



MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST REGION

Harrison, Hancock, Jackson,
George, Stone, Pearl River
Counties and the cities of
Biloxi, Gulfport, Pascagoula,
and Moss Point.

COORDINATED COMMUNITY PLAN

Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) Round 3

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Introduction

The six southern-most counties of Mississippi make up the primarily rural Gulf Coast region. The population of the six counties, which include Harrison, Hancock, Jackson, Pearl River, George, and Stone, has grown to a population of 484,000 (American Community Survey, 2017). With its beautiful coastline that spans over 80 miles along the Gulf of Mexico, tourism and hospitality, including retail and food and beverage services, represent most of the jobs in the region. In addition, the recently expanded Port of Gulfport paves the way for new opportunities in water-borne commerce. There is a strong military presence with Keesler Air Force Base and the Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC), known as the Seabee Base, located in Harrison County. Huntington Ingalls, America's largest military shipbuilder, sits in Jackson County. NASA's John C. Stennis Space Center, a rocket testing facility and innovation center, calls Hancock County, Mississippi home. In Stone County, the timber industry drives the economy.

In the Mississippi Gulf Coast region, 66% of households own their homes (American Community Survey, 2017). The median home value in the region is \$144,000 (U.S. Census, 2010). Median income for the region is \$57,400 (HUD Median Income, 2019) for a family of 4. Thirty four percent of households rent. (U.S. Census, 2010) Of the renter households, 45% pay 30% of their income or more for rent. 36% pay 35% or more of their income for rent (U.S. Census, 2010).

Fourteen school districts comprise the Gulf Coast region's public K-12 educational system. In Mississippi, children must be in school the year they turn 6 years old. Kindergarten is not compulsory. Approximately 60% of the students in the area attend early education for 4-year-old children in a United Way funded PreK Forward, Head Start, or tuition-based programs that promote school readiness (Mississippi Department of Education, 2017). From eighth grade forward, the Pathways to Possibilities program, which is integrated into each of the school systems, introduces young people to possible career

opportunities and creates the path forward. The Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College offers Career and Technical Education and partners with the Gulfport School District to provide dual enrollment so that students may graduate with a diploma and an associate degree concurrently. William Carey College and the University of Southern Mississippi offer bachelor's degree and master's degree opportunities. Neither campus on the Coast offers student housing as the main campuses are located elsewhere in the state.

Opportunities and pathways to success abound in the Mississippi Gulf Coast region. Yet, many young people are left behind. The overall poverty rate in Mississippi is 20.8%, the highest in the country (American Community Survey, 2017). For people under the age of 25 in Mississippi, the poverty rate is the second highest in the nation at 26% (American Community Survey, 2017). The teen pregnancy rate in Mississippi was the third highest in the country at 58 births per 1000 women age 15-19 in 2013. The rate has reduced significantly to 33 births per 1000 women in 2018, yet still one of the highest in the country. (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2018). Gun deaths are disproportionately high in Mississippi with 19.8 deaths by firearm per 100,000 people, fourth in the country per *USA Today* (Frolich, 2018). According to Gifford's Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, guns are the second-leading cause of death for Mississippi children ages 1-17 (Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, 2017).

Per the most recent Kids Count publication, Harrison County, the most populous county in the Mississippi Gulf Coast region, has a poverty rate among children under the age of 18 of 30.5%. This is significantly higher than the state average (Kids Count Data Book, 2018). Food insecurity for young people in the Mississippi Gulf Coast region is 24.10% (Kids Count Data Book, 2018) . In Harrison County, 43.9% of children live in single parent homes and 34% of children in the other parts of the region live in single parent homes (Kids Count Data Book, 2018). 8558 children in the region live with

grandparents who serve as the primary caregiver (Kids Count Data Book, 2018). 3052 children in the region are in foster care (Kids Count Data Book, 2018). Over 10% of children under the age of 6 live in a home with no parent in the workforce (Kids Count Data Book, 2018). The unemployment rate of young adults aged 19-24 in the region is 22.5% (American Community Survey, 2017).

100-Day Challenge

In the 100-Day Challenge to prevent and end homelessness among youth and young adults, Open Doors Homeless Coalition served as the coordinating entity and supported a team of 14 front line case workers (four of whom experienced homelessness as a young adult or a child), four administrative sponsors, and three young adults with recent lived experience of homelessness. The group explored issues within the current system and implemented changes in the youth system to quickly transform to meet ambitious goals. The team set a goal of housing 50 youth and young adults age 17-24 in 100 days. In addition, the team aimed to prevent homelessness for 75 youth aging out of Child Protective Services and the Youth Court System through implementing and following up regularly on transition plans. The team and collaborative community partners housed 51 literally homeless youth and young adults age 17-24 during 100 days and created and implemented 78 transition plans. The team identified 82 literally homeless youth and young adults during 100 days and created a by-name list. The by-name list is real time data from the community's coordinated entry system. The team analyzed equity issues in the system. Youth of Color made up 46% of the by-name list and 50% of the youth and young adults housed. LGBTQ youth made up 2% of the by-name list and 3% of the youth and young adults housed (100 Day Challenge Dashboard, 2018).

Post 100-Day Challenge and YHDP work

The dedicated Ending Youth Homelessness (EYH) team continues to meet monthly after the 100-Day Challenge ended. Through continued monthly case conferencing work over three years, using a

by-name list, all unsheltered youth and young adults who are identified by coordinated outreach are housed within an average of 30 days. The year following the 100-Day Challenge, 127 literally homeless young people were identified and housed. In the second year following the 100-Day Challenge, 88 literally homeless young people under the age of 25 were identified and housed. An example of the coordinated efforts follows:

The community's Healthcare for the Homeless outreach program identified a 23-year old person who was a member of the LGBTQ community who was experiencing literal homelessness and presented with significant health issues and untreated mental health issues. The person was treated for the primary health concerns and an appointment was scheduled to address the mental health issues. The person's de-identified information was placed on the by-name list and brought to the EYH team's case conferencing meeting. The young person was connected to the CHOICE program. The CHOICE program, a state funded resource, provides housing, case management, and mental health support as the person receives mental health treatment through a partner agency. The young person continues to be housed through CHOICE, has been connected to educational opportunities, and is living a full life as he transitions to full and healthy adulthood.

The EYH team implemented prevention strategies that have dramatically reduced inflow into literal homelessness. Any person under the age of 25 who is facing eviction is prioritized in the community's coordinated entry system. The person, typically a young single mother, is assisted with prevention dollars from the Emergency Solutions grant. 60% of the community's prevention dollars have been used to prevent eviction for young single moms with very low incomes. The system has not centered the system around this group; rather, the system is designed to respond to the needs of people as they present. An example of prevention work follows:

A 23-year old African-American single mom with three children under the age of 5 years old called the Coordinated Entry System (CES) line. She had received an eviction notice because she had not paid her rent by the 15th of the month. Eviction court was scheduled for the 23rd of the month. The young woman was scared and felt alone. The CES case worker listened to the story that led to the non-payment of rent. The young woman received child support for one child but not the other two. She used the child support money for child-care. She worked as a housekeeper in a hotel and had fallen ill. She missed two weeks of work and since she was paid by the hour, had not made enough to pay the rent. However, she was now back to work and felt confident she could pay the next month. She just needed to save herself and her children from becoming homeless. The CES caseworker referred the case to a member agency who immediately called the landlord to ask for time to make an assessment as the agency was working with the family. Within 48 hours, the family's situation was assessed and the agency gathered appropriate documentation. The agency provided one month of financial assistance to cover the arrears and determined that a second month would ensure the family could maintain the household and remain housed without fear of eviction.

Sometimes, diversion efforts prevent literal homelessness for young people. Diversion activities include connecting young people with family or friends until the crisis has been resolved. An example of the diversion work follows:

A 19-year old woman came to Mississippi from Baltimore, MD to connect with people she had met on the internet. When she arrived, she found that the situation was not what she thought it would be. The situation was unsafe and she had no money. She connected with a local police officer to request assistance. The police officer referred her to Open Doors Homeless Coalition's outreach staff. Once connected, the staff asked the young woman what she wanted to do. She

wanted to go home. The outreach staff called the young person's mother to determine if there would be a safe option "at home." The woman's mother was thrilled to get the phone call as she had been searching for her daughter. The outreach worker secured a hotel room for a night and procured a bus ticket home for the next day. The outreach worker ensured the young woman had transportation to the bus station, provided snacks for the trip, and called the mother once the woman was on the bus. Once the woman arrived home, the mother called the outreach worker both relieved and excited that her daughter was home. The woman assured the outreach worker that she was now safe. Homelessness for her was averted.

Prioritized resources, continuous coordinated outreach, and case conferencing ensure that as inflow occurs housing options are offered and implemented based on the choices of the young people experiencing homelessness. While the community has changed the system and allocated resources to house young people within an average of 30 days once they become literally homeless, the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) opportunity allows the team to both house young people as they become homeless and address the needs of the more than 430 known youth and young adults living in unsafe or unstable situations and those persons who are victims of trafficking. To date, the majority of those assisted have been aged 17-24 and have been housed using rapid rehousing resources. Proposed YHDP projects include innovative solutions for young people under the age of 25 who are either experiencing literal homelessness or are unsafely or unstably housed and may be disconnected from meaningful school attendance or employment.

For persons exiting the child welfare system, the transition plans created by the Mississippi Department of Child Protective Services during the 100 Day Challenge have been adopted throughout the state. Currently, all youth aging out of state custody in Mississippi have a viable service plan with housing options and specific community connections not only identified but connected. Child welfare

workers follow the youth for three years after aging out of the system to ensure that the young person does not fall into homelessness and has the best opportunity to make a healthy transition to adulthood. The youth court system has adopted a similar transition plan to assist young people who age out of the juvenile justice detention centers. Since 50% of the people on the original by-name list of unsheltered young people either aged out of care or spent a significant amount of time in state custody, the transition plans have dramatically slowed inflow into literal homelessness.

Youth and Young Adult Action Board (YAAB)

The Youth and Young Adult Action Board (YAAB) have been a crucial component of the 100-Day Challenge, the EYH team's continued work, and the YHDP work. The YAAB have led the way in bringing issues and perspective to the table, suggesting needed program types, system modeling, identifying strengths, challenges, and gaps in the system, and will ultimately determine the projects funded under YHDP. Once funded, the YAAB will monitor the implementation of the programs and the outcomes using HMIS data. YAAB members have been trained to pull reports from HMIS to evaluate current and future programs.

The YAAB meet twice weekly to consider what currently exists in the community and what is needed in the community. The goals of the YAAB are to build on a system that responds to the needs of literally homeless youth and young adults and to create a system that identifies and addresses the needs of unsafe and unstably housed youth and young adults. The YAAB meet regularly with the EYH team and the Collaborative Applicant to promote their ideas and discuss issues that may exist in the system.

