Sponsored by the New England Federal Regional Interagency Council on Homelessness in partnership with the Liberty Mutual Foundation and the Melville Charitable Trust, the first regional Summit on youth homelessness took place on November 18, 2016 at Liberty Mutual Headquarters in Boston. Stakeholders from New England came together to develop a Coordinated Community Response to end youth homelessness by 2020. This approach recognizes that single organizations must connect community partners and resources through an intentional strategy or “coordinated community plan.”

The New England Ending Youth Homelessness Summit brought together key federal, state and local partners as well as community leaders and other stakeholders from all over the region. This event was sponsored by the Federal Regional Interagency Council on Homelessness in partnership with Liberty Mutual Foundation and the Melville Charitable Trust.

Voices of youth who found their way out of homelessness punctuated the day, uplifting the resiliency and profound vulnerability of young people in challenging situations. Youth who live on the streets are at high risk for developing life-long health and emotional problems. Compared to youth who have never run away, homeless youth suffer from higher rates of depression, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and post-traumatic stress. Summit participants heard from youth first-hand, increased their knowledge of model policy and practices and forged new partnerships with federal, state and community leaders.

Coordinated Community Response: A youth’s perspective

What does a Coordinated Community Response mean to a young person experiencing homelessness? Homeless youth are missing community and familial supports, educational opportunity, health access and peer to peer insights. They are often isolated and empty handed. Youth say they need information about how to access services anywhere they hang out – libraries, coffee shops with free wireless Internet, community centers, public restrooms, schools or at the mall. They would prefer to connect with the same person who links them to resources that fit their immediate needs. They need personalized care in a responsive system so their bouts of living on the street or a friend’s couch are short, infrequent and avoidable. Formerly homeless youth took great risk to share their stories and “insider
knowledge” with federal, state and community leaders on the forefront of ending youth homelessness in New England. They shared their experiences accessing services and offered suggestions on how to improve access to systems that serve vulnerable young people. www.acf.hhs.

Artemis Fontaine learned about the resources available to homeless youth when she joined the Youth Action Hub as a researcher. With funding from the Melville Charitable Trust, CT partners created the Youth Action Hub as part of the Opening Doors for Youth Action Plan. Youth are trained as researchers and work to include perspectives from young people in policy and advocacy around issues of youth homelessness in Connecticut.

I was once homeless. Eighteen years old in the dead of winter, all my belongings in my car – everything I needed daily in the front seat, all my clothes in the backseat, everything else I needed in the trunk. Needless to say, it was hard. Holy heck, it was hard. I met a lot of people in a similar situation while I was floating around from house to house struggling to get enough to eat, constantly looking for work I could hold down while trying to keep it secret that everything I held truly dear lived in my glove compartment. And with those people who knew my secret, I realized some of the most powerful camaraderie was borne of our shared struggles. Partnership for Strong Communities, Interview with Artemis, October, 2015

Kera Pingree was a new teen mother who found herself homeless after a discouraging experience with alternative education in Southern Maine. She found it difficult to attend school within the “one size fits all” approach that failed to address her needs as a vulnerable young parent. Kera now works as a youth leader and workshop facilitator with Youth Community Engagement, offering input that strengthens the impact of programs for underserved youth. All youth on the Summit panel expressed that more youth voices are needed at the table -- from community planning to policy development.

Bouts of homelessness are traumatic for youth. While many are resilient, it is easy for them to get discouraged, feeling “in limbo” on waiting lists or navigating through a bramble of disparate services on their own.

Summit Attendees

The Summit drew participants from all New England states with representatives from a wide range of organizations and agencies including the Massachusetts state legislature. The highest percentage was from youth providers, which included several Continuums of Care and Runaway and Homeless Youth programs. Five philanthropies were represented as well as several Commissioners, state agencies and community providers. Youth attending were financially compensated and supported by The Melville Charitable Trust and Liberty Mutual Foundation.
**Highlights from Summit Presentations**

The Summit’s Agenda (see Appendix) reviewed national perspectives and included presentations on state and local efforts. Matt Aronson, a Housing Specialist with extensive knowledge on youth homelessness, offered commentary throughout the day integrating key points from each presentation. This helped to prepare participants for the groups where they identified next steps for their work.

*Data strengthens connections among stakeholders*

Data can drive change. Sharing relevant data helps communities build capacity, galvanizes support and strengthens cooperation. Robert Pulster, United States Interagency Council (USICH) on Homelessness regional representative, underscored the need to use data from both the Departments of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Education to get a fuller picture of the problem since different definitions are used.

