

YOUTH DEMONSTRATION GRANT – BALANCE OF STATE COC

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CoC Director, WI Balance of State CoC

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CoC Structure & Purpose

4 CoCs in Wisconsin

- Dane County, Milwaukee County, Racine County (each 1 county)
- WI Balance of State CoC (69 counties)

The mission of the WI Balance of State CoC is to end homelessness by supporting local coalitions throughout Wisconsin.

- The Balance of State is comprised of 21 coalitions or members.

“Ending Homelessness” means every community will have a systematic response in place that ensures homelessness is prevented whenever possible, or if it can’t be prevented, it is a rare, brief, and non-recurring experience.

- **Quickly identify** and engage people at risk of and experiencing homelessness.
- Intervene to **prevent** the loss of housing and divert people from entering the homelessness services system.
- When homelessness does occur, provide **immediate access** to shelter and crisis services, without barriers to entry, while permanent stable housing and appropriate supports are being secured, and quickly connect people to housing assistance and services—**tailored** to their unique needs and strengths—to help them achieve and maintain stable housing.



Local Housing Coalition

- Brown
- Central
- Coulee
- Dairyland
- Dane
- East Central
- Fox Cities
- Jefferson
- Kenosha
- Lakeshore
- Milwaukee
- N*WISH
- North Central
- Northeast
- Northwest
- Ozaukee
- Racine
- Rock-Walworth
- Rural North
- Southwest
- Washington
- Waukesha
- West Central
- Winnebago

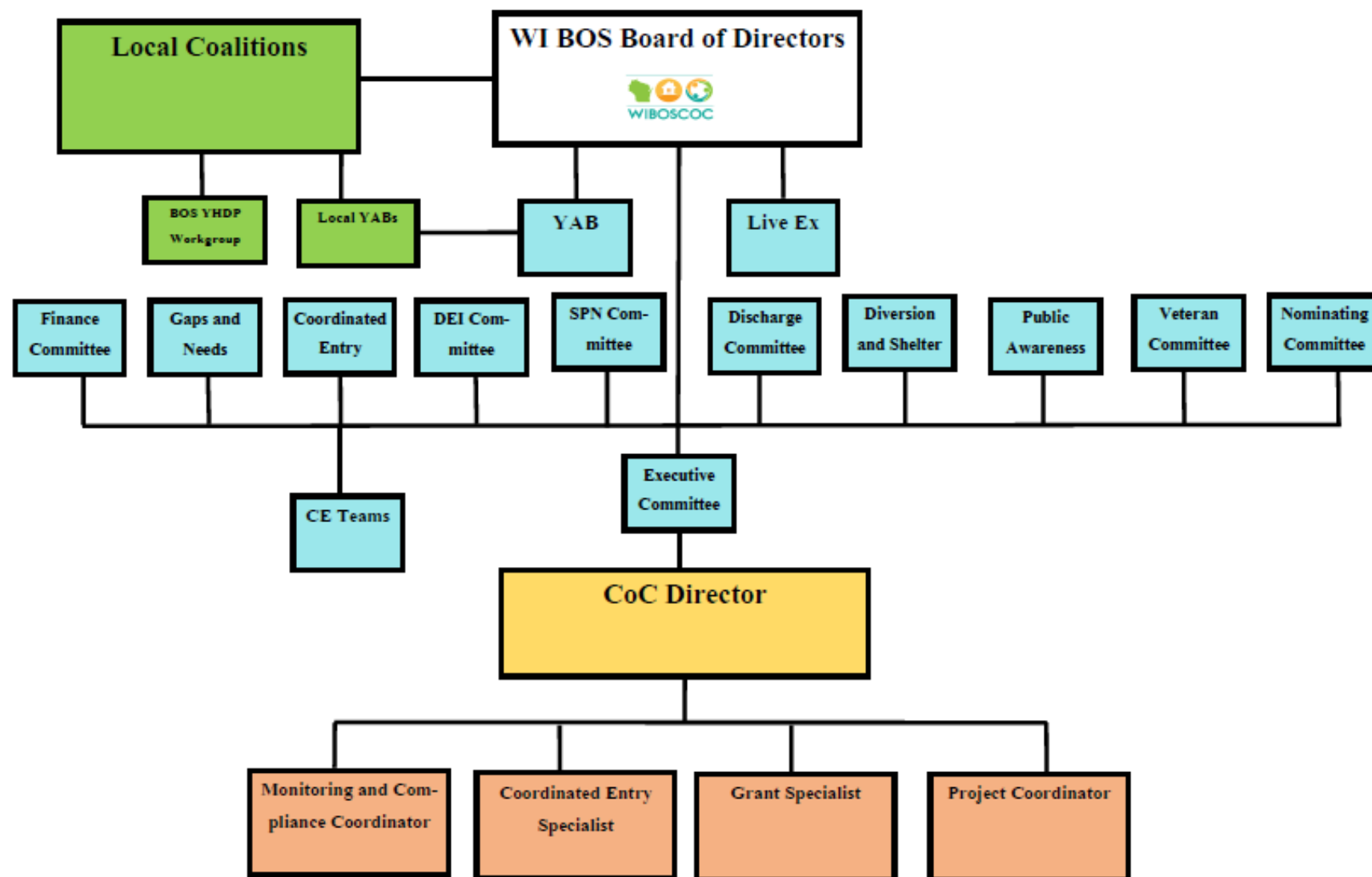
Coalitions are working on these except for:

