The Chicago CoC is requesting participation as an urban community in the YHDP application process. By doing so, Chicago is applying as the sole applicant for the Chicago CoC IL-510 geographic location. Based on the most recent US census data there were 570,426 youth, between the ages of 10 & 24, living in the city of Chicago in 2010.

LC Q1: The Chicago Continuum of Care (CoC) knows what it takes to end homelessness; in 2015, Veterans Homelessness was down by 22% and Youth Homelessness was down by 13% from the previous year. It takes a solid plan, broad stakeholder input, coordinated efforts, pooled resources, utilization of data, intentional collaboration across sectors and seizing opportunities to be effective local collaborators in national efforts.   In 2002, Chicago created its first *Plan to End Homelessness: Getting Housed, Staying Housed*. This focused planning effort yielded significant results for our city including but not limited to: the creation of the Homeless Prevention Call Center, doubling the number of permanent supportive housing units from 3,304 to 6,472, converting 3,000 beds of emergency shelter/transitional housing into interim housing and effectively increasing service funding for permanent supportive housing programs in Illinois by over $20 million annually. This process and plan was followed in 2012 by *A Home for Everyone (Plan 2.0)*. It was developed through a week-long process that pulled together over 500 stakeholders, including 150 individuals of lived experience, citywide to share their feedback and expertise. The community identified 80 short- and long-term strategies, including the first youth specific strategic priorities, which guide the CoC's efforts to end homelessness over a seven-year period. Several youth-related milestones under Plan 2.0 will be captured throughout this application. Other noteworthy milestones include: enhancement of the Homeless Management Information System database that reduces duplication and fosters increased interagency communication; the development of coordinated entry (CE) and the launch of two significant

local initiatives that grew out of national efforts. Chicago has piloted a modified version of CE with Veterans and Chronically Homeless as part of its two-year phased implementation plan. Youth is the next population to be phased into the CE process.

The Chicago CoC has also created other system-wide changes through increased collaboration. For instance, as a result of HUDs Housing and Health Technical Assistance Initiative, a regional effort was launched in 2015, Chicago-Cook County Housing and Health Action, that has pulled together over 40 stakeholders (government, nonprofits, funders, consumers and hospitals). The charge of this group was to craft a road map that will ultimately improve health outcomes and coordination between homeless services and Medicaid managed care, integrate homeless and healthcare databases, and increase housing stock. The group will complete the road map by November 2016. In 2014, cities signed on to the White House's Mayors Challenge to End Veterans Homelessness; and launched the Ending Veterans Homelessness Initiative (EVHI). EVHI has brought together over 30 organizations from diverse fields including government, public housing, Veterans Administration & service providers to end Veterans Homelessness. To-date, the effort has created a by name list of homeless Veterans, implemented a shared data platform, & housed more than 2,700 Veterans.

LC Q2: The Lead Agency selected for Chicago will be the City of Chicago's Department of Family & Support Services (DFSS). DFSS works with community partners to connect residents to resources that build stability, support well-being & empower individuals. DFSS brings significant leadership & expertise. It currently administers $350 million annually, including more than $200 million in federal funds such as: HUD CDBG & ESG, HHS CSBG & ACF, plus Older Americans Act. In 2015, DFSS launched an interagency council on homelessness to better coordinate with community partners, sister agencies & public officials on programs & policies

that decrease homelessness. The DFSS Homeless Division has built a policy & planning team that is equipped to take on special initiatives such as this demonstration project. The team will expand its capacity in the coming months by hiring a Project Coordinator (PC) with at least 3 years of project management experience in the field of human services. S/he will have primary responsibility for this project in terms of staffing support, project management, influencing policy decisions & relationship building. However, other DFSS team members, such as the policy & planning team, will provide support to the PC & play designated roles in the demonstration project to ensure collaboration of the current system & with other system partners. The Director of Policy & Planning will supervise the PC. This team approach & involvement from department leadership in the governance structure of the initiative will ensure appropriate decision-making authority by the Lead Agency. DFSS has important experience leading collaborative initiatives across systems. Since 2015, DFSS has led the EVHI, which ended homelessness for more than 2,700 Veterans. Together EVHI partners set goals, agree upon best practices, monitor progress, & identify resource gaps that inhibit progress toward reaching goals. As the lead entity in this Initiative, DFSS is responsible for project management, facilitating planning processes & communication across partners & has successfully led the team in securing resources to fill gaps as they were identified.

DFSS leads partnerships towards many different goals within our program portfolio. In the area of youth homelessness, DFSS has:

- Staffed and co-chair the Chicago Taskforce on Homeless Youth since 2010;
- Worked in collaboration with selected agencies to launch a comprehensive and coordinated network of low-threshold programs aimed at engaging young people. With a

$2 million investment, expanded low-threshold shelter beds to 114 citywide and created 4 drop-in centers;

- Worked with youth program leads to design program models for low-threshold programs that have been adopted by the Continuum of Care and established HMIS protocol to improve data collection on young people accessing homeless services;

- DFSS also worked with a local funder to implement the Youth Program Quality Assessment quality management process with all low-threshold programs. This effort helped solidify the network's goal of ensuring that models and philosophies of care are consistent wherever a young person enters the low-threshold system.

LC Q3: The Chicago Taskforce on Homeless Youth (Taskforce) is one of 14 committees within the CoC Structure (Attachment 8-Chicago CoC structure). Its primary objective is to create a comprehensive, developmentally appropriate menu of services for youth who experience homelessness. It is comprised of 70 individuals representing 38 entities & will serve as the oversight committee for the YHDP (Attachment 4-YHDP Team). As the work progresses, the Lead Agency will work jointly with the Taskforce & Youth Advisory Board (YAB) to identify outcomes & assess short-term project impact, provide assistance in interpreting data/survey results & contribute to the design of an effective youth homelessness system.

