USICH Framework for Ending Youth Homelessness

Date  
Location  
Presenter
Making Meaningful and Measurable Improvements in Outcomes

**Anticipating** the challenges that youth have when they are at risk of homelessness; will bring with them when they become newly homeless; or struggle with when they are chronically homeless

**Improving** the data and **rethinking** the **structure** across federal program areas and across services delivered by homeless providers

Maximize existing federal capacity by **scaling back** practices that are not achieving desired results while concurrently **scaling up** evidence-based interventions and practices
Federal Framework for Ending Youth Homelessness

• **Strategy I: Getting to Better Data**
  – A confident estimate of youth homelessness
  – Data coordination, youth PIT strategy, and household survey

• **Strategy II: Building Capacity for Service Delivery**
  – A research-informed intervention model
  – Review research and apply to intervention strategies
  – Increased evidence of effective interventions
  – Identify and scale-up evidence-based practices and increase rigorous evaluation
  – Gaps analysis
  – Investigate funding and capacity needs of programs
STRATEGY: Getting to Better Data

- A confident estimate of youth homelessness
- Better data on needs and characteristics of youth experiencing homelessness
- Better data on vulnerable subpopulations
Counting the Hard-to-Count

Youth experiencing homelessness

- Shelter/program
- Couches/precarious housing
- Schools
- Public spaces
## Getting to Better Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>Outcomes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Coordinate RHYMIS and HMIS</strong></td>
<td>Align data standards, Assess integration</td>
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<td><strong>Local Youth PIT Counts</strong></td>
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<td>Collaboration of schools (LEAs), RHY providers, and CoCs, Pilot methods in volunteer sites</td>
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<td><strong>National Study</strong></td>
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<td>Youth Inclusive National PIT Count, National Household Survey</td>
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<td><strong>Periodic Estimates</strong></td>
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<td>Integrate National Study methods with coordinated data systems</td>
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<td><strong>Improved data</strong>, <strong>Reduced burden on grantees</strong></td>
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<td>Lessons for capturing youth data in PIT counts, Improved data in participating sites</td>
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<td>Confident estimate, Improved data on needs and characteristics</td>
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<td>Longitudinal counts and data on characteristics, Better intervention models</td>
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HUD Point-in-Time (PIT) Count

• A youth PIT strategy includes:
  – Youth-centered methods for counting unaccompanied homeless youth
  – Involvement of youth in the count
  – Participation of LEA homeless liaisons and RHY agencies to identify homeless youth and hard-to-reach youth
  – Specific data on characteristics of unaccompanied youth
STRATEGY:
Building Capacity for Service Delivery

- A research-informed intervention model
- Review research and apply to intervention strategies
- Increased evidence of effective interventions
- Identify and scale up evidence-based practices and increase rigorous evaluation
- Gaps analysis
- Investigate funding and capacity needs of programs
Key Points About the Intervention Model

• Research-informed—i.e., its contents are informed by existing, empirical research involving youth experiencing homelessness
• Preliminary—further data should inform better, updated intervention models
• Outcomes-driven
• Centered on risk and protective factors to encourage targeted intervention strategies
• Illustrates multiple areas of risk, protection and outcomes. This reinforces the need for contribution and coordination among multiple services and systems
Unaccompanied Youth Intervention Model

1. **Screen and assess based on risk and protective factors**
   - Establish screening and assessment tools and processes.

2. **Target individual plans to decrease risk factors, increase protective factors, and reflect youth’s goals**
   - Plan system strategies and service array considering levels and types of risk and protection.

3. **Match effective, culturally appropriate interventions**
   - Implement intervention strategies with fidelity and attention to practice frameworks.

4. **Monitor progress and adjust services as needed**
   - Improve core outcomes:
     - Stable housing
     - Permanent connections
     - Well-being
     - Education or employment

5. **Revise system strategies and programming based on new evidence**
   - Evaluate impacts.
Clusters of Newly Homeless Youth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lower Risk Group</th>
<th>At-Risk Group</th>
<th>Risky Group</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High* or Medium</td>
<td>High* or Medium</td>
<td>High* or Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk Factors:</td>
<td>Risk Factors:</td>
<td>Risk Factors:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• All Low</td>
<td>• Emotional distress</td>
<td>• Emotional distress*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Unprotected sex*</td>
<td>• Unprotected sex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Smoking*</td>
<td>• Smoking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Alcohol use</td>
<td>• Alcohol use</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Drug use*</td>
<td>• Drug use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protective Factors:</td>
<td>Protective Factors:</td>
<td>Protective Factors:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• School connection*</td>
<td>• Employment*</td>
<td>• School connection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Positive friends*</td>
<td>• Positive friends</td>
<td>• Employment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Health*</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Survival skills*</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Survival skills</td>
</tr>
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Likelihood of becoming chronically homeless increases
Standardized Screening and Assessment

- Not all youth experiencing homelessness are the same
- Assessment identifies risk and protective factors that can be the focus of intervention strategies
- Assessment informs service decisions:
  - at the **program level** (the service array)
  - at the **youth level** (case planning)
- Assessment shifts the focus from outputs to outcomes:
  - Assessment provides a baseline for periodic follow-up assessments to measure outcomes over time
Vulnerable Subpopulations of Youth

Implications for Culturally-Appropriate, Effective Interventions

• Higher levels of risk and trauma on average
• Evidence-based interventions are available to:
  – Treat substance abuse and mental health issues
  – Promote healing and recovery from trauma
  – Build key skills and capacities in youth
• Increase the capacity of service providers to:
  – Accurately identify service needs
  – Match those needs to appropriate interventions

Foster Care Youth
LGBTQ Youth
Juvenile Justice Youth
Pregnant/Parenting Youth
Thanks for what you do!

Find more resources:

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www.usich.gov

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