

**APPENDIX 2:**  
**SYSTEM ENHANCEMENT OBJECTIVES AND ACTION STEPS**

The Youth Homelessness Prevention Plan Committee (YHPPC) identified a number of objectives and actions steps to respond to issues discovered through the needs assessment. YHPPC will use this information to develop an ongoing work plan that prioritizes action steps, identifies progress indicators and outcome measures, builds partnerships with stakeholders, and offers a timeline for moving forward. As we continue to improve the youth and young adult (YYA) housing system of care, we may add to these action steps or discover that some are unnecessary or redundant. “Responsible Parties” identified for action steps are only suggestions and plan drafters assume each action steps will need multiple partners at the table. The information below is meant to be a malleable outline that can be adjusted as our work progresses.

**Prevention & Diversion:**

The community will enhance the statewide system of identifying youth and young adults who are at-risk of homelessness by conducting annual assessments of needs, strengthening outreach and access points for assistance with housing and services so that youth who are experiencing housing instability are identified early and prevented from entering the homeless crisis response system.

<b>Objective 1: Increase early identification of youth and young adults at-risk or experiencing homelessness.</b>	
<i>Suggested Responsible Parties</i>	<i>Action Steps</i>
YHDP/ BoS CoC, ICA	I. Create and implement a statewide annual assessment of need. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Track inflow and outflow of YYA, including location prior to entry and at exit.</li> <li>b. Expand collection of current HMIS RHY measures to include all youth and young adults under 25, regardless of HUD or FYSB designation.</li> </ul>
BoS CoC, AOE	II. Engage McKinney-Vento Liaisons in participating in the precarious housed count as part of the annual Point In Time count conducted by the Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness.
BoS CoC, VCRHYP	III. Conduct a statewide Youth Count in the summer (in addition to annual PIT) that tracks both literally homeless as well as precariously housed, as well as captures “traveler” youth who may not have permanent connections in Vermont but are camping or otherwise staying for the warmer months.
DCF	IV. Work with the DCF to develop data to understand who is exiting child welfare and juvenile justice systems that go on to experience homelessness or housing instability within a year after exit.

Parent-Child Centers, DCF sub-contractors, Economic Services	V. Work with service providers supporting pregnant and parenting youth and young adults age 24 and under to identify YYA at-risk of precarious housing or homelessness and connect to prevention and diversion resources.
YAB, BoS CoC, VCRHYP	VI. Create training for community members that build knowledge around early warning signs, how to engage youth and young adults in conversations about homelessness, housing stability, and what resources are available including housing and financial supports, education, and health care.
<b>Objective 2: Increase availability of low-barrier access points to services and housing supports.</b>	
VCRHYP, Community Action Organizations, VT Teen Center Network, VT Afterschool Partners	I. Increase availability and youth-appropriateness of community-based resources that serve as access points to crisis and/ or housing programs, such as: drop-in centers, locations for community meals or food shelf pick-ups, clothing donations, hygiene supports like accessible showers and toiletries. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Build in opportunities for peer connections such as specific times for YYA or activities developed by and for YYA.</li> <li>b. Increase availability of support workers at these locations for brief contacts and consultations to build relationships with YYA prior to housing crisis.</li> <li>c. Expand availability of drop-in centers by expanding beyond site-based permanent entities to also including “pop-up” once a week or weekend only drop-in spaces. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Consider drop-in accessibility and appropriateness for 12-18-year olds and 18-24-year olds.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
BoS CoC, VT 2-1-1	II. Ensure hotlines such as 2-1-1 and 24-hour hotlines for crisis services are aware of low-barrier supports and can make referrals.
BoS CoC, YAB, VCRHYP	III. Educate members of the community on providing information to youth before they are at-risk.
<b>Objective 3: Improve outreach targeting youth and young adult populations to increase awareness of available assistance and housing supports.</b>	
YAB, VCRHYP	I. Create a social media campaign that works across a variety of platforms and is used by partners statewide to support clear and consistent messaging about available resources and access points; outreach should work to dispel myths and stigmas surrounding housing crisis.
YAB, VCRHYP, partners	II. Ensure outreach activities are culturally appropriate and accessible for various sub-populations based on