The HUD 2017 Point-In-Time Count provides a baseline for the number of homeless youth up to age 24. This data will assist states in planning.

**Ending Youth Homelessness: A Guidebook Series**

Three guidebooks, designed for Continuum of Care (CoC) stakeholders and practitioners, can be used to inform and engage key local partners in efforts to prevent and end youth homelessness.

- **Systems Planning**
- **Mainstream Systems Collaboration**
- **Promising Program Models**


**Young Adult Homelessness in New England 2016**

Of the 12,666 homeless single adults in New England, 885 are between the ages of 18-24 which is 9% of the total.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Homeless single adults with no children</th>
<th>Homeless single young adults (18-24) with no children</th>
<th>% of young adults (18-24) in total homeless single adults</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CT</td>
<td>2,570</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ME</td>
<td>1,321</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MA</td>
<td>6,434</td>
<td>374</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NH</td>
<td>827</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RI</td>
<td>859</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VT</td>
<td>655</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>12,666</td>
<td>885</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Homeless Student Living Arrangements 2013-14 School Year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CT</td>
<td>2,964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MA</td>
<td>17,538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ME</td>
<td>1,986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NH</td>
<td>3,276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RI</td>
<td>997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VT</td>
<td>1,145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>27,906</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Federal Data Summary School Year 2013-14, Education for Homeless Children and Youth

**Envisioning a Systems-Level Approach**

USICH and its federal partners encourage a national dialogue around effective, integrated approaches to delivering services for youth experiencing homelessness and those at risk of becoming homeless. For this purpose, an ‘intervention model’ refers to a systematic approach that connects key practices and processes among multiple service providers to improve a targeted set of outcomes.

Federal Framework to End Youth Homelessness, USICH 2012
In Opening Doors, USICH set a national goal to prevent and end youth homelessness by 2020. To get there, it will take everyone—government, non-profits, business, and philanthropy—to make sure every community has the capacity to achieve the goal. Preventing and Ending Youth Homelessness, a Coordinated Community Response provides a preliminary vision for such a response. USICH has many resources to help communities—see Resources in the Appendix for link to the complete document.

Preventing and Ending Youth Homelessness
A Coordinated Community Response

In Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness, we set a national goal to prevent and end youth homelessness in 2020. To get there, it will take all of us—government, non-profits, business, and philanthropy—to make sure every community has the capacity to achieve the goal.

Our understanding of the scope and dynamics of youth homelessness is growing. While we continue to learn more every day, we must act now to build the comprehensive and coordinated response that young people need to end their homelessness forever.

This document provides a preliminary vision for such a response. It draws upon what we know works to end homelessness for other populations, along with strategies that support the unique needs of unaccompanied youth and young adults under 25.

We hope you’ll use this document to advance discussions in your communities and build upon the work already underway. To receive additional tools and resources that will be developed to support the implementation of this response, sign up for our newsletter.

Our Preliminary Vision for a Community Response
The Interagency Working Group on Ending Youth Homelessness has developed a shared vision for the community response that will be necessary to prevent and end youth homelessness, illustrated here and described in more detail below.

*Throughout the provision of services, assessment will be ongoing.*
National public-private initiatives count and drive policy for homeless youth

A Way Home America is a national-level network of public and private stakeholders seeking to impact policy, practice, communications and public awareness of youth homelessness. Their work includes inputs from youth who have experienced homelessness. Aimee Hendrigan, Vice President of Programs at the Melville Charitable Trust, discussed the purpose and launch of A Way Home America’s 100-Day Challenges across the country. She shed light on the interests of partners supporting these efforts highlighting the unique role of philanthropy in efforts to prevent and end youth homelessness.

The Voices of Youth Count, a national policy research initiative, is filling gaps in understanding on the number of homeless youth across the country. This initiative shares these findings with policy makers, service providers, funders and advocates. To provide a comprehensive picture of youth homelessness, Voices analyzes findings from youth surveys, provider surveys, existing data sets, in-depth interviews, policy and fiscal review as well as a systematic evidence review.

Youth Counts in 2016 involved 22 nationwide counties that included surveys and interviews. Approximately 200 youth to date have documented stories of their adverse experiences, connections to social systems, social identities and systems involvement. Analyses of trajectories will help identify needs and opportunities for intervention across a range of service systems.

