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- Ulster 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)

This application was informed by and developed in partnership with youth with lived experience in Ulster County. To ensure the project reflects youth experiences navigating housing instability, a two-tiered youth engagement strategy was implemented. Current/former participants of MidWay, Ulster County's transitional housing program for youth through Family of Woodstock, joined focus groups, listening sessions, & feedback sessions to identify obstacles to housing stability. Youth noted challenges including limited emergency housing options, transportation challenges, difficulty accessing affordable housing, & obstacles to long-term stability. Their input informed project design & shaped service priorities. To broaden youth input they remained engaged throughout planning. Youth reviewed youth homelessness trends, ease of program access, fair service delivery, & youth-led decision-making practices. Recommendations ensured the proposed project/s aligns w/ regional best practices while meeting local needs. Youth from MidWay reviewed narrative responses, provided recommendations, & strengthened the application's focus on flexible access, trauma-informed care, & meaningful youth engagement. By engaging youth w/ lived experience as advisors, reviewers, & co-designers, this application reflects an authentic partnership that elevates youth voice & integrates youth leadership into system-level planning & service design.

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 play an active role in the design, implementation, and operation of the YHDP-funded Foothold Residency project. Youth residents will participate in regular resident meetings to provide feedback on program operations, policies, service delivery, and community-building activities. Feedback will be used to inform program improvements and ensure services remain responsive to participant needs.

Youth will also review and provide input on program rules, expectations, and engagement strategies, helping shape a housing environment that is youth-centered and supportive. Through ongoing feedback opportunities, participants will identify challenges, recommend solutions, and help improve the overall effectiveness of the project.

In addition, youth with lived experience will be trained and supported to serve in peer mentorship roles within Foothold Residency. Peer mentors will assist with welcoming new residents, fostering community connections, sharing resources, and providing informal support based on their lived experience. Through these leadership opportunities, youth will contribute directly to project operations while helping create a program culture grounded in peer support, empowerment, and shared decision-making.

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 hold paid leadership and advisory roles throughout the implementation and operation of the YHSI project. The community will conduct paid monthly listening sessions and establish a paid Regional Youth Advisory Council (YAC) to ensure youth voices guide system improvement efforts.

The YAC will advise the CoC and community partners on key initiatives, including the PIT Count, Coordinated Entry assessments, Rank & Review priorities, youth mobility efforts, resource-awareness activities, and the development of a universal intake process. Youth members will help review and refine tools, policies, and procedures to ensure they are accessible, relevant, and responsive to the needs of young people experiencing homelessness.

Council members will participate in professional development opportunities and may serve in elected peer leadership positions with increased stipends. The YAC will be incorporated into CoC governance structures, ensuring youth perspectives are integrated into planning and decision-making. Recommendations and resulting system changes will be documented, creating accountability and demonstrating the impact of youth leadership on community efforts to prevent and end youth homelessness.

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 a Positive Youth Development (PYD) and Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) framework that promotes the social and emotional well-being of youth experiencing homelessness. Youth will participate in paid listening sessions, a Regional Youth Advisory Council, YHDP advisory activities, and peer mentorship opportunities that foster confidence, competence, connection, and contribution. Strengths-based case management will help youth develop individualized plans related to housing, education, employment, and personal goals, promoting self-determination and resilience. Positive relationships with case managers, peer mentors, family members when appropriate, and community supports will strengthen social connections and belonging. Trauma-informed practices will be integrated throughout services, including youth-friendly intake processes, informed consent, confidentiality protections, and coordinated referrals that minimize re-traumatization.

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 strengths-based case management combined with independent living skills development. Recognizing that trauma and housing instability can disrupt development and limit opportunities to build essential life skills, staff will work with youth to create individualized service plans focused on housing, education, employment, and personal goals. Youth will receive training in financial literacy, household management, transportation, conflict resolution, and employment readiness. Through goal setting, skill-building, and ongoing support, youth will develop greater self-sufficiency, personal responsibility, and confidence. As youth apply these skills and overcome challenges, they strengthen resilience, problem-solving abilities, and character. This approach acknowledges the impact of difficult life experiences while empowering youth to achieve long-term stability and successful transitions to 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)

