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	YHDP-Rockland County CoC
2. Type of Submission:	Both

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)

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)

Young people with lived experience will be actively involved in the implementation and operation of The Launch Pad through structured opportunities for leadership, feedback, and shared decision-making. Youth participants will engage in regular focus groups, surveys, and individual feedback sessions to inform program operations, service delivery, and ongoing improvements. Their input will help shape how services are designed and adapted to meet emerging needs.

Participants will also play a central role in developing and updating their individualized transition plans by identifying priorities, selecting preferred supports, evaluating progress, and recommending changes as their goals evolve. This process ensures services remain youth-driven and responsive.

Youth will provide direct input into program operations through the Access Advisory Committee, offering recommendations on program accessibility, engagement strategies, and service effectiveness. Feedback will be documented, reviewed by program leadership, and incorporated into continuous quality improvement efforts. Program staff will communicate resulting changes back to participants, ensuring transparency and demonstrating how youth feedback drives decision-making. Through these activities, young people with lived experience will serve as active partners in the implementation and operation of the YHDP project.

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

(2,000 characters)

Young people with lived experience will play a leadership role in the implementation and operation of the YHSI project through participation in the Youth Advisory Council (YAC). The YAC will serve as a formal structure for youth engagement, ensuring that young people help inform system planning, policy development, and decision-making across the Continuum of Care.

Supported by a Youth Peer Leadership Coordinator with lived experience, Council members will review policies, procedures, outreach materials, and project resources to ensure they are youth-informed, accessible, and responsive to the needs of young people experiencing homelessness. Members will also participate in CoC committees and planning efforts, providing recommendations on youth homelessness priorities, system improvement strategies, and coordination of services.

Youth feedback and recommendations will be formally documented and reviewed by project leadership and incorporated into planning and continuous quality improvement efforts. Updates on actions taken in response to youth input will be shared with Council members to promote transparency, accountability, and meaningful youth partnership throughout project implementation and operations.

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)

Funds awarded through this NOFO will support trauma-informed and strengths-based services that promote the social and emotional well-being of youth experiencing homelessness. Staff will be trained to recognize the impacts of trauma, family conflict, foster care or justice system involvement, interrupted education, and behavioral health challenges. Services will emphasize safety, trust, transparency, collaboration, empowerment, and choice while avoiding re-traumatization. Youth will work with staff to develop individualized transition plans addressing housing, education, employment, health, recovery, and permanent connections. Positive Youth Development principles will be reinforced through youth leadership opportunities, including participation in a Youth Advisory Council and CoC planning activities. Youth will also build supportive relationships with staff, peers, mentors, family members when appropriate, educators, employers, and other caring adults who provide guidance, support, and connection.

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)

One key strategy is trauma-informed, strengths-based goal setting combined with independent living skills coaching. Recognizing that many youth have experienced trauma, family conflict, housing instability, foster care involvement, or other challenging life experiences, staff will partner with youth to develop and regularly update individualized transition plans. Using a strengths-based approach, youth will identify goals related to housing, education, employment, health, and recovery while building confidence in their ability to succeed. Life-skills coaching will focus on budgeting, tenancy responsibilities, education and employment readiness, and problem-solving. Setbacks will be viewed as opportunities for learning, accountability, and growth rather than failure. Through ongoing support and skill development, youth will strengthen resilience, personal responsibility, self-sufficiency, and character while preparing for successful and stable adulthood.

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)

The community will implement two primary strategies to promote economic independence & prevent dependence on social services. 1. Education, employment, and career pathways: Launch Pad participants will develop individualized, youth-driven plans addressing education and employment. Staff will provide education and career planning, employment readiness, training, credentialing and career assistance, practical coaching, transportation assistance, and connections to employment and educational organizations. YHSI-funded coordination will strengthen referral pathways among schools, housing providers, child welfare, juvenile justice, behavioral health providers, nonprofits, and other partners. Paid youth feedback participation and elected Youth Advisory Council roles will also provide leadership experience. 2. Financial capability and independent-living skills: Housing Case Managers and Youth Transition Coaches will provide budgeting, financial literacy, benefits assistance, tenancy skills, system navigation, life-skills coaching, and permanent-housing planning. Stable transitional housing will give youth a foundation from which to build skills, resources, earned income, and supportive relationships. Together, these strategies will strengthen self-sufficiency and housing stability and reduce repeated use of crisis systems and long-term reliance on social services.