- (1) Lakeshore & Southwest did not participate in the initial application
- (2) Waukesha and Ozaukee are working together
- (3) North Central is including East Central with their plan
- (4) Rural North is covering 6 counties (Polk, Barron, St. Croix, Dunn, Pierce, Pepin) in West Central
- (5) Dairyland is including Chippewa in their plan



WI Balance of State CoC

- The Balance of State CoC as a 501 c3 organization is governed by a volunteer Board and run by a President (aka CoC Director).
 - The Board meets monthly (virtually).
 - The Corporation meets quarterly (as of May 2020, virtually).
- The Corporation has 21 members which are local homeless coalitions. Not an agency or a person.
 - *Handout with key contacts
- The Corporation has 4 full-time staff:
 - CoC Director – Carrie Poser
 - Monitoring & Compliance Coordinator – Meredith McCoy
 - Coordinated Entry System Specialist – Ryan Graham
 - Grant Specialist – Leigh Polodna
- Currently, the Balance of State receives federal funding from HUD for:
 - Coordinated Entry
 - Coordinated Entry – Domestic Violence
 - Rapid Re-housing – Domestic Violence
 - Youth Homelessness Demonstration Grant



CoC Composition



In order to end homelessness in your community, people from across the spectrum of service provision with different experiences and expertise must come together.

Representation should include:

- Nonprofit homeless providers
- Victim services providers
- Faith-based organizations
- City & county government officials
- Businesses & private sector
- Advocates
- Housing Authority – city & county
- **School district staff**
- Human Services staff
- Managed care agency staff
- Service clubs & organizations
- Emergency Shelters
- Jail & Juvenile Detention
- Probation/Parole
- Workforce resource & Job Center
- Youth-specific organizations
- Food pantries/meal sites
- Head Start/4K program staff
- Park & recreation staff
- Public Health department staff
- Economic Support staff
- Runaway & Homeless Youth (RHY) Providers
- Mental health agencies
- Hospitals
- Universities or tech schools
- Affordable housing developers
- Law enforcement – police & sheriff
- Landlords & management comp.
- Veteran-specific organizations
- People with lived experience
- Foundations (i.e. United Way)
- Any one else with a passion for ending homelessness

Youth Homelessness Demonstration Grant (YHDP)

- The goal of YHDP is to support selected communities in the development and implementation of a coordinated community approach to preventing and ending youth homelessness and sharing that experience with and mobilizing communities across the country to the same end.
 - There have been 3 previous rounds of YHDP funding, with 44 communities selected across the country. Neighboring communities included: Northwest MN; Nebraska Balance of State; Des Moines, IA; Cook County, IL
 - This summer, HUD released round 4 & 5 and had a total of \$145 million to award. 97 communities applied and only 33 were selected (including South Dakota; North Dakota; Minneapolis, MN). Dane & Balance of State were among the selected!
- **Balance of State CoC was awarded \$7.5 million.**
 - It is the largest Balance of State/Rural award.
 - The selected community includes 60 out of 69 counties (19 out of 21 coalitions). Does not include Lakeshore or Southwest.
- Requires Youth Voice! Youth Action Board – CoC Level and local/regional level
 - Opportunity for youth under age 25 with lived experience; voting power on policy decisions
 - Youth includes unaccompanied, pregnant/parenting, or transition age

What Makes YHDP Different from other HUD funding?

