

Before Starting the CoC Application

In order to be considered for YHSI or YHDP funding, applicants must submit the Youth Homelessness Consolidated Application.

To be considered for YHDP funding, you must also submit the following in order for us to consider your YHDP Consolidated Application complete:

1. the YHDP Priority Listing, and
2. all the project applications for the YHDP funding in your community.

As the Applicant for the Youth Homelessness Consolidated Application, you are responsible for reviewing the following:

1. The FY 2024 & FY 2025 Youth Homelessness Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for specific application and program requirements.
2. The FY 2024 & FY 2025 Youth Homelessness Application Detailed Instructions which provide additional information and guidance for completing the application.
3. All information provided to ensure it is correct and current.
4. Responses provided by project applicants in their Project Applications, if applying for YHDP funding.
5. The application to ensure all documentation, including attachments, are provided.

Answering Multi-Part Narrative Questions

Many questions require you to address multiple elements in a single text box. Number your responses to correspond with multi-element questions using the same numbers in the question. This will help you organize your responses to ensure they are complete and help us to review and score your responses.

Attachments

Questions requiring attachments to receive points state, "You Must Upload an Attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen." Only upload documents responsive to the questions posed—including other material slows down the review process, which ultimately slows down the funding process. Include a cover page with the attachment name.

Attachments must match the questions they are associated with—if we do not award points for evidence you upload and associate with the wrong question, this is not a valid reason for you to appeal HUD's funding determination.

We must be able to read the date and time on attachments requiring system-generated dates and times, e.g., a screenshot displaying the time and date of the public posting using your desktop calendar; screenshot of a webpage that indicates date and time.

1A. Application Type

1. Community Name YHDP-Triangle Region for Youth

2. Type of Submission: YHDP

3. Certify that the applicant will not operate drug injection sites or "safe consumption sites," knowingly distribute drug paraphernalia on or off of property under their control, permit the use or distribution of illicit drugs on property under their control, or conduct any of these activities under the pretext of "harm reduction."

X

This is a required certification to receive funding under the FY2024 and FY2025 Youth Homelessness NOFO (See section III.D and V.A of the NOFO).

General Criteria- Youth Leadership

1a. Describe how the youth with lived experience were involved with the development of this application.

(2,000 characters)

Youth with lived experience were involved with the development of this application in three major ways. 1) Identification of Needs and Priorities: Wake, Orange, Durham and Chatham Counties participated in a regional Youth Homelessness System Improvement (YHSI) awarded in FY2023. Comprehensive system mapping and needs assessment was conducted with the support of a national consultant with demonstrated ability to engage youth in the system planning and improvement process. The consultant first worked directly with county and regional Youth Action Board (YAB), comprised of 12 youth with lived experience, to identify systemic gaps and the specific needs that must be addressed to overcome barriers facing youth experiencing homelessness in the region. Only after gathering input directly from youth did the consultant bring in professional stakeholders to collaborate on the resulting plan, "Building Better Pathways". Youth worked alongside the consultant to refine, finalize, and deepen this work. The plan reflects three areas identified as most critical: a coordinated, youth-centered assessment at system entry; stronger continuity of care, including easier access to services, better coordination, transportation, and peer mentorship for stability and housing retention; and expanded resources across prevention, transitional housing, and other housing solutions. 2) Wake CoC and Regional YAB Engagement: Regional stakeholders also participated in the YAB for the planning and competition process for this NOFO to review the opportunity, receive guidance and feedback from YAB members on funding priorities, system improvements, the YHDP Priority Listing, and Consolidated Application. 3) Participation on Evaluation Panel. To ensure representation from regional jurisdictions, one person with lived experience from the Regional YAB formally evaluated project applications. Results from the evaluations directly informed the Priority Listing of projects submitted under this NOFO.

1b. Did at least two youth with lived experience meaningfully participate in the development of this application. Yes

2a. Describe how young people with lived experience will be involved in the project design, implementation, and operation of YHDP projects.

(2,000 characters)

As demonstrated through their leadership and involvement in the Triangle Region's YHSI process, young people with lived experience will be involved throughout the evolution of YHDP Projects. YAB meetings are held monthly and will be the primary space where YHDP progress and reporting will be covered, outside of the regional participating CoC Governance/Membership meetings. The YHSI plan developed for and by young people identifies three critical areas: coordinated, youth-centered assessment at system entry; stronger continuity of care, including easier access to services, better coordination, transportation, peer mentorship for stability and housing retention; and expanded resources across prevention, transitional housing, and other solutions. 1) Project Design: The plan guided providers in the proposed design, staffing models, and overall approach. E.g. Haven House SSO-SO project application addresses a gap in Coordinated Entry (CE) access for young adults both in traditional proactive coverage and outreach engagement through service center collocated with peer support and other resources like health, case management, etc. Youth will be integral in continued CE efforts and regional coordination, including design of communication materials and trainings. 2) Implementation: YHDP projects require significant work in order to scale up over the two years. This presents several opportunities for young people to direct the work: formal staffing and employment roles in YHDP projects; strategic direction during problem solving; priorities and system partnerships; and development of youth focused materials to orient youth to access points and services. 3) Operation: The majority of YHDP project applicants maintain internal advisory boards of current former participants with lived experience. Participants in agency YABs have become leaders in the Regional YAB and have a direct role in informing and monitoring operations at the agency and system level.

General Criteria- Community Connections

1. How will your community will use funds awarded through this NOFO to address the social and emotional well-being of youth, including incorporating a strengths-based approach, positive youth development, and trauma-informed care.

(1,500 characters)

Our community, the Triangle Region, will use the funds awarded through this NOFO to address the social and emotional well-being of youth throughout the full continuum of services including a youth-specific Coordinated Entry (CE) assessment, a youth-specific By-Name List (BNL), a client-centered intake process and direct services and housing delivered by staff trained in Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) and Positive Youth Development (PYD). At every point of contact, youth are met by providers equipped to recognize the impact of trauma, individual life experiences, and to support resilience, self-sufficiency, and healthy development. These frameworks guide how staff engage with youth, prioritize social and emotional well-being, and support the development of character, resilience, and personal responsibility.

