

Before Starting the CoC Application

In order to be considered for YHSI or YHDP funding, applicants must submit the Youth Homelessness Consolidated Application.

To be considered for YHDP funding, you must also submit the following in order for us to consider your YHDP Consolidated Application complete:

1. the YHDP Priority Listing, and
2. all the project applications for the YHDP funding in your community.

As the Applicant for the Youth Homelessness Consolidated Application, you are responsible for reviewing the following:

1. The FY 2024 & FY 2025 Youth Homelessness Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for specific application and program requirements.
2. The FY 2024 & FY 2025 Youth Homelessness Application Detailed Instructions which provide additional information and guidance for completing the application.
3. All information provided to ensure it is correct and current.
4. Responses provided by project applicants in their Project Applications, if applying for YHDP funding.
5. The application to ensure all documentation, including attachments, are provided.

Answering Multi-Part Narrative Questions

Many questions require you to address multiple elements in a single text box. Number your responses to correspond with multi-element questions using the same numbers in the question. This will help you organize your responses to ensure they are complete and help us to review and score your responses.

Attachments

Questions requiring attachments to receive points state, "You Must Upload an Attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen." Only upload documents responsive to the questions posed—including other material slows down the review process, which ultimately slows down the funding process. Include a cover page with the attachment name.

Attachments must match the questions they are associated with—if we do not award points for evidence you upload and associate with the wrong question, this is not a valid reason for you to appeal HUD's funding determination.

We must be able to read the date and time on attachments requiring system-generated dates and times, e.g., a screenshot displaying the time and date of the public posting using your desktop calendar; screenshot of a webpage that indicates date and time.

1A. Application Type

1. Community Name Cape Cod Islands CoC (MA-503)

2. Type of Submission: YHDP

3. Certify that the applicant will not operate drug injection sites or "safe consumption sites," knowingly distribute drug paraphernalia on or off of property under their control, permit the use or distribution of illicit drugs on property under their control, or conduct any of these activities under the pretext of "harm reduction."

X

This is a required certification to receive funding under the FY2024 and FY2025 Youth Homelessness NOFO (See section III.D and V.A of the NOFO).

General Criteria- Youth Leadership

1a. Describe how the youth with lived experience were involved with the development of this application.

(2,000 characters)

The Cape and Islands CoC (MA-503) was awarded funding through Round 6 of YHDP in October 2022. Throughout the initial application, development and implementation of the CCP, YHDP project launch and ongoing efforts to make the experience of Youth and Young Adult (YYA) homelessness rare, brief and one-time, youth with lived experience, including the Cape and Islands YAB, have been centered in systems analysis, design and decision making. YAB members on the CoC's Youth Homelessness and Continuous Quality Improvement committees have been tracking progress on YHDP and state funded projects, and have emphasized the enhancement in the ability of YYA to access services and resources since the launch of YHDP. As such, they have wholeheartedly encouraged this application to expand YYA housing stability initiatives. Additionally, in the Spring of 2025, 37 YYA with lived experience participated in focus groups and completed surveys that explored their experience interacting with the current system, key gaps in services and resources, identifying engagement opportunities for providers and brainstorming initiatives that would help other YYA with similar experiences receive the help they need prior to experiencing chronic homelessness. This application reflects the feedback provided from the Cape and Islands' unstably housed YYA through these multiple forums and continues the action steps within our CCP that have guided the community's efforts.

1b. Did at least two youth with lived experience meaningfully participate in the development of this application. Yes

2a. Describe how young people with lived experience will be involved in the project design, implementation, and operation of YHDP projects.

(2,000 characters)

The Youth Action Board (YAB) has been at the center of all decision making during YHDP planning and implementation and are key members of the Core Team, which sets agendas for the Youth and Young Adult Homelessness Committee, a formal committee for the Cape and Islands Regional Network on Homelessness Policy Board, the governance body of the Continuum of Care. In addition to the two formal seats at the Policy Board, YAB members are included during annual monitoring and invited to sit on the Homeless Management Information System Committee and the Coordinated Entry Committee. During implementation of YHDP the CoC has provided an opportunity for YYA with lived experience to participate in all aspects of the homelessness system design. Youth with lived experience have also been hired into staff positions in the Host Homes and Outreach projects. Locally, YYA are compensated for their participation through funding from the Massachusetts Unaccompanied Homeless Youth grant with a rate set using a Cost of Living tool. The state Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Commission also provides compensation for participation in state-wide initiatives.

The Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) committee includes YAB members and has been reviewing each goal and action step of the Coordinated Community Plan to evaluate whether they have been completed, reexamine entities identified to lead the work on each item, explore time frames for completion and set prioritization related to feedback from YAB members and other YYA with lived experience. The CQI committee will continue to serve in this role for additional YHDP initiatives included in this application.

General Criteria- Community Connections

1. How will your community will use funds awarded through this NOFO to address the social and emotional well-being of youth, including incorporating a strengths-based approach, positive youth development, and trauma-informed care.

(1,500 characters)

Staff members from all agencies serving homeless youth and young adults (YYA) are trained in trauma informed care, strengths-based case management practices and positive youth development (PYD), which are also embedded in staff onboarding. The Barnstable County Dept. of Human Services (BCDHS) provided a year-long training institute with YYA providers with sessions on each of these subjects. BCDHS and the Mass. Unaccompanied Homeless Youth program provide ongoing training on evidence based and best practices to all YYA serving agencies.

Our Coordinated Community Plan is centered on trauma informed care, strengths-based goal setting and PYD and funding through this application will expand use of these techniques throughout the community.

