

# OFFICE OF HOMELESS YOUTH SERVICES

## 2018 ANNUAL REPORT



**COLORADO**  
Department of Local Affairs

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In alignment with the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness's (USICH), the Colorado Division of Housing (DOH) aims to end youth homelessness in Colorado. In support of this goal, DOH's Office of Homeless Youth Services (OHYS) works alongside partners to ensure youth homelessness becomes rare, non-recurring, and short lived when it is experienced for any youth in Colorado.

Specifically, DOH, together with partners across the state, has been prioritizing intentional system planning and design, increased collaboration, and examining concrete examples of promising program models. OHYS has been evaluating opportunities to strengthen the entire continuum of youth resources across the state, starting with providing a forum for stakeholders to convene and share their priorities surrounding youth homelessness. This level of planning and engagement is critical to ensuring the entire state is represented in our efforts. In looking at collaboration, DOH is dedicated to engaging with other state partners to address the complex needs of people experiencing homelessness, recognizing the further complexities that surround youth. Looking at promising practices and programs provided by USICH and other communities also informs Colorado as we assess the current resources available and the gaps that exist.

DOH has also been working with partners to improve data sharing and data collection to have a more comprehensive and accurate understanding of who is without housing in our state. Some recent efforts include advancing the statewide Homeless Information Management System and incorporating a Youth Supplemental Survey (YSS) within the annual Point in Time Count. YSS provides additional information about the life experiences of youth and the barriers preventing access to housing. Comprehensive data surrounding the needs of those experiencing homelessness will improve existing programs, as well as ensure new resources support solutions where gaps exist. In particular, DOH is expanding state-funded housing opportunities based on data regarding needs as well as current programs' performance. DOH is excited to support the growing efforts of the OHYS and Colorado's local providers.

We recognize that DOH plays one part in this important work and thank all of the dedicated state agencies and local providers. We welcome additional state and local partners that want to engage in this process. Please join in the effort!

Sincerely,

Alison George  
Director, Division of Housing  
Colorado Department of Local Affairs



Office of Homeless Youth Services

# INTRODUCTION

This annual report is intended to be a report of efforts to address youth homelessness throughout Colorado, including available resources and current efforts. Please reach out to Cheryl Secorski at Cheryl.Secorski@state.co.us for any questions or comments about youth homelessness in Colorado.



# OFFICE OF HOMELESS YOUTH SERVICES

## Background

The Office of Homeless Youth Services (OHYS) was created in 2002 as an effort to reduce youth homelessness in Colorado and was set into law by §C.R.S. 24-32-723. When OHYS began it was located within the Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), moved to the Department of Human Services (CDHS), and now exists within the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) as of 2011. It currently sits in DOLA, Division of Housing, Office of Homeless Initiatives.

## Legislative History

OHYS is impacted by the following sections of the Colorado Revised Statute:

- 2002**  
 HB 02-1159  
 (25-20.5-111 & 24-1-119)  
 An Act Concerning the Creation of the Office of Homeless Youth Services (OHYS)
- 2004**  
 HB 04-1107  
 (26-5.9-101-105 & 24-1-119-120(5))  
 An Act Concerning the Transfer of the OHYS to the Department of Human Services
- 2011**  
 HB 11-1079  
 (26-5.7-102 & 26-5.9-2013)  
 An Act Concerning Methods to Reduce the Number of Homeless Youth
- 2011**  
 HB 11-1230  
 (24-32-723)  
 An Act Concerning the Consolidation of State Programs that Distribute Federal Moneys to Persons Needing Assistance in Obtaining Housing into DOLA-DOH
- 2012**  
 HB 12-158  
 (24-32-705)  
 An Act Concerning the Consolidation of Two Public Housing Agencies within DOLA-DOH
- 2017**  
 HB 17-1047  
 (24-32-723)  
 An Act Concerning the Scheduled Repeal of Reports by DOLA to the General Assembly
- 2018**  
 HB 18-1319  
 (26.5-113(3))  
 An Act Concerning the Extension of Services for a Successful Adulthood for Former Foster Care Youth

## Report Out of 2018 Goals

### Youth Voice

OHYS recognizes the power of those with lived experience in the improvement and development of new resources for people who are living in unstable housing or experiencing homelessness. As such, OHYS has worked to include youth voice in multiple efforts. A few examples include: requiring

## Office of Homeless Youth Services

applicants of OHYS funding opportunities to include a letter of support from youth; including a youth-headed household in the OHYS funding application review process; and receiving youth feedback on the Point in Time Youth Supplemental Survey (YSS).

