

# WIBOS Youth Homelessness Demonstration Snapshot

May 17, 2024



# Goal of Today's Presentation

1. Share status of BOS-wide youth collaboration and leadership
2. Provide a high-level report on the implementation of YHDP projects
3. Explain where we are in the YHDP process & how projects will renew
4. Recommit to a regular Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) process & identify priorities for the next Quarter.

*Note: As you listen to today's presentation, please be thinking about what else you would want to know about the YHDP implementation and other data that would be of interest.*

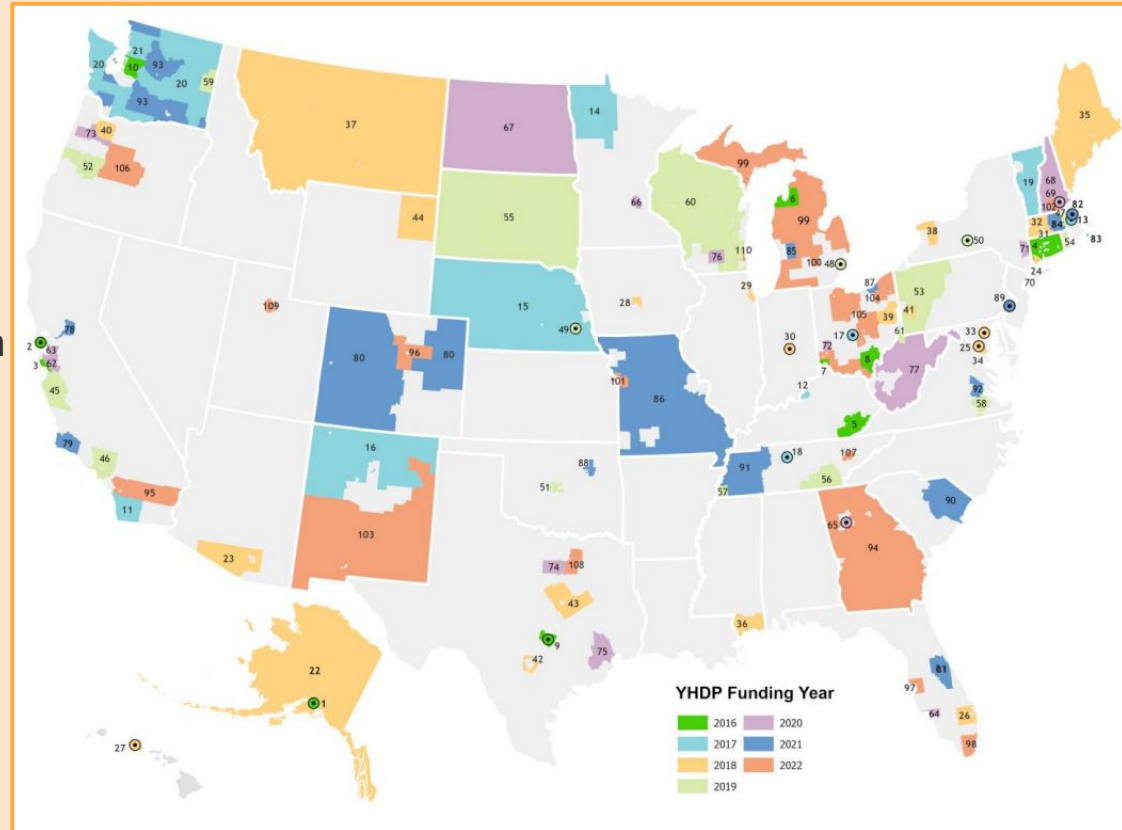
# Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP)