Through its Collaborative Applicant, the CoC will support the Lead Agency in the following ways: provide training and technical assistance, identify and secure meeting space, assist in responding to requests for proposals and grant applications, collect & share HMIS data, & post to the CoC webpage any YHDP updates. The Lead Agency, Collaborative Applicant and CoC have a long history of working well together and will continue to do so as the YHDP is fully implemented. In addition to the Taskforce, the Lead Agency will work closely with the following

CoC Committees to fully execute a comprehensive community plan to end youth homelessness: Plan Advisory Committee (8 members) as this committee has oversight of Plan 2.0, the Employment Taskforce Group (22 members) as its charge is to increase income of homeless individuals through employment, & the Coordinated Access Steering Committee (15 members) that is responsible for overseeing the full implementation of CE in Chicago. The Lead Agency as the ESG recipient has a designated seat on the CoC Board & all CoC committees; allowing it to actively educate & engage CoC members about its efforts to end & prevent youth homelessness by 2020.

LC Q4: In October 2016, a Youth Advisory Board (YAB) within the CoC was formally established. The YAB is currently a parallel body of the Lived Experience Commission (LEC) and a working group of the Taskforce. YAB will inform the Taskforce, Board, service providers, policymakers, & legislators on ways to work w/ youth experiencing homelessness & provide guidance on how to improve the homeless system. The YAB will also actively advocate for youth-friendly strategies and solutions. All CoC meetings are open to the general public and youth are encouraged to participate. During the creation of Plan 2.0 youth were invited to participate in the charrette process. CoC Committee Chairs at times reach out to Youth Service Providers to better understand the impact a Continuum-wide policy/practice will have on youth. Additionally, the CoC Systems Performance and Evaluation Committee (SPEC) has implemented site visits as part of its evaluation tool. A portion of the site visit protocol requires direct interaction with consumers, including youth, without housing provider staff being present.

Although YAB is a newly created body, the youth have already had several opportunities to actively provide feedback to members of the CoC. YAB members have actively participated in YHDP planning meetings in which several CoC Committee co-chairs were present. Two spoke

at a Taskforce meeting & an additional two YAB members were speakers a recent fundraiser for the Collaborative Applicant (CA) where they both offered recommendations about what homeless youth need to thrive. Additionally, a YAB member spoke during the inaugural launch of the I Am in Campaign. Capitalizing on the YHDP NOFA, the Taskforce launched this Campaign that is intended to bring runaway & homeless youth providers, CoC & ESG providers, mental health providers, LGTBQ serving organizations, juvenile & probation courts, law enforcement, government, child welfare agencies, universities, media, & youth together for the purpose of developing a road map to end youth homelessness by 2020. Over 100 individuals attended this inaugural event during which 87 people signed pledge cards stating that they could be counted in & on to end youth homelessness (Attachment 12 - I Am in Campaign).

LC Q5: The CA worked directly w/ members of the Taskforce to build a robust team to effectively respond to the YHDP NOFA. In the team construction process, there was an intention to work w/ youth service providers & other stakeholders who have historically not been active participants in the CoC. This was accomplished several ways: through word of mouth, personal invitations, phone calls, rotating meetings at various locations, & YHDP NOFA postings in newsletters of other youth-focused organizations. Roughly 25% of the participants in the YHDP NOFA workgroups are not members of the CoC, such as the National Runaway Safeline, Illinois Collaboration on Youth Issues and Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice. To ensure this intentional outreach/cultivation continues the Lead Agency, CA & Taskforce will: 1) work to ensure that the YHDP workgroups are open to all interested youth providers who regularly engage w/ homeless & unstably housed youth; 2) tap CoC members to ask who should be at the table and is not; & 3) explore opportunities to deepen collaborations with the YAB and other citywide youth groups.

LC Q6: Using the stakeholder groups outlined in Appendix A of the YHDP NOFA, the Taskforce made several requests to its members & other allies to help it identify key stakeholders from the 20 organizations that regularly interact & impact youth homelessness, but are not currently addressing youth homelessness. At present the list contains 238 names & it is growing. In the coming months, the Taskforce plans to build on the momentum of the I Am in Campaign launch event by hosting smaller targeted stakeholder meetings that will be focused on specific audiences such as faith based institutions, educational entities, funders & government agencies. The first of these meeting will be with funders & is scheduled to take place in early December 2016.

CRC Q1: See Attachment 5 - Current Resources Capacity Chart CRC Q1

CN Q1: Plan 2.0 includes youth-specific strategic priorities with a key objective is to triple the capacity of the youth housing system by 2018 from 266 beds to 800 beds. This estimate was established using a variety of data sources including Housing Inventory Count (HIC)/ Point-in-Time (PIT) data, APR & AHAR data from HMIS, as well as Chicago Public Schools (CPS) data on homeless students. Since the development of Plan 2.0, the CoC has conducted a number of youth-specific needs assessments within the City of Chicago & has worked over the last several years to obtain a better understanding of the number of youth experiencing homelessness, their housing & service needs, and gaps within our system.

CN Q2: In 2013, a subcommittee of the Taskforce was formed to launch YOUth Count Chicago – a multi-year initiative to develop new strategies for measuring youth homelessness & its effects. This effort led to expanded youth counts during our PIT. DFSS collaborated with the Voorhees Center & several service providers, advocates & youth to design a survey for unstably housed youth aged 12-25 in Chicago. The survey covered housing status, history w/ foster care

& juvenile justice systems, education, food security, use & access to services, as well as additional vulnerability factors that are associated with likelihood of becoming chronically homeless. Surveys were administered, over a two-week period, to any youth who wanted to participate & were designed to be as inclusive as possible. Based on responses to 6 questions, of the 541 young people surveyed, 74% were unstably housed. Some of the major housing stability findings included: 58% of youth had not spent the night at their own apartment or house, w/ parents or guardians, or in public housing; 46% could not stay for as long as they want; 44% had slept in two or more places in the past week; 42% had not had a safe place to stay for over a week. Reasons for housing stability included: violence at home (18%), substance abuse by a caregiver (7%), eviction or foreclosure (6%), sexual orientation (5%), & family lost housing (5%). When asked about access to services, 25% had accessed emergency shelter, 12% accessed transitional housing, & 16% had accessed drop in centers. In addition, 27% reported having no source of income. As w/ the PIT count data, this survey was not able to provide a conclusive number of homeless youth; however, it did provide a fuller picture of the problem of youth housing instability in Chicago.

