COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO PREVENT AND END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

The H.O.M.Y. Collective – Helping Our Miami-Dade Youth
DECEMBER 2017
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Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust
Founded in 1993, the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust organizes and directs the Miami-Dade Community Homeless Plan: Priority Home, administers proceeds of a 1 percent food and beverage tax dedicated to homelessness, and serves in an advisory capacity to the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners on issues involving homelessness. The Trust’s 27-member volunteer board includes representation from the business, religious, educational, provider and civic community, along with formerly homeless individuals. For more information regarding the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust, please visit www.homelesstrust.org.

Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust Youth Homelessness Working Group
Created in 2016, the Homeless Trust Youth Homelessness Working Group is composed of key subject-matter experts in the areas of youth homelessness, behavioral healthcare, employment, education, and youth and family services. The Working Group collaborates with the Miami-Dade community and The “Helping Our Miami-Dade Youth” Collective to develop policies and procedures to implement a unified, collaborative response to prevent and end youth homelessness in Miami-Dade.

The H.O.M.Y. Collective – Helping Our Miami-Dade Youth
The “Helping Our Miami-Dade Youth” Collective is a collaborative of over 60 organizations and youth leaders working to prevent and end youth homelessness in Miami-Dade County. Our holistic, comprehensive approach focuses on addressing the core areas of Stable Housing, Education, Employment, Primary and Behavioral Healthcare, and Permanent Connections. The Youth Voice Advisory Council, a committee of youth with lived experience of homelessness, leads and informs The H.O.M.Y. Collective strategies and goals; their feedback informed this plan. The H.O.M.Y. Collective believes that no young person should spend a single night sleeping outdoors simply because they do not have access to safe housing. Our work is driven by the shared goal of ensuring that youth homelessness is rare, brief, and when it does occur, a one-time experience. Through its partner organizations, The “Helping Our Miami-Dade Youth” Collective provides support and services to youth and young adults between the ages of 13-24 who are experiencing housing instability or in a vulnerable housing situation.

Miami Homes For All
Miami Homes For All is a registered 501 (c)(3) charitable organization whose mission is to promote community collaboration to prevent and end homelessness in South Florida. MHFA believes that housing is the foundation to achieving self-sufficiency, health, and community. Miami Homes For All initiated The “Helping Our Miami-Dade Youth” Collective, previously known as the Youth Homelessness Initiative, and serves as the backbone organization under the Collective Impact framework. For more information about Miami Homes For All, please visit www.miamihomesforall.org or call 786-469-2060.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools Project UP-START
Project UP-START seeks to ensure a successful educational experience for homeless children and youth in South Florida by collaborating with parents, schools, and community through opening the doors to academic opportunities, removing barriers, and promoting a healthy sense of self with home for a bright tomorrow. For more information about Miami-Dade County Public Schools Project UP-START, please visit www.studentservices.dadeschools.net/projectupstart/ or call 305-995-7583.
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Introduction
The community of Miami-Dade County in recent years has recognized the many barriers faced by homeless youth and has worked towards how we can better serve and empower this population. The Miami-Dade Youth Homelessness Initiative was created in order to define a common agenda for our communal efforts to end youth homelessness that includes the guiding principles of our community collaborative, our shared vision and mission, and the overarching objectives of our collective work. The YHI was rebranded to The H.O.M.Y. Collective in 2017 with the objective of creating a youth-facing entity and resource that is accessible and marketable to vulnerable youth who may be experiencing housing instability, but who do not associate their living situation with homelessness as defined by federal and state legislative definitions. The H.O.M.Y Collective - Helping Our Miami-Dade Youth, is a county-wide, multi-sector effort to prevent and end youth homelessness among individuals between the ages of 13-24 in Miami-Dade County.

Vision
Youth homelessness in Miami-Dade County will be a rare occurrence and, when it does occur it will be a brief and one-time experience. Miami-Dade is committed to ensuring that every youth experiencing homelessness has access to immediate shelter and that no youth spends a single night on the streets, in a car, or in any location not meant for human habitation. Our community is committed to equal access and equitable outcomes for youth of color, LGBTQ youth, and youth with disabilities.

Mission
To create a community dedicated to preventing and ending youth homelessness.

Goal
To work in partnership with multi-sector organizations to create a comprehensive system-of-care design for preventing and addressing youth homelessness in Miami-Dade County.

Background: Building a County-Wide Collaborative to End Youth Homelessness
In 2011, Miami Homes For All, an organization dedicated to promoting community collaboration to prevent and end homelessness in South Florida through advocacy and philanthropy, hosted the first Youth Homelessness Summit in Miami. As a result of that convening, the Miami-Dade community launched a yearlong collaborative working group to develop awareness and engagement around youth homelessness in the county. In August 2013, Miami Homes For All hosted and led monthly lunch meetings, “Together on Tuesdays” to discuss youth homelessness in Miami-Dade County. In an effort to more accurately assess the number of unaccompanied young people experiencing homelessness, and to ground community action in quantitative data, Miami Homes For All led the pilot homeless youth point-in-time count in collaboration with the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust, the lead agency for the Continuum of Care.

In planning for the first homeless youth Point-in-Time count, the community researched and adopted methodologies utilized by the nine cities involved in the 2013 national Youth Count! Initiative1. The pilot youth point-in-time count in Miami-Dade, marketed as iCount Miami 2013, brought together a cross-section of community stakeholders, including advocates, homeless service providers, youth providers, and the general public who volunteered to conduct in-person, on the street surveys to identify youth experiencing homelessness on a single night in August 2013. While few volunteers successfully engaged with youth experiencing homelessness on the evening of the pilot iCount, the number of completed surveys confirmed that there were at least 42 unaccompanied youth in Miami-Dade County.

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Acknowledging that this incredibly vulnerable population of youth is known to be particularly difficult to identify and count, the community has continued to conduct the iCount every year since the pilot, modifying the methodology and adjusting the timeframe to improve the accuracy of the count.

Following the pilot iCount 2013 and iCount 2014, a second Youth Homelessness Summit was held in June 2014 with over 100 community members in attendance. The convening culminated in attendees expressing strong interest in developing a unified, community-wide collaborative to address youth homelessness. In response, The Alliance for GLBTQ Youth and Miami Homes For All worked in close partnership to establish the Miami-Dade County Youth Homelessness Initiative (YHI) based on the Collective Impact Model, a proven social change framework introduced by the Stanford Social Innovation Review², with the ultimate goal of designing a system of care to end youth homelessness. The Youth Homelessness Initiative was rooted in the US Interagency Council on Homelessness Framework to End Youth Homelessness³ where Issue-Area Committees were established to focus on the core outcome areas of Stable Housing, Well-Being, Permanent Connections, and Education and Employment. In addition to these four core outcome areas, the YHI also included four additional committees focused on Funding, Data & Research, Public Relations and Outreach, and most importantly, Youth Voice. The Youth Voice Advisory Council helps the Miami-Dade community ensure that the youth perspective is not only included, but prioritized. The Co-Chairs from the various committees became members of the overarching leadership Steering Committee and their responsibilities were to ensure that the work of the YHI committees were efficiently coordinated into the system of care. The work of the YHI has been sustained since 2014 through the generous contributions and support of the Peacock Foundation, The Children’s Trust, Health Foundation of South Florida, The Miami Foundation, The Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust, and most recently, Wells Fargo.

Given its philanthropic and independent role within the community, the collaborative selected Miami Homes For All to serve as the backbone organization of the YHI. Miami Homes For All committed funding to initiate the work of the Miami-Dade Youth Homelessness Initiative while also submitting funding proposals on behalf of the YHI to match its dedicated contributions.

2015 was a year of change and growth for the YHI, as Miami-Dade County Public Schools Project UP-START, the Homeless Education Program of Miami-Dade County Public Schools, replaced The Alliance for GLBTQ Youth as the co-lead agency of the Miami-Dade Youth Homelessness Initiative. The Alliance for GLBTQ Youth continues to be engaged and committed at the committee level. In addition, the YHI was introduced to the ABLe Change Framework⁴ approach to systems change and embraced ABLe Change to ensure effective design and implementation of the system of care to address youth homelessness in Miami-Dade. The YHI engaged Fetch Data, LLC, a consulting firm that has provided extensive pro-bono technical assistance and leadership in implementing Collective Impact and the ABLe Change Framework.

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⁴ Michigan State University, http://ablechange.msu.edu/
The YHI community conducted a thorough Systems Scan in 2015 to understand the root causes of youth homelessness in Miami-Dade. There were over 1,000 responses that informed the systems scan. The following are the root causes identified through the 2015 systems scan process and analysis. After spending a year understanding the root causes of youth homelessness in the Miami-Dade community, the YHI developed and began implementation of the 2016 Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness.

### 2015 System Scan and Root Cause Analysis: Challenges & Needs
- Lack of healthy adult relationships
- Identification and treatment of disabilities
- Barriers to education and employment
- Lack of life skills and career preparation
- Criminal justice issues; Juvenile justice/criminal activity
- LGBTQ Discrimination
- Substance Abuse
- Parenting issues; family dysfunction
- Lack of affordable housing and limited access to transportation
- Community apathy
- Sex-trafficking; survival work/crimes
- Accuracy & dearth of data
- Sexual/physical/mental abuse
- Immigration Issues
- Mental Health & Substance Abuse issues
- Poor resource allocation and marketing
- Inadequacy of relevant housing for youth
- Various Federal definitions and guidance for youth experiencing homelessness
- Institutional racism
- Lack of youth voice/inclusion
- Unaddressed chronic illness
- Lack of housing and supportive services for youth in and exiting the welfare systems (foster and juvenile justice)
- Systemic failure to address mental health issues
- Inadequate government and private funding

### 2015 System Scan: Resources & Strengths
- Growing network
- Philanthropic commitment
- Supportive Continuum of Care (CoC) Lead Agency
- Dedicated backbone entity
- Increasing awareness
- MDCPS Project UP-START
- Higher Education Collaboration
YHI Committees: 2016 Strategic Plan and Strategies
The following details the committee, the committee descriptions, and key partners within each committee. To see full details of the Strategic Plan’s strategies and accomplishments, please see Appendix E.

Education & Employment
Includes high performance in, and completion of, educational and employment training activities, especially for younger youth, and starting and maintaining adequate and stable employment for younger adults.

The Education & Employment Committee is composed of members from Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Miami-Dade College, Florida International University, University of Miami, and employment and educational agencies that are dedicated to supporting and serving homeless youth. The committee has accomplished the following: established an education pipeline from secondary school to higher education, that has been highlighted by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness; piloted a dorm-style housing program for homeless youth; and partnered with employment agencies to connect youth to stable employment.

Education & Employment Co-Chairs:

Educate Tomorrow
To provide a path to independence for at-risk, homeless, and foster youth through education, mentoring and life-skills programming.

