



Some Community Resources for Homeless Youth and Families in Maine

<p><u>Dept. of Health and Human Services</u></p>	<p>Pursuant to 22 M.R.S.A. § 4099-E, the Department’s Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS) is responsible for providing a comprehensive program for Youth Experiencing Homelessness. The Department’s OCFS currently supports housing and responds to the needs of Youth experiencing homelessness in Maine through the following services:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Street and Community Outreach Program; 2. Drop-in Program; 3. Shelter for Homeless Youth Services; and 4. Transitional Living Program. <p>Presently we have contracts with several providers for these services and supports. They are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In Region 3- Community Care in Bangor presently provides drop and community and street outreach services, Shelter Services via Shaw House and Transitional Living through Mason Place. Also, Penquis CAP provides street and community outreach in then Bangor area. 2. In Region 2- New Beginnings in Lewiston provides Transitional Living, Youth Shelter, Community and Street Outreach as well as drop in services. 3. In Region 1- Preble Street provides Shelter, drop in and Street and community outreach. They also have a transitional living program that is funded through another entity, not OCFS. The Opportunity Alliance provides street and community outreach in the Greater Portland area and Day One provides mental health and substance use treatment in the Greater Portland area as well. <p>DHHS/OCFS is presently in the RFP process for these 4 services as well. We are hoping for a July 1, 2020 contract start date with this process.</p> <p>OCFS is also a partner in the YHDP (Youth Homeless Demonstration Project) and at the table for every meeting and TA site visit.</p>
<p><u>Greater Portland Family Promise</u></p>	<p>The mission of Greater Portland Family Promise is to help homeless and low-income families in the Greater Portland area to achieve sustainable independence through a community-based response.</p> <p>Greater Portland Family Promise (GFPF) is a 501-C3 nonprofit organization incorporated in 2016. GFPF is an affiliate of the national Family Promise program, which has over 200 affiliates nationwide. GFPF is the 207th Family</p>

Promise Affiliate, and the first to operate in Maine. GPFPP launched programming in July of 2017.

Since opening, GPFPP has served 40 families, comprising 167 individuals. 84% of all families served by GPFPP have moved into sustainable independent housing, and all families who have been housed through GPFPP have maintained housing.

GPFPP serves families experiencing homelessness by providing shelter, food, case management, and community support while helping families establish sustainable living situations.

GPFPP works with an interfaith network of congregations in Greater Portland who provide shelter for families in the evenings and overnight. Thirteen of these congregations host families on a weekly rotation. Families arrive at the host congregation in the evening, share a meal with volunteers, and engage in evening activities. Each family receives a private place to sleep each night. In this program, families are referred to as guests; volunteers receive Family Promise families with hospitality as if they were guests in their homes.

Each day, guests are transported in the GPFPP van to the Family Promise Day Center. There, guests shower, do laundry, use computers, and store belongings.

All GPFPP families receive intensive case management, meeting with the case manager several times weekly to secure housing, health care, employment, childcare, and educational opportunities. When families are prepared to exit the program into sustainable housing, GPFPP provides support throughout the move in the form of furniture, household goods, and continued case management. GPFPP provides follow-up case management to guests for up to a year after exiting.

GPFPP focuses on using existing community resources, including volunteer support and community partnerships. GPFPP partners with 28 local faith communities and has 800 trained volunteers. Family referrals come through a partnership with the City of Portland Family Shelter, and the GPFPP Day Center is provided through a partnership with the YMCA of Southern Maine. GPFPP continues to partner with community organizations to provide guest services, including tenant training, financial literacy, and housing opportunities.

GPFPP serves 3-4 families at a time, or up to 14 individuals. Serving only a few families at a time allows staff and volunteers to provide intensive, wrap-around, 24/7 care to all families served.

Families served by GPFPP can be of any configuration as long as they have a dependent child. GPFPP believes in the importance of keeping families together. Therefore, GPFPP is able to serve multigenerational families or families with adult children as one family when they might otherwise be separated and required to stay in single men's or women's shelters. The majority of GPFPP families have been referred by the City of Portland Family Shelter. 87% of those served by GPFPP have been newly arrived asylum seekers, mostly from African nations.