Additional assessments separate from the PIT count have been completed over the last several years including the Street Outreach Program Data Collection Project, a data collection effort from 11 cities funded by the Family & Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) of the Department of Health & Human Services Administration for Children & Families & completed in collaboration w/ local service provider, The Night Ministry. Each city administered questionnaires via Computer Assisted Personal Interviews & conducted focus groups w/ homeless youth aged 14-21. Between March 2013 & June 2013, 62 homeless youth aged 16-21 were interviewed. Of the 62 youth, 26 were recruited using convenience sampling & 36 were recruited using respondent

driven sampling methods. The interviews were conducted in private rooms, w/ the interviewer reading most questions aloud to participants & recording their responses. There were additional self-administered questions that were read & responded to directly by the respondent due to the sensitive nature of the questions. Focus groups were then used to obtain further qualitative data regarding homeless history, personal characteristics, & service utilization. The key findings include: 31.1% had been homeless one time, 16.4% were homeless 2 or 3 times, while 14.8% of respondents had been homeless more than 7 times. The majority of respondents first turned to friends for help when becoming homeless & the vast majority had been kicked out of their homes by a parent or other adult. Most respondents reported that they could not return home if they wanted to do so. When asked about service needs, 72.6% reported needing a safe place to stay, while others reported needing job training (82.3%) & help w/ transportation (87.1%). When asked to indicate the most important service in the community that they use right now, more than a quarter of the youth reported the most important service was shelter (emergency shelter or transitional living programs). Additionally, when asked about barriers to shelter, 79% of respondents indicated that they were prevented from accessing shelter because it was full, while 69% indicated that they did not have transportation to access shelter or otherwise did not know where to go for shelter (66%). While this study also did not aim to enumerate the total number of youth experiencing homelessness, it did provide important data on the service needs of youth in Chicago & the barriers to accessing those services. Youth service providers have used this data to make the case for the need for funding from public and private funders, customize programming & launch strategic initiatives.

Most recently, the Voices of Youth Count (VoYC) Initiative was designed to capture the size & scope of the issue of youth homelessness. The VoYC aims to gauge the needs of 13-25 year olds

who are homeless (living on the street, in shelters or housing programs), or those who are unstably housed (doubled up, couch surfing, etc.), using a variety of methodologies including an enumeration, in-depth interviews, & surveys. Preliminary data suggests that 95% of the 689 youth reached in the selected area of Cook County were in the City of Chicago limits. Final data from the VoYC are still forthcoming.

CN Q3: Chicago has conducted annual sheltered and unsheltered PIT counts for the past 4 years. On January 26, 2016, Chicago conducted the PIT & extended the hours of the count in an effort to identify homeless youth. The youth count started at dusk on the day of the count & continued through the early evening of January 27th. This allowed for trained youth surveyors to conduct the PIT survey in drop in centers, youth outreach programs & public spaces that may not be open during the traditional hours of the count. During the 2016 PIT, Chicago identified 281 sheltered unaccompanied youth, 471 sheltered parenting youth & 28 unsheltered unaccompanied youth. Chicago did not identify any unsheltered parenting youth. The following strategies were used to find, accurately identify, & engage youth in the 2016 PIT count activities: trained youth surveyors to complete the PIT survey w/ their peers, conducted special events at youth service provider's locations, & utilized social media promotion. In previous years, Chicago has conducted special Youth Counts not held within the traditional PIT count in an effort to effectively count youth experiencing homelessness. To maximize limited resources, Chicago's general PIT survey gathers information beyond the HUD HDX requirements. Expanded data includes foster care stays, incarceration, government benefits, & possible causes of housing instability. Based on this additional information, Chicago is able to utilize the information to make local funding decisions.

Chicago will implement VoYC research activities to add to its knowledge base about youth homelessness. Chicago will also work w/ Chicago Public Schools (CPS) to determine appropriate interventions for students experiencing unstable housing. In the 2015-2016 school year, CPS reported 2,396 unstably housed students, this number also includes students who double up/couch surfing. If selected, Chicago will consider applying to serve homeless youth as defined under other federal statutes.

CFI Q1: Chicago is committed to ending Youth Homelessness by 2020 & is aware in order to do so, Chicago must adopt new broad reaching methodologies to enact a major system-wide change in behavior. Prior to the release of the YHDP NOFA, Chicago reevaluated strategies through Plan 2.0. This led to a philosophical change that included youth's perspective in the planning & advancement of youth homelessness. The coordinated efforts led to holistic changes in youth programming such as the creation of comprehensive & coordinated network of youth drop-in centers & low threshold youth overnight shelters throughout the city. These models utilize harm reduction, positive youth development, & trauma-informed service delivery, to ensure connection w/ supportive services are made beyond basic needs such as housing assistance, educational/vocation support, employment & physical, mental behavioral health services. In addition, Chicago have adopted methodologies from the YOUth Count and other activities mentioned in LC Question 1.

In 2012, w/ the implementation of Central Referral System (CRS), a web-based application for permanent supportive housing, Chicago saw the need to develop an equal prioritization for unaccompanied homeless youth who have different vulnerabilities. Based on research, a Youth Vulnerability Index (VI) Assessment was developed & approved by the CoC Board. Chicago is

currently in the process of rolling out a Youth Comprehensive CE process to ensure unaccompanied homeless youth access the correct interventions on a timely basis.

