

Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) Collaborative Committee

Meeting Date: July 8, 2022

Meeting Time: 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Meeting Link: <https://ocgov.webex.com/ocgov/j.php?MTID=mf3dfad1ad8420128a9be7b7df54f39eb>

Meeting ID: 177 820 0292

Password: 7s5ZJXrtJ3M

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions – Dr. Shauntina, Chair
2. Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) Dashboard – Mayra Vargas, CES Staff Specialist
3. HMIS Data Training for TAY Providers – Mayra Vargas, CES Staff Specialist
 - a. Training Should Cover:
 - i. Project Start
 - ii. Approximate Date Homelessness Started
 - iii. Current Living Situation
 - iv. Verification of Documents
4. Youth Homeless Demonstration Program (YHDP) Application Review - Chair, Dr. Shauntina
5. Youth Action Board Update – Zulima Lundy, Director of Operations
6. Next Meeting: **September 9, 2022, 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

**Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
Orange County Continuum of Care (CA-602)**

Orange County Continuum of Care		
Topic	Question	Answer
<p>Leadership Capacity</p> <p>15 points</p> <p>HUD will award up to 15 points to applicants that demonstrate they have the necessary leadership in place to effectively manage the development of a CCP to prevent and end youth homelessness.</p>	<p>1. Describe how the CoC addressed challenges for youth at-risk-of or experiencing homelessness resulting from the outbreak of COVID-19. Examples can include working with school liaisons to identify youth who are disconnected from schools; specific outreach and strategies to youth providers; and dedicating housing resources to youth.</p>	<p>In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the County of Orange’s Office of Care Coordination on behalf of the Orange County Continuum of Care (CoC) facilitated the allocation of Emergency Solutions Grant CARES Act (ESG-CV) funding to youth providers in the Orange County homeless service system. The Orange County CoC further assisted with prioritization and referral to the Emergency Housing Vouchers, including a set aside for Transitional Aged Youth (TAY). TAY experiencing homelessness in Orange County were often employed in direct service or entry level jobs as essential workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. If they were non-essential, they experienced a reduction in hours worked and decreased monthly income. Additionally with public transportation posing a greater health risk, many youth had difficulty finding transportation with available resources. Orangewood Foundation collaborated with OC United Way to offer emergency grants for youth to supplement the reduced income and access to resources experienced. Youth connected to Orangewood Foundation’s services received assistance with emergency housing stabilization grants, application for relief programs and education around the eviction moratorium. For youth experiencing violence at home, the COVID-19 pandemic heightened safety risk during shelter-in-place orders and left more youth needing to find a safe place to stay. Shelter capacity became limited to allow for social distancing and youth were unable to access shelters immediately due to long waiting lists and high demand for shelter bed spaces. Orangewood Foundation saw the need for immediate supportive services and worked with motel and hotel providers to provide emergency housing to youth, provided access to onsite vaccination clinic to address COVID-19, and provided increased groceries and food for youth.</p>
	<p>2. Describe one initiative outside of applying for grant funds and related to youth homelessness that has been designed or</p>	<p>The Orange County Continuum of Care (CoC) is currently in the planning process of developing a Youth Action Board in partnership with the Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) Collaborative Committee, a subcommittee of the CoC Board. The Orange County’s Office of Care Coordination as the Collaborative Applicant worked closely with Covenant House California to design and develop a youth-focused count as part of the 2022 Point In Time for Orange County. As part of the planning process, youth provide feedback on the design and implementation of the youth-focused count.</p>

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	<p>implemented by the Youth Action Board or youth in the community. Examples could include designing a youth count, developing or improving a drop-in center or creating a peer partnership program.</p>	<p>Youth service providers such as Orangewood Foundation and Covenant House California consistently model examples of authentically engaging youth in the planning, implementation and evaluation. Covenant House California received recommendations and feedback on the design of a 25-bed youth shelter that opened in Orange County in 2021. Additionally, Orangewood Foundation’s housing program for trafficked youth, the Lighthouse, provides opportunities for survivors to meet monthly with program staff to discuss improvements that can be made to physical living spaces, additional resources desired, and training that staff members may need to improve overall program experience.</p>
	<p>3. Demonstrate how the YAB decision-making process is integrated into the larger CoC and how recommendations or decisions from the YAB are implemented.</p>	<p>The Orange County Continuum of Care (CoC) is committed to creating sustainable processes for youth to be involved in decision-making that impacts Orange County’s homeless service system. In planning for the Youth Advisory Board (YAB) in Orange County, the Orange County CoC will utilize the experience gained through establishing the Lived Experience Advisory Committee, which serves as an advising body to the CoC Board. Planning for Orange County’s YAB includes a commitment to creating an advising process to the CoC Board and its committees, providing compensation for youth engaging in the YAB, and ensuring opportunities for youth to be an authentic part of decision-making.</p>
	<p>4. Demonstrate how the CoC structure will support the lead agency. The applicant must clearly identify the names of committees (and approximate number of members) within the CoC that will be involved in the planning and</p>	<p>The County of Orange (County) is the lead agency that serves as the Collaborative Applicant for the Orange County Continuum of Care (CoC). The County facilitates and coordinates meetings of the CoC Board and its subcommittees to support the Orange County CoC’s efforts and initiatives. Both the Transitional Aged Youth Collaborative Committee (TAY Collaborative) and the Coordinated Entry System (CES) Steering Committee will be instrumental in preventing and ending youth homelessness in Orange County. The TAY Collaborative includes representatives from 24 youth-serving agencies and jurisdictions in Orange County, ranging from nonprofit leadership, city representatives, local university staff and Social Service Agency (SSA) staff. The TAY Collaborative functions as an advisory group to the CoC Board, supporting the CoC Board in recommending policy, establishing best practices, and providing feedback to create a youth homeless response system to</p>