## A Brief Overview

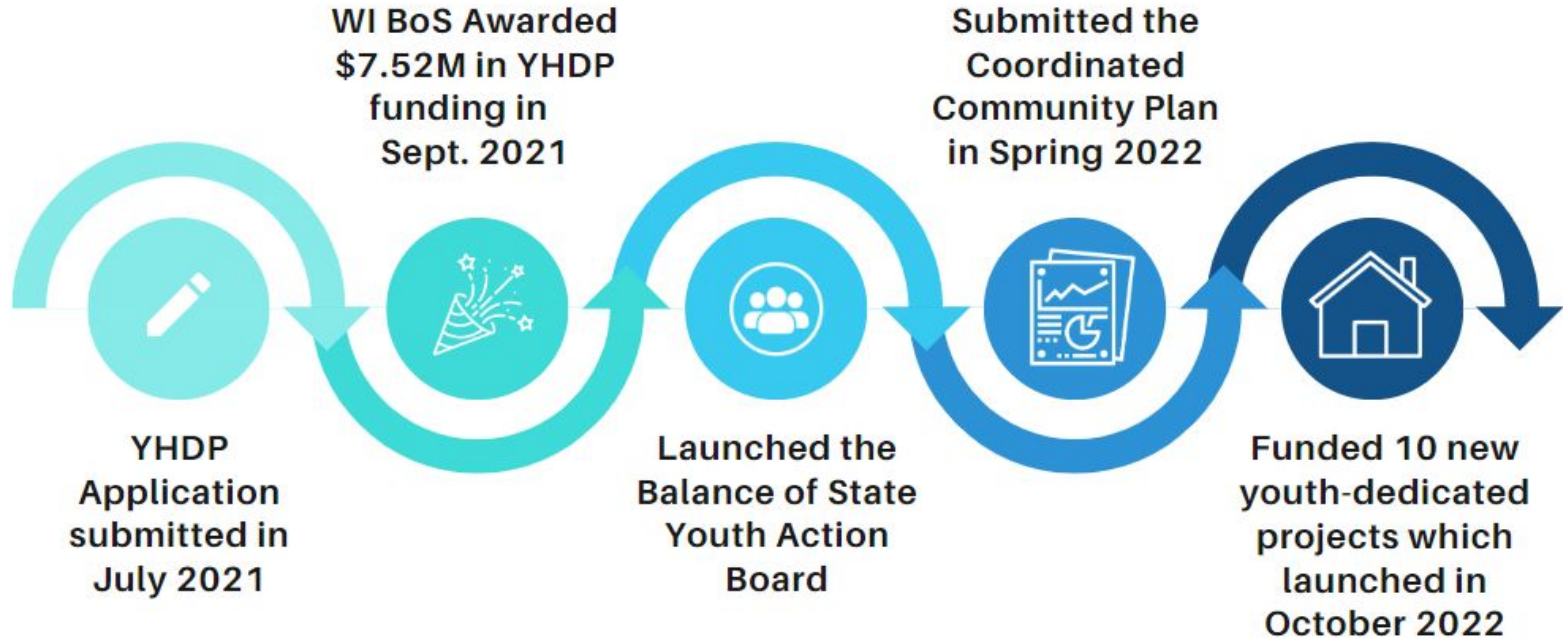
The goal of YHDP is to support communities across the United States in the development and implementation of a coordinated community approach to preventing and ending youth homelessness.

Since 2016, **110 communities** have been awarded more than **\$400M**

YHDP was created in partnership with young leaders with lived experience of homelessness and each YHDP community's Youth Action Board are leaders in the local planning, design and implementation to improve the youth homelessness response system.



# Wisconsin Balance of State YHDP Milestones



# Highlights from Coordinated Community Plan (CCP)

## **The WI Balance of State YHDP Mission:**

With shared responsibility and driven by youth leadership and cross-sector collaboration the Wisconsin Balance of State CoC Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program's (YHDP) mission is to prevent youth homelessness whenever possible and if it is not, ensure that the experience is rare, brief and non-recurring.

## **The Balance of State CoC adopted the four core outcomes outlined in the USICH Youth Framework to End Youth Homelessness and added a fifth:**

1. Stable Housing
2. Permanent Connections
3. Education and Employment
4. Social & Emotional Wellbeing
5. Systems Change

# New YHDP Projects

The Wisconsin Balance of State CoC applied for the YHDP opportunity to create a youth-specific homeless crisis response system that includes:

- Prevention to help youth remain in current housing
- Outreach to ensure all youth at risk or experiencing homelessness are aware of resources & how to access them
- Diversion to help youth avoid emergency shelter when possible, finding safe alternatives
- Intake & assessment to connect with youth in a trauma informed way to identify needs
- Emergency services with youth only shelters & drop-in centers
- Supportive services, including case management, transportation support, skill building, mentorship, addressing mental & physical health needs, literacy, employment, education, & training
- Permanent housing solutions, including housing assistance programs, family or friends, & shared housing; and
- Follow up services to ensure youth remain housed & connected to support systems.

**10 new housing and service projects were selected by the YAB and the CoC to address these priorities using YHDP funding. Each project is awarded an initial 2-year grant that is renewable under the CoC Program.**

# YHDP Funded Projects - Permanent Housing

<b>Funded Partner</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Project Type</b>
Central Wisconsin Community Action Council, Inc.	Next Door - Youth Joint TH/RR	TH/RHH
Hebron House of Hospitality, Inc.	Hebron Youth Housing Program	TH/RHH
Kenosha Human Development Services Inc.	Project Yellow Door	TH/RHH
The Salvation Army	YHDP Rural North and West Central	TH/RHH
Everyone Cooperating to Help Others	YHDP RRH	RRH