CFI Q2: The Chicago youth homelessness sector understands the complex needs of youth & realizes innovation & creativity is paramount in its approach to ending youth homelessness. A prime example is the development of Chicago's youth specific program models, a series of proposed homeless prevention strategies and the critical elements that are required to make them successful (Attachment 11- Program Models Chart). Youth-informed program models will emphasize harm reduction, positive youth development, & trauma informed care as cornerstones of programming. In addition to modifying the program models chart, which drives our CoC-funded ranking system, there are several examples in which one or more youth providers have adopted a new innovation or system, some examples of which we are particularly proud include:

- Homeless Youth Engagement: Drop-In Centers: This model ensures youth have access to youth specific services regardless of their location in the city. It established 3 regional drop in centers & targets outreach for unaccompanied youth & links them to support services & stable housing. Staff coordinate services w/ youth overnight shelters in their respective regions. The regional aspect of this implementation is the key to its success.
- Youth Overnight Shelters: Low Threshold, Low Demand: This model expanded existing youth shelters from seasonal to year-round, improved access to youth shelter services throughout the city & created more than 70 youth specific shelter beds in new programs in underserved communities. These shelters coordinate w/ the regional drop-in centers in their respective regions. This model provides youth living w/ undiagnosed/untreated mental health issues, substance abuse dependency, & other special needs appropriate support to address their needs.

- Rainbow Committee: As Chicago continues to strengthen policies w/ the Illinois Department of Children & Family Services (IDCFS), the summit identified areas of improvement for youth in child welfare agency care. This led to the creation of an internal Rainbow committee which works to create & implement policies & procedural changes for youth. One policy change mandated that all youth exiting the child welfare system must have a state ID. The committee also created liaisons to assist LGBTQ youth feel welcome in foster care home placement.

- The Chicago Youth Storage Initiative: A common problem encountered by youth is the loss of documents & personal items that cannot be carried between job interviews, school & more. Violence & theft also revolves around material possessions, including phones. This initiative has placed more than 200 lockers of varying sizes & uses into shelters & drop in centers. In partnership w/ Google, this initiative also is creating the first online cloud storage for the homeless, which will allow important documents to be saved & accessed exclusively by homeless youth. The initiative, funded entirely by foundations & private donations, provides equipment & training for staff.

- LGBTQ Youth Homeless Summit: In 2014, Chicago's LGBTQ Youth hosted a summit which identified service gaps in healthcare, legal support and discharge services for youth in the juvenile or criminal justice systems. Youth are now leading efforts to address those gaps and influence policy changes.

- Chicago also collaborates w/ CPS in the Students in Temporary Living Situations Program (STLS). It provides resources & supports to approximately 2,396 unstably housed students. A comprehensive homeless youth resource guide is distributed to schools each year, & homeless youth providers work w/ the STLS to train over 1,000 school based staff on the youth services & how best to connect students. Recently this collaboration launched a new initiative where

homeless youth street outreach teams provide case management, referrals & basic services to homeless students directly inside select alternative schools. Through efforts to create a more unified & strategic system to address youth homelessness, Chicago aims to reconcile the difference in homeless definitions between the HUD & U.S. Department of Education definitions.

CFI Q3: Chicago has successfully implemented 3 PSH programs, 47 units, for unaccompanied & parenting youth that utilize a Housing First model. These programs are effective in retaining youth in stable housing & placement to permanent housing. Although, Chicago does not have a Rapid Rehousing (RRH) model for youth, it currently operates a RRH program funded under ESG & recently converted 4 CoC-funded transitional housing (TH) projects to the RRH model. 6% of heads of households served by ESG RRH are youth; 58% exited to a permanent destination since its implementation. Chicago believes RRH w/ intensive supportive services is a necessary component to the current housing system. Due to the youth's age, classification of a disability presents a challenge for youth obtaining a PSH unit. RRH w/ intensive supportive services along w/ the option of RRH clustered site can assist youth that require assistance w/ obtaining their own apartment & assistance w/ their transition into adulthood. Chicago is dedicated to evaluating emerging RRH models to meet the youth's needs & make it an effective intervention and is an innovative program Chicago wishes to pursue through YHDP.

CFI Q4: Chicago will implement six models to serve youth:

1. Prevention: Chicago has seen a need for family reunification/engagement among youth served. This intervention would be targeted to assist youth facing family conflict & build family resiliency. In a 2012 study, the 3 most frequently cited reasons for youth homelessness were

family conflict, a history of family residential instability & poverty[1]. Chicago will further develop family assistance programs that provide targeted counseling, caregiver support, conflict resolution, respite, & behavioral services. Chicago currently works closely w/ the Comprehensive Community Based Youth Services (CCBYS) which is used to leverage prevention & intervention services for youth under 18 yrs experiencing housing instability & needing family reunification/preservation services. Chicago knows it is important to redefine & broaden the definition of family to incorporate non-traditional family definitions. As part of this work, Chicago will encourage CPS to incorporate the National Runaway Safeline Let's Talk: Runaway Prevention Curriculum into schools. This curriculum assists in building life skills, increase knowledge about runaway resources & prevention, alternatives to running away & encouraging youth to access & seek help from trusted community members. Due to the stigma associated w/ homelessness, a systemic approach to shift public opinion is needed. Chicago will work on a massive public education campaign to assist in changing people's perceptions about homelessness. The CoC will implement similar practices as the Family Acceptance Project[2] to assist in developing a public education campaign w/ training & assessment materials for health, mental health, school based providers, child welfare, juvenile justice, family service works, clergy & religious leaders. Prevention efforts in schools and communitywide public awareness will address barriers such as lack of knowledge regarding resources and stigma regarding homelessness.

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[1] Holtschneider, Casey (2016). From Independence to Interdependence: Redefining Outcomes for Transitional Living Programs for Youth Experiencing Homelessness. *Families in Society: The Journal of Contemporary Social Services, 97* (3), 160-170.
[2] See Family Acceptance Project (2002): https://familyproject.sfsu.edu/.

