

## 2017 YETI Community Needs Assessment

1. How do you think the community could serve homeless youth better, without additional funding? Do you have a specific suggestion, strategy, or idea for improving services?
  - **Create a local Youth Action Hub – As a means of improving Youth and Young Adult’s access to homeless information & services.**
  - **Partner with Middlesex Community College and Wesleyan University – Allowing students who are interested in community service an opportunity to volunteer in the community, as well as getting the institution more involved in the community in which it resides.**
  - **Faith Based Organizations – They know the youth and the families in the community better than anyone else.**
  - **Involve Middle Schools & High Schools – Partner with school Social Workers, Counselors, Nurses, etc.**
  - **Treatment Programs/Clinics/Hospitals – To expand information sharing and awareness, as well as identifying and referring youth.**
  - **Create and develop local youth committees – Youth involvement is not only critical, but should be prioritized.**
  - **Involve Police Departments, Courts, Juvenile Justice, etc. – Youth & Young Adults involved with “the system,” are at high risk of homelessness.**
  - **Lawyers/Law Firms involved with Youth & Young Adult clients with criminal offenses.**
  
2. What exists already and do you need more in any of the above categories?
  - **More Intake availability...times and sites**
  - **More Outreach, i.e. – Columbus House, Rushford HHC, Venture Academy, etc.**
  - **Get involved and partner with more organizations coordinating community events.**
  
3. How would you alter existing models to better suit needs of youth/young adults?
  - **Ensure that youth have a permanent seat at the table, when planning programs.**

- **Create more awareness with youth and within the community, to educate on the benefits and services that 211 can provide.**
  - **Using Social Media more effectively to reach and share information.**
  - **Make transportation available for youth to and from Intake Sites, Shelters, Programs, etc.**
  - **Develop a unified, community-wide collaborative addressing Youth & Young Adult homelessness.**
  - **Create Public Relations and media strategies, specifically targeting the community to increase awareness.**
  - **Partner with Housing Authority.**
4. Thinking creatively, if you had flexible funding, what assistance would help youth/young adults stay safe during housing crisis and/or help them get permanently housed in your region?

- **Diversion Funds**
- **Strive Mediation Model – A new Family Mediation model created by UCLA in an effort to keep families together, and avoid shelter.**
- **Relocation Funds**
- **Respite Housing**
- **Partner with Churches, Rec Centers, YMCA/YWCA, etc. – Finding more opportunities for emergency shelter, if needed.**

5. If you had \$200,000 to spend on ending youth homelessness, what would be your housing priorities (outreach/engagement – permanent housing) broken down by percentages?

- **50% to Housing – Permanent/Stable housing, has to be where the bulk of the money is spent.**
- **25% to Mobile Outreach/Harm & Risk Reduction/Intake Office – A “one stop shop,” and a way to reach the target population where they are. We could provide outreach, do intakes, provide care packages, etc. right on the spot.**
- **12.5% to Drop in Center – This approach can work, if properly structured.**
- **6.25% to Youth Leader in the Field – Peer to Peer interaction can be an important component to outreach work.**
- **6.25% on Specialized 211 Youth Team – Studies show that teens feel more comfortable when speaking with someone more like themselves on the phone.**

6. What trainings do you think would be most helpful? For whom?

- ***Strive Mediation Model – This should be a training for all associated with conducting intakes, and interacting with Youth and Young Adults within the CAN.***
- ***Trainings on Programs and Services for Youth Homelessness – These should be given throughout the community, to providers, school personnel, and others who may be interacting with youth who are at risk.***