UCCoC will implement the following strategies to promote economic independence and prevent long-term dependency on social services. 1. Education, Training & Employment: Family of Woodstock participants will set education and/or employment goals in their Individualized Service Plans. Youth who have not completed high school will be supported to re-enroll or enter a GED program. Vocational training will include resume development, interviewing, professional appearance, promptness, workplace expectations, and living-wage career planning. Foothold Residency's Employment & Life Skills Coordinator will partner with the Ulster County Office of Employment and Training and THRIVE ON!'s Early Thriver Program to provide job placement, professional development, and education/training opportunities. YHSI initiatives will provide paid work experience, professional development, and pathways to careers in social services. 2. Independent Living Skills: Youth will receive instruction in financial literacy, time and household management, transportation, grocery shopping, and laundry. Foothold residents will receive help opening bank accounts and accessing eligible benefits and insurance while moving toward employment and stable housing. 3. Transportation: YHSI funds will support solutions to transportation challenges that make it difficult for youth to reach employment, education, and housing, strengthening their ability to obtain and maintain employment and achieve economic independence.

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

(1,500 characters)

UCCoC will connect at-risk youth to school, life-skills training, and job-attainment skills through outreach, individualized planning, direct instruction, and referrals. Family of Woodstock case managers will work with McKinney-Vento liaisons and school social workers across Ulster County's nine school districts. Youth in case management develop an Individualized Service Plan with education, vocational, employment, housing, and life-skills goals. Youth who have not completed high school will be helped to re-enroll or enter a GED program. Life-skills education will include financial literacy, time and household management, transportation, grocery shopping, and laundry. Vocational training will include resumes, interviews, appearance, promptness, and workplace expectations. Foothold Residency will provide an Employment & Life Skills Coordinator, individualized case management, education/training coordination, financial literacy, and leadership and life-skills instruction through One Strike Camps. The program will coordinate with area schools, the Ulster County Office of Employment and Training, and THRIVE ON!'s Early Thriver Program. YHSI will develop a youth-friendly resource guide and system map, formalize referral pathways with schools and workforce agencies, and create an intake and referral process that tracks whether youth connect to services. Transportation guides, driver's-license navigation, and driving-school partnerships will reduce obstacles to school and training.

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

(1,500 characters)

UCCoC will connect youth to employment through direct job-placement partnerships, planning, workforce preparation, and transportation. Foothold Residency's Employment & Life Skills Coordinator will work with the Ulster County Office of Employment and Training and THRIVE ON!'s Early Thriver Program to place residents in jobs and professional-development opportunities. Case managers will help residents track employment, education, housing, and daily-living goals, while financial literacy, bank-account assistance, transportation, and stable housing will support job retention. Family of Woodstock case managers will include employment and vocational training in each participating youth's Individualized Service Plan. Youth will receive resume and interview preparation and instruction on appearance, promptness, and workplace expectations. Youth will be encouraged to pursue living-wage career goals, and case managers may provide transportation to services and opportunities.YHSI will create a youth-friendly system map identifying employment and education services, formalize referral pathways with workforce agencies, and use youth-informed digital outreach to make opportunities easier to find. A Youth Mobility Assessment will identify transportation challenges affecting employment. Transportation guides, driver's-license resources, driving-school partnerships, and meetings among employers, schools, shelters, youth, and transportation providers will improve access.

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)

The Community Applicant works w/ local governments, law enforcement (LE), outreach providers, behavioral health agencies, & community partners to connect youth experiencing homelessness to appropriate services while supporting community efforts related to encampments, shelter access, public safety, substance use, and information sharing in accordance with SORNA. Ulster County CoC includes representatives from local government and law enforcement on its governing board, ensuring coordination between homeless response systems, public safety agencies, and community leaders. This collaboration is further demonstrated by coordinating SO efforts involving SO providers, LE, hospitals, emergency medical services, mental health agencies, & substance use disorder providers. Strategies focus on collaborating w/ partners including human services orgs (Family of Woodstock), culturally informed orgs (Ulster Immigrant Defense Network), faith-based orgs (Catholic Charities), library staff, Ellenville Regional Hospital, City of Kingston EMS, local LE, & Ulster Co. Sheriff Dpt. Ulster County CoC has a relationship w/ Co. Mental Health which administers the Assertive Community Treatment program, multidisciplinary team that engages unsheltered persons experiencing mental health crises. All SO programs use client-centered & trauma-informed approaches, hiring staff w/ lived experience to conduct outreach & ensure client connection to services without requiring adherence to service or treatment.