Our YAB partners closely in the design of YHDP programs and continuous quality improvement and provide their lived experience to ensure positive youth development, authentic youth partnership, youth choice, and youth centered problem solving are used in YHDP and non-CoC funded YYA homelessness programs. YAB members also participate in monthly case conferencing to ensure services and resources available through coordinated entry meet the identified needs of YYA. Additionally, BCDHS leads the Children's Behavioral Health workgroup, which works to increase access to behavioral health services in collaboration with area school districts, state child welfare and mental health agencies and multiple community partners.

2. Describe one strategy that emphasizes the development of self-sufficiency, personal responsibility, resilience-building, and character development while acknowledging the impact of difficult life experiences on youth development.
(1,500 characters)

Staff from all agencies providing services to youth and young adults (YYA) experiencing housing instability have been trained in implementing Positive Youth Development (PYD) practices. PYD is an approach to supporting youth that focuses on outcomes necessary for adolescence and adult life based on their capacities, strengths and formative needs. PYD works with YYA to develop a "positive identity", which includes safety and security; self-worth; mastery of skills and future vision; a sense of belonging and membership; responsibility and autonomy and; self-awareness and spirituality. Additionally, our partners are trained to implement PYD concepts using a trauma informed lens to support YYA while being cognizant of their life experiences, including the traumatic impact of experiencing homelessness. Research has indicated that utilizing both PYD and trauma-informed YYA supportive services has a positive effect on long term stability, including housing, employment, physical and mental wellbeing and development of supportive relationships.

3. Describe at least two strategies your community will implement to promote economic independence and prevent long-term dependency on social services.

(1,500 characters)

YHDP funded projects and our partner agencies funded through the Massachusetts Unaccompanied Youth and Young Adult (YYA) grant work directly with MassHire and the Cape and Islands Career Center to offer multiple avenues for building economic independence. All YYA are eligible to become members at MassHire, which provides career counseling, in-person hiring events with a variety of employers, workshops on job search, resumes, cover letters and interview techniques and access to job opening databases and wi-fi if needed. YYA who receive "Individualized" services are also able to access up to \$15,000 for certification training to support career opportunities in areas including healthcare, office professional positions, technology, human services, hospitality, construction and commercial drivers licenses. YYA who access these training and career supports receive follow up resources for up to a year after securing employment. Additionally, MassHire offers a program for members to complete the HiSET high school equivalency exam. The HiSET program provides \$30 compensation to YYA for each 3-hour class they attend and can provide mileage reimbursement or bus/ferry vouchers for YYA who may experience transportation as a barrier to attendance, especially those on the islands or living on the outer Cape. YYA are offered 1 on 1 tutoring if needed, and those who complete the HiSET also receive placement counseling for employment or further educational pursuits.

4a. How will you build connections between at-risk youth and school, life skills training, and job attainment skills?

(1,500 characters)

Feedback from youth and young adults (YYA) with lived experience of housing instability during development of our Community Needs Assessment and Coordinated Community Plan identified the "cliff effect" experienced by YYA on the Cape and Islands when exiting school systems, child welfare systems and other systems of care. In response to the needs identified by YYA, our YYA homelessness teams disseminate information so any YYA can connect with services and resources that build life skills and opportunities for attaining year-round employment in a seasonal services-based economy. By making materials available to YYA directly, and educating community members crossing paths with YYA, our community is expanding our network to identify unstably housed YYA prior to loss of housing. Once connected to services and resources, our YYA homelessness teams use youth centered, strengths based action planning to identify and build skills needed for sustaining long-term housing, including basic household management, budgeting, interacting with neighbors and landlords and navigating related systems. Additionally, the teams facilitate employment supports that meet the individualized needs of each YYA, including linkages to MassHire career counseling and support for continuing education. For those exiting Dept. of Children and Families (DCF) services, the state supports a DCF Liaison position, which also helps to access Fostering Youth to Independence vouchers.

4b. How will you build connections between at-risk youth and employment opportunities?

(1,500 characters)

All youth and young adult (YYA) homelessness serving agencies work directly with MassHire and the Career Center to assist YYA in building skills needed for long-term career opportunities in the Cape's service-based seasonal community. Resources for YYA seeking employment include job fairs, workshops, vocational assessments, skills training and job placements with supports up to one year after beginning employment. The Career Center also offers a resource room with access to wi-fi, up-to-date listings of job openings and one-on-one career consulting staff. Workshops include resume and cover letter development, "Supercharging Your Job Search", "How to Ace an Interview" and computer skills. The Employment section of our active Coordinated Community Plan (CCP) includes objectives on increasing employment-related mentorship and peer support opportunities for YYA, strengthening partnerships between employment organizations and youth-serving organizations to improve access for at-risk youth and partnering with local employers to increase connections for YYA to job opportunities. All partner agencies were contributors to the development of the CCP, play an active role in implementation and are members of the Continuous Quality Improvement workgroup which tracks progress on CCP employment objectives.

General Criteria- Building Safe Communities

1. Demonstrate, by providing evidence, that the project applicant cooperates and does not interfere with or impede local efforts to advance the objectives below, and assists first responders in providing services to homeless youth.