### Increased collaboration with state agencies to provide for better access to housing

Youth homelessness is a complex issue that will require preventative and intervention focused responses. To that end, multiple systems need to be engaged in an intentional way to reach the goal of ending youth homelessness. For example, OHYS provided vouchers to the Division of Youth Services (DYS) to assist youth exiting supervision and returning to the community. In addition, OHYS was the lead applicant for a Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) project to the Corporation for National and Community Service. The proposed VISTAs will serve at state agencies and work on the systemic barriers of youth in services accessing housing.

### Provide in depth technical assistance to at least one community in Colorado on best practices to end youth homelessness

OHYS provided technical assistance and support to the three Continuum of Care in Colorado during the efforts to apply for the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Projects (YHDP) in 2018.

### Advise and work with communities to increase housing opportunities for youth

The need for housing continues to remain unmet, a fact that is supported by the 2018 Point In Time YSS data. This data tells us that of the 256 respondents, 56% stated access to affordable housing was

the main reason for their homelessness. To this end, in 2018, 42 new housing units (beds or vouchers) were developed.

## Goals 2019

### Youth Voice

Youth Voice continues to be a priority area in 2019, including: an effort to connect with the YHDP Youth Advisory Board members; create a process to ensure ongoing youth feedback regarding DOH-funded programs; and enhance mechanisms that enable increased participation by youth regarding state procurement and monitoring practices where applicable and appropriate.

### In-Depth Technical Assistance

USICH has developed and begun circulating the criteria and benchmarks to measure for the successful end of youth homelessness. OHYS's goal was to develop specific technical assistance that would lead communities to address these benchmarks and make progress toward the end of youth homelessness. Building upon the work in 2018, OHYS will provide accessible training and technical assistance to communities on how to effectively end youth homelessness through structured trainings, both in person and online.

### Engage Stakeholders

The Advisory Council for Homeless Youth (ACHY) is the primary stakeholder engagement body facilitated by the OHYS. ACHY has promising potential for experts in the field to provide impactful recommendations and take action steps towards those solutions. In 2019, OHYS will continue to work with ACHY to advance its impact.

## Office of Homeless Youth Services

## Advisory Council for Homeless Youth

The Advisory Council for Homeless Youth (ACHY) was developed as a vehicle to facilitate the accomplishment of various sections of the OHYS legislation (§C.R.S. 24-32-723). These sections include:

(4)(b)(I)

To provide information, coordination, and technical assistance as may be necessary to reduce the needless expenditures associated with the provision of overlapping services and improve the quality of services provided to homeless youth;

(4)(b)(II)

To identify both procedural and substantive obstacles to the provision of services and to make recommendations to the entities specified in this section concerning procedural, regulatory, or statutory changes necessary to remove such obstacles;

(4)(b)(III)

To obtain information from service providers concerning known services available for the homeless youth population in the state of Colorado and to post such information on a website on the internet;

(4)(b)(IV)

To develop, maintain, and make available a listing of all rights and organizations that may be relevant to the homeless youth population in the state of Colorado, including but not limited to a listing of Legal, Educational, and Victims' Rights and organizations related thereto;

(4)(b)(V)

To obtain information concerning known funding sources available for the homeless youth population in the state of Colorado; and

(4)(b)(VI)

To work with entities to identify issues concerning sharing of information in providing services to homeless youth and to facilitate resolution of such information-sharing issues.

