begin, please ensure you've opened the WebEx chat panel with the associated icon on the bottom-right corner of your screen. Please note that all audio connections are muted until the Q&A portion of the call. You are however, welcome to submit written questions throughout the presentation, using the interactive chat. These will be addressed during Q&A. To submit written questions, select Everyone from the dropdown menu in the chat panel, and to 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 of special needs. Please go ahead.

**Jemine:** Can you, I'm sorry. I just want to make hi good afternoon everyone. It's a pleasure to be here with you today and have this opportunity to present a few funding opportunities that HUD is providing to its communities to address homelessness. So we are specifically going to be talking about youth homelessness today, and we'll towards the end, welcome any questions or comments you may have. Next slide. So we have a couple of speakers who will be presenting today. I'm Jemine Bryon, and then we'll also have Norm Suchar, who is the director for the Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs known as SNAPS. We also will have Nili Soni, who is the division director for the Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs, and who specifically administer the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program. And then we have Caroline Crouse, who is our Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program, co-coordinator and she is a member of the SNAPS office as well.

Next slide. So today's agenda. We have about a one hour. We just completed the welcome and introductions. We're going to provide an overview of the Youth Homeless Demonstration Program. You'll hear us keep saying YHDP, YHDP. And then we want to also specifically talk about a new funding opportunity, which is called the Youth Homelessness System Improvement grants program. So two of them that we'll be talking about, and then we'll get into the goals of this consultation session. And then again, we have a couple of questions to sort of spark a conversation, but also welcome any question that you may have any recommendation or any comment that you may have as well.

Next slide. So YHDP, what is it? Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program. So it's a grant program that's focused on us creating partnerships and learning from youth with lived experiences, ultimately to address youth homelessness in their communities. So the YHDP program includes an intensive community

planning process, and it provides for the creation of housing and services through projects that will address the needs that are identified through the planning process. So we're really proud of this program and to-date, we've had numerous rounds and we've awarded to 77 communities totaling about \$298 million for a variety of projects to address youth homelessness. We are right now in the process of evaluating a one round, and we plan to announce awards of about \$72 million this fall. We're also working on releasing a new notice of funding opportunity, a NOFO for another \$72 million in funding early in calendar, 2023. So I will now turn it over to Caroline Crouse, who will provide a little bit more detail about the YHDP program. Caroline?

Caroline: Thanks Jemine. So as Jemine was saying, the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program, or I'm going to probably default to YHDP through this, is a concentrated funding grant program that is focused on addressing an ending youth homelessness in the community. The funding is really an opportunity for communities to explore new ways to address youth homelessness, creating youth-specific housing or services projects. And the funding is an initial two-year grant term that can be renewed as a COC project at the end of those two terms, communities are awarded a total amount under the YHDP program. That amount can be as low as a \$1 million. And the maximum award is up to \$15 million. Using those funds, communities decide which projects are the most important to address youth homelessness in the community and can spread that funding out across as many projects as they think is the right number of projects.

We do allow a lot of flexibility in the project design. The projects are based on the Continuum of Care Program Regulations, but we have a variety of flexibilities that we allow communities to take advantage of so that they can better address youth homelessness and youth needs in their communities. In addition to the funding, we give in-depth technical assistance to help the communities plan for how to use their funding and to develop and implement projects for using the funding. So, as Jemine noted, we've already, we are soon going to announce our sixth round of YHDP funding, that'll be in the next few weeks, but what we're really hoping to learn from this call is ways to improve the YHDP funding opportunity and the program design, so that we can take that into account when we are creating the NOFO or then notice a funding opportunity that will be published in early 2023 for the round seven YHDP grants.

I wanted to show you a map of which communities have received funding so far for YHDP. So again, we have not announced round six, so this will show just the first five rounds of funding. I want to just call attention to the fact that there are a number of scales, right, of a wide YDHP community. They can be as large as a whole state, such as the state of Montana, and as small as a city, like the city of San Francisco. There are also states where there are places where there are multiple YHDPs, but they do go by COC or Continuum of Care. So no Continuum of Care has received more than one grant for overlapping geography, but you can do part of a COC. So one example of that is the Ohio Balance of State

Continuum of Care. They have two different YHDP communities, because they have a smaller area as their YHDP community than their whole COC.

