



Connecting YOUth

Youth At-Risk of Homelessness Federal Project

Component 3-Connect to Home (C2H) Supportive Housing

Bidder's Conference

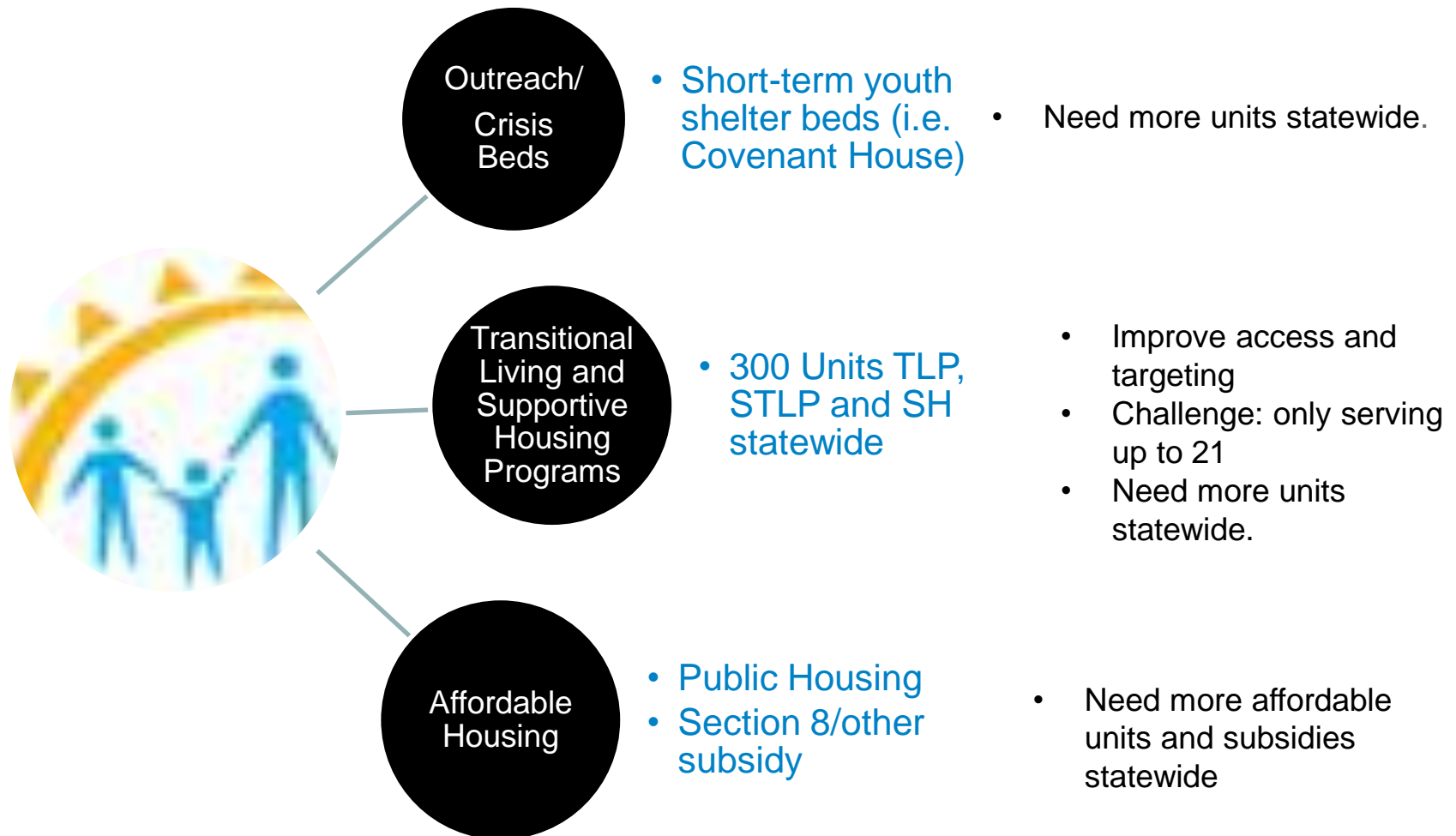
January 14, 2016



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS



History of OAS Youth Housing Continuum



Request for Proposals (RFP)

YARH Connect to Home-Youth Supportive Housing

Background and Overview

- **Program Vision:** Child welfare involved young adults with high needs (mental health, substance use disorder, and/or juvenile justice histories) will be provided with long term housing solutions and supportive services that promote permanency, social connections, education/employment success and a safe, stable and healthy transition to independence.