# YHDP Funded Projects - Supportive Services Only

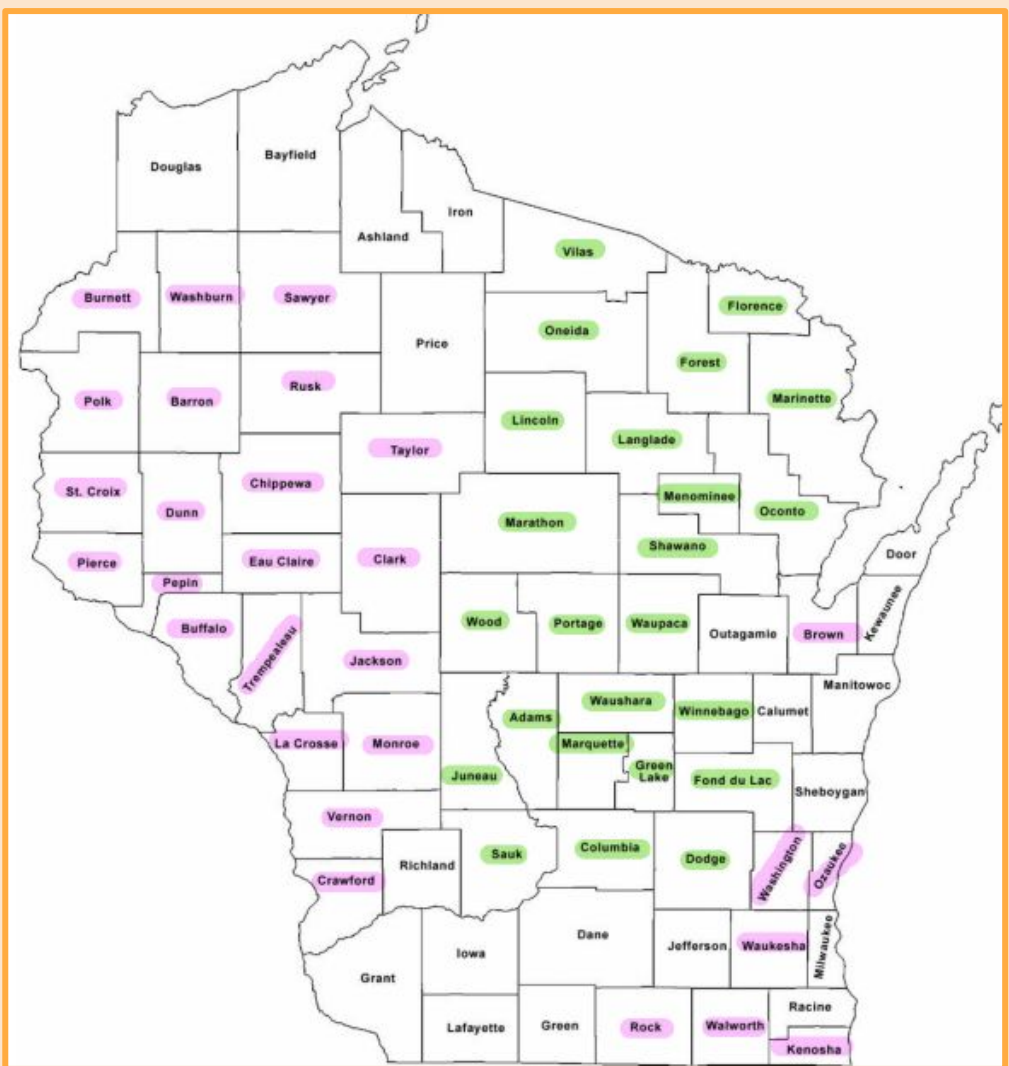
Funded Partner	Project Name	Project Type
House of Hope Green Bay	House of Hope Drop-In Center & Supportive Services for Homeless Youth	Drop In Center
Newcap, Inc.	Mobile Outreach & Support Team (MOST)	Outreach
Western Dairyland EOC, Inc.	Housing Assistance for Youth (HAPY)	Navigation with Kinship housing
YWCA of LaCrosse	In the KNO (Kinship, Navigation, & Outreach)	Navigation with Kinship housing
WIBOS	System Navigation	System Navigation