So the YHDP has a number of different stages. The first part is where a community will come together and apply for funding through HUD. That goes through a notice of funding opportunity where HUD describes the opportunity and gives rating factors or ways that we will assess applications for that. The NOFO once those applications are submitted and reviewed by HUD, we will announce who the YHDP communities are. At that point, the communities jump into the coordinated community plan process, and what that is the community comes together, different partners from other systems that may touch youth homelessness, including child welfare, juvenile justice, a number of different partners come together to really analyze what the needs are in the youth homeless system. And I want to say, and I should have said this at the beginning, one of the key parts of the YHDP is that every community has to establish a youth action board.

The youth action board is made up of at least three youths in the community who have lived experience of homelessness, and they really help drive the development of the coordinated community plan, as well as give input and leadership into the project design that uses the YHDP funding and the implementation of that project. So after the coordinated community planning process is done, then that's about six months, then the communities can determine what projects they're going to submit for funding from HUD. It comes out of that bigger funding pool that's announced before or at the community designation stage. And those projects then will be individually funded and implemented within the community.

The projects really do have an opportunity to take kind of the bones of what you can fund under the Continuum of Care program, but really tailor it to youth needs. So some of the projects that we have funded, include system navigators, including youth who may have lived experience and can help youth who are in crisis help navigate systems, host homes, creating combined transitional housing and rapid rehousing, so that you can create kind of a scaffolding of support for youth who are entering the project. We allow for extended time under for rental assistance. So taking rapid rehousing projects to 36 months. We also have a number of projects that have really gone into partnerships with the public child welfare agencies, higher education, K through 12 schools and the justice system. So that was a very, very quick overview of the YHDP program. I'm going to turn this over now to Nili Soni, to discuss the second program that we wanted to kind of discuss today, the Youth Homeless System Improvement grants.

Nili:

Thanks, Caroline. This is very exciting. We are really excited about this new funding opportunity, the Youth Homelessness System Improvements grant, which will actually be used to better position communities to address youth homelessness. We have 25 million for this particular grant for support communities and establishing as it is implementing a response for youth

homelessness or improving their existing system. This fund can be used only one time, it is not renewable, and cannot be used for housing and services. We are hoping that this funding opportunity would be announced sometime in spring of 2023. Next slide. And here are some examples of how this grant could look like. So it is something like youth collaboration. We can use it as youth collaboration in project design and implementation, including establishment of local youth advisory boards, quality data collection, management, utilization, and evaluation, direct coordination, and communication with service providers, cross system partnership, including juvenile justice, child welfare and education systems. We can also use it for prevention and diversion strategies. I'm going to return you over to Norm, who's going to give us some background information.

Norm:

Thank you very much Nili and welcome everyone. So I want to provide a little background. First, I want to say that this is the first time we are talking about these Youth System Improvement grants. In previous consultations we hadn't had any funding from Congress for this activity. So what Nili described is something that's new and that we're very excited to hear from you all about. Also, wanted to mention that as we've been looking at how communities are doing with respect to coordination with tribes and tribal organizations, we are starting to see some examples of good developing partnerships. Just want to call out a few Alaska. We have two Continuums of Care. The Northern New Mexico region is working on some strong partnerships and the Northwest Minnesota Continuum of Care. So we want to keep fostering those partnerships and just wanted to call out some good examples here. Also, wanted to mention that as you can see in the second bullet, beginning in the 2021, YHDP competitions, tribes, and Tribally Designated Housing Entities can be YHDP grant recipients and can apply as a YHDP community.

So we're very excited. We know that this is potentially going to start slowly and we want to help build it over time, but we're very excited that we can have tribes participating. And then again, wanted to mention that we have done a tribal consultation on YHDP back in January. There's a link to those materials. We'll try to also post those in the chat window, so you can take a look at those. Moving on to the next slide. Want to talk about some of the challenges that we've, well, first I want to talk about some of the previous feedback about challenges we've gotten from our tribal consultation sessions. You can see some of those here in all communities connecting with youth experiencing homelessness is a huge challenge. People tend to move around a lot, and it's just hard to form longer lasting relationships. So that's a challenge we've heard about. The lack of affordable housing and the lack of resources to develop new housing, definitely a challenge we have heard.