representing culturally specific populations	<p>identity, race, and/or ethnic backgrounds.</p> <p>a. Make outreach materials available in different reading levels and languages.</p>
YAB, VCRHYP	<p>III. Identify “hot-spots” for youth outreach, places where youth congregate beyond schools.</p> <p>a. Conduct outreach activities that target these “hot-spot” locations, such as local libraries or other free wifi hotspots, skate parks, or other public spaces YYA gather.</p>
VCRHYP	<p>IV. Build specific support services targeting transient “traveler” youth who are often only passing through for warmer months.</p>
YHDP, YAB, Vermont Youth Services System Enhancement Council *	<p>V. Create a housing and services inventory that youth can access.</p> <p><i>* At the time of drafting, the Youth Services System Enhancement Council has launched a pilot for an interactive map that charts services across the state; YAB could be partners for providing feedback.</i></p>
<p><b>Objective 4: Increase partnerships with secondary and post-secondary institutions to help with early identification and crisis prevention for YYA at-risk of homelessness.</b></p>	
AOE	<p>I. Create guidelines and best practices for identifying and serving YYA in school systems.</p>
BoS CoC, AOE	<p>II. Train McKinney-Vento Liaisons on coordinated entry referral and assessment tools.</p>
VCRHYP, AOE, VT Colleges and Universities	<p>III. Develop a statewide workgroup for secondary and post-secondary entities and community-based stakeholders to further define statewide needs and resources for homeless youth.</p>
AOE, VT Colleges and Universities	<p>IV. Increase campus-based outreach and awareness activities.</p> <p>a. Include a segment in health classes around housing and housing instability where youth can learn about available resources and connect to local housing providers.</p>
Local YYA housing providers, VT Colleges and Universities	<p>V. Build partnerships between educational entities and local service providers that enable coordinated service provision on campus.</p>

AOE	<p>VI. Ensure McKinney-Vento liaisons are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Connected with local YYA service providers;</li> <li>b. Completing housing assessment tools for Coordinated Entry for unaccompanied youth and youth homeless with their family;</li> <li>c. Participating on local Housing Review Teams;</li> <li>d. Training other school staff, including volunteers and coaches, on identification of youth homelessness and available resources.</li> </ul>
AOE	<p>VII. Connect youth in families who are McKinney-Vento eligible to youth-centered community-based service providers to address their unique individual needs.</p>
<b>Objective 5: Increase youth homeless prevention resources.</b>	
YHDP/ BoS CoC	<p>I. Create a YYA homelessness diversion fund available across the CoC to support YYA staying in place rather than losing housing, prioritize access for pregnant and parenting YYA.</p>
YHDP/ BoS CoC, VCRHYP, DCF	<p>II. Increase integration of youth-centered family reunification and permanent connection building activities into core case management for all YYA service providers, McKinney-Vento liaisons, and housing providers.</p>
VCRHYP, DCF, DMH, DOL	<p>III. Work with providers across the community to coordinate services and ensure youth’s needs are met before they escalate to homelessness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Service providers should consider co-location or co-planning so youth do not need to attend multiple case management meetings with different providers.</li> </ul>

## Continuum of Housing Supports:

The community will offer youth and young adults a variety of housing options that meet individual needs and empower youth and young adults to reach their full potential in a safe, youth-centered, and sustainable living situation.

<b>Objective 1: Improve access to and responsiveness of existing housing options for youth and young adults.</b>	
<i>Suggested Responsible Parties</i>	<i>Action Steps</i>
YHDP/ BoS CoC, ICA	I. Create and disseminate an annual report highlighting where YYA enter and flow through existing response system.
YHDP/ BoS CoC	II. Reduce or eliminate system-level barriers that prevent youth from accessing or staying in available housing projects. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Identify system-level barriers to housing and determine ways to address them.</li> <li>b. Modify current mainstream programs to incorporate best practices for working with YYA (e.g. addressing adultism and racism, using housing first approach, PYD, harm reduction, TIC, youth leadership within the agency).</li> <li>c. Increase education about the expanded definition of Category 4 for youth fleeing violence.</li> </ol>
YHDP/ BoS CoC	III. Develop a general application for youth to access housing supports that is used by all housing programs.
YHDP/ BoS CoC, OEO	IV. Shorten the length of time pregnant and parenting YYA and Black YYA are in emergency shelter. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Examine exits from emergency shelter for White non-parenting youth for stability (are they leaving sooner b/c they are house or b/c they have other options for doubling up?)</li> </ol>
YHDP/ BoS CoC	V. Identify and address barriers to youth and young adults accessing existing permanent housing subsidies. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Determine estimated level of need vs. availability.</li> <li>b. Reduce length of time YYA with complex service needs are on Master List.</li> </ol>
YHDP/ BoS CoC, VSHA	VI. Increase Identification and address barriers to YYA utilization of VT State Housing Authorities homelessness preference/Family Unification Program vouchers.
YHDP/ BoS CoC	VII. Improve youth and young adult referral process to project-based units.

