Addressing the Housing Needs of Youth and Young Adults in Contact with the Justice System

Panelists:

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Moderator:

Emily Morgan, Senior Policy Analyst, CSG Justice Center
• Authorized by the passage of the Second Chance Act in April 2008
• Launched by the Council of State Governments in October 2009
• Administered in partnership with the Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Department of Justice
• The NRRC has provided technical assistance to over 600 juvenile and adult reentry grantees since inception
Youth Involved in the Justice System Face Significant Challenges to Securing Housing

- Disengagement from families
- Substance Use
- Foster care involvement
- Mental health conditions
Young Adults Face Particular Challenges

- **Transitioning to Independence**
  - Aging out of Foster Care
  - Inexperience with independent living and life skills

- **Employment Challenges**
  - Few vocational skills and little job experience
  - Difficulty securing steady source of income

- **Acute Behavioral Health Needs**
  - Certain mental health conditions emerge
  - Substance use peaks

- **Collateral Consequences**
  - Ineligibility for housing due to criminal record
Issue Brief Provides Recommendations to Support Young Adults

Highlights how young adults are distinct

 Identifies young adults’ distinct needs and summarizes available research on what works to address these needs

Provides recommendations for steps states can take to improve outcomes for young adults
Addressing the Housing Needs of Youth and Young Adults in Contact with the Justice System

Jasmine Hayes, Deputy Director
USICH
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Advancing Opening Doors

Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness:

1. Prevent and end homelessness among Veterans in 2015
2. Finish the job of ending chronic homelessness in 2017
3. Prevent and end homelessness among families, children, and youth in 2020
4. Set a path to end all types of homelessness
U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness

Leading the federal response to prevent and end homelessness

• Create and Lead a Common Vision

• Establish Policy Priorities and Align Strategic Actions

• Reduce Fragmentation and Duplication

• Drive the National Implementation of Cost-Effective Solutions
Youth Homelessness

Factors that contribute to youth homelessness

• Family problems

• Involvement with public systems such as child welfare and criminal justice

• Economic circumstances

• Behavioral health
Focus on Data

• HUD, HHS, ED data sets
• Point-in-Time Count
• HMIS/RHY-MIS Integration
• AHAR Part II
Youth Homelessness and Child Welfare

• Annually, approximately 23,000 youth ‘age out’ of foster care

• National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) survey of youth transitioning out of foster care:
  • 19% of 19-year-olds reported having been homeless at some point within the past two years, the vast majority (80%) of whom were no longer in foster care

• Housing for Youth Aging Out of Foster Care (2014): Youth who age out of the child welfare system are at particularly high risk for homelessness
  • 11-37% experiencing homelessness after leaving foster care
  • 20-50% in precarious housing situations
Youth Homelessness and Juvenile Justice

• Runaway and homeless youth have higher rates of involvement with the juvenile justice system

• Midwest study: over half RHY arrested at least one time since they first ran away

• Reentry challenges: community, home, and school/work force
  • Unstable home settings
  • Lack of family support
  • Struggle to remain in school, lack the skills needed for employment
  • Gap in behavioral health services.
  • Policies that may prohibit convicted offenders from living in Section 8 housing
Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice

• Approx. one in four youth who age out of foster care will be involved in the justice system within two years of leaving the foster care system

• Multi-System Involved Youth
  • Disproportionately children of color
  • Majority are male; proportion of females is greater than in general delinquency populations
  • Majority have special education issues, problems at school, and mental health and/or drug use problems
  • Trauma history: exposed to domestic violence; parental involvement with criminal justice system; mental health problems; and/or, substance abuse problems
  • Extended involvement with the child welfare system
Addressing and Preventing Youth Homelessness

• Individualized, goal-based service planning
• Stability, safety, and connections with families (when appropriate)
• Housing
• Ongoing support services connected to mainstream resources
• Independent living skills training
• Employment and education
• Connection to supportive and trustworthy adults
Federal Vision: Coordinated Community Response

#1 - Build the **foundation** for a coordinated and comprehensive community response

#2 - Build the **capacity** of local communities to implement the components of a coordinated and comprehensive community response

Learn more: [Coordinated Community Response to Youth Homelessness](#)
Strategic Action Area #1

Build the foundation for a coordinated and comprehensive community response

• **Shared understanding** – what it means to end youth homelessness
  • Common vocabulary
  • Inventory of Federal programs

• **Metrics** – measure progress toward the 2020 goal
  • Identifying system and program level measures

• **Technical Assistance** – provide TA resources to refine community response
Build the capacity of local communities to implement the components of a coordinated and comprehensive community response

- Prevention, Identification and Early Intervention
  - Promote coordination with CoC’s and mainstream systems
  - TA resources to identify youth under 18
  - Agency guidance for competitive grants and services
- Prevention strategy
  - Guidance on transitioning from child welfare and criminal justice systems
    - Reentry Toolkit (OJJDP)
  - Engaging at-risk youth
  - ACYF and HUD demos
Strategic Action Area #2