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 59 unsheltered individuals and one of those individuals identified as an unaccompanied youth. In Ulster 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 Ulster County do not allow temporary housing or encampments and close in the evenings at 9pm. Agencies including ORACLE, Samadhi, and RUPCO 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 that were reported during December 2024 to December 2025 stated that Ulster County reported 25 deaths. The Ulster County Department of Mental Health reported that they have seen a decrease in overdose deaths in 2025 reporting 12 individuals. Non-fatal overdoses also decreased from 346 in 2024 to 281 in 2025. While it is not common for there to be large gatherings of individuals using illicit drugs in public due to the rural geographic area, outreach teams conduct daily shifts throughout the geographic areas, maintaining a presence in the community, including at hotspot locations that youth may hang out at including local parks, malls, drop-in centers & gas stations. This steady presence in the community helps to 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 response, including the use of Narcan & collaboration with emergency medical services to provide immediate intervention & ongoing wraparound support. Ulster County Sherrif's ORACLE Team expanded their outreach in the county over the past year providing referrals, support, education & linkage to treatment & recovery services to individuals in the community.

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

(1,500 characters)

Outreach Staff are trained in Youth and Teen Mental Health First Aid through the New York State Office of Mental Health, equipping them to recognize warning signs, engage youth in crisis, offer support & connect them to mental health and substance use services. Team members carry resources and referral information to assist youth who may pose a danger to themselves or others and are trained to quickly assess situations and coordinate responses with EMS, Ulster County Mobile Mental Health, & Ulster Sheriff's Dept. as needed. Under NY Mental Hygiene Law §9.41, authorized police/peace officers may take a person into custody and direct removal to an authorized hospital or Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program when the person appears mentally ill and is behaving in a manner likely to result in serious harm to self or others (Involuntary Commitment). Under §9.58, a physician/qualified mental health professional on an approved Mobile Crisis Outreach Team may remove or direct removal to an authorized hospital under the same standard. These partnerships help ensure timely intervention, stabilization, public safety & connection to appropriate services. Street Outreach teams provide ongoing case management and care coordination to reduce service disruptions and maintain provider engagement. By connecting behavioral health, housing & supportive service partners, outreach staff support long-term stability, housing access & continued behavioral health support.

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. During assessments, individuals are asked to disclose any Sex Offender Registry (SOR) status, and this information is documented when identified. 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)

UCCoC's goal is to build a coordinated, youth-centered system that helps young people experiencing or at risk of homelessness connect to housing, education, employment, healthcare, mental health, transportation, and supports while strengthening youth leadership, self-sufficiency, and stability. 1. Youth Voice & Leadership: UCCoC will hold monthly paid listening sessions and establish a Regional Youth Advisory Council. Youth will advise the CoC and partners on the PIT Count, Coordinated Entry assessments, Rank & Review priorities, youth mobility, resource awareness, and other system initiatives. Youth will help develop YHSI activities, participate in professional development, and may hold elected peer-leadership roles with increased stipends/pay and can open up career paths in social services. The Council will be incorporated into CoC governance, and youth recommendations and resulting system changes will be documented. These activities will build confidence, competence, connection, responsibility, and contribution. 2. Youth Resource Awareness & Navigation: Youth reported that they often did not know where to seek help and learned about services only through word of mouth or chance encounters. UCCoC will develop a youth-friendly resource guide and system map identifying housing, mental health, transportation, employment, education, healthcare, and other supports. QR-code access, youth-informed social media and digital outreach, trainings, and formal referral pathways with schools and youth systems will make resources easier to find and use. 3. Youth Mobility & Access: Youth described limited bus service, lengthy travel times, and difficulty paying for driving lessons or obtaining a license, affecting their ability to reach jobs, school, appointments, and housing. A Youth Mobility Assessment will map transportation deserts and travel times, analyze access challenges, collect youth feedback, and produce recommendations for county leadership. UCCoC will also create transportation guides, driver's-license navigation resources, and vehicle-ownership education; explore partnerships with driving schools and licensing programs; and convene youth, employers, schools, DSS, shelters, and transportation providers through a Mobility Summit. 4. Coordinated Youth Intake, Referral & Information Sharing: This will be a broad cross-system initiative involving homeless-service providers and systems including mental health and healthcare agencies, workforce and education programs, DSS, juvenile justice, libraries, and housing providers. Partners and youth with lived experience will review current intake, assessment, and referral practices; develop a standardized youth-friendly form; establish referral, follow-up, consent, confidentiality, and information-sharing procedures; identify a secure referral-tracking method; and create recurring cross-system case conferencing. The process will be piloted, evaluated, revised, and supported through partner training in youth-centered, trauma-informed engagement. By reducing duplication, improving coordination, and confirming whether youth connect to services, the project will support stability, self-sufficiency, and timely access to assistance.