# YHDP Funded Projects & Geographic Coverage

Housing and/or Services Only  
Project +  
System Navigation Coverage

System Navigation Coverage  
Only

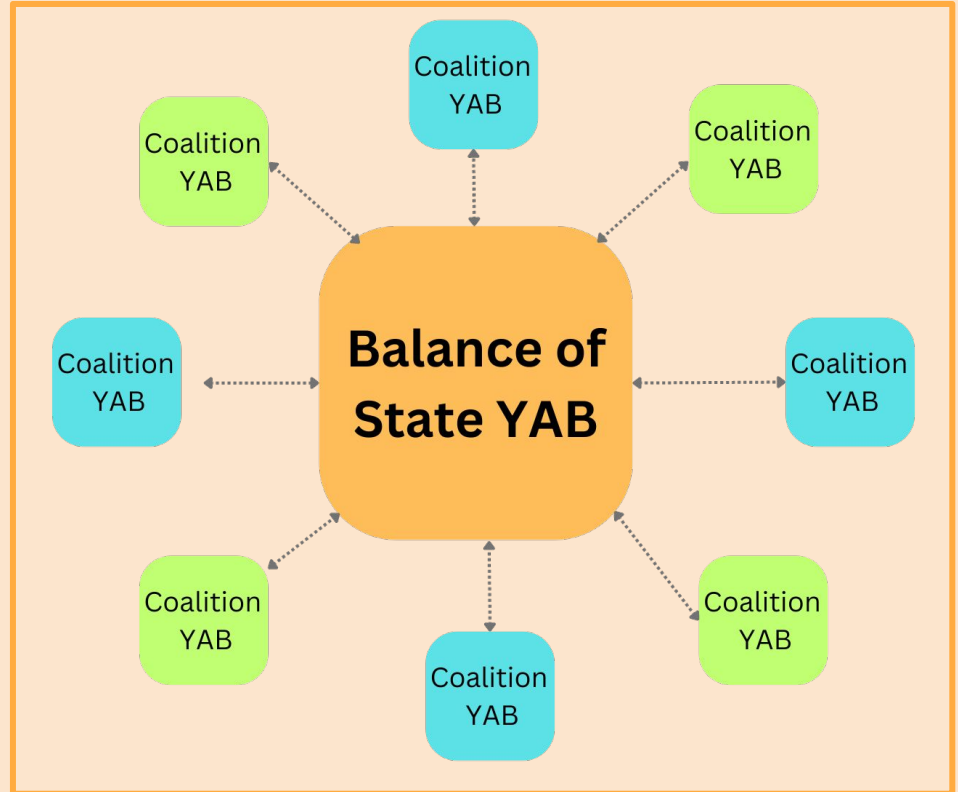


# Youth Collaboration & Leadership



# Youth Action Board (YAB) Structure

- YHDP centers the voices of youth and young adults with lived experiences of homelessness across the Balance of State.
- HUD requires every funded community to have a YAB



# Balance of State Youth Action Board

- Meeting twice monthly - looking to go back to weekly
- Current projects
  - Discord and other communication platforms
  - YHSI - approved BOS application (awards yet to be announced)
  - RFP review
  - Interview panels
  - Revisit CCP
  - Drafting training for systems
- Moving towards youth-chaired and youth-led

# Coalition-Level Youth Action Boards

- The flexibility of YAB and YHDP is a benefit - different projects and models work differently by area
- Current projects across the local YABs
  - Volunteer opportunities
  - Reviewing policies and procedures
  - Panels
  - Events for recruitment and training other professionals

# Snapshot of YHDP Projects



# Data Sources

## Annual Performance Report

Recipients with HUD funding received through CoC Program homeless assistance grants are required to submit an Annual Performance Report (APR) electronically to HUD every operating year. Data collection for the APR is aligned with the most recent version of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Data Standards.

This report is designed by HUD and reflects the universal data elements collected by all CoC & YHDP projects.

## YHDP CQI Report

The YHDP CQI report is a custom report developed to track metrics across all YHDP funded projects.

This report includes outcomes that are not picked up in the required HUD reports such as health, positive connections, and perceived safety.

BOS staff can work with ICA to change this report, as needed, to clarify how we are looking at the data.

## Qualitative Data

WIBOS conducted interviews and discussions with 7 of 10 YHDP project recipients. Gathering information on:

- Challenges and successes
  - Data collection and utilization
- Landlord engagement strategies
- Community partnerships
  - Current priorities
- Additional supports that the BOS can provide

# YHDP Housing Projects

## **Rapid Rehousing (RRH)**

RRH is a permanent housing program where a youth may receive up to 24 months of rental assistance and supportive services, with up to six months of aftercare once the rental assistance ends. Supportive services often focus on income maximization and stability planning. The participant enters into a lease directly with the landlord.

## **Joint Transitional Housing - Rapid Rehousing (TH-RRH)**

TH-RRH provides short-term crisis housing for youth who enter the TH portion of the program. It also provides medium/long-term permanent housing for youth who transition directly from TH into RRH or from homelessness into RRH. A youth has a choice of which program they wish to access and both TH and RRH portions must be available. Many youth who have no rental history and/or multiple barriers find the support provided with TH an easier launching pad into permanent housing.

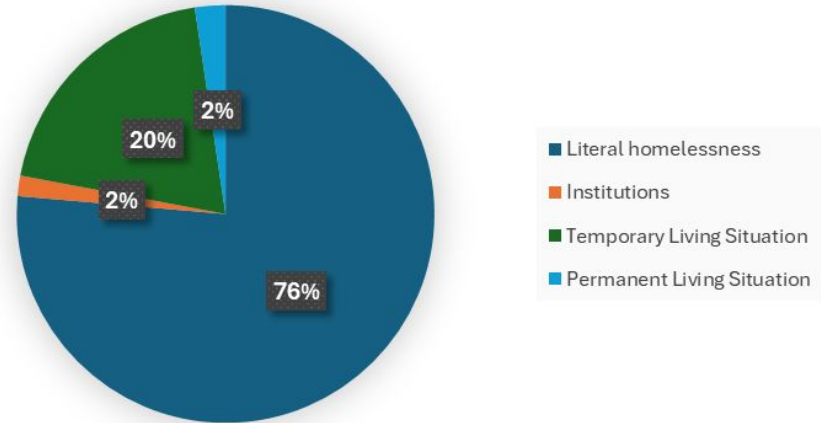


# Housing Projects- Annual Performance Report (APR)

## 145 - Total Youth Served

- 4 unaccompanied minor youth
- 37 parenting households
- 2% identifying as either transgender or non-binary
- Race & Ethnicity
  - 48.5% white
  - 28.5% Black
  - 23% other\* (*represents 13 unique Race & Ethnicity categories in HMIS*)

