

Northwest Michigan Coalition to End Youth Homelessness

Next Chapter: Host Home Program Written Standards and Workflow

Next Chapter-Host Home Program is a program of the Northwest Michigan Coalition to End Homelessness (NWCEH). In an effort to provide innovative solutions to end youth homelessness in the Greater Grand Traverse region (Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska and Leelanau Counties), this project is a collaborative effort of funding and support services between the HUD Continuum of Care Program, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Runaway and Homeless Youth Services as well as local community dollars. As this is a truly collaborative effort between state and federal dollars as well as locally raised money, program eligibility, requirements and regulations are specifically described throughout these written standards.

The Next Chapter: Host Home program under the Northwest Michigan Coalition to End Homelessness markets housing and support services to eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, familial status, or handicap. Prioritizing and serving youth between the ages of 16-24 who are experiencing or who are at risk of experiencing homelessness, Next Chapter services align with the collective work to end youth homelessness.

Short-term host homes are an intervention for youth who are currently experiencing homelessness or who are at-risk of experiencing homelessness for any variety of reasons, including but not limited to family conflict, poverty, gender identity and sexual orientation. The goal of short-term host homes is to provide a safe, temporary, welcoming space for on average six months where the young person has time to repair their relationships with self-identified family or make decisions about other housing options with the support of a caring housing case manager.

Values

The Northwest Michigan Coalition to End Youth Homelessness aims to set the foundation for a host home program that is youth-driven, collaborative, iterative, and reflective.

- We seek to recognize and challenge systems of power that perpetuate barriers and injustice in young people's lives (such as racism and classism), and we are aware that not all youth get the same results through the same hard work under these systems.
- We approach youth work through a lens of social justice and youth empowerment.
- We value diversity in all its forms.
- We believe in supporting youth regardless of their racial or ethnic identity, religious affiliations, or lack thereof, gender identity or sexual orientation.
- We acknowledge that a youth's sexual and gender identity may change throughout their adolescence; a youth who identifies as straight or a specific gender when they enter the program may begin to question their sexual orientation or gender identity at any time.

- We believe in trauma-informed and harm reduction strategies to affirm youths' strengths and agency.
- We believe in leading through example and fostering shared leadership.
- We understand that all youth will sometimes make choices we don't agree with, and we acknowledge the youth's right to make those choices for themselves.
- We understand that choices youth make about sexual activity or other behaviors might be different from those we might wish or expect for our own children and we do not fill a parental role for the youth in the program.
- We believe that youth benefit from living with adult allies who are aware of their inherent power dynamic of the host home model and strive to minimize misuse of power.

Assumptions

In addition to the values that undergird the Host Home Program, we would like to offer the following assumptions and assertions:

- Lived experience is expertise; young people are the experts of their needs and lives.
- Youth and young people at risk of or experiencing homelessness do not need saviors. They need access to the resources and opportunities from which they've been structurally distanced. As such, hosts are partners.
- Next Chapter: Host Home Program exists as part of a continuum of services and supports; it is insufficient as a stand-alone option for preventing youth homelessness, but is a promising community-based option to shelter-based alternatives.
- This is a pilot program; it will respond to an emerging base of information and experiences.
- Our best chances of ending youth homelessness require a **both/and** approach. We must attend to the urgent needs of young people with a responsive and robust set of options that assure dignity and safety; we must simultaneously prioritize & address changes in the policies and systems that contribute to and reinforce the conditions that allow for housing instability.
- We need to look at and be clear about how power is showing up. Why are some young people more vulnerable to housing insecurity and homelessness? Who benefits from youth and young people not being permanently housed? What conditions need to change, but are being maintained or defended by people in power?

Program Requirements

The Next Chapter: Host Homes Program is a truly collaborative program led by the Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency and Child & Family Services/Third Level working alongside partners across the Northwest Michigan Coalition to End Youth Homelessness. Additional community funding has also been leveraged to assist in the implementation of this important program.

Due to the collaboration between State and Federal dollars and funding across programs, case management services and supports as well as host stipends will be shared among NMCAA and CFS/Third Level. The following program requirements have been established by funders of each program and are to be adhered to at all times depending on program availability and funding.

The Northwest Michigan Coalition to End Youth Homelessness matches people to the most appropriate intervention based on their needs and strengths. Below are the detailed program requirements and eligibility for Child & Family Services/Third Level Transition Living Program (CFS/TL TLP) as well as the NMCAA Diversion Program for Youth.

CFS/TL Transition Living Program	NMCAA Diversion Program for Youth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16-20 years old (up to 21st birthday) • To serve youth under 18 years old, need delegation of power (POA) from parent. • Can serve HUD categories of homelessness: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Category 1 ○ Category 2 ○ Category 4 • Can serve a broader definition of “at-risk” • Can serve clients for 18 months once enrolled in the Transition Living Program. Stipends can be provided throughout this time. • <i>CFS/TL cannot serve youth who have an open case with the Child Welfare System (CPS, Foster Care etc.)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18-24 years old • Can serve HUD categories of homelessness: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Category 1 ○ Category 2 ○ Category 4 • Can serve clients for up to 6 months once enrolled in the Diversion Program for Youth. Case management services can also be provided for 6 months following exit from the program as a follow up and stabilization service. Stipends can be provided throughout this 12-month period.

Young people will be referred into a program based on the requirements listed above. In the event that youth are eligible for both programs, match to a program will be made based on case conferencing between providers, age and eligibility around timing of 20th birthday, case load size, as well as youth choice will be considered.