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

(2,000 characters)

Young people with lived experience will be central to implementation. They will participate in paid monthly listening sessions and a paid Regional Youth Advisory Council; advise on the PIT Count, Coordinated Entry, Rank & Review, mobility, and resource-awareness activities; help review intake, assessment, and referral practices; provide feedback on proposed tools; and participate in professional development and elected peer-leadership opportunities. A Youth Voice & Leadership Coordinator, preferably a youth with lived experience, will recruit and support the Council, manage stipends/payroll, organize listening sessions and leadership opportunities, involve youth in each initiative, and document youth recommendations and resulting system changes. A Youth Systems Coordination Manager will build partnerships; lead development of the universal intake and referral process, agreements, protocols, referral pathways, resource guide, system map, trainings, and case-conferencing procedures; and track implementation. A Youth Transportation/Mobility Assessment Consultant will conduct the assessment, analyze transportation conditions, map travel times, engage transportation partners, help plan the Mobility Summit, and develop recommendations. CARES will support and expand the coordinated intake initiative. Thrive, the Ulster County Youth Bureau, participating youth-serving agencies, schools, DSS, hospitals, workforce programs, juvenile justice, libraries, housing providers, shelters, employers, transportation providers, driving schools, and licensing programs will help develop referral pathways, participate in meetings and trainings, and implement the resulting tools and procedures.

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)

The YHSI project will produce: paid monthly listening sessions; a paid Regional Youth Advisory Council (YAC); YAC bylaws; peer-leadership roles; a CoC governance update incorporating the YAC; youth recommendations & changes; a youth-friendly resource guide & system map with QR access & digital outreach; referral trainings; a Youth Mobility Assessment & recommendations; a Mobility Summit; transportation & driver's-license tools; transportation partnerships; a standardized Youth Intake & Referral Form; a referral workflow and guide; consent, confidentiality, & information-sharing protocols; secure referral tracking; case-conferencing procedures; partner trainings; & a pilot evaluation & revised intake/referral process. Suggested 30-month timeline: During Months 1–3, UCCoC will hire/contract staff, establish workgroups, finalize stipend procedures, & begin monthly listening sessions. Youth recruitment & relationship-building will occur during Months 2–6. The YAC will launch by Month 4, complete bylaws by Month 6, establish peer-leadership roles by Month 8, & be incorporated into CoC governance by Month 12. Youth recommendations will be documented through Month 30. For Resource Awareness, services will be inventoried during Months 3–8; the guide and system map drafted by Month 10 & launched by Month 12. Trainings & updates will continue through Month 30. The Mobility Assessment will occur during Months 3–18 for data collection, mapping, youth input, & partner engagement. Recommendations will be finalized by Month 18, transport. resource guides by Month 20, & the Mobility Summit by Month 22, with follow-up through Month 30. For Coordinated Intake, partners will review current processes during Months 1–6; develop forms, workflows, protocols, referral tracking, & case-conferencing procedures during Months 6–14; train partners during Months 13–16; pilot during Months 16–22; evaluate & revise during Months 23–25; & expand during Months 26-30.

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)

UCCoC identified several system needs through conversations with youth with lived experience and through system partners. Youth reported not knowing where to seek help and may learn about resources only through word of mouth or chance encounters. Youth asked for information that is easy to find through an app, social media, or other youth-friendly formats. Transportation difficulties were a common theme in interviews. Limited bus routes and schedules and the cost or availability of driver's education, licensing, and vehicles, make it harder to reach housing, employment, education, healthcare, and appointments. Youth may also complete duplicative intake forms and repeatedly share sensitive or traumatic experiences as they move among agencies. Current referral practices do not consistently define partner roles, follow-up expectations, information-sharing procedures, or methods for confirming that youth connected to services. The community also needs a formal, paid structure through which youth with lived experience can influence CoC planning, Coordinated Entry, Rank & Review, resource development, mobility initiatives, and other system decisions.