2. Describe one strategy that emphasizes the development of self-sufficiency, personal responsibility, resilience-building, and character development while acknowledging the impact of difficult life experiences on youth development.
(1,500 characters)

One key strategy is to continue to provide and formalize a range of roles and leadership opportunities for young adults as they transition through milestones from crisis to long term stability. For example, supporting youth connection to low barrier and meaningful work opportunities builds confidence, skills and income while also providing flexibility to take classes and/or work on other stability goals. Service providers in the Triangle Region primarily partner with Capital Area Workforce Development (CAWD) which provides employment workshops, career exploration, and paid work experiences with certified life coaches providing mentorship. Life Coaching certification was offered to Triangle Region YHSI youth service providers so that staff can use coaching strategies that help youth set and achieve goals, strengthen decision-making and personal accountability, build resilience, identify strengths, and develop self-advocacy skills while acknowledging how trauma and difficult life experiences affected each person's journey. These partnerships support the efforts of the dedicated youth transitional housing programs and supportive services which give youth experiencing homelessness the space to identify their needs, strengths, and goals. This strategy ultimately supports client engagement in the rehousing process while communicating to youth that dependency on social services and financial assistance rather than self-sufficiency and independence is not a long-term solution.

3. Describe at least two strategies your community will implement to promote economic independence and prevent long-term dependency on social services.

(1,500 characters)

Our community will promote economic independence by building on the strategies advanced in the Building Better Pathways, the key deliverable developed through the Triangle Region's YHSI grant. Two of the identified strategies focus on testing or piloting new partnerships and opportunities as well as formalizing creative solutions to building financial stability. 1) Formalize additional workforce partnerships to connect young people to job training, paid internships, apprenticeships, and post-secondary education opportunities, supporting the transition from crisis to sustained earnings. The Triangle leverages existing programs under the Capital Area Workforce Development (CAWD) program and local municipality programs such as Durham YouthWorks and will focus on building additional avenues with non-profit and faith-based partners. 2) Embed youth leadership in economic planning is designed to empower the Youth Action Board (YAB) to co-design and facilitate financial capability support such as budget assistance, credit-building resources, and transportation. In addition, CoCs will continue to explore opportunities to create saving incentives to support exit to independent and stable housing, building on existing goals of transitional housing projects. The Triangle region will also seek opportunities to improve data collection and tracking of factors related to youth economic stability; earned income growth, savings at program exit, and education advancement.

4a. How will you build connections between at-risk youth and school, life skills training, and job attainment skills?

(1,500 characters)

Preparation to earn a living wage begins with a solid educational foundation. Providers have strong partnerships with public school systems and local community colleges, youth are connected to their next educational step—finishing high school or equivalency, pursuing a certificate, trade, or degree. Providers meet regularly with school systems for referrals, and once youth are enrolled, monthly meetings with community college staff monitor progress and address challenges. Hope Center at Pullen and Wake Technical Community College's Fostering Bright Futures Program has met monthly for over 10 years to ensure youth aging out of foster care have housing and can pursue their educational or job training goals. All service providers offer regular life skills training, group and one-on-one settings, tailored to youth needs based on YAB feedback. Topics include financial literacy, cooking and meal planning, healthy relationships, and avoiding risky behaviors. Youth-specific Ready to Rent classes offer a completion certificate to strengthen rental applications to landlords. Providers regionwide also build job-attainment skills. Case management staff help youth create resumes, prepare for interviews, identify employment opportunities, and navigate the application process. Once peer support positions are implemented, these trusted guides will mentor youth on their journey toward a living wage.

4b. How will you build connections between at-risk youth and employment opportunities?

(1,500 characters)

Capital Area Work Force Development (CAWD), serving Wake, Chatham, and Orange Counties, has a long history of working with youth providers through their NextGen program which helps youth age 14-24 build careers through career training, paid work experience, and education support at no cost to the participants. CAWD offers job training, career exploration, mock interviews, resume building, paid work experience, internships/apprenticeships where CAWD can cover wages. CAWD's Executive Director was instrumental in expanding pathways to paid work experience to former foster youth. Durham CoC partners with workforce development programs like Bull City YouthBuild, a full-time 9-month program that helps students earn a high school equivalency/diploma while providing hands-on job training in construction trades. Youth cited transportation as a key barrier to sustaining employment in the YHSI Building Better Pathways roadmap, proposing a pilot for transportation services access, ensuring youth can reliably reach interviews, training, and worksites across the region. The pilot will provide transportation support (rideshare accounts, gas cards, transit passes) and help youth obtain driver's licenses. The Regional YAB will co-design outreach and employer-engagement strategies, so connections reflect real youth interests and address barriers. Staff will track placement, retention, and wage outcomes through shared HMIS data to continuously refine employer partnerships regionwide.

General Criteria- Building Safe Communities

1. Demonstrate, by providing evidence, that the project applicant cooperates and does not interfere with or impede local efforts to advance the objectives below, and assists first responders in providing services to homeless youth.

(1,500 characters)

The community cooperates and does not impede local efforts related to public safety and assists first responders in providing services to homeless youth. 1) coordinate with local agencies to clear encampments on public property prioritizing service connection for youth. E.g. communication with Dept. of Transportation to identify high risk locations. 2) decrease public use of illicit drugs and quickly connect homeless youth with services and/or law enforcement. E.g. detox or other respite options. 3) utilize involuntary commitment and other standards to address youth who are a danger to themselves or others. E.g. connection to PATH outreach for ongoing support and services. 4) comply with requirements of SORNA. E.g. providing education/training. Law enforcement representatives all serve on Triangle Region CoC Boards and participate in Committees focused on system improvement. E.g. Wake CoC works closely with the Raleigh Police Department (RPD) and their community engagement team, and co-response outreach team (ACORNS) which is directly involved in the CoC Street Outreach and Coordinated Entry Committees. First responders are informed about resources for young adults and parenting youth experiencing homelessness and other crises. E.g. first responders often facilitate transportation to shelter during extreme weather, connect to emergency department alternatives, detox or other respite to minimize risk of fatality and public safety concerns.