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

(1,500 characters)

YHSI and YHDP funds will connect at-risk youth to education and life-skills supports through individualized planning, coaching, and cross-system referrals. In The Launch Pad, each participant will co-develop and regularly update a youth-driven transition plan addressing education, employment, housing, health, recovery, and long-term stability. A Housing Case Manager and Youth Transition Coach will connect youth to education, training, credentialing, career services, and community resources while providing budgeting, financial literacy, benefits assistance, tenancy skills, transportation support, system navigation, and permanent housing planning. Youth will set priorities, track progress, and recommend adjustments, promoting self-sufficiency and reduced reliance on social services. YHSI will also establish a Youth Action Council offering paid or stipend-supported leadership, employment, and professional development opportunities. Members will gain experience in program design, peer engagement, systems improvement, and community planning while building communication, facilitation, and workforce readiness skills. Additionally, YHSI will convene schools, child welfare, juvenile justice, behavioral health, housing providers, and nonprofits to strengthen referrals and transitions. A countywide assessment, youth housing survey, system map, and youth-informed Action Plan will identify gaps and improve pathways to education, life-skills training, and employment supports.

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

(1,500 characters)

YHDP funds will connect youth to employment through individualized, youth-driven transition planning and coordinated workforce partnerships. Each Launch Pad participant will work with a Housing Case Manager and Youth Transition Coach to identify education and employment goals, choose preferred supports, track progress, and revise the plan as needed. Services will include education and career planning, employment readiness, individualized training, credentialing and career assistance, transportation assistance, benefits support, financial literacy, and practical coaching. The project will coordinate specialized employment and educational services through Access programs and community partners and collaborate with workforce and educational organizations. YHSI will strengthen these connections at the systems level by convening schools, child welfare, juvenile justice, behavioral health, housing providers, nonprofits, and other partners; reviewing referral pathways; and developing cross-system partnership agreements and an implementation plan. Additionally, YHSI will establish a Youth Action Council that provides youth with paid opportunities for employment, professional development, leadership experience, and a structured career pathway into social services and related fields. Together, these efforts will help youth increase employment, earned income, skills, and housing stability while reducing long-term reliance on social services.

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)

RCCoC cooperates with local government & first responders and does not impede responses to encampments, public drug use, safety crises or SORNA-required information sharing. DSS oversees the County's homelessness response. After hours, police use the Rockland County Sheriff's Office to reach the DSS on-call worker for emergency shelter placement, giving officers a direct path to bring youth indoors. During the annual PIT Count & ongoing outreach, RCCoC/DSS coordinate with Clarkstown PD, Spring Valley PD & the Sheriff's Office to locate unsheltered people, assess needs & connect youth to Coordinated Entry, emergency housing, Catholic Charities' mobile STEHP case managers, Helping Hands & Haverstraw Center/Project EMBRACE. The Behavioral Health Mobile Response Team works with police, EMS & hospitals on crisis assessment, intervention & referral; Greater Mental Health's Rockland Youth ACT Team provides intensive community-based care for youth ages 10-21. Haverstraw Center provides certified SUD prevention/intervention for youth & families, supporting rapid connections from public drug-use encounters. Twice-yearly RCCoC forums update law enforcement & partners on outreach/referral resources. The Legal Aid Society of Rockland County's Executive Director serves as CoC Co-Chair, supporting lawful coordination and access to housing/services. Partners share permitted location and registry information consistent with SORNA & confidentiality requirements.

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)

The 2026 PIT Count identified 27 unsheltered individuals and two of those individuals identified as unaccompanied youth. In Rockland County, agencies work in coordination with law enforcement and government agencies in a quick manner to address tents and encampments that are on public property. Due to the rural geographic area, large-scale public encampments are not common. Parks in Rockland County do not allow temporary housing or encampments and close in the evenings at dusk. Agencies including Catholic Charities Community Services of Rockland and Rockland Helping Hands work daily to monitor, identify, & resolve concerns relating to tents & encampments. Teams learn about youth living outdoors through community members, law enforcement, and government agencies. In collaboration with the Department of Social Services and youth serving agencies, outreach is provided to engage youth in tents or encampments and connect them to safer housing alternatives. Intensive case management is offered to support the youth and assist them by providing garbage bags and transportation resources to help w/ the relocation Agencies maintain regular communication with local law enforcement and government agencies throughout the encampment resolution process to ensure coordinated outreach, connection to appropriate services, and the timely resolution of encampments.