The importance of self-governance and making sure that the stakeholders in the community are determining the best use of funds we understand is just a critical element of making the program work well. And we also know that the Continuum of Care and YHDP programs are complicated programs. There are a lot of requirements, and there's a need for support to communities to explain

and help them follow all the requirements and to operate the programs within those requirements. Let's move to the next slide, please.

I want to talk a little bit about what we're hoping to accomplish in this consultation. We want to better understand the unique needs of tribal youth who are at risk of, or experiencing homelessness. We want to better understand how youth action boards can work with tribal leadership. Youth action boards have been a crucial part of the YHDP program and it's something we feel has worked really well, but we also understand there are some unique issues with respect to how the youth action boards will work with tribal organizations in tribal leadership, and we want to understand those better. And then what are those unique needs in tribes in among tribal youth that have to be reflected in a homeless response system? So all things we want to understand better. So with that, I'm going to turn things back to Jemine to go through the next part of our presentation. Jemine?

Jemine:

Thanks Norm. Thanks Nili. Thanks Caroline. Folks that was a lot of information. And as Norm said, there are really a lot of information that we've learned through the consultation session that we're working on addressing as best as we can. These programs are new to many and will take time to really develop and really take advantage fully of it. But that's the point of this session and us making ourselves available at any time to answer any questions or to provide any guidance as possible. So for today's session, again, these are, I want to offer a few questions just to spark the conversation, maybe trigger some ideas in your experience that you can provide to us so that we can consider incorporating them. Again, maybe it'll give you some direction on some areas of focus you need to have down the road, if you intend to apply for these funding opportunities. So why don't I just throw a couple of the questions out and again, welcome anything in the chat, but also I think we'll open it up for our live questions to be taken as well.

So our first question that we want to pose to you is what services and organizations are most critical in Indian country for assisting youth when they are facing a housing crisis? And while you're thinking about that, it's the same questions. Therefore, what services or organizations do we need to be created or enhanced to better address tribal youth homelessness in your communities? Can I ask the facilitator, how will we, if someone monitoring for someone who wants to come on live and ask a question?

Facilitator:

If you would like to put your responses in the chat and feel free to do so and select everyone so that everyone can see your response, or you can click on the raise hand icon and it'll be on the right-hand side of your screen, just above the chat box, it'll be in the participants box. It looks like a hand. So click on that, and it will indicate that you wish to offer your perspective verbally. And I will unmute you. You'll hear a beep when you're unmuted, at which point, please then state your name, the tribe you represent and your question.

Norm: So we have one question in the chat I want to throw out for Nili about the Youth System Improvement grants. Can you talk about what the benefits are for tribes in participating in this new initiative?

Nili: Yep. Thanks Norm. This is really a great opportunity if you have already started working with COC or you can connect with the COC to better position to apply for future youth funding opportunity. It helps build in the system, create new as well as improve youth homelessness response systems in the tribal areas. We are hoping that this, because as I think one of the slides actually usually shared about some of the ways that this can actually enhance the system by youth collaboration in designing the project and implementing it with quality data collection, involving local youth to participate and help build a program. Their coordination with different service agencies and service providers, different stakeholders, also a great opportunity to build a cross-system partnership that includes child welfare, education system, preventions, and build on different strategies for housing. So it's going to be very beneficial kind of support that can be used with this funding.

Jemine: And I would also emphasize, as we said, this is the first year that this funding has been made available. So yeah, we're designing it and we're open to any ideas on what would be most useful, most desired. So again, this is the point of the consultation we really are pretty much at the beginning stages of preparing to issue a NOFO for the system improvement grant. So please, any ideas, cautions concerns, guidance you want to provide, this would be a great time to do so as well. Okay. So again, just thinking about the question about services and organizations that are most critical for youth, what needs to be created or what needs to be enhanced, to be better to help address tribal youth homelessness? And again, these slides will be made available. The questions are contained in the slides. We welcome, I think there'll be a box that's established for you to provide any written comments as well. Why don't we go on to the second set of questions? Okay.

So about what might exist out there already. Are there youth-led organizations in your area are tribe now? And we'd like to understand how do they interact with the tribal leadership? A shy group today.

