

Youth Homeless Demonstration Project (YHDP)

Request for Proposals (RFP)

Q&A

Below are questions received regarding the Charlotte County Coordinated Community Plan to End Youth Homelessness and the YHDP Request for Proposals.

1) What is the funding period?

The initial funding period is 24 months. After the first two years funding will be annual.

2) What is the payment type?

The Gulf Coast Partnership will pay on cost-reimbursement with monthly invoicing and reporting.

3) Is volunteer or staff time paid through other sources considered in-kind match?

Yes – Please refer to the following guidance from HUD on In-Kind Match:

<https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/24/578.73>

The Gulf Coast Partnership will work with any agency that foresees a struggle to meet the 25% match requirement and we encourage agencies to not allow match to pose a barrier to applying.

**4) What are the parameters on equity (regarding salary and wage questions in RFP)?
Specifically, the question posed was regarding RFP Question 5a Staffing: What is the differential between the highest and lowest full-time position?**

This question was included in the RFP as a way for agencies to demonstrate how agencies address staff retention and equity through salaries that provide a livable wage. YAB members stressed how staff turnover negatively effects relationships and outcomes for clients experiencing homelessness. Identifying a disparity is not a negative factor in scoring, but it opens the door for dialog about organizational values and ways to increase retention and equity.

5) Do the fund allocations for SO cover only services provided or are they expected to have some portion of the funding set aside for housing payments?

Under the Supportive Services Only (SSO) project type (aka Diversion) we intend to ask HUD for a waiver to spend up to \$1,000 per month, as needed, to support youth placements in Host Homes. This is intended to divert youth away from the traditional homeless response system (shelters, hotels, etc.). If this is a component you would like to include an agency application, the costs need to be factored into the program budget.

6) If some portion of the SO funding is meant to be used for housing, what percentage of the funding is expected to be spent on housing versus services?

Host Homes are a potentially eligible expense under the Supportive Services Only (SSO) project type (aka Diversion). We have not set a minimum or maximum percent to be spent on housing versus services. If these components are included in an agency application, the costs need to be factored into the program budget with justification/budget narrative to explain rationale.

7) Can you please define or describe what you mean by “low-barrier housing”?

Low-Barrier Housing is another term for Housing First which focuses on quickly connecting people experiencing a housing crisis to permanent housing without preconditions and barriers to entry (e.g., sobriety, treatment, or service participation requirements) while also providing necessary supports to help maintain housing and prevent a return to homelessness.

Supportive services are offered based on assessed need but are not required. Adopting a Housing First approach can be challenging for any provider organization, including those that serve youth. It is important for providers to understand the core principles of Housing First as they relate to youth, and ways in which the provider may need to change or reorient their existing approach to successfully implement Housing First. Additional information can be found here: <https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/using-a-housing-first-philosophy-when-serving-youth.pdf>

8) Are there arrangements already in place with agencies/facilities/landlords/etc. to provide crisis, short term, and long-term housing for individuals served by these grant funds or are we as selected providers expected to create this capacity?

The answer to this is, in part, dependent upon the program type or component. Overall, the Youth Specific System of Care in Charlotte County is not established therefore there is an expectation that providers of these services will be part of building the communities capacity/inventory of housing options and contacts.

Street Outreach – The Charlotte County Homeless Coalition operates a shelter for persons experiencing literal homelessness who are over the age of 18. Lutheran Services of Florida operates the Oasis Youth Shelter in Lee County (to include services to Charlotte County Youth) who are under the age of 18. CARE operates a shelter for person fleeing domestic violence and the Gulf Coast Partnership’s DV/HT Coordinated Entry can offer alternatives if CARE’s shelter is at capacity. There is a plan to utilize hotel stays whenever possible for youth experiencing homelessness to increase safety and exposure.

Supportive Services Only – The housing related goal of diversion is reunification with family or friends (when safe) and the use of host homes to divert youth away from the housing resources utilized by street outreach.

Rapid Re-Housing – There is a network of landlords and resources established, but additional development needs to be an ongoing priority for providers considering youth rapid rehousing.