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

(1,500 characters)

YHSI activities will address these needs through coordinated, youth-informed system improvements. Paid listening sessions and a paid Regional Youth Advisory Council will give youth ongoing leadership and decision-making roles in CoC planning and project development. A youth-friendly resource guide, system map, QR-code access, digital outreach, partner trainings, and formal referral pathways will make housing, mental health, transportation, employment, education, and other supports easier to locate and access.

The Youth Mobility Assessment will map transportation deserts and travel times, collect youth feedback, and produce recommendations for county leadership. Transportation guides, driver's-license resources, vehicle-ownership education, driving-school and licensing partnerships, and a Mobility Summit will support practical and system-level improvements.

A standardized youth-friendly intake and referral form will reduce duplication and repeated retelling of traumatic experiences. Defined referral procedures, follow-up expectations, informed-consent and confidentiality protocols, secure referral tracking, and recurring case conferences will improve coordination and help partners confirm whether youth successfully connected to services. Piloting, youth and staff feedback, revision, and partner training will support consistent implementation.

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 YHDP community applicant works closely with PHAs, affordable housing providers, and mainstream systems to increase access to safe, stable, and affordable housing for youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness. The community has ongoing discussions w/ Kingston Housing Authority to strengthen partnerships & identify opportunities to connect youth to affordable housing resources & supportive housing. A key housing resource for transition-age youth is RUPCO's 7 Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative (ESSHI) units dedicated to youth ages 18-24. These units provide affordable housing w/ supportive services that help youth maintain housing stability, increase income, & work toward long-term self-suff. To support housing stability among parenting youth, community partners coordinate with the Ulster County Department of Social Services Child Care Unit to increase access to childcare subsidies and family support services. Other partnerships w/ Child Care Connections & providers, including Seedling Child Care Center at Golden Hill, ensure that young parents can access affordable childcare while pursuing education, employment & housing goals. These partnerships expand housing opportunities and supportive resources, helping youth and families experiencing homelessness achieve housing stability and long-term success.

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 w/ Single Point of Access (SPOA) apps. in coordination with Ulster County Mental Health & 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 w/ disability docs. & applications for SSI, Medicaid, SNAP, & other benefits supporting housing retention & access to care. Case planning & cross-system collaboration among service providers, BH agencies, OPWDD, disability orgs., schools, & PSH projects will ensure continuity of care and service delivery. Through CE, SPOA, benefits asst., OPWDD coord., & CM, the community will help youth with significant disabilities access permanent housing and the support needed for stability and well-being.

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

(1,500 characters)

The YHDP community applicant collaborates w/ multiple educational providers in the community including Ulster County BOCES, SUNY Ulster, Children's Home of Kingston, THRIVE ON, & McKinney-Vento liaisons to identify & support youth experiencing homelessness. SUNY Ulster connects students experiencing homelessness w/ counseling, support services, career resources, academic access support, & referrals to community-based resources that reduce obstacles to academic success. Family of Woodstock (FOW) offers 24-hour crisis response, case management, counseling, emergency food and clothing assistance, housing support, and other wraparound services for youth and families. Through strong partnerships with local school districts, FOW helps identify students experiencing homelessness and facilitates timely referrals to housing and supportive services that support stability and well-being. The Children's Home of Kingston supports youth with significant emotional, behavioral, and trauma-related needs through therapeutic residential services, educational support, life-skills training, and career planning. The community also partners with THRIVE ON!, whose Early Thriver Program helps youth ages 16–24 build leadership skills, access educational and workforce opportunities, and develop pathways to long-term success. These partnerships help ensure educational continuity, connect youth and families to critical supports, and support long-term stability and positive outcomes.