MDCPS Project UP-START
Project UP-START seeks to ensure a successful educational experience for homeless children and youth by collaborating with parents, schools, and community through opening doors to academic opportunities, removing barriers, and promoting a healthy sense of self.

Education & Employment Committee Agencies

- Florida International University’s Fostering Panther Pride
- Youth Co-Op
- University of Miami Children & Youth Law Clinic
- Miami Job Corps
- Miami-Dade College Educate Tomorrow Single-Stop
- Miami-Dade College
- MDCPS Adult Education & Technical Colleges
- CareerSource South Florida
- Casa Valentina
- Our Kids of Miami-Dade/Monroe
- Florida International University Career & Talent Development
- Transition Inc.
- Publix
- Community Coalition, Inc.
- Adult Mankind Organization
Permanent Connections

Include healthy ongoing attachments to mentors, family, schools, positive social networks, and caring adults.

The Permanent Connections Committee’s co-chair, Florida Foster Care Review led the Permanent Connections Round Table (PCRT) pilot program which was produced through the Permanent Connections Committee and funded by The Children’s Trust.

The PCRT program is based on Casey Family Program’s Permanency Roundtable Program. The PCRT is a highly structured, team-driven, individualized strategic process that results in the development of an actionable coordinated plan to identify and establish supportive lifelong connections, promote well-being, and increase self-sufficiency for unaccompanied homeless youth.

Permanent Connections Committee Agencies
- Alliance for GLBTQ Youth
- Concept Health Systems
- Florida Youth Shine
- Florida Guardian Ad Litem Program
- Miami Bridge Youth & Family Services
- Miami-Dade County Juvenile Services Department
- Pridelines

Permanent Connections Co-Chairs:

Florida Foster Care Review
Florida Foster Care Review promotes the safety, well-being and long-term success of abused and neglected children through volunteer-driven case reviews and system level advocacy. FCCR envisions a child welfare system that protects, heals and supports success for children, youth and young adults and their families.

University of Miami Children and Youth Law Clinic
The Children & Youth Law Clinic is an in-house, live-client clinic that represents children in foster care and former foster youth, ensuring that they have a voice in court proceedings.

Each PCRT is centered around youth as each youth is encouraged, listened to, and respected as they work closely with the PCRT team to identify, engage, and establish supportive, lifelong connections. A PCRT team is composed of the youth participant, external support persons, internal support persons, community partners, a facilitator, and a scribe. To see more information about the PCRT, please go to www.floridafostercarereview.org.
Stable Housing

Includes a safe, stable, reliable, and developmentally appropriate place to call home with access to supportive services as necessary.

The Stable Housing Committee piloted a youth-centric emergency shelter, transitional housing programs, and housing services. The committee has partnered with affordable housing developers to find affordable housing solutions for youth.

Stable Housing Committee Agencies

- Atlantic Pacific Communities
- Camillus House
- Casa Valentina
- Citrus Health Network
- Carfour Supportive Housing
- Concept Health Systems
- Educate Tomorrow
- Lotus House/Sundari Foundation
- Miami Bridge Youth & Family Services
- Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust
- Miami-Dade County Public Schools Project UP-START
- Miami Job Corps
- Pridelines
- The Struggle for Miami’s Affordable and Sustainable Housing
- South Florida Behavioral Health Network

Stable Housing Co-Chairs

The Children’s Trust (TCT)

TCT’s mission is to partner with the community to plan, advocate for and fund strategic investments that improve the lives of all children and families in Miami-Dade County.

Disability Independence Group (DIG)

DIG’s mission is to expand opportunities for participation, education, employment and acceptance of Persons with Disabilities through advocacy, litigation, education, and training.

Miami Homes For All (MHFA)

MHFA’s mission is to promote community collaboration to prevent and end homelessness in South Florida.
Well-Being

Well-Being Committee Agencies

- Baptist Health Network
- Citrus Health Network
- Concept Health Systems
- Institute for Child and Family Health
- Jackson Community Mental Health Center
- Julian’s House
- Pridelines
- University of Miami School of Medicine
- YES Institute
- Planned Parenthood

Includes physical health and social/emotional well-being; the development of key competencies, attitudes, and behaviors that equip a young person to succeed across multiple domains of daily life, including school, relationships, and community; the ability to maintain positive relationships with others, solve problems, experience empathy and manage emotions.

The Well-Being Committee has established safety guidelines; a mobile health unit; training sessions and outreach resources; and has identified barriers for youth experiencing homelessness.

Funding

Works toward alignment of local philanthropic and government opportunities to complement YHI programmatic strategies and ensure effective coordination of resources resulting in increased and scalable impact. Reviews grant proposals written by strategic outcome committees.

The Funding Committee partnered with the local philanthropic community to streamline a funding process regarding youth experiencing homelessness. During monthly committee meetings, all YHI partners provide updates and communicate grant ideas. Several partner agencies have received large grants for advocacy and programmatic efforts as a result.

Well-Being Co-Chairs

Jackson Memorial Hospital – Holtz Children’s Hospital

Holtz Children’s Hospital is one of the largest children’s hospitals in the southeast U.S. Located at the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Medical Center, the hospital has a team of pediatric specialists experienced in treating children with all types of needs.

South Florida Behavioral Health Network (SFBHN)

SFBHN ensures a quality system of care for people at risk and affected by substance use and mental health disorders in Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties.

Funding Co-Chairs

Miami Homes For All

Miami Home For All’s mission is to promote community collaboration to prevent and end homelessness in South Florida.

Aqua Foundation for Women

The mission of Aqua Foundation for Women is to serve and support the lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community in South Florida through grants, scholarships, and initiatives.

Funding Committee Agencies

- The Children’s Trust
- Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust
- Women’s Fund of Miami
Public Relations & Outreach

Develop public relations and media strategies targeted toward the general public to increase awareness of youth homelessness in Miami-Dade County and to engage the community in actively participating in the movement to prevent and end youth homelessness. Develop outreach strategies directed towards youth experiencing homelessness to better connect youth with existing resources and supportive services.

The Public Relations and Outreach Committee has held several focus groups with the Youth Voice Advisory Council (YVAC). The YVAC led efforts to rebrand the YHI to the H.O.M.Y. Collective – Helping Our Miami-Dade Youth. Along with the rebrand effort, the YVAC, the PR and Outreach Committee created a resource guide, brochures, and training presentations.

Data & Research

Collects currently available data and information regarding youth experiencing homelessness in Miami-Dade to better define the issue and assess the prevalence of youth homelessness. Lead Committee responsible for the design, implementation, and analysis of new local data collection efforts.

The Data & Research Committee successfully collected accurate data on youth experiencing homelessness and assisted the YHI network on their data needs. One of their biggest accomplishments was the creation of the YHI Network Map.

PARTNERS

- The Children’s Trust
- FIU College of Public Health and Social Work
- Jewish Community Services
- Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust
- Miami-Dade County Schools Project UP-START

Data & Research Co-Chair:

University of Miami School of Education & Human Development

The School of Education & Human Development consists of three departments: Educational and Psychological Studies, Kinesiology and Sport Sciences, and Teaching and Learning. Their strategic plan is to integrate the strengths of the three departments in a common vision of educational community well-being, a vision that encompasses physical, psychological, and educational development.
A network map was created by the Engagement, Power, and Social Action (EPSA) research team from University of Miami’s School of Education and Human Development through structured interviews with over 40 agencies. This map shows the frequency of communication between organizations who work on issues related to youth homelessness. The current map is based on actual survey responses, with an overall response rate of 63%. This map is meant to serve as a starting point to begin to understand which organizations are communicating, as well as potential gaps in communication. The initiative will work towards getting a higher response rate in future iterations of this network survey in order to more accurately capture the social landscape of youth homelessness organizations in Miami-Dade County.

Within the network map, the nodes (different organizations) are sized by their weighted degree. This is the total number of connections each organization has based on how frequently they communicate with other organizations. In other words, the bigger nodes have more, and more frequent, connections than the smaller nodes in this network map. The edges (connection lines) are colored based on frequency. The darker red lines represent the most frequent communication relationships, whereas the very light lines show relationships that are very infrequent.

Other questions asked in this survey include involvement with YHI, confidence in overall system of care, role of youth within organizations, and involvement in advocacy. This is a preliminary network map and will change significantly after the implementation of the Coordinated Entry policy when future surveys are able to be conducted. To see more information about the EPSA research team, please go to: http://sites.education.miami.edu/epsateam/.
2016 Strategies Continued: Prioritizing Youth

The Youth Voice Advisory Council

The YHI is youth-centered and committed to amplifying and prioritizing the voice and perspectives of youth with lived experience of homelessness into the planning and implementation of Miami-Dade’s system of care. The Youth Voice Advisory Council meets monthly to review and provide feedback on every strategy; and will continue to meet to provide input into the community’s progress. The Youth Voice Advisors are to become advocates for youth at-risk of and experiencing homelessness with continual advocacy, leadership, and life-skills trainings.

The Miami-Dade Homeless County Homeless Trust supports the YHI with US HUD funding

In 2016, the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust granted MHFA funds, through a U.S. HUD Planning Grant, to lend its expertise on youth homelessness to develop a Comprehensive Plan. The Homeless Trust funding supported and enhanced the 2017 iCount Miami, created opportunities for community trainings on youth homelessness and cultural competency, and increased outreach and engagement; including the rebranding and marketing of the YHI to the H.O.M.Y. Collective, and creation of a youth resource guide.

Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust – Youth Homelessness Working Group

To implement and streamline the work initiated by the Miami-Dade Youth Homelessness Initiative, the Homeless Trust created a working group to align and recommend strategies for implementation supporting the Comprehensive Plan strategies at the county-level with the provider and private sectors.

The Youth Homelessness Working Group is composed of youth-serving and homeless service organizations that seek to prevent and end youth homelessness in Miami-Dade County through housing and supportive services. It includes key high-level decision makers in housing, health, education, and youth services and promotes the collaboration across stakeholders and mainstream systems.

