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First Ever Assessment and Plan to End Youth and Young Adult (YYA) Homelessness in Indianapolis Launched

Goal is to end youth and young adult homelessness in Indianapolis by July 2022

INDIANAPOLIS – Today, the Indianapolis Continuum of Care and the Coalition for Homelessness Intervention and Prevention (CHIP) launched the first ever **Indianapolis Coordinated Community Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness for Youth and Young Adults (YYA)**. The plan, which was created in collaboration with the Homeless Youth Task Force and Youth Action Board includes an assessment, plan, philosophies and models that will bring the community together to act and end YYA homelessness in Indianapolis by July 1, 2022.

As part of the needs assessment, data was collected from a number of sources, as well as through focus groups and surveys with youth providers and YYA experiencing homelessness. 339 youth were surveyed to gain a better understanding of YYA experiencing homelessness while dealing with such issues as sexual orientation, educational challenges, and service gaps. According to the assessment, in 2016, there were 2,251 youth and young adults (YYA) experiencing homelessness reported in Indianapolis, including 410 unaccompanied youth and 383 pregnant and young parents. 47 percent of youth ages 13-17 who experience homelessness do so without a parent, guardian, or other adult. 50 percent of all female YYA experiencing homelessness are actively fleeing domestic violence or sexual trafficking.

The vision to prevent and end YYA homelessness in Indianapolis includes a five-step plan that includes goals and objectives, as well as the actions that need to be taken including:

- Optimizing the crisis response system to reduce the length of time that YYA spend homeless. The goal is to divert 45 percent of all YYA to safe, permanent housing options.
- Increasing availability and access to safe, supportive, and permanent housing for all YYA experiencing housing instability. The goal is to secure 225 non-time-limited supportive housing subsidies and 480 rapid re-housing subsidies each year and that all YYA are housed within 30 days of identification.
- Expanding and enhancing wraparound services and coordinated approaches to increase housing stability and prevent returns to homelessness. The objective is that 90 percent of formerly homeless YYA remain housed for at least two years.

- Engaging intersecting systems in a shared approach to prevent YYA from being released into homelessness. The group recommends establishing inter-system data sharing and coordinated entry options.
- Empowering leadership entities to align resources, enable collaboration, and maintain transparency with the community in order to prevent and end YYA homelessness. The goal is to secure increased resources for YYA to receive permanent housing.

“An increase in housing alone will not address the complexity of needs, barriers and systemic challenges that youth and young adults often face.” said Alan Witche, executive director at CHIP. “Engaging with multiple systems to address education, mental health, health care, and social, environmental, and economic needs will be just as critical as we create effective solutions to homelessness. These realities help forge the key community vision.”

The community planning process also identified philosophies and key program models that are needed to have an effective community response to YYA homelessness. Program models with key traits and future needs were created in the following areas: Crisis response team/navigators, diversion services and assistance, host homes, emergency shelter, transitional housing, rapid re-housing, non-time-limited supportive housing, affordable housing and follow up services.

A complete copy of the plan can be found at the following link:

<https://www.indycoc.org/community-plan/plan-to-end-youth-young-adult-homelessness/>

About the Coalition for Homelessness Intervention & Prevention (CHIP):

The Coalition for Homelessness Intervention & Prevention mobilizes, advocates, and empowers community collaboration towards ending homelessness and fosters an effective system of homelessness prevention and intervention in the greater Indianapolis area. www.chipindy.org, @CHIPIndy

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