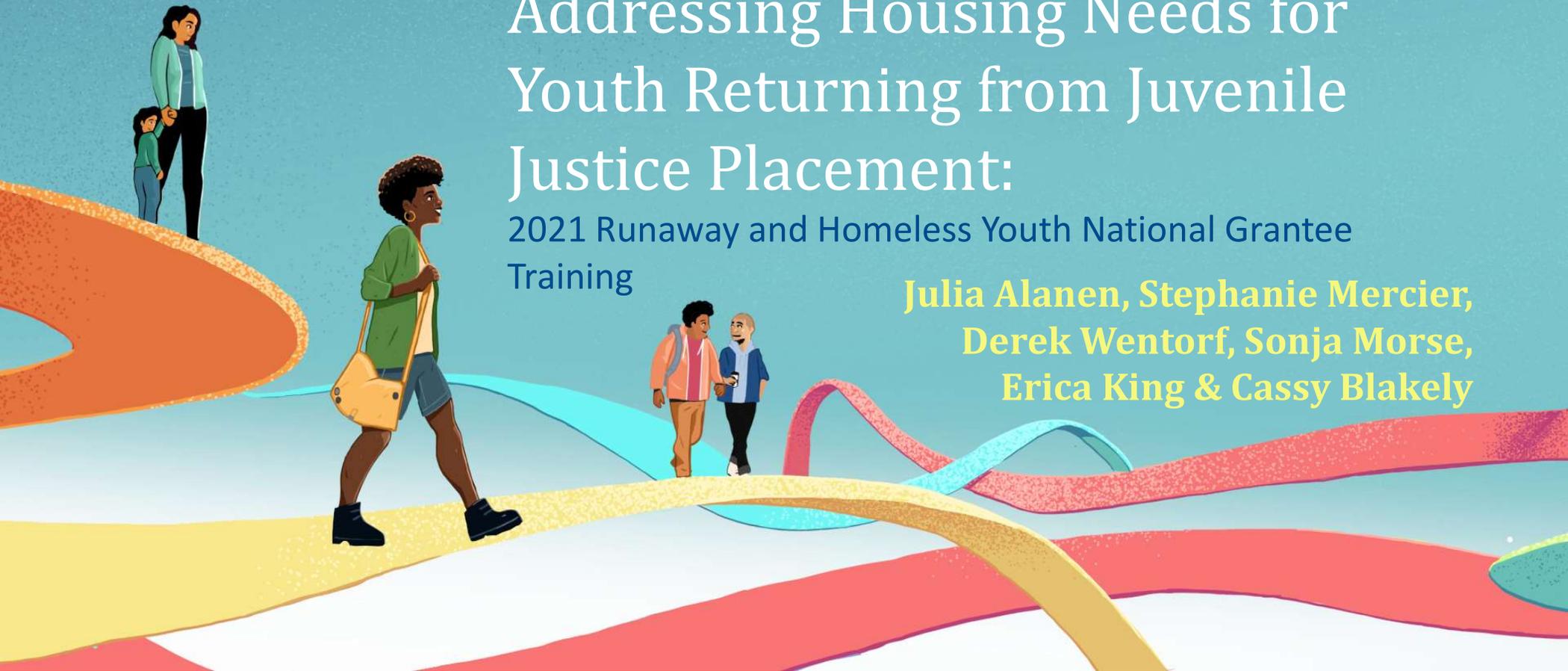


Addressing Housing Needs for Youth Returning from Juvenile Justice Placement:

2021 Runaway and Homeless Youth National Grantee Training

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Derek Wentorf, Sonja Morse,
Erica King & Cassy Blakely**



Session Objectives

Participants will:

- Review research and best practice related to the intersection of youth homelessness and juvenile justice involvement,
- Explore strategies and approaches deployed in Maine to locate suitable housing for youth returning to the community from secure settings obtain healthy, supportive housing,
- Identify opportunities for braiding housing resources and,
- Learn about resources available to them to expand housing supports to young people with juvenile justice experience.

Advancing Housing Solutions That



Improve lives of
vulnerable people



Maximize
public resources



Build strong,
healthy communities

Corporation for Supportive Housing

CSH is a touchstone for new ideas and best practices, a collaborative and pragmatic community partner, and an influential advocate for supportive housing



TRAINING AND
EDUCATION



LENDING



POLICY REFORM



CONSULTING &
TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE

Youth and Young Adults Experiencing Homelessness

4.2 million youth and young adults experience homelessness over the course of a year. Among the youth surveyed to create these estimates **nearly half had been in juvenile detention, jail, or prison.**

1 in 10

young adults ages 18-25 experienced a form of homelessness over a 12-month period.