2. Rapid Rehousing: As discussed in the previous question, Chicago believes RRH to be a promising strategy for specific youth. In order to be effective, Chicago believes intensive supportive services should be offered to assist youth to stabilize & ensure success in emerging adulthood. In addition, Chicago feels specifically designed modifications such as clustered site options, landlord mediation support, & the opportunity to allow for gradual decline/increase in supportive services are needed to meet the needs of the specific youth. These changes would be key to successful outcomes. If funded, the RRH intervention would assist in cultivating the landlord base to ensure relationships w/ landlords are established to house youth.

3. Crisis Residential Transitional Housing: In 2013, Chicago launched a geographic expansion of low-threshold overnight shelters for youth. These shelters are a critical engagement tool & resource for young people in crisis who are not ready to engage in ongoing supports or programs w/ more structure. Chicago operates a program model called interim housing, which is a shelter program w/ services that facilitates transitions to more stable housing situations. These programs operate 24 hours a day. Currently, there are only 36 interim housing beds dedicated to youth in our system. This is an identified gap in resources & through YHDP, Chicago is interested in exploring the crisis residential transitional housing model to evaluate whether this model is appropriate to meet this need in Chicago.

4. Non-time-limited Supportive Housing: Chicago has increasingly seen youth transitioning out of programs due to time limits. Service providers have seen youth age out of programs but return to the agency due to crisis &/or sense of community. Chicago will pilot elimination of some time limits to better serve youth not ready to move on.

5. Host Homes: Chicago will re-examine the concept of host homes, which have ceased because of lost funding but were very successful when operating. Host homes previously housed youth

with families and subsidized the costs. has previous experience w/ Host Homes & believes they are a need in our community. Along w/ providing shelter & emotional support, Host Homes allow youth to work on health, education, employment & future housing goals, while also learning life skills (e.g. cooking, laundry, etc.).

6. After Care: There are 13 Transitional Living Programs (TLP) for youth experiencing homelessness operating in Chicago. The transition support currently provided for youth after exiting these programs is not sufficient to meet the ongoing developmental & functional needs of these youth. To better assist youth w/ the transition to adulthood, & in particular, to help them face myriad systemic barriers they often face once leaving housing programs (e.g., lack of affordable housing, high rates of unemployment for youth of color, structural racism, returning to resource-deprived communities), continued support is required. While they are in housing, young people report profound experiences of self-discovery, maturation & community building[3]. They often identify other youth & staff as critical in this process, describing these relationships as akin to family due to the immense support they provide during this formative time of development. Chicago believes a youth's exit from housing should not be the end of those relationships where ongoing support is not restricted by a time frame requirement or by an 18th or 24th birthday. Chicago believes TLPs must build capacity to offer longer-term, relationship-based aftercare programs. Additionally, TLPs should partner w/ other creative, community-based agencies, that are challenging current restrictions in providing services, that can support them in this work, such as the LYTE Collective whose goal is to provide youth experiencing poverty & homelessness w/ safe space, holistic support & a community they will always be a part of.

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[3] Holtschneider, Casey (2016). From Independence to Interdependence: Redefining Outcomes for Transitional Living Programs for Youth Experiencing Homelessness. *Families in Society: The Journal of Contemporary Social Services, 97* (3), 160-170.

Chicago will create an adequately-funded, sophisticated network of support that is defined by a sense of belonging. One where the ability of young people to return is not limited by time or age, where the power of relationships in maintaining stability is valued, & where young people feel connected in both moments of subsequent crisis but also in times of joy & success. Chicago will also seek additional funding sources to help support a network of certification programs for youth experiencing homelessness and desire to continue their education in the social service field.

Not only will Chicago target the aforementioned areas but also place an emphasis on the employment sector & perhaps lower the levels of criminalization of youth experiencing homelessness.

While Chicago has a strong desire to innovate, there are barriers that make it difficult to move forward with implementation. Some of these barriers include: 1) absence of sufficient funding from both private and public investors, 2) institutional capacity as a sector to execute all of the work, 3) scalability of some of the proposed models, 4) conflicting definitions of homelessness, 5) a tendency at the state and federal level to focus on outcomes that are not youth-appropriate, 6) difficulty at a systems level to understand that there is no "cookie-cutter" model for ending youth homelessness, 7) no accurate count of homeless youth, & 8) an absence of a continuum of services analysis that is grounded in cultural competency.

CFI Q5: Chicago's youth homelessness stakeholder community is very willing to question existing models and test new methodologies. Homeless youth providers have a long history of innovate programming which was created because the needs of homeless youth could not be met by allowable housing program types under CoC funding. For example, low-threshold youth-focused drop-in centers and overnight shelters were created to address the needs of homeless

youth unable or unwilling to access traditional drop-in centers and shelters. The Locker Project, implemented in 2015, allowed for homeless youth to store their belongings in a safe and secure space which allows youth to be freed up to go to work or school without the burden of carrying their possessions and reduces their risk for being targeted for theft. A mobile app was recently developed which provides real time information for youth to access youth-centered resources. Chicago youth homelessness stakeholders have a proven record of identifying needs and building programming to address those needs in a collaborative effort.

In the recent FY 2016 CoC Program Competition, one of the youth housing providers submitted an application to the CoC seeking approval to use reallocated funds for a PSH project serving youth and families. The project was approved and ranked at the very top of Tier 2. As more funds are reallocated within the CoC Program, youth providers will certainly seize the opportunity to secure more units/beds for homeless youth. In addition, if Chicago is chosen as a YHDP, it is our hope to apply for waivers to be able to more readily use HUD funds to support innovative housing models that are not eligible for funding under current guidelines but are necessary to ending homelessness in Chicago.