<p><u>Housing Resources for Youth</u></p>	<p>Housing Resources for Youth is comprised of a group of dedicated staff and volunteers from the Southern Midcoast area who are concerned about the increasing number of homeless teens in our area high schools. We are working towards a nationally recognized approach called the Host Home model. The Host Home program offers the opportunity for youth to obtain housing in the community they identify as their own.</p> <p>Our program recognizes the importance of youth connection to school, friends, and other natural supports and works to assist youth in nurturing these relationships throughout their stay in a Host Home. The Host Home Model offers a sustainable alternative to youth who find themselves couch surfing or sleeping in their cars.</p> <p>The Host Home program at Housing Resources for Youth matches volunteer families with students who are living on their own or apart from their family. Host homes serve youth who experience homelessness for any variety of reasons, including but not limited, to family conflict, extreme poverty, gender identity and sexual orientation, or abuse. The goal of our Host Home program is to provide a safe place where the student is able to focus on education. Some students in host homes may explore reunification with their family, while others continue in the program while they pursue the usual activities of high school students toward graduation. The Host Home Program is youth driven, and allows homeless youth to choose from a pool of volunteer hosts to stay with for a mutually determined period of time.</p> <p>The Host Home Program is an innovative, grassroots approach to addressing the growing problem of youth homelessness in Midcoast Maine. By pairing area High School students (ages 14-21) with community members who have underutilized spaces in their homes, youth not only obtain access to shelter but are also able to build meaningful connections to caring adults in their community. While staying in a Host Home, youth guests can continue their education, engage in long term life planning safely and more successfully, and just be kids!</p>
<p><u>Homeless Services of Aroostook</u></p>	<p>The Sister Mary O'Donnell Emergency Homeless Shelter is a program-based shelter for individuals and families with children. We provide a safe, drug and alcohol free environment for residents, 3 meals a day and case management services. Our Internal Case Manager works with residents to create individualized case plans, connects them with services in the community to meet their needs, and assists with securing employment and safe, affordable housing. We also provide follow-up services for residents for up to a year after they leave the Shelter, or until services are no longer desired.</p> <p>In July 2019, Homeless Services of Aroostook expanded to include Aroostook Bridge, a low-barrier shelter for homeless individuals over 18. Through this program, which does not require an application or background checks for admittance, we are able to help many of those we previously could not in our high-barrier family shelter.</p>

<p><u>Kennebec Behavioral Health</u></p>	<p>We have limited programming targeted at Homeless youth. We offer Outreach and Case Management for this specific demographic in both Kennebec and Somerset County. We certainly serve individuals, who are homeless through our broad array of services, but as far as targeted programming- just the Outreach and Homeless Case Management service.</p> <p>This program typically works with unaccompanied minors who are literally homeless or “couch surfing.” The individuals don’t have to have MaineCare as we cobble together a bit of funding each year to do street outreach until we are able to secure MaineCare for the individual.</p> <p>We serve many homeless individuals through our Med Clinic, traditional Community Integration or Behavioral Health Home services, school-based programming, outpatient etc.</p>
<p><u>Knox County Homeless Coalition</u></p>	<p>Knox County Homeless Coalition was formed in 2014 to reimagine and innovate around how homeless services are provided. We currently serve Knox, Waldo and parts of Lincoln County. Our mission is to break the cycle of poverty and homelessness in the Midcoast through our client-centric, multigenerational approach to homeless services, always delivered with dignity, compassion and respect.</p> <p>We recognize homelessness will never be solved through housing alone. True stability and lasting independence require a holistic approach, providing for basic needs (food, clothing, etc.), building relationships of trust with dedicated case managers, providing transportation, and supporting whole families. In just 6 years we have evolved to address root causes and deliver an innovative suite of programs including a 22-bed family shelter and a comprehensive youth program for homeless youth and those at high-risk of becoming homeless.</p> <p>Our youth program includes a low barrier drop-in center, innovative shelter solutions, comprehensive case management for unaccompanied minors and school and community outreach in the RSU 13, RSU40 and Five Towns CSD. More than 90% of our graduated clients maintain independence. In recognition of her leadership, our executive director was appointed by the governor to lead the Statewide Homeless Council. Our collaborations have resulted in innovative housing initiatives that will provide replicable models for affordable housing in other rural areas.</p> <p>Over the next decade, we are committed to focusing more on prevention and education so we can shift resources away from reactive services. Our bold goal is to reduce if not eliminate the number of people in the Midcoast who experience homelessness in the first place.</p>