2. Identify local laws, policies, or other practices that help or hinder the project applicant's ability to advance the objectives below and provide a plan explaining how the project applicant will leverage beneficial policies while overcoming the harmful effects of restrictive ones. If you cannot provide any mitigating steps, please explain why. Include qualitative and quantitative details in your response.

2a. Quickly clears tents and encampments on public property and connects youth who are camping in public with appropriate services. In your response, describe the current status of tents and encampments in the geographic area.

(1,500 characters)

The status and number of encampments in the region is estimated to be 100-120 locations of varying size and location. Rural encampments tend to be smaller and more isolated that may be difficult to engage without additional support. With YHDP funding, the Triangle intends to coordinate expanded outreach coverage and complete an unsheltered census to prioritize youth engagement particularly in rural areas. Wake/Durham CoCs both launched strategic efforts in July 2026 to address encampments. The initiative aims to quickly clear encampments through coordination with law enforcement, property owners and street outreach that covers designated geographic areas. Wake CoC operates a camp reporting tool where the public can report concerns and locations. CE staff and the co-response unit review submissions to engage and assess sites within 1-2 business days. Outreach teams are notified and help identify housing/connection to other services. The encampment closure process requires coordination with municipal parks and public works. Both jurisdictions have demonstrated recent successes in closing public spaces to sleeping (Raleigh Unsheltered Pilot at Dix Park and Durham Oakwood Park Closure and Restoration). These efforts ensure that local laws prohibiting unauthorized camping and placement of temporary structures or sleeping on public property are enforced. The Triangle Region is evaluating this strategy to replicate a similar process and camp reporting tool in other regional CoCs.

2b. Decrease the public use of illicit drugs and quickly connect homeless youth who are using illicit drugs in public with appropriate services and/or law enforcement. In your responses, describe the current status of overdoses and illicit drug use in public spaces in the geographic area.

(1,500 characters)

NC Controlled Substances Act (G.S. Ch. 90) prohibits loitering and disorderly conduct on public property, including or drug activity and impeding traffic. Proposed state legislation (HB437) would create Drug-Free Homeless Service Zones, applying felony penalties for drug offenses within 100ft of shelter/housing facilities and restrict public camping statewide, requiring sanctioned sites to include behavioral health and substance treatment coordination. This enforcement structure offers an opportunity for faster diversion and connection to services for youth using drugs near facilities in our region because of effective partnerships with law enforcement. Camping restrictions may disperse youth from locations where outreach currently makes contact. These potential effects can be mitigated. Our plan 1) formalize diversion agreements with law enforcement prioritizing service connection when possible; 2) expand street outreach to maintain contact with youth in public spaces regardless of proximity to facilities; 3) partner with the crisis and co-response teams operating within our region's police departments to support cross-trained, youth-specific identification and warm handoff; 4) open a regional drop in center paired with transportation options so youth have a place to go. From 2021–2025, fatal overdoses fell 44% (409 to 228) and ED-treated overdoses fell 39% (1,907 to 1,228). Despite these gains, 25–34 age range remain among the highest-risk in most counties.

2c. Utilize standards that address homeless youth who are a danger to themselves or others (e.g., involuntary commitment).

(1,500 characters)

NC's Involuntary Commitment law (IVC) (GS Ch. 122C, Article 5) requires clear and convincing evidence of both a diagnosable condition and dangerousness. This gives providers across the Triangle Region a defined legal threshold for intervening with youth in crisis, with due process in custody, examination, and hearing steps. A new IVC law, S.L. 2025-93 expands treatment options and requires state agencies to develop new behavioral health programs to keep people connected to care. This doubles the maximum length of court-ordered outpatient treatment from 90 to 180 days, expands the use of telehealth evaluations, increases access to mobile crisis and strengthens connections to mental health care. State agencies must develop a telehealth pilot program and create a statewide plan to expand mobile crisis services. The new law will address historical barriers to access, and youth in IVC being held in hospital emergency departments (ED) for days/weeks awaiting a psychiatric bed. The region has expanded behavioral health urgent care, walk-in stabilization services offered by multiple providers as an alternative to ED boarding, and mobile crisis teams to assess danger and route youth to appropriate care in real time. The Triangle Region will train staff working with youth to recognize risks, activate mobile crisis, or IVC, rather than defaulting to law enforcement or the ED. Pair this with warm-handoffs so youth return to housing and services after stabilization.

2d. Comprehensively share information, including location information, in accordance with the Sex Offender Registry and Notification Act (SORNA).

(1,500 characters)

The last (2016) review of NC's implementation status through the DOJ SMART Office found NC to have not substantially implemented all SORNA requirements. NC's incomplete implementation creates practical constraints on housing/service coordination. NC monitors and responds to relocation notices on the SORNA Exchange Portal, notifies law enforcement, and federal databases of changes to offenders' registration, or allows access to State law enforcement databases. NC provides direct notification of registered offenders to the public who live in proximity. NC Gen.Stat.Ch.14, Article 27A require that each Sheriff's Office maintain a county registry. Registrants are required to report immediately to the Sheriff's Office in the county they reside. The offender receives a verification letter every 90-180 days, depending on the registration status and county. Sheriff Offices require frequent physical verification of offenders' addresses and authorized to verify residence at any time. The Triangle Counties/CoCs are exploring the use of the National Sex Offender Public mobile app (NSOPW) used by NC for CE and street outreach protocols by reviewing NSOPW resources to ensure safety during encampment and coverage zones. Projects will integrate registry-related compliance into CE workflows by using available location information. The community will support youth in navigating legal requirements and residency restrictions that may impede placement and outcomes of the homeless system.