Sonali Patel, Policy Fellow with Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago, advised communities to keep stakeholder organizations and youth engaged by reviewing data and challenging their own assumptions when planning. Voices of Youth Count recently released a new Youth Count Toolkit that provides guidance and resources to communities looking to improve the ways they count youth experiencing homelessness.

Connecticut’s public-private partnership state structure addresses youth homelessness

Youth homelessness in CT was originally assessed in 2013 with the “Invisible No More” study which led to the development of the first statewide formal Youth Count in 2015. These results sparked commitments from public and private sources to further explore the issue. Findings from the Count and discussions with many stakeholders informed the Opening Doors for Youth Action Plan which was developed out of Youth/Young Adult Homelessness Workgroup, part of the larger Reaching Home Campaign. 200 organizations now participate in CT’s Reaching Home Campaign.

“How did I find services? I Googled.”

Bruce Neri, Fitness Instructor, SkyZone, Formerly homeless youth
Alicia Woodsby, Executive Director, Partnership for Strong Communities, reported that the Partnership has been leading the Campaign’s charge to develop public policies, grow community support and secure resources. The first phase of the Youth Action Plan implemented in 2016 included creating local Youth Engagement Teams; tools to prioritize and target resources; and training youth researchers at the Youth Action Hub. The Melville Charitable Trust has funded the work of many partners in CT working to end homelessness including the Youth Action Hub’s research and involvement in the Workgroup.

Woodsby emphasized the importance of coordinating efforts across communities and described current efforts to expand the work by developing regional youth engagement teams, engaging schools and juvenile justice networks, and a Systems Modeling Project.

Massachusetts has “Bridge” to housing options for youth

Youth-focused housing options developed by Bridge Over Troubled Waters are recognized nationally. Executive Director, Elizabeth Jackson, highlighted innovative work in emergency shelter, street outreach, comprehensive services and housing models.

Currently, “Bridge” is renovating a residence in Brighton, MA to serve up to 11 mothers with one or two babies per family. Liberty Mutual helps to fund the Brighton Residence Renovation Project along with the Yawkey Foundation, the Boston Neighborhood Trust, the state and Masshousing. Apartment Living Pathways Service is a hybrid model of transitional housing for youth aging out of foster care offering a balanced approach with structure and autonomy for residents. Pathways can serve 9 youth at any given time and up to 18 over two years. It is partially funded through a demonstration grant.

Bridge is also developing co-op apartments for youth aging out of foster care. These will be permanent housing for those completing transitional living programs. Locations are now under review. The many challenges to acquiring and managing housing for youth include: securing funding from private and public sources, managing the real estate development process, and finding properties close to transportation for easy access to Bridge’s Boston headquarters for services.

University partnership yields innovative shelter for youth

Y2Y Harvard Square, a student-run shelter associated with the Phillips Brooks House at Harvard University, offers up to 22 young adults ages 18-24 an array of services and support. Y2Y provides case management, medical and mental health care and legal aid for guests to build their pathway out of homelessness.

The modern facility is designed to be “gender inclusive” with private pods for sleeping and showers. The student volunteer staff undergoes extensive training to connect with guests authentically and resourcefully.

This youth-to-youth approach lowers barriers to trust and is cost-efficient. The connection to Harvard provides access to researchers and student volunteers.
Y2Y is funded through individual and foundation support, including Liberty Mutual and the Cambridge Housing Authority. Y2Y has partnerships with doctors, the Cambridge Police Department, Harvard legal services and local business associations for employment and internship opportunities.

Liberty Mutual Foundation has been leading the charge against youth homelessness in Boston by granting funds to, and partnering with, organizations that provide emergency services, educational opportunity and longer term solutions. Since 2014, Liberty’s funding of $2.53 Million (52 grants) allowed its partners to provide clothing, meals, emergency bed-nights, transitional housing and educational programs to homeless youth.

Stakeholders contribute insights on developing a Coordinated Community Response

Dialogue among representatives from a range of stakeholders (youth, service providers, Continuums of Care, education, philanthropy, Commissioners, state housing directors, federal and state agencies) generated significant insight for overcoming challenges to systems integration.

Use existing resources more effectively. Because many providers, funders and agency programs function in silos, a coordination of services is needed on all levels from federal to state and local communities. Federal agencies realize that unrelated funding streams create problems for providers juggling different regulations and requirements under each resource. More coordination on the federal and state level emphasizing flexibility is needed.

Engage schools to participate in Continuums of Care Networks. Lead organizations in these networks need to reach out to school leaders and teachers to help them understand the role of education in a Coordinated Community Response. Participants identified the need to make sure local
McKinney-Vento liaisons are kept up to date on new developments with providers and other referral sources.

