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# sara SARAH and Community Partners Launch Programs to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness with \$6.88M Grant

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November 17, 2020 (SAN ANTONIO, TX) – [SARAH](#), the lead Continuum of Care (CoC) agency for San Antonio and Bexar County, along with partner agencies [Endeavors](#), [Providence Place](#), [Roy Maas Youth Alternatives](#), [Thrive Youth Center](#) and the [University of Texas San Antonio](#) today announced the launch of their Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) projects serving youth and young adults (YYA) under age 25. The total funding amount

awarded for this first round is \$4,954,264.

To build momentum for these projects and the work being done in our community to prevent and end youth homelessness, SARAH, its Youth Action Board and the YHDP recipient agencies launched an awareness campaign titled *The Movement to House All Youth*.

AGENCY	PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
Endeavors	Youth Resilience Project	Rapid Rehousing	\$1,513,294
Providence Place	Oasis	Transitional Housing to Rapid Rehousing	\$922,896
Roy Maas Youth Alternatives	Mobile Outreach	Mobile Outreach	\$355,000
Thrive Youth Center	Thrive YHDP Rapid Re-Housing	Rapid Rehousing	\$943,170
UTSA	Bexar County Fostering Educational Success Housing First Project	Rapid Rehousing	\$1,219,904

**“We are excited to announce the launch of youth and young adult-serving programs in our community during this particularly difficult time for those without a stable home. By joining the *Movement to House All Youth*, community members can take part in this important endeavor for those in our community at-risk of or experiencing homelessness.” – Katie Vela, Executive Director of SARAH**

Endeavors’ *Youth Resilient Project (YRP)* will provide Rapid Rehousing assistance to reduce the number of youth experiencing homelessness. YRP will operate under Housing First principles and minimize barriers to entering the program. Participants will have voluntary access to mental health counseling, parenting education, employment assistance, educational services, life-skills training, mentorship, childcare, and basic needs such as food, clothing and medical care. Endeavors’ housing model will encourage safe and stable

housing to heal from trauma and gain new skills through empowerment to prevent eviction. The new initiative will serve 45 YYA between 18-24 years old for all self-identified genders in the Bexar County area. Providing these participants with a safe place to live, and opportunities to reach their potential, establishes the first steps toward permanency.

Endeavors supports the *Movement to House All Youth* because the issues affecting youth experiencing homelessness are often hidden. They hope the campaign will bring awareness to their needs and educate our community on how they can help. They are proud to be a part of this important project to reduce the number of young people experiencing homelessness and to partner with all of the organizations in the community committed to making change happen.

**“Endeavors is committed to provide housing and support to vulnerable youth in our community who are experiencing homelessness. We are grateful to be in a position to help so many in need.” – Jon Allman, President and CEO of Endeavors**

Providence Place is opening *Oasis* as a new Joint Transitional Housing-Rapid Rehousing (TH-RRH) project to house YYA, pregnant and parenting youth experiencing homelessness who have endured complex trauma, a history of foster care, or survived trafficking, domestic violence or sexual assault. The Transitional Housing component will offer crisis housing to participants for an average of 3-6 months to address urgent housing and safety needs. Project services will include case management, assessment of service needs, mental health support, connection to food, education and employment resources. Additionally, a housing navigator working with each household will identify permanent housing solutions. This YHDP project will have a continuous case management model for both the Transitional Housing component and Rapid Rehousing services using Housing First, Trauma Informed and Positive Youth Development principles. The project staff will support all households in identifying affordable housing to best meet their needs, continually provide wrap-around support services for participants until they are stably housed and have exited the program.

Providence Place supports the *Movement to House All Youth* because they care deeply and believe in the mission to eliminate the cycle of generational trauma through innovative services. Being part of YHDP provides an opportunity to bring their mission to life.

**“Providence Place is honored to have been asked to be part of this Transitional Housing – Rapid Rehousing project. The housing needs of youth aging out of foster care is tremendous, and we know that Providence Place’s expertise in housing and working with people having experienced complex trauma will make a difference in the lives of these youth.” – Judith Bell, CEO of Providence Place**

Roy Maas Youth Alternatives (RMYA) is beginning a *Mobile Outreach* project that will serve youth and young adults experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Youth will be evaluated for abuse, neglect, commercial labor, sexual exploitation, mental health, housing and basic needs such as food, shelter and clothing. The grant will fund the vehicle, staff and supplies to carry out this mission. Staff will help youth identify and access resources and housing.