Understanding Youth Experiencing Homelessness in Miami-Dade

Youth Homelessness Definitions

The following are the various federal definitions of youth homelessness that, at times, conflict with one another. It is also important to note that the Florida definition also conflicts with the federal definitions. These conflicting definitions not only hinder data collection and strategies, but can also hinder services and resources provided to youth at-risk of or experiencing homelessness. These definitions can be barriers to accessing appropriate services.
The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Definition (HUD) – Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

Under HUD’s 4 Categories of Homelessness, only Category 3 specifically mentions youth. However, youth are eligible and likely to qualify for assistance under every category.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category 1: Literal Homelessness</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Individuals and families who live in a place not meant for human habitation (including the streets or in their car), emergency shelter, transitional housing, and hotels paid for by a government or charitable organization.</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category 2: Imminent Risk of Homelessness</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Individuals or families who will lose their primary nighttime residence within 14 days and has no other resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category 3: Homeless Under Other Statutes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age, or families with children and youth, who do not meet any of the other categories but are homeless under other federal statutes, have not had a lease and have moved 2 or more times in the past 60 days and are likely to remain unstable because of special needs or barriers.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category 4: Fleeing Domestic Violence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Individuals or families who are fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking and who lack resources and support networks to obtain other permanent housing.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The U.S. Department of Education (DOE)  
McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act – Education for Homeless Children and Youth

The U.S. Department of Education is guided by the McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act in defining “homeless children and youth.” Under McKinney-Vento, the term homeless means a youth who lacks a “fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.”

1. Children and youth who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement;
2. Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
3. Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
4. Migratory children who qualify as homeless because the children are living in circumstances described in the above clauses.

2017 Florida Statutes – Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

An “unaccompanied homeless youth” is an individual who is 16 years of age or older and is: (a) found by a school district’s liaison for homeless children and youths to be an unaccompanied homeless youth eligible for services pursuant to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act; or (b) believed to qualify as an unaccompanied homeless youth, as that term is defined in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, by the director of an emergency shelter program; director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program; a continuum of care lead agency, or its designee. 743.067, Fla. Stat. (2017).

Please refer to Appendix F to see homeless youth definitions from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, and other related terms.
Youth Homelessness in Miami-Dade County: By the Numbers

**Department of Education/McKinney-Vento Data**

Almost one in ten homeless students in Florida in 2015-2016 (72,601) were unaccompanied youth. That is, they were not in the custody of a parent or legal guardian. In 2016, Florida reported the second highest number of unaccompanied youth under 18 years old. These minor unaccompanied homeless youth are at an increased risk of harm and victimization while unstably housed. Unaccompanied homeless minors possess even fewer legal options for survival due to their disability of non-age. That is, minor age unaccompanied homeless youth may not be able to access healthcare without parental consent, obtain a State ID, or enter into basic contracts, including lease agreements, even if that minor youth were financially positioned to enter into such an agreement. Florida law provides for a minor homeless youth (16 years or older) to be certified as an unaccompanied homeless youth and petition a circuit court to remove the disabilities of non-age. Nonetheless, unaccompanied homeless youth, especially minor youth, are still developing physically, emotionally, and psychologically, and are generally unprepared to navigate the adult homelessness system.

During the 2015-2016 school year, 6,103 students were identified as homeless in Miami-Dade County. The majority of these youth were doubled-up (individuals that are unable to maintain their housing situation and are forced to stay with a series of friends and/or extended family members) with others or living in shelters and transitional housing. Out of the 6,103 students, 1,109 were in shelter/transitional housing; 4,476 were doubled up; 213 were unsheltered; 295 were in hotels/motels; and 10 were awaiting foster care. Unaccompanied homeless students are particularly hard for school districts to identify. As a result, the reported figures of unaccompanied homeless youth are generally understood to be an undercount. Many unaccompanied youth are “couch surfing” between temporary living situations and avoid self-

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5 2016 HUD Annual Homeless Assessment Report
6 Florida Statute 743.015
7 Florida Statute 743.067; the removal of “disabilities of non-age” have the effect of giving a minor the status of an adult for purposes of all criminal and civil laws of the state
8 The National Health Care for the Homeless Council’s *What is the official definition of homelessness?*
identifying as homeless or accessing supportive services for fear of being placed into foster care or returned to an abusive home.\(^9\)

The number of students identified as homeless more than doubled from 2007-2008 to the 2015-2016 school year, increasing by 154%. In the 2015-2016 school year, 92% of homeless students were accompanied by their families and 8% were unaccompanied homeless youth.

\textit{In the 2016-2017 school year, MDCPS identified and served just over 8,000 students and approximately 270 of those students were unaccompanied homeless youth.}

\textit{Miami-Dade County Continuum of Care PIT and HMIS Data}

Each year, the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust, conducts two homeless Point-in-Time counts to provide insight on the progress the community is making on preventing and ending homelessness.

PIT Counts are understood to be an undercount of the actual number of unaccompanied homeless youth in a community. Emergency shelters are often full and youth generally express a preference for sleeping elsewhere due to safety concerns (harassment, threats of physical/sexual violence, potential for theft).\(^10\) During a PIT count, youth are less likely than adults to be present in the shelter. Further, youth are not easily identified as homeless when on the streets.

\textbf{Data on Unaccompanied Homeless Youth from the 2017 January PIT Count}

- There were a total of 141 unaccompanied youth. 6 were under 18 and 135 were ages 18-24.
- 40 of the unaccompanied youth were not sheltered; 101 were sheltered.
- 69.5% of unaccompanied homeless youth are male; 28% are female; and 2% are transgender.
- 36% of Unaccompanied Youth are Hispanic/Latino.
- 55% of Unaccompanied Youth are Black or African-American.
- 8.5% of Unaccompanied Youth are Chronically Homeless.
- There are 45 homeless parenting youth.
- With the 45 parenting youth households, there are 82 children under 18 with parents under 25.

Youth of color experience homelessness at disproportionately high rates that are reflective of the overall national homeless population within which 42% of individuals experiencing homelessness are African-


American and 20% are Latino, while each group represents only about 12% of the total population. In Miami-Dade County, the 2017 PIT results are greater than the national statistics; as 55% of unaccompanied homeless youth are Black or African-American and 36% are Hispanic/Latino.

Youth within Miami-Dade County’s Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

According to the HMIS, approximately 1,000 youth accessed housing programs, including emergency shelter, transitional housing, rapid rehousing, permanent supportive housing, food programs, day programs, etc., between August 2016 to September 2017. These may be duplicated cases. Further analysis of HMIS data related to youth is underway.

- There were a total of 950 youth in the HMIS from August 2016 to September 2017.
- 359 were parenting youth.
- 591 youth were unaccompanied.

iCount Miami Data

The iCount Miami is Miami-Dade’s youth point-in-time count. The survey captures information about youth who meet the HUD definition of literally homeless as well as the U.S. Department of Education definition of homelessness that includes “doubled-up”. The iCount survey questions are designed to gather extensive information to illuminate and document causes of homelessness, demographic information, as well as health, employment, and educational status.

Although iCount Miami has collected data, it is understood to be an undercount as it represents a single source of data gathered over a limited amount of time. The University of Chicago’s Chapin Hall “Voices of Youth Count” effort and other national efforts have collected data to better quantify and understand youth experiencing homelessness. Miami Homes For All followed guidance from Chapin Hall to inform iCount methodology and tools. Miami-Dade County is dedicated to improving its data collection strategies to best understand community needs. To see more about iCount Miami, its history and current data, please go to the Miami Homes For All website (www.miamihomesforall.org).

The following is from the 2017 iCount Report detailing results from ALL respondents, including unaccompanied, unsheltered, and sheltered youth.

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In the 2017 iCount, there were a total of 165 unaccompanied homeless youth. Of this population, 34 were unsheltered between the ages of 18 to 24. Also, there were 12 sheltered youth, ages 13 to 17 and 19 sheltered youth, ages 18 to 24.

National statistics show that youth of color and LGBTQ youth are disproportionately represented in the unaccompanied population. Between 30 to 40% of unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness identify as LGBTQ, while LGBTQ youth only make up 7% of the national youth population. In Miami-Dade County, about 25% of homeless youth are LGBTQ.

Out of all the youth that were surveyed, 60 were parenting youth and only 48 of them have custody of their children. When asking the youth how they made money in the year 2016: 42.7% had part-time jobs, 25.2% were supported by family and friends, 18.3% had full-time jobs, and 16.4% had no way of making income. Regarding the well-being of homeless youth, 60.9% cited mental health issues and 36.8% reported drug or alcohol abuse.

Nationally, up to 36% of youth who age out of foster care experience homelessness. A recent study of runaway and homeless youth found that nearly 44% had stayed in jail, prison, or a juvenile detention center and that nearly 62% had been arrested at some point in their lives. Unaccompanied homeless

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13 *Predictors of Homelessness During the Transition from Foster Care to Adulthood*. 2016. Chapin Hall.


youth are especially vulnerable to victimization, sexual exploitation, engaging in illegal behaviors to survive, and are at an increased risk of developing mental health issues and contracting sexually transmitted diseases. In a 2016 study conducted by the Administration for Children and Families, homeless youth participants reported, on average, first becoming homeless at age 15.

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By the Youth

Miami-Dade’s Qualitative Data: Focus Groups with the Youth Voice Advisory Council

The following are discussion points from the H.O.M.Y. Collective’s Youth Voice Advisory Council:

- **Lack of Affordable Housing**
  - Finding an affordable and up-to-code apartment is hard to find; even more difficult to find apartments that are accessible without a car.
  - "Miami is not affordable. [One issue we face] is finding and accessing affordable housing close to transportation."

- **Lack of Youth-Friendly/Youth-Centric Services and Tools**
  - Many existing resources (employment portals, health care services, etc) are difficult to navigate.
  - "Doctors can’t handle the information about my emotions, so they accuse me of things."

- **Lack of Sustainable Employment Opportunities**
  - Even if accessing a higher education or have attained a higher education degree, the professional job search is difficult to navigate.
  - "Employment usually just covers rent."

- **Lack of Accessibility and Affordability**
  - Public transit is not dependable; many welfare programs have barriers; everyday living expenses is difficult to save up for.
  - "I can’t live off food stamps."
Youth Homelessness in Miami-Dade County: By the Programs

The following are programs in Miami-Dade County that serve youth experiencing homelessness, including housing, health services, and education services. Although the Miami-Dade community has improved its capacity for youth, there is a need for more capacity building, so the H.O.M.Y. Collective can be more comprehensive. This data was collected by Miami Homes For All from H.O.M.Y. agencies and from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).