(1,500 characters)

Agencies serving unstably housed youth and young adults (YYA) participate in law enforcement led Community Crisis Intervention Teams (CCIT) that cover every town on the Cape and both Islands. Police departments lead monthly CCIT meetings where human service agencies, first responders, representatives from the district attorney's office, probation officers, public health staff, relevant state agencies and additional partners coordinate service and resource delivery for those experiencing homelessness. Specific cases can be presented by any of the participants, and agencies establish specific plans for addressing the unique needs of each individual and how partners can best support the coordinated efforts by providing resources and linkages, even when not working directly with the identified YYA experiencing homelessness. Additionally, the BCDHS CoC program manager and the Youth Services Program Director for a partner agency funded through YHDP and the state Unaccompanied Homeless YYA grant deliver training to officers from all area Police Departments on YYA homelessness services and resources, and best practices in coordination with first responders, as part of the two week CCIT orientation.

2. Identify local laws, policies, or other practices that help or hinder the project applicant's ability to advance the objectives below and provide a plan explaining how the project applicant will leverage beneficial policies while overcoming the harmful effects of restrictive ones. If you cannot provide any mitigating steps, please explain why. Include qualitative and quantitative details in your response.

2a. Quickly clears tents and encampments on public property and connects youth who are camping in public with appropriate services. In your response, describe the current status of tents and encampments in the geographic area.

(1,500 characters)

Regional laws prohibiting public camping include- Barnstable §147-3, Falmouth §103-1, Mashpee §63-1, Bourne §3.1.21, Sandwich §3.35, Yarmouth §112-4, Dennis §138-6, Harwich §214-3, Brewster §77-1, Chatham §208-20, Orleans §124-5, Eastham §42-1, Wellfleet §129-1, Provincetown §13-2-9, Oak Bluffs §15.A, Aquinnah §C.1.page 3, Nantucket §64.1-20. Four towns on Martha's Vineyard ban public camping through formal Articles, property regulations and zoning laws.

Outreach teams report 24 encampments, with many occupied by single individuals who frequently move tent sites. Our YHDP youth and young adult (YYA) outreach team reports that few of 78 YYA who engaged in FY26 stay in encampments- a higher number sleep in cars or other places not meant for human habitation. Over the seven years of the state funded YYA grant, approximately 1/3 report their living situation as "literally homeless". Couch surfing or doubling up is more prevalent.

In instances where encampment are cleared, staff from homeless serving agencies are on-site with public entities, including law enforcement and dept. of public works, to provide services and resources to those living unsheltered.

Staff from CoC funded agencies participate in law enforcement led Community Crisis Intervention Teams (CCIT) in every community within the CoC.

Our YYA Coordinated Entry Case Conferencing prioritizes YYA living outside or in other places not meant for human habitation for housing, including those not CoC funded.

2b. Decrease the public use of illicit drugs and quickly connect homeless youth who are using illicit drugs in public with appropriate services and/or law enforcement. In your responses, describe the current status of overdoses and illicit drug use in public spaces in the geographic area.

(1,500 characters)

The Barnstable County Dept. of Human Services (BCDHS), the CoC Collaborative Applicant, leads efforts across the region using data to address illicit substance use and overdose incidents and ensure resources are available to support recovery. The Cape and Islands uses the Critical Incident Management System (CIMS), an interactive database and tracking software used by local law enforcement, healthcare providers, and social services to log, monitor, and coordinate responses to drug overdoses and behavioral health crises and activate service providers for delivery of supportive services. The most recent CIMS report indicated 222 total incidents in calendar year 2025, including 109 non-fatal overdoses (32% less than 2024), 8 fatal overdoses (53% reduction), 10 at-risk incidents (29% reduction) and 95 behavioral health incidents (a 764% increase). Using information from CIMS, the DA's office, first responders and support agencies use a Situation Table model to work collaboratively to ensure crisis prevention and follow up support services are proactively available for those who experience an overdose at both the town and individual level.

BCDHS also leads the Regional Substance Addiction Council (RSAC). The RSAC connects towns, providers, organizations, and individuals across Cape Cod to maximize inter-agency coordination and leverage resource/funding opportunities to identify and resolve systemic service gaps across prevention, treatment, criminal justice, and recovery.

2c. Utilize standards that address homeless youth who are a danger to themselves or others (e.g., involuntary commitment).

(1,500 characters)

All homelessness serving agencies and partner organization of the CoC address instances when an individual is an immediate threat to self, others, or demonstrates an inability to care for self, consistent with Massachusetts General Law (M.G.L.) c.123, §12, which states: "This emergency mental health law allows qualified professionals or police to have an individual involuntarily hospitalized for up to three business days if they are deemed a serious risk to themselves or others due to mental illness". Commonly referred to as a "Section 12", the law states that, "Qualified professionals (such as licensed physicians, psychologists, advanced practice registered nurses, and licensed independent clinical social workers) can authorize the restraint and transport of a person to a hospital or psychiatric facility if an examination reveals that failing to do so would create a "likelihood of serious harm" by reason of mental illness. If a mental health professional is unavailable in an emergency, police officers are also permitted to initiate this".

Similarly, all CoC partner agencies follow M.G.L. c.123, §35, which, "allows a court to involuntarily commit a person to a substance abuse or alcohol treatment facility for up to 90 days if their disorder poses an immediate, serious threat to their health or physical safety".

2d. Comprehensively share information, including location information, in accordance with the Sex Offender Registry and Notification Act (SORNA).

(1,500 characters)

All YYA homelessness serving agencies follow federal Sex Offender Registry and Notification Act (SORNA) and Massachusetts Sex Offender Registry Board (SORB)- Massachusetts General Law c. 6, §§ 178C through 178Q- requirements and guidelines for any YYA who has been convicted of offenses requiring registration. Additionally, all YHDP and non-CoC funded YYA homelessness agencies participate in Community Crisis Intervention Team (CCIT) meetings that are led by Police Departments covering the CoC's entire geographic region and include representatives from probation, specialty courts, the District Attorney's office and a variety of local agencies. In circumstances involving YYA required to follow SORNA and SORB registration, systems are in place for coordination between agencies on information and location sharing.