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)

According to the CDC, the status of overdose deaths reported during December 2024 to December 2025 stated Rockland County reported 34 deaths. Data from the Rockland Council on Alcoholism and Other Drug Dependence (RCADD) indicate cannabis, heroin, cocaine, crack cocaine, oxycodone, Xanax, and Opana are among the substances most frequently used in the community. Due to the rural geographic area, it is not common for there to be large gatherings of individuals using illicit drugs in public. Outreach teams conduct outreach shifts throughout the geographic areas, maintaining a presence in the community, including at hotspot locations that youth may congregate including parks, malls, drop-in centers & gas stations. This steady presence in the community helps decrease the public use of illicit drugs & enables staff to quickly connect youth who are using illicit drugs with the appropriate services. Staff receive training in overdose responses, including Narcan & collaboration with emergency medical services to provide immediate intervention & ongoing wraparound support. Rockland County's Drug Treatment Alternative to Prison (DTAP) Program provides individuals facing felony drug charges with the opportunity to participate in community-based residential treatment programs in lieu of incarceration. Community members have access to referrals, education, recovery support, and treatment linkage services through the Rockland Council on Alcoholism and Other Drug Dependence (RCADD).

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

(1,500 characters)

Rockland County address youth who are a danger to themselves and others through a tiered crisis response. Street Outreach staff are trained in Youth & Teen Mental Health First Aid through NYS OMH to recognize warning signs, de-escalate, assess risk & connect youth to care. Samaritan Daytop Village operates Rockland's Behavioral Health Call Center (BHCC) for County Dep. Mental Health. Clinicians & certified peers assess needs, dispatch mobile teams & link callers to ongoing MH/SUD services; BHCC answered 600+ calls within 3 months. Rockland Paramedic Services' Behavioral Health Response Team (BHRT) provides free, confidential, 24/7/365 mobile crisis assessment, intervention, referral & follow-up countywide. When a youth appears mentally ill & likely to cause serious harm, NY Mental Hygiene Law §9.41 permits authorized police/peace officers to take the youth for emergency assessment; §9.58 permits qualified mobile-crisis professionals to remove/direct removal for evaluation. Rockland will prioritize clinically led assessment through BHCC/BHRT; involve EMS/law enforcement when needed; document response decisions; make warm handoffs; & provide follow-up. Access's Launch Pad will use de-escalation & MH/SUD coordination, while YHSI cross-system meetings formalize referral protocols, review responses & use youth feedback to improve practice. These partnerships help ensure timely intervention, stabilization, public safety & connection to appropriate services.

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

(1,500 characters)

Agencies comprehensively share information, including local information in accordance with the Sex Offender Registry and Notification Act (SORNA) to ensure compliance with requirements of the federal and state confidentiality laws. When legally appropriate staff utilize available public registry information to inform decisions regarding the safety, planning and supervision or services provided. Assessment protocols include screening for Sex Offender Registry (SOR) status, with disclosed information documented and addressed in accordance with applicable policies and requirements. If an individual with SOR status reports being new to the community, staff coordinate notification of the individual's change in location with local law enforcement and, when applicable, the law enforcement agency in the jurisdiction from which the individual relocated. This process helps ensure compliance with applicable requirements while supporting access to appropriate services and housing resources. Staff ensure that all collaborating agencies and service providers are informed of an individual's status, as appropriate, and referrals are made only to programs that can serve individuals with SOR status.

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

YHSI Criteria- YHSI Project Proposal

1a. Describe your YHSI project proposal including all proposed YHSI activities consistent with the eligible activities found Section III.G of this NOFO.

(3,500 characters)

1b. Describe what persons or groups are involved in implementing the YHSI project activities and what role they will take.

(2,000 characters)

1c. Describe the concrete deliverables (concrete changes, projects or other tangible outcomes) that will result from the YHSI activity and an estimated timeframe for the implementation of the activity.