Most Recent Provider Data (as of November 2017)

- 97 youth were served by Citrus Health Network with 12 youth-designated transitional housing beds at Citrus FRAT and 12 LGBTQA+ youth-designated transitional housing beds at Citrus Safe Haven
- 390 youth were served by Camillus House with 12 youth-designated emergency beds
- 64 youth ages 17-24 and their 88 children were served by Lotus House with 5 female youth-designated beds at Lotus House
- 530 youth ages 13 to 17 were served in shelter and 71 youth served under the Runaway & Homeless Youth Program at Miami Bridge Youth and Family Services with 48 beds
- 20 former foster youth served at Casa Valentina AND Amaus House with 21 beds
- 66 youth were served by Our Kids
- 283 youth were served by Chapman Partnership
- 26 youth were served by Carfour Supportive Housing
- 600 youth were served by Educate Tomorrow
- 58 youth were served by Pridelines/Project SAFE and the Alliance for GLBTQ Youth in the 2015 to 2016 year
- 8,000 youth were served in South Florida Behavioral Health Network’s Substance Abuse OR Mental Health Service programs as in-patients and/or out-patients.
- 900 at risk and homeless youth are currently using the Florida State Student Tuition Waiver to access

Preventing and Ending Youth Homelessness in Miami-Dade

According to HMIS data, there are approximately 600 unaccompanied homeless youth in Miami-Dade County. Between HMIS and the 2017 iCount data (if unduplicated), there are about 74 unsheltered unaccompanied homeless youth. There are currently 110 youth-specific beds; of those beds, 62 are designated youth over 18, and 48 are for those under 18. The community would need an additional 12 emergency beds for unaccompanied and unsheltered youth over 18. Miami Homes For All and the Miami-Dade Homeless Trust are receiving technical assistance from the Corporation for Supportive Housing to understand the community’s needs and gaps beyond emergency shelter beds, including the need.

It is clear that to support youth, there is a need for access to holistic well-being care; sustainable education and employment opportunities; and a community outreach program to raise awareness on cultural, race, and LGBTQA+ matters. To identify our community’s priority youth populations, Miami-Dade followed the iCount and HMIS data.

Miami-Dade County’s Priority Youth Populations

- Young Adults, 18-24
- Youth of Color
- Parenting Youth
- Female
- LGBTQA+ Youth
- Youth with Mental Health Issues
- Youth with Drug and/or Alcohol Abuse
Guiding Principles of The H.O.M.Y. Collective

1. **Youth-Centric:** The Miami-Dade community is dedicated to the development and implementation of a youth-centric, systemic response to youth homelessness. Housing and services will be developmentally appropriate and centered on the needs of each individual youth as identified through a comprehensive needs assessment conducted upon entry into the system. Youth-centric housing assistance will be paired with youth-appropriate social, health, employment, and educational services with the ultimate goal of establishing housing stability and allowing youth to undergo a safe and healthy transition to adulthood. The youth-centric system will include prevention services, early and crisis intervention services and housing, long-term services/housing, and aftercare services that are developmentally appropriate and meet the unique needs of youth. Youth-centric housing and services will be readily available to ensure that youth avoid or quickly exit homelessness.

2. **Culturally Competent:** Miami-Dade County is a unique community having a minority-majority population. Many of the County’s population are immigrants, people of color, and/or Hispanic. Miami-Dade recognizes its unique history and diversity to push for services and to meet its population’s social, cultural, and linguistic needs. Youth experiencing homelessness deserve culturally competent services and resources in order to access sustainable futures. Examples to move the system of care towards these goals include providing relevant training on cultural competence and cross-cultural issues to service and county agencies; and implementing policies that reduce administrative and linguistic barriers to youth experiencing homelessness.

3. **Collective, Community-Based Approach:** The H.O.M.Y. Collective operates under the Collective Impact Model. In accordance with the Collective Impact Model, Miami Homes For All serves as the backbone entity, providing full-time staff support of H.O.M.Y. to coordinate and facilitate committee meetings and provide administrative, research, and technical support to the community.

4. **Data-Driven Decision Making:** The Miami-Dade community believes in a strategic approach to implementing the Comprehensive Plan that is grounded in evidence and available local data. In order to have an effective data system, H.O.M.Y. partner agencies will share applicable data to inform decisions and plans.

5. **Improved, Effective Collaboration with Mainstream Systems:** Following HUD guidelines, the Miami-Dade community has created a direct, hands-on action plan to prevent and end youth homelessness. H.O.M.Y. has partner agencies in the child welfare, education, justice, housing, early childhood education, community organizations, and mainstream systems.

Best Practices for The H.O.M.Y. Collective

Along with these guidelines, Miami-Dade will follow national best practices; the H.O.M.Y. Collective will ensure that the community undergoes appropriate trainings to properly understand these best practices and implement them. These guidelines include the following housing models. It is important to note that there are many long-term impacts for youth experiencing homelessness, in terms of health and economic consequences. To see more information regarding the long-term impacts, please refer to Appendix D.
Housing First\textsuperscript{18} is an approach to quickly and successfully connect youth experiencing homelessness to permanent housing without preconditions and barriers to entry. Supportive services are offered based on assessed need, but are not required. The core principles of housing first for youth are (1) immediate access to permanent housing with no preconditions; (2) youth choice and self-determination; (3) individualized and youth-driven supports; and (4) persistent engagement.

Rapid Re-Housing\textsuperscript{19} for youth is an evolving model that can be implemented using the Permanent Housing-Rapid Re-Housing component type under the Continuum of Care. It is an intervention, informed by a Housing First approach. Rapid re-housing for youth will connect them to permanent housing through a tailored package of assistance that may include the use of time-limited financial assistance and targeted supportive services. Rapid re-housing’s tailored package of assistance will include the core programs of (1) housing identification, (2) rent and move-in assistance, and (3) rapid re-housing case management and services.

Transitional Housing can be used a joint component project with rapid re-housing and can be specially tailored to meet their unique developmental needs and help them move quickly into permanent housing with supportive services to maintain permanent housing.\textsuperscript{20} A transitional housing program can help youth between the ages of 16 to 24; and can offer a youth with affordable housing coupled with supportive services for up to two years.\textsuperscript{21}

Low-Barriers or No-Barriers\textsuperscript{22} are welcoming, safe, non-judgmental environments, with limited rules or requirements, and are conveniently located near public transportation whenever possible. These are promising program models that can be used by any agency that serves youth, particularly, drop-in centers which are the first locations that homeless youth may enter first in Coordinated Entry.

Positive Youth Development (PYD) is an intentional, prosocial approach that engages youth within their communities, schools, organizations, peer groups, and families in a manner that is productive and constructive; recognizes, utilizes, and enhances young people’s strengths; and promotes positive outcomes for young people by providing opportunities, fostering positive relationships, and furnishing the support needed to build on their leadership strengths.\textsuperscript{23}

To ensure that all services and care are appropriate for youth experiencing homelessness, youth agencies will provide:

Trauma-informed care\textsuperscript{24} (1) realizes the widespread impact of trauma and understands potential paths for recovery; (2) recognizes the signs and symptoms of trauma in clients, families, staff, and other involved

\begin{footnotesize}
\textsuperscript{18} Definition derived from the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Using a Housing First Philosophy When Serving Youth, \url{https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/using-a-housing-first-philosophy-when-serving-youth.pdf}, May 2017

\textsuperscript{19} Rapid Re-Housing definition derived from the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Rapid Re-Housing Brief, \url{https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Rapid-Re-Housing-Brief.pdf}


\textsuperscript{22} Low-Barriers or No-Barriers definition as established by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Ending Youth Homelessness, Guidebook Series: Promising Program Models, \url{https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Ending-Youth-Homelessness-Promising-Program-Models.pdf}

\textsuperscript{23} Definition of Positive Youth Development as established by U.S Interagency Working Group on Youth Programs

\textsuperscript{24} Trauma-Informed Approach and Trauma-Specific Interventions as established by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. \url{https://www.samhsa.gov/ncit/trauma-interventions}.
\end{footnotesize}
with the system; (3) responds by fully integrating knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures, and practices; and (4) seeks to actively resist re-traumatization.

**Developmentally-appropriate services** are grounded in theory and research on typical child and adolescent development. These practices involve meeting youth where they are based on their stage of development. To implement developmentally appropriate practices, organizations must have knowledge of typical child development and learning, knowledge of what is individually appropriate for a child based on their development, and knowledge of cultural appropriateness.

**Culturally competent services** are provided to effectively deliver services that meet the social, cultural, and linguistic needs of clients. A culturally competent system can help improve outcomes and quality of care, and can contribute to the elimination of racial and ethnic disparities. Providers must be respectful and responsive to the health beliefs and practices; and cultural and linguistic needs of diverse population groups. Developing cultural competence is also an evolving, dynamic process that takes time and occurs along a continuum.

**Youth Choice** would be provided to youth. Providers should engage youth in determining choices that help them progress toward new levels of learning. Youth Choice can help youth and young adults transition to adulthood. Providers must acknowledge and develop personal choice and social responsibility; engage with youth in a relationship that respects the youth as a unique, valuable individual with values, preferences, and capabilities, and all the helping that takes place grows out of that respectful relationship. Youth need information about why they have been asked to share information or participate in a program. It is their choice whether or not to share and/or participate. Also, the client can choose what they share and choose healthy boundaries around their sharing and participating. Care strategies implemented for the youth need to gradually aim at increasing life skills, increasing the capabilities of the youth to understand choices and make decisions for themselves, and decreasing the potential risks.

**Individualized and client-driven care** recognizes that individuals are unique, and so are their needs. Each client will need minimum supports, however, some will need support for the rest of their lives. These supports may be housing stability; health and mental health needs; employment; education; life skills; and income supports.

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25 Developmentally Appropriate, National Resource Center for Mental Health Promotion and Youth Violence Prevention, https://healthysafechildren.org/topics/developmentally-appropriate
26 Definition of Cultural Competence found in Georgetown University’s Health Policy Institute, Cultural Competence in Health Care: Is it important for people with chronic conditions?, https://healthysafechildren.org/topics/developmentally-appropriate
29 Definition of Individualized and Client-driven supports from Housing First, http://www.ci.pomona.ca.us/mm/gov/pdf/Homeless_Commission/Housing_First.pdf
VISION STATEMENT

Youth homelessness in Miami-Dade County will be a rare occurrence and, when it does occur it will be a brief and one-time experience. Miami-Dade is committed to ensuring that every youth experiencing homelessness has access to immediate shelter and that no youth spends a single night on the streets, in a car, or in any location not meant for human habitation. Our community is committed to equal access and equitable outcomes for youth of color, LGBTQ youth, and youth with disabilities.

Topline Measure and Benchmarks

Topline Measure: By 2020, any youth experiencing homelessness who is registered in the HMIS system will have access to safe and stable housing within 60 days.

What is Safe and Stable Housing for Youth?

Miami-Dade County has adopted the definitions of safe and stable housing as outlined by policy experts, service providers, and stakeholders in education, juvenile justice, and youth homelessness. Safe Housing is an environment where a young person does not have a reasonable fear of physical, sexual, or emotional abuse, and where basic living needs are met (e.g., a home with running water and electricity). Stable Housing refers to a place where a young person reasonably expects to have continuous access to housing for a set period of time. Miami-Dade is guided by the HUD definition of Stable Housing that includes transitional housing, permanent housing, formal lease or occupancy agreements, and home ownership.