The project applicant should maintain records reflecting the analysis performed in response to these rating criteria.

YHDP Criteria- Community Coordination

1. Describe how the YHDP community applicant or partner organizations work with Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) or other affordable housing providers in the community.

(1,500 characters)

The Sandwich Housing Authority, a PHA, is a CoC grantee and is our YYA homelessness system's partner for Fostering Youth to Independence (FYI) vouchers. As the FYI partner, Sandwich Housing collaborates with the Massachusetts Dept. of Children and Families (DCF) and Housing Assistance Corporation's (HAC) state funded DCF Liaison to identify youth and young adults (YYA) aging out of foster care for vouchers. Additionally, the Liaison is able to provide support services after the YYA secures housing to support the development of life skills and to assist with any challenges related to maintaining housing. Additionally, HAC is a Regional Housing Authority that administers state level vouchers and is a subgrantee for the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) Unaccompanied Homeless YYA grant. The BCDHS CoC Program Manager, HMIS Program Manager, YHDP grantees and partner agencies of the EOHHS grant conduct monthly Coordinated Entry case conferencing meetings, as well as separate monthly coordination meeting for referrals made from the YHDP funded outreach team to HAC YYA case management. Case conferencing is designed for the system to collaborate on individual YYA and quickly connect them to services and resources, including HAC's CoC funded YYA PSH program, HAC's state funded 5-bed transitional housing program, YHDP funded Host Homes and Champ Homes a EOHHS funded sober living transitional housing program.

2. Describe how the YHDP community applicant or partner organizations will work with long-term residential care facilities or permanent supportive housing providers to ensure assistance for youth experiencing homelessness with a disability that is expected to indefinitely prevent independent living or self-sufficiency.

(1,500 characters)

A representative of the Massachusetts Dept. of Mental Health (DMH) sits on the Policy Board of the Cape and Islands Regional Network on Homelessness and is a CoC funded Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) grantee. DMH participates in monthly Coordinated Entry Case Conferencing meetings to collaborate on resources that best meet the needs of those experiencing housing instability. On Cape Cod and the Islands, DMH operates an inpatient psychiatric facility, 15 residential programs, a crisis stabilization unit, a safe haven, a respite program for those awaiting residential placement and a variety of service models including a Program of Assertive Community Treatment. As a key community partner, they work with all agencies providing homelessness services when long-term residential services are recommended. The Continuum of Care includes a youth and young adult PSH project for chronically homeless youth and young adults diagnosed with a disability. Cape Cod Healthcare, which operates both hospitals in the region, and a variety of long-term care options for those experiencing a physical disability, is a member of the Cape and Islands Regional Network on Homelessness Policy Board, and is a key partner when unstably housed individuals, including YYA, are in need of advanced medical support. Cape Cod Healthcare is the referral source for the Duffy Health Center Medical Respite program serving those experiencing homelessness.

3. Describe how the YHDP community applicant or partner organizations work with education providers in the community.

(1,500 characters)

The Barnstable County Dept. of Human Services (BCDHS) leads the Cape and Islands School Counselor workgroup which meets monthly for dissemination of information on services and resources (including for unstably housed youth and young adults), coordination of region wide initiatives and information sharing on the behavioral health needs of students and families. The McKinney-Vento Liaison for the region's largest school district is a member of the Cape and Islands Regional Network on Homelessness Policy Board, the governing body of the CoC, and provides information on trends and facilitates linkages between partner agencies and school systems to meet the variety of needs for students and families experiencing housing instability. An agency providing School-Based behavioral health resources in multiple school districts is a member of the Youth Homelessness Committee and provides their colleagues with "grab and go" materials for students that can be available while avoiding the stigma associated with being unstably housed. The YHDP funded youth and young adult (YYA) outreach team has connected directly with school staff supporting unstably housed YYA and families, such as Barnstable High School's Mentor program, by providing direct "warm hand-off" referrals, utilize flex funds through the state YYA grant to meet basic needs, identify stable housing opportunities and help students overcome challenges that might be standing in their way of achieving academic success.

4. Describe what strategies your community implements to identify and assist youth experiencing or at risk of experiencing any form of trafficking, sexual exploitation or similar traumatic experiences.

(1,500 characters)

The Barnstable County Dept. of Human Services (BCDHS), the CoC Collaborative Applicant, and partner agencies are participants in the Cape and Islands District Attorney's Human Trafficking Unit which combats commercial sex and labor trafficking. Agencies contributing to ending trafficking on the Cape and Islands include: Children's Cove, a Barnstable County initiative, which provides forensic interviews, medical care, mental health support and community support referrals to survivors and families and community education on abuse; Independence House, Cape Cod's leading domestic and sexual violence emergency housing resource, counseling, and advocacy center to address and prevent domestic and sexual violence and; People Against Human Trafficking (PATH) who's mission is to eliminate human trafficking on Cape Cod by raising awareness through education, outreach and collaboration. Additionally, the state Homeless Youth Services division leads an "Exchanging Sex for Needs" (ESN) workgroup that brings youth and young adult (YYA) homelessness providers from across the Commonwealth together to address factors identified in the statewide assessment as contributing to ESN including: limited financial resources; unmet sexual health needs of YYA; inconsistent identification for those who need support to end ESN; lack of stable housing and; lack of access to behavioral health resources.