Equity

The racial make-up of the general population of the Mississippi Gulf Coast region, when adjusted for poverty, per the 2010 U.S. Census is:

59% White

38% African American

0.6% Native American

1.1% Asian

1.3% Other

3.2% Hispanic

The racial make-up of the 2018 Point in Time Count of persons experiencing homelessness on the night of January 29, 2018 follows:

57.2% White

36.1% African American

1.7% Native American

0.6% Asian

4.3% Hispanic

The racial make-up of the adult population over 25 for those who disclosed the information in the coordinated entry program follows:

59.5% White

38.9% African American

0.7% Asian

0.9% Native American

The racial make-up of unaccompanied youth and young adults age 17-24 who disclosed the information in the coordinated entry program follows:

51% White

47% African American

2% Native American

6% Hispanic

The racial make-up of adults over the age of 25 who were housed through Rapid Rehousing or Permanent Supportive Housing follows:

52% White

46% African American

1% Native American

1% Asian

The racial make-up of unaccompanied youth and young adults who have been housed through Rapid Rehousing, Permanent Supportive Housing, or permanent family reunification follows:

49% White

50% African American

1% Native American

5% Hispanic

Generally, in the adult population, persons coming into the homeless system and persons being housed mirror the general population, when adjusted for poverty. This differs from the data reported across the country and even in the state, so we looked at “why?” The answer can be found in several places. The Board, management staff, and front-line staff are diverse and represent the community, as do the boards, management staff, and front-line staff of the community partners. In addition, the MS-503 CoC partners train for a level of cultural competency in all aspects of the work from outreach, assessment, linkages to programs, and follow-up. The region has mitigated some of the effects of the greater societal impacts of long-time structural issues like disparities in home ownership, disparities in education and disparities in income in the region, by implementing a robust prevention program that responds to the system. The data regarding the community’s prevention program follows:

35% White

65% African American

74% Female

26% Male

These data indicate that single mom households, primarily single female-headed minority households, avoid homelessness through prevention services. Prevention services include financial assistance, advocacy with landlords, and case management intended to support long-term sustainability in housing.

The MS-503 CoC has consulted with community leaders from the business community, faith community, and the NAACP to address approaches in the Coordinated Entry system and the homeless services system's role in promoting racial equity.

The MS-503 CoC has partnered with various groups to support their work in the broader society and to ensure there is equity within the homelessness services system. The conversations continue to ensure that if a course correction is required, the partners can move quickly. The MS-503 CoC partners are diverse and treat everyone as an individual with respect. The MS-503 CoC partners aim to connect people to housing and services in a fair and equitable manner. When analyzing Stella data, length of time to housing from identification, exits to permanent housing, and other outcomes are essentially the same for all races.

Recognizing that there are inequities regarding entrance into homelessness among youth and young adults in the region, the MS-503 CoC has partnered with the state's Family First Initiative led by the Mississippi Supreme Court to strengthen Mississippi's families. Since 50% of the unaccompanied youth and young adult population experiencing homelessness have come from the Child Welfare system, it seems prudent to reduce the number of children unnecessarily brought into the system when poverty looks like neglect.

The homeless services system intentionally serves youth and young adults as they present into homelessness. All literally homeless young people who are identified, per HUD's definition, are served and offered opportunities for housing, education, and employment possibilities. Individualized plans, based on the choices of the young people, are created to address issues like mental illness or substance abuse.

There is more work to do. The partners will continue important partnerships and regular examination of data to ensure the system is responsive to individuals based on needs and choices in a culturally competent and respectful manner.

Statement of Need

Financial difficulties in families, intergenerational poverty, lack of education, lack of connections to employment opportunities, exposure to early violence and trauma, and other factors lead to a large risk for youth and young adults to become disconnected from school and family, to have difficulty finding employment, and to fall into homelessness or resort to unsafe or unstable housing options. 127 unaccompanied youth and young adults under the age of 25 were identified as literally homeless using HUD's definition and were housed in 2018. Another 88 unaccompanied youth and young adults under the age of 25 were identified as literally homeless using HUD's definition and were housed in 2019. The 2020 Point in Time Count (PIT), conducted January 29, 2020, identified 11 unaccompanied youth. 10 individuals were unsheltered: 8 males and 2 females. One parenting young woman was sheltered in transitional housing. The 10 unsheltered youth and young adults were immediately added to the by-name list and connected to services and housing opportunities within 30 days of the PIT.

LGBTQ+

National studies clearly indicate that LGBTQ+ youth and young adults are overrepresented in homelessness. LGBTQ+ young people experience homelessness at rates 120% times higher than their peers who are heterosexual and cisgender (Missed Opportunities: Youth Homelessness in America, National Estimates, 2017) . True Colors United reports that up to 40% of the youth and young adults experiencing homelessness are LGBTQ+ (True Colors United, 2017) . This overrepresentation has not been evident in the Mississippi Gulf Coast region to date. LGBTQ+ adults make up 3.5% of the

population in Mississippi (Williams Institute, 2017). Per HMIS data and the community's 100-Day Challenge dashboard, LGBTQ+ youth make up 2% of the population age 17-25 experiencing homelessness in the Mississippi Gulf Coast region. All assessment data in HMIS are self-reported data. There may be apprehension to disclose LGBTQ+ information due to fear of discrimination. The Williams Institute reports that polls indicate that 81% of Mississippians believe that LGBTQ+ persons experience discrimination (Williams Institute, 2017). Knowing this concern, the community-based agencies involved in the community planning process have committed to intentionally create a safe and welcoming place for all persons.

LGBTQ+ youth and young adults who have experienced homelessness present with the trauma of homelessness as well as unique needs. As with all youth and young adults who have experienced homelessness, needs include trauma informed engagement, trust building, and housing, as well as opportunities for education, employment training, primary care, and sometimes mental health care or substance abuse treatment based on individual concerns and choices. In addition, the unique needs of LGBTQ+ youth and young adults include true acceptance and safety. The service providers in the Mississippi Gulf Coast region have been trained in strategies to ensure acceptance of each person at the individual level and acceptance in a group setting. Safety concerns are of utmost importance. Each space that serves youth and young adults who have experienced homelessness will ensure safety and respect for all participants. Assessments will be done in private, appropriate private lavatories will be available, and pronouns will be ascertained and used as assessments are completed and services are provided. At all assessments, intake personnel will state clearly that services will not be withheld regardless of what may be shared during the assessment process.

While the numbers of LGBTQ+ persons who experience homelessness are low in the Mississippi Gulf Coast region, vulnerability is quite high. Generally, national data support that LGBTQ+ individuals

are more likely to experience complex PTSD symptoms, sexual violence, and early violent death through suicide or homicide. Properly trained trauma informed outreach workers, intake workers, trauma counselors and program staff are critical to the safety of LGBTQ+ individuals as they move through the homeless services system, housing, education, and employment opportunities.

Minors

National data, as reported by the National Conference of State Legislators, indicate that up to 16% of unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness are minors under the age of 18 (Youth Homelessness Overview, 2019). Generally, the Mississippi Department of Child Protective Services steps in when unaccompanied minors experience literal homelessness. However, local school districts identify unaccompanied minors experiencing homelessness under the Department of Education definition of homelessness. The students may be couch surfing or otherwise unstably housed. The Mississippi Gulf Coast region’s planning process identified a gap in the provision of housing opportunities for minors experiencing homelessness or unstable housing but not under the care of the Mississippi Department of Child Protective Services. The numbers of unaccompanied youth identified by the local school districts follow in the table (National Center for Homeless Education, 2018):

School District	SY 15-16	SY 16-17	SY 17-18	Percent Change SY 15-16 to SY 17-18
Biloxi Public Schools		3		
George County Schools	9	4	13	44%
Gulfport School District				
Hancock County School District				
Harrison County School District	20	14	21	5%
Jackson County School District			6	
Long Beach School District				
Moss Point Separate School District			5	
Ocean Springs School District			3	
Pascagoula Gautier School District	26	28	46	77%

Pass Christian Public School District	8			
Pearl River County School District				
Picayune School District				
Poplarville Separate School District			3	
Stone County School District	6			
Total Unaccompanied Youth who are presumably students under 18	69	49	97	40%

Partnerships between the MS-503 CoC, the Ending Youth Homelessness Team, the Youth and Young Adult Action Board, the school liaisons at each school district, and school administrators ensure that unaccompanied students experiencing homelessness are connected to services of their choice that meet their needs.

Young people experiencing homelessness with their families under the Department of Education definition are at great risk of becoming unaccompanied homeless youth. The numbers reported by the school liaisons follow on the table which represents the 2015-2016 school year (SY), the 2016-2017 school year, and the 2017-2018 school year and the percentage increase or decrease between 2015-2016 and 2017-2018 (National Center for Homeless Education, 2018):

School District	SY 15-16	SY 16-17	SY 17-18	Percent Change
Biloxi Public Schools	34	35	109	221%
George County Schools	62	57	75	21%
Gulfport School District	73	94	28	-62%
Hancock County School District				
Harrison County School District	1706	1880	1534	-10%
Jackson County School District			31	
Long Beach School District	8	11	25	213%
Moss Point Separate School District			99	
Ocean Springs School District	73	123	99	36%
Pascagoula Gautier School District	71	101	158	123%
Pass Christian Public School District	18		5	-72%
Pearl River County School District	15		63	320%

Picayune School District	29	55	41	41%
Poplarville Separate School District	21		28	33%
Stone County School District	21	29		
Total Homeless Youth	2131	2385	2295	108%

Community Care Network currently provides housing and services for persons who are exiting incarceration and have nowhere else to go. Often, the residents have been disconnected from their children and work to regain custody. Because of this work, staff at Community Care Network have developed a strong relationship with the child welfare system. Under the YHDP funding opportunity, Community Care Network will create a transitional home for youth who become homeless or are unsafely or unstably housed. The staffed transitional home will include crisis beds for anyone under 25 who needs a safe place to stay until the situation is resolved. For minors, staff at Community Care Network will ensure a safe environment and will engage with the young person and assess the situation. If it is safe and appropriate to reunite the young person with family, staff will work to that end. If family reunification is either not possible or appropriateness of reunification is unclear, then the staff, in partnership with the young person, will contact the Mississippi Department of Child Protective Services (CPS). The social worker from CPS will engage with the young person and assess the situation. The CPS workers, and in most cases, the youth court judge, will determine the long-term placement of minors. In the event that the transitional home is the most appropriate placement for older minors, Community Care Network will provide housing and services in a loving home until the young person is able to move on to community housing options after the age of 18.