Benchmarks to Assess Progress on Topline Measure:

- Miami-Dade has a coordinated system to identify and track all unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness
- Miami-Dade is able to provide immediate access to youth appropriate, low-barrier emergency shelter or another temporary housing setting to any youth experiencing a housing crisis
- Miami-Dade does not allow any youth in crisis to spend a single night sleeping on the street (unsheltered)
- Miami-Dade utilizes a coordinated entry process that is trauma-informed, developmentally appropriate, and responsive to the needs of all subpopulations of youth experiencing homelessness
- Miami-Dade has specific programs for youth in transitional housing/time-limited models; youth can choose the best fit individualized program to transition into permanent housing
- Miami-Dade swiftly moves youth into permanent or non-time-limited housing aligned with youth choice
- Miami-Dade connects youth to educational, healthcare, employment, mentorship/peer groups and other supportive services that promote self-sufficiency and tracks outcomes via Youth Access Points
- Miami-Dade has projected the number of youth who may need shelter, has dedicated sufficient resources to ensure those needs are met, and has strategies in place to support youth who have exited homelessness

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Integration of Youth into Continuum of Care and Coordinated Entry

**Youth Housing Continuum**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prevention</th>
<th>Emergency and Crisis</th>
<th>Transitional and Permanent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Respite Care (minors)</td>
<td>• Crisis Shelter (minors)</td>
<td>• Joint Transitional Housing and Rapid Re-Housing with Supports – 12-24 months (18-24)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Time-Limited Rental</td>
<td>• Youth Emergency Shelter (18 to 24)</td>
<td>• Service Intensive Rapid Re-Housing (18-24)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance (18 to 24)</td>
<td>• Host Homes (18 to 24)</td>
<td>• Permanent Supportive Housing (18-24)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Family Reunification (minors) (18-24)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Identification and Early Intervention are key components of the Miami-Dade Coordinated Entry System and are critical to preventing youth homelessness before it begins. The H.O.M.Y. Collective’s partner agencies will conduct targeted non-stigmatizing outreach efforts to identify young people at imminent or future risk of experiencing homelessness. Upon identification, youth will be quickly connected to supportive resources provided by H.O.M.Y Collective partnering agencies to prevent a homeless episode. These services will include family and individual counseling, care coordination, employment navigation and work-readiness training, mainstream benefits assistance, rental assistance, and primary and behavioral health care, among other resources and supports.

In implementing a system-wide, agency-based identification and prevention campaign, The H.O.M.Y. Collective will move beyond the annual iCount youth Point-in-Time count and engage in year-round outreach that connects youth experiencing or at-risk of experiencing homelessness to system supports. Youth will be identified to access housing and services, through multiple avenues including (1) Street Outreach [UM Pediatric Mobile Health Unit and Miami Bridge Youth and Family Services], (2) Youth Drop-In Centers/Youth Access Points [Educate Tomorrow, Miami Bridge Youth and Family Services, Pridelines, and UM Pediatric Mobile Health Unit] and (3) a 24-Hour Youth-Competent Helpline (Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust). Further, Systems-Based Identification will be prioritized and better coordinated among critical Miami-Dade partnering agencies that are best situated to identify youth experiencing or at-risk of experiencing homelessness. These entities include Miami-Dade County Public Schools, the Department of Children and Families, the Department of Juvenile Justice, Jackson Health Systems, and South Florida Behavioral Health Network. To further streamline identification and coordinated entry matters, youth participant data will be integrated into the Homeless Management Information System.
Prevention, Identification, and Early Intervention will be used to identify youth at imminent risk of homelessness and occurs further upstream. Strategies should focus on reunifying youth, especially minor youth with family or other natural supports when safe and appropriate. In addition to family-focused efforts, ending homelessness for youth requires a broader set of interventions, ranging from short to longer-term housing, with varying levels of support and services, including education and employment. Education, employment, and permanent connections may be especially useful for young adults. To prevent youth from becoming homeless, the Coordinated Entry system must identify and work with families who are at risk of fracturing. When identifying homeless youth, the youth should be engaged and connected to trauma-informed, culturally appropriate, and developmentally and age-appropriate interventions. The Coordinated Entry system will leverage drop-in centers [Youth Access Points], street outreach programs [Homeless Trust and Miami Bridge Youth and Family Services], and public systems [Department of Children and Families (DCF), Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), MDCPS and Miami-
Dade County] to identify and engage at-risk children and intervene early to reduce incidence, duration, and impact of homelessness.

**Diversion** can be used to divert individuals who may have access to alternative shelter/housing arrangements (e.g., extended family member) from entering the homeless system, thereby reserving emergency housing resources for those youth in crisis. Diversion includes ongoing support after identifying the current housing alternative to ensure the youth client has safe and supportive housing in the future.

**Youth Access Points (YAPs)** are youth-frequented, accessible hot-spots where staff are trained to identify, assess, and serve youth experiencing or at-risk of experiencing homelessness. Staff at Youth Access Points will engage youth and administer a customized, Miami-specific vulnerability assessment and service prioritization assistance tool to determine youth needs, vulnerability, and eligibility for relevant programs and services.

**Prioritization for Housing Interventions and Services** Youth will be prioritized for housing and services based upon the results of their individual vulnerability assessment. The Youth Access Points will organize referrals and inform youth of the various applicable housing options. Youth can choose which housing option would be best for them. The chosen housing program will assist the youth and connect them to the H.O.M.Y. Collective’s partnering agencies so they can access all applicable resources and services. Minor youth will be coordinated into the DCF system and be provided with services from the Miami Bridge or other agencies that serve minor youth.

**By-Name List**

The Homeless Trust and the H.O.M.Y. Collective will also adhere to a by-name list of youth ages 18 to 24 (providers have access to this list). The By-Name list (BNL) will be used with the HMIS data to identify youth experiencing homelessness at any given time, and can potentially be used to plan estimates of future rates of homelessness. A BNL is a real-time, up-to-date list of all youth experiencing homelessness. The by-name list will allow Miami-Dade to know each youth experiencing homelessness by name and facilitate efficient decisions around how to best refer youth to housing resources and services. The youth BNL will prioritize Miami-Dade’s youth priority populations: young adults, youth of color, parenting youth, female youth, LGBTQ+ youth, youth with mental health issues, and youth with drug and/or alcohol abuse. The community will use a common assessment tool integrated into the HMIS software and the Coordinated Entry workflow. The community will then establish a password-protected housing prioritization list; and can prioritize rapid rehousing, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing through the housing prioritization list. The Homeless Trust will manage the BNL and Prioritization list, and the list can be updated by providers. The Miami-Dade youth providers will develop protocols on standards such as, when the vulnerability assessment tool should be re-administered, what to do with duplications; what to do when youth are housed; how to record and manage housing referrals; and how to code youth based on a key and information in the HMIS. Ultimately, there will be a monthly report out to The H.O.M.Y. Collective to discuss data and overview of outcomes. Each youth on the BNL will have access to safe and stable housing within 60 days.

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31 By-Name List definition and functionality information derived from By-Name List Special Ops Learning and Recommendations for Practice. Community Solutions, October 2015. November 2017.
Developing and Implementing a Systemic Response

**Priority Outcome Areas and Strategies**

**Priority Outcome 1**: Improve outreach, identification, and assessment of youth experiencing homelessness or housing instability.

**Priority Outcome 2**: Increase supply of youth-specific, developmentally appropriate housing options for youth experiencing homelessness.

**Priority Outcome 3**: Leverage existing resources and improve systems coordination to ensure youth complete their education and successfully enter the workforce to achieve long-term stability.

**Priority Outcome 4**: Ensure that disconnected and vulnerable youth develop healthy, permanent relationships with caring adults and peers.

**Priority Outcome 5**: Support the social, emotional, and physical well-being of vulnerable youth.

**Priority Outcome 6**: Expand homelessness prevention efforts and improve collaboration between systems that work with vulnerable youth to effectively intervene before youth become homeless.

Priority Outcome 1: Improve and enhance outreach, identification, and assessment of youth experiencing homelessness or housing instability.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategies: Outreach, Identification, and Assessment</th>
<th>Key Agencies/Partners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1 Integrate youth into the coordinated entry system with youth-focused access points, screening, and assessment. Ensure appropriate prioritization process is in place for youth in CE. Define and document standards for youth referral to housing and supportive services. (Consider multisite centralized access or a no wrong door approach to access points).</td>
<td>Homeless Trust (HT), Miami Homes For All (MHFA), The H.O.M.Y. Collective (THC) youth-serving agencies (Technical Assistance)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2 Develop and utilize a youth-specific assessment tool. Test assessment tool and conduct trainings with outreach teams and access point staff to ensure assessments are conducted using person-centered approach.</td>
<td>HT, MHFA, THC Partners, Youth Access Points, and University of Miami (UM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3 Define and codify processes for verification of homeless youth by outreach team. Identify and formally designate agencies with authority to verify homeless youth. Conduct trainings with outreach team, agency staff, and youth providers on verification/certification process.</td>
<td>HT, MHFA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4 Explore feasibility of expanding the 24/7 Homeless Helpline operations to 24/7 online chat and/or text options for youth that may contact the Homeless Helpline after hours. This may include a partnership with Jewish Community Services or other community partners to assist in assessments and placements.</td>
<td>HT, MHFA, Jewish Community Services/2-1-1, and THC Partners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5 Conduct provider and outreach team trainings on youth needs and protocols for serving unaccompanied homeless youth.</td>
<td>HT, MHFA, THC Partners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6 Maintain by-name list of youth that includes current sleeping location, housing situation upon exit, and comparison data on youth of color and LGBTQ youth who are active clients in comparison to the percentage exiting to stable housing.</td>
<td>HT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.7 Develop data-sharing agreement between MDCPS, HT, DCF, DJJ to coordinate interventions for systems-involved youth and reduce discharge into homelessness. Identify lead coordinating agency and develop procedural guidelines for implementing interventions and making referrals.</td>
<td>HT, Miami-Dade County Public Schools Project UPSTART (MDCPS), Department of Children and Families (DCF), and Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1.8 Conduct county-wide PR/outreach and street outreach campaign utilizing social media, traditional media, posters/flyers, and youth-friendly mediums to increase knowledge of services among homeless and vulnerable youth. Ensure youth are aware of The H.O.M.Y. Collective website, community resources, U.S. Health and Human Services Application, and helpline information.

HT, MHFA, Miami Bridge, and THC Partners

1.9 Conduct an annual county-wide youth point-in-time count, iCount Miami, held after the general population point-in-time count in January. To support the iCount, a year-long outreach effort to be conducted to raise awareness on youth homelessness, available resources, and the iCount Miami.

HT, Miami Bridge Youth and Family Services (Miami Bridge), UM, MHFA, and THC Partners

1.10 Develop a Miami-Dade needs assessment of the H.O.M.Y. Collective, and in general, the youth homelessness system-of-care.