1 in 30

youth ages 13-17 experienced a form of homelessness over a 12-month period.



Youth and Young Adults Experiencing Homelessness: Disproportionality

Hispanic, non-White youth had a 33% higher risk of reporting homelessness.

Unmarried, parenting youth had a 200% higher risk of reporting homelessness.

African American youth were at an 83% increased risk of having experienced homelessness over youth of other races.

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) youth had a 120% increased risk of experiencing homelessness compared to youth who identified as heterosexual and cisgender.

What Solutions are Available?

- When asked, youth experiencing homelessness said that money and stable housing would make their lives easier.
- Evidence suggests that providing low-barrier housing with support services tailored to individual youth needs can lead to positive outcomes.



1 https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fysb/data_collection_study_final_report_street_outreach_program.pdf

2 https://www.chapinhall.org/wp-content/uploads/Chapin-Hall_VoYC_Evidence-Review_Shelter-and-Housing.pdf

What Does a System to Address Youth Homelessness Look Like?

UPSTREAM PREVENTION



FRONT PORCH

- Outreach
- In-reach
- Drop-in(s)
- Crisis Hotline(s)
- Front Door Diversion (aka Targeted Prevention)

CRISIS & SHORT-TERM HOUSING AND SERVICES

- Crisis Beds/ Emergency Shelter
- Host Homes
- Crisis Transitional Housing

LONG-TERM HOUSING

- Rapid Rehousing
- Permanent Supportive Housing
- Other Affordable Housing/Subsidy
- Home with Family/Reunification
- Longer Term Host Homes
- Longer Term Transitional Housing

Key Principles in Designing Supportive Housing for Youth

As you work to design solutions that promote housing stability and support youth and communities in thriving, there are a few key principles to keep in mind.

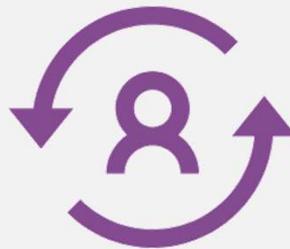
Accessibility



Cross-sector collaboration



**Youth
Centered
and Led**



**Focused
on equity**

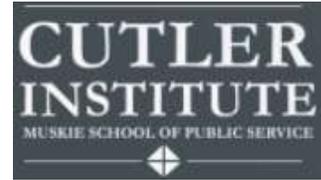


**Choice and
flexibility**



Resources

- Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program
 - <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/yhdp/>
- HUD Guidebooks on Ending Youth Homelessness
 - <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/5138/ending-youth-homelessness-a-guidebook-series/>
- Voices of Youth Count, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago
 - <https://www.chapinhall.org/project/voices-of-youth-count/>
- Best Practices in Designing Supportive Services for Youth in Housing
 - https://cshorg.wpengine.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Youth_T.pdf

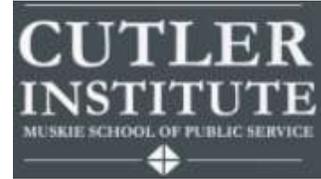


Maine Youth Justice Reentry Project





Second Chance Grant Overview



- Maine was awarded the grant by Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in 2019.
- This program will provide youth reentering the community with support as they transition out of secure confinement.
- We partnered with Muskie School of Public Service (evaluation & programs), and Youth Advocate Programs, a nationally recognized transformative mentoring model.
- Due to COVID and other barriers, we began serving youth in 2021, and have successfully served 7 youth (year to date) in our first year of implementation.

Target Population:

1. Youth identifying as female
2. Youth identifying as BIPOC
3. Youth identifying as LGBTQIA+/GNC
4. Youth identifying as white