5. Describe what resources in your community, either currently operating or being planned under this or the CoC NOFO, are available to assist youth with substance use disorders.

(1,500 characters)

The Barnstable County Dept. of Human Services (BCDHS), the Collaborative Applicant, leads the Regional Substance Addiction Council (RSAC). The RSAC connects towns, providers, organizations, and individuals across Cape Cod to maximize inter-agency coordination and leverages resources to identify and resolve systemic service gaps across prevention, treatment, criminal justice, and recovery. Duffy Health Center, a federally recognized Healthcare for the Homeless provider, CoC grantee and member of the Cape and Islands Regional Network on Homelessness Policy Board and youth and young adult (YYA) Homelessness Committee offers extensive services for those with substance use disorders, including medication assisted treatment. Duffy operates a substance addiction program specifically for YYA called "Cape Teens Rising" where teens talk to their peers, including staff members with lived experience, who are going through similar challenges, create supportive bonds, and learn about how others deal with challenges in their recovery. Our YHDP teams and services funded through the Massachusetts Unaccompanied Homeless YYA grant, have built partnerships with Duffy and other agencies specializing in substance use treatment including Gosnold, which operates 96 in-patient and short-term residential Clinical Stabilization beds, and High-Point which is opening a 64 bed detox and stabilization facility, which will also provide outpatient treatment and YYA focused programming.

6a. Describe how your community provides services and connects youth to resources for substance use including crisis response services.

(1,500 characters)

Our YHDP teams and agencies funded through the Massachusetts Unaccompanied Homeless Youth and Young Adult (YYA) grant follow Massachusetts law when a YYA's substance use poses an immediate threat to their health or physical safety (Mass. General Law c.123, §35). During crisis incidents, the teams work directly with Baycove Human Services, which operates the region's Community Behavioral Health Center, a Community Crisis Stabilization program, and provides 24/7 mobile crisis resources. If medical intervention for a substance use disorder is sought voluntarily or is deemed necessary through the courts, Gosnold provides 48 detox beds and 48 short-term residential Clinical Stabilization beds along with follow up services. Additionally, High-Point is opening a 64-bed detox and stabilization facility that will offer outpatient services and YYA focused programming. Duffy Health Center is also a CoC and YYA Homelessness Committee member and works extensively with our YYA homelessness serving agencies to provide strengths-based treatment options, including "Cape Teens Rising" a peer led support service.

The Barnstable County Dept. of Human Services, the Collaborative Applicant, leads the Regional Substance Addiction Council, including the District Attorney's office, which utilizes the Critical Incident Management System (CIMS), a database that tracks overdose and behavioral health incidents across the region and coordinates mobilization of resources for those in crisis.

6b. Describe how your community provides services and connects youth to appropriate resources for mental health conditions, including crisis response services and mental health providers with expertise in treating youth.

(1,500 characters)

The Barnstable County Dept. of Human Services (BCDHS), the Collaborative Applicant, leads the Children's Behavioral Health Workgroup (CBHWG) which strives to, "understand, plan for, and address the gaps and enhance the strengths for the Cape and Islands behavioral health system of care" for youth and young adults (YYA). The CBHWG includes human services agencies, school districts, emergency mental health services, health care providers, community health centers, Children's Cove (the region's agency supporting survivors of abuse), the MA Department of Children and Families, the District Attorney's Office, the MA Department of Mental Health (DMH) and staff from state legislators.

When a YYA is experiencing an acute mental health crisis, YYA homelessness serving agencies collaborate with Baycove, which operates the region's Community Behavioral Health Center, a Community Crisis Stabilization program, and provides mobile mental health crisis resources. A DMH area supervisor sits on the Regional Network on Homelessness Policy Board, the governing body of the CoC, and DMH staff attend YYA Coordinated Entry Case Conferencing, the Emergency/Winter Response planning committee and participated in the YHDP Planning Committee, the decision-making body in creation of our Coordinated Community Plan.

Additionally, BCDHS leads the School Counselors workgroup which facilitates connections between students across the region and behavioral health services.

7a. Describe a plan to promote participation in supportive services within YHDP housing projects.

(1,500 characters)

Currently, there are no YHDP funded housing projects operating in the CoC, and no applications for housing projects submitted for the FY2024-FY2025 competition. YHDP projects funded in Round 6 were all Support Services Only (Street Outreach, Host Homes and SSO-Coordinated Entry), and the two projects submitted in this round were for expansion of the SSO-Street Outreach and SSO-Host Homes projects, both of which have been successful models for our community. The Host Homes program provides extensive supportive services to both participants and Hosts during the matching process and provides case management and mediation of conflict during the participant's time with the Host. Two transitional housing projects for youth and young adults (YYA) funded through the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services Unaccompanied Homeless YYA grant both require service participation and utilize the CoC Coordinated Entry system for referrals.

7b. Will all transitional housing projects (excluding residential housing) included in the priority listing have a supportive services participation agreement with residents? Yes

7c. Is at least one project included in the priority listing designed to provide substance abuse treatment and require participation in substance abuse treatment services as a condition of continued participation in the program? No

8. Are at least 20% of the total YHDP funds requested on the priority listing, excluding funds from planning and HMIS grants, allocated to supportive services costs. Yes

9a. Describe how projects included on the YHDP priority listing serves specific youth subpopulations (i.e., pregnant or parenting youth, domestic violence survivors, youth with substance use disorder.)