Pregnant and Parenting

In the Voices of Youth Count, 44% of young women who were between 18 and 25 and experiencing homelessness were pregnant or parenting (Voices of Youth Count, 2019). In the

Mississippi Gulf Coast region, pregnant and parenting youth represent 60% of the persons 18-25 served in the system per HMIS data. Seventy-six young people 18-25 who were experiencing homelessness and assisted with housing services in the last year were pregnant or parenting. In the Mississippi Gulf Coast region’s Coordinated Entry System (CES), any family with children or pregnant woman is prioritized for immediate housing. In the case of a person fleeing domestic violence, CES personnel make a referral to Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence for an immediate placement in crisis housing until a safety plan can be put in place. For others who may be experiencing unsheltered homelessness, the CES personnel make a referral to Rebekah’s House family transitional housing or a hotel for up to 30 days until permanent housing options can be secured. For some pregnant or parenting young persons who are facing eviction within seven days, prevention services ensure that there is no disruption in housing.

The numbers of births for young women aged 15-19 follow (Teenage Vital Statistics Data, 2017):

Location	Births to mothers age 15-19	Births to Unmarried Mothers	Previous Pregnancies	Teen Pregnancy Rate
George	26	22	3	15.6
Hancock	36	32	9	12.8
Harrison	176	157	43	14.7
Jackson	118	110	26	13.5
Pearl River	61	54	13	19.3
Stone	20	19	4	15.4
Teenage Vital Statistics Data 2017: Mothers age 15-19				

The chart indicates that 437 mothers between the ages of 15 and 19 gave birth in 2017. 394 pregnant women aged 15-19 were unmarried. 98 were second or third pregnancies. While not all young unmarried mothers between the ages of 15 and 19 will become homeless, all 394 are at risk of

homelessness due to limited education opportunities, limited employment opportunities, and child-care costs.

Justice Involved

According to HMIS data, 6% of the young adults served in the homelessness services system in the last year were housed as they exited juvenile detention with nowhere to go and no resources to obtain housing. The strong partnership between the counselors at the juvenile detention centers in Jackson County and Harrison County made the connections seamless. In addition to the population of young people exiting juvenile detention, over 100 young people have been identified in the region as living in unsafe situations or unstable housing situations that include violence, easy access to guns, and couch surfing. This group of young people are often disconnected from school and are at risk of not only homelessness but gun violence. Generally, the housing instability and the disproportionate lack of high school diploma attainment, justice involved youth are particularly vulnerable. Connections to education, employment, and opportunities to succeed are critical to long-term avoidance of criminal activity and a healthy transition to adulthood. Juvenile crimes per county follow in the next table (Mississippi Juvenile Court Case Counts Per County, 2017):

County	Delinquency: Petition	Delinquency: Non-Petition	Status: Petition	Status: Non-Petition
George	26	19	5	0
Hancock	53	86	12	45
Harrison	482	238	13	219
Jackson	137	316	8	78
Pearl River	54	58	0	30
Stone	29	11	0	0
Total	781	728	38	372

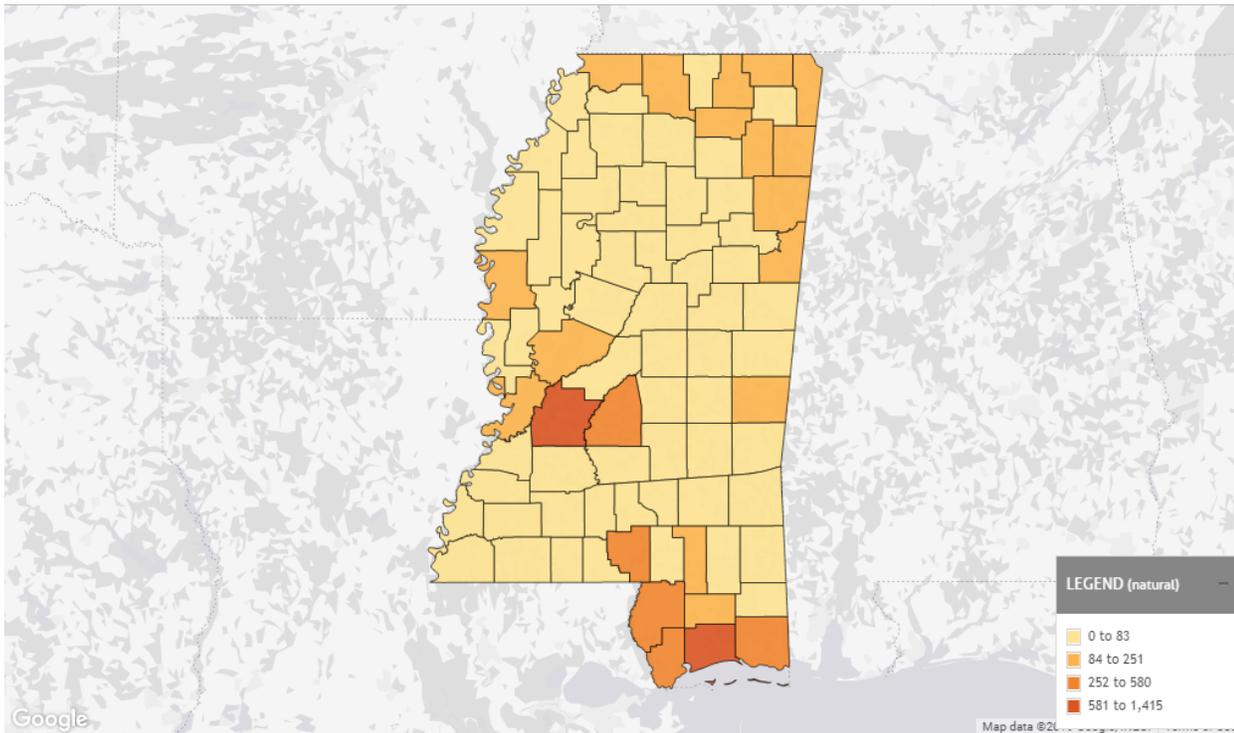
Foster Care Involved

According to HMIS data, over 50% of the young persons experiencing literal homelessness either aged out of foster care or spent significant time in foster care. As a result, foster care involved youth were a priority in the community's 100-Day Challenge work. The Mississippi Department of Child Protective Services (CPS) implemented a transition plan during the 100 Day Challenge that prevented homelessness for 78 young people who aged out of foster care. The success of the newly implemented plan inspired a state-wide effort to ensure that transition plans contained practical information connected to resources. The CPS staff are following the transitions for three years. Inflow into literal homelessness from CPS has reduced significantly.

The Mississippi Supreme Court has created seven pilot programs across the state with two implemented in the Gulf Coast region. In these pilot programs, the courts have partnered with social service agencies to wrap services around families who are experiencing poverty. As families' resources are strengthened, more children remain at home rather than removed to state custody due to neglect. With fewer children coming into care, the number of children aging out will reduce over time. Currently, the number of young persons aged 18-21 in state custody in the region who will age out in the near term is 372, per the Mississippi Department of Child Protective Services. The number of children in state custody per county follow (Kids Count Data Book, 2018):

Location	Data Type	2014	2015	2016
George	Number	8	35	81
Hancock	Number	638	642	580
Harrison	Number	1227	1346	1415
Jackson	Number	423	444	518
Pearl River	Number	197	243	304
Stone	Number	162	144	154

By far, the Gulf Coast region’s number of children in foster care exceeds every other region in the state



Children In Foster Care (Number) - 2016

Mississippi KIDS COUNT
KIDS COUNT Data Center, datacenter.kidscount.org
A project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation

Victims of Trafficking and Exploitation

Since 2007, 786 victims of human trafficking have been identified in the state of Mississippi. Of those, 83% were sex trafficking survivors, 10% were labor trafficking survivors, and 7% were trafficked for both sex and labor (Mississippi/ National Human Trafficking Hotline, 2018). The venues for trafficking in the state include escort services, hotel/ motels, illicit massage businesses, residence based commercial sex, and online ads (Mississippi/ National Human Trafficking Hotline, 2018). 93% of the persons identified as victims of trafficking are women and 36% are minors (Mississippi/ National Human Trafficking Hotline, 2018). To date, victims of trafficking have been served by the domestic violence service providers in the state. While there are some similarities regarding safety concerns and

the need for trauma counseling, victims of trafficking present unique challenges in housing. Often housing must be provided in a location away from where the person was originally identified and assessed. Partnerships across the state allow for coordination and portability of resources.

Currently, the Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence serves survivors of trafficking. The organization has a long history of providing safety and services for survivors of domestic violence in shelter, transitional housing, and rapid rehousing. Recently, the organization has expanded its services to provide counseling, social services, legal services, and shelter to survivors of trafficking in an undisclosed location. In addition, Jubilee Havens, a local faith based nonprofit organization, outreaches to people who are potential trafficking victims at local casinos, the streets, and other locations. When the volunteers of Jubilee Havens identify a victim of trafficking who chooses to move to safety, they contact a network of safe homes across the country. The trained volunteers coordinate transportation to a safe home who then will provide services to assist in healing and restoration based on the person's needs.

Governance Structure

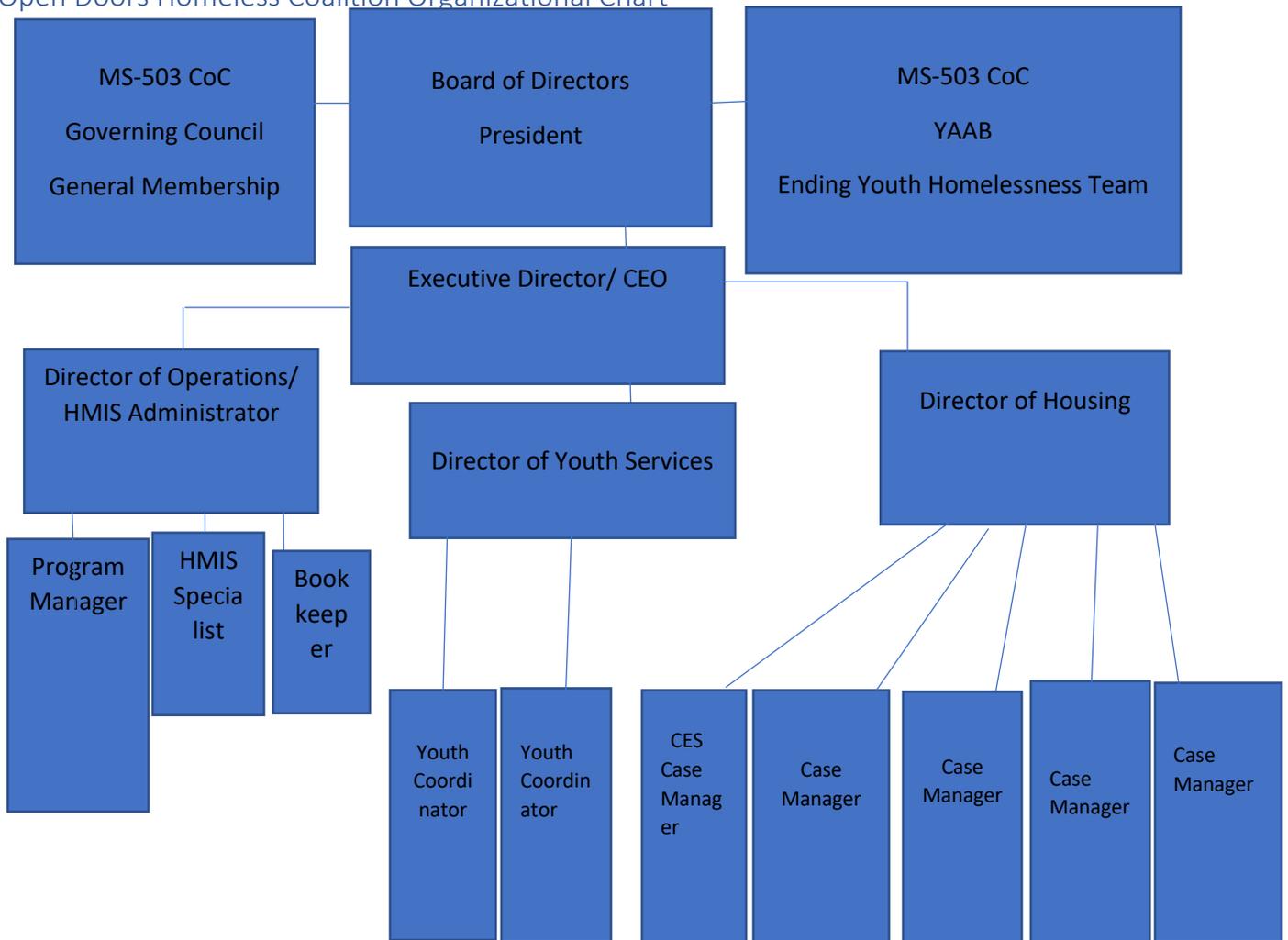
The MS-503 CoC governance structure includes the Governing Council which functions as the CoC Board, to create policies for the Gulf Coast Region and the Youth and Young Adult Action Board (YAAB) which functions as the governing body for the region's response to homelessness and unsafe and unstable housing among youth and young adults. There are 50 member agencies who participate in the CoC planning and implementation of strategies to prevent and ultimately end homelessness in the Gulf Coast region. A subset of the member agencies includes the Ending Youth Homelessness Team (EYH) who are comprised of 16 case managers and other stakeholders who strive to implement innovative evidence-based strategies to prevent and end youth homelessness.