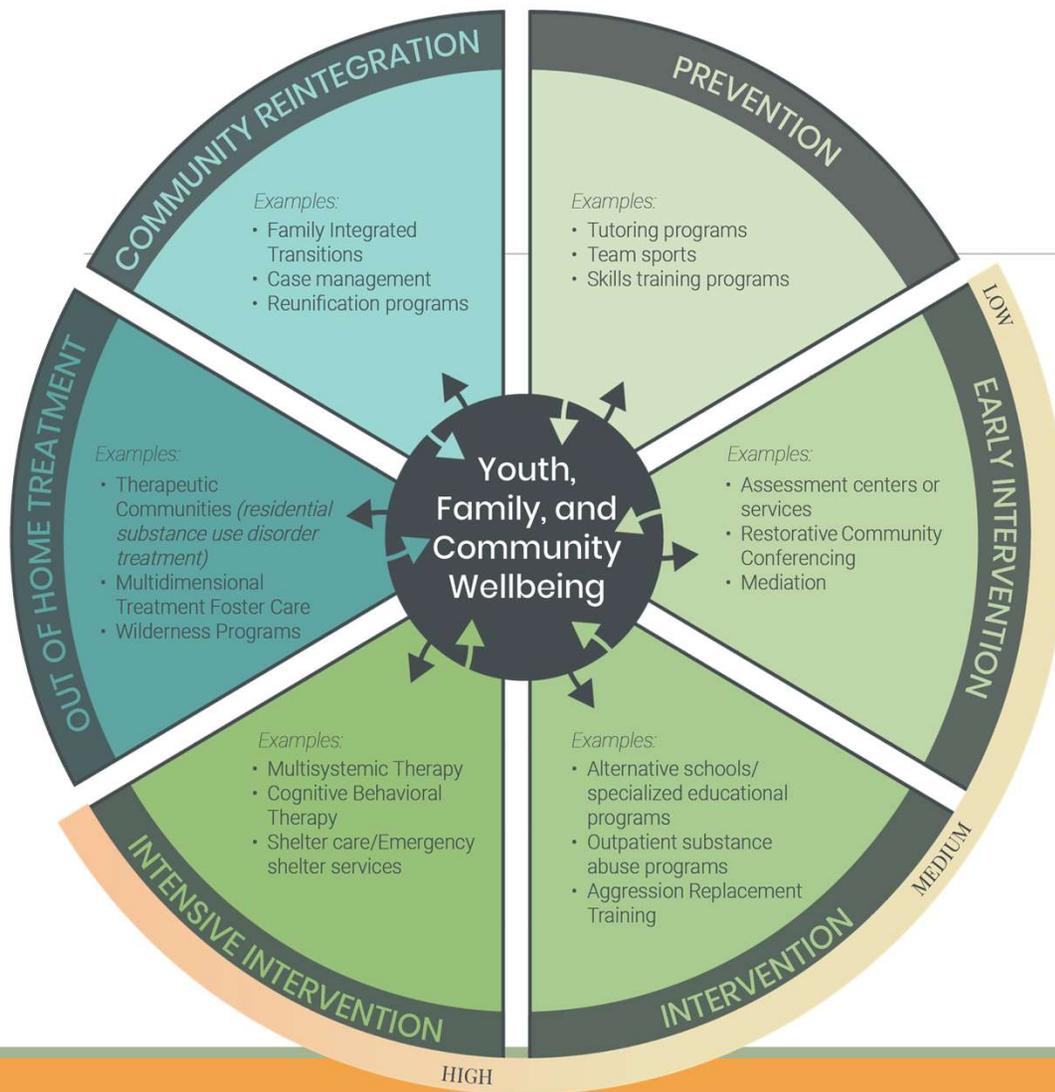
Number of Youth Served:

Maximum of 10 youth per year
Total of 30 youth across the grant cycle

All Maine transition aged (14-24+) youth
experience belonging and thrive into adulthood in
their communities.