(2,000 characters)

2a. List the specific needs that have been identified in the community that the proposed YHSI activities will address. Identified need should be related to current system deficiencies, inefficiencies, or missed opportunities in the youth homeless response system.

(1,500 characters)

2b. Describe how the proposed YHSI activities will address the identified needs needs

(1,500 characters)

3. On the attachments screen, upload a SF-424 CBW form that outlines the anticipated costs of the YHSI project plan.

4a. Has one or more project partners received YHSI or YHDP funds in the past?

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 Rockland County CoC works closely with New Square Housing Authority (NSHA), Rockland County Department of Social Services, and NYS Homes & Community Renewal (HCR) to expand affordable housing opportunities for people experiencing homelessness, including youth and young adults. Through coordination and collaboration, the CoC helped secure a homeless preference in HCR's Administrative Plan, increasing access to Housing Choice Vouchers for households exiting homelessness. The CoC also partnered with HCR to implement the Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) Program, providing an important housing resource for eligible youth experiencing homelessness. Through ongoing data sharing, Coordinated Entry referrals, and strategic planning efforts, the CoC works with housing partners to ensure voucher programs and other housing resources are responsive to community needs and support youth in achieving stable, permanent housing. Access's proposed Launch Pad will prioritize youth aging out of foster care and provide housing navigation, landlord relations, life-skills support, and permanent-housing planning- which will include connections to PHAs.

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)

The YHDP Community Applicant and partners will connect youth with significant disabilities to appropriate housing and supportive services through collaboration with housing, behavioral health, and disability service providers. Through Coordinated Entry, youth with high support needs are assessed, prioritized, and connected to appropriate housing interventions. Case Managers will assist eligible youth with completing Single Point of Access (SPOA) applications & referrals to supportive housing, Health Homes, & other BH services. For youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities, providers will partner with OPWDD to connect them to residential, employment, respite, and community-based support. Engagement w/ OPWDD & disability service providers will support adult transitions & housing stability. CMs will assist youth with obtaining disability documentation & applications for SSI, Medicaid, SNAP & other benefits supporting housing retention & access to care. Case review & cross-system collaboration among service providers, BH agencies, OPWDD, disability orgs., schools, & PSH projects will ensure continuity of care and service delivery. Through Coordinated Entry, SPOA referrals, benefits assistance, OPWDD coordination, and case management, youth with significant disabilities will access permanent housing and the support needed for long-term stability.

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

(1,500 characters)

The YHDP community applicant and Rockland County CoC work closely w/ local school districts, McKinney-Vento Liaisons, the Rockland County Department of Social Services (DSS), & higher education partners to identify & support youth experiencing homelessness. Schools serve as a key referral source, helping connect students experiencing housing instability to housing resources, supportive services, & community-based programs. A key collaborative effort involves St. Thomas Aquinas College, DSS, McKinney-Vento Liaisons, & the Rockland County Youth Bureau. Partners work together to better understand youth homelessness by comparing data on students identified through the McKinney-Vento system. This collaboration helps identify service gaps, improve cross-system coordination, & strengthen outreach to youth who may not be connected to available resources. The community also partners w/ Rockland Community College through the Rockland County Youth Bureau's Summer T.E.E.N. Works Program. Through coordination w/ McKinney-Vento Liaisons, youth experiencing homelessness are connected to workforce development opportunities, supportive services, & pathways toward long-term stability. These partnerships strengthen the community's ability to identify, engage, & support youth & young adults experiencing homelessness.

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 CoC uses a trauma-informed approach to identify & assist youth experiencing or at risk for trafficking, sexual exploitation, domestic violence (DV), sexual assault, stalking, & other traumatic experiences. Street outreach teams are trained on anti-trafficking protocols & partner with service providers, including the Center for Safety & Change & DSS's Safe Harbour Program, to identify youth & connect them to housing, safety planning, CM, crisis services, & survivor-centered supports. The CoC works w/ NYS DV & sexual assault coalitions to ensure policies & Written Standards reflect best practices in trauma-informed care. The Center for Safety & Change serves on the CoC Board, represents on the DV Regional Advisory Board, & partners w/ CARES of NY, Inc. to develop parallel DV CE processes. This ensures survivors of trafficking, DV, sexual assault, dating violence, & stalking can safely access housing that meets their needs. The CoC also relies on the District Attorney's Special Victims Unit (SVU), who partners w/ law enforcement, survivor-service professionals, CPS, & other professionals to investigate crimes involving DV, sexual assault, child abuse, & people at heightened risk. Through the SVU, survivors are connected to direct assistance, medical resources, support, & trauma-informed interventions to reduce trauma & support safety. These partnerships & trainings ensure youth impacted by trafficking, exploitation, abuse, & other traumatic experiences are identified & conne