<p><u>Maine Housing</u></p>	<p>MaineHousing provides grants to emergency shelters and agencies serving people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. This funding is allocated to sub-recipients as the Emergency Shelter and Housing Assistance Program (ESHAP), and is made up of three shares:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelter Operations Share – Available to agencies that have a fixed facility for reimbursement of costs associated with operating the facility, including staff. • Stabilization Share – Available to agencies that provide navigator services, development of housing search and placement activities, assistance with basic needs, and housing search and placement services that follow clients beyond the shelter to ensure housing stability. • Performance Share - Available to agencies as a bonus for outcomes received in regard to a specific set of performance measures. <p>In addition to this funding, MaineHousing provides rental assistance vouchers to be allocated by the shelters on a first come, first served basis to eligible individuals and families, both in the form of time-limited (up to 2 years) subsidy and long-term subsidy (Housing Choice Vouchers). Within the Housing Choice Voucher program MaineHousing also administers special vouchers targeted to youth and veterans experiencing homelessness.</p>
<p><u>MidMaine Homeless Shelter</u></p>	<p>Permanent Supported Housing for Young Adults 18 to 24</p> <p>This transformational housing program includes two one– bedroom apartments, 4 efficiencies, and a suite of 6 single rooms with private baths, a common kitchen and shared living room. This new community will include a Young Adult Committee to assist in managing the YES program as well as to plan and schedule community activities.</p> <p>There is also space to provide opportunities for building positive life skills as well as participating in life improving programming such as...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Navigation • Career Development • Rent Smart Classes • Financial Independence Training • Case Management • Prevocational Store • Young Adult Committee
<p><u>New Beginnings</u></p>	<p>Each year, New Beginnings provides 700 children, teens, adults with opportunities for the SAFETY, CONNECTION, and GROWTH that all people need to thrive. Whether a young person is facing a night on the streets for the very first time or has been surviving on their own for years, New Beginnings can help. Our mission is to partner with youth to create lasting change, so all youth have a safe place to live and opportunities to grow. Our vision is a world in which all youth are safe and valued in their communities. Since 1980, we have worked with teens, young adults, their families, and other providers to ensure that vulnerable youth in Maine have access to the safe housing, supportive</p>