(1,500 characters)

Our youth and young adult (YYA) homelessness service providers, including those on the YHDP Priority Listing and those funded through the Massachusetts Unaccompanied Homeless YYA grant, are able to serve all sub-populations. Since it's launch in 2019, approximately 25% of YYA engaging with our partners funded through the state grant were pregnant or parenting and 4% identified a substance use disorder. 55% of YYA who have received services through the YHDP funded street outreach program in FY26 report a history of violence related to their housing instability. Through our partnerships all YHDP funded projects provide "warm hand offs" to meet the varied needs to YYA engaging with services when appropriate.

All CoC and non-CoC funded community partners have been trained in trauma informed care to identify these sub-population and provide engagement techniques best suited to their unique experiences. The Barnstable County Dept. of Human Services, the Collaborative Applicant, leads the Regional Substance Addiction Coalition, which facilitates partnerships between agencies to support those in recovery. Our CoC includes Independence House, the leading domestic violence provider on the Cape and Islands, Duffy Health Center, the federally recognized Healthcare for the Homeless provider, Outer Cape Health, a Community Health Center, and additional partners that contribute to the Cape and Islands collaborative network of services and resources for all sub-populations of YYA.

9b. Do at least three projects provide a preference for housing or services to subpopulations who need the specialized supportive services that are provided in the housing (e.g., substance abuse treatment, domestic violence services) No

10a. Describe your community's system for identifying eligible youth participants and referring them to the appropriate services.

(1,500 characters)

Identifying eligible youth participants is driven by the region's homelessness outreach and intake agencies, with a special emphasis on Youth and Young Adult engagement through the YHDP funded Outreach Team. The team covers the entire CoC geographic area, meets regularly with multiple school districts and provides targeted outreach and information dissemination to community hubs and schools. 47 unaccompanied homeless youth were assessed for Coordinated Entry between January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025. YYA homelessness providers meet for monthly case conferencing to review cases and strategize to best meet the individualized needs of YYA, including placement in non-CoC funded transitional housing.

YYA CE is built on the CoC's assessment and referral infrastructure. CE ensures that participants are directed to the most appropriate resources by: using a shared release of information; using HMIS to match households in need with available resources; using a common assessment tool, developed locally with direct feedback from YYA with lived experience and YYA housing providers, to help prioritize which households are assisted first; distributing marketing materials to non-CoC funded entities (i.e. faith community, local charities, DV shelter, food pantries etc.) so that volunteers/staff are aware of CE and; convening regular meetings and training of CoC and non-CoC housing providers to educate about the assessment and placement policies and protocols of the CE.

10b. Discuss how screening and assessment tools identify the following special populations:

Special Population	
Pregnant and Parenting Youth	All CoC funded and non-CoC funded youth homelessness providers enter data into our HMIS system and complete a youth and young adult (YYA) coordinated entry (CE) assessment when completing an HMIS intake for anyone under age 25. The CE assessment and universal data elements (UDE) require users to input data regarding pregnancy and parenting. Our community uses monthly CE case conferencing to identify supports that will directly address the needs of pregnant and parenting YYA, including A Baby Center for basic needs (formula, diapers, clothing) and equipment (strollers, car seats, furniture), Health Imperatives WIC and Cape and Islands Healthy Families programs, the Family Resource Center, Cape Cod Children's Place and resources specific to each town.
System-involved youth (including juvenile justice and child welfare)	All CoC funded and non-CoC funded youth homelessness providers enter data into our HMIS system and complete a youth and young adult (YYA) coordinated entry (CE) assessment when completing an HMIS intake for anyone under age 25. The CE assessment and universal data elements (UDE) require users to input data regarding system involvement, including with justice systems, both juvenile and adult and the Massachusetts Dept. of Children and Families (child welfare). Our community uses monthly CE Case Conferencing to identify supports that will directly address the needs of systems involved YYA. For those exiting systems of incarceration, our YHDP funded and state funded teams work with Barnstable County House of Corrections reintegration team through their Bridge center to ensure each YYA has access to resources as they return to the community. Additionally, the CoC works with probation officers and the District Attorney's office to collaborate on cases through the Community Crisis Intervention Teams (CCIT) and Situation Table models to link individualized services to YYA. For YYA exiting the child-welfare system, the state funded Unaccompanied Homeless YYA grant funds a DCF Liaison position that receives referrals directly from the state and links YYA with services and resources, including HUD FYI vouchers, to support stable long-term housing.

Exploited or trafficked youth	All CoC funded and non-CoC funded youth homelessness providers enter data into our HMIS system and complete a youth and young adult (YYA) coordinated entry (CE) assessment when completing an HMIS intake for anyone under age 25. The CE assessment and universal data elements (UDE) require users to input data regarding YYA experiencing exploitation and/or trafficking. Staff completing intakes with YYA who have experienced exploitation and/or trafficking have received training through the Mass. Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Commission on safely gathering information from the YYA through a trauma-informed lens. The training includes how to provide supportive assistance to YYA and safely link them with services and resources specializing in working with survivors including Independence House, a CoC grantee and regional lead provider for survivors of domestic and intimate partner violence, and Children's Cove, which provide forensic interviews, medical care, mental health support, community support referrals when deemed appropriate. The Barnstable County Dept. of Human Services also works with the District Attorney's office, which leads a Human Trafficking Unit to address sexual and employment trafficking across the region.
Youth in need of substance abuse or mental health services	All CoC funded and non-CoC funded youth homelessness providers enter data into our HMIS system and complete a youth and young adult (YYA) coordinated entry (CE) assessment when completing an HMIS intake for anyone under age 25. The CE assessment and universal data elements (UDE) require users to input data regarding substance use and/or mental health conditions that may benefit from specialized services and resources. Our community uses monthly case conferencing meetings to identify resources that will best meet the needs of YYA experiencing substance use or a mental health condition that poses a barrier to long-term stable housing. Substance use services include Duffy Health Center, a CoC grantee and federally recognized Healthcare for the Homeless provider, inpatient facilities if a YYA is in need of detox, outpatient services, medication assisted treatment, and sober living environments. The Mass. Dept. of Mental Health (DMH) participates in case conferencing and is able to facilitate applications for state funded services when a YYA meets eligibility. The Barnstable County Dept. of Human Services also leads the Children's Behavioral Health workgroup, which strives to enhance connections between behavioral health services and YYA serving agencies to quickly link YYA to therapy, psychiatry and peer support to best meet their individualized needs.

