



JB Pritzker, Governor

Dulce M. Quintero, Secretary

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DATE: July 24, 2025

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Don Harmon, Senate President
The Honorable John F. Curran, Senate Minority Leader
The Honorable Emanuel "Chris" Welch, Speaker of the House
The Honorable Tony McCombie, House Minority Leader

FROM: Dulce Quintero *Dulce M. Quintero*
Secretary *by [Signature]*
Illinois Department of Human Services

SUBJECT: **Youth Homelessness Prevention Subcommittee Interim Report**

The Illinois Department of Human Services respectfully submits the Youth Homelessness Prevention Subcommittee Interim Report on behalf of the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness in order to fulfill the requirements set forth in IL Statute 15 ILCS 60/1.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Anna Spreitzer, Special Projects Coordinator, OPEH, at anna.spreitzer@illinois.gov or 773-718-2919.

cc: The Honorable JB Pritzker, Governor
John W. Hollman, Clerk of the House
Tim Anderson, Secretary of the Illinois Senate
Legislative Research Unit
State Government Report Center



To: Legislative Liaison Bess Johnson

From: Colleen Mahoney, Anna Spreitzer, Illinois Office to Prevent and End Homelessness

Date: June 30, 2025

Re: Youth Homelessness Prevention Subcommittee Interim Report

Reporting Period: October 2024 to June 2025

The Youth Homelessness Prevention Subcommittee (Subcommittee) met five times during this reporting period. The Subcommittee began meeting in 2023 and meets every other month. The Subcommittee is comprised of State agency leaders and community leaders, including youth with lived experience in systems of care and leaders of nonprofit serving youth.

The current members of the Subcommittee are:

- Tedd Peso, The Night Ministry, (Co-Chair)
- Nicholas Johnson, Youth Representative, (Co-Chair)
- Michael Mallory, Department of Healthcare and Family Services
- Eugenia Olison, Department of Public Health
- Ashley Bae, Department of Human Services
- Jennifer Parrack, Department of Corrections
- Mary Milano, Department of Guardianship and Advocacy Commission
- Michelle Martin, Department of Juvenile Justice
- Heide Mueller, Department of Children and Family Services
- Isabella Hurtado, The Governor's Office
- Kalynn Lane, Youth Representative
- Kiani Diane Macklin, Youth Representative
- Sandy Godinez, The Harbour
- Ann Baker, Midwest Youth Services
- Valerie Tawrel, 360 Youth Services
- Leo'nard Johnson, Representative of a juvenile justice advocacy
- Niya Kelly, Representative of a homelessness advocacy organization
- VACANCY, Youth Representative

The Illinois Office to Prevent and End Homelessness (OPEH) and Chapin Hall provide staffing support to the Subcommittee. The minutes from each meeting are uploaded on the website after they are approved by the Subcommittee members.



New bylaws were voted on and agreed to effective April 1, 2025. These bylaws will allow the appointed Directors to assign a designee of their choice to represent their agency at the committee meetings.

In June 2024, the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS), was awarded the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's Youth Homelessness Systems Improvement (YHSI) grant. The grant was awarded in partnership with the University of Illinois Chicago – School of Public Health and The Night Ministry. The Subcommittee will serve as the Steering Committee to the project.

The grant will directly advance the work of the Subcommittee. This 30-month grant began its planning period in October 2024.

The State's \$1.3M award includes a data matching project among local Continuums of Care, the Illinois Department of Children & Family Services (DCFS), the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice (IDJJ), and IDHS to better understand Youth and Young Adults (YYA) experiences of homelessness after discharge from State systems of care.

The data matching project will be led by the research team at University of Illinois Chicago - School of Public Health working with Continuums of Care across the state, the Youth Action Group, DCFS, IDHS, and IDJJ. The goal is to help the State understand how youth interact with state systems of care and pathways from systems of care to homelessness. The project will:

- improve data use between DCFS, IDHS, and IDJJ by building infrastructure and piloting the use of a data consolidator that will integrate data from the different agencies.
- develop tailored services to match youth needs, track access and barriers to services, and evaluate program efficacy.

The YHSI grant also includes a youth development plan, amplifying the participation of YYA in State programming to reduce the incidence of homelessness by enhancing discharge planning and post-care support. Through the grant, the State will create a Statewide Youth Advisory Group (YAG) and a youth internship program at DCFS and the OPEH.

Recruitment for the YAG will begin in July 2025 and will be led by the efforts of The Night Ministry. Youth will be recruited statewide to participate through DCFS and IDJJ, and through the CoCs throughout the state. These recruitment efforts will ensure that the YAG reflects populations of YYA experiencing homelessness in Illinois. The YAG will join the Subcommittee to become the Steering Committee for the remainder of the grant. The Steering Committee will determine and guide the research and questions for the data portion of the grant.



The Internship Program will be an opportunity for members of the YAG to learn skills in a professional office setting. During the internship, the interns will complete a project under the supervision of Director's Office staff in DCFS and OPEH. At the end of the internship, they will do a presentation on their project. The Interns will also work on life skills, including, but not limited to, digital literacy (how to get better about using computers and online programs), presentation skills, resume writing, and learning how to handle and respond to constructive criticism.

An overview of the YHSI grant was provided to the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee will serve as the Steering Committee for the State's YHSI grant; and the data linking and analysis being done as part of the YHSI grant will meet the statutory requirement of the Subcommittee for collecting data on housing stability after youth leave state systems of care.

This report shall serve to bring the Subcommittee into compliance with reporting requirements outlined in IL Statute 15 ILCS 60/1, which indicates the Youth Homelessness Prevention Subcommittee shall submit an interim report to the Governor every 6 months and an annual report to the Governor and the General Assembly.