Norm: So we have a comment in the chat window about will COCs have the opportunity to work with the justice system under this grant? Just a general comment, I would say, is the point of this consultation is to raise those kinds of points and that's certainly an option. And we very much would be interested in hearing from you all about whether that kind of thing is a direction we should go with this. So great comment.

Jemine: And I think how a community would work with the justice system, it varies, but it's an opportunity that's available both under the YHDP program and the system improvement grants that we're talking about. So both funding opportunities may present that opportunity to work with the justice system. But thank you for the question, Arlene. Okay. Did anybody like to share about any

youth-led organizations that you currently have in your area or as part of the tribe and how do they interact with tribal leadership or community? All right. I'm anticipating a lot of written responses. Oh, okay. Why don't we go on to question number three.

Norm:                   Jemine, we did have a comment.

Jemine:                Please, go ahead.

Norm:                   We have a couple comments actually. One is about, are these questions specifically for federally-recognized tribes? Nili, I wonder if you can talk about how YHDP works with respect to tribes or maybe Caroline?

Caroline:             I can start and then Nili, if you want to jump in. So YHDP right now, the way that YHDP works is that we need a collaborative applicant from a Continuum of Care to apply to be for the designation as a YHDP community, but they can designate any area within their COC, or it can be a whole COC. And then individual organizations apply for the funding within there. And so, it does not need to be a federally-recognized tribe or specifically a tribe at all. What we are trying to do is that until the most recent notice of funding opportunity, tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities were not able to actually directly apply for the funding. Tribes were able to partner to inform the planning process and help kind of spur what interventions were needed, but they weren't able to apply directly for the money and to implement the projects directly.

And so, any organization, whether it is run by a federally-recognized tribe now, or, well, not any organization, but federally-recognized tribal organizations can now apply for the funding, but most of the projects are not run by tribes. So it isn't specific to federally-recognized or no.

Norm:                   Thank you. We have several other comments. I'll just sort of summarize. We've had about four comments that have come in. So first comment, not speaking for all tribes, the Ho-Chunk nation does not currently have specific youth homelessness programs. And going back to the first question about what services are needed, tribal social service programs and tribal housing programs could work together on the issue. Separate comment, going back to the first question, many of their youth have no credit or bad credit, because their parents have used their social security number for various things. Great comment. Youth need access to transportation to get jobs. Many do not know how to drive, because there's no car in the family services to help youth improve or understand credit, how to get a driver's license, how to get a job, et cetera. All of this is needed to get into housing. Another comment about many colleges, universities have American Indian student associations that work with youth through various camps and programs.

And another comment about that second question saying they do not have a youth program for housing specifically, but they see the need many youth live in

overcrowded homes and bad home settings, because of drug usage. So great comments. Thank you.

Jemine: So really, really, really good comments. Thank you all for sharing that. But we go to our third question and that is who or what organization do tribal youth experiencing homelessness on or off a reservation, what organization do they currently turn to for assistance? How can HUD assist these organizations? What are the resources there for youth now? So again, what organizations do tribal youth experiencing homelessness turn to for assistance?

Norm: We have another comment saying, "We have a boys and girls club and a youth director who advocates for the youth and our housing department works with her to try to help, but we just don't have the services or money available. The age group who falls into these cracks are 17 to 21 year olds." Again. Great comment. Thank you.

Jemine: Great comment. And of course, this is a great funding opportunity to address that as well with the YHDP program. I think we saw a comment right before that one Norm that not read out yet.

Norm: Oh, you're right. I missed it. Thank you. So, again, speaking to this question about what organizations do youth turn to, social services, health, and human services, emergency shelters that they gain access to and school personnel.

Jemine: Again, all great resources, many communities benefit them from that as well. And want to emphasize again with the YHDP program and also with the systems improvement grant funding opportunity. There's the opportunity to leverage those current services that are available to amplify them, to work in joint partnership with those organizations to really have a broader reach for youth in your community. So again, this is not meant to necessarily substitute any of that, but it certainly would be a wonderful opportunity to enhance those services and have a more specific target towards housing. So again, if you want to respond on audio, please click the raise hand button. That's in the participant's window at the bottom right.

Norm: We have another comment. The comment is, "We have a situation where a 15-year-old has lost both her parents and wants to stay in the home to care for her younger siblings, but we are having a hard time assisting her because of her age."

