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Balance of State CoC

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# **YOUTH HOMELESSNESS DEMONSTRATION PROJECT**

# Balance of State CoC Overview

The BOS is a 501(c)3 organization that serves as the CoC for 69 of Wisconsin's 72 counties (all except Dane, Milwaukee and Racine)

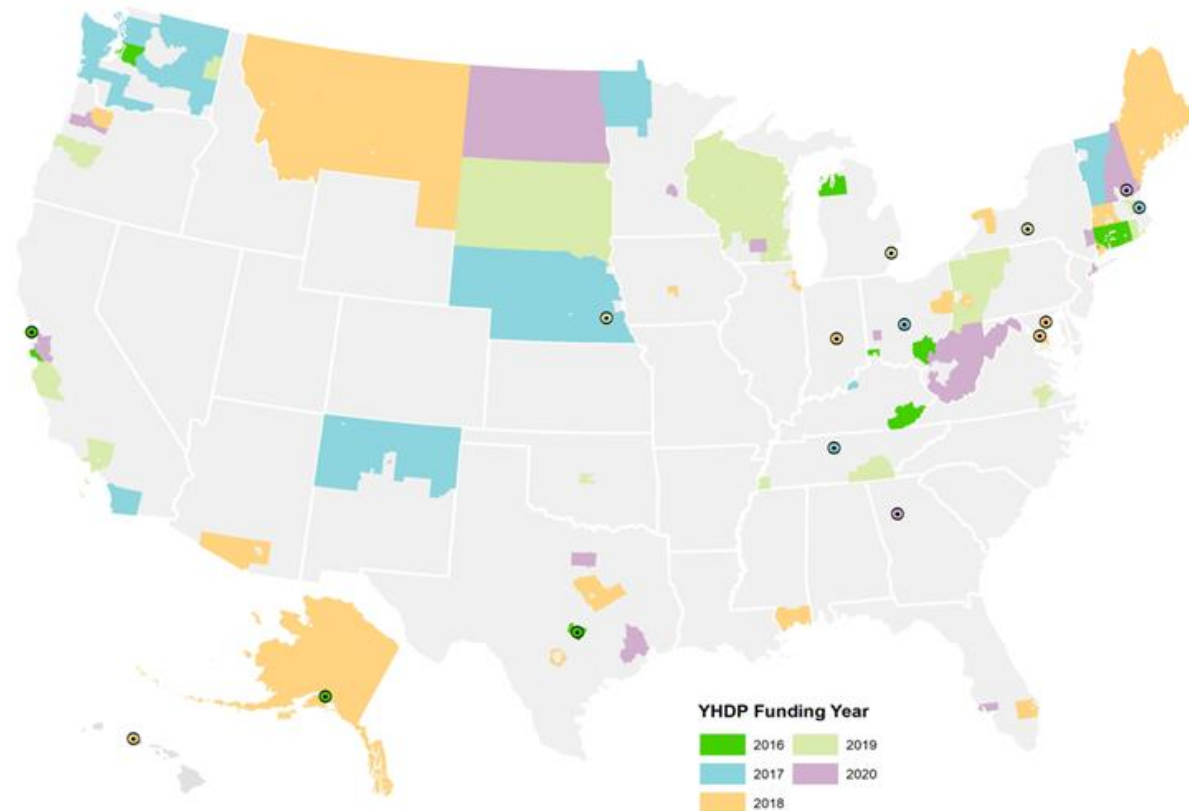
The mission of the organization is to **end homelessness** by supporting local coalitions throughout Wisconsin.

The BOS is comprised of **21 local coalitions**. Each make up a "member" of the organization.

"Ending homelessness" means every community will have a systematic response in place that ensures homelessness is prevented whenever possible, or if it can't be prevented, it is a **rare, brief, and non-recurring** experience.



# The BOS was awarded \$7.9 million for 2 years.



Congress appropriated \$145 million to HUD for these rounds of YHDP



Competition was available to all 400+ CoCs in the nation



WI BOS is 1 of 33 CoCs in the nation engaging in this work



WI BOS is joined by 46 YHDP communities from Rounds 1, 2, 3

**“We all have a story and circumstances that got us where we are. That doesn’t make one person less important than another. Things are temporary, situations change and people grow if they have the support and resources they need.”**