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	<p>implementation of a coordinated community approach to prevent and end youth homelessness, each current committee objective, and current youth relevant task(s).</p>	<p>prevent and end youth homelessness. Membership included in the TAY Collaborative are actively involved in incorporating youth voice into program planning processes and will be instrumental in coordinating county-wide efforts to prevent and end youth homelessness. Additionally, the CES Steering Committee advises the CoC Board with policy development and revisions, supports the strategic implementation of the CES and evaluates the efficiency and effectiveness of CES, which is integral to the helping youth secure appropriate housing opportunities. As the entity responsible for implementing and managing the CES for individuals and families, the County works closely with the CES Steering Committee to build more equitable and efficient CES policies and processes.</p> <p>The TAY Collaborative and CES Steering Committees make recommendations to the CoC Board, which allows for support and discussion around implementation of youth-focused initiatives for preventing and ending youth homelessness.</p>
	<p>5. Describe the CoC's current written plan or strategy to prevent and end youth homelessness. If a part of a plan to prevent and end all forms of homelessness, to get maximum points under this criterion, there must be a dedicated Section or set of youth-specific strategies and objectives. The narrative should include the organizations or</p>	<p>The Orange County Continuum of Care (CoC) Board approved a recommended CoC Leadership Vision for Calendar Years 2022-2024. Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) are highlighted within the goal of permanently housing those experiencing homelessness. The CoC Board strives to make the following statement by the end of 2024: “The CoC has led the collaborative effort to build and sustain a fluid system to prevent homelessness and quickly intervene with solutions to end homelessness among veterans, TAY, and families, while making significant, measurable progress for all populations experiencing homelessness.” This vision statement was drafted by an Ad Hoc whose membership included the Chair of the TAY Collaborative Committee at the time of approval, in partnership with the County of Orange as the Collaborative Applicant. The TAY Collaborative is currently exploring ways to further move forward the CoC’s vision as it relates to TAY and youth experiencing homelessness in Orange County.</p>

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	<p>agencies that helped to develop, signed or adopted the plan.</p>	
	<p>6. Describe two youth-specific strategies to address youth homelessness in the plan described in question 5.</p>	<p>As previously mentioned, the County of Orange’s (County) Office of Care Coordination on behalf of the Orange County Continuum of Care (CoC) plans to engage youth with lived experience of homelessness as well as youth providers when setting strategic goals to address youth homelessness. One specific strategy to consider includes the utilization of community drop-in centers to host events tailored to Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) needs (i.e. cell phone distribution, youth-specific housing referrals, direct referrals to emergency shelter, transportation resources, hot meals, employment support, and hygiene items). Additionally, youth service providers have expressed interest in establishing a housing navigation programs to further support youth in the Coordinated Entry System (CES) process as well as identifying the best fit for a housing opportunity.</p>
	<p>7. Define what authentic youth collaboration means to your community.</p>	<p>Authentic youth collaboration is acknowledging each individual's journey and voice, centering youth with lived expertise as the leaders and experts in addressing homelessness in Orange County. Further, collaboration with youth at the Continuum of Care (CoC) level means compensating youth offering insight, feedback and recommendations on the CoC’s policies, initiatives, and processes. The Orange County CoC is currently building out a plan to compensate members of the future Youth Advisory Board (YAB). Youth providers within the CoC, such as Orangewood Foundation, note the importance of creating a review board for youth-involved projects, where youth have a place to go if spaces are not incorporating their ideas and feedback. Continued coaching and professional development focused on effective communication skills in the decision-making process are essential in equipping youth to safely and authentically engage. Another youth provider, Covenant House California, has a great deal of experience in collaborating with youth in a number of ways to ensure their voice is included in the development of projects and programs. Opportunities for engaging youth include but are not limited to youth councils, youth surveys, individual youth surveys, focus groups to obtain youth feedback on emerging issues and policies and youth representatives on panels to review project proposals submitted to the County of Orange (County).</p>

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	<p>8. Describe how the CoC prioritizes authentic youth collaboration through the Youth Action Board or through youth participation in committee meetings or planning and feedback events.</p>	<p>In planning for the YAB (Youth Advisory Board), the County of Orange’s (County) Office of Care Coordination and stakeholders of the Orange County Continuum of Care (CoC) has discussed opportunities for further youth participation in the CoC and its subcommittees. The County as the Collaborative Applicant is committed to elevating the ideas of the Transitional Aged Youth Collaborative Committee (TAY Collaborative) and youth with lived expertise, recognizing the opportunity for creative strategies to combat youth homelessness. Orange County’s youth providers have emphasized the importance of providing opportunities for feedback, such as hosting a feedback event where discussion occurs over a meal or completing a survey to address the specific need. Further the Orange County CoC included youth in the planning process for the 2022 Point In Time youth-focused count to help design a more tailored approach to youth experiencing homelessness.</p>
	<p>9. Describe how youth are prepared, debriefed, and otherwise supported for participation in committee meetings and other planning and feedback events.</p>	<p>The County of Orange’s (County) Office of Care Coordination and Orange County Continuum of Care (CoC) plans to provide initial onboarding and training to youth partnering with the CoC Board and its subcommittees, including making a County staff member available to answer relevant questions or address concerns for youth involved in a CoC committees and initiatives. Ideally, a specific staff person would be solely responsible for supporting youth engaged with CoC committee meetings and initiatives by answering questions, sharing knowledge and relevant updates, providing case management support to reduce barriers and ensure housing and food stability, and manage the disbursement of compensation. The County and Orange County CoC continue to look at local and nation best practices for facilitating a Youth Advisory Board (YAB) and engaging youth with lived experience of homelessness. Best practices of youth-led advisory boards nationally emphasize the fact that youth are not simply present to provide feedback and recommendations, but are to also have decision-making power if they are to feel supported as a valued part of the work to prevent and end homelessness.</p>
<p>Community Need 20 points</p>	<p>1. Describe the most recent youth homelessness needs assessment</p>	<p>The Orange County Continuum of Care (CoC) conducts the annual unsheltered count, the Point In Time (PIT) Count, to review the number of people experiencing homelessness, including Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) experiencing homelessness. The Orange County Point In Time Count was conducted in February 2022 with</p>