• **Coordinated Entry and Assessment**
  - HUD guidance for documentation requirements
  - Trafficking screening tools

• **Emergency and Crisis Response**
  - Guidance and TA
    - Documentation
    - Family Separation
    - Emergency services for LGBTQ Youth

• **Tailored Services and Housing Supports**
  - Trauma informed
  - Developmentally and age appropriate
  - Range of supportive services and housing interventions
Reentry and Juvenile Justice

• Coordination and collaboration between agencies and across services and supports throughout reentry phases:
  • Entry
  • Placement
  • Transitional
  • Community-based aftercare

• Critical factors:
  • Family
  • Substance abuse
  • Peer association/friends
  • School conflict and achievement
  • Mental, behavioral, and physical health
Driving Policy
• USICH Report to Congress
• A Way Home America
• HHS Youth at-Risk of Homelessness Grants Phase II
• HUD Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program
• Data sharing

Guiding the Field
• Coordinated entry
• Screening and assessment inventory
• Family intervention strategies
• Reentry Toolkit (forthcoming)
Jasmine Hayes, Deputy Director
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Juvenile Justice and Homelessness
Juvenile Justice Involved Youth and Homelessness

Interviews of 654 runaway and homeless youth in 11 U.S. cities conducted for the U.S. Administration for Children Youth and Families found that, at some point in their lives:

- NEARLY 44% had stayed in a jail, prison or juvenile detention center
- ALMOST 78% had at least one interaction with the police
- NEARLY 62% had been arrested
Commonalities

There are commonalities that exist among justice system involved youth and homeless youth:

- Disproportionately more likely to be youth of color;
- Disproportionately likely to be LGBT youth.
Juvenile justice and homelessness

- Some young people are homeless before they enter the system. This can include children who ran away from home or were forced out by their parents.

- Some youth are forced out by parents as a result of system involvement.

- Some are not picked up when they are released from incarceration.

- Thorough and well-developed transition plans and family-based services are essential to helping make sure youth exit the justice system with a safe, secure, and accessible place to live.
Other links with juvenile justice and homelessness

- There are other ways that juvenile justice and homelessness intersect:
  - “Quality of Life” Ordinances: prohibition on being in public parks, etc. after dark.
  - Survival Crimes: Shoplifting, trespassing, human trafficking
  - Family Violence
  - Behavioral Health
  - Collateral Consequences: limitation of housing options
Status Offenses

- Status offenses are behaviors that violate the law, but would not be an offense if committed by an adult.

- Common examples include truancy, running away, curfew violations and being beyond their parents' control.

- Can be called PINS, FINS, CHINS, etc., but implications are still the same.
State and Federal Laws

- Children in need of services are primarily governed by state law; also through Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act
- The JJDPA has four core requirements:
  - Site and sound separation
  - Jail removal
  - Disproportionate Minority Contact
  - Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenses.
- JJDPA was last reauthorized in 2002.
- Current bill to reauthorize JJDPA: S. 1169.
  - Would require states to phase out the use of incarceration for children in need of services.
Children in Need of Services

- An estimated 109,000 child in need of services cases were petitioned in juvenile courts in 2013.

- Of these, 7,300 involved detention.

- The National Census of Youth in Residential Placement found that in 2011 alone, more than 2,000 children were estimated to be incarcerated each day for behaviors such as running away from home, skipping school, or coming home after curfew.
How can we address these challenges?
Contact Information

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Housing Program Models for Youth Experiencing Homelessness and Exiting the Juvenile Justice System

Beth Holger-Ambrose
The Link
Overview of Link Programs

**Juvenile Justice Division** (Juvenile Supervision Center, Evening Reporting Centers, P.O.W.E.R., The Parent Support Program and School Matters)

**Housing & Homeless Youth Services Division** (7 Supportive Housing Programs, C.O.R.E. Drop-In Center and the Street Outreach Program)

**Safe Harbor Division** (Passageways, West Metro Regional Navigator and Safe Harbor Supportive Services)

The Link’s Leadership is provided by a 14 Member Board of Directors and three Youth Advisory Committees as well as an internal Executive and Program Leadership Team.
The Juvenile Supervision Center (JSC) is a 24/7 safe and supervised space for youth ages 10-17 who have been picked up for status or low level offenses by law enforcement in Hennepin County. Sexually exploited youth can also be dropped off at the JSC and connected here with the West Metro Regional Navigator. Youth are assessed for strengths and risk factors, connected to resources, returned to school or home, and given follow-up services when appropriate (including crisis intervention or case management).