Background

Supporting Data:

- Approximately 25,000 youth exit foster care without being reunified with their family of origin, being adopted or achieving another permanent living arrangement.
- Approximately 25% of youth who were placed in foster care experience one or more days of homelessness after leaving care.
- The National Alliance to End Homelessness estimates that 110,000 youth nationwide live on the streets and other public places such as cars and abandoned buildings.

Background

Supporting Data:

- 2015 NJ Point in Time count found that there 1,074 young adults aged 18 to 24 who were experiencing homelessness (10% of NJ homeless population).
- 12% of youth studied in the YARH project received adult homeless services (that were reported into HMIS) after their involvement in the child welfare system.

Background

- *Factors Contributing to Youth Homelessness*
 - Family Problems
 - Mental Health
 - Involvement in Child Welfare & Juvenile Justice Systems
 - Lack stable and secure family reports
 - Substance Use Disorders
 - Economic Circumstances
 - Racial Disparity

Program Overview

- DCF and federal service funding and DCA provided housing vouchers will be used to support long term, stable housing and voluntary supportive services for current or previously involved youth.
- Youth must be between 18 age 20 prior to entering the program.
- Three programs will be awarded, one in Burlington, Mercer and Union counties.
- Each awardee will receive \$220,000 in service funding and 20 project based section 8 vouchers per county (\$660,000 and 60 vouchers total)
- Trauma-informed, evidence-supported services must be integral components of the model.

Selected Counties

- **Burlington County**

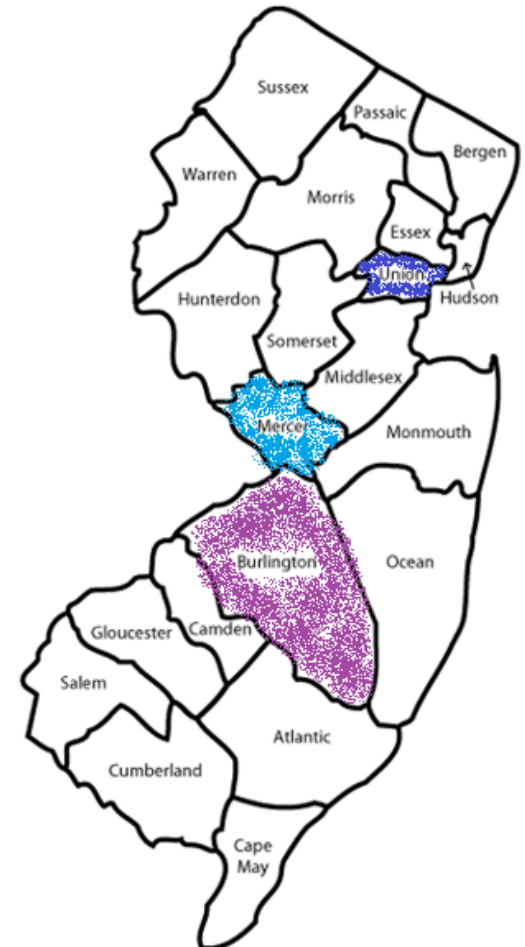
- Burlington West Local Office
- Burlington East Local Office

- **Mercer County**

- Mercer North Local Office
- Mercer South Local Office

- **Union County**

- Union Central Local Office
- Union East Local Office
- Union West Local Office



Program Principles

1. Youth driven (support individual choice)
2. Trauma informed
3. Youth Thrive Framework
4. Positive Youth Development
5. Racially & Culturally Informed
6. Easy Access to Services
7. Interaction should be flexible, based on tenants needs

Connect to Home

Supportive Housing

- **Housing Screen/Targeting and Assessment Tool**
- **Housing voucher oversight (20 vouchers per pilot county)/ Tiered Housing Model**
- **Case Management and Supportive Services**
- **Statewide Youth Housing Learning Collaborative**