The YAAB includes youth and young adults who are 25 years old and younger with lived experience of homelessness or unstable housing. Two youth coordinators serve as liaisons between the YAAB and the EYH Team. The YAAB and the youth coordinators create system responses to prevent and end homelessness among youth and young adults through system modeling guided by their perspectives. Through twice per week meetings to date, data analysis, tours of programs, and assessments of existing options, the YAAB suggested new projects and created system-wide policies to inform the EYH Team and other stakeholders of the community's needs.

The YAAB have been a crucial component of planning over the last three years. Every project has come from the experience and direction of the YAAB. The YAAB #1, formed in 2017, determined that a site-based coordinated entry center that was a “hang-out” space with computers, recreation, and an inviting atmosphere was a priority. Based on their experiences, young people may have difficulty expressing a need for assistance. However, if a safe space staffed with mentors let them build trust and engage on their own terms, they may be more inclined to share a need and request assistance. In addition, the YAAB #1 made clear that the opportunity for trauma counseling outside of the traditional mental health system is a need. The YAAB #2, in 2018 and 2019, discussed the need for a variety of housing options, services, and transportation as well as strong partnerships with the education system and living-wage employment options. The YAAB #3, in 2019 and 2020, validated the important work of their predecessors and added the need for crisis beds and a strategy to address the needs of minors who enter the homelessness services system. In addition, the YAAB #3 prioritized the need for strong targeted outreach and engagement with literally homeless young people, young people who are homeless under the Department of Education definition, justice involved youth, and youth and young adults at-risk of homelessness and violence.

The YAAB #3 created the scoring rubric for the project applications for YHDP and will select the projects through a competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) process. The RFP will run for a minimum of 30 days. The YAAB will score the projects using the published rubric and will rank the projects based on the scores and project types that are needed in the system. All projects that fall above the funding line will be submitted to HUD for approval. Once projects are approved, the YAAB, in conjunction with the Collaborative Applicant, Open Doors Homeless Coalition, will oversee the implementation of the projects. The YAAB, as paid employees of Open Doors Homeless Coalition, will follow the progress of the new youth and young adult programs quarterly. The YAAB will use HMIS data to monitor outcomes. If outcomes need improvements, the YAAB will recommend technical assistance and/ or training that the Collaborative Applicant will provide or arrange.

Open Doors Homeless Coalition Organizational Chart



Partners

Open Doors Homeless Coalition serves as the Collaborative Applicant for the MS-503 Continuum of Care (CoC) and comprises the staff support for the Youth and Young Adult Action Board (YAAB), the Ending Youth Homelessness Team, the MS-503 Governing Council, and CoC general membership. The CoC structure is a vital component of the planning and implementation of the coordinated community approach to prevent and end homelessness. The specific committees that act as a critical part of the Gulf Coast Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project are the Youth and Young Adult Action Board (YAAB), the Ending Youth Homelessness Team, and the MS-503 CoC Governing Council.

The 100-Day Challenge solidified partnerships among 19 team members from 14 different agencies that remain dedicated to preventing and ending homelessness among youth and young adults. The partners include the Mississippi Department of Child Protective Services, Harrison County and Jackson County Youth Courts, the Gulfport Police Department, the Biloxi Police Department, Coastal Family Health, Open Doors Homeless Coalition, CLIMB CDC, Hancock Resource Center, Community Care Network, the Youth and Young Adult Action Board, Harrison County Families First, Jackson County Families First, Back Bay Mission, Biloxi School system, Gulfport School System, Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence, and the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College WIOA program. The team engaged youth court judges throughout the region to gain buy-in and met with landlords in the community to gain access to units and community support. In addition, Open Doors Homeless Coalition and the MS-503 Continuum of Care have engaged a wide range of youth providers, including Gulf Coast Mental Health Center, Mississippi Department of Child Protective Services, Mississippi Youth Court judges and counselors, Families First, youth housing providers, the Youth and Young Adult Action Board, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, the Biloxi School District, the

Gulfport School District, and others. The MS-503 CoC continues to engage the broader community, including the business community and those agencies that do not currently provide youth services, through monthly meetings and outreach in order to add participation.

2019 Ending Youth Homelessness Team for the MS-503 CoC

Five youth and young adults with lived experience of homelessness or unstable housing (YAAB)

Jaszmen Hawthorne, **Mississippi Department of Child Protective Services**, Program Administrator/
Public Child Welfare Agency

Trinette Crump, **Open Doors Homeless Coalition**, Coordinated Entry System Program Manager/
Nonprofit Organization/ CES and Outreach/ ESG

Honora Slagel, **Coastal Family Health Center** (Federally Qualified Health Center), Case Manager/
Nonprofit Health Organization/ Outreach and linkages to primary care and mental health care

Angel Greer, **Coastal Family Health Center** (a Federally Qualified Health Center), Executive Director/
Nonprofit Health Organization/ Primary Care and Mental Health Care

John Whitfield, **CLIMB CDC**, Executive Director/ Nonprofit Organization/ Employment and
Education/ Child Care on-site

Stacey Gaskin, **Jackson County Youth Court**, Counselor/ Juvenile Justice

Melanie Humphries, **Open Doors Homeless Coalition**, Case Manager/ Nonprofit Organization/
Housing/ ESG

Coletha Coley, **Biloxi Public Schools**, Homeless Student Liaison/ Education

Glen East, **Gulfport Schools**, Superintendent/ Education

Denee Wilkerson, **Mississippi Department of Human Services**, Counselor/ State Government Services

Tee McCovey, **Pastor and expert on Workforce Development**/ Education and Employment

Erica Hollimon, **Gulf Coast Community College**/ Workforce Development/ Education/ WIOA/ Child Care on-site/ Open Doors Homeless Coalition Board

Kenney Washington, **Back Bay Mission**, Director of Client Services/ Nonprofit Organization/ Housing and Services/ ESG and CoC/ Member of the Governing Council of the CoC

Diane Easley, **Community Care Network**, Executive Director, Nonprofit Organization/ Housing and Services/ ESG and CoC

Genia Crane, **Coastal Family Health**/ Homeless Outreach

Mary Simons, **Open Doors Homeless Coalition**, Executive Director, CEO/ Planning, Coordinated Entry, HMIS, Housing, Services/ ESG, CoC, and CHOICE/ member of the Governing Council for CoC

Stephanie Mathes, **Corp Network**, Executive Director/ Employment Services

Rhonda Rhodes, **Hancock Resource Center**, Executive Director/ Nonprofit Organization, Services, Housing, Employment/ ESG/ Chair of the Governing Council for the CoC

Mario Johnson, **Mississippi Department of Child Protective Services**, Regional Director/ Public Child Welfare Agency

Jonathan Green, **STEPS Coalition**/ Advocacy, Affordable Housing Development

Joseph Lindsey, **My Brothers Keeper**/ Nonprofit/ Healthcare and HIV Prevention

Helen Werby, **Biloxi Housing Authority**, Executive Director/ Public Housing Authority/ HCVP

Jessie Billups, **Mississippi Region 8 Housing Authority**, Executive Director/ Public Housing/ HCVP/ Mainstream Vouchers

Stacey Riley, Executive Director, **Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence**/ DV Services, Hotline, Shelter, Transitional Housing, Rapid Rehousing, Child Care on-site/ CoC and ESG/ Member of the Governing Council of the CoC

Elizabeth Connerly, Case Manager, **Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence/** DV Services, Hotline, Shelter, Transitional Housing, Rapid Rehousing/ CoC and ESG

Sharon Robbins, **Jubilee Havens/** Shelter and Services for Trafficking Survivors

There is no RHY program in the Mississippi Gulf Coast region

Local government leaders have funded outreach and housing projects through the CDBG program. Local government leaders, including local chiefs of police, have provided coordinated outreach efforts that include the work of police officers to ensure that all persons experiencing literal homelessness are identified and linked to resources, no matter how hidden they may be. The police officers do not criminalize homelessness. Rather, they provide information to outreach workers and assure persons experiencing homelessness that the outreach team will assist them in finding a solution. Literal homelessness among young people and people of all ages has reduced in each of the areas in the Mississippi Gulf Coast region because of the partnerships between CoC members and local governments.

Government Leaders:

Mayor Billy Hewes, Gulfport

Chief Leonard Papania, Gulfport

Mayor Andrew "Fofa" Gilich, Biloxi

Chief John Miller, Biloxi

Mayor Mario King, Moss Point

Mayor Steve Demetropoulos, Pascagoula

Chief Matt Chapman, Pascagoula

Shared Community Vision

The current Youth and Young Adult Action Board (YAAB), made up of three young people age 25 and younger with lived experience of homelessness or unstable housing, created and approved the community's vision for the community. The vision was also approved and adopted by the Ending Youth Homelessness Team. The community's vision statement follows:

All youth and young adults under the age of 25 in the Mississippi Gulf Coast region will have a safe and stable place to call home with access to their choice of supportive services, educational opportunities, employment, health care, and permanent connections that promote a positive transition to adulthood and long-term sustainability.

