“To Become the Best Version of Myself”:
Youth-Supportive Transitional Housing Programs as An Essential Resource for Addressing Youth Homelessness
June, 8 2021 | 3PM Eastern
Welcome!

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About Us

A national organization working to overcome homelessness through education, from early childhood through postsecondary. We engage in federal and state policy advocacy, provide practical assistance to communities, and support young people directly through our Youth Leadership & Scholarship program. www.schoolhouseconnection.org

Covenant House builds a bridge to hope for young people facing homelessness and survivors of trafficking through unconditional love, absolute respect, and relentless support. Our doors are open 24/7 in 31 cities across six countries and our high-quality programs empower young people to rise and overcome adversity, today and in the future. www.covenanthouse.org

Dedicated to the preventing and eradicating youth homelessness in America through partnering with youth and service providers to advance federal policy solutions and community-based transformation. Together, we envision a future in which all young people have a safe place to call home with endless opportunities to achieve their fullest potential. www.nn4youth.org
Why We Came Together

All three organizations:

● **Directly support** and engage young people

● **Directly work with** community service providers nationwide

● **Share a goal** of ensuring that all youth and young adults experiencing homelessness -- including young parents and their children -- are able to access all that they need to *sustainably* exit homelessness and avoid chronic adult homelessness.

● **Advocate for** the removal of federal policy barriers that impede access to housing, services, employment, and education, and that prevent the scaling and replication of effective programs.
Objectives of Today’s Webinar

1. **Share new data** about the effectiveness of Transitional Housing for youth, and for young families and children experiencing homelessness.

2. **Provide a platform** for youth to share about their experiences and outcomes as a result of accessing Transitional Housing.

3. **Share targeted policy recommendations** to expand access to Transitional Housing for young people, including young parents and their children.
But First: Housekeeping

HAVE A QUESTION?

This webinar is for you. Enter your questions in the questions pane and click ‘Send’.

RECORDING & HANDOUTS

An archive of this webinar and all materials will be posted here.

This PowerPoint is available in your “Handouts” panel.

If you’ve signed up for this webinar, you will receive a link to the recording in an email after the webinar is over.
Data Presentation
Youth-supportive transitional programs refer to housing, coupled with services, that is:

- **Longer-term** - typically up to 18- to 24-month potential length of stay
- **Service-intensive** - essential wraparound supports
- **Structured** - clear rules and expectations
Covenant House

- Founded in 1972
- Bridge to hope for youth facing homelessness and survivors of trafficking through unconditional love, absolute respect, and relentless support
- International movement with local solutions to end youth homelessness
- Sites in 31 cities across 6 countries
- Wide service spectrum: street outreach -- drop-in centers -- residential continuum
Covenant House Transitional Housing

- TH programs in 15 U.S. cities; ~400 youth each night
- Up to 18- to 24-month length of stay
- Combination of on-site and off-site (clustered) TH units
- Wraparound supports (e.g., mental health, employment, etc.)
Data

- 564 unique youth who exited at TH program between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019
- Analysis includes all exiting youth, regardless of length of stay, demographics, etc.
- Youth data are tracked by staff across a common data management platform -- Efforts to Outcomes (ETO) -- and vetted through our Research, Evaluation & Learning (RE&L) team

Young people are not statistics.
Youth Population

- 71% had earned their high school diploma or equivalent.
- 39% reported prior involvement in the justice system.
- More than a third (35%) had a self-reported history of mental health issues.
- 31% reported experience in the child welfare system.
Outcomes

73% of youth exited the program to stable housing

69% were employed or enrolled in school at exit

- BIPOC youth exited to stable housing at a higher rate than their counterparts (74% vs. 69%) and had higher rates of employment (64% vs. 60%).

- Young mothers were more likely to exit to stable housing (79% vs. 73%)
Length of Stay

Average LOS: 221 days (>7 months)

% Exiting to Stable Housing

- 0-90 days: 63%
- 91-180 days: 75%
- 181-365 days: 78%
- 365+ days: 83%
- All: 73%

% Employed or Enrolled in School

- 0-90 days: 59%
- 91-180 days: 70%
- 181-365 days: 76%
- 365+ days: 77%
- All: 69%
Housing Outcomes

MOST COMMON DESTINATIONS

1. Rental housing (28%)
2. Family (long-term) (24%)
3. Friend/Other Adult (long-term) (11%)
4. Emergency Shelter (7%)
5. Family (short-term) (5%)
6. Permanent Supportive Housing (4%)
7. Unknown (3%)
8. Friend/Other Adults (short-term) (3%)
9. 15 Other Categories (14%)

Common Destinations by Length of Stay

- Rental Housing
  - <90 days: 9%
  - 91-180 days: 26%
  - >180 days: 41%

- Family (long-term)
  - <90 days: 16%
  - 91-180 days: 31%
  - >180 days: 29%

- Friend (long-term)
  - <90 days: 10%
  - 91-180 days: 17%
  - >180 days: 6%
Other Findings

- Older youth had slightly higher rates of stable exits, with approximately 74% of youth age 20 and older and 70% of youth under age 20 exiting to stable housing.

- 76% of young women; 71% of young men; and 62% of young people who identify as transgender or non-binary (13 youth) exited to stable housing.

- Stable exits were slightly lower for the youth transitioning from off-site apartments (69%) compared to youth exiting from on-site (74%) settings.
Re-Enrollment Rates

% Re-enrolled within 12 Months

- Youth exiting to stable destinations were less likely to return than their counterparts (20% vs. 29%)
- Young people who stayed longer were less likely to need to re-enroll
- Older youth were less likely to re-enroll.

CH believes in welcoming back young people who need housing again after exiting, and feels that youth re-entering when needed is evidence of the strong relationships between young people and providers.
Other Transitional Programs

- Data from other TH providers, including those serving minors and those in rural areas, show similarly positive results.

- 70% of young people accessing housing through YouthCare’s transitional living programs in Seattle exited to safe and stable housing.

- Larkin Street Youth Services (San Francisco) and Good Shepherd Service’s Chelsea Foyer program (New York City) have demonstrated strong outcomes through external evaluation.

- Youthworks (North Dakota) and New Beginnings (Maine) achieved positive outcomes in smaller towns and rural communities.
Transitional Housing During COVID-19

- COVID-19 had an immediate impact on housing providers and beneficiaries
- Providers quickly adapted to continue serving youth, including young families, as safely as possible.
- TH programs required less adaptation in light of distancing requirements

In the wake of the pandemic, more young people are likely to experience homelessness, trauma, and increased economic barriers to self-sufficiency as they transition to adulthood, making TH programs even more essential.
Policy Recommendations
Congressional Policy Recommendations

- Deepen its investments in combating youth homelessness through increased funding for Runaway and Homeless Youth Act:
  - Transitional Living Programs
  - Maternity Group Home Programs

- Amend HUD’s definition of homelessness so that the definition, eligibility requirements, and priorities reflect the lived experiences of young people and families so they are not required to stay in unsafe situations before they are able to access and are prioritized for appropriate services.
Federal Agency Policy Recommendations

HHS/FYSB SHOULD:

● Continue to support the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act Transitional Living Program and Maternity Group Home Programs and expand these efforts and increased funding allows.

HUD SHOULD:

● Write future NOFA’s incentivizing Transitional Housing for youth, young adults, and young families, in accordance with local needs and priorities.
● Assess youth programs for effectiveness using youth-appropriate outcome measures (through its NOFAs)
Support programs that will best meet the needs of young people in their communities, including transitional programs, rather than tying funding to federal priorities, such as HUD’s adult-centric priorities.
Thank you!

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