

# OPENING DOORS FOR YOUTH

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

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# WHAT WE SEE AHEAD

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

# HOW WE GOT HERE

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- Year long, multi-stakeholder initiative including state agency personnel, providers, advocates and funders
- 3 subgroups considered stable housing; services and supports; and data collection and integration



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## WHAT WE FOUND



Youth and young adult homelessness exists on a continuum ranging from intermittent housing instability to absolute homelessness.

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## WHAT WE FOUND

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Youth and young adults 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.



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## WHAT WE FOUND

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There is an ongoing and urgent need to collect better data on youth and young adults with housing instability, and to integrate data streams and best practices across systems.



## WHAT GUIDED US



Our plan must consistently encourage, facilitate and value the involvement of youth and young adults in planning and implementing improvements in the state's support system.



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## WHAT GUIDED US

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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).





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## WHAT GUIDED US

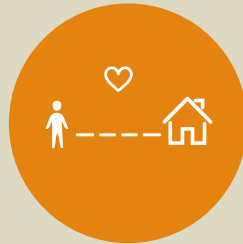


Our plan must develop, embrace and encourage best practices that cut across and integrate systems and traditional silos.

# HOW WE'LL WIN



Five strategies.



# HOW WE'LL WIN



Two 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.



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.



# THANK YOU

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UCONN, Center for Applied Research in Human Development

Youth Catalytics

# LEARN MORE

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Find the full plan at:

[WWW.PSCHOUSING.ORG/RUNAWAY-AND-HOMELESS-YOUTH-WORKGROUP](http://WWW.PSCHOUSING.ORG/RUNAWAY-AND-HOMELESS-YOUTH-WORKGROUP)

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