Shared Values

The shared values of the community's plan, as created and approved by the Youth and Young Adult Action Board (YAAB) and adopted by the Ending Youth Homelessness Team follow:

1. Youth leadership, youth participation, and youth perspectives are crucial to the success of the system to prevent and end homelessness among youth and young adults.
2. Perspectives from on-the-ground case workers from a variety of fields will increase innovations.
3. Coordinated Entry is an important part of the system to identify youth and young adults who are experiencing homelessness or unsafe or unstable housing. Through coordinated entry, young people will be prioritized and matched to needed housing options and supportive services within the system.
4. Empowerment of youth and young adults who are recipients of services, individualized client driven plans, and respect for the choices of participants will lead to better outcomes.

5. Goals will include full participation in the community and social integration. Youth and young adults who are experiencing homelessness and/ or unsafe or unstable housing can move out of the homelessness services system and transition to a healthy and productive adulthood.
6. Implementation of evidence-based practices will be expected in the community's solutions.
 - a. **Positive Youth Development:** Positive Youth Development (PYD) seeks to address the needs of the whole person rather than simply "correct problems." Through a Positive Youth Development framework, young people develop competence, character, confidence, connection, and contribution (Pedersen, 2018). When basic needs are met, strengths are enhanced, and opportunities and supports are provided to foster positive relationships and build leadership.

The community has incorporated PYD into the system of serving youth and young adults in a variety of ways. To increase competence and confidence, each of the community's program staff, regardless of program type, offer opportunities for young people to develop soft skills and life skills. In addition, staff create linkages to education, extracurricular activities, and vocational training. Young people choose which options may be right for them. To promote character and connections, the proposed community drop-in center will incorporate mentors and community volunteers into the program. While young people will have a choice in who they choose to interact with, mentors and volunteers will be trained and equipped to build healthy trusting relationships. Staff, mentors, and volunteers of all programs encourage healthy peer relationships, social interaction, dialog, anti-stigma, and anti-bullying. To inspire contribution, each program that serves youth and young adults in the community offers possibilities for volunteerism, advocacy, and community participation. In addition, as an integral part of the youth

system, the Youth and Young Adult Action Board (YAAB) creates opportunities for youth leadership and system decision making. The YAAB reviewed and selected the projects to include in YHDP funding and will monitor funded programs using data, site visits, and participant satisfaction surveys. As new members join the YAAB, the members of the YAAB provide training and orientation to boost confidence in the contribution.

- b. **Trauma Informed Care:** “Trauma Informed Care means treating the whole person while taking into account past trauma and resulting coping mechanisms when attempting to understand the patient” (Withers, 2017). Trauma can impact every area of functioning. As such, recognizing the impacts of the trauma of homelessness, violence, instability, and other issues is critical in providing appropriate supports to people who have endured adverse childhood experiences.

The Trauma Informed Care approach plays an important role in the MS-503 CoC system. The Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence provides annual training for all of the community-based agencies in the six southern-most counties of Mississippi. Community Care Network, Coastal Family Health Care, and Open Doors Homeless Coalition provide quarterly refresher courses as well for staff and participating agencies. The community agencies in south Mississippi recognize that the approach is a way of being rather than a separate intervention. The approach permeates all of the interventions.

- c. **Immediate Access to Housing with no Preconditions:** The MS-503 CoC has embraced the Housing First philosophy and have incorporated the strategy into the work with youth and young adults. Through the Housing First methodology, 51 youth and young adults were housed during the 100 Day Challenge and an additional 76 young people were

housed in the community after the 100 Day Challenge. Most young people were housed in scattered sites using Rapid Rehousing options within 30 days of identification. 86% of the young people left the homeless services system and successfully maintained housing in the community. The practices of Harm Reduction and Motivational Interviewing contribute to the success of the Housing First model.

7. **Youth Choice:** Youth choice is crucial in the work of preventing and ending homelessness and addressing unsafe and unstable housing. In all programs, staff will use motivational interviewing to help youth and young adults identify their goals and services needed to achieve those goals. Staff will offer a variety of legitimate housing and service options in the community so that solutions fit the needs of the young person in the chosen setting. For example, an 18-year old who presents for services after being identified through intensive outreach as literally homeless, will be assessed for housing options, educational and employment needs, as well as mental health concerns, substance abuse issues, and primary health. The housing issue to provide stability will be addressed first. The young person will determine whether a group housing option, shared housing, or an independent apartment works best. The young person will determine which services are needed. The case manager's role is to ask questions, present options, and empower the young person. Based on the assessment and conversation with the young person, the case manager will assist the young person, as needed, to navigate the system to obtain and maintain housing of choice. The case manager will walk with the young person to assist with engaging in chosen services and opportunities that move the young person into a healthy and productive adulthood.
8. Both quantitative and qualitative data from a variety of sources are needed to fully understand the scope of the need and effectiveness of the system's response.

9. Equity is intentional and weaves through the system from outreach, coordinated entry, the assessment process, service provision, housing navigation, housing move-in, education, employment, recreation, and sustainability.

Goals, Objectives, Action Steps

The Youth and Young Adult Action Board (YAAB) have considered the strengths of the current system as well as the gaps. The strengths include effective Rapid Rehousing options, outreach, housing navigation, and case management for youth and young adults experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Generally, any young person experiencing unsheltered homelessness is identified through outreach, prioritized for housing and services, and housed within 30 days. The YAAB noted that there needs to be a way to connect with young people who are homeless under other definitions or are unsafely or unstably housed. An inviting coordinated entry center with access to services emerged as a priority as did coordinated outreach to schools and justice involved youth. Crisis housing, housing options for minors who may be experiencing homelessness, trauma counseling, education and employment options, as well as additional rapid rehousing resources are needed to create a fully functioning system that meets the needs of youth and young adults. The goals, objectives and action steps follow:

Goals/ Responsible Party/ Time Frame	Objectives	Action Steps
Goal: Create Stable Housing Options for all youth and young adults Community Care Network: By the end of 2021	Increase the availability of and access to crisis housing, time limited housing options, and/ or shared housing options for youth and young adults who are experiencing homelessness or in unsafe or unstable housing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop affordable time limited or shared housing options 2. Develop crisis housing options 3. Expand case management to link participants to services of choice in the community to promote stability as well as a plan for future housing

<p>Open Doors Homeless Coalition: By the end of 2021</p>	<p>Increase access to housing and increase housing stability for youth and young adults who are experiencing homelessness or who are unsafely or unstably housed</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop affordable rental housing stock through rental assistance, acquisition/ rehab, or new construction in the region that is both available and affordable for young adults 2. Expand in-home client-centered case management that links participants to services of choice in the community to promote housing stability 3. Increase landlord recruitment and landlord participation
<p>Community Care Network in partnership with the Mississippi Department of Child Protective Services: By the end of 2021</p>	<p>Increase the availability and access to appropriate housing for minor youth</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue the partnership with the Mississippi Department of Child Protective Services to ensure that minor youth who are experiencing homelessness or are unsafely or unstably housed are linked to proper care and housing stability 2. Develop appropriate supervised housing for minors

Goal: Create Permanent Connections		
<p>Open Doors Homeless Coalition in partnership with CLIMB CDC by the end of 2021</p>	<p>Identify all youth and young adults who are experiencing homelessness or unsafe or unstable housing and connect to mentors, family when appropriate, and peers</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create a youth "hang out" space that includes recreation, computers, a wealth of available services, mentors, case managers, and others to promote permanent connections with the community, family when appropriate, and peers 2. Increase outreach activities that specifically target youth and young adults experiencing homelessness and those who are unstable or unsafe who are identified by the school system, and those identified by the justice system 3. Ensure that all outreach activities are solution-focused

Goal: Increase Education and Employment Opportunities		
Open Doors Homeless Coalition in partnership with CLIMB CDC by the end of 2021	Increase opportunities to complete the education of ones' choice	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Partner with the secondary school system to provide support for youth who are experiencing homelessness or are unsafely or unstably housed 2. Expand opportunities for GED preparation or online diploma attainment 3. Partner with the community college system to link high-need young adults to post-secondary educational opportunities 4. Partner with 4-year colleges and universities to link high-need young adults to Bachelor's Degree, Master's Degree, and Doctoral educational opportunities
Open Doors Homeless Coalition in partnership with Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College by the end of 2021	Increase opportunities for youth and young adults to increase income	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Partner with local workforce development opportunities, WIOA, and workforce training organizations 2. Provide financial assistance for work clothing, TWIC cards, tools, and other needed items or supplies 3. Partner with the local business community to increase employment opportunities
Open Doors Homeless Coalition by June, 2021	Increase availability and access to transportation options for youth and young adults	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide bus passes as needed 2. Expand bus routes in the region 3. Partner with ride-share companies to provide rural transportation

Goal: Increase Socio-Emotional Well Being		
Coastal Family Health Center by the end of 2021	Reduce the effects of trauma on youth and young adults who are experiencing homelessness or unsafely or unstably housed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create a youth specific trauma counseling program to address early trauma 2. Ensure all providers are trained and implement Trauma Informed Care
Coastal Family Health Center by the end of 2021	Connect youth and young adults to primary care	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Partner with community-based health care providers to create an efficient referral to services when a youth or young adult expresses the desire for primary health care 2. Provide financial assistance for medication when needed
Coastal Family Health Center by the end of 2021	Connect youth and young adults to mental health care	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Partner with community based mental health providers to create an efficient referral to services when a youth or young adult expresses the desire for mental health treatment 2. Provide financial assistance for medication when needed 3. Provide affordable housing options and mental health case management when needed
Coastal Family Health Center by the end of 2021	Connect youth and young adults to substance abuse treatment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Partner with community-based substance abuse treatment facilities to create an efficient referral to services when a youth or young adult expresses the desire for substance abuse treatment 2. Provide sober housing options for after-care

List of New Projects

Projects will be chosen after a Request for Proposals has been widely distributed and answered by a variety of eligible nonprofit community-based agencies. The list of projects is a guide and eligible community-based agencies may combine several SSO project suggestions or SSO-CE suggestions into one project. Housing project suggestions may be combined into one project or eligible community-based agencies may apply for service-rich housing options that include the suggested services in a housing program. In any combinations, the eligible activities must fit into one eligible program type: SSO-CE (Supportive Services Only- Coordinated Entry), SSO (Supportive Services Only), RRH (Rapid Rehousing), PSH (Permanent Supportive Housing), TH (Transitional Housing), or TH-RRH (Transitional Housing to Rapid Rehousing). Projects will be expected to implement evidence-based activities, ensure consumer choice is a component of all program activities, and be age-appropriate. The Youth and Young Adult Action Board (YAAB) and unbiased volunteers recruited by the YAAB will make up the Review and Ranking committee and will score the applications. The highest scoring applications will be funded and implemented after final approval by HUD. The YHDP will support the following types of projects:

