

PROCESS:

The Opening Doors for Youth plan was created from a year long, multi-stakeholder initiative aimed at creating a comprehensive, integrated network of services for homeless and unstably housed young people ages 14-24 in Connecticut. Between March and October 2014, three subgroups met regularly to assess the current service landscape in the state and formulate recommendations for improvement. The subgroups considered three distinct but related areas: stable housing; services and supports; and data collection and integration. Participants in this process included state agency personnel, providers, advocates and funders.

GET A FULL VERSION OF THE OPENING DOORS FOR YOUTH PLAN!

VISIT: www.pschousing.org/runaway-and-homeless-youth-workgroup

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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Opening Doors for Youth

**An action plan to provide
all Connecticut youth
and young adults with
safe, stable homes
and opportunities.**

Overview Summary

March 2015

WRITTEN BY:

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REACHING HOME CAMPAIGN'S HOMELESS YOUTH WORKGROUP
Staffed by the Partnership for Strong Communities
MELVILLE CHARITABLE TRUST
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YOUTH CATALYTICS

VISION:

Creating a future when all young people in Connecticut have safe, stable places to live and opportunities to reach their full potential.

FINDINGS:

- Youth and young adult homelessness exists on a continuum ranging from intermittent housing instability to absolute homelessness.
- Youth and young adults (YYA) who leave, are forced out, or have never been involved with the state-sponsored system face high barriers in accessing services they likely still need to stay safe and succeed in life.
- There is an ongoing and urgent need to collect better data on YYA with housing instability, and to integrate data streams and best practices across systems.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

- Our plan must consistently encourage, facilitate and value the involvement of YYA in planning and implementing improvements in the state's support system;
- Our plan must be built on the framework created by Opening Doors, the nation's first comprehensive strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness developed by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH).
- Our plan must develop, embrace and encourage best practices that cut across and integrate systems and traditional silos.

OVERARCHING STRATEGIES:

- Hire a Statewide YYA Housing Services Coordinator.
- Establish Funding and Transparency Mechanism for All Services Targeting YYA with Housing Instability in the State.

Strategies



Create better tools to identify, screen and refer youth in need.



Expand direct services and support along the housing continuum.



Provide or improve training and technical assistance for providers.



Improve collection and use of data.



Advocate for changes in policy.