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<p>HUD will award up to 20 points to applicants that can demonstrate high need in the community based on the number and needs of the community's youth experiencing homelessness.</p>	<p>conducted by the CoC. The narrative must include the following:</p>	<p>Covenant House California as the lead agency for the TAY Count. With the PIT data, the CoC can review the number of TAY populations experiencing homelessness, as well as the breakdown of their demographics and identities. Although youth were not involved in designing or executing the PIT count, the CoC actively listens to feedback or recommendations provided by youth to complete the count efficiently and effectively.</p>
	<p>1a. The name of the lead and partnering agencies or organizations involved in the assessment.</p>	<p>The 2022 Youth Point In Time (PIT) Count was led by Covenant House California. Covenant House California was tasked with recruiting youth leads that would complete the assessment for any youth identified as experiencing homelessness during the PIT count effort. The Orange County Continuum of Care (CoC) advertised this event to all members of the CoC and stakeholders who intersect with youth who are at-risk of homelessness and/or experiencing homelessness.</p>
	<p>1b. How youth were involved in designing or executing the needs assessment.</p>	<p>Prior to this assessment being provided, Covenant House hosted a series of youth focus groups to get insight on how the questions were being asked as well as to understand what data should be collected. In addition to providing feedback, youth were hired to lead the assessment effort, by being the ones to execute the assessments.</p>
	<p>1c. A description of disparities identified through the assessment, including race, gender, LBGTQ+ status, system involvement, and health disparities, such as HIV/AIDS.</p>	<p>One of the questions on this assessment asked why the youth were facing housing instability. It was noted to the Orange County Continuum of Care (CoC), by Covenant House California, that many of the responses were related to youths being turned away from their families due to their sexual orientation. Raw data pertaining to the assessments are currently not available, but this will be a point to explore in the future youth-focused efforts to enhance and support Point In Time Count</p>
	<p>1d. An explanation of the key findings from the youth homelessness needs assessment, including the</p>	<p>According to the Point In Time (PIT) data, there are 235 Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) that are experiencing homelessness in Orange County which is a decrease from the 2019 PIT data. By conducting the PIT count, the Orange County Continuum of Care (CoC) can view the numbers of people experiencing homelessness by Service Planning Area (SPA) which can assist in identifying the need of services by location. In addition to the PIT count, a Housing Inventory Count (HIC) is also conducted</p>

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	<p>number and types of youth-appropriate housing units and the number of youths experiencing homelessness.</p>	<p>annually to review the number of beds/units in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) that are dedicated to people experiencing homelessness. According to the HIC data from 2022, 49% of youth beds in HMIS are beds located in Emergency Shelter project</p>
	<p>2. 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. Include in your response the barriers that currently prevent you from implementing or improving the intervention.</p>	<p>A youth-focused intervention that is currently not operating in the community that the community wishes to pursue are life skills development programs specifically geared towards transitional aged youth (TAY). Life skills programs that would be highly beneficial are life coaching sessions and health empowerment and advocacy programs for the youth who have chronic health conditions are long-term disabilities. Life skills programs geared towards TAY would assist them in building confidence, develop healthy coping mechanics, and improve overall health and life conditions. Other examples of life skills programs are workshops on budgeting, cooking, and best hygiene practices.</p> <p>In addition to life skills programs, another important program would be health empowerment and advocacy for those who have chronic, long term health conditions or disabilities. The youth who have disabilities can be assisted greatly if they have programs that teach them to become empowered from the health conditions and teach them how to advocate for themselves regarding their health. The barriers that are currently preventing the Orange County Continuum of Care (CoC) from implementing these interventions are financial barriers such as a lack of funding and the understaffing of agency providers that can provide these services.</p>
	<p>3. Identify and discuss factors that are currently contributing to youth homelessness in the community, including how your community identified</p>	<p>For the Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) counts, the methodology is conducted by collecting participant-level demographic information along with collecting the answers that participants provide in the survey. From the survey information collected from the 2022 count, the most identified factors contributing to youth homelessness were Fair Market Rate (FMR) and trauma based on the responses received from the youth. According to the Yardi Matrix apartment data, the average rent in Orange County increased approximately 19.7% in April 2022 which is the sixth-highest percentage gain compared to the nation's top 30 metropolitan areas.</p>

