

Supporting Families Struggling with **HOMELESSNESS**



The strain homelessness or imminent homelessness puts on a family is palpable: other priorities, such as nutrition, hygiene, and education all become secondary in the desperate search for safe and stable housing. Homelessness exposes vulnerable and often high need youth and families to a number of risks: emotional trauma, separation, academic underachievement evidenced by low attendance and poor performance on tests, acute and chronic health problems, and developmental delays. However, these risks can be mitigated when families have stable housing.

Program Purpose

- To help prevent homelessness through family finding, brokering stable housing and other case management services
- To keep families together or reunify families currently separated due to unstable housing and secondary issues such as mental health and addiction
- To shorten length of stay in temporary housing shelters
- To partner with and empower families to become self-sufficient and self-advocate for needed services
- To promote stable permanent housing to reduce the likelihood of future homelessness

Program Components

YAP can work with youth and families an average of 10 hours a week in the community and within the residence of the family. YAP's strength-based, family focused and trauma-informed approach offers the following components:

- Holistic Assessment Process that addresses all life domains, including residence, health and mental health, employment, education, social, financial, legal, and safety
- The development of a comprehensive individualized plan that coordinates otherwise fragmented services
- Intensive Case-Management and Advocacy to broker services, help with transportation and navigating complicated systems.
- Matching with a Culturally Competent "Advocate" who has extensive knowledge of community resources and how to access them
- Flexible Funds that help meet concrete needs such as security deposits and first month's rent, purchase furniture or help with emergency needs such as utilities and food
- School Engagement and Academic Support for school-aged children
- Safety Planning and 24/7 Crisis Support

TARGET POPULATIONS

- ▶ Families with Children at risk of placement or Currently in Placement
- ▶ LGBTQ Youth
- ▶ Immigrant Families
- ▶ Parents with Challenges such as Employment, Mental Health, Addictions
- ▶ Children and Adults with Acute or Chronic Health Conditions
- ▶ Families with Recurrent or Chronic Homelessness
- ▶ Women Pregnant or with Small Children