The project applicant should maintain records reflecting the analysis performed in response to these rating criteria.

YHDP Criteria- Community Coordination

1. Describe how the YHDP community applicant or partner organizations work with Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) or other affordable housing providers in the community.

(1,500 characters)

The Triangle Region works with PHAs and affordable housing providers in several ways. 1) Each CoC represented under this YHDP application has a dedicated CoC Governance Board seat(s) for PHAs and/or affordable housing partners. 2) The community applicant and partner agencies work with PHAs to utilize Family Unification Program (FUP) Vouchers, including Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Vouchers. E.g. project applicant, Hope Center at Pullen (HCP) has successfully leased up over 30 youth with these vouchers, providing critical stability for a very vulnerable population. 3) Partner organizations work with affordable housing providers in the community to create new or leverage existing affordable units to support youth exit to independence and/or lease in place following temporary housing and rental supports. E.g. HCP partnered with Wake County, City of Raleigh and CASA affordable housing developer to build a 9-unit apartment building dedicated to youth transitioning out of foster care. 4) The Triangle region, including Triangle Community Foundation, has demonstrated commitment to affordable housing and other housing continuum needs dedicated to people experiencing homelessness to support transition to independence and ultimately home ownership.

2. Describe how the YHDP community applicant or partner organizations will work with long-term residential care facilities or permanent supportive housing providers to ensure assistance for youth experiencing homelessness with a disability that is expected to indefinitely prevent independent living or self-sufficiency.

(1,500 characters)

The Triangle Region is working to map the full inventory of residential care facilities across the region to ensure proper level of care for youth with disabilities identified through CE and homeless services. SOAR Specialists are integrated across the service system to increase access to disability income programs for eligible youth experiencing/at risk of homelessness and have a mental or physical diagnosis with debilitating symptoms. The Triangle has demonstrated partnerships with agencies like Alliance Health and Alliance of Disability Advocates (ADA) who connect clients with Serious and Severe Persistent Mental Illness (SMI/SPMI) to supports including safe and affordable housing. Alliance's Transitions to Community Living (TCL) program supports clients, including youth, living in or leaving facilities in NC to live and thrive in the community. TCL has a recovery-based philosophy of care, meaning support promotes wellness and better, long-term health outcomes. ADA has a Transition Support program to serve youth with disabilities to gain independence and build community through education, employment, paralympic sports, budgeting, household management, meal preparation, parenting and self-advocacy/determination. When long-term self-sufficiency is unlikely due to the nature of the disability, Triangle CoCs work through the CE process and complex case conferencing to identify alternative housing solutions such as group homes and specialized supportive housing.

3. Describe how the YHDP community applicant or partner organizations work with education providers in the community.

(1,500 characters)

The Triangle Region is dedicated to working with education providers. Service partners collaborate formally and informally with regional and local public-school systems, community colleges, universities, and service organizations specific to students experiencing homelessness (e.g. HOST, Housing Options for Students Today). These partnerships ensure that all children, youth, and young adults are provided with resources to stabilize housing, support growth and development, and minimize trauma associated with homelessness. The Triangle Region CoCs have education policies requiring federally funded (CoC, ESG) projects to abide by the HEARTH Act and Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) related to education assurances. These policies prioritize immediate assessment of youth and parenting youth needs, connection to early intervention, educational support and guardian assistance under McKinney-Vento. Triangle Region CoCs work closely with McKinney-Vento liaisons via regular training and care coordination. Proposed YHDP projects support educational outcomes by connecting youth and parenting youth to GED support, vocational training, childcare, paid internships and certified transition specialists for case management and life coaching. YHDP project applicant, Hope Center at Pullen, partners with Wake Technical Community College's Fostering Bright Futures program to enroll former foster youth with Wake Technical and Capital Area Workforce Development's paid internship program.

4. Describe what strategies your community implements to identify and assist youth experiencing or at risk of experiencing any form of trafficking, sexual exploitation or similar traumatic experiences.

(1,500 characters)

NC ranks among the top 10 states for human trafficking. Triangle Region CoCs train all service providers on the signs of domestic violence, trafficking and other similar traumatic experiences upon initial screening, CE assessment, program intake and other engagements. Triangle Region CoCs utilize resources such as the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCCADV) to connect clients to the proper local organizations for their specific needs. Organizations like InterAct in Wake CoC, Durham Crisis Response Center, and Compass Center in Orange County, NC provide a crisis line, emergency shelter and housing case management, paired with counseling services to stabilize clients fleeing domestic violence. Salvation Army's Project FIGHT provides crisis intervention and comprehensive case management for victims of trafficking, community outreach and education on the issue of trafficking and how individuals in the area can help by collaborating with NC's rapid response and victim centered emergency response teams. All recipients/subrecipients of federal funding, including YHDP, must abide by their CoC Emergency Transfer plan, include it in their program policy and procedures, and follow the HUD mandated Violence Against Women Act (24 CFR, Part 5, Subpart L). This ensures all service providers are held to the same expectation to identify and assist youth experiencing or at risk of experiencing any form of trafficking, sexual exploitation or similar traumatic experiences.

5. Describe what resources in your community, either currently operating or being planned under this or the CoC NOFO, are available to assist youth with substance use disorders.

(1,500 characters)

The Triangle Region partners with and fund resources to assist youth with substance use disorders (SUD). Existing programs include 1) Healing Transitions operates long-term residential recovery, drop-in shelter, non-medical detox, recovery services and Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) for opioid use disorder, healthcare, family/relationship support and navigation for child welfare and court systems is also available to build lasting recovery; 2) Alliance Health which operates SUD Recovery Services across the region via peer support, outpatient therapy, residential, supported employment and detox programs; 3) SouthLight Healthcare operates MAT combination of medication and counseling for opioid use disorder; residential program for pregnant/parenting women; and comprehensive outpatient treatment and mental health services. 4) utilize involuntary commitment protections available under NC GS Ch. 122C for youth and young adults struggling with substance use/addiction. Proposed YHDP projects will address the needs of youth with SUD. LIFE Skills provides trauma-informed therapy, mental health and SUD counseling, crisis and clinical support. Haven House will provide mobile engagement, crisis intervention, and drop-in operations with specialized services for mental health and SUD. Raleigh Dream Center pairs street-level engagement with residential recovery and housing stabilization, acknowledging the need to treat addiction to ensure positive exit and housing retention.