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	<p>which factors are most prominent. To be considered for maximum points under this Rating Factor, your response must describe factors at the community level and not how individual factors are identified on a case-by-case basis.</p>	<p>With the increasing rates of rent cost, many of the youth in the Orange County community cannot afford the current Fair Market Rate. To the participants who have vouchers, many agencies such as Mercy House, have noted that the environment for housing is starting to far exceed than the FMR can provide. Many agencies are advocating for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to increase voucher FMR in October 2022 or there may be a shortage of housing that is affordable, even with the housing subsidies attached to an individual. StandUp for Kids also reiterates on the market rent rate being a contributing factor for youth homelessness which is identified through their intake and assessment, the data in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), and their internal service database which is analyzed monthly. StandUp for Kids also identifies these factors from their crisis line calls.</p> <p>Covenant House California (CHC) notes that a common thread that runs throughout the entirety of the population served by CHC is trauma. Records from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HSS) show that 46% of homeless youth suffer severe physical abuse, sexual and/or emotional abuse, and CHC’s internal data indicate that nearly 85% of youth served have run away from a home in which they were emotionally, sexually, or physically abused, and non-acceptance by parents of their children’s sexual identities. Estimates of the number of youths experiencing homelessness in one year are thought by CHC to be more than two times the Point In Time census result. Furthermore, CHC’s experience with the target population indicates that youth experiencing homelessness are exceptionally adept at remaining unseen because of couch-surfing with friends or relatives, keeping out of sight of authorities or those who will re-involve them with juvenile justice or foster systems. Accurate counts of homeless youth are difficult because, in essence, most homeless youth don’t ‘appear’ homeless. The precursors to youth homelessness are easier to quantify and those precursors are found in abundance. The high incidence of poverty, crime, violence, and exploitation including human trafficking make the city a veritable Venn Diagram of both the paths to homelessness and the risks associated with it. CHC’s experience of serving emerging, unserved, and under-served populations within the county has dictated that these populations experience homelessness and trafficking at a higher incidence than other populations.</p>
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	<p>4. Provide a description and assessment of the disparity in your community's homeless response system, including in the relative number of applications for housing and other services, approved applications, and program outcomes for populations that have a higher incidence of homelessness or that have been underserved historically by homeless housing assistance programs in the community (e.g. Black people, Indigenous people, people of color, former foster youth, justice- involved youth, individuals with disabilities). If identified, how will your community address the disparities, consistent</p>	<p>The Orange County Continuum of Care (CoC) conducts the assessment of disparity in our community's homeless response system through the Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) Registry Overview that is sent out monthly. Through the registry overview, bar graphs can be seen regarding the Coordinated Entry System (CES) and the breakdown of participants who are Matched to a Housing Opportunity and Enrolled in a Permanent Housing Project with the breakdown of race. According to the May 2022 TAY Dashboard numbers, out of the 41 TAY participants that were matched to a housing opportunity, 27 out of 41 (65%) identified as white while only 7 out of 41 (17%) identified as Black, African American. As seen by these numbers and data, there is a disparity in the community as to what demographics are matching to housing opportunities or enrolled in a permanent housing project. With these disparities, the Orange County CoC strives to address the disparities consistent with fair housing and civil rights requirements. In addition, there is need for deeper analysis to review fidelity on these numbers of disparities.</p>
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	<p>with fair housing and civil rights requirements? If you have not conducted such an assessment, what are your plans to assess the rates of homelessness, outreach activities, applications for housing assistance, or rates of housing placement from the homeless response system for populations that have a higher incidence of homelessness?</p>	
	<p>5. Describe how your community is addressing needs of transgender, gender non-conforming, and non-binary youths to ensure privacy, respect, safety, and access in projects, such as shelters, outreach activities, and permanent housing.</p>	<p>The Continuum of Care (CoC) and its subrecipients strive to ensure inclusivity, as well as addressing the needs of transgender, gender non-conforming, and non-binary youths. In the fall of 2021, the Office of Care Coordination facilitated a training on the best practices for serving LGBTQ+ persons and the knowledge of incorporating trauma-informed care to ensure safe and welcome spaces for LGBTQ+ persons. In addition to trainings, the Office of Care Coordination has attempted to fulfil Continuum of Care (CoC) Board Seats for an At-Large Seat with an expertise on homeless and a subpopulation focus of LGBTQ+. The Office of Care Coordination has received feedback from organizations like Orangewood Foundation stating that youth should decision makers, therefore, youth should have representation in the various committees in the CoC Board.</p> <p>The CoC's subrecipients such as Orangewood Foundation ensure that all staff are educated and trained on the different identities and that staff use inclusive language, provide safe spaces to communicate, and outreach to increase the knowledge of services to the LGBTQAI+ community, including holding a booth at Pride events.</p>

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		County of Orange Social Services Agency (SSA) Transitional Planning Services Program is committed to providing LGBTQ+ services by educating staff with trainings, documenting, and courting language that is sensitive to culture. SSA has mandated Transitional Conferences to provide community and government resources that the youth are eligible for. Covenant House California collaborates with the Orange County LGBT Center and has specific transgender, gender non-conforming, and non-binary youth policies in place to ensure a safe, affirming space for youth to access services.
<p>Collaboration</p> <p>15 Points</p> <p>HUD will award up to 15 points to applicants that can demonstrate strong current communitywide partnerships that are working to prevent and end youth homelessness.</p>	<p>1. Indicate whether the Coordinated Entry Process incorporates youth. If the Coordinated Entry Process incorporates youth, the Collaborative Applicant must answer Questions 1a-1c;</p>	<p>The Orange County Continuum of Care’s (CoC) Coordinated Entry System (CES) is broken down into three populations – individuals, families, and veterans – with Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) being an overarching population that can exist within all three components. The responses below describe the way in which TAY are being prioritized within the Orange County CoC’s CES.</p>
	<p>1a. Indicate whether there is a separate coordinated entry access point for youth or, if access points are designed for all persons presenting for assistance, describe what youth-specific policies and</p>	<p>The Orange County Continuum of Care (CoC) operates the Coordinated Entry System (CES) with a “no-wrong-door” approach, meaning that if a household is interested in being connected to CES then any of the established CES Access Points can assist them. Our local 2-1-1 functions as our CoC’s virtual front door and maintains an up-to-date database of all of the CES Access Points, which specialize in Family, Individuals, Veteran and Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) populations. Any TAY household can access CES using any of the typical family based or individual based agencies as access points, but they are also able to utilize TAY specific access points. Currently, our CES Policies and Procedures ask that any unaccompanied minors be immediately connected to either of our youth-specific shelters. Both TAY shelter partners are also CES Access Points.</p>

