



# DHS News

Newsletter of the Allegheny County  
Department of Human Services



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## **DHS, partner agencies introduce projects to address youth homelessness**

DHS has recently announced four projects for young adults ages 18 through 24 who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness. This includes single adults, couples, and young families with children in the County.

The Host Home, Rapid Re-housing (RRH), Mobile Prevention and Diversion, and Youth Navigation projects derive from the [Coordinated Community Plan to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness](#) developed by DHS, the Systems Improvement Through Youth (SITY) Advisory Board, and more than 30 partnering community agencies. All four projects are funded by a [previously awarded](#) \$3.5 million Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Valley Youth House is leading the Host Home Project which will offer youth safe housing in private homes. These homes are an alternative to shelter on a short-term basis, and, while in the home, youth will be paired with supportive services.

The Rapid Re-housing Project (RRH) expands on an evidence-based model for ending homelessness that holds a successful track record in Allegheny County. This project will invest in 55 additional units, a nearly 75% increase to the current inventory of youth-dedicated RRH units. The project will focus on shared housing, such as living with roommates, for youth interested in a more affordable housing arrangement with built-in peer support.

The Mobile Prevention and Diversion Project is a rapid, mobile, and customized prevention and diversion service to stop a housing challenge from becoming a homelessness crisis. This project is operated by Auberle in partnership with the 412 Youth Zone.

Finally, the Youth Navigation Project is a team of youth homelessness specialists that will provide individualized coaching and comprehensive service coordination to youth involved in homeless services.

In addition to the projects selected for YHDP funding, the Coordinated Community Plan outlines various other strategies and partnerships designed to support unstably housed

youths' needs in areas including education, career training and employment, health and well-being, and civic leadership.

"This is truly a coordinated effort," said Cynthia Shields, assistant deputy director for the DHS Office of Community Services (OCS). "It was incredible to see the wide variety of stakeholders – including youth who have firsthand experience with homelessness – come together to create this plan that addresses the local needs of youth at risk of and experiencing homelessness."

To learn more about the Coordinated Community Plan or the projects selected for YHDP funding, contact Laura Saulle, YHDP program manager at [laura.saulle@allegHENYcounty.us](mailto:laura.saulle@allegHENYcounty.us)