**Coordinated Entry and Youth**

**Access**

* youth-centered
* safe, inviting and accessible access points
* comprised of knowledgeable and trained staff
* developmentally appropriate, trauma informed, culturally appropriate, inclusive
* Young people are often unaware that they qualify as homeless or refuse the label and services
* Youth focused street outreach
* Drop In Centers
* Mobile Capabilities: be able to access HMIS and complete assessment wherever you are with the youth
* Examine youth experience with CE entry points and processes and make changes based on their feedback
* Address racial and ethnic disparities in the system

**Questions to Consider**

* How will youth providers communicate with access points?
* Where should access points be located, and are they near areas youth are likely to congregate?
* How accessible to youth are the access points in terms of transportation and proximity to schools?
* When should access points be open, and are they open during times youth are likely to be around that location?
* Are the existing access points' location and room arrangement safe and inviting for youth, or will there be access points specifically for youth?
* Are staff at access points trained to meet the needs of youth experiencing homelessness, positive youth development, and trauma-informed frameworks?

**Assessment**

* Can be separate assessment process for youth, but not required; policies and procedures must account for separate process
* Some youth may need to access services for other populations too (i.e. families)
* TAY-VI-SPDAT is most widely used assessment tool for youth coming into homeless systems in the US
* Ensure language is youth friendly

**Questions to Consider**

* Do youth have to answer the same questions during multiple assessments?
* Do all youth have to be asked questions that do not apply to them, such as veteran status for those under age 18?
* Are questions asked in a developmentally appropriate manner reflecting the youth's age?
* Do assessors receive training for interacting with and guiding youth experiencing homelessness?

**Prioritization**

* Can have prioritization that accounts for unique experience of youth as compared to adults
* Consistently applied. May use the following factors
  + significant health or behavioral health challenges or functional impairments which require a significant level of support in order to maintain permanent housing
  + high utilization of crisis or emergency services, including emergency room, jails, and psychiatric facilities to meet basic needs
  + the extent to which people, especially youth and children, are unsheltered
  + vulnerability to illness or death
  + risk of continued homelessness
  + vulnerability to victimization, including physical assault, trafficking, or sex work
  + other factors determined by the community and based on severity of needs
* Consider unique needs of youth experiencing homelessness who are particularly vulnerable: trafficked, Native American, LGBTQ, youth with special needs, pregnant & parenting youth

**Questions to Consider**

* How do youth connect to other resources if they are not prioritized high enough for a dedicated homelessness resource?

**Referral**

* Youth who do not rank high should be referred to non-homeless specific resources
* Ensure they know what program they are being referred to, what will be expected of them and what they can expect from the program
* Family reunification: if safe and stable environment, should be primary referral for youth under age 18, family options should be broadly defined
* Consider using rapid rehousing to get youth out of homelessness quickly and then move to PSH if necessary
* Developmentally appropriate menu of services: collaborate with other providers
* Understand how age and developmental issues impact how youth experience homelessness and their pathways in and out of homelessness: reunify youth (particularly those under age 18) with family or other natural supports, broad set of interventions: short-to longer-term housing with varying levels of support
* Ensure RHY resources are fully integrated into coordinated entry

**Questions to Consider**

* When is Family Reunification an appropriate referral?
* Is the process and information that is provided to youth regarding the referral developmentally appropriate for youth?
* Are referral staff trained to interact with and guide youth?
* Do referral staff know the best project options for youth, including eligibility and documentation requirements?
* What is the responsibility of the CE and other stakeholders to ensure that you are referred to a project actually access the project?

**Stakeholders**

* youth experiencing homelessness
* youth homeless assistance providers including those funded by the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act
* child welfare systems and their providers including independent living programs
* school district McKinney-Vento liaisons
* representatives from the juvenile and adult justice systems
* employment programs
* human trafficking providers
* law enforcement
* health providers
* out of school time programs
* LGBT Providers
* early childhood providers for pregnant and parenting youth

**Community Example**

Connecticut

* Access Coordinated Entry by calling 211, basic assessment questions, including diversion, then referred to Coordinated Access Network (CAN), also refer to DV or Veteran services if appropriate, if person identifies as LGBTQ will connect to a LGBTQ provider and ensure a warm handoff
* 8 CAN sites, referral based on geographical location

**Pre-CAN appointment**

* CAN staff call youth to confirm appointment and be sure they have transportation, answer any questions they have and share the purpose of the meeting

**CAN appointment**

* meet with staff, there are youth specific navigators at each CAN
* Continue shelter diversion conversation, identify community based supports
* Collect information to determine needs and eligibility for services
* CAN worker will make connections to the following services, if appropriate: mental health, substance use, child welfare, developmental disabilities, education, LGBTQ, benefits, domestic violence/trafficking/sexual assault, Veterans, legal aid, healthcare and dental, employment
* Identify natural supports, possible alternatives to shelter and begin to link to services
* If family conflict is a source of instability, ask if someone can contact the family to share resources with them

**After CAN appointment**

* Youth Navigator connects them to services and ensures service connections are working
* Connect to emergency housing if needed and ensure plan for permanent housing
* Administer assessment and refer to by-name list, follows youth to know if they have self-resolved

Youth Engagement Team Initiatives (YETIs): collaborative of people concerned about youth homelessness, includes youth and young adult providers, housing providers, homeless services, Runaway and Homeless Youth providers, government, education, street outreach, people with lived experience, any community member interested in working on youth homelessness

**Resources Used**

Youth Specific FAQs for Coordinated Entry

<https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Coordinated-Entry-and-Youth-FAQs.pdf>

Coordinated Entry for Youth Experiencing Homelessness

<https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/coordinated-entry-for-youth-brief.pdf>

Toward a System Response to Ending Youth Homelessness

<https://www.chapinhall.org/wp-content/uploads/Chapin-Hall-Youth-Collaboratory-Toward-A-System-Response-To-Youth-Homele....pdf>

How to Adapt Coordinated Entry and Rapid Re-housing for Youth Homelessness

<https://bitfocus.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/How-to-Adapt-Coordinated-Entry-and-Rapid-Re-housing-for-Youth-Homelessness-White-Paper.pdf>

Preventing and Ending Youth Homelessness: A Coordinated Community Response

<https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/Youth_Homelessness_Coordinated_Response.pdf>

Young Adult Coordinated Entry Toolkit

<http://www.cceh.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Young-Adult-Coordinated-Entry-Toolkit-6-7-18.pdf>

National Alliance Webinar on Coordinated Entry and Youth

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lpQ_BNfpqJ0&feature=youtu.be>