**Focus efforts to address challenges in rural areas.** Youth in rural areas find limited resources when facing homelessness. Vermont has a solid network of youth providers in every county working closely with the state to target resources and work with school homeless student liaisons proactively. In western Massachusetts, youth with the highest needs tend to bounce around. The system needs tools to better track chronically homeless youth in rural areas to get them on a pathway out of homelessness. Since Maine has fewer youth providers than other states, the existing providers in the southern part of the state have strong relationships with each other which help them serve chronically homeless youth.

“If I were your daughter, your cousin, you wouldn’t want me to be there [experiencing homelessness]. We are trying to come up.”

*Violet Banks, formerly homelessness youth at the 2015 White House Policy Briefing on Youth Homelessness*

**Speedy assessment needed to reduce wait times.** The 2-1-1 system in CT is the “front door” for vulnerable youth in need to get connected to resources but the waiting period for completing a formal needs assessment had historically been too long. Residents can dial 2-1-1 from anywhere in Connecticut and now reach a highly-trained specialist who will assess the caller’s needs and provide referrals to the resources in the community. 2-1-1 is a one-stop connection to the local services, from utility assistance, food, housing, child care, after school programs, elder care, crisis intervention and much more.

**Philanthropy can respond to fill gaps.** Philanthropic funding is more flexible in regards to the types of projects, activities and resources needed to help providers fulfill their mission to help youth.

**Community Development Corporations, housing agencies and advocates need incentives and guidance.** The next regional meeting should gather housing partners, landlords and developers for critical conversations on developing resources for youth. HUD has produced guidance on how landlords can work with people with criminal offender records.

**Healthcare, education, justice and leaders from immigrant communities needed.** When thinking about “who’s missing” in Continuums of Care Networks, participants identified education and medical professionals, especially those with specialty knowledge of young adult mental health issues, as well as law enforcement and leaders from immigrant communities.

**Leverage technology think-tanks.** Developments in mobile apps and other technologies are underway to help identify resources or track youth being served in systems, but more innovative and practical ideas might be generated by leveraging innovation labs or student clubs at universities.

**Develop effective messages around youth homelessness as a public health crisis.** Some states are at the early stage in thinking about a statewide plan for youth homelessness. They need to build consensus around data, definitions and understanding of the issue as a public health crisis.
“Ending homelessness requires organizations to cross boundaries and individuals to re-examine their beliefs and change their roles, relationships, and approaches to work. It also calls for influential leaders who believe homelessness can be ended and can communicate a vision for doing so.

For these reasons, we have a strong bias toward investing in systemic approaches that focus on strengthening relationships between people and between organizations, improving ways of working together, and cultivating the will and leadership needed to make change happen.

Melville Charitable Trust, “Funding Approach”
State Partners Identify Key Stakeholders and Next Steps

Participants gathered by state for facilitated discussions to identify next steps toward a coordinated community response to ending youth homelessness. Three questions guided each group’s discussion. Detailed notes from each state are summarized in a Table in the Appendix.

Who are the most important stakeholders to engage?

- Education - McKinney Vento liaisons, leaders from secondary and post-secondary institutions
- State agencies – health, human services, child welfare, juvenile justice, mental health, job training, transportation
- Youth
- Municipal services – law enforcement, transportation
- Health care organizations – community health centers, ER staff
- Faith-based organizations
- Philanthropies
- Elected Officials
- Pregnant teen programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CT Data: Invisible No More, 2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27% received special education services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32% dropped out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53% had contact with child welfare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37% removed from the home by child welfare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49% moved more than 6 times in their lifetime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50% were arrested at least once in their lifetime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39% reported having been incarcerated in jail, prison, juvenile detention or a residential facility</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Derrick Gordon, PhD and Bronwyn Hunter, PhD, Consultation Center, Yale School of Medicine

What is the most important information that we still need?

- Improved school based data.
- By-name list for under 18 and 18-24 year olds in each community.
- Data on youth exiting from state systems (Juvenile Justice, Child Welfare).
- Detailed demographic information on the homeless youth population (gender, sexual identity/orientation, pregnant or parenting, couch surfing, living on the streets)
- A comprehensive list of homeless youth providers and their scope of services.
- Data sharing and/or data integration across systems.
- Insight on how to work with immigrant communities on youth homelessness issues.
- Information on health care organizations most recently accessed by homeless youth.
What are the most important actions our community needs to take?