YHDP/ BoS CoC, YAB	VIII. Work with the BoS CoC's Coordinated Entry (CE) workgroup to ensure the CoC's CE assessment and prioritization process is youth-centered and successfully identifies and prioritizes youths' needs for housing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c. Ensure HMIS capacity to monitor YYA coordinated entry outcomes.</li> <li>d. Create a mechanism for including youth voice in CE evaluative and design processes.</li> <li>e. Evaluate the process for YYA in comparison to older adult populations and identify where YYA are at disadvantage due to age or other barriers.</li> </ul>
BoS CoC, AOE	IX. Provide technical assistance and professional development on Coordinated Entry and available services to the Agency of Education and McKinney-Vento Liaisons using multiple platforms to ensure statewide LEA participation.
BoS CoC, VCRHYP	X. Support the development of YYA-centered practices within existing mainstream housing including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>f. Employing youth and young adult peers in housing and support programs</li> <li>g. Building positive rapport with youth and young adults in agency settings through low-barrier engagement opportunities.</li> </ul>
<b>Objective 2: Develop new housing programs specifically for youth and young adult populations.</b>	
YHDP/ BoS CoC	I. Work with local public housing authorities to develop youth preferences and policies that address common barriers such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Lack of landlord references.</li> <li>b. Hard restrictions on visitors or activities that lead to eviction.</li> <li>c. Increased and simplified appeal process.</li> </ul>
YHDP/ BoS CoC	II. Set aside an increased amount of Housing Choice Vouchers for YYA.
YHDP/ BoS CoC	III. Increase availability of Transitional Housing, Rapid Re-Housing and Permanent Supported Housing options for YYA. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Explore options for these projects to serve unaccompanied youth who are 16 and 17 years old.</li> </ul>
VCRHYP, OEO	IV. Develop YYA specific emergency shelter options, particularly focused on 18-24-year olds. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Target emergency options for category 4 eligible youth.</li> </ul>
YHDP, VT Affordable Housing Coalition	V. Work with developers to explore the possibility of set asides for YYA within new site-based projects.

YHDP/ BoS CoC, OEO	<p>VI. Explore Landlord liaison programs that help YYA find units and reduce barriers YYA may have to securing community-based housing.</p> <p>a. Develop a landlord mitigation fund for YYA housing.</p>
VCRHYP	<p>VII. Create a system of host homes/ home shares for young adults 18-24.</p>
DCF, YHPPC, VCRHYP	<p>VIII. Create a workgroup with key DCF, YHPPC, RHY and Mainstream housing providers to develop guidance for housing 16- and 17-year-olds in transitional housing, including longer-stay (beyond 21-day) Host Homes, and rapid re-housing interventions.</p>
<p><b>Objective 3: Incorporate low barrier and Housing First approaches across the homelessness response system.</b></p>	
YHDP/ BoS CoC	<p>I. Support youth and young adult specific low-barrier and Housing First approaches through CoC project funding.</p> <p>a. Address needs of young adults 18-24 who are not eligible for RRH or PSH options.</p> <p>b. Explore and address disadvantages to YYA in Coordinated Entry that results in those best served by medium- or long-term housing interventions remaining on the Master List for long periods of time due to low complex service need scores and an order of priority that is heavily informed by length of time homeless.</p> <p>i. Create a compatible YYA specific entry assessment.</p>
BoS CoC, VCRHYP	<p>II. Require that policies are in place to ensure youth are not screened out of housing programs due to: having too little or low income; active or history of substance use; having a criminal record; or history of victimization (e.g. domestic violence, sexual assault, childhood abuse).</p>
BoS CoC, VCRHYP	<p>III. Require that policies are in place to ensure youth and young adults are not terminated from housing programs due to: failure to participate in agreed upon supportive services; failure to make progress on a service plan; loss of income or failure to improve income; or any other activity not covered in a lease agreement typically found for unassisted persons.</p>

## Education and Employment:

The community will work to remove all barriers to success in education and employment for youth and young adults, and to support the pursuit of a variety of paths with an individualized approach.