**“RMYA is excited to be a part of the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project by offering innovative street outreach in partnership with SARAH. For more than 20 years, RMYA has provided refuge, housing and a caring community to hundreds of San Antonio’s youth and young adults by supporting scaffolded solutions that encourage them to systematically and positively find their way toward independence.” – Bill Wilkinson, CEO of Roy Maas Youth Alternatives**

Thrive Youth Center will offer youth ages 18-24 the opportunity to participate in a two-year housing program. Thrive will help youth navigate the apartment rental process at a complex of their choice, and assist with move-in packages to furnish their new home. Youth will receive rental payment assistance and case management services for the duration of the program.

"We are thrilled that Thrive Youth Center, an organization so experienced housing youth experiencing homelessness, is now more than doubling their capacity," said Katie Vela, CEO of SARAH.

During their time with Thrive, youth are encouraged to pursue education, vocational training and employment opportunities. Youth will also receive a range of services including transportation assistance, life skills, physical and mental health support and community engagement opportunities. The goal of Thrive's housing program is to empower youth with resources and skills necessary to sustain housing after graduating the program.

Thrive Youth Center supports the *Movement to House All Youth* because it brings awareness to the importance of helping young adults who have experiencing homelessness find safe and sustainable housing options. Many youth have had unstable housing for years, making it difficult for them to look forward to anything other than tomorrow, but housing youth in a positive, supportive and safe environment gives them a chance to work toward the goals they want to achieve in their lives.

**"Thrive Youth Center is excited and honored to be selected as a YHDP housing grant recipient. This grant will allow Thrive to house over twice as many young adults as we were able to help in previous years. Providing stable housing for youth and surrounding them with services, role models and connecting them to a positive community offers these youth the opportunity to move forward in their life and realize their full potential." – Sandra Whitley, CEO of Thrive Youth Center**

The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) is launching a Rapid Rehousing program to support youth and young adults with a history of foster care who are pursuing postsecondary education and are experiencing or at risk of homelessness. The *Bexar County Fostering Educational Success (BCFES) Housing First Project* aims to address critical housing needs for at least 25 students each year who are pursuing a college degree at one of the three public postsecondary institutions in Bexar County—UTSA, Texas A&M University-San Antonio or the Alamo Colleges District. Coupled with the coaching and resources of existing campus-based support program staff and community partners, the BCFES Housing First Project will assist students with rental assistance and wrap-around support for 12-24 months to support their ability to complete a college degree. This scattered-sites, rapid-rehousing model includes peer advocacy, supportive case management, assistance with moving costs, rent and utility deposits, childcare, mental health services, legal services and life skill development.

UTSA supports the *Movement to House All Youth* because it will have a collective impact on the UTSA community and improve outcomes by addressing a critical housing need that influences educational and long-term success.

**"We are thrilled that UTSA and the Bexar County Fostering Educational Success Pilot Project are leading this collaborative effort. Housing is a critical need for so many students with a history of foster care, and this program will provide the holistic support they need to pursue their dreams of a higher education. Our thanks go to the Youth Advisory Board, SARAH and HUD for this vote of confidence." – Taylor and Peggy Eighmy, President and First Lady of UTSA**

These YHDP recipient agencies together with the YAB and SARAH encourage community members to join the *Movement to House All Youth*, a campaign to raise awareness of the programs available to youth at-risk of and experiencing homelessness and of the work that still needs to be done to ensure all youth and young adults have a place to call home in San Antonio and Bexar County. Visit [www.sarahomeless.org](http://www.sarahomeless.org) to commit to housing all youth and young adults!

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### **About SARAH**

SARAH is the lead Continuum of Care (CoC) agency for San Antonio and Bexar County. As the CoC, SARAH secures and distributes funding for direct service providers in the housing and homeless community and provides guidance to strengthen policies and programs. SARAH is responsible for collaborating with, listening to, and collecting data from the housing and homeless community to ensure everyone has a place to call home.

**South Alamo Regional Alliance for the Homeless**

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