

HOTRMHMR Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) Grant Projects

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DOBEY Drop-In Center: Drop-in Opportunities Bolstering Engagement for Young Adults

The goal of The DOBEY Drop-In Center is to support young adults entering the homeless system to ensure that their experience is brief and one-time.

- Young Adult Dedicated Drop-in Center
 - Young adults aged 18-24
 - Serves all 6 counties
 - Will serve any homeless young adult who has been in contact with our community's YHDP Navigation Team, and/or any other Heart of Texas YHDP programs, and/or any other referral source.
 - Prioritizes the support of a quick transition out of homelessness into permanent housing, as well as providing other essential life-domain supports.
 - A fundamental goal is to reduce the amount of time a young adult is homeless.
 - Peer Provider services will be provided to connect young adults to additional supportive services to assist in obtaining permanent housing and achieving self-sufficiency.
 - Services provided include employment support, education support, life skills support, social skills support, insurance and benefits eligibility support, employment and financial aid application assistance, housing resource support, and assistance with rental/housing/lease applications, mentoring, mental health skills training and support groups, as well as appropriate referral for ongoing mental health and Substance Use Disorder services, and more.
 - Will provide progressive engagement into services, diversion services, connection to emergency shelter, and Heart to Home coordinated entry assessment.
- **The DOBEY Drop-In Center** itself will serve as a community resource-nexus, a vibrant support-hub that pulls together various employments, community, and education, self-care resources, for young adults' ages 18-24 that are challenged by homelessness or the risk of homelessness.
- **The DOBEY Team** will directly support young adults via DOBEY services. All staff will be trained annually in best practices such as Trauma Informed Care and Positive Youth Development, so they may provide services to youth that are in alignment with YHDP principles and values. HOTRMHMR began Our Community Our Future (OCOF), in 2015, to help organize community stakeholders to look at the needs of youth in the community. Through this partnership, youth will be connected to referrals, resources, and employment and education opportunities. Annually, an estimated 160 persons are planned to be served.

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HYGEH BEAR Navigation Team: Homeless Young adults Gaining Entrance into Housing & Bolstering Engagement and Access throughout the Region

The goal of HYGEY BEAR is to provide support to youth as they navigate systems they encounter while experiencing homelessness and to assist them with exiting the homeless system as rapidly as possible into permanent housing solutions.

- Mobile multi-disciplinary navigation team that serves through Heart of Texas region
 - Focus on assisting unaccompanied youth under the age of 25 as they move from homelessness to stable housing.
 - Will provide many services similar to a drop-in center but in a mobile 1:1 service approach, with an emphasis on the rural counties.
 - Prioritizes the support of a quick transition out of homelessness into permanent housing, as well as providing other essential life-domain supports.
 - This team will provide triage to those youth finding themselves entering homelessness and connect them to diversion and emergency shelter as needed. The team will provide basic needs, linkages to mainstream services, coordinated entry assessment, and navigation of systems via progressive engagement centered on youth choice.
 - Will provide strengths-based, trauma-informed, culturally appropriate case management services that will include collaboration, youth empowerment, and family and community engagement.
 - Youth will participate in youth-driven service activities that will help them identify and achieve their goals thereby prepare them for self-sufficiency and successful living.
 - Youth will maintain a choice in where they live.
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- **HYGEH BEAR Navigation Team** will have Case Managers and Peer Providers, who will provide coaching, youth advocacy, system navigation, referrals, create layers of community support for youth, community linkages, and provide connection to education, employment, and mentorship programs within the community.
 - **HYGEH BEAR** will participate in the development of youth coordinated entry processes for Heart to Home, the local coordinated entry system, specifically suited to youth facing housing insecurity, critical to ensuring that youth can access new resources designed through YHDP therefore expanding equitable diversion, supportive services, and housing resources throughout the entire 6-county region.
 - **HYGEH BEAR** will assist youth navigating the challenges they encounter in their attempts to locate and secure stable housing, which includes assisting youth navigate systems they are involved with such as child/adult welfare, justice system, and education systems.
 - **HYGEH BEAR** programming will closely interface with the DOBEY Drop-in Center and DOBEY programming to meet youths' various housing and supportive service needs but will also be accessible to youth who do not wish to attend drop-in services.

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HOTTCHY Transitional Housing: Heart of Texas Transitional Crisis Housing for Youth

The goal of HOTTCHY is to provide crisis transitional housing to safely house a youth as they work to secure permanent housing resources.

- Transitional Housing Project
 - Youth aged 16-17
 - Serves all 6 counties
 - Safe, inclusive and affirming for youth
 - Temporary housing with supportive service, to include skills training, counseling, nursing, mentoring and peer support
 - Short to medium term transitional housing, with the ability to serve youth for a maximum of 24 months
 - Goal of transitioning youth into permanent housing
 - Available access 24-hours, 7 days a week
 - Youth needing a longer length of stay to connect to permanent housing than what the RHY Safety Net Basic Center (Emergency Shelter) Program allows will be referred to HOTTCHY. Referrals into HOTTCHY are pulled from the Safety Net Program at the Klaras Center for Families Chase House.
- **The HOTTCHY Team** will collaborate with homeless liaisons from local and regional school districts, juvenile justice, law enforcement, local government, HUD programs, DFPS, and other youth-serving entities, as well as other YHDP programs, to fortify the Program's intersystem strength and effectiveness. Additionally, life skills, skills training, and mentoring services will be provided by the HOTTCHY team as well as transport and linkage to appropriate community services as necessary to achieve the greatest wellness outcomes for individuals served. Supportive services will include mental health, substance abuse services, employment assistance, educational support, SOAR/Social Security/Medicaid benefits application assistance, as well as focused work on connecting youth served to permanent housing solutions.