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	<p>procedures the CoC has adopted to ensure that access points are appropriate for youth.</p>	
	<p>1b. Describe how youth are prioritized within the coordinated entry process, including factors used to prioritize youth or subpopulations of youth.</p>	<p>As previously mentioned, there are several populations within the Coordinated Entry System (CES) with their own distinct CES process and match process. Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) are matched to house, via CES, using the TAY Registry. The TAY Registry is created by extracting TAY head of households from both the CES components for individuals and families. All housing opportunities available through CES will prioritize chronically homeless individuals and families with the longest length of homelessness and with the most significant service needs. The majority of housing opportunities that are matched through the TAY Registry are housing opportunities that specifically target TAY. When matching these opportunities length of homelessness is used to determine who would be the most appropriate fit. Aside from the TAY Registry, and TAY aged households are considered for other CES housing opportunities through CES components for individuals and families</p>
	<p>1c. Describe the extent to which all other youth homelessness and at-risk providers and other stakeholders providing services to homeless and at-risk youth (including LGBTQ+ resource centers, PCWAs and other mainstream resource providers) are integrated into</p>	<p>At this time, the Social Service Agency provides us several voucher programs for formerly foster youth which are filled by a Coordinated Entry System (CES) referral. In addition to this, other mainstream providers are welcome to join Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) focussed CES meetings to help support with location of youth as well as to better coordinate services. Lastly, The Orange County Continuum of Care (CoC) engages with these agencies whenever possible and often table conferences where these agencies will be present. During these encounters we educate providers about TAY CES Access Points and ways in which they can support the system. This year we were able to attend the 2022 Virtual LGBTQ Youth Convening Conference lead by the LGBTQ Center OC as well as UCI's OC Resource and Connection Fair for Practitioners Serving Housing Insecure and Foster Youth.</p>

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	<p>the coordinated entry process.</p>	
	<p>2. Describe how the CoC works with education providers in the community. To receive full points, this response should include a specific initiative or effort that the CoC and at least one educational partner (K-12 schools, local technical college or university) has collaborated with regarding youth and young adult homelessness.</p>	<p>A few of the Orange County Continuum of Care’s community partners are working closely with local schools and colleges to help address youth and young adult homelessness. StandUp for Kids, is currently working with local high schools and continuation schools, in collaboration with their designated McKinney Vento Liaison, to provide supportive services for at-risk and homeless youth. StandUp for Kids offers identified youth with assistance applying for financial aid, housing navigation, basic necessities, books on-campus tutoring, and more. Another one of our community partners, Orangewood, collaborates with Guardian Scholars to provide grants/scholarships to youth as well as housing financial assistance. Lastly, United for Student Success is one of Orange County United Way’s (OCUW), another CoC community partner, three key initiatives. OCUW offers identified students with education programs to help them maintain their educational goals and ensure they are able to graduate. OCUW partners with schools, colleges and other community partners to create programs that will address any unmet needs in the community as well as close any service gaps. To date, OCUW has successfully housed 66 former foster youth through this initiative.</p>
	<p>3. What other youth leadership bodies exist in your community and how does that group engage on youth homelessness?</p>	<p>At this time, there are limited options for youth to demonstrate leadership skills in Orange County, however this is an opportunity that our CoC is hoping to fulfill with the establishment of a Youth Action Board (YAB). Once a YAB is established, their feedback will be incorporated by reviewing our current Policies and Procedures and providing suggestions and areas for improvement. We currently have several agencies that are interested in providing assistance with establishing the YAB framework and execution, alongside with the participants that will be members of the YAB. Ideally once the YAB is established, members will be given the opportunity to develop stronger leadership roles within the CoC and community. It should be noted, however, that there are several organizations in our community that are youth lead, but their main focus is volunteer projects. It is our goal that once the YAB is established, youth voices are elevated and provided an authentic opportunity to demonstrate their ability to lead within our community.</p>