**- COC YAB MEMBER**

<https://www.wiboscoc.org/yab.html>

# **COORDINATED COMMUNITY PLAN**



# YHDP In Action

## Youth Action Board (YAB)

- Active local/regional YAB in 11 areas with ongoing recruitment
- Each have opportunity to select someone to represent their local group on the CoC-wide YAB
- CoC-wide YAB meets every Wednesday evening (virtual)
- All youth receive compensation (\$15/hour, mileage, supplies):
  - ✓ Local/regional YAB = through 12/2023
  - ✓ CoC wide YAB = ongoing
- All plans & projects required YAB approval
- Authentic youth voice & leadership

## Coordinated Community Plan (CCP)

- Balance of State's plan was submitted to HUD and approved.
- The plan includes:
  - ✓ Mission & Vision
  - ✓ Statement of Need (data)
  - ✓ 5 Goals, 23 Objectives, 74 Action Steps
  - ✓ Governance Structure
  - ✓ Stakeholders – Current & Future
  - ✓ YHDP Values & Principles
  - ✓ New Project List
- The Appendix includes 12 local coalition plans incorporated into the CoC plan.
- Letters of support by DCF & DPI; signatures of Interagency Council, ICA, WAHRS, CoC wide YAB, CoC Board

## Projects

- Applicants were scored & selected by CoC reviewers & CoCYAB
- Projects had to connect to local coalition plan goals & objectives
- Start date: 10/1/22
- Submitted for funding:
  - ✓ 4 Transitional Housing/Rapid Rehousing projects
  - ✓ 1 Rapid Rehousing project
  - ✓ 1 Drop in Center Staffing project
  - ✓ 1 Rural Mobile Outreach project
  - ✓ 2 Diversion & Outreach projects
  - ✓ 1 Coordinated Entry – Youth project
  - ✓ 1 HMIS – youth specific project
  - ✓ 1 System Navigator project

# Goals



- (1) **Stable Housing** – Youth and young adults are immediately provided with safe, supported, and flexible housing options that reflect their individual needs and pave the way for long term, sustainable housing
- (2) **Permanent Connections** – Youth and young adults are supported in cultivating consistent, self-identified people who can respectfully guide, support and advocate with them to get their needs met;
- (3) **Education and Employment** – Youth and young adults have access to educational resources to achieve their career goals, helping to prevent homelessness for at-risk youth and young adults and create sustainable pathways to income and housing for youth and young adults experiencing homelessness;
- (4) **Social and Emotional Wellbeing** – The health and well-being of youth and young adults are prioritized by meeting youth where they are and providing them with the resources and supports they need to achieve happiness, health, self-sufficiency, and self-actualization.
- (5) **Systems Change** – Increase cross-system coordination and collaboration with a commitment to authentic youth voice.