All of the above stated goals in the legislation can be addressed by the continued engagement of ACHY. Engaging partners in a meaningful and impactful way through ACHY, especially considering the cross sector reach of this group, can promote these goals as well as the overall effort of ending youth homelessness.





Advisory Council for Homeless Youth

## Stakeholder Call to Action Meeting

In March, OHYS convened youth homelessness stakeholders (ACHY and non ACHY members) from across the state to identify gaps in the response to youth homelessness in Colorado. Collectively, the participants identified the following priority areas to be addressed by the Executive Leadership Committee of ACHY:

- 1 Additional models of housing, such as a Foyer Model
- 2 Wraparound supportive services and care coordination
- 3 Effort to increase peer support models

## Executive Leadership Committee

ACHY’s Executive Leadership Committee is comprised of the following members:

Statewide	
Andrew Gabor	Office of Behavioral Health
Betsy Fordyce	Rocky Mountain Children’s Law Center
Denise McHugh	Spark Community Foundation <i>*rural CO</i>
Kirstin Hoagland	Department of Public Health and Environment
Randle Loeb	Community Member
Sarah Keel	Department of Labor and Employment
Tammy Schneiderman	Division of Youth Services

Locally Based	
Angel Hurtado	Volunteers of America Denver Metro
Christina Carlson	Denver Urban Peak Denver Metro
Erin Medina	Mile High United Way Denver Metro
Audrey Field	Colorado Springs Urban Peak El Paso County
Gloria Perez	Lake County Department of Human Services Lake County
John Mok-Lamme	Karis, Inc Mesa County











Advisory Council for Homeless Youth





## ACHY Executive Leadership Goals and Benchmarks





Informed by the Call to Action meeting, the Executive Leadership Committee set the following goals:

-  Goals
-  Timeline
-  Benchmark
-  Responsible Party

-  Develop a comprehensive inventory of youth-specific resources
-  List of existing resources
-  2018 OHYS Annual Report
-  OHYS with feedback from providers

-  Identify and replicate non-voucher programs
-  Research best practices and share with agencies
-  Through 2020
-  ACHY Executive Leadership

-  Use data to identify gaps in resources
-  Align multiple data points to identify where and types of needed resources
-  Through 2019
-  OHYS lead, stakeholders assist

-  Increase youth-specific Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) units
-  Ensure a youth PSH project is in development each year
-  2018 - Ongoing
-  OHYS/DOH





November Awareness Month

# November Runaway and Homeless Youth Awareness Month



## OHYS-Developed Materials

### November Colorado Runaway and Homeless Youth Proclamation ([Exhibit 1](#))

A proclamation signed by John Hickenlooper to recognize November as Colorado’s Runaway and Homeless Youth Awareness Month.

### November Runaway and Homeless Youth Data and Event Calendar ([Exhibit 2](#))

This calendar is a tool developed in conjunction with the National Runaway Safeline’s Toolkit and Messaging Guide to be used by agencies or individuals to share on social media or create local events.