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 community offers a range of substance use recovery supports for youth, including recovery centers, peer support, family navigation, treatment programs, and sober living. The Foundations Recovery Community Center is operated by the Rockland Council on Alcoholism and Other Drug Dependence (RCADD) and provides community-based recovery support and connections to services. Family Support Navigators and Peer Engagement Specialists offer individualized support, resource navigation, and peer-based mentorship to youth/ families accessing substance use disorder treatment/ recovery services. These programs are available through the Haverstraw Center and RCADD. Additionally, the Teen Intervene research-supported prevention program is available to youth ages 12 to 19 through the Village of Haverstraw. For youth requiring a higher level of care, a range of inpatient and outpatient substance use treatment services are available through providers including Lexington Center for Recovery, Montefiore Nyack Hospital, and Samaritan Daytop Village, Inc. Young adults ages 18 to 25 seeking recovery-focused housing can access sober living opportunities through Oxford House, Emerald House operated by Lexington Center for Recovery, and Rockland Recovery Homes.

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

(1,500 characters)

The Community provides services and connects youth to resources for substance use, including crisis response services through the Rockland Paramedic Services Behavioral Health Response Team that is availably 24/7 as well as Saint Dominic's Family Services Mobile Crisis Support Team. Youth can also call the New York HOPEline to be connected immediately to substance use resources in their community. The Rockland Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (RCADD), Lexington Center for Recovery, Village of Haverstraw Reachout Program, and Montefiore Nyack Hospital's Recovery Center provide long-term treatment opportunities and community recovery supports for youth seeking substance use services.

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 Community provides direct connection and services to youth experiencing mental health use crises through the Rockland Paramedic Services Behavioral Health Response Team. The Behavioral Health Helpline and Mobile Response Team provide mental health outreach services, crisis intervention, referrals, and connections to social support and community-based services without requiring an appointment. Inpatient psychiatric services can be accessed at Rockland Psychiatric Center and Astor Services. Children and Family Treatment and Support Services (CFTSS) which include crisis intervention, community psychiatric support and treatment, psychosocial rehabilitative services, family peer support, and youth peer advocacy and training can be accessed throughout the counties. Rockland Community Services and Greater Mental Health of New York deliver a range of behavioral health services for youth. In addition, youth are connected to around-the-clock crisis resources, including the New York State 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline and Crisis Text Line, providing immediate support, intervention, and linkage to appropriate mental health services.

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

(1,500 characters)

All non-crisis residential transitional housing projects will use supportive-service participation agreements with residents. Each participant will work with program staff to develop an individualized plan addressing housing, education, employment, health, recovery, and permanent connections. The participation agreement will cover appropriate non-disability-related services, including case management, individualized planning, employment-related assistance, life-skills coaching, financial literacy, budgeting, tenancy skills, education and career planning, and permanent-housing planning. The agreement will be reviewed at least every six months and revised sooner when needed. If a participant disengages, staff will first use progressive-engagement strategies, including outreach, reengagement planning, and removal of participation obstacles. Behavioral health and substance-use treatment will be coordinated with qualified community providers.

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?	
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)

The Launch Pad will prioritize the following youth subpopulations who need specialized support services: 1. Youth aging out of foster care or with prior child-welfare involvement: Youth will receive system navigation, benefits assistance, healthcare coordination, peer and wellness supports, and individualized housing, education, and employment planning. The project will also coordinate with foster-care and independent-living providers to ensure continuity of care and support during the transition to adulthood. 2. Youth with substance-use disorders: Services will include recovery support, substance-use treatment coordination, behavioral health services, peer support, and wellness services. Coordination with community-based substance-use treatment providers will ensure access to appropriate clinical and recovery-oriented care. 3. Youth with mental health conditions or co-occurring needs: Support will include behavioral health treatment coordination, mental health services, recovery and peer supports, healthcare coordination, and individualized planning related to housing, education, employment, health, and recovery. The project will work closely with behavioral health providers to ensure integrated and ongoing care.