HUD Definition/Category of Homelessness

Category 1: An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:

- An individual or family with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground;
- An individual or family living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, State, or local government programs for low-income individuals); or
- An individual who is exiting an institution where he or she resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution.

Category 2: An individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence, provided that:

- The primary nighttime residence will be lost within 14 days of the date of application for homeless assistance;
- No subsequent residence has been identified; and
- The individual or family lacks the resources or support networks, e.g., family, friends, faith-based or other social networks, needed to obtain other permanent housing;

Category 4: Any individual or family who:

- Is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or a family member, including a child, that has either taken place within the individual's or family's primary nighttime residence or has made the individual or family afraid to return to their primary nighttime residence;
- Has no other residence; and
- Lacks the resources or support networks, e.g., family, friends, and faith-based or other social networks, to obtain other permanent housing.

The NMCAA Diversion Program has additional documentation requirements set forth by HUD around the above categories.

Matching and Entering the Next Chapter: Host Home Program

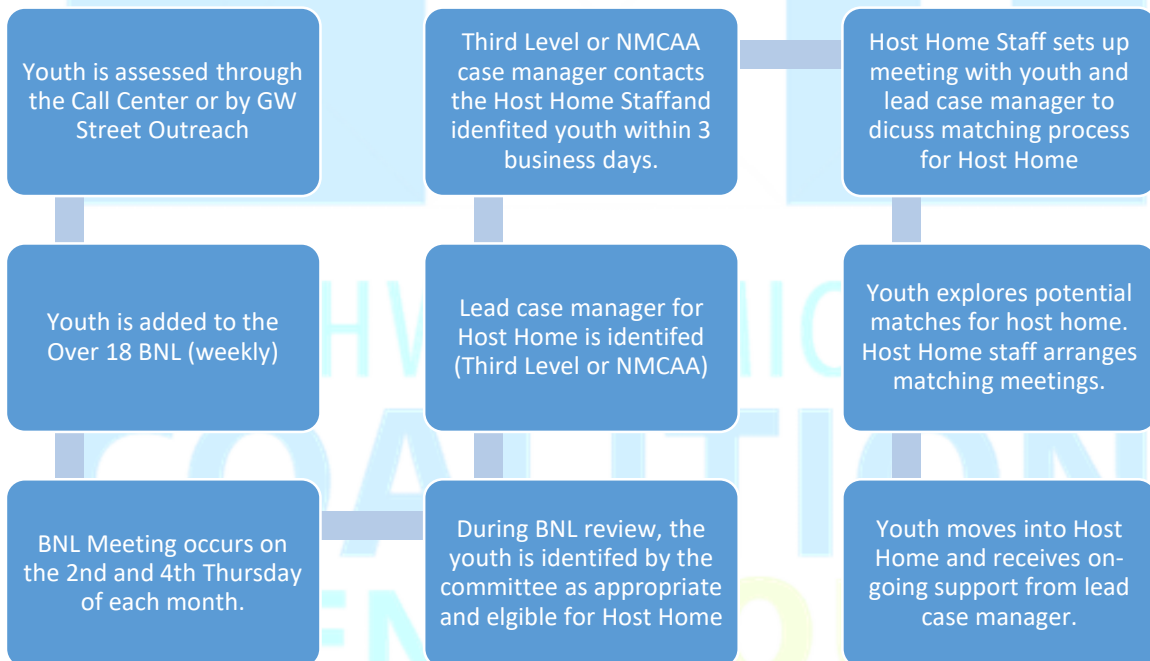
Matching identified young people to the Next Chapter Host Home Program will take place only in the Under 18 By Name List Meeting and the Over 18 By Name List Meeting.

Referrals into the program for youth 16-17 years old will be made onto the By Name List by agencies who attend those meetings and receive referrals from community sources. Only Goodwill Street Outreach and Third Level staff have the ability to add clients to the By Name List but can accept real time referrals during the meeting from identified partner agencies (DHHS, STEP, etc). If a real time referral is provided during this time, it is the responsibility of either Goodwill or Third Level Staff to identify a follow up staff person and to set a time and date of follow up with the youth during the meeting. A separate tab on the Under 18 By Name List will be added to include those youth identified

as appropriate placement for the Host Home Program. Next Chapter: Host Homes Program will **only** accept referrals into the program for 16 and 17-year-olds through the By Name List process. At the By Name List meeting, the identified case manager at Third Level will be identified as will the length of time the young person has in eligibility through TLP. If a warm-handoff needs to occur within the coming 3 months to the NMCAA Diversion Program due to time limits and eligibility in TLP coming to an end, it is the responsibility of the Third Level case manager to make contact with the NMCAA Diversion case manager within the week following the Host Home referral that occurred during the By Name List meeting. It is the responsibility of the TL case manager or the NMCAA case manager who has been identified as the lead to follow up with the Host Homes Staff as well as the young person identified within 3 business days of the match to the program.

Referrals into the program for youth 18-24 years old will be made through the Over 18 By Name List for Youth meetings. Names can only be added to the Over 18 By Name List through the NWCEH Coordinated Entry System for Youth; either by contact the NWCEH Coordinated Entry Call Center or through Goodwill Street Outreach. Similar to the Under 18 By Name List, youth who are between the ages of 18-24 and who are already listed on the By Name List will be added to an additional tab on the list designated for Host Home referrals. Matching to the program as well as to the lead case management provider (either TL or NMCAA) will occur at the By Name List meeting. It is the responsibility of the TL case manager or the NMCAA case manager who has been identified as the lead to follow up with the Host Homes Staff as well as the young person identified within 3 business days of the match to the program.

18-24-Year-Old Host Home Mapping:



Under 18 Host Home Mapping:



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