6a. Describe how your community provides services and connects youth to resources for substance use including crisis response services.

(1,500 characters)

The Triangle Region provides services and connects youth to resources for substance use including crisis response services in several ways. 1) The region has expanded two low barrier resources to support youth in crisis a) behavioral health urgent care provided by multiple regional partners as a walk-in stabilization alternative to Emergency Room visits, and b) mobile crisis teams that respond in the field to assess crisis and route youth to appropriate care in real time. 2) Law enforcement agencies have multi-disciplinary teams for co response and special community engagement, equipped with clinical social workers and Crisis Intervention Trained (CIT) officers. 3) CoCs have coordinated with behavioral health, health care and law enforcement agencies to provide training for the homelessness response system, especially CE access point, emergency shelters, street outreach, and day centers. 4) Connection to other substance use specific housing intervention occurs through the region's respective CE processes. CE access points and housing providers are trained in trauma informed care, mental health first aid, and housing problem solving, equipping them to recognize and respond sensitively to trauma symptoms in youth. CE integrates cross-system partnerships to provide warm, immediate handoffs to crisis response supports addressing the systems-level barriers often faced by youth with complex needs.

6b. Describe how your community provides services and connects youth to appropriate resources for mental health conditions, including crisis response services and mental health providers with expertise in treating youth.

(1,500 characters)

The Triangle Region and proposed YHDP projects provide critical services and connect youth to appropriate crisis and mental health resources. Mental health treatment is an essential part of the housing stability plans developed by clients and case managers. YHDP service providers and other partner agencies in the Triangle are trained to assist in crisis response where necessary and connect youth with mental and behavioral health conditions to treatment. Mental health and healthcare services are accessible and provided both internally by service providers with designated clinical staff and externally through formal partnerships with SouthLight, Alliance and North Carolina Recovery Support Services (NCRSS). SouthLight provides an array of mental health supportive services, including outpatient counseling and peer support. NCRSS is committed to community wellness through fostering public awareness of substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment, and related issues. NCRSS is designed to assist youth and parenting youth seeking treatment through specific interventions, individualized needs and to help maintain a healthy lifestyle and self-sufficiency. YHDP recommended project, Haven House Services provides outpatient, and crisis support proposes the addition of clinical staff in their TH and SSO-SO projects.

7a. Describe a plan to promote participation in supportive services within YHDP housing projects.

(1,500 characters)

This Community Application includes two proposed transitional housing (TH) projects which will add capacity to serve a total of 62 households (about 90 persons) in clustered and scattered site apartments. All participants are required to engage in a structured, individualized service model consistent with 24 CFR 578.75(h) and designed to promote housing stability, employment, education, and long-term self-sufficiency. Within 7-14 days of entry, each participant works with their case manager to develop an Individualized Service and Housing Stabilization Plan reflecting their housing stability, education/employment, and life skills goals, reviewed at least every 30 days. Mandatory requirements for participants include but are not limited to 1) weekly contact with their case manager 2) a minimum of 20 hours/week of engagement in services, education, employment, or related activities, met through a combination of case management, school, employment, job training, life-skills programming, or community-building activities appropriate for youth ages 18–24. Participants requiring additional behavioral health, substance use, disability, parenting, or other specialized services are connected to those resources accordingly. Participants who do not meet with case management or fulfill the minimum hour engagement requirement will check-in, revise their individualized service plan, and engage supervisory staff to support additional written planning to define achievable steps and timeline.

7b. Will all transitional housing projects (excluding residential housing) included in the priority listing have a supportive services participation agreement with residents? Yes

7c. Is at least one project included in the priority listing designed to provide substance abuse treatment and require participation in substance abuse treatment services as a condition of continued participation in the program? Yes

8. Are at least 20% of the total YHDP funds requested on the priority listing, excluding funds from planning and HMIS grants, allocated to supportive services costs. Yes

9a. Describe how projects included on the YHDP priority listing serves specific youth subpopulations (i.e., pregnant or parenting youth, domestic violence survivors, youth with substance use disorder.)

(1,500 characters)

Recommended projects serve various youth subpopulations through a continuity of services, addressing the needs of parenting youth, youth fleeing domestic violence and those with substance use disorders. Using a low-barrier, trauma-informed model, immediate access to necessary services will be provided, while moving youth through CE to connect with shelter, housing, and additional services. Housing and supportive services projects recommended for YHDP funding under this application include a doula program and coordinated parenting/childcare support for pregnant or parenting youth. Additionally, dedicated transitional housing beds for youth (single and parenting), youth with substance use disorders, mental illness and/or HIV/AIDS will be provided during the project period, with services front-loaded in the first 30-60 days to stabilize housing and basic needs before youth engage longer-term, self-sufficiency goals. Regional youth service providers also support youth through legal procedures related to domestic violence or those that are justice involved.

9b. Do at least three projects provide a preference for housing or services to subpopulations who need the specialized supportive services that are provided in the housing (e.g., substance abuse treatment, domestic violence services) Yes

10a. Describe your community's system for identifying eligible youth participants and referring them to the appropriate services.