11. Describe at least one strategy the community uses to encourage reunification whenever it is safe and possible, including family counseling and mediation services.

(1,500 characters)

All YHDP funded programs and all subgrantees of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services Unaccompanied Youth and Young Adult (YYA) program have been trained in Housing Problem Solving, which is described on the HUD Exchange as, "a person-centered, cost-effective approach to quickly resolve housing crises and prevent homelessness. Guided by proven, evidence-based practices, it avoids standardized system queues and instead empowers individuals to identify creative, immediate solutions through their own strengths and resources", including family counseling and mediation, reunification, doubled-up arrangements and shared housing. Additionally, the YHDP funded Host Homes program works with CoC funded and non-CoC funded partners on kinship Host Homes placements to provide stipends to mitigate costs for familial housing options with financial barriers. Five kinship Host Homes are currently in place.

12. Describe how projects included on the YHDP priority listing were selected for this application.

(1,500 characters)

The Barnstable County Dept. of Human Services provided a public Request for Proposals for YHDP funded projects on July 10 and two projects were submitted for review and ranking for the Priority Listing. The Review and Ranking committee of the Cape and Islands Regional Network on Homelessness approved both projects to move forward in the competition and voted to list the Host Homes program at the top of the Priority Listing and the Youth and Young Adult Street Outreach second. No projects were rejected from the local competition.

YHDP Criteria- System Planning & Data

1. Is the application from an eligible previously awarded YHDP community? Yes

1. Describe what strategies and data sources your community uses to measure self-sufficiency and stability outcomes

Long-term stability/no recidivism and safe and stable housing; (may include longer-term residential treatment centers or facilities)	The community uses HMIS data to measure housing stability outcomes, including exits to permanent housing destinations, housing retention, and returns to homelessness through system performance measures. YHDP-funded projects also use case management practices and participant follow-up to assess ongoing housing stability, barriers, and service needs. Additional qualitative information from youth and provider feedback is used to identify system improvements and strengthen prevention of returns to homelessness.
Education, employment, and income and career growth;	All YHDP and state funded youth and young adult (YYA) homelessness agencies enter data in HMIS including educational achievement, employment status and regular updates to income. 26% increased earned income between entry and exit. 71% (25 of 35 youth) maintained a positive school status achieving high school diplomas, GEDs, or active enrollment through our local educational partnerships. The Education and Employment section of our Coordinated Community Plan (CCP) details action steps including increasing employment-related mentorship and peer support opportunities for YYA, strengthening partnerships between employment organizations and youth-serving organizations to improve access for at-risk youth and partnering with local employers to increase connections for YYA to job opportunities. All goals, objectives and actions in the CCP are regularly reviewed by our Continuous Quality Improvement Committee and updated based on feedback from YYA and our partners.
Permanent social connections; and	Our Coordinated Community Plan (CCP) contains a section on Community Connections, with objectives designed to provide youth and young adults (YYA) with permanent social opportunities including connect YYA experiencing homelessness and housing instability to existing community mentoring, leadership, and support programs, improving the capacity of YYA in the homelessness system to form community connections and developing new connection opportunities in the community designed to specifically meet the needs of YYA experiencing homelessness. All YYA homelessness serving agencies participate in implementation of CCP objectives. All YYA connected to our partners are encouraged to connect with our Youth Action Board, and meeting participation is tracked as a measure of connections being made.
Social and emotional well-being.	Case Management staff in YHDP funded and state funded youth and young adult (YYA) homelessness programs regularly check in with each YYA on self-reported status of their social and emotional wellbeing. Staff have been trained in trauma-informed strengths-based action planning, which includes exploration of how natural supports can help provide emotional stability. In instances beyond the scope of the staff's training, such as emergent mental health crises, staff connect YYA to supports that are designed to address the crisis and determine if additional resources are needed to meet the individualized needs of the YYA.

2. Based on the most recent year of operation, what percentage of clients that exited YHDP projects:

Had a positive exit destination	72%
Increased income	26%
Had a positive school status	71%

3a. How will the community build on the progress that was made to the youth homeless response system through the original YHDP?

(1,000 Characters)

The Barnstable County Dept. of Human Services, the CoC Collaborative Applicant, is currently working with a consultant on a Continuous Quality Improvement plan to analyze progress since the 2024 launch of our CCP and gather data from YYA with lived experience and partner agencies on prioritization of goals and action steps that are incomplete. The consultant will work with YYA homelessness providers funded through both state and federal streams to ensure that implementation of the CCP meets the unique needs of YYA across the region. Feedback from the YAB and other YYA with lived experience in the past two years has indicated that many YYA are still unaware of the services and resources available to them, and the consultant will help guide efforts, including in our school systems, to broaden connections between the community and YYA homelessness agencies.