A focus on authentic engagement from youth with lived expertise of homelessness

- As planners, decision makers, and leaders

Focus on specific values & principles

- Equity, family engagement, housing first, positive youth development & trauma informed care, unsheltered homelessness, youth choice, individualized & client driven supports, Social and community integration, coordinated entry, and focus on special populations of youth

The Coordinated Community Plan (CCP) requirement

- Intentional time is set aside for local planning on how we will prevent and end homelessness
- Plan must be approved by HUD before access to project funding is made available

Projects have the ability to use multiple waivers and pay for things that cannot otherwise be paid for with HUD money.

Coordinated Community Plan

Deadline: 5/31/22



Before any funding can be used for housing projects and supportive services, the CoC must have a HUD approved Coordinated Community Plan (CCP). The CCP must include:

- A statement of need - at-risk, homeless unaccompanied & pregnant or parenting youth in the geographic area;
- A list of partners, and a description of their involvement in the development of the CCP;
- A shared vision, list of goals, objectives, and action steps;
- A list of new projects;
- A governance structure;
- A signature page that includes signatures of official representatives of *at least* the following systems:
 - The Continuum of Care
 - Public Child Welfare Agencies
 - Local Government Agency
 - Youth Action Board
 - Runaway and Homeless Youth Program Providers (if any)

Goals & Population

- USICH (United States Interagency Council on Homelessness) Youth Framework and the Four Core Outcomes = Goals
 - Stable housing
 - Permanent connections
 - Education/Employment
 - Social-emotional well-being
- Population
 - Youth (including pregnant and parenting youth) experiencing homelessness
 - Youth (including pregnant and parenting youth) at risk of homelessness
- Special Populations
 - LGBTQ
 - Gender non-conforming
 - Minors
 - Youth involved with juvenile justice & child welfare
 - Victims of sexual trafficking & exploitation

YHDP Values and Principles

[Click here for more information
about any of these principles](#)

Equity

Special Populations

Positive Youth Development & Trauma-Informed Care

Family Engagement

Housing First

Unsheltered Homelessness

Youth Choice

Individualized and client-driven supports

Social and Community Integration

Coordinated Entry



YHDP funding can serve at-risk or unaccompanied youth and pregnant and parenting youth who are:

- Under age 25
- Meet criteria of HUD's definition of homeless
 - Category 1 = Literally homeless – unsheltered, emergency shelter
 - Category 2 = imminently lose housing (14 days) – lease, doubled up, couch surfing, hotel
 - Category 3* = unaccompanied youth & homeless families, other federal definition **Requires HUD approval, no community has achieved this yet*
- Category 4 = fleeing or attempting to flee violence or other life threatening conditions
- Within the 19 coalitions participating in the Balance of State YHDP project
- Must be a new project (cannot expand current or existing project)

Goal is to make youth homelessness RARE, BRIEF, and ONE TIME

- To achieve rare = front porch services (outreach, diversion, navigation)
- To achieve brief = crisis services (crisis housing, host homes)
- To achieve one time = permanent housing (joint TH-RRH, RRH, PSH)

Projects

Educational Needs

- How do we know what the educational needs are of youth experiencing homelessness?

Then:

- How can the WI Balance of State CoC work to meet the educational needs of youth experiencing homelessness?
- How can local coalitions work to meet the educational needs of youth experiencing homelessness?
- How can funded projects work to meet the educational needs of youth experiencing homelessness?

National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE)

NCHE is the US Department of Education's technical assistance center for the federal Education for Homeless Children & Youth program (EHCY) and provides technical assistance for YHDP to support the inclusion of education partnerships and pathways in their coordinated community responses to youth homelessness.