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)

Ulster County implements a coordinated, trauma-informed strategy to identify & assist youth experiencing or at risk of human trafficking, sexual exploitation, domestic violence (DV), dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, & other traumatic experiences. The Ulster County DSS Interagency Council on DV & Human Trafficking brings together law enforcement (LE), survivor-service professionals, behavioral health (BH) providers, education. institutions, legal services, Family of Woodstock (FOW), & other community stakeholders to strengthen prevention, community awareness, education, identification, & response efforts. The Council hosts annual DV & Human Trafficking Forums, youth-focused prevention initiatives, & community education activities that increase awareness of trafficking indicators & available supports. FOW serves as the primary DV provider as well as the CE DV lead & plays a critical role in identifying & supporting youth. FOW delivers crisis response, shelter, case management, safety planning, counseling, and direct support for youth and families impacted by domestic violence, exploitation, and trafficking. Survivors have access to trauma-informed counseling, court support, housing assistance, & individualized service planning designed to support safety & stability. Through collaboration among victim service providers, schools, BH agencies & LE youth are connected to appropriate housing, supportive services, & survivor-centered resources.

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 crisis support, prevention programs, recovery centers, peer support, family navigation, treatment programs, and recovery housing. The Access: Supports for Living Urgent Care provides immediate support for children, teens, and families facing substance use crises. Independent Living, Inc.’s Recovery Center provides community-based recovery support and connections to services for individuals 18-24 years old. 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 Catholic Charities Community Services. The Ulster County Prevention Program provides the Teen Intervene prevention program focused on helping teens with mild to moderate substance use. Youth needing a higher level of care can access inpatient/outpatient treatment through providers such as Arms Acres, The Bridgeback Program at AllianceHealth Hospital, Never Alone, Inc., and Homer Perkins Residential Treatment Center. Abel House provides a sober living environment for individuals 18-24 years old with access to onsite recovery support and peer programs.

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 People USA's Crisis Support Center located at the Center for Wellbeing. This crisis support center provides immediate access to clinical assessments and linkage to substance use services. ACCESS: Supports for living also has an urgent care available through the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic. You can access the New York HOPEline 24/7 to be connected immediately to substance use resources in their community. For youth that are seeking community, peer, and social support for recovery services at the Ulster County Prevention Council.

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 connections and services to youth experiencing both mental health and substance use crises through the Ulster County Mobile Mental Health Team. The Ulster County Mobile Mental Health Team provides mental health outreach services, crisis intervention, referrals, and connections to social support and community-based services without requiring an appointment. The Center for Wellbeing and the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic also provides immediate access to assessments, crisis de-escalation & counseling, as well as linkages to referrals and peer services. Youth can access outpatient psychiatric services at the Children's Crisis Residence Program at The Children's Way Counseling Center, HealthAlliance Hospital, and Astor Services Adolescent Partial Hospitalization Program. 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 through Access: Supports for Living deliver a range of behavioral health services for youth. In addition, youth are connected to around-the-clock crisis resources, including the Family of Woodstock 24-Hour Hotline, 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)

The Foothold Residency, UCCoC's proposed transitional housing project, will use supportive service participation agreements with residents. Required services will include individualized case management, employment and professional development, leadership and life-skills instruction, education/training coordination, financial literacy, and assistance accessing mainstream benefits. Progress will be tracked through individualized goals, regular case management, and resident check-ins. Foothold is intended to operate as a sober living environment, with substance-free expectations, sobriety check-ins/screening, and referrals to treatment. Its application indicates that residents with substance use disorder will be required to participate in substance abuse treatment as a condition of continued participation. Family of Woodstock's Youth Emergency Services is an SSO project, so the TH participation-agreement requirement does not apply. Youth who choose ongoing case management will develop an Individualized Service Plan and may receive assistance with emergency shelter, basic needs, crisis counseling, housing, education/GED enrollment, vocational training, employment, life skills, benefits, mental health and substance abuse treatment, legal needs, financial supports, and family reconnection.

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?	No
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)

Projects on UCCoC's YHDP priority listing provide services tailored to specific youth subpopulations. Foothold Residency serves young men transitioning from foster care or the juvenile justice system. Its structured transitional housing, individualized case management, employment and life-skills programming, and continued support after exit are intended to help these youth transition to independent adulthood. Foothold also serves youth with substance use disorder through a sober living environment, substance-free expectations, sobriety check-ins, and referrals to treatment. Youth with behavioral health needs may be referred to People USA for clinical or behavioral health services. Family of Woodstock's Youth Emergency Services will serve youth who have mental health or substance use needs. Case managers will connect youth to mental health and substance use professionals, teach coping and self-regulation skills, and assist youth in accessing treatment. The project also serves justice-involved youth through coordination with probation and assistance addressing legal needs.