CFI Q6: See Attachment 6 - Youth System Map

C Q1: Plan 2.0 offers one strategic priority area that focuses solely on preventing & ending youth homelessness. The youth priority area includes seven action items that all are guided by the goal to create a comprehensive, developmentally appropriate menu of services for youth. In the short-term, the CoC conducts an accurate annual count of youth experiencing homelessness & uses the data to set realistic targets. Additionally, there have been steps taken to increase the capacity of adult-serving emergency shelter & interim housing programs to provide youth-centered services. Through the assistance of CPS there has been an increase in support for

homeless youth through its Students Temporary Living Situation Program that also provides training & housing resources. Plan 2.0 also calls for the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to report on the number of emancipations, transitions out of child protective care, & disrupted permanent placements that result in homelessness. The long-term goals within Plan 2.0 are to provide a comprehensive array of services & interventions, as well as a safe alternative to the street, at 24/7 drop-in centers across the entire city. Any development of new housing will be required to include city wide low-demand emergency shelter beds, developmentally appropriate transitional housing, & permanent housing options. Targeted interventions to meet the unique needs of youth including but not limited to, pregnant & parenting youth, family reunification for minor youth, runaway youth in our school system, & our homeless college are also outlined in the plan. Lastly, Plan 2.0 identifies the need to ensure that harm reduction, trauma-informed & culturally competent service models are implemented in all homeless programs that serve youth. Within the CoC there is a Plan Advisory Committee (PAC) that meets monthly to review each strategic priority area & its accompanying short- and long-tern goals. PAC might invite experts to present on a certain topic to help it better understand how a particular action item is being addressed. For instance, in August 2016, PAC asked the Voices of Youth Count staff to share its survey questions and methodology. PAC's Co-Chair is a youth housing provider and active member of the Youth Taskforce.

C Q2: See Attachment 7 – CoC Homelessness Program, Local Government, Local Education & Runaway and Homeless Youth Program Agreement.

C Q3: Chicago CE process was developed by a Committee that sought input from key stakeholders/providers within the CoC, including youth, outreach, housing providers, HMIS, ESG recipient, domestic violence, & prevention entities. Other community stakeholders from

systems that interact w/ the homeless delivery system were consulted, such as the child welfare system, health care system, corrections system, mental health & substance use treatment systems. The CE process has been rolled out in Chicago over two years in a multi-phased approach. This approach has helped the community learn from initial implementation phases (veterans & chronically homeless populations) & adopt changes & refine practices. Unaccompanied youth are the next designated population to be incorporated into the CE process which will begin in November 2016 w/ one program & phase in all other programs in 2017.

The Chicago CE process involves access points for all persons & households who are homeless or at-risk for homelessness. The current access points include trained outreach teams engaging & assessing individuals & families in the streets & shelters; 6 community-wide Service Centers managed by DFSS; & the 311-Homeless Prevention Call Center. Homeless unaccompanied youth who access these entry points will be assessed for the appropriate housing resource which includes a continuum of services, such as, diversion, prevention, short-term ES placement, TH, RRH, & PSH. Plans for expanding access points to meet the unique needs of the youth population & its sub-populations, such as LGBTQ, pregnant & parenting teens, are being developed to include drop-in centers for youth, app-based points of entry & training all youth & non-youth providers on culturally-sensitive assessments when homeless unaccompanied youth present at a homeless service provider.

As required by HUD, the CE process utilizes a Standardized Assessment Tool (SAT). In Chicago, the SAT includes questions about the household's living situation, homeless status, income, disability status, etc. The questions are not meant to screen out households, but to identify the appropriate housing resource in the quickest way. The SAT also includes three distinct Vulnerability Indexes (VI): 1) single adults, 2) families & 3) unaccompanied youth.

Homeless unaccompanied youth complete the SAT with the Youth VI which includes assessment factors such as jail involvement prior to the age of 18, foster care experience, causes of homelessness such as running away, needing to leave the home because of one's sexual orientation or gender expression, & factors related to barriers faced by older youth. Upon completion of the entire SAT & CoC Prioritization Standards, youth are given an assessment score. Based on his/her score the youth is directed to the appropriate resource which could divert youth into short-term emergency shelter, rapid rehousing, transitional housing or permanent supportive housing. Youth may be directed to a youth-specific homeless service intervention but if there are openings in non-youth dedicated programming they will have access to those resources, as well, per local decisions.

The CoC funded resources available to youth are supportive services only projects, safe havens, TH, RRH, & PSH. The ESG funded resources available to youth are outreach services, ESG Prevention & RRH. The first set of providers were trained in the HMIS & the CE System in October. Additional training sessions will incorporate the full continuum of youth providers in early 2017.

As part of the CoC's ongoing evaluation of CE implementation, youth & stakeholders w/ experience serving & housing youth will participate in a workshop to further shape the system so that it can be inclusive, accessible, developmentally appropriate, & effective in connecting young people to appropriate housing interventions. Lessons learned from the initial rollout phase of CE to young people in Nov & Dec will be shared & action steps & modifications will be integrated into the implementation plan. Among the partners to be trained & integrated into the CE process are DCFS, CPS, all youth-specific & non-youth specific housing & homeless providers, substance use treatment providers, mental health providers, & LGBTQ-service providers.

C Q4: IDCFS is the sector designated to work w/ the child welfare & foster care system in Chicago. IDCFS is committed to preventing youth homelessness & have developed a system level discharge strategy that includes supportive services to assist youth transition from the state care to independent living. Currently, IDCFS participates in the Consolidated Plan & provides the services described in C Q5 to assist youth aging out in an effort to prevent discharge into homelessness. Currently, the CoC is working w/ the Juvenile, Adult Justice & Mental & Physical Health Institutes to strengthen discharge policies. In October 2016, key stakeholders met to discuss discharge planning strategies that should include local partnerships w/ community providers to prevent discharge into homelessness. The CoC will continue to discuss strategies to ensure partnerships & supports are provided to individuals exiting these institutions.