Caroline: Norm, if I wanted to just kind of followup on that. I think ages definitely can be a real challenge, because of the additional state and local laws that come into play often with minors. So I think it would be interesting to hear more from you Sally, about where the challenges is, is it because the state is trying to place her in a different or the child in a different setting and you're wondering how you can work within that system? I will say, too, just as Sally, if you wanted to come off mute, you can just click on the raise hand button in the bottom right, but I



would just say too, one of the things that we try to emphasize with the YHDP but also I think would be really emphasized with the Youth System Improvement grants, is creating those connections and partnerships with child welfare. So that in situations where there may be a better kinship care or a host home option, that a child welfare agency can hear and work with you on those partnerships so that the youth can get the best resource possible.

Jemine: Great point Caroline.

Norm: But are there any restrictions about using YHDP funding for people to serve people under 18?

Caroline: Actually, I will answer that, but it looks like Sally might have her hand up.

Sally: Yes. I just saw where I was unmuted. So thank you. But back to the situation we have with our 15-year-old, who just recently lost both of our parents within two weeks of each other, we're working with our social services department and her extended family. There's some aunties that live here, but the problem that our housing department is having is because of our head regulations and the way our grants are and so forth, and the services we have available just doesn't service that age group. So that's the problem we're having is well, how can we still service the home even though we know it's a 15-year-old, that's really the head of household now? So that's the barriers and the difficulties that we're experiencing.

Caroline: And different HUD programs I know specifically, like the voucher program does have age restrictions, or I believe it does. YHDP does not. Our funds can be used to assist minors. I think the only caveat to that is it has to be in line with state and local laws. So there are some states that won't, for instance, allow someone under 18 to sign a lease. And so, in those cases, it may be that the options there are limited by the state law. But I think what we're hoping is to create a system where if you have a youth, especially an older youth that may be better served with those wraparound services and those connections to a good support system, maybe better served with starting to go more towards independence than necessarily going into say a foster care system. So those are some of our goals, and that is a really great comment to learn more about how it's not just the foster care system that might be putting these rules on, but even HUD programs.

Sally: Thank you.

Facilitator: And we do have another hand raise. I'm going to go ahead and unmute Bridget.

Bridget: Hi, I have a question regarding to Sally's situation. Is there a way that a family member can live with her until she's 18 and then be granted as head of household once she turns 18?

Norm: So Sally, if you're welcome to come back on, if you want to address that. In the meantime, maybe Caroline, you can talk about, is that something you could use the YHDP program funds for? Could you fund an activity like that?

Sally: That's what I was wondering is if we could fund an activity that would keep the young person in the home right now, all of the aunties and the extended family are already in their home and they're receiving HUD services in those homes. So we haven't located someone that can really feel that role as of yet.

Caroline: Yeah. So I'm not quite sure I understand when you say the aunties are in the home. Are they in the home with the child or with the youth?

Sally: No, I'm sorry. They're in other homes here on the reservation. So we're providing services to those homes as well. And we can't really double up and put somebody in another home and provide services to that second home. So we're on the lookout for someone who can fill that role and be the head of household for the home. That so far, we haven't been able to locate that person. And it would just be nice if maybe something like this program could help us fill that gap.

Caroline: So I think the YHDP could be a really good match for that. There are a number of programs that communities have implemented. I think that the first thing that's coming to mind for me is kinship care in host homes where the youth may go and live in the home of someone who is willing to open up their doors and offer a safe space and a bedroom and all of that. And then the youth would receive wraparound services as well to ensure that they can reach stabilization and self-sufficiency eventually. The situation you are talking about of having the minor stay in a home and then who would be the head of household. I think a lot of that does depend on state law, honestly, of whether, and as someone said in the chat, would emancipation make a difference there? And it could, but I don't know, state law enough to be able to give you a definitive answer.

What I will say is that YHDP is designed so that in situations like this, we would hope the community would be able to, especially if it is happening on, there are a number of youth that may be experiencing a similar tragedy and looking for that housing stabilization afterwards of looking at how the community can best respond to that. And we try to make YHDP designed, so that it's as flexible as possible for the needs that are identified in the community. So it would be great to know, too. I feel like there are two things going, I would love to connect with you after to see if we can do any problem solving to see about this particular youth, because this is someone that's in crisis right now, in terms of how the YHDP is designed and is this a situation that comes up frequently enough of a youth needing to be living by themselves? Is that something that we should be addressing in future program design?