UM, MHFA, HT, and Corporation for Supportive Housing (Technical Assistance)

Priority Outcome 2: Increase supply of youth-specific, developmentally appropriate housing options for youth experiencing homelessness.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategies: Stable Housing</th>
<th>Key Agencies/Partners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1 Dedicate a number of Continuum of Care-provider emergency shelter beds allocated specifically for youth ages 18-24 through local funding. Increase number of youth-specific Emergency Shelter beds reported in the 2017 HIC report (12 beds reported).</td>
<td>HT, THC partners, and MHFA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2 Increase transitional housing options, inclusive of host homes and group homes programs, with supportive services for unaccompanied homeless youth between the ages of 18-24.</td>
<td>HT and THC Partners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3 Establish housing locations and stabilization services for youth moving into market-rate or subsidized housing. Housing services will include assistance finding an apartment owned by willing, youth-friendly landlords and roommate matching. Agencies offering housing location and stabilization services will coordinate directly with County landlord recruitment and retention efforts as detailed in HT Landlord Recruitment &amp; Retention Program and Marketing Campaign Report and Recommended Rent Connect and Mitigation Fund Program.</td>
<td>HT and THC Partners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4 Partner with affordable housing developers to commit units to unaccompanied homeless youth. Create time-limited rental subsidies – Rapid Rehousing for Youth - (e.g., gradually stepped-down rental subsidy for youth in scattered site, affordable and market-rate apartments [up to 24 months] with safety net. Offer supportive services and case management that is youth-centered, youth-determined, and that focus on housing stability (e.g., independent living skills development, securing income to sustain rent post-program).</td>
<td>HT and THC Partners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5 Partner with public housing authority to prioritize youth with high barriers to housing. Allow for identification and referral of youth who meet special needs criteria under Florida Statutes (e.g., aged out of foster care, survivors of DV, disabled) and currently housing vulnerable.</td>
<td>HT and THC Partners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.6 Conduct needs assessment to determine service and housing usage by youth sub-populations with highest need (e.g., parenting youth, LGBTQ youth, minor youth, young adults, disabled youth, and systems-involved youth).</td>
<td>HT, MHFA, UM, and CSH (Technical Assistance)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Priority Outcome 3: Leverage existing resources and improve systems coordination to ensure youth complete their education and successfully enter the workforce to achieve long-term stability.
### Strategies: Education and Employment

| 3.1 | Provide training and support to joint transitional housing and rapid re-housing stabilization programs with wrap-around services to encourage education and employment retention. | MDCPS, Educate Tomorrow (ET), Florida International University (FIU), and Miami-Dade College (MDC) |
| 3.2 | Merge adult education/job readiness resources for youth. Ensure youth-friendly online accessibility and up-to-date information to stream through a shared network. | MDCPS, CareerSource South Florida (CSSF), Miami Job Corps |
| 3.3 | Foster partnerships with private and public sector agencies to provide sustainable education and employment services and opportunities to youth at-risk of and experiencing homelessness. | Educate Tomorrow and CSSF |
| 3.4 | Develop a youth-friendly outreach program on education and job readiness resources. Provide supportive services and training inclusive of life-skills and financial literacy. | MDCPS, MDC, FIU, THC Partners, and ET |
| 3.5 | Support Coordinated Entry efforts between Miami-Dade County Public High Schools, Miami-Dade County Public Schools’ Technical Colleges and Adult Education, Miami-Dade College, Florida International University, and the Homeless Trust in implementing the universal Homeless Verification Form policies and procedures. | THC Partners |

### Priority Outcome 4: Ensure that disconnected and vulnerable youth develop healthy, permanent relationships with caring adults and peers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategies: Permanent Connections</th>
<th>Key Agencies/Partners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.1 Invest in development of youth leadership through the Youth Voice Advisory Council. Ensure youth engagement and participation at THC committee level and within the HT Youth Homelessness Working Group.</td>
<td>MHFA, HT, and University of Miami Children and Youth Law Clinic (UM CYLC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2 Establish working partnership with open and consistent communication between Our Kids, The Miami Bridge Youth and Family Services, the Alliance for GLBTQ Youth and other THC partners serving youth in foster care and at-risk of becoming homeless.</td>
<td>Our Kids, The Miami Bridge, The Alliance for GLBTQ Youth (The Alliance)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3 Expand upon successful Permanent Connections Roundtable pilot created by Florida Foster Care Review. PCRT is a youth-centered program to connect youth experiencing homelessness or at-risk of experiencing homelessness to a Permanent Connection in the community.</td>
<td>Florida Foster Care Review, MDCPS, The Alliance, and Educate Tomorrow (ET)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.4 Revive existing mentoring collaborative for vulnerable youth in Miami-Dade County, inclusive of youth-development, employment, and educational mentoring organizations.</td>
<td>ET and THC Partners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.5 Develop outreach and resources for immigrant youth experiencing homelessness, inclusive of refugee youth.</td>
<td>THC Partners</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Priority Outcome 5: Support the social, emotional, and physical well-being of vulnerable youth.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategies: Well-Being</th>
<th>Key Agencies/Partners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.1 Implement the six basic safety guidelines for housing unaccompanied homeless youth (inclusive of foster homes, shelters, host homes, residential treatment facilities, and religious institutions).</td>
<td>South Florida Behavioral Health Network (SFBHN), Our Kids, and THC Partners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2 Continue partnership with pediatric mobile health unit that is accessible to homeless youth with a mental health component.</td>
<td>Jackson Holtz Children’s Hospital (Jackson Holtz) and UM Pediatrics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.3 Provide primary and behavioral health care to youth exiting juvenile justice system.</td>
<td>Jackson Holtz and UM Pediatrics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5.4 THC Partners will develop and implement trainings with continuing education credits for healthcare professionals to enhance competency in working with homeless youth. Trainings will target primary and behavioral health care providers and Federally Qualified Health Centers who treat at-risk and homeless youth.  
Jackson Holtz, SFBHN, and MHFA

5.5 Identify performance metrics to regularly assess progress on increasing housing stability for systems-involved youth and reduce discharge into homelessness (Discharge Plan)  
HT, DCF, DJJ, UM

5.6 Develop and implement a health education outreach program for at-risk and homeless youth; and to hospital and clinics with information and awareness necessary to appropriately serve homeless youth  
Jackson Holtz, UM Pediatrics, and THC Partners

Priority Outcome 6: Expand homelessness prevention efforts and improve collaboration between systems that work with vulnerable youth to effectively intervene before youth become homeless.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategies:</th>
<th>Key Agencies/Partners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.1 Develop and implement a formalized funding stream through retaining various funding resources to support the backbone and key H.O.M.Y. agencies in the Coordinated Entry process.</td>
<td>HT and MHFA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.2 Develop and implement a Reunification Program for youth exiting the Juvenile Justice System; see pilot Florida Foster Care Review’s Permanent Connections Round Table program, primarily for youth ages 18-24.</td>
<td>THC Partners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>See 4.2</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>See 5.3</strong> DJJ Exit Planning – THC partners or HT designee should be at monthly service provider and government agency roundtable for youth exiting the juvenile justice system to provide housing referrals</td>
<td>THC Partners</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Miami-Dade County’s Next Steps for Youth and the Future

Currently, the community is implementing strategies from the 2016 Strategic Plan. Following the implementation of the HUD mandated Coordinated Entry Policy, The H.O.M.Y. Collective and the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust would implement the above priority outcomes and strategies from this 2017 Comprehensive Plan to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness in Miami-Dade County, which are in line with the Miami-Dade County Community Homeless Plan: Priority Home.

The goals and objectives of the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust and the H.O.M.Y. Collective are to develop and implement a youth-centric coordinated entry process for youth to have access to (1) safe, stable, and affordable housing; (2) stable and healthy relationships with a mentor, or to be safely reunited with family; (3) affordable and appropriate primary and behavioral healthcare; and (4) education and employment. To attain these outcomes, the coordinated entry policy will support youth through data-informed and evidence-based best practices, outreach efforts, allocated funding; and centering youth voice.
Appendix A – Partners and Participating Organizations

- Adult Mankind Organization
- The Alliance for GLBTQ Youth
- The Alternative Programs, Inc.
- Aqua Foundation for Women
- Atlantic Pacific Communities
- Camillus House
- CareerSource South Florida
- Carfour Supportive Housing
- Casa Valentina
- CBS Neighbors 4 Neighbors
- The Children’s Trust
- Citrus Health Network
- City of Miami Parks
- City of North Miami Beach
- Community Coalition, Inc.
- Community Health of South Florida, Inc.
- Concept Health Systems
- Dade Legal Aid
- Disability Independence Group
- Educate Tomorrow
- Florida Department of Children & Families
- Florida Foster Care Review
- Florida Guardian Ad Litem Program
- Florida International University Career & Talent Development Services
- Florida International University Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine
- Florida International University Fostering Panther Pride
- Florida Philanthropic Network
- Florida Youth Shine
- Funders Together to End Homelessness - Florida
- Jackson Health System - Holtz Children’s Hospital
- Jackson Behavioral Health
- Jackson Community Mental Health Center
- Jewish Community Services of South Florida
- Legal Services of Greater Miami
- Lotus House/Sundari Foundation
- The M Network
- Miami Bridge Youth & Family Services
- Miami-Dade College
- Miami-Dade College Educate Tomorrow Single-Stop
- Miami-Dade Community Action Agency
- Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust
- Miami-Dade County Juvenile Justice Department
- Miami-Dade County Parks
- Miami-Dade County Public Libraries
- Miami-Dade County Public Schools
- Miami-Dade County Public Schools Adult Education & Technical Colleges
- Miami-Dade County Public Schools Project UP-START
- Miami-Dade County State Attorney’s Office
- Miami Homes For All
- Miami Job Corps Center
- New Hope Corps
- Overtown Youth Center
- Our Kids of Miami-Dade/Monroe, Inc.
- The Paragon Partnership
- Planned Parenthood Pridelines
- Project SAFE
- The Salvation Army
- South Florida Behavioral Health Network
- Survivor’s Pathway
- Touching Miami with Love
- Transitions Inc.
- Trinity Church
- United Way of Miami-Dade
- University of Miami Department of Pediatrics – Pediatric Mobile Clinic
- University of Miami Office of Civic and Community Engagement
- University of Miami Children & Youth Law Clinic
- The Women’s Fund
- Yes Institute
- Youth Co-Op, Inc.
- Youth MOVE - The Youth & Family Center

Appendix B – Philanthropic Funding Partners

This initiative would not have been possible without the funding support provide by the following partners:
Appendix C – Homeless Trust – Youth Homelessness Working Group

- Miami Homes For All
- Florida Housing Finance Corporation
- Department of Children and Families
- Camillus House
- Miami-Dade Juvenile Justice Services Department
- CareerSource of South Florida
- Miami-Dade Office of the State Attorney
- Our Kids
- Miami-Dade County Public Schools Project UP-START