Responses had the greatest range across states illustrating that each is operating at a different level of capacity. Many highlighted the need to identify, count and track youth at highest risk for homelessness. Highlights from each state include:

**Connecticut**
- Identify chronically homeless youth and locales.
- Strengthen Youth Advisory Boards.
- Integrate youth and youth agencies in coordinated entry process.

**Massachusetts**
- Expand supportive services (substance abuse, mental health) in youth housing.
- Train youth/peer leaders.
- Inclusion of undocumented youth, enhancing cultural & linguistic outreach services.
- Create funded positions for larger scale coordination (avoid “add-on” to someone’s job).
- Design communication for interagency systems work centered on ending youth homelessness.
- Standardize definitions across the state.

**New Hampshire**
- Acquire data on actual scope and need (HUD homeless youth and housing instability).
- Use accurate data on NH homeless youth to educate the legislature.
- Develop statewide plan to prevent and end youth homelessness.

**Rhode Island**
- Build systems that cross state lines.
- Advocate for more housing.
- Clarify and/or change state policies or regulations (Wayward Youth Law) that are inhibiting resource development for homeless youth and young adults.
- Develop youth outreach teams and engage youth in schools.

**Vermont**
- Review current use of resources to ensure services are available & accessible (i.e. FUP vouchers).
- Identify chronically homeless youth and youth at risk for homelessness.
- Identify policies that act as barriers.
- Develop a statewide plan to end youth homelessness.
- Ensure all stakeholders know existing services and providers.
Summit Evaluation

Participants were asked to fill out a 10-item paper survey at the end of the Summit. An e-version of the evaluation created in Survey Monkey was sent to participants to complete if they had not done so at the Summit. Results from 54 completed evaluations (paper plus e-version) reveal:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summit Evaluation Highlights</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>92% will apply Summit information to work within their agency/organization.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88% plan a follow-up to explore potential partnerships with others at the Summit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85% can identify one new promising practice learned at the Summit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80% report increased understanding of the importance of developing a coordinated community response to preventing and ending youth homelessness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60% enhanced their understanding of philanthropy’s role in addressing youth homelessness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54% improved their understanding of funding models for ending youth homelessness.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Participants were asked to indicate the topics and activities of interest to support their work to end youth homelessness.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topics &amp; Activities of Interest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>78% will apply Summit information to work within their agency/organization.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70% want more information on private-public partnership models for funding or other supports.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68% want information on future meetings sponsored by Summit partners.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68% have interest in participating in an email group with stakeholders.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32% would like a follow-up conversation with Summit partner staff.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
State Readiness Assessment Pilot

In order to determine the level of common understanding among stakeholders in a state, Summit participants were asked to complete the “New England State Readiness Assessment to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness.” This Assessment1 explored participants’ awareness of various components of a state’s readiness to address youth homelessness. Data collection was challenging at the end of the day at the Summit, however initial findings from 26 Massachusetts participants show the majority believe that their state/region has made at least some progress on conducting an initial needs assessment and developing an actively engaged coalition or workgroup around youth homelessness issues. About half were not sure or did not think the state had a coordinator or director addressing youth homelessness issues. Over 90% indicated that their state/region’s efforts to end youth homelessness are connected to ending homelessness among other populations (veterans, chronically homeless, families). 50% indicated there was some progress on data integration, 15% said there was no progress and 15% was unsure.

These initial findings indicate that state leaders may need to do more to share information on developments at the state level. Stakeholders benefit when they share a common awareness of efforts, accomplishments and challenges in their state and region.

1 State Readiness Assessment Pilot developed by Josephine Hauer, Robert Pulster, Matt Aronson and Stacey Violante-Cote
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Massachusetts State Readiness Assessment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>From my perspective:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My state/region has conducted an initial needs assessment around youth experiencing homelessness issues.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My state/region has an actively engaged coalition or workgroup addressing youth homelessness issues.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My state/region has a coordinator or director specifically addressing or organizing around youth homelessness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My state/region’s efforts to end youth homelessness are connected to ending homelessness among other populations (veterans, chronically homeless, families).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My state has begun data sharing and/or data integration across multiple systems to prevent and reduce youth homelessness.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**From my perspective:**

**Level 1:** Our state currently has started learning about and/or is beginning to plan to develop an integrated, system that supports a coordinated community response that addresses youth homelessness. 25%