(1,500 characters)

The Triangle Region is advancing work from the YHSI initiative to fully standardize CE processes for young adults, including shared assessment questions and prioritization criteria to connect youth to appropriate housing and service opportunities. A standardized regional assessment tool will enable youth service organizations to identify client needs spanning from medical/mental health, barriers to income, and economic stability. The assessment and other factors (rental history, system involvement, etc.) will inform eligibility and appropriate service type for youth including temporary shelter, transitional housing or other supportive services needed to promote positive exit without dependence on long term services. With the addition of YHDP funding, the Triangle will streamline its CE referral structure and create a centralized youth By Name List (BNL) to match eligible youth to added capacity in street outreach, transitional housing, and youth specific services across the region. Due to the lack of youth-specific housing resources, CoCs currently operate separate BNLs and youth are subjected to general CE prioritization criteria which typically focuses on chronic homelessness. When youth are matched to housing resources, CE staff initiate warm handoff to the service provider who begins supportive services. All providers receiving referrals are required to acknowledge receipt, initiate contact with the youth, and update CE on participant progress.

10b. Discuss how screening and assessment tools identify the following special populations:

Special Population	
Pregnant and Parenting Youth	The HMIS/CE pre-screening tool includes household composition and demographic information for youth. The CE youth assessment identifies deeper needs related to household strengths, existing natural supports/social networks, pregnant/parenting youth such as maternal health, childcare, and parenting-specific services to meet the NOFO's mandate for safe, stable housing that supports family self-sufficiency.
System-involved youth (including juvenile justice and child welfare)	Youth exiting foster care or juvenile justice are prioritized for designated resources within the homeless services system and must be appropriately identified. The HMIS/CE pre-screening tool includes general indicators for system involvement, including any active or current open cases while the CE youth assessment dives deeper to understand ongoing impacts to housing stability and other factors for self-sufficiency. Service providers completing screening and assessment may have additional information from the referral source – i.e. youth aging out of foster care, juvenile detention, etc. The Triangle Region is working to integrate data sharing across homeless, justice and child welfare systems to inform care coordination and exit planning, maximize resources, and achieve stability. Life Skills in Durham and Hope Center at Pullen in Wake focus on youth aging out of foster care. Both providers meet with county child welfare staff on a weekly basis to coordinate services and conduct exit planning. Haven House Services is the primary service provider for youth in the juvenile justice system and operates a specialized housing program for youth who have aged out of the juvenile justice system. The YHDP funds will allow the region to work more proactively to prevent homelessness.
Exploited or trafficked youth	The HMIS/CE pre-screening tool prioritizes safety before collecting any information to direct services at the front door. Specific language includes "First I want to make sure you are safe. Are you currently living with or trying to leave a partner who makes you feel unsafe or threatened?" and "Have you ever been someplace where you were not allowed to leave or where someone controlled your day-to-day activities?" The Triangle's CE screening and assessment tools are also intended to reflect other warning signs such as unexplained absences, controlling relationships, and history of coercion. These are factors that can be observed by trained service providers in their engagement with youth or disclosed by youth directly.
Youth in need of substance abuse or mental health services	The HMIS/CE pre-screening tool includes topical questions to understand immediate service needs such as "Are you able to take care of daily living needs like bathing, eating and moving around?", "Do you have any medical needs or daily treatments?" The CE assessment investigates more detailed factors like mental health symptoms, past hospitalizations, coping challenges and substance use. These indicators can be used to target and prioritize resources for vulnerable youth to connect them with appropriate treatment and services.

11. Describe at least one strategy the community uses to encourage reunification whenever it is safe and possible, including family counseling and mediation services.

(1,500 characters)

The Triangle Region encourages reunification through its implementation of housing problem solving (HPS) and diversion assessments with youth and parenting youth at the front door via street outreach, shelter, and CE. HPS asserts that youth are resourceful, resilient, and that with support, can reunify with families or be rehoused without an ongoing subsidy. HPS is trauma-informed and uses motivational interviewing to de-escalate people from crisis, explore options, and support return to housing retention via youth strengths and support networks. While critical at first engagement (i.e. pre-screening), HPS can and should be implemented at every step in the housing stabilization process. The Triangle is developing youth-specific guidance (based on the HPS trainings facilitated by HUD TA provider, ICF, earlier in FY25) centering safety and support. This will ensure regional providers are educated and prepared to explore reunification pathways, counseling and mediation for stable and healthy relationships, from the first engagement to housing exit. Youth and young adults not initially interested in family mediation or reunification can become more willing to pursue reunification after repeated contact with trusted staff, utilizing the relationship-based model to move from crisis situations into reunification and long-term stability. YHDP project applicants focus on strengthening relationships and parenting skills for youth who are pregnant or parenting their own households.

12. Describe how projects included on the YHDP priority listing were selected for this application.

(1,500 characters)

The process for developing the Regional YHDP priority listing was vastly similar to that of the approach and requirements of the HUD CoC Program NOFO. As community applicant on behalf of the region, Wake CoC posted notice of local competition, timeline, locally developed project application and corresponding scorecard while HUD was working to publish the official detailed instructions. Wake CoC staff, upon receipt of project applications, completed a threshold review before convening its Funding Review Committee (FRC) made up of non-conflicted evaluators to review and score each project application. To ensure fairness in this process, Wake CoC recruited non-conflicted members of the Durham CoC, Central Pines Regional Council (Triangle YHSI Lead) and Youth Advisory Board to review and score project applications received from regional partners. Each application was reviewed and scored by at least three evaluators. CoC staff compiled scorecards and provided the FRC with the project ranking according to the average of the three scores. Given the number, eligibility, quality, and variety of applications and project types, the FRC voted in favor of advancing the ranking in order of score. The priority listing advances three short-term and long-term strategies in the YHSI roadmap (Building Better Pathways): 2.2 Create Data and Referral Sharing Across Triangle Region; 2.4 Increase Housing Retention and Move-On Support; and 3.2 Increase Interim Housing Options.

YHDP Criteria- System Planning & Data

1. Is the application from an eligible previously awarded YHDP community? No

1a. Describe at least one youth-focused intervention that is not currently operating in the community that the community wishes to pursue OR one intervention that could be improved and capacity increased.