3b. What interventions are still needed and how will they be connected to the original YHDP projects?

(1,000 Characters)

During meetings in the Summer and Fall of 2025, the CQI workgroup examined data from HMIS and the state funded youth and young adult (YYA) Homelessness grant providers and identified that YYA under 18 experiencing housing instability should be a focus of information dissemination and increased access to resources. As a result, YAB members and YYA Homelessness providers have expanded connections to school systems across the region and have provided presentations on the services and resources available to students. Additionally, we have been expanding our connections with education and employment resources for YYA, and action steps related to both remain active from our Coordinated Community Plan. Expanded funding for YHDP would provide opportunity to increase these connections and enhance pathways to self-sufficiency for YYA.

YHDP Criteria- Rural

Does the geographic area covered by the application meet the rural definition found in Appendix I Of the Youth Homelessness NOFO? No

Policy Initiative Preference Points

2. Is the geographic area of the YHDP within an Opportunity Zone? No

2a. On the attachments screen, upload a form HUD-2996, Certification for Opportunity Zone Preference Points on the Attachments screen.

3. Provide the policy or statement the community applicant has in place to ensure that all housing projects submitted by the YHDP Community Applicant will not operate drug injection sites or "safe consumption sites," knowingly distribute drug paraphernalia on or off of property under their control, knowingly permit the use or distribution of illicit drugs on property under their control, or conduct, permit, encourage, or allow any of these activities under the pretext of "harm reduction".

(Maximum 2000 characters)

The Cape and Islands Continuum of Care (CoC) prohibits CoC-funded housing projects from operating drug injection sites or "safe consumption sites", knowingly distributing drug paraphernalia on or off property under their control, knowingly permitting the use or distribution of illicit drugs on property under their control, or conducting, permitting, encouraging, or allowing any of these activities under the pretext of "harm reduction."

All CoC-funded housing project grantees and subrecipients shall:

1. Not knowingly permit the use or distribution of illicit drugs within or on property under the control of the CoC-funded project;
2. Not allow any CoC-funded housing project or property under the control of the project to operate as a "safe consumption site" or drug injection site for the use of illicit drugs, including intravenous drug use;
3. Not knowingly distribute drug paraphernalia to program participants or other individuals within or on property under the control of the CoC-funded project, or through project-sponsored activities;
4. Not conduct, permit, encourage, or allow any of the above activities under the pretext of "harm reduction."

Projects determined by the CoC to be in violation of this policy may be subject to corrective action, reduced ranking score, conditional funding recommendations, reallocation consideration, or other remedies deemed appropriate by the CoC.

The Cape and Islands Continuum of Care encourages the provision of a wide range of options for unstably housed individuals and families throughout the region to meet their individual preferences and needs, including sober living and recovery housing. The Cape and Islands Continuum of Care will not restrict or prohibit CoC-funded housing projects that require program participants to be sober or to participate in treatment as a condition of assistance in accordance with 24 CFR 578.

Attachments

Document Type	Required?	Document Description	Date Attached
1) Subrecipient Nonprofit Documentation	No		
2) Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)	No		
3) HUD Applicant Recipient Disclosure Report (HUD-2880)	No		
4) Applicant and Recipient Assurances and Certifications (HUD-424B)	No		
5) Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)	No		
6) Lobbying Form	No		
7) Drug-Free Workplace (HUD 500-70)	No		
8) Tribal Consent	No		
9) Other	No	Cape and Islands ...	08/05/2026

Attachment Details

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Document Description: Cape and Islands Youth Action Board Letter of Support

Submission Summary

Ensure that the Project Priority List is complete prior to submitting.

Page	Last Updated
1A. Application Type	08/03/2026
General- Community Connections	08/05/2026
General- Safe Communities	08/05/2026
YHDP- Community Coordination	08/05/2026
YHDP- System Planning & Data	08/05/2026
YHDP- Rural	08/03/2026
Policy Initiative Preference Points	08/05/2026
Attachments	08/05/2026
Submission Summary	No Input Required

Attn: US Department of Housing and Urban Development, SNAPS Office

Re: MA-503 YHDP New Application Approval

To Whom it May Concern,

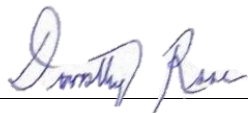
The MA-503 Youth Action Board is writing this letter to express our approval for the following project applications to be submitted to HUD by August 10, 2026. We have remained an active partner with Barnstable County and the Homeless Prevention Council and feel strongly that these projects represent the core goals and values of our community, as it relates to youth and young adult homelessness. Throughout the development of designing these programs, we have given valuable feedback on the needs of young adults within the community and how the programs can meet those needs. We look forward to our continued partnership with Barnstable County and the Homeless Prevention Council to make a lasting, positive, impact in the housing instability of our communities' Youth and Young Adults:

Project Type	Administering Organization
YHDP Community Application	Barnstable County, Human Services
Host Homes Project (SSO)	Homeless Prevention Council
Mobile Youth Outreach (SSO)	Homeless Prevention Council

We look forward to the continued access of these vital resources for youth and young adults in our community.

Signed,

Cape Cod and Islands Youth Action Board



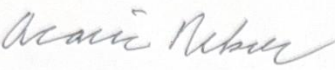
7/20/26

Leadership Team Member



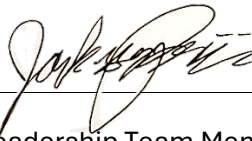
7/20/26

Leadership Team Member



7/20/26

Leadership Team Member



7/20/26

Leadership Team Member