Nili: This is Nili. I just want to add one other thing that Caroline already actually stressed on this was about working with child welfare services. Really, this is again a space where we can partner with child welfare services to look at other

options like kinship care, if there are state laws or certain things that may prohibit using YHDP funds for it. So I don't know if Sally, that option has been explored.

Caroline: This is Caroline. I also wanted to jump in on what Nili was saying as well. So I think this is really what Sally is bringing up is a good example of some of the things we're trying to address with the YHDP of different systems that a youth may experience, like a homeless response system, a child welfare system, a juvenile justice system that all have their own rules and may not be able to respond directly to the needs of youth. And I wonder if there are other organizations that people feel like there need to be more connections and partnerships to be more responsive to you, but it looks like Sally's back Nili if you wanted to ask your question again.

Nili: Yeah. My question Sally was about, has there been some collaboration with child welfare services about this particular situation?

Sally: There has been. Our social services department is working that angle now, and I'm not sure where that sits at the moment, but it didn't occur to me that emancipation could be an option too. So I'm going to call our social services director after I get off this call and get some more information.

Nili: Yeah. Thank you. And we're happy to have a conversation after this call. Also, I'll put in the email address for us. So please see free to reach out to us.

Sally: Okay, great. Thank you.

Nili: Thank you.

Jemine: Sally, again, thank you so much for raising this issue. It is from these very real life experiences that our youth are going through that really help shape this program, or really force us to put in as much flexibility as we can in the design of the program. So as these things happen and experiences are being realized in communities, you have the authority under the NOFA, under this program to adjust and to be able to accommodate what the need is. I mean, that is a primary goal of us, of all of us in the standup of this program. And even though we've had six rounds of competition already, it is evolving. It is constantly evolving each time. You heard me say, it's a Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program. The demonstration part is what gives HUD the flexibility to really customize the design of this program. So this is a really important discussion that we're having. Thank you for bringing that situation up for discussion.

And I really want to invite anyone else with questions, comments, experiences that you've had that really can help inform and shape these two programs that we're talking about today, the YHDP program and the system improvement grant, Youth System Improvement grant. Is it a program? Have we put program on it or initiative, team? What are we calling this? We got to come up with a

cute acronym too. Let me also say we do have a second session. Is that still scheduled for September 15th? 15. Okay. September 15th, where we'll go over pretty much the same presentation, really present the same questions. I really want to invite you to, again, Caroline, maybe we can just flip through question one, two and three, just keep in mind the questions.

And we're really putting these out, not as the only questions, but they certainly are sort of gaps in our knowledge that we have identified at this point, especially as it relates to the needs in tribal country. So it's really, really, really important that we get as much information as we can. So again, just flipping through the questions, which will be restated on September 15th, and I invite you to come back and join that, our call as well and feel free to engage in the discussion when we get to this part of it. Okay. Let me give one last option for live questions, comments, recommendations.

Caroline: I mean, it looks like Neil has his hand up.

Jemine: Okay.

Facilitator: Yep. Let me go ahead and unmute him.

Neil: It's good afternoon. My name is Neil Whitehall and I'm with the Ho-Chunk Housing and Community Development Agency out of Tomah, Wisconsin with the Ho-Chunk nation tribe of Wisconsin. And I'd like to thank you for holding this tribal consultation today and kind of exposing us to the questions. I just wanted to add. And I think it should be addressed that, and maybe you already know this, so I'm sorry if I'm saying something you already know. So within HUDs there's 567 tribal housing organizations that while we might all be Native American, that we all are unique, tribal entities and governments, and that the different tribes in relationship to each other, we may have some similarities, but each of one of those tribes do have different circumstances, different culture. And for that, most part are just unique and that's where it's hard. And I would like to relate that comments that I make, I don't mean to put onto other tribes when you're considering programs. And I would hope that you would really take that into consideration, because sometimes these tribal consultations will go, especially if you don't work with Native Americans very often.