The JSC provides an immediate intervention, preventing youth from becoming the victims of violent crimes, offering them a positive alternative to incarceration and allowing police to be more present in the community by providing a place for youth to be dropped off.
Juvenile Justice:

Evening Reporting Centers and POWER
Minneapolis, Brooklyn Park and Richfield, MN

The ERCs are a partnership between The Link and Hennepin County to create opportunities and lend support to youth ages 10-17 who have entered into the juvenile justice system for higher level offenses than those being dropped off at the JSC (mainly higher degree assault, drug or gun possession charges). The Evening Reporting Centers (ERC) are part of Hennepin County’s Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative, which was created to provide a path away from detention, further court involvement and out-of-home placement.

POWER (Positive Opportunities for Women of Every Race) is a gender specific program for girls on juvenile probation. The program provides restorative justice and strength based programming through gender specific assessments, case management and groups.
Juvenile Justice:

School Matters
Minneapolis, MN

The School Matters program helps youth get back to regularly attending school and prevents them from dropping out. Our goal is to increase graduation rates for truant youth between the ages of 12 and 17. The program provides Hennepin County youth with intensive one-on-one case management to identify and eliminate barriers to school attendance. Youth are referred to The Link once they have seven or more unexcused absences from school.

Case managers use a strength-based approach to work with them and their families to re-engage youth with their education as quickly as possible through individualized action plans and client driven goal setting.
Supportive Housing Programs—an Important Piece of Re-Entry

- Lindquist Apartments
  - North Minneapolis
- Lincoln Place
  - Eagan, MN Dakota County

- Lindquist Apartments
- Lincoln Place
- Housing First
- Rapid Rehousing
- Suburban Rapid Rehousing
- The Young Families Program
- Project Live Out Loud
- Passageways Emergency Shelter and Housing Program
The Link Housing Programs

Site Based Supportive Housing
• Lindquist Apartments-24 Unit Building in Minneapolis
• Lincoln Place-24 Unit Building in Eagan (suburb of Mpls.)
• Passageways Housing Program-5 Units for Sex Trafficked Youth
• Working on a 3rd for Young Families in 2018

Scattered Site Supportive Housing
• Rapid Rehousing-30 units through Twin Cities Metro
• Suburban Rapid Rehousing-30 units throughout Suburbs
• The Young Families Program-27 units in Hennepin County
• Project Live Out Loud-15 units in Minneapolis for LGBTQ Youth
• Housing First-32 units in Hennepin County

Total Housing Programs: 7   Total Housing Units: 187
Importance of Youth Led Programming

• Youth the true “experts”

• Programs are more successful when co-designed by youth

• Providing opportunities for Youth Leadership and Career Development Skills

• The Link Examples: Youth Advisory Committees and Staff Positions
High Quality Staff

• Recruit Strategically & Diversely

• Have youth involved in the interview process and hiring decisions, Ask Scenario Questions

• Hire based on experience (professional and/or life) prioritized over academic degrees (although these are of course great to have too)

• Hire staff that are grounded and experienced in Housing First, Harm Reduction, Trauma Informed Care, Positive Youth Development
Strength Based Supportive Services

- Individualized Case Management and Goal Planning
- Triage/Coordination with Youth’s P.O.
- Supporting youth on Conditions of Parole
- Access to Legal Services and Court Advocacy
- Mental Health Therapy
- Chemical Dependency Treatment
- Parenting Supports
- Early Childhood Assessments and Programming
- Culturally Specific Activities and Programming
- Life Skills
- Support on how to Maintain Housing
Site Based Programs

Benefits:
• Better fit for youth with higher barriers (mental health, chemical dependency, etc.)
• Good fit for youth with Domestic Violence or Former Gang-Involved Youth
• Can monitor for General Safety Better
• On-Site Supportive Services and Activities
• Easier (typically) to get youth into

Challenges:
• 24/7 Staffing is more expensive
• Property Upkeep and Maintenance (if owned)
• Partnering with Property Owners/Developers
Scattered Site Programs

Benefits:
- Youth can transition in place if they would like too
- Youth are able to learn how to be a good renter, tenant rights and how to take care of their apartment while they are living there
- More funding seems to becoming available for rental assistance which works well with scattered site programs
- Do not have to deal with scheduling / staffing a 24/7 program

Challenges:
- Can be difficult to find market rate land-lords to rent to youth without or with poor credit and rental histories, criminal backgrounds or other barriers
- Time and resources spent on re-housing youth if land-lord wants to terminate lease/evict youth
- Not a good fit for youth dealing with domestic violence or leaving gangs
Pros and Cons of Master Leasing

Pros:
- Cost effective
- Much easier to house youth with high barriers in
- Secured set number of housing units (not having to rely on vacancies with market rate landlords)

Cons:
- Responsible for maintenance and upkeep (except for large machinery typically)
- Sometimes might be difficult to find a property investment company that is willing to work with non-profits
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Thank You

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