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STARSKYE Rapid Rehousing: Supports to Aid Rapid Rehousing and Skills for Keeping Young Adults Engaged

The goal of STARSKYE is to rapidly house youth in scattered site housing within the community.

- Rapid Rehousing Program, that will be safe and affirming for all young adults
 - Young adults aged 18-24, including pregnant and parenting youth, plus all special population groups
 - Serves all 6 counties
 - Prioritizes a quick transition out of homelessness and into permanent housing
 - A fundamental goal is to reduce the amount of time a young adult is homeless
 - Will offer scattered-site housing where a young adult is able to be a leaseholder of a housing unit located within the community. Case Management services will also be provided to connect young adults to additional supportive services to assist in obtaining permanent housing and achieving self-sufficiency.
 - Housing navigation services will be provided to connect youth with housing in the community and work through housing problem solving conversations and barriers.
 - To be served, youth will complete a Heart to Home Coordinated Entry Assessment (can be completed at any Heart to Home access point, at the DOBEY Drop-In Center, or by the HYGEH BEAR Navigation Team). The STARSKYE case manager will select the next eligible youth based on vulnerability and need from the Heart to Home Priority List.
- **The STARSKYE case manager** will work closely with the local CoC and other appropriate agencies and will integrate with the activities of other Heart of Texas YHDP programs, to facilitate locating and securing permanent housing for all young adults. Additionally, longstanding agency relationships with community landlords and HUD providers will be utilized to support STARSKYE's mission. The relationships with local landlords will be continually cultivated to meet STARSKYE's overarching goals. In other words, STARSKYE's services will supplement the broader community's vision to end youth homelessness in the Heart of Texas Region.

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ZEBRA 3: Planning Grant

The Heart of Texas Region MHMR (HOTRMHMR) has been selected by HOTHM to serve as the YHDP Lead due to their ability to serve the entire region, having offices in all six counties of the CoC region, and their demonstrated exceptional performance operating CoC funding.

- Funds will be utilized to further develop the Youth Action Board (YAB) and facilitate the creation of space for authentic youth voice in all YHDP and CoC activities.
- Funds will be used to compensate youth for participation in YAB activities related to YHDP, including YAB youth peer supports, YAB recruitment activities, participation on the HOTHM Board of Directors, transportation costs for youth to participate in meetings, and participation in all planning, implementation, evaluation, and monitoring efforts.
- Funds are sought to bring a new position, the YHDP Project Director, into the community to lead the implementation phase of YHDP, including coordinating YHDP meetings, ongoing evaluation and monitoring of YHDP projects, and implementation of the Coordinated Community Plan developed during the first Planning Grant.
- Planning funds will cover the costs associated with the YAB, YHDP Project Director, and YHDP Lead Team to attend meetings, trainings, and conferences with the purpose of obtaining knowledge of best practices and collaboration with other YHDP communities.
- A portion of funds will be allocated to planning and conducting the Youth PIT Count and Needs Assessment that is conducted every January.
- Will provide funding to cover administrative and marketing costs associated with conducting YHDP and YAB meetings, and costs related to the development and implementation of data collection and analysis needed for the implementation of the CCP and YHDP projects.

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ACRONYMS

CCP (Coordinated Community Plan): Community plan for ending youth homelessness.

CoC (Continuum of Care): Funding, service area, and organizations focused on ending homelessness.

DOBEY (Drop-in Opportunities Bolstering Engagement for Young Adults): Drop-In Center for unaccompanied homeless youth ages 18-24.

HOTH (Heart of Texas Homeless Coalition): Heart of Texas Continuum of Care.

HOTTCHY (Heart of Texas Transitional Crisis Housing for Youth): Transitional Housing for unaccompanied homeless youth ages 16-17.

HUD (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development): Federal entity.

HYGEH BEAR (Homeless Young adults Gaining Entrance into Housing & Bolstering Engagement and Access throughout the Region): Mobile Navigation Team for unaccompanied homeless youth under the age of 25.

OCOF (Our Community Our Future): HOTRMHMR began Our Community Our Future (OCOF), in 2015, to help organize community stakeholders to look at the needs of youth in the community.

PIT (Point-In-Time): Annual census of the local homeless population.

RHY (Runaway and Homeless Youth): Grant program that serves youth.

SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration): Federal entity.

SOAR (SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery): Funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and is a national program designed to increase access to the disability income benefit programs administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA) for eligible adults and children who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and have a serious mental illness, medical impairment, and/or a co-occurring substance use disorder.

SSA (Social Security Administration): Federal entity.

STARSKYE (Supports to Aid Rapid Rehousing and Skills for Keeping Young adults Engaged): Rapid Rehousing for unaccompanied homeless youth ages 18-24.

YAB (Youth Action Board): Group of youth with lived experience of homelessness.

YDABB (Youth Driven Activists Breaking Barriers): Youth Action Board in the Heart of Texas.

YHDP (Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program): CoC Program grant aimed at creating demonstration grants focused on ending youth homelessness via a collaborative, community approach.