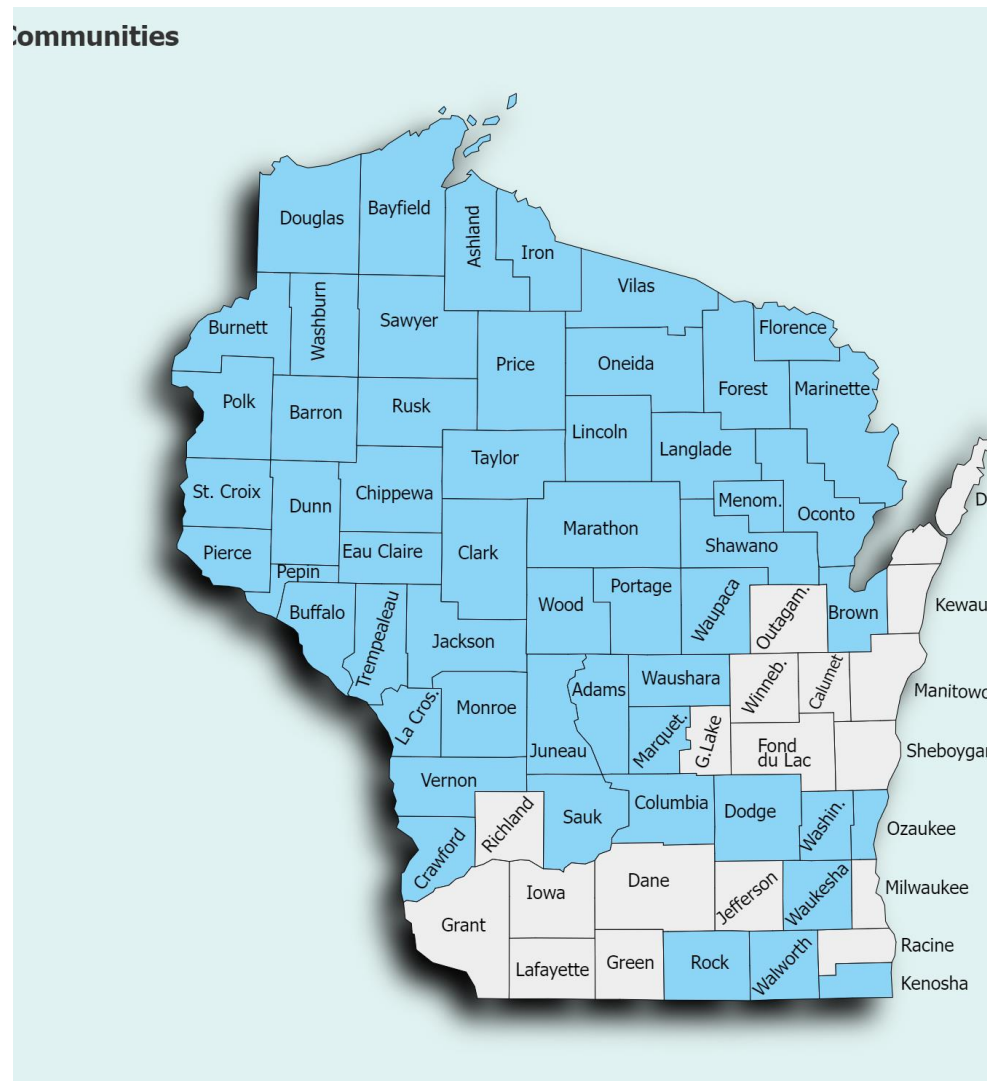
Goal 3: Education and Employment: All youth and young adults have access to educational resources to achieve their career goals, helping to prevent homelessness for at-risk youth and young adults and create sustainable pathways to income and housing for youth and young adults experiencing homelessness		
Actions	Responsible Party	Start Date
Objective 3.1: Improve partnership between educational system, stakeholders and CoC		
3.1.1. Leverage relationship with Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to ensure all homeless liaisons in the Balance of State CoC have access to Coordinated Entry, contact information for System Navigators and resources available for youth in their school districts	CoC Staff, SSO CE Staff, DPI, and Homeless Liaisons	Fall 2022
3.1.2 Provide DPI and Homeless Liaison with education around homeless service system, resources, YHDP, and best practices	CoC Staff	Fall 2022
Objective 3.2: Support the development of education partnerships		
3.2.1. Identify education resources that prioritize youth & young adults experiencing homelessness (i.e., WI Technical College System and higher education partners); solidify partnerships with an MOU	CoC Staff and Local Coalitions	Summer 2022
Objective 3.3 Identify opportunities with and develop partnerships with early care providers.		
3.3.1. Identify early head start and head start programs in the Balance of State CoC	CoC Staff	Fall 2022
3.3.2. Provide YHDP training to early head start and head start organizations and establish MOUs to ensure quality coordination of service	CoC Staff	Winter 2022
3.3.3. Leverage relationship with Department of Children and Families (DCF) and DPI to ensure all early head start and head start programs have access to CE, contact for YHDP System Navigator and resources available for the youth in their area	CoC Staff	Winter 2022

Objective 3.4. Improve CoC policy around education		
3.4.1. Revisit the existing Balance of State CoC Education of Homeless and Youth policy. The purpose of the policy is to ensure CoC-funded agencies in the Balance of State CoC inform program participants of their eligibility for education services and ensure their access to those services under Subtitle VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act	CoC Staff and CoC YAB	Summer 2022
3.4.2. Provide education and training to SSO CE staff and CoC funded housing program staff around categories of homelessness. Expanding education and training to other referral partners i.e., RHY providers, school district staff, Boys and Girls Club staff	CoC Staff and WAHRS	Fall 2022
Objective 3.5. Support the development of employment partnerships		
3.5.1. Provide YHDP training to workforce development board organizations, expand opportunities and education around the needs of YYA and revisit existing MOUs to ensure quality coordination of service	CoC Staff	Winter 2022
3.5.2 Educate CoC providers about programs and resources within the Department of Workforce Development (DWD)	CoC Staff	Fall 2022
3.5.3. Establish a partnership with DWD to address opportunities for collaboration as it relates to the intersection of homelessness of youth and young adults, training and employment opportunities	CoC Staff	Winter 2022

[Defining success as] We need people to be more open minded. To give us a chance, to listen to us. Not being judged on paper or on file. That would be great.