## November 2018

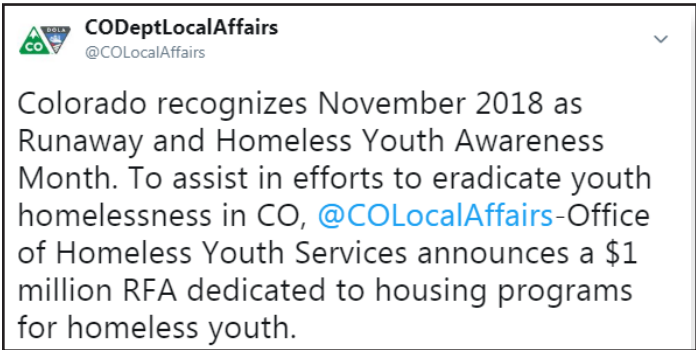
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
<b>28 - The Who of Youth HLN DATA</b> <i>1 in 10 young adults (18-25) will endure some form of homelessness in any given year<sup>1</sup></i>	<b>29 - The Who of Youth HLN WHY CARE</b> <i>UHY are more likely to be unsheltered (55%) than all people experiencing homelessness (35%)<sup>2</sup></i>	<b>30 - The Who of Youth HLN STORIES</b> <i>More than 1/2 of UHY became homeless because a caregiver asked them to leave<sup>3</sup>  <a href="https://bit.ly/2y2MBG4">https://bit.ly/2y2MBG4</a></i>	<b>1 - The Who of Youth HLN EVENTS</b> GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION and surprise from DOLA	<b>2 - The Who of Youth HLN LONG TERM INVOLVEMENT</b> Volunteer!
<b>3 - Systems Involved Youth DATA</b> <i>In CO, 64% of youth experiencing homelessness had some form of Systems Involvement</i>	<b>6 - Systems Involved Youth WHY CARE</b> <i>On average, it costs \$148,767 per year for a youth to be incarcerated!<sup>4</sup></i>	<b>7 - Systems Involved Youth STORIES</b> <i>CBS 4 and Denver Post both completed series on Aging Out and Foster Care<sup>5</sup></i>	<b>8 - Systems Involved Youth EVENTS</b> NIGHT/SLEEP OUT Attention Homes, Boulder Urban Peak, Colorado Springs <sup>19</sup>	<b>9 - Systems Involved Youth LONG TERM INVOLVEMENT</b> Become a Foster Parent, Respite Foster Parent, CASA, or Host Home Volunteer
<b>12 - Youth Veterans DATA</b> <i>Just over 1/2 of all Active Duty Enlisted Members are 25 years or younger<sup>6</sup></i>	<b>13 - Youth Veterans WHY CARE</b> <i>Veterans have twice the risk of becoming chronically homeless as other Americans<sup>11</sup></i>	<b>14 - Youth Veterans STORIES</b> <i>Youth account for about 1.5% of all Veterans, but make up about 9% of all homeless Veterans.<sup>12,13</sup></i>	<b>15 - Youth Veterans EVENTS</b> PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT Denver <sup>14</sup>	<b>16 - Youth Veterans LONG TERM INVOLVEMENT</b> Make a monetary donation!
<b>19 - Equity DATA</b> <i>There are more youth of color represented in CO's youth homelessness than in CO in general</i>	<b>20 - Equity WHY CARE</b> <i>Homelessness will always be an issue if the unique needs of every population are not addressed</i>	<b>21 - Equity STORIES</b> <i>Read: With No Direction Home: Homeless Youth on the Road and in the Streets by Marni Finkleshten</i>	<b>22 - Equity EVENTS</b> CANDLE LIGHT VIGIL	<b>23 - Equity LONG TERM INVOLVEMENT</b> Talk with your Congress Person; let them know youth homelessness is important to you
<b>26 - In Colorado DATA</b> <i>Over 600 UHY were counted in the 2018 PIT for CO. 40 of which were identified in 2017 and 2018.</i>	<b>27 - In Colorado WHY CARE</b> <i>Current homeless youth are more likely to become tomorrow's chronically homeless adults.<sup>15</sup></i>	<b>28 - In Colorado STORIES</b> <i>This Father Spent a Week on the Streets with his Homeless Son. Now, You Can Hear their Story</i>	<b>29 - In Colorado EVENTS</b> GO GREEN! Wear your favorite green clothing and share on social media	<b>30 - In Colorado LONG TERM INVOLVEMENT</b> Participate in the Point in Time Count

## Youth Housing Programs Request for Applications (RFA)


OHYS released a Youth Housing Programs RFA as an opportunity to increase resources specific to solving youth homelessness.

## Press Release

DOLA released a press release to help support the awareness-raising effort of the National Runaway and Homeless Youth Awareness Month. National Public Radio and Denver News with Patch aired the story.



DOLA staff wearing green for GO GREEN day, November 29th.



**Colorado Department of Local Affairs**  
 Published by Dola Web [?] · November 6, 2018 ·

Since November 2018 has been declared Runaway and Homeless Youth Awareness Month, Colorado Department of Local Affairs will be sharing information about homelessness and housing issues throughout the month with #Nov2018DYK!