	<p>services, and connections to caring relationships that they need to become healthy and stable adults.</p> <p>New Beginnings operates the only youth shelter in Maine licensed to provide 24-hour care. In addition to emergency shelter, our spectrum of programs includes housing, family mediation, mental health, educational support, prevention education, case management, and street outreach services – all designed to prevent young people from becoming homeless, support struggling families, and help vulnerable young people successfully transition to adulthood. Our dedicated staff members focus on creating the caring and trusting relationships with young people that are at the heart of our work, and that we know can bring about change. Based in Lewiston, New Beginnings operates sites in Androscoggin, Franklin, and Kennebec counties providing an essential "safety net" – food, clothing, shelter, housing, referrals – for young people ages 12-22 from across Maine who don't have stable family support.</p>
<p><u>Opportunity Alliance</u></p>	<p>The Opportunity Alliance’s Homeless Youth Program has been in operation for over 20 years. We are a community-based case management program serving youth and families in York and Cumberland County. We serve youth between the ages of six (6) and twenty-one (21) who are literally or imminently homeless.</p> <p>If a youth is homeless within the context of their family, we serve the entire family. When a youth is older and unaccompanied, we work directly with the youth.</p> <p>Our strength-based case managers first assist with securing basic needs, (food, clothing, shelter) and also link youth and families to community resources and providers. We support children in enrolling in schools and are informed regarding the laws ensuring homeless youth may be educated regardless of the town in which they are residing. Knowledge of local food banks, clothing closets, general assistance offices and libraries is critical. Case managers understand the stress that homelessness can cause and the other potential health risks for those experiencing homelessness and poverty. Connecting people to health care professionals, mental health providers, natural supports and other service providers, in addition to housing resources, is all part of the service offered.</p>
<p><u>Penquis</u></p>	<p>The Penquis Youth Homeless Outreach program offers support and assistance to youth 12 to 21 years of age who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in Penobscot, Piscataquis, Knox and Waldo county. This includes youth who are not residing with a parent/guardian and instead may be staying with a friend, boy/girl friend or an extended family member. Program staff meet with the youth to help them access needed resources, increase skill development for greater self-sufficiency, or strengthen family connections for reunification.</p> <p>Services are youth driven and designed to provide the supports and tools that participants feel they need or would like. Individual sessions are scheduled so youth have opportunities to set goals which reflect their own individual needs. Goals often are related to finding stable housing, assistance gaining resources</p>

such as SNAP benefits and MaineCare, support in continuing their education and life skills. Program staff provide support, guidance and encouragement as youth are working towards their goals. Staff can meet with youth on a continuous basis until goals are met or youth are no longer in need or interested in services. Referrals can be made by anyone including self-referrals.

Forty-five youth were served in 2019, 94% of those youth were referred by high schools. Schools utilize the program to provide additional supports to youth by welcoming our program and staff into their school to meet with students in need. While schools have resources available to their students, the Youth Homeless Outreach program offers supports from someone outside of the school community. Program staff are available after school hours, are more familiar with mainstream resources and can navigate through the DHHS systems and can support them beyond their academic needs.

Eight of the 45 youth served last year, who were on track to graduate high school, did complete their senior year and receive their diploma. All of the youth enrolled in school during their participation in the program were able to stability and resources to continue with their education.

Other Penquis services available to homeless youth and families

1. Child Care

Service Area: Penobscot & Knox Counties
Clients: Low to moderate income families with children ages 6 weeks to 5 years of age.

Service and Purpose: Provide center-based child care services for approximately 160 children at three Bangor sites, one Rockland location and one Old Town center which enables parents to work or participate in training and/or educational opportunities. Support from this service increases family self-sufficiency.

2. Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

Service Area: Penobscot, Piscataquis, Knox, Hancock, Waldo, Somerset & Lincoln Counties
Clients: 90 providers and 1106 children

Service and Purpose: Reimbursement is provided to licensed or regulated child care providers for food served to eligible children ensuring nutritional needs are met. Reimbursement is also available to legal, unregulated providers who have a contract with a child subsidy program.

3. Head Start/Early Head Start (includes In-Kind and KVCAP Partnership)

Service Area: Penobscot, Piscataquis, & Knox Counties

Clients: 309 Preschool Head Start ages 3-5
91 Early Head Start ages 0-3

Service and Purpose: A center-based program serving preschool and infant/toddler children ages 6 wks-5 and their families. Comprehensive services include health, social services, parent involvement, and nutrition and mental health. Early Head Start services are delivered through a center based or through a combination model which blends both center and home-based

models. The primary goal is to support social competence for children and families to break the cycle of poverty.

It would be worth noting that Head Start allows us to reserve up to 3% of our funded enrollment for homeless children/families. Unfortunately, those reserved slots can only be vacant for 30 days before we can offer them to other eligible children/families.

EHS served 7 children from 7 families that experienced homelessness during the year. *2 families acquired housing during this timeframe.