Building Community Continuum of Care model is a PLACE BASED STRATEGY

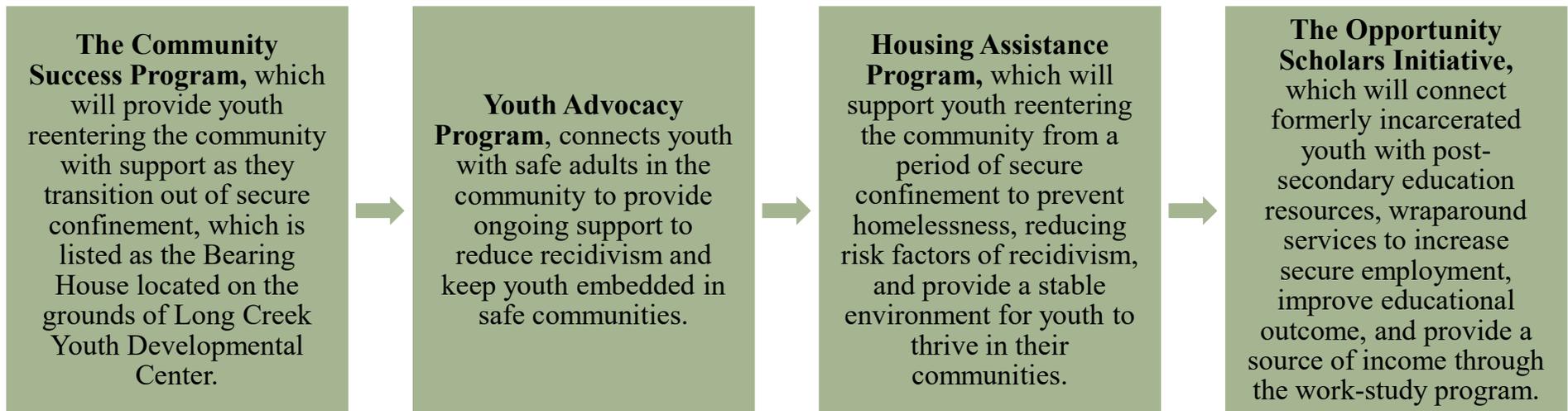


Basic needs (i.e., **housing**) is an underlying wellbeing need in every category of our continuum of care and is most especially underdeveloped in the category of community reintegration.

Goal of Maine's Second Chance Award

To connect youth with a reentry processes to improve positive youth outcomes; increase credible mentors in the communities; increase housing stability; and increase educational opportunities for justice involved youth.

Grant Funded Strategies to Support Transition to Adulthood



Relationship & Alignment Building

Developed a **Case Review Team**, which is made up of Department of Corrections community and facility staff, community providers, and partners. This team connects twice per month, or as needed, on referrals.

This has improved communication between corrections and providers and has aided in cultural shifts in thinking.

Connected with a group of providers that were awarded the **Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program Grant (YHDP)** through Housing and Urban Development.

This will allow us to braid resources to serve our youth.

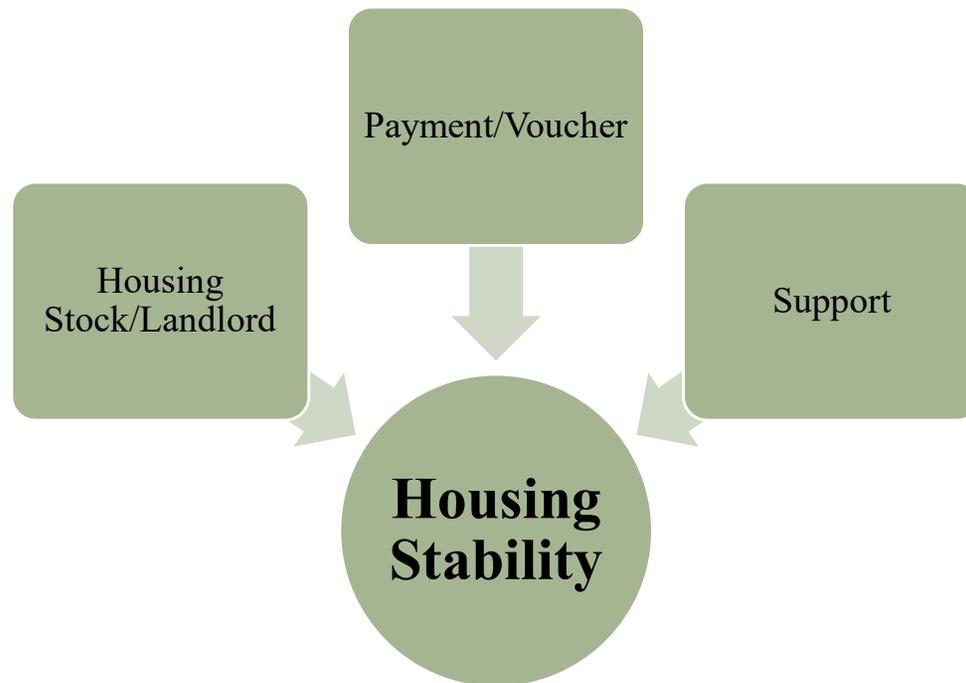
This grant includes; host homes, voucher access, transitional housing to rapid rehousing, and mobile diversion teams.

Housing Assistance Program

Housing Assistance Program, which will support youth reentering the community from a period of secure confinement to prevent homelessness, reducing risk factors of recidivism, and provide a stable environment for youth to thrive in their communities.

- **This program can provide financial assistance for:**
 - Emergency utility or rental needs
 - Basic needs and furnishings
 - Transportation
 - Moving costs
 - Sober living beds
 - Paperwork for housing
 - Drivers Education
- Our Advisory Group includes numerous housing experts and Maine has connected with awardees of the Youth Homeless Demonstration Program through Housing and Urban Development to braid resource for the young people.

Components of Planning for Housing Stability



Contact Us

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This presentation will be featured in National Reentry Resource Center and OJJDP including it in Second Chance Awareness Month

<https://nationalreentryresourcecenter.org/subscribe>

The following presentation describes work under grant number 2019-CZ-BX-0013 from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this presentation are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.