Projects	Eligible Applicants	Proposed Allocation for 2 years
<p>Creation of a centrally located drop in site that looks more like a “hang out” space with recreation, comfortable seating, computers for youth and young adults to use, a wealth of available services, mentors to engage with the youth and young adults on their terms with the purpose of assessing needs and linking youth and young adults to housing and services of their choice as well as improving transportation options for youth and young adults (SSO or services accompanied with RRH); Improve targeted outreach to youth and young adults who are experiencing homelessness, are in unstable homes, or are unsafe in their housing (SSO-CE);</p>	<p>Nonprofit organizations who have experience with MS-503 Coordinated Entry for the Continuum of Care geography and have experience with federal funds:</p> <p>CLIMB CDC – drop in site in coordination with rapid rehousing (RRH project with supportive services)</p> <p>Open Doors Homeless Coalition- intensive outreach and phone hot-line (SSO-CE)</p>	<p>up to \$600,000</p>
<p>Rental assistance to make housing more affordable using a Housing First methodology, Positive Youth Development, and a Trauma Informed approach along with landlord recruitment and housing navigation activities as well as improved access to education and employment opportunities (RRH or PSH);</p>	<p>Nonprofit organizations, units of local government, or public housing organizations who have experience with transportation and experience with managing federal funds- CLIMB CDC (RRH), Open Doors Homeless Coalition (RRH), Community Care Network (TH-RRH), Hancock Resource Center (RRH)</p>	<p>up to \$859,114</p>
<p>A project that develops, implements, and operates mental health trauma counseling for youth and young adults who have experienced multiple traumatic events that may manifest in substance abuse, defiant behavior, or symptoms of mental illness (SSO);</p>	<p>Nonprofit organizations, units of local government, or public housing organizations who have experience with subsidized and/ or affordable housing, and/ or crisis housing, and/ or transitional housing and experience with managing federal funds- CLIMB CDC partnered with</p>	<p>Leverage existing resources to supplement funded projects</p>

	licensed and Coastal Family Health Center	
Projects that create, implement, and sustain crisis housing options, time limited housing options, and shared housing options for young adults who are experiencing homelessness or are unstably or unsafely housed (TH or TH-RRH).	Nonprofit organizations, units of local government, or public housing organizations who have experience with subsidized and/ or affordable housing, and/or crisis housing, and/ or transitional housing and experience with managing federal funds- Community Care Network (TH-RRH)	up to \$200,000
Projects that create, implement, and sustain appropriate housing options for minor youth (TH or TH-RRH).	Nonprofit organizations, units of local government, or public housing organizations who have experience with subsidized and/ or affordable housing, and/or crisis housing, and/ or transitional housing and experience with managing federal funds- Community Care Network (TH-RRH)	up to \$200,000
Total Allocation		\$1,859,114

Youth Framework and Core Outcomes

The Mississippi Gulf Coast region’s partners recognized that youth and young adults who are experiencing homelessness or who are unsafely or unstably housed present with issues and concerns related to trauma as well as possible gaps in healthy development. In *A Framework of Outcomes for Young People*, the authors state, “Young people are living, learning, and negotiating transitions to

adulthood and independence in an increasingly complex and challenging world, in which they face greater levels of choice and opportunity, but also unprecedented uncertainty and risk. This calls for empowered, resilient, young people, who play an active role in navigating these paths” (McNeil, 2012) .

The work highlights that young people who have strong support networks, a sense of belonging and a feeling of being respected are more likely to be engaged successfully in work and/or educational activities. Young people who suffer from self-loathing, those who often feel “under the weather,” or those who lack a sense of identity, demonstrate significantly lower educational attainment or work success. The authors promote strengthening communication skills, building confidence, teaching planning and problem solving, developing healthy relationships and leadership, encouraging creativity, supporting resilience and determination, and helping young people to manage feelings in a healthy way to achieve a healthy transition to adulthood (McNeil, 2012). The Child and Youth Network promotes healthy relationships and inclusion, leadership opportunities, education, employment and entrepreneurship, and health and wellness as the core components of a healthy transition to adulthood (CYN Youth Framework, 2019). These components are consistent with the Chapin Hall and University of Chicago’s *Measuring Up: Youth Level Outcomes and Measures for System Responses to Youth Homelessness*. Core components of the framework include stable housing, permanent connections, education attainment and employment as well as socio-emotional well-being (Morton, 2019). Clearly, solving a housing issue for youth and young adults experiencing homelessness or unsafe or unstable housing is only the first step toward stability. Therefore, the Mississippi Gulf Coast region’s YHDP programs will measure not only housing related outcomes but also the development of permanent connections, education and employment, and socio-emotional well-being.

Stable Housing

Each young person assessed for services through the Coordinated Entry process will be asked about housing and basic needs. If a young person is experiencing literal homelessness, Coordinated Entry personnel will make an immediate referral for crisis housing. Once in crisis housing, food, clothing, and other basic items will be provided. If a minor, crisis housing personnel will contact the Mississippi Department of Child Protective Services for guidance. If over 18, the young person will be connected to a housing navigator who will assist in locating an appropriate housing option.

For young persons who are unsafely or unstably housed, Coordinated Entry personnel will work to find stable housing options that may include connections to family resources or other diversions from the homeless services sector. If diversion is not possible, the Coordinated Entry personnel will make a referral to housing navigators who will identify safe and stable housing options in the community.

Housing measures include:

1. Time from identification to housed, measured in HMIS, expected to be within 30 days
2. Retention in housing program, measured in HMIS, expected to be 6 months- 2 years
3. Exits to permanent housing, measured in HMIS, expected to be over 85%
4. Returns to homelessness, measured in HMIS, expected to be less than 4%

Permanent Connections

Young people who develop strong permanent connections with adults and peers transition more easily to a healthy adulthood. The connections create a sense of belonging that is supported by the knowledge that people care, people can assist in overcoming obstacles, and people can provide emotional support as needed. Young people who have been in the foster care system or who have experienced homelessness, or unsafe or unstable housing, often have difficulties maintaining permanent connections with peers and adults. Young people with limited social connections risk falling into

potentially unhealthy relationships that reinforce “street culture” and alienation from broader networks. (Morton, 2019). The report, *Measuring Up: Youth-level Outcomes and Measures for System Responses to Youth Homelessness* finds that “positive connections to family, peers, and other supportive adults can serve a range of purposes. Several studies have found that youth with at least one caring adult are more likely to have better well-being outcomes, including better physical health, less stress, improved mental health, improved educational and economic attainment, and higher life satisfaction as an adult (Semanchin Jones, 2013). In *Child Trends Magazine*, “The Importance of Permanent Connections for Youth in Foster Care”, the author makes the case that youth living with instability face barriers to participation in extracurricular activities, visits with friends, joining in sports, and other age-appropriate pursuits. Removal of these barriers can lead to meaningful relationships that teach essential life skills, link young people to educational and employment resources, and create healthy recreation options (Morris, 2015).

To measure permanent connections, the Mississippi Gulf Coast region’s YHDP programs will use the Center for the Study of Social Policy’s Social Connections Scale (Morton, 2019). The assessment will be administered every six months to measure improvement in permanent social connections. It is expected that 70% of participants will demonstrate an improvement in social connections after a year of program enrollment.

Education/ Employment

According to the National Academy of Sciences, “among the challenges young people face as they transition to adulthood, two can be considered centrally important: 1) Progressing toward and completing their educational attainment, and 2) Becoming employed and earning enough to gain independence” (Bonnie RJ, 2015). Educational partners include the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, Biloxi School System, Gulfport School System, and the other school districts in the Mississippi

Gulf Coast region. Each YHDP program in the Mississippi Gulf Coast region will assess the following education measures:

1. Educational Enrollment and Attendance: It is expected that 90% of persons who choose educational activities will be enrolled in the course of study of their choice and 86% will have satisfactory attendance.
2. Educational Attainment: It is expected that 86% of students enrolled in educational activities will attain the diploma, degree, or certificate.

In addition, programs will work with the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, Goodwill Industries, Women in Construction, YouthBuild, the Port of Gulfport, and other workforce development programs to ensure participants are linked to employment. Employment measures include:

1. Income: It is expected that 75% of participants will obtain income or retain/increase income after a year of participation in a program or after educational attainment.
2. Employment Status: It is expected that 75% of participants who choose employment will be employed at least part-time after a year of participation in a program or after educational attainment.

Socio-Emotional Well Being

“Being socially and emotionally well means being able to realize your abilities, cope with the normal stresses of life, work productively, and contribute to the community” (Healthier Work- Social and Emotional Well-Being- Mental Health, 2019). When children and youth experience traumatic events, social and emotional wellness can be negatively impacted. According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), “Data from the Adverse Childhood

Experiences (ACE) study found that certain traumatic experiences that occur during childhood can have serious health and social consequences into adulthood. ACEs include events such as abuse and neglect, as well as witnessing domestic violence and growing up with family members who have mental illness or substance use disorders. When children are exposed to chronic stressful events, their development can be disrupted. Over time, children may adopt negative coping mechanisms, such as substance use or self-harm” (Helping Children and Youth Who Have Traumatic Experiences, 2018). To address the effects of traumatic events like those mentioned, as well as things like witnessing violent crime or being the victim of bullying or physical or sexual assault, the Mississippi Gulf Coast region has implemented a trauma informed approach across the system. To address the specific trauma issues faced by young people who have experienced homelessness or unsafe or unstable housing, the MS-503 CoC will implement trauma counseling by qualified providers as part of its YHDP work. Through this work, it is expected that improvements in mental health symptoms or substance abuse symptoms will occur.

Socio-Emotional measures include:

1. Mental Health
2. Resilience
3. Thriving
4. Psychological Distress
5. Life Skills

The mental health/ trauma counselors will develop the tools needed to adequately determine a baseline as well as improvements in socio-emotional measures.

Quality Improvement

The YAAB, in conjunction with Open Doors Homeless Coalition, will monitor programs and youth system performance measures quarterly. The YAAB and Open Doors Homeless Coalition will analyze utilization data and outcomes data in HMIS quarterly and perform regular site visits to determine the effectiveness of the strategies to prevent and end homelessness among youth and young adults in The Mississippi Gulf Coast region. If it appears that utilization rates and/ or outcomes data need improvement, Open Doors Homeless Coalition will arrange for training and/ or technical assistance. If the system needs a course correction, the YAAB, Open Doors Homeless Coalition, and the MS-503 CoC Governing Council will develop a strategy to improve the system's response to homelessness among youth and young adults.