**Level 2:** Our state currently has dedicated some resources (financial, policies, staff or other) to develop a fully integrated system that supports a coordinated community response that addresses youth homelessness. Indicators may include: plans for an initial needs assessment, identification of key community partners, an active state interagency council or participation in state/region-wide coalition addressing youth homelessness. 25%

**Level 3:** Our state has several partners that are working together and we have established a decision-making and management structure. Indicators may include: connections to CoC governance, lead organization, youth advisory board, needs assessment underway, referral process established or in process. The partners are making efforts to engage others in order to adequately serve all youth populations that need assistance through linkages to mainstream services. 35%

**Level 4:** Our state has a stable, coordinated community response system to address youth homelessness and we are in the process of benchmarking progress. Indicators may include demonstrated progress in efforts toward data integration across systems; efforts to address gaps in the system statewide; assessment on serving vulnerable youth populations (LGBTQ youth, victims of trafficking, parenting youth); and efforts to include youth providers in CoC networks. 15%

**Level 5:** Our state has developed a fully integrated system that supports a coordinated community response to addresses youth homelessness. We are expanding our array of youth housing and services based on comprehensive system mapping, needs analysis, best practices and effective program models. Effective partnerships among state, regional and/or community resources are established. We have a strong data and evaluation system in place to assess progress, target improvements and track outcomes for youth. 0%
By KRISTA E., Westford, MA

My home can be everywhere or nowhere.

My daily meals consist of anything or nothing.

My knick-knacks and baubles are the clothes I wear.

My money is only what others give me.

I am a being. I am human. I am homeless.

If only people could see where I stand and help me through this all.

Will this loneliness ever end? Will I begin a new life?

Does anyone care?

Because I am here.

I am real. I cannot be ignored.

I am a person. I am alive. And...

I am homeless.
APPENDIX

New England Ending Youth Homelessness Summit Agenda

Welcome Remarks (9:00am)
Melissa MacDonnell, President, Liberty Mutual Foundation
Paul Jacobsen, Acting Regional Director, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
James J. Reed, Regional Administrator, U.S. Housing and Urban Development
Matthew Aronson, Program Specialist, Housing and Urban Development

National and Regional Perspectives on Youth Homelessness
Robert Pulster, Regional Coordinator, United States Interagency Council on Homelessness
Aimee Hendrigan, Vice President, Programs, Melville Charitable Trust

Modeling State and Regional Initiatives
Kathryn Power, U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Association (Facilitator)
Alicia Woodsby, Executive Director, Partnership for Strong Communities
Elizabeth Jackson, Executive Director, Bridge Over Troubled Waters
Sarah Rosenkrantz, Co-Director, Y2Y

Fishbowl Discussion: How to Develop and Implement a Coordinated Community Response
Matthew Aronson, U.S. Housing and Urban Development (Facilitator)
Jon Bradley, Associate Director, Preble Street
Melissa Brodowski, Program Lead for Strategic Initiatives, Administration for Children and Families
Elizabeth Doyle, Deputy Director, City of Boston Department of Neighborhood Development
Melissa Hatfield, Bureau Administrator, New Hampshire Bureau of Homeless and Housing Services
Robyn Kennedy, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Children, Youth and Families, MA EOHHS
Gerry McCafferty, Administrator, Springfield-Hampden County Continuum of Care
Alexandra Oliver-Dávila, Executive Director, Sociedad Latina
Ken Schatz, Commissioner, Vermont Department of Children and Families
Klare Shaw, Director of Programs, Liberty Mutual Foundation

Lunch (12:15pm)

Key Note Address and Conversation with Young People (12:30)
Voices of Youth Count Presentation, Sonali Patel, Policy Fellow with Chapin Hall, Univ of Chicago
Youth Panel, Stacey Violante-Cote, Director, Teen Advocacy Project, Center for Children’s Advocacy
Artemis Fontaine, Researcher, Youth Action Hub
Bruce Neri, Student Bunker Hill Community College, Fitness Instructor, Sky Zone
Kera Pingree, Youth and Community Engagement, University of Southern Maine

State Planning Breakout (2:00pm)
Participants divide into groups by states to brainstorm next step actions

Closing Remarks/Call to Action/Evaluations (2:45pm)
Klare Shaw, Director of Programs, Liberty Mutual Foundation
Paul Jacobsen, Acting Regional Director, U.S. Department of Health and Human Service
Federal Regional Interagency Council on Homelessness

The mission of the Federal Regional Interagency Council on Homelessness is to advance federal interagency cooperation, collaboration and regional-level leadership that supports federal, state and local partners’ efforts across New England to end homelessness. The Council convenes interagency working groups focused on key issues and activities. These meetings all focus on identifying high-impact strategies and aligning efforts to achieve the goals of USICH Opening Doors.