C Q5: The IDCFS is a leader in serving youth after their 18th birthday by allowing youth to remain in the care of the state until age 21. Starting at age 14, all youth are assessed using the Casey Life Skills Assessment (CLSA). Results are used to aid transition & service planning & ensure youth are prepared for self-sufficiency. IDCFS also assists the youth by helping them move into an IDCFS funded Transitional Living Program or into their own housing discussed during the service planning. There are also some youth who remain w/ their foster parent. For all placements, a licensed child welfare worker will continue to work w/ the youth as long as they remain in IDCFS care. Youth receive a number of services to help them transition to adulthood including: life skills, financial literacy instructions & assistance to obtain high school diploma or a General Education Diploma (GED). IDCFS encourages youth to seek & obtain employment by offering supplemental income to youth who are employed at least 20 hours per week through the Employment Incentive Program. IDCFS also supports youth attending college full-time or an employment they turn 23. As the youth gets closer to transitioning (age 19 through 20) from

IDCFS care, a Discharge Clinical Intervention Placement Preservation (DCIPP) meeting occurs to discuss their Youth Driven Transition Plan w/ special emphasis on a living arrangement after they age out of care. Youth who participate in this planning, attend the financial literacy course & are living in an approved placement will receive $1,200 after the youth ages out of care. IDCFS also assists youth to locate & maintain housing through the Youth Housing Assistance Program (YHAP) which provides a housing advocate & cash assistance, up to $2,000, for items needed to move into housing. IDCFS also encounter youth who choose to leave our care early which are referred to YHAP. The youth can also decide to return to care prior to turning 21 & receive assistance described above.

Youth who are transitioning from IDCFS care who have a developmental disability & are eligible for an Illinois Department of Human Services funded Community Integrated Living Arrangement (CILA) have a special transition process. The CILA provides residential habilitation & personal support services provided under the direction of a community support team. IDCFS will even keep the case open past the youth's 21st birthday, if necessary to make sure this transition is successful.

Services are available to help families who have children who are in danger of being placed in care, or cannot be returned home from due to poverty issues, including homelessness. The program provides housing advocacy series & cash assistance to help these families. Families may be referred to the CHA Family Unification Program (FUP) which helps relative caregivers care &/or obtain guardianship for their relative's children who are not part of the formal child welfare system.

IDCFS also developed licensing standards for Partially Emancipated TLPs. Please refer to Capacity for Innovation Q2 for details. However, sometimes the only way to protect a homeless

child or youth is to bring that youth in care. If a child is locked out of their home & IDCFS is contacted, IDCFS works w/ the CCBYS for 48 hours. Afterwards, IDCFS can place the child in care & continues to try to work w/ the parent or guardian to return the child. If family reunification & adoption are unsuccessful, IDCFS will continue to serve the child until the youth transitions to adulthood using the services described above.

FR Q1: The Taskforce co-chairs shared our ambitious YHDP NOFA plans with 4 local foundations for their continued support. Polk Bros. Foundation publicly committed to supporting planning efforts & another 2 foundations (Prince Charitable Trusts & VNA Foundation) expressed a willingness to entertain planning proposals from the Taskforce. The Chicago Community Trust staff attended YHDP meetings and offered to assist in brokering meetings w/ other funders. The Taskforce will hold a series of funders briefing as the work progresses to further engage funders. It will also, as part of the budget process, submit a request to the Finance Committee of the CoC for funds to be used to support stipends for YAB members. The CoC has received pledge support from the CA & other Taskforce members & DFSS has also committed staff & in-kind support.

FR Q2: The anticipated 6-month budget for the development of a Coordinated Community Plan is $75,350 & includes the following expenses: supporting the salary of the *Project Coordinator* tasked with the responsibility of managing the planning process, convening groups, locating space, developing & distributing invitations, ensuring timely updates & feedback to the community (in-kind, DFSS); retaining the services of a consultant who will facilitate charrettes and write significant portions of the plan ($57,500), bus passes and stipends in hopes that at least 75 youth will be able to actively participate in the planning process ($7,500), utilizing inkspot for

the creation of digital graphic recording ($2,500), reserving retreat space ($750), purchasing flip charts, pen, paper and notepads ($250) and other indirect costs ($6,850).

DEC Q1: The percentage of all types of homeless beds, excluding beds provided by Domestic Violence (DV) service providers, that currently participate in HMIS is 78.87%.

DEC Q2: The percentage of all types of youth beds, excluding beds provided by DV service providers that are covered in HMIS, regardless of funding sources is 90.22%.

DEC Q3: While the CoC does not currently actively recruit new homeless projects to HMIS for youth-dedicated beds, Chicago will establish the expectation that newly created youth-dedicated beds from YHDP will report in HMIS. Chicago will develop a plan to actively recruit non-HMIS participating youth-dedicated programs to begin participation in HMIS as it has done in the past.

DEC Q4: Any new homeless projects in Chicago can contact the HMIS Lead to request access. Currently, HMIS implementation does not impose any financial charges to new users since costs are covered. The on-boarding process requires providers to complete a new Agency form and enter into a partnership agreement w/ the HMIS Lead & new users are requested to register for an all-day new user training. Afterwards, users have access and the HMIS lead provides continued technical assistance to ensure the users understand the system.

DEC Q5: Chicago has been able to meet all HUD data reporting requirements in the past 12 months including Systems Performance Measures that were submitted as a part of the 2016 NOFA & 2016 PIT & HIC. Chicago also generates the following reports: CoC APR, ESG CAPER, & AHAR.

DEC Q6: Yes, all 14 shells in the AHAR were submitted to HUD & all 14 shells were accepted.