Handout "Incorporating Education into Coordinated Community Responses to Youth and Young Adult Homelessness: Lessons from the YHDP." <https://nche.ed.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/yhdp-round3-summary-profile.pdf>

Host monthly calls on topics related to education partnerships and pathways

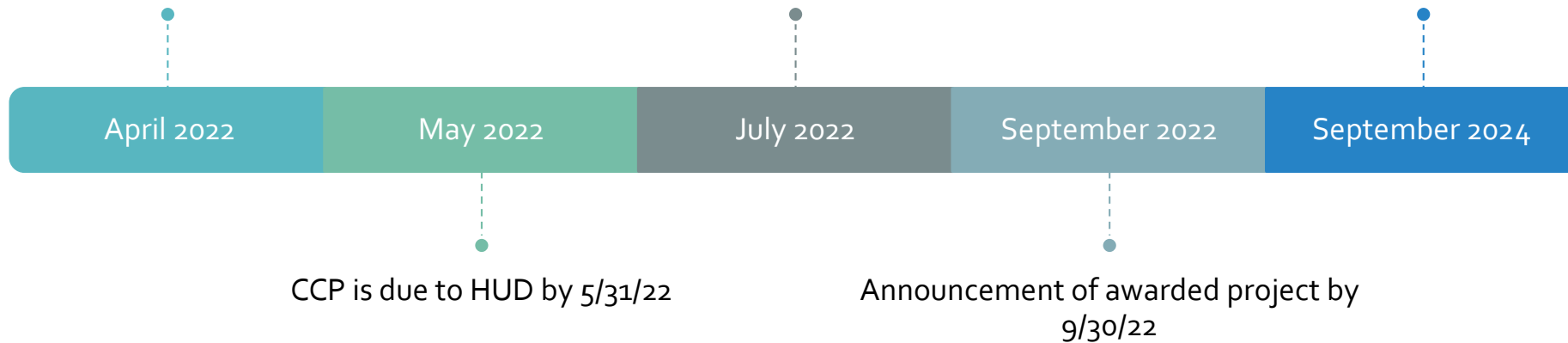
Example: Northwest Michigan – working with education partners in rural communities https://nche.ed.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Rural-YHDP-Profile_NW-MI.pdf

Timeline

WI Balance of State CoC will release an RFP (request for proposal) for 2-year projects mid-April. Likely at 30-day timeline

Projects reviewed and selected, submitted to HUD by 7/1/22

Likely start date 10/1/22, running through 9/30/24



Partnership



- Do you want to end youth homelessness?
- Do you want to create a pathway to prevent youth from experiencing unsheltered homelessness?
- Do you want to support the plan and implementation of projects in your community?

JOIN US!

- Option 1 – join in the planning and CCP development stage with local partners and youth
- Option 2 – join in project development = (a) as a grantee or sub-grantee; and/or (b) partner in the implementation of projects in the community

HOW?

- Contact local coalition YHDP designated facilitator **see handout*
- Contact Leigh Polodna, Project Manager for the Balance of State leigh.Polodna@wibos.org
- Contact Carrie Poser, CoC Director

Our CoC meets quarterly to provide training, speakers, big picture discussion, and business meetings.

- Open invitation for attendance
- Opportunities to present to larger membership
- Chance to run as a board member and serve on committees
- Collaboration with providers

Each of the 21 local continua have meetings in their communities to discuss and problem solve how to end homelessness.

- Difference between direct service staff and decision maker
- Missed funding opportunities, no input on funding decisions, not aware of changes to service delivery or providers, and not part of policy recommendations
- Participate in funding allocation conversations at the local level
- Work with individual projects to provide joint case management & participate on teams
- Join the team to end youth homelessness through the YHDP grant

Open Statewide Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

- Data collected is used in advocacy, gaps and needs analysis, funding prioritization, and additional collaboration opportunities.
- Could enter into data-sharing agreement between agency & Institute for Community Alliances (WI HMIS lead)

Work directly with local housing programs to prioritize specific populations, participate in joint funding applications & collaborate on case management

Participate in coordinated entry as a referring entity – pre screen, assessment, referral & follow-up

Other Collaboration Opportunities

Contact Information



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