The Coordinated Community Plan is intended to be a living document that is reviewed and amended on a regular basis. Once approved, the YAAB will review the document quarterly during the first year to add new learning and re-examine goals and action steps as projects evolve. After the first year of project implementation, the YAAB, the CoC Governing Council, and the Ending Youth Homelessness team will review outcome data and add to the Coordinated Community Plan. Progress toward goals will be documented in the plan. Course corrections, when necessary, will become a part of the document and will guide the next steps. The Coordinated Community Plan will be reviewed and updated at least annually after the first year of project implementation. The YAAB, the CoC Governing Council, or the Ending Youth Homelessness team may request an out-of-cycle review. A majority of each of the members will need to approve the out-of-cycle review.

After any review and revision of the Coordinated Community Plan, the YAAB, CoC Governing Council, and Ending Youth Homelessness team will each need to approve by a majority vote.

Open Doors Homeless Coalition

11975 Seaway Road – Suite A220 – Gulfport, Mississippi 39503
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The Youth and Young Adult Action Board, (YAAB), the Ending Youth Homelessness Team (EYH), the MS-503 CoC Governing Council on behalf of the MS-503 CoC membership, the MS-503 CoC Collaborative applicant, a representative of the Mississippi Department of Child Protective Services, and local government representatives have reviewed and approved the HUD approved MS-503 CoC YHDP Coordinated Community Plan.



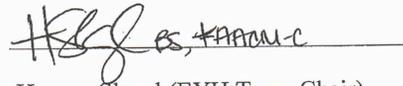
Antwon Wells (YAAB Coordinator)



Tyler Sudduth (YAAB Co-Chair)



Jacob Finelli (YAAB Co-Chair)



Honora Slagel (EYH Team Chair)



Jaszmen Hawthorn (Child Protective Services)



Rhonda Rhodes (MS-503 CoC
Governing Council Chair)



Mary Simons (Collaborative Applicant Representative)

{Signatures follow on the next page}



City of Gulfport



City of Biloxi



City of Pascagoula

Appendix 1: YAAB Governing Documents

BY-LAWS of MS-503 CoC Youth and Young Adult Action Board

Mission Statement: The Youth and Young Adult Action Board is a formal committee of the MS-503 Continuum of Care which is a collaborative initiative in South Mississippi dedicated to building solutions to homelessness through improved service delivery, community outreach, and advocacy. The YAAB will provide leadership and guidance, in the development of programs in partnership with community-based agencies that create housing options, improve service delivery, expand community outreach to youth and young adults under the age of 25, and target advocacy efforts pertaining to the needs of youth and young adults who are experiencing homelessness or unsafe or unstable housing in the six southern-most counties of Mississippi.

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of the Continuum of Care is MS-503 Continuum of Care/Gulfport/Gulf Coast Region. For the purposes of this document, the MS-503 General Membership will be referred to MS-503 CoC. The name of the formal committee is the Youth and Young Adult Action Board (YAAB).

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The purpose of the YAAB is to collaborate with other organizations and individuals in South Mississippi to build solutions to youth homelessness and improve housing stability and safety for youth and young adults under the age of 25.

ARTICLE III: VISION

The YAAB will lead the Mississippi Gulf Coast to prevent and end homelessness among youth and young adults and will create a sustainable system that provides access to a safe and stable home and supports for all persons under the age of 25.

ARTICLE IV: GOVERNANCE

Section 1. Powers and Duties of the YAAB:

The MS-503 community planning for youth and young adults shall be managed and governed by its YAAB who shall have the duty and responsibility to serve as guardians of the strategies to empower youth and young adults who are experiencing homelessness or unsafe or unstable housing. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the YAAB shall be specifically responsible for:

Analyze data and use data to make decisions

Analyze aggregate data pertaining to the existing youth programs;

Analyze the current youth and young adult movement through the system and system outcomes;

Determine gaps in the system;

Report data as needed to the Ending Youth Homelessness Team with the goal of course correcting current programs or to advocate for new projects to fill gaps

Lead local community planning for the youth and young adult system

Develop and nurture community partnerships, including but not limited to, the members of the MS-503 CoC Ending Youth Homelessness Team;

Develop community project ideas that are based on experience and perspective that will improve the youth and young adult system;

Develop prioritization criteria and prioritize projects serving youth and young adults based on the MS-503 CoC Youth and Young Adult Community Plan to improve the youth and young adult system. The YAAB will create the scoring rubric based on the priorities in the Community Plan and publish the rubric with the Requests for Proposals to aide in the scoring process. The YAAB members will each have an equal vote in all matters;

Review, rate, and rank project applications from eligible community- based agencies. Each YAAB member will score up to five (5) project applications from agencies that present no conflict of interest. Each application will be scored by at least two (2) unbiased YAAB members. The scores of each application will be averaged and ranked by the average score. The Collaborative Applicant will tabulate the scores and present to the YAAB for a vote to ratify the slate of projects. Each YAAB member will have one vote;

Provide guidance and support during project implementation.

In conjunction with Open Doors Homeless Coalition, conduct monitoring and other continuous quality improvement activities, using site-based monitoring tools and HMIS data analysis of community-based projects intended to improve the youth and young adult system. If concerns arise, the YAAB will recommend that the Collaborative Applicant arrange for technical assistance or training for the project to course correct.

Lead the annual Youth PIT for the MS-503 CoC

Operate MS-503 CoC YAAB, to include:

Conduct weekly meetings with written agendas and minutes;

Issue, at least annually, public invitations for YAAB new members;

Adopt and follow a written process to select YAAB members;

Develop and follow these by-laws of the YAAB;

Meet monthly with the Collaborative Applicant, Ending Youth Homelessness Team, CoC recipients of youth specific programs, and ESG recipients and ESG subrecipients to establish performance targets appropriate for population and program type, monitor the performance of recipients and subrecipients, evaluate outcomes, and take action against poor performers;

Work in partnership with Open Doors Homeless Coalition, the MS-503 Collaborative Applicant and HMIS lead, to establish and operate a youth specific centralized/coordinated assessment system.

Section 2. Number and Qualification of the YAAB:

The YAAB shall consist of at least three (3) and no more than seven (7) youth and young adults 25 or younger with lived experience of homelessness or unsafe or unstable housing. Three (3) YAAB members will be employed by Open Doors Homeless Coalition to carry out the duties described in the by-laws in consultation with the Ending Youth Homelessness team and Open Doors Homeless Coalition. While all YAAB members may review, score, rate, and rank projects, no member, or anyone else who participates in scoring applications, will review or score a project application that is submitted by an organization that they are or have been employed by, received services from, or sit on the Board currently or in the last year.

Each YAAB member is expected to attend YAAB and other committee meetings, attend events and activities sponsored by MS-503 CoC whenever possible, sign and agree to comply with MS-503 CoC conflict of interest policies, demonstrate an understanding and commitment to the mission of MS-503 CoC, advocate and support MS- 503 CoC in the general community, and otherwise faithfully discharge those responsibilities specified or otherwise implied in these bylaws. Each YAAB member will receive training in the causes of homelessness, homelessness definitions, evidence-based practices to address homelessness, local system responses to homelessness, coordinated entry, HMIS data entry, HMIS data analysis, confidentiality, and leadership.

Each YAAB member will agree to keep the process of the YAAB transparent while keeping the content of discussions confidential when discussing the business of member agencies, monitoring information, complaints or grievances, personnel matters, agency board matters, ratings and rankings of agencies, or any other matter that the YAAB deems confidential within their meetings.

Section 3. Appointment and Term of YAAB Members:

The initial three (3) YAAB members shall be appointed by the Ending Youth Homelessness Team in consultation with Open Doors Homeless Coalition for terms of one (1) year with the ability to remain in service for three (3) years. Appointments shall occur by a majority vote of the Ending Youth Homelessness Team members present at the monthly meeting. The YAAB members may serve three (3) consecutive terms or until their 25th birthday.

Once the initial YAAB group is fully functional, the YAAB Nominating Committee will review the resumes of potential, new YAAB members and nominate up to four (4) additional YAAB members. The YAAB will vote and the majority will decide if a nominee is selected for inclusion in the YAAB.

To be eligible for appointment/election, the YAAB nominee(s) will submit a resume, a statement of age, and statement that the applicant has lived experience of homelessness or unsafe or unstable housing. At no time will an applicant or member of the YAAB be required to tell one's "story." The lived experience of an applicant or YAAB member will never be exploited. However, the general public, the MS-503 membership and committees, Open Doors Homeless Coalition, and funders will know that lived experience is a requirement for application and service in the YAAB. The "story" is not the point. Leadership guided by perspective, teamwork, and application of skill sets and talents are expected. Once selected, YAAB members will be expected to maintain a time sheet, an expense sheet, and deliverables within designated time frames. YAAB members will be paid for time worked, as either hourly employees or by stipend, depending on the needs of the organization and the availability of the member. All appropriate employment paperwork and/or W-9 paperwork must be completed in order to be paid.

Section 4. Resignations and Removal of YAAB members:

Any YAAB member may resign at any time by giving notice to the Chair of the YAAB or to the Secretary of the YAAB and to the Executive Director/CEO of Open Doors Homeless Coalition, the Collaborative Applicant. Such resignation shall take effect at the time specified therein or, if no time is specified, at the time of notice.

A YAAB member may be removed by a quorum vote of the YAAB members. The motion must pass a majority vote.

Unexcused failure to attend three (3) consecutive meetings of the YAAB shall, except for good cause shown and approved in advance by the YAAB Chair, automatically terminate the term of office of any member of the YAAB. Prior to the conclusion of the meeting at the end of which termination becomes effective, the YAAB shall be notified thereof by the YAAB Chair. After such termination, the Secretary shall notify the member as promptly as feasible.

Section 5. Action by the YAAB:

Each YAAB member shall have one (1) vote.

Except as otherwise provided by law or in these bylaws, the act of the YAAB means action at a meeting of the YAAB at which a quorum is present, by vote of a majority of the YAAB members present at the time of the vote.

Any action required or permitted to be taken by the YAAB may be taken without a meeting if a majority of the YAAB members consent, in writing, to the adoption of a resolution authorizing the action. The resolution and the YAAB members' written consents shall be filed with the minutes of the YAAB.

Section 6. Quorum:

A majority of the YAAB members then in office shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 7. Meetings of the YAAB:

The YAAB shall hold its meetings at such place or places as the YAAB may determine.

The YAAB will meet at least weekly during the community planning and project reviews. In other times, the YAAB shall hold at least four (4) regular meeting per year, one (1) of which shall be the Annual Meeting in October and such other regular meetings as it shall determine are appropriate and necessary. The times and places of such meetings shall be determined in advance by the YAAB, and individual notice of such meetings need not be given.

Special meetings of the YAAB may be held, following the giving of notice to each YAAB member, whenever notified by the Chair of the YAAB or by *a majority of the YAAB members then in office*.

At each meeting of the YAAB, the Chair of the YAAB or, in the absence of the Chair of the YAAB, the Secretary, shall preside. In the absence of such officers, a YAAB member chosen by a majority of the YAAB members present shall preside.

“Robert’s Rules of Order”, shall be the basis for the rules of procedure for all meetings of the YAAB.