<b>Objective 1: Ensure that all youth and young adults in the homelessness response system have the tools and supports they need to find and/or maintain employment.</b>	
<i>Suggested Responsible Parties</i>	<i>Action Steps</i>
YHDP/ BoS CoC	I. Require all projects applying for YHDP funds to identify how they will provide transportation and employment services to youth and young adults in their programs either directly or through an agreement with community partners.
YHDP/ BoS CoC, Parent-Child Centers	II. Require all projects applying for YHDP funds that serve pregnant/parenting YYA can identify how they will ensure services are available that support youth in employment settings (e.g. transportation, childcare, etc.) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Establish partnerships between homeless service providers and community providers serving pregnant/parenting youth and young adults (e.g. Parent Child Centers).</li> </ol>
YHDP/ BoS CoC	III. VT YHDP housing and service providers will ensure protocols and practices are in place that prioritize supporting YYA in obtaining documentation needed for employment and housing, including identification and citizenship documentation.
DOL	IV. Create a tool-kit/resource guide marketed to youth and young adults that provides them with information to enhance their job readiness and connections to resources and programs available to support them. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The tool-kit/resource guide will be available to YYA both in print and electronically, as well as other modalities that will help enhance accessibility.</li> <li>b. Guide will also address resources for LGBTQ and Youth of Color who may be experiencing workplace harassment or discrimination.</li> </ol>
DOL, BoS CoC	V. Strengthen partnerships between the housing system of care and the Vermont Department of Labor to enhance employment support options for YYA and utilization of WIOA resources. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Create a workgroup with the Department of Labor to explore ways to connect more youth and young adults to low-barrier employment supports.</li> </ol>

<b>Objective 2: Ensure that all youth and young adults in the homelessness response system have the tools and supports they need to advance or complete their education, including GED or high school equivalency and post-secondary education.</b>	
YHDP/ BoS CoC	I. Require all projects applying for YHDP funds to identify how they will provide transportation, educational, and employment services to youth and young adults in their programs either directly or through an agreement with community partners.
YHDP/ BoS CoC	II. Require all projects applying for YHDP funds that serve pregnant/parenting YYA to identify how they will ensure availability of services that support youth completing their education (e.g. transportation, childcare) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Establish partnerships between homeless service providers and community providers serving pregnant/parenting youth and young adults (e.g. Parent Child Centers)</li> </ul>
YHDP/ BoS CoC, AOE	III. VT YHDP housing and service providers will ensure protocols and practices are in place that prioritize supporting YYA in obtaining documentation needed for educational advancement. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Ensure YYA and families know their rights under McKinney-Vento for immediate enrollment regardless of documentation availability, such as transcripts, proof of address, identification, etc.</li> </ul>
VCRHYP, State Colleges and Universities	IV. Partner with VT State Colleges to retain open housing all year long, including summer and winter breaks, for youth with no alternative living arrangement.
VCRHYP, State Colleges of VT, VT student Assistance Cooperation	V. Explore opportunities for increased funding for Vermont YYA who have been verified homeless and are enrolled in post-secondary education to support additional college expenses, such as supplies, meal plans, clothing, hygiene products and other incidental needs.
<b>Objective 3: Ensure all students eligible for McKinney-Vento supports are identified and receive equitable services across all service systems.</b>	
AOE	I. Develop an effective strategy for providing ongoing professional development for liaisons, and basic education for other school personnel, resulting in effective McKinney-Vento programming statewide in all public, independent and private schools.
AOE	II. The Agency of Education will develop technical assistance for Homeless Liaisons, targeting unaccompanied youth services, including: formal site monitoring, workshops, annual sub-population conference, webinars, regular field memos to Statewide listserv, and other direct assistance as requested.

AOE	III. The Agency of Education will explore opportunities for providing the field with incentive grant funding for unaccompanied youth specific programs using evidence-based best practices.
AOE	IV. Enhance relationships between the youth homelessness response system and the Agency of Education to ensure coordination and shared understanding of resources and protocols for supporting school-aged youth. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Increase awareness of M-V eligibility and supports such as immediate school enrollment and transportation supports.</li> <li>b. Enhance statewide availability of AOE’s M-V parental and unaccompanied youth packets for eligible YYA and families.</li> </ul>
<b>Objective 4: Improve partnerships between alternative education programs and school districts/supervisory unions for the purposes of identification and equitable service delivery to McKinney-Vento YYA.</b>	
AOE	I. The State Program Coordinator for McKinney-Vento will establish systems of collaboration with input from all stakeholders that includes program directors/principals of alternative school networks, independent and religious schools, CTE centers, and Adult Learning Centers serving 16 – 24-year olds.
AOE	II. Develop a clear process for youth and young adults in alternative settings to access a variety of educational programs based upon identified needs that are youth-centered, reflective of and supported by stated educational goals as outlined by the Vermont Educational State Plan authorized in spring of 2017.
AOE	III. The Agency of Education will collaborate with alternative education program staff to ensure activities comply with education requirements and appropriate resources are available to ensure program efficacy.
<b>Objective 5: Ensure that youth and young adults are empowered to define their own education and employment goals and what supports/services they need to achieve them.</b>	
YHDP/ BoS CoC	I. Create outcomes and performance measures for YHDP-funded projects that recognize success beyond traditional education and employment outcomes.
AOE	II. AOE McKinney-Vento training will include TIC and PYD principles.