No. 1 #Nov2018DYK: 800+ young people in CO are identified as experiencing unaccompanied homelessness.

Data

# DATA

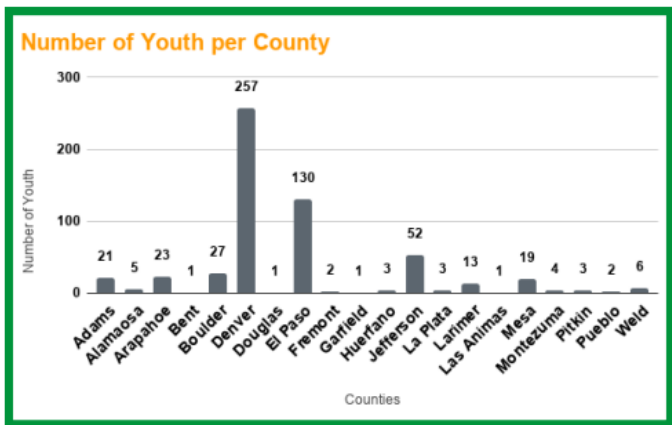
## Point in Time

The Point in Time (PIT) count is a required survey by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). It is a point-in-time survey to create an estimated count of every person experiencing homelessness on one date each year. This is an effort that is completed across the nation in the last 10 days of January. To emphasize youth, OHYS coordinated with the Continuums of Care (CoCs) to complete a Youth Supplemental Survey (YSS) in conjunction with the CoC PIT. The additional survey gathers information about life experiences, including systems involvement, access to services, and employment and education. In 2018, the latest PIT count, there were 586 youth surveyed across the state. The full 2018 [PIT YSS report \(Exhibit 3\)](#) is attached to this document and provides additional information regarding the count and its methodology, as well as community-specific data. It is important to note that while this count provides a baseline of information, it is an undercount of all youth experiencing homelessness in Colorado.



## McKinney-Vento Homeless Education (Schools)

The Colorado Department of Education oversees the enactment of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. The McKinney-Vento (MKV) Homeless Assistance Act is the primary piece of legislation related to the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness. Specific provisions ensure the enrollment, accessibility, and educational stability for students lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence<sup>1</sup>. Every Local Education Agency (LEA) (school district, charter, Board of Cooperative Educational Services) in the nation is required to designate a staff member to be the MKV Liaison. The MKV Liaison is responsible for the identification of children and youth, including unaccompanied youth who qualify under the MKV Act. Ensuring the removal of barriers to accessing educational services is an essential function of the MKV Liaison. LEAs report the total number of MKV students served and enrolled (breakout of those that are unaccompanied) and their primary nighttime residence. During the 2017-2018 school year, 187 LEAs identified 2,363 unaccompanied homeless youth in Colorado; that is slightly more than 10% of all the identified students (including those in families).



574 Responses

## Data

## Homeless Management Information System

The Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is an information technology system used to collect individual-level data and data on the provision of housing and services to persons without housing. With the support of DOH, the new system and statewide expansion of HMIS will improve the information the state, communities, and providers have on people's use of shelters, interaction with street outreach, and involvement with and outcomes resulting from housing resources.

## Coordinated Entry System

Coordinated Entry System (CES), according to HUD, is a process developed to ensure that all people experiencing a housing crisis have fair and equal access and are quickly identified, assessed for, referred, and connected to housing and assistance based on their strengths and needs<sup>2</sup>. A CES has four standardized key elements: access, screening and assessment, prioritization, and referrals. Every CoC is required to use a CES to fill open COC-funded housing resources in a community. Every community has developed their own policies and procedures for their CES. In some communities, there is a specific process for youth, while in others, youth are included in the entire process. The most common tool used in Colorado to assess individual's housing needs is the Vulnerability Index - Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT). To accurately assess youth and their unique needs, most CES in Colorado use the Transitional Aged Youth VI-SPDAT (TAY-VI-SPDAT). Eventually, CES will be a valid source of data regarding youth homelessness, such as:

- Time youth are waiting for a resource
- Number of youth per month who are assessed
- Level and number of youth who are in need of resources (ie, level of vulnerability)
- Resource types that are in high demand
- Number of youth who exit homelessness and where they are exiting to
- Demographics of youth waiting for housing (and in correlation to who is housed)

This data will work in conjunction with PIT to provide further in depth, ongoing, information about the existing need.