And that's why I do applaud to you guys for extending that kind of handout to tribal nations. But just to let you know, that comments should be kind of taken and not kind of just say, "Oh yeah, well, Neil said in Wisconsin that this is how they do things and it should be applied to folks in Alaska or even Hawaii or Texas." So those tribes, I just wanted just to say that, and I'm sure maybe you guys already knew that. And so, I thank you for that recognition, but we do appreciate this. And I think it gives us a good from my perspective of being the executive director of a housing organization, to reach out to some of the other tribal programs that we do work with, because there we do have these issues. And I think a lot of times we don't know who we can turn to or how these other programs work, especially when through Indian Child Welfare Act, where we

have child protection orders, and we're trying to make placements within our tribal communities.

And so, for a very long time, we've not really looked to support services from our neighbors to take them off reservation and try to make do. And as they age out though, we do lose touch with a lot of these youth kind of aging out of that, their protective services or foster care. And so, I think this is a good way for tribes to start this discussion and to see what we can do. So I thank you for that. And I hope to come back to that September 15th and with maybe some of those answers to your questions. So thank you.

Jemine: Neil. Thank you so much for your comment. It is spot on and we do recognize the uniqueness of needs across all of the tribes, all of the communities, we're honoring tribal sovereignty, we're respecting the tribe's autonomy. We're doing all of those things and through our NOFO what we are our best way to address all those different sort of variety of challenges that communities have is really just to put it out there with as much flexibility as possible. So that if there is a doubt shall, it's flexible enough that it meets multiple communities needs. I would invite you as well, and everyone on the call, the previous, YHDP NOFOs are available on the HUD Exchange for your review, perhaps before the next call. If you look at it and you see things that could be better and could help more address the unique needs of your particular community or other tribal nations, please look at it, offer up comments, considerations that you'd like us to have before the next NOFO is developed. So again, we are really, really so open.

Obviously, we can't do everything we're asked to do. We can't be say, "Oh, you'll just get..." You know what I mean? There's got to be some kind of a box around it, unfortunately, but I think the more information we get from people who are living in these communities, youth who are experiencing homelessness, I think the better program we would have designed. So please, and thank you for your comments.

Norm: We do have a comment here about how to access HUD Exchange. So maybe we can track down the link to get on the list or for HUD Exchange resources, which definitely has a lot of valuable resources. So I'll try to track that down and post it in the chat window.

Jemine: And we also had a question before that, how many tribes have received this grant to-date? No, I was just targeting you, I'm not taking your job. Go ahead then. Caroline responded.

Caroline: Yeah. So to-date, we haven't had any tribes or Tribally Designated Housing Entities be the direct recipients of YHDP funds, because of the rules that kind of outlined who was eligible to apply for YHDP. That changed in the FY 2021, no notice of funding opportunity, which we will announce in the next few weeks. So we are hoping to change that, but I will say that there have been a number of YHDP communities that have had very active tribal partnerships. I think probably the most notable that I always think of is Alaska Balance of State I

believe, where there were several programs that were put together matching different funds that would assist tribal youth. Northern New Mexico and Northwest Minnesota also had very active tribal partnerships as well, but we are really hoping that this change in rules will be able to increase the number of partnerships and be able to be more responsive to the needs of tribal youth through the YHDP.

Jemine:

Thank you, Caroline. And in the chat, the link to the YHDP page on the HUD Exchange has also been, is that the HUD.gov? Yeah. Has also been provided and then how to sign up for the Listserv, as Norm mentioned, is also in the chat. Don't get overwhelmed when you get to link, because there's a lot in there. There's actually some stuff on youth and emancipation and addressing some of those issues that was brought up early, not directly related to the question, but it might serve as sort of a good, broad information on addressing youth, but there's a nice little search in the engine inside of the web, inside HUD Exchange and also may be helpful.

Okay, do we have any other, and Caroline also added some additional resources on work that YHDP communities have done. That would be definitely worth looking at folks, I strongly encourage that. Okay. We are just about at time. I want to again, thank you so much for participating today. Again, taking a look at the questions that we will pose again on September 15th, the resources that have been put in the chat also, to help prepare for next week's session. And please, take the opportunity to come back and ask anything or provide any comments that you did not today. I want to thank my team for also participating, not only today in this webinar, but everything they do every day for those that we serve. Thank you guys. Have a great day. Bye-bye.

Facilitator:

That concludes our conference. Thank you for using event services. You may now disconnect.