Housing Screens & Assessments

- **Participants will be identified by DCF staff and the Connecting YOUth project team.**
- **The provider will be expected to screen and assess youth in the pilot county (using new screening and assessment tools provided by the Connecting YOUth team) and provide information and referral resources to youth in order to expedite linkage to needed services and housing options.**

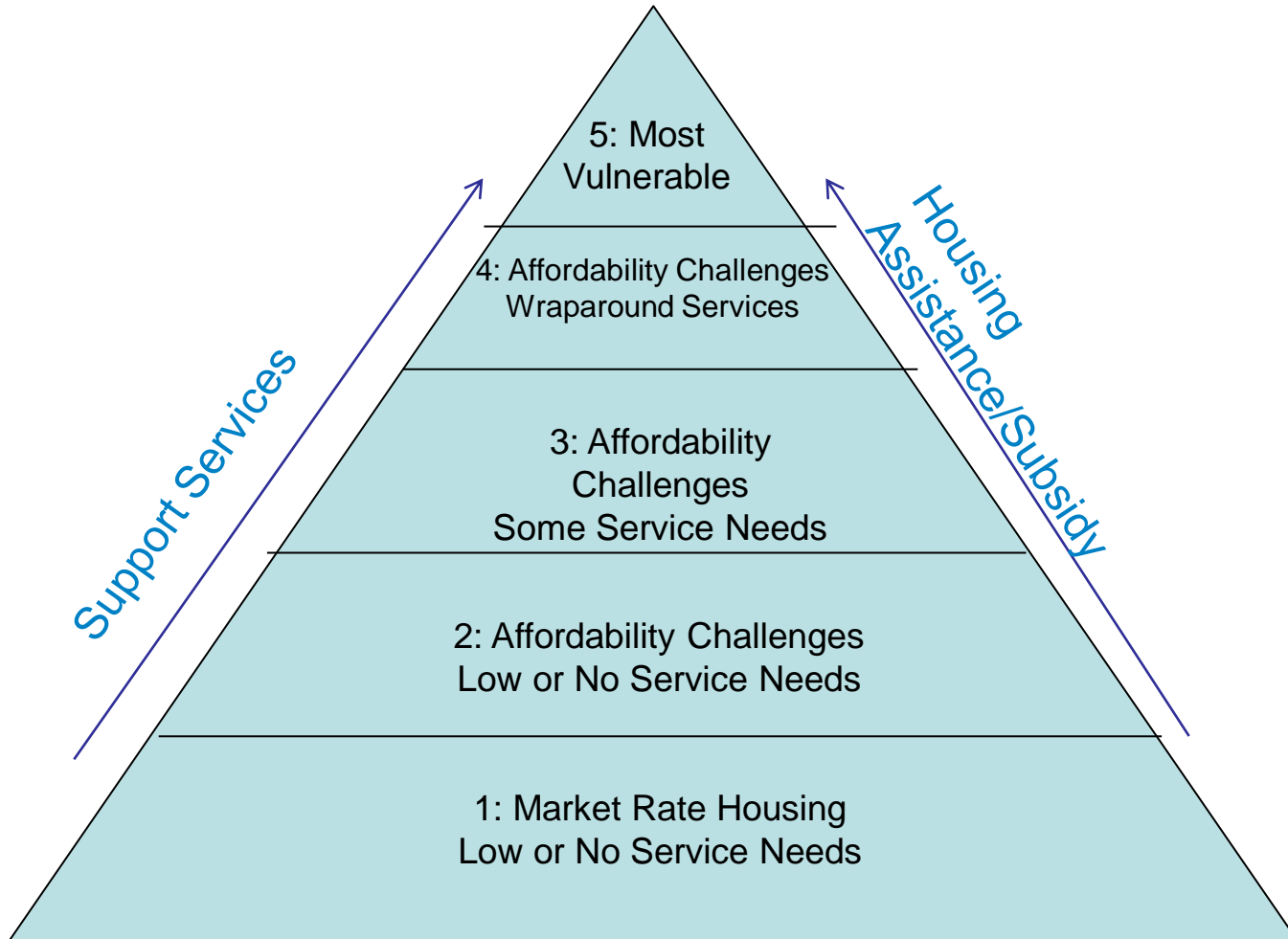
Housing Screens & Assessments

- **The provider will assist youth with the Section 8 application process and facilitate individual enrollment meetings with youth to educate them on the program, policies and agreements related to Section 8.**
- **In addition to the 20 youth, DCF anticipates the awarded program will complete housing screens, assessments and service linkage to up to 10 youth monthly.**

