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INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

Action Plan Meeting – July 16, 2018 - Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Commission



MISSION

Support the vision of ending youth homelessness in MA by creating the infrastructure and dedicating resources that will insure that youth and young adult (YYA) homelessness is rare, brief and non-recurring and where every YYA is safe supported and able to use their strengths fully.

WORK TO DATE

- The ID and Connection Work Group has successfully implemented 4 years of Annual Youth Counts and surveys including the one conducted in May of 2017.
- Dr. Laurie Ross from Clark University has analyzed and developed a report on the 2017 Youth Count and Survey available on line.
- The Massachusetts State Plan to End youth Homelessness has been published and work has begun on implementation of the plan.
- EOHHS and the youth commission have partnered with the Dept. of Higher Education to fund a pilot project in state colleges to house and support homeless students and facilitate their graduation.



Implementation of MA State Plan to End Youth Homelessness

The six primary recommendations of the Plan are as follows:

- Implement a coordinated statewide response to youth homelessness
- Expand the current spectrum of accountable and evidence –informed models of housing and services
- Enhance early identification, connection and outreach systems to improve young people’s connections
- Improve education, employment and credentialing opportunities in order to support young people’s access to long term, sustainable employment and income.
- Create systematic outcome measurement systems and data-sharing opportunities
- Create a structure to support authentic youth and young adult involvement statewide.



- Engage a director or consultant to continue the implementation of the Plan in early FY'19.
- Monitor and update the Action Plan of the youth plan to insure accountability and measure progress. Prioritize engagement of youth providers and regional networks in developing Youth Action Boards, implementing a Needs Assessment and testing a new protocol to support the transitioning of youth from high school to college.
- The Youth Commission will support the Department of Higher Education and MA public colleges and universities to do outreach and engagement of students in MA public college system who are experiencing food insecurity and housing instability.
- The Youth Commission will work with DHE to implement a pilot housing program for homeless students in two state college locations beginning in September of 2019.

Report and analysis of the MA Youth Count and Survey conducted in May of 2018 will be published in September of 2018

- Issue RFP for youth funding to support a regionally based statewide intervention and response to youth who are experiencing homelessness and housing instability.