HS served 25 children from 22 families that experienced homelessness during the year. *12 families acquired housing during this timeframe.

4. Maine Families

Service Area: Penobscot & Piscataquis Counties
Clients: Maine Families is a voluntary home-based program for families expecting a baby and parents or primary caregivers of Maine's youngest children.

Service and Purpose: Offered in every county of the state through a well-established network of sites in local community agencies, Maine Families is a proven program that supports families, promotes safe and healthy growth and development for babies and young children and provides key connections to needed services. Our family visitors are well-trained professionals who are up-to-date with the latest early childhood and parenting research and are certified by the national Parents as Teachers model. They use a non-judgmental and compassionate approach that empowers parents with skills, tools, and confidence to nurture the healthy growth of their baby.

*9 Homeless youth were served in ME FAM during the 2019 year.

5. Child and Abuse Prevention Council

Service Area: Penobscot & Piscataquis Counties
Clients: Community members including parents, providers and professionals

Service and Purpose: Educating the community and increasing awareness on child abuse prevention through trainings, parent groups and community events.

6. Penquis Journey House

Service Area: State wide with a focus on Penobscot and Piscataquis Counties
Clients: Homeless pregnant and parenting young women sixteen to twenty one years of age

Service and Purpose: Provides safe and supervised shelter and support services necessary for young women, and their children, to begin a path towards self-sufficiency.

* 11 homeless youth were served for 2019

7. Community Partnerships for Protecting Children (CPPC)

Service Area: Penobscot and Piscataquis counties

	<p>Clients: Families in need of additional supports</p> <p>Service and Purpose: Strengths- based, community supports for families designed to reduce instances of child abuse and family involvement with CPS. CPPC helps families to identify their own risks, needs and strengths while increasing protective factors.</p> <p>Community Partnerships for Protecting Children (CPPC) is a network of people who live, work, and serve in our communities. We know that life is complex, and that life’s challenges can get in the way of being the best parents we can be. We partner to support families who are experiencing the highest levels of stress, before things get out of control. And when life has already gotten complicated, we are here to walk beside each family member, to help them get back on their feet. Together, we help solve problems so parents can focus on raising safe and thriving children. We know that preventing child abuse is not simply a matter of parents doing a better job, but about creating communities in which doing better is easier.</p> <p>CPPC provides peer support through Parent Partners for families in need of support during critical times in their lives. Our Parent Partners work closely with families involved, or at risk of involvement with DHHS Child Protective Services by providing emotional support, assistance and guidance with family team meetings, help with setting and reaching goals, and accessing community supports and resources.</p> <p>In addition, we have a Community Hub which is a safe, neutral gathering place for neighbors, friends, and families to make connections and build supportive relationships within the community. We also offer workshops on a variety of topics, parenting classes, computer access, assistance with finding resources, support groups, story time for children, and more.</p> <p>Currently, CPPC is serving 22 families one on one with a Parent Partner in Penobscot and Piscataquis counties and has served 105 families through our Community Hub.</p>
<p><u>Preble Street</u></p>	<p>Through the Joe Kreisler Teen Shelter and Teen Center drop-in, Preble Street Teen Services operates 24/7, 365 days a year to provide warmth and safety, nutritious meals, clothing, crisis intervention, case management, and overnight shelter to homeless and runaway youth ages 12-20.</p> <p>Preble Street also engages youth with advocacy and legislative efforts, including bringing them to Augusta to provide testimony on issues that affect them.</p>
<p><u>Rumford Group Homes</u></p>	<p>We offer children’s and adult case management services and services to help families become and remain permanently housed, including budgeting and rehousing supports. Our goal is to end homelessness by getting at its roots.</p> <p>Rumford Group Homes operates 3 family shelter with a total capacity of 44 beds. Two of the shelters are in Rumford and one is in Norway.</p>