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	<p>4. Describe how your CoC assesses and provides information about connections to health insurance coverage and available health services including sexually transmitted infections prevention and treatment; mental and physical health supports; and substance abuse treatment.</p>	<p>The Orange County Continuum of Care (CoC) community partners are currently able to connect youth to healthcare coverage by providing them direct assistance with health care applications, referring them to another local partners to assist with health care coverage, or by providing them with onsite healthcare. There are onsite healthcare services being provided in shelters as well as in some of our TAY drop-in centers on a monthly basis. If youth require assistance with connecting with a substance abuse treatment center, our providers are able to provide warm handoffs as well as serve as their advocates as needed. There are also a few of our partners that offer grants to help support youth with obtaining mental health counseling of their choice.</p>
	<p>5. How does the CoC work with each of the following institutions to ensure that participants in the programs are not released into homelessness?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child welfare (Foster Care) • Justice system (juvenile and adult) • Institutions of mental and physical health 	<p>There are currently several programs in the Orange County Continuum of Care (CoC) that operate separately and in conjunction with the Coordinated Entry System (CES) to ensure that Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) within institutions do not fall into homelessness. Social Service Agency (SSA) will reach out to the CES to inform the CoC of vouchers as they become available. These specifically target youth that were dependents of Orange County and have aged out of foster care. Typically, SSA is able to identify eligible participants within their own systems, however they will reach out to us to ensure that any eligible participants, that are on the TAY Registry, can be properly connected to this program. Unfortunately, there is no such program available to youth who were dependents outside of the county. At this time our CoC was unable to identify any TAY specific program that would assist with those in the justice system. It is currently our CoC's goal to help address to service gap. If awarded, the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) funds could potentially assist with closing this service need within our community. While the YHDP funds can assist with a small subset population, it may be able to serve as a model for our entire system. In any case, the Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV) that were awarded to our community have been utilized to help assist with this population, but a more permanent approach will need to be identified in the future. If</p>

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		<p>a youth is encountered being in a behavioral health clinic, they are connected with Children and Youth Mental Health and Recovery Services. Within this program, youth are given wraparound services to help support them through their crisis and well into their stability. Each youth is evaluated by the team on a case-by-case basis. For youth currently in the justice system, the Orange County CoC tasks the Orange County Probation staff with providing youth with wraparound services for those preparing to be released. Youth who do not have stable housing to return to are connected to Covenant House, StandUp for Kids, or Project Kinship. These local partners work closely to continue to support youth with housing goals as well as provide additional supportive services.</p>
	<p>6. Attach a letter of support for the application from the PCWA that indicates a commitment to participate in the creation of the CCP.</p>	<p>Attachment has been uploaded to application portal. Attachment is labeled Letter of Support from PCWA – Orange County CoC</p>
<p>Youth Collaboration</p> <p>30 Points</p> <p>HUD will award up to 30 points to applicants that demonstrate how voices of Youth with</p>	<p>1. Describe the mission and vision of the YAB.</p>	<p>Although currently the County of Orange Continuum of Care (CoC) does not have a Youth Advisory Board (YAB) there is a plan in place with a distinct vision in mind. The missions and visions will ultimately be shaped by the youth on the YAB. In the meantime, it will be focused on the YAB being an integral partner to the CoC and agencies who seek to serve Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) by providing insight, best practices, and expertise to provide services in a youth centered, trauma informed and equitable way. Youth participants from various providers have expressed the need to emphasize the importance of accelerated services to youth fleeing domestic violence and those wanting to better themselves. The youth facing circumstances such as this should have an escape without the worry of becoming homeless. Most youth have been through traumatic experiences and there is not an available or pending resource to support these youth.</p>

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<p>lived experience of homelessness are a crucial component to addressing and ending youth homelessness. In order to be successful, responses to this Section should clearly be written by Youth Action Board (YAB) members and applicants must consider how youth with lived experience will be integrated into system and program design and implementation.</p>	<p>2. Describe the structure and work of the YAB.</p>	<p>The Youth Advisory Board (YAB) will be tasked with reviewing policies and procedures and providing feedback based on their experiences with the system. In addition to this, the YAB will work closely with the Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) Collaborative Committee as well to engage with TAY agencies to offer suggestions and feedback on agency’s individual policies.</p>
	<p>2a. How long has the YAB been in existence?</p>	<p>The Orange County Continuum of Care’s Youth Advisory Board has not been established yet.</p>
	<p>2b. How many members does the YAB have? If attendance at meetings extends beyond membership, state the attendance at the most recent three meetings.</p>	<p>The Orange County Continuum of Care’s Youth Advisory Board has not been established yet.</p>
	<p>2c. How often does the YAB meet?</p>	<p>The Orange County Continuum of Care’s Youth Advisory Board has not been established yet.</p>
	<p>2d. Describe the decision-making structure of the YAB.</p>	<p>The Orange County Continuum of Care’s Youth Advisory Board has not been established yet.</p>
	<p>2e. What training and other preparation are YAB members provided on the CoC structure, CoC rules, housing types, and other issues surrounding homelessness?</p>	<p>The Orange County Continuum of Care’s Youth Advisory Board has not been established yet.</p>
	<p>3. Is the membership of the YAB reflective of</p>	<p>Members of the Youth Advisory Board (YAB) will be recruited to ensure representation of the population including racial, ethnic and gender identities of youth</p>

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	<p>the population of youth and young adults experiencing homelessness in the community?</p>	<p>experiencing homelessness in our community. The County of Orange Continuum of Care (CoC) will work with the same Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) providers who enter participants into the Coordinated Entry System (CES). The TAY Committee is made aware of these demographics and CES access points to get these individuals connected to services and will likely be able to provide diverse YAB applicants. In addition, the CoC will plan to work with providers who are already showing interest in joining the YAB who have staff with lived experience.</p>
	<p>3a. Provide data indicating the prevalence of youth of color, LGBTQ+, and gender nonconforming youth in the general population of youth experiencing homelessness.</p>	<p>The Orange County Continuum of Care’s Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) does not capture data on LGBTQ+ at this time.</p>
	<p>3b. Describe how members of the YAB are recruited to ensure represents the population, including racial, ethnic, and gender identities of youth experiencing homelessness in your community.</p>	<p>Recruitment has not begun for the Youth Advisor Board (YAB) positions, however when recruitment begins, the County of Orange’s Office of Care Coordination will notify all members of the Orange County Continuum of Care (CoC) as well as members of our TAY Collaborative Committee. A portion of the YAB application asks applicants to identify as a member of the LGBTQ+, as well as their demographic. When reviewing applications, our office will be committed to ensure the selections are diverse and represent all populations of our TAY population.</p>
	<p>4. Describe how YAB members are or will be compensated for their time and expertise. Please</p>	<p>Through conversation with various consulting groups, the Orange County Continuum of Care (CoC) and the County of Orange’s Office of Care Coordination is developing a sustainable compensation plan for partners with lived expertise engaging in the work of the Orange County CoC, including the Youth Advisory Board (YAB). Members of the YAB will be compensated at a rate of \$25 per hour for attended</p>