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. 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. The Community Applicants will develop a youth-specific Coordinated Entry (CE) assessment tool to better identify specific populations and better connect them to appropriate housing and supportive services.

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

Special Population	
Pregnant and Parenting Youth	Pregnant and Parenting youth. As part of the screening process, youth will be asked whether pregnancy or parenting has contributed to their housing instability and whether they are responsible for caring for children or other dependents under age 18. These targeted questions will help identify youth whose housing challenges are related to pregnancy, parenting responsibilities, family size, overcrowding, or caregiving obligations. Youth identified through the assessment will be referred to appropriate housing interventions and family-centered services, including childcare resources, parenting support, healthcare, benefits assistance, and programs designed to support family stability and long-term housing success.

System-involved youth (including juvenile justice and child welfare)	Youth exiting foster care and other systems of care- As part of the assessment, youth will be asked: Have you ever been in the foster care system and have you ever had to flee or been forced to leave (kicked out of) the home of a parent, caregiver, foster parent, family member, romantic partner, or other person you were staying with. These questions will help identify youth who have experienced foster care involvement, family conflict, placement disruptions, or housing instability. Youth identified through the assessment will be connected to appropriate housing, supportive services, family mediation when safe and appropriate, foster care transition resources, education and employment support, and permanent housing opportunities.
Exploited or trafficked youth	Labor or Sexually Exploited or Trafficked Youth (youth who may be experiencing or are at risk of labor trafficking, sexual exploitation, or unsafe housing arrangements. As part of the assessment, youth will be asked: Have sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking contributed to your homelessness, have you ever felt like you had to engage in a sexual activity in exchange for a place to stay or continued housing and Is your current housing dependent on another person allowing you to stay there on a temporary or uncertain basis. These questions will help identify youth experiencing exploitation, coercion, survival sex, couch surfing, or other forms of unstable housing. Youth identified through the assessment will be referred to appropriate housing interventions, victim service providers, anti-trafficking programs, behavioral health services, and other specialized supports.
Youth in need of substance abuse or mental health services	Youth in need of substance abuse or mental health services- Screening questions will assess behavioral health needs, substance use concerns, crisis history, and current service connections. Youth identified through the assessment will be referred to appropriate behavioral health, treatment, recovery, crisis response, and supportive housing resources. By incorporating these questions into the CE process, the community will improve early identification of needs and ensure youth are connected to services that support recovery, housing stability, and long-term well-being.

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)

Ulster County prioritizes family preservation & reunification when it is safe, appropriate, & led by youth choice. The community emphasizes early intervention, family engagement, counseling, mediation, and supportive services designed to resolve conflicts, strengthen family relationships, & prevent housing instability. Family of Woodstock's Youth & Family Services program is a key community resource by offering family counseling, mediation w/ family members, family peer support, crisis intervention, & case management (CM) for youth experiencing housing instability/family conflict. These services. help youth & caregivers address issues contributing to housing crises while developing individualized plans to safely restore/maintain family connections when possible. Additionally, Ulster County DSS has Preventive Services that provide CM, parenting support, & connections to community-based resources to help families remain safely together & avoid unnecessary placement outside the home. When youth are at risk of homelessness, providers work collaboratively w/ families, schools, behavioral health providers, & community organizations to identify strengths, address conflict, improve communication, & develop reunification plans. Ulster County prioritizes family reunification when safe, appropriate, and youth-led, while ensuring youth have access to alternative housing when needed.

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 Inc. press releases to the Mid-Hudson News, publication on the CARES website, outreach to local County Websites, CoC Board and Memberships Listservs, Civic Roundtable, and community partner networks to ensure all eligible organizations were aware of the opportunity. The Collaborative Applicant CARES of NY, also engaged the Regional Advisory Board on Youth Homelessness (RABYH), which includes youth-serving organizations, system partners, and individuals with lived experience of homelessness that meet monthly. All eligible organizations were provided equal access to application materials, deadlines, and technical assistance. Applications were reviewed using standardized criteria that assessed community need, 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 were approved through the Continuum governance process.