<p><u>Shaw House</u></p>	<p>The mission of Shaw House is to engage youth who are homeless, or at-risk of becoming homeless, in achieving stability and a viable plan for the future by providing a safe, stable environment, access to essential services, supportive adult connections, and to advocate for changes that address the needs of homeless youth.</p> <p>Organization Overview The Shaw House is the only youth shelter to contract with the state of Maine to serve homeless youth in Penobscot county. In 1991, the Shaw House 16-bed Emergency Shelter was opened to provide a safe place to be during the nighttime hours. In 1994, Shaw House added the Day Program, creating 24/7 access to meals, showers, laundry facilities, and other gateway services.</p> <p>Homeless youth are highly vulnerable to sexual exploitation and sex trafficking, often refraining from seeking safe shelter due to fear. In response, Shaw House established a Street Outreach Program in 1997, bringing support to youth living on the streets. In 2001, Shaw House fulfilled the statewide need for a transitional living program for homeless youth by creating the Mason Place Transitional Living Program, an 8-bed co-ed transitional housing program for youth aged 16 to 20 years to assist youth in gaining skills necessary to transition to independence. As a result of the continued diversification of the programming, Shaw House provides comprehensive services to homeless, at-risk youth through street outreach to locate homeless youth, 24/7 shelter and access to services, and skill development to assist youth in transitioning to independence. During calendar year 2018, the Shaw House served 163 unduplicated homeless youth across all programs.</p>
<p><u>Tedford Housing</u></p>	<p>Tedford Housing’s 6-unit family emergency shelter serves the southern Midcoast region. The shelter housed 23 individuals last year, 88% of whom exited to permanent affordable housing. The program turned away 205 families for lack of space. Tedford provides permanent supported family housing in the Midcoast, Augusta, and Lewiston/Auburn areas. They offer homelessness prevention and outreach services and a fuel assistance program</p>
<p><u>Western ME Homeless Outreach</u></p>	<p>Western Maine Homeless Outreach is a 16-bed facility in Franklin County Maine. We are the only homeless shelter in Franklin County. Our mission is to help families become self-sustaining. We partner with Maine State Housing and can offer different housing vouchers for qualifying families and single individuals. Vouchers can be lifelong or just a year to help those in need get back on their feet. The hurdle in this area is affordable housing, finding land lords that will accept vouchers and transportation. We primarily use the local taxi company, but they just recently closed with no notice to business's or customers.</p>
<p><u>York County Shelter Programs</u></p>	<p>Our adult emergency shelter, located in Alfred, serves individuals aged 18 and older. The HUD definition of homeless youth includes anyone up to age 24, so we do serve homeless youth in our adult shelter. We have 37 emergency shelter beds at this location. Our family shelter, located in Sanford, serves</p>

youth with at least 1 parent/guardian. We have 16 family shelter beds. On the average, the family shelter has 5-6 adults and the remainder are minor children.

Both facilities receive funding from Maine State Housing, who basically funnels the HUD money coming into Maine to serve homeless individuals and families. That program is called ESHAP. We operate a housing first model of emergency shelter, which has been formally going on for the past 4 years now, as a directive from HUD. The housing first philosophy is basically a belief that all are entitled to adequate, safe, affordable housing, regardless of the barriers they may face. Traditionally, prior to this movement here in Maine, the majority of shelters operated on a philosophy that the barriers need to be eliminated prior to attainment of housing, to ensure successful retention of that housing. In addition, the majority of shelters in Maine are overnight shelters, requiring individuals to leave during the day time hours and return in the evening for a shelter bed. YCSP has always been open 24 hours per day, since it began in 1979.

Our internal philosophy has always been that of housing first. We believe everyone deserves a decent, affordable place to live. In addition, over the years, we have introduced services and supports for our homeless individuals and families, based on what they are unable to access on their own. In essence, erasing the barriers they face, while also rapidly rehousing individuals and families, simultaneously. We have developed medication management with a psychiatrist who comes on-site to see people, medication assisted treatment services, case management, residential addictions treatment, access to medical care/PCP, education, a food pantry, outpatient counseling, and vocational training opportunities.

