Ending Youth Homelessness
Indianapolis Action Plan

In 2010, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) introduced *Opening Doors*, the first federal strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness. The plan set key goals that included ending homelessness among youth by 2020.

In Indianapolis, the Homeless Youth Taskforce was formed, and the Continuum of Care began planning to help create a path to ending homelessness for youth. The Homeless Youth Taskforce acts as the steering committee for this plan, and will examine options for youth experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, including RR and PSH interventions, developing a prevention system, and coordinating with school and other youth service organizations to identify youth and connect them to appropriate resources.

What are our goals?

Primary goal:

- Every identified homeless youth ages 18-24 living on the streets or in emergency shelter is provided permanent housing within 30 days of identification, unless they choose to enter transitional housing or a long-term treatment program

Additional goals:

- Serve all homeless youth ages 13-24
- Assure a collaborative and coordinated response system to prevent and end homelessness among youth
- Base our actions on evidence based strategies and our community results
- Evaluate and report our successes and challenges regularly to inform the community and to engage stakeholders to remove barriers or to leverage needed resources

How many youth experiencing homelessness are there in the Indianapolis area?

The chart below highlights the homeless youth documented through our Point in Time process:

Year	Total Homeless Youth (18-24 years)
2012	103
2013	109
2014	149
2015	121
2016	120

The number of youth experiencing homelessness has been increasing slowly from 2012 to the latest 2016 Point in Time count.

What do we mean by ending youth homelessness?

In this plan, ending homelessness is defined as having a system in place that prevents homelessness whenever possible and, when it cannot, implements strategies to assure that homelessness is brief, recoverable and non-recurring. The need for a coordinated homeless response system will continue to exist as youth will face ongoing housing crises. Therefore, we seek to develop a system to include prevention and services, as well as rapid rehousing.

Who will manage this process?

The Homeless Youth Taskforce will act as the steering committee, developing and managing an action plan with key strategies and clear ways to measure success. The group will seek to include all relevant organizations serving homeless youth and preventing homelessness.

How are we defining homeless youth?

For the purpose of this plan, youth will be defined as ages 13 to 24. However, we recognize that federally funded youth housing programs target ages 18 to 24, so we will put special emphasis on housing for this age range. We will focus on those younger than 18 through collaborative approaches with schools and McKinney-Vento Liaisons.

Who is part of the Youth Homeless Taskforce?

The Youth Homelessness Taskforce is a team of nonprofit organizations, schools, government agencies, and others whose goal is to end youth homelessness, as defined by the community, by July 1, 2020 and to demonstrate it by December 1, 2020. The efforts of the taskforce are coordinated through monthly meetings, regular phone and email coordination, and the development and utilization of a Master List to identify and serve all homeless youth in Marion County. The following entities are active in the Taskforce:

Coalition for Homelessness Intervention and Prevention (CHIP)
Pike Township Schools
Outreach Inc.
Indianapolis Public Schools
Washington Township Schools
Adult & Child
NAEHCY
Midtown Mental Health
IYG
StopOver Inc.
The Children's Bureau
Connected By 25
United Way of Central Indiana
Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis
Public Policy Institute
Cummins Behavioral Health Systems

Who else will we target to become involved?

Starfish Initiative
CLD
Human trafficking organizations
IndyPendence
Youth Build
Foster Care
Libraries
Family Promise
Ivy Tech
UIndy
Harriosn Arts
Excel Centers
AGAPE
Domestic Violence Network
Goodwill
Charter schools
Child Advocates
Legal Aid
Juvenile Justice
YMCA

What are the key action steps in the Action Plan to End Youth Homelessness in Indianapolis?

The chart below highlights some key action steps:

Ending Youth Homelessness Action Plan			
Goal	**Action Step**	**Primary Responsible Organization**	**Status or Deadline**
Establish a Steering Committee	Establish the Youth Homelessness Taskforce as the Steering Committee to oversee the end to youth homelessness	CHIP	Complete
	Identify chairs of the Youth Homelessness Taskforce	Steering Committee	Complete
	Define the end of homelessness in Indianapolis	Steering Committee	Complete
Coordinate Youth Homeless Services with other community programs	Assure integration with iHOST program	Steering Committee	11/15/16
	Enhance cohesive exits from foster care and legal programs	Steering Committee	Ongoing

	Educate McKinney Vento liaisons and youth serving programs about homeless youth options	Steering Committee	1/15/17
Create Master List of homeless youth	Establish HMIS protocols to allow for Master List creation	CHIP	Complete
	Assure youth providers are entering ROIs into HMIS to generate comprehensive list	CHIP	Pending
	Establish and implement protocols for participation for all organizations	Steering Committee	12/01/16
	Increase shelter participation HMIS to create a more comprehensive list	Wheeler and CHIP	11/01/16
	Assess other gaps in HMIS data and develop a plan to ensure information for all homeless youth are entered into the master list	Steering Committee	01/30/17
Weekly case conferencing for homeless youth	Establish regular meeting times for case conferencing	Steering Committee	07/01/17
	Determine prioritization process for client evaluation and intervention	Steering Committee	07/15/17
	Evaluate success of conferencing process at monthly taskforce meetings	Steering Committee	Ongoing
Establish coordinated entry for all homeless youth	Define how coordinated entry will work for youth	Coordinated Entry Work Group	03/15/17
	Implement interim coordination process to ensure all youth are identified and engaged	Steering Committee	04/30/17
	Facilitate the implementation of a coordinated entry process for youth	CHIP	12/01/17
	Integrate coordinated entry efforts with CoC efforts	Steering Committee	01/30/18
Integrate transitional housing as short-term bridge to permanent housing	Determine the best times and ways to engage youth in transitional housing programs	Steering Committee	02/15/17
	Ensure all providers offer clients permanent housing before transitional housing	Steering Committee	07/15/17

Swiftly move youth into permanent housing	Analyze existing permanent housing resources against anticipated inflow to see if there are any resource gaps	CHIP	
	Identify sufficient permanent housing	Steering Committee	06/15/17
	Monitor number of youth housed every month with the goal of housing more youth than enter homelessness each month	Steering Committee	Ongoing
	End youth homelessness	Steering Committee	06/15/19
Identify and prevent at-risk youth who are in danger of losing their homes from falling into homelessness	Coordinate effort to respond to housing crises	Steering Committee	02/15/19
	Reduce number of youth identified in the annual PIT count	CHIP	01-30-18