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)

The Community Applicants' system for identifying eligible youth participants and ensuring timely access to services is centered on the Coordinated Entry (CE) process. Rockland uses a No Wrong Door approach. Youth identified by homeless-service providers or community organizations can be connected to RCDSS or another trained CE point of entry. Youth are screened and assessed using a standardized CE assessment tool designed to identify housing instability, service needs, and eligibility for available interventions. The assessment process helps determine the most appropriate housing and supportive service referrals, ensuring youth are connected to resources that best meet their unique needs, support housing stability, and support long-term well-being.

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

Special Population	
Pregnant and Parenting Youth	The CE assessment identifies whether a participant is pregnant, whether the household includes children under age 18, and whether finding an affordable multi-bedroom unit is a housing challenge. These questions help identify youth who require family-appropriate housing and supports. The community works with Early Head Start, Birthright, Good Counsel, and Healthy Families to help pregnant and parenting youth connect with CE and other available family supports.
System-involved youth (including juvenile justice and child welfare)	The CE assessment asks whether aging out of foster care affected the participant's ability to obtain or maintain stable housing and whether pending or existing legal issues affect housing access. The community works with RCDSS and OCFS, Probation, and Glove House to help youth leaving systems of care connect with CE and available housing resources.
Exploited or trafficked youth	The CE assessment asks whether sexual assault or stalking contributed to homelessness and whether the participant is a survivor of human trafficking. The community will work with the Center for Safety & Change and Safe Harbour to help youth experiencing or at risk of exploitation safely connect with appropriate housing and services. When survivor-specific protections are necessary, connections are made through confidential, consent-based procedures, including an alternative victim-service pathway when appropriate.
Youth in need of substance abuse or mental health services	The CE assessment asks whether substance use within the household affected the participant's living situation, whether substance use or distribution contributed to housing instability, and whether a disabling condition or illness substantially impairs the participant's ability to access or sustain housing. The community works with the Mobile Response Team, Access, Daytop, and Never Alone to help youth connect with CE and appropriate behavioral-health, crisis, treatment, and recovery services. RCDSS also employs Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselors and supports a home-visiting behavioral-health team that includes peer, case-management, and nursing services.

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)

Projects on the YHDP priority listing prioritize family reunification and preservation by providing family-centered prevention and support services designed to keep youth safely connected to their families whenever possible. Rockland County DSS conducts community outreach through schools, nonprofits, and local events to increase awareness of available resources and maintain a Family Services intake line (845-364-3050) to connect families with needed support. For families involved with DSS, caseworkers work to prevent unnecessary family separation by linking parents and youth to counseling, parenting education, mental health treatment, substance use services, and other community-based resources. A key reunification strategy is the Family Assessment Response (FAR) model, which emphasizes family engagement, assessment, and service coordination to address challenges and strengthen family stability while ensuring child safety. Rockland County also utilizes Adolescent Services and PINS Prevention programs, which provide family-focused case management, counseling referrals, and interventions that improve communication, reduce conflict, and prevent out-of-home placements. These efforts are strengthened by community partners that offer parenting support, family counseling, and resource navigation services, ensuring families receive the assistance needed to remain safely together and supporting reunification whenever separation has occurred.

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

(1,500 characters)

The Community Applicant conducted a fair and open process to recruit and select projects for inclusion on the FY24/FY25 YHDP Priority Listing. Following HUD's release of the NOFO, the funding opportunity was broadly advertised through CARES of NY press releases to The Rockland County Times, publication on the CARES website, outreach to local County Websites, distribution to municipalities, CoC Board/ Membership listservs, Civic Roundtable, and community partner networks were notified to ensure all eligible organizations were aware of the opportunity. CARES of NY, the collaborative applicant also engaged the Regional Advisory Board on Youth Homelessness (RABYH), which includes youth-serving organizations, system partners, and individuals with lived experience of homelessness. Eligible organizations were provided equal access to application materials, deadlines, and technical assistance. Applications were reviewed using standardized criteria that assessed community needs, project design, alignment with YHDP goals, organizational capacity, and anticipated outcomes. Final project rankings were based on objective scoring and community priorities established through stakeholder engagement and approved through the Continuum governance process. This approach ensured transparency, fairness, and community participation in developing the YHDP Priority Listing.