Ending Youth Homelessness Summit Planning Team

Paul Jacobsen  
Acting Regional Director  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Robert Pulster  
Regional Coordinator  
United States Interagency Council on Homelessness

Klare Shaw  
National Director of Programs  
Liberty Mutual Foundation

Elizabeth Flynn  
Senior Specialist, Marketing Communications  
Liberty Mutual Foundation

Margaret Leiptsitz  
Consultant

Matthew Aronson  
Program Specialist  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Stephanie Harrington  
Community Planning and Development Representative  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Cleonie Mainvielle  
Senior Community Planning and Development Representative  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Josephine Hauer  
Program Specialist, Strategic Initiatives  
Administration for Children and Families

Elizabeth McNamee  
Public Health Analyst  
Health Resources and Services Administration

Youth Consultants:  
Artemis Fontaine  
Researcher, Youth Action Hub

Bruce Neri  
Student, Bunker Hill Community College and Fitness Instructor, Sky Zone

Kera Pingree  
Youth and Community Engagement, University of Southern Maine
Resource Links

The following is a list of resources that support the development of a Coordinated Community Response to ending youth homelessness.

**USICH Framework to End Youth Homelessness**

https://www.usich.gov/tools-for-action/framework-for-ending-youth-homelessness

**Coordinated Community Response Tool Kit**


**Coordinated Community Response Guidebooks:**

https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/5138/ending-youth-homelessness-a-guidebook-series/