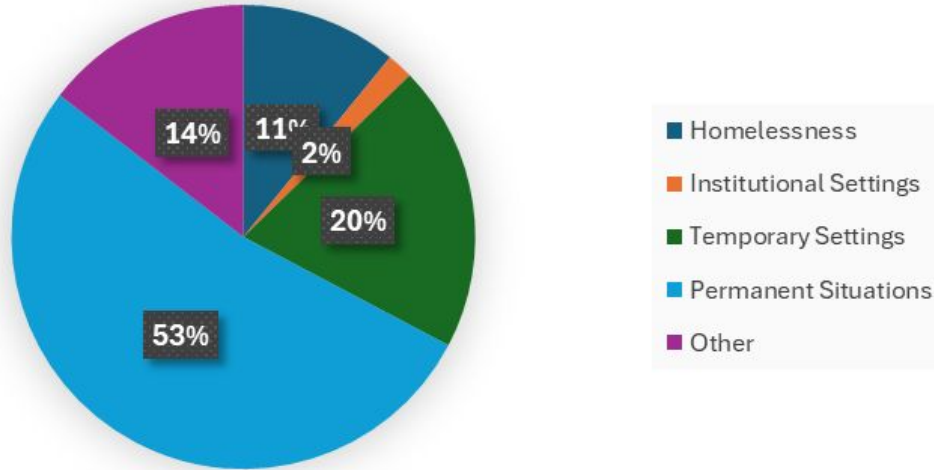
### Prior Living Situation



# Housing Projects- Annual Performance Report (APR)

## Exit Destinations

*(55 households)*



## Average Length of Stay

- 55 days for Leavers
- 90 days for Stayers

# Housing Projects - YHDP CQI Report

● No

● Unknown

● Yes

Positive Connections - Adult @ Exit



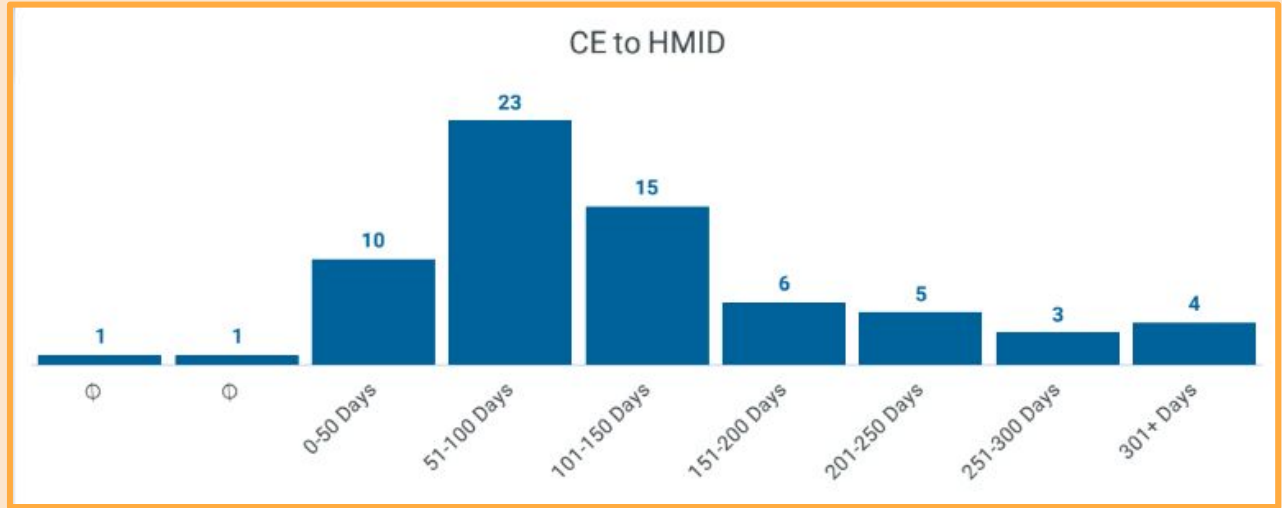
Positive Connections - Peer @ Exit



Positive Connections - Community @ Exit



# Housing Projects- YHDP CQI Report



# Feedback from Housing Provider Interviews

## Challenges

- Housing Market & Landlords
- Transportation
- Staff turnover/Hiring
- Youth participants taking ownership of their housing plans
- Youth are more interested in RRH than TH

## Successes

- Making service connections
- Youth are getting connected to service options quickly, "*the list is being cleaned up*"
- Project can serve more households than expected

## Needs

- Access to more training opportunities to improve service delivery (Positive youth development, Trauma Informed Care, Motivational Interviewing)
- Match support
- Coaching on best practices in working with landlords

# **Housing-focused Supportive Service Only\* (SSO) Projects**

SSO projects are designed to meet the immediate needs of YYA experiencing homelessness and support them in the work to find stable and permanent housing.

SSO projects do not provide on going housing assistance but can provide some one-time financial assistance (through the use of YHDP program flexibilities).

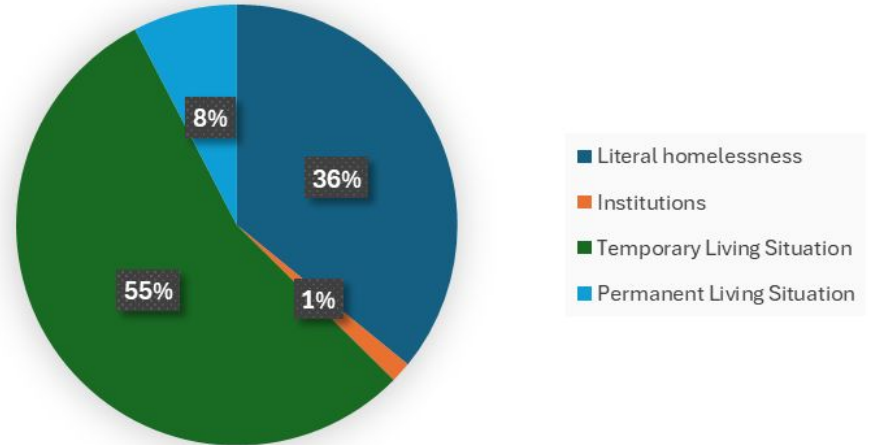
*\*This section does not include data from the System Navigation Project.*