I believe one of the most remarkable accomplishments of our organization has been the pursuit and attainment of individual properties that are now affordable housing units, from SROs (single room occupancy), efficiency apartments, 1, 2, 3, and 4-bedroom units. Our housing is in York County, spanning from Biddeford, down to Kittery. All available to individuals and families that come through our shelters. Without owning our own housing, we would not be able to move people as rapidly as we do. There simply is not enough affordable housing available.

We see about 500 people a year in shelter, roughly 100 are children under 18. Our recidivism rate for families after 1 year of leaving our shelter, thus far is 0. Our recidivism rate for individuals leaving our adult shelter thus far is about 5%. We credit these great outcomes to the supportive services we continue to offer, including remaining connected after housing is secured (whether it is our housing or a private landlord). Housing Navigation services are provided for a year following departure from the shelter. This service helps identify possible issues or concerns as they arise and can provide the intervention needed to ensure the individual or family does not become homeless again.

We are helping to organize the upcoming homeless youth community conversation happening next week in Sanford, in partnership with Community Action, Sanford Housing, and Maine Housing Authority. This conversation is "by

	<p>invite only" specifically focused on organizations who deal with homeless youth in York County. As it stands, we have 25 organizations who intend to come, which is phenomenal!</p> <p>We work closely with the schools in our districts (both Sanford High School and Massabesic) to ensure school aged individuals can remain in school. Both have a homeless liaison available for homeless youth.</p>
<p><u>Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project</u></p>	<p>The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded Maine a two-year, \$3.35 million dollar grant to end and prevent youth homelessness. The grant will support the creation of a Coordinated Community Plan (CCP) to end and prevent youth homelessness. The CCP will identify the strengths, gaps and challenges to the existing youth homelessness response system and recommend strategies to improve the system and outcomes for youth experiencing homelessness up to age 24. Since Maine has been identified as a rural community there will be an emphasis on improved and/or increased access to services for youth experiencing homelessness in rural communities.</p> <p>The money will be allocated through MaineHousing. MaineHousing, in partnership with New Beginnings (a Youth Homelessness Provider in Lewiston) will be the lead agency for the collaborative effort. MaineHousing will be contracting a Project Director to spearhead the planning and implementation of the CCP. A leadership team of cross-sector experts from the Maine Department of Corrections, the Maine Department of Education, the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, MaineHousing, local municipalities, and nonprofit youth serving agencies will be convened to create the CCP. The team will also ensure that youth with lived experience in homelessness have a voice in all decisions regarding the work of the CCP.</p> <p>After the CCP is created, non-profit, faith-based, and government agencies will have an opportunity to apply for subgrants to create new and innovative programs to end and prevent youth homelessness.</p> <p>The goal of the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) is to support up to 25 communities, at least 8 of which will be rural, in the development and implementation of a coordinated community approach to preventing and ending youth homelessness and sharing that experience with and mobilizing communities around the country toward the same end. The population to be served by this demonstration program is youth experiencing homelessness, including unaccompanied and pregnant or parenting youth, where no member of the household is older than 24. The demonstration has five primary objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build national momentum. <p>Motivate state and local homelessness stakeholders across the country to prevent and end youth homelessness by forming new partnerships, addressing system barriers, conducting needs assessments, testing promising strategies, and evaluating their outcomes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate the coordinated community approach.

	<p>Evaluate coordinated community approaches to preventing and ending youth homelessness, including local and state partnerships across sectors and other planning operations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expand capacity. <p>Demonstration communities will expand their capacity to serve homeless youth, pilot new models of assistance, and determine what array of interventions is necessary to serve the target population in their community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluate performance measures. <p>Evaluate the use of performance measurement strategies designed to better measure youth outcomes and the connection between youth program outcomes and youth performance measures on overall system performance for the Continuum of Care (CoC).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish a framework for federal program and TA collaboration. <p>Determine the most effective way for federal resources to interact within a state or local system to support a coordinated community approach to preventing and ending youth homelessness.</p>
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