

THE TEN ESSENTIALS

What Your Community Needs To Do To End Youth Homelessness

The National Partnership to End Youth Homelessness has developed the following checklist as a guide to help communities identify the minimum requirements for an effective permanent solution to prevent and end youth homelessness.

The essentials are based on the National Alliance to End Homelessness's Ten Essentials for Ending Homelessness in Your Community and the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness, which draws from over twenty years of research and experience with communities around the country. For the purposes of this Toolkit, we have slightly modified the essentials to respond to the unique housing and service needs of homeless youth.

No essential is more important than another. All require participation from every sector of the community.

PLAN

Your community has a set of strategies focused on ending youth homelessness. A wide range of players (government programs, elected officials, homeless providers, etc.) has made funding and implementation commitments to these strategies.

DATA

Your community has a homelessness management information system that can be analyzed to assess how long youth are homeless, what their needs are, what the causes of homelessness are, how people interact with mainstream systems of care, the effectiveness of interventions, and the number of homeless youth.

EMERGENCY PREVENTION

Your community has in place an emergency homelessness prevention program that includes crisis counseling, family reunification services, rent assistance, and landlord intervention.

SYSTEMS PREVENTION

- I. Mainstream programs (child welfare, juvenile corrections, mental health, etc.) that provide care and services to youth consistently assess and respond to their housing needs.
- II. There is placement in stable housing for all people being released from public institutions.

OUTREACH

Your community has an outreach and engagement system designed to reduce barriers and encourage homeless youth so that they enter appropriate housing linked with appropriate services.

YOUTH HOUSING CONTINUUM

The youth shelter and transitional housing system in your community is organized to reduce or minimize the length of time youth remain homeless, and the number of times they become homeless. Outcome measures will be key to this effort.

Your community has skilled housing search and housing placement services available for homeless youth and young adults who cannot be reunified with their families.

SERVICES

When youth are housed, they have rapid access to funded services, and mainstream programs provide the bulk of these services.

- A) Health, Mental Health, Substance Use Disorder
- B) Parenting classes, Life Skills, etc.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

To better serve youth, agencies and providers should engage youth in meaningful ways, shifting their role as a recipient of service to that of a leader and decision-maker in program development, delivery, and evaluation, organizational management, and advocacy.

PERMANENT HOUSING

- I. Your community has a sufficient supply of permanent supportive housing to meet the needs of all chronically homeless youth.
- II. Your community is implementing a plan to fully address the permanent housing needs of extremely low-income people.

INCOME

When it is necessary in order to obtain housing, your community assists homeless youth to secure enough income to afford rent, by rapidly linking them with employment and/or benefits. It also connects them to opportunities for increasing their incomes through educational and vocational programs.