- The Alliance for GLBTQ Youth
- Pridelines/Project SAFE
- Miami Bridge Youth and Family Services
- Casa Valentina
- South Florida Behavioral Health Network
- Miami-Dade College
- The Children’s Trust
- Lotus House/Sundari Foundation

Appendix D - Long-Term Impact of Youth Homelessness: Health & Economic Consequences

Youth who experience homelessness are at increased risk of developing physical and behavioral health issues, becoming victims of violent crime and targets for sexual exploitation and abuse, and often have poor educational outcomes, which leads to fewer employment opportunities and reduced life-long earning potential. Youth who experience homelessness are at incredible risk of suffering long-term physical, mental, emotional, and economic impacts that may place them on the path towards future, chronic homelessness. Studies on adolescent and young adult mental and physical health, education, juvenile justice, and youth homelessness have helped to illuminate the negative consequences that correlate with the experience of homelessness among youth, including:

- Increased risk of not completing high school, with only 20% to 30% of homeless youth graduating high school.
- Increased risk of pregnancy, with homeless young women being five times more likely to become pregnant and far more likely to experience multiple pregnancies.
- Engaging in illegal activity in order to survive, including stealing, forced entry, dealing drugs, or gang activity.
- Earlier initiation of sexual activity, with youth experiencing homelessness engaging in sexual activity 2-3 years earlier than stably housed peers.
- Increased risk of becoming victims of violent crime including assault and robbery, with youth experiencing homelessness being 2-3 times more likely to be victims of rape and sexual assault than the general youth population.
- High rates of depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety and other mental health disorders, as well as higher rates of suicidal ideation, attempts, and completed suicides.

Appendix E – 2016 Strategic Plan Updates

**Education & Employment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EDUCATION &amp; EMPLOYMENT STRATEGIES</th>
<th>STRATEGY DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>ACCOMPLISHMENTS</th>
<th>IN-PROGRESS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STRATEGY 1</td>
<td>Develop dorm-style housing for unaccompanied homeless youth enrolled in college or vocational programs.</td>
<td>• Funding from multiple sources to establish an emergency shelter dorm-style pilot program for youth, a total of 24 beds were youth-specific</td>
<td>• Finding suitable property for purchase to start a Miami-Dade affordable housing pilot program for students accessing the State Tuition Waiver in District of Columbia Interagency Council on Homelessness. Solid Foundations DC: Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness. May 2017.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

33 Id.
35 Id.
36 Id at 17
37 Id at 17
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STRATEGY 2</th>
<th>Develop adult education/job readiness chart</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• MDCPS Technical Colleges developed a resource chart.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Educate Tomorrow created an app for “Education and Career Goals” for youth to create individual plans and can share with their mentors within Educate Tomorrow and Miami-Dade College.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• CareerSource provides information sessions at MDCPS to discuss their services with students.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Re-working strategy to reflect the community’s capacity and needs.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Work with CareerSource so their website can be youth-friendly.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Create an employment portal that speaks to all H.O.M.Y. agencies’ systems.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STRATEGY 3</th>
<th>Create universal homeless verification form and procedures for higher education</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Miami-Dade County Public Schools works closely with Miami-Dade College and Florida International University and established a universal form – the Miami-Dade education pipeline was recognized by USICH, early 2017.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Coordinating with the Miami-Dade Continuum of Care on Coordinated Entry and its relation to Homeless Verification.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STRATEGY 4</th>
<th>Leverage existing resources to support youth at risk of, or experience homelessness to develop career goals and skills and access employment opportunities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Partnered with Publix to connect youth to employment opportunities.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Educate Tomorrow, Transition Inc., Youth Co-Op, Community Coalition Inc., and Adult Mankind Organization provide employment services and job-skills training to over 100 youth.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Miami-Dade College and Educate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Recruit more youth-centric employment agencies to committee, to prioritize homeless youth.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Tomorrow collaborate to build professionalism and life-skills training to their students.

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**Permanent Connections**

**Permanent Connections Strategies**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STRATEGY 1</th>
<th>STRATEGY DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>ACCOMPLISHMENTS</th>
<th>IN-PROGRESS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Establish a youth seat on the Homeless Trust Board</td>
<td>• The University of Miami Children &amp; Youth Law Clinic, Florida Youth Shine, and Power U for Social Change provided an Advocacy and Media 101 training to the H.O.M.Y. Youth Voice Advisory Council.</td>
<td>• Members from the Youth Voice Advisory Council are slowly joining the other committees. Miami Homes For All is formalizing an advocacy program for youth, ages 18-24 with lived experience of homelessness.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| STRATEGY 2 | Establish a meaningful working partnership with open and consistent communication between Our Kids, The Miami Bridge, GLBTQ Alliance, and other YHI partners serving youth in foster care and at-risk of becoming homeless | • Meaningful working partnerships have been established between the organizations listed in the strategy. Educate Tomorrow, Miami Bridge, The Alliance for GLBTQ Youth, and Educate Tomorrow are a part of the Permanent Connections Round Table pilot program. Our Kids is involved in the Education & Employment and Stable Housing Committees. | The Florida Department of Children and Families will provide training on their role in youth homelessness, especially concerning to older youth over the age of 16. |

| STRATEGY 3 | Pilot a youth-centered program to connect youth experiencing homelessness or at-risk of experiencing homelessness to a permanent connection in the community | • Florida Foster Care Review piloted the Permanent Connections Round Table pilot program, the first permanency round table program specifically for homeless youth. This is the first of its kind in the country for homeless youth in establishing permanent connections. They served 5 youth. |

| STRATEGY 4 | Establish a mentoring collaborative in Miami-Dade County, or revive existing collaborative | • Educate Tomorrow is partnering with Our Kids, MDCPS, FIU, MDC, H.O.M.Y. Collective, For the service partnership, Educate Tomorrow is hiring full-time youth coaches at three MDCPS high schools | |
Lawyers for Children of America, Florida Guardian Ad Litem Program, Florida Foster Care Review, Casa Valentina, Disability Independence Group, and the FIU Education Effect; for a service partnership to provide a Continuum of Care for foster and homeless youth; Educate Tomorrow is the backbone agency under the Unite Here grant, collaborating with multiple organizations to provide a Continuum of Care for foster youth and inclusive of homeless youth; this grant is funded by The Children’s Trust.

- Educate Tomorrow has a mentoring partnership with Guitar Over Guns, The Motivational Edge, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Florida Guardian Ad Litem, UP2US, and South Florida Cares Mentoring.

### STRATEGY 5

**Establish a reunification unit in juvenile facilities**

- South Florida Behavioral Health Network attends Juvenile Justice exit interviews on behalf of the YHI.
- South Florida Behavioral Health Network and Miami Homes For All attending Juvenile Services Department’s Community Based Organizations to discuss youth homelessness and how juvenile justice partner agencies can work together in addressing it.

## Stable Housing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STABLE HOUSING STRATEGIES</th>
<th>STRATEGY DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>ACCOMPLISHMENTS</th>
<th>IN-PROGRESS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>STRATEGY 1</strong></td>
<td>Increase the number of emergency shelter beds allocated specifically for 18-24 year olds in Miami-Dade County among</td>
<td>- Camillus House had an emergency shelter pilot program for 24 youth.</td>
<td>Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust and Miami Homes For All are receiving technical assistance on the</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Continuum of Care providers participating in HMIS, through local and federal funding, beyond the 12 youth Emergency Shelter beds reported in the 2016 HIC Report.

- Citrus Health Network has up to 24 youth beds through their Safe Haven program and FRAT program.
- Lotus House received a grant to earmark 20 beds for youth and parenting youth.
- Coordinated Entry policy for youth; they are working with the Corporation for Supportive Housing to understand the needs and gaps in our community in establishing the number of beds needed.
- Chapman Partnership to dedicate a facility for youth.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STRATEGY 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increase Transitional Housing options with supportive services for unaccompanied homeless youth between the ages of 18-24 in Miami-Dade County.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Paragon Partnership established a transitional housing program for LGBTQA foster and homeless youth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• SMASH is trying to establish a transitional housing program for LGBTQA youth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Pridelines to re-invigorate Host Homes program by recruiting and training households.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STRATEGY 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Establish housing location and stabilization services for youth moving to market-rate apartments. Housing services would include assistance finding an apartment with willing, youth-friendly landlord; roommate matching, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Our Kids &amp; Citrus Health Network provides location and stabilizations services for youth exiting foster care, including case management for a year.</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STRATEGY 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Partner with affordable housing developers to commit units for unaccompanied homeless youth. Create time-limited rental subsidies with safety net available.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Our Kids works closely with Atlantic-Pacific and have established units committed to transitioning foster youth; in the 2016 calendar year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Atlantic-Pacific is taking the initiative to have an affordable housing forum to discuss homeless youth and the need to have units available for them.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STRATEGY 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Partner with public housing authority to prioritize youth with high barriers to housing. Allow for identification and referral of youth who meet special needs criteria under Florida Statutes and are currently in homeless shelters and/or housing vulnerable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The Children’s Trust and Miami Homes For All are working towards recruiting the public housing authority to the Stable Housing committee.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Well-Being**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WELL-BEING STRATEGIES</th>
<th>STRATEGY DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>ACCOMPLISHMENTS</th>
<th>IN-PROGRESS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STRATEGY 1</td>
<td>Establish safety guidelines for housing unaccompanied homeless youth.</td>
<td>Safety guidelines were established after seeking guidance from local and national best practices. <em>Please see below for the</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STRATEGY 2</td>
<td>Develop a mobile health unit that includes a mental health component.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• The University of Miami Pediatric Mobile Health Unit with a mental health component serves across Miami-Dade County and some parts of Monroe County; the unit has a team of professionals to provide primary and behavioral healthcare (as preliminary check-ups and vaccinations); the team can also provide referrals for specialty care.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The UM Pediatric Mobile Health Unit collaborating with Jackson Community Mental Health Center to provide more behavioral healthcare at stationary locations, specifically at MDCPS High Schools for monthly health fairs.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>STRATEGY 3</td>
<td>Provide primary and behavioral healthcare to youth exiting juvenile justice system.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• South Florida Behavioral Health Network works with many providers that serve juvenile justice involved youth.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Miami Homes For All and South Florida Behavioral Health Network recruiting juvenile justice involved organizations and provide information trainings/sessions.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>STRATEGY 4</td>
<td>Primary and behavioral healthcare providers will adopt evidence based practices to identify, assess, and treat at-risk and homeless youth.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• South Florida Behavioral Health Network follows Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration guidelines; SFBHN provides evidence-based trainings to the healthcare community.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• SFBHN works closely with health networks to raise awareness on youth homelessness, behavioral/mental health, and substance abuse issues.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Information trainings/sessions provided to hospital networks.</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STRATEGY 5</td>
<td>Identify and eliminate barriers for at-risk or homeless youth to access primary or behavioral healthcare.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Miami Homes For All, Jackson Health Systems, and South Florida Behavioral Health Network held focus groups with the Youth Voice Advisory Council to discuss well-being and how to address barriers.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Annual trainings provided to Jackson Memorial Health’s Pediatrics staff.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• South Florida Behavioral Health Network had Youth Peer Specialist</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• SFBHN’s Youth Peer Specialist program, Beyond Empowerment funding ended on June 30, 2017 and will not be available for the new fiscal year as no other sustainability came to fruition, THC partners to assist in continuing this effort to train youth peers.</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>STRATEGY 6</td>
<td>STRATEGY DESCRIPTION</td>
<td>ACCOMPLISHMENTS</td>
<td>IN-PROGRESS</td>
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<tr>
<td>STRATEGY 6</td>
<td>Expand the number of hospitals and clinics with information and awareness necessary to appropriately serve homeless youth.</td>
<td>- Jackson Memorial Health Network has the Miami-Dade Youth Resource Guide on their mobile app.</td>
<td>- Well-Being Committee recruiting other hospitals and clinics to the YHI.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Funding**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FUNDING STRATEGIES</th>
<th>STRATEGY DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>ACCOMPLISHMENTS</th>
<th>IN-PROGRESS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STRATEGY 1</td>
<td>Develop the grant cycle calendar of funders at the local, state, and national levels</td>
<td>- Committee was established with key funders from private and government sectors with a calendar of their grant cycles</td>
<td>- As funding opportunities are made available, they are announced at all H.O.M.Y. meetings and information is disseminated electronically</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STRATEGY 2</td>
<td>Create a resource list of all the funders currently working in our sector by surveying all of the agencies</td>
<td>- Miami Homes For All provides “Community Updates” at every monthly meeting with funding updates</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STRATEGY 3</td>
<td>Engage funders to garner their support of YHI</td>
<td>- A Funders forum was planned for 2017; however, due to the technical support’s staff transition, the event did not come to fruition.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STRATEGY 4</td>
<td>Source current grant notifications and work with relevant YHI committees on submitting collaborative grant applications</td>
<td>- Several partners have received large grants for advocacy and programmatic efforts through community collaborations. These partners include Miami Homes For All, Lotus House, and Miami Bridge</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STRATEGY 5</td>
<td>Source the development of appropriate marketing materials about YHI to foundations and government funders</td>
<td>- Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust funded the rebrand of the Miami-Dade Youth Homelessness Initiative to the H.O.M.Y. Collective – Helping Our Miami-Dade Youth; the rebrand effort (to be youth-centric) includes the creation of a website, social media, and other marketing materials</td>
<td>- Miami Homes For All created a YHI brochure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Funding Committee has since been moved in-house to Miami Homes For All, as the backbone agency of the Miami-Dade Youth Homelessness Initiative/the H.O.M.Y. Collective – Helping Our Miami-Dade Youth. The Funding Committee and the YHI/H.O.M.Y. partners agreed this would streamline funding strategies.