## Provider Data

Provider Data is information gathered from providers to provide context to other data sources such as PIT. For example, in 2018, the youth homelessness number in Denver decreased, which was corroborated by Urban Peak who stated their shelter served fewer youth than in previous years. Data such as this supplied by providers can give additional information regarding trends and can inform innovative recommendations regarding how to successfully serve youth experiencing homelessness. Providers are one of the best sources of data because of their experience in working directly with and alongside youth on their journey out of homelessness.



## Youth Housing Options in Colorado

# Youth Housing Options in Colorado

Youth show the most success when they are served in programs that are developmentally appropriate. While youth over the age of 18 can be served in any adult program, it is important to note the resources that have been developed specifically to serve youth. [Exhibit 4](#) is a list of resources available specifically to youth. This list is dynamic for various reasons, such as time of year, weather, funding, etc. Please contact OHYS to update any housing resources specific for youth in Colorado to assist in the accuracy of this list. [Exhibit 5](#) includes the funds received by Colorado from Family and Youth Services Bureau for different programs to serve youth.



## Emergency Shelter

Emergency Shelter (ES) is defined as any facility, the primary purpose of which is to provide a **temporary shelter** for people experiencing homelessness in general or for specific populations of people experiencing homelessness and which does not require occupants to sign leases or occupancy agreements<sup>3</sup>. Specific to youth, individuals under the age of 18 are expected to be served on a temporary basis generally not to exceed 21 days.

### In Colorado

- Youth shelters serving youth under the age of 18 must be licensed by CDHS Division of Child Care in accordance with the Standards for Homeless Youth Shelters<sup>4</sup>. Most homeless youth shelters in Colorado receive funding as a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Family & Youth Services Bureau's Basic Center Program. In 2018, the State of Colorado received \$977,061 of Basic Center funding. This funding provided new grants to Karis, Inc. and the Rural Collaborative (RC) and renewal funds to Attention Homes (AH), Urban Peak Denver (UPD) (2 awards), and Urban Peak Colorado Springs (UPCS).
- Approximately 112 beds are available as emergency shelter beds in Colorado for youth provided by AH, Karis, Inc., Posada, UPCS, and UPD.

## Host Homes

Host Homes (HH) are a **safe, temporary, and welcoming space** for youth to live a short period of time, averaging six months, but can be up to a year if needed. During this time, support is provided to the youth to repair relationships and reunify with family (when possible) or identify other permanent housing options.

### In Colorado

- Currently, any HH for youth under 18 needs to be licensed by a Colorado Placement Agency. For youth over 18, HH do not need to be licensed using a standard process, but act under the policies and procedures developed by the organizing agency.
- HH are organized by Matthews House (MH), Karis, Inc., and RC. At this time, the RC, in conjunction with Shiloh House (Child

## Youth Housing Options in Colorado

Placement Agency), can provide HHs for youth under 18. The number of youth served by HH agencies varies year to year based on the number of available volunteering host families and available funding.

### Transitional Housing

Transitional Housing (TH) is designed to provide individuals and families experiencing homelessness with the **interim stability and support to successfully move to and maintain permanent housing**. TH may be used to cover the costs of up to 24 months of housing with accompanying supportive services<sup>5</sup>.

#### In Colorado

- There are currently 84 units of TH in Colorado provided by: Drybones, Hope House of Colorado, The Inn Between, Karis, Inc., Lutheran Family Services, Posada, UPCS, and UPD.

### Family Unification Program

Family Unification Program (FUP) vouchers are dedicated vouchers from HUD under the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program that provides up to **36 months of housing assistance** to youth between the ages of 18-24 **who have left foster care, or will leave foster care within 90 days**, in accordance with a transition plan described in section 475(5)(H) of the Social Security Act, and is homeless or is at risk of becoming homeless at age 16 or older<sup>6</sup>.