**Objective 6: Create, implement and annually evaluate a network of potential employers who support youth and young adult employment.**

DOL, AOE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>I. Department of Labor and Agency of Education will collaboratively establish employer professional development programs for serving YYA.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Include tips and ideas on how to strengthen and support successful youth and young adult employment.</li><li>b. Department of Labor will work to enhance opportunities for progressive employment for YYA.</li></ul></li></ul>
DOL, AOE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>II. Build partnerships with regional chambers of commerce to educate employers about the needs of youth and young adult employees and what resources employers can connect with to support YYA working for them.</li></ul>

**Permanent Connections:**

The community will support youth and young adults in establishing lasting connections with families, friends, communities, and other natural supports of choice, while cultivating opportunities and interests.

<b>Objective 1: Youth and young adults exiting housing programs have permanent connections: stable, positive relationships with family, friends, and others who will be there for the youth and young adults when needed.</b>	
<i>Suggested Responsible Parties</i>	<i>Action Steps</i>
YHDP/ BoS CoC and local CoCs	I. Increase collaboration and coordination between the community housing providers, youth service systems, education, and workforce organizations, etc.
YHDP/ BoS CoC	II. Peer and adult mentorship activities are built into housing and case management programs for YYA.
YHDP/ BoS CoC	III. Scattered-site, voucher-based and other non-site based housing programs work with community partners to create opportunities for YYA to connect with peers through shared activities, educational events, meals, and group counseling.
YHDP/ BoS CoC	IV. Housing and service providers assist youth and young adults in identifying areas of interest and support YYA connecting to participation opportunities within the community, such as cultural, faith-based, or recreational groups.
<b>Objective 2: Integrate development of permanent connections and the use of family/natural support engagement into every aspect of service delivery system, reunifying families and/or connecting to other supportive adults.</b>	
DCF/ Youth Development Program	I. Expanding services that facilitate permanent connections for youth exiting child welfare system involvement such as DCF’s extended foster care program and permanency pacts.
YHDP/ BoS CoC	II. Create policies and practices for all housing and services programs that include family and natural support engagement strategies and goals, including young adults aged 18-24.

**Social and Emotional Wellbeing:**

The community will embrace positive youth and young adult development, trauma-informed care, and resilience building; encouraging the ongoing development of skills, strengths, and hobbies among youth and young adults to ensure continued stability.

<p><b>Objective 1: Incorporate youth-centered, culturally-informed approaches to service delivery across all housing and service providers, including those not specifically targeting youth and young adults, to ensure that no young person experiences re-traumatization.</b></p>	
<i>Suggested Responsible Parties</i>	<i>Action Steps</i>
YHDP/ BoS CoC, VCRHYP	I. Train all support workers, including mainstream housing providers, in trauma-informed care, harm reduction, <i>Youth Thrive</i> /Strengthening Families/Positive Youth Development frameworks.
YHDP/ BoS CoC	II. Ensure all VT YHDP funded project have policies and protocols in place for training all housing support workers on cultural inclusiveness and how to support marginalized populations including LGBTQ youth, youth of color, unique needs of category 4 youth including safety planning, youth with behavioral or mental health disabilities, youth from various cultural backgrounds, etc.
YHDP/ BoS CoC, YAB	III. Incorporate youth-focused program evaluation, engaging youth who have gone through programs to provide feedback on efficacy and competency of services.
YHDP/ BoS CoC, YAB	IV. Establish clear avenues of accountability and policies that empower youth to act on their own behalf to address grievances with services or service providers.
<p><b>Objective 2: Youth and young adults will receive ongoing support and connection to resources in their pursuit of social, cultural, community, and recreational areas of interest.</b></p>	
YHDP/ BoS CoC, VCRHYP	I. Increase access to and supports for normalcy activities, including dedicated and flexible funds to pay for fees, clothing, or other resources needed to participate in day-to-day or one-time activities other YYA who aren't in housing crisis have access too.
YHDP/ BoS CoC, YAB, VCRHYP	II. Ensure that housing service providers and partners are taking a youth-centered approach to connecting youth with an array of opportunities that connect YYA to peers and their community.