Public Relations/Outreach

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>STRATEGY 1</th>
<th>STRATEGY DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>ACCOMPLISHMENTS</th>
<th>IN-PROGRESS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
|            | Marketing and outreach to local Miami-Dade County shelters to build awareness of the experiences/needs of unaccompanied homeless youth and services offered through YHI partners. | • 2017 Miami-Dade Youth Resource Guide completed and published on the Miami Homes For All website, Homeless Trust Website, Jewish Community Services website, and other provider websites. The Resource Guide is edited on a quarterly basis.  
• Many of the shelters serving youth are involved in the Stable Housing Committee, providing their experience and knowledge to Stable Housing strategies  
• Miami Homes For All provides trainings to shelters on youth experiencing homelessness. | • The Youth Voice Advisory Council to create marketing materials to disseminate to the community. |

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<tr>
<th>STRATEGY 2</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Awareness/outreach to youth clients of local agencies and YHI partners.</td>
<td>• The Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust funded the creation of marketing materials for the rebrand of the YHI to the H.O.M.Y. Collective – Helping Our Miami-Dade Youth. This rebrand served to establish the collaborative to be youth-centric. The rebrand effort was led by H.O.M.Y.’s Youth Voice Advisory Council.</td>
<td>• Jacober Creative is designing the H.O.M.Y. Collective logo; rebrand effort led by the Youth Voice Advisory Council, the Steering Committee, and the Miami-Dade Homeless Trust</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>STRATEGY 3</th>
<th>STRATEGY DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>ACCOMPLISHMENTS</th>
<th>IN-PROGRESS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Support the development of appropriate marketing materials about the YHI to foundations and government funders.</td>
<td>• Miami Homes For All created a brochure on the YHI/H.O.M.Y. Collective</td>
<td>• Miami Homes For All has been representing the YHI/H.O.M.Y. Collective in meetings with foundations and potential funders.</td>
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<tr>
<th>STRATEGY 4</th>
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<th>ACCOMPLISHMENTS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Collaborate with the local faith-based community to identify, support, and refer at-risk and homeless youth.</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Recruit faith-based organizations to join the YHI</td>
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## Data & Research

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STRATEGY 1</th>
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<th>ACCOMPLISHMENTS</th>
<th>IN-PROGRESS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STRATEGY 1</td>
<td>Collect accurate data on the number of families with children 13-17 and youth 18-24.</td>
<td>• Data &amp; Research created a shared folder containing all available county community data &lt;br&gt; • Data was collected from all housing providers that serve youth</td>
<td>• Data &amp; Research to assist in the creation and implementation of the Coordinated Entry Assessment Tool for youth and By-Name List &lt;br&gt; • University of Miami’s Data &amp; Research Team will do an analysis of data to create a needs/gap analysis of the YHI Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STRATEGY 2</td>
<td>Collect accurate data on the current state of emergency and transitional housing for families with children 13-17 and youth 18-24.</td>
<td>• Data was collected from the Continuum of Care’s Housing Inventory Count report</td>
<td>• Data &amp; Research assisting other committees in their data needs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STRATEGY 3</td>
<td>Improve data collection strategies and systems for sharing across the YHI.</td>
<td>• The University of Miami Data Team created the iCount survey instrument and structured the iCount</td>
<td>• Assisting the Continuum of Care to improve data collection strategies</td>
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<tr>
<td>STRATEGY 4</td>
<td>Map the Youth Homelessness Initiative Network</td>
<td>• University of Miami mapped the entire YHI network through extensive interviews.</td>
<td>• The map to inform YHI outreach strategies and efforts &lt;br&gt; • Map will be geocoded to understand current geographical resources and where to fill in gaps.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Well-Being Strategy 1: Safety Guidelines & Health Initiative for Housing Programs

Below are safety guidelines established by the Well-Being Committee, under Strategy 1 for housing programs.

1. Agency to provide mandatory training for new full-time staff of 80 hours in their first year of employment and 40 hours of training annually thereafter. Their training includes: Behavior Management, DJJ, DCF, Council on Accreditation (COA) Standardized Training, Employee relations, Communication skills, and Diversity Ethics. Training to include cultural diversity awareness, domestic violence awareness, pregnancy prevention and parenting, LGBTQ sensitivity, sexual exploitation, substance abuse, and working with youth with disabilities, as well topics required by State. Staff and/or supervisor to identify appropriate trainings for staff to attend. All trainings are mandatory and can brief at staff meetings (Safe Space, Safe Haven Transitional Living Program Policy and Procedure Manual, Page 9, Training). Staff should be trained on pain based behavior as to not take certain behaviors of youth personally. Staff should be trained on nonviolent-crisis intervention, trauma informed care, mental health first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA), etc.
2. If a youth is receiving substance abuse, mental health, or behavioral health services, his/her therapist(s) should be consulted when youth will be moving to or away from temporary housing, or is in danger of losing stable housing, so as to prepare the youth for any impending major life changes and not cause further damage to the youth’s progress.

3. If a youth is involved in dangerous situation(s), such as neglect, abuse, abandonment, domestic violence, gang activities or exploitation, a safety plan should be established with the youth to ensure he/she knows of safe places, persons and what to do in a dangerous situation. The Florida Abuse Hotline procedures should be followed as mandated by Florida Law.

4. When transgender clients present for care, they will be addressed and referred to on the basis of their self-identified gender, using their pronouns and name in use, regardless of the patient’s appearance, surgical history, legal name, or sex assigned at birth. If the client’s family members suggest that the client is of a gender different from that which the client self identifies, the client’s view should be honored. [Organization’s] staff members will not use language or tone that a reasonable person would consider to demean, question, or invalidate a client’s actual or perceived gender identity or expression. They will not ask questions or make statements about a transgender person’s genitalia, breasts, other physical characteristics or surgical status except for professional reasons that can be clearly articulated. Information about a client’s transgender status or any transition-related services that the client is seeking and/or has obtained is sensitive information and should be held in the highest state of confidentiality.

5. Grievance procedures should be made clear, posted and youth should feel safe to report a grievance with fear of any retaliation or harassment.
   a. All materials, outreach efforts, intake procedures, placement procedures, response policies (especially in regards to crisis/intervention) will be youth-centered, inclusive of all youth, and backed by trauma-informed training. Young people should be able to easily navigate all processes related to receiving services/programming through a given entity. These procedures and materials should be revisited on an ongoing basis to ensure they maintain relevance and are current with their population. Finally, a visible suggestion/feedback box should be made accessible to all youth, with the capability of accepting anonymous reports about services, staff, bullying, or any other safety concerns, etc.

Appendix F – Homeless Youth Definitions and Related Terms

US Health & Human Services/Family and Youth Services Bureau’s Definition of Runaway –

The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act

- The RHYA defines runaway youth as individuals who are less than 18 years of age and who absents himself or herself from home or a place of legal residence without the permission of a parent or legal guardian. §387(a)(4)
- The RHYA defines homeless youth as individuals who are not more than 21 years of age for whom it is not possible to live in a safe environment with a relative and who have no other safe alternative living arrangement. §387(a)(3)

Throwaway youth are youth who have been asked, told, or forced to leave home by parents or caregivers with no alternate care arranged.

Runaway Youth are youth who have left home without parental caregiver permission and stay away for one or more nights. A runaway episode has been defined as being away from home overnight for youth under 14 (or older and mentally incompetent) and for two or more nights for youth ages 15 and older.

Street Youth are youth who have spent at least some time living on the streets without a parent or caregiver.

Systems Youth are youth who become homeless after aging out of foster care or exiting the juvenile justice system.  

40 Throwaway youth, runaway youth, street youth, and systems youth definitions derived from youth.gov