Admission Criteria

- 18 to 20 years of age at intake
- Current or previous CP&P open case/involvement in one of the three pilot counties
- Identified as Tier 4 and/or 5 youth
Serious mental illness, substance use disorder, parenting youth, criminal/juvenile justice history

Youth Service Need Tiers



Tier 4

- Youth cannot afford housing independently
- Youth have risk factors, including mental health, or substance use disorder. Ex. Youth are on psychotropic medication
- Youth may have multiple foster care placements and/or have an unstable placement history.
- Youth may not have employment and may not be in school

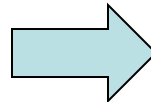
Response: Placement into supportive housing program to age 26 with a Moving On Program.



Tier 5

- Youth has serious mental illness or substance abuse disorder.
- Youth may be on psychotropic medication.
- Has a history in juvenile justice or criminal justice system.
 - Youth may have a history of fire setting or sex offenses.
- Youth may have experienced 5+ foster care placements and have an unstable placement history
- Youth may not be employed or in school

Response: Enhanced Supportive Housing to age 26 with Forensic Specialist and Moving On program.



Moving On

- **Minimum of one year in supportive housing unit**
- **Secure source of income or benefits established benefits**
- **Tenant portion of rent paid on time for at least 12 months with no utility arrears**
- **Connected to mainstream supports**

Housing First Principles (edit)

- **Consumer-driven and client-centered**
- **Flexible in response to individual service preferences**
- **Supportive Services are voluntary**
- **Practice and Policies to prevent lease violations and evictions**

Housing Model

- **Safe and affordable**
- **Young adults hold the sublease**
- **Tenure in housing is not contingent upon participation in service**
- **Consumers must contribute 30% of their adjusted gross income towards rent**
- **Housing vouchers will be administered by DCA**

Housing Model (continued)

- **Must have concrete plan (signed agreement/documentation) to access 20 affordable housing units for a 15 year period in your proposed county(ies)**
- **Must be able to demonstrate that the housing units can be secured and ready for lease/sublease within 30 days following an award.**

Case Management and Supportive Services

- Infuse an understanding of adolescent development into the program design and practice
- Emphasize skill and relationship building
- Offer services that are relevant
- Assist with housing application, move-in and furnishing.
- Assist young adults to maintain stability and maximize tenure in housing through ongoing housing support services.

Case Management and Supportive Services

- Promote education, career planning and well-being
- Promote critical thinking
- Build life and vocational skills
- Address and manage untreated trauma
- Address mental health and substance use concerns without mandating specific solutions

Case Management and Supportive Services

- **Create a community that provides opportunities to build positive relationships with adults and peers**
- **Provide medication management skills training where applicable**
- **Assistance accessing public benefits where applicable**
- **Coordinate services and systems at a local level for youth with multiple challenges**

Staffing Pattern

- **Awardees will utilize a case manager and an additional specialized Forensic Specialist/Case Worker to address the complicated and high needs of youth in the program.**
- **Awardees staffing pattern should at minimum including the following**
 - One FT Case Manager
 - One FT Peer Specialist/Counselor
 - One PT Forensic Specialist
 - Supervisor/Team Leader who devotes a % of their time to the

Forensic Specialist

- **Coordinate, plan and ensure follow through with community treatment**
- **Develop a supportive one to one clinical/trauma informed relationship with the youth**
- **Utilize a motivational interviewing approach as a primary skill/tool to enhance youth participation and success**
- **Monitor ongoing treatment needs and compliance with treatment for program youth**

RFP Submission

Deadline for receipt of proposals:

**February 26, 2016
by 12:00 PM**

Questions