#### In Colorado

- There are four agencies who have received funding from HUD to operate these vouchers: Aurora Housing Authority, Boulder County Department of Housing and Human Services (BCHHS), DOLA DOH, and Housing Catalyst.

Aurora and DOH use a set aside method to provide these vouchers directly to youth. BCHHS and Housing Catalyst use a fluid method of distributing these vouchers between eligible youth and families. Using the set aside method ensures youth vouchers are dedicated to youth, whereas using a fluid method allows communities to stay responsive to the needs of the community. Both methods have strengths and allow for the best use of the resource as a whole. For DOH, 152 vouchers have been allocated to partner communities to administer the youth vouchers locally. DOH partners with the following counties: Adams, Arapahoe, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, El Paso, Fremont, Jefferson, La Plata, Mesa, Pueblo, and Weld. Aurora has dedicated 15 FUP vouchers for youth.



### FUP Family Self-Sufficiency Extension

Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) is a program that enables HUD-assisted families to increase their earned income and reduce their dependency on welfare assistance and rental subsidies<sup>7</sup>. The program has the ability to add **five additional years to the FUP Youth voucher** (beginning at the time of enrollment) and incentivizes youth to increase their earned income. Program participants complete a Contract of Participation which gathers information about their current level of earned income, tentant

## Youth Housing Options in Colorado

rent portion, and their goals. During the course of participation, when a tenant's rent portion increases as a result of an increase in earned income, money is added to an escrow account that the participant can access after successful completion of FSS. Successful completion is reached after the tenant has been on the program for five years, has reached their main goal as stated in the Contract of Participation, and has been off public cash assistance for a year.

### In Colorado

- DOH and Fort Collins Housing Authority have access to this program. At this point, DOH has 18 youth enrolled in FSS, and one youth on track to have an estimated escrow pay out of \$27,608.

## Rapid Re-Housing

Rapid Rehousing (RRH) is a short to medium-term housing intervention designed to help individuals and families **quickly exit homelessness, return to housing in the community, and not experience homelessness again**. RRH is an assistance program that can help with move-in costs, temporary rent subsidies, and housing-focused case management. Assistance is provided in three-month increments and households are assessed for continued need. All resources provided to a household are unique to their needs. The goal for RRH recipients is to receive support and financial assistance while needed and when the subsidy is no longer needed to remain in the same unit, paying full rent.

### In Colorado

- UPCS and VOA Colorado Branch (in conjunction with UPD, Family Tree, and AH) operate RRH programs, which together can serve approximately 103 households at any

time. The number of households that can be served with RRH can vary depending on the unique cost per each household.

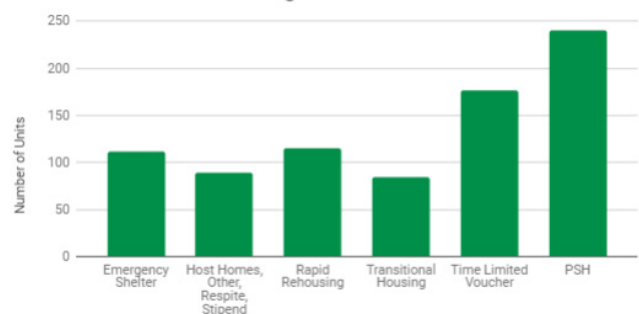
## Supportive Housing

Supportive Housing (SH), also known as Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) or **non-time limited housing, is a decent, safe, affordable, housing model** that provides tenants with access to affordable housing and tenancy support services. Supportive services are provided using best practices for SH, particularly the Housing First model, as well as Harm Reduction and Trauma-informed approaches. These vouchers can assist participants as tenant based (TB) or project (PB) based. TB vouchers are paired with the participant and can be used in any eligible unit that accepts voucher payments. PB vouchers are paired with the unit and participants must live in the unit where the subsidy is located.