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	<p>indicate if compensation for YAB members is based on a salary or regular hourly rate and the salary or rate paid.</p>	<p>meetings and preparation time involved prior to meetings. Currently, individuals who are part of the Orange County CoC’s Lived Experience Advisory Committee are being compensated with Visa gift cards, with the goal of contracting with a third party to manage compensation on an ongoing basis with a variety of payment methods (i.e. Venmo, CashApp, direct deposit, etc.) The County of Orange seeks to align with national best practices towards compensation of those youth participating in the YAB and would look to include youth feedback when developing policies and practices around the compensation process.</p>
	<p>5. If compensation is not provided, how are youth incentivized to participate in the YAB or other aspects of the youth homelessness system? These may include professional development opportunities, access to other resources, etc.</p>	<p>The County of Orange and Orange County Continuum of Care (CoC) plans to provide compensation to youth participating in the Youth Advisory Board (YAB). In addition, the Orange County CoC plans to explore the feasibility of additional strategies for reducing barriers of youth involved in the YAB. This could include catering meals during YAB meetings and providing a paid motel stay the night before a scheduled meeting for unhoused youth participating in the YAB. In seeking to elevate youth voice, the County of Orange is also open to surveying youth providers as well as youth with lived expertise on what types of resources or professional development trainings are desired.</p>
	<p>6. From a youth perspective, what are the biggest challenges to integrating youth voice into community decision-making structures? To receive full points, this response should be written by</p>	<p>Integrating a youth voice into community decision-making structures comes along with challenges. The youth face specific struggles that shape their future. A lot of their emotional challenges come from a feeling of being disconnected from basic resources such as transportation and getting a social security card. Barriers persist in the form of life skills education where the youth show a lack of understanding for maintenance of income. One youth said, “From experiencing being homeless at a very young age, it was a struggle surviving, but I was with my mom, so it was better than being alone, and I’m grateful and relieved I wasn’t on the streets and having a roof over my head and food on the table in front of me.” Another youth stated, “For me it’s the fact that I have parents who love and care for me but they’re not here and they don’t know what I’m going through, and I can’t tell them but I’m doing this for</p>

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	<p>a youth or include quotes from youth regarding the challenges to integrating youth voice.</p>	<p>them and for me, for a better future for my family.” These statements highlight the emotional challenges faced by youth.</p>
	<p>7. From a youth perspective, what are the biggest challenges/barriers to sustaining a Youth Action Board?</p>	<p>From a youth perspective some of the challenges and barriers to sustaining a Youth Action Board were described from youth as “The president, it costs too much for Housing.” “Mental health, as in keeping myself happy with the little I have.” “Housing, getting a job” and “I see no challenges that I cannot handle with my mind, I can get through even the roughest of situations and help people around me that have shown me kindness.”</p>
	<p>8. From a youth perspective, identify the biggest areas of risk in the current youth homelessness system (for example, aging out of foster care or transitioning from an institution) and how the community is working to address these risks.</p>	<p>The biggest areas of risk in the current youth homelessness system were described by youth as being centered around a lack of knowledge and individual support regarding mental health, drug addiction, nutritional and health resources, and long waiting periods when transitioning from institutions. One youth explained “It was the waiting, which was unbearable at times, especially in the summertime when it was hot and we were low on water, and we were exposed to extreme heat. We could’ve died from heat stroke but gladly we didn’t.”</p>
	<p>9. From a youth perspective, if selected as a YHDP community, how would your</p>	<p>Our community defining success as described through a youth perspective entails some of the most basic ideas and resources that all populations require to thrive in any community. Support to afford a car for transportation to get to school or work while maintaining social and mental health through friendships and family. If selected as a YHDP community the youth would like to see a system with high percentage turnover of youths successfully housed. As stated by one youth when asked to define</p>

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	community define success?	success, “That we found a home we could live in and have our new beginning, so I guess you could call that success within itself.”
	10. Attach a letter of support for the application from the YAB, signed by all members of the YAB.	This letter will be attached to the application. The Attachment is labeled Youth Action Board Letter of Support – Orange County CoC.”
Data & Evaluation Capacity 20 points HUD will award up to 20 points to applicants that can demonstrate the existence of a functioning Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) that facilitates the collection of information on homelessness	1. Indicate the percentage of all types of homeless beds, excluding beds provided by victim service providers, that currently participates in HMIS.	95%, based on our 2022 Housing Inventory Count (HIC) data.
	2. Indicate the percentage of all types of youth beds, excluding beds provided by victim service providers, that are covered in HMIS, regardless of funding source.	100%, based on our 2022 Housing Inventory Count (HIC) data.
	3. Describe how the CoC actively recruits new homeless projects to HMIS for	The Orange County Continuum of Care (CoC) does not have a specific strategy to target youth agencies, however the CoC changed Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) vendors in 2018 to provide a more user-friendly data collection and reporting software for end users. In addition, the CoC has included HMIS participation