# SSO Projects- Annual Performance Report (APR)

## 134 - Total Youth Served

- 7 unaccompanied minor youth
- 2 parenting households
- 4% identifying as either transgender or non-binary
- Race & Ethnicity
  - 55% White
  - 23.5% Black
  - 21.5% Other *(represents 9 unique Race & Ethnicity categories in HMIS)*

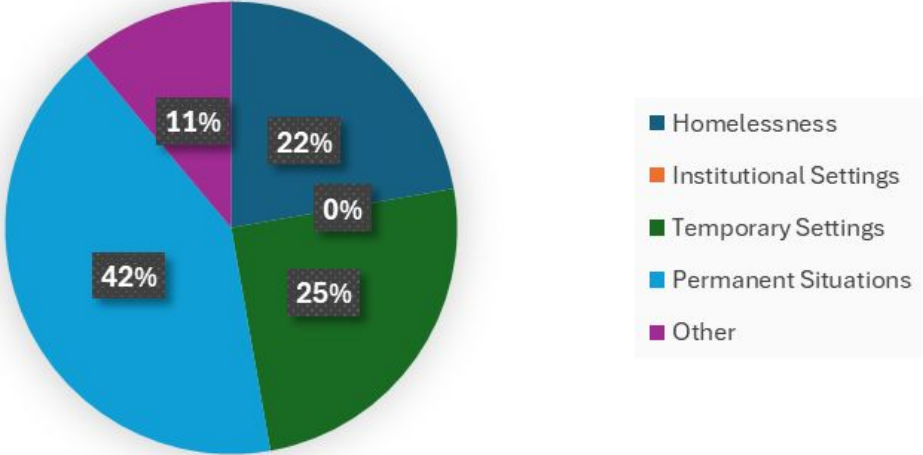
## Prior Living Situation



# SSO Projects- Annual Performance Report (APR)

## Exit Destinations

(36 households)



## Average Length of Stay

- 36 days for Leavers
- 98 days for Stayers



# SSO Projects - YHDP CQI Report

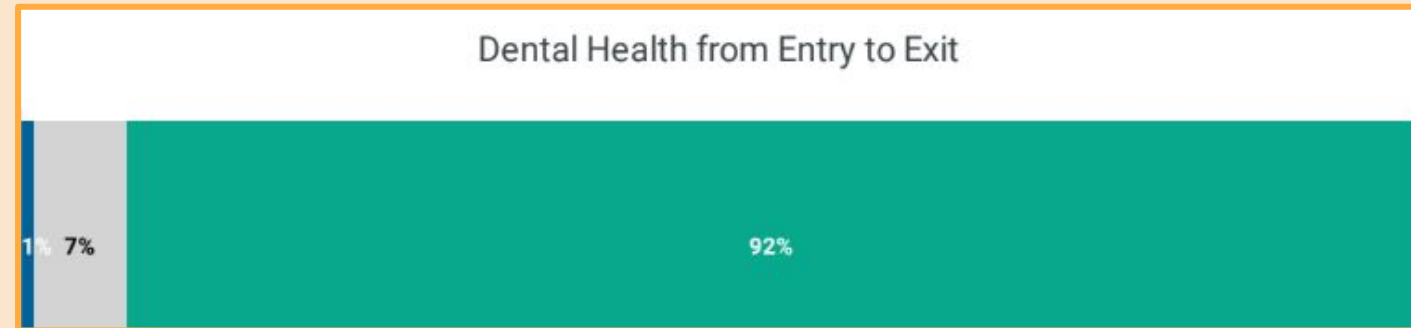
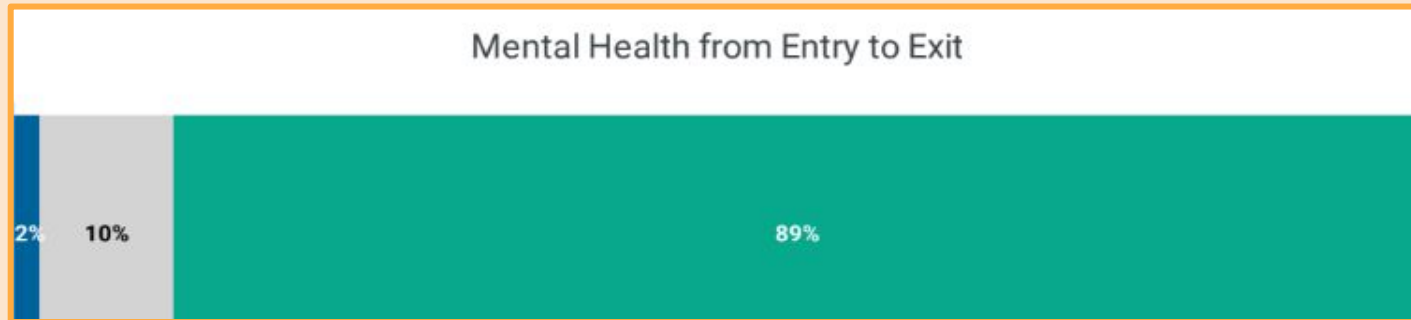
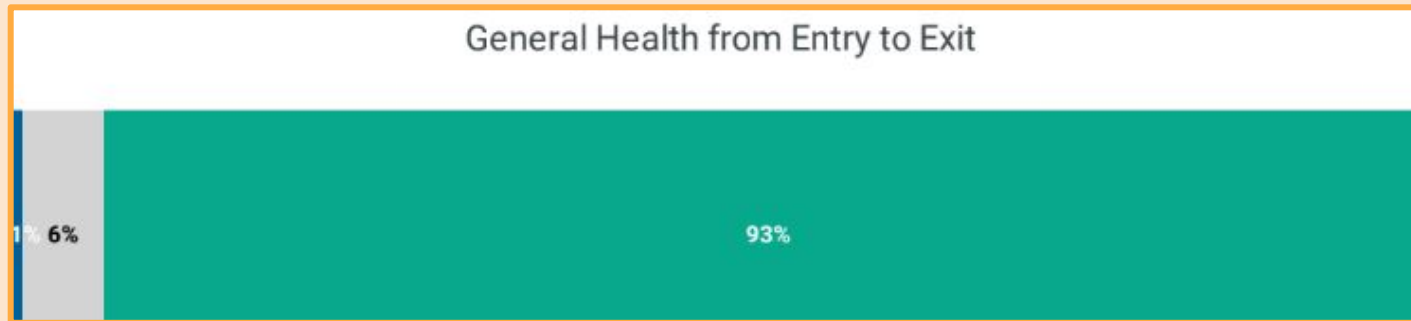