### In Colorado

- These agencies have resources to serve youth through various SH projects: AH, CASA in the 7th District, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, DOH (in MDHI and Pikes Peak Regions), Department of Youth Services, Posada, MH, UPCS, UPD, Karis, Inc., Larimer County Housing Authority, Mile High United Way (Situs Group), and CDHS. In total, 242 SH vouchers exist for youth, which accounts for nearly 40% of all housing stock designated for youth in Colorado.

Number of Units vs. Housing Resource





## Definitions and Acronyms

### Definitions and Acronyms

#### Chronically Homeless

A homeless child or youth who has experienced homelessness for at least a year (either continuously or with repeated episodes equaling a year within three years) and has a disabling condition<sup>8</sup>.

#### Continuum of Care (CoC)

A regional or local planning body that coordinates housing and services funding for families and individuals experiencing homelessness<sup>9</sup>. There are three CoCs in Colorado:

Balance of State (BOS): 56 Counties

Metro Denver Homeless Initiative (MDHI): 7 Counties

Pikes Peak (PP): 1 County

#### Coordinated Entry

A regional, client-centered process that enables communities to assess and identify the housing and support needs of individuals experiencing homelessness. Coordinated Entry Systems also match the right level of service and housing intervention as quickly and efficiently as possible, while being respectful of client choice and local providers.

#### Division of Youth Services (DYS)

Provides for the care and supervision of youth committed by the District Court to the custody of CDHS. DHS operates ten secure facilities that serve youth between the ages of 10-21 who are pre-adjudicated or committed. In addition to residential programming, DHS administers juvenile parole services throughout Colorado<sup>10</sup>.

#### Pregnant/Parenting Youth

An individual who is at least eleven years of age but is less than twenty-five years of age, that lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, and is pregnant or parenting.

#### Systems Youth

A youth who become homeless after aging out of foster care or exiting the juvenile justice system<sup>11</sup>.

#### Transition Aged Youth

A youth between the ages of 16 and 24 (not yet 25).

#### Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

A child or youth who is at least eleven years of age but is less than twenty-five years of age, who is not accompanied by a parent or guardian, and lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence<sup>12</sup>.

## Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> [https://www.cde.state.co.us/dropoutprevention/homeless\\_index](https://www.cde.state.co.us/dropoutprevention/homeless_index)
- <sup>2</sup> <https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Coordinated-Entry-and-Youth-FAQs.pdf>
- <sup>3</sup> <https://www.hudexchange.info/faqs/983/can-a-day-shelter-be-funded-as-an-emergency-shelter-under-esg/>
- <sup>4</sup> Colorado Department of Human Services, Division of Child Care, 2011; *Standards for Homeless Youth Shelters*. Denver, CO: Colorado Department of Human Services, Division of Child Care.
- <sup>5</sup> <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/coc-program-eligibility-requirements/>
- <sup>6</sup> [https://www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/public\\_indian\\_housing/programs/hcv/family](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/hcv/family)
- <sup>7</sup> [https://www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/public\\_indian\\_housing/programs/hcv/fss](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/hcv/fss)
- <sup>8</sup> <https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/resources-for-chronic-homelessness/>
- <sup>9</sup> <https://endhomelessness.org/resource/what-is-a-continuum-of-care/>
- <sup>10</sup> <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdhs/dys>
- <sup>11</sup> Toro, Dworsky, & Fowler, 2007, Pergamit, 2010 ; <https://youth.gov/youth-topics/runaway-and-homeless-youth/federal-definitions>
- <sup>12</sup> CO Rev Stat § 24-32-723 (2016)

## Exhibits

- Exhibit 1: [November Colorado Runaway and Homeless Youth Proclamation](#)
- Exhibit 2: [November Runaway and Homeless Youth Data and Event Calendar](#)
- Exhibit 3: [Point in Time Youth Supplemental Survey Report](#)
- Exhibit 4: [Youth-specific Housing Options in Colorado Resource List](#)
- Exhibit 5: [Funds Received by Colorado from Family and Youth Services Bureau](#)

