YHDP Values and Principles Summary 2019

YHDP Value/Principle	Description
Special populations	Consideration for populations of youth experiencing homelessness that are particularly vulnerable: LGBTQ+, gender non-conforming, minors (under 18), youth involved with juvenile justice and child welfare systems, and victims/survivors of sexual trafficking & exploitation. For these particularly vulnerable and often overrepresented young people, there is a need for identification and engagement strategies, infrastructure considerations, and housing and service-delivery approaches that are responsive to their specific needs.
Equity	Research has found significant racial and ethnic disparities in rates of homelessness. Specifically, Black, Indigenous and LGBTQ+ persons experience homelessness at disproportionately higher rates compared to other populations. YHDP communities should consider and address significant disparities in rates of homelessness of youth across the system and approach both planning and projects that address inequity.
Positive Youth Development and Trauma Informed Care	Positive Youth Development (PYD) and Trauma Informed Care (TIC) are accepted best practices in housing and service delivery for youth. • **Positive Youth Development** is an approach for working with young people that focuses on psychological, emotional, and social development rather than problems or deficits. • **Trauma-informed Care** is an organizational structure and treatment framework that involves understanding, recognizing, and responding to the effects of all types of trauma. It emphasizes physical, psychological and emotional safety for both consumers and providers, and helps to rebuild a sense of control and empowerment.
Family Engagement	Family engagement plays a critical role in providing support and promoting wellbeing of youth and young adults as a prevention strategy and as youth regain stability after experiencing homelessness. HUD believes that the best diversion and intervention strategy is to engage families, whenever appropriate, through community partnerships with organizations such as child welfare agencies, schools, youth providers, and other community human services and homeless services providers.
Immediate access to housing with no preconditions	Housing is a cornerstone for meeting a multitude of basic needs necessary for success. Young people should be provided with rapid access to safe, secure, and stable housing that meets their needs as quickly as possible, *without* the condition that they are 'ready' for housing.
Youth Choice	Allowing youth to exercise self-determination is a youth-centered approach that values youths' expressed needs, self-awareness, and community knowledge. This youth-centered approach emphasizes youth choice in terms of the kind of housing youth need and the extent and nature of supports and services they access and presents alternative options for youth when needed.
Individualized and client-driven supports	Understanding that the needs of the young people to be served will be unique. Housing and support packages that help prevent and end homelessness among youth must recognize and respond to individual differences across individuals to serve them appropriately and efficiently.
Social and community integration	The goal of youth homelessness services should be a successful transition to adulthood, including the successful integration into a community as a positive contributing community member. To accomplish this requires the community to provide socially supportive engagement and the opportunity for youth to participate in meaningful community activities.
Coordinated Entry	A youth-inclusive CE process requires CoCs to implement a systems-level, youth-focused approach for youth access, screening and assessment, prioritization, and referral to housing and supportive services.