# SSO Project - YHDP CQI Report

● Improved

● Not Collected

● Stable



# SSO Projects - YHDP CQI Report



# Feedback from SSO Provider Interviews

## Challenges

- Building trust with and maintaining contact with youth participants
- Landlord relationships
- SSO projects are hard when there is little to no access to housing opportunities

## Successes

- Receiving many referrals for projects - able to meet the need

## Needs

- Training opportunities
- Landlord engagement strategies
- Some budget flexibility between service activities

# **BOS System Navigation**

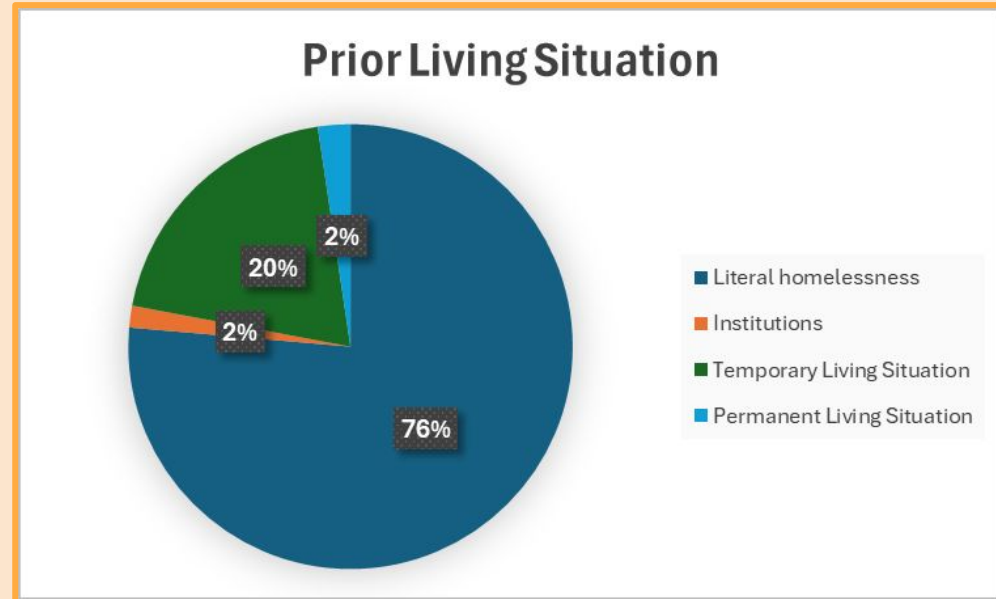
The System Navigation project is designed to provide a single point of contact within local coalitions for youth to help with navigating complex systems in addition to their housing needs.

Navigators also support and facilitate the local youth action group to ensure that authentic youth voice continues to inform project design and become integrated into decision-making within the local coalition.