(1,500 Characters)

There is one key intervention that could be improved in the Triangle Region - increased capacity for youth-focused street outreach (SO) and general access to services through youth-specific Coordinated Entry (CE) access points. This intervention was identified as a primary strategy through the community's YHSI process and engagement with young people. There is an undercount of youth in the homeless population, especially those who are unsheltered and may not visit traditional service spaces. As such, Wake, Orange, and Durham CoCs have proposed SSO and SSO-SO projects under the YHDP to cover the full geographic area of the Triangle region. Wake/Region: Haven House Services (HHS) proposed SO project would operate from a youth drop-in center, paired with community-based outreach providing CE access, basic needs, 3 youth care specialists to provide case management, connection to education, employment, health care and treatment. Orange: Proposal to add one additional street outreach specialist to an existing team at the Orange County Partnership to End Homelessness. Orange County has established connections with school districts, law enforcement and pathways to connect youth to available income, health and other resources/treatment. Durham/Chatham: While not specifically street outreach, THRIVE has proposed an SSO project to support youth housing navigation and accounts for youth-centered flexibility and approaches.

1b. What data did you use to identify this intervention?

(1,000 Characters)

The community applicant used system performance data (APRs and SPMs) as well as individual project data collected locally and through the YHSI initiative to identify this intervention. In Wake County CoC alone, street outreach teams served over 145 households in FY25. Even with current outreach resources limited, the Triangle Region has demonstrated success in youth-centered interventions. In Wake CoC, youth aged 18-24 in youth dedicated Street Outreach (SO) programs exited to a positive housing destination at a rate of 78%, a higher rate than youth served in standard SO programs (rate of 62%). Further, 52% of youth from a youth-dedicated shelter program exited to a positive destination, while only 10% of youth exited to a positive destination from non-youth-dedicated shelters. The proposed street outreach programs, in combination with the youth drop-in center, will provide the coverage needed to support young adults experiencing homelessness across the region.

1c. What barriers currently prevent you from implementing or improving the intervention?

(1,500 Characters)

Funding is the primary barrier preventing the Triangle Region from increasing capacity and improving street outreach coordination and CE access points for youth. While nonprofit organizations and service providers are working to fundraise for related strategic housing and homeless service programming, additional federal support is needed to increase capacity and target resources for unsheltered youth. Funding received under YHDP will not only increase capacity and positive outcomes for young adults served through street outreach and transitioning out of unsheltered homelessness, but it will also create opportunity for youth leadership in program design and engagement strategies. A related barrier to improving coordination specifically through street outreach has been regional data sharing and coordination. This is a key strategy identified under the Triangle's YHSI initiative, starting with achievable steps including education and materials to understand and strengthen referral pathways, creating consistent referral protocols, and advance a shared data infrastructure. CoC infrastructure funds for HMIS, CE and Planning under the YHDP will cover costs associated with advancing these interventions while leveraging existing planning bodies and local funding streams.

2. Demonstrate how the CoC has used data to develop a strategy to prevent and end youth homelessness.

(2,000 Characters)

The Triangle Region through its YHSI initiative used data in several ways to develop the regional strategy to prevent and end youth homelessness. 1) Understanding current system capacity and utilization (youth and non-youth-dedicated shelter, transitional housing). According to the 2025 HIC, only 30-youth dedicated beds were identified in the region; 2) Geographic mapping plotted access points, drop-in services, and housing resources across Wake, Durham, Orange, and Chatham counties. Mapping indicated not only where services exist, but where youth experiencing homelessness can physically go to receive support. Mapping confirmed what young people and service providers already knew: access points and services are concentrated in the region's larger populated areas (Raleigh and Durham) where youth-serving organizations and dedicated CE access sites are located. 3) Investigating difference in needs and experiences between pregnant/parenting youth and single young adult households; 4) Qualitative data collection and analysis from one-on-one partner interviews, regional YAB meetings, and Triangle Region conversations. This analysis drove recommendations advanced in the Triangle's YHSI initiative and roadmap, Building Better Pathways. Strategies center around key takeaways: Youth dedicated resources, connectivity across the region, and a more transparent and accessible system. In addition to the regional strategies and objectives, individual CoCs have used system trend data and CE to identify youth homelessness reduction goals and other positive outcomes. E.g. Durham CoC has identified youth and young adults as a primary population to see significant reductions and sustained progress by June 2028. This is informed by their quality data and youth By-Name-List. If funded, projects proposed under YHDP will significantly support Durham CoC's goal for youth and youth headed families.

3. Describe what strategies and data sources your community will use to measure self-sufficiency and stability outcomes including

Long-term stability/no recidivism and safe and stable housing; (may include longer-term residential treatment centers or facilities)	Strategy: Implement individualized stability plans combining housing navigation with ongoing case management modeled after HUD's requirement that youth receive up to 36 months of supportive services including counseling, goal setting, and problem-solving aimed at sustaining stable housing and preventing returns to homelessness. Data Source: HMIS housing retention data, CE prioritization records, and follow-up stability assessments at 6-, 12-, and 24-month intervals.
Education, employment, and income and career growth;	Strategy: Provide trauma-informed employment readiness and career-advancement supports consistent with HUD's Foster Youth to Independence model including job preparation, educational counseling, and workforce development connections – NC Works/Capital Area Workforce Development Next Gen, Durham Youth Works, Summer Youth Employment Programs, Youth Leadership and Summer Careers Academy. Data Source: HMIS education enrollment, credential completion, employment placements, income at entry/annual/exit, and workforce milestone tracking captured through partner agency reports dedicated to youth population.
Permanent social connections; and	Strategy: Per Triangle YHSI strategies, establish structured mentorship and peer-support program following HUD's guidance on collaborative, relational, and lived-experience-driven program design, to support stable relationships essential for long-term resilience and self-sufficiency including housing retention. Data Source: Case management notes, social-support network mapping, YAB participation, and qualitative surveys assessing presence and quality of ongoing adult and peer support, returns to homelessness from youth housing and service programs.
Social and emotional well-being.	Strategy: Integrate trauma-informed life-skills coaching as required in HUD's supportive-services model to enhance coping skills, resilience, and emotional stability. Data Source: Behavioral health screening outcomes, participant self-assessments, progress notes from supportive services, and HMIS wellbeing indicators.