Local Coalition YAB Member

# After all is said and done...



## Direct Grantees:

- 5 Housing Projects
- 4 Supportive Service Only (SSO)

## WI BOS Projects

- SSO Coordinated Entry (16 Coalitions)
- SSO System Navigator (16 Coalitions)
- HMIS



# Projects

YHDP funding can serve at-risk or unaccompanied youth and pregnant and parenting youth who are:

- Under age 25
- Meet criteria of HUD's definition of homeless
  - Category 1 = Literally homeless – unsheltered, emergency shelter
  - Category 2 = imminently lose housing (14 days) – lease, doubled up, couch surfing, hotel
  - Category 3\* = unaccompanied youth & homeless families, other federal definition  
*\*Requires HUD approval, no community has achieved this yet*
  - Category 4 = fleeing or attempting to flee violence or other life threatening conditions

Goal is to make youth homelessness RARE, BRIEF, and ONE TIME

- To achieve rare = front porch services
  - ✓ outreach,
  - ✓ diversion,
  - ✓ navigation
- To achieve brief = crisis services
  - ✓ crisis housing
  - ✓ Kinship care
- To achieve one time = permanent housing
  - ✓ joint transitional-rapid rehousing,
  - ✓ Rapid re-housing,
  - ✓ Permanent supportive housing

# BOS YHDP Direct Grantees



## YHDP Housing Project

- KHDS Joint TH/RRH - Kenosha
- Salvation Army of St. Croix Joint TH/RRH - West Central (minus Chippewa) and Rural North
- Hebron House Joint TH/RRH - Waukesha, Ozaukee, Washington (WOW Region)
- CWCAC Joint TH/RRH – Central
- ECHO RRH (partner with Project 16:49) – Rock Walworth

## YHDP non-Housing Projects

- House of Hope Drop-In Center (Outreach) – Brown
- Western Dairyland Navigator - Dairyland plus Chippewa county
- YWCA La Crosse Navigator – Coulee
- Newcap Outreach - Northeast and NWISH
- ICA HMIS - All YHDP Project areas, support to the system

## System Navigator Project

Balance of State CoC will sub-contract with an agency in each of the 17 YHDP participating coalitions to hire a system navigator to:

Provide a single point of contact within each local coalition for youth to help with navigating complex systems in addition to housing needs

Collaborate with education, law enforcement, juvenile justice systems, foster care services, and social service providers (e.g., health care, SNAPs, workforce programs) to connect youth to the coordinated prevention and diversion resources.

Support community partners meet the needs of youth and serve as a safe and supportive resource for those not presenting in the existing homeless service system.

Support and facilitate the local youth action group to ensure that authentic youth voice continues and become integrated into decision-making within the local coalition.

# WI BOS YHDP System Navigator



- House of Hope (Brown)
- Central Wisconsin Community Action Council (Central)
- YWCA La Crosse (Coulee)
- Eau Claire County HHS (Dairyland)
- Boys and Girls Club of Portage County (East Central)
- Kenosha Human Development Services (Kenosha)
- North Central Community Action Program (North Central)
- Newcap (Northeast and NWISH)
- Northwest Community Services Agency (Northwest)
- Family Promise Ozaukee (Ozaukee)
- ECHO (Rock Walworth)
- Salvation Army of St. Croix (Rural North and West Central)
- The Youth and Family Project (Washington)
- Hebron House (Waukesha)

# Collaboration Opportunities

Our CoC meets quarterly to provide training, speakers, big picture discussion, and business meetings.

- Open invitation for attendance
- Opportunities to present to larger membership
- Chance to run as a board member and serve on committees
- Collaboration with local & statewide providers
- Participate in system change, advocacy, & policy change with CoC
- Provide financial support to large scale initiatives (such as the System Navigator)

Each of the 21 local continua have meetings to discuss and problem solve how to end homelessness.

- Difference between direct service staff and decision makers
- Gather feedback directly from local providers
- Participate in funding allocation conversations at the local level
- Work with individual projects to provide joint case management & participate on teams
- Join the team to end youth homelessness at local level

Work with the Statewide Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

- Data collected is used in advocacy, gaps and needs analysis, funding prioritization, and additional collaboration opportunities.
- Enter into data-sharing agreement between agency & Institute for Community Alliances (WI HMIS lead)

Participate in Coordinated Entry as a referring entity

- Join the “no wrong door” system
- Options to complete a pre-screen form, assessment, referral, and conduct follow-up
- Help inform local decision makers of the need in the community by making connections

# Contact Information



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