# System Navigation - Annual Performance Report (APR)

## 168- Total Youth Served

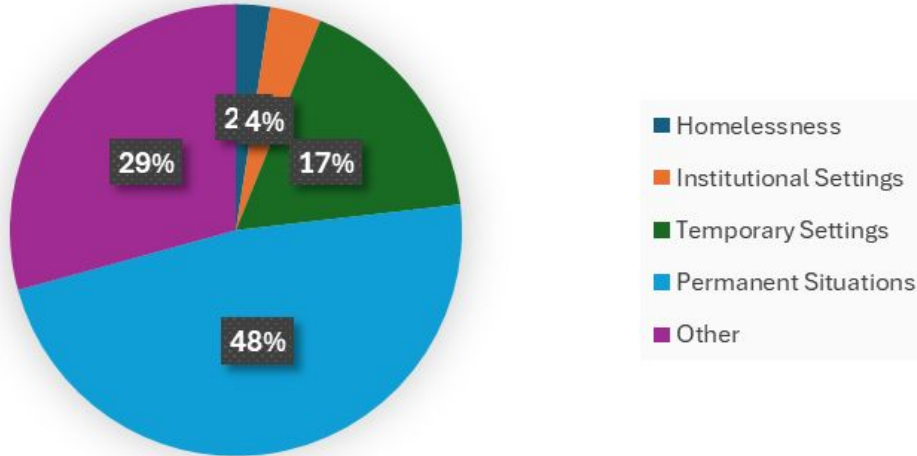
- 9 unaccompanied minor youth
- 22 parenting households
- 4% identifying as either transgender or non-binary
- Race & Ethnicity
  - 47% White
  - 22.5% Black
  - 30.5% Other (*represents 14 unique Race & Ethnicity categories in HMIS*)



# System Navigation - Annual Performance Report (APR)

## Exit Destinations

(82 households)



## Average Length of Stay

- 108 days for Leavers
- 191 days for Stayers

# System Navigation - YHDP CQI Report

Improved

Not Collected

Stable

General Health from Entry to Exit



Mental Health from Entry to Exit



Dental Health from Entry to Exit





# System Navigation - YHDP CQI Report



# Feedback from System Navigators

## How do you describe the work that you do as a system navigator?

- Different than other projects. More hands-on and can help in different ways. More client needs can be addressed.
- The needs are different in different geographical areas; the System Guides meet specific geographical needs
- Fulfilling
- Frustrating when people drop off

# Feedback from System Navigators

**Describe an experience or situation where you felt successful in your job.**

- Connecting youth to mental health services
- Supporting youth in setting boundaries in unhealthy relationships
- Helping someone with many barriers gain employment
- Advocating for a client to be seen by a dentist who was initially not accepting new clients
- Helping a young mom to get a correction on her birth certificate, making her eligible for services again
- Supporting a youth into permanent housing and reuniting with her daughter
- Helping youth navigate the system to get their driver's permit
- Encouraging youth to continue their education
- Hearing directly from youth that I have impacted their lives

# Feedback from System Navigators

## What challenges have you faced in your role?

- Developing or maintaining connections with schools or other systems
- Options for minors- including leases, access to healthcare, rural communities with little to no programming for minors,
- Access to transportation
- Access to childcare
- Access to employment opportunities
- People moving and dropping off from the program
- Lack of support from the team/being the only system navigator in an area
- Working in a large geographical area and across counties

# Feedback from System Navigators

## What additional supports can the BOS Provide?

- Provide more support and guidance on developing and maintaining a YAB - YAB structure, guidance on what they could be doing, connections to the BOS YAB
- Offer initial onboard trainings again
- Help lead agencies provide more support to the system navigators

# Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) in Action: Priorities

The Balance of State is committed to providing regular updates on the progress of YHDP projects at the quarterly CoC membership meetings.

## Youth Collaboration & Leadership

1. Establish youth co-leadership of BOS YAB
2. Provide regular support to System Navigators to strengthen Coalition-level YABs

## YHDP Projects

1. Schedule regular YHDP recipient meetings to provide a space for all YHDP providers to connect; look at project data regularly.
2. Seek to understand System Navigator turnover better and identify areas of improvement to stabilize staff.
3. Develop a training calendar and provide continuous education opportunities to providers.
4. Continue System Navigator Meetings - focus on system navigation goals from CCP and update as needed.

## System Coordination

1. Revisit/update the goals and objectives outlined in the CCP.
2. Look at system-level outcomes and the impact of YHDP in the broader response to end homelessness in the BOS.



# Key Takeaways From Today's Presentation

- YHDP has helped create the roadmap and path to accelerate progress towards a more effective youth system.
- There are 10 new housing and service projects up and running because of YHDP and more youth have access to services because of it.
- The BOS is committed to ongoing monitoring, reporting, and responding to the impact that YHDP is having and our progress in meeting the goals of the CCP
- Today's presentation is a starting point...
  - What else would like to know about YHDP projects?
  - Is there there other data that you would like to see?

# YHDP Renewal Process

The initial YHDP contracts are for a period of 2 years. After the initial operating period, these housing and SSO projects are renewable on an annual basis as part of the Continuum of Care (CoC) process. WIBOS YHDP projects will renew for the first time in this year's CoC competition.





# What We Expect

- The YHDP renewal process will be outlined in the CoC Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
- Based on history....
  - YHDP projects have been “held harmless” in the CoC competition for their first few renewals
  - YHDP renewals can either be “renewed” or “replaced”
  - Replacement projects - allow for changes to a project but must stay dedicated to serving unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness
- In provider interviews, the BOS started conversations with projects about any changes they may want to make when their YHDP projects renew - these changes will be reviewed after we know what is in the NOFO and what is allowed

Questions or thoughts?

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