YHDP Criteria- Rural

Does the geographic area covered by the application meet the rural definition found in Appendix I Of the Youth Homelessness NOFO? Yes

Policy Initiative Preference Points

2. Is the geographic area of the YHDP within an Opportunity Zone? Yes

2a. On the attachments screen, upload a form HUD-2996, Certification for Opportunity Zone Preference Points on the Attachments screen.

3. Provide the policy or statement the community applicant has in place to ensure that all housing projects submitted by the YHDP Community Applicant will not operate drug injection sites or "safe consumption sites," knowingly distribute drug paraphernalia on or off of property under their control, knowingly permit the use or distribution of illicit drugs on property under their control, or conduct, permit, encourage, or allow any of these activities under the pretext of "harm reduction".
(Maximum 2000 characters)

The Triangle Region reviews and updates CoC Written Standards at least annually to ensure compliance with HUD policies, procedures, standards, and program requirements. One of the four CoCs has currently adopted the following policy for Advancing Recovery by Prohibiting Illicit Drug Enablement as detailed below: Promoting Treatment and Recovery: Housing projects will not operate drug injection sites or safe consumption sites, knowingly distribute drug paraphernalia on or off property under their control, knowingly permit the use or distribution of illicit drugs on property under their control, or conduct, permit, encourage, or allow any of these activities under the pretext of "harm reduction". None of the above constitute a requirement that program participants must be sober in order to receive assistance, participate in treatment in order to receive assistance, or be evicted or exited from assistance for a first-time violation of a drug-related program policy or lease requirement, although those practices may be allowable under 24 CFR 578. CoC-funded housing projects determined by the CoC to be in violation of the above are subject to immediate compliance review and monitoring. Housing projects are encouraged to provide substance use disorder treatment and connections to recovery housing.

Attachments

Document Type	Required?	Document Description	Date Attached
1) Subrecipient Nonprofit Documentation	No		
2) Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)	No		
3) HUD Applicant Recipient Disclosure Report (HUD-2880)	No		
4) Applicant and Recipient Assurances and Certifications (HUD-424B)	No		
5) Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)	No		
6) Lobbying Form	No		
7) Drug-Free Workplace (HUD 500-70)	No		
8) Tribal Consent	No		
9) Other	No	Regional YAB Lett...	08/10/2026

Attachment Details

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Document Description: Regional YAB Letter of Support

Submission Summary

Ensure that the Project Priority List is complete prior to submitting.

Page	Last Updated
1A. Application Type	08/08/2026
General- Community Connections	08/10/2026
General- Safe Communities	08/10/2026
YHDP- Community Coordination	08/10/2026
YHDP- System Planning & Data	08/10/2026
YHDP- Rural	08/08/2026
Policy Initiative Preference Points	08/10/2026
Attachments	08/10/2026
Submission Summary	No Input Required



August 6th, 2026

TO: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

RE: Letter of Support for the Wake County Continuum of Care (NC-507)'s Application to the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP)

Dear HUD YHDP Selection Committee,

On behalf of the Regional Youth Advisory Board (YAB) of the Triangle, NC Region, I am writing to express our unconditional support for the Wake County Continuum of Care's (NC-507) application for the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP). As a group of youth leaders, we are dedicated to preventing and ending youth homelessness, and we firmly believe that this funding opportunity is vital to transforming the youth homelessness response system in our region.

Youth homelessness in Wake, Durham, Orange, and Chatham Counties in North Carolina requires a specialized, trauma-informed, and youth-led and focused response. Young people navigating housing insecurity face unique systemic barriers that traditional homeless systems are not built to address. The YHDP grant is a critical opportunity for our community to design, execute, and sustain a coordinated community initiative tailored specifically to the needs of youth aged 24 and under in our region. Furthermore, our regional Youth Homelessness System Improvement (YHSI) work over the last year has prepared us to move from planning to action.

The Regional YAB has worked closely alongside each of our county-specific YABs, the Wake County CoC, and key youth-serving community partners to center youth leadership in policy and planning decisions. The Wake County CoC's leadership, alongside Central Pines Regional Council (NC), in coordinating a regional response effort through our YHSI work has demonstrated a genuine commitment to authentic youth collaboration and leadership by:

1. **Youth Leadership:** Elevating homeless and formerly homeless youth to serve as decision-makers in system planning, resource allocation, and program oversight.
2. **Collaborative Cross-System Coordination:** Fostering meaningful partnerships with local service providers, school systems, youth-serving nonprofit



organizations, housing and homeless service providers, and community allies to build low-barrier pathways to stable housing for youth.

If selected for YHDP, our Youth Advisory Board is fully committed to partnering with the Wake County CoC and participating counties to execute the coordinated community action plan, the innovative projects within the collaborative application, and ensure that all housing solutions remain youth-led and youth-centered.

We strongly urge HUD to select the Wake County Continuum of Care's application [on behalf of the Triangle, NC Regional Youth Homelessness Initiative] for the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program. With HUD's investment and support, we can build a strong regional system where homelessness among youth is rare, brief, and non-recurring.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and continued commitment to ending youth homelessness.

Sincerely,

Mia Murphy - confirmed via email
Jennifer Sainnatus - confirmed via text
Tyler Magna - confirmed via text
FaDajia Moore - confirmed via email
Kyesha Scott - confirmed via text
Jennifer Sainntus - confirmed via text
- on behalf of the Triangle, NC Regional Youth Advisory Board
YAB Representatives: Triangle, NC Regional Youth Advisory Board