Section 8. Compensation:

YAAB members shall receive compensation for their services as YAAB members. Mileage and/or purchase of supplies incurred during service will be paid by Open Doors Homeless Coalition, if approved in advance.

ARTICLE V: COMMITTEES

Section 1. Committee Responsibilities:

Standing Committees may be established by the YAAB, and by the EYH Team in collaboration, which shall determine the duties and composition of said committees. Special “ad hoc” committees may be appointed by the YAAB Chair for short-term projects or duties. Each standing committee shall report to the YAAB at each regular meeting concerning its activities since the last regular meeting. Except for the Nominating Committee, the standing committees will work in conjunction with the committees of Open Doors Homeless Coalition, the Collaborative Applicant for the MS-503 CoC.

Section 2. Nominating Committee:

The Nominating Committee shall be appointed annually by the Chair of the YAAB.

The Nominating Committee shall recommend to the Ending Youth Homelessness Team the desired YAAB composition to ensure adequate diversity and skills; and nominate YAAB officers annually. Nominations from the floor of the membership shall be accepted at the annual meeting, provided the person being nominated has offered their assent.

Section 3. CoC HUD Review and Ranking Committee:

The Review and Ranking Committee shall be made up by no less than two (2) members of the Ending Youth Homelessness Team and three (3) members of the YAAB for the purpose of determining which programs within MS-503 CoC will be

included in each year's request to HUD for YHDP-CoC funding. None of the Review and Ranking Committee can review an application from an applicant who employs the member. Nor can a member who is on the Board of an agency or has received services from an agency in the last year review the application of any agency who has/will submit an application. Due to the unbiased nature of the Review and Ranking Committee, the recommendation from the Review and Ranking Committee shall be announced to the YAAB, the Ending Youth Homelessness Team, and the CoC General membership. Three (3) YAAB members will be employed by Open Doors Homeless Coalition to carry out the duties described in the by-laws in consultation with the Ending Youth Homelessness team and Open Doors Homeless Coalition

Section 4. Community Outreach Committee:

The goal of community outreach is to raise awareness of youth homelessness in South Mississippi and to provide education to the general public and policymakers regarding youth homelessness or youth who are unstably or unsafely housed and its causes.

The Community Outreach Committee will include task groups or subcommittees made up of both the EYH Team, (2 members) and the YAAB (3 members) charged with:

Community education and

Membership recruitment.

Functions of the Community Outreach Committee include:

Engaging a broader constituent base;

Utilizing local media;

Producing publications and informational packets for sharing;

Convening community forums; and

Developing a speaker's bureau.

Section 5. Advocacy Committee:

The goal of advocacy is to broaden support for and actively seek implementation of public policy results on policy issues deemed critical and relevant to youth experiencing homelessness or experiencing unsafe or unstable housing and those serving the population of people who are homeless. The Advocacy Committee will be made up of both the EYH Team, (2 members) and the YAAB (3 members) charged with:

Instigating and participating in efforts of local municipalities within the six (6) county region-designed to actively address the issue of homelessness and removal of barriers to persons experiencing homelessness;

Holding ongoing and regular meeting with local policymakers;

Actively pursuing the recreating of the Governor's Policy Academy on Homelessness and providing representation to the Academy;

Identifying specific advocacy issues requiring attention; and

Mobilizing persons across a wide community base to seek change that would reduce homelessness or eliminate barriers.

ARTICLE VI: OFFICERS

Section 1. Number

The officers of the MS-503 YAAB shall be a Chair of the YAAB and Secretary.

Section 2. Term of Office and Qualifications:

The Nominating Committee shall present a slate of officers to the YAAB. Elections shall occur by a majority vote of YAAB members. Unless a shorter term is provided in the resolution, the term for officers is one year.

Section 3. Removal of Officers:

Any officer may be removed by the YAAB with or without cause, at any time by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the YAAB members.

Section 4. Resignation:

Any officer may resign at any time by giving notice to the YAAB, or to the Chair of the YAAB or to the Secretary. Any such resignation shall take effect at the time specified therein, or, if no time is specified, at the time of notice.

Section 5. Vacancies:

A vacancy in any office shall be filled by the YAAB in a timely fashion.

ARTICLE VII: CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Section 1. Conflict of Interest:

A conflict of interest generally refers to any situation in which a decision-maker, such as a member of the YAAB, YAAB officer or committee member, is influenced in an MS-503 Continuum of Care decision by personal, financial, business or other concerns that are unrelated to, or in conflict with, the MS-503 General Membership's best interests. The duty of a YAAB member to avoid conflicts of interest is an expression of one of the paramount duties of a YAAB member, the duty of loyalty. The duty of loyalty requires each YAAB member to be faithful to MS-503 CoC's best interests and not to use his or her position with respect to MS-503 CoC to advocate a personal agenda at MS-503 CoC's expense. As such, each YAAB member has a duty to place the interest of MS-503 CoC foremost in any dealings he or she undertakes with or on behalf of MS-503 CoC.

All YAAB members shall adhere to the following Code of Conduct:

No MS-503 COC YAAB member shall use his or her position, or the knowledge gained by virtue of that position, in a manner that conflicts with the best interests of MS-503 COC.

Each YAAB member has a duty to place the interest of MS-503 CoC first in any dealing with or on behalf of MS-503 CoC.

The conduct of personal business between any YAAB member and MS-503 CoC is prohibited, absent the express approval of the YAAB. Pertaining to the CoC HUD funding process, YAAB members who have an affiliation with a requesting agency shall absent themselves from the discussion pertaining to said approval of the recommendation and shall abstain from voting on said issue due to conflict of interest.

If a YAAB member has an interest in a proposed transaction in the form of a significant personal financial interest in the transaction or in any entity involved in the transaction, or holds a position of trust, including YAAB member or officer in any such entity, he or she must make full disclosure of this interest before any discussion or negotiation of the transaction. Thereafter, the YAAB member shall absent him or herself from the discussion if the YAAB deems it appropriate.

Any YAAB member who is aware of a potential conflict of interest with respect to any matter coming before the YAAB or a committee of the YAAB shall disclose the potential conflict of interest before participating in any discussion or negotiation of any matter implicating such conflict of interest. Thereafter, the YAAB member shall absent him or herself from the discussion if the YAAB deems it appropriate.

The solicitation and acceptance of gifts or gratuities, for personal benefit, by officers, employees, and agents of the MS-503 CoC is strictly prohibited.

All officers, employees, and agents of the MS-503 CoC shall read and sign a copy of The Code of Conduct.

Violations of the Conflict of Interest Policy or any part of the Code of Conduct shall be grounds for immediate removal from the YAAB or firing of employees or agents.

ARTICLE VIII: GENERAL

Section 1. Office:

The principal office of the MS-503 General Membership, which may be the same as its registered office, shall be at such place as the YAAB may determine.

Section 2. Books and Records:

There shall be kept at the office of the MS-503 CoC or the designated Collaborative Applicant:

Correct and complete books and records of account;

Minutes of the proceedings of the YAAB and of committees of the YAAB and of the MS-503 General Membership;

A current list of the YAAB members and officers of the MS-503 General Membership and their residence addresses;

Copies of such documents as the Internal Revenue Service or any other relevant authority may require the MS-503 General Membership to make available for public inspection; and

A copy of these bylaws and the Policies and Procedures of the MS-503 CoC.

Section 3. Fiscal Year:

The fiscal year of the YAAB shall commence on January 1st in each calendar year and shall end on December 31st.

Section 4. Waivers of Notice:

Whenever notice of a meeting is required to be given under these bylaws, such notice shall be given in a manner reasonably calculated to be received no later than two (2) days prior to the meeting. Notice may be given orally or in writing or by means of electronic communication. The notice shall state the purposes, time and place of the meeting.

Section 5. Amendments:

Except as otherwise provided in these bylaws, a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the YAAB members present and voting at any regular meeting shall be required to amend or repeal any bylaw of the YAAB.

Appendix 2: Scoring Rubric for YHDP Projects

2019 MS-503 CoC YHDP Continuum of Care Scoring Rubric

Capacity: up to 25 points

Does the project meet threshold requirements of experience with federal funds and SAM registration? YES: project is eligible to be scored, NO: project is not eligible to be scored

Quality of federal experience/ monitoring reviews: up to 10 points

Understanding of Coordinated Entry and full participation/ expected full participation in Coordinated Entry: up to 10 points

Evidence of participation, accuracy, and timeliness in HMIS: up to 5 points

Type of Program/ Fit with the System/ Cost Effectiveness: Up to 25 Points

Cost Effectiveness: Up to 10 points

Coordination with the system: Up to 15 points

Evidence Based Practices: Up to 50 Points

Demonstrated use of Housing First, Positive Youth Development, Trauma Informed Care or other evidence-based models: up to 20 points

Low barrier Program: up to 10 points

Housing type and scale meet the needs of the participants: up to 10 points

Services meet the needs of the participants: up to 10 points

Program Outcomes: Up to 25 Points (if applicant has an existing CoC or ESG program)

Exits to Permanent Housing: 85% or greater 10 points, 77%-84% 5 points, under 77% 0 points

Returns to Homelessness: 0% 5 points, 1%-4% 3 points, over 4% 0 points

Increases in Income at Exit: 50% or more 5 points, 30%-49% 3 points, under 30% 0 points

Time Homeless from referral to housed: 15 days or less 5 points, 16-29 days 3 points, over 30 days 0 points

Each application will be scored by at least two unbiased YAAB members. Final application scores will be determined by the average number of points earned by each applicant/ project divided by the number of points possible for the project to create a percentage score. The projects will be ranked by the final percentage scores. The YAAB may vote with a majority to move a project higher in the ranking if the project type is not represented in the final slate of approved projects in order to assure that all project types are represented. The YAAB may request changes to project budgets or project activities in order to fulfill the needs of the system.

Appendix 3: Social Connections Scale

	1	2	3	4	5
	Not at all like me	A little like me	Sort of like me	A lot like me	Very much like me
1. There are people in my life who encourage me to do my best					
2. I have someone who I can share my feelings and ideas with					
3. I have someone in my life who I look up to					
4. I have someone in my life who doesn't judge me					
5. I feel lonely.					
6. I have someone I can count on for help when I need it					
7. I have someone who supports me in developing my interests and strengths					
8. I have a friend or family member to spend time with on the holidays and special occasions					
9. I know for sure that someone really cares about me					
10. I have someone in my life who is proud of me					
11. There is an adult family member who is there for me when I need them (for example, my birth or adoptive parent, spouse, adult sibling, extended family member, legal guardian, non-biological chosen family)					
12. There is an adult, other than a family member, who is there for me when I need them					
13. I have friends who stand by me during hard times					
14. I feel that no one loves me.					
15. My spiritual or religious beliefs give me hope when bad things happen					

16. I try to help other people when I can					
17. I do things to make the world a better place like volunteering, recycling, or community service					

Source: Center for the Study of Social Policy (2018)

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