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)

UCCoC seeks to improve coordination between the CoC, McKinney-Vento liaisons, schools, and other youth-serving systems so students experiencing homelessness can be identified earlier and connected to help more consistently. YHSI funds will support school-based youth focus groups; distribution of a youth-friendly resource guide and system map; training for school staff; and formal referral pathways linking schools with housing, mental health, employment, transportation, and other services. The community will also develop a standardized youth-friendly intake and referral process, clear follow-up procedures, and recurring cross-system case coordination meetings. Family of Woodstock's proposed YHDP project will strengthen this intervention through outreach to McKinney-Vento liaisons and school social workers across all nine school districts, with case managers helping youth access shelter, basic needs, education, employment, and other supports. Together, these activities will expand school-to-service connections, reduce missed referrals, and improve follow-through for youth who may not otherwise enter the CoC system.

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

(1,000 Characters)

The community used 2024–25 NYS-TEACHS SIRS data, HMIS/Stella data, project applications, and youth feedback. SIRS identified 778 students experiencing homelessness in Ulster County, while Stella reports 122 households and 156 people served in ES and TH. The datasets cover different populations: school data include students identified under McKinney-Vento, while CoC data include youth HoHs through age 24 who accessed ES or TH, including young adults no longer enrolled in school. The difference nevertheless shows a need for stronger coordination between schools, McKinney-Vento liaisons, and the CoC. Youth feedback reinforced this need: young people reported not knowing where to go for help, finding resources through word of mouth or chance encounters, and wanting an app or social-media-based resource.

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

(1,500 Characters)

Several challenges currently limit implementation. Schools and the CoC use different definitions of homelessness and different data systems, making it difficult to determine how many youth are experiencing homelessness and whether they have been successfully connected to services. The community also lacks a consistent school-to-CoC referral process, shared follow-up expectations, and a method for confirming whether youth successfully connect to services. Consent, confidentiality, and information-sharing requirements must be addressed before agencies can coordinate referrals and case discussions. Capacity is also limited: the Family of Woodstock application states that no case managers are currently assigned specifically to the identified homeless student population. Youth may not know what resources exist, may be reluctant to ask adults for help, or may have to repeat sensitive experiences across systems. Transportation challenges across Ulster County can further limit access to housing, school, employment, and appointments. YHSI funds would provide the staff capacity, shared tools, training, youth outreach, and cross-system coordination needed to address these challenges.

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

(2,000 Characters)

UCCoC used school, CoC, project, and youth-feedback data to develop a coordinated strategy to prevent and end youth homelessness. NYS-TEACHS SIRS data identified 778 students experiencing homelessness in Ulster County, while Stella reported 122 households and 156 people served in ES and TH. Although the datasets cover slightly different populations, the difference indicates that many school-identified youth may not be reaching CoC housing or services. Youth feedback showed that young people did not know where to seek help, relied on word of mouth or chance encounters, repeatedly told their stories to different providers, and had difficulty reaching school, work, housing, and appointments. In response, UCCoC will strengthen coordination with McKinney-Vento liaisons and schools; conduct school-based focus groups; distribute a youth-friendly resource guide and system map through QR codes and digital outreach; and establish formal referral pathways, a standardized youth-friendly intake and referral process, referral tracking, and recurring cross-system case coordination. A Youth Mobility Assessment and transportation tools will address access challenges. YHDP projects will complement these system improvements through outreach, case management, shelter and housing connections, education, employment, and life-skills supports. Together, these strategies support earlier identification, quicker connections to services, stable housing, and self-sufficiency.

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 Council 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.

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? Yes

Indirect cost rate proposals should be submitted as soon as the applicant is notified of a conditional award and no later than three months after the award. Conditional award recipients will be asked to submit the proposal or approved rate during the e-snaps post-award process.

1a. Complete the indirect cost rate table below

If you have an approved indirect cost rate, you must complete the entire row and attach the completed HUD-426 Indirect Cost form to the Attachment screen. If you do not have an approved indirect cost rate, enter 0.

Cognizant Agency	Indirect Cost Rate	Direct Cost Base	Plan approved by cognizant agency or will use 15% de minimis 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	08/05/2026
YHDP- System Planning & Data	08/05/2026
YHDP- Rural	08/03/2026
Policy Initiative Preference Points	Please Complete
YHSI Indirect Costs	Please Complete
Attachments	No Input Required
Submission Summary	No Input Required