YHDP Criteria- System Planning & Data

1. Is the application from an eligible previously awarded YHDP community? No

1a. Describe at least one youth-focused intervention that is not currently operating in the community that the community wishes to pursue OR one intervention that could be improved and capacity increased.

(1,500 Characters)

Rockland County will pursue youth-focused Transitional Housing (TH) through The Launch Pad project, designed to support young adults experiencing homelessness & to transition them into independent living. Rockland currently has no TH beds, including no youth-dedicated or youth-centered housing programs. The Launch Pad will fill this gap by providing 8 scattered-site units that offer safe, stable housing for youth ages 18–24 as they transition to permanent housing (PH) & independent adulthood.

This youth-focused intervention will be paired w/ intensive life skills development through a Youth Transition Coach (YTC) model, ensuring that housing is combined w/ hands-on support in budgeting, employment readiness, edu. planning, tenancy skills, health & wellness, & building permanent connections. The program will prioritize youth w/ foster care involvement, child welfare history, & those experiencing behavioral health(BH), substance use, or co-occurring challenges.

Each participant will receive individualized, youth-driven case management from a Housing Case Manager & YTC who will coordinate housing stabilization, landlord engagement, benefits access, transportation, & referrals to BH & other supp services. Staff will also support participants in securing PH through housing search & placement support. YHDP funding will establish Rockland's first youth-specific TH capacity by supporting leased units, dedicated staffing, supp. services, operations, & HMIS participation.

1b. What data did you use to identify this intervention?

(1,000 Characters)

Rockland identified this intervention by combining HIC/PIT, STELLA/HMIS, McKinney-Vento SIRS, and youth survey data. The 2026 HIC reported zero TH beds. The 2026 PIT identified 3 sheltered and 2 unsheltered unaccompanied youth and noted youth are likely underreported. STELLA recorded 18 child/youth households served from 10/1/24–9/30/25, but only 19% exited to permanent housing. McKinney-Vento identified 2,351 students experiencing homelessness: 2,257 (96%) were doubled up, 38 in hotels/motels, 55 sheltered, and the unsheltered count was suppressed. This data shows that most youth homelessness is outside traditional programs and may be missed by HMIS/PIT. Among 47 substantive survey responses, at least 7 youth clearly reported direct housing instability; youth requested safe temporary housing, affordable options, easier navigation, and trusted support. Together, the data supports youth-specific TH with intensive navigation and permanent-housing planning.

1c. What barriers currently prevent you from implementing or improving the intervention?

(1,500 Characters)

Key barriers are the absence of any existing TH inventory or youth-specific housing infrastructure; insufficient funding to lease scattered-site units and support dedicated youth staff; Rockland's limited affordable rental supply and high rents; and youth's limited income, credit, rental histories, and tenancy experience, which can make landlord recruitment and permanent-housing placement difficult. Youth also must navigate separate adult housing, behavioral health, child welfare, education, workforce, healthcare, and benefit systems, with no single provider consistently coordinating the transition from homelessness to permanent housing. The hidden nature of youth homelessness creates an additional barrier: youth who are doubled up, couch surfing, or staying temporarily with others are less likely to enter HMIS or use adult shelters, making them harder to identify and connect to assistance. YHDP funding would overcome these barriers by supporting eight leases, a Housing Case Manager and Youth Transition Coach, operating and supportive-service costs, landlord engagement, coordinated referrals, and permanent-housing search and placement.