**Objective 3: Youth and young adults are provided with and engage in local and statewide leadership and advocacy opportunities, increasing youth voice throughout system.**

YHDP/ BoS CoC, YAB	<p>I. Institutionalize the role of the VT-500 Youth Advisory Board (YAB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Establish two-member seats on the CoC Board</li> <li>b. Identify a long-term financial support for YAB members consultation</li> <li>c. Support YAB to develop ongoing outreach and engagement activities to recruit and sustain membership</li> <li>d. Connect YAB with other youth leadership groups including YDP FORWARD group, WIOA youth group, VT9to26 youth coalition and other partners working to advance youth leadership across the state.</li> </ul>
YHDP/ BoS CoC, YAB, local CoCs	<p>II. Mobilize local CoCs, YYA and housing providers to develop youth boards and opportunities for youth leadership in decision making processes, ensuring that youth voice is central to program development and assessment.</p>
YHDP/ BoS CoC, YAB	<p>III. Ensure housing providers have avenues of accountability that empower youth to act on their own behalf to address grievances with services or service providers.</p>
YHDP/ BoS CoC, YAB	<p>IV. Ensure each local CoC creates opportunities that engage youth voices in project planning, development and evaluation.</p>
YHDP/ BoS CoC, VCRHYP, YAB	<p>V. Provide resources to train YYA who have experienced homelessness in leadership, advocacy, and civic engagement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Develop or select a statewide youth leadership curriculum</li> <li>b. Connect precariously housed and homeless YYA to other organizations with leadership and peer councils.</li> </ul>

<b>Objective 4: All youth and young adults receiving housing or prevention supports will have access to adequate, timely and appropriate mental, behavioral, physical health services and substance abuse supports.</b>	
YHDP/ BoS CoC, DMH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Integrate TAY focused health and substance abuse interventions into youth and young adult homelessness system of care. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Develop partnerships with local Mental Health Designated Agencies and housing providers to increase information sharing, care coordination, and referrals.</li> <li>b. Housing providers should support YYA in accessing health insurance and connecting to a primary care physician.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
DMH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>II. Expand access to mental and behavioral health and substance abuse services.</li> </ul>
DMH, VCRHYP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>III. Address challenges in transition from child-based MH services to adult system of care, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Warm hand-offs between youth and adult systems,</li> <li>b. Increased training for YYA housing providers around transition to adult services,</li> <li>c. Increase collaboration with community based mental health teams.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
YHDP/ BoS CoC, DCF, Parent-Child Centers, VCRHP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IV. Provide communication and conflict mediation skill building into case management with YYA, particularly for pregnant and parenting youth to assist co-parenting relationships.</li> </ul>
YHDP/ BoS CoC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>V. Ensure connections to mental health support for LGBTQ youth, connections to LGBTQ affirming sexual health information, substance abuse programming for VT YHDP funded projects.</li> </ul>
<b>Objective 5: Service providers screen for and identify YYA who are experiencing or at-risk of human trafficking and sexual exploitation, from program entry through aftercare.</b>	
YHDP/ BoS CoC, VT Human Trafficking Task Force, VT Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Train YYA services and all housing providers on trafficking and exploitation red flags, community resources, and appropriate, non-stigmatizing responses.</li> </ul>

YHDP/ BoS CoC, VT Human Trafficking Task Force, VT Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence	II. Ensure youth who have been identified as having experienced potential trafficking or exploitation are connected to appropriate sexual health supports immediately.
YHDP/ BoS CoC, VT Human Trafficking Task Force, DCF	III. Work with the VT Department of Children and Families to share resources, such as screening tools, and information about trafficking with community partners.
<b>Objective 6: Support youth to achieve goals that will help them achieve long-term stability.</b>	
YHDP/ BoS CoC, AOE, YDP	I. Ensure YHDP funding projects are supporting YYA with long-term stability through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Specific educational supports for YYA who have been involved with the child welfare system and experienced housing instability should be available to help youth maintain an average GPA.</li> <li>b. Provision of case management or learning opportunities that enhance life skill development, from paying bills, cook and cleaning, to accessing resources. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Specific programming should be implemented with YYA who have been involved with the child welfare system at any point after age 12, including connections to the Youth Development Program for eligible YYA.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>