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using residential and other homeless services and effective performance measures	youth-dedicated projects.	as a requirement to receive any new funding that is made available. Agencies have also been encouraged to participate due to the emphasis being placed on HMIS as the system of record, where agencies can review a client’s history of homelessness throughout Orange County.
	4. Describe how the CoC supports the transition of new homeless projects to HMIS, including financial resources, technical resources, and training.	When an agency joins the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), the agencies are required to designate at least one HMIS user as an Agency Administrator in order to empower agency staff to increase each agency’s awareness and comprehension of their own HMIS Data. Agency Administrators receive online training from the HMIS Lead that covers how to monitor data quality and performance so that they can proactively assess the quality of their agency’s data. Agency Administrators are responsible for facilitating HMIS training for any new users at their agency and providing basic technical support for their HMIS users. When HMIS questions about HMIS cannot be solved by the Agency Administrator, they escalate issues to the HMIS Lead using a HMIS Help Desk ticketing system. This system allows the HMIS Lead to identify common technical HMIS questions, and modify required HMIS trainings to address areas of possible confusion and to create Knowledge Base articles that function as “how to” articles on topics that HMIS users regularly have questions about. To provide additional support to users, the HMIS Lead holds monthly HMIS User Meetings and conducts annual agency audits. User Meetings are used to provide updates to the users on projects that are in progress, provide demos on common HMIS issues, and to receive feedback from users regarding HMIS functionality and processes. During agency audits, the HMIS Lead ensures that each agency is in compliance with the HMIS Policies and Procedures and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) security standards. During these audits, agencies are also given the opportunity to receive one-on-one HMIS technical assistance.
	5. In addition to gathering youth data in HMIS, indicate whether the CoC gathers youth data from other sources	Not available. The County of Orange’s Office of Care Coordination is working with the other County departments, including Social Services Agency, OC Sheriff’s Department and OC Probation Department to obtain data on any youth experiencing homelessness that intersects with their systems and/or database. This will support the Orange County Continuum of Care in better understanding the intersection of youth experiencing homelessness with the foster care system, and criminal justice system.

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	<p>(i.e., education, juvenile justice, child welfare). If the CoC does gather youth data from other sources, please describe the data collected, the system(s) the data are collected from and the system(s) in which the data are stored.</p>	
	<p>6. Describe how the CoC monitors the performance of its youth providers. The description should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring criteria • Frequency of monitoring • Process by which the CoC provides feedback regarding monitoring to providers • How the CoC support providers with identified issues to improve their performance 	<p>The Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Lead publishes project-level performance reports for all homeless projects participating in HMIS. Reports are published by project type, and data for each project type is published twice a year, resulting in a report being published every month. The measures included in these reports are Entries from Homelessness, Length of Stay, Unit Utilization, Average Days to Permanent Housing Placement, Increased Income for Stayers and Leavers, Successful Exits, Returns to Homelessness, Referrals from CES, Referrals Denied by Housing Providers, Average Days Between Match and Acceptance, and Successful Referrals. Thresholds have also been developed for each project type. The reports are discussed at the Data and Performance Management Committee, which is attended by the HMIS Lead, HMIS participating agency staff, and Orange County Continuum of Care (CoC) Lead staff. During the meeting participants review performance of individual projects as well as the project type as a whole, and participants discuss issues that prevent them from meeting the thresholds, and high performers share what they are doing to meet thresholds. These reports are a critical part of the CoC Priority Listing submitted as part of the annual CoC NOFA, which is reviewed and submitted by the CoC Board. The CoC Board includes representation from a variety of special populations, including youth representation.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How youth are involved in the monitoring of projects 	
	<p>7. Demonstrate how the CoC has used data to develop a strategy to prevent and end youth homelessness. These data can be related to the composition of the local population of youth experiencing homelessness or the effectiveness of various interventions for serving homeless youth.</p>	<p>Currently, the Orange County Continuum of Care (CoC) has not made significant effort made to have a data driven solution to end youth homelessness. The Orange County CoC is actively working to establishing a strategy and framework that allows the use of performance data and to better address and end youth homelessness.</p>
	<p>8. Describe how youth are currently brought into evaluation and quality improvement conversations in your community, either at the project or system level.</p>	<p>At this time since, because the Orange County Continuum of Care (CoC) does not have an established Youth Advisory Board (YAB) and instead leveraged the currently Lived Experience Advisory Committee (LEAC), youth are not currently included in conversations pertaining to evaluation and quality improvement. It was noted, however, from our 2022 Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) Point In Time Count efforts that there was many youth who felt that the HUD definition of homelessness does not capture an accurate representation for youth homelessness. The Orange County COC will need to discuss ways to expand a larger net over youth experiencing housing instability and accurately report back on this data in future discussions.</p>
	<p>9. If selected as a YHDP community, how would stakeholders define and measure success?</p>	<p>The Orange County Continuum of Care (CoC) community uses Project Performance Metrics to determine success, data points are pulled using data entered into our Homeless Management Information System. If awarded, we would need to have measurable successes for the framework that will need to be built, in addition to measurable outcomes that would be performance based. Once a project is identified</p>

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		to help meet the needs for our youth, our CoC will hold the project to the same project performance-based goals that align with our system. Gathering data will also allow our community to start a discussion of the unique needs and results that come from these projects to determine how to best support this population.