**Voices of Youth Tool Kit to Conducting a Youth Count:**


**Voices of Youth Count Newsletter**

http://voicesofyouthcount.org/october-2016-voyc-newsletter-youth-count-toolkit-now-available/
## State Planning Break-Out Discussion Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who are the most important stakeholders to engage?</th>
<th>What is the most important information (or data) that we still need?</th>
<th>What are the most important actions our community needs to take?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CT</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• YSB, Youth Service Bureaus</td>
<td>• Improve school I.D.</td>
<td>• Identifying youth (and locales) that are disconnected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Police/Emergency Services</td>
<td>• By-Name list for under 18, 18-24 year olds in each community</td>
<td>• Awesome youth count</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Medical/Hospitals/Clinics/Planned Parenthood</td>
<td>• Early identification of youth exiting Child Welfare/JJ who are</td>
<td>• Strengthening Youth Advisory Board(s): coordination and expansion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Town/City Social Services</td>
<td>high risk for homelessness</td>
<td>• Refine coordinated entry process for youth/integrate youth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Parks &amp; Rec/Youth Centers</td>
<td>• Next Step Tool data (and housing placement)</td>
<td>engagement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Higher Ed/Board of Ed/Teachers/Frontline Staff</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Augment prevention/diversion/CAN (meditation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Faith based organizations</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Fully integrate youth agencies in CAN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Local Elected Officials</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MA</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Youth engagement, “non-traditional”-“traditional”, how to get involved</td>
<td>• # of youth: aging out of F.C. who do not accept continuing</td>
<td>• Supportive services (once housed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Funders, including private</td>
<td>services &amp; leaving DYS without permission</td>
<td>• Training youth/peer leaders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Federal Agency collaboration</td>
<td>• PIT count – finding them, timing, resources</td>
<td>• Create space + roles at the table for young adults</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Funding with supportive regulatory options</td>
<td>• Survey data of unaccompanied youth counted by the schools</td>
<td>• Improved access to age appropriate mental and substance use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Men, 16-19, feeling like there are no single male youth options</td>
<td>• Ask the people we serve what they want + need</td>
<td>treatment (providers + facilities)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Institutions already acting in rural areas for data + for resources</td>
<td>• How to work w/ recent immigrants</td>
<td>• Inclusion of undocumented youth by enhancing cultural &amp;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• State agencies (DCF)</td>
<td>• Centralized resource database</td>
<td>linguistic outreach services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Young people, their input is vital</td>
<td>• Prevent # of youth at risk of losing housing &amp; aging out of TCP’s into adult homelessness</td>
<td>• Create funded positions for larger scale coordination (avoid “add-on” to someone’s job)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Emergency rooms + community health centers</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Figure out communication for interagency systems work around</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Adult homeless systems – review of population</td>
<td></td>
<td>ending youth homelessness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• High schools/higher education</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Locating, securing, funding, permanent housing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Juvenile Justice</td>
<td></td>
<td>• A housing support system for youth aging out of care (DCF, DYS, DMH)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Faith based organizations</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Advocate for state funding to address needs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Job training programs/internships tailored to young people</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Prevention &amp; diversion from youth ever entering homelessness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Police</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Standardizing definitions across the state</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Programs for pregnant + parenting teens</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Listening to young people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who are the most important stakeholders to engage?</td>
<td>What is the most important information (or data) that we still need?</td>
<td>What are the most important actions our community needs to take?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| • SSYI providers – legal services, credit repair programs, immigration programs  
• Department of Youth Services | • Data sharing | • Lead organizer/organization  
• Philanthropy  
• Making key connections  
• CA/COC collaboration  
• Getting more people at the table DOE, DOC  
• Clear definition of homelessness/age -> funds can be used to address all vulnerable youth, not just literally the ‘homeless’ |
| ME  
• Youth  
• Foster care funding  
• FSS – PH  
• DOE, DOC, DHHS  
• McKinney-Vento liaisons | | • Acquiring data that indicates actual scope and need (HUD homeless youth and housing instability)  
• Taking the above to raise awareness and education to legislature  
• Develop statewide plan to prevent and end youth homelessness |
| NH  
• RHY service provider (FYSB grantee)  
• BHHS  
• DCYF  
• DHHS  
• DOE/schools  
• CoCs  
• Community Partners -> MH, SA, and other youth service organizations  
• Legislature | • Having data that reflects the scope and need (HUD and McKinney-Vento eligible)  
• More specifics about the population that makes up the above, i.e. gender, LGBTQ, pregnant/parenting, couch surfing vs. literally homeless | |
| RI  
• Youth  
• DCFF, DOH, CES, RIDOE  
• School systems, high school, higher education  
• Adult correctional facilities  
• Private philanthropic funders + local, state, federal  
• Law Enforcement – community, prevention  
• Motels/hotels  
• Reliable organizations  
• R.V, park, campgrounds, parks & rec, Walmart | • Accurate count of youth in crisis  
• Compiling McKinney-Vento, HMIS + street counts  
• Comprehensive list/ID of service providers, including an understanding of limitations on who they can serve  
• Information about health care, most recently accessed by homeless youth | • Build systems that crosses state lines  
• More housing, subsidy  
• Clarification/change: state policies/regulations, serving unaccompanied homeless minor youth  
• Concerted effort to ID youth  
• Youth outreach teams  
• CES  
• Engage youth from school systems  
• Public awareness campaign  
• Meeting partners where they’re at  
• Changing legal road blocks (“wayward youth law”,
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who are the most important stakeholders to engage?</th>
<th>What is the most important information (or data) that we still need?</th>
<th>What are the most important actions our community needs to take?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Transport: RIPTA, Peter Pan</td>
<td>• Post-secondary ed. students, accurate count</td>
<td>• Involving youth/peers in outreach + engagement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• “App Guy”</td>
<td>• Data from CW &amp; JJ – youth who are exiting</td>
<td>• More support for housing first + housing for specific populations (substance use, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Community based organizations</td>
<td>• How to better share &amp; analyze data across systems</td>
<td>• Anne Reader from Colorado – different levels of response available by DCYF, e.g. short term counseling vs. removal from house (differential response)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• McKinney-Vento School liaisons</td>
<td>• Who is being engaged, or not, and why</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Housing providers</td>
<td>• Strengthen longitudinal data</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Youth</td>
<td>• Look at upstream causes of homelessness</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Youth</td>
<td>• Strengthen data we are collecting – looking at what data we need</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VT</td>
<td>• Are we efficiently using other resources?</td>
<td>• Ensuring services are available &amp; accessible (i.e. FUP vouchers)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• DOL (WIOA)</td>
<td>• What happens when services are full – increasing capacity</td>
<td>• Centralized access point &amp; data collection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Mental health</td>
<td>• Identify youth being reached &amp; not</td>
<td>• Identify policies that act as barriers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Housing providers</td>
<td>• Identify policies that act as barriers</td>
<td>• Assess if youth is well addressed in state roadmap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Youth providers</td>
<td>• Assess if youth is well addressed in state roadmap</td>
<td>• Develop a plan to end youth homelessness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Youth</td>
<td>• Making sure stakeholders know existing services</td>
<td>• Making sure stakeholders know existing services</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VT: Information specific to Vermont.