2. Demonstrate how the CoC has used data to develop a strategy to prevent and end youth homelessness.

(2,000 Characters)

Rockland used HIC/PIT, STELLA/HMIS, McKinney-Vento SIRS, and youth survey findings to build a strategy combining early identification, youth-specific housing, coordinated services, and permanent-housing placement. The HIC showed zero TH beds, while PIT and STELLA documented youth using shelters or remaining unsheltered and a low permanent-housing exit rate. This led the community to select The Launch Pad, adding eight scattered-site TH units with individualized permanency planning. McKinney-Vento showed that 96% of 2,351 students experiencing homelessness were doubled up, demonstrating that reliance on adult shelters, PIT, or HMIS alone will miss much of the population. Therefore, referrals will include not only Coordinated Entry but schools, child welfare, the Youth Bureau, DSS, and other youth-serving partners, supporting earlier identification before housing instability becomes prolonged. Youth survey respondents emphasized safe temporary housing, easier navigation, trusted adults, employment, transportation, and behavioral-health support. These findings shaped the Housing Case Manager/Youth Transition Coach model and its focus on income, education, tenancy skills, health, permanent connections, and housing placement. HMIS/STELLA outcomes and youth feedback will be reviewed to track utilization, permanent exits, income, education/employment, and returns to homelessness and adjust the strategy.

3. Describe what strategies and data sources your community will use to measure self-sufficiency and stability outcomes including

Long-term stability/no recidivism and safe and stable housing; (may include longer-term residential treatment centers or facilities)	The community will use HMIS to measure long-term housing stability, safe exits and returns to homelessness. Following HUD System Performance Measure 2 methodology, the CARES Data Team will identify youth who return to the homeless response system after exiting to permanent housing. Safe and stable outcomes will also include exits to permanent housing or, when appropriate, longer-term residential treatment. HMIS admission, housing move-in, annual assessment and exit data will be used to examine time to housing, destination at exit, housing retention and returns to homelessness. Annual KPIs will be established from historical performance and reviewed by project, subpopulation and CoC. Findings will be used to identify disparities, assess project effectiveness and adjust housing, case-management and transition-planning strategies.
Education, employment, and income and career growth;	The community will use HMIS and HUD Annual Performance Report measures to track education, employment, income and career growth from intake through annual assessment and discharge. Education measures will include secondary/post-secondary enrollment and completion, with the primary outcome being the percentage of youth who exit with a post-secondary credential. Income will be measured through APR Questions 19a1 and 19a2, including total and earned income at annual assessment or exit. Career growth will be measured through employment status, job retention, training/credential completion and increases in earned income. KPIs will include the percentage of youth with increased total income, increased earned income and completed education/training milestones. Trends will be reviewed by project and subpopulation to guide service improvements.
Permanent social connections; and	Permanent connections will be measured through a standardized participant assessment completed at intake, annually and at exit, supplemented by case-management records, participant surveys and Youth Action Board feedback. Measures will include whether youth identify at least one reliable adult for advice or emotional support; the strength and consistency of connections with family, mentors, peers, schools, employers and community groups; and whether those connections remain in place at exit. The community will track the percentage of youth who establish or strengthen at least one positive, ongoing connection and review results by project and subpopulation. Findings will guide family-engagement, mentoring, peer-support and community-connection strategies.

Social and emotional well-being.	The community will measure social & emotional well-being by adopting the Youth Thrive Survey, a standardized youth self-report tool administered at intake, annually & exit, supplemented by program records and participant feedback. Measures will assess resilience, stress management, emotional regulation, hope and self-efficacy. With the youth's knowledge and participation, staff may use results to identify strengths, discuss areas for growth and incorporate related goals or referrals into service planning. Aggregate, de-identified results will measure change over time and identify disparities by project and subpopulation. Program records will track behavioral health/recovery referrals, successful connections, engagement and continuity of care. The YHSI Youth Survey will supplement these data by gathering feedback on how programs support social & emotional well-being. Findings will guide trauma-informed, youth-driven service improvements.

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

1. Is the geographic area included in the YHSI project within an Opportunity Zone? No

1a. On the attachments screen, upload a form HUD-2996, Certification for Opportunity Zone Preference Points on the Attachments screen.

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)

YHSI Indirect Costs

1. Does this project propose to allocate funds according to an indirect cost rate?

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 Activies (SF-LLL)	No		
6) Lobbying Form	No		
7) Drug-Free Workplace (HUD 500-70)	No		
8) Tribal Consent	No		
9) Other	No		

Attachment Details

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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	08/03/2026
YHDP- Community Coordination	Please Complete
YHDP- System Planning & Data	08/05/2026
YHDP- Rural	08/05/2026
Policy Initiative Preference Points	Please Complete
YHSI Indirect Costs	Please Complete
Attachments	No Input Required
Submission Summary	No Input Required