DEC Q7: The CoC does collect data from other sources besides HMIS, which it uses at a committee level to inform strategies for outreach & coordinated entry. The data most sought after outside of HMIS is that of the actual number of youth who are homeless, which can be challenging to gather as the definition of homelessness can vary widely from agency-to-agency. Chicago accesses this data from the STLS database at CPS & the End-of-Year Homeless Count released by the IL State Board of Education. In addition, Chicago has already begun to draw from the preliminary release of the VoYC findings to gather additional demographic data on this population. For information about LGBTQ youth, Chicago draws from data collected by the IL Safe School Alliance, Center on Halsted, Pride Action Tank, Broadway Youth Center, & the Chicago Community Trust's LGBTQ Needs Assessment. For Justice Involved Youth in the city, Chicago looks to the Law Project of the Chicago Coalition for Homeless, the Cook County Juvenile Detention Center and the IL of Department on Human Services. The Center for Court Innovation and CAASE has helped educate stakeholders about youth involved in the sex-trade in Chicago & the intersection of poverty & homelessness. Finally, there is continued reliance on CoC member IDCFS for information about the child welfare system. Much of the aforementioned data is housed on servers at these various organizations & would require executed data sharing agreements for direct access. In the coming year, access to other systems' data will be possible via a joint partnership between the Chicago's HMIS Lead Agency & the University of Chicago Urban Labs, which uses science, data & evidence-based programs to inform & develop urban policy.

DEC Q8: On a systems level, Chicago measures performance using the System Performance Measures (SysPM) outlined by HUD. These measures include: length of time homeless, returns to homelessness, total number of homeless persons; employment & income growth; 1st time

homeless; & successful placement & retention in permanent housing. All SysPM are collected using HMIS data & are measured using the calculations/universe guidelines outline by HUD. The Chicago CoC additionally develops & releases a quarterly System Performance Data Dashboard, which is reviewed by the SPEC.

The Chicago CoC programmatic performance measures & benchmarks directly correlate to the SysPM required by HUD & are outlined in the PMC (Attachment 11 – Program Models Chart). There are 8 program types (PH, Engagement Services, Prevention, etc.) encompassing 20 program models (PSH, RRH, Interim Housing, etc.), 7 of which are youth-specific models (Youth TH, Youth Intentional PSH, etc.). For each model, the PMC outlines Essential Elements, Program Description, Expected Program Outcomes, & System Outcomes. The expected outcomes for youth models include: % exits to permanent destinations; % retention in permanent housing; % maintaining or increasing income; & % obtaining non-cash or cash benefits, all of which are measured & reported on using HMIS data.

The CoC monitors CoC-funded youth providers on the outcomes outlined in the PMC through an annual Evaluation process. Through this process, the CoC addresses: minimum thresholds for funding consideration; consumer focus; project operations; HMIS data quality; leading practices; system priorities; & project performance. Performance is based on outcomes set in the PMC & is calculated using HMIS data. Performance measures address housing stability & retention; placements in PH; & income & mainstream benefit outcomes. In 2016, projects were scored on a 94-point scale, w/ 32 points for performance. Each agency & project receives a scorecard w/ their total score, as well as any comments to elaborate on points not received. Following the Evaluation Process, the CA also conducts site visits, w/ 6 site visits completed in 2015 & 10 additional low scoring agencies being visited by the end of 2016. The site visits include a

documentation review of policies & procedures, a peer interview conducted by a peer provider w/ a similar program model type, & a consumer engagement session which entails a focus group w/ participants of the program. Agencies receive a full feedback report including details from each component. All agencies receiving a site visit are then offered technical assistance from the CA in collaboration w/ the CoC.

DEC Q9: Chicago has utilized data from a range of sources in an effort to develop & evaluate effective youth programing & interventions. A prime example is the development & launch of the youth low threshold programs. In this development, DFSS & youth provider agencies worked w/ the HMIS team to create a compressive workflow inclusive of assessments at entry & exit as well as anytime a significant change in status occurred for a young person. The data was reviewed w/ service providers after the first year of operations to discuss key programming needs & trends. Chicago also utilized data in the development of Plan 2.0 to assess key system needs & priorities. Based on data demonstrating the need for & dearth of youth orientated shelters & drop in centers in vulnerable communities, 6 culturally/geographically diverse programs were added. As Chicago continues to strengthen the HMIS data, it will be possible to use the data in developing & expanding youth interventions & to guide the development of a strategic plan to prevent & end youth homelessness.

DEC Q10: If selected as a YHDP community, Chicago will ultimately define success as establishing a fully integrated system that addresses youth homelessness. Chicago is committed to having collective agreements that solidify coordination & contribution of key sectors regarding youth homelessness. An integrated system will allow Chicago to define functional zero ensuring availability of adequate housing options, accessible services & incidents of youth homelessness are rare, brief & non re-occurring. Chicago will realize the following outcomes: 1)

300 new accessible youth homeless appropriate beds by 2019; 2) established data sharing agreements with IDCFS, Cook County Sheriff Department, CPS & other relevant systems by 2018; 3) at least $7.5 million in public & private revenue committed to ending youth homelessness by 2020; 4) the YAB will have grown by 20 members & have been effective in influencing a youth driven integrated system; 5) & a 75% change in community's perceptions about youth homelessness after the successful launch of the Taskforce driven media campaign.

Conclusion

As a system, we are very excited by the opportunity the YHDP NOFA afforded us to present & celebrate our collective accomplishments & efforts to end youth homelessness in Chicago. Chicago has covered significant terrain in this regard, with limited resources & capacity; yet there is still more work to be done in order to reach functional zero and truly build a culturally responsive system the meets the needs of all homeless youth in our city. Chicago is ready to meet this challenge. Chicago is committed to developing & executing a coordinated community approach to prevent & end youth homelessness in the City in Chicago by 2020. Based on the multiple collaborations mentioned throughout this application, if selected as 1 of the 10 communities, HUD's initial investment will be fully leveraged & will enable Chicago to both innovate and solve for sophisticated challenges in a systematic & coordinated manner.